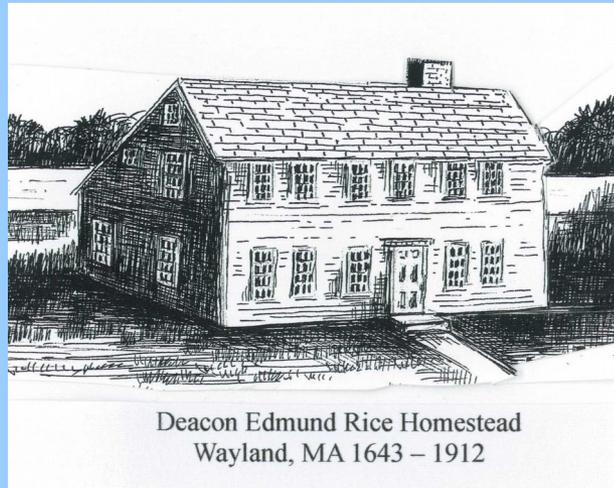


# Edmund 101, an Introduction to the Life of our Ancestor, Edmund Rice (c1594-1663)



***Michael A. Rice***, Treasurer  
Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc.



# Summary

- Edmund's Birth (c1594) and Early Life in England (Suffolk & Hertfordshire)
- Emigration to Massachusetts Bay Colony 1638, probably first to Watertown, MA
- Life in Sudbury (1639-1656); agricultural practices and land tenure
- Establishing Marlborough (1656-1660)
- Death & legacy (3 May 1663).



## Edmund's Early Life in Suffolk

- Born c1594 (possibly Stanstead or Sudbury in Suffolk).  
Date of birth deduced from 3 Apr 1656 MA court deposition (62 years of age).
  - Lost records in Stanstead & Sudbury churches for late 1500s
  - **No evidence of Edmund's ancestors!**
- Married Thomasine Frost (b. 1600), daughter of Edward Frost & Thomasine Belgrave 15 Oct 1618 at St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk
- First daughter Mary Rice baptized 23 Aug 1619 at St. James' Church, Stanstead, Suffolk

