

## **JAMES CHILTON OF THE *MAYFLOWER***

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it arrived in New England in November, 1620 was Pilgrim James Chilton. He turned 62 in 1619, making Chilton the oldest person on board. James was born and raised in Canterbury, County Kent, England. By 1600, he had moved to Sandwich in Kent where he married Susanna (----). Sometime between 1609 and 1615, James Chilton and his family left England and joined John Robinson's English Separatist congregation in Leiden, Holland. The first the family is heard from in Leiden is on July 2, 1615 when their eldest daughter Isabella married Roger Chandler.

On April 28, 1619, while the family was still living in Leiden, it was reported that as James and a daughter were returning home, about twenty boys began throwing rocks at them. When Chilton confronted the crowd, he was struck in the head by a large cobblestone, and was knocked unconscious. Town surgeon Jacob Hey attended to his wound

Although James and Susanna had ten children together, only Mary, age about 13, traveled with them on the *Mayflower*. James died on December 18, 1620 and Susanna died six weeks later on January 21, 1621, both shortly after arriving in the New World. Once orphaned, Mary may have become the ward of Myles Standish or John Alden. She married John Winslow (possibly on October 12, 1624) and thus became the sister-in-law of *Mayflower* passenger Edward Winslow. They had ten children. She made out a will on July 31, 1676 (one of two female passengers from the *Mayflower* who did so, Elizabeth Tilley being the other) and died before May 1, 1679 in Boston.

Children of James and Susanna (----) Chilton:

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|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Isabella          | 6. James     |
| 2. Mary (died young) | 7. Ingle     |
| 3. Jane              | 8. Christian |
| 4. Joel              | 9. James     |
| 5. Elizabeth         | 10. Mary     |

**Which child of Pilgrim James Chilton  
is your Mayflower ancestor?**

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