



# The Allerton Family Journal

The Newsletter of the  
Pilgrim Isaac Allerton Society  
[www.isaacallerton.com](http://www.isaacallerton.com)

## Governor's Message:

We are entering into our second year and our membership is steadily growing. We have fifteen new members to report and now have forty-nine members!

Please help pass the word about our society — to your genealogical groups, libraries and historical societies, and ask that they include our contact information in their publications and newsletters.

We are making the finishing touches on our design of our new membership certificate and hope to get it out to members in the next few months.

The board is also making preliminary plans for our first Annual Meeting in September 2014, during the Mayflower Congress in Plymouth. We have a tentative date of Saturday, September 6, 2014 for a dinner and meeting. "Isaac Allerton" of Plimouth Plantation will be our speaker! As our plans firm up, you will hear more.

Sincerely,

*Susan E. Roser*

Susan E. Roser, Governor

## New Members of the Society

We have 15 new members of the Pilgrim Isaac Allerton Society. We hope to see everyone in Plymouth in 2014! Welcome aboard!

35. David Furlow — Associate member
36. Paula Pennington — (Remember)
37. Lauren Haley — (Remember)
38. Linda Pennington — (Remember)
39. Charleen Lambert — (Mary)
40. Ruby Reyes Flowers — (Remember)
41. Kristina Joyce — (Mary)
42. Barbara Dillon — (Mary)
43. Paul Schielke — (Mary)
44. Georgiana Schielke — (Mary)
45. Mary Wlodarski — (Mary)
46. Caroline Cummings — (Mary)
47. Susan Cook — (Mary)
48. Robert Hughes — (Mary)
49. George M. Allerton — (Isaac, Jr.)

Email Linda Hart at [pilgrimisaacallerton@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimisaacallerton@gmail.com) to add your friends and relatives to the Society.

## Financial Report 2011-2012

### Receipts:

Member fees	\$2045.00
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### Expenses:

Web hosting	\$111.87
Mayflower Brick	<u>\$150.00</u>

Balance on hand January 1, 2013	<u>\$1783.13</u>
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*"People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors."*

— Edmund Burke



## Where was the Isaac Allerton House on First Street?

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The 1749 Courthouse on First Street in Plymouth is the oldest wooden courthouse and the longest used municipal building in America.

There is good evidence, however, that this site has been associated with Plymouth's colonial government from the beginnings of the Plymouth Colony. On or near this courthouse was the first home of the Allerton family in the New World. Since Isaac Allerton served as Assistant Governor from 1621-1630 and 1633-34, he was the first of many government figures who either lived or worked on the site.

Old maps of early Plymouth showed that First Street was the main street of the new settlement. The Pilgrims reportedly drew lots for the location of their homes, and we know that the Allerton family had a house and seven-acre lot on the south side of the street between the homes of Francis Cooke and John Billington, across the street from William Bradford.

In 1629, Allerton and the other settlers were given farms outside of Plymouth in order to raise crops, graze their cattle and conduct their dairying during the summer. When winter came, the families would return to their town residences in Plymouth.

Several settlers added to their homes after the first few years. Isaac Allerton must have improved his house in Plymouth to a considerable extent since he was assessed the highest tax in the Colony, £3.10s, in 1633. In later years, he built one of the three finest houses in New Haven, with four porches and expensive joinery. He also had a fine house at No. 1 Broadway in New Amsterdam that was later bought by a Governor. The high Plymouth tax and his later preferences for fine houses indicate he probably had the finest house in Plymouth in the 1630s.

In the winter of 1633-34, the Pilgrims' close proximity to town would prove to be a disaster. An epidemic killed many of the original settlers, including Isaac's sister Sarah and her husband Godbert Godbertson. Worst of all, his young wife Fear (Brewster) Allerton also died. This could also have been the time that his young daughter Sarah, born about 1627, died.



The 1749 Courthouse, Plymouth. Credit: David Furlow

The changes in the Allerton household were substantial. Four year old Isaac, Jr. went to live with his grandfather, William Brewster, while Isaac Senior traveled on his various trading ventures. By this time, Bartholomew had moved to England to become a minister. Remember had married Moses Maverick in Salem and was living in Marblehead by May 1635. Mary also married Thomas Cushman in Plymouth about 1636 and set up her own household.

William Bradford wrote that Isaac spent little time in Plymouth after this, so the house may have remained vacant. There is also archeological evidence that the Jones River farm was abandoned from about 1635-1650. We know that Isaac lived in Marblehead in 1635, in Maine in the late 1630s, New Amsterdam by the early 1640s, and New Haven in the 1650s.

