**Edward Taylor**

**C. 1642-1729**

* **His poems were found in the Yale Library in 1930’s, published 1939**
  + **Caused history of American poetry to be re-written**
  + **Regarded as the BEST Northern colonial poets.**
* **Identified his religion and literary background from his poems**
* **Few personal clues**
* **Born in Leicestershire, England- Teacher**
* **Raised in a family of religious dissenters- Puritans**
  + **Wanted to reform the Church of England.**
  + **Seeks freedom in New World**
* **1668, Sails for Boston with letters of introduction from colonial leaders**
  + **Cotton Mather was a famous religious leader**
  + **Helped Taylor enroll in Harvard 1671**
* **Trained for Ministry**
  + **Westfield, Massachusetts**
* **58 years as a frontier minister**
* **He had 14 kids, by two separate wives**
  + **He outlived several of his children**