



Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635, Volume II, C-F Page(s) :33 Volume : Vol. II, C-F

*William Chadbourne*

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### WILLIAM CHADBOURNE

**ORIGIN:** Tamworth, Staffordshire

**MIGRATION:** 1634 on the *Pied Cow*

**FIRST RESIDENCE:** Kittery

**OCCUPATION:** Carpenter.

**EDUCATION:** Made his mark, "WC," on petitions.

**BIRTH:** Baptized Tamworth, Staffordshire, 30 March 1582, son of Robert and Margaret (Dooley) Chadbourne [NHGR 10:102].

**DEATH:** After 20 December 1652 (when he made his mark to a petition [Doc Hist ME 4:43-45]).

**MARRIAGE:** Tamworth, Staffordshire, 8 October 1609 Elizabeth Sparry [NHGR 10:102]. She is not seen in New England records.

**CHILDREN** (all baptized Tamworth [NHGR 10:102]):

- i WILLIAM, bp. 30 September 1610; bur. Tamworth 18 April 1616 [NHGR 10:104].
- ii PATIENCE, bp. 8 November 1612; m. by about 1630 THOMAS SPENCER.
- iii HUMPHREY, bp. 23 April 1615; m. Lucy Treworgye, daughter of James and Katherine (Shapleigh) Treworgye of Kittery. She m. (2) Thomas Wills and (3) Elias Stileman, son of ELIAS STILEMAN [GMB 3:1761]. (In her undated will of about 1676, Katherine (Shapleigh) (Treworgye) Hilton made "Mrs. Lucy Wells" one of her residuary legatees [GMB 2:948-49, citing NHPP 31:172-73]; when Lucy made her will on 8 January 1699/1700, she signed as "Lucy Stileman *alias* Wells *alias* Chadborn," and made explicit references to her two earlier husbands [NHPP 31:452-53].)
- iv SUSANNAH, bp. 22 February 1617/8; bur. Tamworth 26 April 1618 [NHGR 10:104].
- v WILLIAM, bp. 15 October 1620; m. by 1644 Mary \_\_\_\_ (only known child born Boston "10th mo 1644" [BVR 9:18]).
- vi ROBERT, bp. 1 June 1623; bur. Tamworth 19 January 1626/7 [NHGR 10:104].

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**COMMENTS:** Savage was confused by the relationship of the Chadbournes to each other, saying that William was "no doubt, brother or other relation of the first Humphrey," assuming, as many have done, that he was younger than his son, Humphrey [Savage 1:350]. Savage also errs in stating that both William and Humphrey came to Maine in 1631. Pope did only slightly better by providing some primary source references, but this time made William the same as his son of the same name [Pope MNH 34]. Banks muddied the waters more by showing that William Chadbourne came from Tamworth, Staffordshire, while saying that Humphrey [no relationship suggested] came from Winchcombe, Gloucestershire [Topo Dict 58, 148]. Evidently drawing on Banks, the usually careful Noyes, Libby, and Davis concocted a bizarre story to attempt to reconcile the above accounts. Though they did bring the family together in the correct generational order, they claimed that the family had lived in both Tamworth, Warwickshire, and in Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, and provided incomplete baptismal dates (the years only, which were correct) for two of the children (although they gave the wrong parish and county!), and suggested a baptismal year for son Humphrey which would have made him only 5 years old when he allegedly sailed away to Maine by himself, a mere 8 when, as a master housewright, he constructed the so-called Great House at Strawberry Banke, and 17 when he purchased land [GDMNH 133-34].

William Chadbourne, together with James Wall and John Goddard, master carpenters, were sent out to Maine under contract with Capt. John Mason of London's Laconia Company for the purpose of building mills and related structures around the mouth of the Piscataqua. The contract for the first known sawmill in New England, to be located at the Great Works (now in South Berwick, Maine), was dated 14 March 1633/4 [MA Arch 3:437]. Wall deposed on 21 May 1652 that they were taken by Mason's agent to Ashbenbedick [now Great Works] Falls where they carried on a sawmill and a stamping mill for corn three or four years on the Great Works River (formerly called Chadbourne's River) in present-day Berwick, Maine [MA Arch 3:444]. Wall further reported that Chadbourne built a house, which may be the one attributed to him and often called the oldest house in Maine, part of the foundation of which is under the present house at the corner of Brattle and Vine streets on the road leading from the Lower Landing to the original mill site at the falls. It is said that he gave this house to his daughter Patience and son-in-law Thomas Spencer, and it has been known as the Thomas Spencer House for many years.

