

A genealogical profile of James Hurst

Birth: James Hurst was born about 1582, based on his stated age at marriage.

Death: He died in December 1657 in Plymouth.

Ship: Unknown, 1631

Life in England: James Hurst and his wife were from Retford, Nottinghamshire.

Life in Holland: James Hurst first lived in Amsterdam, where he was a bombazine-weaver. In the 1622 Leiden poll tax list, Jeremy Bangs found the names of “Jacop Hurs,” his wife, “Geertgen,” and children “Jan” and “Passchijntgen” living in the close of the English church. He identified them as James Hurst, his wife, Gertrude, and children, John and Patience.

Life in New England: James Hurst first appeared in Plymouth records in the tax list of March 25, 1633. However, if his daughter, Patience, married in Plymouth by September, 1631, then he was in Plymouth much earlier. James Hurst served on a number of juries, was on the highway committee in 1634 and a lotlayer in 1642. His inventory included “4 hides in the fatt [vat] & one tand [tanned]” so he may have worked as a tanner.

Family: James Hurst married Gertrude Bennister on October 4, 1608, in Amsterdam and had two children. She died before May 30, 1670.

Children of John and Gertrude Hurst:

- John Hurst was born about 1610. He was in the Leiden 1622 tax list, but there is no further record.
- Patience was born about 1612. She married Henry Cobb by 1632 and had seven children. She was buried on May 4, 1648, in Barnstable. He married (2) Sarah Hinckley on December 12, 1649, in Barnstable and had eight children. He died between February 22, 1678/9, and June 3, 1679. She died before March 2, 1679/80.

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.

Jeremy D. Bangs. “Pilgrim Homes in Leiden.” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 154 (2000):413–45.



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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.

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.

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