

# A genealogical profile of John Coombs

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**Birth:** John Coombs was born about 1607, based on his estimated date of marriage.

**Death:** He died after November 5, 1644, when he was involved in a lawsuit, and probably before October 15, 1646 when his wife went to England, leaving the children behind.

**Ship:** Unknown, 1630

**Life in England:** It is possible that he is the John, son of Francis Coombs, baptized on March 13, 1596/7, at Hemel Hempstead, Hampshire, but this identification remains tentative.

**Life in New England:** He was first mentioned in the Plymouth records when he bought a house and land from Ralph Wallen on October 12, 1630. "Mr. John Coombs, gentleman" appeared in a number of records, frequently for cases of debt. He was made a freeman of Plymouth Colony before January 1, 1632/4, but disenfranchised in September 1639 for "being drunken." He was readmitted on June 5, 1644. Around October 15, 1646, his wife had left for England, leaving at least one child in Plymouth. No mention was made of John Coombs in this record and he had either died or left the colony before that time.

**Family:** John Coombs married Sarah Priest by about 1632 and had two sons.

## Children of John and Sarah Coombs:

- John was born about 1633. He married Elizabeth (Royal?) Barlow on Boston on February 24, 1661/2, as her second husband and had three children. He died in Boston before May 29, 1668. She married (3) John Warren about 1669 and had one son.
- Francis was born about 1635. He married (1) Deborah Morton by 1673 and had two children. She died in Plymouth about 1678. He married (2) Mary (Barker) Pratt as her second husband and had three daughters. He died in Middleboro in December 1672.

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## For Further Information:

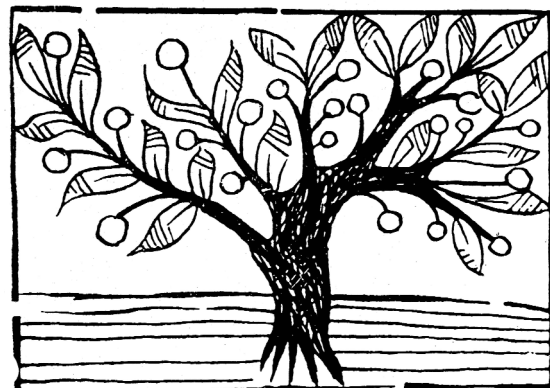
Robert C. Anderson. *The Great Migration Begins*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995.

Robert C. Anderson. *The Pilgrim Migration*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2004.

Mrs. John E. [Florence] Barclay and Rachel E. Barclay. "Barlow, Coombs, and Warren of Boston." *The American Genealogist* 46(1970): 129-134.

*Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Vol. 8: Degory Priest*. Robert S. Wakefield, editor. Plymouth: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1994.

Robert S. Wakefield. "The Probable English Origin of Mr. John Coombs of Plymouth Colony." *The American Genealogist* 71(1996): 247-49.



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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*

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.

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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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