



Mary & William Ring in the Records of Leiden

"Charles, Mildreth [Mildred Charles] of England, acc[ompanied] by Jenne Tickins [Jane Thickers nee White] and Maycken Ring [Mary Ring] his acq[aintances] betr[othed] 16 May 1614, mar[ried] 31 May 1614 to Samuel Terrier [Samuel Terry] of Caen in Normandy [France], Say-worker, acc[ompanied] by Rogier Wiltsum [Roger Wilson] and Samuel Fuller his acq[aintances]."
Johanna W. Tammel, *The Pilgrims and other people from the British Isles in Leiden 1576-1640* (Isle of Man: Mansk-Svenska Publishing, c1989), p. 67, 256.

"Ringh, Willem [William Ring], Say-worker, guar[anteed] as Citz[Citizen] by Alexander Prijs [Alexander Price] and William Bradford [William Bradford], 7 June 1619."

Johanna W. Tammel, *The Pilgrims and other people from the British Isles in Leiden 1576-1640* (Isle of Man: Mansk-Svenska Publishing, c1989), p. 226.

William Ring: Coming to America

Robert Cushman was a member of the Leiden community who spent much time in London helping to make the arrangements for the *Mayflower* voyage. He was intending to sail to America in 1620 but, when the *Speedwell* had to be abandoned and a number of passengers left behind, Cushman was among those who chose not to make the voyage.

While the *Mayflower* and *Speedwell* were in Dartmouth Harbor in August of 1620, in a futile attempt to make the *Speedwell* seaworthy, Cushman wrote a letter to Edward Southworth in London. The letter is extremely pessimistic, detailing Cushman's illness, the leaking of the *Speedwell*, the depletion of the group's food supplies caused by the delay in sailing, the possible misappropriation of funds (with many complaints about *Mayflower* passenger Christopher Martin), the complaints of the Pilgrims about the terms Cushman negotiated with the merchant adventurers.

He ends "Friend, if ever we make a plantation, God works a miracle, especially considering how scant we shall be of victuals, and most of all ununited amongst ourselves and devoid of good tutors and regiment...If I should write to you of all things which promiscuously forerun our ruin, I should over-charge my weak head and grieve your tender heart. Only this, I pray you prepare for evil tidings of us every day. But pray for us instantly, it may be the Lord will be yet entreated one way or other to make for us. I see not in reason how we shall escape even the gasping of hunger-starved persons; but God can do much, and His will be done. It is better for me to die than now for me to bear it, which I do daily and expect it hourly, having received the sentence of death both within me and without me. Poor William Ring and myself do strive who shall be meat first for the fishes, but we look for a more glorious resurrection..."

This passage indicates that William Ring was part of the original group from Leiden that meant to journey to America in 1620 and that, 1 August of 1620, he was ailing. Nothing further is known of his fate beyond the fact that Ring was not a passenger on the *Mayflower* and he had died by 1629/30 when his widow came to America with their three children.

Note: Robert Cushman journeyed to Plymouth on the *Fortune* in 1621 and, returning to England

the same year, lived until 1625.

It is possible that Mary Ring and the three Ring children were also part of the original group that meant to travel to America. William Bradford notes that, when the *Speedwell* was determined to be unseaworthy,

"...it was resolved to dismiss her [the *Speedwell*] and part of the company, and proceed with the other ship [the *Mayflower*]. The which (though it was grievous and caused great discouragement) was put into execution. So after they had took out such provision as the other ship could well stow, and concluded both what number and what persons to send back, they made another sad parting; the one ship [the *Speedwell*] going back for London and the other [the *Mayflower*] was to proceed on her voyage. Those that went back were for the most part such as were willing so to do, either out of some discontent or fear they conceived of the ill success of the voyage, seeing so many crosses befall, and the year time so far spent. But others, in regard of their own weakness and charge of many young children were thought least useful and most unfit to bear the brunt of this hard adventure; unto which work of God, and judgment of their brethren, they were contented to submit."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 53.