

A Genealogical Profile of Manasseh Kempton

Birth: Manasseh Kempton was baptized on February 26, 1589/90 at Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland.

Death: He died on January 14, 1662/3, in Plymouth.

Ship: *Anne* or *Little James*, 1623

Life in England: Manasseh (also written Manasses) was the son of George Kempton, whose other children included Ephraim, William, Annis, and probably Francis. Manasseh went to Colchester, Essex where he may have become involved with a Separatist congregation. From there, he joined Henry Jacob's Separatist congregation in London in 1620.

Life in New England: Manasseh Kempton came over as a single man in 1623. He was a freeman of Plymouth in 1633. He served as a deputy to the Plymouth General Court and on a number of juries and committees. He owned land in several towns besides Plymouth, including Eastham and Dartmouth, much of which he gave to his stepchildren.

Family: Manasseh married Julian (Carpenter) Morton, widow of George Morton, before May 1627. She married George Morton in Leiden on July 23, 1612, and had five children. The family came to Plymouth on the *Anne* in 1623, and George died in June 1624. Manasseh and Julian Kempton had no recorded children.

Children of George and Julian Morton (all born in Leiden, with the possible exception of Ephraim):

- Nathaniel was born about 1613. He married (1) Lydia Cooper on December 25, 1635, in Plymouth and had eight children. He married (2) Anne (Pritchard) Templar in Plymouth on April 29, 1674. He died in June 1685.
- Patience was born about 1615. She married (1) John Faunce in Plymouth by 1633 and had eight children. She married (2) Thomas Whitney after June 9, 1660. She died in Plymouth on August 16, 1691.
- John was born about 1617. He married Lettice _____ by 1649 and had nine children. He died in Middleboro in 1673.
- Sarah was born about 1620. She married George Bonham on December 20, 1644, in Plymouth and had four children. She died in Plymouth in 1694.
- Ephraim was born by 1623. He married Ann Cooper on November 18, 1644, in Plymouth and had nine children. He died in 1693.

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.

Dean C. Smith. "The English Origin of the Kempton Brothers of Plymouth Colony." *The American Genealogist* 67(3): 132-135. July, 1992.

Dean C. Smith and Melinde L. Sanborn. *The Ancestry of Eva Belle Kempton, 1878-1908, Part 1: The Ancestry of Warren Francis Kempton, 1817-1879*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996.

Eugene A. Stratton. *Plymouth Colony: Its History and People, 1620-1691*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1986.



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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.

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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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