

A genealogical profile of William Pontus

Birth: William Pontus was born about 1585, based on his date of marriage.

Death: He died on February 9, 1652/3, in Plymouth.

Ship: Unknown, by 1632

Life in England: Nothing is known of his life in England.

Life in Holland: William Pontus was a member of the Separatist church in Leiden. He was a fustian worker living in the Marendorp near Douven at the time of his marriage. By October 15, 1622, he was a wool-carder living in the Zevenhuysen district, and too poor to be taxed.

Life in New England: William Pontus and his family were probably among the members of the Leiden congregation who emigrated to Plymouth in 1629 and 1630. He was in the 1633 list of Plymouth freemen, but did not appear by name in the tax lists of 1633 and 1634, so he may have continued poor. In 1638/9 and 1640, he was one of the men who undertook to repair the herring weir for the town. At his death, his inventory, including real estate, totaled £12 17 s., which was very low.

Family: William Pontus married Wybra Hanson on December 4, 1610, in Leiden and had two daughters. She died after December 15, 1633.

Children of William and Wybra Pontus:

- Mary was born in Leiden by October 15, 1622. She married (1) James Glass on October 31, 1645, and had four daughters. She married (2) Philip Delano by January 17, 1653/4, as his second wife and had three children. He died between August 22, 1681, and March 4, 1681/2. She died after July 5, 1682.
- Hannah was born about 1624. She married (1) John Churchill on December 18, 1644, in Plymouth and had seven children. He died on January 1, 1662/3. She married (2) Giles Rickard on June 25, 1669. He died on February 1, 1684/5. She died on December 22, 1690.

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.

Muriel Cushing Curtis, comp. *Philip Delano of the Fortune 1621 and His Descendants for Four Generations*. Plymouth: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1999.



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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.

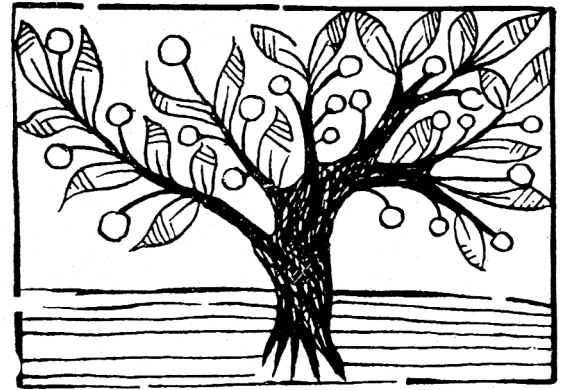
Plimoth Plantation: *Bringing Your History To Life*

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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