



Anne Bradstreet

March 8, 1612 - September 16, 1672

North Andover, Massachusetts

Anne Bradstreet, the first writer in England's North American colonies to see her poems into print and a foundational Puritan voice in American letters, died in North Andover, Massachusetts, on September 16, 1672. She was about sixty. Born Anne Dudley in England around March 8, 1612, she crossed the Atlantic with the Winthrop fleet in 1630 as a young wife, carrying both household duty and a private library of learning that New England's wilderness was not supposed to encourage in women.

Settled first at Cambridge and later in the Merrimack valley towns that became Andover, she raised eight children while writing verses that moved between domestic tenderness and cosmic argument. *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America* (1650), published in London without her advance consent, made her a transatlantic curiosity: a colonial gentlewoman whose couplets and meditations on mortality, marriage, and divine order refused to stay in a drawer. Later manuscript poems - house-fire laments, grandchild elegies, the quiet blaze of "To My Dear and Loving Husband" - show a mind that treated faith as lived weather rather than abstract catechism.

Illness and the hard arithmetic of seventeenth-century life shadowed her final years. North Andover kept the Bradstreet household among the colony's first families; her husband Simon served as governor. She died there on September 16, 1672, leaving a body of work that American classrooms still meet as an opening chapter rather than a footnote.

What endures is not quaintness but authority: a colonial woman who claimed the page when the page was supposed to belong to pulpits and merchants. Notice Nearby records the death date so September 16 still carries New England's first published poet beside later American calendars of fame.

Services

Died in North Andover, Massachusetts, September 16, 1672. First published poet of England's North American colonies; author of *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America* (1650).

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