

The Whereabouts of Gabriel¹ Meade of Dorchester, Massachusetts, Prior to Emigration

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In an 18 April 2018 online posting to the Google Groups forum *soc.genealogy.medieval*, Vance Mead provided a link to his research of the English origin of Gabriel¹ Meade of Dorchester, Massachusetts.^[1] Mead found the marriage of Gabriel Meade to Joan Frewin on 17 July 1628 in Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, as well as a son Abel of this couple baptized and buried there in 1629 and a daughter Sarah baptized there in 1632.^[2] As the immigrant had a wife named Joan and as Gabriel is an uncommon given name, it is reasonable to conclude that these records very likely pertain to the immigrant.

Gabriel immigrated to New England in 1637^[3] and had several children baptized in Dorchester, including a daughter Sarah in 1643.^[4] Therefore, if the records in Henley belong to the immigrant, the Sarah baptized there must have died before this date. In addition, Gabriel had a daughter Lydia who married James¹ Burgess in Boston, Massachusetts, on 19 October 1652.^[5] Assuming she was age 20 at marriage, Lydia would have been born in England say 1632. As baptisms in the Henley parish register appear to be complete between 1632 and 1637, Gabriel probably resided elsewhere in England before emigration.

Fortunately, a record was created that indicates when and where Gabriel removed. In 1605 the borough court of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, a parish about 11 miles northeast of Henley, required that strangers coming into the town “had sureties who could guarantee the town against any future possibility that the newcomers or their children might make claims upon the borough’s resources for relief from poverty.”^[6] In 1634 “Gabriel Meade, His wife & family, [a] Weaver” gave such a bond to the borough.^[7] The following

¹ Vance Mead, “Re: WikiTree,” *soc.genealogy.medieval*, 19 April 2018 (groups.google.com/g/soc.genealogy.medieval/c/FtRO6nWuSwo/m/bcurRPFkCAAJ).

² Gabriel Mead, Mead Family Genealogy, Vance.Mead@welho.com (sites.google.com/site/meadfamilyhistory/home/family/gabriel-meades).

³ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Directory, Immigrants to New England, 1620–1640: A Concise Compendium* (Boston: NEHGS, 2015), 224.

⁴ Charles Henry Pope, *The Pioneers of Massachusetts, A Descriptive List, Drawn From Records of the Colonies, Towns and Churches, and Other Contemporaneous Documents* (Boston: the author, 1900), 309.

⁵ Robert Charles Anderson, George F. Sanborn, Jr. and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635, Volume I, A–B* (Boston: NEHGS, 1999), 497–498 (sketch of James Burgess), at 497.

⁶ L. J. Ashford, *The History of the Borough of High Wycombe, From Its Origins to 1880* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1960), 122.

⁷ Ashford, *The History of the Borough of High Wycombe* [note 6], 147. His sureties were “John Groves, blacksmith of Wycombe, Henry Nelson, butcher of Wycombe.”

entries in the parish registers and bishops' transcripts of High Wycombe were found for the family of Gabriel Meade:

4 April 1635	Baptism	Lydia Meade filia Gabr[<i>faint</i>] et Joan[<i>faint</i>] ux ^[8]
25 March 1636	Burial	Sarah Meade fil: Gabrieli ^[9]

The above information is used in the following genealogical summary for Gabriel¹ Meade.

