

The Good Ship “Bevis of Hampton”

The **Bevis**, also known as the **Bevis of Hampton**, was a [merchant sailing ship](#) that brought "**Emigrants**" from England to New England in **1638**, this at a time when thousands of **Puritans** left [England](#) seeking freedom of religious practice.



Details

The Ship Master was named ROBERT BATTEN.

One voyage in **May of 1638** carried **61 settlers** from **Southampton, England**, leaving before **12 May 1638** in which they were “some days gone to sea”, to “New England”.

The ship's passenger destinations included: **Newbury, Weymouth, Wells, Maine, Newport, Salisbury, and Charlestown** in British Colonial America.

No verified details of this merchant ship, its age or fate is known other than “**Bevis of Hampton, 150 tons.**” The “**burthen**” or weight bearing capacity of cargo of the **Bevis** was **150 tons**. This does not mean the ship weighed only 150 tons because it more likely weighed three times (**450 gross weight**) or more of its cargo capacity.

The list of the names of Passengers

“Intended to shippe themselves, in the Bevis of Hampton of CL. (150) Tonnes, Robert Batten Mr for Newengland, and thus by vertue of the Lord Treasurers warrant of the second of May w'th was after the restrayat and they some Dayes gone to sea before the Kinges Mat'es Proelamacon Came boto Southampton.”

(Copied from the passenger list image.)

The 61 documented Bevis passengers enumerated or attested to on 2 May 1638 were mostly **Puritans**, leaving England for the New World driven by the quest for religious freedom at a time when England was moving toward ardent Catholicism.

Scholar **David B. Gracy, II**, notes that **“some in the hierarchy of the King of England noticed the *Bevis* was almost entirely composed of Puritans and agents of the Kingdom sought to prevent the ship from setting sail in May 1638, but alas failed to prevent the sailing.”**

The passenger list portion of the archive papers regarding the Bevis from May 1638.

A listing of passengers from the passenger list image includes;

Frye, John of Old Basing, Hampshire, Wheelwright, wife and 3 children

Austin, Richard II of Bishopstoke, Hampshire 40, Taylor, his wife and 2 children

Knight, Robert 37, Carpenter Servant to R. Austin

Batt, Christopher of Sarum, 37, Tanner

Batt, Anna 32, Christopher's wife

Batt, Dorothy Batt 20, Christopher's sister

Batt, children, 5 under 10 years

Good, Thomas 24, Batt Servant

Blackston, Eliza 22, Batt Servant

Pond Rebecca, 18, Batt Servant

Carpenter, William of Wherwell 62, carpenter

Carpenter, William Jr. of Wherwell 33, carpenter

Carpenter, Abigale 32

Carpenter children, 4 of 10 or under

Banshott, Thomas 14, Carpenter servant

Littlefield, Annis 38

Littlefield children, 6

Knight, John, carpenter and Littlefield servant

Durdal, Hough, Littlefield servant

Byley, Henry of Sarum 26, tanner

Byley Mary 22

Reeves, Tho, Byley servant

Byley, John 20, Byley servant

Dummer, Richard of New England 40

Dummer, Alice 35

Dummer, Thomas 19

Dummer, Joane 19

Dummer, Jane 10

Dummer, Stephen, husbandman ([farmer](#))

Dummer, Dorothy 6

Dummer, Richard 4

Dummer, Tho 2

Hutchinson, John 30, carpenter, servant

Alcocke, Francis 26, servant

Mott, Adam 19, Taylor, servant

Wakefield, Will. 22, servant

Parker Nathaniel 20, servant of London Backer

Poore, Samuel 18, servant

Poore, Daniell 14, servant

Poore, Alice 20, servant

Bayley, Richard 15, servant

Wakefield Anna 20, Servant

The number of passengers above mentioned are Sixtie and one Soules.

Southampton, 1628. The certification and list of the Passengers names gone for New England in the Bevis of Hampton, in May 1638.

Notable passengers and comments on them:

- Richard Austin II, whose descendants of the same surname name would include Moses Austin, Stephen F. Austin, and Emily Austin Perry who collectively are credited with settling the State of Texas.
- **William Carpenter** from **Shalbourne**, Wiltshire whose Rehoboth Carpenter American family descendants included many politicians, generals, admirals and an astronaut.
- **Richard Dummer**, who had previously emigrated in **1632** as an organizer of and investor in the **failed PLOUGH COMPANY (LYGONIA PROVIDENCE)**. Dummer had returned to Hampshire, England, about **1637** and, as a Bevis passenger, was bringing relatives back to New England with him.

The following excerpt is from **Eugene Cole Zubrinsky's** online sketch of "**WILLIAM CARPENTER OF REHOBOTH**" which indicates an indirect connection between Dummer and the Carpenters:

"The Bevis passenger list describes William and his father as "**of Whorwell**". (**Now WHERWELL, in Horwell Hundred, Hampshire**, about 15 miles south-south-east of Shalbourne, Wiltshire.)

WHERWELL PRIORY, had a tradition of religious dissent; at least two of its vicars, **Stephen Bachiler** (1587–1605) and his probable brother-in-law **John Bate** (1605–1633), were notorious Nonconformists (Protestants).

It is noted that WHERWELL lies on a straight line from Shalbourne to the Bevis's port of departure, at Southampton.

WHERWELL PRIORY

(Another Bevis passenger in 1638 was **Richard Dummer**, who, with kinsman **Bachiler**, had been a partner in the **PLOUGH COMPANY**, which had recruited dissenters for migration to New England in 1631 and 1632.)

It is clear from the chronology of Carpenter records at Shalbourne that the family was at **Wherwell** for a few months at most. It is indeed possible that they paused there only long enough to obtain from sympathetic authorities the certificates of conformity (one for each man) that Customs Officials would require for the Carpenters to leave England and from which the residence recorded for them on the passenger list was probably copied.