



William Vinson (abt. 1610 - 1690)



William **Vinson** aka Vincent

Born **about 1610** in **England** [?]

Son of [father unknown] and [mother unknown]

[sibling(s) unknown]

Husband of **Sarah (Unknown) Vinson** — married about 1636 [location unknown]

Husband of **Rachel (Varney) Vinson** — married 10 Oct 1661 in Gloucester, Essex, Massachusetts [?]

Father of [Sarah \(Vinson\) Parsons](#), [Hannah Vinson](#), [Elizabeth \(Vinson\) Gardner](#), [William Vinson](#), [Thomas Vinson](#) and [Abigail \(Vinson\) Elwell](#) DESCENDANTS [?]

Died **17 Sep 1690** in **Gloucester, Essex, Massachusetts** [?]

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William Vinson migrated to New England during the Puritan Great Migration (1620-1640).

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Biography

Unknown Origins

No evidence for the ancestry of William Vinson/Vincen/Vincent has been found.

William was born about 1610, "his age being given in depositions as about forty-seven in 1658, about fifty-three in 1663 and about sixty-five in 1673. There is no further record of his mother, except possibly in a suit by John Pride against Vinson in 1639—"what he paid my mother"—with no indication whether the payee was Pride's or Vinson's parent."^[1]

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[What happened to the profile of William Vinson-21?](#) Sep 16, 2017.

DNA

No known carriers of [William's Y-chromosome](#) or [his mother's mitochondrial DNA](#) have taken yDNA or mtDNA tests.

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In his *History of the town and city of Gloucester*, Pringle information about William is confusing, as it refers to Francis Vincent marrying Sarah, daughter of Sir Francis Paulet. It then states that William was the son of this couple (Francis Vincent and Sarah Paulet). No sources are given for any of this information.

"William Vincent (or Vinson), as the name was commonly spelled, resided in Salem in 1635 and came to Gloucester shortly after. Francis Vincent married Sarah, daughter of Sir Francis Paulet, maid of honor to Queen Anne, wife of James I. William, who first came to Salem, then to Gloucester, was the son of this couple. He married Rachel Varney in 1661. He built three houses near Vincent Spring. He was admitted a freeman in 1643, and was elected selectman in 1646 and for several years afterwards. He was the first person who received a grant of Five Pound island. He was married twice but the name became extinct here after the second generation. Sarah married a Parsons as before related. Abigail was united in marriage to Jacob Elwell, July 5, 1666."^[2]

Davis, in *Massachusetts and Maine Families in the Ancestry of Walter Goodwin Davis*, has an extensive and documented biography of William Vinson. It does not give any information about the ancestry of William except that he was born about 1610, was a potter and had a cousin Anthony "Bucstone" (Buxton). It does not mention the name Paulet or any connection with Sir Francis Paulet.^[3]

In his *Great Migration Directory*, Robert Charles Anderson lists Wiliam "Vincen," showing that his birthplace and date are unknown, but that he is first seen in New England in 1636. Anderson's references include: Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, 1636-1686, 1:4, 8; Town Records of Salem, Massachusetts 1:24; The ancestry of Charity Haley, 1775-1800 83-84; and The Ancestry of Nicholas Davis, 223-38.^[4]

Life

William was in Salem with his mother and a cousin, Anthony Bucstone, in 1636 when land was laid out to them at Marblehead. He eventually settled in Gloucester, where he was made a freeman on May 10, 1643. He served as selectman in 1646, and several subsequent years. He sold a farm of fifty-two acres at Little Good Harbor, bought of George Norton, to John Rowe in 1651. and another lot to his "son-in-law" Hugh Rowe in 1684. (Essex Deeds 9:286).^{[3][5]}

William married twice. First he married Sarah (last name unknown), who died on 4 Feb 1660 at Gloucester^[6]. William and Sarah had at least the following children:^[5]

- Sarah Vinson Parsons, m. Jeffery Parsons at Gloucester 11 Nov 1657^[7]
- Hannah Vinson Ellery, m. William "Ellaire" at Gloucester 8 Oct 1663 [1664?]^[7]
- Elizabeth Vinson Gardner, b. 14 May 1644 at Gloucester^[8]; m. James Gardiner 19 June 1661^[7]; d. at Gloucester Mar. 4, 1684^[6]
- John, b. 15 May 1648 at Gloucester^[8]
- William (recorded as Vinsonne), b. 9 Sept 1651 at Gloucester^[8]; d. at Gloucester 9 Dec 1675^[6]
- Richard, d. at Gloucester 24 July 1652^[6]
- Richard, b. 1 Sept 1658 at Gloucester^[8]; d. at Gloucester 26 Dec 1675^[6]

