

RICHARD WARREN OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it finally reached New England in November, 1620 was a man named Richard Warren. His wife and five daughters came over on the *Anne* in 1623. Almost nothing is known of their places and dates of birth.

A religious group called the Separatists had fled from England to Holland to escape the fines and punishments for their illegal religious practices. After about 10 years in Holland, the Separatists found that jobs were hard to find and they were very 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. Richard Warren may have been from London. 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 Richard Warren, 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. Richard Warren survived that first terrible winter when half of those who had just arrived perished from some unidentified epidemic.

Richard Warren died in 1628, but widow Elizabeth lived until October 3, 1673 age over 90 years.

Children of Richard and Elizabeth (maiden name unknown) Warren born probably in England and in Plymouth:

1. MARY married ROBERT BARTLETT and had eight children.
2. ANNA married THOMAS LITTLE and had nine children.
3. SARAH married JOHN COOKE, son of Pilgrim Francis Cooke of the *Mayflower* and had five children.
4. ELIZABETH married RICHARD CHURCH and had 11 children.
5. ABIGAIL married ANTHONY SNOW had six children.
6. NATHANIEL married SARAH WALKER and had 12 children.
7. JOSEPH married PRISCILLA FAUNCE and had six children.

Which child of Pilgrim Richard Warren is your Mayflower ancestor?

Compiled by Margaret Harris Stover from various sources, 2006
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