

Nicholas Busby  
 |  
 Anne Busby  
 |  
 Sarah Nickerson  
 |  
 Ephraim Covel  
 |  
 Mercy Covel  
 |  
 Peter Burgess  
 |  
 Mercy Burgess  
 |  
 Emeline Newcomb  
 |  
 Frank Stuart  
 |  
 Harland Stuart  
 |  
 Dorothy Chandler Stuart

# Busby Family

NICHOLAS<sup>1</sup> BUSBY (c1587-1657) M. (1605) BRIDGET COCKE (c1584-c1660)

ANNE<sup>2</sup> BUSBY (B. 1608) M. WILLIAM NICKERSON (c1604-c1690)

## Nicholas<sup>1</sup> Busby (c1587-1657) and Bridget (Cocke) Busby (c1584-c1660)

NICHOLAS<sup>1</sup> BUSBY was born in England about 1587.<sup>1</sup>

BRIDGET COCKE was born in England about 1584.<sup>2</sup>

Nicholas Busby married BRIDGET COCKE on 24 Jun 1605 at the church of St. Mary Coslany in Norwich, county Norfolk, England.<sup>3</sup>

Nicholas Busby's home town of Norwich was the second largest city in England at the time and was a center of the English textile industry. There he practiced his trade as a weaver. Nicholas Busby served for a time as the city *jurat*, the official responsible for "examining Norwich-produced cloth and ensuring that civic standards of manufacture were maintained." He was a freeman of the city.<sup>4</sup>

On 8 Apr 1637, "Nicholas Busby of Norwich in Norfolk, weaver," age 50, Bridget, his wife, age 53, and four children, Nicholas, John, Abraham, and Sarah were examined for emigration to New England. They sailed shortly thereafter on either the *John and Dorothy*, captained by Master William Andrews, or on the *Rose*, captained by his son.<sup>5</sup> With them were William<sup>7</sup> Nickerson and his wife Ann, Nicholas Busby's daughter.<sup>6</sup>

Upon arrival in New England, the Busby family lived briefly in Newbury,<sup>7</sup> but were in Watertown by March of 1637/38, where Nicholas became a freeman of Massachusetts Bay Colony.<sup>8</sup> He was granted 6 acres there on 9 Apr 1638 and a farm of 68 acres on 10 May 1642.<sup>9</sup> He served Watertown as a selectman in 1640 and 1644.<sup>10</sup>

Like most skilled immigrants, Nicholas Busby combined his trade with agriculture. But apparently he found farm life not to his liking, for in 1646, the Busby family moved to Boston. This seems to have been a common pattern with tradesmen, who no doubt found more opportunities to practice their craft in the larger town. On 22 Aug 1646 Nicholas Busby, "worsted weaver," purchased a home from Edward Jacklin on the west side of Washington Street between School and West Streets,<sup>11</sup> where Nicholas lived the rest of his life. He opened a dry goods shop and continued to weave, part-time.<sup>12</sup>

Nicholas Busby made his will in Boston on 25 Jul 1657. In his will, Nicholas Busby mentions his eldest son John, then in England; his son Abraham; his grandson Joseph, son of his deceased son Nicholas; his son-in-law William Nickerson; his eldest daughter Ann Nickerson; his daughter Catherine Savory; his youngest daughter Sarah Grout; his granddaughter Sarah Grout; and his wife.<sup>13</sup>

Nicholas Busby died in Boston the following month, on 28 Aug 1657,<sup>14</sup> and his estate was probated 10 Sep 1657.<sup>15</sup> The inventory, taken 1 Sep 1657, totaled £973.10s.8½p, an astonishing amount for a man described as a weaver. Whether he brought most of that wealth with him or accumulated it during his two decades in New England is not known.

