A genealogical profile of Richard Sparrow

Birth: Richard Sparrow was born about 1604, based on his estimated date of marriage.

Death: He died on January 8, 1660/1, in Eastham.

Ship: Unknown, 1632

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

Life in New England: Richard Sparrow first appeared in Plymouth records on the March 25, 1633, tax list. He was also included in the list of freemen for that year. He and his family moved to Eastham by 1653. Sparrow served on 35 juries between 1640 and 1659. He was a Plymouth constable three years and a surveyor of highways for both Plymouth and Eastham. He was a tax collector in 1650. In an interesting 1650 court case, Richard Sparrow was presented by the court for concealing the theft by Thomas Shreve of corn from his barn, “upon an ingagement so to doe unless called before authoritie.”

Family: Richard Sparrow married Pandora _____ by about 1629 and had one son. She died after March 27, 1661.

Children of Richard and Pandora Sparrow:
- Jonathan was born about 1629. He married (1) Rebecca Bangs on October 26, 1654, in Eastham and had six children. He married (2) Hannah (Prence) Mayo by 1671 and had three children. He married (3) Sarah (Lewis) Cobb on November 23, 1698, in Barnstable but had no children.

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.

Recommended Websites

- www.PlymouthAncestors.org
- www.CyndisList.com
- www.FamilySearch.org
- www.USGenWeb.org

Recommended 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


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www.PlymouthAncestors.org