This voyage began in May and reached Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts, on September 3rd, 1635. The Captain of this ship was Nathaniel Turner, who was born in 1615 in England. [He would be discovered as a 9th great grandfather within the Coates family when a 9th generation descendant marries into the Coates family in Ohio.] The Coates and others came from Sarum, Wiltshire, England, two miles from Salisbury, known as the Cathedral City, hosting the tallest spire in England of 404 feet. Robert Coats Sr. was a crucial figure because his lineage moved into and settled the Eastern Connecticut counties of Windham and New London. Robert Coates Sr., Robert Coates Jr., and his brother, John Coates, were among the inhabitants of Lynn who took the oath of allegiance to the King. The couple brought their two sons, 2-year-old John Roberts Coates and 28-year-old Robert William Coates, with his wife, Margaret Heald, and their 2-year-old son, Robert William Jr., and 8-year-old son, Thomas Coates. Thomas and his wife eventually settled in and around Ipswich and Lynn, Massachusetts. It was the first time the items brought with these migrating folks were written down and described. It was said that Thomas Coates Sr. brought a family heirloom, a chest made of jack oak wood. It held his essential documents on the Coate family. He was a furniture maker connected to the Coate thread and paisley manufacturing that arose later in history. The Coate thread and paisley manufacturing entrepreneurs were the ones who had received the needle and thread that had disappeared from the box in 1607 when it was in possession of Marmaduke Coates.

Nathaniel Turner came to Massachusetts with Gov. Winthrop in 1630 and lived in Lynn, MA. Winthrop brought about 1000 people on six ships. Nathaniel lived in Nahant next to Robert William Coates, who was the second inhabitant of Nahant. Native Americans called the area Nahant, meaning "the point" or "almost an island." The original Indian name of the place, Nahanten, signifies twins or two things united, referring to the two connected islands forming it. Located on a tied peninsula jutting into Massachusetts Bay, it was first settled in 1630, in the second year of the Puritan coming. The servants of Isaac Johnson grazed his cattle on the land, which was also often used by Robert Coates of Lynn for grazing cattle, sheep, and goats. Robert Coates was 19 years of age and worked as an angler, shepherd, and weaver. Nathaniel Turner owned Sagamore Hill (loosely meaning "Hill of Kings" in the local Indian language). The first settlers in Lynn were in 1629, and they were the Coates. Around October 30th, 1645, Nathaniel Turner walked to the waterfront town market in Nanhant, a part of Lynne, Massachusetts. He meets Robert William Coates, and somehow, a conversation starts. "Good day, Captain; enjoy the sunny October day," said Mr. Coates. “Aye mate, it is a fine day to walk briskly,” says Capt. Turner.

As they pass by one another, Capt. Turner turns around and says, “Mr. Coates, would it be too much to ask if your wife, Lady Margaret, could sew one of my torn jackets? I need to travel to Boston, and Mrs. Turner is very occupied with our son, Isaac, age 6, who is sick with a cough and is not too pleased with me. She is so distraught that I have agreed to travel with Captain Lamberton on another journey across the Atlantic. I have some business to do, which will provide more income.”

Mr. Coates says, “I am sure Margaret would assist in sewing your torn jacket.” Just bring it by later this afternoon."

Later in the afternoon, Margaret receives the wool jacket from Capt. Turner. It is a grey wool jacket with a few moth holes in the pocket area. She examines the coat and says, “Mr. Turner, you may need to acquire a new jacket at some point, but the buttons are securely attached. The only thing is a few holes and a tear around the arm."

Yes, Madam Coates, I would be grateful if you could oblige me. Our son, Isaac, is sick, and Mrs. Turner is upset that I must go away for a month.

Mrs. Coates accepted the job and prepared her threads and darning needle. The last time she sewed was to mend buttons onto her husband's jackets when she used the needle and thread in the old sewing box specifically for such a task. Unaware of the necessity of using the specially blessed threads of a cross-wound thread, she had about 3 inches of the particular thread still entwined and threaded through a needle. Distracted by her sick child, she mistakenly used the unique thread to sew the moth holes above the pocket on Capt. Turner’s wool jacket. She grabbed the regular thread and finished sewing after using the remainder of the 3-inch thread. Little did she know she had sewed Capt. Turner’s fate. For he had cursed God regularly as a sea captain and was not the type of man, who would have taken a liking to a cat or have it near him or around the homestead. At one time, he had put a stray ship cat overboard because it had jumped on his table, and he was eating dinner. Such cruelty was every day upon ships, and cursing was accepted. He had no idea that a particular thread had to be held by one who understands that with God, anything is possible, but a cat was to be watchful over anyone who held these tools of a weaver as sacred.

