## Chapter 20

## Our Mayflower Ancestors

This narrative is about how the Quincy Oakleys are descended from Francis Cooke, a Pilgrim who came to America (the "New World") on the Mayflower in 1620.

By means of <u>background</u>, the Mayflower was the ship that transported English Separatists, known today as the Pilgrims, from Plymouth, England, to the New World. There were 102 passengers, and the crew is estimated to have been about thirty. This voyage has become an iconic story in some of the earliest annals of American history, with its story of survival (and death) in the harsh New England winter environment. In fact, by the end of the first winter, only fifty-three passengers, just over half of those who sailed from England, were still alive. The voyage culminated in the signing of the Mayflower Compact, which was an event which established a rudimentary form of democracy, with each member contributing to the welfare of the community.



Today, tens of millions of Americans have at least one ancestor who was among this group of early settlers. There were twenty-nine adult Mayflower passengers currently known to have descendants. And, of course, the Quincy Oakleys are Mayflower descendants. In this narrative, I'll trace our family roots to the Mayflower. Well, actually I'll start with our Mayflower ancestors and work my way through their descendants to our current family. And I'll finish with some information about our distant cousins who also can trace their roots to our common ancestor who sailed on the Mayflower.

But first a bit of background about the Pilgrims. Many of the Pilgrims were members of a Puritan sect known as the Separatists. They believed that membership in the Church of England violated the biblical precepts for true Christians, and they had to break away and form independent congregations that adhered more strictly to divine requirements.

The Separatists' faith experience was part of the larger English Reformation of the 16th century. This movement sought to "purify" the Church of England of its corrupt human doctrine and practices; the people in the movement were known as "Puritans." Separatists were those Puritans who no longer accepted the Church of England as a true church, refused to work within the structure to affect changes, and "separated" themselves to form a true church based solely on Biblical precedent. Puritans rejected Christmas, Easter and the various Saint's Days because they had no scriptural justification, and in their worship services, they rejected hymns, the recitations of the Lord's Prayer and creeds, for the same reason.



The Pilgrims settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. They actually had planned to settle farther south (closer to New York), but bad weather forced them to land at Cape Cod. Of the 102 colonists, 35 were members of the English Separatist Church who had earlier fled to Leiden, in the Netherlands, to escape persecution at home in England. Seeking a more abundant life along with religious freedom, the Separatists negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to America. Approximately two-thirds of those making the trip aboard the Mayflower were non-Separatists, hired to protect the company's interests; these included John Alden and Myles Standish.

Now, on to our ancestors – starting with the first generation Pilgrim, Francis Cooke.

**Generation 1:** Francis Cooke (1583 – 1663) was a Leiden Separatist who came to the New World in 1620 on the Pilgrim ship Mayflower and was a signer of the Mayflower Compact. See: <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis Cooke">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis Cooke</a>

Francis Cooke's wife, Hester, and their children came to the New World on the ship Anne in July 1623.

Francis Cooke was not involved in government or politics in Plymouth, and in his life kept a low profile, but his work on behalf of the people of Plymouth colony has been well-recognized by history. During the 1630's and 1640's, Francis Cooke held a number public sector positions, but was never in government or politics. In the mid-1630's, he was one of a number of Plymouth men tasked with laying out the highways about the towns of Plymouth, Duxbury and Eel River.

Francis Cooke married Hester Mahieu in Leiden, Holland, on 20 July 1603 or shortly thereafter. Her parents were Jacques and Jenne/Jeanne Mahieu, from France. Hester died after 8 June 1666 and was buried at Burial Hill in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Francis Cooke and his wife Hester had seven children.

Their son John Cooke (our ancestor) was baptized in Leiden, Holland, between January and March 1607 and died in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, on 23 November 1695.

Lots has been written about Francis Cooke. If you are suffering from insomnia, I highly suggest you read:

*Mayflower Families in Progress; Francis Cooke for Four Generations*, Robert S. Wakefield, FASG

or

*Francis Cooke of the Mayflower and his Descendants of Four Generations*, fifth edition, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2000

Finally, you all might want to join the Francis Cooke Society

http://www.franciscookesociety.org/

Generation 2: John Cooke sailed with his father, Francis, on the Mayflower in the fall of 1620. John Cooke was baptized at Leyden, Holland, between January and March 1607/8 and was, thus, about thirteen years old on arrival at Plymouth, Massachusetts. John married Sarah Warren on 28 March 1634, in Plymouth. Sarah Warren was the daughter of Pilgrim Richard and Elizabeth Warren of the Mayflower. [So you also could have Richard and Elizabeth Warren as our Generation 1, if you wanted to do so.] Sarah came to the New World on the ship Fortune, one year after the Mayflower landed.

