

Pilgrim Village Families Sketch: Desire Minter

By Robert Charles Anderson

Birth: Desire Minter was born by about 1618, and possibly much earlier.

Death: She died in England sometime before 1651.

Ship: *Mayflower*, 1620

Life in England: The Minter family came from Norwich, Norfolk, and Desire may have been born there. She returned to England before May 1627. According to Bradford's history of Plymouth Colony, she "returned to her friend and proved not very well and died in England." "Friend" in this case means a relation or guardian.

Life in Holland: She has been tentatively identified as the daughter of Sarah and William Minter. Sarah Willet, daughter of Thomas and Alice Willet, married (1) William Minter, (2) Roger Simmons on August 18, 1618, and (3) Roger Eastman before May 10, 1622. On that date, she and her husband agreed with Thomas Brewer about a financial arrangement for a child of Sarah and William Minter. The child is not named, but was probably Desire.

Life in New England: Desire Minter came to Plymouth Colony with John and Catherine Carver; another child under their care, Jasper Moore; two manservants, John Howland and Roger Wilder; an unnamed maidservant; and a servant boy, William Latham. The Carvers died during the first year, and another family must have Desire, but the specifics are unknown. Desire received an acre of land in the division of land in 1623, but her name did not appear in the May 1627 division of cattle, indicating that she had left by that time.

Family: There is no information on any family members other than that listed above.