

# John Harmon of Springfield, MA Associates Part 7

## VIII

### THOSE WHO TOOK THE OATH OF FIDELITY

**March 23, 1655/56**

**March 23d 1655/56 being a Training day these under written took the oath of fidelity:**

*Thomas Bancroft, John Stewart, James Warrener, Obadiah Miller, Symon Sackett, Nathaneel Burt, Hugh Dudley, Samuel Bliss, William Morgan, Lawrence Bliss, Jeremy Horton, James Taylor, Edward Foster, John Sackett, Josiah Chapin Abell Wright, Richard Maund, John Riley, Anthony Dorchester, Francis Pepper, James Osborne, John Horton, John Earle*

Most of these men are a younger generation than John Harmon. Those who have not been previously identified are:

1. **Thomas Bancroft:** (-5) (Age 33 in 1655)

**BIRTH:** 10 Feb 1622 London, London, England to John Bancroft and Jane.

**MARRIAGE:** (1) 8 Dec 1653 Springfield, Hampshire, MA to Margaret Wright, daughter of Samuel Wright and Margaret. (2) 22 Nov 1676 Hannah Gardner, dau of Samuel Gardner and Lydia Oldham.

**DEATH:** 14 Dec 1684 Springfield, Hampton, MA; buried in Wakefield, Essex, Massachusetts. His will, dated 1684 identifies Nathaniel as his son.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Thomas Bancroft was a miller. He leased John Pynchon's mill house for seven years "*hee to doe all the worke that belongs to it for the ready and well grinding of the corne of the plantation*" for annual rent payments of £8 the first year and £3 thereafter. John Pynchon's corn was to be ground without charge; all others were to pay a toll directly to Bancroft. In 1667, he leased John Pynchon's ten acre lot next to the mill. In 1672, the mill rental increased to £8. Served jury duty in Springfield and was listed as a freeman in Springfield.

**CHILDREN:** of Thomas Bancroft and Margaret Wright.

1. Lydia b. 1655; d. 1665 (9y)

2. Margaret b. 1656

3. Anna b. 1658; d. 1659 (1y)

4. Thomas b. 1659

5. Anna b. 1663; md. (1) Thomas Gilbert;

(2) James Sexton

6. Lydia b. 1665

7. Julia b. 1666; d. 1666

8. Samuel b. 1667; d 1667

Children of Thomas Bancroft and Hannah Gardner

1. Ruth b. 1670; md. Stiles

2. Rebecca b. 1680; md.Samuel Gillett

3. Nathaniel b. 1683; md. Ruth Hale

4. John b. 1684

**2. John Stewart:**

**BIRTH:** Scotland

**DEATH:** 1690 Springfield, Massachusetts.

**BIOGRAPHY:** A thrifty and bustling Scotsman whose early adventures make him an interesting character. He was in the service of the marquis of Montrose who raised an army in the Scottish Highlands and waged war in behalf of the king. John Stewart was engaged in five battles till the tide turned against the cause he was serving. The royal army was then under David Leslie and had more than double the numbers of that commanded by Cromwell. Confident of success, Leslie left his entrenchments at Dunbar and marched to the open plain when Cromwell seized the opportune moment and won the day, capturing the entire army not already slain in the engagement. Many of the prisoners of war were deported; John Stewart was among that number. On coming into England, he was sold to service and John Pyncheon was the purchaser. In the State Archives of Boston, MA is a statement made by John Stewart regarding his service to the King and also some of his hardships here. As Stewart was a capable blacksmith, he began his career in Springfield as a servant to the Pyncheon family. Pyncheon sold him a house and orchard in return for smithy work; providing all the smithy tools he needed.

In 1658, the shop was given to Stewart by the town and he served as smithy for many years. One of his public duties was to see that all swine in the town above three months old were ringed and he was to go twice every week through the town to take notice what swine were unringed and to ring them for 6d. If they refused, they would be fined by the constable who would also receive 3d for his trouble.

There are several court cases involving John Stewart. He served as a witness with Charles Ferry that John Earle did strike William Morgan and broke his nose in 1660. Again in 1661 Charles Ferry and John Stewart testified that they saw Joseph Leonard sporting and laughing in sermon time on the Sabbath and that he often misbehaved himself in the same way. John Stewart served on the inquest jury to determine the cause of death of little Ebenezer Harmon who drowned in the brook at the age of three. (1661) In 1662, John Stewart was fined for playing cards. In Sep 1671, John Stewart was accused of stabbing John Bliss and endangering his life for which he was quickly put into prison. John Stewart refused to confess against himself although he did not

deny the fact. The court limited itself to a "serious admonition" since Stewart had suffered commitment to prison already and had apparently affected a settlement with Bliss--also the charge was not legally proved against him. In 1679, John Stewart and Isack Gleson served as sureties that Phillip Mattoone would keep the peace toward all men (he was accused of striking John Pope on the head and displacing his jaw bone and abusing him by word) and that Philip would appear at the next county court.

