



Edward Bangs: his arrival in Plymouth

Edward Bangs arrived in Plymouth on the *Anne* in 1623. Governor William Bradford tells of the ship's arrival in Plymouth:

"About fourteen days after came in this ship, called the Anne, whereof Mr. William Peirce was master; and about a week or ten days after came in the pinnace which, in foul weather, they lost at sea, a fine, new vessel of about 44 tun, which the Company had built to stay in the country. They brought about 60 persons for the General, some of them being very useful persons and became good members to the body; and some were the wives and children of such as were here already."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 127.

Edward Bangs & the 1623 Division of Land

The 1623 Division of Land marked the end of the Pilgrims' earliest system of land held in common by all. Governor Bradford explains it in this way:

"And so assigned to every family a parcel of land, according to the proportion of their number, for that end, only for present use (but made no division for inheritance) and ranged all boys and youth under some family. This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use, and saved him a great deal of trouble, and gave far better content. The women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 120.

Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds, &c, Vol. I 1627-1651 is the oldest record book of the Plymouth settlement. It begins with the 1623 Division of Land, recorded in the handwriting of Governor William Bradford. It records not only the land holdings but also the names of those passengers who arrived in the Colony on the ships *Fortune* and *Anne*. The lands of "Bangs" were among those designated "their grounds which came over in the shipe called the Anne" and described it in this way "These following lye on the other side of the towne towards the eele-river."

A further division of land was accomplished in 1627. The allotments of land were laid out by six men: William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Howland, Francis Cooke, Joshua Pratt, and Edward Bangs. (PCR 11:4-5)

Edward Bangs & the 1627 Division of Cattle

Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds, &c, Vol. I 1627-1651 also tells of the 1627 Division of Cattle: "At a publique court held the 22th of May it was concluded by the whole Companie, that the cattell wch were the Companies, to wit, the Cowes & the Goates should be equally devided to all the psonts of the same company ... & so the lotts fell as followeth, thirteene psonts being portioned to one lot ..."

"The twelveth lott fell to John Jene & his companie joyned to him (2) his wife Sarah Jene (3) Samuell Jene (4) Abigall Jene (5) Sarah Jene (6) Robert Hickes (7) Margret Hickes (8) Samuell Hickes (9) Ephraim Hickes (10) Lidya Hickes (11) Phebe Hickes (12) Stephen Deane (13) Edward Banges.

"To this lott fell the greate white backt cow wch was brought ouer with the first in the Ann, to wch cow the keepeing of the bull was joyned for hes psonts to puide for. heere also two shee goats."

Edward Bangs: a 1626 Purchaser

In 1621, King James I authorized the Council for New England to plant and govern land in this area. This Council granted the Peirce Patent, confirming the Pilgrims' settlement and governance of Plymouth. Peirce and his associates, the merchant adventurers, were allotted 100 acres for each settler the Company transported. The Pilgrims had a contract with the Company stating all land and profits would accrue to the Company for 7 years at which time the assets would be divided among the shareholders. Most of the Pilgrims held some stock. The Pilgrims negotiated a more favorable contract with the Company in 1626. In 1627, 53 Plymouth freemen, known as "The Purchasers," agreed to buy out the Company over a period of years. In turn, 12 "Undertakers" (8 from Plymouth and 4 from London) agreed to pay off Plymouth's debts in return for trade benefits.

The list we have of the 1626 Purchasers comes from the Plymouth Colony Records (Vol. 2, p. 177). The name of Edward Bangs is listed.

Edward Bangs: a founder of Nauset, Cape Cod (1644)

"Many having left this place... the church began seriously to think whether it were not better jointly to remove to some other place than to be thus weakened and as it were insensibly dissolved. Many meetings and much consultation was held hereabout, and divers were men's minds and opinions. Some were still for staying together in this place, alleging men might here live if they would be content with their condition, and that it was not for want or necessity so much that they removed as for the enriching of themselves. Others were resolute upon removal and so signified that here they could not stay; but if the church did not remove, they must. Insomuch as many were swayed rather than there should be a dissolution, to condescend to a removal if a fit place could be found that might more conveniently and comfortably receive the whole, with such access of others as might come to them for their better strength and subsistence; and some such-like cautions and limitations.

