

A genealogical profile of William Bassett

Birth: William Bassett was born in England by 1600.

Death: He died in Bridgewater between April 3, 1667, the date of his will, and May 12, 1667, when his inventory was taken.

Ship: *Fortune*, 1621

Life in England: Nothing is known of his life in England.

Life in Holland: There was a man named William Bassett, from Sandwich, who lived in Leiden in 1611. He was a widower, and in that year married Margaret Oldham. While some historians have identified him as the same man who emigrated to Plymouth Colony, others believe that the man in Plymouth was too young to have been a widower by 1611.

Life in New England: William Bassett arrived in Plymouth in November 1621, most probably with his wife, Elizabeth. He moved to Duxbury by 1637, and to Bridgewater by 1656. He served on a number of juries and committees, and was a deputy for Duxbury to the Plymouth court. He was a blacksmith, and a number of smith's tools were listed in his inventory. Interestingly, his inventory also contained a number of theological books.

Family: William married (1) Elizabeth _____ by 1623. She died sometime after 1634. He married (2) Mary (Tilden) Lapham after 1651 and before December 12, 1664. She was still living in Bridgewater on March 28, 1690.

Children of William and Elizabeth Bassett:

- William was born in Plymouth about 1624. He married Mary Rainsford by about 1652 and had three children. He died in Sandwich on May 29, 1670.
- Elizabeth was born in Plymouth about 1626. She married Thomas Burgess on November 8, 1648, in Sandwich. They divorced June 10, 1661; the first divorce in Plymouth Colony.
- Sarah was born in Plymouth about 1628. She married Peregrine White before March 6, 1648/9, and had seven children. They lived in Marshfield and she died January 20, 1711/2.
- Nathaniel was born about 1630. He married (1) Dorcas Joyce about 1661 and (2) Hannah _____. He lived first in Marshfield, then in Yarmouth. He had ten children and died on January 17, 1710/1.
- Joseph was born about 1632. He married (1) Mary _____ by about 1660 and (2) Martha Hobart on October 16, 1677. He had eight children and died in 1712.

- Ruth was born about 1634. She married (1) John Sprague by 1655 and had seven children and (2) a man surnamed Thomas. She died after March 22, 1693/4.

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.

Buell B. Bassette. *One Bassett Family in America*. Springfield: F. A. Bassette, 1926.

Lydia B. P. Brownson, Grace Held, and Doris Norton. *Genealogical Notes on Cape Cod Families*. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1972, microfilm.

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



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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.

Plimoth Plantation: *Bringing Your History To Life*

As a non-profit, educational organization our mission is: to offer the public powerful experiences of history, built upon thorough research of the Wampanoag and Pilgrim communities. We offer multiple learning opportunities to provide a deeper understanding of the relationship of historical events to modern America. Members have access to our Research Library.

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508-746-1622; www.plimoth.org

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

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



PLYMOUTH ANCESTORS[®]

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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