

# A Genealogical Profile of Francis Sprague

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**Birth:** Francis Sprague was born in England about 1590 (based on his estimated date of marriage).

**Death:** He died between 1670 and March 2, 1679/80.

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

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

**Life in New England:** Francis Sprague came to Plymouth with his family. He was admitted a freeman of Plymouth on June 7, 1637. He moved to Duxbury the next year and served as surveyor of highways for two years, and as constable for one. He was licensed to keep victualling [inn-keeping] on October 1, 1638 for Duxbury, but was fined several times for selling wine contrary to the order of the Court. He lost his licence on May 5, 1640, but had it reissued on July 7, 1646. His license was recalled on June 5, 1666.

**Family:** Francis, Anna and Mercy Sprague came to Plymouth in 1623. Opinion is divided as to whether Anna was his wife or his daughter. If his wife, then the couple had another daughter, name unknown, who married by 1644 and was therefore born soon after May 22, 1627. If his daughter, then Francis Sprague came to Plymouth with two daughters but no wife, and married in Plymouth by about 1630.

## Children of Francis and \_\_\_\_\_ Sprague:

- A daughter, possibly named Anna, married William Lawrence by 1644.
- Mercy was born by about 1617. She married William Tubbs on November 9, 1637, in Plymouth. He divorced her on July 7, 1668, she having deserted him more than four years earlier.
- John was born about 1630. He married Ruth Bassett by about 1655 and had seven children. He was killed during King Philip's War. She died after March 22, 1693/4, and before January 1, 1700.
- Dorcas was born about 1632. She married Ralph Earle by 1659 and had four children. He died by January 6, 1717.

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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.

Maclean W. McLean. "John2 Sprague (c.1635–1676) of Duxbury, Mass." *The American Genealogist* 41: 178–81. 1965.

Warren V. Sprague. *Sprague Families in America*. Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Company, 1913.

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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).

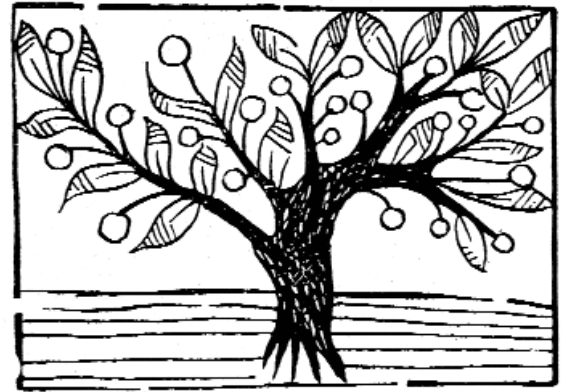
### Plimoth Plantation: *Bringing Your History To Life*

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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