



DATABASES & RESEARCH > Databases

Databases

- Alphabetical Listing
- By Record Type
- Databases By Location
- Genealogical Journals Online: A National Collection
- Premium Databases

Getting Started

Articles

Town Guides

Hire the Experts

Genetics\DNA Research

External Resources

Forums

Online Genealogist

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.

The volumes contained in this database may be viewed at the NEHGS Research Library in Boston, call number REF F7/G74.

To locate additional genealogy and local history resources, [search our library catalog](#).

Citation Information:

The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III (Online database: NewEnglandAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002), (Orig. Pub. New England Historic Genealogical Society. Robert Charles Anderson, The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III, 3 vols., 1995).

WILLIAM ROCKWELL

ORIGIN: Dorchester, Dorsetshire

MIGRATION: 1630 on *Mary & John*

FIRST RESIDENCE: Dorchester

REMOVES: Windsor 1638

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: The claim has been made that **William Rockwell** was made deacon of the Dorchester congregation at the time of the sailing of the *Mary & John* early in 1630, but the evidence for this has not been found. Certainly Rockwell was performing the duties of a deacon in his earliest days in New England. On 3 September 1633 "[t]here is administration granted to William Gaylord & **William Rockwell**, of the goods and chattels of John Russell, of Dorchester, who deceased August 26th, 1633" [[MBCR](#) 1:107]; this sort of service was frequently provided by the deacons. Also, prior to the establishment of selectmen in Dorchester, many of the town orders were signed by JOHN MAVERICK , JOHN WARHAM , WILLIAM GAYLORD and **William Rockwell** - in other words, the two ministers of the congregation and the two deacons. **William Rockwell** would certainly have retained his membership in the church, and presumably his position of deacon, for the short time of his residence in Windsor as well.

FREEMAN: Requested 19 October 1630 and admitted 18 May 1631 [[MBCR](#) 1:79, 366].

EDUCATION: Signed his name to Dorchester town orders [[DTR](#) 1-7].

OFFICES: Signed Dorchester town orders either as selectman or deacon, 21 January 1632/3 to 2 June 1634 [[DTR](#) 1-7]. Jury of life and death in the case of Austen Bratcher, 9 November 1630 [[MBCR](#) 1:81].

ESTATE: On 17 December 1635 it was ordered that **William Rockwell** have half an acre of ground next to Mr. Stoughton's near the fish house "to build him a house with condition that if he go away and leave the plantation, he leave the said house and ground to the plantation in paying him the charge" [[DTR](#) 13]. On 27 June 1636 he shared a marsh lot with Nicholas Upsall [[DTR](#) 17]. On 5 July 1636 **William Rockwell** received eight acres added to his former lot [[DTR](#) 18]. On 2 January 1637/8 it was ordered that "Nicholas Upsall and Will Rockwell are to take what is theirs where their eight acres was granted and none elsewhere and that equally betwixt them" [[DTR](#) 26]. In the meadow beyond Naponset **William Rockwell** had lot #75 of four acres [[DTR](#) 322].

In the Windsor land inventory on 4 February 1640[1], **William Rockwell** had "granted from the plantation an homelot nine acres"; eight acres in the Great Meadow; forty acres in the Northwest Field (annotated "this sold to Mr. Horsford"); and over the Great River a parcel twenty rods by three miles, adjacent to a parcel ten rods by eightscore rods [[WiLR](#) 1:69]. (This entry was made posthumously, and probably as something of an afterthought, as it appears below the entry for ROGER WILLIAMS , rather than having a page to itself.)

BIRTH: Baptized Fitzhead, Somersetshire, 6 February 1590/1, son of John and Honor (Newton) Rockwell [Sir Anthony Richard Wagner, *Pedigree of Rockwell and Allied Families: Extracted from the Records of the College of Arms* (London, n.d.), p. 2]. (Other sources give the year of baptism as 1591/2 [Rockwell Gen 188-92; [M&JCH](#) 17:131-33].)

