

Edmund Rice (1594-1663):
Edmund 101, and 102 Years of the
Edmund Rice (1638) Association

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

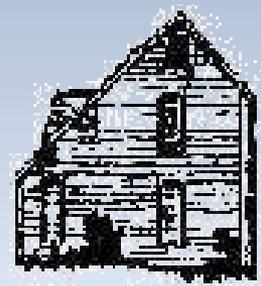
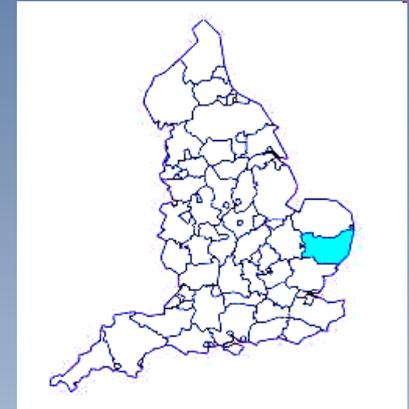


Edmund's Early Life in Suffolk

- Born 1594 (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



Suffolk Map by John Seller, 1701



Edmund's 12 Children & Vital Info

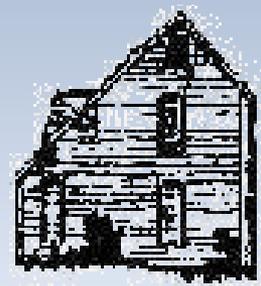
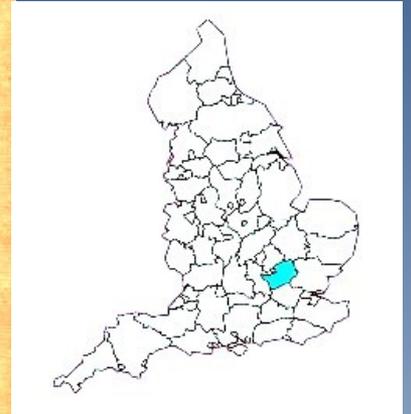
- **Children with Thomasine Frost (1600-1654)**

- **Mary Rice**, bapt. 23Aug1619 Stanstead, Suffolk.; d.? (? = Mary Axtell of Sudbury MA)
- **Henry Rice**, bapt. 13Feb1620 Stanstead; d. 10Feb1710 Framingham, MA
- **Edward Rice**, bapt. 27Oct1622 Stanstead; d. 15Aug1712 Marlborough, MA
- **Thomas Rice**, bapt. 26Jan1625 Stanstead; d. 16Nov1681 Sudbury, MA
- **Lydia Rice (Drury)**, bapt. 9Mar1627 Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire; d. 5Apr1675 Boston, MA
- **Matthew Rice**, bapt. 28 Feb1628, Berkhamsted; d. 1717 Sudbury, MA
- **Daniel Rice**, bapt. 1Nov1632 Berkhamsted; d. 10Nov1632 Berkhamsted.
- **Samuel Rice**, 12Nov1634 Berkhamsted; d. 25Feb1685 at Marlborough, MA
- **Joseph Rice**, bapt. 13Mar1638 Berkhamsted; d. 23Dec1711 Stow, MA
- **Benjamin Rice**, b. 31 May 1640 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

Hertfordshire Map by John Norden 1646



Edmund's life in Berkhamsted 1626-1638

- Land tenure was 'open-field farming' transitioning to 'closed-field farming'
- Area of 'land rush'
- He acquired & was taxed on 3 acres by 1627
- He held & was taxed on 15 acres 1633-1637
- Was Churchwarden at St. Peter's, and 1626-34 was joint administrator w/ Rev. Thomas Newman of £50 grant from Charles I...followed by political upheaval
- 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 1638

- No record of Edmund's voyage
- Date deduced from baptismal record for Joseph in Berkhamsted (March 1638) & the founding of Sudbury (September 1638)...in Sudbury records first in 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)

