

ORIGIN: Leiden, Holland

MIGRATION: 1632

FIRST RESIDENCE: Plymouth

OCCUPATION: Weaver [[PCR](#) 12:149].

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: At the time of his death it was recorded that "He was an approved servant of God, and a useful man in his place, being a deacon of the church of Christ at Plymouth" [[PCR](#) 8:32].

FREEMAN: In "1633" Plymouth list, before those admitted on 1 January 1632/3 [[PCR](#) 1:3]. In list of 7 March 1636/7 [[PCR](#) 1:52]

EDUCATION: Signed his will by mark. Some education implied by service on committee to make laws.

OFFICES: Deputy for Plymouth to General Court, 4 June 1639, 2 June 1640, 27 September 1642, 10 October 1643, 5 June 1644, 20 August 1644, 28 October 1645, 7 July 1646 (fined for failing to appear), 1 June 1647, June 1649, 4 June 1650, 3 June 1652, 7 June 1653, 6 June 1654, 1 August 1654, 8 June 1655, 3 June 1656, 2 March 1657/8, 7 June 1659, 4 June 1661, 3 June 1662, 8 June 1664 [[PCR](#) 1:126, 154, 2:45, 63, 72, 74, 94, 104, 117, 144, 154, 3:3, 31, 49, 63, 79, 99, 129, 162, 187, 198, 214, 4:14, 60]. Committee to treat with the partners about the trade [on the Kennebec], 1 October 1634 [[PCR](#) 1:31]. Auditor, 3 March 1644/5 [[PCR](#) 2:82]. Committee to make laws, 16 May 1639 [[PCR](#) 1:121]. Grand jury, 7 March 1636/7, 5 June 1638, 1 June 1641, 1 March 1641/2, 7 March 1642/3, 6 June 1643, 7 June 1648, 4 October 1648 [[PCR](#) 1:54, 87, 2:16, 34, 45, 53, 56, 124, 134]. Petit jury, 7 June 1636, 3 March 1639/40, 5 October 1640, 2 March 1640/1, 1 June 1641, 6 July 1641, 3 August 1641, 1 November 1642, 1 March 1652/3, 6 December 1653, 3 October 1654, 4 October 1655, 5 March 1655/6, 5 October 1656, 3 May 1659 [[PCR](#) 1:42, 7:15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 32, 64, 68, 72, 75, 77, 81, 93]. Coroner's jury, on the body of James Glass, 3 September 1652 [[PCR](#) 3:16]. Committee to confer and "conclude with the General Court about the war," 20 September 1642 [[PTR](#) 1:11].

Plymouth selectman, 1644, 1647, 1649-50 [[PTR](#) 1:1:18, 22, 28, 32]. Rater, 1644, 1649-51, 1663 [[PTR](#) 1:1:19, 29, 31, 32, 58]. Lot layer, 1663 [[PTR](#) 1:1:61]. Viewer of land, 4 January 1641/2, 25 October 1649, 1 June 1658, 2 August 1659 [[PCR](#) 2:32, 145, 3:142, 169].

ESTATE: He was assessed 9s. in Plymouth tax lists of 25 March 1633 and 27 March 1634 [[PCR](#) 1:10, 27].

John Dunham was granted use of mowing ground, 14 March 1635/6, 20 March 1636/7 [[PCR](#) 1:40, 56], and granted "a parcel of upland lying at the head of his lot," 5 October 1640 [[PCR](#) 1:163]. About 1637, the General Court moved that "long since diverse lots of lands lying at Winberry Hill which should have contained twenty acres apiece were granted to John Donhame" and that Dunham, having relinquished many of them to new inhabitants, the court confirmed to him the thirty acres he had still remaining [[PCR](#) 12:27]. On 16 September 1641, "John Dunhame, the elder" was granted sixty acres of upland at Swanhold and also eight acres of meadow. His son received a grant the same day [[PCR](#) 2:26]. On 31 December 1641 he was granted a parcel of meadow and of upland at Swanhold [[PCR](#) 2:30].

