

# A genealogical profile of Thomas Southworth

---

**Birth:** Thomas Southworth was born about 1617.

**Death:** He died on December 8, 1669 in Plymouth.

**Ship:** Unknown, 1628

**Life in England:** In August 1620, Robert Cushman wrote a letter to Edward Southworth, addressing it to Heneage House in London. It is unclear whether Edward Southworth died there or returned to Leiden.

**Life in Holland:** Thomas Southworth was the son of Edward and Alice (Carpenter) Southworth, who married in Leiden on May 28, 1613. His father was a say worker [weaver] there. The family attempted to emigrate to New England in 1620, but apparently abandoned the voyage at London.

**Life in New England:** Alice Southworth emigrated to Plymouth Colony in 1623, leaving her two sons behind, either in England or Leiden. She married Governor William Bradford as his second wife that same year. Thomas Southworth became a freeman in Plymouth on March 7, 1642/3. He held many influential and high-ranking positions in the Plymouth Colony government for a number of years, including commissioner to the United Colonies, governor's assistant, deputy to the Plymouth Court, and selectman. Southworth was a lieutenant for the Plymouth troops on March 7, 1647/8, and May 3, 1653, and captain of the military company of Plymouth on August 2, 1659, and June 4, 1661.

**Family:** Thomas Southworth married Elizabeth Reyner on September 1, 1641, in Plymouth and had one daughter. She died after June 3, 1679.

## Children of Thomas and Elizabeth Southworth:

- Elizabeth was born about 1644 She married Joseph Howland on December 7, 1664, in Plymouth and had nine children. He died in Plymouth in January 1703/4. She died in March 1717 in Plymouth.

---

## 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.

Samuel G. Webber, *A Genealogy of the Southworths (Southards), Descendants of Constant Southworth*. Boston, The Fort Hill Press, 1905.

Susan E. Roser. *Mayflower Increasing*. 2nd ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1995.



A collaboration between PLIMOTH PLANTATION and the  
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®  
Supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services

[www.PlymouthAncestors.org](http://www.PlymouthAncestors.org)

PLYMOUTH ANCESTORS

# 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)



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](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.

A collaboration between PLIMOTH PLANTATION and the  
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

[www.PlymouthAncestors.org](http://www.PlymouthAncestors.org)