

Vital Statistics

Marblehead

Marriages

KNOTT, Richard (-1684) & Hannah (DEVEREUX) [GREENFIELD], w Peter, m/3 Joseph SOUTH
by 1689; ca 1674?, aft 1672, ca 1672; Marblehead

KNOTT Hannah, and ——— Sweat, [bet. 1687 and 1716.]

GRINFEILD (Greenfeild)

Anna, and Robert Houper, Dec. 4, 1684.

KNOTT

Elenor, and Thomas Martin, Apr. 28, 1702

GREENFEILD (Grinfeild)

Hannah, and William Poat, sr., Oct. 4, 1688.

Margaret, and Elias Henly, July 21, 1686.

SWEATT (Swett)

Joseph, and Marthy Stacey, Sept. 13, 1725.

POAT (Pote)

William, sr., and Ann Hooper, Aug. 7, 1689.

The New England historical and genealogical register, Volume 74

By Henry Fitz-Gilbert Waters, New England Historic Genealogical Society

1920]

Descendants of John Devereux

115

iv. **HANNAH, m. (1) PETER GREENFIELD, b. in 1633; m. (2) RICHARD KNOTT, surgeon, who d. in 1684; m. (3) at Marblehead, 8 May 1708, JOHN SWETT. Children, all by second husband and all bapt. at Marblehead: 1. *Richard*, bapt. 19 June 1687. 2. *Hannah*, bapt. 19 June 1687. 3. *Elizabeth*, bapt. 18 Sept. 1687. 4. *Eleanor*, b. in 1683; bapt. 19 June 1687; m. at Marblehead, 28 Apr. 1701, Thomas Martin, b. about 1675, d. before 22 Jan. 1759.†**

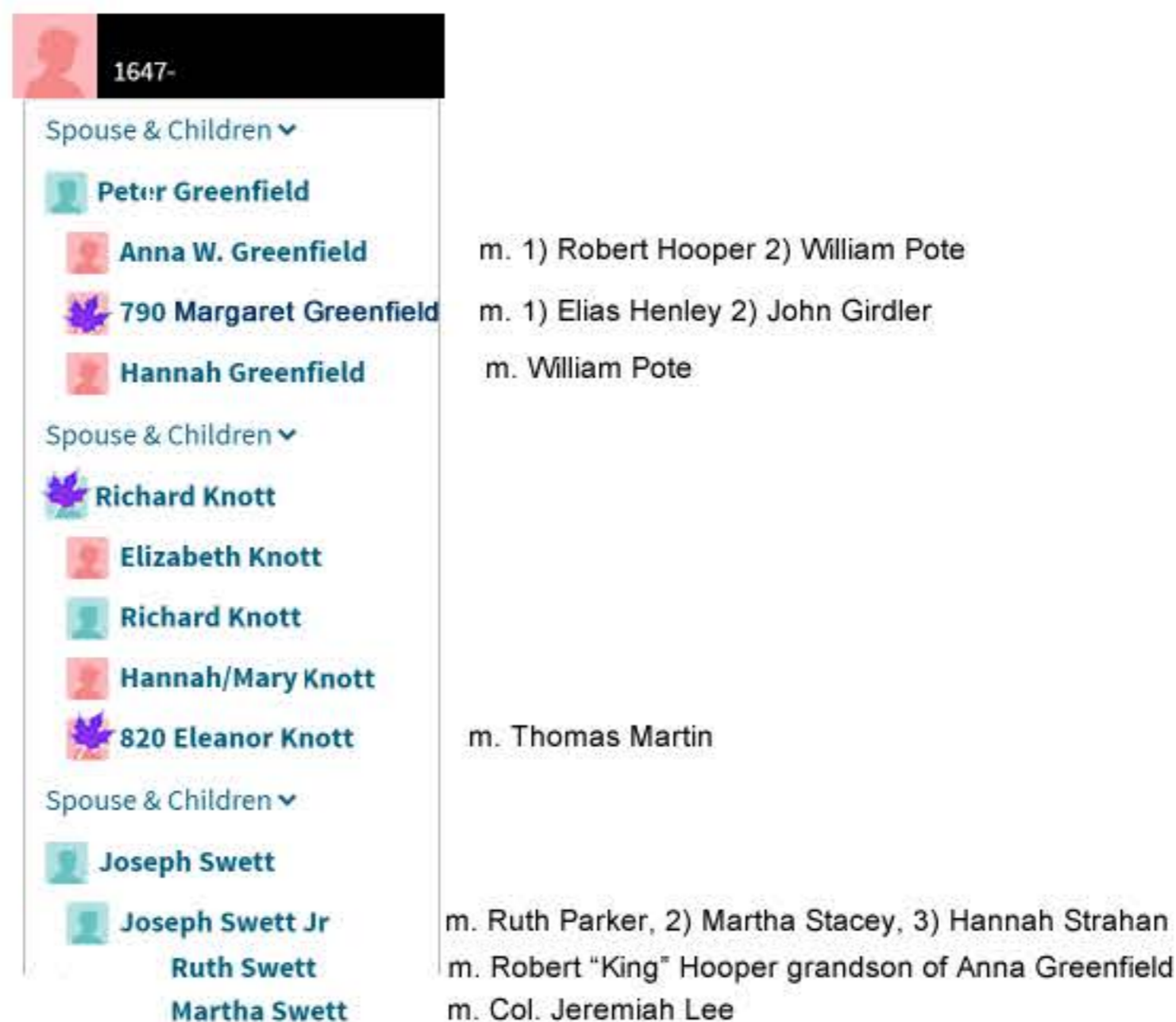
Citation Information:

