

The Great Migration

**Immigrants to New England
1634 - 1635**

Volume I

A-B

**Robert Charles Anderson
George F. Sanborn Jr.
Melinde Lutz Sanborn**

Great Migration Study Project

New England Historic Genealogical Society

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BIRTH: About 1598 (aged 37 in 1635 [Hotten 42]; aged 68 in May 1666 [Connecticut Archives, Crimes & Misdemeanors, 1:17b]).

DEATH: Before 14 January 1669/70 (date of presentation of inventory).

MARRIAGE: (1) On 15 May 1651 the "Governor, Mr. Cullick and Mr. Clarke are desired to go down to Stratford to keep Court upon the trial of Goody Bassett for her life, and if the Governor cannot go, then Mr. Wells is to go in his room" [CCCR 1:220].

(2) After July 1656 Joanna (_____) Beardsley, widow of Thomas Beardsley of Fairfield (when the 5 July 1656 inventory of Thomas Beardsley was brought to court, his widow acknowledged it, and, although the record book was damaged by fire, "Johanna Be---" can still be read [Fairfield PR 1:92-93]).

CHILDREN:

With second wife

- i (probably) THOMAS, b. say 1660; m. by about 1690 Sarah, possibly daughter of Josiah and Mercy (Camp) Baldwin (as argued by Donald Lines Jacobus [Ackley-Bosworth 244-46, 250]).
- ii Child (implied by court order which speaks of "settlement of the estate and children").

COMMENTS: "Tho[mas] Bassett," aged 37, was enrolled on 16 March 1634/5 at London as a passenger for New England on the *Christian* [Hotten 42].

Early in 1644 Mr. William Whiting sued Thomas Bassett [CCCR 1:102].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1960 Donald Lines Jacobus prepared an account of Thomas Basset, including the argument for assigning to him a son Thomas [Ackley-Bosworth 244-46; see also FOOF 1:34-35].

WILLIAM BASSETT

ORIGIN: Dorking, Surrey

MIGRATION: 1635 on the *Abigail*

FIRST RESIDENCE: Lynn

OCCUPATION: Husbandman. In 1682, the account of work done on a bridge in Lynn included payment to William Bassett Sr. for "his boat one day" [EQC 8:438].

FREEMAN: Oath of fidelity, 1677, 1678 [EQC 6:400, 7:158].

EDUCATION: He signed as a witness to the 1673 will of Hugh Alley [EQC 5:367] and signed his own will. His inventory included "books" valued at £1.

OFFICES: Essex grand jury, 28 November 1671, 25 June 1672, 28 November 1682 (as "Ensign William Basset"), 25 November 1684 (as "William Bassett Sr."), 30 June 1685 (as "William Bassett Sr.") [EQC 4:429, 5:41, 8:440, 9:337, 457]. Petit jury, 24 June 1662, 29 November 1664, 24 November 1668, 28 June 1670, 30 November 1675 (as "Sgt. William Bassett"), 25 June 1678 (as "Sgt. William Bassett"), 28 November 1682 [EQC 2:385, 3:203, 4:66, 251, 6:73, 7:1, 8:394]. Coroner's jury, 4 December 1680 [EQC 8:60].

Lynn selectman, June 1673, June 1674, June 1675, September 1677, November 1678, June 1679, November 1679, June 1681 [EQC 5:198, 356, 6:51, 325, 7:124, 222, 319, 8:148]. Constable, June 1666 [EQC 3:335]. Committee to lay out a cartway (as "Sgt. William Bassett"), June 1678 [EQC 7:39].

Sergeant by 20 October 1675 [EQC 6:111]. Sergeant in Capt. Joseph Gardner's company on the expedition against Narragansett, December 1675 - February 1676 [Bodge 164-66]. Quartermaster by 29 June 1682 [EQC 8:365]. Ensign by 28 November 1682 [EQC 8:440]. "He was probably the Capt. William Bassett who was of a council of war with Maj. Benjamin Church at Scarborough, Me., Nov. 11, 1689" [Essex Ant 7:77, citing an unknown source].

ESTATE: On 1 June 1660, William Bassett of Lynn, husbandman, with the consent of Sarah his "now wife," sold to Andrew Mansfield, husbandman, three acres of meadow in Lynn [ELR 3:39].

In the 7 October 1661 will of his stepfather, Hugh Burt, "my son Will[iam] Bassitt" received 2 acres of salt marsh, 5 acres of upland, and "my wearing apparel" [EQC 2:239-30].

