

**EDMOND FREEMAN**

**ORIGIN:** Billingshurst, Sussex

**MIGRATION:** 1635 on the *Abigail*

**FIRST RESIDENCE:** Lynn

**REMOVES:** Sandwich

**RETURN TRIPS:** Round trip to England in 1639

**OCCUPATION:** Husbandman.

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:** On 7 October 1651, "Edmond Freeman, Senior, and his wife" were among thirteen people, "all of the town of Sandwidge," who were presented for "not frequenting the public worship of God" [PCR 2:173].

**FREEMAN:** On 2 January 1637/8, "Mr. Edmond Freeman" was admitted a freeman of Plymouth Colony [PCR 1:74], and so was appended to the Plymouth Colony list of freemen of 7 March 1636/7 [PCR 1:53]. In Sandwich section of Plymouth Colony lists of freemen of 1639 (as "Mr. Edmond Freeman"), 1658 and 29 May 1670 [PCR 5:276, 8:175, 199].

**EDUCATION:** He signed his will. His inventory included "1 dictionary & Great Bible" valued at £1 15s.

**OFFICES:** Plymouth Colony assistant, 3 March 1639/40, 2 March 1640/1, 1 March 1641/2, 7 March 1642/3, 5 June 1644, 3 April 1645 [PCR 1:140, 154, 2:8, 15, 33, 40, 52, 56, 71, 83]. Deputy for Sandwich to Plymouth General Court, 7 July 1646 [PCR 2:104], but fined for nonappearance [PCR 2:106].

Commissioner to end small causes at Barnstable, Yarmouth and Sandwich, 2 June 1640, 5 June 1644 [PCR 1:155, 2:73]. Committee to settle boundary between Yarmouth and Barnstable, 17 June 1641 [PCR 2:19, 22]. Committee on Barnstable lands, 7 June 1642 [PCR 2:42]. Committee to view land at Mannomett, 7 June 1659 [PCR 3:167]. Committee to protect the corn of an Indian, 8 June 1664 [PCR 4:68]. Committee to resolve a dispute over a highway, 7 March 1664/5 [PCR 4:82, 118].

Plymouth grand jury, 7 March 1636/7, 1 June 1647 [PCR 1:54, 116].

Sandwich committee to resolve a dispute over meadow land, 16 April 1640 [PCR 1:147].

On 4 December 1638, fined 10s. for "being defective in arms" (as "Edward Freeman") [PCR 1:107]. Plymouth Council of War, 27 September 1642 [PCR 2:47]. In Sandwich section of 1643 Plymouth Colony list of men able to bear arms (as "Mr. Edmond Freeman Sr.") [PCR 8:193]. His inventory included "1 gun" valued at £1.

*ESTATE:* Granted forty-two acres in the division of meadow land at Sandwich, 16 April 1640 [PCR 1:149].

On 6 January 1645/6, Richard Chadwell of Sandwich, ship carpenter, sold to "Edmond Freeman the elder of the same, gent., ... all that his dwelling house situate & being in Sandwich aforesaid with one barn and stalls for cattle adjoining thereunto and all the stanchions for cattle and all other edifices and buildings whatsoever to the same belonging with all the doors, locks, dressers, benches, glass and glass windows with the wooden shuts to them belonging and the bedstead mat and bedcord in the said house together with all lands to the said house belonging or any other lands to him appertaining in Sandwich aforesaid whether upland or meadowing, tilled or untilled, fenced or unfenced, with all and every the appurtenances to the said premises or any part of them belonging lying & being in Sandwich aforesaid and also all the dung or manure already made or to be made before the end of May next whilst the said Richard Chadwell occupieth the said premises or any part of them and also the apple trees standing or growing in & upon the premises together with all woods, underwoods, trees and timber whatsoever" along with the propriety "as shall be at any time hereafter further added and granted to the said dwelling house" [PCR 12:118-19].

On 3 June 1647 were recorded "the lands of Mr. Edmond Freeman granted unto him by his dwelling house at Sandwich, viz: four score acres of upland and twenty acres of meadow, also six acres on the beach" [PCR 12:143]. On 4 June 1647, William Paddy recorded the receipt of £30 from "Mr. Edmond Freeman ... which is in payment for the neck of land at Sandwich" [PCR 12:143].

On 5 December 1647, "Mr. Edmond Freeman Senior of Sandwidg ... gent." sold to Ephraim Hicks of Plymouth, planter, "a parcel of land containing eleven acres ... lying on the south side of the town of Plimouth" [PCR 12:147-48, 183].

