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**Settlement of Colonial New England**

- Reasons for immigration
- Establishment and management of communities
- Expansion and migration



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**Reasons for Immigration**

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**The Great Migration**

- 1620 to 1640
- Roughly 20,000 English immigrants settled in New England



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**Reasons for Immigration**



RELIGIOUS   ECONOMIC   POLITICAL

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**Religious**

- Church of England established in 1534
  - Retained too many Roman Catholic practices
  - Corrupt
- Simplification of church practices; reform
  - Puritans
- Complete break from Church of England
  - Separatists

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**Religious**

- 1620: Separatists/Pilgrims set sail for New World
  - Plymouth Colony
- 1630s: Puritan migration to New World
  - John Winthrop leads first wave of Puritans to Massachusetts Bay Colony

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**Economic**

- Land
- Natural resources
- Trade
- Opportunity for economic mobility

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**Political**

- England in debt
  - Extravagant spending by former monarchs
- Crown needs to raise revenue
  - Taxes
- Charles I dissolves Parliament in 1629
  - Personal Rule



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**Immigrants to New England**

- Middle Class
- Literate
- Family Groups
- Skilled



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# Establishment of Communities

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### Charter

- Legal document that granted establishment of colony
- Given to group of individuals
- Granted by King



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### Council for New England

- Charter granted by James I in 1620
- Granted land between 40 and 48 North latitude
  - Sea to sea
- Governed and managed settlement and trade of colony
- Distributed about 30 grants before disbandment in 1635

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**Plymouth Colony**

- Granted patent by Virginia Company of London in 1620
  - Permission to settle in dominion of Jamestown
- Landed at Plymouth
  - Controlled by Council for New England
- Drafted Mayflower Compact
- Received permission to settle from Council for New England in 1621

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**Massachusetts Bay Colony**

- Established in 1628
- Joint-stock company
  - Shares can be bought and sold
- Included portions of Maine, New Hampshire, and Connecticut
- Charter revoked in 1684; Dominion of New England
  - Bring all colonies under Crown control

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**Massachusetts Bay Colony**

- No headright land grant system
- Strove for shared ideals amongst settlers
- Community based settlements
- Massachusetts Bay General Court becomes steward of community land grants

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### Strategic Settlement

- Coastal
- Water source
- Fertile soil
- Pasturage
- Natural Resources
  - Lumber
  - Fur



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### Indigenous Peoples

- Diseases decimate population of Indigenous Peoples in southern New England in 1610s
  - Abandoned settlements
  - Cleared fields
- Early settlers depend on local tribes for trade
  - Fur
- Advantageous trade relationships established

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**Creation of New Towns**

- Groups petition governing bodies to create new towns
  - More land
  - Disagreements
- Seeking prime lands in new communities
- Founders controlled land allotments and divisions

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**Creation of New Towns**

1. Survey of land
2. Infrastructure
3. Petition
4. Recruit settlers
5. Distribute land




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**Concord**

*It is ordered, that there shalbe a plantacon att Musketequid, & that there shalbe 6 myles of land square to belong to it, & that the inhabitants thereof shall have three yeares imunities from all pubt charges, except trainings; further, that when any that plant there shall have occaon of carryeing of goods thither, they shall repaire to two of the nexte magistrates where the teames are, whoe shall haue power for a yeare to presse draughts, att reasonable rates, to be payde by the owners of the goods, to transport their goods thither att seasonable tymes; & the name of the place is changed, & hereafter to be called Concord.*

*Records of the Governor and Co. of the Massachusetts Bay In New England*

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**General Court of Mass Bay Company**

- Governing body of Massachusetts Bay Colony
  - Governor, Lt. Governor
- Managed colony's affairs
  - Laws
  - Taxes
- Deputies elected from each community
- Left management of communities to proprietors

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**Proprietors**

- Wealthy
- Responsible for infrastructure
- Recruited new settlers
- Distributed home lots
- Had interest in undivided lands
  - Future revenue

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**Ipswich**

*A Court, holden att Boston, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1633.* 1633.

