

Edmund¹ of Woburn

First Generation

No. 5903

NAME: Edmund¹ Chamberlain — Immigrant to New England

Father:

Mother:

Born: About 1624, England

Died: 8 May 1696, Woodstock, Windham Co., CT

Buried: Main Churchyard, Woodstock, CT

Married: (1) Mary Turner, 4 Jan 1646/47, Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA

Other Marriages: (2) Mrs. Hannah (Witter) Burdette (or Burden), 22 June 1670,
Malden, Middlesex Co., MA

No. 13618

SPOUSE (1): Mary Turner

Father:

Mother:

Born: About 1626 (?), probably England

Died: 6 Dec 1669, Chelmsford, Middlesex Co., MA

Buried: Eustis Street Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA

Other Marriages:

CHILDREN

(By First marriage)

- F 7564 Mary², bp. 16 Apr 1648, Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA. She was again baptized as a child of about 8 years of age on 1 Feb 1656, Chelmsford, MA. Mary probably died young as another Mary Chamberlain that surely has to be her father's daughter married in 1699. See the record of her sister Mary.
- F 7565 Sarah², b. 18 Dec 1649, Woburn, Middlesex Co., MA. Married Joseph Davis, 28 Oct 1670, Roxbury, MA. +
- M 7566 John², b. About 1650, probably Woburn, Middlesex Co., MA. Died 3 Mar 1652, Woburn, MA. His birth was not recorded and the record of his death (John, s. of —) provides no information about his parentage, but he is with little doubt, a son of Edmnd.
- F 7567 Elizabeth², b. 11 Mar 1652, Woburn, Middlesex Co., MA. The record of her birth simply calls her "daughter of Emond Chamberlin." Her baptism in 1656 with her siblings identify her as "Elizabeth, about 5 years old." Married Thomas Wheeler, 5 May 1673, Charlestown, MA. +
- M 7568 John², b. About 1654, probably Woburn, Middlesex Co., MA. Married Hannah —?—, about 1677, probably Middlesex Co., MA. Died 27 Dec 1721, Chelsea, MA. +

Edmund¹ Chamberlain (No. 5903) – Continued

- M 7569 Edmund², b. 30 May 1656, Chelmsford, Middlesex Co., MA. Baptized there 29 June 1656. He was a soldier in Capt. Samuel Moseley's Company during King Philip's War and was killed on 19 Dec 1675, while engaged in the great "Swamp Fight" at Dedham, MA.
- M 7570 Jacob², b. 15 Oct 1658, Chelmsford, Middlesex Co., MA. Married (1) Mary Child, 24 Jan 1683/84, Roxbury, MA; (2) Mrs. Sarah (Faxon) Weld, 29 Apr 1719, Roxbury, MA. Died 7 Nov 1721, Roxbury, MA. +

No. 13619

SPOUSE (2): **Hannah Witter**

Father: William Witter

Mother: Annis Churchman

Born: About 1630 (?), perhaps Old Norfolk (later Essex Co.), MA

Died: After 1696,

Buried:

Other Marriages: (1) Robert Burditt (or Burden), – Nov 1653, Malden, Middlesex Co., MA

CHILDREN (By Second Marriage)

- F 7571 Susanna², b. – June 1671, Malden, Middlesex Co., MA. Died 6 May 1672, Malden, MA.
- M 7572 Ebenezer², b. About 1672, Malden, Middlesex Co., MA. Died – Dec 1672, Malden, MA.
- F 7573 Susanna², b. About 1674 (?), Malden, Middlesex Co., MA. She is given as a daughter by Austin and Bowen, but is not mentioned in vital records. Married, as his second wife, John Tuckerman, 14 Nov 1693, Boston, MA. He was the son of John & Sarah (—?—) Tuckerman, b. 8 Oct 1665. Four children known: Sarah, Abraham, Jacob and Edward Tuckerman. Susanna died 16 Dec 1713.
- M 7574 Edmund², b. 31 Jan 1675, Malden, Middlesex Co., MA. Married Elizabeth Bartholomew, 21 Nov 1699, Woodstock, CT. Died 18 Dec 1751, Woodstock, CT. +
- F 7575 Mary², bp. 22 Sep 1678, Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA. Married James Leavens, 21 Nov 1699, Woodstock, CT. +

