

HOLMES

Robert Holmes and Katherine Johnson

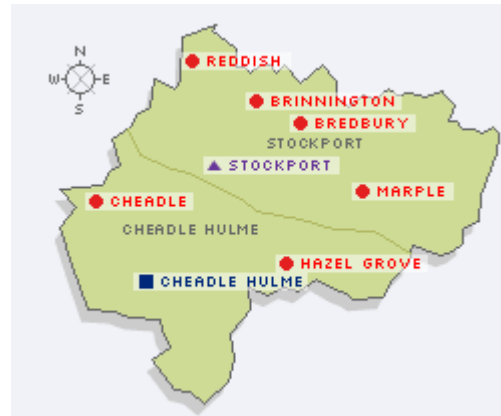
12g-grandparents

Robert Holmes was born on August 18, 1578 in Reddish, England. Some records refer to him as “Jr.” so presumably his father’s name was also Robert.

Katherine Johnson was born in 1584 in Stockport, Cheshire, England.

Robert and Katherine probably married about 1606 and had seven children:

- John Holmes, born in 1607
- Obadiah Holmes, born in 1608/09
- Joan Holmes born in 1610/11
- Samuel Holmes, born in 1613
- Nathaniel Holmes, born in 1618
- Robert Holmes, born in 1621
- Joseph Holmes, born about 1624



Reddish and Stockport, England are both part of the greater Manchester area

Katherine died in Stockport on September 8, 1630. Robert died November 24, 1649, also in Stockport.

Sources and Related Information

- Records of an unknown author posted on mathematical.com
- Greater Manchester Police Department website (map)

Obadiah Holmes and Katherine Hyde

11g-grandparents

Obadiah Holmes was born March 18, 1609 in Reddish, England, the second of many children of Robert and Katherine (Johnson) Holmes.

Katherine Hyde was born October 27, 1608. The names of her parents are unknown.

Obadiah would later write that he strayed from his religious duties and responsibilities for a period of five years in his youth but that the death of his mother, in September 1630, was a turning point. Two months later, on November 20, he and Katherine were married in Collegiate College Church in Manchester.

They had four children in England:

- John Holmes, born in 1631, died young
- Jonathan Holmes, born in 1634
- Lydia Holmes, born in 1637
- Mary Holmes, born in 1638

Obadiah and Katherine and their family were among the many English Puritans who sailed to North America during the "Great Migration" of the 1630's. They arrived in Boston in 1638 and settled up the coast in Salem, Massachusetts.

In January 1639, Obadiah received one acre of land for a house and a promise of ten additional acres "to be laid out by the town." He worked as a glass maker and weaver. There were more children:

- Martha Holmes, born in 1640
- Samuel Holmes, born in 1642
- Obadiah Holmes, born in 1644

Obadiah and Katherine joined the Salem church in March 1640 but Obadiah took a disliking to the institution's rigidity and began expressing his opinions in religious discussions. When the community of Rehoboth was created south of Boston, he sought to remove himself from the friction by moving his family there in 1645. More children were born:

- Joseph Holmes, born in 1648
- Hopestill Holmes, born later in 1648
- Sarah Holmes

The move did not have the desired effect. Within three years, Obadiah found himself leading a group whose views differed from the Rehoboth church and aligned more closely with the Baptists, who had settled predominately in Rhode Island. In October 1650, Obadiah and some of his followers were indicted by the Grand Jury at New Plymouth for their practices and ordered to desist.

Obadiah sold his house and land and moved his family to Newport, Rhode Island.

On July 16, 1651, Obadiah and two others of his faith traveled from Newport to Lynn, Massachusetts at the invitation of William Witter, a Baptist who lived there. While their journey was ostensibly to offer aid and comfort to the old and blind Witter, they had a broader evangelical mission. The three attended a local church service and, in a blatant act of disrespect, put their hats back on their heads after being seated. For their action, they were removed by the constable, held overnight at the local tavern and then sent to Boston for trial, charged with disturbing the public meeting and, more seriously, seducing others to their "erroneous judgment and practices."



Artist's rendition of the whipping of Obadiah Holmes (origin unknown)

A week later, in a trial before the General Court, they were swiftly convicted and fined. Friends raised the money to pay the fines and Obadiah's companions were released from jail. Obadiah, however, refused to pay or allow others to pay on his behalf, forcing the Court to carry out its alternative punishment: public whipping.

The whipping took place on September 5, 1651: thirty strokes with a three-cord whip. Purportedly, Obadiah was silent throughout the ordeal but proclaimed to the witnessing magistrates, "You have struck me as with roses."

After his release, Obadiah returned to Newport where, in 1652, he succeeded Dr. John Clarke as the minister of the first Baptist in America. He continued in that service for more than 30 years, until his death on October 15, 1682.

Obadiah was buried on his property, in what is now Middletown, Rhode Island. His wife Katherine died soon thereafter.

Sources and Related Information

- Sam Behling website
- Gospelcom.net
- Sandra Bray website

The HOLMES line ends with Mary Holmes who married John BROWN.