

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

Conventicles, Companies, Congregations, Dispersal

Class 4: Congregations

Suggested Reading

Settlement of New England:

Lois Kimball Mathews, *The Expansion of New England: The Spread of New England Settlement and Institutions to the Mississippi River, 1620-1865* (New York 1909).

Landholding:

John Frederick Martin, *Profits in the Wilderness: Entrepreneurship and the Founding of New England Towns in the Seventeenth Century* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1991).

Scrooby-Leiden-Plymouth:

Robert Charles Anderson, *The Mayflower Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1620* (Boston, Massachusetts, 2020), "Introduction: The Gathering of the Mayflower Passengers," pp. 1-16.

Dedham:

Don Gleason Hill, ed., *The Early Records of the Town of Dedham, Massachusetts. 1636-1659* (Dedham, Massachusetts, 1892), pp. 1-29.

Don Gleason Hill, ed., *The Records of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths and Admissions to the Church and Dismissals Therefrom, ... 1638-1845* (Dedham, Massachusetts, 1888), pp. 1-39.

Kenneth A. Lockridge, *A New England Town: The First Hundred Years* (New York 1970).

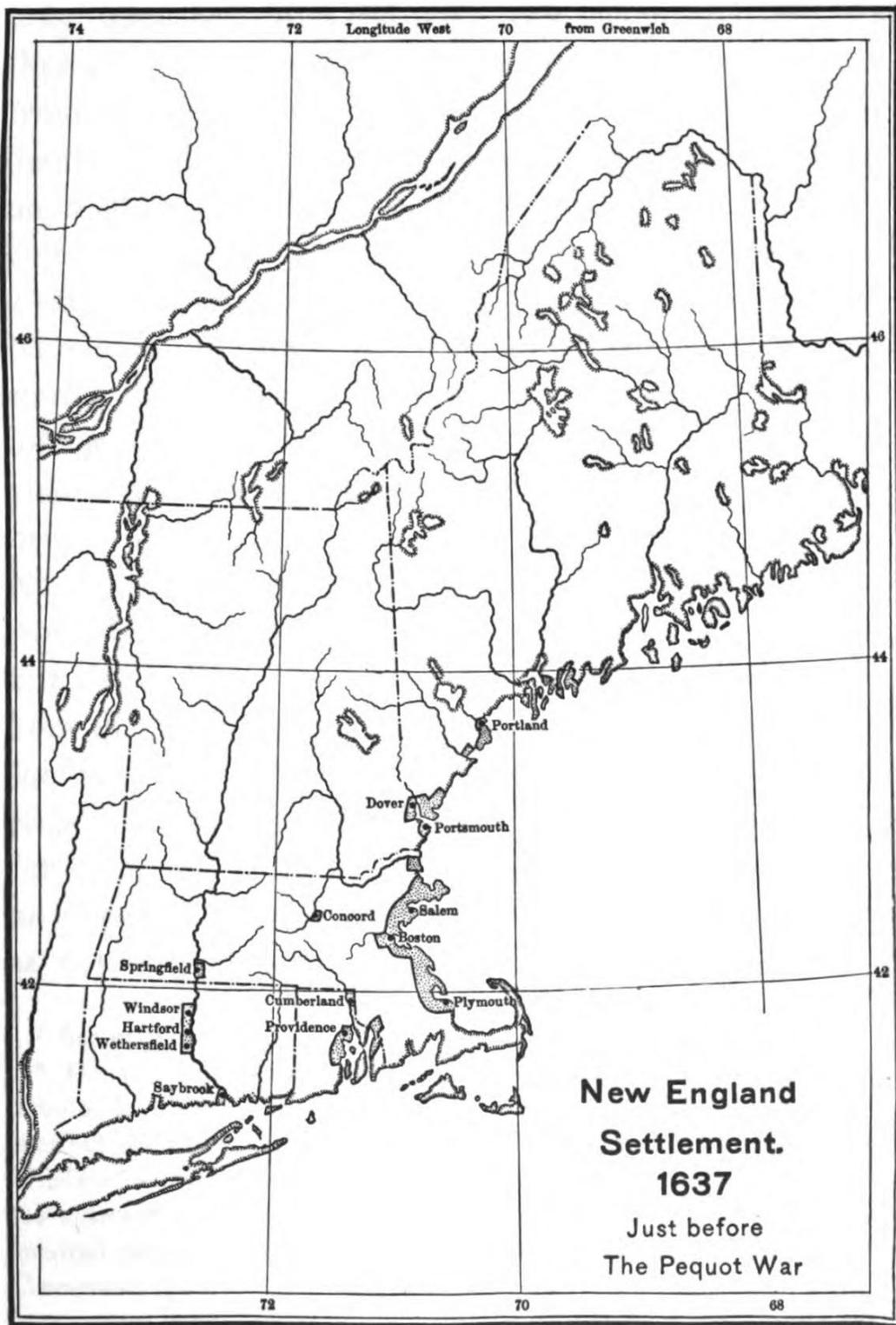
Hingham:

