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### 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.

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### ROBERT TURNER

*ORIGIN:* Unknown

*MIGRATION:* 1633

*FIRST RESIDENCE:* Boston

*OCCUPATION:* Innholder. On 29 November 1641 the Boston selectmen "ordered that the constables shall pay unto Robert **Turner** for diet for the Townsmen £2 18s." [ [BTR](#) 1:63]; on 28 March 1642 the Boston selectmen "ordered that the constable pay unto Robt. **Turner** for diet, beer, and fire for the selectmen, 18s." [ [BTR](#) 1:68]. On 11 December 1648 Robert **Turner** entered into a court-supervised five-year agreement with four other vintners of Boston and Charlestown regarding the sale of wine in those towns [ [MBCR](#) 2:277-78, 3:148-49]. "[l]ieutenant] Robt. **Turner** is licensed to keep a house of public entertainment for the year ensuing," 25 July 1659 [ [BTR](#) 1:153].

*CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:* "Robert Turnor our brother Edward Bendall's man servant" admitted to Boston church 8 September 1633 [ [BChR](#) 16].

*FREEMAN:* 4 March 1633/4 [ [MBCR](#) 1:368].

*EDUCATION:* He signed his name as a witness many times. Penelope signed her name to deeds.

*OFFICES:* Committee to draw the line between Cambridge and Roxbury, 27 March 1654[5] [ [BTR](#) 1:119, 123].

Ordered to make a highway from Elder Penn's to Sentry Hill, 2 April 1658 [ [BTR](#) 1:145].

Lieutenant, 13 November 1655 [ [MBCR](#) 4:1:253]. Admitted as a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1640 [ [HAHAC](#) 1:111].

*ESTATE:* On 12 February 1636/7 the Boston selectmen ordered that "Thomas Joyes shall have leave to buy a piece of ground of our brother Robert **Turner**" [ [BTR](#) 1:16]; granted ten acres great allotment at Muddy River, 8 January 1637/8, according to order of 14 December 1635 [ [BTR](#) 1:26]; reference to "our brother Rob[er]te Turner's garden pales," 18 February 1638/9 [ [BTR](#) 1:38]; granted "that land which lyeth between his lot and Cambridge new line," 31 May 1641 [ [BTR](#) 1:62].

On 1 April 1652 Robert **Turner** of Boston, vintner, exchanged with Richard Fairbanks one dwelling house and garden and yard, also six acres of enclosed ground in the Fort field [ [SLR](#) 1:193]. On 19 April 1655 Jabez Heaton of Boston, weaver, sold to Robert **Turner** of Boston, innholder, one and a half acres in "Sentenall field" [ [SLR](#) 2:153-54]. On 7 May 1659 Lt. Robert **Turner**, innholder, purchased from the estate of Robert Keayne of Boston, two thirds of Capt. Keayne's garden [ [SLR](#) 3:241].

On 5 October 1652, Sergeant Robert **Turner** was allowed "to have his new house to jet out farther into the street (than his old house now standeth)" for a fee [ [BTR](#) 1:112].

In his will, dated 9 July 1664 and proved 24 August 1664, "taken as he spake it," Robert **Turner** bequeathed to "my eldest son Ephraim **Turner**, my new built house, a part whereof he now dwelleth in, reserving to my dear wife, one room to herself during her lifetime"; also "to my said son Ephraim my garden"; to "my son John **Turner** all the other part of my now dwelling house and the ground below it"; "out of this part of my house bequeathed to

my son John my will is that my son Fairweather & my daughter shall remain in the rooms they now dwell in for the term of four years"; "to my son Joseph I do give and bequeath my barn beyond David Titchburne's house, also ... a parcel of ground upon the hill..."; to "my s on Fairweather the house and land upon the hill formerly delivered into his possession ... and a strip of ground about three rods in breadth"; "my son Ephraim shall have a share of land upon Centre Hill next my son Fairweather to be four rod broad"; "my son John **Turner** a portion of the said land next to my son Ephraim ... three rods broad"; to "my dear wife I do will and bequeath the thirds of all my houses, lands and movables after debts and legacies"; "my said wife ... executrix"; "to the church of Boston whereof through mercy I have so long remained a member the sum of £20"; to "the new church £5"; to the "church of Cambridge £10"; to "Mr. Stalham of Tarling in Essex £10"; to "Capt. Oliver's company £5" to the "other three companies, to each 50s."; "Elder James Penn, Thomas Grubb, William Bartholomew, overseers" [ [SPR](#) 1:428-30].

The inventory of the estate of Robert **Turner**, late deceased, was taken 16 December 1664 and totalled £1221 17s. 4d., including £905 in real estate: "the dwelling house and land thereto belonging £400"; "the house confirmed to Mr. Fairweather & land belonging to it £200"; "the new frame & all the land at Centry Hill £200"; "the farm house, & lot at Muddy River & other land there £100"; "interest in land & minerals at Chelmsford £5" [ [SPR](#) 4:211-12].

On 28 December 1666 Penelope **Turner** of Boston, widow, executrix of the last will of her late deceased husband Robert **Turner** of Boston, vintner, granted her rights in a parcel of land near the training field to Ephraim **Turner** of Boston, brasier [ [SLR](#) 5:188-89].

On 18 May 1666 Penelope **Turner**, relict and executrix of Robert **Turner**, vintner, "with the consent and advise of Ephraim **Turner**, John **Turner** and Joseph **Turner**, her natural sons, for the accomplishment of the said last will of her said late husband," sold to Joshua Scottow a dwelling house, orchard and thirty acres of land, also fourteen acres at Muddy River, and eight acres of pasture land "which formerly did belong to Paule Young of London," with four acres of planting land "which formerly did belong unto Anthony Harker," together with half of the said cedar swamp and two acres of planting land, with all the timber wood [ [SLR](#) 5:356-57].

