

A genealogical profile of John Adams

Birth: Assuming John Adams came to New England as an adult, he was born by 1600.

Death: He died in Plymouth between July 1 and October 24, 1633.

Ship: *Fortune*, 1621

Life in England: The English origin of John Adams has not been identified.

Life in New England: John Adams came to Plymouth Colony aboard the *Fortune* in November 1621. Ellen Newton (also called Helen and Elinor) arrived in the summer of 1623, either aboard the *Anne* or *Little James*. The division of cattle of May 1627 listed “John Adams” “Elinor Adams” and “James Adams;” it has therefore long been assumed that John married Ellen Newton as she was the only woman of that name in the colony. The family stayed in Plymouth where John became a freeman.

Family: John Adams married Ellen Newton about 1625 in Plymouth. They had three children before his death in 1633. Elinor married (2) Kenelm Winslow in June 1634 and had four children. She was buried December 5, 1681, in Marshfield, “being 83 years old.”

Children of John and Elinor Adams:

- James was born before May 22, 1627. He married Frances Vassall in Scituate in 1646 and had five children. The family last appeared in the Plymouth records April 8, 1657, and they may have moved to Massachusetts Bay Colony. Francis Adams was awarded 150 acres of land by the Massachusetts General Court in 1673, so they were living in New England at that time.
- John was born after May 22, 1627. He married (1) Jane James in Marshfield on December 27, 1654, and had three children. The family moved to Flushing, New York after June 1660. He married (2) Elizabeth _____ before December 10, 1666, and had at least one child, and possibly twelve.
- Susan was born after May 22, 1627. She was referred to in the 1633 settlement of her father’s estate, but there is no further record.

Children of Kenelm and Elinor Winslow:

- Kenelm was born about 1635. He married (1) Mercy Worden by 1668 and had seven children. He married (2) Damaris Eames by 1693 and had four children. He died on November 11, 1715.

- Ellen was born about 1636. She married Samuel Baker on December 20, 1656, in Marshfield and had eight children. She died in August 1676.
- Nathaniel was born about 1639. He married Faith Miller on August 3, 1664, in Marshfield and had eight children. He died on December 1, 1719.
- Job was born about 1641. He married Ruth _____ by 1674 and had thirteen children. He died on July 14, 1720.

For further information

Robert C. Anderson. *The Great Migration Begins*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995.

Robert C. Anderson. *The Pilgrim Migration*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2004.

Caroline Bartlett Eustis. “Family of John Adams of Plymouth.” *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 33:410–413. 1879.

Eugene A. Stratton. *Plymouth Colony: Its History and People, 1620–1691*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1986.

Wakefield, Robert S. “Men of the Fortune: John Adams.” *The American Genealogist* 55: 212–214. 1979.

David P. Horton and Frances K. Holton. *Winslow Memorial: Vol. 1*. New York: Privately printed, 1877.



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Where do I go from here?

Researching your family's history can be a fun, rewarding, and occasionally frustrating project. Start with what you know by collecting information on your immediate family. Then, trace back through parents, grandparents, and beyond. This is a great opportunity to speak to relatives, gather family stories, arrange and identify old family photographs, and document family possessions that have been passed down from earlier generations.

Once you have learned all you can from family members, you will begin to discover other sources. A wide variety of records can help you learn more about the lives of your ancestors. These include birth, marriage, and death records; immigration and naturalization records; land records; census records; probate records and wills; church and cemetery records; newspapers; passenger lists; military records; and much more.

When you use information from any source — an original record, a printed book, or a website — always be careful to document it. If you use a book, you should cite the author or compiler, the full title, publication information and pages used. Also be sure to record the author's sources for the information. If the author's sources aren't provided, you will have to try to find the original source. Many genealogical works contain faulty information, and the Internet also contains many inaccuracies. In order for your work to be accepted — by lineage societies and other genealogists — it must be properly documented.

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New England Historic Genealogical Society

Founded in 1845, NEHGS is the country's oldest and largest genealogical society. The library contains over 200,000 books, plus significant manuscript and microfilm collections, and a circulating library by mail. NEHGS members receive two periodicals, the *Register* and *New England Ancestors*, and can access valuable genealogical data online.

NEHGS, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116;
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RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

- www.PlymouthAncestors.org
- www.CyndisList.com
- www.FamilySearch.org
- www.USGenWeb.org



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General Society of Mayflower Descendants Library

A collection focused principally on the genealogies of the descendants of the *Mayflower* passengers.

4 Winslow St., Plymouth; 508-746-3188; www.mayflower.org

Plymouth Collection, Plymouth Public Library

Over 1200 items relating to the descendants of the Pilgrims, as well as the many other immigrants who settled in the area.

132 South St., Plymouth; 508-830-4250;
www.plymouthpubliclibrary.org

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy by Christine Rose and Kay Germain Ingalls, Alpha Books, 1997.

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research by Marcia Melnyk, NEHGS, 1999.

Shaking Your Family Tree: A Basic Guide to Tracing Your Family History by Ralph J. Crandall, NEHGS, 2001.

Unpuzzling Your Past by Emily Croom, Betterway Books, 2003.

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