In 1646, Isaac sold his cattle, his Plymouth town house and lot and his Jones River farm to pay off his portion of the debt owed to the London investors. Thomas Willett, a wealthy merchant and the Assistant Governor from 1651-1665, acquired the Allerton house and lot.

About 1685, this house or a new building became known as the Country House, and later as the Old Government House and was used for local governance and administration. This structure was demolished in 1749, and the new Courthouse was built on the site. In the basement of the Courthouse Museum are artifacts from the Willett (and probably Allerton) occupations which were found when excavations were made under and around the courthouse.

It's interesting to think that this location's "governing" history may actually go back not to 1749 — but 130 years earlier to 1620!

*"Mr. Isaac Allerton hath given leave to all other creditors to be fully discharged before he receives anything of his particular debts to himself, desiring rather to lose all than other men should lose any."* — Hearing on Estate of Godbert Godbertson, 2 December 1633



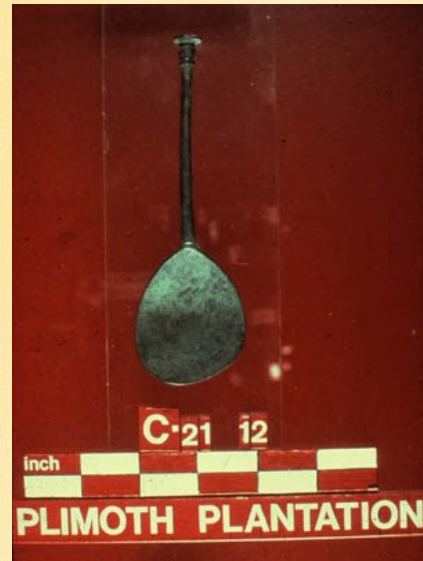
## Isaac Allerton's Lost Spoon

One of the greatest archeological discoveries in the Plymouth region was the Jones River homestead of Isaac Allerton and Thomas Cushman. It was one of the oldest sites in the Old Colony, and it was significant because there was a great wealth of artifacts discovered. The site, which was the farm allotted to Isaac Allerton in 1629, is located in Kingston, MA. It was discovered in 1972 when an architect was inspecting a field where his client wanted to build a house. He found a number of pipe stems and ceramic shards scattered over the property and brought them to Plimoth Plantation to be analyzed. The Plantation was excited by the age of the items, so an archeological team led by James Deetz began to excavate the site. They found an earth-fast structure with a stone cellar measuring about 20' by 22.' In and around the structure were pipe stems, wine bottles, ceramics, tools and much more.

Interestingly, they found a perfectly preserved, though well-worn seal-top pewter spoon in the cellar. This was not an item which would have been thrown away since it was still in one piece. It appears to have been accidentally dropped in the cellar and lost. The person who used the spoon clearly was right-handed since the left side of the spoon was very worn from scraping innumerable plates and bowls.

The spoon is known as a "seal-top" spoon because the ornament on the top looks like a stamp for sealing a letter. It was a high-status item, and spoons like this were made from the 14th century until the end of Charles I's reign in 1649. The archeologists estimated that this spoon was made circa 1630 and therefore probably belonged to Isaac and Fear Allerton rather than the Cushmans, who didn't inherit the property until about 1650. Most people in Plymouth had wooden or horn spoons, and this type of spoon has only been found at the Allerton, Standish and Winslow sites, all high-status individuals who could afford such items.

Typically, visitors would bring their own spoons to a friend's house (if they owned them), so they wouldn't have to share a wooden spoon with another dinner guest. Many would carry their spoons on a cord tied to their belt for status and convenience.



c1630 spoon found at the Allerton house



Allerton house site, c. 1972

Credit: Plimoth Plantation

Because Isaac's spoon is so worn, one wonders how many trips it took back and forth across the sea before it was lost in his own cellar. He may have simply gone to the cellar to select a bottle of wine for his guests, when the spoon fell off his belt. He must have been quite upset to lose such a valuable item and one that had clearly been with him for so long.

You can see Isaac's spoon at the Kingston Public Library where it and some of the other items were donated by the 1972 landowner's widow. The other artifacts are at Plimoth Plantation, but are kept in storage. Isaac might be pleased to know his spoon was finally found. It only took 338 years!