After Sarah died, William remarried on 10 June 1661 at Gloucester to Rachel Cooke, a widow.^{[7][5]} William and Rachel had at least the following children:^[8]

- Abigail Vinson Elwell, b. 28 May 1668 at Gloucester^[8]; m. Jacob Elwell at Gloucester 5 July 1685^[7]
- Thomas, b. 1 April 1662 at Gloucester^[8]; d. at Gloucester 31 Dec 1675^[6]

On 9 May 2018 at 19:41 GMT [Debi \(McGee\) Hoag](#) wrote:

[Vinson-1176](#) and Vinson-21 appear to represent the same person because: Trying to clean up a duplicated tree by a former member; dates and places are generally consistent; spouse and one son are consistent.

On 19 Mar 2018 at 15:50 GMT [Gayel Knott](#) wrote:

[Vinson-1137](#) and Vinson-21 appear to represent the same person because: Same child, same death, similar birth. Vinson-1137 lacks documentation and has information that is based on old disproven genealogies

On 27 Oct 2017 at 12:35 GMT [S \(Parsons\) P](#) wrote:

Vinson-21 is my 9th great-grandfather.

On 19 Sep 2017 at 11:41 GMT [Esmé \(Pieterse\) van der Westhuizen](#) wrote:

[Vinson-1013](#) and Vinson-21 appear to represent the same person because: Same spouse and child

On 13 Sep 2017 at 14:43 GMT [Gayel Knott](#) wrote:

Francis Vinson CANNOT be the father of William Vinson. He had only one living son when he died in 1640, and that was his heir, Anthony Vinson.

See: Cokayne, George Edward. Complete baronetage, 1611-1800. (Exeter [England]: W. Pollard, 1900-1906), Vol. 1, p. 158.

On 21 Jun 2016 at 20:42 GMT [Kirk Hess](#) wrote:

His parents are incorrect - I've left Francis Vinson as his father even though he's supposed to be Sir Francis Vincent 1st Bt with a misspelled surname. His previous mother [Sarah Paulet](#) was over 51 years old when he was born and wasn't living in Massachusetts at any point in her life and she died 13 June 1608. Its also worth pointing out her dowry was £2000 and as you can see from William's will, he was worth £160.

In his Will transcribed below, written on March 19, 1685 (New Style), William had the following heirs:

Wife Rachel
 Son John, gone and apparently unheard of, possibly dead
 Daughter Abigail, apparently unmarried
 Daughter Sarah Parsons, living
 The children of daughters Gardner and Ellary, both deceased
 "Daughter in Law" Mary Day
 John Cooke, son of "Son in Law" John Cooke

Last Will & Testament^[9]

"I William Vinson of Glocester in the County of Essex in New England considering the Certainty of Death & the uncertainty of the time thereof, And with all knowing it to be the Will of God that a man should set his House in order before he depart this Life doe therefore Declare & make knowne this my Last Will & Testament in manner & forme following

"First I commit my Soule into the hands of God the Father of Spirite & my Body to the Grave to be decently buried by my Surviving Friends. And for my Goodes & outward estate I thus dispose of them.

"Imprim. I give & bequeath unto my deare & Loving Wife Rachel Vinson during her Naturall Life all my Whole Estate both of Houses & Lands Cattell Sheep & Horse kind except only Such Cattell as shall be hereafter in these [premises?] bequeathed by way of Legacy unto any of my Children other wise. I give unto my Sayd Wife all my estate above mentioned both of Houses & Lands Household Goodes & Cattell the same to enjoy during the time of her Natural Life.

"And after my Wifes decease it is my Will & I doe hereby appoynt that my sonn John Vinson in Case he be Living & returne home agayne shall have my House & Barn & all the upland upon the Westerne Side of the Cartway that I used to bring Wood & Hay to my House and Barne upon or by. Also I give unto my sonne John Vinson all that my parcell of Salt Marsh lying & being Situate in the upper end of little good Harbour Marsh next to the great Harbour. The sayd parcell of Marsh being Seaven Acres more or lesse.

