

JUNIOR PA MAYFLOWER

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

VOL. 11 NO. 4

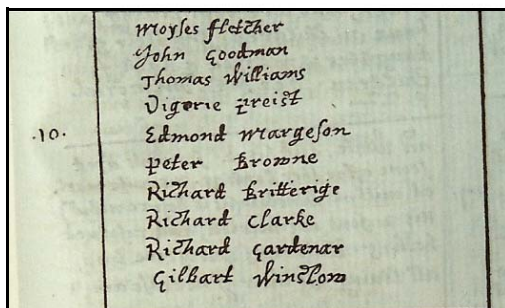
WWW.SAIL1620.ORG

WINTER 2011

MOSES/MOYSES FLETCHER CA. 1564-1620/1

Of the twenty-six male *Mayflower* passengers who either were or would become heads of families, Moses Fletcher is another about whom very little is known. The prime source always to be consulted first when researching Pilgrims is Governor William Bradford's eyewitness account *Of Plymouth Plantation*.

In Bradford's appended list of "The names of those which came over first, in ye year 1620" he groups together ten males, of whom he includes no further information, with Moyses Fletcher heading the list. Later in his short account of the "decreasings & increasings of these persons" Moyses Fletcher heads



Moses Fletcher as listed in *Mayflower* Passengers in Governor Bradford's own hand from his history *Of Plimoth Plantation*.

the paragraph of those who "dyed sone [soon] after their arrival, in the generall sickness that befell ... But the rest left no posteritie [descendants] here." No further mention is made of Moyses [Moses] by Bradford nor is he mentioned in the journal of the first year known as *Mourt's Relation*, that was published in 1622. He is, however, included in Nathaniel Morton's 1669 *New England's Memorial* list of those who signed the *Mayflower Compact*.

To learn more about Moses we have to go to the Sandwich, County Kent, England and the Leiden, Holland, records. They reveal that he was a sexton. A sexton is an officer of a church charged with the

maintenance of its buildings and/or the surrounding graveyard. When he was around 25 years old he married a Mary Evans in St. Peter's Parish, Sandwich, in 1589 and ten children of theirs were baptized there. The children were: Mary, John, Catherine, Richard, Priscilla, Moses (died as an infant), Elizabeth, Jane, Moses, and Judith (died as an infant). It was the Judith's death that caused Moses to be excommunicated (officially excluded from participation in the sacraments and services of the Christian Church) for burying Judith without the ritual of the Church of England which was therefore an illegal burial. Only John, Priscilla, and Elizabeth are known to have married. John married a Josina Sachariasdaughter, Priscilla married (1) Thomas Coit, an English soldier, in 1626, (2) Help/Solomon Terry, (3) Jan Jans Vermout, and Elizabeth married (1) Casper Barnaart and (2) Michiel Voorchoren. None of the children are believed to have come to the New World.



Following his wife Mary's death, Moses married a second time, this time in Leiden, Holland in 1613 when he married the widow Sarah (maiden name unknown) Denby who was also from England. He was identified as a blacksmith and would have been perhaps 49 years old. Children of this second marriage, if any, have not been discovered.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants lists fourteen members claiming descent from Moses and his wife Mary. All of the lines are through daughter Priscilla. There are no known portraits, estate inventories, wills, or personal belongings for Moses.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Sources:

Anderson, Robert Charles, *The Pilgrim Migration - Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1620-1633*, Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2004

Bangs, Jeremy Dupertuis. *Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners: Leiden and the Foundations of Plymouth Plantation*. Plymouth: The General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2009

Conant, Bonnie, GSMD Library.

Johnson, Caleb H., *The Mayflower and Her Passengers*. Xlibris Corporation, 2006

Heath, Dwight B., Editor, *Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth*. Bedford, MA: Applewood Books, 1963

Morison, Samuel Eliot, Editor, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1959

Roser, Susan E., *Mayflower Passenger References: (from contemporary records and scholarly journals)*. Milton, Canada: www.mayflower-passengers.com



Traditional target arrow (top) and replica medieval arrow. *Wikipedia photo*.

FLETCHER – WHAT'S IN A NAME

The name Fletcher comes from the name of an English trade: the making of arrows.

Wikipedia.org says:

Fletching (also known as a flight) is the aerodynamic stabilization of arrows or darts with materials such as feathers, each piece of which is referred to as a **fletch**. The word is related to the French *flèche*, meaning "arrow," via Old French. The ultimate root is Frankish. A fletcher is a maker of arrows.

Many English family names are the names of trades or occupations in which the earliest member named ancestor worked, for example Brewster, Fuller, Gardiner, Miller, Tinker, and Turner. It is possible that an early ancestor of Moses Fletcher worked as a fletcher.

ARE YOU A DESCENDANT OF MOSES FLETCHER ?