John Stewart, the town blacksmith, lost his lands and his house due to indebtedness to the Pynchons in 1669. John Stewart rented all his tools and materials from "1 greate anvill" down to "a spring lock" and "21 pairs of horseshoes." Pynchon allowed Stewart to continue living in the house until midsummer. Stewart agreed to "stub cleare and bring to Mowing about an acre and 1/2 or 2 acres of land" and for so doing he was to have the use of it for 3 years. In 1688, he was bedridden and ill. At this time, he petitioned the Governor for the loss of a horse he had been required to use in pursuit of Indians. He was able to overcome his days of poverty as at his death in 1690, he had an estate valued at £55.

### 3. **James Warrener:** (-23) (Age 15 in 1655)

**BIRTH:** 21 Nov 1640 Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts Son of William and Johanna (Searle) Warrener.

**MARRIAGE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Baldwin 31 Mar 1664 Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jul 1689, Sarah Alvord, daughter of Alexander; 3<sup>rd</sup> 29 Dec 1704 Mary Stebbins, dau of John Stebbins and Mary Graves.

**DEATH:** 14 May 1727 at the age of 87 in Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts

**BIOGRAPHY:** James was sworn the Constable of Springfield 28 Aug 1670. Served as a Selectman in 1698.

**CHILDREN** of James Warriner and Elizabeth Baldwin:

1. Samuel b. 1666; d. 1667
2. James b. 1668; md. Sarah Thomas
3. Elizabeth b.1670; md. Henry Burt
4. William b. 1672; md. Elizabeth Weller
5. Hannah b. 1674; md. Daniel Graves
6. Joseph b. 1677; md. Hannah Bliss
7. Samuel b. 1679; md. Abigail Day
8. Ebenezer b. 1682; md. Joanna Dickinson
9. Mary b. 1685; md. Increase Sikes
10. Daughter stillborn about 1687.

CHILDREN of James Warriner and Sarah Alford:

1. Sarah b. 1690; md. Ebenezer Thomas
2. Jonathan b. 1692; md. Mercy Burnham
3. John b. 1694; d. 1696
4. Benjamin b. 1698; md. Mercy Bartlett
5. David b. 1701; md. Mary Sikes

4. **Obadiah Miller:**

**BIOGRAPHY:** In March of 1655, Obadiah Miller complained in court that *Joane, his wife, abused him with reproachful terms or names as calling him fool, toad, vermine, and threatening him; also she fell upon him and beat him and scratched his hands and face. John Lamb testified that he heard her say she would knock him on the head and she did often call him fool and other reproachful terms;* Thomas Miller testified that when his brother, Obadiah, and his wife lived with him he often heard her call him names and she said she did not love him; but she hated him. For her vile behavior towards her husband she was taken forth to the whipping post to receive so many stripes on the naked body as the commissioners should see cause to inflict upon her. She was brought forth, but made earnest protestations for better carriage toward her husband and so the punishment was remitted but she was told that for the least miscarriage toward Obadiah she should be brought forth again to receive a good whipping on the naked body. In 1692, Samuel Barnard (prentice to Obadiah Miller) was in court for throwing stones at glass windows. He denied it and was admonished and discharged.

CHILDREN: of Obadiah Miller and Joane:

1. Lazarus b. 1655; md. Mary Burbank
2. Obadiah b. 1658; md. (1) Benedicta Lawton;  
(2) Dorothy Chapin
3. Joanna b. 1669; md. John Barber, Jr.
5. **Symon Sackett:** (Simon) (-13) (Age 25 in 1655)

**BIRTH:** abt 1630 in Bristol, England.

**MARRIAGE:** 1652. Sarah Bloomfield, daughter of William and Sarah.

**DEATH:** The Springfield Simon died 9 Jul 1659 when administration of his estate was granted to his widow, Sarah, with William Blomefield of Hartford as assistant to his daughter, Sarah, widow of deceased. The estate was valued at more than 39 pounds. Still in 1662, there were a couple court entries regarding debts from the estate that William Blomefield assisted the Widow Sackett with.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Simon's father was in Cambridge, a proprietor in 1633; says he came on Ship

Lyon; --died prior to 1635 when administration was granted to widow, Isabel, mother of Simon Jr.

CHILD: of Simon Sackett and Sarah Bloomfield:

1. Samuel b. 1653; d. 1653

6. **Nathaniel Burt:** (-9) (Age 19 in 1655)

BIRTH: 23 May 1636/7 Haberton, Devon, England son of Henry Burt and Eulaliah Marche.

