

## William Weeks



No Picture Available

Born: 1620 Middlesex, England

Married: Mary Lynde

Died: 3 Aug 1689

Parents: Robert Weekes & Sarah Enderley

This line of Weeks came from England to New England. It appears that William Weeks was the progenitor of this family. He came from Staines, Middlesex, England and died about 1688 or 1689 in New England.

This William is believed to be the son of Richard Wickes (Weeks) who names his son, William in his will and being in New England. It is thought William came to this Country after his brother John had already made the journey across the sea and was in New England, per the father, Richard's will in England.

William was married at least twice. The first wife's name is not known, they did have children. The second wife was May Lynde Butler, widow of John Butler. She was born 1628 and died 1693.

William was a tavern owner and appeared in Court many times in lawsuits. In January 1666 he was fined for selling strong liquor. He promised for himself and family that they shall no more sell strong liquor.

There were at least six children who reached adulthood

1. William Weeks Jr. born 1645 was still living in 1693.
2. Elizabeth Weeks born 1648 married John Robinson 1 May, 1667. John was born 5 April, 1640
3. Samuel Weeks born 1651
4. Richard Weeks born 1653, died 1724. He married Abigail Norton
5. John Weeks born 1655 married Mary Rowley 7 January, 1676. She was born 20 March, 1653
6. Abigail Weeks born 1658 married Jonathan Hatch, 4 December, 1676.

William Weeks first appears on the Vineyard records in 1653, in the area to be later known as Edgartown, but would have to have been there at an earlier date to have been able to participate in the division of land.

The first settlers of the town were probably assigned lots by the proprietors, one of the main ones being Gov. Thomas Mayhew. The land was sold to those desiring residence, but a transaction concerning the distribution of those deeds does not exist. It is assumed that the first allotments of the common lands took place between 1646 and 1652, and included the "Divided Lots" located south of the town bordering on the Great Pond and Katama. These lots consisted of from ten to forty acres each. It was decided that a fair division of the land would consist of 20 acres to a man, unless they already had property, then that amount would be less.

The first division of this "common" land took place 8 May 1653, and was to be meted out in twenty equal parts. William Weeks received lot eleven. Upon subsequent divisions of land between 1664 and 1669 Williams Weeks continued to receive a share. **(see page 7)**

In 1655 he was granted land "near the pines in the middle of the island." It is known that he was married at that time because of a deposition by Goodwife Weeks, dated Dec. 25, 1655, but the given name of his wife is unknown. It may be that he brought his children with, or they may have been born after arriving on colonial soil. Some time before 1658 his wife died.

William was serving in the position of constable in 1660, **(see page 8 C)** as he was notified by Gov. Thomas Mayhew "to levie upon the estate of John Doggett [Daggett] the elder, upon Martin's Vineyard the sum of five thousand [pounds] upon the breach of order in purchasing lands." Apparently Mr. Daggett had taken it upon himself to negotiate for lands rather than going through the proper channels, and as a result was given a hefty fine. He was unable to come up with such a large amount and appealed to the court at Plymouth. William's name was among those requesting part of the farm when Daggett could not afford to pay the fine. Later, however, upon order of the Plymouth Court, Daggett maintained his title to the land.

William's second marriage was thought to be to Mary Lynde, who was the widow of John Butler. She was born about 1629 in Dunstable, Bedford, England, and died after 1693 in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Her parents were Thomas and Mary Lynde. However, the name of his second wife has not been substantiated at the present time.

Some attribute the children to this second marriage, but since the children appear to have been born prior to 1658, it is doubtful this is the case.

As land was claimed and there came a need for expansion, the authorized persons would negotiate with the Indians, on behalf of the colony, to acquire additional property. The "Old Purchase" consisted of two large tracts of land within the town limits of Edgartown, the rights for which had been purchased from Tewaniquatuck, and ran from Wintucket to the end of William Weeks' home lot.