BIOGRAPHICAL

Edmond Chamberline, as he wrote his own name first appears in New England, when he married Mary Turner on 4 Jan 1646/47, Roxbury, MA. The marriage was performed by the Rev. John Eliot. The year of his birth is estimated on the basis of this marriage and it should not be in error by more than two or three years, at most. Prentiss Glazier thinks he was born about 1617/18, in or near Billericay, Essex, England, which seems too early. For purposes of consistency, we will use the spelling "Edmund Chamberlain" from now on.

Edmund is generally assumed to have been a brother of Thomas and William Chamberlin, both of whom settled in the same general area in Massachusetts about the same time. Thomas was the first to appear in New England when he was made a Freeman by the General Court on 29 May 1644. William Chamberlain appeared in New England in Boston, Massachusetts, as early as 30 Oct 1647, when he took a deed of a house and lot of Francis Smith.

Prentiss Glazier has formulated a hypothesis to account for the supposed relationship of these three men and of their possible antecedents. His narrative is reproduced “in toto,” with comments following.

Thomas Chamberlain, was clearly the eldest of three brothers, and in New England, took the lead which Edmund and William followed. It seems obvious that he was the Thomas who embarked from the port of Gravesend, England, for Virginia, in 1635, aged 20 years (*Hotten's List of Immigrants*); that in 1644, he was in a boatload of Puritans, headed by Capt. Daniel Gookin, (next-but-one in the 1624-25 ‘muster’ of Elizabeth City, Va., to ‘Francis Chamberlin, aged 45,’ from Virginia; that the ‘Mary Parker, aged 15,’ who came to Virginia from Gravesend on a following boat, became his first wife, and mother of his children; that she was sister of James Parker, soon afterward his partner in land purchases. The Parkers seem to have been from Billericay, County Essex, England, and from nearby Rayleigh.

Eighteen miles north of Gravesend is Billericay (Great Burstead parish); nine miles further is Chelmsford. Thomas was a pioneer of the Massachusetts town which became ‘Chelmsford;’ here he and Parker bought a six-mile tract, named it ‘Billerica,’ and sold farms to William and Edmund Chamberlain; we have reason to believe that wife Mary provided some of the money (perhaps inherited, brought by brother?).

A Thomas Chamberlayne was in Great Burstead in 1609 (and apparently a non-conformist). We submit that Thomas, Edmund, and William were probably sons of Francis¹ of Elizabeth City, Va., (perhaps by a previous marriage, to Agnes Haiden, 1615, at Ugley, County Essex); that they stayed with relatives at Great Burstead prior to emigration; and that Thomas named two towns which he helped found, after English towns dear to him.”

The foregoing theory seems logical and worthy of serious consideration in all aspects except the supposed relationship to Francis Chamberlin. On this one point, we emphatically disagree. It would be nice and neat to connect these three men to Francis Chamberlain, but there is simply no evidence. The fact that he lived almost next door to Daniel Gookin in 1623 (12 years before Thomas and William came to Virginia) has little if any significance. The mention of a Francis Chamberlain marrying an Agnes Haiden in County Essex in 1615, also lacks any connection to these three men.

First of all, Francis was living at Elizabeth City, Virginia, in 1623-24, aged 45, with wife Rebecca, aged 37, and son Francis, aged 3 years. Even if he was the same man that married Agnes in 1615, why would he have left his three small sons in England and gone off to Virginia with a new wife and child? (In 1623, Thomas would have been about 8 years old; Edmund about 5 years, and William about three).