MARRIAGE: 15 Jan 1663 Rebecca SIKES, dau of Richard Sikes and Phebe Green.

DEATH: 29 Sep 1720 Springfield, MA

CHILDREN: of Nathaniel Burt and Rebecca Sikes

1. Nathaniel b. 1663

2. Rebecca b. 1665

3. David b. 1668

4. John b. 1670

5. Sarah b. 1673; d. 1673 (14d)

6. Sarah b. 1675

7. Experience b. 1677

8. Dorcus b. 1680

7. **Hugh Dudley:**

BIRTH: From Scotland

MARRIAGE: 30 Oct 1656 Mary Copsey

BIOGRAPHY: Hugh Dudley of Barnett was indentured by William Pynchon on 29 April 1650 to Henry Smith of Springfield for the term of five years. Both Dudley and his wife became servants to the Pynchon family. Termination of his indenture did not end his dependence on the Pynchons who tried to help him establish himself. On 16 Nov 1663, "*for this debt of Twelve Pounds Seven shillings,*" Dudley "*doth ingage and make over to me for my security his 3<sup>rd</sup> division Lot over the Great River containing Ten acres...and also five acres...both which parsell and land are to stand formally mortgaged to me for this debt.*" On 14 Dec 1666, John Pynchon assumed formal ownership of this land. "*I have recd by land viz Hugh Duley's howse and Lot 7 acres and 1/2 over the grt River . . . and so cleare my books;*" In 1669, John Pynchon took 4 acres of Land at Westfield for what "Hugh Dudley owes me,." In 1670, for debts of £7.10.0, John Pynchon took Dudley's 2 acres of land at Westfield.

In June 1660 Hugh Dudley complained against Thomas Merick "*for not performinge covenante in plowinge up*" a half acre of ground in the previous month at plaintiff's demand as by the

covenant presented appears. Dudley pleaded great damages and that he still expected the plowing to be done. The commissioners adjudged that Merick pay ten shillings in damages and also plow up the half acre by the next May.

**8. Samuel Bliss:** (-25)

**BIRTH:** abt 1642 son of Thomas and Margaret Hullins. (Brother of Nathaniel)

**MARRIAGE:** 10 Nov 1665 Mary Leonard, dau of John and Sarah (Heath) Leonard.

**DEATH:** 19 Jun 1749 Springfield, Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts

**BIOGRAPHY:** In May 1671 an Indian was found guilty for breaking into Samuel Bliss' house on the Sabbath and stealing some wampum. His wife says it was in her own purse and the other part of it was an Indian woman's which she left with them and was in the woman's bag. The Indian admitted to taking the wampam and because the Indian did this on the Sabbath day and entered into the house he was sentenced to pay his spare coat plus all the wampum he had on him and also sentenced to be well whipped with 20 lashes.

Samuel Bliss was sworn in as constable on 19 Aug 1674. In 1690, John Crowfoote and John Buck were complained of for being drunk and being abusive in their carriage and also being out after the ten o'clock watch at night. When asked where they got the drink, John Crowfoote said, *"I had it of Old Samuel Bliss in Towne; Old Samuel Bliss that kept the Ordinary; I had it of him last Wednesday and paid him for it before I had it. I paid him in corne, a bushel of mislen wheat and rye he had of me for it, and at night I and John Buck drank some of it . . ."* Inasmuch as Bliss had no license to sell, he was ordered to come into court.

In 1693, Samuel's nephew Ebenezer Scot, was being disorderly and running away from Samuel Terry, his father-in-law (meaning his mother's husband.) Samuel Bliss was present at the court and consented to the plan that was laid out by the court for his nephew.

**CHILDREN:** of Samuel Bliss and Mary Leonard:

1. Hannah b. 1666
2. Thomas b. 1668
3. Mary b. 1670
4. Jonathan b. 1672
5. Martha b.1674
6. Sarah b.1677
7. Experience b. 1679
8. Mercy b. 1680
9. Ebenezer b. 1683
10. Margaret A. b. 1684

11. Esther b. 1688

**9. William Morgan:**

**BIRTH:** No known relationship with Miles Morgan.

**BIOGRAPHY:** In July 1660, William Morgan complained against John Earle for striking him with a bowl upon his face and nose and breaking his nose. William was awarded five shillings for the damage. William Morgan in 1661 testified that he saw Samuel Harmon thrust and tickle Jonathan Morgan (a son of Miles) and pluck him out of his seat and squeeze him and made him cry at sermon time last Sabbath. Samuel was fined for his behavior.