In May of 1653 a town representative purchased part of Ogissket Neck from the Indians and it became known as "The New Purchase." This parcel was not divided until 1673.

The next division of land was the "Plain." It was the largest acquisition of land up to this time and was surveyed and divided by Richard Sarson, Thomas Bayes and Isaac Norton into forty lots. William Weeks received lot six. **(see page 7)**

William's name appears on the town records for various actions, but the most notable was in 1667. He was making a trading trip from the Vineyard and had his vessel loaded with corn, pork, hides, tobacco, wheat, vegetables, etc. He was wrecked at Quick's Hole and the vessel was seized and looted by Indians of the Elizabeth Islands. Upon giving a deposition, he stated:

One Mondaye night the 18.9.1667 about 2 or 3 a clock in the morning, by reason of the violence of the wind, my anchrs remaining home, my vessell drove a shoare in the harbor at the west end of that Iland next to Quickshole. Myselfe and company then went to warme orselves at an Indian house, the Indians saied the vessell and the goods were theirs, wee answered noe, they had noe right to it, they sent to the Sackym & to the other Indians who all came together, and while they were consulting about the vessell and goods they bid us to goe to the other howse; wee answered noe, they need not turn us out of the howse wee did not hinder them; then the Indians went out of the howse to the next howse & wee went aboard, & about an hower & halfe after wee being returned to the howse the Indians came thither allso, and toll'd us they had determined all together wee should neither have or vessell or goods, they would take them. I desired my chest of them, some of them answered noe there was sum cloth in it & they would have it, I desired my weareing cloathes wch they graunted and some provisions to eate while wee were there wch they graunted. They tooke away a suite of cloathes from me, 2 pre of shooes, all my tooles, the sachim had my saw in his hand wch I would have had, but he would not gyve it to me, nor my axe. They tooke away a new Hatt and a new paire of shooes from my sonne: the partyculars lost are my vessell of 15 tunns wth all due furniture belonging to it, and a soresaille to spare, my Cables and anchors I desired of them but they would not gyve them unto mee, my vessell was not seene to be staved when we viewed hir at low water, onely the back of hir rudder broken off; my freight aboard was 42li Indian corns, fower barrells of pork, 4 hydes, 1 firkin of buter, 1 smale caske of suett about 40r, on barrell of tobacco, about 34 or 34li cotton wool, 26 bushells meale, 8 bushells of it wheate meale, the rest Rye of Indian meale, 1 bushell wheate, 1 bushell Rye, 2 bushells turnepps, one bushell of Onions, Red cloth 6 yards, 3 or 4 yards pemistone, My leade and lyne with divers other things out of my chest and vessell. Shooes, one poayre women's shooes, two Iron potts, 3 paire Childrens shooes, 2 paire new Russett shooes, 40l tallow, two gunns, a greene blankett, a woman's cloake from Goody Doggett, this is the truth of the case at present to or best remembrance.

This declaration above written was attested upon oathe by William Weexe the master of saied vessell, and by his son William and by thomas the Indian who was seaman in the vessell.

Goody Doggett testifies that the Indynans did take away & wtholld the vessell & goods from the master and shee did entreate them to lett him have his vessell againe but they would not, but they allso denied the meale and meate and fetcht it away, all these were taken uppon oathe 22 november 1667 upon the Vynyard. This is the Coppy of what is under oathe Thomas Mayhew

Endorsed: "22 Novembr 1667 Declaracon of the Carriage of ye Indians about a vessell taken by them."

Endorsed further down: "A declaration about a vessell of Will Weexes taken by indians at one of the Elyzabethes Isles: Nobre 1667.

His son, William Jr., accompanied him on this excursion, and both were rescued by John Dixey who told the Governor of New York about the incident. He, in turn, wrote to Governor Mayhew to deal with the Indians and require restitution of the vessel and its stolen cargo.