On 20 January 1647[/8?], "Mr. William Paddy of New Plymouth, merchant, in the behalf of Mr. Edmond Freeman Senior of Sandwidg, gent.," sold to Mr. Arthur Howland of Marshfield, planter, "one half of a certain tract of upland and marsh meadow being estimated at about three hundred acres ... which was formerly granted unto Captain Miles Standish and Mr. John Alden lying on the north side of South River" [PCR 12:151-52]. On 4 October 1648, "Mr. Edmond Freeman Senior of the town of Sandwidg ... gent." sold to Thomas Chillingsworth of Marshfield, shoemaker, the other half of this same tract [PCR 12:154-55].

On 13 December 1649, "Mr. Edmond Freeman Senior" sold to Steven Payne of Rehoboth "all that his house situate in Rehoboth aforesaid with six acres and seven acres of meadow with about forty acres of upland ... the said Mr. Edmond Freeman purchased the said house and lands of Mr. Will[i]am Bradford" [PCR 12:179-80].

On 10 June 1650, Thomas Tupper of Sandwich, shoemaker, with the consent of his wife, sold to "Mr. Edmond Freeman Senior" of Sandwich, gentleman, "a parcel of meadow ground being about two acres and an half" [PCR 12:188]. On the same day, "Mr. Edmond Freeman of the town of Sandwidg ..., gent.," sold to Thomas Tupper of Sandwich, shoemaker, "a parcel of land being between Jonathan Fishe's land upon one side and Skusset River on the other side" [PCR 12:188-89]. Also on the same day, "Mr. Edmond Freeman Senior of Sandwidg with the consent of the town" sold to "Tho[mas] Tupper and Edmond Freeman the younger both of Sandwidge aforesaid ... six acres of upland ground where they shall make choice of it, and a parcel of meadow lying at Lawrence's Hole" [PCR 12:189].

On 3 July 1654, Arthur Howland referred to "his lands whereon he now liveth, which he bought of Mr. Freeman" [PCR 3:62]. On 30 October 1654, "Mr. Edmond Freeman Senior of the town of Sandwich ..., gent.," sold to "Mr. Arther Howland" of Marshfield, yeoman, "the one-half of a certain tract of upland containing three hundred acres lying on the north side of the south river in Marshfield ... with the one-half of all that tract of meadow lying within or at the end of the aforementioned breadth of the said tract of upland, which said whole tract of upland was granted unto Captain Myles Standish and Mr. John Alden as appears by a court record bearing date the 2cond day of July 1638 and by them sold and made over unto the said Edmond Freeman" [MD 8:132-33, citing PCLR 2:1:129]. On 6 May 1656, Plymouth Court ordered a division of "a certain tract of land sold by Mr. Edmond Freeman, of Sandwidge, Senior, unto Mr. Arthur Howland and Thomas Chillingsworth, deceased, lying at the South River, in the township of Marshfeild" [PCR 3:97].

On 1 June 1663, "[l]iberty is granted to Mr. Edmond Freeman, Senior, to look out a tract of land to accommodate both himself and the children of Mr. William Paddy, deceased, viz: Samuell and Thomas Paddy, and to make report of it to the Court, that a competency may be confirmed unto them, if it may be, about a cedar swamp, by him named, so as it be found not to entrench upon other men's right" [PCR 4:40, 45].

On 19 January 1663[1/4?], "Queshataset, sachem of Monamet, & Nannumut of Monamet" sold to "Edmond Freeman Senior of Sandwich ...

all that parcel of land, lying and being upon Wauquonchet" [PCLR 5:105].

In his will, dated 21 June 1682 and proved 2 November 1682, "Edmond Freeman the eldest of that name in Sandwich" made "my three sons namely my son Edmond Freeman, and my son John Freeman, and Edward Perey to be my executors and my daughter Elizabeth Ellis executrix"; to "my two sons namely my son Edmond and my son John all my lands on the easterly side of the lands given by me to my grandson Matthyas Ellis"; to "my grandson Thomas Paddy" "Rye Field and Hedges Meadow"; "my lands which are to the westward and to the northward of my grandson Matthyas Ellis his land ... to be divided equally into three parts, and two of the said three parts I do give unto my son Edward Perey, and the other said third part I do give unto my daughter Elizabeth Ellis"; "the one half of my lands at Waquanchet I give unto my grandson Thomas Paddy" [PCPR 4:2:5].

