



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number: 153**

**Name:** Allerton, Mary (Norris)

**Dates:** (—- 25 February 1620/21)

**Colonial Society:** MA

**Date added to ROA:** July 5, 2024

**Service:** Historic Founder: *Mayflower* passenger, 1620

**Authority:** Bradford, William, *Bradford's History "Of Plimoth Plantation"* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1898), 531.

### **Biography:**

Mary (Norris) Allerton came to New England on the *Mayflower* in 1620. This was not the first time she left home in search of religious freedom. She was one of the Pilgrims whose desire to separate from the Church of England led them to emigrate to Leiden, in South Holland, around 1609. Mary married Isaac Allerton in Leiden on November 4, 1611. The Dutch marriage record says she was from "Nubure in Engellant" – presumably Newbury, Berkshire, England. Mary and Isaac had four children in Leiden: Bartholomew (born about 1612), Remember (born about 1614), Mary (born about 1617), and an unnamed child buried February 5, 1619/20.

The Pilgrims remained in Leiden for more than a decade. However, economic challenges and the fear that their children would adopt Dutch ways prompted them to seek a new place to live and to practice their religion. In July 1620, they traveled to Southampton, England and sailed on the *Mayflower* in September. Mary was one of 18 adult women on the ship.

The *Mayflower* passengers sighted Cape Cod on November 9, 1620. After exploring the area for several weeks, they arrived in Plymouth harbor on December 21. The following day, Mary gave birth to a stillborn son on board the ship.

The Pilgrims were unable to build sufficient homes before cold weather set in, so most of the passengers remained on board the *Mayflower* during the first winter. Afflicted with what was probably "a mixture of scurvy, pneumonia, and tuberculosis," fewer than half of the *Mayflower* passengers survived that winter.

Mary died on February 25, 1620/21. Her husband and three children survived her. All three of the children lived to adulthood, married, and had children of their own.