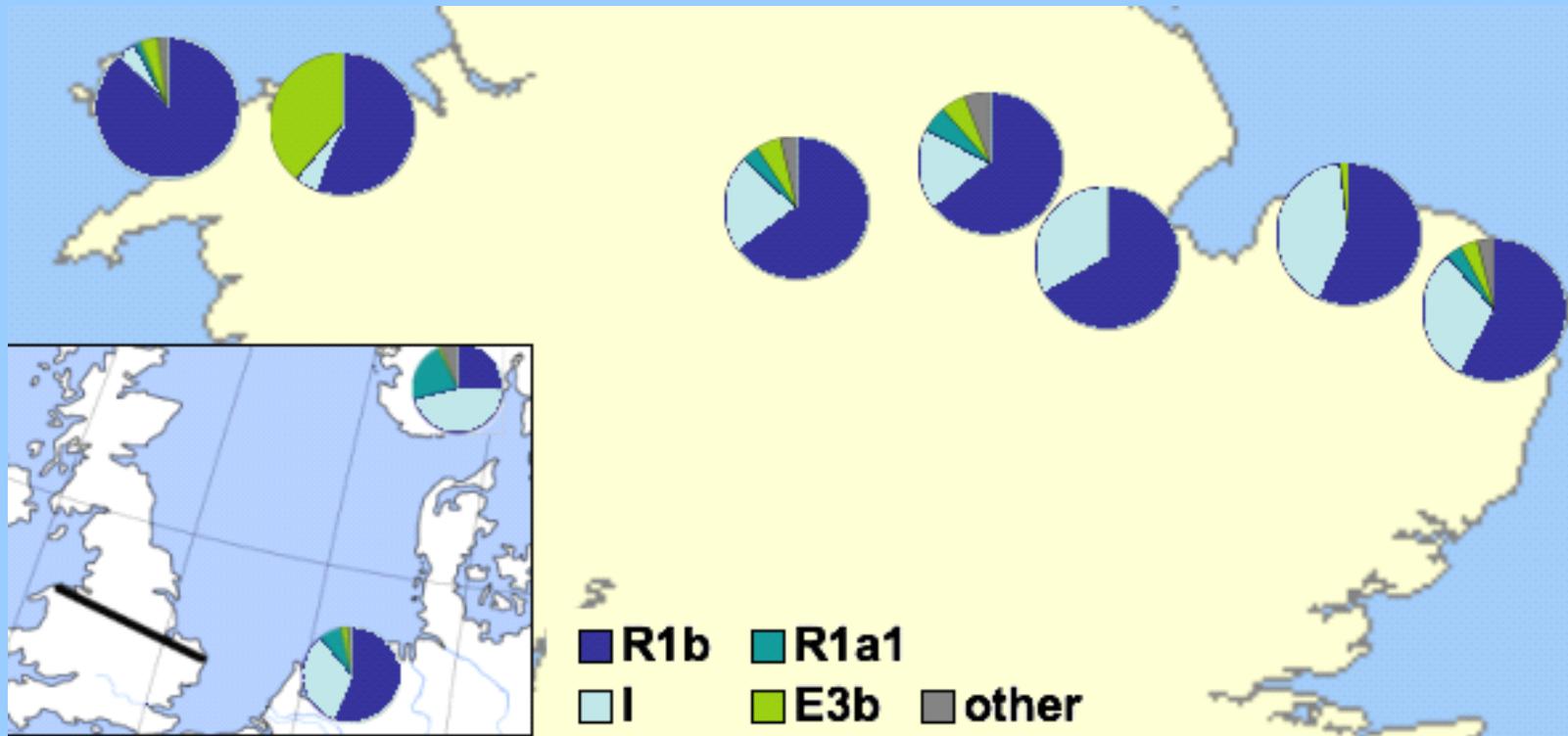


## No evidence of Edmund's ancestors!

- Ancestry.com, LDS, & other databases Henry Rice & Elizabeth Frost, Gryffyd ap-Rhys & Catherine Howard as ancestors...no evidence
- Mary Lovering Holman (1933 in TAG) found Henry Rice & E. Frost married in Stanstead Nov 1605 --- Edmund's first child baptized in Stanstead 1619
- Donald Lines Jacobus (1936 in TAG) traced many of the false accounts to the book by Dr. Charles Elmer Rice entitled "By the Name of Rice...", privately published at Alliance, Ohio in 1911
- Dr. Joanna Martin (1997-99) genealogist from Suffolk commissioned by ERA to search out Edmund's parentage. Nothing found.
- Gary Boyd Roberts (1999), New England Historic Genealogical Society, reviewed all data at ERA meeting. Roberts known for research on royal lineages & concluded 'no evidence.'
- ERA genetics project (2000s), Y-chromosome markers don't show markers consistent with Welsh ancestry that would characterize ap-Rhys line (haplogroup I1 vs. R1b)



# Haplogroups I & R1 frequency along Wales-East Anglia transect



Source: Weale, M.E., D.A. Weiss, R. F. Jager, N. Bradman and M. G. Thomas. (2002). Y Chromosome Evidence for Anglo-Saxon Mass Migration. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* **19**:1008-1021



# Edmund's 12 Children & Vital Info

- **Children with Thomasine Frost (1600-1654)**

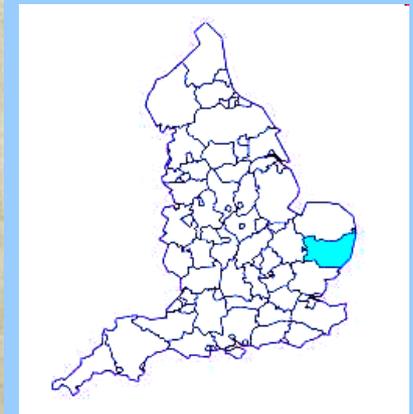
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- *Edward Rice*, bapt. 27Oct1622 Stanstead; d. 15Aug1712 Marlborough, MA
- *Thomas Rice*, bapt. 26Jan1625/26 Stanstead; d. 16Nov1681 Sudbury, MA
- *Lydia Rice (Drury)*, bapt. 9Mar1627/28 Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire; d. 5Apr1675 Boston, MA
- *Matthew Rice*, bapt. 28 Feb1628/29, Berkhamsted; d. 1717 Sudbury, MA
- *Daniel Rice*, bapt. 1Nov1632 Berkhamsted; d. 10Nov1632 Berkhamsted.
- *Samuel Rice*, bapt. 12Nov1634 Berkhamsted; d. 25Feb1685 at Marlborough, MA
- *Joseph Rice*, bapt. 13Mar1637/38 Berkhamsted; d. 23Dec1711 Stow, MA
- *Benjamin Rice*, b. 31May1640 Sudbury, MA; d. 19Dec1713 Sudbury, MA