"So as, with the aforesaid provisos, the greater part consented to a removal to a place called Nauset, which had been superficially viewed and the good will of the purchasers to whom it belonged obtained, with some addition thereto from the Court..."

William Bradford, of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 333-334.

[The Plymouth Pilgrims who settled Nauset included Thomas Prence, John Doane, Nicholas Snow, Josias Cook, Richard Higgins, John Smalley and Edward Bangs. Nauset was renamed Eastham in 1651.]

Edward Bangs in the Records of Plymouth Colony

28 September 1629: "The .29 of the same month and year aboue written the said Thomas Clark sould to William Bradford the aforesaid acre of land bought of ye said Abraham Peirce, luying & bounded as abouesayd.

"And also an other acre of grounde lying on the same side of the towne, abutting with ye one ende on ye Bay, & bounded on ye one side with ye land of widow Waren, & on ye other sid with ye land of Edward bangs..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 7.

1633: "The Names of the Freemen of the Incorporacon of Plymoth in New England, An: 1633 ... Edward Bangs, [et al.]..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 3-4.

Edward Bangs is also in the 1636-37 List of Freemen for Plymouth (PCR 1:52), the circa 1643 List of Freemen for Plymouth (PCR 8:174 and 189), the circa 1658 List of Freemen for Nauset (PCR 8:177) and the 1670 List of Freeman for Eastham (PCR 5:278).

25 March 1633: "According to an order in Court held the 2d of January, in the seaventh yeare of the raigne of or soveraigne lord, Charles, by the grace of God King of Engl., Scotl., France, & Irel., defendor of the faith, &c, the psons heere under menconed were rated for publike use by the Govr, Mr. Will Bradford ... to be brought in by each pson as they are heere under written, rated in corne at vi s p bushell, at or before the last of November next ensuing ... Edward Bangs 00: 12: 00."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 9-10.

In March of 1634, Edward Bangs was also "rated" at twelve shillings.

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 27.

1 July 1633: "That Capt Myles Standish, John Done, Stephen Hopkins, Josuah Prat, Edward Bangs, Jonathan Brewster, & Robt Heeks devide the medow ground in the bay equally, according to the proporcon of shares formerly devided to the purchasers at or before the last of aug. next ensuing.

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 14.

10 October 1633: "An Inventory taken the 10th of Octobr 1633 of the goods & Chattels of Peter Browne of new Plymouth deceased as they were prised by Capt Myles Standish & mr Will Brewster..."

"[owed Peter Browne by] Edw: Bangs ... 00:03:00"

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 1, p. 79-81.

15 November 1633: "An Inventory of the goods of Joh Thorp Carpenter late of Plym deceased as they were taken by Capt. Myles Standish & mr Will. Brewster..."

"Joh. Thorpe debtor to... Edw. Bangs 00:15:00"

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 1, p. 158-161.

3 March 1634-5: "At ye same court these, whose names are vnderwritten, were added to ye rest yt were apointed ye year before, for to cesse [assess] ye company for ye watch & other publick charge.

"Manasah Kempton, Joshua Pratt, John Winslow, Edward Bangs, Steuen Tracy."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 33.

Edward Bangs was also appointed an assessor in 1635 (PCR 1:38).

