

# Joseph Hull biography and descendency from pp452-459 of

## *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England 1634-1634, Vol III (G-H),*

by Robert Charles Anderson, The Great Migration Study Project,  
New England Historical Genealogical Society, Boston, 2003

Joseph Hull (1593 – 1665) must have been a very interesting man. He graduated from Oxford in 1614 and was ordained 1619. He served as a minister at two churches in England before running afoul of the Church of England. He then gathered a flock of over 100 followers who emigrated to Plymouth Colony with him and his family on *The Marygould* in 1635. At times reviled and praises, he was sufficiently unorthodox that he was booted from or found it expedient to leave several churches in Massachusetts, Maine, and England over the next 30 years. After returning to Maine in 1662 he served as a minister peacefully until his death in 1665.

There are many versions of his life story. One of the best is on [Wikipedia](#).

The book extract in this document also provides a good, if less readable, view of his live and touches on the lives of his 16 children. They are described on the following pages *in this document*.

Before emigration (children by his first wife, whose name and birth and death dates are unknown)

- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| i.   | Johanna (b.1620 England). m Dolor Davis .....                    | 4 |
| ii.  | Joseph (b.1622 England) M Blanche ?? .....                       | 4 |
| iii. | Tristram (b.1624 England) .....                                  | 4 |
| iv.  | Temperance (b.1625/6 England) .....                              | 4 |
| v.   | Elizabeth (b.1628 England) m John Heard .....                    | 4 |
| vi.  | Griselda (b.1630 England) .....                                  | 4 |
| vii. | Dorothy (b.1632 England) m. Oliver Kent, Benjamin Matthews ..... | 4 |

After immigration, children by his wife Agnes (born in 1610, married in 1633)

- |       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| viii. | Hopewell (b.1636 Hingham, Plymouth Col) m. Mary Martin .....  | 5 |
| ix.   | Benjamin (bp.1638/9 Barnstable) m. Rachel York .....          | 5 |
| x.    | Naomi (bp.1638/9m Barnstable) m. Davy Daniel .....            | 5 |
| xi.   | Ruth (bp.1641 Barnstable) .....                               | 5 |
| xii.  | Dodovah (abt1643) m. Mary Seward .....                        | 5 |
| xiii. | Samuel (abt 1656) m. Mary Manning .....                       | 5 |
| xiv.  | Phineas (abt 1647) m. Jerusha Hitchcock, Mary Rishworth ..... | 5 |
| xv.   | Reuben (bp1648/9 England) m. Hannah Ferniside .....           | 5 |
| xvi.  | Ephriam (bp 1649/50 England) .....                            | 6 |
| xvii. | Priscilla (bp 1651 England) .....                             | 6 |

The excerpt starts at the bottom of p.452:

---

### JOSEPH HULL

*ORIGIN:* Broadway, Somersetshire [TAG 68:149].

*MIGRATION:* 1635 (on 20 March 1634/5, "Joseph Hall of Somerset, a minister, aged 40 years, Agnis Hall his wife aged 25 years, Joane Hall

his daughter aged 15 years, Joseph Hall his son aged 13 years, Tristram his son aged 11 years, Elizabeth Hall his daughter aged 7 years, Temperance his daughter aged 9 years, Grissell Hull his daughter aged 5 years, Dorothy Hall his daughter aged 3 years, Judeth French his servant aged 20 years, John Wood his servant aged 20 years, [and] Rob[er]t Dabyn his servant aged 28 years" were enrolled at Weymouth as passengers for New England on the *Marygould* [Hotten 283; GMN 7:9]).

*FIRST RESIDENCE:* Weymouth.

*REMOVES:* Hingham by 1638, Barnstable 1639, Yarmouth 1641, York 1643, Oyster River, Isles of Shoals.

*RETURN TRIPS:* Returned to England by 1648 (baptism of son at Launceston, Cornwall on 23 January 1648/9 [M&JCH 17:96]) and back to New England soon after 1662 (ejected from St Buryan, Cornwall [Calamy 1:349]).

*OCCUPATION:* Minister. Rector of Northleigh, Devonshire, 1621-32 [Foster 2:765]; curate of Broadway, Somersetshire, 1633-34 [TAG 68:149].

