

# A genealogical profile of Christopher Martin

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**Birth:** Christopher Martin was born about 1582, probably in Billericay, Essex.

**Death:** He died aboard the *Mayflower* on January 8, 1620/1.

**Ship:** *Mayflower*, 1620

**Life in England:** Christopher Martin lived in the Billericay area of Great Burstead, Essex. By 1607 he was there working as a mercer [merchant] although he probably had not served a formal apprenticeship. He was likely a Puritan, as he and his wife refused to kneel at holy communion on Easter, 1612 and their son did not have godparents.

**Life in New England:** Christopher Martin was chosen “treasurer agent” for the colonists by the investors in England and obtained provisions for the venture, along with Robert Cushman and John Carver, in Leiden. The three disagreed from the first, and Martin bought his provisions in Kent, contrary to the others’ wishes. Martin was chosen governor of the *Mayflower*, in charge of the passengers and provisions. According to Cushman, he refused to discuss the accounts, insulted the passengers and the “sailors also are so offended at his ignorant boldness in meddling and controlling in things he knows not what belongs to, as that some threaten to mischief him; others say they will leave the ship and go their way.” He came to Plymouth Colony with his wife, stepson/servant Solomon Prower and servant John Langemore.

**Family:** Christopher Martin married Mary (\_\_\_\_) Prower on February 26, 1606/7, in Great Burstead, Essex and had at least one son. She was the widow of \_\_\_\_ Prower by whom she had one son.

**Children of Mary and \_\_\_\_ Prower:**

- Solomon died on December 24, 1620.
- Children of Christopher and Mary Martin:
- Nathaniel was baptized on February 26, 1609/10. He was apparently still alive in 1620, but nothing further is known.

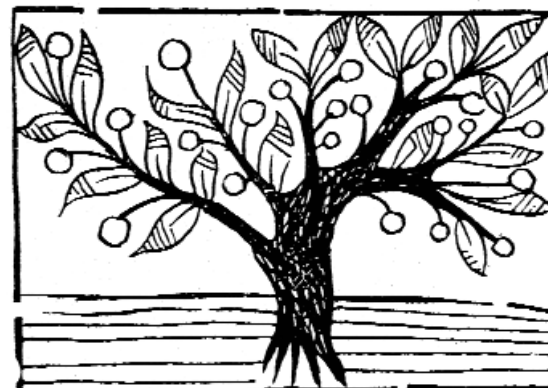
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**For Further Information:**

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.

R. J. Carpenter. *Christopher Martin, Great Burstead and The Mayflower*. Chelmsford, Essex, 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](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org).

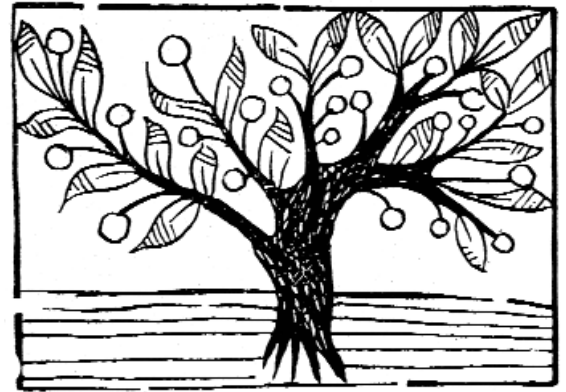
### Plimoth Plantation: *Bringing Your History To Life*

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)



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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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