



The 17th-Century Great Migration to New England and Beyond
Conventicles, Companies, Congregations, Dispersal

Class 2: Clerical Companies

Robert Charles Anderson, FASG

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Meet today's presenter

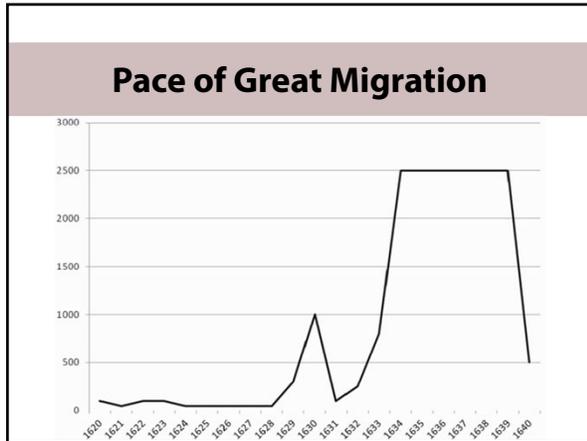


Robert Charles Anderson, FASG
Director of the Great Migration Study Project



OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Great Migration to New England from Old England
 - Examples
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

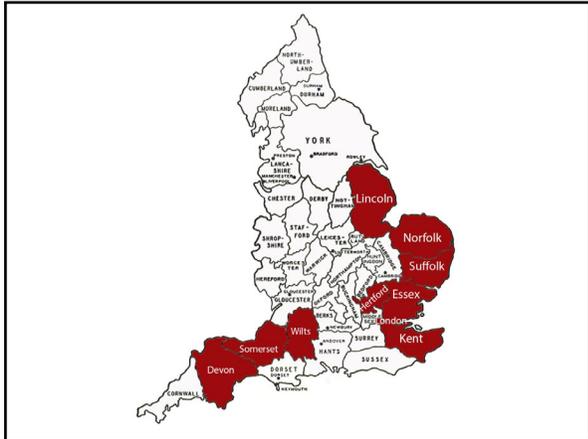


Organization of Migration

- Top-down [1620-1633]: small group of organizers who supply shipping and provisions and recruit passengers
 - a) Leiden Pilgrims
 - b) Dorchester Company
 - c) Winthrop Fleet
- Bottom-up [1633-1640]: small groups of families who coalesce spontaneously around an influential minister or layman; pay for passage on a private vessel; supply their own provisions

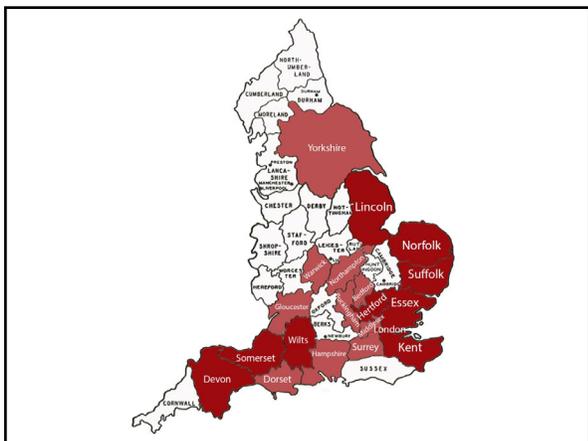
Immigrants by County I

London	176	Somerset	84
Essex	176	Lincoln	72
Suffolk	173	Wiltshire	72
Kent	148	Hertford	63
Norfolk	145	Devon	60



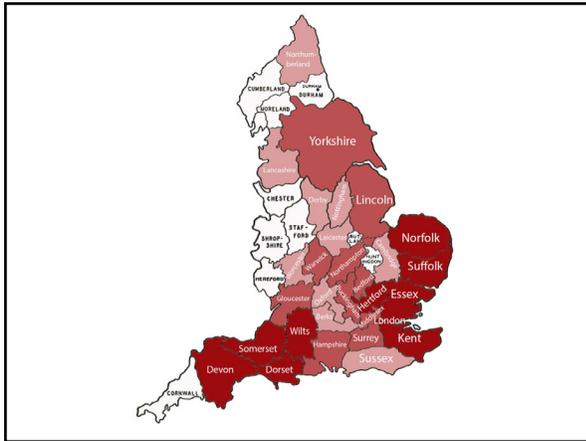
Immigrants by County II

Dorset	55	Bedford	37
Buckingham	52	Gloucester	34
Yorkshire	43	Surrey	30
Middlesex	42	Northampton	28
Hampshire	41	Warwick	25