On 14 May 1659, Bridget Busby began disposing of her property to her children. On that date, she deeded property to sons John and Abraham; sons-in-law William Nickerson and John Grout; daughters Anne Nickerson and Sarah Grout; and their children of daughters Anne and Sarah.<sup>16</sup> Bridget died shortly before her inventory was taken on 3 Jul 1660.<sup>17</sup>

Nicholas and Bridget (Busby) Nickerson had the following children, all born in

**The inventory of Nicholas Busby's estate included three Bibles plus a list of books on divinity, "physic," history, and natural history, indicating that he was a well-educated man. [Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"] The books on physic may indicate that in addition to practicing his trade as a weaver, he may have practiced medicine. The estate also included £6 worth of "cloth in the loom," indicating that he practiced his trade right up until his death. [Anderson, *New England's Generation*, 138]**

## Busby Family

England, no doubt in Norwich:

- i. ANNE<sup>2</sup> BUSBY, baptized in St. Mary Coslany church, Norwich, on 2 Feb 1607/08.<sup>18</sup> She married WILLIAM NICKERSON, *q. v.*
- ii. Catherine Busby.<sup>19</sup> She married William Savory.<sup>20</sup> They remained in Norwich.<sup>21</sup>
- iii. Nicholas Busby.<sup>22</sup> He married Martha (Cheney) Sadler in 1652.<sup>23</sup> She was the daughter of John Cheney and the widow of Anthony Sadler.<sup>24</sup> Nicholas died before his father made his will on 28 Aug 1657.<sup>25</sup>
- iv. John Busby.<sup>26</sup> He was living in Norwich in 1661.<sup>27</sup>
- iv. Abraham Busby.<sup>28</sup> He married Abigail (Compton) Brisco on 23 Sep 1659.<sup>29</sup> She was the daughter of John and Susanna Compton and the widow of Joseph Brisco.<sup>30</sup>
- v. Sarah Busby.<sup>31</sup> She married Captain John Grout of Sudbury, Mass.<sup>32</sup> He died in Sudbury on 25 Jul 1697<sup>33</sup> and she died there on 25 Apr 1699.<sup>34</sup>

### Notes on Busby Family

- <sup>1</sup> He was 50 years old at his immigration in 1637. [James W. Hawes, "Nicholas Busby" (1911), *Cape Cod Library* 2:1537-1545]
- <sup>2</sup> She was 53 years old at her immigration in 1637. [Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"]
- <sup>3</sup> James W. Hawes, "Children of William' Nickerson" (1912), *Cape Cod Library* 2:1307-1323, citing *Phillmore's Norfolk Marriages* 3:5
- <sup>4</sup> Anderson, *New England's Generation*, 13-14, 33n
- <sup>5</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby," citing John Camden Hotten, editor, *The Original List of Persons of Quality* (London, 1874), 289. There is no record of John Busby in New England, although he appears in his father's will of 1657, so if he accompanied the rest of the family he must have soon returned to England.
- <sup>6</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>7</sup> Hames, "Nicholas Busby," citing Coffin's *History of Newbury*
- <sup>8</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>9</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby," citing Bond, *Early Settlers of Watertown*
- <sup>10</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby," citing Bond, *Early Settlers of Watertown*
- <sup>11</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby," citing 2 Boston Records (Part 2), 40, 83
- <sup>12</sup> Anderson, *New England's Generation*, 138
- <sup>13</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby," citing Suffolk Co. PR 165
- <sup>14</sup> *A Report of the Record Commissioners Containing Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 1630-1699* (Boston, 1908), 61, hereafter cited as *Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 1630-1699*
- <sup>15</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby," citing Suffolk Co. PR 165
- <sup>16</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby," citing Suffolk Deeds 3:383
- <sup>17</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby," citing Suffolk Co. PR 243
- <sup>18</sup> *The Nickerson Family: Descendants of William Nickerson, 1604-1689, First Settler of Chatham, Massachusetts* (n.p., 1973), 9
- <sup>19</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>20</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>21</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>22</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>23</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>24</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>25</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>26</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>27</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>28</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>29</sup> *Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 1630-1699*, 71
- <sup>30</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>31</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>32</sup> Hawes, "Nicholas Busby"
- <sup>33</sup> *Sudbury VR*, 308
- <sup>34</sup> *Sudbury VR*, 308