

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: Humility Cooper

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: Humility, the daughter of Robert and Joan (Gresham) Cooper, was born in Holland about 1619.

Death: She died in England between 1639 and 1651.

Ship: *Mayflower*, 1620

Life in Holland: Humility has been identified as the daughter of Robert and Joan (Gresham) Cooper, of Henlow, Bedfordshire. Robert Cooper was a witness in a 1618 business agreement in Leiden. There are no further references.

Life in New England: Humility came to New England with relations. Bradford's list of passengers included "Edward Tilley and Anne his wife, and two children that were their cousins, Henry Sampson and Humility Cooper." "Cousin" in this case meant a collateral relation. Edward Tilley's wife was Ann (Agnes) Cooper; Henry Sampson's mother was Martha (Cooper) Sampson; both sisters of Humility's father, Robert Cooper. The Tilleys died during the first winter. Another family took care of Humility, but the specifics are unknown.

Life in England: Some time after May 22, 1627, Humility returned to England. She was baptized as an adult on March 17, 1638/9, in the parish of Holy Trinity, Minories in London. She died before Bradford compiled his list of Mayflower passengers in 1651. There is no evidence that she married and had children.