

# Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: Thomas Cushman

By Robert Charles Anderson

**Birth:** Thomas Cushman was baptized at St. Andrew, Canterbury February 8, 1607/8, and so was born shortly before that date.

**Death:** He died in Plymouth December 11, 1691, and was buried on Burial Hill, Plymouth.

**Ship:** *Fortune*, 1621

**Life in England:** Thomas Cushman was born to Robert and Sara (Reder) Cushman in Canterbury, Kent. His father was a grocer, having served his apprenticeship in that trade. When Thomas was very young, the family emigrated to Holland.

**Life in Holland:** Robert Cushman was a wool-comber in Leiden. In 1616, his wife, Sara, and two children were buried at St. Peter's church. Robert married (2) Mary (Clark) Shingleton on June 5, 1617.

**Life in New England:** Robert Cushman and his son, Thomas, came over on the *Fortune* in November 1621, but Robert returned shortly thereafter, leaving Thomas in the care of Governor William Bradford. Thomas remained in Plymouth, serving as surveyor of highways and rate-assessor, as well as numerous other minor positions. He was chosen as Ruling Elder of the church on April 6, 1649, a position he held until his death.

**Family:** Thomas married Mary, daughter of Isaac Allerton, about 1636 and had eight children. She died in Plymouth November 28, 1699, the last of the *Mayflower* passengers.

## Children of Thomas and Mary Cushman:

- Thomas was born about September 1637 in Plymouth. He married (1) Ruth Howland on November 17, 1664, and had three children. He married (2) Abigail (Titus) Fuller on October 16, 1679 and had four children. He died in Plympton August 23, 1726.
- Mary was born in Plymouth, but the year is unknown. She married Francis Hutchinson about 1676 had three children. She died before October 22, 1690.
- Sarah was born about 1641 in Plymouth. She married (1) John Hawkes in Lynn on April 11, 1661, and had eight children. He died August 5, 1694. She married (2) Daniel Hutchins shortly after November 7, 1695. She died after February 10, 1706/7.
- Isaac was born February 8, 1648/9, in Plymouth. He married Rebecca Harlow about 1675 and had seven children. He died in Plympton on October 21, 1732.
- Elkanah was born June 1, 1651 in Plymouth. He married (1) Elizabeth Cole on February 10, 1677, and had three children. She died January 4, 1681/2. He married (2) Martha Cooke on March 2, 1673, and had five children. He died in Plympton on September 4, 1727.
- Fear was born on June 20, 1653. She died before October 22, 1690.
- Eleazer was born February 20, 1656/7, in Plymouth. He married Elizabeth Coombs on January 12, 1687/8, and had eight children. He died after November 1733.
- Lydia was born about 1662 in Plymouth. She married William Harlow about January 1682/3 and had nine children. She died in Plymouth on February 11, 1718/9.