

## ELDER WILLIAM BREWSTER OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

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

William was born about 1556 in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, England. He married Mary (----). He died in April 1644.

William attended Cambridge University and later went to the Netherlands in foreign service. But he returned to Scrooby and spent some time in jail in Boston, Lincolnshire, England before finally escaping to Holland with a group called Separatists, a Puritan sect that had split from the Church of England, the only legal church in England at that time.

In Leyden, William published forbidden books on his printing press that were critical of England, its king and its religious intolerance. William became the Ruling Elder of the Separatist group on the *Mayflower* and in Plymouth Colony. (A minister did not arrive until 1627.) As their moral and religious leader, he was a humble and gentle man. He has been described as sincere, devout, tolerant, charitable and cheerful. He taught twice on Sunday and mentioned no salary. He built his own house in Plymouth and also the one in Duxbury and worked his own farm until he was 80 years old.

Children of William and Mary (---) Brewster:

1. JONATHAN
2. PATIENCE
3. FEAR
4. CHILD (died Leyden 1609)
5. LOVE
6. WRESTLING

Which child of Pilgrim William Brewster  
is your Mayflower ancestor?

Sources:

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