

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: Christopher Martin

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: Christopher Martin was born about 1582, probably in Billericay, Essex.

Death: He died aboard the Mayflower on January 8, 1620/1.

Ship: *Mayflower*, 1620

Life in England: Christopher Martin lived in the Billericay area of Great Burstead, Essex. By 1607 he was there working as a mercer [merchant] although he probably had not served a formal apprenticeship. He was likely a Puritan, as he and his wife refused to kneel at holy communion on Easter, 1612 and their son did not have godparents.

Life in New England: Christopher Martin was chosen “treasurer agent” for the colonists by the investors in England and obtained provisions for the venture, along with Robert Cushman and John Carver, in Leiden. The three disagreed from the first, and Martin bought his provisions in Kent, contrary to the others’ wishes. Martin was chosen governor of the *Mayflower*, in charge of the passengers and provisions. According to Cushman, he refused to discuss the accounts, insulted the passengers and the “sailors also are so offended at his ignorant boldness in meddling and controlling in things he knows not what belongs to, as that some threaten to mischief him; others say they will leave the ship and go their way.” He came to Plymouth Colony with his wife, stepson/servant Solomon Prower and servant John Langemore.

Family: Christopher Martin married Mary (____) Prower on February 26, 1606/7, in Great Burstead, Essex and had at least one son. She was the widow of ____ Prower by whom she had one son.

Children of Mary and ____ Prower :

- Solomon died on December 24, 1620.
- Children of Christopher and Mary Martin:
- Nathaniel was baptized on February 26, 1609/10. He was apparently still alive in 1620, but nothing further is known.