

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: James Hurst

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: James Hurst was born about 1582, based on his stated age at marriage.

Death: He died in December 1657 in Plymouth.

Ship: Unknown, 1631

Life in England: James Hurst and his wife were from Retford, Nottinghamshire.

Life in Holland: James Hurst first lived in Amsterdam, where he was a bombazine-weaver. In the 1622 Leiden poll tax list, Jeremy Bangs found the names of “Jacop Hurs,” his wife, “Geertgen,” and children “Jan” and “Passchijntgen” living in the close of the English church. He identified them as James Hurst, his wife, Gertrude, and children, John and Patience.

Life in New England: James Hurst first appeared in Plymouth records in the tax list of March 25, 1633. However, if his daughter, Patience, married in Plymouth by September, 1631, then he was in Plymouth much earlier. James Hurst served on a number of juries, was on the highway committee in 1634 and a lot layer in 1642. His inventory included “4 hides in the fatt [vat] & one tand [tanned]” so he may have worked as a tanner.

Family: James Hurst married Gertrude Bennister on October 4, 1608, in Amsterdam and had two children. She died before May 30, 1670.

Children of John and Gertrude Hurst:

- John Hurst was born about 1610. He was in the Leiden 1622 tax list, but there is no further record.
- Patience was born about 1612. She married Henry Cobb by 1632 and had seven children. She was buried on May 4, 1648, in Barnstable. He married (2) Sarah Hinckley on December 12, 1649, in Barnstable and had eight children. He died between February 22, 1678/9, and June 3, 1679. She died before March 2, 1679/80.