The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III (Online database: NewEnglandAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002), (Orig. Pub. New England Historic Genealogical Society. Robert Charles Anderson, The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III, 3 vols., 1995).

JOHN DEVEREUX

i **HANNAH**, b. say 1645; m. (1) Peter Greenfield (his probate 29 November 1672 administratrix widow Hannah [EPR Case #11718]); m. (2) Richard Knott (administration on Knott's estate granted to widow Hannah and her father, Mr. John Devereux, December Term, 1683 [EQC 9:151]); m. (3) after December 1683 Joseph Swett [EQC 9:151].

The Primary-Family Tree of Hannah Devereux and Her Three Husbands



Citation Information:

The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III (Online database: NewEnglandAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002), (Orig. Pub. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Robert Charles Anderson, The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III, 3 vols., 1995).

JOHN DEVEREUX

ORIGIN: Unknown
MIGRATION: 1630
FIRST RESIDENCE: Salem
REMOVES: Marblehead 1637

OCCUPATION: Fisherman and fish processor.

Devereux was sued on two counts by William Keene of Marblehead at the January Term 1641/2 regarding the mackerel to be divided between Devereux and Edward Clark [[EQC 1:31](#)]. At the March Term, 1651, John Devereux sued Mr. Valentine Hill for expenses amounting to more than £178 incurred on a fishing voyage to Munhegan in Maine [[EQC 1:214](#)]. A long and difficult case, the depositions of many men were entered in the file, providing a rich and varied description of fishing practices in this early period, from paying for the bread Goody Knight baked for the fishermen to the meeting at Mr. Hill's house in Boston where Hill "importuned him [Devereux] to go to Munhigon with his men" [[EQC 1:214-17](#); 221; 232; 325; 2:338]. The case was appealed to the Court of Assistants [[EQC 1:233](#)]. We learn more about his fishing business from a June Term, 1661, case in which the Nicholsons sued John over fish delivered in 1660 [[EQC 2:290-1](#)]. Wife Ann delivered receipts "with her own hands" and deposed to that effect [[EQC 2:291](#)]. When John Bartol of Marblehead died, he owed John Devereux £2 9s. in fish [[EQC 3:257](#), June Term, 1665]. Major William Hathorn left a fish rack in the hands of John Devereux in the fall of 1666 [[EQC 3:378](#)]. At the November Term, 1672,

John Devereux, aged about fifty-five, deposed that he had built John Codner's stage about twenty years ago [[EQC 5:110](#)].

