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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.

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THOMAS BOREMAN

In the 25 March 1633 Plymouth tax list "Thomas Boreman" was assessed 9s. [[PCR](#) 1:11].

In the 15 November 1633 inventory of John Thorp of Plymouth, carpenter, "Tho[mas] Boreman" owed two pounds of beaver, valued at £1 [[MD](#) 1:159].

COMMENTS: In later years there was a Thomas Boreman of Barnstable and a Thomas Boardman of Sandwich and Yarmouth. Was either of these the Thomas Boreman of Plymouth in 1633? The more likely identification is with the Barnstable man [[Otis](#) 1:80-81; [Stratton](#) 247-48], but there are enough doubts and conflicting data to make this a far from certain conclusion.

Thomas Boreman appeared in the Barnstable section of the 1643 Plymouth Colony list of men able to bear arms [[PCR](#) 8:193], and a year or two later he married Hannah Annable, daughter of ANTHONY ANNABLE . From that point on he is consistently associated with Barnstable, and died there testate in 1663 [[MD](#) 18:63; [Otis](#) 1:80-81].

Thomas Boardman is first seen with certainty on 7 August 1638, when the Plymouth court accused him of "living incontinently with Luce, his now wife, and did beget her with child before they were married together"; the court proceedings call him of Sandwich, carpenter, and make it clear that the child born to him and Luce before marriage had been born in London and left behind when he came to New England [[PCR](#) 1:93, 94].

Thomas Boardman was granted three acres of meadow at Sandwich on 16 April 1640 [[PCR](#) 1:150].

"Thomas Bordman" appeared in the Sandwich section of the 1643 Plymouth Colony list of men able to bear arms [[PCR](#) 8:192], making him clearly distinct from Thomas Boreman of Barnstable. After living in Sandwich for a few years, Thomas Boardman moved to Yarmouth, where he died in August 1689 [[PCR](#) 12:142; [MD](#) 10:101-02]. (There are three additional records, from 1637 and 1639, which cannot be confidently allocated to either man [[PCR](#) 1:61, 110, 118].)

The most interesting record comes from the Plymouth court of 13 March 1634/5 where "Thomas Boreman" agreed to carry out the construction of the fort for £30. From the court records for 1638 we know that Thomas Boardman of Sandwich and later Yarmouth was a carpenter. Was Thomas Boreman of Barnstable also a carpenter? Otis claims that he was, but does not cite any document; perhaps he was confused on this point.

If Thomas Boreman of Barnstable was not a carpenter, then we have no certain record of him prior to 1643. Does this mean that Thomas Boardman of Sandwich was the man of the 1633 records? Further research in London records might clarify this point, since we are told that he had a child by Luce in London sometime before 1638 (but probably not long before).

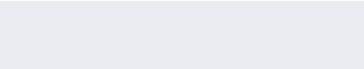
It should be noted further that although "Thomas Boreman" was in the 1633 tax list, he was not in the list of 27 March 1634, which may indicate that, whoever he was, he was not in Plymouth in early 1634. This could of course be a simple defect in the tax list, but until further evidence is uncovered, we make no determination here as to the later history of the Thomas Boreman who was in Plymouth in 1633.

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

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