

Edward Bangs

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No Picture Available

Born: 1591, Panfield, Essex, England

Married: Rebecca Hobart

Died: 16 Feb 1679 Eastham, Barnstable, Massachusetts

Parents: John Bangs & Jane Chavis

Edward Bangs was born in England, probably in 1591. In his will, written in 1677, he says he is aged 86 years. He is probably the same Edward Bangs who was baptized in 1591 at Penfield, County Essex, England, the son of John and Jane (Chavis) Bangs.

Edward Bangs arrived in Plymouth in 1623 on the *Anne*.

Edward Bangs married Lydia Hicks sometime after 1627. Robert Hicks, Edward's father-in-law, had arrived in Plymouth in 1621 on the *Fortune*. The rest of the Hicks family – Robert's wife Margaret, and their three children, Samuel, Phoebe and Lydia, arrived on the *Anne* (as did Edward Bangs). Edward and Lydia Hicks Bangs had one son, John. Lydia died in the mid-1630s. Edward remarried, to Rebecca [last name uncertain]. Edward and Rebecca had 9 children.

Edward Bangs served on several town committees, and held a responsible position within the community.

Edward Bangs and his family moved to Cape Cod in the 1640s when the town of Nauset (later renamed Eastham) was being established. In Nauset, Edward was licensed to sell alcohol.

Edward Bangs died in 1677/78.

Edward Bangs in the records of the 17th century

Edward Bangs : his arrival in Plymouth

Edward Bangs arrived in Plymouth on the *Anne* in 1623. Governor William Bradford tells of the ship's arrival in Plymouth :

"About fourteen days after came in this ship, called the Anne, whereof Mr. William Peirce was master; and about a week or ten days after came in the pinnace which, in foul weather, they lost at sea, a fine, new vessel of about 44 tun, which the Company had built to stay in the country. They brought about 60 persons for the General, some of them being very useful persons and became good members to the body; and some were the wives and children of such as were here already."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York : Knopf, 1991), p. 127.

Edward Bangs & the 1623 Division of Land

The 1623 Division of Land marked the end of the Pilgrims' earliest system of land held in common by all. Governor Bradford explains it in this way:

"And so assigned to every family a parcel of land, according to the proportion of their number, for that end, only for present use (but made no division for inheritance) and ranged all boys and youth under some family. This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use, and saved him a great deal of trouble, and gave far better content. The women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York : Knopf, 1991), p. 120.

Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds, &c, Vol. I 1627-1651 is the oldest record book of the Plymouth settlement. It begins with the 1623 Division of Land, recorded in the handwriting of Governor William Bradford. It records not only the land holdings but also the names of those passengers who arrived in the Colony on the ships *Fortune* and *Anne*. The lands of "Bangs" were among those designated "their grounds which came over in the shipe called the Anne" and described it in this way "These following lye on the other side of the towne towards the eele-river."

A further division of land was accomplished in 1627. The allotments of land were laid out by six men : William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Howland, Francis Cooke, Joshua Pratt, and Edward Bangs. (PCR 11:4-5)

The last will and testament of Edward Bangs

"This 19 of October 1677 I, Edward Banges, aged 86 years, being well stricken in years and now knowing the day and houre when God may call mee hence, yett being in health and perfect memory, doe leave this as my Last Will and Testament.

"First, I make my son, **Jonathan**, my whole and sole Executor to whom I give all my Purchase Land att Namskekett and that way lying between Namskekett and satuckett Brooke lying next to meddow graunted to Governor Prence, bounded by a ditch runing from the upland towards the creeke, two acres and an half be it more or lesse, bounded att the other end by a creeke. And I give him all my Purchase Land att Paomett and all priviledges therunto belonging, and I give him an acree and an half of meddow ling att a place called The Acars, alsoe one acree lying att the harbour's mouth, alsoe I give him a parsell of upland and meddow lying att Rocke Harbour which I had in exchange of John Done. Alsoe all those things which I have att his house I give unto him.

"Secondly, I give to my son, John, that twenty acreses of upland att Pockett that hee hath built upon, and five acreses more adjoining to it to run from end to end. And I give him that land which I have att Pockett lland and two acreses of meddow that lyeth att the Boate Meddow next to that which hee bought of Daniell Cole, and three quarters of an acree att the head of the Boate Meddow.

"Thirdly, I give unto my son, Joshua, the house that I lived in and all the housing belonging to it, and twenty eight acreses of land adjoining to it that lyeth neare it, and I give him three acreses of meddow att the Boate Meddow, lying at the Sandey Banke, and one acree of meddow that lyeth att the Boate Meddow which is called the Salt House Acree, alsoe four acreses of meddow lying att the head of Blakstish Creek. Likewise I give to Joshua fourteen acreses of upland that lyeth att Pockett next to the land of Jonathan Sparrow.

"Fourth, I give to my son Jonathan's eldest son, Edward Banges, twenty five acreses of upland lying att Pochett Field, be it more or lesse, alsoe I give unto him one acree of meddow att Rocke Harboare att the head of the meddow next to Leiftenant Roger's and half an acre of meddow lying att Great Namsckett which I bought of Daniell Cole.

"Fiftly, I give unto my daughters, my Daughter Howes, my Daughter Higgens, my Daughter Done, my Daughter Hall, my Daughter Merrick, and my Daughter Atwood, four pounds apeece at my decease. And I give to my grandchildren, viz, the children of my daughter, Rebeckah, deceased, four pounds att my decease onely with this proviso respecting the legacye given to these my daughters and grandchildren: that the estate left att my death doth amount to soe much; otherwise what is left be equally devided amongst them – the grandchildren to have a seaventh parte. and heerunto I doe sett my hand and seale.
Edward Banges."

"An Agreement made betwixt John Banges and Jonathan Banges, the sonnes of Edward Banges, deceased, this sixt day of March in the yeer of our Lord one thousand six hundred seaventy and seaven in reference to a parsell of land given by the said Edward Banges in his Last Will and testament to his grand child, Edward Banges, the son of Jonathan Banges: that the said John Banges shall make use of this land rent free untill the said Edward Banges, to whom the land is given, comes to be of age. Or, incase the said Edward dies before hee comes to be of age, then untill such a tearme of yeers on which hee would have bine of age if hee had lived. Alsoe, it is agreed by them that the said John Banges, during the time of making use of this land, shall not carry off any of the stones or timber except it be for the fencing of the said land in particular, excepting onely that middle fence which not att the making of this Agreement runs betwixt the field and pasture."

<http://www.pilgrimhall.org/willedbangs.htm>