EDUCATION: Supposedly signed his name to several court documents, but made his mark to documents after June 1680 and to his will.

OFFICES:

Essex grand jury, 27 September 1660, 25 June 1661 (apparently failed to show up and was fined), 26 November 1678, 24 June 1679 [[EQC 2:250](#), 281, 300, 7:106, 195].

Petit jury, 24 November 1663, June 1672, 26 November 1672 [[EQC 3:102](#), 5:76, 107, 126]. Coroner's jury, November Term 1665, that met at his house to view the bodies of two men shipwrecked from the ketch *Phenix*, and March Term 1669, on the body of Marie the little daughter of Mr. Christopher Lattimore who drowned in a well [[EQC 3:296](#), 4:211].

Selectman of Marblehead in 1667, 1668, 1671 [[EQC 4:251](#); 276, 378].

Sworn constable of Marblehead, November 1657 [[EQC 2:59](#)].

ESTATE: He was granted half an acre for a Salem house lot 8 November 1637 [[STR 1:59](#)] and received ten acres there [[STR 1:25](#)], but was rated as an inhabitant at Marblehead that same year [[STR 1:63](#)]. He was granted half an acre of marsh on 25 December 1637, with a household of two [[STR 1:102](#)].

On 1 July 1659 John Devereux of Marblehead, "fisherman," purchased from Charles Gott of Wenham, attorney for Mr. Hugh Peters, sometime pastor of the church at Salem, three hundred and fifty acres of neck or meadow in Marblehead [[ELR 1:63](#)].

He was stinted two cows in his access to the commons, 10 April 1671 [[EQC 5:279](#)]. On 22 July 1678, John "Deverix of Marblehead Senr. with the free consent of Ann his wife" sold to Vinson Stilson Jr. a quarter acre in Marblehead [[ELR 6:10](#)]. On 5 November 1692, John and Ann Devereux sold one and a quarter acre of land and "rock" in Marblehead to John Waldron Sr. of Marblehead, anchorsmith [[ELR 9:105](#)].

John had one-eighth part of a windmill at Marblehead that was in controversy at the June Term, 1680 [[EQC 7:384-5](#)].

In his will, dated 4 September 1693 and proved 20 May 1695, John Devereux of Marblehead, yeoman, bequeathed to son Robert Devereux 300 acres with my now dwelling house and barn; to "my son Robert's son Joseph" when he is 21 twenty acres out of my son Robert's land lying next to Marblehead common, entailed; to the "three sons of my son Humphry Deverix deceased," John, Humphrey and Ralph Devereux, one-third part of my land when they are 21, entailed; Elizabeth Devereux "mother of these three sons John Humphry and Ralph" shall have nothing to do with the house or land or ever live on them at any time; to "my son Humphry's two daughters Elizabeth and Ann," £5 each; to "my son John deceased his three daughters Sarah, Susanah and Ann" £40 or 12 acres each when they are of age; to "my daughter Hannah Swett" £20 to her and her children that "she had by Knott"; to "my daughter Ann Nichols" and her children £20; to "my grandchild John Boason the house his mother now lives in", with appurtenances, his mother to hold it during her life, entailed; to "my daughter Bethia Bartlet" and her children £20 and the land her house stands on, entailed; to "my daughter Em Peach" and her children £60 or 20 acres of land; to my "dear and loving wife Ann Devereux," executrix with life estate in lands and household goods at her dispose; land in Dunstable to be sold to pay debts [[EPR Case #7614](#)].

The inventory of "John Deverix Senr." of Marblehead was brought to court 25 March 1712 and consisted of only "a thirty acre grant" valued at £25 [[EPR 310:419-20](#)].

