

A Genealogical Profile of Stephen Tracy

Birth: Stephen Tracy is probably the person of that name baptized in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk on December 28, 1596. If so, he would have been born shortly before that day.

Death: He died sometime after March 1655, most probably in Great Yarmouth.

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

Life in England: Nothing is known of Stephen Tracy's life in England. In March 20, 1654/5, he gave power of attorney to John Winslow to sell his property in Duxbury and divide it amongst his children. At that point he described himself as "of Great Yarmouth in old England." If he is identical with the Stephen Tracy baptized there in 1596 then Great Yarmouth was his original home.

Life in Holland: Stephen Tracy first appeared in the Leiden city records at his betrothal to Tryphosa Lee on December 18, 1620. He was described as a "saeywercker," a weaver of say, a fine woolen fabric. In a poll tax listing in 1622, Stephen and Tryphosa were living in "Zevenhuysen," a district next to St. Peter's Church.

Life in New England: Stephen Tracy arrived in Plymouth in the summer of 1623, aboard either the *Anne* or the *Little James*. Tryphosa, however, remained behind. On May 1, 1624, Tryphosa was in London, where she applied for a "license to pass from England beyond the seas" on behalf of herself and daughter Sara. They most likely arrived in Plymouth aboard the *Jacob*, which came to Plymouth in 1625. He was a freeman of Plymouth in 1633, but moved to Duxbury by 1639. He served on various committees and juries, and was a constable for Duxbury.

Family: Stephen Tracy married Tryphosa Lee on January 3, 1621, in Leiden.

Children of Stephen and Tryphosa Tracy:

- Sarah was born about January 1623 in Leiden. She married George Partridge in November 1638 and had seven children. She died between 1702 and 1708.
- Rebecca was born in Plymouth about 1625. She married William Merrick around 1645 and had ten children. She died sometime after March 6, 1688/9.
- Ruth was born around 1628. She was mentioned in her father's 1655 power of attorney, but nothing further is known.

- Mary was born around 1630. She was mentioned in her father's 1655 power of attorney, but nothing further is known.
- John, born about 1632, married Mary Prence around 1661 and had five children. He died May 3, 1710, in Windham, Connecticut.

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.

Mary Walton Ferris. *Dawes-Gates Ancestral Lines*, Vol. 2. Privately printed by the author, 1931.

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

Robert S. Wakefield. "The Adventurous Tryphosa (Lee) Tracy." *The American Genealogist* 51(2): 71-73. 1975.

Ibid. Further on Tryphosa Tracy." *The American Genealogist* 51(4): 242. 1975.



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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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