

The wife of William Holmes died on 17 February 1698[/9?] "in the 86th year of her age" [MarVR 19; MD 5:233], and so was born about 1614 (or perhaps a little later if her age at death has been exaggerated). This would make her about twenty-four when her eldest child was born and about thirty-nine when her youngest was born, a reasonable child-bearing range. Also, we have independent evidence that William Holmes was married at the time we suggest his first child was born [PCR 1:98].

William Holmes came to New England as a servant [NEHGR 75:219] and was buried on 9 November 1678, "86 years old" [MarVR 9; MD 2:181; NEHGR 8:192]. This would place his birth about 1592, which would mean he was about forty-three when he crossed the Atlantic, and was more than twenty years older than his wife. The age at death may be exaggerated somewhat, but probably by less than a decade, so these disparities would still exist. He may have served William Hatch for many years in England, which might provide a clue for finding his English origin. He apparently completed his servitude within two or three years of his arrival, and set out on his own.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1864 John Adams Vinton published an account of this immigrant and some of his descendants [Giles Memorial 181-84].

NICHOLAS HOLT

ORIGIN: Romsey, Hampshire [Drake's Founders 56].

MIGRATION: 1635 on the *James* (on or about 5 April 1635, "Nicholas Holte" of Romsey, tanner, appeared on the passenger list of the *James* of London, preparing to sail for New England from Southampton [Drake's Founders 56]).

FIRST RESIDENCE: Newbury [MBCR 1:154].

REMOVES: Andover by an unknown date.

OCCUPATION: Tanner [Drake's Founders 56].

Dishturner [ELR 6:129, 7:53, 32:130-31, 34:255-56].

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Newbury church prior to 17 May 1637 implied by freemanship.

FREEMAN: 17 May 1637 (second in a sequence of eight Newbury men) [MBCR 1:373].

OFFICES: Ipswich petit jury, 30 March 1652 [EQC 1:247]. Grand jury, 28 September 1652, 27 September 1653 [EQC 1:260, 289].

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EDUCATION: Signed his deeds by mark.

ESTATE: In an undated Newbury land inventory, "Nicholas Holt" held three parcels: "a houselot of four acres"; "a field lot of forty acres"; and "another field lot of thirty-six acres of upland & meadow" [Newbury TR 1:19v]. "Nicholas Holt" was the seventh name in the 7 December 1642 list of Newbury proprietors [NewburyTR 1:44v].

On 10 March 1679/80, "Nicholas Holt of Andover ... Senior" deeded to "Robert Gray, now resident at Andover, ... five acres of land in Andover ... which five acres is part of what was laid out to me for street division" [ELR 6:116]. On 1 September 1680, "Nicholas Holt of Andover ... & also my wife for ... the natural love & affection I bear unto my daughter Sarah, not long since married to Roger Marks of the town & county aforesaid," deeded to "Roger Marks abovesaid ... twenty acres of upland ... and also two small parcels of meadow, containing about two acres" [ELR 8:81]

On 14 February 1680[1?], "Nicholas Hoult Senior a dishturner of the town of Andover ... with the consent of his wife Martha Hoult" deeded to "Samuel Hoult of Andover aforesaid my eldest son ... one-half of my three score acres of upland or arable ground ... the said land on which the said Samuel's house now stands ..., also ... one hundred and thirty acres of my great division of upland ..., also ... one-half of my meadow called the Ladle Meadow ..., also ... one-half of my meadow commonly called the Swamp Meadow the which meadow is a part of my great division meadow ..., also ... a certain meadow called the Bare Meadow ..., also ... another small piece of meadow ..., [also] ... another small piece of meadow ... about a quarter of a mile from Bald Hill" [ELR 32:130-31].

On 15 December 1681, "Nicolas Hoult Senior a dishturner of the town of Andover ... with the consent of his wife Martha Hoult my third wife" deeded to "Henry Hoult of Andover aforesaid my second son ... one-half of my three score acres of upland ... the said land which the said Henry's house now stands on ..., also ... one hundred thirty acres of my great division of upland ..., also ... one-half of my meadow called the Ladle Meadow ..., moreover ... several holes of meadow ... being part of my great division of meadow ..., also ... all that my meadow commonly called the River Meadow ..., also ... two parcels of meadow ... on the western end of the Bare Meadow ..., also ... two parcels of meadow ... at the edge of the Bald Hill" [ELR 34:255-56].

On 16 June 1682, "Nicholas Hoult Senior, dishturner, of Andover ... with the consent of his wife Martha Hoult" acknowledged a deed of gift, in return for maintenance, to "Nicholas Hoult my third son" of "one-third part of the farm where he now dwells, the upland & arable ground ...,

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also ... one-third part of my Great Meadow ..., moreover ... another piece [of] meadow ..., also ... two parcels of meadow ..., also ... two parcels of meadow ..., furthermore ... my dwelling house that now is, together with a cellar, rooms & leanto, and of other conveniences of houserom adjoining thereunto, also the well & the orchard, to wit, all the apple trees & all other fruit trees already planted & growing upon this aforesaid ground, moreover the barn with the leanto, together with all other housing for cattle already builded & standing upon this aforesaid land ... [and] three acres of common privilege or commonage, according to my grant of the town" [ELR 6:129-30].

On 15 April 1681, "Nicholas Hoult Senior, dishturner, of Andover" deeded to "James Hoult of Andover aforesaid, my fourth son," in return for maintenance, "one-third part of my farm ..., that is to say, the land where his house now stands ..., also ... one-third part of my meadow called the Great Meadow ..., also ... three acres of my commonage, which I had of the town with my houselot" [ELR 7:53].