"And Futhermore it is my wish that if my Sonne John come no more then my Daughter Abigail shall have all the estate given to him, to her owne proper use & behoofe & to the Heires of her body Lawfully begotten for ever. But in Case hee should come agayne there shee is only to have the House I now dwell in & all my Land upon the Easterne Side of the Cart way abovesayd as also all the rest of my Lands both meadow & upland Cattell & Horse kind & Household Goods not otherwise disposed of in this my Last Will & Testament to her & her Heires as abovesayd for ever, after the decease of my Selfe & her Mother. And in Case my Sayd Sonne Come noe more, then I doe hereby declare that shee is too have & is it my Will that Shee Shall have & enjoy all the Legacy above given to him and all my whole estate both of Houses & Lands viz Meadow & upland with all & singular the Appertenances Household Goodes also & Cattell of all kinds whatsoever viz, Horse, Neat, & Sheepe, after the decease of her Mother (if she surviveth) to her & her heires as abovesayd for ever, provided always & it is my wish & meaning that they shall not hindere but that if my Sayd Wife doe come to [deleted word] want while Shee Continueth my Widdow it Shall then be lawfull for her to sell part of the Lands or Cattell abovesayd to supply her wants from time to time while Shee Continueth my Widdow viz, if the Incomes of Sayd Lands & Cattell will not Conveniently & decently mayntaine her.

"And in Case my Daughter Abigail come to enjoy all the Lands abovesayd Shee Shall then pay or Cause to be payd to my Daughter Sarah Parsons the full Summe of Seaven pounds. And three pounds to my Daughter in Law Mary Day in Cattell or Goodes or both within one yeare after the decease of her Mother if Shee Surviveth.

On 22 Mar 2015 at 01:29 GMT [Daniel Nordlund](#) wrote:

Vic, After looking at Vinson-493 again, I am thinking that what should be changed is the death date, and the profile should be merged into Vinson-21. They have the same date of birth and are married to a Sarah Unknown, and have a daughter named Hannah. I can't verify the accuracy of the parents yet.

Also, there is also a Vinson-378, the first name misspelled as Willaim (who is also married to a Sara Unknown) who should also be merged with Vinson-21. Unknown-233276 should then be merged into Unknown-791.

What do you think?

On 22 Mar 2015 at 00:38 GMT [Daniel Nordlund](#) wrote:

[Vinson-493](#) and Vinson-378 do not represent the same person because: They actually are the the same person, but they both should be merged into Vinson-21.

On 17 Mar 2015 at 22:09 GMT [Vic Watt](#) wrote:

David, There are two William Vinsons mixed up here. The William Vinson born in 1608 died in 1690. That William had a daughter Hannah Ellery. He is Vinson-21.

He had a son William, who died in 1675 at the age of 24. Hannah Ellery was not his daughter. I would like to attach this William as son of the first William and adjust his profile accordingly. OK with you?

"And in Case my Sayd Daughter Abigail doe dye before Shee be of age or married then it is my Will & I doe hereby appoynt that what estate is left her shall be divided equally between my Daughter Parsons (if Living) if Dead, then between the Children of my Daughter Parsons Surviving and the Surviving Children of my Daughter Gardner & my Daughter Ellary (both deceased) or their Heires Surviving either as they shall agree amongst themselves to part them; or whom they or the major part of them Surviving & mett together shall agree to Choose to to divide Sayd Goods & Estate Equally amongst the, only it is to be rememberd that I doe hereby appoynt forty shillings to be payd unto John Cooke the Sonne of my Son in Law John Cooke.

"And in Case my Daughter Abigail doe dye after She is married without Child then her Husband if he surviveth shall have one halfe of the estate & the other halfe of the estate shall be equally divided as abovesayd between the partys abovesayd or their Heires Surviving. And if it fall out that my Sayd Wife be driven [illegible] through [illegible] want as is above expressed to Sell any Considerable part of the Lands to Supply her wants or that my sonne John doe come agayne then my sayd Daughter shall pay none of the Legacyes above mentioned to Daughter Parsons or Mary Day.

"Item. I give & bequeath to my Daughter Abigail a Cow [crossed out words] presently after my decease to be payd by my wife if Shee Surviveth that is to Say if my Sayd Daughter be then of Age or married but if Shee be not Shee shall not have it till Shee be either married or of Age. Also I give to my Sayd Daughter my Island in the Harbour commonly called by the Name of five pound Island the same to enjoy now presently provided that if my Sonne John doe Come agayne Shee shall then resigne it up to him agayne otherwise to enjoy it to her & the Heires of her body Lawfully begotten for ever.

"Item I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Sarah Parsons one Cow to be payd & given her after my decease.