A just claim by Elizabeth Barker of Deptford, England, daughter of Rev. Hugh Peters of Salem, prevented the passing of most of the estate as expressed in John's will, and his "only surviving son Robert" attempted to settle things as best he could as administrator *cum testamento annexo* [[EPR Case #7614](#)]. In the light of Barker's successful claim, Robert Devereux called together his brothers-in-law, sisters and their heirs to consider what was to be done to support their mother "in her old age." In March 1703/4 at the Marblehead house of Dr. Jackson, Robert Devereux met with "Joseph and Hannah Swett his wife, Anne Nichol, Bethia Bartlet, the said Hanah, Anna & Bethiah being three of the daughters of John Devouraux of Marblehead deceased, William Peach who married with Mm Devouraux one of the daughters as aforesaid and Joseph Abbet who married with Sarah Devouraux, granddaughter to said John Devouraux deceased," and discussed the tragedy of their loss [[ELR 18:174](#)].

BIRTH: Between 1614 and 1621 (deposed aged fifty years March 1669 [[EQC 4:114](#)]; but still aged fifty years November 1670 [[EQC 4:313](#)]; aged about fifty-five years November 1672 [[EQC 5:110](#)]; aged about sixty years 29 March 1675 [[EQC 6:19](#)]; aged about sixty-four years probably in June 1679 [undated, [EQC 7:200](#)]; aged about sixty on 19 September 1681 [[EQC 8:180](#)]; aged about seventy years June 1684 [[EQC 9:241](#)]).

DEATH: Marblehead between 24 December 1694 (deposition [[ELR 11:131](#)]) and 20 May 1695 (probate of will).

MARRIAGE: Almost certainly by 1645, and certainly by 3 September 1657 [[EQC 2:74](#)]. Ann _____; born about 1621 (deposed aged about forty-three for June 1664 court [[EQC3:158](#)]; deposed aged forty-six in June 1667 [[EQC 3:414](#)]; aged fifty-four on 29 March 1675 [[EQC 6:19](#)]; aged about sixty years June, 1684 [[EQC 9:241](#)]); died on or shortly after 26 April 1708 (she is described as "not being dead above three months" on 26 July 1708 [[EPR Case #7614](#)]). (Mary Walton Ferris collected nine different clues that indicate that Ann was closely related, perhaps sister, to Margaret, wife of John Bennett [[Daves-Gates 2:293-94](#)].)

ASSOCIATIONS: In depositions at the March Term, 1675, John and Ann described lodging Christopher Codner and his master, Joseph Emmons, cordwainer, at their house [[EQC 6:19](#)]. They were well enough acquainted that Ann could depose at the June Term, 1679, that Christopher was "twenty-one years old the latter end of September last past" [[EQC 7:225](#)]. Her knowledge of Christopher's age probably came from the fact that John Devereux and Christopher Lattimore were feoffees in trust for Christopher and Joane, children of the late Christopher Codner of Marblehead [[ELR 2:31](#)]. Young Christopher acknowledged that he had received full possession of his house and land in Marblehead from John "Deverix Sr." and Richard Knott, at his majority 15 August 1679 [[ELR 6:127](#)].

The Devereuxs were well acquainted with John Bennett, and testified in June 1684 that "Bennett built the house and lived in it and died there and was buried from there. Mary, mother of Jone Boobee, had enjoyed the house twenty-seven years. Also that Jone, wife of Joseph Boobee is the reputed daughter of Christopher Codner which he had by Mary, daughter of John Bennett" [[EQC 9:241](#)]. John and Ann deposed that Mary, wife of Christopher Codner, lived many years with Richard Downing as his wife and had many children by him... [[EQC 9:265](#), June Term, 1685].

COMMENTS: John Devereux "undertook to pay" the fines of Marmaduke Barton and Robert Allen who, at that same term of court, were convicted of receiving stolen silver and sentenced to be whipped on lecture day and Allen was ordered to serve his master, Mr. Williams, for an extra month. The connection that the two young offenders had to John Devereux is not immediately apparent [[EQC 1:35](#)].

Throughout his life, John Devereux was in and out of court regarding suits for debts related to his business [[EQC 1:42](#), 45, 320, 348, 409, 2:306, 4:414, 7:419]. In the estate inventories of many of his customers and suppliers, he appeared with debts or credits [[EQC 1:106-7](#), 5:211, 6:308].