PRESENT,	The Gou <sup>r</sup> ns,	M <sup>r</sup> Treasurer,	
	Deputy Gou <sup>r</sup> ns,	M <sup>r</sup> Nowell,	1 April.
	M <sup>r</sup> Ludlowe,	S: Bradstreete.	
	Capt <sup>t</sup> Endicott,		

**T**HERE is xj<sup>t</sup> v<sup>t</sup> allowed to Edward Converse for ferrying officers ouer Edes Cooves allow for ferryin the water./

It is ordered, that noe pson w<sup>h</sup>oecuer shall goe to plant or inhabitt att Aggawam, without leave from the Court, except those that are already gone, v<sup>t</sup>g: M<sup>r</sup> John Winthrop, Jun<sup>r</sup>, M<sup>r</sup> Clerke, Robt<sup>t</sup> Coles, Thomas Howlett, John Biggs, John Gage, Thomas Hardy, Wi<sup>th</sup>m Perkins, M<sup>r</sup> Thorneedicke, Wi<sup>th</sup>m S<sup>icant</sup>./

2.  
Answer  
planta.

Records of the Governor and Co. of the Massachusetts Bay in New England

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### Appointment of Town Officers

- Elected at Town Meeting by Freemen
  - Yearly (Generally March or April)
- Town Clerk: Meeting minutes, births, marriages, deaths
- Selectmen: Managed affairs of the town
- Constables: Policemen; enforced laws
- Tithingmen: Paid tithes, attended church

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### Religion

- Religion epicenter of life
- Meetinghouse is center of community
  - Worship
  - Town business




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### Everything is Local

- Town based government
  - Manages infrastructure
  - Organizes defenses
  - Collects taxes
- Tight knit communities
  - Intermarried families
  - Neighbors from former communities
- Wary of newcomers

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# Expansion and Migration

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**1620s-1660s**

- Population expands with new immigrants
- Move towards the interior
- New settlements along rivers or coast
- Along Indigenous routes
  - The Great Trail



New England Settlements 1637  
Just before the Pequot War

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**Reasons for Expansion**

- Too crowded
- More land
  - Founders control land
- Discord
  - Religious
  - Political
- Economic opportunity
  - Trade

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**Expansion**

- 1634 - Wethersfield
- 1635 - Concord
- 1635 - Windsor
- 1636 - Hartford
- 1636 - Springfield



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**Connecticut**

- Military exploits during Pequot War allow for exploration of area
  - Discover fertile soil and abundant natural resources
- Connecticut River vehicle for trade and transport
- Expansion continues
  - Increases rapidly after 1640s

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**Rhode Island**

- Roger Williams and associates from Salem settle Providence in 1636
  - Purchased land from Narragansett Tribe
- Other dissenters follow and establish communities
- Slow growth
- Royal Charter granted in 1663

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**New Hampshire**

- Coastal
- Rye settled in 1635
- Reverend John Wheelwright and his followers found Exeter in 1638
- Others migrate from Essex County, Massachusetts
- Slow growth

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**Maine**

- A trading post at modern day Augusta on the Kennebec River established by Plymouth Colony in 1628
  - Other posts established along coast
- Coastal
- Frontier settlements/outposts
- Slow growth

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**Chain Migration**

- Process of following a person to a new location
  - Family follows family to new communities
  - Neighbor follows neighbor to new communities

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48

**How can I trace my ancestor?**

- Who founded the community?
- Cluster research
- FAN Club
  - Family
  - Associates
  - Neighbors
- Learn about your ancestor through their connections

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**Important Questions**

1. Who do they buy land from or sell land to?
2. Who is their neighbor?
3. Where are their neighbors from?
4. Do they serve as an administrator or an executor of someone's estate?
  - Suggests close relationship

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**Creating a Research Plan for Cluster Research**

Lindsay Fulton, Director of Research Services  
May 21, 2020

 **American Ancestors**  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

0:02 / 1:15:49 • Intro >

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFA\\_IfMsThg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFA_IfMsThg)

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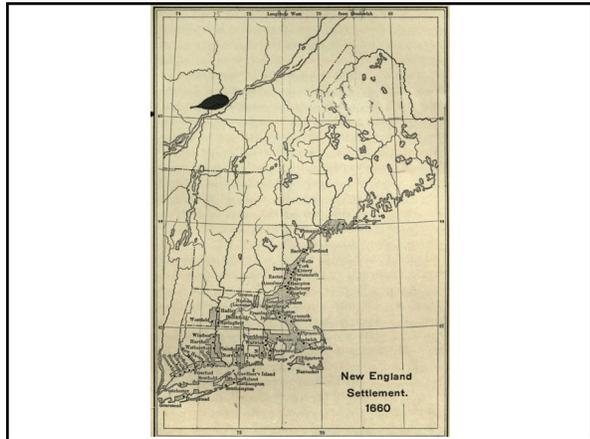
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**1670s-1710s**