"And Concerning my Sayd Wife I shall expresse a word or two viz. in Case Shee doe marry agayne after my decease the man that Shee shall marry until shall before marriage be firmly bound to keepe both Houses & fences in like good Repayre as hee shall find them as also to leave them in like condition at my Sayd Wifes decease to by Sayd Heires or them that in Case of her Death are to possesse them. And for the full confirmation of this my Last Will & Testament I doe hereby ordayne & appoynt my deare & Loving Wife Rachel Vinson to be Sole Executrix to see this my Will & Testament to be duly & truly executed & performed.

"In Witnesse Whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seale the nineteeth day of this Instant March Anno one thousand six hundred & eighty foure.

"Memorand. before the Sealing hereof I doe give Liberty to my daughter Abigail to sell her part of the Houses & Lands in the Case her Brother John Vinson my Son Should Come agayne, giving him the first refusall of it. Also it is to be remembered that part of the third line & part of ye fourth Line of this page is blotted by my order.

"-- The marke of T William Vinson

"Sealed & Subscribed in the presence of

Peter Duncan
William Cogswell

"Peter Duncas & Wm Cogswell appeared in open Court att Salem 25th Nov 1690 & made oath that they were present & saw Wm. Vinson signe seale & order this to be his last will & testament & he was in of a disposing mind so ye [illegible] understanding

"Attest. Benjn Gerrish ???"

A fragment of the Inventory is included in the Estate file, and it shows William's Estate was worth £160 3s 6p

Sources

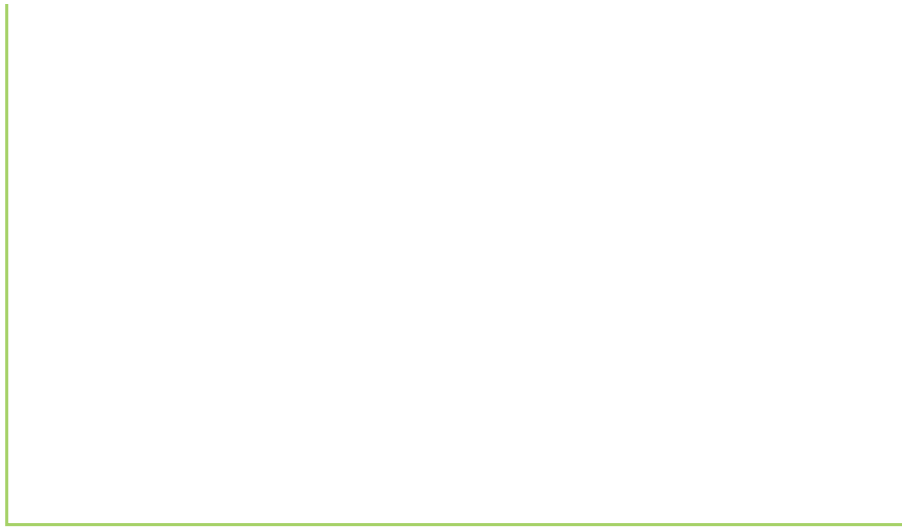
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2. ↑ Pringle, James Robert *History of the town and city of Gloucester, Cape Ann, Massachusetts* Gloucester, Mass. : Published by the author, 1892. Page 52. Accessed on 21 Dec 2017 at HathiTrust.org.[Page 52](#)
3. ↑ [3.0](#) [3.1](#) Davis, Walter Goodwin, *Massachusetts and Maine Families in the Ancestry of Walter Goodwin Davis (1885-1966)*: a reprinting, in alphabetical order by surname, of the sixteen multi-ancestor compendia (plus Thomas Haley of Winter Harbor and his descendants) compiled by Maine's foremost genealogist, 1916-1963 / Walter Goodwin Davis, with an introduction by Gary Boyd Roberts. Vol. III, Page 515. Accessed at Ancestry.com on 21 Dec 2017
4. ↑ Anderson, Robert Charles, *The Great Migration Directory: Immigrants to New England 1620-1640 A Concise Compendium* New England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston, 2015) Page 350
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9. ↑ Essex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1638-1881. Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2014. (From records supplied by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives.) Essex Case No. 28612.

Transcribed by [Vic Watt](#): Paragraph spacing added for ease of reading, otherwise I have left the document exactly as written, including spelling and capitalizations.

- Family genealogy records of [James Graham](#) and [James Parsons](#) show that William was born in 1608 - 1610 and passed away in 1690. Research notes added 18 Mar 2018 and 9 May 2018.

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