He was a debtor to the estate of George Pollard in September 1646 and the estate was, in turn, indebted to him for "diet for two years and a quarter," £17 12s. [[EQC 1:106](#); 107]. At November Term 1655 John sued Samuel Yew "For killing his cow by the falling of a tree in the commons" [[EQC 1:409](#)]. Capt. James Smith had a writ served on John Devereux for slander, 29 September 1670 [[EQC 4:324](#)].

Devereux took the stand in many cases over the years, often giving his age. John Devereux and Sarah Allen were witnesses when John Peach Sr. was fined 20s. for "giving Trustrum Dolliver opprobrious provoking words urging to a breach of the peace" [[EQC1:49](#)].

At July Term, 1645, John was a witness in the case against his neighbors Walter Price, William Browne and Samuel Archer for selling wine without a license [[EQC 1:83](#)].

He was again a witness at the February Term, 1645/6, when John Bartall was charged with working on the Sabbath [[EQC 1:93](#)].

John, aged fifty, deposed regarding the will of Susannah Pitts of Marblehead, November Term, 1670 [[EQC 4:313](#)].

John Devereux testified to the death of Mary Downing "last winter" at the June Term, 1684 [[EQC 9:241](#)].

He appraised the estates of several of his neighbors [[EQC 2:259](#), 5:56] and once served as an administrator [[EQC 3:136](#)].

John was appointed and discharged as one of two feoffees in trust for the Codner children [[EQC 3:295](#), November Term, 1665].

Devereux contributed to the effort to build the new prison at Salem in late 1669 and was paid £4 5s. for felling 17 trees and dragging them to the water's edge [[EQC 4:213](#)].

In March 1669 John, aged fifty years, deposed that he was asked to witness an offer of bedding by Richard Rowland to Mr. Moses Maverick in April 1667, and that Maverick refused it [[EQC4:114](#)].

Despite his good works, he was a boisterous and sometimes violent neighbor. At the December Term, 1643, Devereux was fined a modest 40s. for striking Henry Stacy "in his own house" [[EQC 1:58](#)].

John Devereux and nine other men, including the contentious William Keene, were fined for drinking wine, "etc." at the January Term, 1644/5 [[EQC1:77](#)].

John Devereux was sued for debt by Thomas Gray of Marblehead over merchantable and refuse fish at the July Term, 1647 [[EQC 1:116](#)]. The resolution of the case must not have been acceptable, for at the March Term, 1647/8, John Devereux of Marblehead was fined for fighting with Thomas Gray, "Also for breaking his face," as described by the witnesses, "Walsingum" Chilson and John Spark [[EQC 1:135](#)].

At the November Term, 1651, John sued Peter Pitford of Marblehead for defamation, claiming that Pitford often threatened him "whereby he went in fear of him" [[EQC 1:243](#)]. Perhaps he had reason to worry, for Pitford lived contentiously and was presented for striking Joseph Rogers "several blows with his fist" some years later [[EQC 1:324](#)].

John Devereux's wife Ann was a good match in many ways. At the July Term, 1644, we presume it was Ann Devereux who was called "Goody," indicating her husband's modest social standing. In this case, both John and Ann deposed regarding Alice Peach, wife of John Peach, Jr., defaming John Bartoll and his wife Alice, and Ann called John Peach a "wittall" [[EQC 1:62](#)].

She witnessed the 3 September 1657 agreement between Mr. William Paine of Ipswich, merchant, and William Beale of Marblehead, miller. When the arrangement went sour, "Anne Devorex" was called to depose about it at the June Term, 1658 [[EQC 2:74](#)]. Ann, aged about forty-three years, deposed that she weighed the pork for Andrew Rowland [[EQC 3:158](#), June Term, 1664].

Trespassing through the Downings' lot on their way to John Devereux's house, William Beale's wife, Frances Gilligan and Mary Pamel came to blows with Margaret Bennet over using the land as a highway. Devereux's servant, Robert Newman, aged about 17, deposed in this case and Bethiah and Ann Devereux witnessed Margaret Bennett's letter of attorney [[EQC 3:414](#); 443].