Susan Hardman, Moore, *Abandoning America: Life-stories from Early New England* (Woodbridge, Suffolk, 2013), "Robert Peck (1580-c.1656)," pp. 232-35.

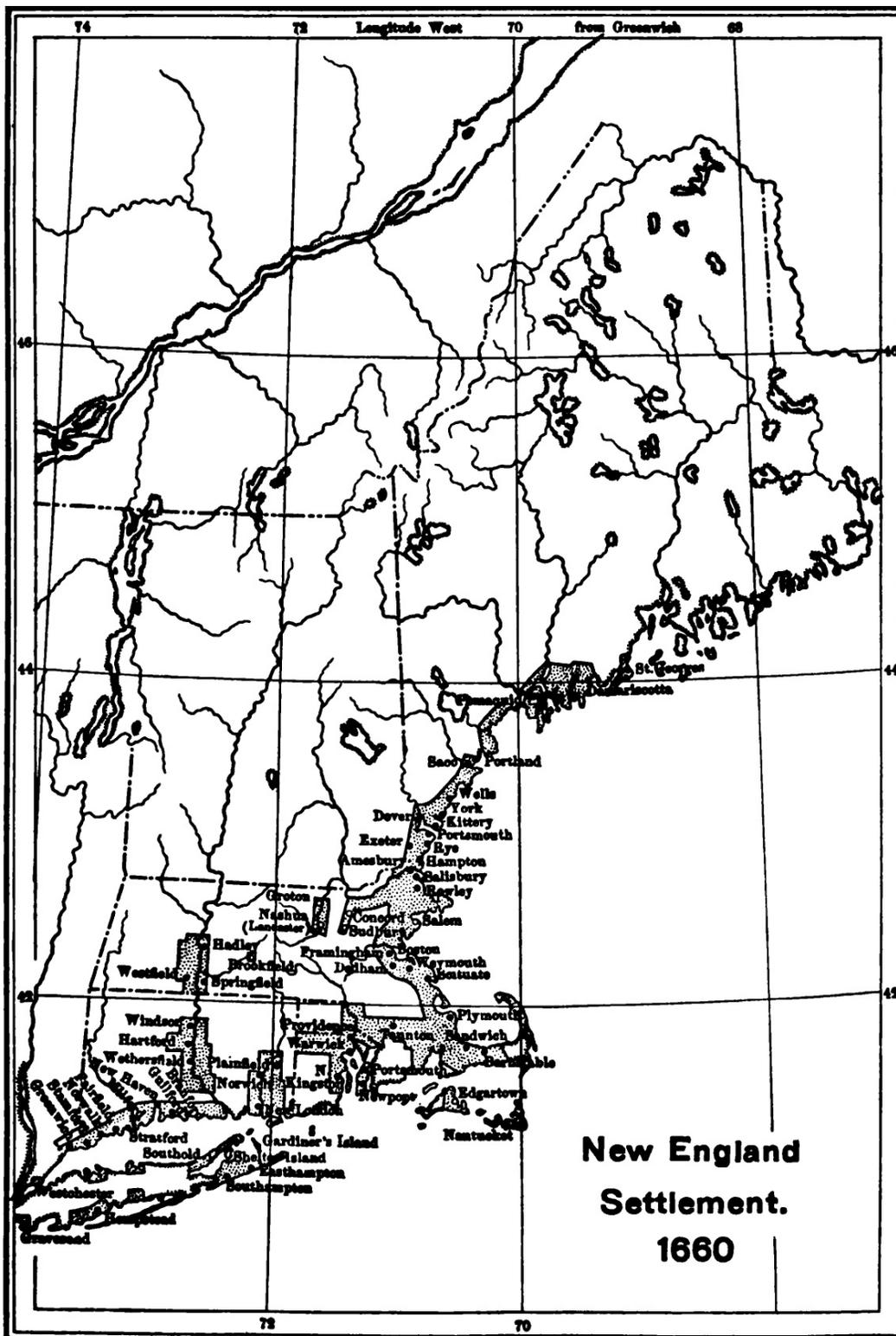
Chronology of New England Towns

Plymouth	1620	Taunton	1638
		Yarmouth	1638
Portsmouth [NH]	1623	Barnstable	1638
		New Haven	1638
Salem	1626	Portsmouth [RI]	1638
		Exeter	1638
Dover	1628		
		Salisbury	1639
Charlestown	1629	Rowley	1639
		Sudbury	1639
Dorchester	1630	Wenham	1639
Boston	1630	Stratford	1639
Watertown	1630	Fairfield	1639
Roxbury	1630	Milford	1639
		Guilford	1639
Lynn	1631	Newport	1639
Cambridge	1631	Hampton	1639
Duxbury	1632	Marshfield	1640
		Braintree	1640
Ipswich	1633	Woburn	1640
Scituate	1633	Southampton	1640
		Farmington	1640
Newbury	1635	Branford	1640
Weymouth	1635	Stamford	1640
Hingham	1635	Greenwich	1640
Concord	1635		
Hartford	1635	Gloucester	1641
Windsor	1635	Haverhill	1641
Wethersfield	1635	Southold	1641
Saybrook	1635		
		Rehoboth	1643
Springfield	1636	Warwick	1643
Dedham	1636		
Providence	1636		
Sandwich	1637		





The expansion of New England: The Spread of New England Settlement and Institutions to the Mississippi River, 1620-1865 by Lois Kimball Matthews; Map "New England Settlement 1637" post page 22



The expansion of New England: The Spread of New England Settlement and Institutions to the Mississippi River, 1620-1865 by Lois Kimball Matthews; Map "New England Settlement 1660" post page 34

IPSWICH CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, 1634-1638

With no surviving early Ipswich church records, a synthetic, partial list of early male members may be derived from the Massachusetts Bay lists of admissions of freemen which are frequently grouped by town.

Column 1	Name
Column 2	Year of arrival
Column 3	Primary residence [I = Ipswich; N = Newbury]
Column 4	GMSP citation
Column 5	English origin

3 September 1634 [MBCR 1:370, 371]

John Spencer	1634	N	2:6:428	[<i>Mary & John</i>]
Robert Mussey	1634	I	2:5:206	[? <i>Mary & John?</i>]
Henry Short	1634	N	2:6:313	[<i>Mary & John</i>]
Philip Fowler	1634	I	2:2:560	Marlborough, Wiltshire
Thomas Parker	1634	N	2:5:367	Newbury, Berkshire
Nicholas Easton	1634	N	2:2:396	Romsey, Hampsire
James Noyes	1634	N	2:5:282	Cholderton, Wiltshire