Genealogical Summary

GABRIEL¹ MEADE was baptized in Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, on 4 October 1590,^[10] son of Thomas^A and Emlin (Carter) Meade.^[11] He married there on 17 July 1628 **JOAN FREWIN**.^[12] About 1637 “Gabriel Meade” and “Joanna Meade” were admitted to the Dorchester, Massachusetts, church.^[13] Gabriel became a freeman of the Massachusetts Bay Colony on 2 May 1638.^[14] He died in Dorchester on 12 May 1666 as “Gabriel Mede aged about 77.”^[15] The will of “Gabriell Mead of dorchester” dated 15 January 1654[5] and proved 17 July 1667 gave to “Joanna my louinge wife . . . my sonne Isreall . . . my sonne dauid . . . my daughter lidia . . . my daughters Experience Sarah and patient.”^[16] His widow was married again after 4 December 1668 to John¹ Eddy^[17] and she died in Watertown, Massachusetts, on 25 August 1683 as “Johanna Eddy wife of John Eddy Sen[ior] . . . Aged abought 80 years.”^[18]

Children of Gabriel¹ and Joan (Frewin) Meade, iv–viii, bp. Dorchester:

- i. ABEL² MEADE, bp. Henley on Thames, 16 Dec. 1629,^[19] bur. there, 22 Dec. 1629.^[20]

⁸ High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, bishop's transcripts, 1590–1730, Buckinghamshire Archives, D-A/T/193 [FSL DGS 8008437, image 919].

⁹ High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, parish burial register, 1612–1682, Buckinghamshire Archives, PR_249/1/33 [FSL DGS 8081896, image 87].

¹⁰ St. Mary, Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, parish register, 1558–1734, *Oxfordshire, England, Church of England Baptism, Marriages, and Burials, 1538–1812*, database at Ancestry.com, image 33 of 171, “Gabriell Meades filius Thomæ.”

¹¹ See note 2.

¹² Henley on Thames, parish register, 1558–1734 [note 10], image 86, “Gabrielus Meades et Jona ffrewin.”

¹³ *Records of the First Church at Dorchester in New England, 1636–1734* (Boston: George H. Ellis, 1891), 3.

¹⁴ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*, 5 vols. in 6 (Boston: William White, 1853–1854), 1:374.

¹⁵ [Twenty-First] *Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston Containing Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths to the End of 1825* (Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1891), 27.

¹⁶ Suffolk County, Massachusetts, probate files, case #455 [FSL DGS 102840312, image 330].

¹⁷ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Winthrop Fleet: Massachusetts Bay Company Immigrants to New England, 1629–1630* (Boston: NEHGS, 2012), 289–294 (sketch of John Eddy), at 292. On 4 Dec. 1668 at a meeting of the Dorchester selectmen paid £3 “to the Widdow Mead for the worke at the meeting house” £3 (*Fourth Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston: Dorchester Town Records*, 3rd ed. [Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1896], 152).

¹⁸ “Records of Births, Deaths and Marriages: First Book and Supplement,” section three, Watertown Records (Watertown, Mass.: Historical Society, 1894), 53.

¹⁹ Henley on Thames, parish register, 1558–1734 [note 10], image 90, “Abell Meades Son of Gabrell.”

²⁰ *Ibid.*

- ii. SARAH MEADE, bp. Henley on Thames, 30 Aug. 1632,^[21] bur. High Wycombe, 25 March 1636.
- iii. LYDIA MEADE, bp. High Wycombe, 4 April 1635; m. (1) Boston, Mass., 19 Oct. 1652, JAMES¹ BURGESS,^[22] who died by 31 Jan. 1670[/1] (his inventory).^[23] Lydia m. (2) by 18 Aug. 1679, JOHN SMITH.^[24]
- iv. ISRAEL MEADE, bp. 2 Sept. 1639,^[25] d. Lexington, Mass., 6 Aug. 1714,^[26] m. Cambridge, Mass., 26 Feb. 1669[/70], MARY HALL,^[27] d. Lexington, in Oct. 1692,^[28] daughter of Thomas¹ Hall.^[29]
- v. EXPERIENCE MEADE, bp. 23 Jan. 1641/2,^[30] m. Dorchester, 4 Dec. 1663, JABEZ HEATON,^[31] d. Boston, 16 May 1676,^[32] son of Nathaniel¹ Heaton.^[33]

²¹ Henley on Thames, parish register, 1558–1734 [note 10], image 96, “Sara Meades Daughter of Gabril.”