- **Children with Mercy (?) - Brigham (1616-1697)**

- *Lydia Rice (Hawkins)*, b. ca1657 Sudbury, MA; d. 26 May 1718
- *Ruth Rice (Welles)*, b. 29Sep1659 Marlborough, MA; d. 30Mar1742 Glastonbury, CT



# Suffolk Map by John Seller, 1701





# St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk

## Site of Marriage to Thomasine Frost 15 Oct 1618



1898 photo from Francis Firth Collection



2018 photo by Tripadvisor



Saint James Church, Stanstead Suffolk  
Edmund's parish (1619 to 1626)



2017 photo by Suffolk Churches Blog



# Edmund's 12 Children & Vital Info

- **Children with Thomasine Frost (1600-1654)**

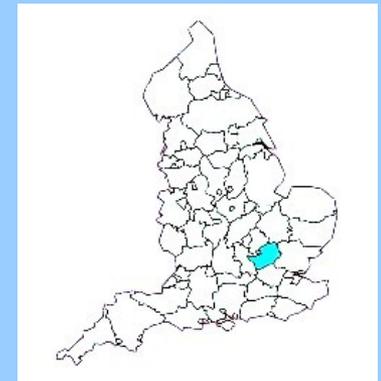
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# Hertfordshire Map by John Norden 1646





# St. Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire Edmund's Parish 1626-1638



Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century print from Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society



# Edmund's life in Berkhamsted 1626-1638

- Land tenure was 'open-field farming' transitioning to 'closed-field farming' as part of the Enclosure Movement
- Area of 'land rush'
- He acquired & was taxed on 3 acres by 1627
- He held & was taxed on 15 acres 1633-1637
- Held no official office but 1626-34 was joint administrator w/ Rev. Thomas Newman (Rector of St. Peter's) of £50 grant from Charles I
- Had Berkhamsted town-mates later joining him in Sudbury, MA (*Thomas Axtell, Robert Darvell, & Philemon Whale*)

Source: Berkhamsted Land Records in Powell (1963)



## Edmund's Voyage to New England in 1638

- No record of Edmund's voyage
- Dates deduced from baptismal record for Joseph in Berkhamsted (March 1638) & the records of Sudbury (late March 1639)
- Traveled with his family (Thomasine, Henry, Edward, Thomas, Lydia, Matthew, Samuel & Joseph)
- Approximate fare of passage = £76.8.0 (*Source: bill of passage for Peter Noyes, 10 family members, provisions and effects on the ship "Jonathan" on 12 April 1639*)

Source: Powell (1963)



