

A Genealogical Profile of Abraham Pierce

Birth: Abraham Pierce was born in England about 1605 if he was eighteen when he arrived in 1623.

Death: He died in Duxbury by June 3, 1673.

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

Life in England: Nothing is known of his life in England, but he may have been related to the John Pierce in London who invested in Plymouth Colony.

Life in New England: It has long been assumed that Abraham Pierce was one of the two servants of Mr. Pierce who came to Plymouth in 1623. Abraham was a freeman of Plymouth in 1633, and moved to Duxbury after 1643. In 1730, his great-grandson, Caleb Pierce, referred to a plantation in Barbados which had belonged to Abraham Pierce, but nothing more is known.

Family: Abraham Pierce married Rebecca _____ by 1638 and had five children. She probably died before him.

Children of Abraham and Rebecca Pierce:

- Abraham was born in January 1638. He married twice and had four children. He married (1) Hannah Baker by about 1665. He married (2) Hannah _____ on October 1695 in Scituate. He died in Duxbury in January 1718.
- Isaac was born about 1641. He was still living in 1673, but there is no further information.
- Rebecca was born about 1643. She married Samuel Wills by 1673 and died in Marshfield on March 30, 1724.
- Mary was born about 1645. She married Nathaniel Baker by 1670.
- Alice was baptized on July 21, 1650, in Barnstable. She married John Baker by 1672 and had at least one child. She died in Duxbury in 1673.

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.

Ebenezer Pierce. *The Pierce Family of the Old Colony*. Boston: David Clapp and Sons, 1870.

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



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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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