

A Genealogical Profile of Experience Mitchell

Birth: Experience Mitchell was born about 1603 (based on his estimated date of marriage).

Death: He died in Bridgewater by May 14, 1689, the date his inventory was taken.

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

Life in Holland: Experience is believed to be the son of Thomas Mitchell who lived first in Amsterdam as a member of Francis Johnson's congregation, and then moved to Leiden. He married Maria Tromdin and after her death, Margaret (Williams) Stocking, widow of Christopher Stochin/Stocking after April 15, 1606, in Amsterdam. Experience had a nephew, Thomas, who lived in Amsterdam, with whom he corresponded in later life.

Life in New England: Experience came to Plymouth as a single man. He was on the 1633 list of Plymouth freemen. He served on a number of juries and in 1658 was Duxbury's surveyor of highways. He moved to Duxbury by 1639 and to Bridgewater between 1684 and 1689.

Family: Experience married (1) Jane Cooke after May 22, 1627. She died sometime before 1641 and he married (2) Mary _____. The two oldest Mitchell children can be confidently attributed to Jane, and the last child as born to Mary. However, the other seven are more problematical. Due to the gap between the birth of the third and fourth children, it is generally believed that Jane died during that period.

Children of Experience and Jane Mitchell:

- Elizabeth was born about 1628. She married John Washburn on December 6, 1645, in Plymouth and had eleven children. She died between 1681 and 1684.
- Thomas was born about 1630 in Plymouth. He died after August 1, 1672.
- Mary was born about 1632. She married (1) James Shaw on December 24, 1652, in Plymouth and had two children. She married (2) John Jenny after December 6, 1684, and was still living on November 17, 1699.
- Children of Experience and Mary Mitchell (tentative):
- Sarah was born about 1641. She married John Hayward by April 1661 and had ten children.
- Jacob was born about 1643. He married Susanna Pope on November 7, 1666, in Plymouth and had three children. They were both killed in June 1675 during King Philip's War.

- Edward was born about 1645. He married (1) Mary Hayward about 1668 but had no children. He married (2) Alice Bradford on August 26, 1708, in Plymouth and had three children. He died in Bridgewater on March 15, 1716/7.
- John was born about 1650. He married (1) Mary Bonney on December 14, 1675, in Duxbury and had two children. He married (2) Mary Lathrop on January 14, 1679/80, in Duxbury. He married (3) Mary Prior on May 24, 1682, in Duxbury and had eight children. He died in Providence, Rhode Island on October 14, 1719.
- Hannah was born about 1662. She married Joseph Hayward by 1682 and had eight children. She died after 1702.

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.

Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Vol. 12: Francis Cooke. Ralph V. Wood, Jr. Camden, Me.: Picton Press, 1996.

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

John B. Threlfall. "Comments on the Two Wives of Experience Mitchell of Plymouth, Mass." *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 127: 94-5. April, 1973.

Robert S. Wakefield. "Not All the Children of Experience Mitchell are *Mayflower* Descendants." *The American Genealogist* 59: 28-31. 1983.



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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.

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NEHGS, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116;
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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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