## Edmund's Time in Watertown, MA 1638

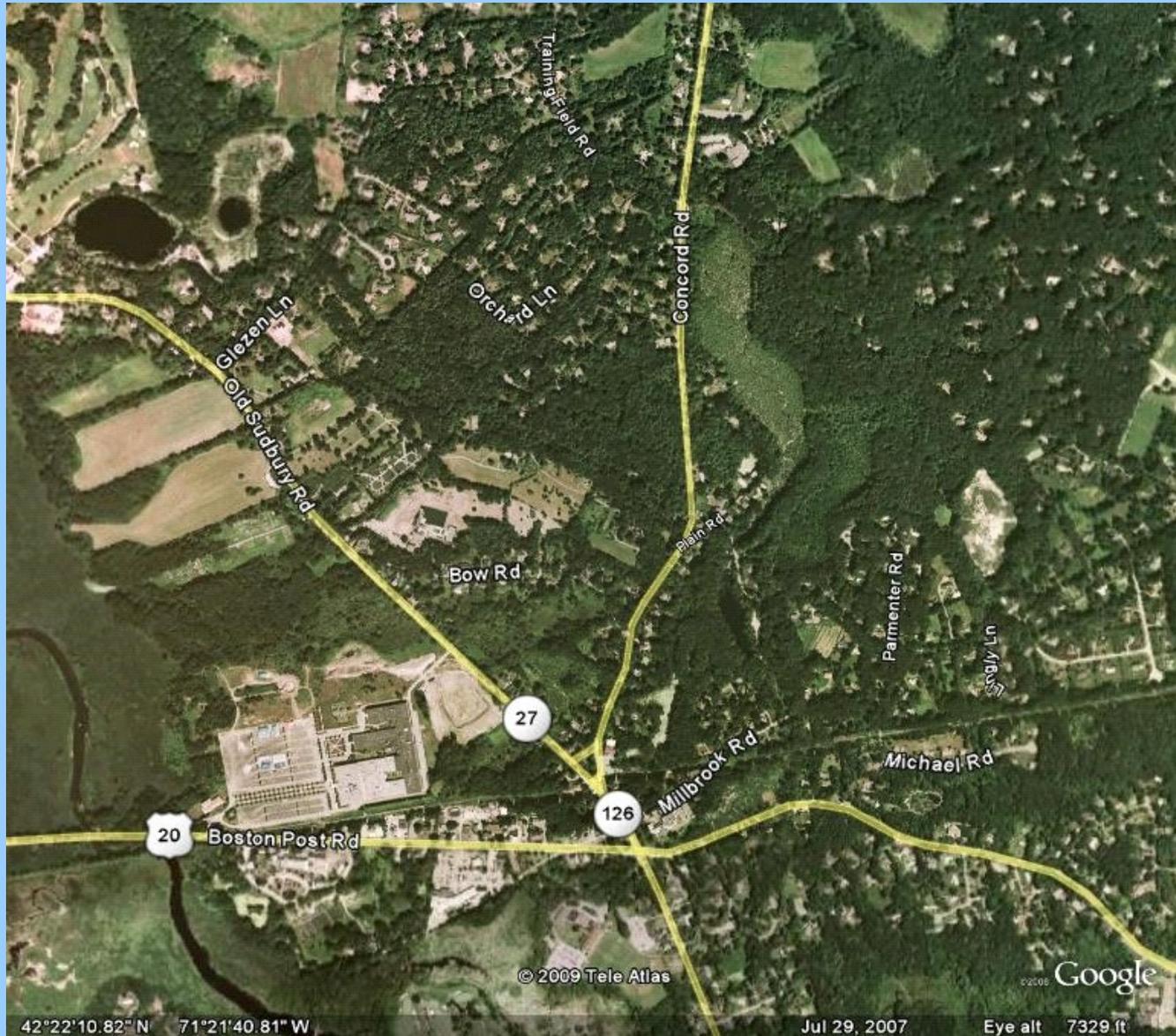
- Many immigrants from East Anglia w/ 'closed field' farming
- Land plots were already allocated 1634-35
- Among dissenters were 'West Country' immigrants (Peter Noyes, Walter Haines, Thomas Goodenow) many not willing to do closed-field farming
- Three key newcomers form political power block: Peter Noyes, Bryan Pendleton, & Rev. Edmund Brown; Petition of MA General Court in 1638 to form Sudbury
- Edmund Rice sees opportunity & joins Sudbury founders

Source: Chapter 5 "Watertown on the Charles" in Powell (1963)





# Site of Sudbury First Roads Today





## Edmund Rice Farm at Sudbury ca1640



Figure 13 from: Sumner Chilton Powell (1963). *Puritan Village: The Formation of a New England Town*. Wesleyan Univ. Press, Middletown, CT



## Edmund Rice in Sudbury 1638-1640

- Town government established 1638; Rice elected Selectman 1639 & appointed by MA General Court on 4 Sep 1639 (incorporation) to lay out roads & lots.
- He was granted 4-acre home lot near meetinghouse
- He was assigned 33.5 acres in meadow & 54 acres from town upland 'commons'
- Governance mostly for open-field farming but closed field farming allowed in outer areas
- He was designated a Freeman on 13 May 1640
- He was elected as member of General Court October 1640



