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ANTHONY EAMES

ORIGIN: Fordington, Dorsetshire

MIGRATION: 1634 on the *Recovery*

FIRST RESIDENCE: Charlestown

REMOVES: Hingham 1636, Marshfield 1652

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: On 13 September 1635, "Margery Eames" was admitted to Charlestown church [ChChR 8].

His admission to Hingham church prior to 9 March 1636/7 implied by freemanship. As a consequence of the Hingham militia controversy in 1645, Anthony Eames "and some twelve more of them," responding to Rev. Peter Hobart's desire to excommunicate them, "withdrew from the church, and openly declared it in the congregation" [WJ 2:288].

FREEMAN: 9 March 1636/7 (second in a sequence of five Hingham men) [MBCR 1:372].

Propounded for Plymouth Colony freemanship (as "Mr. Anthony Aimes"), 3 June 1652 [PCR 3:8]; admitted (as "Mr. Anthony Eames"), 7 June 1653 [PCR 3:30]; and included in Marshfield section of 1658 and 29 May 1670 Plymouth Colony lists of freemen (as "Mr. Anthoney Eames") [PCR 5:277, 8:201].

EDUCATION: The range of offices to which he was appointed indicates a level of education above the norm. He signed his name to his 1670 deed [PCLR 5:416].

OFFICES: Deputy for Hingham to Massachusetts Bay General Court, 18 April 1637, 17 May 1637, 26 September 1637, 12 March 1637/8, 6 September 1638, 13 March 1638/9, 7 March 1643/4 [MBCR 1:192, 194, 204, 220, 235, 250, 2:55].

On 20 November 1637, "Sergeant Anthony Eames" was one of three men "appointed to measure three miles southward from the southernmost part of the bay, & to run the line east unto the sea" [MBCR 1:211]. On 28 May 1659, "in answer to the petition of Anthony Eames,

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who affirming that himself, with Mr. Busby & Rob[er]t Martin, were not only appointed to run the line between this patent & Plimouth patent, which was performed by them, but was promised satisfaction for their time & charge, which he never received, & therefore humbly desireth that he may have due satisfaction for his time & pains, or that his son-in-law, Michael Pearse, may be freed of a fine which was laid upon him by the County court in June last, the Court judgeth it meet to order the country treasurer to examine the accounts of the petitioner in reference to the premises, & that payment be made of what shall be found to be his just due out of the country treasury" [MBCR 4:1:380-81].

On 12 March 1637/8, Anthony Eames was the Hingham member of a colony committee to assess the towns for the expenses of the Pequot War [MBCR 1:225].

Commissioner to end small causes for Hingham, 6 September 1638, 22 May 1639, 2 June 1641, 6 May 1646 [MBCR 1:239, 259, 329, 2:157, 3:74].

Deputy for Marshfield to Plymouth General Court, 7 June 1653, 7 March 1653/4, 6 June 1654, 1 August 1654, 8 June 1655, 3 June 1656, 3 June 1657, 1 June 1658, 4 June 1661 [PCR 3:32, 44, 49, 63, 80, 99, 115, 135, 214]. Committee "to see that the three score acres of meadow at Conahassett belonging to the town of Hingham be laid out according to the act of the commissioners concerning the same," 4 August 1654 [PCR 3:63]. Committee to divide land of Arthur Howland and Thomas Chillingsworth, 3 June 1656 [PCR 3:102]. Committee to "take into serious consideration what way to take for the accommodation of our honored governor and magistrates in making provision for them as occasion doth require," 3 June 1657 [PCR 3:120].

Sergeant by 20 November 1637 [MBCR 1:211]. Chosen Lieutenant of Hingham train band about 1638, and continued in that office until 1645, when he was chosen Captain [WJ 2:271]. (The decision of the town to make him captain in 1645 was soon reversed, and the ensuing controversy escalated into a major constitutional crisis for the entire colony, for further discussion of which see *COMMENTS* below.)

Plymouth Council of War, 3 June 1657 [PCR 3:117].

ESTATE: Granted a planting lot of eight acres "at Newtowne line on the north side of the highway" in Charlestown, 10 January 1634/5 [ChTr 12]. In 1635 "Antho[ny] Eames" held five cow commons, which was then increased to six cow commons [ChTR 19, 20].