14 March 1635-6: "At this meeting, after much conference about the neerer uniting of Plymoth & those on Duxburrough side, divers were apointed to view Jones his river & Mortons Hole, wch were thought the fittest places, & to render a reason for their judgement. The pties for Duxburrow side were Mr William Collier, Stephen Tracy, Mr Joh. Howland, Edm Chandler, Josuah Pratt; for the other side, Capt Myles Standish, Manasseh Kempton, George Kenrick, John Jenny, & Edward Bangs. All these but Edw. Bangs went & conferred together, and on the 21th of the sd month of March brought in their opinions & rendred their reasons for the same, wch are many & still extant; seaven of the said nine holding Jones River to be the fittest place for the uniting of both ptes into a neerer society, & there to build a meeting howse & towne; and the two preferred the other, wch is Mortons Hole, before Jones River."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 41.

4, 5 October 1636: "The jewry empaniled this Court, for triall of accons & abuses, were Jonathan Brewster, Nath. Sowther, John Cooke, Junior, James Budworth, John Holmes, Kanelm Wynslow, Josiah winslow, Anthony Annable, Will Hatch, Christopher Wadsworth, Tho. Cushman, Edw. Bangs.

"By these, Tho. Savery fownd guilty of drunkenness, & thought meet he should be whipt.

"Also, John Barnes, for Sabbath breaking, for wch he was fined 30ss, & to sit an howr in the stocks."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 44

Edward Bangs also served on Juries in 1636-7 (PCR 7:4), 1639 (PCR 7:13 and 14), 1639-40 (PCR 7:16), 1641 (PCR 7:22, 23, 25 and 28) and 1643 (PCR 7:35 and 36).

7 March 1636-7: "The Names of the Great Inquest of Grand Jury, sworne to enquire of all Abuses wthin the body of this goument, &c. Jhn Atwood, gen., Jonathan Brewster, John Winslowe, Kenelme Winslowe ... Edward Banges..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 54.

Edward Bangs also served on the Grand Inquest in 1638 (PCR 1:87), 1640 (PCR 1:155) and 1642 (PCR 2:34).

20 March 1636: "...and then were psons also appoynted to veiwe all the hey grounds wthin the limitts seually followinge, before the next Court, that eich man may be asigned a porcon as shalbe thought convenyent.

"The Messenger, Mr Hopkins, Manasseth Kempton, Edward Banges, were appoynted to veiw the hey grounds betwixt the Eele riuer and the towne of Plymouth."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 55.

7 July 1637: "It is agreed, that the heigh wayes, both for horse, cart, and foote, shalbe as followeth..."

"To the Eele riuer, from Plymouth.

"The wayes now in vse to Wellingsley bridge, and so the creeke, where wee allowe fiftie foote from the banks, & from the corner at Raph Wallens. The vpper way to Thomas Clarkes still; the lower way from Raph Wallens right out to Holmans Rock; allowed fourty foote on the west side, and so straight to Manasseth Kemptons ground, whose fence is to be remoued twenty foote inward, and so passing betweene two rocks at the brooke, straight to Edward Banges, leaueing his house west, and so along, leaueing Nicholas Snowes house east, & so to Mr Hopkins house..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 58-59.

2 October 1637: "Wheras diuers were appoynted to take a view of the meadow grounds betwixt the Eele Riuer and South Riuer, that there might be an equall diuision of them to eich man, and fynding the same by estimacon to amount vnto fiue hundred acrees, or thereabouts, the court doth order, that Mr Willm Brewster, Mr Steephen Hopkins, Mr John Done, and John Winslowe, for the towne of Plymouth, Edward Banges for the Eele Riuer, Mr John Browne for Joanes Riuer, and Jonathan Brewster and Edmond Chaundler for Ducksborrow, shalbe added to the Gounor and Assistants, to agree vpon an equall course to the diuision of them..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 67.

1 January 1637-8: "The bounds of the lands of Mr John Alden att Duxburrow, as it was layed forth by Gou Bradford, Mr Edward winslow, Joshuah Prate, Edward Banges..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 73.

