

Excerpts from

# The Hull Family in America

Compiled by Col. Charles H Weygant

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This excerpt focuses on my direct ancestors; The book covers many of his other descendants for several generations. My Hull ancestors are

1. Rev Joseph Hull (30 Mar 1553 Crewkerne, Somerset, England - 19 Nov 1665 Appledore Island, Maine), my immigrant 9<sup>th</sup> great grandfather. (Page 2 here / page 245 in the book)
2. Benjamin Hull (22 Mar 1638/39 Barnstable, MA – Nov 1713 Piscataway, NJ) (Page 7/254)
3. Benjamin Hull, Jr (14 Apr 1680 Piscataway, NJ – 1732 Piscataway, NJ) (Page 9/266)
4. Anna Hull (1711 Piscataway, NJ – 1775 Somerset Co, NJ) (Page 9/266)

-Robin Richmond, Cleveland, OH, July 2025  
<http://www.robinrichmond.com/family/>

Rev Joseph Hull was a remarkable man, as [his Wikipedia page](#) and the following excerpts make clear.

Here's a summary of his life:

- 1596 Christened in Crewkerne, Somerset, England.
- 1612 Began studies at St. Mary's College in Oxford in 1612, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in 1614.
- 1610 Ordained as a deacon at a church in Silverton, Devon
- 1630 First child (Joanna) born. (The name of his first wife and their wedding date are not known.)
- 1622 Appointed Rector at St Giles' church in Northeigh, Devon. He was ordained as a minister of the Church of England in 1611, and served as rector of St Giles' Church in Northleigh, Devonshire.
- 1632 (Approx.) 1<sup>st</sup> wife died after having (about) 7 children
- 1633 Married 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Agnes, who gave birth to (about 8 more)
- 1635 Sailed to Boston with his family and over 100 followers (known as the Hull Colony). They all settle in (what is now) Weymouth, MA, where he established a church.
- 1636 Moves to Hingham, MA because of conflicts with Puritans. Became a prominent opponent of Puritan Gov John Winthrop
- 1639 Compelled to leave Massachusetts Bay Colony; helped found Barstable in Plymouth Colony. (But things get worse)
- 1642 Moved to Yarmouth but gets in trouble for ministering without permission from authorities.
- 1643 Moved to Maine a new church on the Isle of Shoals in the Province of Maine
- 1648 (Approx.) Massachusetts Bay Colony took over Maine; putting him back in conflict with Gov Winthrop. He then returned to England and became vicar of a church in Cornwall.
- 1656 Moved to another church in Cornwall and ran afoul of local Quakers.
- 1662 Ousted largely because of English politics; Returned to New England, ultimately to the Isle of Shoals.
- 1665 Died on Nov 19

Because of documentation that has been uncovered in the 112 years since this book was published, several of these dates differ from those given in the book

There is still no consensus on whether several people frequently listed as his children really were.

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## Descendants of Joseph Hull

1. REV. JOSEPH HULL, 1595-1665, colonist, and founder of what in later years became known as the Mariner-Quaker branch of the Hull family in America, was the son of Thomas and Joane Peson Hull, of Crewkerne, Somersetshire, England. He was educated at St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, from which he received his degree of B. A. at graduation Nov. 14, 1614. During the five years immediately following, he studied theology, serving meantime as a teacher and curate under his elder brother William Hull, vicar of Colyton in Devonshire. On Apr. 14, 1621, having been ordained a clergyman of the Church of England, he was duly instituted rector of Northleigh, diocese of Exeter, which was the scene of his labours for eleven years. At the end of that period he evidently found himself out of accord with those in ecclesiastical authority over him, and, as shown by the records, voluntarily resigned his rectorship. Leaving Northleigh he moved with his family to the vicinity of his ancestral home at Crewkerne, and there gathered a company of 106 souls, who, on March 20, 1635, set sail with him from the harbor of Weymouth, bound for New England.

For 235 years the shipping list containing the names, occupations and ages of this goodly company of intelligent adventurers, known in New England history as "Hull's Colony," was lost sight of, and its existence was generally doubted by interested historians and genealogists, but in 1870 a copy of it appeared in *The New England Genealogical Antiquarian Register*, accompanied by the following explanatory note:—

London, Sept. 1870.

My Dear Mr. Appleton:—

Amongst a bundle of miscellaneous manuscripts just turned up in the Public Records Office, I find with other documents relating to New England, the following list of passengers, which I have the pleasure of sending to you for publication in the Register.

