

## WILLIAM MULLINS OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it finally arrived in New England in November, 1620 was Pilgrim William Mullins. William was born in 1572. He married Alice (---) by 1593. William was a Shoemaker in Dorking, County of Surrey, England. His original home can be visited today, the only known existing structure in which one of the Pilgrim Fathers lived in England.

He and his wife and son Joseph died their first winter in the New World. William died 21 February 1621 and was buried in Coles Hill Burial Ground, Plymouth, probably in an unmarked grave as was common in those early days. His wife Alice and son Joseph died sometime later in 1621 and were also buried in Coles Hill Burial Ground. The family is memorialized on the Pilgrim Memorial Tomb, Coles Hill, as "William Mullins, Alice his wife and Joseph their son."

Only William's daughter Priscilla survived, although she had another brother and sister who remained in England. She was only eighteen when she boarded the *Mayflower*, making her the only single woman of marriageable age at the time of arrival. In Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1858 poem *The Courtship of Miles Standish*, Standish asked his good friend John Alden to propose to Priscilla on his behalf, only to have Priscilla ask, "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?" Although there is little independent historical evidence to support the account, there is some limited circumstantial.

Oral tradition states that Priscilla died only a few years before her husband (which would be about 1680). She lies buried at the Miles Standish Burial Ground in Duxbury, Massachusetts. The exact location of her grave is unknown, but there is a marker honoring her.

Children of William and Alice (---) Mullins:

1. William
2. Joseph
3. Sarah
4. Priscilla

Which child of Pilgrim William Mullins 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)