Devereux had many servants over the years, but not all stayed out of the courts. Devereux "his man Thomas" was a witness in the December 1642 case against William Keene, Devereux's old nemesis, but the charges were dropped since the house that was "suffering disorder" was not Keene's [[EQC 1:48](#)].

John Slade and John Ford deposed as workers for Mr. Devereux's farm [[EQC 4:285](#), September Term, 1670].

Devereux servants John Hobbs and "one Francis" stole turkeys from Richard Downing in 1683 [[EQC 9:146](#)].

Sons John and Humphrey were not above reproach, and were sentenced to be fined or whipped for being part of a group of boys that met at night and committed petty theft [[EQC 4:274](#) June Term, 1670].

In another extensive case, Christopher Nicholson is charged with pulling down the fence that John Devereux had erected near some rocks by the water. With the fence gone, a great deal of petty thievery went on, and some of Devereux's servants and hired hands were obliged to watch constantly, much to their inconvenience. While John was gone, Ann went to the selectmen for permission to erect another fence. This almost accomplished by servant Robert Paty, Christopher Nicholson came and pulled it down again. The outcome of this June Term 1662 case was in Devereux's favor [[EQC 2:407-9](#), 431].

John prevailed in a suit against Mr. Moses Maverick, John Peach, Sr. and Jr., and Richard Rowland for failing to set up a fence as agreed, but it was repeatedly appealed and he ultimately lost. This troublesome boundary cost him a lost horse and a bull mired and killed, as well as his corn threatened by animals so that he had to keep watch even at night [[EQC 4:190](#), 251, 285, 289]. John's trouble with fences lasted for decades [[EQC7:5-6](#), June Term, 1678; [EQC 7:324](#), November Term, 1679]. John sued John Codner "for removing a landmark" and won in the May Term, 1670 [[EQC 4:251](#)].

At the June Term, 1679, John Devereux Sr., aged about sixty-four years, testified that about thirty-four years ago he cut hay in Kittell Cove marsh and was forbidden by Rev. Blinman of Cape Ann, but they afterwards agreed [[EQC 7:201](#)].

John Devereux, aged about sixty years, deposed that having been many years inhabitant of Marblehead, and still resident there, and having no interest in the property then under controversy, that the land had been owned by Marblehead men for the past thirty-four years [[EQC 8:180](#)].

"The testimony of John Devereux of Marblehead aged about eighty years, testifieth & saith that about the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred & thirty I came over from old England to New England & the place of my abode and residence has been at Salem & Marblehead ever since & when I came hither here was an old Squaw called old Squaw Sachem the Squaw of the deceased sachem which had three reputed sons, viz: John, James and George, who were the reputed sachems & owners of all the lands in these parts as Salem, Marblehead, Lynn and as far as Mystic & in those days the land where Salem town now stands & the lands adjacent were called Nahumkege by the Indians & John then inhabiting in these parts." 24 December 1694 [[ELR 11:131](#)].

The Greenfields Marriage Records for the Three Daughters

Marblehead

Marriages

GREENFIELD (Grinfeild)

Anna, and Robert Houper, Dec. 4, 1684

Margaret, and Elias Henly, July 21, 1686

Hannah, and William Poat, sr., Oct. 4, 1688

POAT (Pote)

William, sr., and Ann Hooper, Aug. 7, 1689

HENDLEY (Hanly, Hendly, Heple, Henley, Henly)

Margaret, and John Girdler, Dec. 16 1713

William Pote married first Hannah, who died 11 days younger, then Anna, widow of Robert Hooper.

Margaret Greenfield married first Elias Henley and then John Girdler.

Anna Greenfield married first Robert Hooper, then William Pote.