*"Our history begins before we are born. We represent the influences of our past, and our ancestors live in us."*

— James Nasmyth



## Isaac Allerton's Will

Inventory taken 12 Feb 1658/9; Will presented 5 July 1659 by Isaac Allerton, Jr. A writeing presented as the last will and Testament of Isaac Allerton, late of Newhaven deceased, with an account of certaine debts, dew to him; & from him;

An account of Debts at the Duch: first, 700 & odd guilders from Tho: Hall by Arbitration of Captaine Willet, & Augustine Herman; about Captaine Scarlet wch I paid out, And there is 900 guilders owing by John Peter-son the Bore, as by George Woolseyes booke will appeare; & severall obligations thereto; ffrom Richard Cloufe owes, as George Woolseyes Booke will make appeare; I thinke 900 guilders, but his Estate being broken, I desire that what may be gotten may be layd hold on for mee.

Due from William Goulder 270, od guilders, by his Bill appeares; Due from John Snedecare a shoemaker 150 od guilders as by his acco appeares. From the widow of the Hanc Hancson due as by severall Bills & accounts; Peter Cornelioussen 120 od guilders as by ye account will appeare. Due from Henry Brasser for rent for 28 months, from the first of October 1656 to the last of May 58: for three rooms at 3 guilders a week. I am in his Debt for worke of the old acco wch must be Deducted; there is 20 li in George Woolseyes hand, that came fro mr. Tho Mayhue for mee.

There is 420 od guilders that I owe to Nicholas, the ffrenchman & a Cooper I owe something to, wch I would have that 201; in George Woolseyes hand, & the rest of that in Henry Brassers hand to them two;

And now I leave my son Isaac Allerton and my wife, as Trustees to receive in my debts & pay what I owe, as farr as it will goe & what is overpluss I leave to my wife and my sonne Isaac, as far as they receive the Debts to pay what I owe; in Captaine Willets hand, a pcell of booke lace 1300 & odd guilders Wch I left in trust with Captaine Willettto take care of.

My brother Bruster owes mee foure score pounds & odd. As the obligations will appeare. Besides all my Debbtns in Delloware Bay & in Virginia wch in my booke will appeare, & in the Barbadoes, what can be got.

Isaa Allerton Senior      Witness: John Harriman  
Edward Preston

## An Inventory of the Estate of Isaac Allerton late of Newhaven deceased taken ffeb. 12 1658

Impr the Dwelling house Orchard & Barne wth li sh d two acres of meadow 75.00:00

A pcell of Tubbs & other cask & 2 boosh apples 01.12.06,  
8 Jarrs, a case of bottles & 2 cs without bottles 01.03.00.

1 per of small stilleyards, 1 old sieve, 6 stooles & 3 old chaires 01.02.00,

1 chest of Drawers, 1 bedstead, wth cord, & 1 small chest & 1 old booke 01.17.00

1 per of Ondirons & 4 pothangers & other iron 00.08.02

1 rug, 2 blankitts, 1 old featherbed & bolster & pillow 4.13.00

1 Drawtable, 2 chaires & a forme & carpet 02.06.00

A per of blankitts of cotton & sheeps wool 01.16.00

1 Sea chest, small box & 2 warming pans 00.07.06

4 old skellits & 2 small old kettles 00.15.00

3 Iron potts, 2 frying pans & a pcell of Tinware 01.17.04

5 brase candlesticks & a brass chaffingdish 00.09.06

1 bolster, 1 blanket & a remet tradingcloth 01.12.00

A pcell of wearing cloaths 06.17.06

Curtaines & vallens for a bed & a sm: turky carpet 02.06

2 old blankitts, a pcell of carpeting & a small old Table 01.08 00

A pcell of pewter 02.17.00

8 ounces of plate at 52 pr. 02.00.00

A pcell of old linen 1 li thread 02.07.04

2 sowes & 4 pigs 02.12.00

A bedstead, old curtains & a mortar & pestell, a chest case & 2 old tubs & a per of spectacles,

Old hatt & capp 01.05.06

5 cushions, some old bands, with some other old linen 00.11.06

Brimston & sheeps wool 00.14.06

118.05.02 [pounds]

Prisers: Will. Andrews Will. Russell

Debts Due to the Estate in Newhaven:

Mr. Goodenhouse pr Order of mr. Malbon 50s fro

Wch he deducts 20s that he saith mr Allerton owed him. 8s paid mr. Mills, rests 01.12.00

Mr Tuttle by the Rest of 40s ordred by mr Malbon

00.12.00, Goodm. Hull is Dr 00.16.00, mr Gilberts manIsaac hall 01.00.00, Humphry Spinigh, mr Wm

Trowbridg for his predesessor Daniell Sillivan.