On 23 February 1664/5, William Bassett of Lynn, husbandman, and Sarah his wife sold to Allen Bread of Lynn, husbandman, two acres of salt marsh in Rumney Marsh [ELR 2:106-07]. On 29 October 1667, Edward Richards of Lynn, joiner, and Ann his wife sold to William Bassett of Lynn, husbandman, twelve acres [ELR 3:45]. On 20 February 1668[/9?], Richard Richardson of Lynn, wood cutter, sold to William Bassett of Lynn, husbandman, three acres in Lynn [ELR 3:51]. On 15 April 1675, Benjamin Chadwell of Lynn, husbandman, with the consent of Elizabeth his wife, sold to William Bassett of Lynn, husbandman, eight acres of salt marsh in Rumney Marsh [ELR 4:113]. On 28 June 1680, Thomas Wheeler

of Stonington, yeoman, sold to William Bassett, Sr. of Lynn, yeoman, nine acres of fresh marsh [ELR 5:81-82].

On 4 June 1685, the General Court answered a petition by William Bassett and others of Lynn, Reading, Beverly and Hingham, by granting a tract of land "in the Nipmug country, of eight miles square, for their encouragement & others that were serviceable to the country in the late Indian War" [MBCR 5:487; Bodge 406]. (No settlement was made on this grant, but in 1728 many of these petitioners were among those granted land at Narragansett Township No. 3, now Amherst, New Hampshire; William Bassett's grant was claimed by "William Bassett, grandson" [Bodge 422].)

On 10 July 1690, William and Sarah Bassett of Lynn sold to John Bancroft of Lynn two and a quarter acres of meadow in Lynn [ELR 9:59-60]. On 10 July 1690, William and Sarah Bassett of Lynn sold to Thomas Bancraft of Lynn three acres of meadow [ELR 9:172-73]. In a deed recorded 9 July 1691, William Bassett Sr. of Lynn, yeoman, and Sarah his wife sold to William Bassett Jr. of Lynn, "his son," ten acres of land in two parcels in Lynn [ELR 9:11].

In his will, dated 10 February 1701[2] and proved 22 May 1703, "William Basset" of Lynn, being "of good old age," bequeathed to "my dear and loving wife" the improvement of the whole estate during her natural life, all moveables to be to her absolute disposal; to "my eldest son William Bassett" all real estate in Lynn, he to pay legacies; to "my son John Bassett," £5; to "my son Elisha Bassett," 50s.; to "my son Samuell Bassett," 50s.; to "my daughter Elizebeth Bassett *alias* Richards," 40s.; to "my daughter Sarah Ellwell," 40s.; to "my daughter Merriam Sandy," 40s.; to "my daughter Mary Rich," 40s.; to "my daughter Rachel Silsbe," 40s.; to "my daughter Rebecca Bassett," 40s.; to "my daughter Hannah Lille," 40s.; "my son William Bassett" sole executor [EPR 308:58-60, Case #2048].

The inventory of the estate of "William Basset of Lyn," taken 23 April 1703, totalled £110 14s., of which £74 was real estate: "one old house, half a barn & seven acres & half of land," £67 10s.; and "one piece of salt marsh lying by the beach," £6 10s. [EPR Case #2048].

BIRTH: Baptized Dorking, Surrey, 30 May 1624, son of Roger and Ann (Holland) Bassett. (Roger Bassett and Ann Holland were married at Dorking on 27 April 1623.)

DEATH: Lynn 31 March 1703.

MARRIAGE: By about 1647 Sarah _____ (assuming she was the mother of all his children).

CHILDREN:

- i ELIZABETH, b. say 1647; m. (1) Salem 1 April 1674 John Procter; m. (2) (int.) Lynn 22 September 1699 Daniel Richards.
- ii SARAH, b. say 1649; m. Gloucester 23 November 1675 Thomas Elwell.
- iii WILLIAM, b. say 1651 (his father called Sr. in November 1672 [EQC 5:107]; eldest son [EPR Case #2048]); m. Lynn 25 October 1675 Sarah Hood.
- iv JOHN, b. Lynn [blank] November 1653; m. by about 1687 [Mary?] _____ (daughter Sarah m. in 1707 [TEG 18:33]). (The wife's forename is given as Mary in published sources, but evidence for this name has not been found.)
- v MIRIAM, b. Lynn [blank] September 1655; m. by 1681 Ephraim Sandin (eight children bp. at Marblehead 28 April 1695 to Ephraim and Miriam Sandin; estimated date of marriage obtained by assuming two-year intervals between births, and last of the eight children born in 1695).
- vi MARY, b. Lynn [blank] March 1657[/8?]; m. by about 1676 Michael Derich (or Derrick or Rich).
- vii HANNAH, b. Lynn 25 February 1659/60; probably d. by about 1670.
- viii ELISHA, b. say 1662; m. by 1689 Elizabeth _____ (eldest known child b. Lynn 15 December 1689).
- ix SAMUEL, b. Lynn 18 March 1663/4; named in the 1673 will of Ann Burt [EQC 5:204]; living 1701/2, unm.
- x RACHEL, b. Lynn 13 March [1666]; m. Salem 23 January 1693[/4] Ephraim Silsby.
- xi REBECCA, b. say 1668; living 10 February 1701/2 (named in father's will); no further record.
- xii HANNAH, b. say 1670; m. by 1691 John Lille (eldest known child b. Woburn 3 June 1691 [WoVR 1:151]).

