

# The English Origin of Robert<sup>1</sup> Reynolds of Boston, Massachusetts

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A biographical and genealogical sketch of the immigrant Robert<sup>1</sup> Reynolds of Boston, Massachusetts, was published in 2009 by Robert Charles Anderson as part of the Great Migration Study Project. Anderson showed that Robert Reynolds immigrated to New England by 1634, had a wife named Mary, and had at least five children that were probably all born in England: Ruth (born say 1623), Tabitha (born say 1625), Nathaniel (born about 1627), Sarah (born say 1629), and Mary (born say 1631).<sup>[1]</sup> The English origin of this immigrant has remained unknown.<sup>[2]</sup>

As the given name of Robert's daughter Tabitha is uncommon, a search was undertaken in English records for her baptism. A baptismal record was found for her and for her known siblings Nathaniel and Sarah in the parish of Isleworth, Middlesex, along with two siblings that died young as follows:

|                               |         |  |
|-------------------------------|---------|--|
| [ <i>torn</i> ] November 1621 | Baptism | [Ro]bert Ray[nol]s & Mary [his wyfe had their daughter] Tab[it]ha baptized |
| 3 August 1623                 | Baptism | Robert Raynols & Ma[ry] his wife had there daught Mary b[aptized]          |
| 10 April 1625                 | Baptism | Robert Rainols & Mary his wyfe had there sone Nathaniell baptiz[ed]        |
| 17 December 1626              | Baptism | [Sara d. Robert & Mary Raynols]  |
| 30 May 1627                   | Burial  | [Mary d. Robert Raynols]   |
| 21 September 1630             | Baptism | Robert Raynols & Mary his wyfe had ther sone Phillip bap[tized]            |
| 28 November 1633              | Burial  | Phillip of Robert Raynols <sup>[3]</sup>                                   |

The immigrant's marriage and the baptism of his daughter Ruth were not found in Isleworth. A search of parish registers in the same area has located these two records in the parish of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey (about 5 miles south of Isleworth), as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635, Volume VI, R–S* (Boston: NEHGS, 2009), 45–49.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Directory: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1640, A Concise Compendium* (Boston: NEHGS, 2015), 281.

<sup>3</sup> All Saints, Isleworth, Middlesex, parish register, 1566–1655 [FHL DGS 8041035]. This register is in poor condition and the black and white photographs are of low quality so that some of the entries are either totally or partially illegible. Those parts of the entries that were difficult to read from these digital images were supplemented with the data abstracted from the original register by the West Middlesex Family History Society ([www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk)) and are enclosed in brackets. The DGS image numbers of the readable entries are: 77 (Tabitha), 80 (Mary's baptism), 82 (Nathaniel), 93 (Phillip's baptism), and 99 (Phillip's burial).

*Marriage*

9 November 1617

Robert Rennoles &amp; Mare Curuer

*Baptism*

5 March 1619/20

Ruth Rennoles daughter of Robert<sup>[4]</sup>

The above information is used in the following updated genealogical summary for the family of Robert<sup>1</sup> Reynolds.

### Genealogical Summary

**ROBERT<sup>1</sup> REYNOLDS** was born say 1592 (assuming age 25 at marriage). He married in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, 9 November 1617, **MARY CURVER**. Robert removed to Isleworth, Middlesex, by 1621, where he resided until at least 1633. He immigrated to New England by 1634 and was admitted a member of the Boston, Massachusetts, church on 10 August of that year.<sup>[5]</sup> Robert died in Boston on 27 April 1659<sup>[6]</sup> and his widow died there on 18 January 1663[1/4].<sup>[7]</sup> The will of “Robert Reynolds now Living in Boston” dated 20 April 1658 and proved 27 July 1659 gave to “my wife . . . my sonne Nathaniell . . . my fower daughters Children, that is to say . . . my daughter Ruth Whitney & to her Eldest Sonne . . . my Daughter Tabitha Abdy & her sonne Mathew Abdy, & if he should dye to her two daughters . . . my daughter Sarah Mason & her sonne Robert Mason & if he dye to her daughter Sarah . . . and . . . my daughter Mary Sanger & her sonne Nathaniell.” He named his wife the executrix of his will.<sup>[8]</sup>

Children of Robert<sup>1</sup> and Mary (Curver) Reynolds (ii-v, vii baptized in Isleworth):

- i. RUTH<sup>2</sup> REYNOLDS, bp. Kingston upon Thames, 5 March 1619/20, d. after 27 May 1695; m. by 1643, JOHN WHITNEY, bp. Isleworth, 14 Sept. 1621, d. Watertown, Mass., 12 Oct. 1692, son of John<sup>1</sup> and Eleanor (\_\_\_\_\_) Whitney of Watertown.<sup>[9]</sup>
- ii. TABITHA REYNOLDS, bp. [torn] Nov. 1621, d. Boston, [blank] 1661; m. by 1648, MATTHEW<sup>1</sup> ABDY, b. about 1620, d. after 5 April 1682. Her husband m. (2) Boston 24 May 1662, Alice Cox.<sup>[10]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, parish register, 1610–1621 (Surrey History Centre, P33/1/6) [Surrey, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538–1813, online at Ancestry.com, images 94 (marriage) and 122 (baptism)].

