



1458

*The Great Migration Begins*

- ii GEORGE, b. England say 1620; in 1644 Watertown land inventory held an eight acre homestall, which was probably split off from the original grant to his mother [WaBOP 40, 126]; joined with mother in sale of all land in 1646 [SLR 1:78].
- iii JOHN, bur. Watertown 6 July 1639 [WaVR 7].

*COMMENTS:* The allotments of Beaverbrook Plowlands and Remote Meadows were in each case six acres. We can account for three members of the family at this time: Esther Pickram and her two sons George and John. There may be three additional members of the family not otherwise seen, but it is more likely that some of the difference is accounted for by livestock in the family's possession. The size of the land grants to the family indicate a high level of affluence overall.

The homestead of sixteen acres sold in 1646 by Esther and her son George must have been the combined eight acres held by Esther and eight acres held by George in 1646 (and was probably originally one lot in any case), and the sale of 1646 seems to include all Watertown land held by the family. Esther and her son George are not seen again after their acknowledgement of the deed on 3 November 1646, and they probably returned to England, or perhaps moved to one of the other colonies.

At a Watertown town meeting on 18 January 1663/4 it was "agreed that Pickram's & Pallmer's dividends shall be laid out upon the rocks by Thomas Straight," and on the following day the selectmen "ordered that Palmer & Pickram shall have the same quantity of land upon the rocks that was granted to them in the grant of the dividends" [WaTR 79, 80]. On 25 July 1636 William Palmer and Esther Pickram had received adjacent grants in the Great Dividends [WaBOP 5]. As the Pickrams had sold their share in the Great Dividends in 1646, this record must reflect a petition made by some later holder of the right to this land.

**JOHN PICKERING***ORIGIN:* Unknown*MIGRATION:* 1630*FIRST RESIDENCE:* Piscataqua*OCCUPATION:* Carpenter.

*CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:* Signed the grant of the glebe at Portsmouth, 25 May 1640 [NHPP 1:113]. On 2 February 1663/4 "Jno. Pickering appeared on his presentment for not coming to meeting; he alleged no discontent against Mr. Moodey nor dislike of the ordinance, only his great

*The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III.* (Online database: *AmericanAncestors.org*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2010), (Originally Published as: New England Historic Genealogical Society. Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III*, 3 vols., 1995).

*John Pickering*

1459

deafness, whereupon the Court desire him to come when he can in warm weather" [NHPP 40:189].

**FREEMAN:** Oath of fidelity (at Portsmouth court), 11 July 1659 [NHPP 40:142].

**OFFICES:** On 5 July 1643 "William & John Pickering [were] enjoined to deliver the old Combination at Strawberry Banck the next court" [NHPP 40:9 (this record would appear to be defective, the surname of William being omitted, as there is no other evidence of a William Pickering in Portsmouth at this date)]. Coroner's jury, foreman, 7 May 1657 [NHPP 40:127]. Portsmouth constable for the year following 25 June 1667 [NHPP 40:221, 242, 244].

**ESTATE:** On 28 June 1664 John Pickering sued the town of Portsmouth "for detaining grants of land"; the dispute was referred to appointed arbiters [NHPP 40:195, 204].

On 17 November 1665 "John Pickering the elder of Portsmouth" deeded to "my son John Pickering the younger ... all that my water grist mill," and "all my neck of land" containing forty acres of upland, with half the dwelling house and half the marsh [NHPLR 2:146a].

On 30 June 1669 Mr. Abraham Corbett sued John Pickering Senior "for not giving of him such legal assurance as the law of this jurisdiction provides for lands bought and sold, the said Corbet having bought of said Pickering half an acre of land against the mill creek near the meeting house in Portsmouth" [NHPP 40:233].

In his will, dated 11 January 1668[/9], "John Pickern Senior" bequeathed to "my dear son Thomas Pickrin my dwelling house and land adjoining to the Great Bay," along with cattle, household goods and tools; to "my two daughters Rebecah and Abigall I give that fifty pounds due by bill to be paid by Mr. Antony Stanell [Stanyan]" with some livestock, to be divided equally between them; and to "my two daughters Mary & Sarah" livestock to be equally divided between them [NHPP 31:111]. The inventory of his estate, taken 29 January 1668[/9], totalled £303 4s. 6d. [NHPP 31:111].

Administration on the imperfect will of John Pickering was granted to son John Pickering on 29 June 1669 [NHPP 31:112, citing NHPLR 2:155; NHPP 40:248]. On 29 June 1669 "Rebecca Pickering & Abigall Pickering came before this Court and chose Mr. Joshua Moodey to be their guardian. Thomas Pickering being under age & not in legal capacity to choose his guardian, this Court therefore appoints Mr. Joshua Moody to be his guardian" [NHPP 40:248].

**BIRTH:** By about 1609 (assuming he was adult when he first appeared in New England).

**DEATH:** Between 11 January 1668[/9] (date of will) and 29 January 1668[/9] (date of inventory).

*The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III.* (Online database: *AmericanAncestors.org*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2010), (Originally Published as: New England Historic Genealogical Society. Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III*, 3 vols., 1995).

