

THOMAS PRENCE

(1600 -1673)

Thomas Prence was born circa 1600 in Lechlade, Gloucestershire, England to Thomas and Elizabeth Prence. He immigrated to Plymouth Colony aboard the *Fortune* in 1621 as a single man. In the 1623 division of land, Prence is named as “holder of one akre of land” in the Colony. In 1624, Thomas married Patience Brewster, daughter of William and Mary Brewster of the *Mayflower*. After William Bradford died in 1657, Thomas became Governor of Plymouth Colony. Most notably in his governorship, Prence presided over the court during Plymouth’s first witchcraft trial. He also held the Council of War in 1667 which was to prepare for possible battle with the Dutch and the French. Prence was known to be fair and humane in his politics and dealings with the Colony. He held the important post until his death in 1673. Governor Thomas Prence had a total of four marriages and ten children in his lifetime. In his will dated 13 March 1672/73, he leaves his personal estate in excess of £400 and some eleven tracts of land, with at least two of the holding 100 acres each. He died 29 May 1673 in Plymouth Colony and rests at Burial Hill Cemetery in Plymouth, Massachusetts.



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