

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: Henry Rowley

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: Henry Rowley was born by about 1605, based on his estimated date of marriage.

Death: He died between May 29, 1670, and July 1673.

Ship: Unknown, 1632

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

Life in New England: Henry Rowley first appeared in Plymouth records in the tax list of March 25, 1633. He was living in Scituate before September 1634, where he joined Rev. Lothrop's church. He moved to Barnstable about 1640. There he served as constable (1640, 1641), deputy to the Plymouth court (1643), and surveyor of highways (1646, 1647, 1653). The identification of Henry Rowley's wife as a Palmer rests on evidence found in William Palmer's will. In this document, Palmer referred to "Rebecca my Grandchild and Moyses Rowly whom I love," who were to get some part of his estate, which he stipulated were not "to put in their father or mothers hands but preserve it for them until they come to yeares of Discretion." He also wanted "yong Rowly" to be placed with the minister, Mr. Partridge, to be raised. These passages have led many to believe that Moses Rowley was a grandson by an unnamed daughter, although the will's language is unclear.

Family: Henry Rowley married (1) _____ (possibly Palmer, see above) by about 1630 in Plymouth and had two children. She died by 1633. He married (2) Anne (Elsdon) Blossom on October 17, 1633, in Plymouth but had no children.

Children of Henry and _____ Rowley:

- Sarah was born about 1630. She married Jonathan Hatch on April 11, 1646, in Barnstable and had eight children.
- Moses was born about 1632. He married Elizabeth Fuller on April 22, 1652, and had ten children. He died in East Haddam, Connecticut, on June 14, 1705. She died in Connecticut after March 7, 1714/5.