

Early Colonial Families (Born < 1650) in the Ancestry of Sarah Crew Williams

Family (Surname)	Head(s) of family (born < 1650)	Migration Route (Origin → New World)	Region(s) in Colonies	Affiliation (Cultural/ Colonial)	Notes (Overlap/ Contrast)
Morris (Welsh)	Lewis Morris (1601–1691) – Welsh former soldier turned Quaker ¹ ; son: Thomas Morris (1635–1694)	Tintern, Wales → Barbados → New York & East Jersey	Barbados; New Netherland/ New York (Bronx) and East New Jersey (Monmouth)	Welsh Quaker ; Barbadian planter; later English colonial gentry	Lewis Morris was a Barbadian plantation owner who converted to Quakerism and, by 1670s, acquired estates in the former New Netherland (Bronx, NY and East Jersey) ¹ . His family's presence in New York/New Jersey offers an overlapping narrative with New Netherland (he corresponded with Flushing Quakers in 1665) and a contrast of a Quaker planter settling in a region formerly dominated by Dutch Reformed colonists. Thomas Morris (his son) continued the line in New Jersey.

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Settle (Welsh/ French)	Richard Settle (1610– 1671) & Frances [–?–] (1611– 1671)	Monmouthshire, Wales → Barbados (St. Michael)	Barbados (Caribbean)	Welsh (and possibly French Huguenot) planters	Richard Settle and his wife Frances (of French origin) migrated to Barbados during the Sugar Boom of the 1640s. They established themselves as sugar planters in the Caribbean. Their daughter Sarah married into the Morris family, linking the Caribbean planter society with New York/New Jersey. The Settles represent the Caribbean plantation experience – a stark contrast to New Netherland: Barbados's slave- based sugar economy versus the fur trade and mixed-farming economy of Dutch New Amsterdam. This family's story highlights the Anglo-Caribbean influence that later intersected with mainland colonies (e.g. Barbadian migration to Carolina and New York).

Cornell (English)	Thomas Cornell Sr. (1592–1655) & Rebecca Briggs (1600–1673)	Essex, England → Boston, Massachusetts (1638) → Rhode Island (Portsmouth, 1643)	New England (Boston & Rhode Island); brief foray in New Netherland (Bronx)	English Puritan turned Rhode Island colonist	<p>Thomas Cornell was among the earliest settlers in Massachusetts Bay (Boston 1638) and then an original settler of Portsmouth, RI (1643), alongside dissidents like Anne Hutchinson ² . Notably, Cornell even ventured into the outskirts of New Netherland – he briefly settled in the Bronx area in the 1640s (then under Dutch jurisdiction) before an Indian raid (Kieft’s War) drove his family back to Rhode Island ² . The Cornell family’s movements provide overlapping angles: they experienced Puritan New England, had a brush with New Netherland (living as English neighbors in Dutch territory), and then thrived in Roger Williams’ Rhode Island, which contrasts with both the Dutch and strict Puritan colonies in its religious tolerance.</p>
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					<p>William Almy migrated during the Puritan Great Migration (arriving in 1635 on the <i>Abigail</i>) ³ ⁴ .</p> <p>Initially in Massachusetts, he and his family later became early settlers of Portsmouth, RI (by 1642) ⁵ . In Rhode Island, the Almies joined a community known for religious dissent and autonomy. The Almy family thus offers a perspective concurrent with New Netherland's rise: an English Puritan-turned-dissenter story. Their experience in tolerant Rhode Island (neighboring New Netherland across Long Island Sound) provides a foil to Dutch New Amsterdam – highlighting English vs. Dutch colonial cultures and Puritanism vs. pluralism (Rhode Island's openness akin in spirit to New Amsterdam's diversity).</p>
Almy (English)	<p>William Almy (1601–1677) & Audrey Barlowe (1600–1677)</p>	<p>Leicestershire, England → Massachusetts (1635) → Rhode Island (Portsmouth)</p>	<p>New England (Massachusetts Bay; Rhode Island)</p>	<p>English Puritan (Great Migration) → Rhode Island dissenter</p>	

