

PARKHURST

Tim Coulthart's website offers two earlier generations of the Parkhurst line but the information is completely lacking in detail and documentation and has not been included.

John and Sarah Parkhurst

12-g grandparents

John Parkhurst was born about 1544 and died about 1595. Presumably, he lived his entire life in England. He married a woman named Sarah and they had at least one child, a son named George, born about 1588.

Sources and Related Information

- Tim Coulthart website

George Parkhurst and Phebe Leete

11g-grandparents

George Parkhurst was born in Ipswich, Suffolk County, England about 1588. About 1611, he married Phebe Leete, the daughter of Robert Leete and Alice Grundy. Phebe was born about 1585.

George and Phebe are believed to have had the following children in England:

- Phebe Parkhurst, born about 1612
- Mary Parkhurst, born about 1614
- Samuel Parkhurst, born about 1616, died young
- Deborah Parkhurst, born about 1619
- George Parkhurst, born about 1621
- Abigail Parkhurst, born about 1625, died young
- Elizabeth Parkhurst, born about 1628
- Joseph Parkhurst, born about 1629

One source notes nine children baptized in Ipswich, England. However, the birth date provided for the ninth child, a son named Benjamin, is inconsistent with other data.

What is a freeman?

In Colonial days, becoming a freeman was akin to becoming an "official" citizen of a town or colony. Only property-owning males of at least 21 years of age were eligible to take the freeman's oath. A freeman had the right to vote and confirm new freemen and the responsibility to pay taxes, perform civic duties (such as clearing roads) and contribute to the upkeep of the poor.

The next records of this family are found in North America where George Parkhurst became a freeman in Watertown, Massachusetts in 1643. One source notes that he brought his daughter Phebe, his son George and possibly other children. It is likely that George's wife Phebe died in England before the move as he remarried in 1643 to a woman named Susanna, the widow of John Simpson.

Susanna had five children from her first marriage and, reportedly, five more sons with George Parkhurst. They sold their holdings in Watertown at some point and moved to Boston.

George sold the last twelve acres of what had been John Simpson's land in June 1655. His petition to the General Court asserted that he, his wife and most of their children

were in “destitute condition.” Susanna had returned to England to seek help from relatives there and George was liquidating the last of their possessions in preparation to join her.

George probably returned to England shortly after disposing of the land. He is thought to be the “Old George Parkhurst” buried on June 18, 1675 at Saint Lawrence in Ipswich, England.

Sources and Related Information

- Tim Coulthart website
- “A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England...” by James Savage, originally published in Boston, 1860

The PARKHURST line ends with Phebe Parkhurst, who married Thomas ARNOLD.