

## JOHN TILLEY OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

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

John was baptized in Henlow, County Bedford, England on 19 December 1571. He married Joan (Hurst) Rogers in Henlow on 20 September 1596. John had a younger brother, Edward, who also came on the *Mayflower* with his wife. Both John Tilley, his brother Edward and their wives all perished that first winter in the New World. They were buried in Coles Hill Burial Ground in Plymouth, most likely in unmarked graves as with so many who died in that first winter. Their names, along with many others who died that winter, are memorialized on the Pilgrim Memorial Tomb on Coles Hill.

The only Tilley surviving from the *Mayflower* was John's thirteen-year-old daughter, Elizabeth. She was taken in by the Carver family. The Carvers died about a year later, and part of their estate was inherited by their servant, John Howland. Elizabeth became his ward. Although the date of their marriage is not recorded, Elizabeth married John Howland about 1623/4. She and John would go on to have ten children, all of whom would live to adulthood, and well over seventy grandchildren. Elizabeth herself outlived her husband by fifteen years.

Children of John and Joan (Hurst)(Rogers) Tilley:

1. Rose (died young)
2. John
3. Rose
4. Robert
5. Elizabeth

Which child of Pilgrim John Tilley  
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)