If so, then you are unfortunate as there are no plans by the General Society to publish a volume about Moses Fletcher in their series of *Mayflower Families Through*

Five Generations volumes because there is so little information known about the ten children of Moses and their descendants

FACEBOOK FOR ALL JUNIOR MEMBERS

The General Society Junior Chairperson, who is also an SMDPA member, has created a Facebook page for all Junior Members. The name of the group is "Mayflower Descendants Junior Members." She would like all Junior members to participate in the discussion group and to hear from other Junior members. She also urges Junior members to attend our Susquehanna and Western Colony meetings with their sponsors to spark interest and participation. Who is a Junior member? A Junior member is someone who has joined our state Mayflower society while under the age of 18 but has not completed and submitted an application proving descent from a Pilgrim. Those who are Junior members may remain in that status until their 25th birthday. Although members who joined as Life members before they became 18 are not technically Junior members, they are encouraged to take part with the Junior group.

Sagittarius, The Archer, is the ninth astrological sign of the Zodiac which spans the zodiac between the 240th and 269th degree of celestial longitude. Sagittarius is a centaur, Chiron, half man and half horse. It contains Sagitta, the Arrow. Other words referring to arrow are sagittal and sagittate.



HOMOGRAPH ANSWERS

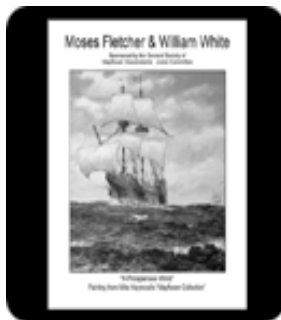
The word *homograph* is from the Greek words *homo* meaning *same* and *graph* meaning *writing*. A1, **BAT**, B3; A2, **SPRING**; B4; A3, **NUT**, B2; A4, **WAVE**, B1.

Any comments or suggested topics for the feature articles of this newsletter? Perhaps an article for consideration? If so, please contact Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr., Editor, "JR PA Mayflower," 1530 South Juniper Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147-6218 or by e-mail at sbcwjr@comcast.net.

MOSES FLETCHER 16 X 20 WORDSEARCH

The following 43 words are found in the lead article about Moses Fletcher. They may be found in the rows, columns and diagonals. They may have 17th century spelling. The left over letters in the WordSearch spell the answer to the question: Which constellation includes an arrow and when is it best seen? BAPTIZED, BELFELL, BELONGINGS, BLACKSMITH, BUILDINGS, CHILDREN CHRISTIAN, COIT, COMPACT, DECREASINGS, DENBY, DESCENDANTS, DYED, EXCOMMUNICATED, EYEWITNESS, FLETCHER, GENERALL, GRAVEYARD, INCREASINGS, INVENTORIES, JANS, KENT, LEIDEN, MAIDEN, MAINTENANCE, MARY, MEMORIAL, MORTON, MOSES, MOYSES, NATHANIEL, NEW, PASSENGERS, PLANTATION, PLYMOUTH, POSTERITIE, PRISCILLA, RELATION, SACHARIASDAUGHTER, SACRAMENTS, SANDWICH, SEXTON, VERMOUT.

N D E Y D S A N D W I C H T U O M Y L P
 O E E I T I R E T S O P M O Y S E S S R
 T C R T A I D E Z I T P A B N E W T I I
 X R E G A N N P C I B B U I L D I N G S
 E E H C N C A L T N L J A N S B V E T C
 S A C H A R I A S D A U G H T E R M C I
 R S T I T E T N T A C N R I N L U A A L
 E I E L H A S T U O K O E T A O N R P L
 G N L D A S I A I M S T O T D N E C M A
 N G F R N I R T U O M R E V N G D A O R
 E S B E I N H I S S I O T H E I I S C E
 S E E N E G C O A E T M C R C N A C M N
 S K F H L S E N S S H R S X S G M M A E
 A N E D I E L E Y E W I T N E S S U R G
 P M L N M E G R A V E Y A R D E N B Y R
 R E L A T I O N T I M E M O R I A L M E



PILGRIM BOOK-LET SERIES

The General Society has created a series of booklets for each Pilgrim. Our own Deb Miller, General Society Juniors Chair, and member James E. Welch were

major contributors. Copies may be ordered at http://www.themayflowersociety.com/shop?page=shop.browse&category_id=12. The William White booklet also contains the story of **Moses Fletcher**, another Pilgrim who did not survive the first winter.



HOMOGRAPHS

The word for each image is a homograph, a word that may have more than one meaning. Three examples are shown here: The word "bow" may mean a tied ribbon such as on a present, the item that launches arrows, or a stick with horse hair to play a stringed instrument. Print the word of the image in Column A and then match it with the image that would go with a homograph for the word in Column B



Column A

WORD

Column B

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____



1

2

3

4



MOSES FLETCHER WORDSEARCH ANSWER: Unused letters from this issue's 16 x 20 Wordsearch: SAGITTARIUS THE ARCHER SUMMERTIME.

