

Lieutenant William French

William French was born in Halsted, England 15 March 1603 and arrived on the Defence in 1635. He settled first in Cambridge, and in 1652 was one of the original proprietors and earliest settlers of Billerica. He died 20 November 1681 at Billerica, MA. **He was a tailor by trade.** He was an owner of a considerable amount of land (in excess of 500 acres). William was a Deputy to the Massachusetts Bay General Court in 1660, 1663, and 1664. He was empowered to marry others in Billerica and Chelmsford in 1659 and 1667. He was a selectman in 1660. William was admitted to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1638, in which he served as an Ensign, Junior Sergeant, and 1st Sergeant. He was a Sergeant in the militia in 1642 and a Lieutenant in 1647. He was an author included in *Strength Out of Weakness; or a Glorious Manifestation of the Further Progresse of the Gospel among the Indians of New-England. Held Forth in Sundry Letters from divers Ministers and others*" published in London in 1652. William was first married to Elizabeth Symmes?, who was born c. 1610 and died in Billerica, MA 31 March 1668.

Further reading:

The Great Migration Begins, Robert Charles Anderson, 1620-1635, 2013.

Lieut William French and his Descendants, John M French, NEHGR, 1890.