

# A Genealogical Profile of Henry Samson/Sampson

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**Birth:** Henry Samson was baptized in Henlow, Bedfordshire on January 15, 1603/4.

**Death:** He died in Duxbury between December 24, 1684, and March 5, 1684/5.

**Ship:** *Mayflower*, 1620

**Life in England:** Henry was the oldest son of James and Martha (Cooper) Samson and one of nine children born to them. His father died in 1638, and his mother sometime after. He was the only one of the children to emigrate to America.

**Life in New England:** Henry Samson came to New England with relations. Bradford's list of passengers included "Edward Tilley and Anne his wife, and two children that were their cousins, Henry Sampson and Humility Cooper." "Cousin" in this case meant a collateral relation. Edward Tilley's wife was Ann (or Agnes) Cooper, and Henry's mother was Martha (Cooper) Samson, her sister. Humility's father, Robert Cooper, was their brother. The Tilleys died during the first winter. Another family would have taken in Henry, but the specifics are unknown. He became a freeman of Plymouth in 1635/6, and served on various juries as well as being a constable and tax collector. He moved to Duxbury by 1639.

**Family:** Henry Samson married Anne Plummer on February 6, 1635/6, in Plymouth and had nine children. She died between December 24, 1668, and December 24, 1684.

## Children of Henry and Anne Samson:

- Stephen was born about 1638. He married Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ by 1686 and had eight children. He died before January 31, 1714/5, in Duxbury.
- John was born about 1640. He died unmarried between 1702 and 1712.
- Elizabeth was born about 1642. She married Robert Sprout by 1662 and had eight children. She died after November 23, 1711.
- James was born about 1644. He married Hannah (\_\_\_\_\_) Wait by 1679 and had seven children. He died between January 10, 1715/6, and July 7, 1718.
- Hannah was born about 1646. She married Josiah Holmes on March 20, 1665/6, in Duxbury and had six children. She was still living on January 23, 1681.
- A daughter was born about 1648. She married John Hanmore by 1682 and had two sons.

- Mary was born about 1650. She married John Summers by 1684, but had no recorded children. She died before 1686.
- Dorcas was born about 1652. She married Thomas Bonney by 1684 and had three children. She died before July 29, 1695.
- Caleb was born about 1654. He married (1) Mercy Standish by 1686 and had nine children. She died between May 17, 1722, and January 30, 1728/9. He married (2) Rebecca (Bartlett) (Bradford) Stanford on January 30, 1728/9, in Duxbury. He died after July 9, 1744.

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## 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.

*Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Vol. 20: Henry Samson*. Robert M. Sherman, compiler. Plymouth: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2000.

Robert L. Ward. "The Baronial Ancestry of Henry Sampson, Humilty Cooper, and Ann (Cooper) Tilley." *The Genealogist* 6:166–86. 1985.

Robert L. Ward. "English Ancestry of Seven Mayflower Passengers: Tilley, Sampson, and Cooper." *The American Genealogist* 52: 198–208. 1976.

Robert L. Ward. "Henry Sampson's Paternal Grandfather." *The American Genealogist* 56: 141–43. 1980.



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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](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org).

### Plimoth Plantation: *Bringing Your History To Life*

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508-746-1622; [www.plimoth.org](http://www.plimoth.org)

## RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

- [www.PlymouthAncestors.org](http://www.PlymouthAncestors.org)
- [www.CyndisList.com](http://www.CyndisList.com)
- [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org)
- [www.USGenWeb.org](http://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](http://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](http://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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