Hatcher (English)	William Hatcher (1613–1680)	Careby, Lincolnshire, England → Virginia (Henrico, by 1635)	Virginia (Henrico County)	English planter ; Burgess (colonial legislator)	William Hatcher immigrated to Virginia around 1635 ⁶ . Settling in Henrico, he became a tobacco planter and rose to serve in the House of Burgesses in the 1640s and 1650s ⁷ . He was an outspoken representative of Virginia's frontier settlers and even clashed with elite colleagues (once censured in the Assembly for insulting the Speaker ⁸). The Hatcher family's story represents the Chesapeake plantation society and early self-governance (Burgesses of 1619 onward), in contrast to the Dutch New Netherland where settlers had less political power under company rule. This highlights a planter-elite perspective (and an English legal tradition) contemporary to the Dutch era.
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Robins (English & Irish)	Col. Obedience Robins (1600–1662) & Grace O’Neill (1603–1683)	Long Buckby, England → Virginia (Eastern Shore, 1628)	Virginia (Accomack/ Northampton, Eastern Shore)	English gentry; Burgess & Councillor; <i>wife:</i> Irish (Catholic) gentry	<p>Obedience Robins emigrated to Virginia’s Eastern Shore by 1628 ⁹ . He became a substantial planter at Cherrystone, a six-time member of the House of Burgesses and a member of the Governor’s Council ⁹ . In 1634 he married Grace O’Neill, an Irishwoman (her family were gentry; possibly Catholic) who had first arrived in Virginia and (according to records) married Capt. Edward Waters before his death ¹⁰ . Robins’ family thus bridges cultures: English colonial leadership marrying into an Irish lineage. Their presence on the Eastern Shore – a region that sometimes interacted with Maryland and had trade links via the Chesapeake – provides a narrative of Anglo-Irish elite in Virginia. In contrast to the Dutch, Robins was part of a colony with an established elected assembly</p>
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					and strong ties to England's class structure. Notably, Grace O'Neill's remarriage from Waters to Robins also links the Robins family to the Waters family (early Jamestown settlers), weaving together two early colonial experiences.

Waters (English)	Capt. Edward Waters (1585–1630)	Great Hornmead, England → Jamestown, Virginia (by 1610)	Virginia (Jamestown; Elizabeth City/Lower Norfolk)	English mariner and Ancient Planter	<p>Edward Waters was an early Jamestown settler famed for surviving the 1609 <i>Sea Venture</i> shipwreck in Bermuda. He arrived at Jamestown in May 1610 aboard the <i>Patience</i> ¹¹ after months stranded in Bermuda, and later returned to help colonize Bermuda before settling permanently in Virginia by 1618 ¹². In 1624 he patented land near “Waters Creek” in Elizabeth City (present-day Hampton) ¹³. Edward married Grace O’Neill (who, after his death, wed Obedience Robins). The Waters family offers a thrilling overlap with early colonial dramas: their patriarch witnessed Jamestown’s “Starving Time” and the beginnings of Bermuda colony. As an Ancient Planter (arriving in the first decade), Capt. Waters’s experiences – shipwreck, survival, and early plantation –</p>
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					contrast with the more mercantile Dutch New Amsterdam narrative, highlighting the perils and military conflicts of the first Virginia settlers (he fought in colonial militias and faced Native resistance ¹⁴).