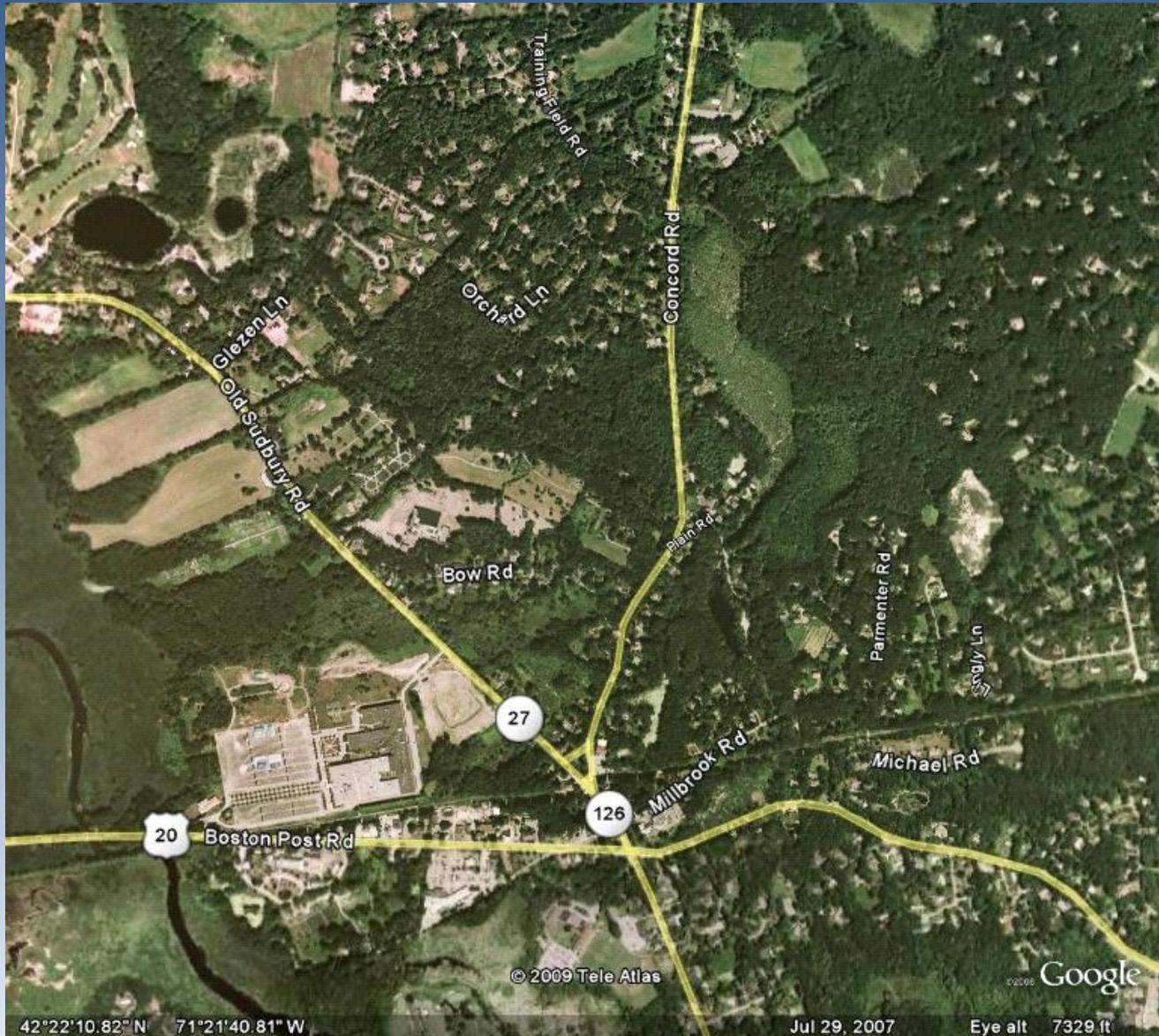


Edmund Rice in Sudbury 1638-1642

- Town government established 1638; Rice elected as selectman before March 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 in Sept 1639
- He was designated a Freeman on 13 May 1640
- He was elected as member of General Court October 1640
- Rice appointed as Judge of Small Causes by General Court 2 Jun 1641
- Rice sold house, 4 acre lot & barn to John Moore on 1 Sep 1642