On 16 January 1667[8] Penelope **Turner**, for the enlargement of the portion of her son John, deeded to him her thirds in land near the training ground [ [SLR](#) 5:401-02]. On 28 April 1670 Penelope **Turner** deeded to "John **Turner** her second son" two acres at Centerhill in Boston, together with a small parcel [ [SLR](#) 6:206-07]. On 6 August 1670 Penelope **Turner** sold to her son Joseph **Turner** the division of land next unto the Century Hill by the training field [ [SLR](#) 6:223].

*BIRTH*: By 1613 based on date of freemanship.

*DEATH*: Boston between 9 July 1664 (date of will) and 24 August 1664 (probate of will).

*MARRIAGE*: By 1639 Penelope \_\_\_\_\_. She was living on 3 June 1675 when she probated the estate of her son Joseph [ [SPR](#) 5:248, 6:86].

#### CHILDREN:

i EPHRAIM, b. 13 December 1639 [ [BVR](#) 8]; bp. 22 December 1639 [ [BChR](#) 284]; m. by 1663 Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ (eldest child b. Boston 3 December 1663 [ [BVR](#) 89]; see also [ [SLR](#) 5:197-99]). (Wyman and Noyes, Libby and Davis say that Sarah was daughter of William Phillips of Charlestown, Boston and Saco [ [Wyman](#) 740; [GDMNH](#) 548].)

ii SARAH, b. 11 March 1640/1 [ [BVR](#) 10]; bp. 14 March 1640/1 [ [BChR](#) 286]; m. Boston 15 November 1660 John Fairweather [ [BVR](#) 76], son of THOMAS FAIRWEATHER [ [NEHGR](#) 144:8-15].

iii JOHN, b. 1 December 1642 [ [BVR](#) 13]; bp. 4 December 1642 "being about 4 days old" [ [BChR](#) 290]; m. Lucy Gardner, daughter of Thomas Gardner of Muddy River; she m. (2) George Monk (in his will of 12 May 1689 Thomas Gardner Sr. of Muddy River bequeathed to "my daughter Lucy Monk" [ [SPR](#) 11:102-03; [TAG](#) 66:160]).

iv JOSEPH, b. 7 September 1644; bp. 15 September 1644 "being about 8 days old" ("son of our brother Robert Turnor the innholder") [ [BChR](#) 296]; d. between 2 November 1674 (date of will) and 21 April 1675 (date of inventory) [ [SPR](#) 5:248, 6:86], unmarried.

v BENJAMIN, b. 6 March 1646[7] [sic] [ [BVR](#) 23]; bp. 28 February 1646/7 "being about 3 days old" ("son of our brother Robert Turnor late innholder") [ [BChR](#) 304]; no further record.

vi TIMOTHY, bp. 4 November 1649 "being about 6 days old" ("son of our brother Robert **Turner** the innholder") [ [BChR](#) 317]; no further record.

vii DANIEL, b. 26 November 1650 [ [BVR](#) 31]; bp. 1 December 1650 [ [BChR](#) 319]; d. 4 April 1651 [ [BVR](#) 33].

*COMMENTS*: There were two moderately prominent Robert Turners in Boston in the early decades, but they are relatively easy to keep separate. The Robert **Turner** treated in this sketch was admitted to Boston church in September 1633, and on 17 February 1643/4 "Robert **Turner** a shoemaker" was admitted [ [BChR](#) 16, 40]. On 15 September 1644 each of these Robert Turners had a child baptized at Boston, one father being called "Robert

**Turner** the shoemaker" and the other "Robert **Turner** the innholder" [ [BChR](#) 296], thus unequivocally identifying the admittee of 1633 as the one who later was an innkeeper. (For further information on the shoemaker see [NEHGR](#) 74:143, [TAG](#) 30:160-61 and *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society* 10:7-14.) On 29 May 1643 the town gave Robert **Turner** and others permission to begin digging a creek for the harbor near William Hudson Sr.'s house [ [BTR](#) 1:73]. On 30 September 1644 the constables paid Sergeant **Turner** £6 9s. [ [BTR](#) 1:81].

As noted above, on 1 April 1652 Robert **Turner** acquired the house and land of RICHARD FAIRBANKS , a property which had already been used as an inn. Under Robert **Turner** the inn became known as the Anchor, and had a long history as managed by **Turner**, by his son John, and by George Monk who had married John Turner's widow [Annie Haven Thwing, *The Crooked & Narrow Streets of the Town of Boston, 1630-1822* (Boston 1930), pp. 121-22].

Robert Turner's inn was the site of quite a few business deals [ [Lechford](#) 273, 287; [Aspinwall](#) 163]. On 15 February 1647/[8] Robert **Turner** witnessed the sale of John Turner's one-fourth part of the *Charles* [ [Aspinwall](#) 122]. On 2 February 1648/[9] Robert **Turner** witnessed two debts of John **Turner** of Boston, merchant [ [Aspinwall](#) 191-92]. On 5 June 1649 Robert **Turner**, in partnership with Mark Harrison, Robert Sedgwick and Francis Norton, agreed to stand bond for the delivery of three hundred kintals of codfish [ [Aspinwall](#) 218]. He witnessed the 2 January 1649/50 sale of the *Welcom e* [ [Aspinwall](#) 274] and the 4 January 1650/1 bill of John Manning [ [Aspinwall](#) 366].

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