

Introduction
Eastham Land Records 1650 - 1745
For Early Eastham Settlers

Eastham digitized records available on the Eastham Library web site include five PDF files which contain scanned images of about 1,350 record pages of hand written land records from 1650 to 1745. For reference purposes, the five PDF files have been assigned letters as follows:

- A. Births, Marriages, Deaths 1649 - 1755, Land Grants 1659 - 1710
- M. Land Grants 1659 - 1710, Militia 1865
- P. Meetings c 1600 - 1700
- S. Land Grant Transcriptions Book 1 C. 1654 - 1743
- T. Land Grants 1711 - 1745

These are the same letter designations as used for the indexes to early Eastham birth, marriage death and land records.

Nauset which became Eastham consisted of land granted by the Plymouth Colony General Court under the Warwick patent, subsequent General Court land grants and purchases from the Indians. The early Nauset land owners were known as Purchasers and Proprietors. Purchasers were members of the group that bought out the London investors in 1627. They had Nauset reserved for them. The Proprietors were added to the Nauset land holders by additional grants. Initially, the Purchasers and Proprietors were the town meeting governing body with the authority to grant land to themselves and to others and to purchase land from the Indians.

Land grants for each individual are presented in chronological order by year with PDF file and page references. These are brief descriptions and not transcriptions. If both old style and new style year are given in the records, new style year is used here. Modern spelling is used for names and places.

For reference an acre in the 1600's is about the same as an acre today. A pole is sixteen and one-half feet. For land grants described in pole dimensions, the acreage is calculated and used in the descriptions. For example, a lot forty pole by twenty-eight pole would be seven acres.

Robert P. Carlson
rpcarlson@comcast.net