**MARRIAGE:** By about 1643 \_\_\_\_\_. She died after about 1656. (Since we reject the connection with the John Pickering of Cambridge, whose wife was named Mary, we do not know the given name of the wife of John Pickering of Piscataqua.)

**CHILDREN:**

- i MARY, b. say 1643; m. by about 1673 John Banfield [GDMNH 74].
- ii JOHN, b. about 1645 (deposed in 1673 aged about 28, and in February 1715/6 aged about 70 [GDMNH 551, citing unknown sources]); m. 10 January 1665/6 Mary Stanyan, daughter of Anthony Stanyan [GDMNH 551]. (This date is given in many secondary sources, but has not been found in any original document. On 30 June 1668 John Pickering Senior sued "Ano. Stanniell ... in an action of the case for that the said Staniell hath not made good an engagement of £110 upon condition of a marriage of said Staniel's daughter with said Pickering's son: withdrawn" [NHPP 40:236].)
- iii SARAH, b. say 1648; living 11 January 1668[9] (date of father's will); no further record. (As she is grouped with her sister Mary, separate from Rebecca and Abigail, in the will of her father, and did not choose a guardian with the latter two, Sarah was certainly adult by 1669, and probably married.)
- iv REBECCA, b. say 1651 (between fourteen and twenty-one in 1669); "apparently" m. Samuel Rollins [GDMNH 551], son of JAMES RAWLINS [GDMNH 595].
- v ABIGAIL, b. say 1653 (between fourteen and twenty-one in 1669); "apparently" m. William Cotton [GDMNH 164, 551].
- vi THOMAS, b. about 1656 (deposed about 23 in 1679 and about 50 in 1706 [GDMNH 552, citing unknown sources]); m. by about 1686 Mary Gee, daughter of John and Hazelelponi (Willix) Gee [NEHGR 68:81-82].

**COMMENTS:** On 28 September 1630 "John Boggust & John Pickryn" were ordered to sit in the stocks together for four hours at Salem for being accessories to the crimes of JOHN GOULWORTH and HENRY LYNN [MBCR 1:77].

On 6 September 1634 John Pickering made his mark to a receipt settling accounts between himself and AMBROSE GIBBONS for work done during 1633 and 1634; the tasks performed indicate that Pickering was a housewright [NHPP 1:87].

On 1 March 1635/6 "Henry Joslyn, gent., John Pickrin, & Nicholas Frost, all of Paskataq[ua], have forfeited their recognizance of £100 for

*The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III.* (Online database: *AmericanAncestors.org*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2010), (Originally Published as: New England Historic Genealogical Society. Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III*, 3 vols., 1995).

*John Pickering*

1461

not appearing at this Court" [MBCR 1:164], but when Nicholas Frost did appear at court on 5 April 1636 they were "discharged of their recognition of £100" [MBCR 1:172].

There were at least two early John Pickerings in New England, one at Piscataqua and one at Salem. The first of the above records takes place in Salem, but may just as well apply to the man of Piscataqua, as boundaries were vague in late 1630, and the men associated in these crimes were not Salem men. On this basis, we have concluded that only the Piscataqua man was in New England prior to 1634, but this conclusion could easily be reversed.

Noyes, Libby and Davis note that there was a John Pickering in Cambridge briefly, who had a daughter Lydia born in 1638 and Abigail in 1642. They point out that this Abigail born in 1642 could not be the Abigail who was daughter of John Pickering of Piscataqua, but even so think that these records apply to only one man, "being himself back and forth," although no evidence for this migration is given [GDMNH 551]. We prefer to omit the Cambridge records with our current state of knowledge.

The evidence for the marriages of the children of John Pickering of Piscataqua is lamentably weak. In two cases the proposed unions are qualified by the term "apparently" in Noyes, Libby and Davis, and no evidence is set forth. We have followed the arrangement of Noyes, Libby and Davis, but feel that much more research is necessary on this family.

On 27 June 1665 John Pickering sued "Richard Hill ... in an action of the case for trespass by shooting with a gun a horse & a mare of said Pickering's which hath occasioned their death" [NHPP 40:206].

On 1 July 1654 "Marke Hands of Boston, nailer," sold to "John Pickering of the river of Pascataquacke an Irish servant man brought over by me Mr. George Dill as a captive & ordered by him to me to make sale of, for the term of five years" [NHPP 40: 132]. On 7 May 1657 "Denis Mekermecke the Irish man is ordered by the Court to serve his master John Pickering the whole five years his said master having bond against him. By three evidences in court George Walton for stirring up Dennis the Irish man against his master John Pickering in giving abusive words is fined five pounds" [NHPP 40:129].

On 17 September 1667 "Jno. Pickering Senior for not permitting his servant Hen[ry] Brooking to come to the public ordinance, not proved, Jno. Pickering professing that he did & doth send him, he is discharged" [NHPP 40:230].

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE:** The only treatment of this family other than that by Noyes, Libby and Davis was published in 1957 by Edith Bartlett Sumner [Coltman Anc 146-51], but this version does not provide much more evidence for the claims made therein.

*The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III.* (Online database: *AmericanAncestors.org*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2010), (Originally Published as: New England Historic Genealogical Society. Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III*, 3 vols., 1995).