8 November 1638: "John Smyth, of Plym., labr, doth acknowledg to owe our souaigne lord the King, &c...xl [pence]

"Edward Banges, of the same, yeom., ... xx [pence]"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 103

3 December 1639: "The differences betwixt Mr Samuell Gorton & Thomas Clarke are referred by consent of the said Thom Clarke, and appoyntment of the court, to Richard Church & Edward Banges as arbitrats, and John Dunhame as vmpire, to be decided & ended by them."

Plymouth Colony records, Vol. 1, p. 137.

1 June 1640: "The Court doth order that Mr Collyer & Mr Alden do shew what land was apoynted to Mr Thomas at Greens Harbour; and then Mr Prence, Capt Standish, Edward Bangs, Willm Paddy, Jonathan Brewster, John Winslow, Josias Cooke, Thomas Little, and Josuah Pratt to view & measure the meddow lands at Greens Harbor..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 153.

2 November 1640: "These seuall psons following are graunted meddowing in the South Meddow towards Aggawam, Colebrook Meddowes: -

"To Edward Bangs tenn acres."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 166.

1 December 1640: "Presentments...

"Richard Knowles, for denying passage of cattell in the heigh way. witnes, Ed Banges."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 5.

1 February 1640-1: "A Jury was impannelled and sworne to lay forth certaine heigh wayes now in difference, and to set forth the bounds and land markes...

"The Names of the Jury... Edward Banges, [et al.]..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 7.

16 September 1641: "At a townes meeting by the inhabitants of Plym, holden the sxjth of Septembr, 1641, xvij Caroli, &c, for grant of lands wthin the said towneship of Plymouth...

"Edward Banges is graunted a pcell of fourscore acrees of vpland about Warrens Wells, to be viewed and layd forth for him by Mr Jenney, Manasseth Kempton, & Josuah Pratt."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 25.

27 September 1642:"Whereas fourscore acrees of vpland are formly graunted to Edward Banges at Warrens Wells, he now desireing to haue some lands neere his house, it is graunted that he shall looke out a pcellof lands, wch vpon view shalbe layd forth for him, and to be deducted out of the 80 acrees he should haue at Warrens Wells."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 48-49.

4 January 1641-2: "The Contributors for building of a Bark of 40 or 50 Tunn, estimated at the Charge of 200 li.

"Edward Bangs ... jxvj th [1/16 th] part."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 31.

7 September 1643: "Memorand That Joyce Wallen Widdow doth acknowledg that for and in consideracon of the sum of eight pounds sterl to be payd by fourty shillings p ann by Edward Bangs of Plym Hath freely and absolutely bargained and sold vnto the said Edward his heires and Assignes All that her house and messuage scituate and being at Hobs hole or Wellingsley wth the garden place and vplands therevnto adjoyneing with all and singuler thapprtences therevnto belonging and all her right title and interrest of and into the said prmises and euey pt thereof To haue and to hold the said house or messuage garden place and vplands wth all and singuler thapprtences therevnto belonging vnto the said Edward Banges his heires & Assignes for euer and to the onely pper use and behoofe of him the said Edward Banges his heires and Assignes foreu."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 95.

10 February 1643-4: "It is agreed That wolfe traps be made according to the order of the Court in manner following...

"That one be made at broken wharfe [near the head of the Beach] by Manassah kempton Edward Banges Richard Higgens Nathaniell Morton Nicholas Snow Anthony Snow John Jenkins Willm ffallowell Robte ffinney John and Ephraim Morton."

Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, p. 16.

5 March 1643-4: "John Smyth, of the Eele Riu, planter, acknowledgeth to our souaigne lord the King, to be levyed, &c, xxli. Edward Banges of the same, plant, ... v li."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 69.

5 June 1644: "It is ordered by the Court, that Manasseth Kempton, Edward Banges, & Robte Bartlett, or any two of them, shall price the two oxen of Willm Powells, recoued by due course of law by Thomas Clarke and Clement Campion, John Barnes beinge Campions attorney, and the surplusage of the oxe wch Thom Clarke recoued to be payd to Campions use, wth thother oxe, as they are prised."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 73.