I remain yours very truly,

H. G. Somerby.

This so long sought Shipping List contains 104 names and is headed by the name of our Rev. Joseph, with the names of his family as follows:

Weymouth ye 20th March 1635

1. Joseph Hull, of Somerset, a minister, aged 40 years.
2. Agnes Hull, his wife, aged 25 years.
3. Joane Hull, his daughter, aged 15 years.
4. Joseph Hull, his sonne, aged 13 years.
5. Tristram Hull, his sonne, aged 11 years.
6. Temperance Hull, his daughter, aged 9 years.
7. Elizabeth Hull, his daughter, aged 7 years.
8. Grissell Hull, his daughter, aged 5 years.
9. Dorothy Hull, his daughter, aged 3 years.
10. Judith French, his servant, aged 20 years.
11. John Wood, his servant, aged 20 years.
12. Robert Dobyn, his servant, aged 28 years.

John Porter, Deputy Clerk to  
Edw. Thoroughgood.

Hull's Colony reached Boston, May 6, 1635, and Governor Winthrop's Official Journal, under date of July 8th of that year, contains the following entry:

At this court Wessaguscus was made a plantation and Mr. Hull, a minister of England, and twenty-one families with him allowed to sit down there.

The arrival of *Hull's Colony* at Wessaguscus doubled its population, and the plantation was soon created a full-fledged town, invested with municipal rights, rechristened *Weymouth* and allowed representation in the General Court.

"Mr. Hull," (so writes his accomplished descendant and biographer, the late Colonel R. B. Hull), "was a magistrate and member of the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony, as well as minister at Weymouth. He, however, was in antagonism to the Boston Puritanical Party, retaining his attachment for the old establishment. He was the political and religious opponent of Governor Winthrop, being more than suspected of Prelacy. Mr. Hull moved in 1639 to the Old Colony of Plymouth, and there founded the present town of Barnstable, at a place called by the Indians, Mattakeese. The rock still stands in the middle of the highway, from which he preached, surrounded by his armed parishioners.

"Plymouth Colony was, however, not much more congenial for a man of his political and religious sentiments than the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Separatist party increased, the opening of the civil war in England checked immigration in 1639, and Mr. Hull and his political friends were left in a hopeless minority. He soon after removed to the Episcopal Colony of Sir Ferdinando Gorges in Maine, and under his patronage was minister at Accomanticus (now York, Maine), and had the Isles of Shoals also under his charge. There he remained until 1653, when the Massachusetts Bay Colony subjected the provinces of Maine to their jurisdiction, and Mr. Hull again felt the power of his old enemies on the Bay. A sound Puritan preacher, Mr. Brock, was sent to supersede him, and shortly afterward, we find, Mr. Hull returned to England and was Rector of St. Burien in Cornwall, near Lands End.

"The children of Mr. Hull remained in this country, married here and settled. He again returned and was minister at Oyster River for a short period, and then recovered his old parish at Accomanticus, (York, Maine) where he died in 1665.

"Reviewing all, it is concluded that in England Mr. Hull was a conformist, and remained within the pale of the church obedient to authority, that in New England he still endeavored to hold to a middle course, as a latitudinarian or low churchman, but that failing in this, after repeated attempts, he finally withdrew to a province where he was free to practice and profess as best suited his conscience. No whisper has reached us that he was unorthodox or weak in his theology, and of his moral nature we catch glimpses of but three traits; that in habit he was scholarly, in temperament religious, and in spirit contentious."

It is stated in *Narragansett Historical Register*, Vol. I., page 145, that the first wife of Rev. Joseph Hull was named Joanna and that she died in England, but no positive dates are given. ~~Neither have any records been discovered giving the date of his marriage to his second wife Agnes.~~ It is evident that his wife Joanna died shortly after giving birth to her daughter Dorothy in 1632, and that he was married to his second wife Agnes previous to the year 1635. On 13 Mar 1633 in St Cuthbert, Somerset

The following condensed record of some of the prominent events in his strenuous career in America, given in chronological order will doubtless be appreciated by his descendants:

1635. May. Rev. Joseph Hull and company of 106 persons reached New England, and in July were allowed to "sit down at Wessaguscus," now Weymouth, Mass.

1636 or 1637. He moved to Nantasket, then a part of Hingham, Was twice elected Deputy to General Court.

