

Early Settlers of Eastham
by Joseph Parise of Harwich
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house is pointed out, and stone monuments erected by him are to be seen upon land he formerly owned and occupied. Mr Pratt, in his history of Eastham, published in 1844, says Mr. Doane "took possession of about two hundred acres" in the vicinity, and that his house stood "near the water, and the remains of the cellar" were then visible.

Rev. Mr. Pratt says, Mr. Doane "was forty-nine years old when he came here, and lived sixty years afterwards, being one hundred and ten years old when he died, in 1707." Upon what authority he makes the statements we do not know, but it is clearly evident they are unreliable. Mr. Doane, May 18, 1678, declared his age to be "88 or thereabouts," which shows he was born about 1590. Consequently, in 1645, when he came to Eastham, he was not far from fifty-five years of age. Mr. Doane, it is certain, died in 1686, having lived here about forty-one years, and not sixty-four, as Mr. Pratt has it. If Mr. Doane's statement made in 1678 is reliable, at his death in 1686 he was about ninety-six years of age. Tradition, says Mr. Pratt, in 1844, has it, "that he was rocked in a cradle several of his last years."

He made his will May 18, 1678. It was presented to probate June 2, 1686. His wife mentioned was Abigail. Whether she was the mother of his children or not, the writer has not been able to ascertain satisfactorily. They, too, were undoubtedly interred in the old cemetery at Eastham. No correct record of the children of Mr. John Doane appears; but it is certain he had Abigail, Lydia, John, Daniel and Ephraim. From these three sons have descended the Doanes of the Cape, Connecticut, Ohio, and of other places in the United States.

EDWARD BANGS.

Edward Bangs, one of the seven who began the settlement at Naussett in 1645, came over from England in the Ann in 1623, a fellow passenger with Nicholas Snow, whom we have already noticed. At this period he was about thirty-two years of age, but whether a married or single man is not positively known. In the beginning of the year 1624, it having been decided to allow each person who came over in the first three ships, one

acre apiece to be laid out near the settlement as possible, for planting land, which each was to use for seven years, the records show that "Bangs" was assigned four acres "towards Eel River," while Nicholas Snow was allowed the use of one acre. From this fact, it has been supposed Mr. Bangs was a married man with children at this early date. Mr. Bangs is mentioned in the records as being of John Jenney's company, which numbered thirteen persons, and to which "the twelfth lot" of cattle fell at the division, May 22, 1627. To this company "fell," says the record, "the great white back cow, which was brought over with the first in the Ann." Both Bradford and Morton say the first neat cattle were brought over in the year 1624.

It having been decided at a court, Jan. 3rd, 1627-8, to allow every person twenty acres of land, besides the land each person had already, and Mr. Bangs, with Gov. Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Howland, Francis Cook and Joshua Pratt, was chosen with instructions to lay out the land near the water on both sides of the settlement, and to lay the lots out "5 acres in breadth by the water side, and 4 acres in length." These twenty acres laid out for each person were for tillage. At this period, no meadow ground had been divided in Plymouth. Each year the planters were shown where to cut their hay and how much, by men appointed. They now continued the same rules relative to this matter, which were satisfactory.

Mr. Bangs was a tax payer in Plymouth, March 25, 1633, and his tax is put down as twelve shillings. The same year, with Mr. John Doane, he was appointed to divide meadow, and in 1634, with Nicholas Snow and others, to lay out roads at Plymouth. In 1634 and 1635, he was one of the assessors of Plymouth. In 1637, "for Eel River" he was appointed one of the committee to view the hay ground and assist in laying it out. Among others appointed with him were Mr. Wm. Brewster, Mr. Stephen Hopkins, Mr. John Doane of Plymouth, and Jonathan Brewster of Duxbury. He was one of the grand jury the same year, also in 1638 and 1640. In 1639, he was an arbitrator to settle a case between Samuel Gorton and Thomas Clark. In 1642, he was employed to superintend the building of a barque at Plymouth, to which he

contributed one-sixteenth part of the amount raised for its construction. This vessel is supposed to have been the first built in the Colony.