The same ship also crossed from England to America in 1630 as part of the Winthrop Fleet, which had voyages in 1633, 1634, and 1639. The vessel tried again to cross the Atlantic in 1641, departing London in early October of that year under a Master John Cole with 140 passengers bound for Virginia. It never arrived. In 1642, it was officially declared lost at sea.

In 1646, the merchants of New Haven sent a ship with 5,000 containers to London to secure a colonial charter from Parliament to ensure the colony's independence; the King was deposed due to the English Civil War.

Nathaniel went on the voyage, but the ship sank in route, and Nathaniel died at sea, along with all the others, and the cargo was lost. He had maintained relations with many in Lynn, and so many there mourned his fate, along with those in New Haven. Winter of 1645/6 – the “Great Shippe” was chartered by “The Company of Merchants of New Haven" with Captain George Lamberton in command. The ship carried saleable goods: peas, wheat, hides from West India, plate and beaver pelts, hides, and peltry (raw undressed skins), and manuscript writings of John Davenport at New Haven and Thomas Hooker at Hartford.

Because the ship's loading was delayed, it was ready to sail in winter.

January 1646 – 70 persons boarded the ship, including Thomas Gregson, Nathaniel Turner, George Lamberton, the wife of Stephen Goodyear, and Francis Austin. The vessel was iced in so solidly at its pier that to get to sea, every able man and boy had to help hand-chop a three-mile channel out of Long Island Sound. Then, the ship had to be towed stern-first through the ice out to the waters of the North Atlantic. This was a chillingly bad omen, and the crew members almost mutinied. Once the ship made its three-mile journey out to the choppy ocean waters, it rolled badly in any amount of swell. The ship’s master, George Lamberton, an experienced mariner, predicted many times that the “walty” ship would “prove their grave.” But the “Great Shippe” finally sailed into the icy mists of Long Island Sound. The spiritual leader of New Haven, Rev. Davenport, assured them that Divine Providence would protect their loved ones on the ship.

At the Time of the wreck, Capt. Lamberton is speaking to Capt. Nathaniel Turner drowned out the ocean's roar, saying, “This walty ship, as I have said many times before, will take us to our watery grave. Hopefully, Mr. Turner, you have your soul saved.”

Capt. Turner looks anguished as sea water sprays his face, "Aye, Captain, I had a bad feeling about this trip, and my wife warned me not to go." He moves his left hand to his pocket and feels the knotted threads. [omen music} Capt. Turner's past life flashes in his mind. He remembers that in 1633, he was appointed Captain of the militia, and in 1636 and 1637, he had command of several expeditions against the Pequot Indians. In 1637, his house was burned. 1638, he became an Ancient Artillery Company member (12th on the Artillery Roll). He sees him and his fellow soldiers fighting the Pequots Indians. The cruelty of killing Indian women and children. One scene is a small Indian woman with a child clutched to her chest as she tries to run away from the soldiers’ weapons. He follows her in pursuit, believing she leads him to other hostile Indians. She runs up to a point at an overlook cliff and turns to look directly at Capt. Nathaniel Turner, saying, “I curse you to die an unspeakable death’ Shocked, she spoke God's English, and Nathaniel stopped in his tracks. Then she jumps with her child over the cliff to their deaths. He recalls how

A cat on a boat in the storm

Description automatically generated

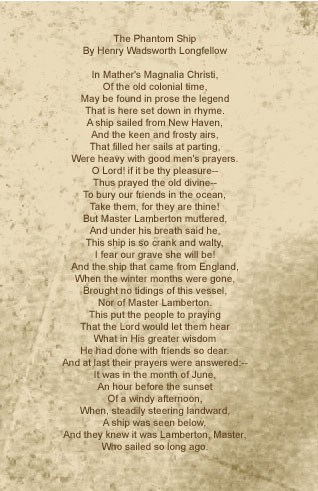
greedy he was in buying land by whatever means necessary. He recalls his desire for wealth and power in Massachusetts. He turns to peer at the sternum of the ship and is stunned to see a cat sitting calmly on the deck, looking at him. Capt. Turner opens his mouth in a gasp; his eyes are wide with disbelief. The cat is the same cat he threw overboard a few years back.

The great ship rocked back and forth on the choppy sea waves. The boards creaked with ominous sounds of deterioration. Capt. Turner looked at the sky and cursed, saying, “I curse you; why would God allow us to drown?" The ship was engulfed in a giant wave as he spoke his last words.

The ship was never heard from again.

Capt. George Lamberton was lost at sea aboard the ship "Fellowship," immortalized by Longfellow in his poem "Phantom Ship."

In the following year, Lamberton's widow, Margaret, married Deputy-Governor Stephen Goodyear, whose wife also perished on the "Great Shippe".