"The several parcels of land and meadow legally given unto Anthonye Eames by the town of Hingham": "for a house lot eight acres of land," 1636; "for a planting lot six acres of land lying in the Plain Neck," 1636;

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"four acres of salt marsh lying in Layford's Liking Meadow," 1636; "six acres of planting land lying in the Plain Neck by the fresh river," 1636; "for a great lot twenty-five acres of land," 1636; "three acres of fresh meadow joining unto his house lot," 1637; "two acres of fresh meadow lying in Brookes Meadow," 1637; and "three acres and a quarter of salt marsh at Conyehassett, it's the second lot in the third division," 1647 [HiBOP 92-93].

On 10 December 1651, Francis Godfrey of Marshfield, carpenter, sold to "Anthony Eames and Mark Eames the son of the said Anthony both of them of Hingham ... a certain parcel of land containing one hundred acres be it more or less together with one dwelling house upon it with all the appurtenances belonging thereunto lying upon the North River in the Colony of New Plymouth ... with all the meadow ground belonging thereunto" [PCR 12:206-7].

On 14 May 1670, "Anthony Eames Senior of Marshfield" deeded to "my son Justus Eames my house and land the which I bought of Francis Godfrey"; acknowledged by the grantor on 28 June 1670 [PCLR 5:416].

BIRTH: About 1592 (on 12 April 1632, "Anthony Emes of Fordington, Dorset, yeoman, where he had lived from infancy, born there, aged 40 or thereabouts," deposed in a Fordington tithe case [M&J]CH 27:23, citing "Wiltshire Record Office, Dean of Sarum, Deposition Book, ref. D5/22/11"), apparently son of Thomas and Millicent (____) Eames [Spragues of Malden 34-37].

DEATH: After 28 June 1670 [PCLR 5:416].

MARRIAGE: By about 1615 Margery ____.

CHILDREN:

- i MILLICENT, b. say 1615; m. by 1635 WILLIAM SPRAGUE {1629, Charlestown} [GMB 3:1735-39] (see *COMMENTS* below).
- ii MARK, b. say 1617; m. Hingham 26 May 1648 Elizabeth ____ (Hobart says "Mark Eames married" [NEHGR 121:21]).
- iii JOHN, bp. Fordington 24 January 1618[/19]; d. Hingham 29 November 1641 [NEHGR 121:14].
- iv PERSIS, bp. Fordington 28 October 1621; m. by 1645 Michael Pierce (daughter Persis bp. Hingham January 1645/6 [NEHGR 121:18]; in his will of 15 January 1675[/6], Michael Pierce appointed "my brother Mark Eames and my brother Charles Stockbridge" as overseers [PCPR 3:2:8]). (On the basis of this extract from the will of

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Michael Pierce, it has been suggested that Charles Stockbridge also married a daughter of Anthony Eames [NEHGR 133:187], but this is only one of several possibilities.)

- v ELIZABETH, bp. Fordington 13 June 1624; m. by about 1651 Edward Wilder (eldest known child b. about 1651 [Hingham Hist 312]).
- vi JUSTUS, bp. Fordington 29 April 1627; m. Marshfield 2 May 1661 Mehitable Chillingsworth [MD 2:110]. On 4 June 1661, "Mr. Anthony Eames acknowledged before the Court that his son, Justice Eames, hath received the sum of thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence of Thomas Doged, of Marshfield, in full of his wife's portion" [PCR 3:217].
- vii MARGERIE, bp. Fordington 5 December 1630; m. Hingham 20 October 1653 John Jacob [HiVR 3], son of NICHOLAS JACOB {1633, Watertown} [GMB 2:1070].

ASSOCIATIONS: Richard Eames, probably brother of Anthony Eames, married at Fordington St George on 5 June 1615 Alice Sprague, sister of RALPH SPRAGUE {1629, Charlestown}, RICHARD SPRAGUE {1629, Charlestown} and WILLIAM SPRAGUE {1629, Charlestown} [Spragues of Malden 34-37; GMB 3:1728-39].

COMMENTS: On 31 March 1634, "Antony Eames" appears on the passenger list of the *Recovery*, preparing to sail for New England from Weymouth, Dorsetshire [NGSQ 71:171, 77:249-55].

"Antho[ny] Eames" was admitted as an inhabitant of Charlestown in 1634 [ChTR 11], and was included in the January 1634/5 list of Charlestown inhabitants [ChTR 15]. On 10 February 1634/5, he signed the town order creating the office of selectman [ChTR 13].

