

Powell — New & Old Country Narratives (1630–1640)

Use with: 1630–1640 decade pages (Life & Context, Massachusetts Bay, Pequot War, New Country, Old Country) and the companion **Powell—Ancestral Lives (1630–1640)**.

Headcounts (Powell line, visible in this decade)

- **Old Country (Europe) — ~18–22 named ancestors** in place:
 - **England (London/SE):** Lisle, Hungerford, Beconshaw, Nuthall, Bacon, Claggett, Adams
 - **East Anglia (Cambridgeshire/Bedfordshire):** Kidd, Nethorcote, Smith
 - **Yorkshire / Huntingdonshire:** Whitaker (York line emerging)
 - **Isle of Wight / Hampshire:** Lisle & Beconshaw kin
 - **Wales (Denbighshire):** earlier Powell roots remain in Wales this decade
 - **Scotland (Edinburgh):** James Cunningham Wilson
 - **France (Provence/Normandy):** Brasseur (pre-migration)
- **New Country (Americas) — 0–3 in place; several poised to arrive:**
 - Chesapeake “seed figures” are alive in England/France now; **Maryland (chartered 1632; settled 1634)** and **Virginia** will draw **Nuthall, Kent, Arundell, Sprigg, Griffin, Brasseur, Claggett** a bit later.

New Country — what the Powell line is heading into

Chesapeake (Virginia & the new Province of Maryland)

- **Tobacco economy** is entrenched; headright system funds migration.
- **Maryland (1632–1634)** opens a second Catholic-leaning proprietary corridor beside Virginia; room for new gentry/planter families and skilled migrants.
- **Frontier realities:** rivers/creeks as highways; scattered plantations; dependence on Indigenous trade networks and knowledge; law and church institutions still thin.
- **Powell-line tie-ins** (arrive mid-century but shaped by the 1630s):
 - **John Nuthall** (b. 1620 London) → planter/merchant on the Potomac.
 - **Humphrey Kent & Joan Arundell** → **Weyanoke, Charles City, VA.**

- **Thomas Sprigg & Catherine Griffin** → into **Calvert/Prince George's Co., MD**.
- **Robert Brasseur** (French Huguenot) → **Calvert Co., MD**; part of a broader Huguenot trickle.
- **Capt. Thomas Claggett; Margaret Adams** → Chesapeake networks via London/Kent.

New England (Massachusetts Bay) & the Pequot sphere

- Less direct for Powell, but **mass migration from East Anglia** mirrors your **Kidd/Nethorcote/Smith** regions; the **1636–1637 Pequot War** reshapes New England power and trade routes that Powell-adjacent migrants will encounter when moving or trading later.
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Old Country — settings your people are in right now

London / Thames corridor

- Commercial hub for **Nuthall, Bacon, Claggett, Adams**; apprenticeships, livery companies, and maritime finance set up later Chesapeake ventures.

Isle of Wight & Hampshire

- **Lisle / Beconshaw** world of gentry, courts, and maritime provisioning; close to Solent ship lanes that carry people and goods to the colonies.

East Anglia (Soham/Cambridge/Bedfordshire)

- **Kidd & Nethorcote** sit inside Puritan parishes; literate congregations feed New World migration streams and emphasize catechism, discipline, and reading—habits visible in later Chesapeake churches.

Yorkshire & Huntingdonshire

- **Whitaker** and early **York** kin straddle Dales/fen edges—mixed husbandry, cloth, and small market towns; some kin will pivot to Baltimore County by century's end.

Wales (Denbighshire)

- **Powell roots** remain in Holt/Denbigh; customary tenures and border-shorthand with Chester markets. The 1630s bring tighter crown religion and revenue policies that nibble at local autonomy.

Edinburgh, Scotland

- **James Cunningham Wilson** grows up as the **1638 National Covenant** and **1639–40 Bishops' Wars** ignite; these upheavals feed south- and west-bound migrations.

France (Provence/Normandy)

- **Brasseur**, a Huguenot, stands in a France where the **Edict of Nantes's** protections are eroding in practice—another push toward the English colonies.

Drivers that touch this family (push & pull)

- **Land & labor:** tobacco profits + headrights reward the well-connected and those who can carry servants/artisans.
- **Religion & conformity:** Laudian reforms (England), the **Scottish Covenant (1638)**, and patchy tolerance for **Huguenots** increase churn.
- **Trade ladders:** London–Bristol–Solent routes knit Old to New; kin with urban skills (clerks, merchants, mariners) translate fastest in the Chesapeake.
- **Law & patronage:** proprietary Maryland offers offices, courts, and land grants to newcomers (room for **Sprigg, Nuthall, Kent, Claggett, Brasseur** to rise).
- **Family chains:** once one cousin plants in the Chesapeake, letters and credit pull the next.

Timeline (1630–1640) with Powell-line hooks

- **1630** — Massachusetts Bay migration begins; East Anglia parish culture (Kidd/Nethorcote/Smith) is the New England template.
- **1631–1632** — Lord Baltimore secures **Maryland charter**; London/legal networks (Lisle/Nuthall/Claggett circles) take note.
- **1633–1634** — **St. Mary's City** founded; first civil/religious frame in MD.
- **1634–1636** — Tobacco boom cycles; headright imports climb; Chesapeake planter slots open for future **Sprigg/Kent/Nuthall/Brasseur**.
- **1636–1637** — **Pequot War** reorders New England; Atlantic trade pathways widen.

- **1637 — Ship Money case (Hampden)** galvanizes opposition in England; unrest grows.
 - **1638 — Scottish National Covenant; Wilson** milieu radicalizes.
 - **1639–1640 —** Bishops' Wars; England edges toward the Long Parliament (Nov **1640**). Old-Country instability primes migration after 1640.
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