## Edmund Rice in Sudbury 1641-1648

- Rice appointed as Judge of Small Causes by General Court 2 Jun 1641 to serve Sudbury
- Rice sold house, lot & barn near meetinghouse to John Moore on 1 Sep 1642 & bought house & 6 acres from widowed Mary (Rice) Axtell in 1646
- Six-year lease to purchase agreement of Henry Dunster's farm 1642; purchased farm in 1648; purchased 600 acres in 1659 from Dunster's estate.
- Bought Philemon Whale house & 9 acre farm 1648 (Whale married to Elizabeth Frost)
- Properties in family until early 20<sup>th</sup> century



# Edmund Rice 2<sup>nd</sup> Sudbury Homesite Marker





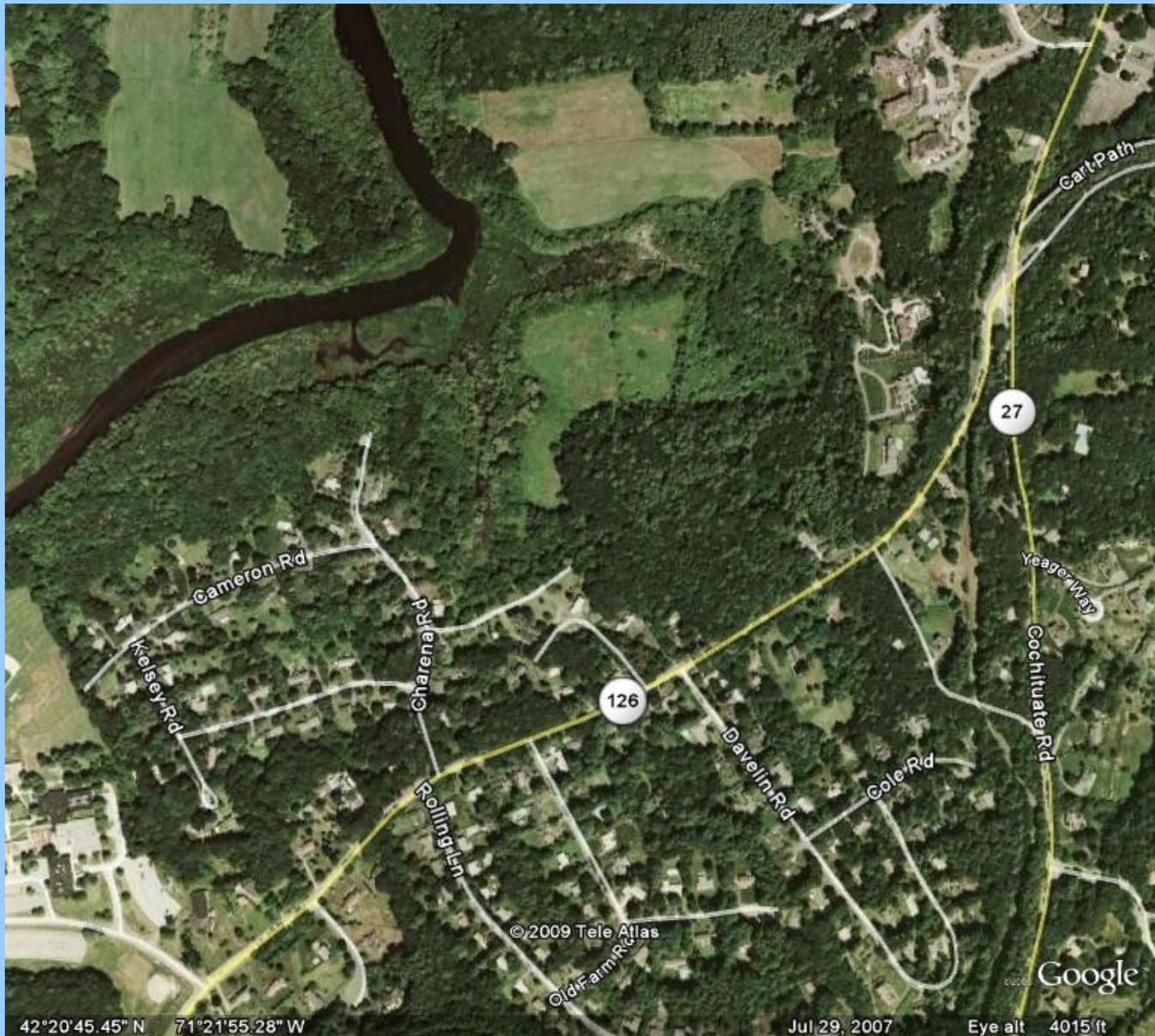
## Edmund Rice 2<sup>nd</sup> Home near Connecticut Path