**10. Lawrence Bliss:** (-6 - 11) (Age 27 - 32 in 1655)

**BIRTH:** 1623/28 Son of Thomas Bliss and Margaret Hulins. His brother is Nathaniel and his mother is known on Springfield records as the Widow Margaret Bliss.

**MARRIAGE:** Lydia Wright, daughter of Samuel Wright and Margaret Stratton.

**DEATH:** 8 Nov 1676 at Springfield. His widow remarried John Norton in 1678.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Lawrence was a freeman in 1663.

**CHILD** of Lawrence Bliss and Lydia Wright: (There are probably others)

1. Samuel b. 1660/62

**11. Jeremy Horton:** (-22) (16 years of age in 1655)

**BIRTH:** abt. 1639 Jeremiah Horton, son of Thomas and Mary.

**MARRIAGE:** 3 Aug 1661 Ruth Ely; Mary Wright

**BIOGRAPHY:** Thomas Horton witnessed the Indian deed in 1636. His widow, Mary, was examined in 1640 for selling her husband's piece to the Indians. She made a marriage contract with Robert Ashley on 7 Aug 1641, reserving the rights of her son, Jarmy (Jeremiah) three years old and her other son, an infant. See Robert Ashley.

**12. James Taylor:**

**MARRIAGE:** 17 Jan. 1667/8 Mary Taylor daughter of Jonathan & Mary.

**DEATH:** 27 Oct. 1720.

**BIOGRAPHY:** 1 Feb 1654/55, he began his career in Springfield as a servant to John Pynchon. Taylor agreed to accept wages of £4.0.0 in lieu of John Pynchon's finding him clothes. Rented from Pynchon from 1667-1698; freeman; married by 1667; landless in 1685. A James Taylor drew a map on 6 June 1672 showing boundaries between Mass and Conn. There was much controversy at the time regarding the boundaries and the General Court ordered a map be drawn up. In 1679, James Taylor was the Marshal of Springfield.

**CHILDREN** of James Taylor and Mary Taylor:

1. Rebecca, b 1668; d 1668/9
2. James, b 1669; m Dorothy Rogers
3. Mary, b 1671; m John Petty
4. John, b 1672/3; d 1673
5. Samuel, b 26 Sept. 1674
6. Elizabeth, b 5 Jan. 1678; d. 1710
7. Jonathan, b 1679; m Sarah Knowlton
8. Ebenezer, b 1681; d. 1689
9. Thomas, b. 10 Jan. 1683/4, d 17 June 1703
10. Samuel, b 1686, m Ruth Smith & Joanna Smith
11. Rebecca, b 1689
13. **Edward Foster:**

**BIRTH:** from Scotland. Sons of Edward and Danaus Foster.

**MARRIAGE:** m 26 Dec. 1661 Hester Bliss, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Hullins Bliss; She d. 1683 and he married (2) Widow Sarah Miller (Thomas.) Sarah died in 1708.

**DEATH:** 22 Feb. 1719/20.

**BIOGRAPHY:** In 1650, Edmund Foster, alias Edward Foster of Barnett, was apprenticed to Elizur Holyoke by William Pynchon of Springfield for the term of nine years. Foster and his wife, Mary Bliss, performed manual labor for John Pynchon. He paid £53 for 36 contract years from 1667-1698. On 27 Mar 1668, John Pynchon let out to Edward Foster 4 acres of land in the Spring Bottom for 30s; and a home lot of 3 12 acres for three years. He also leased 5 acres on Black Pond, land over the river and 5 acres at Cold Spring Bottom.

In 1661, Edward was charged with playing cards with Jon Scot, John Bag, and Thomas Miller at John Henryson's house. They were caught in the act by William Brookes. John Henryson's wife, Martha, had a pack of cards that she brought from Hartford with her. Her husband said: "*they did play at cards at my house but I did not so well know the Law against it and I was willing to have recreation for my wife to drive away melancholy.*" All the players were fined five shillings; but John was fined 20 shillings for allowing that unlawful game of cards to be played in his house and Martha was fined five shillings for playing and another ten shillings for lying.

Edward and his wife Sarah deeded inhabitants of West Side of River, land for burying ground on road to Cold Spring. See deed B-221. His deed has no dates but was evidently drawn up before her death. It is acknowledged 29 Mar. 1711 and recorded 9 Apr. 1711.