Although a resident of Martha's Vineyard prior to 1671, it wasn't until December 11th of that year that William's lands were recorded on the town books. The following is a copy of his estate at that time:

The petickelers of the parcells of Land Granted unto William Weeks by the Inhabitation of Edgartown at the Great Harbour of Marthas Vineyard and Ordered to Be Recorded the Day above written.

One whole Comonage of thirty seven Shears with all preveledges there unto Belonging as fish and whale: one house Lott of Twenty Poles Broad Bounded by Thomas Bayes on the South and Richard Sarson on the North Being Ten acres More or Less: to the Line Ten acres eleven Poles and a half Breadth Bounded by Thomas Bayes on the West Richard Sarson on the East: Land Bought of Peter Foulger one Neck Lying West to the Planting feild Being Eight acres More or Less: with one acre and a half of Meadow at Sanchacantackett one shear of Meadow; - one Shear at Feliz Neck: another Shear at Meachemus feild: one Shear at Quanomica: one Shear at Cracketuxett: One Devidant Lying at the Great Neck Being Twenty five acres more or Less Lying betwixt Thomas Peases and Mrs Blands: with one thach Lott ajoyning Part upon my said Devidant at the Neck: at Chapequideck one Lott of three acres More or Less Bounded by John Pease on the North and young Mr. Mayhew on the South: two acres of Meadow Lying on the South East Side of Chapequideck More or Less: one acre of Meadow on the EastSide of the Planting feild Lying Northward of Thomas Doggetts Be it More or Less: These all Granted By this Town and Purchased of Indians and one twenty fifth part. . . .

He also had land at Homes Hole which was not recorded until February 9, 1680. He had to have secured the property prior to that time, however, as he was appointed to a committee in Tisbury on January 16, 1678 to "view every man's lot and equalize it in the matter of swamp lands." He may have been on the committee, with Isaac Chase and Thomas Mayhew, as an impartial arbitrator. How he came into possession of these lands is not recorded. Since the six shares granted by Governor Mayhew had already been accounted for, it may be that additional land had been acquired by them and subdivided, and that Weeks obtained a portion of this. Existing records would lead credence to this assumption, as in 1681 mention of "the English lyne" is referred to, and in 1685 "the line which parts the English land from the Indian land," is mentioned.

In 1683 William sold one-sixth of the "two Southermost lots of land: 42 poles by the harbor extending to the fresh pond." In 1685 he sold "one compleat half of one third part of the two southmost lots of land upon the Neck." The English Line is thought to have run from Bass creek to the head of Tashmoo pond, and to have marked the southern boundary of the original grant to the six shareholders. All of this land eventually was purchased by Isaac Chase.

Apparently he had also secured land in Falmouth, possibly for investment purposes as Joseph Hull bought property from Jacob Perkins in Falmouth, and it was noted that Jacob had bought that property from William Weeks, Sr. 31 Oct. 1677.

Several suits against William indicate that he operated a tavern. (see page 8 A & B) He appeared in various business and litigation activities between 1684 and 1687. In 1688 he sold his real estate interests in Homes Hole to Isaac Chase. A final sale in December of that year seems to be his last transaction. Between that date and August 3, 1689 he died, as his widow, Mary, sold the home lot and he is referred to as being deceased. Sons William and Richard challenged her right to sell the lands as they claimed ownership. They proved their case and the court gave them possession of the property.

There is no record of a will or probation for William. His son, Samuel, had land in the Vineyard, but he sold out in 1688. So, with the death of William, the Weeks family name was no longer found on the island until 1710 when Joshua Weeks settled in Tisbury.

