

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: William Bennett

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: William Bennett was born about 1604.

Death: He died in Manchester on November 20, 1682.

Ship: Unknown. He arrived ca. 1632.

Life in England: There is no information about his life in England, although he may have trained as a carpenter there.

Life in New England: William Benett first appeared in Plymouth Colony in the tax list of March 25, 1633. He left for Salem within a year. He obtained land there and married. His wife was a member of the church and their children were baptized there. He served as a fenceviewer in 1640. By 1645 he had removed to the area that became Manchester. There he served on several juries, was constable in 1650 and 1662, and was a selectman in 1665 and 1679. Bennett was a carpenter, but at the age of 73 was licenced to keep an ordinary [tavern or inn], perhaps because he was no longer able to work.

Family: William Bennett married Janes Knowles about 1637, assuming she is the mother of all his children.

Children of William and Jane Bennett:

- Moses was born about 1637. He was baptized in the Salem church on July 2, 1643. He was living on November 20, 1682, apparently unmarried.
- Deliverance was born about 1639. She was baptized in the Salem church on October 8, 1657. She married Christopher Crow/Crowell in Salem on October 8, 1657, and had four children. She drowned off Nahant in 1680.
- Aaron was born about 1641. He was baptized in the Salem church on July 2, 1643. He married (1) Ann _____ by 1665 and had six children. He married (2) Elizabeth _____ by 1708. He died December 3, 1708, when his will was written, and Mach 21, 1709.
- Mary was baptized in Salem on September 3, 1654. She was living, unmarried, on November 20, 1682, the date of her father's will.