- Continued immigration
- Frontier boundaries pushed west
  - Migration out of New England (New Haven Colony: Long Island, New Jersey)
- Wars with Indigenous Peoples
  - Destruction of frontier settlements
- Slow rebuild

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**King Philip's War 1675-6**

- Death of Massasoit in 1661 leads to breakdown in peace
- Colonists continue to settle on land of Indigenous Peoples
  - Diminish natural resources
  - Encroachment
- Continue to convert Indigenous Peoples to Christianity

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**King Philip's War 1675-6**

- Metacomet becomes chief of Wampanoag Confederacy in 1662
  - Also known as King Philip
- Continued breakdown in diplomacy
  - Tension
  - Alliance of Tribes
- Murder of John Sassamon

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**King Philip's War 1675-6**

- Attack on Swansea in June 1675
- Battles throughout New England
- Destruction of settlements
  - Colonists flee
- Thousands of colonists and Indigenous Peoples die

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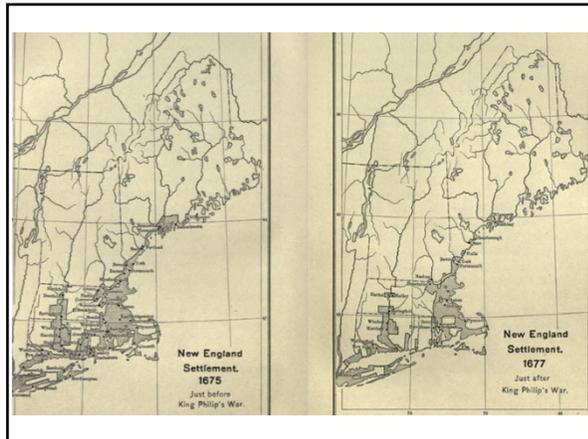
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### Aftermath

- Southern New England colonists migrate east or to coastal settlements
- Northern New England settlers flee to the south
  - Maine frontier essentially abandoned
- After war, many towns repopulate and rebuild
- Slow resettlement in frontier
  - Maine

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### More Conflict

- King William's War (1689-1697)
- Queen Anne's War (1701-1713)
- Continued tension between colonists of New France, New England, and Indigenous Peoples
- Destruction of frontier settlements
  - Refugees

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### 1720s-1770s

- Population of New England increases greatly
  - Natural increase
  - Immigration
- Settlement pushes north and west
- Large growth in population of Northern New England
  - After French and Indian War
  - 1760s and 1770s

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Sturbridge, Mass Town Records

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### Northern New England

- Fighting during French and Indian War largely ceases in colonies in 1760
  - Britain gains control of French Canada
- Settlers less fearful
- Large number of towns founded in New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont

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### After French and Indian War

- Empty lands in Connecticut and Massachusetts populated
  - Worcester County
  - Western Massachusetts
- Settlers look north
  - Fertile lands along Connecticut River

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### New Hampshire and Vermont

- 1761 – Sixty Townships granted on both sides of Connecticut River
  - Settlers required to plant and cultivate their five acres within a term of five years
- Governor Wentworth reserved 500 acres in each township

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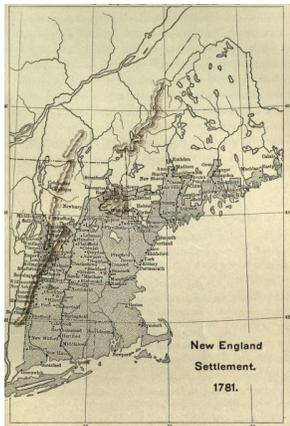
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**Themes**

- Reasons for migration
  - Land
  - Economic opportunity
  - Discord
  - Chain Migration
- Migration and expansion halted by conflicts and violence
- Settlers migrate with family and neighbors
  - Establish new communities together

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**QUESTIONS?**

**Schedule a consultation**  
*consultations@americanancestors.org*

**Hire Research Services**  
*research@americanancestors.org*

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**Consultations**

Book a one-on-one consultation with a genealogist and receive help with your family history research!

AmericanAncestors.org/  
Expert-Help/Consultations




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