

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: John Thorpe

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: John Thorpe was born by about 1608, based on his estimated date of marriage.

Death: He died between April 1 and August 15, 1633.

Ship: Unknown, by 1632

Life in England: Nothing is known of his life in England. He presumably trained as a carpenter there.

Life in New England: John Thorpe was a carpenter. On January 20, 1632/3, his apprentice, Robert Barker, complained to the court about his lack of clothes, which he should have received from his master. Because Alice Thorpe had conceived a child before marriage, Thorpe and his wife were sentenced on April 1, 1633, to sit in the stocks and fined forty shillings. Because of their poverty, however, they were given twelve months to pay. John Thorpe died in the fever epidemic of 1633. Miles Standish and Stephen Hopkins, on behalf of the court, settled Thorpe's debts as far as his estate could make good, and Robert Barker's remaining time was turned given to William Palmer.

Family: John Thorpe married Alice _____ by April 1, 1633.

Children: A child was born in 1633. There is no further record.