

# Old and New Westmoreland

Genealogical and Personal History under Editorial Supervision of

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## (The Doty Line).

There is much doubt in connection with the origin of this name which was one of the first to come from England to the New England colonies, the progenitor of the family, Edward Doty, having sailed on the first trip of the famous "Mayflower" and landed with the Pilgrim fathers at Plymouth. We have a record of him in the appendix attached to the very interesting history of Plymouth plantation, written by Governor William Bradford, the second Governor of the Plymouth Colony, who succeeded Governor Carver in 1621, the work being completed by him in 1650. We find in this appendix a list of the passengers of the "Mayflower," which begins thus:

"The names of those who came over first in ye year 1620, and were by the blessing of God the first beginners and (in a sort), the foundation of all the Plantations and Colonies in New England: and their families." In the list which follows occurs the following entry: "Mr. Steven Hopkins and Elizabeth, his wife and 2 children caled, Giles and Constanta, a daughter, both by a former wife; and 2 more by this wife, caled Damaris and Oceanus: the last borne at sea; and 2 servants caled Edward Doty and Edward Litster." There is reason to believe that this same Edward Doty had been an apprentice or servant in the family of a London tanner for possibly as much as seven years before his emigration to America and he certainly was a young man at the time he came here. In spite of this fact, however, there is very little evidence to show the place of his birth. The name is one not found elsewhere in England, either in the contemporary histories and records of that time, nor yet to-day. We have indeed what might first appear to be modifications of the name in such forms as Doughty and Dotten and in those days there were several immigrants of the names Doughtys and Dottens of English origin in the New England colony. Careful search, however, fails to reveal any relationship between these and Edward Doty, so there is a strong presumption in favor of its having other than an English origin. According to Ethan Allen Doty, who has compiled a very complete record of the family in this country, there is strong supporting evidence of this view in the fact that the original ancestor appears to have been a man of quick and even violent temper who was by no means infrequently in trouble with the authorities, a fact that he believes to be indicative of a warmer and more Southern blood. In this country the name for a considerable period of time is indifferently spelled as Doty or Doten, but it is probable and indeed almost certain that the latter form is a corruption of the former. It is certain that in Governor Bradford's history the name is spelled Doty and it seems probable that such forms as Doten, Doton, and Dotin were brought about by colloquial pronunciations, just as the name Doughty was pronounced and spelled Doughten and is so found in the records of Scituate, Massachusetts. Mr. Doty, the historian, refers to the authority of Baylie, who in his "Chronicles of Plymouth" states that "The names of Bompasse, DeLaNoye and Doten are unquestionably of French origin. The same authority, however, goes on to state that the "persons who originally bore them were probably admitted into the Plymouth company from among the French Protestant resident at Leiden. They have been changed by English pronunciation and uses into Pumpus, Bump, Delano and Doty." This is unquestionably incorrect in the case of the latter name, however, as there is no doubt at all of his having been a resident of London before coming to America and to have been originally called Doty. There are several other theories in regard to this derivation, one of which claims for it a German origin, but the amount of evidence which can be deduced in favor of any one of them is decidedly meagre and we can only conjecture whence Edward Doty or his ancestors

originally came. That he arrived with the first company on board the "Mayflower" is certain, and it is probable that he formed one of the party which volunteered to go on land and look for a suitable place for the party to settle. This was rendered necessary by the damage done to the shalop which was brought on the "Mayflower" to the New World in order that the Pilgrims could coast in shallow waters while looking for a place to camp. The shalop was afterwards repaired, however, and was put to its originally intended use, the party which set forth in it being in the quaint words of Governor Bradford, as follows:

"So ten of our men were appointed who were of themselves willing to undertake it, to wit, Captaine Standish, Maister Carver, William Bradford, Edward Winsloe, John Tilley, Edward Tilley, John Houland and three of London, Richard Warren, Steeuen Hopkins and Edward Dotte, and two of our Seaman, John Alderton, and Thomas English, of the Ship's Company. There were two of the masters mates, Master Clarke and Master Copin, the Master Gunner and three saylers." When after the final settlement the land was allotted to the various members of the expedition, Edward Doty undoubtedly shared with the family of his master, Stephen Hopkins, and continued with him until the further allotment in 1624. He was one of those who endured the hardships of the first terrible winter which nearly proved the end of the little settlement. but he was young and strong and lived through it without any recorded harm to himself. It has been mentioned that he was frequently in trouble with the authorities and on one occasion was severely punished for being a participant in the first duel ever fought in New England, his fellow-servant, Edward Litster or Leister, as it is also spelled, being his adversary. They were both wounded and were condemned to be tied feet and head together and to remain so for twenty-four hours without eat or drink. However, after the first hour, "because of their great pains at their own and their master's humble request, upon promise of better carriage, they are released by the Governor." The name of Edward Doty appears very frequently on the records of the colony and by means of them may be traced his gradual rise to a position of prominence and influence in Plymouth.