



FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Female Ancestor Number: 159

Name: Cushman, Mary (Allerton)

Dates: (c. 1616 - 28 Nov 1699)

Colonial Society: MA

Date added to ROA: July 23, 2024

Service: Mayflower Passenger, 1620

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

Biography:

Mary Allerton was only three or four years old when she made the two-month-long voyage to New England on the Mayflower.

She was born about 1617 in Leiden, in the province of South Holland, about twenty miles southwest of Amsterdam. Her parents, Isaac and Mary (Norris) Allerton, were among the pilgrims who had emigrated from England to Leiden in 1609 so that they could freely exercise their religion. They married in Leiden in 1611.

After about a decade in Leiden, the pilgrims decided to establish a settlement in America. They traveled from Holland to Southampton, England in July 1620 and set out in the Mayflower in September. Mary's mother died February 25, 1620/21 during the harsh first winter in the New World. Mary's father was assistant governor of the Plymouth colony and represented the colony in negotiations with its London investors.

Mary married Thomas Cushman about 1636. Thomas had come to Plymouth in 1621, at the age of fourteen, on the ship Fortune. He was raised in the family of governor William Bradford. He was ordained as Ruling Elder of the church in Plymouth in 1649 and served almost 43 years in that office.

Mary and Thomas lived in what is now Kingston, Massachusetts, a few miles northwest of Plymouth. The site of their home was rediscovered in 1972. An archaeological excavation of the site produced thousands of early colonial and Native American artifacts.

Mary and Thomas prospered and had a large family: seven of their eight children survived to adulthood and married, producing at least fifty grandchildren. Thomas died in December 1691 at the age of 85. Mary died on November 28, 1699 at the age of 83. She was the last surviving Mayflower passenger.