Source of the photo is from p. 5, Ellis, R.W. (ed.) 1970. A Genealogical Register of Edmund Rice Descendants. Edmund Rice (1638) Association & Charles E. Tuttle Publishing Company, Rutland, VT



# Location of Edmund Rice 2<sup>nd</sup> House





## Edmund Rice in Sudbury 1648-1656

- He ordained Deacon of the Church in 1648
- Deputy of the MA General Court 1652-54
- Wife Thomasine died on 13 Jun 1654; married widow Mercy (?) Brigham of Cambridge on 1 Mar 1655
- Continued to add land to holdings (~600 acres) including probated estate of Henry Dunster
- Shift in politics in Sudbury: growing population fewer land grants & greater conflict between open & closed field farming



## Edmund Rice and Marlborough 1656-1663

- March, 1656, thirteen Sudbury men petition to the General Court to establish Marlborough
  - *Edmund Rice Thomas Goodnow John Bent Sr. William Ward  
John Ruddocke John Maynard Thomas King Henry Rice  
Richard Newton John Woods John Howe Peter Bent Edward Rice*
- Established with governance in support of closed-field farming
- Rice elected as selectman April 1657; 38 original families
- 1660 incorporation and awarding of land grants; 24,000 acres available in Marlborough
- Rice home established center of Marlborough---site of today's city hall
- Rice received 50 acres agricultural land in Marlborough



## Death of Edmund Rice: 3 May 1663

Edmund Rice Monument at Old North Cemetery---  
Site of First Sudbury Meeting House





# Edmund's Major Legacies

- Establishing two towns with governance systems adapted the varied experiences in England to the environment Massachusetts
- Moving the Colony toward predominantly closed-field 'owner-operator' farming systems ....  
entrepreneurism as a New England value
- John Chandler (2013) estimated total of 2.7 million descendants in the 12th generation, with estimated 4.4 million descendants cumulatively in the first twelve generations

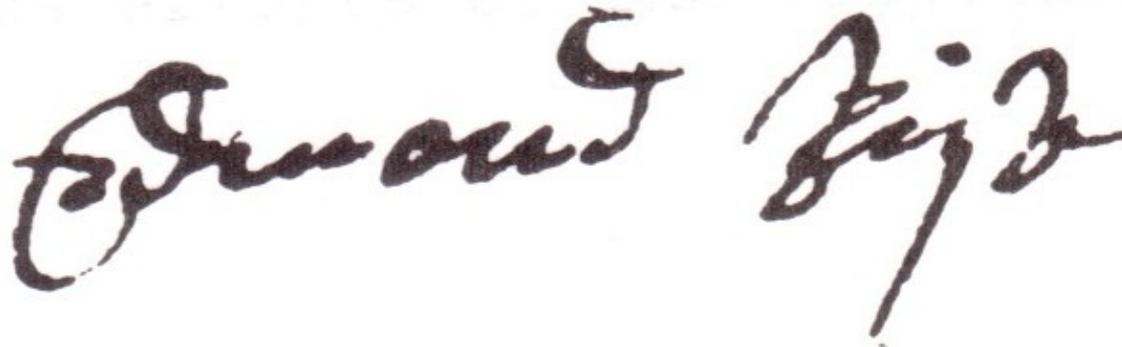


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- ***Smith, Elsie Hawes.*** (1938). *Edmund Rice and His Family.* Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc. 100pp.



# Thank You



Edmund's signature from 1659 land survey of "Dunster Farm" purchase; original in Harvard University Archives