On 5 May 1639, "Mr. Hull gave his farewell sermon" at Hingham [NEHGR 121:11]. On 11 December 1639, a day of thanksgiving was held "at Mr. Hull's house, for God's exceeding mercy in bringing us hither [Barnstable] safely keeping us healthy & well in our weak beginnings & in our church estate" [NEHGR 10:39].

On 7 March 1642/3, it "is ordered, that a warrant shall be directed to the constable of Yarmouth, to apprehend Mr. Joseph Hull (if he do either exercise the ministry amongst them or administer the seals), to bring him before the next magistrate, to find sufficient sureties for his appearance the next General Court, to answer his doings (being an excommunicant)" [PCR 2:53].

When Roger Garde died at Agamenticus early in 1645, "Mr. Hull offered to preach yet his funeral sermon and did and the people all solemnly interred him there with arms" [WP 5:38].

He resided at Launceston, Cornwall, at least from 1648 to 1652, and was presumably minister there, and was rector at St Buryan, Cornwall, in 1662 when he was ejected from that living [Calamy 1:349].

The largest single item in his inventory, dated 5 December 1665, was "the Islands [Isles of Shoals] indebted to my husband for his ministry," £20 [MPCR 1:270].

*CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:* Admission to Weymouth church prior to 2 September 1635 implied by freemanship [GMN 5:29].



On 1 May 1641, "Mr. Hull excommunicated for his willful breaking of communion with us, & joining himself a member with a company at Yarmouth to be their pastor, contrary to the advice and counsel of our Church" [NEHGR 10:41]. On 11 March 1642[/3?], "[o]ur sister Hull renewed her covenant with us, renouncing her joining with the [church] at Jarmouth confessing her evil in so doing with sorrow" [NEHGR 10:39]. On 10 August 1643, "Mr. Hull, in the acknowledging of his sin, & renewing his covenant was received again into fellowship with us" [NEHGR 10:41].

*FREEMAN*: 2 September 1635 (first in a sequence of six Weymouth men) [MBCR 1:371].

*OFFICES*: Deputy for Hingham to Massachusetts Bay General Court, 6 September 1638, 13 March 1638/9 [MBCR 1:235, 250]. Committee on wages and prices, 12 March 1637/8 [MBCR 1:223]. Commissioner to end small causes at Hingham, 6 September 1638 [MBCR 1:239]. Committee to set a colony tax rate, 6 September 1638 [MBCR 1:242].

Deputy for Barnstable to Plymouth General Court, 3 December 1639 [PCR 1:126, 137].

*EDUCATION*: Matriculated at Oxford from St Mary Hall on 22 May 1612, aged 17; BA 14 November 1614 [Foster 2:765]. His inventory included "his books" valued at £10 [MPCR 1:270].

*ESTATE*: In 1636 two parcels of land were "granted unto Mr. Joseph Hull by the town of Hingham": "for a houselot five acres of land"; and "for a great lot and for a planting lot lying together five and forty acres" [HiBOP 97v].

On 7 September 1642, in "the controversy betwixt Samuella Hinckley and Mr. Joseph Hull, about the lands the said Hinckley bought of the said Hull in Barnstable, it is ordered, by the consent of both parties and by the town of Barnstable, being referred to the bench, that the said Mr. Hull, according to his own proffer, shall abate forty shillings of that the said Samuella Hinckley should have paid him for the said land, and that the town of Barnstable shall return the one half of the lands they took away from the said Samuella Hunckley to him again, and so a final end to be of all suits & controversies about the same" [PCR 2:44, 7:30, 31].

On 6 July 1646, Edward Godfrey successfully sued "Joseph Hull, minister, ... for a parcel of marsh" [MPCR 1:93].

On 12 June 1666, "letters of administration are to be granted unto Mistress Agnis Hull of the estate of Mr. Joseph Hull her husband lately deceased" [MPCR 1:261]. The inventory of "the goods of Mr. Joseph Hull who departed this life the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1665," taken 5 December 1665, totalled £52 5s. 5d. [MPCR 1:269-270].