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It is not clear when the other members of William Chadbourne's family arrived. The fraudulent list of Mason's stewards and workmen contains the names "William Chadborn, William Chadborn, jun., and Humphry Chadborn," and also indicates 22 women, who are unnamed. It is known that the *Pied Cow* had made at least one crossing in 1631, and that the bark *Warwick* had made several early crossings, all for Capt. Mason, but it is unlikely William Chadbourne came on any of those trips, given the phrasing of Wall's deposition which states that Chadbourne came in 1634. Since the *Pied Cow* is the only vessel known to have supplied the Masonian settlement on the Piscataqua in 1634, this would be the ship on which William Chadbourne arrived.

It has been claimed that some Chadbourne built the so-called Great House at Strawberry Banke [now Portsmouth, New Hampshire] used to house the Laconia Company's stores and serve as a dwelling for the company workmen [NHPP 1:110]. The site of such a building has been found near the present Strawberry Banke village historic site. Claims have been made in various published sources that the Great House was built by William's son Humphrey about 1631. The same sources claim that Humphrey must have come on the bark *Warwick* in 1631, in order to have done this, since no evidence has been found that William came before 1634. Because Humphrey Chadbourne was only 16 years old in 1631, and hardly a master housewright at that date, this tradition has to be dismissed. It has recently been shown that there were, in fact, three so-called "great houses" in the Portsmouth area, at Newichawannock, at Piscataqua [Little Harbor] (or Odiorne's Point in present-day Rye), and at Strawberry Banke itself, all of which were constructed before 1634 [GMN 2:28]. Neither William nor Humphrey was the "builder" of any of the three great houses.

The name William Chadbourne appears in two other New England locations. "William Chatbourn" was admitted an inhabitant of the town of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, on 25 February 1642/3] [PoTR 19], having received a grant of land just a few months earlier [PoTR 11, 36]. This may be the Kittery man briefly considering a move to Portsmouth, but it may also be a second man of the same name.

On 10 June 1643, for drinking too much, "William Chadborne, senior," was fined 10s. at a quarter court held in Boston [RCA 2:130]. He was again at the same court on 25 January 1643/4 to answer an unspecified charge brought by John Shaw, but this was "discharged for the present," and no further reference to it has been found [RCA 2:137].

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*The Great Migration*

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE:** In 1994 The Chadbourne Family Association published a comprehensive genealogy of the descendants of William Chadbourne, including a section on the English origin. In 1996 George F. Sanborn Jr. published "The English Ancestry of William<sup>1</sup> Chadbourne of Kittery, Maine" [NHGR 10:101-14, 167 (dated 1993 but issued in 1996)], which improved upon this account. Research continues into the ancestry of the wife and mother of William Chadbourne.

**ELIZABETH CHAMBERS**

On 3 August 1634, "Elizabeth Chambers maid servant to our brother Willyam Baulston," was admitted to Boston church [BChR 1:19].

**COMMENTS:** No other record pertaining to Elizabeth Chambers has been found. She may have married, died, or returned soon after her admission to the church.

**ROBERT CHAMBERS**

**ORIGIN:** Unknown

**MIGRATION:** 1635 on the *Hopewell*

**FIRST RESIDENCE:** Marshfield

**REMOVES:** "Departed the government" by 1655

**OFFICES:** "Rob[er]te Chambers" appears in the Marshfield section of the 1643 Plymouth Colony list of men able to bear arms [PCR 8:196].

**ESTATE:** On 7 August 1655, Plymouth Court noted that "[w]hereas Robert Chambers, sometimes servant to Mr. Edward Winslow, is departed the government and since deceased, and when he departed he left a small stock of cattle in the hands of Robert Carver, of Marshfield, in partnership with him; and the time of their said partnership being expired, and the increase of the said cattle divided, upon a proposition made to the Court by the said Robert Carver, they have ordered that the said Robert Chambers his part of the said cattle shall be and remain in the hands and custody of the said Robert Carver on the conditions he formerly had them, viz: to halves the increase, that is to say, the breeding cattle, two steer calves remaining undisposed of" [PCR 3:88].

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