

## Humphrey Pinney

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No Picture Available

Born: 20 Nov 1605 England

Married: Mary Hull

Died: 20 Aug 1683 Windsor, CT

Parents: John Pinney & Johanna Hawkins

Henry Stiles reported that Humphrey Pinny was with Rev. Warham's party in the *Mary and John* that sailed from Plymouth, Devon in 1630, reaching Dorchester, Mass. the same year. Stiles may have inferred Pinney's passage on the vessel from the belief that Humphrey Pinny's future wife, Mary Hull, was on the same vessel with her father, George Hull, and family. In *The Great Migration Begins*, Robert Charles Anderson points to evidence showing that Humphrey Pinny was in England in 1632 and could not have arrived in Dorchester before 1633. Pinny was admitted to the Dorchester church prior to 14 May 1634, the day he became a freeman. He was educated judging from his ability to sign his name and from the fact that his inventory included books valued at L.1.10s. His wife, Mary, was also literate, having signed her will and having left books at her death. He received large land grants in Dorchester, first having 4 acres on 5 Aug 1635/6 and then 20 acres of the Great Lot the same year and finally 4 acres of meadow beyond Naponset. Soon afterwards, however, Humphrey Pinny removed to Windsor, Conn., probably with the Warham party in 1636. His name is 7th on the list of those forming Rev. Warham's party and requesting leave to emigrate to the banks of the "Great River," to a site that eventually would become Windsor, Conn. (The settlement was initially named Dorchester, but the name was later changed by the General Court of Connecticut.) Although Humphrey Pinny did not become a freeman of Windsor until 13 May 1669, he began acquiring land in Windsor as early as 16 Nov 1640 when he was granted a homelot on Sandy Banke and 13 and a half acres, 16 and a half acres of meadow east of the Great River and 15 acres near the Pine Meadow. He purchased of Josyas (Josias) Hull his homelot and 9 and half acres. In 1656 Humphrey sued a John Brome in Chancery Court in England over the estate of John Pinny of Exeter. The court noted that he had been in New England for 20 years. Although closely associated with other prominent citizens of his day, and being described by Stiles as "a person of considerable respectability, being called Mr" Pinney did not engage much in the political affairs of the colony, preferring, in appears, the life of the landed gentry, insofar as this was possible in the ruder circumstances presenting themselves. His residence was on the west side of Main Street, about one mile north of the Congregational meeting house extent in 1859 and adjoining the lot of Mr. John Gaylord. Humphrey Pinny's will was dated 3 Jun 1682 and proved 10 Dec 1683, identifying him as "Humfryw Pinie of Winsor." His wife Mary was named executrix and his will included bequests of estate in England to his widow and youngest son Isack (Isaac). His estate totaled L.790.7s, a considerable sum, including L200 of debt in England.

Sources: Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigration to New England, 1620-33*. [Database on-line] Provo, UT, USA. The Generations Network, Inc. 2000. Orig. pub. as Vol 1-3, Boston, MA: *The New England Historical and Genealogical Society*, 1995.

Henry R. Stiles, *The History of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut, Part Two* (Brooklyn, NY: Samuel Stiles, 1859). Facsimile reprint as a Heritage Classic (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1997).

Founders Monument, Windsor, CT. Humphrey Pinney's name is listed as one of the original founders of Windsor.

