

A genealogical profile of Richard Masterson

Birth: Richard Masterson was born about 1594, based on his date of marriage.

Death: He died in Plymouth in 1633 during an epidemic of infectious fever.

Ship: Unknown, 1629

Life in England: Richard Masterson lived in Sandwich, Kent. He and several others were brought before church courts for criticizing the Church of England and the Book of Common Prayer, as well as for non-attendance of services. He was excommunicated several times.

Life in Holland: Richard Masterson was in Leiden by October 7, 1611. He was a wool comber by occupation. He bought a house on the Uiterstegracht on January 2, 1614, the sale of which was the subject of years of negotiation by his wife's second husband. With four others, he wrote a letter from Leiden to William Bradford in 1625 about their hopes of emigrating to New England. From Michael Paulick's research, it would seem that Masterson traveled between Leiden and Sandwich.

Life in New England: Richard Masterson arrived in New England in 1629 from Leiden. Nathaniel Morton in his history of the Plymouth church described Masterson as a "holy man" and "experienced saint," "the said Richard Masterson having bin officious with parte of his estate for publick Good; and a man of Abillitie as a second steven to defend the truth by sound argument Grounded on the scriptures of truth..." He died in 1633 in the epidemic of infectious fever. Mary Masterson married Rev. Ralph Smith, the minister for Plymouth until 1636. They moved to Manchester by 1645, and Ipswich by 1652.

Family: Richard Masterson married Mary Goodall on November 23, 1619, in Leiden and had two children. She married (2) Rev. Ralph Smith before July 1, 1644. She died in 1659. He died on March 1, 1660/1 in Boston.

Children of Richard and Mary Masterson:

- Nathaniel was born about 1620. He married Elizabeth Cogswell on July 31, 1657, in Ipswich and had three children. She died in 1691–2. He died before July 1, 1708.
- Sarah was born about 1625. She married John Wood/Atwood by 1645 and had nine children. He died between November 22, 1675, and March 7, 1675/6. She died probably early in 1701.

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.

Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis. *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*.

Portland, 1928–939. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1972.

Michael R. Paulick. "Richard Masterson, John Ellis, Christopher Verrall, and The Sandwich Separatists, 1603–1620." *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 154(2000): 353–69.

Daniel Plooiij. *The Pilgrim Fathers from a Dutch Point of View*. New York: New York University Press, 1932.

Ruth Wilder Sherman. "The Mary Atwood Sampler." *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 144(1990): 23–28.



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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.

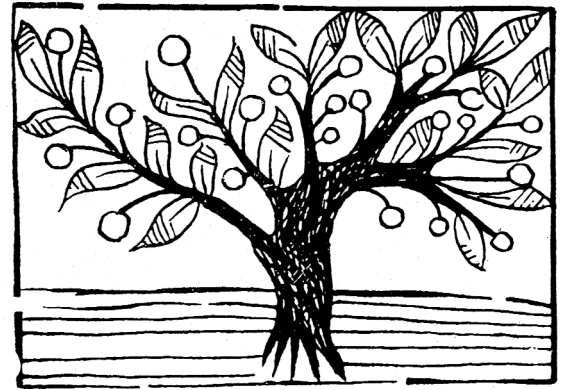
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RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

- 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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