John Girdler married first Mary Ingalls, then Margaret Greenfield Henley, then Hannah Southwick

A Glimpse of the Working Life of Peter Greenfield

Farmers and Fishermen: Two
Centuries of Work in Essex County,
Massachusetts ...
By Daniel Vickers

Serviced by coasting vessels from Boston and Salem, these companies spent up to half a year at a time working out of temporary stations in the Gulf of Maine before returning home to reorganize. A typical venture was that of John Roads and Peter Greenfield. The two men had emigrated from England in the 1650s, married locally, and settled in Marblehead, and in 1659 they purchased for nearly £100 sterling an open-decked shallop that they employed on extended voyages to the eastward. In the late fall of 1661 George Corwin outfitted them for a voyage, and shortly after Christmas, along with a hired man named William Ford, Roads and Greenfield weighed anchor for Monhegan. There they set up camp, employed a shoreman to dry the fish, and worked until April, when they returned to Salem to deliver their catch and purchase more provisions. After completing their business, they returned to the gulf to take advantage of the remainder of the spring season. In June, the three returned for good, conducted their final reckoning with Corwin, saw that Ford was paid, and went their separate ways. Any man who signed on for a voyage to the eastward could expect the same: months of labor on an isolated stretch of shoreline in exclusively male company, punctuated only by visits from other fishermen or wine peddlers and by occasional trips home on business.⁹⁷

Greenfield and Roads may have shipped out again immediately, but most fishermen chose to spend a week or two at home recuperating. Indeed, in midseason, when the fleet was out, even an ambitious mariner might have to spend time looking for a position; and once the spring or fall voyages had finished, the entire industry slowed down for a month or two before the next season began. The erratic alternation between work and inactivity, therefore, characterized not only the daily operations out on the grounds but the entire course of the fisherman's year. Many of these men, the General Court declared in 1674, "when they are at home, & not employed in their callings, [tended] to be spectators, or otherwise ideling, gaming, or spending their time unprofitably, whereby such persons as attend their duty, & spend their time in that service, are discouraged."⁹⁸ Puritan colonists, who believed that work was pleasing to God only when performed in a regular and disciplined manner, obviously considered this alternation of frantic activity and idleness to be rooted in moral failing; in fact, the irregularity of work patterns was a necessary feature of this seasonal and market-oriented calling.

The fisherman's working life unfolded in a world where the focus of attention on markets and credit set him against the clock, against his competitors, and even against the partners who were helping him to earn his bread. Powered principally by self-interest, yet demanding strict cooperation in a hostile environment, the fishery generated levels of interpersonal friction that on extended voyages were difficult to defuse. Only one murder is recorded in the annals of these early years—in 1654 when

97. Accounts of Peter Greenfield, John Roads, and John Roads's Company, George Corwin Acct. Bk., 1658–1664. On Peter Greenfield, see Perley, *History of Salem*, I, 217, and *Essex Co. Prob. Recs.*, II, 310–311.

Son of Anna Greenfield

10. ROBERT³ (*Robert², Robert¹*), born at Marblehead about 1685. It has been suggested that he may be the person described below.

Robert Hooper with his family of four persons was a settler at Wiscasset, district of Maine, in 1730, and remained there alone for four years. He was one of the petitioners for incorporation into a town, March 13, 1754, and one of those asking protection against the Indians, April 22, 1754. [Register, *passim*.]

Son of Anna Greenfield

11. GREENFIELD³ (*Robert², Robert¹*), born at Marblehead about 1686; married there Jan. 16, 1706-7, Alice, daughter of Andrew Tucker, Sen., (who died Dec. 12, 1691, ae. 49) and received a share of his real estate. His wife Mary administered on the estate first, Feb. 22, 1691-2, and on her death Greenfield Hooper was appointed; the division of property was made July 27, 1730.

He resided at Marblehead; was a merchant; the town paid him, by vote of the town meeting Dec. 4, 1721, £1-18-06 for "candles for the watch" (the watchmen of the town) "and for the sick." He received payment at other times for similar supplies. He also had, as we learn from the inventory of his estate, a "workshop" with looms for weaving. He probably was a "tallow chandler," making the candles he sold. The date of his death is not recorded, but may be approximately set at about the first of October, 1747, as on the 5th of that month "Robert Hooper, Jr.," who was the second of the name in age in the town at that time, was appointed administrator of the estate of "his father Greenfield Hooper."

