

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: John Holmes

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: John Holmes was born about 1611, based on his estimated date of marriage.

Death: He died after October 7, 1651.

Ship: Unknown, 1632

Life in England: There is some indication that he might have been from Colchester, Essex.

Life in New England: John Holmes first appeared in the Plymouth colonial records on the 1633 tax list. He became the messenger [equivalent to marshal] for Plymouth Colony on December 4, 1638, a position he held until at least 1643. There were apparently times when he abused his position. On March 1638/9, he was presented for sitting up all night drinking “inordinately” when he was on public business; also for “abusing men’s names to procure wine to drink.”

Family: John Holmes married Sarah _____ by about 1636 and had two sons. She died in Plymouth on August 18, 1650.

Children of John and Sarah Holmes:

- John was born about 1636. He married Patience Faunce on November 20, 1661, in Plymouth and had six children. She died between 1678 and 1681. He married (2) Patience (Bonham) Willis as her second husband about 1681 and had five children. He died in July, 1697. She died after July 24, 1724.
- [Probably] Nathaniel was born about 1643. He married Mercy Faunce on December 29, 1667, in Plymouth and had seven children. She died on February 11, 1732, in Plymouth.