Site of Sudbury First Roads Today



Edmund Rice Farm at Sudbury ca1640



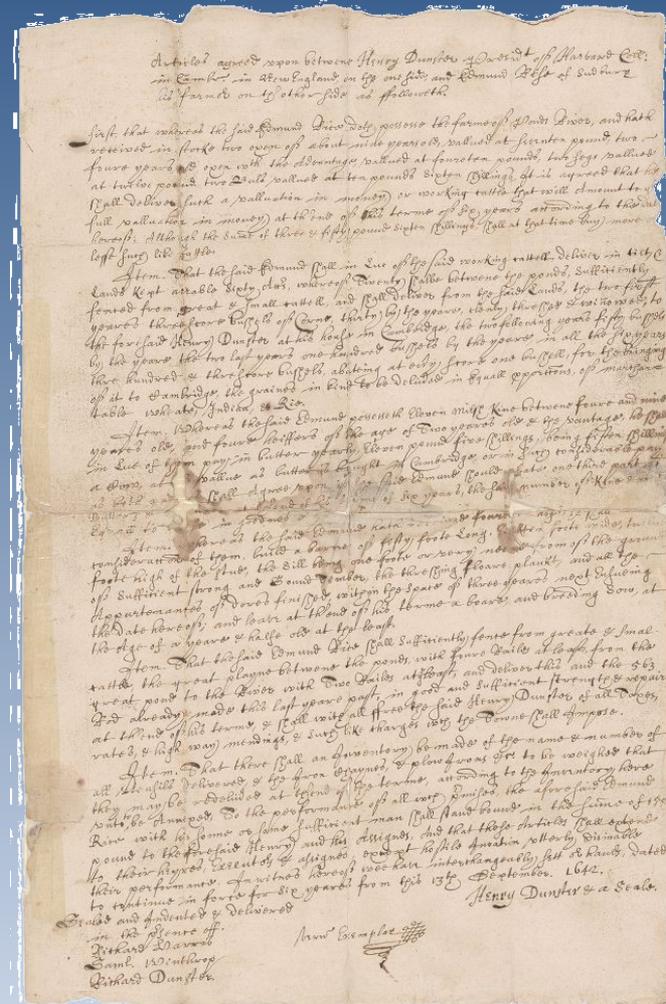
Figure 13 from: Sumner Chilton Powell (1963). *Puritan Village: The Formation of a New England Town*. Wesleyan Univ. Press, Middletown, CT



Establishing the Homestead 1642-43



- Original land granted by selectmen on 3 April 1640; plus lease of nearby land 13 Sep 1642 from Henry Dunster
- House by old spring built by Rice ca1643 & sold to Philemon Whale
- House & 9 acres acquired back by Edmund in 1648
- Stays in Rice family until early 20th Century



Harvard University – Harvard University Archives / Dunster, Henry 1609–1659? Papers of Henry Dunster and the Dunster and Glover families. Agreement between Henry Dunster and his farmer, Edmund Rice, 1642 September 13. UAI 15.850 Box 1, Folder 8, Harvard University Archives.

