

Origin of the name  
**"Folsom"**

The surname Folsom (Folsham) is traced to the small town of Foulsham. in the county of Norfolk, England, some six to eight miles north of Hingham.

Centuries ago John-of-Foulsham (1615-1681) became "John Foolsom." He was to become the first Anglo-American bearing the name. On the 26th of April, 1638, the ship Diligent of Ipswich, England sailed through the mouth of the river Thames bound for the Massachusetts Bay. On board were 133 persons including John Foolsom and his wife Mary Gihnan and their family.

They had settled in Exeter but were decided, as God fearing Christians, "to sacrifice wealth, ease, and popularity for the sake of the principle of freedom of worship." A Puritan, he had trained his six sons to become efficient laborers in laying the foundation for the commonwealth. However, when his freedom to worship God as he saw fit became questioned, John sold his estates for half their worth in order to obtain the means for passage and settlement in the new world. Thus, he led his family across from England to become the father of the American Folsom branch. The first parish records in Havervill, Mass. (1749-1764) spelt the name- *Foulsham*, and then, *Foulsam*, *Folsham*, *Futsom*, and finally *Folsom*.