Mr. Bangs was the first treasurer of Eastham, after the settlement in 1645. He was a surveyor of highways in 1647, 1650 and 1651, and perhaps a deputy to the court in 1652, which year he was also of the Grand Inquest. In 1657, he was allowed "to draw wine" and strong water at Eastham, with instructions not to sell to the Indians. In 1658, he agreed to find "2 horses and 2 men for the country's service," upon the town providing "sufficient furniture for them." In 1659, he "promised freely" to find "a man and horse with complete furniture, for the term of one year for the country's service." Upon an order of the court to appoint overseers of the poor, with Nicholas Snow and Richard Higgins, he was appointed for Eastham in 1659. After this he took but little interest in public matters.

Whether Mr. Bangs was more than once married, it is impossible to determine. His wife, in 1651, was called Rebecca. If she were his only wife, she was a daughter of Robert Hicks, who died at Scituate in 1647, as he mentions his grandson, John Bangs, in his will, which would indicate that John Bangs' mother was a daughter, and that she had been or was the wife of Edward Bangs.

Mr. Bangs died at Eastham, about the last of February in the year 1677-8, at the age of about 86 years, leaving no wife. His will, a lengthy document, in which he makes known his age, bears date Oct. 19, 1677. It was presented for proof at Plymouth, March 5, 1677-8, Mr. John Freeman and Mr. Thomas Crosby upon oath, testifying as to its being his last will. Mr. Bangs' younger son, Jonathan, was appointed the "whole and sole executor," who, it would appear, was somewhat of a favorite with his father, from whose hands he received a good share of his landed estate, which was considerable, he having been of that favored number called "Purchasers or Old Comers." Mr. Bangs undoubtedly resided with Jonathan the last years of his life.

The children of Edward Bangs, as far as can be ascertained, were John, Joshua, Jonathan, Rebecca, Sarah, Lydia, Hannah,

Bethiah, Apphia and Mercy. John and Joshua were married but left no descendants. Jonathan settled finally in Harwich, where he died in 1728. He had three wives and twelve children. From him have descended all the Bangses in the United States, it is supposed. He was a prominent man in his day, and died at the age of 88. From his daughter, Tamsin Burgess, descended that distinguished orator, the late Tristram Burgess of Providence.

JOSIAH COOKE.

Josiah Cooke was born in England in or about the year 1610, and it appears was a servant to some one of the early planters of Plymouth during his minority. The first notice of him that appears upon the records is under the date of Jan. 2, 1633-4, when he and Edward Dowty were before the court at Plymouth to answer for a breach of the peace in having a fracas, in which Mr. Cooke was roughly handled. They were both amerced in the sum of six shillings, although "Dowty drew blood from sd Josias." Dowty had been the servant of Mr. Stephen Hopkins, and was one of those who came over in the Mayflower. He seems to have been a very passionate man, and fond of settling difficulties without due recourse to law. Between Dowty and Easter, the first duel in New England was fought. Easter was also a servant of Mr. Hopkins. They fought with sword and dagger, and both were wounded. This occurred June 15, 1622. They were both punished for the offence, but not so severely as was intended, on account of their master's humble plea in their behalf, and they promised to reform, after being tied head and foot an hour.