Issue of William Weeks and his first wife:

- 1) William Weeks, Jr. Md. (1st) \*Mercy Robinson, daughter of Isaac Robinson and Margaret Hanford, 16 Mar. 1669. Md. (2nd) Mary Hatch, daughter of Jonathan Hatch, about 1689.
- 2) Elizabeth Weeks. Married John Robinson, son of Isaac Robinson and Margaret Hanford, 1 May 1667 in Barnstable. He was christened 5 April 1640 in Barnstable, Massachusetts. They removed to Connecticut in 1714.
- 3) Samuel Weeks. Living in Edgartown in 1681.
- 4) Richard Weeks.. Md. Abigail Norton. He died 26 August 1724 in Attleboro, Bristol County, Massachusetts.
- 5) John Weeks. He died in 1730. Md. Mary Rowley, daughter of Moses Rowley and Elizabeth Fuller, 7 July 1675/1676 in Falmouth, Barnstable, Massachusetts. She was born 20 Mar. 1653, Falmouth, Barnstable, Massachusetts.
- 6) Abigail Weeks. Md. Jonathan Hatch, son of Jonathan Hatch and Sarah Rowley, 4 December 1676, in Martha's Vineyard. He was born 11/17 May 1652 in Barnstable.

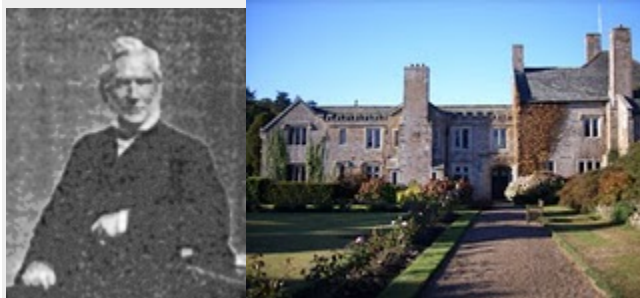


[NORTH WYKE](#)

Researching the Weeks name in England leads one to realize that North Wyke is a central area from which many Weeks families originated. I report the following information about this possible earliest point of origin of our family relatives.

In the reign of Henry II (c 1227), the land at North Wyke belonged to William de Wigornia. He was either the son or grandson of Robert, Earl of Mellant, and Worcester (Wigornia). The aforesaid Robert took the place of his father as head of the Warrior line 'Bernard the Dane', a Saxon prince who accompanied his cousin Rollo as second in command on his invasion of Normandy. The Wykes sometimes known as Wyk or Weekes, were in occupation of North Wyke in 1216.

"North Wyke, (also anciently North Wike, Northwick, modernly North Week,) is an estate now comprising about four hundred acres, (formerly much larger), located in the northern part of the parish of South Tawton, near Okehamton, in western Devonshire (England), about twenty miles from Exeter."



There is a mansion at North Wyke today that was restored by the Reverend Wykes-Finch, a descendent, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This house is in the center of Devon and is divided into four sections according to age: a) The East Wing which is the oldest, b) the Chapel and the Gatehouse Wing, c) the South Wing and d) the connecting rooms which join the East Wing to the Chapel.

The walls are built of locally quarried Cocktree freestone and are (practically throughout) three foot thick with an inner and outer face of stonework filled with cob or similar clay-like substance. The blocks of stone in the East wing are smaller and more irregular than elsewhere in the house. This wing dates from 1242 when William-de-Wigornia made North Wyke his principal residence. The main entrance to the house was by an external staircase to the first floor of the East Wing, which was a common feature in English manor houses of the period.

Our family members came from the parish of Staines, which is outside London. Most probably, they originally had roots in North Wyke.

<http://moreswansborohistory.blogspot.com/>



From page 2

Ordered that the meadows upon the pond is to be devided into twenty equal parts beginning at the path of meadow over the ware, and so to Hannah Mayhews marsh only the Pasture and Hannah Mayhew is to have that meadow that lies upon the Pastures neck: so all the rest of the meadow is to be devided into eighteen parts:

Here followeth an account of the above written Devision of meadow:

Peter Folger	1	Mr. Mayhew the	14
Lay	2	John Daggett the	15
Sale	3	Nicolas Butler the	16
Pease	4	John Foulger the	17
John Butler Jr	5	John Bland the	18
Browning the	8	Tabor the	19
Burchard the	9	Thomas Daggett the	20
Burchard the	10	Hannah Mayhew the	6
Weeks the	11	The Pasture the	7
Paine the	12		
Smith the	13		

