

[Home](#)[Newsletter](#)[Books & CD](#)[Subscribe](#)[About](#)

ADAM MOTT

ORIGIN: Horseheath, Cambridge.

MIGRATION: 1635 on the Defence (on 2 July 1635, "a tailor, Adam Mott," aged 39, "*uxor* Sara Mott," aged 31, and "children," "Jo[h]n Mott," aged 14, "Adam Mott," aged 12, "Jonathan Mott," aged 9, "Elizabeth Mott," aged 6, and "Mary Mott," aged 4, with a certificate of conformity from the minister at Cambridge, were enrolled at London as passengers for New England on the *Defence* [Hotten 99]).

FIRST RESIDENCE: Roxbury.

REMOVES: Hingham 1636, Portsmouth 1638.

OCCUPATION: Tailor [Hotten 99].

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: In 1635 "Adam Mott" and "Sarah Mott the wife of Ada[m] Mott" were admitted to Roxbury church as members #124 and #125 [RChR 80].

FREEMAN: 25 May 1636 (third in a sequence of four Roxbury men) [MBCR 1:371].

On 12 March 16[39/40, "Adam Mott" was one of ten Portsmouth men admitted as freemen of the joint government of Newport and Portsmouth, and then added to the list of such freemen [RICR 1:91, 100]. In 16 March 164[0/1 list of Newport and Portsmouth freeman [RICR 1:110]. In Portsmouth section of 1655 list of Rhode Island freemen [RICR 1:300].

EDUCATION: He signed his deeds. His inventory included "books" and clothing valued at £11 [PoTR 389].

OFFICEHOLDING: Portsmouth lotlayer, 12 March 1639/40, 27 May 1644 [RICR 1:102; PoTR 29].

Portsmouth coroner's jury, 7 September 1640 [PoTR 16].

ESTATE: "Given unto Addam Mott by the town of Hingham for a houselot, five acres of land," 12 February 1636[7?] [HiBOP 52]. "Given unto Addam Mott by the town for a planting lot eight acres of land Lying in Broad Cove Field," 1637 [HiBOP 52]. (On 2 April 1678, John Skeath sold to William Hersey Senior several parcels of land in Hingham, including "his houselot containing five acres of land . bounded with the land of Ephraim Huit formerly the land of Adam Mott eastward" [SLR 10:321].)

On 23 August 1638, "Adam Mott" was assigned one of the "thirteen lots on the west side of the spring" in Portsmouth "granted to Mr. Richard Dummer and his friends" [RICR 1:59].

On 10 April 1651, "Adam Mott Senior of the town of Portsmouth" sold to "Mr. John Sanford of the same town my part in the Calves Pasture lying between his house and the Claypit Field" [PoTR 310]. On 3 September 1652, "Adam Mott Senior of the town of Portsmouth" sold to "Mr. John Sanford of the same town of Portsmouth . a piece of meadow laid out for three acres" [PoTR 308].

In his will, dated 2 April 1661 and proved on an unknown date, "Adam Mott of Portsmo[u]th . constituted & made my faithful friends Edward Thurston and Richard Tew both of Newport on Rhoad lland to have full power together after my decease to see my will performed" and bequeathed to "Sarah Mott my wife being all my housage & land at Matapurcetti being in the bounds of Portsmoth ., all goods or chattels whatsoever housage and all moveables whatsoever, to use, possess & enjoy for her term of life as she shall need ., and at the end of her life after her decease, I will that the aforesaid executors Edward Thurston & Richard Tew shall see the land named and house & housage equally divided into three shares"; to "Jacob Motte my own son if he be contented to cast in what I gave him at the upper corner of my farm & share it into three parts, if not he may take that out as his part and no more"; to "Adam Mott my son I gave his share already & part long since which he hath lived on whose sum was twelve acres"; "if any of the brothers shall die before my wife of the

