

A genealogical profile of George Watson

Birth: George Watson was born about 1602, based on his recorded age at death.

Death: He died on January 31, 1688/9, in Plymouth.

Ship: Unknown, 1631

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

Life in New England: George Watson is first found in the Penobscot region of Maine, involved in the trading post. He testified about Edward Ashley's activities on July 19, 1631. He was described as a mariner, or seaman, in a number of records and owned, or partly-owned, a "barque" in 1653. His inventory included the third part of a boat. His name was included in the 1633 list of freemen, but it is unclear when he was admitted. He served on many juries and on several committees. He was a Plymouth constable in 1660, 1666, and 1672 and was a selectman in 1666 and 1667.

Family: George Watson married Phoebe Hicks by about 1636 in Plymouth and had seven children. She died on May 22, 1663, in Plymouth

Children of George and Phoebe Watson:

- John was born about 1636. He was living in 1660 but there is no further record.
- Phoebe was born about 1638. She married Jonathan Shaw on January 22, 1656/7, in Plymouth and had eight children. He married (2) Persis (Dunham) Pratt in August 1683. He died before July 30, 1701.
- Mary was born about 1642. She married Thomas Leonard on August 21, 1662, in Plymouth and had ten children.
- Samuel (twin) was born on January 18, 1648/9, in Plymouth. He died on August 20, 1649. Elizabeth (twin) was born on January 18, 1648/9, in Plymouth. She married Joseph Williams on November 28, 1667, in Plymouth and had eight children.
- Jonathan was born on March 9, 1652. There is no further record.
- Elkanah was born on February 25, 1656, in Plymouth. He married Mercy (possibly) Hedge, and had five children.

For Further Information:

Marston Watson. *Captain George Watson (1603–1609) of Plymouth Colony and Five Generations of His Descendants, and the Watson Line to 2003*. Forthcoming.

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.



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www.PlymouthAncestors.org

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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.

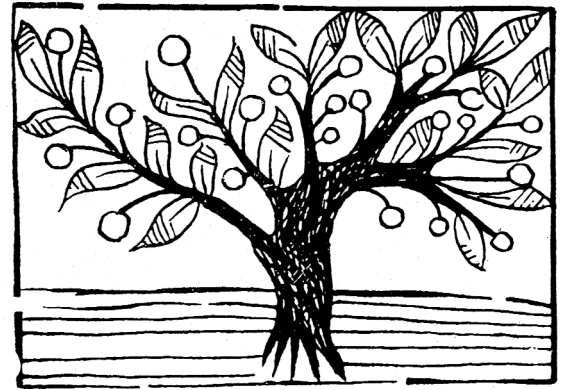
Plimoth Plantation: *Bringing Your History To Life*

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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