

**VOLUME 2 OF 3
KENT SURNAME ISSUES**

**A DOCUMENTED REPORT ABOUT
JOHN KENT OF DEDHAM & CHARLESTON
MASSACHUSETTS (1645 - aft 1700)**

PREPARED BY
John A Hanrahan
(a Kent Descendant)

Frist compiled November 10, 2021

Updated: **November 28, 2021**

JOHN KENT OF DEDHAM, & CHARLESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Who is John Kent?

“John Kent” is found to be a very popular given and surname in England and the early American Colonies.

The John Kent of this document is the one who came from England in 1645 and lived in Dedham, Norfolk and Charleston, Essex, Massachusetts.

Born in England but at this time no ancestral trail is found in England.

He came to the Colonies in 1645. He arrived on the ship ***Increase*** according to the ship’s manifest. The manifest shows John and brother Joshua Kent. There is another brother named Joseph, but he was not found on the manifest. All three are brothers are found in many documents and noted as brothers.

1. Joshua Kent (abt 1620 – abt 1664)
2. John Kent (abt. 1633 – aft. 1700)
3. Joseph Kent (abt 1637 – 1704)

Based on the ship’s manifest, they came from Nyland in Suffolk county in England. Nayland is a village and former civil parish in the Stour Valley on the Suffolk side of the border between Suffolk and Essex counties in England. Suffolk is north east of London and Norfolk is north of Suffolk.

Doing research of the geographic areas of England’s Suffolk and Norfolk counties does provide some interesting information. There are Kent names in these counties and other counties. Some folks have posted parents of John Kent; however, those links have no validation. But some of the listing show birth records but these cannot be held as fact without validity of the ancestral trail. These listing prove that Kent families are found in different towns/villages in Suffolk and Norfolk counties in England.

Another interesting fact shows many American colonial town names are the same as found in Suffolk and Norfolk counties of England. I believe many of the folks coming from England to the Colonies came from these areas of England.

While there is a county in England named Kent, this county goes way back in the settlement of England. This does not mean all Kent surnames are related to this county. However, my research did find the Kent surname in many different counties of England.

JOHN KENT OF DEDHAM, & CHARLESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

OTHER KENT FAMILIES OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES

It is important to make note of the following Kent families that immigrated to the colonies but at this time no relationship is found between these families.

1. Thomas Kent (abt. 1605 - 1658) Arrived between 1633-1640 and lived and died in Gloucester, Essex, Massachusetts. There needs to be more validation about this Thomas Kent. Some researchers suggest he is related to a Richard Kent from Wallop, Hampshire county, England. This has not been proven.
2. The following Kent lines came from Wallop parishes, Hampshire county, England. They came in 1633 to Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts then relocating to Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts where they lived and died.
 - a. Stephen Kent (ship Confidence from West Tytherley, Hampshire, England)
 - b. Edward Kent (ship Mary & John, Middle Wallop, Hampshire, England)
 - c. Richard Kent (ship Mary & John Nether Wallop, Hampshire, England)
 - i. This Richard Kent had a son named John Kent b:1645 in Newbury with his second wife Dorothy Emma Short(e). There are publications with errors to the father son relationship and others to the wife of John Kent, the subject person of this document. John Kent of Dedham & Charleston is not the son of this Richard, and his John's wife is Hannah Griswold. Richard's son John married Sarah Woodman.
 - d. Stephen Kent (ship Mary & John Nether Wallop, Hampshire, England)
3. There were Kent families that did arrive earlier in Jamestown, James City, Virginia before 1620.

THE BROTHERS

The brothers are found in records living in Dedham, Norfolk, Massachusetts. When Joshua returned to England in 1647, he left his brothers with a lady named Elizabeth *Adams* Harding (aka: Hardier, Harder). Some records noted she was an Aunt. However, no record is found to substantiate that she or her husband are related to the brothers. They lived in Braintree, Norfolk, Massachusetts. It is suspect they may have been good friends.

In the will of Elizabeth *Adams* Harder, she names all three brothers with some inheritance going to them. The will states:

"I giue unto John Kent & Joseph Kent, 40s apiece to bee paid within two years after my Decease. I Giue unto Joshua Kents Three Daughter, 20s apiece, to bee paid to them when they are 18 yeares old, or at the Day of Marriage."

Joshua Kent arrived in abt. 1633 in the colonies. He was charged with a message from the church and returned to England in 1644. He came back in 1645. Again in 1647, Joshua and his wife went back to England. He was not happy with the state of affairs in England and returned to the colonies in 1647. Joshua Kent lived and died in Dedham, Norfolk, Massachusetts.

