

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: Thomas Blossom

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: He was born about 1580, probably the son of Peter and Annabel Blossom of Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire.

Death: He died in Plymouth before March 25, 1633.

Ship: *Mayflower*, 1629

Life in England: If the above identification is correct, Thomas Blossom was one of at least seven children born to Peter Blossom and his second wife, Annabel _____. The Blossoms lived first at Great Shelford, then possibly Little Shelford, and moved to Stapleford, probably about 1582. He described himself as a "husbandman" [small farmer] in a 1585 deposition, but as a "labourer" in his 1597 will, indicating a lower economic status. After his death, his wife married (2) Richard Bracher at Stapleford on February 6, 1597/8, and moved with him to Cambridge. The educated language of Thomas Blossom's letters to William Bradford have led some to speculate that Blossom attended Cambridge University, but there is no mention of his name in university records.

Life in Holland: Thomas Blossom arrived in Leiden before October 27, 1609. His occupation while there was not recorded. He was one of the passengers of the *Speedwell* (companion of the *Mayflower* in the 1620 voyage) which turned back due to leakiness and was ultimately abandoned. He returned to Leiden until he and others emigrated to Plymouth Colony in 1629.

Life in New England: Thomas Blossom and his family sailed from England in March 1629 aboard the *Mayflower* (not the original ship) and arrived in Salem on March 15, 1629. They were brought to Plymouth by boat and lived there until Thomas died in the "infectious fever" of 1632/3.

Family: Thomas Blossom married Anne Elsdon on November 10, 1605, at St. Clement, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire and had six children. She married (2) Henry Rowley at Plymouth on October 17, 1633.

Children of Thomas and Anne Blossom:

- A child was buried at Pieterskerk in Leiden on February 15, 1617.
- A child was buried at Pieterskerk in Leiden on April 12, 1617.
- A son was born by 1620. He died in Leiden by December 15, 1625.
- Elizabeth was born about 1620 in Leiden. She married (1) Edward FitzRandolph in Scituate on May 10, 1637, and had nine children. He died in Piscataway, New Jersey, about 1675. She married (2) John Pike in Piscataway but had no known children.
- Thomas was born about 1623. He married Sarah Ewer on June 18, 1645, in Barnstable and had one daughter. He drowned off Nauset Beach on April 22, 1650.
- Peter was born after 1627. He married Sarah Bodfish on June 21, 1663, at Barnstable and had seven children. He died in July 1706.