*BIRTH:* Baptized Crewkerne, Somersetshire, 24 April 1596, son of Thomas and Joan (Pyssing) Hull [Evans Festschrift 50].

*DEATH:* 19 November 1665 (from inventory [MPCR 1:269]).

*MARRIAGE:* (1) By about 1620 \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) By 1635 Agnes \_\_\_\_\_. She was living on 5 December 1666.

*CHILDREN:*

With first wife

- i JOANNA HULL, b. about 1620 (aged 15 in 1635 [Hotten 283]); m. (1) Sandwich about 28 November 1639 JOHN BURSLEY {1623, Weymouth} [NEHGR 9:286; GMB 1:280-83]; m. (2) on an unknown date DOLOR DAVIS {1634, Cambridge} [GM 2:2:292-97].
- ii JOSEPH HULL, b. about 1622 (aged 13 in 1635 [Hotten 283]); living in November 1644 (assuming that he was the son of Rev. Joseph Hull who was involved in the death of Richard Cornish) [WJ 2:258]; no further record.
- iii TRISTRAM HULL, b. about 1624 (aged 11 in 1635 [Hotten 283]); m. by 1645 Blanche \_\_\_\_\_ (eldest known child b. Barnstable "the latter end of September, 1645" [PCR 8:45]; in his will of 20 December 1666, "Mr. Thristrum Hull of Barnstable" named "his wife Blanch Hull" [MD 17:23-24, citing PCPR 2:2:41-42]).
- iv TEMPERANCE HULL, bp. Northleigh, Devonshire, 20 March 1625/6 [TAG 68:149]; m. by about 1650 John Bickford [GDMNH 91; Durham Hist 2:222].
- v ELIZABETH HULL, b. about 1628 (aged 7 in 1635 [Hotten 283]); m. by 1643 John Heard [GDMNH 322].
- vi GRISELDA HULL, b. about 1630 (aged 5 in 1635 [Hotten 283]); sailed to New England with family in 1635 [Hotten 283]; no further record. (James Warren of Kittery named a daughter Grizel [GDMNH 721], and on this basis the suggestion has been made that his wife was Griselda Hull [ONGQ 12:92, 137]; but in all records his wife is named Margaret, and this usage of the name for his daughter appears to be nothing more than a coincidence.)
- vii DOROTHY HULL, b. about 1632 (aged 3 in 1635 [Hotten 283]); m. (1) by about 1660 Oliver Kent [GDMNH 398]; m. (2) after 28 June 1670 Benjamin Mathews [GDMNH 467-68; Durham Hist 2:222-24].

With second wife



- viii HOPEWELL HULL, b. say 1636; m. by 1669 Mary Martin, daughter of John Martin [NJArch 22:lxix].
- ix BENJAMIN HULL, bp. Hingham 24 March 1638/9 [NEHGR 121:11]; m. by 1669 Rachel York (eldest known child b. 5 May 1669 [Monnette 235]), daughter of Richard York (in his will of 23 April 1672, "Ritchard Yorke" included a bequest to "my daughter Ratchell Halle [*sic*]" [NHPP 31:134]).
- x NAOMI HULL, bp. Barnstable 23 March 1639/40 [NEHGR 9:282]; on 15 June 1661, "Naomi Hull, aged twenty years and upwards," testified as to events in the household of "her master [Samuel] Symonds" of Ipswich [EQC 2:296-97]; on 17 September 1667, "Amy Hull [was] presented for committing fornication, sentence to be whipped to the number of 15 stripes & fees" [NHPP 40:229]; m. by an unknown date Davy Daniel [GDMNH 182; Durham Hist 2:222-24].
- xi RUTH HULL, bp. Barnstable 9 May 1641 (the first of two baptisms on the same day, annotated "Both these from Yarmouth, the parents of the first being yet members with us") [NEHGR 9:282]; no further record. (The Ruth Hull who married William Raymond was daughter of Isaac Hull of Beverly [Dawes-Gates 2:467-68].)
- xii DODOVAH HULL, b. say 1643 (granted land at York on 21 September 1667 [YLR 11:14]); m. about 1680 Mary Seward, daughter of Richard Seward (Mary Seward was b. in 1658 and their only known child was m. in 1700 [GDMNH 237, 621]).
- xiii SAMUEL HULL, b. say 1645; m. (1) Piscataway, New Jersey, 16 November 1677 Mary Manning [Monnette 227]; m. (2) by 1702 Margaret \_\_\_\_\_ (eldest known child b. Piscataway, New Jersey, 5 December 1702 [Monnette 235]).
- xiv (possibly) PHINEAS HULL, b. about 1647 (deposed 24 August 1674 "aged 27 years or thereabouts" [MPCR 2:492]); m. (1) by about 1675 Jerusha Hitchcock, daughter of RICHARD HITCHCOCK {1634, Massachusetts Bay} [GM 2:3:339-42]; m. (2) after 1689 Mary (Rishworth) (White) Sayward, daughter of EDWARD RISHWORTH {1638, Exeter} [GDMNH 588] and widow of (William?) White [GDMNH 749] and John Sayward [GDMNH 611].
- xv REUBEN HULL, bp. Launceston, Cornwall, 23 January 1648/9 [M&JCH 17:96] (aged about 20 in June 1669 [GDMNH,