The strongest argument against this supposed relationship is that there is not one child (known) in the progeny of Thomas, Edmund, or William that bears the name Francis/Frances until the late 1790's. In those days of naming children after parents and relatives, it seems highly unlikely that not even one child or grandchild was named for their father.

It may be that Francis was in some way related to these three men but it is highly doubtful that the relationship was a close one. There were many Chamberlain families in County Essex in the early 1600s. Without something more to go on, it seems useless to try and draw any definite conclusions.

Glazier goes on to state that Hotten's list of 1635 also contains an entry for William Chamberlain, aged 15, who also emigrated from Gravesend, England, for Virginia. [Edmund's name does not appear in Hotten's list] and that the brothers all came to New England with Daniel Gookin. Note that Thomas Chamberlain, Daniel Gookin, and James Parker were all made Freeman on the same day.

In January and February 1648/49, William and Edmund Chamberlain, respectively, appear in the Woburn records. Thus, these three, Thomas, William and Edmund have every appearance of being brothers, although there is no known record or document to state this claim. All three joined with neighbors in a petition to the General Court for a tract of land which was afterwards settled as Chelmsford, where Thomas and Edmund removed, while William was one of the proprietors of a large tract which came to be known as Billerica.

Mary Turner was perhaps a daughter of John & Elizabeth (who died 2 Oct 1647, Roxbury, MA) Turner of Roxbury, MA. The *Cleveland Genealogy* says that she was the sister of John Turner. But thus far, no records have come to light to substantiate either theory.

Edmond Chamberline lived at Roxbury until the latter part of the year 1648, when he removed to Woburn, where, we note, Thomas Chamberline, was already settled. In February, 1648/49, he received a grant of land of land, “next parly medow Brooke and adjoyning to Reding line.” as the town records show. This tract he received in company with John Parker and William Chamberline, suggesting the supposed family connection between the men. The record reads thus:

“The 13 of 12 mo. 1648. Edmond Chamberlin, John Parker and William Chamberlin are to have tenne Acres to either of them or twenty acres as the Commite shall see meete. They are to lay it out as shall be Best for the Towne and proprietors begining at that end and next parly medow and adjoyning to Reding line at the out side all the way to bee layd out of the persons as they are in order above Expressed” (Woburn Town Records, Liber 1, P. 14).

On 22 Oct 1656, Edmund, of Chelmsford, planter, deeded one dwelling house and about 50 acres in Billerica to William Baker for £33, 7s, “bounded on the northeast with William Chamberline,” etc., “which I purchased both meadow and upland of Isaack Lerner, Thomas Chamberline and James Parker, the whole being one twelfth of all that farme of 1500 acres by the purchase of the Worshipfull Thomas Dudley, Esq., deceased” (*Middlesex Deeds*, Liber 1, P. 197).

He removed from Woburn to the new settlement at Chelmsford at the same time as Thomas Chamberlain did. After removing to Chelmsford, Mary was received to that church.

The church in Chelmsford was organized by the Rev. John Fiske on 13 Nov 1655, who came there with a large contingent from Wenham. Mr. Fiske's record of members was transcribed and published by the Massachusetts Historical Society. The Chelmsford church records mention that “Mary Chamberlin, the wife of Edmond Chamberline was dismissed to us from the church of Woburne.” On 1 Feb 1655/56, the children of Edmund and Mary Chamberlain were baptized “on her account” at the church in Chelmsford together with Thomas Chamberlain, his wife Mary and their children. The record of that event pertaining to the children of Edmund and Mary reads as follows:

“Mary, about 8 years old
Elisabeth, about 5 years old
John, about 3 years old
Edmond, about _ years old”

1:12th month: 1656” (*Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Second Series, Volume XII, p. 330)

These records show that Edmund was probably not himself a member of the church and that Mary had removed her membership from the church of Roxbury to that of Woburn while they resided there. She was transferred from that church to the new one at Chelmsford on 11 June 1656.