three, Jacob Mott, Gearsham Mott & Eleasser Mott as to say, that then the three parts by the executors be divided unto the other two as equally as they can"; "these three or two of them that enjoy the land after their mother's decease shall pay unto John Mott my son twenty shillings if he demand it in such pay as in the place passeth for pay here among us"; "I will them to pay to Adam Mott their brother an ewe lamb"; "I will to Elisabeth Thurston the wife of Edward Thurston to be paid to her or by whom she shall assign it unto one ewe lamb a year after their mother's departure"; "if my children should be cross to their mother so it should force her to marry again, I give full power to my executors to take good & full security for the making good of the estate so long as she lives that my will may be performed as is declared aforehand" [PoTR 387-89].

The "inventory of the estate & goods of Adam Mott Senior deceased," taken 12 August 1661, totalled £371 6s., of which £150 was real estate: "the house & land," £150 [PoTR 389-90].

On 31 August 1661, "forasmuch as Sarah Mott widow to the late deceased Adam Mott of the town of Portsmouth hath brought her late husband's will in to the office of to be proved and hath exhibited the same to the town council, they finding the will something dubious in not declaring the said Sarah his wife to be his executrix, yet the scope of the same making her one in power, therefore we the council of the town of Portsmouth do unanimously appoint the said Sarah Mott & widow to the late deceased Adam Mott to be sole executrix during the term of her life according to what we understand the meaning of the will to be, being the major part of the council" [PoTR 386].

BIRTH: (aged 39 on 2 July 1635 [Hotten 99]), son of JOHN MOTT {1639, Portsmouth}.

DEATH: Between 2 April 1661 (date of will) and 12 August 1661 (date of inventory).

MARRIAGE: (1) Saffron Walden, Essex, 28 October 1616 Elizabeth Creel [TAG 35:108].

(2) Horseheath, Cambridge, 11 May 1635 Sarah Lott [TAG 35:108]. She died after 31 August 1661 [PoTR 386].

CHILDREN:

With first wife

- i. Son MOTT, bur. Saffron Walden 18 June 1617 [TAG 35:108].
- ii. JOHN MOTT, bp. Saffron Walden 6 September 1618 [TAG 35:108] (aged 14 on 2 July 1635 [Hotten 99]); sailed for New England with his family in 1635 [Hotten 99]; no further record. (See ASSOCIATIONS below.)
- iii. ADAM MOTT, b. about 1623 (aged 12 on 2 July 1635 [Hotten 99]); m. [blank] October 1647 Mary Lott [RIVR 7:25] (his stepsister).
- iv. JONATHAN MOTT, b. about 1626 (aged 9 on 2 July 1635 [Hotten 99]); in Portsmouth section of 1655 list of Rhode Island freemen [RICR 1:300]; no further record.
- v. ELIZABETH MOTT, b. about 1629 (aged 6 on 2 July 1635 [Hotten 99]); m. [blank] June 1647 Edward Thurston [RIVR 7:25]. With second wife
- vi. JACOB MOTT, b. say 1636 (d. Portsmouth 15 November 1711 "aged 78 years" [RIVR 7:113]; this age at death implies a year of birth close to 1633, but as this son was not on the 1635 passenger list, he must have been born to the immigrant's second wife not long after arrival in New England); m. by 1661 Joanna Slocumb (eldest known child b. 13 December 1661 [Austin 181, 344-45]; Joanna, widow of Jacob Mott, daughter of "old Giles Slocum and Jane, his wife," d. 4 January 1727/8 [RIVR 7:113]).
- vii. GERSHOM MOTT, b. say 1638; named in father's will of 2 April 1661; no further record.
- viii. ELEAZER MOTT, b. say 1640; named in father's will of 2 April 1661; no further record.

