

Nicholas Holt

Born **19 Oct 1602** in **Ramsey, England** ♀

Son of Thomas Holt and Annis (Bowden) Holt

[sibling(s) unknown]

Husband of **Elizabeth (Short) Holt** — married 1624 in Hampton Co., England ♀

Husband of **Martha Blessing (Towne) Preston** — married 21 May

1666 in Andover, Essex, Massachusetts ♀

Father of Edith (Holt) Browne, Hannah (Holt) Gray, Elizabeth (Holt)

Farnum, Mary (Holt) Johnson, Sarah Holt, Samuel Holt, Henry Holt Sr, Nicholas Holt Jr., John Holt, James Holt, Priscilla Holt and Sarah (Holt) Marks

Died about **30 Jan 1685** in **Andover, Essex, Massachusetts** ♀

Biography

NICHOLAS & ELIZABETH (SHORT) HOLT, his first wife, came on the JAMES, to Dorchester in 1635. He was deposed on Feb. 11, 1671 and gave his age as 63 yrs. making his birth year 1608. Savage gives his age at death as 83, which makes his birth year 1602.

He was a tanner by trade and an original settler of Newbury where historic accounts refer to Holt's Neck and Holt's Rock. On Sept. 1, 1635, he witnessed a legal paper. He was made a freeman of Mass. on May 17, 1637 and was chosen as town surveyor on April 19, 1638.

The family next removed to Andover around 1644 and was an original settler in the southern part of the town known as "Holt Hill". His name is on a list of the Church of Andover, organized Oct. 24, 1641, as sixth of the first ten members who were freeholders. In 1647, he was one of the persons appointed to lay out the road from Reading to Andover.

He married second Hannah (Bradstreet) Rolfe, daughter of Humphrey Bradstreet and widow of Daniel Rolfe in June of 1658. She died June 20, 1665 and he married third on May 21, 1666, Martha, widow of Roger Preston. In 1680 he conveyed 20 acres of upland to his son-in-law, Roger Marks. The name, Nicholas Holt, was on the list of the ten original members of the Church of Andover, organized October 24, 1645.

The James passenger list shows Nicholas Holt, tanner of Romsey, Hampshire.450

He moved immediately to Newbury, as one of the first settlers there. In 1637 his name appears as one of the ten persons who in order to prevent the reelection of Sir Henry Vane to the office of governor, and to strengthen the friends of Governor Winthrop, went from Newbury to Cambridge on foot, forty miles, and qualified themselves to vote by taking the freeman's oath May 17, 1637. He was also part of the team that divided Newbury into lots, and served as a commander of militia forces in 1638.

In 1644 Nicholas Holt was one of the ten original settlers who removed their families from Newbury and accompanied their pastor, the Rev. John Woodbridge, to "Chochichawicke," now Andover. On a leaf in the town records containing the list of householders in order as they came to the town his name is sixth. He was one of the ten male members, including the pastor elect, who composed the church at the ordination of Mr. John Woodbridge, October 24, 1645. He was later on several committees charged with setting the boundaries of Andover and laying out a highway to Reading.

Nicholas married three times while his children were young - he first had 9 children with Elizabeth, then married widow Hannah, who had two young children and they had two children together. Then he married widow Martha, who also had two young children.38

The "tanner" on the ships roll is probably a mis-understood "turner" - he manufactured woodenware, and when distributing property to his children before his death, he called himself a "dish-turner." (Cutter, William Richard. *New England Families Genealogical and Memorial: Third Series, Volume IV*. 1915. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., inc., 1996. Quoted at <http://www.family2remember.com/bios/nholt1602.htm>)

There is no mention of him in the well-preserved records at Romsay, so it seems the entry on the passenger list was incorrect. Savage's: NICHOLAS, Newbury, a tanner from Romsey in Hants, came in the James 1635, from

Southampton, perhaps with w. arr. at Boston, 3 June, freem. 17 May 1637, had Elizabeth b. 30 Mar. 1636; Mary, 6 Oct. 1638; and Samuel, 6 Oct. 1641; rem. to Andover, where he was one of the found. of the ch. 1645; there had Henry; Nicholas; James; and John, wh. m. 3 July 1685, Sarah Geary, and d. 10 Mar. 1687; beside Priscilla wh. d. young, 16 Oct. 1653; he d. 30 Jan. 1685, aged 104 yrs. says the rec. but Coffin, with more prob. says 83. His first w. d. a. 1654, and he m. 12 June 1658, Hannah, wid of Daniel Rolfe, d. of Humphrey Bradstreet, wh. d. 20 June 1665; and he m. 21 May 1666, wid. Preston. His d. Elizabeth m. 26 Oct. 1658, Ralph Farnum; and Mary m. 5 July 1657, Thomas Johnson.

Nicholas HOLT was christened on 19 Oct 1602 in Ramsey, Essex, England. {S5}.

