

A genealogical profile of John Alden

Birth: John Alden was born in England around 1599.

Death: He died in Duxbury on September 12, 1687.

Ship: *Mayflower*, 1620

Life in England: John Alden was hired in Southampton, Hampshire to be the cooper (barrel-maker) aboard the *Mayflower* during her 1620 voyage. While many towns have been proposed as his place of origin, none have been proved.

Life in New England: John Alden lived in Plymouth until 1632, when he moved to Duxbury. He served the colony in many capacities, including Governor's Assistant, Deputy Governor and treasurer. He actively participated in Plymouth's trade on the Kennebec River in Maine, and in 1634 he and John Howland became involved in a dispute there which left two men dead. Alden was arrested in Boston while the controversy was investigated, and later released. John Alden received many land grants during his life but gave most of this land to his sons. By 1660, he was "low in his estate" and received "a small gratuity, the sum of ten pounds" from the Plymouth Court. His inventory totaled only £49 17s 6d. in movable goods.

Family: About 1623 John Alden married Priscilla Mullins, the only survivor of the Mullins family on the *Mayflower*, and had ten children. Priscilla died in Duxbury between 1651 and Alden's death in 1687.

Children of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins:

- Elizabeth was born about 1624. She married William Peabody on December 26, 1644, and had thirteen children. She died in Little Compton on May 31, 1717. Their graves are in the Old Commons Cemetery there.
- John was born about 1626. He married Elizabeth (Phillips) Everill on April 1, 1660, and had fourteen children. He died in Boston on March 14, 1701/2.
- Joseph was born about 1628. He married Mary Simmons about 1660 and had seven children. He died in Bridgewater on February 8, 1696/7.
- Priscilla was born about 1630. She was still alive and unmarried in 1688.
- Jonathan was born about 1632. He married Abigail Hallett on December 10, 1672, and had six children. He died in Duxbury on February 14, 1697, and was buried in the Old Cemetery in South Duxbury.
- Sarah was born about 1634. She married Alexander Standish about 1660 and had eight children. She died before the set-

tlement of her father's estate in 1688.

- Ruth was born about 1636. She married John Bass in Braintree on February 3, 1657/8, and had seven children. She died in Braintree on October 12, 1674.
- Mary was born about 1638. She was still alive and unmarried in 1688.
- Rebecca was born about 1640. She married Thomas Delano in 1667 and had nine children. She died between June 12, 1696, and October 5, 1722.
- David was born about 1642. He married Mary Southworth by 1674 and had six children. He died in Duxbury between July 2, 1718, and April 1, 1719.

For Further Information

Ebenezer Alden. *Memorial of the Descendants of the Hon. John Alden*. Randolph, mass.: privately printed, 1867.

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.

Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Vol. 16, John Alden. Esther L.

Woodworth-Barnes and Alicia Crane Williams, comp. 2 parts. Plymouth: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1999, 2002, 2004.

Alicia Crane Williams. "John Alden: Theories on English Ancestry." *The Mayflower Descendant* 39:111-122 (1989); 40:133-136 (1990).



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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.

IMPORTANT GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

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;
888-296-3447; www.NewEnglandAncestors.org.

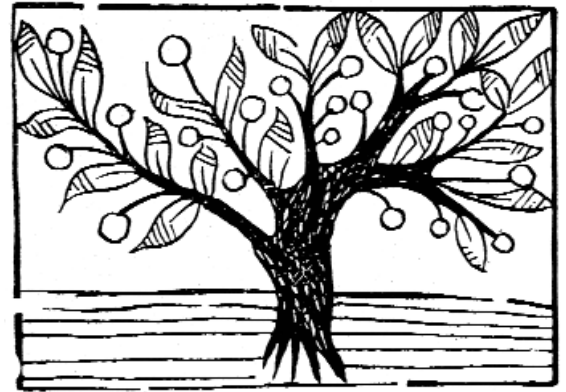
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RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

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



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GENEALOGICAL LIBRARIES IN PLYMOUTH

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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