A painting of people watching a ship

Description automatically generated

"Deep in Atlantic cave his body sleeps,

While the dark sea its ceaseless motion keeps,

While phantom ships are wrecked along the shore,

To warn his friends that he will come no more!

But He who governs all with impulse free,

Can bring from Bashan and the deepest sea,

And when He calls our Turner must return,

Though now his ashes fill no sacred urn."

In 1659, Thomas passed away, leaving the jack-oak wooden box to his eldest son, Robert William Coates Sr. Robert needed to improve at conveying the importance of the box. After so many generations had passed, the story lost its meaning. Robert and his wife, Margaret Heald, tried to continue the tradition of sewing buttons on jackets and darning of socks. There were plenty of cats in Lynn, Massachusetts, but they couldn't seem to embrace the cats as crucial for their homestead. Robert handed the box to his eldest son, Robert William Coates Jr before he died in 1659.

Robert William Coates Jr., born in 1627, inherited the jack oak box and its contents. He married Jane Sumner in 1657. Robert Coats was the second inhabitant of Nahart, Massachusetts, working as a fisherman and shepherd. In 1657, the people of Lynn, Mass., met to appoint Robert as one of the town’s trustees. The items in the box were working their magic by rewarding the couple. Jane sewed on buttons using the thread and found a cat to patrol their house and yards. They named the cat “Stitches.” Stitches was a tabby cat with dark, striking lines in its fur. The family all enjoyed having Stitches around. In the days before his death, Robert William Coates gave a needle and some thread to his brother, Thomas, and his wife, Elizabeth, for their protection.

In 1707, Robert Coates Sr passed away, leaving the box and items for his eldest son, Robert Coates III.

Robert Coates III was born in 1658 in Lynn, Massachusetts. The box only held one needle, two thimbles, and 2 spools. He married Mary Hodgkins on December 29th, 1682. Mary agrees to use the items to sew buttons on jackets, bows on bonnets, and mend socks. She shows the family heirloom legend by mistake or fate with her mother, Grace Dutch. Grace tells her sister, Esther Dutch. One afternoon, while the two sisters were weaving some fabric for clothes, Esther asked, "What is in that oak wood box."

Grace says, "My daughter says there are just two spools of thread, two thimbles, and one needle." Esther says, “I would like to see this box, and so the two women planned to go to Mary Hodgkin's home and plotted to open the box. [omen music]

While Grace helped Mary with some chores, Esther found the box in a chest undetected and opened it. Seeing the items and the documents, she picked up the stacked spool of thread. She unraveled about a foot of the thread, wrapping it around her fingers. She slid the thread into her smock undetected. Esther and Grace Dutch were the daughters of Osman and Grace {Pratte} Dutch. She was born around 1639 and married Samuel Ewell in 1658. Her parents lived at the Harbor, a place known as Dutch's Slough, and were rather prominent in town affairs. On October 30th, 1692, upon the eve of All Hallows, an arrest warrant was issued for Esther Ewell, along with two other women, Rebecca Dyke, and Abigail Rowe, who was taken to Ipswich, Massachusetts, for examination on a charge of witchcraft.

The charge was that they wickedly and feloniously committed sundry acts of witchcraft upon the body of Mrs. Mary Fitch. What had happened was the ladies had been taking in some laundry from other residents to wash and mend, and Esther happened to sew using the thread she had wrapped around her finger and placed it in her sewing box. She mended about nine stitches in a garment scarf belonging to Mrs. Fitch. Mrs. Fitch reported becoming quite ill after wearing the scarf, and she believed the three women had placed a curse upon her. Eventually, after some trials and being detained in jail, the woman was released on November 7th, 1692. When Grace learned what her sister had done and the results of the unsuspecting Mrs. Fitch, she immediately told Mary, her daughter, of the incident. Mary became very scared and concerned. She instructed her mother not to mention anything about the sewing box her husband had and not to speak to her aunt, A group of people sitting at a table

Description automatically generatedEsther, again. Two years later, Grace Dutch dies.

In 1674, Robert Coates III was a soldier on the Connecticut River under the command of Captain Phillip Turner. In 1684, Robert and his wife, Mary, came from Lynn to live in Ipswich for a time. According to the requirement, William Hodgins was obliged to give a signed and sealed document that said Robert and his family should not be burdensome to the town. It was one of the quaint early customs that required travelers to offer sponsors. Robert Coates was a weaver in Lynn. He learned the skill of sewing and weaving from his father and grandfather. In the history of Stonington, Connecticut, it was written: There were three men by this family name {Coates} that settled in Stonington, Connecticut, now North Stonington, soon after the year 1700. They were supposed to be brothers; if not, they were doubtlessly relatives. Their names were Robert, William, and Joseph. This “three brothers settled in Stonington” information was passed down through various branches of the Coates family. They were descendants of devout Quakers.