Above information from the book, "The History of Martha's Vineyard" by Banks, pg 26, 1911

Beginning at a stone set in the ground on a knowl at the Southwest and by westerly end of the Great Hollow, at a place called Burchard's pond lot; said stone standing in the ranging line between the first of said Plain lots and 3d Pond lot; thence running Southwest and by west half a point westerly, one mile and seventy two rods to an old ditch near and opposite against the head of the Cove of meadow at Short Neck, Northerly from Crackatuxet; said ditch being in the ranging line between the last lot of the Plain lots and said Short Neck. Said lots running or extending in length about Southeast, southerly from said line. And is further bounded by the Common on the Northwest, northerly; and on the Northeast by Cotamy and said Pond lot; and on the Southwest by the dividend called Major Mayhew's dividend and partly by Monoquoy, and partly by Joshua Daggett's Short Neck.

And said lots is further bounded on the Southeast by Little Cotamy and partly by the sea or harbor, to the old ditch which first enclosed that land called Mattakeesett.<sup>1</sup>

#### THE DIVISION OF THE PLAINE.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Burchard the first Lott	1 & $\frac{1}{2}$ 23
Phillip Watson the	2 & 3
John Pease	4
John Gee	5
<u>William Weekes</u>	6
Nicholas Norton	7, 25, 19, & 34
Isaac Norton	8, 38, 39
Mr. Lawson & Simon Athearn	9th
Thomas Daggett	10, 27 & $\frac{1}{2}$ 14
Thomas Trapp	11
James Pease	12 : 24
Mr. Butler	13 & $\frac{1}{2}$ 37
John Butler	15 & $\frac{1}{2}$ 37
Richard Sarson	16, 17 & 18
Mr. Mayhew	20 : 33 & 35

<sup>1</sup>Dukes Deeds, III, 498; comp., Proprietor's Records.

<sup>2</sup>Edgartown Records, I, 21.

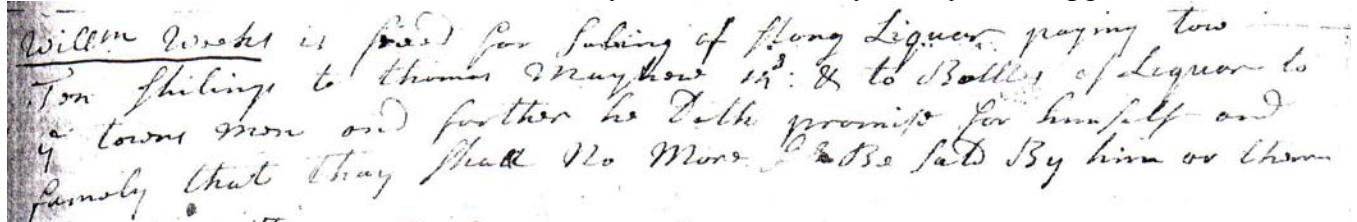
Above information from the book, "The History of Martha's Vineyard" by Banks, pg 33, 1911

From page 2

A

**William Weeks is fined for selling of strong liquor: paying ten shillings: to Thomas Mayhew 14 s. & t(w)o bottles of liquor to the townsmen and further he doth promise for himself and family that they shall no more be sold by him or them. [28 January 1661]**<sup>1</sup>

Above information from the book, "The History of Martha's Vineyard" by Banks, pg 120, 1911



Above information is a copy of Edgartown Records, volume 1, pg 145, which is kept in the vault of the office of the town clerk of Edgartown, MA and was certified by Catherine Mayhew, Genealogist. This record verifies the information at top of page from the book, "The History of Martha's Vineyard"

