A genealogical profile of Degory Priest

**Birth:** Degory Priest was born about 1580 in England. He was “about 40” in April 1619.

**Death:** He died in Plymouth Colony on January 1, 1620/1.

**Ship:** *Mayflower*, 1620

**Life in England:** Degory Priest identified himself as coming from London in his betrothal to Sarah Vincent in Leiden.

**Life in Holland:** Degory Priest was in Leiden by November 1611. He was a hatter.

**Life in New England:** Degory Priest came to Plymouth Colony in 1620, leaving his wife and two daughters in Leiden. He died in the winter of 1620/1.

**Family:** Degory Priest married Sarah (______) Vincent, widow of John Vincent, on November 4, 1611, and had two daughters. She married (2) Godbert Godbertson in Leiden on or shortly after November 13, 1621, and had one son. Both Sarah and Godbert Godbertson died in Plymouth in 1633.

**Children of Degory and Sarah Priest:**

- Marah was born about 1612. She married Phineas Pratt by about 1633 and had eight children. She died in Charlestown in 1689. Her name is often given as “Mary,” but it was Marah, meaning “bitterness” in Hebrew, taken from Ruth 1:20.
- Sarah was born about 1614. She married John Coombs about 1632 and had two sons. She went to England by October 1646, and presumably died there.

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**For Further Information:**


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.


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

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


A collaboration between Plimoth Plantation and the New England Historic Genealogical Society®

www.PlymouthAncestors.org