The inventory of the estate of "Mr. Edmond Freeman late of Sandwich deceased," taken 22 October 1682, totalled £180 8s. 1d., of which £155 was real estate: "for all the land at his late dwelling house that he was possessed of at his decease," £150; and "lands at Weequansitt," £5 [PCPR 4:2:6].

**BIRTH:** Baptized Pulborough, Sussex, 25 July 1596 [TAG 17:88] (aged 34 or 45 in 1635 [Hotten 93, 98]), son of Edmond Freeman [Dawes-Gates 2:349].

**DEATH:** Between 21 June 1682 (date of will) and 2 November 1682 (date of probate).

**MARRIAGE:** (1) Cowfold, Sussex, 16 June 1617 Bennett Hodsoll [TAG 17:89]. She was buried at Pulborough 12 April 1630 [*Boston Evening Transcript*, 1 June 1931, Note 2446].

(2) By 1635 Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_, born about 1600 (aged 35 in 1635 [Hotten 98]). She died at Sandwich 14 February 1675[/6] [SandVR 13].

**CHILDREN:**

With first wife

- i ALICE, bp. Pulborough, Sussex, 4 April 1619 [TAG 17:92] (aged 17 in 1635 [Hotten 98]); m. 24 November 1639 WILLIAM PADDY {1635, Plymouth} [PCR 1:134].
- ii EDMUND, bp. Billingshurst, Sussex, 26 November 1620 [TAG 17:92] (aged 15 in 1635 [Hotten 98]); m. (1) 22 April 1646 Rebecca Prence [PCR 2:98; MD 13:86; TAG 40:103-10], daughter of THOMAS PRENCE {1621, Plymouth} [GMB

- 3:1518-24]; m. (2) Sandwich 18 July 1651 Margaret Perry [SandVR 1:11; TAG 40:103-10].
- iii BENNETT, bp. Billingshurst, Sussex, 20 January 1621/2 [TAG 17:92]; d. between 28 November 1633 and 13 January 1633/4 [Dawes-Gates 2:356, citing Chancery Depositions].
- iv ELIZABETH, bp. Billingshurst, Sussex, 11 April 1624 [TAG 17:92] (aged 12 in 1635 [Hotten 98]); m. by 1644 John Ellis (on 20 August 1644, eight men and women were called to court "to give evidence in John Ellis & his wife's case," and, on 4 June 1645, "John Ellis, of Sandwich, for abusing himself with his now wife by committing uncleanness with her before marriage, is censured to be whipped at public post, and Elizabeth, his wife, to stand by whilst execution of the sentence is performed" [PCR 2:75, 85-86]) [NEHGR 119:161-72].
- v JOHN, bp. Billingshurst, Sussex, 28 January 1626/7 [TAG 17:92] (aged 8 in 1635 [Hotten 98]); m. Eastham 13 February 1649/50 Mercy Prence [PCR 8:26], daughter of THOMAS PRENCE {1621, Plymouth} [GMB 3:1518-24].
- vi NATHANIEL, bp. Billingshurst, Sussex, 2 September 1629 [TAG 17:92]; bur. Pulborough 12 September 1629 [Ackley-Bosworth 27].

With second wife

- vii MARY, b. say 1636; m. by 1653 Edward Perry (on 7 March 1653/4, "Edward Perry, for unorderly proceeding, contrary to order of Court, about his marriage, is fined five pounds" [PCR 3:46, 47, 52]) [Ackley-Bosworth 26, and arguments presented there].

**ASSOCIATIONS:** Edmond Freeman's sister Alice married Mr. John Beauchamp, one of the adventurers of the Plymouth Colony (although never a traveller to New England) [TAG 17:92-93; PCR 12:90, 127-32; PCLR 2:1:32-34].

**COMMENTS:** On 1 July 1635, "Husb: Edward Freeman," aged 34, "uxor Elizabeth Freeman," aged 35, "Alice Freeman," aged 17, "Edmond Freeman," aged 15, "Elizab: Freeman," aged 12, and "John Freeman," aged 8, were enrolled at London for passage to New England on the *Abigail* as a family group [Hotten 98].

