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The WINTHROP FLEET



Massachusetts Bay Company
Immigrants to New England
1629-1630

Robert Charles Anderson

**The
Winthrop Fleet**

**Massachusetts Bay Company
Immigrants to New England
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Great Migration Study Project
New England Historic Genealogical Society
Boston 2012

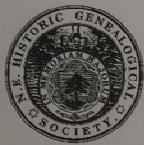


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THOMAS DUDLEY

ORIGIN: Sempringham, Lincolnshire.

MIGRATION: 1630 (based on admission to Boston church as a founding member in August 1630 [BChR 13]).

FIRST RESIDENCE: Boston.

REMOVES: Cambridge 1631, Ipswich by 1635, Roxbury by 1638 [WP 4:85-86; RChR 84].

OCCUPATION: Magistrate.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: "Thomas Dudley deputy governor" was admitted to Boston church as member #2, which would be at its founding in 1630 [BChR 13]. "Dorothy Dudley the wife of Thomas Dudley" was admitted to Boston church as member #12 in 1630 [BChR 13].

"Mr. Thomas Dudly" and "Mrs. Dorothy Dudly" were admitted to Roxbury Church in early 1639 [RChR 84].

FREEMAN: 25 May 1636 [MBCR 1:372]. (This was merely a formality, as he was already a freeman by virtue of his office of Assistant in England before 1630.)

EDUCATION: "[H]e was trained up in some Latin school 'by the care of Mrs. Purefoy'" and "became a clerk to his kinsman Judge Nicolls, under whose instruction he acquired much skill in the law" [NEHGR 10:133]. An annotated list of the books and pamphlets enumerated in his inventory was published in 1858 [NEHGR 12:355-56].

OFFICES: On 20 October 1629, "Mr. Tho[mas] Dudley" was elected an Assistant of the Massachusetts Bay Company in London [MBCR 1:60].

Governor of Massachusetts Bay, 14 May 1634, 13 May 1640, 14 May 1645, 22 May 1650 [MBCR 1:117, 288, 2:97, 3:9, 182, 4:1:1]. Deputy governor, 23 March 1629/30, 18 May 1631, 9 May 1632, 29 May 1633, 17 May 1637, 2 May 1638, 22 May 1639, 6 May 1646, 26 May 1647, 10 May 1648, 2 May 1649, 7 May 1651, 27 May 1652 [MBCR 1:70, 87, 95, 104-5, 195, 227, 256, 2:146, 187, 238, 265, 3:61, 104, 121, 146, 220, 258, 4:1:36, 76]. Assistant, 6 May 1635, 25 May 1636, 2 June 1641, 18 May 1642, 10 May 1643, 29 May 1644, 18 May 1653 [MBCR 1:145, 174, 319, 2:1, 33, 66, 3:2].

Commissioner for Massachusetts Bay to the United Colonies of New England, 10 May 1643, 26 May 1647, 2 May 1649 [MBCR 2:35, 38, 187, 265, 3:104, 146; PCR 9:8, 9, 84, 139]. Reserve commissioner for Massachusetts Bay to the United Colonies of New England, 6 May 1646, 10 May 1648 [MBCR 2:146, 239, 3:62, 121]. Committee to "peruse the

articles of our confederation with the United Colonies," 10 May 1648 [MBCR 2:245; PCR 9:118-20].

Massachusetts Bay Sergeant Major General, 29 May 1644 [MBCR 2:66, 76-78, 3:2]. His inventory included "3 muskets & 2 pair of bandoliers & 3 swords & two belts, 1 old corslet," valued at £3 17s. and "1 birding piece & some small things" valued at 10s. [SPR 2:132].

ESTATE: On 5 June 1632, "it was further ordered, that there shall be 200 acres of land set out by marks & bounds, on the west side of Charles River, over against the New Town [Cambridge], to enjoy to Thomas Dudley, Esq., Deputy Governor, to him and his heirs forever" [MBCR 1:96]. On 1 April 1634, "there is ... five hundred acres of land granted to Thomas Dudley, Esq., Deputy Governor ... above the falls [on the] easterly side of Charles River" [MBCR 1:114].

Granted one rood of land at Cambridge, 2 December 1633 [CaTR 6]. In the 8 February 1635/6 list of those with houses in Cambridge, "Tho[mas] Dudly Esqr." was credited with six [CaTR 18].