citing an unidentified source]); m. by 1673 Hannah Fernside (eldest known child b. Boston 9 September 1673 [BVR 128]), daughter of John Fernside (in his will of 23 December 1689, "Reuben Hull of Portsmouth" included bequests to "my well beloved wife Hannah Hull" and "my sister Sarah Fermiside" [NHPP 31:332-33; NEHGR 94:174-75]).

- xvi EPHRAIM HULL, bp. Launceston, Cornwall, 13 February 1649/50 [M&JCH 17:96; Ancestral Lines 318-22]; no further record.
- xvii PRISCILLA HULL, bp. Launceston, Cornwall, 30 March 1651 [Ancestral Lines 318-22]; bur. there in 1652 [GDMNH 358, apparently citing Launceston parish register].

*ASSOCIATIONS:* Rev. Joseph Hull was brother of GEORGE HULL {1632, Dorchester} [GMB 2:1040-43; Evans Festschrift 44-51].

*COMMENTS:* Most of the passengers who came to New England in 1635 on the *Marygould* whose English origins have been identified came from either Broadway or Batcomb in Somersetshire [Hotten 283-86]. With the discovery that Rev. Joseph Hull was curate at Broadway in 1633 and 1634, the conclusion that he was the organizer and leader of at least a part of this shipload of passengers is greatly reinforced. A further reflection of this connection to Broadway is seen in a deed of 20 February 1639/[40], wherein "Richard Standerweek, of Broadway, in the county of Somerset, in old England, clothier," sold to "Nicholas Nurton, of Waimouth, in New England, ... all the cattle ... whatsoever I have with Mr. Hull in New England" [PCR 1:159-60, 7:16].

On 8 July 1635, Gov. John Winthrop reported that "[a]t this Court, Wessaguscus was made a plantation & Mr. Hull, a minister in England, & 21 families with him allowed to set down there" [WJ 1:194]. On 8 July 1635, "[t]here is leave granted to 21 families to sit down at Wessaguscus, viz: [blank]" [MBCR 1:149].

On 10 May 1643, in his discussion of the formation of the New England Confederation, Gov. John Winthrop noted that "[t]hose of Sir Ferdinando Gorge his province, beyond Pascataquack, were not received nor called into the confederation, because they ran a different course from us both in their ministry and civil administration; for they had lately made Acomenticus (a poor village) a corporation, and had made a tailor their mayor, and had entertained one Hull, an excommunicated person and very contentious, for their minister" [WJ 2:121]. In November 1644, as part of the inquiry into the suspicious death of RICHARD CORNISH



{1634, Weymouth} at Agamenticus, "something was discovered against the son of Mr. Hull, their minister," which caused the case to be reopened [WJ 2:258; GM 2:2:213-14].

