

**WILLIAM HOLMES**

**ORIGIN:** Sandwich, Kent.

**MIGRATION:** 1635 on the *Hercules* (on 17 March 1634/5, "W[illia]m Holmes," a servant in the household of William Hatch of Sandwich, Kent, was enrolled at Sandwich as a passenger for New England on the *Hercules* [NEHGR 75:219]).

**FIRST RESIDENCE:** Scituate.

**REMOVES:** Marshfield by 1658 [PCR 8:201].

**FREEMAN:** Took the oath of allegiance at Scituate on 1 February 1638[9] (as "W[illia]m Holmes, Senior") [PCR 1:110]. In Scituate section of 1639 list of those who had taken the oath of fidelity (as "Will[ia]m Holmes Senior") [PCR 8:182].

Admitted freeman on 1 June 1658 [PCR 3:136]. In Marshfield sections of 1658 and 29 May 1670 Plymouth Colony lists of freemen [PCR 5:277, 8:201].

**OFFICES:** Marshfield constable, 1665 [PCR 7:122-25].

In Scituate section of 1643 Plymouth Colony list of men able to bear arms [PCR 8:190]. His inventory included "2 muskets" valued at £2 [PCPR 4:1:3].

**EDUCATION:** Signed his will. His inventory included "6 books" valued at 16s. [PCPR 4:1:3].

**ESTATE:** On 1 December 1646, Timothy Hatherly of Scituate sold to "William Holmes, planter," of Scituate, one-thirtieth part of three-quarters of the land granted to Andrews, Beauchamp, Shirley and Hatherly [PCR 12:158; ScitTR 2 passim].

In an undated deed, "William Holmes of Marshfeild" deeded to "my son Josiah Holmes of Duxburrow ... all my right, title and interest in or to the common and undivided lands of the town of Scittuate by virtue of the freemen's act in surrendering up their power of disposal unto the whole inhabitants of the town of Scittuate on the thirteenth of December 1647, I William Holmes being at that time an inhabitant of the town of Scittuate" [PCLR 4:130; ScitTR 1:175].

On 5 June 1666, "Will[i]am Holmes hath liberty to look out land for the accommodation of his children" [PCR 4:132].

In his will, dated 4 March 1677/8 and proved 25 February 1678/9, "Willam Homes of Marshfeild" bequeathed to "my beloved wife one-third part of all my housing and lands and chattels and moveable estate ... during her widowhood, and then I give the aforesaid thirds of my whole estate to my two sons Israell and Isacke, but in case my wife marry I do

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bequeath her five pounds; to "my two sons Israel and Isaac and their heirs two-thirds of my whole estate of housing and lands and moveables and chattels"; to "my two sons Josiah and Abraham five shillings each"; to "my daughters Elizabeth, Mary, Sarah and Rebecca twenty shillings apiece"; to "all my grandchildren that are now extant five pounds to be equally divided amongst them"; "my beloved sons Israel and Isaac to be my executors" [PCPR 4:1:2].

The inventory of the estate of "William Holmes of Marshfield deceased the 8th of the 9th month 1678," taken 25 November 1678, totalled £70 7s.; "the house and land" was listed but not assigned a value [PCPR 4:1:3].

**BIRTH:** About 1592 (buried 9 November 1678 "86 years old" [MD 2:181; NEHR 8:192]).

**DEATH:** 8 November 1678 (from inventory). Buried at Marshfield 9 November 1678, "86 years old" [MarVR 9; MD 2:181; NEHR 8:192].

**MARRIAGE:** By about 1638 Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_. She died at Marshfield on 17 February 1698[9?] "in the 86th year of her age" [MarVR 19; MD 5:233]. (A derivative source has rearranged the Marshfield death records, and in the process transposed two of the digits in the year of death [NEHR 8:228].)

**I** **JOSIAH HOLMES**, b. say 1638, bp. Scituate 27 April 1661 [NEHR 57:178]; m. Duxbury 20 March 1665[6?] Hannah Samson, daughter of HENRY SAMSON (1620, Plymouth) [GMB 3:1623; PCLR 4:188].

**II** **ABRAHAM HOLMES**, b. say 1640, bp. Scituate 14 April 1661 [NEHR 57:178]; m. (1) by 1666 Elizabeth Arnold (eldest known child b. Marshfield 18 September 1666 [MarVR 6]), daughter of Samuel Arnold (in his will of 19 August 1693, "Samuel Arnold of Marshfield" included a bequest to "my granddaughter Elizabeth Holmes" and referred to "my grandson Isaac Holmes" [PPR 1:176]; m. (2) Hingham 19 April 1695 Abigail Nichols, widow of Ephraim Nichols [Hingham Hist 2:351, 3:84].

**III** **ELIZABETH HOLMES**, b. say 1642, bp. Scituate 20 October 1661 [NEHR 57:178]; living 4 March 1677/8, apparently married [PCPR 4:1:2]; no further record.

**IV** **MARY HOLMES**, b. say 1644, bp. Scituate 27 April 1661 [NEHR 57:178]; m. Marshfield 24 January 1664[5?] Thomas Tilden [MarVR 5; Joseph Neal Ave 62-63].

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- v SARAH HOLMES, b. say 1646, bp. Scituate 14 April 1661 [NEHGR 57:178]; living 4 March 1677/8, apparently married [PCPR 4:1:2]; no further record.
- vi REBECCA HOLMES, b. say 1648, bp. Scituate 14 April 1661 [NEHGR 57:178]; living 4 March 1677/8, apparently married [PCPR 4:1:2]; no further record.
- vii ISRAEL HOLMES, b. say 1650, bp. Scituate 14 April 1661 [NEHGR 57:178]; m. Marshfield 24 November 1681 Desire (Doty) Sherman [MarVR 16; MD 3:42], daughter of EDWARD DOTY {1620, Plymouth} [GMB 1:573-77; MF 11:2:8-10] and widow of William Sherman [GMB 3:1674; MF 4:171-74].
- viii ISAAC HOLMES, b. say 1653, bp. Scituate 14 April 1661 [NEHGR 57:178]; m. Marshfield [worn] April 167[worn] Anne Rowse [MarVR 9], daughter of John Rowse (in her will of 10 November 1687, "Annis Rows relict of John Rows late of Marshfeild deceased" included a bequest to "my daughter Anna Holmes" [PPR 1:23]).

**COMMENTS:** On 4 September 1638, "Francis Baver, of Scituate, [was] presented for offering to lie with the wife of Will[ia]m Holmes, & to abuse her body with uncleanness" [PCR 1:98]. On 7 September 1641, "Gowen White, of Scituate, for his assault upon Will[ia]m Holmes, is fined by the Court five shillings" [PCR 2:24]. On 5 April 1642, "W[illia]m Holmes" posted a bond as surety for "John Stockbridg[e] of Scituate" [PCR 2:38].

We have no record of William Holmes between 1647, when he stated that he was residing in Scituate [PCLR 4:130], and 1658, when he was listed as a freeman of Marshfield [PCR 8:201], so we are unable to say with any certainty when he moved from one town to the other. His name is the very last in the 1658 Marshfield list, which leaves open the possibility that, as was frequently the case with Plymouth Colony lists of freemen, his name was added to that list at a later date. His removal to Marshfield might, then, have taken place some years after 1658, which would be consistent with the baptism of all eight of his children in Scituate in 1661. However, the involvement in 1660 and 1661 with Dinah Silvester and her family indicates that William Holmes was already in Marshfield by that time, but resided in the northern part of that town, near the southern part of Scituate which was served by the Second Church of that town [GMB 3:1677].