On 19 June 1685, "Nicolas Holt Senior of the town of Andover ..., dishturner," deeded to "my loving son Jno. Hoult ... all that my parcel of land laying on the easterly side of my now dwelling house ..., also ... a piece of meadow in my Great Meadow ..., also ... a parcel of meadow in my Little Meadow ..., also fifteen acres of upland lying by said meadow, as yet unlaid out" [ELR 9:12].

BIRTH: About 1608 (deposed 11 April 1671 "aged about sixty-three years" [EQC 4:370]).

DEATH: Andover 30 January 1685[6] "aged 104." (This age at death does not mesh with the age given in the deposition of 1671, or with other events in the life of this immigrant, and so is clearly exaggerated by at least twenty years, and probably more.)

MARRIAGE: (1) By 1636 Elizabeth _____. She died at Andover on 9 November 1656.

(2) Ipswich 12/20 June 1658 Hannah (Bradstreet) Rolfe [EQC 2:121 (also recorded at Andover)], daughter of HUMPHREY BRADSTREET and widow of Daniel Rolfe [EQC 3:183, 337]. She died at Andover on 20 June 1665.

(3) Andover 21 May 1666 Martha (____) Preston, widow of ROGER PRESTON {1635, Ipswich} [NYGBR 52:326-29; EQC 3:325, 7:73]. She died at Andover on 21 March 1702/3.

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*The Great Migration***CHILDREN:**

With first wife

- i ELIZABETH HOLT, b. Newbury 30 March 1636; m. Andover 26 October 1657 Ralph Farnham, son of RALPH FARNHAM {1635, Ipswich} [GM 2:2:493-94].
 - ii MARY HOLT, b. Newbury 6 October 1638; m. Andover 5 July 1657 Thomas Johnson.
 - iii SAMUEL HOLT, b. Newbury 6 October 1641; m. by 1670 Sarah Allen (eldest known child of "Samuell and Sara" b. Andover 3 August 1670), daughter of Andrew Allen (in his will of 6 October 1690, "Andrew Allin of the town of Andover" included a bequest to "my four daughters, namely Mary Touthacer, Sarah Holt, Martha Carier and Hannah Holt" [Pillsbury Anc 1013-15, citing EPR Case #370]).
 - iv HENRY HOLT, b. about 1643 (d. Andover 13 January 1718/9 "aged about 75 years"); m. Andover 24 February 1669[/70?] Sarah Ballard.
 - v NICHOLAS HOLT, b. say 1645; m. Andover 8 January 1679[/80?] Mary Russell.
 - vi HANNAH HOLT, b. say 1648; m. Salem 8 March 1668[/9?] Robert Gray.
 - vii JAMES HOLT, b. say 1650; m. Andover 12 October 1675 Hannah Allen, daughter of Andrew Allen [Pillsbury Anc 1013-15, citing EPR Case #370].
 - viii PRISCILLA HOLT, b. Andover 20 June 1653; d. there 16 October 1653.
 - ix SARAH HOLT, b. say 1655; m. by 1680 Roger Marks.
- With second wife
- x REBECCA HOLT, b. Andover 14 November 1662; no further record.
 - xi JOHN HOLT, b. Andover 11 January 1663[/4]; m. Andover 3 July 1685 Sarah Geary.

ASSOCIATIONS: In his will of 13 February 1672[/3], "Henry Short of Newbury" included bequests to "my cousin Samuell Holt" and to "his [Samuel's] brother Nicholas Holt" [EPR 2:345-47]. The identity of the first wife of Henry Short is unknown, as is the identity of the first wife of Nicholas Holt, so we cannot state how these two families are related.

COMMENTS: On 1 September 1635, "Nicholas Holte" was one of three men, "all three of Newberry," who deposed with regard to a debt owed by John Emery to the estate of Joseph Avery [MBCR 1:154].

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The position of daughter Sarah in the family is uncertain. Some sources give her a precise date of birth in 1640, but this is not found in the Newbury records, and would seem to conflict chronologically with the other births in this family during those years. As we have no evidence that she was married any earlier than 1680, she might have been born as late as the early 1660s, and so might have been a child of the second wife. She might possibly have been a stepchild of the immigrant. We have, nevertheless, placed her as the last child with the first wife.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1864 Daniel S. Durrie published a genealogy for this family [*A Genealogical History of the Holt Family in the United States, More Particularly the Descendants of Nicholas Holt of Newbury and Andover, Mass., 1634-1644, and of William Holt of New Haven, Conn.* (Albany: J. Munsell, 1864)].

In his 1970 study of early Andover, Philip J. Greven Jr. used Nicholas Holt and his descendants as one of his main examples of how land passed from generation to generation [*Four Generations: Population, Land, and Family in Colonial Andover, Massachusetts* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1970), pp. 46-47, 59-60, 88-92, 164-67, 234-37, 248-49].

MARY HOOD

ORIGIN: Halstead, Essex.

MIGRATION: 1634.

FIRST RESIDENCE: Boston.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: On 28 August 1634, "Marie Hudd, maid servant to our brother John Winthrop the Elder," was admitted to Boston church [BChR 18].

BIRTH: About 1607 [NEHGR 72:159].

DEATH: 22 November 1674 ("Mary Trusedall age 67 years deceased this life 22 day of November upon a Sabbath day morning at three of the clock" [NEHGR 72:159]).

MARRIAGE: By 1646 (and probably some years earlier) RICHARD TRUESDALE {1634, Boston}.

CHILDREN: None recorded.

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