

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: William Sherman

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: William Sherman was born about 1613, based on his date of marriage.

Death: He was buried in Marshfield on October 25, 1679.

Ship: Unknown, 1632

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

Life in New England: William Sherman first appeared in Plymouth records in the tax list of March 25, 1633. There are no references to him for the next five years, so it is unclear whether or not he left the colony. He was in Duxbury by 1638, where he was appointed a highway surveyor in June 1644. He was in Marshfield shortly thereafter. He served as a highway surveyor for Marshfield in 1652. William Sherman may have come to Plymouth originally as a servant. In June 1662, he was included in the "servants and others that are ancient freemen." In his 1673 will, he referred to land in Saconnet [Little Compton, Rhode Island], where many Plymouth Colony servants ultimately were granted land.

Family: William Sherman married Prudence Hill on January 23, 1638/9 and had four children.

Children of William and Prudence Sherman:

- William was born about 1642. He married Desire Doty on December 25, 1667, in Marshfield and had six children. He was buried in Marshfield on November 17, 1680. She married (2) Israel Holmes as his second wife on November 24, 1681, and had two children. She married (3) Alexander Standish as his second wife about 1686 and had three children. She died on January 22, 1731, in Plymouth.
- Samuel was born about 1644. He married (1) Sarah Doggett by about 1674 and had three children. She was buried in July 1680. He married (2) Hannah _____ by 1688 and had eight children. He died in Marshfield about April 1718.
- John Sherman was born on February 23, 1646. He married Jane Hatch in Boston on October 25, 1677, and had nine children. He died on November 5, 1723, in Marshfield. A daughter was born about 1648. She married Edward Stephens by 1666 and had at least five children.