Joseph Kent married and eventually is found in Rhode Island. He was in Massachusetts, but land became part of Rhode Island as boundaries were adjusted. He is found last in Block Island,

JOHN KENT OF DEDHAM, & CHARLESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Washington County, and Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island. He lived and died in Rhode Island. He was a prominent citizen helping with the settlement of Rhode Island.

John Kent arriving in 1645 lived in Dedham, Norfolk, Massachusetts. He became a freeman in 1652. He was a witness to the will of John Lanson of Dedham in 1660. In 1662 when he married Hannah Griswold. In church records he was released from the church in Dedham and he and his wife moved to Charleston, Essex, Massachusetts. John Kent was a tithingman of the church in Charleston in 1678 and 1679. Massachusetts. He is listed in tax record of 1688. Charleston in the late 1800s was annexed by the city of Boston. Some documents provided information that gives us an approximate birth year for John & Joseph Kent.

John Kent & Hannah Griswold had 11 children. John & Hannah lived and died in Charleston. However, no real grave site has been found for them. Some of their children moved to other towns with a grandson that moved to Nova Scotia, Canada in the late 1700s.

Hannah's mother remarried after Francis Griswold died to immigrant William Bullard Jr [arriving in 1636 to Watertown, Ma.] in 1656. Therefore, the children went with their mother and step-father. They moved to , Dedham and then to Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was in Dedham that Hannah and John Kent met and married.

In the book by L. Vernon Briggs about Kent families, he makes comment about possible ancestors to John Kent in England; but no proof has been noted. Knowing about the geography and towns/villages/parishes in England can help someone to follow the descriptions in this book.

The following URLs will introduce the County Kent, England.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kent>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Kent-historical-kingdom-England>

Kent Family History Society (A Fee to Join)

<https://www.kfhs.org.uk/>

This URL provides information but has products for sale bearing name of Kent.

<https://www.houseofnames.com/kent-family-crest>

JOHN KENT OF DEDHAM, & CHARLESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

KENT COUNTY, ENGLAND

A county named Kent in England but has nothing to do with the surname Kent.

“The name Kent is believed to be of British Celtic origin. The meaning has been explained as 'coastal district,' 'corner-land' or 'land on the edge' (compare Welsh cant 'bordering of a circle, tire, edge,' Breton cant 'circle'). In Latin sources the area is called Cantia or Canticum, while the Anglo-Saxons referred to it as Cent, Cent lond or Centrice.”

“What is Celtic origin?

The Celts were a collection of tribes with origins in central Europe that shared a similar language, religious beliefs, traditions, and culture. ... Their legacy remains most prominent in Ireland and Great Britain, where traces of their language and culture are still prominent today.”

English: habitational name for someone from Kent, **an ancient Celtic name**. The surname is also frequent in Scotland and Ireland. In Irrewick in East Lothian English vassals were settled in the middle of the 12th century and in Meath in Ireland in the 13th century.

How old is the surname Kent?

The surname Kent was first found in Berkshire county, England, where they held a **family seat from ancient times**, some say before the Norman Conquest in 1066 A.D. The first record of this family was at Thatcham, Berkshire, England shown in the Domesday Book as King's Land, containing a church and two mills.

“Berkshire is a county in South East England. One of the home counties, Berkshire was recognised by the Queen as the Royal County of Berkshire in 1957 because of the presence of Windsor Castle, and letters patent were issued in 1974.”

JOHN KENT OF DEDHAM, & CHARLESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

ENGLAND'S COUNTIES



JOHN KENT OF DEDHAM, & CHARLESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

New England Colonies in 1677

In 1677, Massachusetts was made up of Plymouth Colony and Massachusetts Bay Colony plus the areas of New Hampshire, Maine, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. The colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island were originally settled by people from Massachusetts.



JOHN KENT OF DEDHAM, & CHARLESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONIES WITH HIGHLIGHTED TOWNS FOR KENTS



The following pages are added from my genealogy files about the three brothers Kent and other Kent Families in the colonies of early 1600.

