

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: Moses Fletcher

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: Moses Fletcher was born about 1564, based on his marriage date.

Death: He died in Plymouth Colony in the winter of 1621.

Ship: *Mayflower*, 1620

Life in England: Moses Fletcher lived in Sandwich, Kent by 1599 and possibly received his training as a blacksmith there. He was the sexton of St. Peter, Sandwich from 1604 to 1609 but was excommunicated by the church three times. Two of these punishments were caused by his participation in illegal burials, one that of his daughter Judith.

Life in Holland: Moses Fletcher and his family arrived in Leiden by December 1613. He apparently continued his trade there, as he identified his occupation as "smith" in his betrothal to his second wife. Fletcher traveled to Plymouth Colony by himself, leaving his family in Leiden. The children remained in Holland and married. Since 1972 a few modern descendants have been identified.

Life in New England: Moses Fletcher died in Plymouth Colony during the winter of 1620/1.

Family: Moses Fletcher married (1) Mary Evans in St. Peter, Sandwich on October 30, 1589, and had ten children. After her death he married Sarah (____) Denby, widow of William Denby, in Leiden on December 21, 1613. There are no recorded children.

Children of Moses and Mary Fletcher [all baptized at St. Peter, Sandwich]:

- Mary was baptized on January 4, 1589/90. There is no further record.
- John was born about 1592. He married Josina Sachariasdaughter in Leiden on December 5, 1618, and had at least four children. He was still living on February 13, 1656, in Leiden.
- Catherine was baptized on September 1, 1594. There is no further record.
- Richard was baptized on January 2, 1596/7. There is no further record.
- Priscilla was baptized on March 24, 1599/1600. In Leiden, she married (1) Thomas Coit on April 4, 1626, as his second wife and had four children. She married (2) Help or Solomon Terry on June 1, 1637, and had one daughter. She married (3) Jan Janzoon Vermout on July 29, 1652.
- Moses was baptized on October 10, 1602, and buried on April 21, 1603.
- Elizabeth was baptized on April 4, 1604. In Leiden, she married (1) Casper Barnaart and (2) Michiel Voorchoren on May 21, 1636, and had four children. She was still living on September 28, 1677.
- Jane was baptized on February 8, 1606/7. There is no further record.
- Moses was baptized on April 2, 1609. There is no further record.
- Judith was buried on November 6, 1609.