In the Inventory of the estate of “Isaiah Learnoff (?)” of Chelmsford, dated December 4, 1657, there appears a “Debt due to the estate from Edmund Chamberline £5:12:06 (*Middlesex Probate Records*, Liber 1, P. 146).

Edmund Chamberlain lived at Chelmsford for about 16 years and was one of the “fence-viewers” in 1657 and 1662 and had considerable land and a comfortable farmer’s homestead. On 3 May 1665, he became a Freeman of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Mary died at Roxbury “1669, Month 10, day 7...at Samuel Ruggles’ house (*Roxbury Vital Records*, CR-1).” She appears to have been there on a visit and may have been related to that family. Her tombstone, which has no dates on it, is located near the tombstone of Gov. Dudley.

Edmund’s second wife, Mrs. Hannah Burdette (or Burditt/Burden), was the widow of Robert Burdette, of Malden, MA. Her parents, William and Annis (Churchman) Witter, were of Lynn, (Old Norfolk, later Essex Co.), MA. Robert Burdette had died 16 June 1667. Hannah’s children by him were Thomas Burdette, b. Sep 1655; Hannah Burdette, b. Nov 1656; Joseph Burdette; Mary Burdette; Sarah Burdette; and Ruth Burdette, b. May 1666. Edmund took charge of the estate of his wife’s first husband, and some years afterwards made it over to her son Thomas Burdette on 1 April 1678 (*Middlesex Court Files*).

After his marriage to Hannah in 1670, Edmund moved again, making his new home in Malden where his new wife had formerly lived, although, their marriage record says they were both of Malden. He rented a tract of land in Malden, belonging to the estate of the late Governor Bellingham, as appears from the papers of the estate, specifying the payment of rent by him for the years of 1673 and 1674 at three pounds a year.

The people of Malden elected him one of their constables, an office which called for business ability and executive faculty, a great part of the constable’s work being the collection of taxes. In the time of Indian conflicts he was called on to perform special duties. In King Philip’s War, he thus served. In the archives of Massachusetts, Vol. XVII, P. 234, the summons and report may be seen:

“To the constable of Malden.

These require you in his majestys name on sight hereof to Impress ten able horses wll shod with bridles and saddles well shod fitt for the Countreys service & bring them to Capt. Davis’ house in Boston by eight of the clock in the morning & hereof you are to make a true returne under your hand & not to faile at yor perrill, dated August 1675.

By ye Councill. Edw. Rawson Secret’y”

On the other side of the paper is written in a fine clear hand:

“I have imprest ten horses for the use of the centre according to the temer of the warrant. Edmond Chamberlin

They apparently moved back to Roxbury as they were living there on 27 Oct 1678, when Edmond and Hannah sold the Chelmsford place to James Russell. The farm was described as a “dwelling house and 15 acres of land on part of which the house stands and 15 acres of land on the east of the house, a highway dividing between them, both tracts bounded by land of Thomas Chamberlaine northward and by the town commons also where about 38 acres of meadow in various places and ten acres at Pine Plain at the head of the cove.

On 14 Apr 1682, Joseph Lynn, granted the privilege of a highway from the highway which led to Dedham, though his lands in Roxbury to the highway through the pond lotts to Mr. Bowen’s farm to to fifteen men including Edmund Chamberlain (*Suffolk Deeds*, Liber 34, P. 167).

Edmund¹ Chamberlain (No. 5903) – Continued

Once more this hardy pioneer betook himself with his family to a new settlement then called New Roxbury. This time he joined many of his neighbors at Roxbury, including Samuel Ruggles and William Bartholomew, in “planting” at Woodstock, a place then considered as a suburb, so to speak, of Roxbury, and a portion of Suffolk county, Massachusetts. Later it became a part of Connecticut. Its lands were first held by proprietors residing at Roxbury who granted and recorded they lands as though they were within the bounds of Roxbury proper. Later on, Woodstock was organized and established its own local government and records.

Hannah Chamberlain was admitted to full communion In the church at Roxbury on 15 June 1684.

