

## PETER BROWN OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

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

Peter was baptized in Surrey, England on 26 January 1594/95. Peter Browne married the widow Martha Ford by 1626, who had arrived in November 1621 on the ship *Fortune*. She had been the only recorded woman on board, and traveled with her husband and two children. Her husband, Mr. Ford, apparently died on the voyage or just after arrival. Martha gave birth to their son the day of arrival, but he died soon after. Martha and Peter Brown had two daughters together before Martha's death in 1631. Peter then married Mary (----) in 1631, and they had two children.

In 1628 Peter gave financial support to the colony to help pay off the debt of purchasing the supplies and ships for their original voyage to Plymouth. Peter died between 25 March 1633 and 10 October 1633. Following Browne's death, his widow Mary was made administrator of his estate on November 11, 1633. She was ordered by the court to pay 15 pounds to John Doane to assume custody of Browne's daughter Mary and the same amount to William Gilson for the custody of Browne's daughter Priscilla with the court placing Mary with Doane for nine years and Priscilla with Gilson for twelve years until both were age seventeen. Mary retained custody of her two children by her first husband and was allowed the rest of Browne's estate for her own third for raising her own children. Both Peter Brown and his first wife Martha were both buried at Burial Hill in Plymouth.

Children of Peter and Martha (Ford)  
Brown:

1. Mary
2. Priscilla

Children of Peter and Mary (----) Brown:

3. Rebecca
4. A child born by 1633, who died by 1647 (name unknown)

Which child of Pilgrim Peter Brown is your Mayflower ancestor?

### Sources:

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