In the 1635 passenger list, Agnes Hull, wife of Rev. Joseph, is said to be twenty-five years old, and on this basis she cannot have been the mother of his older children. All published accounts assume that she married Hull just before the passenger list was compiled, and that his first seven children are by an earlier wife. This is certainly possible, but there is no reason why she could not have been mother of some of the younger children on the passenger list. As she was apparently still bearing children as late as 1652, we cannot propose that she was the mother of all the children if we were able to adjust her age on the passenger list to thirty-five, as this would put her into her early fifties when the last children were born. So, in the absence of further evidence, we postulate two wives. There is no evidence that the first wife was named Joan.

We next have to address the problem of the evidence for placing all these children in the family of Rev. Joseph Hull. The first seven are proved by the passenger list, and the ninth, tenth, eleventh, fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth by baptismal records

This leaves four sons for whom there is no equivalent evidence: Hopewell, Dodovah, Samuel and Phineas, the last three all apparently born in the mid to late 1640s, when Rev. Joseph Hull and his family were living in York. In his will of 26 March 1693, Hopewell Hull named "brother Benjamin Hull" as overseer, and Samuel Hull is seen in association with these families [NJArch 21:108, 194]. Reuben Hull named a son Dodovah Hull [GDMNH 358], so these two men would seem to be brothers. The evidence is most tenuous for Phineas, although he did reside late in his life in York [GDMNH 358]. Firmer evidence for or against placing him in this family would be welcome.

The evidence for the residence and vital events in Launceston, Cornwall, has been pieced together from three sources. The baptisms for Reuben and Ephraim were published by Burton Spear [M&JCH 17:96], the baptisms for Ephraim and Priscilla by Carl Boyer [*Ancestral Lines*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Santa Clarita, California, 1998), cited above as *Ancestral Lines*, pp. 318-22], and the incomplete burial record for Priscilla by Noyes, Libby and Davis [GDMNH 358]. These three sets of records are all presumably derived from the same source, the Launceston parish register, and are consistent with one another. However, since each person who examined this register obtained a different result, further examination of the register should be undertaken.



From the three baptisms at Hingham and Barnstable and the two at Launceston, we see a regular interval of almost exactly a year, implying that the family employed a wetnurse. Under these circumstances, we have considerably more leeway in arranging the birth order of the children, and, in particular, might just as well place Hopewell in the mid-1640s.

Evidence for the marriages of three of the daughters (Temperance, Dorothy and Naomi) is also slight, and is best summarized by Stackpole and Meserve [Durham Hist 2:222-24]. The evidence for the marriage of John Heard and Elizabeth Hull is onomastic, inasmuch as they named sons Joseph and Tristram [GDMNH 322].

Most compiled treatments of the family of Rev. Joseph Hull include a daughter Sarah who died in 1647 [GDMNH 358; Hull Gen 249; Durham Hist 2:225]. This child was actually a daughter of Tristram Hull, son of Joseph. In the register of Yarmouth vital events for 1647, submitted to the Plymouth Colony Court, is the birth on 18 October of that year of "Sara Hull, the daughter of Trustrum Hull" [PCR 8:3]. Six entries later, in a portion of the same document that has been damaged, is "Sara Hull, the [damaged] died [damaged]" [PCR 8:4]. Many years later, after Tristram Hull had moved to Barnstable, he entered in the records of that town a list of the births of five children, the first of whom was "his daughter Mary, born the latter end of September, 1645," and the second of whom was "Sarah, the latter end of March, 1650" [PCR 8:45]. The gap between 1645 and 1650 accommodates the daughter Sarah who was born and died that year, and for whom the next daughter born to this family was named. Some genealogist of the past misappropriated this death record of 1647, placing it in the family of Rev. Joseph Hull rather than in its proper place. The further claim that this non-existent daughter Sarah was born in 1636 must have arisen from an attempt, once her existence was believed, to find an appropriate place for her in the list of children.

Col. Weygant believed that the son Joseph married and had four sons [Hull Gen 251], but there is no evidence that Joseph had a family, and these four alleged sons belong elsewhere, either as sons of the immigrant, or totally unconnected, or non-existent.

*BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE:* In 1909 and 1910 Orra Eugene Monnette published a lengthy study of the New Jersey branches of the descendants of Rev. Joseph Hull [ONGQ 12:86-92, 134-42, 13:26-35]. The presentation and argumentation in this article are of a better quality than other work compiled by Monnette.