1 June 1647: "Supvisors of the Highwaies...
"Nawsett ... Nicolas Snow & Edward Banges."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 115.

Edward Bangs also served as one of the Nauset "Survayors for the Hiewayes" in 1650 (PCR 2:155) and as one of the Eastham surveyors in 1651 (PCR 2:168).

22 June 1651: "Memorandum That Edward banges of Eastham in the Collonie of New Plym: in New England doth acknowldige that for and in Consideracon of the sum of three pounds and ten shillings to him allreddy paied by Samuell hickes of the towne of Plym: in the Collonie of New Plym: aforesaid; hee hath freely and absolutely barganed and sould vnto the said Smauell hickes a pcell of Marsh meddow lying at the high pynes on the salthouse beach; viz all the meddow the said Edward Banges hath there lying in one Intire peece or psell on that side the point or mersh which is toward the gurnets nose the said pcell of Mersh Meddow lying on the salthouse beach as aforesaid To haue and to hold vnto the said Samuell hicks his heires and assignes for euer the said pmises with all and singulare the appurtenances belonging vnto the said pmises to beelunge vnto the onely ppor use and behoofe of him the said Samuell hickes his heires and assignes for euer..."

"That Edward Banges of the Towne of Nawsett allies Eastham in the Collonie of New Plym: in New England in america yeaman doth acknowldig that for and in Consideracon of the sum of thirteene pounds to him allreddy satisfyed Contented and fully payed by Mannasses Kemton of the towne of Plym: in the Jurisdiction of New Plym: aforesaid yeamen: hee hat freely fully and absolutly barganed allied and sold forty acars of vpland ground lying and being in the Townshipe of Plym: aforesaid neare Brownes Rock lying ten acars in breadth by the water side and extending it selfe in the length therof vp into the woods being bounded on the oneside with the other lands of the said Mannasses Kemton which hee hath giuen and made ouer vnto his sonn in law Ephraim Morton on which the said Ephraim is now seated and doth dwell; and on theother side with the lands of Thomas Morton as allso a pcell of mersh meddow videlecet all the meddow or mersh that is on the lland or spott of land Comonly Called and knowne by the name of Sagaquas to haue and to hold the forty acars of vpland bounded as aforesaid with all the mersh meddow lying and being as Sagaquas aforesaid with all and singulare the pvilidges and appurtenances belonging vnto the said vpland and mershland vnto the said Mannasses kemton to him his heires and assignes for euer to bee holden according to the Mannor of East Greenwidge in the County of Kent in free and Common Sockage and not in Capety nor by Knight service by the Rents and seruices therof and therby due and of right acostomed; the said pmises with all and singular the appurtenances belonging vnto the said pmises being bounded as aforesaid to bee holden in mannor as aforesaid to belonge vnto the only pper vse and behoofe of him the said Mannasses kemton to him his heires and assignes for euer."

"furthermore Rebeckah the wife of the said Edward Banges doth by these presents according to order give her free Consent vnto the sale of the said lands vnto the said Mannasses kemton in forme and mannor aboue mencioned."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 208-209.

3 June 1652: "The Deputies of the seuerall Townes...

"Eastham ... Edward Banges, Nicalas Snowe."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 8-9.

20 June 1654: "The Juriers for to lay out the convenientest Way from sandwich vnto Plymouth, sworne before Mr Prence, February 24, 1652, sworne. Anthony thacher, Thomas Dexter, Thomas Hinckley, William Hedge, Edward Banges, [et al.] ...