²² “Early Records of Boston,” *Register* 10 (1857):223, “James Burgesse was married to Lydia Meed.” See also Anderson, Sanborn and Sanborn, *The Great Migration, 1634–1635, Volume I, A–B* [note 5], 497.

²³ Suffolk, Massachusetts, probate files, case #559 [FSL DGS 102840312, image 863], Liddia Burges made Oath in Court . . . that this is a Tru Inuentyory of ye Estate of her Late husband James Burges.”

²⁴ According to [*Seventh*] *Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston, Containing the Boston Records From 1660 to 1701* (Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1881), 130, “[on 18 Aug. 1679] whereas the Inhabitants of this towne at a publique meetinge vpon the 9th March 1662–3 did order the Selectmen to lay a p[ar]te of ground out of the wast land to James BURGIS to set a house vpon, w[hi]ch was done the 27th of Aprill, 1663 accordinge to a record thereof in this booke folio B. Now vpon the motion and earnest request of Lida the Relict & Executrix to the estate of the said James Burgis deceased (now the wife of John Smith) The said lands then layd out to James Burgis deceased, is now granted and confirmed to James Burgis the sonn of ye aforesaid James deceased . . . provided the said James Burgis . . . vpon consideration of 10ld in mony & a p[ar]cell of land sould and d[eliver]d to the s[aid] John Smith & Lydia his wife, for the vse of her & the rest of her Children, accordinge to a deed of sale now signed & sealed . . . by the s[aid] James Burgis & Sarah his wife dated 19th of Augt 1679.” Based on this record, James Burgess, who married a wife named Sarah, is an additional child of James¹ Burgess (Anderson, Sanborn and Sanborn, *The Great Migration, 1634–1635, Volume I, A–B* [note 5], 497–498).

²⁵ *Records of the First Church at Dorchester* [note 13], 151, “Israel Mead” with later annotation of “went to Watertowne.”

²⁶ *Lexington, Mass: Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths To January 1, 1898* (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1898), 186.

²⁷ *Vital Records of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1914–1915), 2:268, “Mede, Israel and Mary Hall.”

²⁸ *Lexington, Mass: Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths* [note 26], 186, “Meade, Israel’s wf.”

²⁹ Lucius R. Paige, *History of Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1630–1877, With a Genealogical Register* (Boston: Houghton and Co. 1877), 570. Middlesex County, Massachusetts, court books, vol. 6, p. 111 [FSL DGS 7902601, image 554], “[on 6 Oct. 1691] administration [was] granted . . . to Stephen ffrances Israel Meads & Gershom Cutter on ye Estate of Thomas Hall late of Cambridge Dece[ase]d Intestate.”

³⁰ *Records of the First Church at Dorchester* [note 13], 154, “Experience Mead”.

³¹ *Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 15], 21, “Jabez Eaton [*sic*] Married to Experience Mede.”

³² According to *The Diary of Samuel Sewall, 1674–1729*, M. Halsey Thomas, ed., 2 vols. (New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1973), 1:16, “[on 16 May 1676] as we came from the Funeral, we saw an huddle of persons, who were bringing Jabez Eaton that died just then in the street.” See also Douglas Richardson and Dean Crawford Smith, “English Ancestry of Nathaniel¹ Heaton of Boston, Mass., and His Nephew, James² Heaton of New Haven, Conn.,” *Register* 152 (1998):430–452, at 451.

³³ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635, Volume III, G–H* (Boston: NEHGS, 2003), 303–305, sketch of Nathaniel Heaton, at 305.