ASSOCIATIONS: Hugh Burt made extensive provision for "my son Will: Bassitt" in his 1661 will [EQC 2:329]. In June 1673 William Bassett was appointed administrator of Ann Burt's estate [EQC 5:203]. William served as guardian of Sarah Burt [ELR 4:202]. These evidences, combined with William's position in the port book entry for the Burt family and the parish register entries from Dorking, Surrey, are more than sufficient evidence that William's mother remarried to HUGH BURT.

COMMENTS: On 17 June 1635, "W[illia]m Bassett," aged 9 years, was enrolled at London for passage to New England on the *Abigail*, as part of the group headed by Hugh Burt, aged 35, Ann Burt, aged 32, and Edward Burt, aged 8 [Hotten 93].

Aside from the dates of birth, sometimes imperfect, for six of the children, the sequence of birth of the children is based on the assumption that William Bassett in his will first named all his sons from eldest to youngest, and then all his daughters in the same manner. This is the principal reason for assuming that the daughter Hannah born early in 1660 died young, to be replaced by a second; this makes the second Hannah a more likely age if her marriage to John Lille really did take place as late as 1691.

Much of the civil and military service cited above occurred after William Bassett, son of the immigrant, was an adult. There is good reason, however, to believe that all of these offices were held by the immigrant. The first appearances as juror and selectman occur when the son was about twenty or perhaps even younger. The records of service are then continuous for about twenty years, with no indication that the younger man had moved into the positions held by the older man. By the 1680s, the officeholder was sometimes designated as "William Bassett Sr.," but never does an officeholder appear as "William Bassett Jr." The holding of military office shows a steady progression from Sergeant to Ensign, and apparently to Captain. The most telling evidence is that for payment by the county for use of a boat: on 29 June 1682, "Quartermaster Bassett's boat [was] hired 2 days" [EQC 8:365], and on 28 November 1682, "Will[iam] Bassett Sr." was paid "for his boat one day" [EQC 8:438]. This indicates that the immigrant was the military man. There is no evidence that William, the son of the immigrant, performed any public service while in his twenties and thirties.

William Bassett was named overseer in the will of Christopher Linsy of Lynn, 9 April 1669 [EQC 4:158]. On 25 June 1672, William Bassett and eleven other Lynn men petitioned against their neighbor John Hawthorne, for serving too much strong drink despite the "advice of his friends to the contrary" [EQC 5:61].

Two members of this family were accused in the 1692 witchcraft hysteria, but both survived. Sarah (Hood) Bassett, wife of William, son of the immigrant, was complained against on 21 May 1692, and Mary (Bassett) Derich, daughter of the immigrant, was accused on 23 May 1692 [Enders A. Robinson, *The Devil Discovered: Salem Witchcraft, 1692* (New York 1991), pp. 290-91; Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, eds., *The*

Salem Witchcraft Papers, 3 vols. (New York 1977), 77, 245, 269, 482-83, 486, 490, 655-56, 691-92, 1022].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1903 Sidney Perley published a very brief, undocumented genealogy of William Bassett and the first few generations of his descendants [Essex Ant 7:77]. In 1939 Nora E. Snow compiled an account of the immigrant and of his son William [Snow-Estes 2:57-60]. In 1998 Marcia Wiswall Lindberg prepared a more extensive study of William Bassett and his early descendants [TEG 18:28-39].

CLEMENT BATE

ORIGIN: Biddenden, Kent

MIGRATION: 1635 on the *Elizabeth*

FIRST RESIDENCE: Hingham

OCCUPATION: Tailor.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Hingham church prior to 3 March 1635/6 implied by freemanship.

FREEMAN: 3 March 1635/6 (third in a sequence of three Hingham men) [MBCR 1:371].

EDUCATION: Signed his deed.

OFFICES: Hingham selectman, 20 March 1642/3, 14 February 1647/8, 1 January 1649/50, 1 January 1651/2 [HiTR, 1642-1651, pp. 3, 12, 18, 27].

ESTATE: "The several parcels of land and meadow legally given unto Clement Bates by the town of Hingham": 3 July 1636, "for a houselot five acres"; 1635, "for a planting lot ten acres"; 4 June 1636, "for a great lot twenty acres," in two pieces, one of eighteen acres and one of two acres; 5 June 1635, three acres of meadow; 20 November 1637, "for a small planting lot two acres"; 5 March 1637[/8], "one acre and a quarter of fresh meadow," which Clement Bate relinquished to James Buck; [no date], one acre of salt marsh; 1647, "one acre of salt marsh at Conyehassett ... the 21 lot in the first division ... which acre of meadow was given in satisfaction for meadow given him at Nantascus"; 1647, "one acre and half of salt marsh at Conyehassett ... the 19th lot in the third division"; and 1647, "liberty to set a barn upon the common over against his house" [HiBOP 59].