B

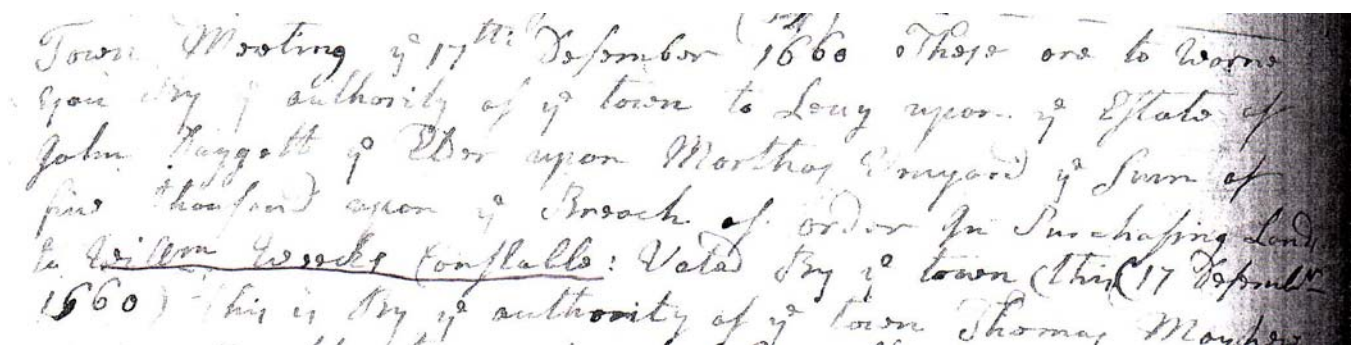
And this complaint by Arthur Biven against William Weeks suggests he owned a tavern.

**The complaint of Arthur Biven against William Weeks "for taking six-pence for two amesho-ogs & said Biven caled for a gill of rum & they brought half water and the said Weeks had no lodging for him nor food for his horse."**<sup>2</sup>

\*amesho-ogs is the Indian word for eels.

C

Above information from the book, "The History of Martha's Vineyard" by Banks, pg 178, 1911



Above information is a copy of Edgartown Records, volume 1, pg 130, which is kept in the vault of the office of the town clerk of Edgartown, MA and was certified by Catherine Mayhew, Genealogist.

This record states:

"Town meeting 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1660: these are to warn by authority of town to levy upon estate of John Daggett of Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard the sum of five thousand upon breach of order for purchasing land, to William Weeks, constable: by authority of town Thomas Mayhew.



Below documents include other mentions of William Weeks from the Edgartown Records, volume 1, which is kept in the vault of the office of the town clerk of Edgartown, MA and are certified by Catherine Mayhew, Genealogist of the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society.

These records show that William Weeks was an active participant in many lawsuits either brought against him or him against others. They also show that he signed several articles of business for the town of Edgartown including dividing of land as it was made available.

1658 Meeting for Dec 27<sup>th</sup> ordered that (?) shall pay William Weeks and Edward Lay and Mrs Bland 15 shillings and upon his good behavior to be whipped or dismissed.

Above information is a copy of Edgartown Records, volume 1, pg 129, which is kept in the vault of the office of the town clerk of Edgartown, MA and was certified by Catherine Mayhew, Genealogist.

22 Feb 1660 A record of the case William Lambert plaintiff, William Weeks, defendant about a boat. Verdict that William Weeks at his own charge shall set the boat upon blocks sufficient as before and pay pay charges of Court twenty shillings money to Lambert, Thomas Bayes, John Smith, and James Cornel and to judge what damage the boat has sustained by his throwing her off the block and in setting her up again, the said William Weeks is to pay said Lambert or his assignees.

Above information is a copy of Edgartown Records, volume 1, pg 129, which is kept in the vault of the office of the town clerk of Edgartown, MA and was certified by Catherine Mayhew, Genealogist.

On 5 June 1660 William Weeks is chosen Constable for the year

*Thomas Mayhew is for year of*  
*Bill Weeks is Chosen Constable for this year*

Above information is a copy of Edgartown Records, volume 1, 148, which is kept in the vault of the office of the town clerk of Edgartown, MA and was certified by Catherine Mayhew, Genealogist.