There is no doubt but that the same motives that actuated the other early settlers of New England in leaving their pleasant homes in England and emigrating to this country had their due influence on him. That he was a religious man is made evident by the fact that he was one of the original members of the Andover church, and by his forsaking his native home in England to encounter the privations and difficulties of the wilderness in order that he might enjoy the privileges of worshipping God according to the convictions of his own mind and his understanding of God's word. While honestly and conscientiously discharging his duties in this regard he took an active part in public affairs of the town and his appointment on important committees in laying out roads and other improvements indicates that his services were valuable and appreciated. {S1}.

Nicholas Holt married Elizabeth SHORT in England (a few years before he came to Massachusetts-S1)(about 1622-S4)(about 1624-S3).

Nicholas Holt was a passenger in the ship "James," of London, William Cooper, master, which sailed from Southampton, England, about April 16, 1635, and arrived at Boston, New England, June 3 following, after a voyage of forty-eight days. The names of forty-three male persons are found as passengers on the ship's roll, "besides the wives and children of Dyvers of them." Among the former occurs the name of Nicholas Holte, of Romsey

(county of Hants), England, "Tanner." Undoubtedly he was accompanied by a wife and at least one child. {S1,S4,S12}.

He proceeded the same year to Newbury, where he was one of the first settlers and resided there some ten years. There he received his proportionate share of the lands allotted to each proprietor. {S1}.

In 1637 his name appears as one of the ten persons who in order to prevent the reelection of Sir Henry Vane to the office of governor, and to strengthen the friends of Governor Winthrop, went from Newbury to Cambridge on foot, forty miles, and qualified themselves to vote by taking the freeman's oath May 17, 1637. This defeat was a severe blow to the pride of Sir Henry Vane. {S1,S2,S12}.

On April 19, 1638, Nicholas Holt was chosen one of the surveyors of highways "for one whole yeare & till new be chosen." {S1}.

February 24, 1637, it was agreed that "William Moody, James Browne, Nic. Holt, Francis Plummer, Na Noyse, shall lay out all the general fences in the towne, that are to be made, as likewise tenn rod between man & man for garden plotts this is to be done by the 5th of March on the penalty of 5s apiece." {S1}.

In June, 1638, all the able-bodied men of Newbury were enrolled and formed into four companies under the command of John Pike, Nicholas Holt, John Baker and Edmund Greenleafe. They were required to "bring their arms compleat on Sabbath day in a month and the lecture day following," and "stand sentinell at the doors all the time of the publick meeting." {S1}.

The first church records of Newbury prior to 1674 are lost, and consequently the name of Nicholas Holt is not found, but it appears in the following order of the town record: "Jan. 18, 1638. It is ordered that Richard Knight, James Brown & Nicholas Holt shall gather up the first payment of the meeting house rate, & the town within one fourteennight on the penalty of 6s 8d apiece." {S1}.

In 1644 Nicholas Holt was one of the ten original settlers who removed their families from Newbury and accompanied their pastor, the Rev. John Woodbridge, to "Chochichawicke," now Andover. On a leaf in the town records containing the list of householders in order as they came to the town his name is sixth. {S1,S4,S12}.

There is a tradition that the dwelling of Nicholas Holt, the immigrant, is one which still stands on Holt's Hill, sometimes called Prospect Hill, in Andover, Massachusetts. {S1}.

He was one of the ten male members, including the pastor elect, who composed the church at the ordination of Mr. John Woodbridge on 24 October 1645. {S1}.

May 26, 1647, he was appointed in connection with Sergeant Marshall "to lay out the highway between Reading and Andover, and with Lieut. Sprague and Sergeant Marshall to view the river (Ipswich River) and make return to the court of the necessity and charge of a bridge and make return to the next session of this court." {S1}.

At a general court held May 2, 1652, he was appointed with Captain Johnson, of Woburn, and Thomas Danforth, of Cambridge, "to lay the bounds of Andover," and May 18, 1653, he was appointed with Captain Richard Walker and Lieutenant Thomas Marshall to lay out the highway betwixt Andover and Reading and at the same term of court, September 20, 1655, the committee made a report of said survey. {S1}.

In his early, life he carried on the business of manufacturer of woodenware. A few years before his death, in distributing his property among his children, he styles himself "dish-turner." The word "tanner" on the roll of the ship "James" is probably an error of the recording official who mistook the word turner for tanner. {S1}.

His wife Elizabeth died on 9 November 1656 at Andover. {S1}.

He married (2) Hannah BRADSTREET, widow of Daniel ROLFE on (20-S1)(12-S2,S10) June 1658 in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. She died on 20 June 1665 at Andover. {S1}.

He married (3) widow Martha Preston on 21 May 1666 at Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. {S1,S2}.

Nicholas Holt died on 30 January 1685 (1684-S6) at Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. His wife Martha outlived him. {S1, S2,S4,S12}.

WIFE 1: [F15703]. Elizabeth SHORT. Born in 1606 in England. {S2}. Possibly the daughter of Henry SHORT. {S2}.

She married Nicholas HOLT [F15702].