#### 14. **John Sackett:**

**MARRIAGE:** Abigail Hannum on 3 Nov 1659 in Northhampton.

**BIOGRAPHY:** In 1661, John Sackett was fined forty shillings for selling liquor to the Indians and one hundred pounds for violating the law against trading for furs with the Indians. John Sackett pleads that those deer and bear skins were traded over a year ago and his fine was remitted; however, he is to behave himself in the future or these court records shall stand as a witness against him, to which he agreed. In 1679, John Sackett filed charges against James Sexton for beating and wounding his son, William Sackett. William was at the pound door and some of the hogs were in the pound. Sexton gave William three blows with his fist and took him by the throat and hindered him putting the rest of the hogs into the pound. In 1659, the Selectmen of the town complained that John Sackett had not kept his bargain to thatch the town barn.

**CHILD** of John Sackett and Abigail Hammum:

1. William

#### 15. **Josiah Chapin:**

**Son of Samuel and Cisely Chapin. Brother of Samuel who was b. at Springfield 1659. Cisely Chapin's will in 1683, mentions Josiah of Braintree, Mass..**

#### 16. **Abell Wright:**

**BIRTH:** son of John Wright and Jane Richall.

**MARRIAGE:** 1659 to Martha Kitcherell, daughter of Samuel and Martha Kitcherell. Martha's mother was the second wife of Anthony Dorchester. When Martha (1<sup>st</sup>) died, Anthony married Elizabeth Harmon, widow of John Harmon--of whom this book is about. In the settlement of Anthony's estate, it states: "Martha, wife of Abel Wright . . . claimed something for what her mother, the relict of Samuel Kitcherell, once of Hartford, brought to the late Anthony Dorchester." Book of Possessions states that Abel Wright is possessed of certain lands by grant of his "father-in-law" Anthony Dorchester. Abel's wife, Martha, was scalped 26 Jul 1708 and died 19 Oct 1708.

**DEATH:** 29 Oct 1725 in Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Served as a selectman for two terms; militia lieutenant and deputy to the General Court. Abell served on the inquest jury regarding the death of young Ebenezer Harmon who drowned in the brook.

Abel paid 56 L for 31 contract years of renting from John Pynchon between 1668-1686. On 25 Mar 1668, Abel Wright leased a "yoak of cattle" for £ annually, plus rates; five days later, John Pynchon :let out to hire to Abel Wright for three yeares that land at Skeepnuck which I lately (two days ago) took of Goodman Dorchester, namely the 4 acres of plowed up ground within the fence and also the meadow without the fence for £.18.0 annually for three years. Wright was given the first option to purchase the said land if he had the means to do so at the end of the

rental agreement. Wright held the lease for 18 years. He also leased from Pynchon, a bullock, a 5 ½ acre lot, another lot of undetermined size, and 1 ¾ acres near Round Hill. In 1668, Wright sold to Pynchon 40 acres of land at Ashkanucksit for £1. Wright was indebted to Pynchon in the 1680s for £93.5.7.

On 27 Dec 1674--the Sabbath--a child between 3 and 4 of Abell Wright's called Henry, came to its end. The inquest jury found that *"the child went out to a sled without the dors and indeavoring to get up upon the sled halfe loaden with wood, a log rowled downe on the child and the log falling on the childe which was a heavy log, the child thereby came to its end; the log lying upon the child when it was found dead."*

In 1693, Lieutenant Wright was chosen to represent Springfield in the Council of Freeholders.

CHILDREN: of Abel Wright and Martha Kitcherell:

1. Joseph md. Sarah Osborn
2. Martha md. Thomas Marlow
3. Abel md Rebecca Terry
4. Benjamin md Mary Chapin
5. Hannah md Joseph Sexton
6. Henry d. 1674
7. Sarah md Thomas Chapin
8. Mary md Nathaniel Bliss
9. Henry md Hannah Bliss
10. Samuel md Mary Case
11. Elizabeth d. 1683
12. John d. 1685
13. Elizabeth md Ebenezer Dewey

**17. Richard Maund:**

The only reference I find to Richard Maund is when he served as a witness to several indentures in 1650 along with Elizur Holyoke and Henry Smith and John Benham.

**18. John Riley:**

MARRIAGE: Margaret d. 22 Aug 1689.

DEATH: 24 Oct 1684

BIOGRAPHY: John Riley of Springfield was bound by Pynchon in the sum of twenty pounds

for his daughter Margarite's appearance at court (date not stated) *"to answer to her foul crime of fornication. The court being desirous to bear due Testimony against this Growing and provoking sin of whoredom and to restrain the like abhorend practices,"* ordered the offender to be whipped with fifteen lashes or pay a fine of four pounds. Roco, a Negro, being examined by Mr. Pynchon, acknowledged to him that he had *"upon said Riley's tempting him, had carnal knowledge of her body."* He was sentenced to fifteen lashes or a fine of three pounds. (This may have been John Pynchon's Negro, Roco, who married another Negro, Sue, on 1 Dec 1687) His daughter Margaret had an illegitimate daughter in 1680.