In 1652, John Cooke was among the thirty-six Plymouth colonists who purchased Dartmouth Township (Massachusetts) from Wampanoag leader, Massasoit, and his son, Wamsutta. Cooke was the only one of the original Pilgrims to actually move to the town.

John Cooke became a deacon of the Plymouth Church in the 1630's, but he was excommunicated from the church around 1757. He then became a Baptist (!). He was a Baptist preacher and about 1680 established a Baptist church Tiverton, Massachusetts [part of the present day Rhode Island, and very close to Dartmouth, Massachusetts].

He served on juries and on various special assignments, and was a long-time Plymouth deputy. In 1664, he was granted fifteen acres of land near Dartmouth and he had other significant land dealings in the area. In 1672, the town of Dartmouth gave him Ram (now Pope's) Island, located just to the east of Dartmouth, in recompense for former services.

In 1666, he was a deputy for Dartmouth. John was one of the advisers for the defense of Dartmouth against the Indians. He became a magistrate for Dartmouth authorized to marry, to administer oaths, and to issue warrants for court trials at Plymouth. He served the town several years as a selectman and was ten times a representative to the General Court. He was one of the owners of the first vessels built in Plymouth. He was a constant trader in lands at Plymouth and Dartmouth.

Prior to the Indian uprising (King Phillip's War) in 1675, he converted his home into a garrison house. This was the haven of safety of the inhabitants in the early spring of 1676. His home was later burned by the Native Americans.

John Cooke married Sarah Warren on 28 March 1634 in Plymouth and they had five children. Sarah died after 15 July 1696. John and Sarah had six daughters:

- 1. Mercy, b. 25 July 1654, Plymouth, Massachusetts; d. 22 November 1733, Dartmouth, Massachusetts (age 79 years)
- 2. Sarah, b. about 1635, Plymouth, Massachusetts; d. Between 26 February 1712 and 1713, Dartmouth, Massachusetts (age  $\sim$  77 years)
- 3. Hester, b. 16 August 1650, Plymouth, Massachusetts; d. Between 17 April 1671 and 1672, Dartmouth, Massachusetts (age 20 years)
- 4. Mary, b. 12 January 1651/52, Plymouth, Massachusetts; d. Between 26 April 1708 and 25 January 1714 (age 57 years) Mary was our ancestor
- 5. Elizabeth, b. before 1644, Plymouth, Massachusetts; d. 6 December 1715, Tiverton, Massachusetts (age > 71 years)
- 6. Susanna, b. about 1656, Plymouth, Massachusetts; d. 1704, Plymouth, Massachusetts (Age ~ 48 years)

Some information related to his daughter Mary, who was our ancestor:

A deed, dated 21 May 1672, by John Cooke, yeoman, conveyed land in Dartmouth "...in consideration of the Love and affection I bear [ to my] Loving Son in Law Thomas Tabor..." of Dartmouth, mason. On 17 July 1673, John Cooke, yeoman of Dartmouth, deeded land in Dartmouth unto his son-in-law Philip Tabor, mason of Dartmouth, and "Mary my daughter, now wife to the said Philip Tabor".

An interesting bit of trivia: John Cooke was the last surviving male passenger of the Mayflower. John died 23 November 1695 (age about 88 years), having lived his entire adult life of the Plymouth Colony.

Lots of good stuff about John Cooke at:

http:/	<u>/homepages.ro</u>	<u>otsweb.ancestr</u>	v.com/	∕~sam <sub>/</sub>	<u>/cooke/</u>	<u>'john.html</u>
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*Generation 3:* Mary Cooke, a daughter of John Cooke and Sarah (Warren) Cooke, was born on 12 January 1651/52 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Mary married Philip Taber in about 1667 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Her married name was spelled both Taber and Tabor. Philip Tabor Jr. was the son of Philip Tabor and Lydia Masters. Philip was born in February 1644 in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and he died 4 March 1692/93.

