



DATABASES & RESEARCH > Databases

Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III

Introduction

For the user of this set of volumes to understand what is being presented, we must define carefully the scope of the Great Migration Study Project. Who were the participants in the Great Migration? What information is being collected on these people?

Criteria for Inclusion in The Great Migration Begins

The first phase of the Great Migration Study Project attempts to identify and describe all those Europeans who settled in New England prior to the end of 1633. The date was chosen because of the steep increase in migration beginning in 1634 and continuing for the rest of that decade (see Robert Charles Anderson, "A Note on the Pace of the Great Migration," *The New England Quarterly* 59 [1986]:406-07). As a rough estimate, about 15 percent of the immigrants to New England arrived in the fourteen years from 1620 to 1633, with the remaining 85 percent coming over in half as many years, from 1634 to 1640.

The volumes contained in this database may be viewed at the NEHGS Research Library in Boston, call number **REF F7/G74**.

To locate additional genealogy and local history resources, [search our library catalog](#).

Citation Information:

The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III (Online database: NewEnglandAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002), (Orig. Pub. New England Historic Genealogical Society. Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III*, 3 vols., 1995).

HUMPHREY TURNER

ORIGIN: Unknown

MIGRATION: 1632

FIRST RESIDENCE: Plymouth

REMOVES: Scituate by 1634

OCCUPATION: Tanner.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Founding member of Scituate church, 8 January 1634/5 [[NEHGR](#) 9:279]; "Goody Turner," presumably his wife, joined the same church 10 January [1635/6] [[NEHGR](#) 9:280].

FREEMAN: In the "1633" Plymouth list of freemen, in close proximity to men made free on 1 January 1632/3 [[PCR](#) 1:4]; in 7 March 1636/7 Plymouth list of freemen [[PCR](#) 1:52]. In Scituate section of 1639, 1658 and 29 May 1670 lists of Plymouth Colony freemen [[PCR](#) 5:275, 8:175, 198].

EDUCATION: He signed his deeds until 1 November 1672, when he made his mark.

OFFICES: Deputy for Scituate to Plymouth General Court, 2 June 1640, 1 June 1641, 7 June 1642, 5 June 1644, 20 August 1644, 28 October 1645, 3 March 1645/6, 7 July 1646, 1 June 1647, 4 June 1650, 5 June 1651, 3 June 1652, 7 June 1653 [[PCR](#) 1:155, 2:16, 40, 72, 74, 94, 95, 104, 117, 154, 167, 3:8, 32]. Constable for Duxbury, 5 January 1635/6, 5 March 1638/9, 4 June 1639 [[PCR](#) 1:36, 83, 116, 125]. Grand jury, 7 June 1642, 7 March 1642/3, 6 June 1643 [[PCR](#) 2:41, 53, 56]. Plymouth jury, 4 September 1638 [[PCR](#) 1:96]. Committee to divide lands in Scituate, 30 November 1640 [[PCR](#) 1:168]. Supervisor of highways, Scituate, 1 June 1647, 7 June 1648 [[PCR](#) 2:115, 124]. Coroner's jury, 5 June 1666 on the body of Maray, wife of Thomas Totman [[PCR](#) 4:130].

In Scituate section of 1643 Plymouth list of men able to bear arms [[PCR](#) 8:191].

ESTATE: Assessed 9s. in the Plymouth tax lists of 25 March 1633 and 27 March 1634 [[PCR](#) 1:10, 28].

On 18 May 1633 "Humphrey Turner, having obtained leave to make use of a piece of ground by the pond on the western side of the fort, near the town, & having enclosed the same with a firm palisado, hath sold his right & title to the same, as also the palisado itself, together with a small randevow, to Josias Winslow, the elder, for & in consideration of eight pounds sterling" [[PCR](#) 1:13].

Had built a house at Scituate by September 1634 [[NEHGR](#) 10:42]; by 1636 he had built a second house "on his lot," and at some point his first house had passed to Goodman Jackson [[NEHGR](#) 10:42, 43].

On 1 January 1637/8 Humfrey Turner was one of a number of freemen of Scituate who complained that their proportions of land were so small that they could not subsist upon them, and the court of assistants granted them a portion of upland and neck between the North & South Rivers and all the meadow between the rivers from North River to Beaver Pond "always provided and upon condition that they make a township there and inhabit upon the said lands" [[PCR](#) 1:72].

On 7 March 1639/[40?] Thomas Roberts of Plymouth sold to "Humfrey Turner of Scituate" one acre and three-quarters of swamp in Scituate "lately purchased of George Lewis of Scituate" [[PCR](#) 12:55].

On 27 May 1648 "Humphery Turner" of Scituate, tanner, sold to Henry Ewell of Scituate, joiner, "all that my ten acres of upland lying and being by the water mill in Scituate" [[PCLR](#) 5:208].

On 1 October 1668 "Humphery Turner" of Scituate, tanner, deeded to "my sons Joseph Turner and Nathaniell Turner ... all that my lot of upland lying and being on the easterly side of Taunton River"; on 23 July 1669 wife Lydia consented [[PCLR](#) 3:175]. On 21 February 1669 "Humphery Turner" of Scituate, tanner, deeded to "my son Nathaniell Turner" of Scituate twenty-seven acres of upland at the Third Cliff, with housing, and thirty acres of marsh meadow adjoining [[PCLR](#) 3:282]. On 24 February 1669 "Humphery Turner" of Scituate, tanner, deeded to "my son Thomas Turner" of Scituate twenty acres of upland at the Third Cliff, which "sometimes was John Whetcomb's," along with nine acres of marsh meadow adjoining [[PCLR](#) 3:218]. On 1 November 1672 "Humphery Turner" of Scituate deeded to "my loving son Joseph Turner" of Scituate all right to undivided land in Scituate "or any way appertaining to the right of a purchasing freeman of the patent of Plymouth"; acknowledged 29 May 1673 by the witnesses, the grantor being deceased [[PCLR](#) 3:321].