On 17 June 1635, "John Freeman, aged 35, "Marie Freeman," aged 50, "John Freeman," aged 9, "Sycillie Freeman," aged 4, "Tho[mas] Freeman,"

aged 24, and "Edmond Freeman," aged 45, were enrolled at London for passage to New England on the same vessel, not as a family group, but scattered about a list of about sixty other passengers who were enrolled on that day [Hotten 93]. This Edmond Freeman may just be a duplicate of Edward Freeman who boarded the vessel a few days later, but the other names are not seen in New England. Who these people may have been remains unknown.

On 5 November 1635, "Edmond Freeman" wrote to John Winthrop Jr.: "Sir, I desire you to be pleased to retain for us Mr. Geere's part and my part of the provisions left of the undertaker which you have bought of Henry Troute. Our part is the eight part which I do desire you to retain in your hands, yours to use" [WP 3:214].

On 3 April 1637, Edmond Freeman was one of the "ten men of Saugust" granted "liberty to view a place to sit down & have sufficient lands for three score families" [PCR 1:57].

On 20 July 1639, "Edmond Freeman of New England" acknowledged that he owed to Arthur Mansfield, citizen and haberdasher of London, £52 4s. 8d. "for a parcel of hats which he hath put for me aboard into the *Planter*" [PCR 12:121]. This bond was followed in the deed register by several letters from Arthur Mansfield to Freeman and to John Evance, brother-in-law of Mansfield and his attorney in New England. One of these letters to Freeman, dated at London 17 April 1640, was endorsed to "his very loving friend Mr. Freeman in New England passenger the last year in the *Champion*" [PCR 12:124].

On 1 March 1641/2, "Mr. Edmond Freeman, of Sandwich," was presented "for lending a gun to an Indian" [PCR 2:36].

On 22 October 1656, "Thomas Tupper, the elder, of Sandwich," released "Edmond Freeman, the elder, of all manner of accounts, specialities, and demands, from the beginning of the world to this present day" [PCR 5:121].

From 1639 to 1645 Edmond Freeman was an Assistant of Plymouth Colony, and held a number of other prominent offices. He was appointed Deputy for Sandwich to the General Court in 1646, but did not appear, and after that date held only a handful of minor posts. His disappearance from major public office would not seem to have been for physical disability, for he continued to be active for nearly four decades more. In 1651 we see that he and his wife showed some sympathy toward Quakers [PCR 2:173], but this religious inclination would not have affected his political status five years earlier. We do not know why Edmond Freeman fell from political favor.

In several instances after about 1645, an Edmond Freeman appears holding a minor office, without the designation of Sr. or Jr.; most of these appearances probably pertain to the son, and so have not been included above.

*BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE:* On 1 June 1931, "B.E.M.O." published a lengthy note in the *Boston Evening Transcript* on the Freeman, Hodsoll and Beauchamp families, including many records from English sources which are in part the foundation of later accounts [Note 2446]. There are some discrepancies and apparent inaccuracies among these records, internally within this note, and externally by comparison with other accounts of the Freeman family, and all the English records should be reinvestigated.

In 1931 Mary Walton Ferris prepared a substantial account of Edmond Freeman, with extensive English records [Dawes-Gates 2:348-64]. In 1940 and 1941 Homer Worthington Brainard compiled an account of the English ancestry and relations, and some of the descendants, of this immigrant [TAG 17:87-95, 165-73]. In 1960 Donald Lines Jacobus compiled a very careful and useful account of this immigrant [Ackley-Bosworth 24-27].

In 1961 John G. Hunt published an assortment of notes pertaining to connections among the Freeman, Hodsoll and Ellis families [TAG 37:10-11], in part correcting an earlier article in which he had incautiously assigned a 1617 marriage for an Edmond Freeman to the immigrant to New England [TAG 36:57]. In 1964 Maclean W. McLean prepared a careful and comprehensive account of Edmond Freeman Jr. [TAG 40:103-10].

### ANNE FREESTONE

On 9 November 1634, "Anne Freiston, one of [William Hutchinson's] kinswomen," was admitted to Boston church [BChR 19].

*COMMENTS:* Anne Freestone was baptized at Horncastle, Lincolnshire, 12 November 1615, daughter of Richard and Margery (Freestone) Freestone, and sister of FRANCES FREESTONE {1634, Boston} (who married VALENTINE HILL {1636, Boston}) and of ELIZABETH FREESTONE {1640, Boston} (who married ROBERT TURNER {1635, Boston}) [NEHGR 72:51-63, 74:140-45, 79:170-75]. No further record of Anne Freestone has been found in New England.