- vi. SARAH MEADE (again), bp. 4 Feb. 1643/4,^[34] living 30 Dec. 1711 (exhibited her husband's will);^[35] m. Dorchester, 31 [sic] Nov. 1664, SAMUEL EDDY,^[36] d. Watertown, 22 Nov. 1711,^[37] son of John¹ Eddy.^[38]
- vii. PATIENCE MEADE, bp. 29 March 1646,^[39] d. Dorchester, 22 May 1670;^[40] m. there, 28 April 1669, MATTHIAS EVANS,^[41] son of Richard¹ Evans.^[42]
- viii. DAVID MEADE, bp. 7 July 1650;^[43] d. Woburn, Mass., in Oct. 1727;^[44] m. Watertown or Cambridge, 24 or 26 Sept. 1675, HANNAH WARREN,^[45] daughter of Daniel² (John¹) Warren.^[46]

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- ³⁴ *Records of the First Church at Dorchester* [note 13], 156, "Sarah Mead" with later annotation of "married to mr Burgesse of Boston," clearly a mistake for her sister Lydia.
- ³⁵ Middlesex County, Massachusetts, probate files, case #6829 [FSL DGS 7553430, image 220], will of "Samuell Eddi of Watertown" dated 6 Aug. 1702 and on 30 Dec. 1711, and "exhibited . . . by Sarah Eddi [the] Widow & executrix."
- ³⁶ *Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 15], 21, "Samuel Eddy married to Sarah Mede."
- ³⁷ "Record of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Second Book" in *Watertown Records, Comprising The Third Book of Town Proceedings and The Second Book of Births, Marriages and Deaths, to End of 1737* (Watertown: Fred G. Barker, 1900), 43.
- ³⁸ Anderson, *The Winthrop Fleet* [note 17], 293.
- ³⁹ *Records of the First Church at Dorchester* [note 13], 158, "Patience Mead."
- ⁴⁰ *Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 15], 27, "Patience the Wife of Matthias Evans."
- ⁴¹ *Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 15], 22, "Matthias Evans was married unto Patience Mede."
- ⁴² *History of the Town of Dorchester, Massachusetts* (Boston: Ebenezer Clapp, Jr., 1859), 117.
- ⁴³ *Records of the First Church at Dorchester* [note 13], 160, "David Mead."
- ⁴⁴ Woburn, Massachusetts, vital records, 1641–1767 [FSL DGS 7011120, image 374], "Dauid Meads died the [blank] of october 1727." Also, Edward F. Johnson, *Woburn Records of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, From 1640 to 1873: Part II, Deaths* (Woburn: Andrews, Cutler and Co., 189), 128.
- ⁴⁵ "Records of Births, Deaths and Marriages: First Book and Supplement" in *Watertown Records* [note 18], 40 (24th). *Vital Records of Cambridge, Massachusetts* [note 27], 2:268 (26th).
- ⁴⁶ Dean Crawford Smith, *The Ancestry of Eva Belle Kempton, 1878–1908: Part I, The Ancestry of Warren Francis Kempton, 1817–1879*, Melinde Lutz Sanborn, ed. (Boston: NEHGS, 1996), 475, 479. This work states that David m. (2) Watertown, 5 Feb. 1707/8, Hannah Smith. But this marriage was for his probable son David. This David and Hannah had eight children: Joshua (b. 1709/10), Moses (b. 1711), Lydia (b. 1713), Josiah (b. 1715), Matthew (b. 1717), Susanna (b. 1719), Hopestill (b. 1721), and David (b. 1723). The first two born in Cambridge (*Vital Records of Cambridge, Massachusetts* [note 27], 1:483) and the others born in Watertown "Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, Second Book" [note 37], 55 [Lydia and Josiah], 71 [Matthew and Susanna], 72 [Hopestill], 74 [David]). The will of "David Mead of Waltham in the County of Middlesex . . . House wright" dated 6 Sept. 1765 and proved 31 March 1767 gave bequests to "my Eldest son Joshua Mead . . . y Son Mathew Mead . . . my Son David Mead . . . my Daughter Susanna Biglow . . . my son Moses Mead" (Middlesex County, Mass., probate files, case #14916 [FSL DGS 7553702, images 984–986]).