

A genealogical profile of William Hilton

Birth: William Hilton was born about 1591, the son of William Hilton of Northwich, Cheshire.

Death: He died between June 28, 1655, and June 30, 1656.

Ship: *Fortune*, 1621

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

Life in New England: William Hilton arrived in Plymouth Colony in 1621. His wife and two children joined him in the summer of 1623. Shortly after arriving in Plymouth, Hilton wrote a letter, later included in Captain John Smith's account of New England, to a cousin in Old England. In this letter, Hilton spoke enthusiastically of life in the new colony, saying in part, "I know not anything a contented mind can here want." In 1624, he had a child baptized by Reverend John Lyford although he was not a member of the church. This action was one of the first in the controversy between Lyford and the Plymouth government. Hilton and his family left Plymouth Colony soon thereafter. He may have joined his brother Edward on the Piscataqua directly. He was in Dover by 1628, later moving to Kittery (1648) and York (1651). He served in various official capacities, including juror and committeeman, in Dover, and York. While in Kittery he was a tavern keeper and ferry operator.

Family: William Hilton married ____ ____ by 1616 and had four children. She died by 1636. He married (2) about that time Frances ____ and had four children. After his death she married (2) Richard White by June 30, 1656.

Children of William and his first wife:

- Elizabeth was baptized in Northwich on June 27, 1616, and buried there August 1, 1616.
- William was baptized in Northwich on June 22, 1617. He married (1) Sarah Greenleaf by 1641 and had at least one child. He married (2) Mehitable Nowell on September 16, 1659, at Charlestown.
- Mary was baptized at Northwich on May 11, 1619. She apparently came to Plymouth Colony in 1623, but nothing further is known.
- John was born in Plymouth about 1624.

Children of William and Frances Hilton:

- Magdalene was born about 1636. She married (1) James Wiggin by 1656. She married (2) Henry Kenning in 1698.
- Mainwaring was born by 1646. He married Mary Moulton about 1671 and had at least one daughter. He died before July 4, 1671.

- Agnes was born about 1647. She married Arthur Beale by 1667.
- William was born about 1653. He married Ann ____ by 1678.

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.



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PLYMOUTH ANCESTORS

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.

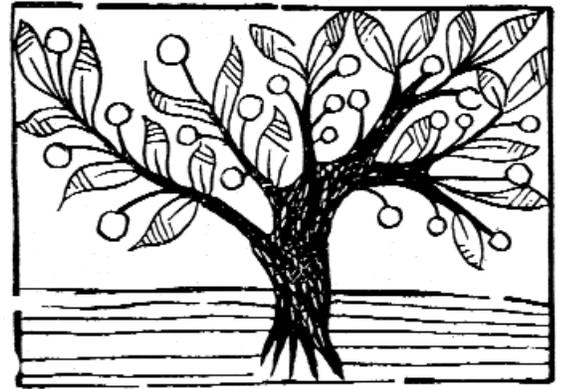
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508-746-1622; www.plimoth.org

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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