

# Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: Edward Leister

By Robert Charles Anderson

**Birth:** Edward Leister was born in England.

**Death:** His place and date of death are unknown.

**Ship:** *Mayflower*, 1620

**Life in England :** Nothing is known of his life in England.

**Life in New England :** Edward Leister, along with Edward Doty, came to Plymouth Colony as servant to Stephen Hopkins. The two servants committed the second offence in the colony, a duel fought “upon a challenge at single combat with sword and dagger.” Both were wounded, although not seriously, and were punished by having their head and feet tied together. Leister was included in the land division of 1623, but his name does not appear in the division of cattle held in Plymouth Colony in May 1627, so he had left the colony by then. William Bradford in his history of the colony wrote that “after he was at liberty, went to Virginia and there died.” His name does not appear, however, in either of the two lists of Virginia inhabitants compiled in February 1623/4 and February 1624/5.

**Family:** As a servant, Edward Leister was most likely unmarried.