

What Happened to the Pilgrims?

Early Colonists were usually Puritans or Church of England.

A lot of other denominations appeared in this era.

First migration: From Eastern counties (Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and Lincolnshire).

Went to Boston, MA area, spread to rest of New England.

Use of Biblical names, especially Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah, and John, Joseph, and Samuel.

Use of necronyms.

Left property to all children; Married in late twenties.

Second migration: From West and South (Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Devon, Hampshire, West Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, and Northamptonshire).

Went to Virginia colonies.

Boys named after kings or warriors; girls different as well (William, Robert, Richard, George, Edward, or Charles; and Alice, Margaret, Catherine, Jane or Frances.

May have left all land to eldest son.

Men married in their twenties; women were somewhat younger.

Third migration: from North Midland (Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire)

Went to Pennsylvania & New Jersey.

Biblical names and grace names; also used names from mother's family (John, Joseph, Samuel, Thomas, George, and William; and Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah, Jane, Hester, and Phebe)

Divided land between brothers; personal property between all.

Fourth migration: from Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire, Northumberland, Durham, and Yorkshire in England; Ayrshire, Dumfries, Wigtown, Roxburgh, and Berwick in Scotland; and Derry, Down, Armagh, Antrim, and Tyrone in Ireland.

Went to "backcountry" and then moved south & west.

Most diverse; poorest. Married early.

Wide variety of names: David, Patrick, Andrew, Douglas, Ian, Stewart, Sean, Kathleen, or Maureen.

New York: Originally Dutch (New Netherland). Dutch Reformed, but others more tolerated.

Places to find religious affiliation:

Published genealogies

Marriage records – if officiant listed, search for officiant

 Check census or directories

Brag books – usually list religious affiliation

Family members – Parents, siblings, and children may follow the same faith

Newspapers – Weddings & Funerals

Cemeteries – All faiths, or specific?

Sources:

Albion's Seeds: Four British Folkways in America, by David Hackett Fischer

Mayflower, by Nathaniel Philbrick

The Journey to the Mayflower, by Stephen Tomkins

Life in Colonial America: Religion in Colonial America, by George Capaccio

New World Faiths: Religion in colonial America, by Jon Butler

Becoming America The Revolution before 1776, by Jon Butler

Hot Protestants: A History of Puritanism in England and America, by Michael P. Winship

A Short History of New York State, by David M Ellis, James A Frost, Harold C Syrett, Harry J Carman

The Emancipation of Massachusetts, by Brooks Adams

Ethnic Americans, A History of Immigration, by Leonard Dinnerstein and David M Reimers