Individual Report for John (of Dedham) Kent Sr

Individual Summary: John (of Dedham) Kent Sr

Sex: Male

Father: Unknown Kent

Mother: Unknown Kent



Individual Facts:

Birth: Abt 1633 in Suffolk, England
Arrival: 1645 in Massachusetts
Immigration: 15 Apr 1645 in Dedham Norfolk, Ma, Us; Ship name: Increase
Residence: 16 May 1652 in Dedham, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA; John Kent of Dedham & Charleston, Ma
Residence: 13 Apr 1673 in Charleston, Massachusetts, USA
Deposition Year: 1675
Residence: 1688 in Charlestown, Middlesex County, MA
Death: Aft. 1700 in Charleston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA; 28 Aug 1702?
John Kent Sr: Unknown ; Married to Hannah Griswold
Burial Location: Unknown in Charleston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA
Memorial ID: 79910262
Residence: USA

Shared Facts:

 Hannah Griswold

Marriage: 21 Mar 1662 in Dedham, Norfolk, Massachusetts, USA
Children: Hannah Kent
Maria Kent
Joshua Kent
Joshua Kent
Joseph Kent
John Kent Jr.
Samuel Kent
Ebenezer Kent Sr
Lydia Kent
Mary Elizabeth Kent
Susannah Kent

Notes:

Person Notes:

Please copy and paste this URL. This will tell you the real truth of John Kent and Richard Kent.
https://jhanrahan.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/4/8/114828137/john__richard_kent__bad_info_source_references.pdf

I have found 3 published books that have an error by the researchers. They state John Kent (of Dedham and Charleston, Ma. was the son of Richard Kent of Newbury, Ma.. This is not true. Richard Kent has a son named John. Some records state Richard Kent's son John was married to Hannah Griswold, not true, he married Sarah Woodman.

Also found is a book stating that John Kent was married to Hannah Bill (Incorrect). However, the children listed are correct for John Kent and Hannah Griswold.

Of the many documents found on the Kent family, the one most reliable with correct information is:
Genealogies of the Different Families Bearing the Name of KENT in the United States
Together with Their possible English Ancestry - A.D. 1295-1898

Individual Summary: John (of Dedham) Kent Sr

Sex: Male

Father: Unknown Kent

Mother: Unknown Kent



Notes:

By L. Vernon Briggs
Boston: Rockwell and Churchill Press 1898
John Kent starts on Page 1
This book can be found in many places and on-line.

There are 3 Kent families who came from England to the Colonies before 1646, they are
Richard Kent of the Newbury line
Thomas Kent of the Gloucester line
John, Joseph, and Joshua Kent of the Dedham, Charleston, and Rhode Island lines.

John Kent lived in Dedham, Ma, then Charleston of Massachusetts Bay Colony. Charleston later became a suburb of Boston in Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

While there are many John Kent's in the early 1600 colonial period in America, there have been many who have debunked the association with the Richard Kent of Newbury, Ma. and his son John Kent born in 1645. In 1645 is when the Kent brothers came to Dedham, Ma.

To date, no one has found evidence to link John Kent of Dedham & Charleston, Ma to any other families other than his named brothers of Joseph and Joshua Kent. No known evidence has been found as of this date to link John Kent of Dedham, Ma with his English ancestry.

It has been noted in some sources that other inconsistencies and instances where important dates were changed to make the connection work. Therefore, John Kent of Dedham is the ancestry of this Kent family, but no link or relationship has been found with him to other Kent's of the early 1600 colonial families named Kent.

Also noted, this John Kent came to the colonies from England in 1645, but a son of a Richard Kent (named John) was born in 1645 in Newbury, Ma. Richard's son John married Sarah Woodsman. But many show Richard's son married to Hannah Griswold (that is an error).

=====

From the: "Topographical Dictionary of 2885 English Emigrants to New England, 1620-1650 Emigrants from England to New England"

I have found the following:

John Kent came to the Colonies on the ship Increase, Master Robert Lea sailed from London on 15 April 1645, bound for New England. The ship arrived safely at Massachusetts Bay. The ship's manifest shows they are from Nayland is a village and former civil parish in the Stour Valley on the Suffolk side of the border between Suffolk and Essex in England.

Suffolk is an East Anglian county of historic origin in England.

His brother Joshua is listed on the passenger list, but brother Joseph was not found on the same ships manifest.

The ships manifest shows they are from: Nayland is a village and former

Individual Summary: John (of Dedham) Kent Sr

Sex: Male

Father: Unknown Kent

Mother: Unknown Kent



Notes:

civil parish in the Stour Valley on the Suffolk side of the border between Suffolk and Essex in England

John Kent later lived in Dedham and then moved to Charlestown, Mass. This is based on church records.

Court documents in 1653 provide testimony of Joseph Kent stating his age as 16 years old. Based on this, his birth year is estimated to be born in 1637 in England, about 4 years younger than John, so in 1645 John was about 12 years old or birth year about 1633.

