

A genealogical profile of Edward Foster

Birth: Edward Foster was born about 1610, based on his date of marriage.

Death: He died between November 24, 1643, the date of his will, and February 22, 1643/4, the date of his inventory.

Ship: Unknown, 1632

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

Life in New England: Edward Foster was named in the March 23, 1633, tax list for Plymouth. Sometime between March and September 1634, he moved to Scituate. He joined the church there on January 8, 1634/5, and became a deacon on February 22, 1637/8. When the congregation split in 1639, with Reverend Lothrop and many of the church members leaving for Barnstable, the Fosters were among those who stayed. He served as deputy for Scituate to the Plymouth court in the years 1639, 1640 and 1641. He also served on several juries and several committees.

Family: Edward Foster married Lettice Hanford in Scituate on April 8, 1635, and had three children. She married (2) Edward Jenkins by about 1650.

Children of Edward and Lettice Foster:

- Timothy was baptized in Scituate on March 7, 1636/7. He was buried there on December 5, 1637.
- Timothy was baptized in Scituate on April 22, 1638. He married (1) Ruth (Tileston) Denton on October 13, 1663, in Dorchester as her second husband and had six children. He married (2) Relief (Holland) Dowse on March 9, 1681/2, in Dorchester as her second husband and had three children.
- Elizabeth was born in Scituate in 1644. She married (1) Ephraim Hewett in Scituate on November 9, 1665. She married (2) James Ray on January 17, 1681/2, in Hingham and had one child. She died on February 15, 1682/3. He died on June 5, 1723.

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.

George Lincoln. *History of the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts*. 3 vols. Hingham, 1893. Reprint. Somersworth: New England History Press, 1982.



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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



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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

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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