

A genealogical profile of William Sherman

Birth: William Sherman was born about 1613, based on his date of marriage.

Death: He was buried in Marshfield on October 25, 1679.

Ship: Unknown, 1632

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

Life in New England: William Sherman first appeared in Plymouth records in the tax list of March 25, 1633. There are no references to him for the next five years, so it is unclear whether or not he left the colony. He was in Duxbury by 1638, where he was appointed a highway surveyor in June 1644. He was in Marshfield shortly thereafter. He served as a highway surveyor for Marshfield in 1652. William Sherman may have come to Plymouth originally as a servant. In June 1662, he was included in the “servants and others that are ancient freemen.” In his 1673 will, he referred to land in Saconnet [Little Compton, Rhode Island], where many Plymouth Colony servants ultimately were granted land.

Family: William Sherman married Prudence Hill on January 23, 1638/9 and had four children.

Children of William and Prudence Sherman:

- William was born about 1642. He married Desire Doty on December 25, 1667, in Marshfield and had six children. He was buried in Marshfield on November 17, 1680. She married (2) Israel Holmes as his second wife on November 24, 1681, and had two children. She married (3) Alexander Standish as his second wife about 1686 and had three children. She died on January 22, 1731, in Plymouth.
- Samuel was born about 1644. He married (1) Sarah Doggett by about 1674 and had three children. She was buried in July 1680. He married (2) Hannah _____ by 1688 and had eight children. He died in Marshfield about April 1718.
- John Sherman was born on February 23, 1646. He married Jane Hatch in Boston on October 25, 1677, and had nine children. He died on November 5, 1723, in Marshfield. A daughter was born about 1648. She married Edward Stephens by 1666 and had at least five children.

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. 11: Edward Doty: Part 2. Plymouth: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1996.

Mary Lovering Holman. *Descendants of William Sherman of Marshfield, Massachusetts*. Brookline: Rumford Press, 1936.



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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.

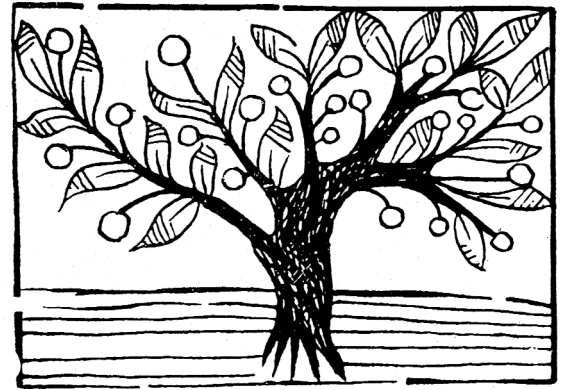
Plimoth Plantation: *Bringing Your History To Life*

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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