1639. Preached his farewell sermon at Weymouth in May. Settled at Barnstable, on land granted to him, and founded the town in June. Thanksgiving service held there in his house in November. Was one of the two first Deputies to the General Court elected from Barnstable and took his seat in December.

1640. His name appears on the Barnstable list of "Men able to bear Arms." On Apr. 14, he invested "Bro. Moe into office of Teacher."

1641. Moved to Yarmouth. Was excommunicated for breaking communion with Barnstable Church and joining himself with a company at Yarmouth to be their pastor, contrary to the advice and council of the Church of Barnstable. Preached also to a congregation at York several times during the year. A "Church-Chapel" was also erected by the inhabitants of the Isles of Shoals on Hog Island for a congregation of which the records say, Rev. Joseph Hull was the minister.

1642. Mar. 7. It was ordered at a session of the General Court "that a warrant shall be directed to the Constable of Yarmouth to apprehend Mr. Joseph Hull (if he do either exercise his ministry amongst them or administer the Seals), to bring him before the next magistrate, to find sufficient sureties for his appearance at the next General Court, to answer his doings (being an excommunicant)."

1643. The Barnstable records state that Rev. Joseph Hull acknowledged his sin and was again received. "Our Sister Hull renewed her covenant, renouncing her joining at Yarmouth and confessed her evil in so doing, with sorrow." Before the end of the year he moved with his family to York, Me.

1644. Nantasket was made a town and named ~~Hull~~, in honor of the Rev. Joseph Hull.\*

1645. In that year's record of Volunteers for the Narragansett War, the name of Rev. Joseph Hull appears as 116. It also appears on the later list of Soldiers of the Narragansett War that drew "Cedar Swamp" lots, his being No. 37

1652. He returned to England and was given the living at St. Burien in Cornwall, where he remained for about ten years.

\*This on the authority of Dexter, but see map made by Capt. John Smith, which gives Hull as the name prior to the Rev. Joseph Hull's arrival in America.

1662. He came again to New England and settled at Oyster River where he had considerable trouble with the Quakers.

1665. Nov. 19. He died intestate at Isles of Shoals, leaving an estate valued at 52 pounds, 5 shillings and 5 pence—10 pounds of which was put down for books, and 20 pounds as due him from the Isles of Shoals for his ministry.†

In 1863 Mr. Oliver Hull published a "Book of the Hulls," but as the shipping list mentioned above had not as yet come to light, he was unable to trace his ancestors back of Tristram Hull, who it is now known, was none other than the second son of the Rev. Joseph Hull. Soon after the original shipping list was copied and published in America, Col. Robert B. Hull, U. S. A. retired and living in New York City, prepared a sketch of the life and times of his ancestor, the Rev. Joseph Hull, which lay in manuscript many years. Col. Hull died in 1891, and seven years later Mr. James W. Hull had printed for private distribution a small edition of this exhaustive and carefully prepared sketch, which makes a booklet of 32 pages.

## CHILDREN

2. Joanna Hull, b. 1620; d. after 1683; m. (1st) 1639, Capt. John Bursley, (2nd) Dolor Davis.
3. Joseph Hull, b. 1622; m. —
4. Tristram Hull, b. 1624; d. Feb. 22, 1667; m. 1643, Blanche —
- \* 5. Temperance Hull, b. 1626.
6. Elizabeth Hull, b. 1628; d. Nov. 30, 1706; m. 1643, Capt. John Heard.
7. Griselda Hull, b. 1630; m. James Warren.
8. Dorothy Hull, b. 1632.
9. Hopewell Hull, b. about 1636; d. 1693; m. 1669, Mary Martin.
- 10. Benjamin Hull, bap. Mar. 24, 1639; d. 1713; m. 1668, Rachel York.
11. Naomi Hull, bap. Mar. 23, 1640.
12. Ruth Hull, bap. May 9, 1642.
13. Reuben Hull, b. about 1644; d. Dec. 3, 1689; m. Hannah Fernside.
14. Sarah Hull, d. 1647.
15. Samuel Hull, m. (1st) 1677, Mary Manning, (2nd) Margaret —

2. JOANNA HULL, 1620—after 1683, oldest child of (1) Rev. Joseph Hull and his wife Joanna, was married first Nov. 28, 1639 to Capt. John Bursley of Barnstable, Mass. Her second husband was Dolor Davis.