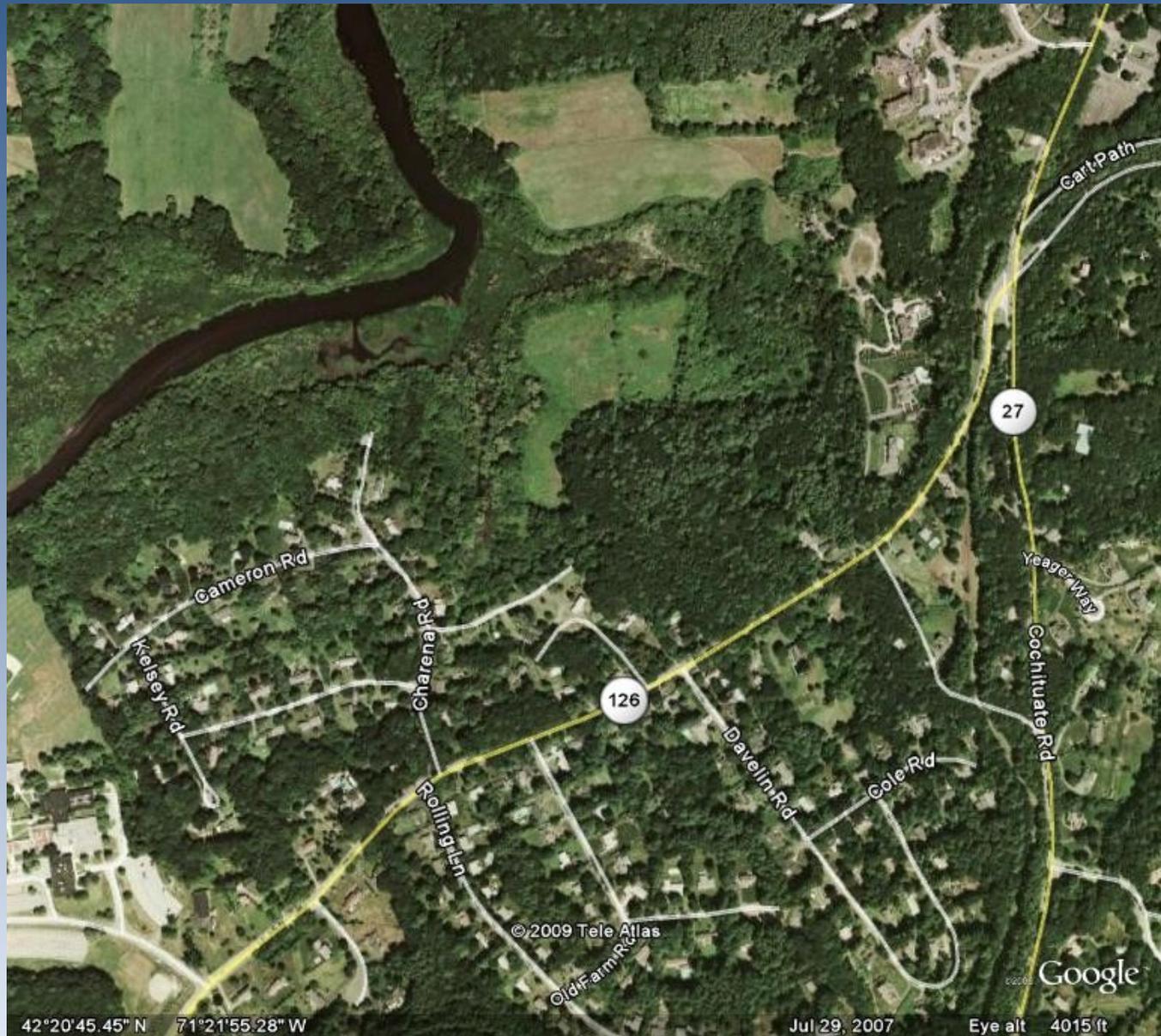


Edmund Rice 2nd Home near Connecticut Path



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

Location of Edmund Rice 2nd House



Edmund Rice 2nd Sudbury Homesite Marker



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 granted 50 acres agricultural land in Marlborough



Death of Edmund Rice

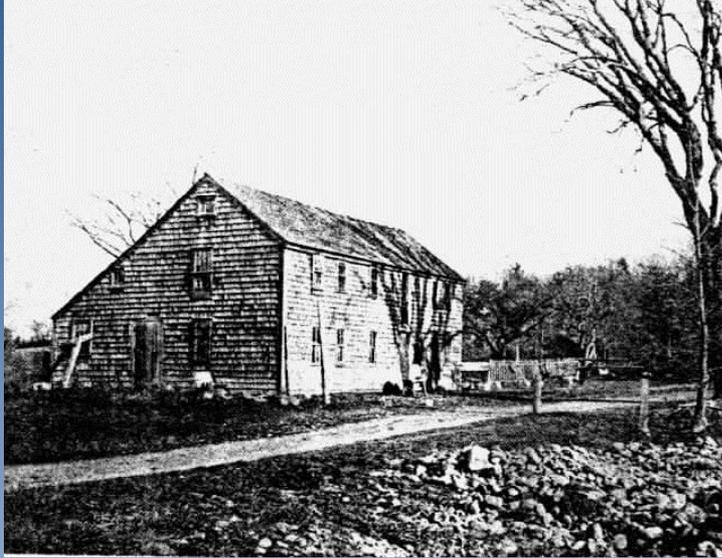
3 May 1663



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



Edward Rice, Sr. (1793-1868)



- Is 2nd son of Edmund Rice (1755-1841) descended from Edmund's Son Edward.
- Resided in homestead all his life
- Hosted the Rice Family reunions at the homestead... First recorded Rice reunion at homestead was 5 Sept 1851 --- *per ERA newsletter #1:1960*



Rice Family Funding of Ward (1858)

A

GENEALOGICAL HISTORY

OF

THE RICE FAMILY:

DESCENDANTS

OF

DEACON EDMUND RICE,

WHO CAME FROM BERKHAMSTEAD, ENGLAND, AND SETTLED AT
SUDBURY, MASSACHUSETTS, IN 1688 OR 9;

WITH

AN INDEX,

ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED,

OF THE NAMES OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES OF THE NAME OF RICE; ALSO AN
INDEX, ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED, OF THE NAMES OF HUSBANDS AND
WIVES OF FAMILIES OTHER THAN RICE, BUT HAVE INTERMARRIED
WITH THEM, AND ALSO OF THE NAMES OF HUSBANDS AND
WIVES OF THEIR DESCENDANTS.