Nicholas Holt was a passenger in the ship "James," of London, William Corper, master, which sailed from Southampton, England, about April 16, 1635, and arrived at Boston, New England, June 3 following, after a voyage of forty-eight days. The names of forty-three male persons are found as passengers on the ship's roll, "besides the wives and children of Dyvers of them." Undoubtedly he was accompanied by a wife and at least one child. {S1}.

She and Nicholas had four sons and four daughters. {S1}.

Of her, nothing more is known except that she died on 9 November 1656 at Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. {S1, S2,S4}.

CHILDREN of Nicholas HOLT [F15702] and Elizabeth SHORT [F15703]:

Hannah HOLT. Probably born in England. {S2}. Born about 1634. {S3}. She married Robert GRAY on 8 MAR 1669. {S3}. She died before 1705. {S4}. [F7851]. Elizabeth HOLT. Born on 30 March 1636 in Newbury, Essex County, Massachusetts. She married Ralph FARNUM [F7850] on 26 October 1658. She died on (14 OCT 1710-S3,S6)(26 AUG 1683-S4) at Andover, Essex, Massachusetts. {S1,S2,S3,S4,S12}. Mary HOLT. Born on

6 October 1638 in Newbury, Essex County, Massachusetts. She married Thomas JOHNSON on 5 JUL 1657 at Andover, Essex, Massachusetts. She died on 15 November 1700. {S1,S2,S3,S4,S12}. Samuel HOLT. Born on 6 October or November (October-S3,S4)1641 in Newbury, Essex County, Massachusetts. He married Sarah ALLEN before 1670. He died in 1719 in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. {S1,S2, S3, S4,S12}. Andy HOLT. Born in Newbury, Essex County, Massachusetts. [This child is not mentioned by S2, and Hannah is not listed by S1; so I suspect this is Hannah.] {S2}. Henry HOLT. Born in 1644 in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. He married Sarah BALLARD on 24 February 1669 in Andover. He joined the Andover Church on 3 June 1716. He died on 17 January 1719 in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. {S1,S2, S3,S4,S12}. Nicholas HOLT. Born in 1647 in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. He married Mary RUSSELL on 8 January 1679. He died on 8 OCT 1715 at Andover, Essex, Massachusetts. {S1,S2,S3,S4,S7,S12}. Sarah HOLT. Born about 1650 in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. She married Roger MARKS. {S3,S4}. James HOLT. Born on 21 June 1651 in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. He married Hannah ALLEN on 12 October 1675. He died on 14 December 1690 at Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts of smallpox. {S1,S2, S3,S4,S12}. Priscilla HOLT. Born on 20 June 1653 in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. d.s.p 16 October 1653. {S1,S2, S3,S4,S12}.

WIFE 2: Hannah BRADSTREET. Born in 1625; daughter of Humphrey BRADSTREET and Bridget. She married (1) (Daniel ROLFE-S1)(Mr. POPE-S2). She married (2) Nicholas HOLT on 20 June 1658. She died on 20 June 1665 at Andover. {S1}.

CHILDREN of Nicholas HOLT [F15702] and Hannah BRADSTREET:

Rebecca HOLT, b. 14 Nov 1662 Andover, Essex Co., MA. {S2}. John HOLT, b. 14 Jan 1663/4 Andover, Essex Co., MA. {S2}. He married Sarah GEEREY in 1685 at Andover, Massachusetts. He died in 1687. {S6,S12}.

WIFE 3: Martha. She married (1) Roger PRESTON. {S2}. Roger Preston died in Salemon 20 January 1666. She married (2) Nicholas HOLT on 21 May 1666. She took her sons Samuel, Jacob and John Preston to live with her in Andover. She died on 21 March 1703, age 80 years. {S1,S9}.

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The children of Nicholas Holt... by first wife (from "Pioneers of Mass." by Pope, p. 238): 1. Elizabeth b. March 30, 1636 2. Mary b. Oct. 6, 1638, m. Thomas Johnson 3. Sarah b. June 2, 1640 4. Samuel b. Oct. 5, 1641 5. Henry (a father in 1670) 6. James (a father in 1679) 7. Nicholas (a father in 1680) 8. Priscilla b. and d. 1653

by second wife 9. Rebecca b. Nov. 14, 1662 10. John b. Jan. 11, 1663-4

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Notes

Note N374 Nicholas, wife, Elizabeth and child, Hannah came from Southampton, England to Boston on the James, arriving June 3, 1635, where only a few hundred inhabitants lived in cabins built 5

years before. Settled first in Newbury. In 1644 moved to Andover, which was incorporated May 6, 1646 and the Indian name Cochichawick was changed to Andover, for the town in Eng. from which many of the inhabitants had come. (Andover was a haven for refugees from Boston during the Revolutionary War and part of the Harvard library was brought there for safe-keeping during the Rev. War. Had 3 wives--Elizabeth Short, Hannah Bradstreet Rolfe (widow), Martha Preston (widow). Died at age 83.