

My Mayflower Journey

BY SYLVIA NELSON

Once upon a time I had a class assignment to create my family tree. My Mother said to contact her Aunt Lucy for that information, so I did. Aunt Lucy sent me a tree showing that I was a direct descendant of William Bradford, Governor of the Plymouth Colony and *Mayflower* passenger. My Mother's attitude toward genealogy was that **"ancestors were like peanuts, better left underground."** My fifth-grade teacher, however, was ecstatic.

Many years later, when I had time to devote to genealogy, I began my quest to document my family line from Gov. Bradford. (It turns out that one of his twin daughters is in my mtDNA line.)

Since Gov. Bradford's first wife had had enough of roughing it and jumped off the *Mayflower* in 1620, he then married the widow Alice Carpenter Southworth in 1623, a new arrival to the colony. Alice joined her sister Juliana and brother-in-law George Morton on the voyage to the New World aboard the *Anne* in 1623. She left her two sons in England to be cared for by a relative but did send for them a few years later.

And so, my journey began. I had the line from me to Gov. Bradford but had no idea how involved all those Mayflower peeps would become. Joseph Bradford and Anna Fitch were the parents of Althea Bradford who married David Hyde. They had Elizabeth Hyde who married Ira Hinckley. Ira and Liz had Lucy who married Elisha Hale (no relation to Nathan.) Their daughter, Olive Experience Hale married John Churchill (yes, those Churchills) and had Lucy Hinckley Churchill, who married Asa Goodenow Hemenway (yes, that Hemenway/Hemingway family). Their daughter, Jessie Fremont Hemenway married Francis Bishop Royce, becoming parents of my grandmother, Mabel Hemenway Royce. Mabel married Karl S. Putnam and had my mom, Margery Elise Putnam.

As I worked back through my ancestors in the Hale, Churchill, Hinckley, Hemenway, and Royce lines, I discovered connections to other *Mayflower* families. For instance, Barnabus Churchill had married Lydia Harlow, daughter of Lydia Cushman and William Harlow, Lydia being the daughter of Mary Allerton and Thomas Cushman. Mary and her parents had been passengers on the *Mayflower*.

Edwin Yale Royce married Sophia Collins, daughter of Abigail Ball and Nathaniel Bishop Collins, son of Cassandra Johnson and Isaac Ball. Cassandra was the daughter of Eunice Park and Samuel Johnson. Eunice was the daughter of Sarah Brewster and Moses Park. Sarah's line was John/Daniel/Benjamin, Jonathan/William Brewster (and Mary Love Wentworth).

Peter Browne, the only man on the *Mayflower* (with two dogs), married a newcomer and had Mary Browne who married Ephraim John Tinkham. The Tinkham line carried on down to Sarah Tinkham who married Ichabod Churchill. Sarah's parents were Nathan Tinkham and Sarah Soule, Sarah being the daughter of Zacharia Soule and Mary Eaton, great granddaughter of Francis Eaton. Zach's father was John Soule, son of George Soule.

Richard Warren had the most kids in the line, with daughter Mary marrying Robert Bartlett. They had three children, Rebecca (William Harlow), George (Mary Crittenden), and Joseph (Hannah Pope) to carry on the line.

And so it went until I discovered that 23 of my ancestors had come on the *Mayflower*, along with two dogs. They were:

Alden, John
Allerton, Isaac, and wife Mary Norris
Allerton, Mary
Bradford, William
Brewster, William, and wife Mary Love
Browne, Peter (and two dogs)
Cooke, Francis
Eaton, Francis
Fuller, Edward and wife

Howland, John, and Wife Elizabeth Tilley
Mullins, William, and wife Alice
Mullins, Priscilla
Priest, Degory (his daughter, Sarah's descendants married
Warren, Richard
Standish, Myles (his granddaughter married Benjamin
Soule, George
Tilley, John, and wife Joan Hurst

All these lines ended with my mother and her brother, including two of them descending through their father, Karl Putnam. Those names, Fuller, Howland, Tilley, Rowley, Olmstead, Chipman, Brainerd, Lewis, Bidwell, and Lennon all joined with the others when my grandfather, Karl Sobieski Putnam married my grandmother, Mabel Hemenway Royce.

Both my mother and uncle married out of the lines bringing our genes back to partial sanity! The tales of my mother's eccentricity will have to wait until another time.