The following debits and credits were listed in an account of the estate of Griffith Bowen rendered in Feb-May 1683/84:

“To building, repairing and fencing on that farm in the time wherein Edmund Chamberlaine occupied the same being 5 years, all which will appear by an account of particulars. £39:16:06

“For 2 years rent at 5 lb per year and 3 years rent at 9 lb a year payd by Edmund Chamberlaine: 39:16:06.

Rent remaining in the hands of sd Chamberlain: 3:03:06”

On 13 Dec 1691, the names of Edmund Chamberlin and Jacob Chamberlin appear on the tax list for Muddy River, which was then a part of Boston, and later of Brookline (*Boston Records of the Commissioners*, Liber 1, P. 157).

Edmund had Lot No. 56 in the third range containing 21 acres in Roxbury’s half of the town of Woodstock; also Lot 73 (27½ acres) in the fifth range in the second division. On 23 Nov 1693, the town of Woodstock granted him “a corner of land about thirty rods for fencing,” on the North side of Muddy brook. Edmund bought a tract of land in Woodstock from James Frizzell and on 21 Mar 1693/94, the town granted him three acres of land adjoining that tract.

On 28 July 1696, Administration on the estate of Edmund Chamberlain, husbandman, late of Woodstock, County of Suffolk, province of Massachusetts Bay, was granted to his widow, Hannah Chamberlain, who gave the required bond, dated 26 July 1696, for the sum of two hundred pounds, with Samuel Ruggles and John Mayo, both of Roxbury, sureties.

“An Inventory of the Estate of Edmund Chamberlain, late of Woodstock, who dec’d, May 8th, Anno Dom: 1696,” amounted to £77, 12s and 7d.

Pd to Deacon ffreary [Mary]	01	00	00
Pd to James Corbyn	01	00	00
Pd to John Mayo	03	03	04
Pd to Mr. Josiah Dwight	00	12	00
Pd to Mary Chamberlain for money which my sd husband borrowed of her	01	01	06
Pd to Richard Billings of Hatfield	00	12	00
Pd to Nathaniel Sangor	00	09	00
Pd to Peter Moss for Weaving	00	06	06
Pd to William Bartholomew	00	01	00
Pd to John Gore	00	04	00
Pd Expences in traveling from Woodstock twice, allowance for my time and trouble	01	10	00
For allowing and registering this account	00	06	00
	23	04	03

Edmund¹ Chamberlain (No. 5903) – Continued

Whole Estate	77	12	03
Changes	23	04	08
Remains	54	07	07

Errors excepted, signed
Hannah Chamberlain

Besides whiche summe pd, the estate remains yet indebted to severall persons about fefty shillings money.

Wearing Apparell, 35s. & Bible 5s	02	00	00
2 Baggs 3s & cart rope 4s	00	07	00
Apparell; pillion, an old hive and a spade at 12d ps.	00	04	00
2 axes at 4/ps, 4 wedges and 2 beetle rings 5/ old iron 4d	00	17	00
Earthen ware 12d; 3 gimlets 9d; 2 forks and a hammer 3/	00	04	09
Pewter 5/, Iron Pot 5/, Frying pan 2/6d	00	12	06
Saddle and Bridle 4/; a box 3/	00	07	00
Chairs and Wooden Vessells, spoons and Tinpan	00	06	06
Cart and wheels and Tackling	03	10	00
A plow and horse Tackling	00	15	00
A wheel 2/; 6d. a rugg 2/. A slead & brank 3/. A shovel 1/.	00	08	06
A pr. small oxen, a cow and yearling and small swine	10	00	00
Horse kine	03	00	00
A small right in the Woods	01	10	00
An Interest in the Land belonging to Roxbury	02	10	00
House and Homestead	31	00	00

57 12 03

Cash paid that was due to the Estate	20	00	00
Apprized by us.			

77 12 03

Benajmin Sabin
James Corbin
John Johnson

Presented to the court by the Administratix on 21 Sep 1696. The Account of the Administratix was filed and allowed 24 Sep 1696. Hannah charged herself with the estate as it had been appraised, viz.