By ANDREW HENSHAW WARD, A. M.

MEMBER OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF
THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN, AND HONORARY MEMBER OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

If you would know who you are,
Learn whence you came.

BOSTON:
C. BENJAMIN RICHARDSON.
1858.

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PUBLICATION.

PUBLICATION.

The circumstances under which this family history is published, are briefly these: For several years past, the descendants of Edmond Rice have been accustomed to meet annually at the old homestead, still in the possession of one of them, in Wayland, formerly a part of Sudbury. These gatherings, chiefly of a social character, have been attended not only by members of the family residing in the immediate vicinity, but by many from remote places; and the interest manifested in them has increased from year to year.

At the meeting in August, 1856, Hon. Andrew H. Ward, of West Newton, was present, and stated that while pursuing his genealogical investigations in another direction, and with reference to another family, he had found occasion to refer, incidentally, to the descendants of Edmond Rice, and at length, becoming interested in the matter, he had devoted himself for some years to the preparation of a complete genealogy of the Rice family. He then gratuitously tendered his manuscripts for publication. The generous offer was of course at once accepted, with thanks to the donor, and the undersigned were chosen a committee of publication. No condition was annexed to the gift, except that the publication should be made in the life-time of Mr. Ward, and he be allowed its supervision. This has accordingly been done; and he now presents the result of his labors in a form which shows how much time, patient industry, and untiring research he has disinterestedly devoted to the work. We feel assured that, from its completeness, accuracy, and convenient arrangement, it will be found to be an important addition to our genealogical literature; and that with every member of the Rice family it will possess a peculiar value and interest, and the name of the author held in ever grateful remembrance.

EDMOND RICE JR., BRIGHTON, }
GEORGE M. RICE, WORCESTER, } Committee
ANSON RICE, NORTHBORO', } of
C. C. ESTY, FRAMINGHAM, } Publication.
LEVI GOODNOUGH, SUDBURY, }

December, 1857.



Rice Reunion held in Worcester 1903

- Dedication of Jonas Rice boulder 7 Oct 1903 hosted by Worcester Society of Antiquity
- “The Society is also largely indebted to the descendants of Edmund Rice, who are present in large numbers, for their co-operation in this celebration, and it is with great pleasure that the Worcester Society of Antiquity extends to them the full and free use of the Society's building on Salisbury street. Your presence has added greatly to the interest of this occasion and it is most fitting that you make this occasion an opportunity for the grand family reunion which is to take place this afternoon at Salisbury Hall.”
 - Reference: Worcester Society of Antiquity (1903). *Exercises Held at the Dedication of a Memorial to Major Jonas Rice, the First Permanent Settler of Worcester, Massachusetts, Wednesday, October 7, 1903*. Charles Hamilton Press, Worcester. 72pp.



Formation of the Edmund Rice (1638) Association in 1912

(MRS.) NELLIE RICE-FISKE, VICE-PRES.,
COCHITUATE, MASS.

M. EUGENE RICE, VICE-PRES.,
SO. SUDBURY, MASS.

REV. J. H. HOFFMAN, VICE-PRES.,
NORTHBORO, MASS.

EUSTACE B. RICE, PRES.,
BOSTON, MASS.

LESLIE O. RICE, SEC'Y.,
WARREN, OHIO.

FRANK H. RICE, TREAS.,
BRIGHTON, MASS.

PROF. GEO. H. BARTON, HISTORIAN.,
BOSTON, MASS.

