

HENRY SAMSON OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

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

Henry was baptized in Henlow, Bedfordshire, England on 15 January 1603/4. Henry Samson, age about sixteen, boarded the ship *Mayflower* as a nephew of the Edward Tilley family, along with his cousin, one year old Humility Cooper. Why Henry was in the custody of the Tilleys has never been fully explained. Henry's parents and siblings remained in Henlow, Bedfordshire. Per William Bradford's later recollection of this family: "Edward Tillie, and Ann, his wife; and 2 children that were their cossens, Henery Samson and Humility Coper."

He was married in Plymouth on 6 February 1635/36 to Anne Plummer. They lived in nearby Duxbury. Starting in the 1640s, Samson began many years of public-service duties. He served on six juries between 1641 and 1663 and twelve petty juries between 1644 and 1670. Henry was a Grand Jury member in Plymouth for several years. He was a Duxbury Constable, Tax Collector, Arbiter and Surveyor.

He died between 24 December 1684 and 5 March 1685.

Children of Henry and Anne (Plummer) Samson:

1. Stephen
2. John
3. Elizabeth
4. James
5. Hannah
6. Daughter (name unknown)
7. Mary
8. Dorcas
9. Caleb

Which child of Pilgrim Henry Samson
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)