					<p>Thomas Harris came to Jamestown in 1611 with Sir Thomas Dale (on the <i>Prosperous</i>) and was an Ancient Planter (having arrived before 1616) ¹⁵ ¹⁶ . He received land in Henrico and established Curles Plantation on the James River. Harris served in the first House of Burgesses in 1619 as a burgess for Jamestown's Neck of Land settlement. His wife Adria Hoare arrived as one of the "Jamestown Brides" (women sent in 1620) and her 1635 death was recorded in the colony. The Harris family thus represents one of the <i>earliest</i> English households to take root in Virginia. Their perspective – that of seasoned survivors of Jamestown's hardship and participants in early governance – can be contrasted with families like the Volckertszen-Dircks in New Netherland who arrived a bit later</p>
Harris (English)	<p>Capt. Thomas Harris (1580–1658) & Adria Hoare (1604–1635)</p>	<p>Aylesbury, England → Jamestown, VA (1611)</p>	<p>Virginia (Jamestown; Henrico – Curles Neck)</p>	<p>English "Ancient Planter"; Jamestown settler</p>	

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					(1630s) into a better-supplied colony. The Harrises' life (frontier conflicts, tobacco planting, and interactions with Algonquian peoples) adds a time-depth to the colonial narrative, predating many New Netherland events.

Powell (English)	Capt. William Powell (1577–1623)	London/Surrey, England → Jamestown, VA (1609–1611)	Virginia (Jamestown; Surry Co.)	English military officer; Ancient Planter & Burgess	<p>Captain William Powell was an early Jamestown leader: an English gentleman who arrived by 1609 (Third Supply) and by 1619 was one of the first burgesses for James City ¹⁶ . He served as captain of the militia and was involved in colonial offensives against Powhatan tribes ¹⁷ . Powell was <i>considered an “ancient planter”</i> for having lived through Jamestown’s first decade ¹⁶ . He met a violent end, reportedly killed during an expedition against Native Americans in early 1623. The Powell family story provides a militaristic and governance-focused angle – highlighting early Virginia’s defensive struggles and political development (the first elected assembly) in the same era New Netherland was just being founded (Powell’s death in 1623 coincided with the year New</p>
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					<p>Amsterdam was established). This offers a strong contrast between Jamestown's established colonial society (with institutions like the House of Burgesses and ongoing Indian wars) and New Netherland's more commercial, polyglot trading outpost in the 1620s–30s.</p>

Peebles
(Scottish)

**Capt.
David
Peebles**
(1593–
1659)

Fife, **Scotland** →
Virginia
(Charles City, ca.
1650)

Virginia
(Charles City
County)

**Scottish
Royalist**
exile;
planter-
merchant
in VA

David Peebles was a Scottish **Royalist army officer** who, after Charles I's defeat and execution in the English Civil War, fled to Virginia in 1649–50¹⁸. At about 56 years old, he established a plantation called "Bon Accord" on the James River and became a merchant-planter in Charles City County¹⁹. The Peebles family thus brings in an overlapping narrative slightly later in the first half-century: a defeated Royalist finding refuge in the relatively loyalist Virginia colony (Governor Berkeley welcomed Royalist émigrés). His experience contrasts with both the Dutch of New Netherland and other English colonists: he was neither a Puritan nor a long-time settler but rather part of a **Scots diaspora** that added to Virginia's population. This allows exploration of **Cavalier vs. Puritan vs. Dutch**

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					dynamics – e.g. Peebles’ loyalty to the Crown versus New England’s Puritan republican leanings or New Amsterdam’s Dutch West India Company rule. His story also foreshadows the later large Scots-Irish migrations (an early example of Scots in the colonies).

Each of these families had members born before 1650 who lived in early colonial America, and together they span a spectrum of 17th-century colonial experiences. By examining them, we get overlapping and contrasting perspectives: **Dutch vs. English** colonies, **Puritan vs. Anglican (or Quaker)** cultures, **merchant-trader vs. tobacco planter vs. sugar planter** economies, and even the divide between **early Jamestown survivors** and mid-century newcomers. These family narratives can complement the story of the Volckertzen-Dircks (a New Netherland family) by placing it in a richer context of its contemporaries across different colonies and cultures.

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- 6 7 8 William Hatcher (politician) - Wikipedia
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- 11 12 13 The “Waters” in Water’s Creek - The Mariners' Museum and Park
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<https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/r/o/b/Brenda-Robertsondennis-/GENE5-0001.html>
- 18 David Peebles (1593 - 1659) - Genealogy
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