ASSOCIATIONS: Between 1639 and 1656, there are about a dozen references in Portsmouth to a man referred to variously as "John Mott," "Goodman Mott" and "old John Mott" [TAG 20:227-28, 35:107]. Two of these records show that this man was the father of Adam Mott. On 4 June 1649, "Adam Mott having offered a cow forever and 5 bushels of corn by the year so long as the old man shall live, towards his maintenance that so he might be discharged from any further charge," the town arranged for further supplies to be turned over to William Baulstone for the support of the indigent man [PoTR 40-41]. On 3 July 1656, the town voted funds to "John Teft . to keep old John Mott this year for diet, lodging, washing and looking to beside the cow and the corn that the old man's son Adam is engaged to give" [PoTR 72].

In his earliest years in Portsmouth, John Mott seems not to have been impoverished. His first appearance is in a fragmentary record of November 1639, in which a grant of land to another man is described as "next John Mott's," indicating that John Mott had already been granted a piece of land [PoTR 5]. On 27 May 1644, the "town desire Goodman Mott, Lieutenant Samford and Goodman Borden, or any two of them, to accommodate Adam Mott at the upper end of his lower lot" [PoTR 28; RICR 1:80]. "Goodman Mott" obviously cannot be Adam Mott, and, unless this is a reference to

Adam Mott's own son John Mott, who is not otherwise found in Portsmouth records, there is no other adult Mott available to carry out this task. The "John Mott" who is in the 1639 Aquidneck list of freemen and the Portsmouth section of the 1655 Rhode Island list of freemen may be the older man [RICR 1:91, 300]. There are no Portsmouth records that are assignable to John Mott, son of the immigrant, and at the time of his father's will, on 2 April 1661, the younger John Mott was clearly not residing at Portsmouth.

John Mott was supported by the town on a regular basis from 1644 to 1656 [PoTR 30, 39, 46, 57, 60, 61 63, 72; RICR 1:82]. On 9 June 1652, the town "agreed that there shall be a stone house built for the more comfortable being of old John Mott in the winter, for the effecting thereof the townsmen do here promise that upon the call of the overseers aforesaid, they will come in and help forward the work" [PoTR 58]. On 23 January 1654/5, the town "agreed that the town will be at the charge to pay old man John Mott's passage to the Barbades Island and back again if he cannot be received there, if he lives to it, if the ship owners will carry him" [PoTR 66]. If John Mott made this trip, he must have returned soon, for he appears in Rhode Island records in 1655 and 1656.

In May 1638 "Adam Mott, tailor," aged 19, was a passenger for New England on the Bevis of Southampton [Hotten 300]. He resided at Manhattan and Hempstead [Stillwell 4:71-73; NYGBR 25:49-50, 45:117-18]. The 1647 record of his first marriage at Manhattan calls him of Essex in England [NYChR 1:14]. A close kinship relation with the subject of this sketch is reasonable to assume, but not proven. In 1959 G. Andrews Moriarty suggested that Adam Mott of Manhattan and Hempstead might be the man of that name baptized at Saffron Walden, Essex, on 21 January 1620/1 [TAG 35:108].

COMMENTS: On 6 September 1638, Massachusetts Bay General Court ordered that an "attachment is to go out to the constable of Hingham to attach Adam Mott, & to bring him before the Governor or some one of the council" [MBCR 1:241]. By the time of this court order, Adam Mott had already removed to Portsmouth. He may have been pursued as a supporter of Wheelwright and Hutchinson.

The passenger list for Adam Mott includes daughter "Mary Mott," aged 4 [Hotten 99]. Austin noted that this passenger was actually "Mary Lott . by his second wife's former husband" [Austin 344]. The parish register of Clare, Suffolk, includes the baptism on 22 October 1630 of Mary Lott, daughter of Jeremy, on 22 October 1630, a possible candidate for this stepdaughter. The will of Adam Mott includes no mention of a daughter Mary.

[Join NEHGS](#) : [About NEHGS](#) : [Contact Us](#) : [Library Hours](#) : [Privacy Statement](#) : [Terms of Use/License](#)



— Copyright 2001-2009, New England Historic Genealogical Society. Do not reproduce without permission.

— New England Historic Genealogical Society

— 101 Newbury Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 USA (617) 536-5740.