On 19 January 1647[8?] John Dunham of "New Plymouth," weaver, gave to "my son Samuel Dunham" six acres of upland [[PCR](#) 12:149]. On 18 February 1650[1?] "Samuell Donham" of Plymouth, planter, sold to "John Donham senior" of Plymouth, weaver, a house and land containing twelve acres, also half an acre of meadow at the watering place, also ten or twelve acres of upland at Wellingsley [[PCR](#) 12:203].

In March 1651, he was listed as a proprietor with interest in the town's land at Punckateesett "over against Rhode Island." His lot was number seventeen [[PTR](#) 1:36, 66].

On 13 June 1655 "John Dunham senior of Plymouth ... weaver" gave to "his son-in-law Gyles Rickard Junior of Plymouth ... planter a parcel of upland ground being estimated at about twelve acres ... at Wellingsley" in Plymouth [[MD](#) 9:234-35, citing [PCLR](#) 2:1:157]. On 4 July 1658 John Dunham Sr. of Plymouth, weaver, gave to "his son Jonathan Dunham" of Plymouth, planter, "all that his house and land that the said Jonathan Dunham now liveth on" containing fourteen acres, along with one-third of "his marsh meadow at the watering place" [[MD](#) 12:214-15, citing [PCLR](#) 2:1:212]. On 28 May 1663 John Dunham Sr. of Plymouth, weaver, gave to "his son John Dunham the one half of all that his share, lot and portion of meadow at Winnatuxett in the township of

Plymouth as also his whole portion of upland at the place forenamed" on the condition that he accept this as his whole share in his father's estate [[MD](#) 18:37-38, citing [PCLR](#) 2:2:119].

On 15 February 1658 Plymouth selectmen confirmed to John Dunham Sr. a former grant of twelve acres of land "at a place called Fresh Lake" [[MD](#) 13:146, citing [PCLR](#) 2:2:14].

On 1 June 1669 letters of administration were granted to "Abigall Dunham, Senir., widow" for the estate of "John Dunham, Senir.," deceased [[PCR](#) 5:22].

In his will, dated 25 January 1668 and proved 4 June 1669, "John Dunham Senior of Plymouth" bequeathed to "my son John Dunham who is my eldest son ... I have given him his portion already ... to what I was able and beyond my ability"; to "my son Benajah Dunham and my son-in-law Stephen Wood" all my right at Agawaum and Sepecan equally; to "my son Daniell Dunham" all my land at Fresh Lake, also "all that land that lieth at home which he made use of this year which I already ordered to him"; to "my loving wife Abigaill Dunham" my now dwelling house, my orchards, with all my land no elsewhere given, all my meadow at the watering place during her life and at her death, to "my son Daniell Dunham"; "my son Thomas Dunham" £5 paid by my son Daniel Dunham upon demand; to "all the rest of my children that are not expressed in this my last will 12d. each if they demand it"; residue to my loving wife Abigail Dunham, executrix; "my loving friends Captain Thomas Southworth and the elder Thomas Cushman and my son Samuell Dunham" overseers [[MD](#) 17:113-14, citing [PCPR](#) 2:2:53].

An inventory of the goods of "John Dunham Senior deceased" was taken 16 March 1668/9 and was untotaled; it included only £3 of real estate: "house and land not prised [presumably because he had already given it to Daniel] only threescore acres of upland at Swanhold not willed away" [[MD](#) 17:114, citing [PCPR](#) 2:2:54].

BIRTH: By about 1587 based on date of marriage, possibly son of Richard Dunham of Langford, Bedfordshire [[TAG](#) 71:132].

DEATH: Plymouth 2 March 1668/9, aged about 80 [[PCR](#) 8:32].

MARRIAGE: (1) Clophill, Bedfordshire, 17 August 1612 Susan Kaino, probably baptized Clophill 12 December 1586, daughter of "Thomas Cainehoe" [[TAG](#) 71:130-33]. She died by 1622.

(2) Leiden 22 October 1622 [NS] Abigail Ballou, daughter of Thomas Ballou [[TAG](#) 71:131, 133, 250]; living in 1669 when she was executrix on her husband's estate.

