

# A genealogical profile of John Bursley

---

**Birth:** John Bursley was born in England about 1600.

**Death:** He died in Barnstable before August 21, 1660, the date of his inventory.

**Ship:** Unknown, 1623

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

**Life in New England:** John Bursley was one of the men sent by Robert Gorges to settle Wessagusset, which became Weymouth. He became a freeman of Weymouth on May 18, 1631. He served as a deputy for the Massachusetts Bay General Court in 1636 and on various committees. He removed to Barnstable in 1639 and served as a constable there in 1645.

**Family:** He married Joanna Hull in Sandwich about November 28, 1639, and had seven children. After his death, she married (2) Dolar Davis as his second wife. She was still alive in July 4, 1673, when she testified to the accuracy of Dolar Davis's inventory.

## Children of John and Joanna Bursley:

- A child "died suddenly in the night and buried" at Barnstable on January 25, 1640/1.
- Mary was baptized in Barnstable on July 29, 1643. She married John Crocker on April 25, 1663, as his second wife and had ten children.
- John was baptized in Barnstable on September 22, 1644, and buried five days later.
- Joanna was baptized in Barnstable on March 1, 1645/6. She married Shubael Dimmock in April 1653 [sic, probably 1663] and had eight children.
- Elizabeth was baptized in Barnstable on March 29, 1649. She married Nathaniel Goodspeed in Barnstable in November 1666 and had one daughter. She married (2) Increase Clap on October 1675 and had four children.
- John was baptized in Barnstable on April 11, 1652. He married Elizabeth Howland in December 1673 in Barnstable and had ten children. She died after January 30, 1695. He died in Barnstable on August 5, 1726.
- Temperance was born about 1657. She married Joseph Crocker in December 1677 and had seven 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.



A collaboration between PLIMOTH PLANTATION and the  
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®  
Supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services

[www.PlymouthAncestors.org](http://www.PlymouthAncestors.org)

PLYMOUTH ANCESTORS<sup>®</sup>

# 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*

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](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)



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](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.

A collaboration between PLIMOTH PLANTATION and the  
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

[www.PlymouthAncestors.org](http://www.PlymouthAncestors.org)