

The Plymouth Story and Edmund Margeson

*Report on a section of Descendants of Thomas Margeson: Our Family History (1970s family history book).
Book pages: pp. 5-6, 103. Topics: Mayflower; Plymouth Colony; Edmund Margeson.*

According to the family history, Edmund Margeson was a young unmarried man who sailed on the Mayflower in 1620. He seems to have been neither a leader nor an indentured servant, and the editor guesses he was a skilled craftsman. He died during the first terrible winter at Plymouth along with about forty of the original company. His name is inscribed on the Pilgrims' memorial at Plymouth, and he is the fourth name from the bottom in the second column of the memorial picture.

Because Edmund had no children, the book says plainly that no Margeson can claim descent from the Mayflower. The editor imagines Edmund as a member of a Yorkshire family involved in a general search for religious and civic freedom, and wonders how his parents reacted when news of his death reached home. In the closing pages the editor also notes that a correspondent in Massachusetts, James P. Margeson, first claimed Edmund as an ancestor and later had to change his claim.

The book reprints a general account of the landing of the Pilgrims. The Mayflower sailed from Plymouth, England, in early September 1620 with over one hundred passengers. After more than two months at sea the ship sighted Cape Cod on November 9, and the colonists settled at Plymouth on December 21. At one time only seven people were well. Governor Carver died in April and William Bradford succeeded him.

This report is a summary written for Holden's Archive (holdens-archive.org) from the family history book. Names, dates and places follow the book as printed; the book's OCR text contains some unclear figures, so verify key facts against the original.