In 1638, Mr. Cooke was living in Plymouth, and had forty acres of land granted him on the north side of Fresh lake and also made a purchase of land of Mr. Stephen Hopkins. He was this year one of the grand jurors, and one of those appointed to examine into the cause of the death of John England. In 1640, he was surveyor for Plymouth, and in 1641 and 1642, constable. In 1645 he went to Nausett, and in 1647 was a deputy to the Colony court from that place. He was a deputy or representative in 1651, 1652, 1658, 1659, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1666 and 1671. In 1648, he was surveyor at Nausett, and that year appointed to

sell wine, and to be a "Register Keeper." Mr. Cooke was a grand juror for Eastham in 1656, and a selectman in 1666 and 1671. In 1664 he was appointed to solemnize marriages in Eastham, succeeding Mr. John Doane. He was one of the Colonial auditors in 1659 and 1661. He was one of the five chosen by the town of Eastham "to survey all the lands granted or laid out to the several inhabitants of the township" in 1659. As Mr. Cooke was not one of those called Purchasers or Old Comers, he was often favored by special grants from the court, of land in various parts of the Colony, upon his application. In 1658, with Mr. John Doane, Richard Higgins, Richard Sparrow and John Smalley, he had land granted between Bridgewater and Weymouth. In 1662, as one of the old servants, he had land allowed him. In 1665, he had a large tract granted him at Eastham, in that part now South Orleans but then known as Pottommequot, which he purchased of the Indians the same year, and in 1669 exchanged it for land in another part of the town, with Major John Freeman. It was upon this tract the first settlement in this part of Eastham was attempted.

He married, September 16, 1635, Mrs. Elizabeth Deane, widow of Stephen Deane, an early resident of Plymouth, who came in the Ann, in 1623, and had Ann, who married Mark Snow; Josiah, who married Deborah Hopkins, and Bethiah, who married Joseph Harding. He died, say Eastham records, Oct. 17, 1673. His widow survived him several years. His will was exhibited at Plymouth court for probate, Oct. 29th, and letters testamentary were issued to Wid. Elizabeth. The widow, by her former husband, Stephen Deane, had several children, among whom were Elizabeth, who married Wm. Twinning, the first of the name in Eastham; Susannah, who married Joseph Rogers and Stephen Snow, and Miriam, who when aged, married John Wing, Sen. of Harwich. It is quite certain that Mrs. Cooke was somewhat older than her last husband.

Mr. Cooke was a very energetic man, and appears to have given much more attention to material things than his compeers in the early settlement of the place. He was an impulsive man, and often in imbroglios with some of his worldly neighbors of

impetuous temperaments. Some notice of his cases of litigation are upon record. They are principally of a defamatory character, and show unmistakably that Mr. Cooke had some very implacable neighbors, who delighted in giving him trouble, not caring whether their slanderous charges could be sustained or not. The many public positions he held in town from the settlement in 1645 to his death in 1673, show that he was a man that the majority of his townsmen had confidence in and respected. Of the religious life of Mr. Cooke we have nothing positive. It is inferred he was a member of the church.

RICHARD HIGGINS.

Richard Higgins was in Plymouth in 1633, and is mentioned as being one of the freemen and tax payers of that town, his rate being nine shillings. He was a tailor by trade, and married Lydia Chandler, daughter of Edmund of Scituate for his first wife, Dec. 11, 1634. He purchased of John Barnes of Plymouth, the 13th day of January following, the twenty acres of land and dwelling house on it, belonging formerly to Edward Holman, and doubtless at once commenced business, as by record on April following, he is mentioned as having had bound to him, Samuel Godbarson, as an apprentice. In 1639, with Josiah Cooke, he had land granted him at Plymouth. In 1644, he was of the grand inquest and then a resident of Plymouth.

In 1645, he went to Nausett, with the other pioneers, and in 1647, with Josiah Cooke was sent to the Colony court at Plymouth, as representative, or deputy as they were at that time called. He was again chosen to represent Eastham at the same court in 1653, 1655, 1657, 1658, 1660 and 1665, according to the Colonial records. In 1651, he was a surveyor for Eastham, and in 1666 and 1668 a selectman. He was one of the first overseers of the poor appointed by Eastham in 1658, and one of those this year who agreed with the town to furnish men and equipment for "the troop of horse." He agreed to furnish "one man and a horse for the country's service," upon condition the town furnished the "furniture," so long as he was able.

At different periods, while a resident in the Colony, he had