

FRANCIS COOKE OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

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

Francis was born in England about 1583. He was married in Leyden, Holland on 20 July 1603 to Hester Mahieu. In February 1609, members of Pastor John Robinson's English Separatist church came to Leiden. The Cookes did not then become members, but did join the Leiden congregation sometime later, after their daughter Elizabeth was baptized on December 26, 1611. When the English Separatist church in Leiden decided to go to America in 1620, only Francis and his thirteen year-old son John would go. Cooke's wife and children came over on the ship *Anne* in July 1623.

Francis was a wool comber, involved in the making of cloth. He had become an upstanding member of the community. He served on the committee to lay out twenty-acre grants as well as on the committee to lay out highways. He was an arbitrator in a land dispute. He served on the Plymouth Petit jury several times, served on the coroner's jury, and was a surveyor of Highways.

On December 7, 1659 Francis Cooke made out his will, describing himself as "at present weak and infirm in body." He had a very simple will that just gave everything to "Hester my dear and loving wife." Francis died at Plymouth on 7 April 1663. Hester died after 8 June 1666.

Children of Francis and Hester (Mahieu) Brown:

1. Jane
2. John
3. Child (buried in Leiden 20 May 1608)
4. Elizabeth
5. Jacob
6. Hester
7. Mary

Which child of Pilgrim Francis Cooke
is your Mayflower ancestor?

Robert Charles Anderson, *The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1620-1633*, (2004)

Eugene Aubrey Stratton, *Plymouth Colony: Its History & People 1620-1691*, (1986)

Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, *Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners: Leiden and the Foundation of Plymouth Plantation*, (2009)

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