CHILDREN of John Riley and Margaret:

1. Margarite b. 1661; md. William Mack Cranney

2. Mary b. 1665; md. Joseph Ely

19. **Anthony Dorchester:**

**MARRIAGE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sarah \_\_\_\_; 2<sup>nd</sup> Martha Chapman Kitcherell, widow of Samuel; 3<sup>rd</sup> Elizabeth \_\_\_\_ Harmon, widow of John . . . subject of this book.

**DEATH:** Anthony d. 28 Aug 1683. Inventory presented 1683 by son John. Agreement made between sons John and James; grandchildren: Benjamin, dau Mary, wife of John Harmon; dau Sarah wife of Joseph Stebbins; and daughter-in-law Martha, (meaning daughter of his wife by a previous marriage) wife of Abel Wright, who claimed something for what her mother, the relict of Samuel Kitchell (Kitcherell), once of Hartford, brought to the late Anthony Dorchester.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Was in Windsor, CT 1644; removed to Springfield; proprietor 1649. Anthony was a miller, a ferrier, and a town officer. Dorchester leased John Pynchon's corn and saw mills for £3 annually. He only held the corn mill for one year, 1653; but in 1669 he leased it again, this time for a rental payment of £8. He held this lease until 1672 and possibly after that. He also leased oxen and 5 acres of land. He lost the oxen to John Pynchon for debts. In 1673, he leased the saw mill. Performed extensive tasks as teamster and laborer; carried corn, brought up goods from the foot of the falls; sawed, ferried, scoured the ditch, etc.

Anthony Dorchester, who with his wife, Martha, resided with the Hugh Parsons, testified during the witch trials that Parsons "never feared either to grieve or displease his wife any time." Dorchester declared that "I saw nothing Parsons did to comfort his wife, but he did often blame her that she did not throw corn." Also Hugh was angry because Mary Parsons helped Mrs. Dorchester without bringing any profit in for him. Parson's mistreatment of his wife went beyond requiring her to work in the fields while pregnant. He had many misdeeds and anti-social behaviors towards his neighbors. Meat mysteriously disappeared from Anthony Dorchester's kettle. (See Hugh Parsons)

Concerning the lower warfe, Anthony Dorchester was appointed and ordered to call the neighbors at ye lower end of towne together from Cornelius Williams to consider what may be advantageous and good for putting a gate on the warfe.

In the court records, we find Anthony serving as witness a few times; also he and Jonathan Taylor were charged with not being present on the Lecture Day (military) and he was fined. Widow Bliss complained that Dorchester's swine did damage to her Indian corn in 1653. On July 1, 1681---after he would have been married to my grandmother ancestor, Elizabeth Harmon---Anthony Dorchester saith "*That today about noon this Negroe came to his house asking for a pipe of tobacco which I told him there was some on the table. He took my knife and cut come and then put it in his pocket After that I took down a cutlass and offered to draw it, but it coming out stiff I closed in upon him and so bound him with the help of my wife and daughter. When he scrambling in his pocket I suspected he might have a knife and searching found my knife naked in his pocket which he would fain have got our but I prevented him and took it away.* The Negro was committed to prison. His name was Negro Jacke and he was in prison for two weeks.

Anthony Dorchester was a laborer of Springfield who performed many services for John Pynchon. He was a freeman of the Bay Colony. He was paid for carrying horses over (the River) for the Ausatin voyage: a journey to Ausatinnoag between 22 Mar 1660/61 and 29 Dec 1662. In 1669, at a meeting of selectmen, youthful indiscretions inside the meetinghouse was discussed. Miles Morgan and Jonathan Burt were ordered to sit in ye Gallery to give check to the disorders in youth and young men in tyme of Gods worship. Anthony Dorchester is to sit in ye Guard Seate for ye like end.

In 1673, Nathaniel Prichard made a complaint against Obediah Cooley saying that his dog and Goodman Dorchester's dog had killed a sheep. Dorchester promptly hanged his dog, but Cooley refused to do so until ordered by the court. Witnesses were Nathaniel Prichard and James Stevenson.

15 Apr 1674: At a town meeting it was decided to build a new meetinghouse and it was voted that Sergant Stebbins lot was selected as the place for which he was given four acres of land. The meeting house shall be fifty feet long, forty foote and a halfe wide and the house shall be under-pined with stone two foot and a half above ground. Built high enough to accommodate for galleries when the need arises. The committee or workmen included: Major Pynchon, Elizur Holyoke, Nathaniel Ely, Anthony Dorchester, and Jonathan Burt.

His first wife, Sarah, was buried 9 (9) 1649. His 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Martha, d. 1662. Anthony's 3<sup>rd</sup> wife was the widow, Elizabeth Harmon--widow of John of whom this book is about. She outlived him by 16 years.