In the Cambridge land inventory on 1 May 1635, the land holdings of "Thomas Dudly Esquire" included "one dwelling house with other outhouses in the new town with gardens and backsides containing one half acre of ground"; threescore and three acres in the neck; and one hundred acres common marsh [CaBOP 2].

The town of Ipswich granted to "Thomas Dudley Esq. in October 1635 one parcel of ground containing about nine acres ..., upon parcel of which nine acres, Mr. Dudley hath built an house, also there was granted to him twenty-five acres late Goodman Mussey's ..., also a ten-acre lot in the Reedy Marsh, also one hundred acres of meadow and one hundred acres of upland, at the far meadow ..., all which premises aforesaid, with the house built thereon and the paling set up thereupon, the said Tho[mas] Dudley Esq. hath sold to Mr. Hubbard" [ITR].

On 2 November 1637, "the Deputy, Mr. Dudley, hath a thousand acres of land granted him, where it may not prejudice any plantation granted, nor any plantation to be granted, without limiting to time of improvement" [MBCR 1:206]. On 2 May 1638, the court ordered that this grant of land should be laid out "about 6 miles from Concord northward" [MBCR 1:229].

On 7 March 1643/4, the General Court accepted and recorded Dudley's redemption of a mortgage of his half of the mill at Watertown from Matthew Cradock [MBCR 2:60].

On 4 November 1646, the court ordered that Thomas Dudley be paid £60 for his duties as Deputy Governor, "we doubt not of his loving acceptance of so slender an acknowledgment" [MBCR 2:165-66, 3:84].

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On 22 May 1651, he was to be paid one hundred marks "as a slender manifestation of our due respects unto him" as governor [MBCR 3:226-27, 4:1:46].

On 4 November 1646, "whereas the court hath formerly granted to the worshipful Thom[as] Dudley, Deputy Governor, 274 acres of land ... between the bounds of Dedham and Watertown," along with similar grants to several other men, arrangements were made for laying out the land [MBCR 2:184].

On 14 October 1651, "whereas by two former grants of this court, our present honored Deputy Governor Thomas Dudley, Esq., had granted unto him fifteen hundred acres of land, about four miles from Concord ... but it is not expressed how far the said 1500 acres should go along by the river's side ... , this court, in answer to his request, doth order, that the said 1500 acres so granted to him shall be laid out two miles & a half along by the river's side, & so that he may make up the said 1500 acres from the river's side to the landward" [MBCR 3:246-47, 290, 4:1:76, 117].

In his will, dated 26 April 1652 (with codicils of 13 April 1653, 28 May 1653 and 8 July 1653) and proved 15 August 1653, "Tho[mas] Dudley of Roxbury" requested that "my body ... be buried near my first wife, if my present wife be living at my death," and, attempting to divide the estate "as justly and equally as I can contrive it, between the posterity of my children by my first wife, and my children by my last wife, accounting Thomas Dudley & John Dudley my grandchildren (whom I have brought up) in some sort as my immediate children," bequeathed as follows: "what I covenanted at my marriage with my present wife, to give to her, & such children as I should have by her, be made good unto them, with this addition & explanation, that all my lands in Roxbury ... together with all my goods, debts, plate, household stuff & books, ... my son Joseph Dudley should have a double portion, and Paule Dudley and Deborah Dudley each of them a single portion, the land being to go to Joseph according to my aforementioned covenant, & the goods and debts to Paule and Deborah"; "my present wife and my three children are to have all my lands, goods & debts (except what I now hereafter bequeath & give to others), I therefore hereby give & bequeath unto the children of my son Samuell Dudley (other than Thomas Dudley & John Dudley before named) the inheritance of a sixth part of my mill at Watertowne, and of the house & fifteen acres of land ... in Watertown aforesaid, together with a sixth part of the debt which Thomas Mahewe his heirs, executors & administrators do owe me for not performing their bargains with me for which the said mill was part of my assurance, to be equally

divided between them"; to "the children of my daughter Bradstreete" another sixth of the mill; to "the children of my daughter Denison" another sixth of the mill; to "the children of my daughter Woodbridge" another sixth of the mill; to "the aforesaid Thomas Dudley" another sixth of the mill; to "the aforesaid John Dudley" the other sixth of the mill; if "my son Samuel Dudley or any of my three daughters, Bradstreete, Denison, or Woodbridge," have any more children, they shall have equal shares with the rest; to "my daughter Sarah Pacy" 20s. from each heir yearly; to the deacons of the church at Roxbury 5 marks for the poor; "I hereby make executors my worthy & beloved friends John Elliott, teacher of the church of Roxbury, Samuell Danford, pastor of the said church, John Johnson, surveyor general of the arms, and Will[ia]m Parkes, deacon of the said church," they to receive £5 apiece.

