

A Genealogical Profile of Peter Brown

Birth: Peter Brown was baptized in Dorking, Surry on January 26, 1594/5.

Death: He died in Plymouth between March 25 and October 10, 1633.

Ship: *Mayflower*, 1620

Life in England: Peter Brown has been tentatively identified as the Peter Brown, son of William Brown of Dorking, Surrey, who was baptized there in 1594/5.

Life in New England: Peter Brown came over as a single man in 1620. His first wife, Martha Ford, came over with her first husband and two children aboard the *Fortune* in 1621. She gave birth to a son shortly after they landed. Her husband died soon after, as did the baby. Peter Brown was listed in the 1633 list of freemen. He died in Plymouth before October 11, 1633.

Family: Peter Brown married widow Martha (___) Ford by 1626. They had two daughters before her death around 1630. He married (2) Mary ___ about 1631 and had two children.

Children of Martha and ___ Ford:

- John was born about 1617. His name last appeared in a January 5, 1640/1, record and there is no further reference.
- Martha was born about 1619. She married William Nelson in Plymouth on October 29, 1640, and had four children. She died in Plymouth on December 20, 1683.
- A son was born on November 9, 1621, and died soon.

Children of Peter and Martha Brown:

- Mary was born about 1626. She married Ephraim Tinkham in Plymouth by October 27, 1647. She died after November 1689.
- Priscilla was born about 1628. She married William Allen in Sandwich on March 21, 1649. She died after February 17, 1697/8.

Children of Peter and Mary Brown:

- Rebecca was born about 1631. She married William Snow by about 1654. She died after March 9, 1698/9.
- A child was born by 1633, who died by 1647.

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.

Mrs. John E. Barclay. "Goodwife Martha Ford alias "Widow" Ford, Her Second Husband, Peter Browne, and Her Children." *The American Genealogist* 42: 34–42. 1966.

Caleb Johnson. "The Probable English Origin of *Mayflower* Passenger, Peter Brown, and his Association with *Mayflower* Passenger William Mullins." *The American Genealogist* 79(3): 161–179. July, 2004.

Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Vol. 7: Peter Brown. Robert S. Wakefield. Plymouth: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1992.

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

Robert S. Wakefield. "Men of the Fortune: Ford." *The American Genealogist* 56(1): 32–35. 1980.



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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.

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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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