In his will, dated 28 February 1669/[70] and proved 5 June 1673, Humphrey Turner of Scituate, tanner, "being weak in body" bequeathed "to my eldest son **John Turner**" his farm; to "my son Joseph Turner £40" also £12; to "my son **John Turner** £5"; to "my son Daniel Turner £12"; to "my son Nathaniel Turner £50"; to "my daughter Mary [illegible] £10"; to "my daughter Lydia Doughtey £12"; "unto my grandchild Humphrey Turner £5"; to "my grandchild Mary Doughtey £10"; to "my grandchildren Jonathan Turner, Josiah Turner and Elizabeth Turner, being the fruits of my eldest son, 10s. a year"; to "son Nathaniel Turner all my livestock both cattles, horses, sheep, etc."; to "my son Thomas Turner all my wearing clothes, one wood bed and blankets" [[Briggs Gen](#) 313-14; [MD](#) 24:42-43, citing [PCPR](#) 3:1:71].

BIRTH: About 1595 based on estimated date of marriage.

DEATH: After 1 November 1672 and before 29 May 1673 [[PCLR](#) 3:321]. (A tombstone gives his age in 1673 as 78, and says he was born in 1594, but this stone was erected in 1869 [[Briggs Gen](#) 312].)

MARRIAGE: Sandon, Essex, 24 October 1618 Lydia Gaymer, baptized Terling, Essex, 18 May 1602, daughter of Richard and Margaret (Mason) Gaymer [[NEHGR](#) 151:286-90]; she was living on 23 July 1669 when she consented to her husband's deed of 1 October 1668, but had died by 28 February 1669/[70] when she was not named in her husband's will.

CHILDREN:

i JOHN, bp. Terling, Essex, 24 March 1621 [[NEHGR](#) 151:287]; m. 10 or 12 November 1645 Mary Brewster [[PCR](#) 2:94; [MD](#) 1:8 (from "Brewster Book")], daughter of Jonathan Brewster and granddaughter of WILLIAM BREWSTER .

ii JOHN, b. say 1624 (in Scituate section of 1643 Plymouth list of men able to bear arms [[PCR](#) 8:191]); m. Scituate 25 April 1649 Ann James [[MD](#) 2:33].

iii THOMAS, b. say 1627; m. Scituate 6 January 1651/[2] Sarah Hiland [[PCR](#) 8:21].

iv LYDIA, bp. Little Baddow, Essex, 17 February 1629/[30] [[NEHGR](#) 151:287]; m. Scituate 15 August 1649 James Doughty [[MD](#) 2:33].

v MARY, bp. Scituate 25 January 1634/5 [[NEHGR](#) 9:281]; m. Scituate 13 November 1651 William Parker [[PCR](#) 8:19].

vi JOSEPH, bp. Scituate 1 January 1636/7 [[NEHGR](#) 9:281]; d. unm. after 1681 [[Briggs Gen](#) 314].

vii NATHANIEL, bp. Scituate 10 March 1638/9 [[NEHGR](#) 9:281]; m. (1) Scituate 29 March 1664/5 [sic] Mehitable Rigby, daughter of John Rigby of Dorchester (see COMMENTS below); m. (2) by 1691 Abigail (____) Stockbridge, widow of Charles Stockbridge [[NEHGR](#) 133:191-92].

viii DANIEL, b. say 1641; m. Scituate 20 June "1665 or 1666" [sic] Hannah Randall, daughter of William Randall.

COMMENTS: On 17 February 1629/[30] Lydia Turner, daughter of Humphrey Turner, was baptized at Little Baddow, Essex [[TAG](#) 19:231, citing Somerby Papers 20:288]. It should be noted that WILLIAM VASSALL , who also came to Scituate to reside, had two children baptized at Little Baddow about the same time.

At 4 December 1638 court Humphrey Turner was fined twice, 3s. each time, for non-appearance [[PCR](#) 1:104].

On 7 June 1649 Humfry Turner and others deposed that William Gilson had requested land on behalf of two of his sister's children, whom he had brought from England [[PCR](#) 2:143].

The two eldest surviving children of Humphrey Turner were both named John. In England at the time of birth of these sons, they could be by the same mother, but in New England this practice was discontinued, and two siblings of the same name would always be half-siblings.

Deane says that Turner "arrived with his family, in Plymouth 1628. He had a house lot assigned him 1629 ..." [p. 360]. This is not supported by any contemporary records, and lots were apparently not assigned in Scituate until 1633.

In the printed Scituate vital records the first wife of Nathaniel Turner is given as "Mehetabell Bigbee," but in the

Dorchester church records is the baptism on 23 April 1643 of "Mehitabell Rigby," with the annotation "(to Mr. Turner of Scittuate)" [[DChR](#) 156].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1938 L. Vernon Briggs published a substantial treatment of Humphrey Turner, unfortunately perpetuating several of the nineteenth-century myths about the man [*History and Genalogy of the Briggs Family, 1254-1937* (Boston 1938), pp. 309-15].

In 1997 Vernon Dow Turner published the records identifying the wife of Humphrey Turner [[NEHGR](#) 151:286-90].

[Beginning The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III](#)

Back to [Last Master Search Results](#) page

Back to [Search Results](#) page

[New Search](#)

<<<

>>>

[Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#)
[Copyright 2001-2010, New England Historic
Genealogical Society. Do not reproduce
without permission. New England Historic
Genealogical Society | 99 Newbury Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, USA |
(888) 296-3447 | Fax (617) 536-7307]

