

EDWARD FULLER OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it finally reached New England in November, 1620 were Edward Fuller and his wife, whose name is not known, and their son Samuel. Edward Fuller was baptized in the Parish of Redenhall, Norfolkshire, England on September 4, 1575. He was the brother of Pilgrim Samuel Fuller of the *Mayflower*.

A religious group called the Separatists had fled from England to Holland to escape the fines and punishments for their illegal religious practices. Edward Fuller was in Leyden, Holland, perhaps a part of this religious group. After about 10 years in Holland, the Separatists found that jobs were hard to find and they were poor. They did not approve of the Dutch customs and way of life, and they did not approve of their children mixing with the Dutch children. They wanted to keep their English customs and their own religion, so they decided to go to the New World in search of religious freedom.

After several financial and political problems, two ships were obtained. The *Speedwell* (which leaked and could not make the trip) sailed from Leyden, Holland with the Separatists. And the *Mayflower* sailed from Southampton, England with the London and English group. One problem after another delayed their departure until they had to cross the stormy North Atlantic Ocean during a bad time of the year. After 66 miserable days at sea with 102 passengers packed in that tiny ship, they finally anchored near Provincetown on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Because of the mumbling and grumbling on board the ship, an agreement was signed by 41 men, including Edward Fuller, called the Mayflower Compact. This famous historic document is an example of our country's earliest democratic government.

It was December and very cold before the area at Plymouth Rock was finally selected as the site to establish Plymouth Colony. Today we call this group of people who settled there the Pilgrims. Son Samuel survived that first terrible winter when half of those who had just arrived perished from some unidentified epidemic, but both Edward Fuller and his wife died.

Children of Edward Fuller and his wife, born in England:

1. MATTHEW had stayed behind in England but came to America about 1640. He married FRANCES ----- and had five children. He was a physician and settled in Barnstable County.
2. SAMUEL was born about 1608 and married JANE LOTHROP. He also settled in Barnstable and had nine children.

Which son of Pilgrim Edward Fuller is your Mayflower ancestor?