†Records have come to light which show conclusively that for several years previous to 1652 either (1) Rev. Joseph or his son (3) Joseph was acting as agent for certain English exporters of cattle.

Jumping to my 8<sup>th</sup> great grandfather (Captain) Benjamin Hull

In 1675, Hopewell Hull represented the town of New Piscataqua in the General Assembly of West Jersey, and took an active part in public affairs.

His name is met with frequently in the early records of New Jersey, especially in connection with the purchase and sale of lands. His will is dated Mar. 26, 1693. In it he mentions his sons Hopewell and Joseph, both of whom are said to be under age, refers to his daughters but does not give their names, designates his wife as executrix and names his brother Benjamin of Piscataway or Piscataqua, as one of his overseers. Several months after his death his youngest son was born and named Benjamin.

The property conveyed included a farm on the Raritan river and additional tracts at Shingle Hill and in Piscataqua meadows.

Mary Martin Hull, widow of Hopewell, was married Apr. 9, 1696 to Justinian Hall.

## CHILDREN

42. Mary Hull, b. Aug. 10, 1670; d. Feb. 2, 1759; m. 1691, Vincent Runyan.
43. Hepzibah Hull, b. Feb. 5, 1672; d. 1734; m. 1691, Nicholas Mundy.
44. Esther Hull, b. Mar. 15, 1674.
45. Martha Hull, b. Jan. 19, 1676; d. 1694.
46. Ruth Hull, b. 1678; d. Mar. 10, 1682.
47. Abigail Hull, b. May 14, 1680.
48. Ruth Hull, b. Mar. 3, 1682; d. Oct. 1, 1682.
49. Ruth Hull, b. Mar. 22, 1684; m. 1702, Daniel Blackford.
50. Hopewell Hull, b. Nov. 5, 1685; d. 1760; m. 1705, Lydia —
51. Lydia Hull, b. Dec. 6, 1687.
52. Joseph Hull, b. Apr. 24, 1690.
53. Benjamin Hull, b. July 19, 1693; d. Mar. 13, 1745; m. Elizabeth Slater.

10. CAPT. BENJAMIN HULL, 1639-1713, of Oyster River (Durham) and Dover in N. H., and Piscataqua, N. J., son of (1) Rev. Joseph Hull and his wife Agnes, was married about the year 1668 to Rachel York.\*

He was baptized at Hingham, Mass., Mar. 22, 1639, by Rev. Mr. Hobert. In 1659 he had a grant for a considerable tract of land southwest of Lamprey Falls, and from 1659 to 1669 paid taxes at Oyster River. At the commencement of the Indian wars he was a member of Capt. Robert Mason's troop of horse, and was subsequently commissioned Captain. For several years previous to 1676 he lived at or near Cochecho (Dover), in the heart of the

\*Richard York of Dover, N. H., in his will dated 1672, mentions his daughter "Ratchell Halle." It is quite probable that the writer of the will wrote Halle when he should have written Hull—See N. H. State Papers, Vol. XXX., page 134.

Piscataqua country. On Mar. 22, 1678, he deeded his land at Dover to one John Rand, and removed to Piscataqua, Middlesex Co., N. J., where he had previously purchased 498 acres of land. In the year last named he was granted a license to keep a tavern in said New Piscataqua. It is said that the business of hotel keeping then established by him was carried on continuously under the Hull name for nearly two hundred years. The records show numerous transfers of land to and from him.

## CHILDREN

- 54. Elizabeth Hull, b. May 5, 1669; m. 1690, Thomas Higgins.
- 55. Grace Hull, b. May 5, 1672; m. 1692, Nicholas Fitz Randolph. Nathaniel
- 56. Joseph Hull, b. Jan. 9, 1674; d. 1743; m. (2nd) Hannah Stapley, (3rd) Frances
- 57. Rachel Hull, b. July 9, 1676; m. 1694, John Dennis.
- 58. Sarah Hull, b. Sept. 27, 1678; m. 1696, Benjamin Carle.
- 59. Benjamin Hull, b. Apr. 4, 1680; d. 1732; m. 1704, Sarah Drake.
- 60. Temperance Hull, b. Dec. 28, 1683; m. Joseph Manning.
- 61. Tristram Hull, b. Aug. 23, 1685; d. Oct. 10, 1687.
- 62. Tristram Hull, b. May 18, 1688; m. about 1715.
- 62a. Hopewell Hull, b. 16—; d. Apr. 3, 1693.
- 62b. Martha Hull, b. 16—; d. Dec. 5, 1694.