In the next record, voted 22 July 1660, that all land in the town shall be divided in to four parts first and afterwards those four parts every of them into thirty seven shares of which there are thirty three and a half are now appropriated: these names are hereunder written: all thirty one are whole shares.

(147 1/2) Voted by the town this 22: 8: 1660 that all the Land in the town shall be divided up to four Parts first & afterwards these four Parts every of them into Thirty seven Shares of which there are thirty three and a half are now appropriated: these Names are hereunder written

John Pope	Thos Paine or heirs which was Mr Edward
Richard Rugg	Thomas Paine or heirs Given by the town
William Vinton	Thomas Mayhew Senior
Edward Lay	Thomas Mayhew Junior or heirs
Thos. Burdett	<del>Mallick</del> Mallickia Browning his heirs
William Weeks	Thos. Paine or heirs which was weeks father
Thomas Bayes	Thomas Daggett which was Joshua Barnes
John Daggett	Thomas Daggett Given by the town
John Smith	John Boulger or heirs
Nicholas Butler	John Butler or heirs
Mr John Bland Given by the town	John Pope was Edward Saylor
Mr John Bland which was Tabors	Robert Codman Given him
Thomas Burchard	Robert Codman was William Cape
Richard Saxton	Richard Rugg for Peter Boulger
Nicholas Norton	John Day Given him by the town
John Birchard	
all these thirty one are whole Shares	
R. L. & althor	
1 Nat	

Above information is a copy of Edgartown Records, volume 1, pg 147 1/2, which is kept in the vault of the office of the town clerk of Edgartown, MA and was certified by Catherine Mayhew, Genealogist.

Also on the same day, town voted that all Indians in town bounds if within the purchased land are to be removed within ten days except two families which not be put off in respect of lacking two commonages.

Town has chosen John Pease, William Vincent, William Weeks, Thomas Bayes, Edward Lay, Hugh Roe, Thomas Daggett, Nicolas Norton or one of his sons to give warning to the Indians to remove and if they refuse to remove then to remove them by force

Town Meeting 22 of <sup>the</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1660  
 Voted By y<sup>e</sup> town of all y<sup>e</sup> Indians upon y<sup>e</sup> town Bounds if is  
 within y<sup>e</sup> Purchased Lands are to Be Removed within this ten days  
 Except Two families which are Not to Be put off In Respect of  
 y<sup>e</sup> lacking two Commonages - - - - -  
 The town hath chosen John Pease Will<sup>m</sup> Vincent William Weeks Thomas  
 Bayes Edward Lay Hugh Roe Thomas Daggett Nicolas Norton or one of his  
 Sons to Give Warning to y<sup>e</sup> Indians to Remove by the aforesaid time  
 and if they Refuse to Remove then to Remove them by force

Above information is a copy of Edgartown Records, volume 1, pg 148 , which is kept in the vault of the office of the town clerk of Edgartown, MA and was certified by Catherine Mayhew, Genealogist.

May 11, 1663 William Weeks against George Bonth for an action or debt...four pounds four shillings or levy security for it: jury men Thomas Harlock, Robert Codman, Richard Sarson, Thomas Jones. Verdict is that George Bonth is to pay now forty shillings.

~~Subjection to that one~~  
 May 11<sup>th</sup> 1663 William Weeks against George Bonth for an action  
 of Debt Pay Btle of four pounds four shillings or Levy security  
 for it: Jury men: Thomas Harlock: Robert Codman  
 Richard Sarson: Thomas Jones  
 The Verdict is that George Bonth is to pay Now forty shillings  
 to y<sup>e</sup> said William Weeks

Above information is a copy of Edgartown Records, volume 1, pg 145 , which is kept in the vault of the office of the town clerk of Edgartown, MA and was certified by Catherine Mayhew, Genealogist.