"Whereas wee, whose names are vnderwritten, impanneled by Mr Prence to lay out a way for the countreys vse betwixt the townes of Plymouth and Sandwich, haeing serched out for the same, doe present vnto this court as followeth: that wee haue marked and layed out the convenientest way, in our judgments, between the said two townes, viz: beginning att Sandwich, and soe leauing Good man Blackes house on the right hand, runing crosse the swampe ouer the riuer, and soe vpon a nornorth west line soe falling vpon the Eelriuer, where two great trees of spruce lye ouer the riuer, and soe thence as it is marked as neare vpon the same line as conveniencye would affors vs into the broad cart path as comes to Nathaniell Mortons house, and soe vnto the towne of Plymouth.

"Anthony Thacher, Thomas Dexter, Edward Banges, [et al.] ..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 61-62.

6 October 1657: "Liberty is graunted vnto Edward Banges to draw and sell wine and strong waters att Eastham, provided it bee for the refreshment of the english, and not to bee sold to the Indians."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 123.

1659: "These presents Testifyeth that wee whose Names are underwritten according to our best understanding have vallued the Cattle that goeth under the Name of Elizabeth hopkineses her Cattle and are in the Cutsistie of Gyles hopkins and doe vallue the one halfe of three steers and a poor Calfe att eight pounds and five shillings and one very smale poor Cow and an old Cow being Defective att six pound..."

"our hands John ffreeman Edward Banges."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 4, p. 119.

9 July 1660: "An oath appointed to bee Recorded

"Being requested by Gorg Bonum for to attest what wee Can affeirme about our portions of meddow lying in the south meddow; for the ending of Differences that is risen amongst those psons That nos Doe enjoy it

"Wee viz. Edward Banges Nicholas Snow Josias Cooke doe upon our sertaine knowlidge affierme that Josias Cooke had the first portion layedout to him by lott namely ten acres bee it more or less; beginning att the upper end of the meddow; and soe have possessed it many yeares without questioning of it till now; by any that wee know of."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 15, p. 30.

9 June 1665: "An Account of the Liquors brought into the Towne of Eastham, as followeth...
"Edward Banges, six gallons of liquor."

30 October 1667: "Wee, whose names are vnderwritten, being warned to bee vpon a corroners enquest vpon the death of a child of Daniell Dones, whoe was drowned in a well, wee doe all of vs judge that the child was accedentially drowned.
"Joseph Rogers, Edward Banges, [et al.] ..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 169.

17 February 1675-6 [right-hand side of this deed is torn leaving all lines incomplete]

"To all people to whom these presants shall Come
In the Jurisdiction of plimouth in new England in
Sayd Edward Banges doe by these presants Covenants
Estimation one acor and a halfe more or lees Situated
the boat medow bounded with Stakes betwixt Nichola
Done Juniour of the same town of Eastham in the
hereof the Sayd Edward Banges doth acknowledg himse
by John Doane aforesayd: the resceit wherof I hereby
doe acquitt Exonerate and discharg the Sayd John Doane
them for Ever: as for divers other good Causes me the
fully and absolutely granted bargained Sold Enfeofed and
Enfeof and Confirme unto him the Sayd John Doane
Mentioned medow of Edward Banges and all the Est
which the Sayd Edward Banges hath of in and to
of them with there or any ther appurtenances To ha
mentioned bargained and sold and every part and parsell
Sayd John Doane and his heys and assigns for Ever: To
of Estgreenwith in the County of kent in the relme
Capitie nor by knights Service nor by the rents and
and Cleer and Cleerly acquit of and from all other and
morgages ingagments intanglements and incombrances
Sayd Edward Banges or my privyete or knowledg own
propyeteor of the above sayd premisies and warranting
by my right or title might Claime any right or title
and hereby granting liberty unto the Sayd John Doane
Caus them to be recorded or Inroled in his Majestyes
Majestys Court of records according to the usuall maner
and provided: in witnes wherof I the Sayd Edward Ba
of february in the yeare of our lord one thousand six
Signed saled and delivered
in the presanc of us
Jonathan Higgins
John yeats
this 17 of febera
named Edward Ba

and acknoliged this
his act and deed
This above writen Is truly recorded
in the County Book of Barnestable