13. CAPT. REUBEN HULL, about 1644-1689, son of (1) Rev. Joseph Hull, and his wife Agnes, was married about 1672 to Hannah Fernside, daughter of John Fernside and his wife Elizabeth Starri. Before Dec. 24, 1674, Capt. Hull and his wife had been living at Portsmouth. On that date his brother-in-law, Mr. John Cutt, in consideration stated to be "love and affection" for his kinsman Reuben Hull and Hannah his wife, conveyed to him a lot of land in Portsmouth, with right of way to obtain water from a well which Reuben Hull had already dug on land of the grantor. By same deed Mr. Cutt conveys to Reuben Hull a wharf and privilege on the river. The records show that on Aug. 5, 1677, Reuben Hull was witness to a deed from William Ham to Matthew Ham; that he was one of those selected to vote at the first election, held on Mar. 1, 1679-80, to choose an assembly under the new government, of which his said brother-in-law President John Cutt was the head; that he was a member of the jury which on Mar. 16, 1679-80 met to try the important case of Mark Hunking vs. Edward Randolph, and that in December of the year last mentioned he was the holder of a mortgage against the homestead of William Williams, Sr.

President Cutt died Mar. 27, 1681, and Reuben Hull was named as one of the overseers of his will, and was made guardian of John Cutt, Jr., the President's oldest son, who was a minor.

## CHILDREN

- 170. Daniel Hull, m. Mary Quincy.
- 171. David Hull, b. May 17, 1696; m. Margaret Wetherell.
- 172. Benjamin Hull, b. 1702; d. 1792; m. 1748, Ann Duer.

57. RACHEL HULL, 1676-17, daughter of (10) Capt. Benjamin and Rachel York Hull, was married Apr. 8, 1694, by Samuel Hale, to John Dennis. They lived at Woodbridge, N. J.

## CHILDREN

- 180. Eunice Dennis, b. Dec. 24, 1694.
- 181. Joseph Dennis, b. May 8, 1697.
- 182. Rachel Dennis, b. May 14, 1699.
- 183. John Dennis, b. Jan. 14, 1700.

59. ENSIGN BENJAMIN HULL, 1680-1732, of Piscataway, Middlesex Co., N. J., yeoman, son of (10) Capt. Benjamin and Rachel York Hull, was married in 1704 to Sarah Drake, 1686-17—, daughter of Rev. John Drake and his wife Rebecca Trotter, who was the daughter of William Trotter and his wife Catherine Gibbs, who was said to have been one of the first eighty settlers of Elizabethtown, N. J. The Rev. John Drake was a son of Capt. Francis Drake and his wife Mary of Piscataway. Capt. Drake was a son of Robert Drake of Portsmouth and Exeter, N. H. Sometime before 1740 Benjamin Hull's widow, Sarah Drake Hull, was married to her second husband, Israel Folsom.

Benjamin Hull was commissioned Ensign of the Piscataway Military Company No. 4, of Col. Thomas Farmer's Regt. of N. J., in 1713. By his will, dated June 5, 1731 and probated Jan. 4, 1733, he conveys to his wife Sarah the benefit of his home lot and one third of his movable estate; to his oldest son Joseph, ten shillings, and each of the remaining five sons a one-fifth interest in certain real estate. No mention is made of any one of his five daughters. This would indicate that those of the number who had not married and received marriage dowers had died unmarried previous to the making of said will.

## CHILDREN

- 185. Rachel Hull, b. Apr. 30, 1705; m. Joseph Fitz Randolph.
- 186. Joseph Hull, b. about 1706; d. 1768; m. (1st) 1730, Susanna Stelle, (2nd) Phebe —
- 187. Benjamin Hull, b. about 1708; d. 1747; m. Rhoda Martin.
- 188. Tristram Hull.
- 189. Jacob Hull, m. Catherine —
- 190. Reuben Hull.
- 191. Meshack Hull.
- 191a. Ann Hull, m. John Skillman.
- 191b. Elizabeth Hull, m. John Clawson.
- 191c. Zeruah Hull.
- 191d. Eunice Hull, b. Apr. 9, 1722.

Ann Hull (1711 Piscataway – 1775 Somerset Co, NJ) & John Skillman (1696 Queens NY – 1765 Somerset Co, NJ) Married in 1730 in Somerset Co