CHILDREN: of Anthony Dorchester and Sarah: of Anthony and Martha Chapman Kitcherell

1. John b. 1644; md. Mary Harmon
  2. Mary b. 1645; md. John Harmon
  3. James b. 1648; md. Sarah Parsons
- 
1. Benjamin b. 1651; md. Sarah Burt
  2. Sarah b. 1653; md. Joseph Stebbins

3. Hester b. 1656; d. 1662 (7y)

**20. Francis Pepper:**

DEATH: Will dated 1685. At his death his estate was £55 of which £22 was in the form of labor credits he had earned working for John Pynchon. Beq. to cousins, Joseph, Samuel, Marah, Benjamin, and Jeremiah Northrop, who are specified in probate papers as living at Seaside, Connecticut.

BIOGRAPHY: Springfield proprietor 1645. Lived as a boarder in the Pynchon house. Began working for John Pynchon during the early 1650s. Pepper tended Pynchon's sheep; worked at the mill, did labor of various types. Later he rented one of Pynchon's farms. Francis Pepper, John Stebbins, and Mistress Smith engaged William Brookes to collect money owed them in 1653. Because Brookes did not do as he was supposed to do and instead defrauded them, he was committed to the custody of the Constable.

**21. John Horton: (-23) (Age 15 in 1655)**

BIRTH: Probably the infant son of Mary and Thomas for whom she reserved their rights when she made a marriage contract with Robert Ashley in 1641.

MARRIAGE: m Abigail Fisher, dau of Daniel.

BIOGRAPHY: John Horton, Thomas Thompson, and Samuel Holyoke were each fined or sentenced to be whipped on the naked body for profaning the Lord's Day by making a fray in the street in the evening about ½ hour after sunset. Had seat in boys' Seat in Church in 1663 and had gone away in 1690. He went to Dedham, Mass., wrote his name Holton,

**22. John Earle:**

John Earle struck William Morgan with a bowl upon his face and nose and broke his nose. He was taken to court and fined for damage to the bowl and also for behavior toward William Morgan.

ÉÉÉÉÉÉÉÉ

**IX**

**Refusal to Take Oath Again (1655)**

nd these underwritten did the same day before the Company affirme that they did on a Training day some yeeres past vizt, while Mr. William Pynchon was here in the Countrey, take this oath of fidelity, though their names be not on record; and therefore they were not willing to take the oath agayne: The persons were:

*John Dumbleton, Nathaniel Prichard, Symon Bemon, Thomas Miller*

**1. John Dumbleton:**

MARRIAGE: Mercy

John d 27 July 1702. Widow Mercy d 4 July 1704.

**BIOGRAPHY:** John Dumbleton served on the jury several times; was a corporal in the military and a freeman. Served as a selectman for 16 terms. Rented from Pynchons for many years: 1652-1692. In Feb 1672/3, John Dumbleton Jr. was admonished for his uncivil, immodest, and beastly acting. His companions, Samuel Terry, Timothy Cooper, John Holtum, and Isack Morgan; Samuel Taylor, Benjamin Leonard, Thomas Miller, and Benjamin Dunnidge all received fines. Young Goodman Dumbleton (John Jr.) & two sons of Goodman Brooks (William & John) were killed by Indians at Westfield, Mass. 27 Oct. 1675.

**CHILDREN** of John Dumbleton and Mercy:

- 1, John, b 1650; m Lydia Leonard
  2. Mercy b 1652; m Samuel Bodurtha
  3. Sarah b 1654; m Josiah Leonard
  4. Samuel b 1657; d 1657
  5. Samuel b 1658
  6. Lydia b 1661; m Jonathan Burt & Daniel Cooley
  7. Nathaniel b 1664; m Hannah Allin
  8. Rebecca, b 1667; m Joseph Leonard
  9. Mary, m Joseph Bodurtha
  10. Elizabeth, m Nathaniel Burt
  11. Hannah, m Thomas Merrick Jr.
2. **Thomas Miller:** (See Obadiah Miller--brother of Thomas)

**MARRIAGE:** Sarah Marshfield in 1649. She was the sister of Samuel.

**DEATH:** Thomas Miller killed by Indians 5 Oct. 1675 at burning of Springfield. His widow md. Edward Foster.

**BIOGRAPHY:** In 1650 Thomas Miller received fifteen lashes for breach of the peace in striking an Indian with the butt end of his gun. However, Miller avoided the whipping by paying down four fathoms of wampum (beads made of shells strung together and used by the Indians for money or ornaments.)

