

## DEGORY PRIEST OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

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

Degory was born about 1579. He married in Leyden, Holland on 4 November 1611 to Sarah (Allerton) Vincent. Degory was a hat maker (a Hatter). He came alone of the *Mayflower*, with his family remaining in Leiden. He intended to send for his wife Sarah and daughters Mary and Sarah once the colony was established. He was a signatory to the Mayflower Compact in November 1620 and died less than two months later during the unidentified epidemic the first winter in the New World. He was aged about 42 years. He was buried likely sometime in January 1621 in Coles Hill Burial Ground in Plymouth, most probably in an unmarked grave, as was the custom that first winter. Along with many others who died in the winter of 1620-1621, his name is memorialized on the Pilgrim Memorial Tomb, located on Coles Hill in Plymouth.

After Priest's death, his wife Sarah married another hat-maker, Godbert Godbertson (or Cuthbert Cuthbertson), on November 13, 1621 with whom she had one son, Samuel, born possibly about 1622. They came, with their son Samuel Cuthbertson (later shortened to Cuthbert) and her daughters Mary and Sarah Priest, to Plymouth on the ship *Anne* in 1623. They were assigned land in the 1623 Division of Land with 6 "akers" for "Cudbart Cudbartsone" – one acre for the deceased Priest and one each for his wife Sarah, her second husband Godbert Godbertson and their three children. Both Godbertson and his wife Sarah died in the epidemic of 1633 sometime in that fall. Their burial places are unknown.

Children of Degory and Sarah (Allerton)(Vincent) Priest:

1. Mary
2. Sarah

Which child of Pilgrim Degory Priest is your Mayflower ancestor?

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