

# Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: William Pontus

By Robert Charles Anderson

**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.