DEATH: Buried at Windsor 15 May 1640 [[Loomis Rec](#) 1:50; Grant 79 (gives only year of death)].

MARRIAGE: Holy Trinity, Dorchester, Dorsetshire, 14 April 1624 Susan Capen [[Dorset Marr](#) 7:9], daughter of BERNARD CAPEN . She married (2) Windsor 29 May 1645 as his second wife MATTHEW GRANT [[Goodwin Anc](#) 106]. She died at Windsor 13 November 1666 [[CTVR](#) 22].

CHILDREN:

i JOAN, bp. Dorchester, Dorsetshire, 25 April 1625 [[M&JCH](#) 17:133]; m. (1) Windsor 15 November 1642 Jeffrey Baker [[Grant](#) 27]; m. (2) Northampton 10 December 1668 Richard Ingram [[Pyncheon VR](#) 142].

ii JOHN, bp. Dorchester 18 July 1627 [[M&JCH](#) 17:133] (d. Windsor 3 September 1673, aged 46 years [[CTVR](#) 27]); m. (1) Windsor 6 May 1651 Sarah Ensign [[Grant](#) 63]; m. (2) Windsor 18 August 1662 Deliverance Hayes [[Grant](#) 63].

iii SAMUEL, b. 28 March 1631 [[Grant](#) 63]; m. Windsor 7 April 1660 Mary Norton [[Grant](#) 63].

iv RUTH, b. say 1633; m. Windsor 7 October 1652 Christopher Huntington [NorVR 37], son of SIMON HUNTINGTON .

v SARAH, b. say 1639; m. Windsor 22 March 1658[9?] as his second wife Walter Gaylord [[Grant](#) 42], son of WILLIAM GAYLORD .

ASSOCIATIONS: In her will, dated 19 July 1637, Honor (Newton) Rockwell indicated that her sons John and William were in New England, as well as some of the children of her deceased son Richard [Rockwell Gen 190]. These close relatives of **William Rockwell** did not arrive until after 1633.

Through his marriage to the daughter of BERNARD CAPEN , **William Rockwell** became connected with the many members of that family, including the extended network of Capen in-laws, such as AQUILA PURCHASE and THOMAS PURCHASE .

COMMENTS: In his list of "some omitted in former records being gone yet had children born here," Matthew Grant included **William Rockwell** as having had one child born in Windsor [[Grant](#) 93]. This would most likely be the daughter Sarah who married in 1658.

All secondary sources include in this family a son Joseph and a daughter Mary. This is derived from a pedigree prepared in 1731 by Matthew Rockwell, great-grandson of the immigrant [[NYGBR](#) 2:99-102]. Mary is said to have married Jeffrey Baker, so this is a simple error for Joan; there is no independent record for a son Joseph, who is in any case said to have died young. There may be some confusion with the children of William Rockwell's brother Richard, who did have a Joseph and a Mary among his six children.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: Henry Ensign Rockwell published in 1873 the standard account of the family [*The Rockwell Family in America: A Genealogical Record, from 1630 to 1873* (Boston 1873)]. In 1924 Francis Williams Rockwell, although focussing on only one line of descent from the immigrant, provided a much more useful account, including a chapter by **William Walker Rockwell** with much data on the English origin of **William Rockwell** [The Rockwell Family in One Line of Descent (Pittsfield, Massachusetts, 1924), cited above as Rockwell Gen]. (See also [M&JCH](#) 17:131-33.)

[Beginning The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III](#)

Back to [Last Master Search Results](#) page

Back to [Search Results](#) page

[New Search](#)

<<<

>>>

[Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | Copyright 2001-2009, New England Historic Genealogical Society. Do not reproduce without permission. New England Historic Genealogical Society | 99 Newbury Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, USA | (888) 296-3447 | Fax (617) 536-7307

