



HILL {1635, Boston} was residing at Boston at the time of this record [GM 2:3:318].)

On 29 May 1649, ISAAC GROSS {1635, Boston} bequeathed £10 to “Philemon Permort of Wells” [GM 2:3:159-63, citing SPR NS 1:91]. Other records place him as a resident of Wells on 18 October 1649 [SLR 11:245; YLR 3:65] and 17 October 1650 [SLR 11:246; YLR 3:65].

By 31 December 1651, Pormort was back in Boston, and was also there on 4 January 1652[3?] [SLR 1:289, 7:100]. On 4 June 1652, “Elizabeth Pormot,” second wife of Philemon, witnessed a deed at Boston [SLR 1:227-28].

By 1656 Philemon Pormort had left Boston again, for when his daughter Elizabeth was married in that year, she was called “daughter of Philemon Pormott late of Boston” [BVR 57]. Where he resided after leaving Boston is unknown. Pormort lived for another quarter of a century, but only three additional records have been found for him between 1656 and 1679. On 11 January 1668[9], Richard Bellingham and Henry Phillips balanced accounts between themselves; Bellingham was debtor to Phillips on 14 September 1668 for “your bill to Mr. Purman” of £1, and on 18 November 1668 for another bill of the same amount [SJC Case #894]. In 1671 Joseph Pormort “was at widow Moulton’s boarding house when Mr. Pormont, who was inquired for, was not there” [GDMNH 563, source not given]. Finally, on 29 October 1679, he testified to witnessing deeds in 1649 and 1650 [SLR 11:246; YLR 3:65; SJC Case #2084].

In 1875 Edward E. Bourne stated that “[i]n 1680, Elias Pormotte and Lazarus Pormotte were working in the mill of Nicholas Cole” [Wells Hist 27]. This statement has often been repeated, but not supported by an original source. If correct, Elias would be another son of the immigrant, otherwise unrecorded.

RICHARD PORTER

ORIGIN: Unknown.

MIGRATION: 1635 on the *Marygould* (on 20 March 1634/5, “Rich[ard] Porter, husbandman,” aged 3 [sic], was enrolled at Weymouth as a passenger for New England on the *Marygould* [Hotten 286; GMN 7:9]).

FIRST RESIDENCE: Weymouth.

OCCUPATION: Husbandman [Hotten 286].

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CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Weymouth church prior to 18 May 1653 implied by freemanship.

FREEMAN: 18 May 1653 (seventh in a sequence of eight Weymouth men) [MBCR 4:1:460]. (Most of the list of 18 May 1653 was also entered under 23 May 1655 [MBCR 4:1:461]. This clerical confusion has not been explained.)

EDUCATION: Signed his will by mark.

ESTATE: Although the inventory of landholding at Weymouth compiled in 1643 or 1644 did not have a section for Richard Porter, the records for other Weymouth inhabitants show that Porter had been granted at least four parcels of land: three acres in Westerneck; eight acres of upland; three acres of salt marsh; and three and a half acres in the West Field [Weymouth Hist 1:184, 190, 192].

In his will, dated 25 December 1688 and proved 26 December 1689, "Richard Porter of Weymoth" bequeathed to "my grandchild Thomas Porter the only son of my son Thomas Porter deceased my now dwelling house & barn & orchard and the swamp, meadow & upland adjoining ..., also I give unto my said grandchild the one full half of my lot of land lying in the second division of common lots, the division to be made when the said Thomas shall come to the age of twenty years, always provided & it is my will that if the said Thomas shall die before he come to the age of twenty years that then the aforesaid estate shall be & remain so to my grandchild Ruth Richards and the heirs born of her body if any be then living, if not then to return to my son John"; to "my grandchild Samuella Bayly that my two acres of land in Kingoak Hill"; to "my daughter Mary Bicknell ten pounds"; residue to "my son John Porter," he to be sole executor; "my loving friends James Lovell Senior & Thomas Reed" to be overseers [SPR NS 3:35-37].

The inventory of "the estate of Richard Porter late of Weymoth deceased," taken 6 March 1688/9, totalled £80, of which £72 was real estate: "a dwelling house, barn & orchard & about 10 acres of land adjoining," £40; "2 acres of land in Kingoak Hill," £4; "9 acres of pasture land," £18; "1 piece of salt meadow upon the Back River," £8; and "1 lot of land in the 2nd division," £2 [SPR NS 3:37].

BIRTH: About 1612 (assuming the age on the passenger list was intended for 23, which would be consistent with the estimated date of marriage).

