

A genealogical profile of Thomas Weston

Birth: Thomas Weston was baptized on December 21, 1584, at Rugeley, Staffordshire.

Death: He died in Bristol of plague between May 1, 1646, and November 23, 1647.

Ship: Unknown, 1623

Life in England: Thomas Weston was born in Staffordshire, son of Ralph and Anne (Smith) Weston. He was admitted to the Ironmongers' Company of London in 1609 after serving an apprenticeship with Rowland Heylyn. His brothers Andrew and Richard were also involved in his business affairs.

Life in New England: Thomas Weston was the London merchant who first became involved with the Leiden Separatists who ultimately settled Plymouth Colony. The colony was financed and begun under his direction, but he quit the enterprise in 1622. Shortly thereafter, he began the colony at Wessagussett [Weymouth] which failed. He left New England for Virginia and, by 1640, Maryland. Weston's activities in regards to Plymouth Colony are detailed in William Bradford's history.

Family: Thomas Weston married Elizabeth Weaver by October 17, 1623, daughter of Christopher and Anne (Green) Weaver.

Child of Thomas and Elizabeth Weston:

- Elizabeth was born about 1630. She married Roger Conant before January 22, 166/2, and had two children. He died on June 1672.

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.

William Bradford. *Of Plymouth Plantation, 1620–1647*. Edited by Samuel Eliot Morison. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1952.

Christopher Johnston. "Thomas Weston and His Family." *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 50 (1896): 201–06.

Peter Witson Coldham. "Thomas Weston, Ironmonger, of London and America, 1609–1647." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 61 (1974): 163–72.



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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



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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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