Comment: I take this to be the signature of the founding of Ipswich church. The organization of the Dedham church provides a good comparison. Those wishing to form Dedham church began to meet together in late 1637 or early 1638. After many meetings, apparently led by Rev. John Allin, they had chosen eight founding members, the so-called pillars. They then set a day to enter into covenant, 8 November 1638. During the winter of 1638-9, they continued to meet. Several more members were admitted, mostly wives of the pillars. They also continued to consider whether Allin should be called as the first pastor. On 24 April 1639, Allin was ordained.

On 13 March 1638/9, eleven Dedham men were admitted as Mass Bay freemen in a group. The first eight of these were Allin and the seven men who had been selected as the pillars of the church. I should have checked this a few days ago when you asked if a church could admit members without an ordained minister. Clearly that was the case here in Dedham in 1638. I have learned that in this first decade of Mass Bay these transplanted Englishmen were making it up as they went along in creating new civil and church institutions from their old English training and experience, so we cannot guarantee that the founding of Ipswich church four years earlier had proceeded under the same understanding, but I now think so. This also means that the ordination of Parker need not have taken place by the 3 September 1634 freeman admission. No record has been found of freemanship for Nathaniel Ward.

All seven of the men listed above as being made free on 3 September 1634 were passengers on the *Mary & John* in 1634 and had set down at Ipswich for their first year in New England. By analogy, these men could be the "pillars" of Ipswich church (assuming that this concept was already in place by 1634). (I put Robert Mussey in question marks because his name is not on that passenger list, but John and Abraham Mussey

are, although they have not been demonstrate to be related. But the absence of Mussey could simply be a clerical error.)

Interestingly, two of these men (Robert Mussey and Philip Fowler) chose not to follow their churchly brethren to Newbury in 1635. This theme will reappear below.

