

A Genealogical Profile of John Crackstone/Craxton

Birth: John Crackstone was born by about 1575 based on his daughter's marriage date.

Death: He died in Plymouth between January 11 and April 10, 1621.

Ship: *Mayflower*, 1620

Life in England: Nothing is known of John Crackstone's life in England, although the family was likely from the Colchester, Essex area. Anna Crackstone described herself as being from Colchester in her 1618 betrothal.

Life in Holland: The family was in Leiden as of June 1616.

Life in New England: John Crackstone came over with his son, John. John Senior died in the first winter of the general sickness. Sometime after May 22, 1627, John Junior died. Bradford said, "having lost himself in the woods, his feet became frozen, which put him into a fever of which he died."

Family: The name of John Crackstone's wife is unknown, and there is no mention of her in the Leiden records.

Children of John and _____ Crackstone:

- Anna was born about 1600. She married Thomas Smith in Leiden on December 22, 1618. No children of this marriage have been identified.
- John was born about 1602. He died unmarried of a fever about 1627–8.

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.

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

Robert S. Wakefield. "Pilgrim John Crackstone: A Search for His Ancestry and Posterity." *Mayflower Quarterly* 40(4): 117–119. November, 1974.



A collaboration between PLIMOTH PLANTATION and the
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

www.PlymouthAncestors.org PL^YMOUTH ANCE^STOR^S

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.

Plimoth Plantation, 137 Warren Avenue, Plymouth, MA 02632;
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.

A collaboration between PLIMOTH PLANTATION and the
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY[®]

www.PlymouthAncestors.org