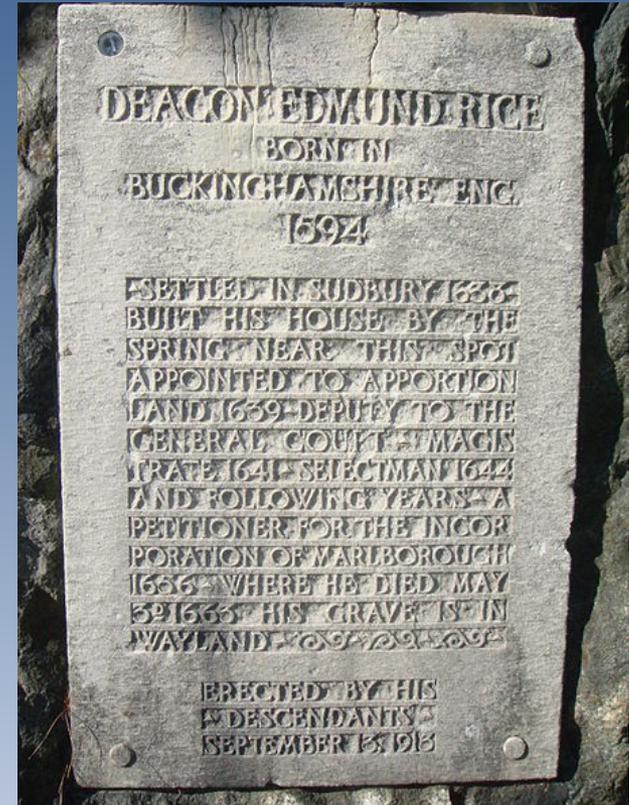
Edmund Rice (1638) Association

- First meeting of Association at the annual reunion on 30 August 1912 at First Parish Church, Wayland (2/6/1913 letter William Whitmore to Clara Davis; p.2 Vol. 6. Spring 1963 ERA Newsletter)
- Solicitation for donations were sent out broadly to likely descendants of Edmund during Fall of 1912 (1/26/13 letter Ethyllynn Rice White of Farmington, UT to Clara Davis; 2/27/1913 letter Mary F. Child to Clara Davis)
- Evidence that homestead had burned down in recent past (2/3/1913 letter Sophia Rice Burnham of Glens Falls, NY to Clara Davis, "*It seems pity that the old house could not have been preserved.*")



Planning & Funding the Homesite Marker

- Fundraising strategy was 12 principal donors giving \$25 each, having several \$10 donors and asking \$1 to \$5 from most members with a \$500 goal (March 15, 1913 letter Fred Martin Rice, Chairman, Marker Committee to Clara Davis).
- Monument was designed by architect A.W. Rice (May 15, 1913 letter Melvin Eugene Rice to Clara Davis)
- Work to place the boulder and install tablet had begun by early August (August 11, 1913 letter Melvin Eugene Rice to Clara Davis)
- Estimated \$396 collected by unveiling
- Unveiling of monument at September 13, 1913 meeting of the ERA



Raising the Cemetery Monument

- About \$300 required for the gravestone (based on modern replacement cost estimate of about \$9,000)
- ERA was short on funds to complete the cemetery project w/ less than expected small donations (October 15, 1915 letter George Hunt Barton to Clara Davis, *"Some time later if the Marker Committee are still out of pocket, I'll contribute a little more toward that, but I think it better for many to contribute a little each than for a few to contribute large sums each."*)
- Monument unveiled at Old North Cemetery during 1914 ERA meeting in August.



Photo by Midge Frazel



ERA 1910s-1960

- Nellie Rice Fiske, ERA 2nd President (1913-20), major force in keeping Association together
- Publication of MA vital records by Franklin Pierce Rice (1852-1919)
- Major effort begun early 1930s to document Edmund's origins & supplement Ward's genealogy—funding by Alexander Hamilton Rice, Jr. (1875-1956) – landmark works by Mary Lovering Holman & Donald Lines Jacobus.
- 10 Jan 1934 incorporation of ERA under laws of MA
- 1938 ERA publication of *Edmund Rice & His Family* by Elsie Hawes Smith (ERA pres 1937-39)
- Elsie Hawes Smith ERA Historian (1940-1963)



ERA since 1960

- Newsletters begun in 1960 w/ better documentation of ERA Activities
- First Ward supplement published by ERA in 1967 using primarily Elsie Hawes Smith's data
- Edmund Rice Genealogical Register (1970) ed. by Ray Lowther Ellis (ERA Pres 1966-67) w/ 26,000 descendants compiled
- ERA Supplement 2, published in 2 parts: Part 1, 1983 & part 2, 1985 ed. by Margaret S. Rice (ERA Pres 1986-87)
- Electronic database begun late 1990s & genetic genealogy project begun in 2002
- By 2013, ERA database has >203,000 persons



Thank You

Questions??

Edmund Byrd

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