Also, observe that neither John Winthrop Jr. nor any of the men who were permitted to settle with him at Ipswich in April 1634 are in this group of founders of Ipswich church. Winthrop, Howlett, Biggs, Gage and Perkins had all been admitted to Boston church at an earlier date, with Winthrop and Perkins admitted to freemanship before 1633. Howlett, Biggs and Gage were admitted to freemanship on 4 March 1633/4, but grouped with other Boston men. Biggs only stayed at Ipswich a short time and was soon back in Boston. Howlett and Gage were finally dismissed to Ipswich church on 10 September 1643. The other five men allowed to settle at Ipswich were a mixed bag of misfits, some seen here for the first time, all of whom soon left Ipswich.

4 March 1634/5 [MBCR 1:371]

Thomas Scott	1634	I	2:6:209	Rattlesden, Suffolk
Thomas Boreman	1634	I	2:1:352	London
Roger Lancton	1634	I	2:4:228	Laughton, Leics.
John Webster	1634	I	2:7:261	
Hugh Sherratt	1634	I	2:6:302	
Joseph Metcalfe	1634	I	2:5:114	Strood, Kent
William Bartholomew	1634	I	2:1:180	London
Thomas Dorman	1634	I	2:2:357	
Richard Kent	1634	N	2:4:142	[<i>Mary & John</i>]

Comment: I take these to be the new members admitted after the pillars. Note that all but one remained in Ipswich, had not come on the *Mary & John*, and were not from the West Country. Thomas Scott appears to be the first of a new wave of East Anglians who would join JW Jr., Howlett and Gage to dominate the town.

6 May 1635 [MBCR 1:371]

Richard Browne	1634	N	2:2:432	[<i>Mary & John</i>]
William Moody	1634	N	2:5:135	[<i>Mary & John</i>]
Christopher Osgood	1634	I	2:5:318	Marlborough, Wiltshire
Richard Jacob	1634	I	2:4:28	[<i>Mary & John</i>]

Comment: I find this grouping to be most interesting. At about this time Parker, Noyes, and many others would have been preparing to move on to Newbury, and some had probably already gone ahead. All four had come on the *Mary & John*, but only two moved on to Newbury. Osgood and Jacob, like Mussey and Fowler, had chosen to remain at Ipswich. Only the present analysis made me aware of this fact.

7 December 1636 [MBCR 1:372]

William Goodhue	1635	I	2:3:108	
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Comment: This is the only Ipswich man that I find to have been admitted as a freeman between the Election Court of 1635 and the Election Court of 1637. He appears in a disorganized section of the list for this date. In my sketch for Goodhue, I have him as an arrival of 1635, but this is based on his appearance in the same land inventory entry for Thomas Dudley that I showed a few days ago NOT to be dated in 1635. So far as I can tell, this freemanship entry now qualifies as the earliest record for Goodhue in New England. The earliest record I find for him in Ipswich is now 1638. So it is conceivable Goodhue was briefly in Lynn or Salem, for example, was admitted to the church there, and then moved to Ipswich. Whatever the explanation, there were many other arrivals at Ipswich in 1635 and 1636 who were available to join the church and become freemen but who did not.

17 May 1637 [MBCR 1:373]

John Norton	1635	I	2:5:272	Hertfordshire
John Severance	1636	I		
Thomas Wells	1635	I		
John Perkins	1631	I	GMB 1431	son of immigrant
William Lampson	1636	I		

Comments: I take this grouping to represent a sort of “second founding” of Ipswich church. By analogy with the discussion above of the founding of Dedham church, this need not indicate that Norton had been ordained at Ipswich, but that he had been admitted, and probably already chosen to be called.

2 May 1638 [MBCR 1:374]

William Hubbard	1635	I	2:3:437	[Tendring?], Essex
Richard Lumkin	1637	I		Boxted, Essex
William Warrener	1635	I	2:7:243	Boxted, Essex
Mark Symonds	1637	I		
Thomas Rawlinson	1637	I		
Thomas Carter	1635	I	2:2:27	

Comments: If 17 May 1637 was sort of an unofficial second founding of Ipswich church and the men admitted with Norton on that date were unofficial pillars, why was Hubbard not made a freeman at that time? I am intrigued by the presence of two men from Boxted here. Aside from these, four other men are known to have come from Boxted: Rev. George Phillips, John Eddy, Edward Howe and Simon Stone, are known to have come from Boxted, and all settled at Watertown. Simon Stone and his brother Gregory, who also came to Watertown, were both born at Great Bromley, Essex, on the other side of Colchester from Boxted, but just three miles or so from Tendring.

RCA, 22 April 2024