

History of Francis Bushnell

Francis was born about 1580 in Thatcham, Berkshire, England. He married first, on 13 May 1605, Ferris Quenell, daughter of Henry and Beatrix (Carter) Quenell. Ferris was baptized at Horsham 17 April 1587. She died at the birth of her daughter Elizabeth. Elizabeth was baptized 5 March 1627 and died 10 March 1627. Both were buried together 10 March 1627. He married second, on 2 June 1629, Joan Kinward, at Norsham. Joan died 21 June 1631, and was buried at Horsham.

Francis Bushnell moved to Horsham, Sussex about 1600. Records of baptisms, marriages and burials indicate continuous residence there until the time of departure for America. The last entry was 5 May 1635, recording the burial of his grandson, Francis (Edmund's son).

A seating list of the Church of Horsham dated 1628 shows that William, Henry, John and Mathew Grombridge had the first "Seats" for which they "paid vs a peece" (five shillings) and in the "fift Seate" was John Bushnell "who hath paid xs". In the "Sixt Seats" is placed Edmond Bushnell - and William Bushnell who have paid for their "room xjs," -.

He was an artisan, a painter or decorator. In 1610/11 "Francis Bushnell" was paid vs for "cullering the Funt" (of the church or alter); (From transcript of the Horsham Church Register for the Sussex Record Society, Vol. 21, 1915). His sons were also artisans, Francis being a millwright, William a carpenter, and John a glazier and later a barber. Edmund was also a farmer. His sons

came to America in 1635 and Francis and his two daughters, Sarah and Rebecca, followed in 1639. They sailed on the "St. John" with Rev. Henry Whitfield. About ten days after sailing the company formulated "The Plantation Covenant", also known as the Guilford Covenant, which reads as follows:

"We whose names are under-written, intending by God's gracious permission to establish ourselves in New England, if it may be in the south part about Quinapossack (New Haven). We faithfully promise, each to each, for ourselves and families and all that belongs to us, that we will, the Lord assisting us, sit down and join ourselves together in one entire plantation and be helpful each to the other in any common work, according to everyman's ability and as need shall require; and we promise not to depart or leave each other on the plantation but with the consent of the rest, or the greater part of those who have entered into this engagement.

"As for gathering ourselves together in a church way, and the choice of officers and members to be gathered in that way, we transfer ourselves to such time as it pleases God to settle us in our plantation.

"In witness whereof we subscribe our hands this first day of June, 1639."

/s/ Francis Bushnell and 24 other men.

Francis Bushnell's signature is third on the compact and that of Rev. John Hoadley, who later married his daughter Sarah, is ninth.

The "St. John" arrived at Fair Haven, Connecticut, 10-15 July 1639. Two months later the deed was signed for the new settlement at Menunkatuck, purchased from the Quinipiac Indians. The town was renamed Guilforde after the town in Surrey in England.

His home lot of three and one-half acres was in a choice location and that of Rev. John Hoadley was nearby.

Francis died in Guilford, Connecticut, in 1646. His will, the first to be probated there, was proved at a session of the Plantation Court 13 October 1646.