Mary Cooke Taber and Philip Taber Jr. had the following children

- 1. Mary Taber b. 28 Jan 1668, d. 27 Apr 1727 29 Oct 1729
- 2. Sarah Taber b. 26 Mar 1671, d. b 24 Feb 1731/32
- 3. Lydia Taber b. 28 Sep 1673, d. 23 Mar 1754 our ancestor
- 4. Philip Taber b. 28 Feb 1675, d. 14 Jul 1749 29 Oct 1751
- 5. Abigail Taber b. 27 Oct 1678
- 6. Esther Taber b. 23 Feb 1680, d. a 1746
- 7. John Taber b. 18 Jul 1684, d. b 28 Aug 1728
- 8. Bethia Taber b. 18 Apr 1689, d. b 3 Oct 1780

*Generation 4:* Lydia Taber [also spelled Tabor] was born on 28 September 1673 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. She died on 23 March 1754 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts (at the age of 81). She was the daughter of Philip Taber and Mary (Cooke) Taber. Lydia Taber was the great granddaughter of both Francis Cooke and Richard Warren of the Mayflower.

Lydia Tabor married Joseph Mosher, son of Hugh Mosher and Rebecca Maxson, after 13 December 1693. Joseph Mosher was born about 1670 and died on 23 March 1754 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts (at the age of 84).

Lydia Tabor Mosher and her husband Joseph Mosher had the following children:

Rebecca Mosher b. 28 Dec 1695, d. b 15 Nov 1743
Philip Mosher b. 20 Dec 1697, d. a 20 Jan 1759
Jonathan Mosher b. 13 Mar 1699, d. bt 10 May 1760 - 2 Jul 1760
Joseph Mosher b. 23 Jun 1701, d. bt 1724 - 1743

James Mosher b. 14 Dec 1704, d. 1783 -- our ancestor
Ruth Mosher b. 17 Sep 1707, d. a 7 Jan 1771
Benjamin Mosher b. 22 Feb 1708/9, d. b 11 Jan 1741/42
William Mosher b. 29 Jul 1713, d. young
Lydia Mosher b. 11 Jun 1717, d. a 7 Aug 1760

Source: Descendants of Hugh Mosher and Rebecca Maxson Through Seven Generations, By Mildred Mosher Chamberlain, b. 1915, published 1980 - see:

https://archive.org/details/descendantsofhug00cham

**Generation 5:** James Mosher was born on 14 December 1704 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. James Mosher married Sarah Davol on 25 December 1729 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Sarah Davol was born in 1709 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

James Mosher died after 3 April 1783 in Exeter, Rhode Island (age 78), and Sarah Davol Mosher also died in Exeter in 1783 (age 74)

James Mosher and Sarah Davol had the following six children:

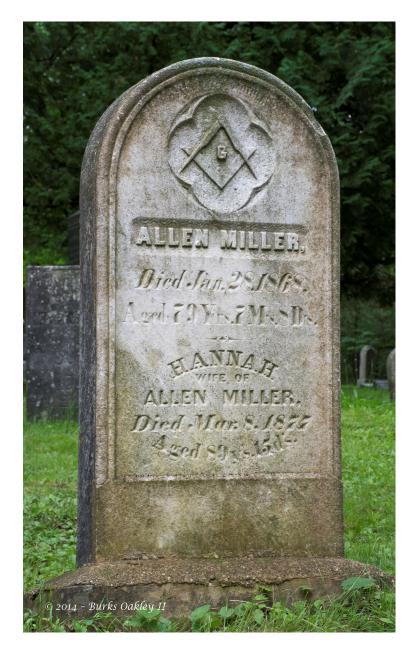
- 1. Eunice Mosher b: 1 March 1731 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts
- 2. Gideon Mosher b: 26 June 1732 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts
- 3. Ichabod Mosher b: in Dartmouth, Massachusetts
- 4. Peter Mosher b: 1 January 1740 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts
- 5. Anna Mosher b: 25 August 1745 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts our ancestor
- 6. Benjamin Mosher b: 24 May 1749 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts

*Generation 6:* Anna Mosher was born on 25 August 1745 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Anna married Benjamin Tripp on 29 March 1769 in Exeter, Rhode Island. Benjamin was born about 1740 in Exeter, Rhode Island. Anna died before 1865.

Anna Mosher Tripp and Benjamin Tripp had but a single child - a daughter, named Hannah Louise Tripp. Hannah was born on 22 February 1788 in New York, New York.

*Generation 7:* Hannah Louise Tripp was born on 22 February 1788 in New York, New York. She married Allen Miller on 28 July 1810 in Galway, New York. Allen Miller was born on 20 June 1788 in Hartland, Connecticut.

