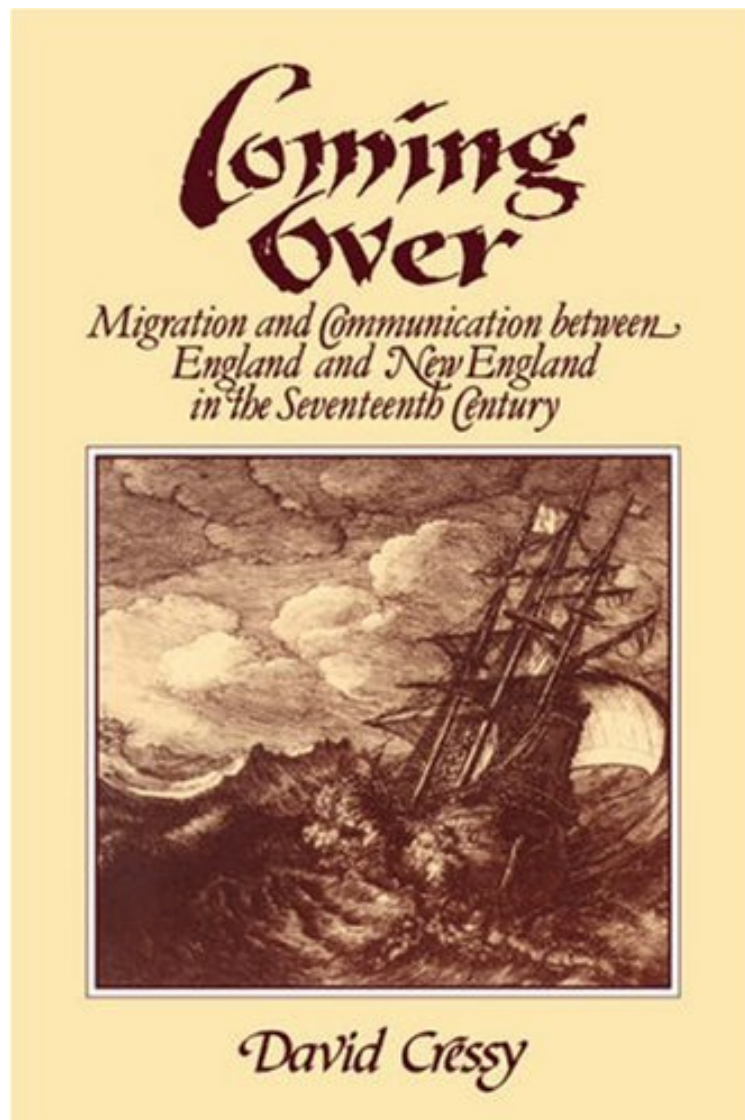


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Coming Over: Migration and Communication Between England and New England in the Seventeenth Century

David Cressy

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In researching my family genealogy, I learned that my earliest ancestor come to this country from England in 1639 as part of the "Great Migration". I wondered what would motivate a man who was a well established yeoman farmer to give up everything and take the risk to move his family to the wilderness of New England. This book shows why thousands of people made this journey, what the voyage over was like, and how they established themselves in a new society. What surprised me was how much communication there was with family and friends who remained in England. Anyone interested in the early colonial history of New England should read this book.
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This is a very good book. Excellent!

Coming Over discusses the English migration to New England in the seventeenth century and shows the importance of English connections in the lives of American colonists. David Cressy reviews the information available to prospective migrants, the decisions they had to reach and the actions necessary before they could settle in America. English men and women moved to New England with a variety of motives, and in a multitude of circumstances. 'Puritanism', involving religious harassment in England and the desire to follow God's ordinances in America, was only one of many factors impelling people to move. Rather than developing in wilderness isolation, the society and culture of seventeenth-century New England were constantly shaped by their English roots. A two-way flow of correspondence, messages and information linked colonists to their homeland. Family duties, political sympathies, friendships, business and legal obligations all led to a continuing attachment across the Atlantic. In treating early America from a British perspective, as a part of English history, Professor Cressy provides us with many insights into the seventeenth century.