There was a court appearance on Nov 30, 1659 when John Henryson complained against Thomas Miller for detaining a cart from him which he claimed he had a right to. Thomas struck John in the mouth making it bleed; used reproachful speeches calling him Scottish dog; etc. John Henryson threatened Miller that either he or Thomas Miller should die before he should have the cart. Both were fined and put under a bond of good behavior; but since they became

reconciled to each other, the bond was not required.

May 9, 1660 Thomas Miller complained against certain Indians that came to his house and scared his wife and children by throwing sticks at them. One of the Indians struck his wife on the head with his fist and she fell down with the blow. Thomas laid hold on the Indian and another Indian laid hold on Thomas- and struck diverse blows while he and the Indian were struggling. The Indians were pursued and some caught and returned to be fined in wampam. (Beads) Thomas Miller was one of several apprehended for playing cards. (See Edward Foster)

On the west side of the Connecticut River in 1652, there was a grant to Thomas Miller: "*that vacant parcel of planting ground over the great river by the higher wigwam, provided he bee not an occasion of troble and disturbance to the Plantation by an unwise clashing with the Indians; if so, he shall forfeit the sayd land into the Towne hands.*"

CHILDREN of Thomas Miller and Sarah Marshfield:

1. Sarah, b 1650; m Jonathan Ball
2. Thomas, b 1653; m Rebecca Leonard
3. Samuel, b 1655; m Ruth Beamon & Widow Katherine Halliday
4. John, b 1657; m Mary Beamon
5. Joseph, b & d 1659
6. Josias, b & d 1660
7. Deborah, b 1662; m James Gerald
8. Martha, b & d 1664
9. Martha, b 1665; m John Ferry
10. Ebenezer, b 1667; m Hannah Keep
11. Mehitable, b 1669; m John Clemens
12. Joseph, b & d 1671
13. Experience, b 1673; m Samuel Frost

### 3. **Nathaniel Prichard:**

BIRTH: son of Roger and Frances Prichard

MARRIAGE: (1) Hannah Lancton; (2) Hannah (or Elizabeth) Davis, widow of Samuel of Northampton

DEATH: Left Springfield shortly after 1691/92.

BIOGRAPHY: Nathaniel Prichard's land adjoins that of John Harmon and Nathaniel Bliss. It was in Nathaniel Prichard's yard that young Ebenezer Harmon, age 3, was found dead in the

brook. An inquest jury found the cause of death to be by the child's own weakness and not the act of any other person. In 1673, Nathaniel Prichard made a complaint against Obediah Cooley saying that his dog and Goodman Dorchester's dog had killed a sheep. Dorchester promptly hanged his dog, but Cooley refused to do so until ordered by the court. Witnesses were Nathaniel Prichard and James Stevenson.

CHILD of Nathaniel Prichard and ?:

Joseph b. 1691/92

#### 4. **Symon Bemon:**

MARRIAGE: Alice Young in 1654.

DEATH: 1675

BIOGRAPHY: Began his career in Springfield as a servant to Pynchon; teamster; made seven voyages down the falls in 1655. Lost ten acres to Pynchon for debts; also lost his cow and had to rent it from Pynchon for 20s yearly. In 1650 Henry Smith took the evidence of Symon Beamon, a Pynchon servant, on 20 May. This testimony and related testimony of Jonathan Taylor were accusations regarding Hugh Parsons witchcraft. A deposition by Symon Beamon, quondam (means former) Pynchon servant, made Sept 19, 1656 in Parsons vs Bridgeman, relates that "*about the time that witches were apprehended to be sent to Boston, Mr. Moxon's children were taken ill with fits (which we took to be bewitched.)*" Simon Beamon swears on April 17, 1661 that on the Lord's day he saw Joseph Leonard come to Samuel Harmon at the meetinghouse dore and beate off his hat and then run away and afterward came to him again and offered to kick at him and run away and then Samuel Harmon ran after him. Hannah Chapin saith that she saw Joseph Leonard one Sabbath day and Samuel Harmon whip and whisk one another with a stick before the meetinghouse in sermon time. Joseph Leonard was fined for his misdemeanor on the Sabbath.

CHILDREN of Symon Bemon and Alice Young:

1. Simon; m Hannah Barnard Westcarr
2. John, b 1657, m Abigail Eggleston
3. Daniel b 1659; d 1741
4. Thomas b & d 1660
5. Josiah, b 1662, m Martha ? & Lydia Warner
6. Benjamin, b.1781; m Hannah Huggins
7. Samuel, m Margaret.
8. Mehitable, d 1670
9. Daughter, b 1675



10 Abigail, m Obadiah Baldwin

11. Alice, m Nathaniel Baldwin

12. Ruth, m Samuel Miller

13. Mary, m John Miller