

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: Thomas Southworth

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: Thomas Southworth was born about 1617.

Death: He died on December 8, 1669 in Plymouth.

Ship: Unknown, 1628

Life in England: In August 1620, Robert Cushman wrote a letter to Edward Southworth, addressing it to Heneage House in London. It is unclear whether Edward Southworth died there or returned to Leiden.

Life in Holland: Thomas Southworth was the son of Edward and Alice (Carpenter) Southworth, who married in Leiden on May 28, 1613. His father was a say worker [weaver] there. The family attempted to emigrate to New England in 1620, but apparently abandoned the voyage at London.

Life in New England: Alice Southworth emigrated to Plymouth Colony in 1623, leaving her two sons behind, either in England or Leiden. She married Governor William Bradford as his second wife that same year. Thomas Southworth became a freeman in Plymouth on March 7, 1642/3. He held many influential and high-ranking positions in the Plymouth Colony government for a number of years, including commissioner to the United Colonies, governor's assistant, deputy to the Plymouth Court, and selectman. Southworth was a lieutenant for the Plymouth troops on March 7, 1647/8, and May 3, 1653, and captain of the military company of Plymouth on August 2, 1659, and June 4, 1661.

Family: Thomas Southworth married Elizabeth Reyner on September 1, 1641, in Plymouth and had one daughter. She died after June 3, 1679.

Children of Thomas and Elizabeth Southworth:

- Elizabeth was born about 1644. She married Joseph Howland on December 7, 1664, in Plymouth and had nine children. He died in Plymouth in January 1703/4. She died in March 1717 in Plymouth.