

A genealogical profile of John Irish

Birth: John Irish was born by about 1611, if he was eighteen at the time of his indenture.

Death: He died by March 5, 1677/8.

Ship: Unknown, 1630

Life in England: In an indenture dated April 20, 1629, John Irish of Clisdon, Somersetshire, laborer, agreed to serve Timothy Hatherly of Southwark in Plymouth, New England, for five years. Note: As there is no Clisdon in Somerset, it is unclear what location was meant.

Life in New England: John Irish immigrated as an indentured servant. As part of his payment when he finished his service, he was to have 25 acres of land. The Plymouth court had ordered the towns in which former servants lived to provide them with land, but this practice did not work out. Ex-servants generally received land in the colony's "frontiers" where the colonial government was encouraging settlement. In Plymouth's case, this meant Bridgewater, between Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay and Saconett [Little Compton, Rhode Island] to the west. John Irish received land in both locations. While his main occupation was planter [farmer], John Irish described himself in a 1659 deed as a "roper."

Family: John Irish married Elizabeth _____ by about 1644 and had three children. She died in Little Compton on August 28, 1687.

Children of John and Elizabeth Irish:

- Elizabeth was born about 1644. She married Philip Washburn by about 1664 and had four children. She died on August 28, 1687, in Duxbury. He died about 1700.
- John was born about 1647. He married (1) Elizabeth _____ by about 1672. He married (2) Priscilla (Southworth) Talbot on March 1, 1689, in Bristol, Rhode Island, and had two children. He died on February 21, 1717, in Little Compton, Rhode Island. She died on June 11, 1722.
- Elias was born about 1649. He married Dorothy Witherell in Taunton on August 26, 1674, and had one child. He died before October 30, 1677, when the court appointed his father-in-law, William Witherell, to administer his estate. She married (2) William Wood on April 1, 1686.

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 E. Bowman. "Washburn Notes." *The Mayflower Descendant* 15(1913): 247–53; 16(1914): 248–253.

Willis Luther Irish and Stella Bertha (Putnam) Irish. *Descendants of John Irish the Immigrant 1629–1963 and Allied Families*. Freeport: Dingley Press, 1964.



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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.

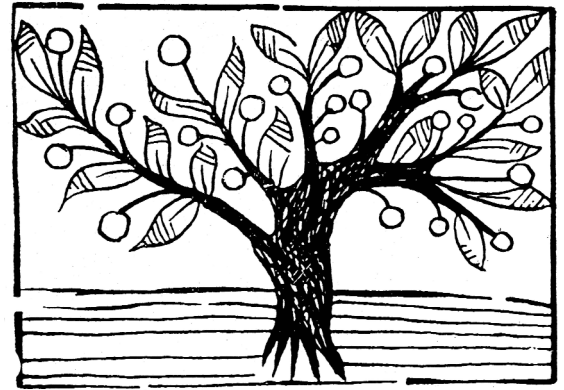
Plimoth Plantation: *Bringing Your History To Life*

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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