

Family of Nicholas Holt

First Generation

1. **Nicholas Holt** was born on 19 Oct 1602 in Of Romsey, Hampshire, England. He died on 30 Jan 1685 in Andover, Massachusetts, USA.

HOLTS IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY

HOLT is an ancient and respected patronym found in many shires in England, namely Warwick, Suffolk, Cambridge, Lancaster, Oxford and Chester: it is also found in Westphalia in Germany as von HOLT.

In the beginning the name was not HOLT but de CERSUN, d'nus de NEUTON, prior to 1248. About this date Sir Richard de Newton, Knt. moved his residence to a place called HOLT, and was thereafter called Richard Del Holt. His brothers and a sister were not so designated. A pedigree exists giving eight descents from the original Sir Richard to William de Holt who was living in 1485 and was in possession of the manors of Wimbaldsley and Newton. Of this line is John del Holt whom Burke refers to as John atte Holt and who can be shown to be the ancestor of all the Holts in England. The pedigree is that of the Cheshire family, which spread to other parts of England, and in due course to America.

Nicholas Holt: probably the first of the name to settle in New England, is said to have come from Romsey in Hampshire in 1635 with his wife Elizabeth. His children were Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Sarah, Samuel, Henry, Nicholas, James, John and Priscilla. He is credited as being one of the founders of Andover, Massachusetts and is the patriarch of one of the northern lines of HOLTS.

Taken from: "The HOLT family in Europe and America 1248-1971." V. Holt Taken from notes provided by Maudie Holt Black and others.

OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE

Nicholas Holt, with his wife, Elizabeth and their two-year-old daughter, Hannah, sailed from Southampton, England in the spring of 1635 on a ship named the "James". In the passenger list preserved at Westminster, Nicholas is given as a Tanner from Romsey. Nicholas was a younger son from a family of twelve children. There were two other members of this family migrated to America, a brother William and another who settled in South Carolina in the early days.

The "James" was a ship of 300 tons and would have carried over a hundred passengers and crew, the cargo was cattle, and provisions for at least two months must have been stored in the hold. The "James" had made other voyages to New England. This voyage is well authenticated; the "James" sailed on the 5th. April 1635 and arrived in Boston, Massachusetts on 3rd. June 1635. Boston had been founded only five years earlier.

Nicholas and Elizabeth settled at Newbury on the Parker River. Their next four children were born at Newbury, Elizabeth, 1636, Mary, 1638, Sarah, 1640 and Samuel, Oct. 6, 1641. Samuel is the line our Australian Family descended from.

Their last four children were born in Andover, Henry, 1644, Nicholas, 1647, James, 1651, and Priscilla, 1653, she died at 4 months.

Twenty miles north of Boston is the town of Andover, established in 1644 on land bought from the Indians for Six English pounds and a Coat. Nicholas Holt was allotted 536 acres of the best farming land in the Essex County. Nicholas must have possessed an appreciation of the beautiful when he chose the location for his home. The magnificent views reach twenty miles in every direction from the mountains of New Hampshire to the Boston skyline. It was called "Noke Farm". The area was named Holt's Hill.

Elizabeth died Nov. 6th. 1656 having experienced 21 years of pioneer life with many hardships. It is interesting to learn that forks had just appeared in those days, children ate from wooden bowls elders from pewter. Nicholas married again in 1658, Hannah was born in England in about 1625 and was a widow with two children. She had another two children to Nicholas, Rebecca, 1662, and John 1663, and died in 1666. Nicholas married a third time, Martha was also a widow and outlived Nicholas who died at Andover on 30th. Jan. 1685 aged 83 years. Nicholas' children cared for Martha until her death in 1703.

Andover became the Holt ancestral home and many landmarks around the area have the Holt name. The present house (which was still standing in 1972) with its long roof-line and great central chimney was possibly the second house on the Holt land and was built by Nicholas III and his wife Dorcas. The Holt family held this land for eight generations. The old hearthstones of the first building erected in 1644, a group of ancient apple trees and two wells were still there in 1927.

Reference, notes Edited by Thelma Meiers. Holt Happenings, 1921-1986 The Holt Association of America.

The HOLT COAT of ARMS

Family Arms and tribal banners are as old as man. One of America's greatest authorities on Arms was Mr. Edgar de Valcourt Vermont of New York, who, in 1887 wrote with reference to American family Arms in his valuable publication, as follows; "No name has been admitted to this book that could not be shown to have been transmitted, through regular descent, or to have been used before 1720. i.e. before the invasion of the pseudo-heraldist, distributors of assumptive Arms."

In his book he describes the Holt Arms as: A Blue Shield with Two Gold Bars, in chief a Pointed Cross, The Crest is a gold Squirrel holding a Hazel-branch complete with leaves and nut. The Motto is Exaltavit Humiles; [He has honored the Humble].

Somewhere in time, Members of the Holt Family moved to Suffolk, England, and adopted their Insignia the Beauchamp Squirrel and Hazelnut. The Holts of Grislehurst use the Beauchamp Squirrel and Hazelnut insignia, and is the crest most generally used by the Holts in America.

Decorations for the shield were usually something to do with the affairs or exploits of the person granted the Coat of Arms. The Holts seemed to have been a peace loving tribe with pleasant surroundings, and it is quite likely the squirrel was the first animal to come into their minds, he might have been on the windowsill when the subject was first seriously considered.

An explanation [by Bertram Griggs Holt] of how Nicholas Holt, a Tanner could be the bearer of Arms. Tanning seems to have been the principal Industry of Romsey. This town furnished the Kings Army more saddles, harness, shoes and body protectors than any other town of its size in the Kingdom. In all probability Nicholas was the proprietor of his own tanning establishment, and that the King's bounty baskets hung from the walls of his building.

During the 1600 there were two parties in England, the Cavaliers and the Roundheads, from the Roundheads sprang the Puritans [Emergence of Church of England] who were the cause of so much trouble to the orthodox church [Roman Catholic]. The Bishops persuaded the King to extract a loyalty oath from all persons leaving England some Puritans hid their origins in order to obtain passage.

Romsey, being near Southhampton, the villagers were continually called upon to contribute to the ship subsidy. This in addition to his religion may account for Nicholas Holt's appearance in Boston Harbour. There is no trace of his having continued work as a Tanner in America.

There is a second Crest known as the Arms of the Holts of Aston and is used by Holts who have traced Their Family though Aston Hall. This Coat of Arms is an Armoured Arm holding a spearhead. There is also Reference to the Squirrel Crest at Aston Hall.

I personally prefer the Squirrel and to think of the Ecology and Peace rather than Aggression.

Reference, notes Edited by Thelma Meiers. Holt Happenings, 1921-1986 The Holt Association of America. 1987