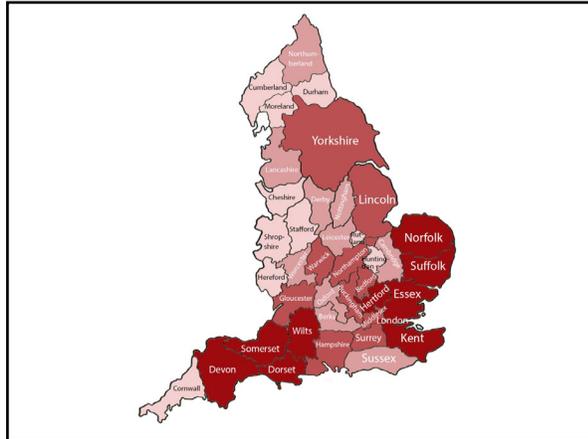
Immigrants by County III

Cambridge	19	Northumberld	14
Leicester	18	Sussex	14
Oxford	18	Worcester	12
Lancashire	16	Derbyshire	11
Berkshire	14	Nottingham	10



Immigrants by County IV

Shropshire	10	Rutland	2
Cornwall	9	Hereford	1
Huntingdon	4	Cumberland	0
Stafford	3	Durham	0
Cheshire	2	Westmoreland	0



Migrating Companies I

- “It is a truism that 1630s migration to New England was a family enterprise, in stark contrast to the planting of Virginia with its mob of unattached younger men.... What is less commonly appreciated is the extent to which people in the eastern counties migrated not just in families but in coalitions of families. They called them ‘companies.’”
- “These companies were assembled in three ways. Some were the clients and neighbors of a gentle emigrant. Some were devoted followers of a puritan preacher. Most, however, were groups of relatives (often including servants) moving to the New World together or in series.”

—Roger Thompson, *Mobility and Migration: East Anglian Founders of New England, 1629-1640* (Amherst, Massachusetts, 1994), 184.

Migrating Companies II

- Clerical Companies
 - “It is hardly surprising that when clergy decided or were driven to migrate they usually influenced others to join them.” [Thompson, *Mobility & Migration*, p. 187]
- Extended Family Companies
 - “Within the companies of gentlemen or clergymen, or among those traveling independently, there were extended families of sometimes extraordinary complexity.” [Thompson, *Mobility & Migration*, p. 189]

Migrating Companies III

- Merchant's Companies
 - Similar to Gentlemen's Companies, but led by merchants, usually for strictly economic purposes, and not with Puritan leadership.
- Yeomen Companies
 - Similar to Clerical Companies, but led by an affluent yeoman or tradesman with strong puritan beliefs.

Gentlemen's Companies: Isaac Johnson

- Isaac Johnson was born at Stamford, Lincolnshire, in 1601 and had inherited an estate of £20,000. He married Arbella Fiennes, daughter of the third Earl of Lincolnshire.
- In 1629 he sent ahead several servants and a herd of cattle, which were wintered at Nahant in 1629-30.
- Isaac himself came to New England in 1630, settled at Boston, and was one of the first to die there.
- [Robert Charles Anderson, *The Winthrop Fleet*, 415-21.]

Merchant Companies: Robert Trelawney

- Robert Trelawney was a wealthy Plymouth merchant, born in 1598.
- In 1631 he obtained a patent for Richmond Island and the adjacent Maine mainland.
- In 1632 he sent John Winter and several fishermen to occupy this land.
- During the 1630s more than a hundred men, some with families, came to Richmond Island. Many of them soon returned to England.



**Clerical Companies:
Thomas Hooker I**

- From 1625 to 1631 Thomas Hooker was lecturer at Chelmsford and schoolmaster at nearby Great Baddow.
- In 1628 anti-puritan William Laud became Bishop of London and began his pursuit of Hooker. By the end of 1629 Hooker had been silenced and went into hiding for the next two years.
- In 1631 he left for the Netherlands where he remained for the next two years. In 1633 he returned briefly to England and then sailed for New England in late 1633.
- [Robert Charles Anderson, "Thomas Hooker at Chelmsford, Essex, 1625-1631," in *Essex Journal* 51 (2016):62-71.]

**Clerical Companies:
Thomas Hooker II**

- "Wherefore, about this time [1632], understanding that many of his friends in Essex were upon the wing for a wilderness in America, where they hoped for an opportunity to enjoy and practice the pure worship of the Lord Jesus Christ in churches gathered according to his direction, [Hooker] readily answered their invitation to accompany them in this undertaking" [Mather, *Magnalia*, 1:340]
- [August 1632]: "The Braintree company, which had begun to sit down at Mount Wollaston, by order of court, removed to Newtown. These were Mr. Hooker's company." [Winthrop Journal]

**Clerical Companies:
Thomas Hooker III**

xxvij Junij 1632

THE names of such Men transported to New-England to the Plantation there p Cert: from Capten MASON have tendred and taken the oath of allegiance according to the Statute