DEATH: Between 25 December 1688 (date of will) and 6 March 1688/9 (date of inventory).

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MARRIAGE: By about 1635 _____. She was apparently deceased before the date of her husband's will.

CHILDREN:

- i JOHN PORTER, b. say 1635; m. Weymouth 9 April 1660 Deliverance Byram.
- ii MARY PORTER, b. say 1637; m. Weymouth 2 December 1658 John Bicknell, son of ZACHARY BICKNELL {1635, Weymouth} [GMN 2:1:282-83].
- iii RUTH PORTER, b. Weymouth 3 October 1639; m. Weymouth 19 September 1660 Thomas Bailey.
- iv THOMAS PORTER, b. say 1641; m. by 1672 Sarah Vining (only known child b. Weymouth 3 February 1672/3), sister of John Vining (on 9 January 1672/3, administration on "the estate of Thomas Porter late of Weymouth deceased is granted to Sarah Porter his relict & John Vineing her brother" [SPR 7:279; Weymouth Hist 4:487, 705-6]).

COMMENTS: The age given for this immigrant on the passenger list is clearly in error, perhaps intended for 23.

The birth order of the children of this immigrant and the estimated dates of birth for three of them have been generated by using the recorded date of birth for daughter Ruth as an anchor, and then the recorded dates of marriage for three of them. Ruth Porter would have been just short of her twenty-first birthday when she married. If we apply our usual ages at first marriage for her brother John and her sister Mary, we arrive at the dates shown above. The constraints on the estimated date of birth for Thomas are much weaker than those for John and Mary.

There are two problems with the dates suggested above for the births of John and Mary. First, Richard Porter was not accompanied by a wife on his voyage to New England. Even if he married in New England the day he stepped off the ship, he couldn't have had a child born before 1636. He could possibly have left a pregnant newlywed wife behind in England, who joined him in Weymouth the next year with a young child, but there is no independent evidence for this.

Second, the recorded birth for Ruth Porter occurs in the midst of an alphabetical list of more than eighty birth and burial records for Weymouth families, covering the years from 1633 to 1643, submitted in 1643 to the clerk of the newly-formed Suffolk County [NEHGR 8:348-49]. Such lists were limited to the vital events of families residing in Weymouth at the time it was submitted, and should have included all vital events for those families that happened prior to the date of

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submission [GMN 2:17-18, 24]. Many Weymouth families had the births of three or four children included in this list.

Son Thomas Porter could well have been born after 1643, but, given their dates of marriage, John and Mary must have been born by 1643, unless both married several years younger than the usual age for that time and place. Elaborate scenarios could be constructed to make all the facts fit, but these problems may simply represent a deficiency in the list sent by the town to the county in 1643.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1945 Donald Lines Jacobus prepared a brief account of this immigrant and a line of descent through his daughter Mary [Granberry 294-95]. In 1977 John A. Leppman published an account of some descendants of Richard Porter through his son Thomas [TAG 53:31-34].

STEPHEN POST

ORIGIN: Otham, Kent.

MIGRATION: 1634 (based on grant of land at Cambridge on 1 September 1634 [CaTR 10]).

FIRST RESIDENCE: Cambridge.

REMOVES: Hartford 1636, Saybrook by 1649.

OCCUPATION: Carpenter. On 28 October 1640, the town of Hartford agreed “with Goodman Post to clapboard the meetinghouse, at 5s. 6d. the hundred, to hew, shoot & lay the clapboard, & he is to find the clapboard” [HaTR 36]. On 30 June 1646, “Stephen Poste” was appointed to a committee to “set a rate or value of the worth of impaling 2024 rod of pale” [RPCC 41]. On 20 March 1649/50, Connecticut Court “adds to the committee chosen to prosecute the work about a dwelling house at Seabrooke, at the court upon the 10th of October, 1649, Stephen Post and Thomas Traisy, of Seabrooke” [CCCR 1:206]. On 29 May 1653, “Steeph[en] Post” was one of three men chosen to appraise a pair of cartwheels which “Will[iam] Waller is to deliver unto John Clarke Junior, of Seabrooke” [CCCR 1:241]. His inventory included “carpenter’s tools” valued at £1 18s. and “one pit saw & a crosscut saw” valued at 18s. [HaPD Case #4388].

EDUCATION: His inventory included “one great Bible” valued at 8s. and “one small Bible” valued at 4s. [HaPD Case #4388].

OFFICES: Hartford constable, 26 January 1641[2] [HaTR 58].

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