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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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AQUILA **PURCHASE**

ORIGIN: Dorchester, Dorsetshire

MIGRATION: 1633

FIRST RESIDENCE: Dorchester

ESTATE: "Widow **Purchase**" granted four acres at Dorchester, 5 August 1633 [[DTR](#) 2]. "Widow **Purchase**" granted four acres of marsh, 17 April 1635 [[DTR](#) 11]. "Widow **Purchase**" granted sixteen acre Great Lot, 4 January 1635/6 [[DTR](#) 14].

"Whereas the Widow **Purchase** had 16 acres granted amongst the [blank] acre lots and at the laying out thereof was allowed 20 acres [the] overplus at the hither end is granted in proper to Oliver **Purchase**," 8 November 1637 [[DTR](#) 24].

"Widow **Purchase**" was granted two lots, each of one acre and a half and 28 rods, 18 March 1637/8 [[DTR](#) 31].

The inventory of THOMAS OLIVER , second husband of Anne (Squire) **Purchase**, included £30 in the hands of Oliver **Purchase** and £30 in the hands of Sampson Shore and "Gamaliel Phipeny" [[SPR](#) 3:107].

These would be Anne's son and two sons-in-law.

BIRTH: By about 1589 based on date of marriage.

DEATH: 1633, apparently at sea on way to New England.

MARRIAGE: Kingweston, Somersetshire, 28 January 1612/3 Anne Squire [[Henry Adams](#) 55 (and facsimile of marriage bond on facing page)]; she was baptized at Charlton Mackrell, Som~er~setshire, 30 November 1591, daughter of Henry Squire [[Henry Adams](#) 55]; she married (2) by 1642 (but perhaps earlier) THOMAS OLIVER of Boston.

CHILDREN (baptisms and burials at Holy Trinity, Dorchester):

i OLIVER, b. about 1614 (freeman on 7 December 1636 [[MBCR](#) 1:372]); m. (1) by about 1638 Sarah ____ (Oliver and Sarah **Purchase** were admitted to Dorchester church among a group of persons admitted by May 1638 [[DChR](#) 3]); m. (2) Lynn 17 September 1672 Mary Perkins, daughter of Rev. WILLIAM PERKINS .

ii JOHN, bur. 14 July 1621.

iii ABIGAIL, bur. 20 July 1622.

iv JOHN, bp. 3 February 1621/2; bur. 24 September 1627.

v ABIGAIL, bp. 4 July 1624; m. by 1643 Sampson Shore (eldest child b. Boston 12 June 1643 [[BVR](#) 15]).

vi SARAH, bp. 6 August 1626; m. by 1649 Gamaliel Phippen [[TAG](#) 17:10-14].

vii AQUILA, bp. 17 April 1631; no further record.

ASSOCIATIONS: Aquila **Purchase** was almost certainly brother of THOMAS **PURCHASE** , of Joan **Purchase** who married BERNARD CAPEN , and of the wife of George Way (see sketch of THOMAS **PURCHASE** for further details).

Through his wife, Aquila **Purchase** was brother-in-law of Henry Adams and John Shepherd, both of whom

married daughters of Henry Squire, and both of whom came to New England in 1639 [[Henry Adams](#) 55; [TAG](#) 68:145].

COMMENTS: J. Gardner Bartlett gives 28 January 1613/4 as the marriage date for Aquila **Purchase** and Anne Squire [[Henry Adams](#) 55], but the photograph of the marriage bond published by Bartlett is clearly dated 27 January 1612 in the tenth year of the reign of King James I, which is 27 January 1612/3. The marriage more likely took place a day later rather than a year and a day later.

On 26 February 1632/3 William Whiteway of Dorchester, Dorsetshire, reported that "This day Christofer Gould married with Rachell Beake, and shortly after, when Aquila Purchas, Bernard Gapen and others went for New England, he was by Mr. White chosen clerk of Trinity Parish, and by the town made schoolmaster of Trinity school" [[Whiteway](#) 129].

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

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