WILLIAM WADSWORTH	NICOL CLARK
JOHN TALLCOTT	DANIELL BREWER
JOSEPH ROBERT'S	JO: BENIAMIN.
JOHN COXSALL	RICHARD BENLAMIN.
JOHN WATSON.	WILLIAM JAMES.
ROBERT SHELLEY.	THOMAS CARRINGTON.
WILM HEATH.	WILLIAM GOODWYNN.
RICHARD ALLIS	JOHN WHITE.
THOMAS VSFITT	JAMES OLMSTEDD.
ISACK MURRILL	WILLIAM LEWES
JOHN WITCHFIELD	ZETH GRAUNT
JONATHAN WADE	NATHANIELL RICHARD'S.
ROBERT BARTLETT	EDWARD ELLMER.
JO: BROWNE.	EDWARD HOLMAR.
JOHN CHURCHMAN.	JO: TOTMAN.
TOBIE WILLET	CHARLES GLOWER.
WILLIAM CURTIS	

Hotten, John Camden, *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality, 1600 to 1700* (reprinted by American Ancestors, 2012)

**Clerical Companies:
Ezekiel Rogers I**

- Ezekiel Rogers was born about 1588 at Wethersfield, Essex, son of Rev. Richard Rogers, member of an extended family of ministers in both old and New England. [PP 188-89]
- Not long after receiving his MA at Cambridge, he became chaplain in the puritan Barrington household at Hatfield Broadoak, Essex.
- Through marriage, the Barringtons had acquired the advowson of the parish of Rowley, Yorkshire, and in 1621 they presented Rogers to that living.

**Clerical Companies:
Ezekiel Rogers II**

- Rowley was a small parish, but Ezekiel's preaching attracted listeners from many surrounding parishes.
- Rogers was frequently before the church courts for the usual infractions and was eventually excommunicated.
- In 1638 more than twenty families from Rowley and vicinity sailed for New England. Most were not from Rowley.
- Some settled briefly at Boston and New Haven before gathering at and settling Rowley, Massachusetts, in 1639. [GMN 18:19-22, 27-30]

**Clerical Companies:
Richard Blinman I**

- Richard Blinman was born about 1608 and took his BA in 1636 at New Inn Hall, Oxford.
- In the same year he was made curate at Ubley, Somerset.
- Over the next four years he preached at various locations in Wales and the English counties on the Welsh border.
- By 1642 he had moved to Gloucester and in 1650 to New London.
- [PP 132-33; GMN 23:20-21].

**Clerical Companies:
Richard Blinman II**

- On 2 March 1640/1, the following men were propounded for freemanship at Plymouth:
 - Mr. Richard Blindman
 - Mr. Heugh Prychard
 - Mr. Obadiah Brewen
 - John Sadler
 - Hugh Cauken
 - Walter Tibbott
- All of these men followed Blinman to Gloucester and some to New London.

Varieties of Clerical Companies

		Minister came to New England?	
		YES	NO
Congregation came to New England?	YES	Joseph Hull <i>Broadway Somerset</i>	Richard Bernard <i>Batcombe Somerset</i>
	NO	Roger Williams <i>High Laver Essex</i>	Arthur Hildersham <i>Ashby-de la Zouch Leicester</i>

Size of Clerical Companies

- Ezekiel Rogers
 - 27 families, 87 total
- Richard Blinman
 - 6 families, 16 individuals
- Blinman is one of the smallest Clerical Companies and Rogers one of the largest.
- About three to a family. Average size closer to Blinman than to Rogers.
- First crude estimate: 12 families, 36 individuals.

More Arithmetic

- Of the total of 20,000 immigrants, about 2,000 were fishermen and others without puritan connections.
- One hundred were ministers. The absolute maximum of members of Clerical Companies would be about 8,700.
- But most Clerical Companies were smaller than the Rogers company and not all ministers led Clerical Companies.
- Therefore, a more likely number for members of Clerical Companies would be 4,000 or 5,000.

QUESTIONS?

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The 17th-Century Great Migration to New England and Beyond 2024

Thank you for registering for the online seminar, *The 17th-Century Great Migration to New England and Beyond: Conventicles, Companies, Congregations, Dispersal!*

The participants in the 17th-century Great Migration to New England were drawn from the most committed English protestant reformers, those who most wanted the Church of England to make a full break with the Church of Rome. In this five-week course, Director of the Great Migration Study Project Robert Charles Anderson will explain the who, what, and why of the mass movement of people to New England from Old England in the 1620s and 1630s and the subsequent migrations in the generations to follow.

The colonists to New England in the early 17th century were largely men and women who began to form networks across England as early as the 1520s, meeting together in conventicles and godly households. As the decades passed, many of these reformers became more and more frustrated as one monarch after another refused to make the desired reforms. A breaking point was reached in the 1620s and a small stream of English men, women and children began to move to the New World. The pace of migration increased in the later 1630s, when thousands of migrants crossed the Atlantic each year. They were organized in companies, led by a minister or an affluent layman, based on the existing conventicles. Initially, many of the members of these migrating companies settled together in one New England town, but they soon began a process of sorting themselves out in different ways. Traces of the old English connections may still be seen decades later, even so late as the settlement of the American West two centuries on. Don't miss this opportunity to explore the 300-year sweep of history and the context surrounding your early 'immigrant ancestors' movement!

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