

# A Genealogical Profile of Thomas Cushman

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**Birth:** Thomas Cushman was baptized at St. Andrew, Canterbury February 8, 1607/8, and so was born shortly before that date.

**Death:** He died in Plymouth December 11, 1691, and was buried on Burial Hill, Plymouth.

**Ship:** *Fortune*, 1621

**Life in England:** Thomas Cushman was born to Robert and Sara (Reder) Cushman in Canterbury, Kent. His father was a grocer, having served his apprenticeship in that trade. When Thomas was very young, the family emigrated to Holland.

**Life in Holland:** Robert Cushman was a wool-comber in Leiden. In 1616, his wife, Sara, and two children were buried at St. Peter's church. Robert married (2) Mary (Clark) Shingleton on June 5, 1617.

**Life in New England:** Robert Cushman and his son, Thomas, came over on the *Fortune* in November 1621, but Robert returned shortly thereafter, leaving Thomas in the care of Governor William Bradford. Thomas remained in Plymouth, serving as surveyor of highways and rate-assessor, as well as numerous other minor positions. He was chosen as Ruling Elder of the church on April 6, 1649, a position he held until his death.

**Family:** Thomas married Mary, daughter of Isaac Allerton, about 1636 and had eight children. She died in Plymouth November 28, 1699, the last of the *Mayflower* passengers.

## Children of Thomas and Mary Cushman:

- Thomas was born about September 1637 in Plymouth. He married (1) Ruth Howland on November 17, 1664, and had three children. He married (2) Abigail (Titus) Fuller on October 16, 1679 and had four children. He died in Plympton August 23, 1726.
- Mary was born in Plymouth, but the year is unknown. She married Francis Hutchinson about 1676 had three children. She died before October 22, 1690.
- Sarah was born about 1641 in Plymouth. She married (1) John Hawkes in Lynn on April 11, 1661, and had eight children. He died August 5, 1694. She married (2) Daniel Hutchins shortly after November 7, 1695. She died after February 10, 1706/7.
- Isaac was born February 8, 1648/9, in Plymouth. He married Rebecca Harlow about 1675 and had seven children. He died in Plympton on October 21, 1732.

- Elkanah was born June 1, 1651 in Plymouth. He married (1) Elizabeth Cole on February 10, 1677, and had three children. She died January 4, 1681/2. He married (2) Martha Cooke on March 2, 1673, and had five children. He died in Plympton on September 4, 1727.
- Fear was born on June 20, 1653. She died before October 22, 1690.
- Eleazer was born February 20, 1656/7, in Plymouth. He married Elizabeth Coombs on January 12, 1687/8, and had eight children. He died after November 1733.
- Lydia was born about 1662 in Plymouth. She married William Harlow about January 1682/3 and had nine children. She died in Plymouth on February 11, 1718/9.

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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.

Joseph A. Cushman. *The First Seven Generations of the Cushman Family in New England*. Sharon, MA, 1964.

*Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Vol. 17: Isaac Allerton*. Robert S. Wakefield and Margaret H. Stover, comp. Plymouth: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1998.



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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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