+++++

Near "Nayland" are two areas with the name Dedham in England.
<http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/>

Dedham Vale (AONB) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Stour Valley

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dedham,_Essex

Dedham is a village within the borough of Colchester in northeast Essex, England, on the River Stour and the border of Essex and Suffolk.

=====

Joseph is found in other areas of Massachusetts. A part of Rhode Island once was part of Massachusetts, but boundary changes put that territory as part of Rhode Island.

=====

Individual Report for Joseph Kent Sr

Individual Summary: **Joseph Kent Sr**

Sex: Male

Father: Unknown Kent

Mother: Unknown Kent



Individual Facts:

Birth: Abt 1637 in England

Arrival: 1645 in Massachusetts

Residence: Bet. 1645–1704 in Bristol County, Rhode Island, USA; Kent Brothers
Joshua, John, and Joseph Kent

Burial Location: 1704

Death: 05 Sep 1704 in Swansea, Bristol, Ma (Now is Rhode Island,) USA

Memorial ID: 121784463

Residence: Swansea, Massachusetts

Shared Facts: **Susanna Austin George**

Marriage: Abt 1665 in Taunton, Bristol, Massachusetts, United States

Children: Joseph Kent Jr

Samuel Kent

Joshua Kent

Susanna George Kent

Notes:

Person Notes: [no notes]

Individual Report for Joshua Kent

Individual Summary: Joshua Kent

Sex: Male

Father: Unknown Kent

Mother: Unknown Kent



Individual Facts:

Birth: Abt 1620 in England

Residence: 1633 in England & Colonies; Joshua Kent's homes

Immigration: Bef. 1643

Residence: 1643 ; Joshua To England and stating bringing two brothers back in 1645.

Arrival: 1645 in Massachusetts

Death: Abt 1664 in Dedham Norfolk, Ma, Us

Probate: 22 Feb 1664 in Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA

Shared Facts: Mary Cumbers

Marriage: Abt 1647 in Dedham, Masschusetts, USA

Children: Mary Cumbers Kent

Lididia (Lideah) Kent

Mary Kent

Sarah (Sary) Kent

Notes:

Person Notes: [no notes]

Individual Report for John (of Newbury) Kent Sr

Individual Summary: John (of Newbury) Kent Sr

Sex: Male

Father: Richard Kent Sr.

Mother: Dorothy Emma Short



Individual Facts:

Birth: 20 Jul 1645 in Newbury, Essex, Ma, USA

Burial Location: 1703

Death: 30 Jan 1717 in Newbury, Essex, Ma, USA

Probate: Essex, Massachusetts, USA

Shared Facts: Sarah Woodman

Marriage: 13 Mar 1665/66 in Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts, USA; A record states John Kent Jr. This is incorrect, Her spouse is John Kent Sr Son of Richard Kent of Newbury, Essex, Ma.

Children: John H Kent
Sarah Kent
John Kent Jr
Richard Kent
Joshua Kent
Mary Kent
Emma Kent
Hannah Kent
Judith Kent
Rebecca Kent
James Kent

Notes:

Person Notes: [no notes]

Individual Report for Richard Kent Sr.

Individual Summary: **Richard Kent Sr.**
1586 - 15 Jun 1654



Sex: Male

Father: Thomas Kent Sr

Mother: Ellen Pyle

Individual Facts:

Birth: 1586 in Wallop, Hampshire, England

Departure: 1634

Immigration: 26 Mar 1634 in England to Ipswich, Ma, USA; Moved to Newbury, Ma 1635

Residence: 1635 in Newbury

Burial: 1638

Burial Location: 1654

Death: 15 Jun 1654 in Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts, USA

Christening: Grundisburgh, Suffolk, England

LifeSketch: In 1609 he inherited from grandfather, Richard Kent, his house and lands in Wiltshire and Hampshire, part of his deceased father's share. Richard Kent, arrived in Ipswich, Massachusetts in 1634, on board the "Mary and John." He took the Freeman's Oath on

Memorial ID: 37376622

Occupation: Maltster

Residence: Massachusetts, USA

Residence: Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts, USA

Shared Facts: **Dorothy Emma Short**

Marriage: Abt 1622 in England

Children: John (of Newbury) Kent Sr

Shared Facts: **Mary Drew**

[no facts]

Children: Rebecca Kent

Joseph Kent I

Sarah Kent

Notes:

Person Notes: [no notes]