Codicil dated 13 April 1653: to "grandchild Thomas Dudley" £10 a year for two years "besides what I shall owe the college for him at my death"; to "grandchild John Dudley" £15 a year for three years; to "my wife" the time & interest I have in John Ranken, also my rent & profits of the mill at Watertown from my death until the 20th of October next following, on condition she give "my daughter Sarah Pacy her diet & lodging etc." at a rate of £6 a year until her share is reached; "whereas my son Samuel Dudley hath lately been importunate with me to maintain his son Thomas Dudley at the college at Cambridge until the month of August ... 1654, at which time (if he live) he is to take his second degree, I have consented thereto, but so that the care of the education of my younger children doth compel me to retreat & revoke from my said son Samuel & his other children and their heirs the 6th part of my mill and lands at Watertown ... and do revoke and call back also twenty pounds I gave to the said Thomas Dudley his son and forty and five pounds I gave to John Dudley, another of the sons of my said son Samuel Dudley, which I hereby do, making those bequests in my will to which this schedule is annexed utterly void, yet because it is not equal that John Dudley aforesaid (who hath been serviceable to me) should lose anything by my beneficence to his brother, I do hereby give & bequeath unto him the said John Dudley and his heirs all the sixth part of my mill & land at Watertowne ... which I have formerly given and bequeathed to his father & his heirs or his younger brothers & sisters so that I have hereby settled a third part of the said mill upon him the said John Dudley and a sixth part upon the said Thomas Dudley." Codicil dated 28 May 1653: "my daughter Sarah Pacy" to receive 40s. a year from one sixth part of the mill and household goods. Codicil dated 8 July 1653: "The charge of my long sickness" having so depleted the estate, in order to protect the

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education of my youngest children, "I recall & detract from my said other children a sixth part out of every share which by my will I had formerly given unto them, and do hereby give & bequeath every of the said sixth parts unto my said three youngest children." "My three younger children shall be rateably charged for what is here given them to my daughter Sarah Pacy as the others are." "Mr. John Johnson" proved the will, saying it was "found in the chest of the said Thomas Dudley, presently after his deceased, under lock & key" [SPR 1:76-81; NEHGR 5:297].

The inventory of the estate of "Thomas Dudley Esquire," taken 8 August 1653, totalled £1560 10s. 1d., of which £696 8s. 6d. was real estate: "a neck of land in Roxbery now in the occupation of W[illia]m Hely," £200; "a dwelling house & a barn & the outhouses & two orchards & the homelot in Roxbery," £150; "a mill at Watertowne & 1 house & 15 acres of land & a debt of Thomas Mayhewe's," £340; and "128½ acres of woodland lying in the common," £6 8s. 6d. [SPR 2:131-33].

On 10 September 1653, "to a question propounded by the executors of the last will & testament of Thomas Dudley, late [of] Roxbury, Esq., whether his estate should be liable to the country levy now to be gathered, the court resolves in the negative" [MBCR 3:329, 4:1:174]. At the same court, "in answer to the request of Mr. Bradstreet, Major General Denison, & the executors, in the behalf of others of Mr. Dudley's children & grandchildren, power is hereby given & granted to the parents & guardians of the said children, to let, sell or dispose of Watertowne mill for the use of the heirs, & with their consent" [MBCR 3:330, 4:1:178]. On 22 May 1661, "in answer to the motion & request of W[illia]m Parkes, one of the executors of the last will & testament of the late worthy Thomas Dudly, Esq., the court judgeth it meet to refer the case mentioned in his request, which is on file, to the determination of the County Court of Suffolke" [MBCR 4:2:9].

BIRTH: Yardley Hastings, Northamptonshire, 12 October 1576, son of Roger and Susanna (Thorne) Dudley [NEHGR 65:189, 139:60].
DEATH: Roxbury 31 July 1653 "& was buried on the 6th day following" [RChR 175]. (On 10 September 1653, the general court ordered the payment for the barrel of powder spent "at the interring of Thomas Dudley, Esqr." [MBCR 3:329, 4:1:180].)
MARRIAGE: (1) Hardingstone, Northamptonshire, 25 April 1603 Dorothy Yorke [NEHGR 56:206]. She died at Roxbury on 27 December

1643 "of the wind colic, a godly Christian woman & left a religious savor behind her" [RChR 171].