CHILDREN:

With first wife

i JOHN, bp. Henlow, Bedfordshire, 19 February 1614[5] [[TAG](#) 71:132] (d. 6 April 1692 "in his 77th year" [[PChR](#) 1:275]); m. by about 1642 Mary _____ (eldest child b. about 1642 [[TAG](#) 30:147]).

ii HUMILITY, b. say 1617; living at Leiden in 1622; no further record.

iii THOMAS, b. say 1619; d. by 1677 and apparently never married [[TAG](#) 30:148-51].

With second wife

iv SAMUEL, b. Leiden about 1623 (d. Plymouth 20 January 1711/2 "in his 89 years of age" [[MD](#) 16:64]); m. Plymouth 29 June 1649 Martha (Beals) Falloway, daughter of John Beals and widow of William Falloway [< A href=" "javascript:APop(p11001,140,168);">PCR 8:8; [SPR](#) 10:297].

v JONATHAN, b. say 1625 (on a Plymouth voters list, about 1646 [[PTR](#) 1:26]; on proprietor's list March 1651 [[PTR](#) 1:37]); m. (1) Plymouth 29 November 1655 Mary Delano [[PCR](#) 8:17]; m. (2) Plymouth 15 October 1657 Mary Cobb [[PCR](#) 8:17]. (See [TAG](#) 36:243-49 for further detail on this man, his wives and children.)

vi ABIGAIL, b. say 1627; m. Plymouth 6 November 1644 Stephen Wood (or Atwood) [[PCR](#) 2:79; [PVR](#) 655].

vii JOSEPH, b. say 1631; m. Plymouth 18 November 1657 Mercy Morton [[PCR](#) 8:17], who d. Plymouth 19 February 1666 [[PCR](#) 8:31]; m. (2) Plymouth 20 August 1669 Esther Wormal [[PCR](#) 8:32], daughter of Joseph and Miriam Wormal [[BVR](#) 28].

viii HANNAH, b. about 1634 (d. 1 April 1708 in her 74th year [[PChR](#) 1:209]); m. Plymouth 31 October 1651 Giles Rickard [[PCR](#) 8:13].

ix PERSIS, b. say 1635; m. (1) Plymouth 29 November 1655 Benajah Pratt [[PCR](#) 8:17]; m. (2) August 1683 Jonathan Shaw [[PPR](#) 2:18].

x BENAJAH, b. say 1637; m. Plymouth 25 October 1660 Elizabeth Tilson [[PCR](#) 8:22; [TAG](#) 69:38].

xi DANIEL, b. say 1639; m. say 1670 Hannah _____ (named in his will [[PCPR](#) 3:2:102]).

COMMENTS: The definitive treatment of John Dunham, his children and grandchildren, was carried out by Florence Barclay ("Notes on the Dunham Family of Plymouth, Mass.," [TAG](#) 30:143-55). She followed this six years later with a detailed study of Jonathan Dunham, son of the immigrant [[TAG](#) 36:243-49]. As usual, she has studied all the available records and judiciously analyzed them; we follow her arrangement here, except where noted otherwise.

John Dunham and three children (John, Humility and Thomas) were listed as living in the Zevenhuysen section of Leiden on 15 October 1622 [NS] [[Dexter](#) 612], in a survey which was conveniently taken between the dates of John Dunham's betrothal and marriage to his second wife.

His cattlemark at Plymouth was "a croch on the left ear" [[PTR](#) 1:2]. On 16 July 1638, with three others, "John Dunham" was given power to control the stock of cows for the poor at Plymouth for the next four years [[PTR](#) 1:4]. He and his son of the same name frequently dealt with cattle [[PTR](#) 1:20, 23, 27, 28]. "The cow John Dunham had was also bogged and died. And her increase killed by the wolf" [[PTR](#) 1:29]. He was chosen one of the seven men to herd and keep cattle at Sepecan [Rochester] in 1650 [[PTR](#) 1:30].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1996 Robert Leigh Ward published data demonstrating the English origin and the first marriage of John Dunham [[TAG](#) 71:130-33].

In 1998 Paul C. Reed demonstrated the fraudulence of a published pedigree for John Dunham [[TAG](#) 73:101-4].

[Beginning The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III](#)