<sup>5</sup> Richard D. Pierce, *The Records of the First Church in Boston 1630-1868*, 3 vols., Publications of The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, vols. 39–41 (Boston: The Society, 1961), 1:19.

<sup>6</sup> David Pulsifer, “Records of Boston,” *Register* 2 (1848):76–80 et seq., at 18 (1864):168 (“Robert Reynolds”).

<sup>7</sup> [Ninth] *Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston Containing Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 1630–1699* (Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1883), 90 (“Mary wife of Robert Rainolls”).

<sup>8</sup> Suffolk County, Massachusetts, probate books, 1 (copy):346–348, citing original p. 324–325 [FHL DGS 7703070, images 186–187]. A more detailed abstract in in Anderson, *Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635, Volume VI* [note 1], 47.

<sup>9</sup> Dean Crawford Smith, *The Ancestry of Eva Belle Kempton, 1878–1908: Part I, The Ancestry of Warren Francis Kempton, 1817-1879*, Melinde Lutz Sanborn, ed. (Boston: NEHGS, 1996), 533.

<sup>10</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, George F. Sanborn, Jr., and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635, Volume I, A–B* (Boston: NEHGS, 1999), 6.

- iii. MARY REYNOLDS, bp. 3 Aug. 1623; bur. Isleworth, 30 May 1627.
- iv. NATHANIEL REYNOLDS, bp. 10 April 1625, d. Bristol, R.I., 10 July 1708;<sup>[11]</sup> m. (1) Boston 30 Dec. 1657, SARAH DWIGHT, b. Dedham, Mass., 17 June 1638,<sup>[12]</sup> d. Medfield, Mass., 8 July 1663,<sup>[13]</sup> daughter of John<sup>1</sup> and Hannah (\_\_\_\_) Dwight;<sup>[14]</sup> m. (2) by 1664, PRISCILLA BRACKETT, b. about 1646, daughter of Peter<sup>1</sup> and Priscilla (\_\_\_\_) Brackett.<sup>[15]</sup>
- v. SARAH REYNOLDS, bp. 17 Dec. 1626, living 14 Aug. 1682 (grantor in deed);<sup>[16]</sup> m. by about 1655, ROBERT MASON, d. between 11 Nov. 1678 (took oath of allegiance)<sup>[17]</sup> and 26 Jan. 1679[/80] (his inventory).<sup>[18]</sup>
- vi. MARY REYNOLDS (again) b. say 1628, living 12 Feb. 1710/1 (order by Watertown selectmen for her support);<sup>[19]</sup> m. by 1650, RICHARD SANGER, d. Watertown 20 Aug. 1691.<sup>[20]</sup>
- vii. PHILLIP REYNOLDS, bp. 21 Sept. 1630; bur. Isleworth, 28 Nov. 1633.

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<sup>11</sup> Marion H. Reynolds, *The History and Some of the Descendants of Robert and Mary Reynolds (1630?–1931) of Boston, Mass.*, (San Francisco: Sunset Press, 1931), 42.

<sup>12</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, George F. Sanborn, Jr., and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635, Volume II, C–F* (Boston: NEHGS, 2001), 6, 376.

<sup>13</sup> *Vital Records of Medfield, Massachusetts, To the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1903), 231.

<sup>14</sup> Anderson, et al., *Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635, Volume II* [note 12], 376.

<sup>15</sup> Gale Ion Harris, “Peter Brackett of Braintree and Boston, With Notes on His Daughter Sarah (Brackett) (Shaw) (Benjamin) Jimmerson,” *Register* 155 (2001), 279–294, at 286.

<sup>16</sup> *Suffolk Deeds*, 14 vols. (Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1880–1906), 12:282–283 (on 14 Aug. 1682 “Sarah Mason widow and Relict of Robert Mason late of Boston dece[ase]d, Nathanael Mason, Phillip Mason and Samuel Phillips who Married Sarah Mason Children of the s[ai]d Robert Mason dece[ase]d . . . for . . . Seventy-three pounds Six shillings & eight pence . . . paid by Robert Mason of Boston afores[ai]d Son of of the dece[ase]d Robert Mason . . . sell . . . unto him the s[ai]d Robert Mason All their right . . . unto a certain . . . parcel of Land scituate near the South meeting house in Boston . . .”).

<sup>17</sup> *Records of the Suffolk County Court, 1671–1680*, 2 vols., Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Collections, vols. 29 and 30 (Boston, 1933), 2:964 (“Rob[er]t Mason Sen[io]r”).

<sup>18</sup> Suffolk County, Massachusetts, probate books, vol. 12, p. 350 [DGS 7703073, image 704]. Reynolds, *The History and Some of the Descendants of Robert and Mary Reynolds* [note 11], 57.

<sup>19</sup> *Watertown Records Comprising The Third Book of Town Proceedings and The Second Book of Births, Marriages and Deaths to End of 1737, . . .* (Watertown: Fred G. Barker, 1900), 199 (“the Select-men desired M<sup>r</sup> Daniel Herrington to disburs[e] to the Widdow Rebeckah Sanger the Sum of one pound and tenn Shillings for the Support of her Mother in Law the old Widdow Sanger . . .”).

<sup>20</sup> Reynolds, *The History and Some of the Descendants of Robert and Mary Reynolds* [note 11], 58.