

EDWARD DOTY OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it finally reached New England in November, 1620 was a young man named Edward Doty. He was of London when he was hired as a servant to Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins, probably an apprentice of some sort. Doty was not part of the religious group called Separatists who had fled England to Holland to escape fines and legal punishments. After about 10 years in Holland, the group found that jobs were hard to find and they were poor. They did not approve of the Dutch customs, and they did not approve of their children mixing with the Dutch children. They decided to go to the New World in search of religious freedom.

After financial and political problems, two ships were obtained to make the voyage: the *Speedwell* (which leaked and could not make the trip) and the *Mayflower*. 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. Though he was only a servant, Edward Doty was one of the signers of the Mayflower Compact. This famous historic document is an example of our country's earliest democratic government.

Edward Doty was one of those 10 men who explored the area searching for a suitable location to settle and experienced the settlers' first Indian attack. It was December and 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.

Doty survived that first terrible winter when half of those who had just arrived perished from some unidentified epidemic. He must have been a belligerent young man- always ready to pick a fight or start an argument. In 1621 he fought a duel (the only one in Plymouth Colony) against another servant, Edward Leister, with swords and daggers and wounding each other. They were sentenced to have their heads and feet tied together for 24 hours (but they were released in only one hour). Doty was frequently in the Plymouth Court, both as a defendant and as a plaintiff in both civil and criminal cases, often accused of trespassing, assault and battery, and breaking the peace.

But all is well that ends well. Doty married a second wife named Faith Clarke in 1635, and they had nine children. By the time of his death in 1665, Edward Doty had accumulated an estate to leave his children that was just as much as Plymouth men who had more to begin with. His is the story of from servant to success. Widow Faith was married again in 1666 to John Phillips and named her Doty children in her will.

Children of Edward and Faith (Clarke) Doty born in Plymouth between 1637 and 1653 though not recorded in the Town or Church Records:

1. EDWARD married SARAH FAUNCE.
2. JOHN married ELIZABETH COOK.
3. THOMAS married twice.
4. SAMUEL married JANE HARMON.
5. DESIRE married WILLIAM SHERMAN, ISRAEL HOLMES, and ALEXANDER STANDISH.
6. ELIZABETH married JOHN ROUSE.
7. ISAAC.
8. JOSEPH married DEBORAH ELLIS.
9. MARY.

Which child of Pilgrim Edward Doty is your Mayflower ancestor?

Compiled by Margaret Harris Stover from various sources, 2006
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