(2) Roxbury 4 April 1644 Katherine (Deighton) Hagborne, baptized St. Nicholas, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, 16 January 1614 [TAG 9:221], widow of Samuel Hagburne. She married (3) Dedham 8 November 1653 Rev. John Allin of Dedham [TAG 9:221; DeVR 127].

CHILDREN:

With first wife

- i (possibly) THOMAS DUDLEY, b. say 1605; matriculated at Cambridge from Emmanuel College, Easter 1624, A.B. January 1626/7, M.A. April 1630; sailed to New England with his father [NEHGR 75:236]; no further record.
- ii SAMUEL DUDLEY, bp. All Saints, Northampton, Northamptonshire, 30 November 1608; matriculated at Cambridge from Emmanuel College, Easter 1626, but did not take a degree [Venn 2:72; Morison 376]; m. (1) by 1632 Mary Winthrop, daughter of JOHN WINTHROP {1630, Boston}; m. (2) say 1644 Mary Byley, sister of Henry Byley (their son named Byley); m. (3) say 1654 Elizabeth _____, who survived him and was named in his will [WP 6:444].
- iii ANNE DUDLEY, b. say 1610; m. before 1630 SIMON BRADSTREET {1630, Boston}. Anne (Dudley) Bradstreet was the renowned poetess. Two modern studies of Anne Bradstreet and her poetry are Elizabeth Wade White, *Anne Bradstreet: The Tenth Muse* (New York 1971), and Ann Stanford, *Anne Bradstreet: The Worldly Poet* (New York 1974).
- iv PATIENCE DUDLEY, b. say 1612; m. Cambridge 18 October 1632 Daniel Denison, son of WILLIAM DENISON {1631, Roxbury} [GMB 521-24]. Daniel Denison, son of this couple, wrote "On the 18th day of October ... I married your grandmother, who was the second daughter of Mr. Tho[mas] Dudley" [NEHGR 46:128].
- v SARAH DUDLEY, bp. Sempringham, Lincolnshire, 23 July 1620; m. (1) by 9 June 1639 Benjamin Keayne ("Benjamin Keayne merchant and Sarah his wife" admitted to Boston church on that date [BChR 25]), son of ROBERT KEAYNE {1635, Boston} [GM 2:4:127-33]; divorced by 1647; m. (2) by 26 April 1652 Thomas Pacy (called "Sarah Pacy" in her father's will).

- vi MERCY DUDLEY, b. 27 September 1621 [NEHGR 10:130, original source not stated]; m. by 1640 Rev. John Woodbridge (eldest known child b. Newbury 7 June 1640; called "daughter Woodbridge" in her father's will) [Morison 409-10].
- With second wife
- vii DEBORAH DUDLEY, b. Roxbury 27 February 1644/5, bp. there 2 March 1644/5 [RChR 116]; m. by 1665 Jonathan Wade, son of JONATHAN WADE {1632, Charlestown} [GMB 1883-88] (called daughter Wade in her mother's will).
- viii JOSEPH DUDLEY, b. Roxbury 23 September 1647, bp. there 26 September 1647 [RChR 117]; m. by 1670 Rebecca Tyng, daughter of Edward Tyng (eldest child bp. Roxbury 27 March 1670 [RChR 129]; Edward Tyng's will of 25 August 1677 names son-in-law Joseph Dudley).
- ix PAUL DUDLEY, bp. Roxbury 8 September 1650 [RChR 119]; m. by 1676 Mary Leverett, daughter of JOHN LEVERETT.

COMMENTS: Many attempts have been made to place Roger Dudley, father of the immigrant, into the large and prominent Dudley family of northern England, but without success.

In his autobiographical sketch, written for his grandchildren, Daniel Denison, son of WILLIAM DENISON and son-in-law of Thomas Dudley, had the following to say of his in-laws:

Mr. Thomas Dudley ... was a principal undertaker of this Plantation of the Massachusetts and one of those first comers in the year 1630 that brought over the Patent, and settled the government here. He came over Deputy Governor, and was afterwards diverse times Governor. He then lived at Cambridge, removed to Ipswich, where he stayed but one year, being recalled again to live in the Bay, which then could not but want his help. He settled himself at Roxbury, where he lived until he departed this life about the 30th day of July in the year 1653, having buried your great grandmother about ten years before, about the latter end of December 1643.

