

A genealogical profile of Ralph Smith

Birth: Ralph Smith was born about 1590, based on the date of his graduation from Cambridge.

Death: He died on March 1, 1660/1, in Boston.

Ship: Unknown, 1629

Life in England: Ralph Smith was a minister. He graduated from Christ's College, Cambridge University in July 1610.

Life in New England: Reverend Ralph Smith arrived at Nantasket in Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1629. His religious beliefs were significantly different from the ministers already in residence — so much so, that the Governor and assistants, fearing dissention, wanted him to settle elsewhere. Disliking his situation at Nantasket, Rev. Smith requested passage to Plymouth for himself and his family. He removed there in 1629, and was eventually chosen as minister, a position he held until 1635. He remained in Plymouth for about the next ten years, removing to Manchester by 1645, Ipswich by 1652, and Boston by 1660, where he died.

Family: Ralph Smith married (1) _____ by 1629. She died by 1633. He married (2) Mary (Goodall) Masterson by July 1, 1633. She died in 1659. There are no children recorded for Ralph Smith by either wife.

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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www.PlymouthAncestors.org

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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.

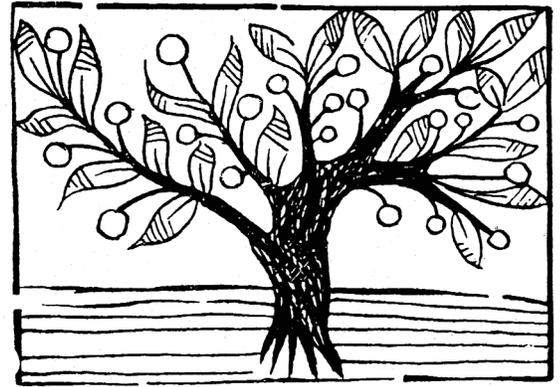
Plimoth Plantation: *Bringing Your History To Life*

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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