Hannah Louise Tripp Miller died 8 March 1877 in New Milford, Winnebago County, Illinois. Allen Miller died on 28 January 1868 in New Milford. Allen and Hannah are buried in New Milford Cemetery, just east of the Rockford airport. Here is a photo of their gravestone at the New Milford Cemetery:



Hannah Louise Tripp Miller and Allen Miller had ten children. Their oldest child was Ezra Marvin Miller, who was born on 12 April 1812 in Scipio, New York.

Here is a really nice graphic from the "Some of your Mayflower Descendants" website; it shows Hannah Louise Tripp Miller and her son Ezra Marvin Miller:



On this site, you can go back all the way to Francis Cooke, who sailed on the Mayflower in 1620! [You see, I'm not just making this up...]

Generation 8: Ezra Marvin Miller (my great-great grandfather) was born 12 April 1812 in Scipio, New York. He married Jane Kershaw Wells on 29 March 1834 in Portage, New York. He died on 6 May 1874 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Jane died on 10 January 1882 in Rockford, Illinois. Jane is buried in a Miller plot in Cedar Bluff Cemetery in Rockford (the same large Miller gravestone includes her son, Charles L. Miller, her daughter Hannah Mariah Miller Oakley, her son-in-law Aaron Burr Oakley, and other family members).

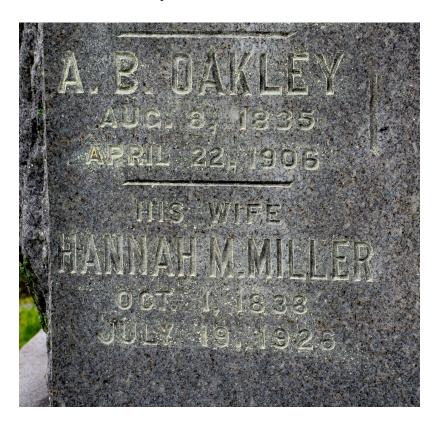
Ezra Marvin Miller and Jane Kershaw Wells Miller had eight children: Mary Jane Miller, Ezra Allen Miller, Hannah Mariah Miller, Jonathan Tripp Miller, James Fritz Miller, Charles Lamertine Miller, Julia Fidelia Miller, and Ellen Amelia Miller.

**Generation 9:** Hannah Mariah Miller was the third child of Ezra Marvin Miller and Jane Kershaw Wells Miller. Hannah was born on 1 October 1838 in

Portageville, New York. She married Aaron Burr Oakley on 6 April 1858 in Beloit, Wisconsin.

Aaron and Hannah had a son, Ray Miller Oakley, who was born on 2 April 1876 in Mechanicsville, Iowa.

A. B. Oakley died on 22 April 1906 in Quincy, Illinois. Hannah died on 19 July 1926 in Quincy, Illinois. As mentioned above, Hannah and A. B. are buried in a Miller plot in Cedar Bluff Cemetery in Rockford, Illinois.



*Generation 10:* Ray Miller Oakley was born on 2 April 1876 in Mechanicsville, Iowa. His parents were Aaron Burr Oakley and Hannah Mariah Miller Oakley. He married Kate Cameron Burks on 7 April 1897 in Quincy, Illinois. Kate was born on 23 October 1873 in Burlington, Iowa.

Ray and Kate had five children: Burks Oakley, Elisabeth "Ebby" Oakley, William Burr "Bill" Oakley, Allen Miller Oakley, Thomas Crawford "T.C." Oakley.

Ray died on 12 May 1948 in Quincy, and Kate died on 19 January 1954 in Quincy. They both are buried in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy. Here are some photographs of their gravestones in the Oakley cemetery plot:







*Generation 11:* Burks Oakley, Elisabeth Oakley, William Burr "Bill" Oakley, Allen Miller Oakley, Thomas Crawford Oakley

*Generation 12:* Burks Oakley II, T.A. Oakley, Tony Oakley, David Oakley, Susan Burks Oakley Day, Ann Oakley Wright, Mary Cameron Oakley Eidem, and William Henry "Huck" Oakley.

*Generation 13:* Hal, Peter, Tommy, Ralph, Mary, Dave, Mike, Tim, Susie, Cathy, Mark Eidem, David Eidem, Andrew Gaydos, etc.

*Generation 14:* Ben, Abigail, Allen, Allison, Sullivan, Tom-Ben-Jack Van Ness, Katie, Meghan, Anna Ray, Laura, David, Josh, Cassie, Allie, Jake, Clayton, Cameron, Carlee, Oakley, Brittany, David Eidem, Mary Eidem Bowers, Renae Gaydos MacDonald, Kacy Lynne Gaydos, etc.