Goods and Chattles	42	12	03
The house and lands	35	00	00
	77	12	03

Hannah petitioned for allowance of expenses and payments, as follows:

Pd sickness and funerall charges	01	08	06
Pd for letters of Administration & registering Inventory	00	10	00
Pd to severall persons for corne which was spent in the family before the death of my husband	02	03	08
Paid to John Chamberlain for so much due to him	09	00	00

The referenced Archive Sheet gives Hannah's birthdate as "about 1641" which surely cannot be correct (12 years old at the time of her first marriage? It also says that Jacob² married (2) Sarah Fawn (?).

The date of Emund's death was not recorded in the vital records, but is instead given in the record of his Inventory.

Prentiss Glazier suggests that the *Ancestry of Peter Parker and Sarah Ruggles* is the best reference for the early years of this family. He also recommends Cutter's book on early Connecticut families. Also see, the histories of Roxbury, Chelsea, Malden, Revere, Dudley, and Hopkinton, MA

Woodstock, Connecticut, was part of Massachusetts until 1747, and was called New Roxbury. Note that West Roxbury was not set off from Roxbury and incorporated until 1851. Roxbury was in Suffolk County until 1793, when Norfolk county was created.

PREPARATION OF THIS RECORD

This record was prepared by the late David C. Chamberlin Sr., using data obtained from various sources as listed. Comments and additional information are welcome and should be sent to the World Chamberlain Genealogical Society. < www.chamberlain-society.org >
Email: CorrSec@chamberlain-society.org

Chamberlain Association of America, Mss Gen., New England Historic Society, SG/CHA/49-14, Edmund of Roxbury [RC321-1 thru 4R, #1]
Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy, Vol. I, P. 971
Vital Records Chelmsford, MA [RC 148]
Vital Records, Roxbury, MA, Vol. 2, pp. 67, 484 [RC 244]
"Chelmsford, MA, Marriages," *New England Historic Genealogical Register*, 1897, P. 308
Vital Records, Malden, MA [RC 215]
Cleveland Genealogy, 1893 [not seen]
One Hundred Years of Sixty Allied Families, by Austin [not seen]
Massachusetts Archives, Vol. XVII, P. 234,
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Middlesex Probate Records, Liber 1, P. 146
Suffolk Deeds, Liber 34, P. 167
Boston Records of the Commissioners, Liber 1, P. 157 [RC 128]
Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Second Series, Volume XII, p. 330
Chamberlain Families, by Prentiss Glazier, Vol. I, "Chamberlain Families in Connecticut, 1790," P. 42; Vol. II, "Descendants of Edmund¹ Chamberlain of Roxbury," pp. 27-28
The History of Woodstock, Connecticut, Norwood, MA, 1926, by Clarence Winthrop Bowen, Vol. III, P. 270 [RC 397]
Archive Sheet, Family History Library (Genealogical Society), Salt Lake City, Utah, Submitted by Mrs. Robert A. Egbert, 2720 E. Lincoln St., Idaho Falls, ID; B2E5, pp. 147, 221, 227, 370, 374-77
John Eliot's Roxbury Church Record, Published in Boston Records, Vol. 6
A History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, by W. Waters, 1917, Three Volumes, Vol. 1, P. 27 [RC 285]
Woburn Town Records, 1640-1873, Vol. 1, P. 14 [RC 277]
Suffolk Probate Records, Estate of Edmund Chamberlain, 1696
King Philip's War, by Bodge
"Chamberlain Families of Early New England," *The American Genealogist*, Vol. 51, No. 3, pp. 151-53, July 1975, by Prentiss Glazier [RC 225]
Notes on the Tuckerman Family, by B. Tuckerman, 1914, P. 18 [not seen]
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History of Peter Parker and Sarah Ruggles, by J.W. Linzie, 1913, pp. 147, 371, 374, 541 [not seen]

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