She was a fine virtuous woman who loved your father [John Denison] in his childhood, and [he] was born in her house. She had by her husband one son, your great uncle Samuel Dudley, who liveth at Exeter, and by three wives hath had many children, cousin germans [first cousins] to your father.

And beside your grandmother Denison she had three daughters (viz) your Aunt Bradstret who died in September 1672 who left 4 sons and 3 daughters living, beside her daughter Cotton who died before her and left many children, then your Aunt Woodbridg now living at Newbury who hath five sons and five daughters living, your father's cousin germans, as also were your aunt Bradstreet's children. The last was your Aunt Sarah married to Mr. Keane both dead long since, and left one only daughter Hannah, married to Mr. Paige, and is now living at Boston.

Your Great Grandmother being dead, your sweet [great] Grandfather Dudley married a second wife, and by her had a daughter married to Mr. Jonathan Wade, who liveth at Mistick, and two sons Joseph Dudley who now liveth at Roxbury, in his father's house, and Paul Dudley, a merchant who is upon a voyage to Ireland. These were your father's uncles by their father's side [NEHGR 46:128-29].

In his letter of 28 March 1631 to "Lady Bridget, Countess of Lincoln," Dudley "having yet no table, nor other room to write in than by the fireside upon my knee, in this sharp winter" serves as authority for many events of that month and the preceding winter. Not without humor, he told the story of the Watertown man who, having lost a calf, sought to ward away wolves by shooting his musket, and so roused his neighbors, whose shooting roused Roxbury, whose inhabitants took alarm and "beat up their drum" and raised Boston. "So in the morning, the calf being found safe, the wolves affrighted, and our danger past, we went merrily to breakfast" [Dudley 82-83].

On 21 July 1634, Winthrop complained that "our new Governor (my brother Dudly) dwelling out of the way, I am still as full of company and business as before" [WP 3:171]. This may be the year of Dudley's removal to Ipswich. Dudley and Winthrop had failed to agree on Cambridge as the site for the Massachusetts Bay government, with Dudley and Bradstreet the only leaders who actually built their residences and lived there, despite an agreement that all would do so.

The extended efforts to provide for grandsons Thomas and John Dudley in his will and codicils were for naught. Both died young and unmarried.

Some considerable pain entered Gov. Dudley's last years as the misbehavior of his daughter Sarah and her husband Benjamin Keayne necessitated one of the colony's earliest divorces. In a letter from London 27 March 1636, Stephen Winthrop says, "My she Cosin Keane is grown

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a great preacher" [WP 5:70]. In a letter dated London 18 March 1646/7, Benjamin Keayne writes to Thomas Dudley:

Honored Sir, That you and myself are made sorry by your daughter's enormous and continued crimes, is the greatest cause of grief that ever befell me, and the more because her obstinate continuance in them is now to me by her own letter made as certain ... I never gave her the least just cause or occasion to provoke her to them ... she has not left me any room or way of reconciliation. And therefore as you desire, I do plainly declare my resolution never again to live with her as a husband. What maintenance yourself expects I know not. This I know (to my cost and danger) she has unwived herself and how she or you can expect a wife's maintenance is to me a wonder [WP 5:144].

Ezekiel Rogers passed some of the gossip on to John Winthrop in a letter dated at Rowley on 8 November 1647:

I thought myself bound to acquaint you that there is not a little discourse raised, and by some, offence taken, at the late divorce granted by the Court. How weighty a business that is, as I need not tell you, so I would humbly desire that some course may be taken so as to clear the court's proceeding, as that rumors might be stopped, and letters of mistake into England prevented [WP 5:189].

The news from England in the words of Brampton Gurdon Sr. put another light on things, as he wrote from Assington 6 June 1649 to John Winthrop:

Here goes some speech of a N.E. couple that lately came from thence the husband first, and then the wife followed after with what goods she could get together but we hear all her goods miscarried and she escaped only with her life. The man was Cane's son a cloak seller in Birching Lane, whose mother was Mr. Willson's sister. The woman is returned to N.E. and resolves there to take another husband. I hope your laws will not tolerate such wicked actions [WP 5:351].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: Between 1985 and 2002 F. N. Craig published six articles about various strands of the maternal ancestry of Thomas Dudley [NEHGR 139:283-87, 140:219-29, 142: 227-44; TAG 62:43-46, 71: 200-5, 77:57-65]. In 2005 Brandon Fradd published four generations of the Thorne family ancestral to Thomas Dudley's mother [TG 19:112-28].