**Generation 15:** Olivia, Sterling, William Daniel, Harper, Hannah, Paul, Charlie, etc.

OK, now that you all know how you are descended from Francis Cooke, who came to the New World on the Mayflower in 1620, let's see who else are his descendants.

First is President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the thirty-second president of the United States:

- 1. Francis Cooke
- 2. John Cooke
- 3. Esther Cooke
- 4. Esther Taber
- 5. Ebenezer Perry
- 6. Samuel Perry
- 7. Deborah Perry
- 8. Deborah Church
- 9. Warren Delano
- 10. Sara Delano
- 11. Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Next comes Presidents George Herbert Walker Bush (#41), and George W. Bush (#43):

- 1. Francis Cooke
- 2. Jane Cooke
- 3. Elizabeth Mitchell
- 4. Mary Washburn
- 5. Samuel Kingsley
- 6. Silence Kingsley
- 7. Sarah Herrick
- 8. Samuel Butler
- 9. Courtland Butler
- 10. Mary Butler
- 11. Flora Sheldon
- 12. Prescott Bush

- 13. George Herbert Walker Bush
- 14. George W. Bush

For something different, let's look at Mrs. Anna Mary Robertson, aka "Grandma Moses":

- 1. Francis Cooke
- 2. Mary Cooke
- 3. Esther Tomson
- 4. Sarah Reed
- 5. John King
- 6. Hezekiah King
- 7. Sarah King
- 8. Russell King Robertson
- 9. Anna Mary Robertson, aka "Grandma Moses"

Another distant cousin with some creative talent was Orson Welles, 1915-1985:

- 1. Francis Cooke (Hester le Mahieu)
- 2. John Cooke (Sarah Warren)
- 3. Elizabeth Cooke (Daniel Wilcox)
- 4. Susanna Wilcox (Jonathan Head)
- 5. Joseph Head (Bathsheba Palmer)
- 6. Jonathan Head (Ruth Little)
- 7. Jonathan Head, Jr. (Hepzibah Livermore)
- 8. Orson Sherman Head (Mary Jane Treadwell)
- 9. Richard Jones Welles (Mary Blanche Head)
- 10. Richard Head Welles (Beatrice Ives)
- 11. (George) Orson Welles, 1915-1985

Continuing in the creative actor mode, we have the actor, Richard Gere:

- 1. Francis Cooke.
- 2. Hester Cooke
- 3. Adam Wright
- 4. Sarah Wright
- 5. Archippus Fuller
- 6. Consider Fuller
- 7. Lucina Fuller
- 8. Sarah Tewksbury
- 9. George Gere
- 10. Albert Gere

- 11. Homer Gere
- 12. Richard Gere

Keeping with actors, comedians, writers, singers, dancers, and producers, we have our distant cousin, Dick Van Dyke:

- 1. Francis Cooke
- 2. Hester Cooke
- 3. Esther Wright
- 4. Isaac Tinkham
- 5. Nathan Tinkham
- 6. Isaiah Tinkham
- 7. Susannah Tinkman
- 8. David Lorenzo Child
- 9. Susan Child
- 10. Charles McCord
- 11. Hazel McCord
- 12. Richard Wayne "Dick" Van Dyke

And last, but not least, we have the Beach Boys:

- 1. Francis Cooke and Hester Le Mahieu
- 2. John Tomson and Mary Cooke
- 3. John Thomson Jr. and Mary Tinkham
- 4. Shubael Thomson and Susanna Parlow
- 5. John Thomson and Lydia Wood
- 6. Thomas Gifford and Lydia Thomson
- 7. Abraham Finney and Huldah Gifford
- 8. Uri Finney and Mary Graves
- 9. Eli Barnum Finney and Ellen C. Cogan
- 10. Albert Finney and Elnora Brass
- 11. Carl Arie Korthof and Ruth Edna"Betty" Finney
- 12. Murry Gage Wilson and Audree Neva Korthof
- 13. Brian Douglas Wilson, Dennis Carl Wilson, Carl Dean Wilson

OK, now if you were paying close attention, you will recall that John Cooke married Sarah Warren, who was the daughter of Richard Warren, who also came to the New World on the Mayflower. So we also are descended from Richard Warren – along with lots of other famous people, including President and General Ulysses S. Grant, Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr. (who walked on the moon in 1971 – and hit several golf balls from the lunar surface), and (drum roll, please) Sarah Palin! And on that note, I'm going to call it quits for this narrative.