

## JOHN ALDEN OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it finally arrived in New England in November, 1620 was John Alden.

John was born about 1599. John was hired in Southampton, England, to be the cooper (or barrel maker) aboard the *Mayflower*. Since there was no refrigeration in the days of the Pilgrims, food that would spoil was stored in barrels in a special preservative. The Alden house in Duxbury, which you can visit today, shows evidence of his skill with wood. Rather than return to England with the ship, he stayed at what became Plymouth Colony. He married Priscilla Mullins, about 1623.

John owned a lot of land in different areas around Plymouth, Green's Harbor, Namasskett, and Middlebury. He served in a number of important government positions such as Assistant Governor, Duxbury Deputy to the General Court of Plymouth, Captain Myles Standish's Duxbury militia company, a member of the Council of War, Treasurer of Plymouth Colony, and Commissioner to Yarmouth. John died on September 12, 1687 as the last surviving signer of the *Mayflower Compact*.

Children of John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden:

1. Elizabeth
2. John
3. Joseph
4. Sarah
5. Jonathan
6. Ruth
7. Rebecca
8. Mary
9. Priscilla
10. David

Which child of Pilgrim John Alden  
is your *Mayflower* ancestor?

Sources:

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Nathaniel Philbrick, *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War*, (2006)