On 14 May 1645, John Winthrop, at that time Deputy Governor, reported that the "town of Hingham, having one Emes their lieutenant seven or eight years, had lately chosen him to be their captain, and had presented him to the standing council for allowance; but before it was accomplished, the greater part of the town took some light occasion of offense against him, and chose one Allen to be their captain, and presented him to the magistrates" [W] 2:271]. The Hingham majority accomplished their immediate goal of excluding Eames from the captaincy, but in the process they precipitated a two-months-long constitutional controversy in Massachusetts Bay Colony, setting the

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magistrates (the upper house of the General Court) against the deputies (the lower house), and eventually attacking Winthrop directly and attempting unsuccessfully to impeach him [MBCR 2:113, 3:17-26; WJ 2:271-86, 288]. (Robert Emmet Wall Jr., in the course of his examination of Massachusetts Bay power struggles in the 1640s, has produced the most detailed modern account of this controversy [Chapter Three, "The Hingham Militia Case," in *Massachusetts Bay: The Crucial Decade, 1640-1650* (New Haven 1972), pp. 93-120].)

After suffering the indignity of being removed as leader of the Hingham train band in 1645, Anthony Eames continued to reside in Hingham for nearly seven years more, being appointed commissioner to end small causes in 1646, but apparently serving in no other public office during that period.

In late 1651 Eames and his son Mark purchased land in Marshfield, and had moved there by the middle of 1652. The town of Marshfield clearly judged that Eames was still a valuable civil servant, and appointed him to many offices from 1653 to 1661. In the latter year, when he was in his late sixties, his appointment to offices ceased abruptly, although he lived for many years more.

On 3 March 1662/3, a colony committee was ordered to "repair unto the house of Mr. Anthony Eames, at the North River, and there to give meeting unto Major Winslow" [PCR 4:30]. On 1 August 1665, "Mr. Eames Senior" was one of several witnesses in a controversy over a horse [PCR 4:103]. On 29 May 1670, "Mr. Anthony Eames" was included in the Marshfield section of the Plymouth Colony list of freemen [PCR 5:277]. These three slight references to Anthony Eames over a period of ten years are all of a passive nature, and it may be that in 1661 he had become debilitated in some way, so that he could not continue to serve as he had in the past.

There is apparently no document which states explicitly the parentage of Millicent, wife of William Sprague, but the identity is supported by much indirect evidence. Alice Sprague, sister of the three immigrant Sprague brothers, had married at Fordington St George a Richard Eames; several children of Anthony Eames (not including Millicent) were baptized at Fordington St George; Anthony Eames was apparently son of Thomas and Millicent (____) Eames [Spragues of Malden 34-37]. The marriage of William Sprague and Millicent apparently took place in late 1634 or early 1635, not long after Anthony Eames arrived in New England and settled at Charlestown, and Anthony Eames and William Sprague moved from Charlestown to Hingham at about the same time. William

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and Millicent named their eldest son Anthony. Inasmuch as the marriage of Anthony Eames and the baptism of his presumed eldest child Millicent do not appear in the Fordington St George records, it may be that these events occurred in the home parish of Anthony's wife [GMB 3:1738].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1933 McCormick and McCormick published a brief account of this immigrant and his family [McCormick-Hamilton 421-23].

ROBERT EARLY

On 24 March 1633/4, "Robert Early" was one of six men "intended" for passage on the *Mary & John* of London, preparing to depart from Portsmouth, but now supposed "to pass in the *Hercules*" [Drake's Founders 71].

COMMENTS: No record of this supposed passenger has been found in New England. Examination of this group of six men suggests that none of them sailed on the *Hercules* in 1634 (see sketch of THOMAS FOSTER).

JOSEPH EASTON

ORIGIN: Unknown

MIGRATION: 1634

FIRST RESIDENCE: Cambridge

REMOVES: Hartford 1639

OCCUPATION: Husbandman.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Cambridge church prior to 4 March 1634/5 implied by freemanship.

FREEMAN: 4 March 1634/5 [MBCR 1:370]. In the October 1669 list of Connecticut freemen "on the south side Hartford" [CCCR 2:519].

EDUCATION: He bequeathed to his son "my great Bible and a Divinity Book of Mr. Thomas Goodwin's works" [Hartford PD Case #1806]. His inventory included "1 great Bible & 1 book of Doctor Goodwin's" valued at 10s.

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