Children:

23. i. Robert,⁴ b. June 26, 1709.
- ii. John, b. March 5, 1712; d. soon.
24. iii. John, b. April 30, 1719.
- iv. Anne, b. April 30, 1722; m. Dec. 26, 1748, Thomas Calley (Colley) (Cole).

Grandson of Anna Greenfield

23. ROBERT⁴ (*Greenfield³, Robert², Robert¹*), born at Marblehead June 26, 1709; married first, Ruth, daughter of Samuel and Margaret Burrill of Lynn, born Jan. 25, 1711-12; she died July 23, 1732; he married second, Sept. 10, 1735, Ruth, daughter of Mr. Joseph Swett, an enterprising merchant of Marblehead, by his wife Ruth —; she was born Jan. 18, 1718-19; she died March 25, 1763. He married third, Jan. 3, 1764, Mrs. Hannah Cowell. She died Nov. 9, 1766. He married fourth, May 8, 1777, Mrs. Elizabeth Pousland.

He became a merchant of very great extent of business and owner of large and somewhat widely separated properties. His control of the fishing business of Marblehead and other interests was so pronounced that he was popularly called "King Hooper." He owned lands in Marblehead, Salem, Danvers, and at Lyndeborough, N. H., and elsewhere. He had a large and elegant house at Marblehead and also a mansion at Danvers where he did "royal" entertaining. His vessels sailed to the fishing grounds of this coast and to foreign ports. In May, 1747, he agreed to pay the expenses of a school for poor children, which was established. He had a high reputation for honor and integrity in his business dealings, and for his benevolence. He presented Marblehead with a fire engine in March, 1751. One of his schooners, the *Swallow*, was captured at the West Indies in 1756. He was representative to the General Court in 1755; declined a seat in the Council on account of deafness in 1759.

Robert Hooper, Esquire, was one of the thirty-six persons appointed "councillers of the Province" in 1774, at the beginning of the agitation which led to the Revolution; and was one of twelve of that number who refused to accept the honor and participate in what they felt would be unjust to the people. He was, however, rather inclined to the side of the king during at least the early part of the war. He died May 20, 1790.



View of the Rear Wing



Today It's Home of the Marblehead Arts Asspciation



John Singleton Copley, Robert "King" Hooper.



John Singleton Copley, Robert Hooper, ca. 1770-1772

ROBERT HOOPER, the first to appear in Marblehead, is first mentioned in Massachusetts records as master of a shallop hired of Mr. Moses Maverick, a wealthy business man of Marblehead, in 1663. From a deposition he made in court, he was born about 1606. This would make him old enough to have been the father of John, Robert and Henry Hooper, the other very early residents of Marblehead. He died after 1686.

ROBERT HOOPER, supposed to be the son of the aforesaid, was born as early as 1655. Married Dec. 4, 1684, Anna, daughter of Peter and Hannah Greenfield. Hannah was a daughter of John and Ann Devereux. He was an inn keeper and died about 1689.

GREENFIELD HOOPER, son of the aforesaid, was born about 1686. He resided at Marblehead, was a merchant. He also had a "workshop," with loom for weaving. He married, Jan. 16, 1706, Alice, daughter of Andrew Tucker, Sr., and received a share of his real estate. He died about October 1, 1747.

ROBERT HOOPER, known as "King Hooper," was born at Marblehead, June 26, 1709, son of the aforesaid Greenfield Hooper. He was married four times. Was a merchant who rose from poverty to apparently inexhaustible wealth, engrossing for years a large part of the foreign fishing business of Marblehead, which was very extensive about the year 1760. For awhile he purchased all the fish brought into that port, sent it to Bilbao and other parts of Spain and received gold and silver in return, with which he purchased goods in England. He owned lands in Marblehead, Salem, Danvers, and an extensive tract at Lyndeborough, N. H., and elsewhere. He had a large and elegant house at Marblehead, and also a mansion at Danvers, where he did "royal" entertaining, rode in a chariot like a prince, and was ever after known as "King Hooper." He was

*Hooper Genealogy. Curwen's Journal. History of Marblehead.

one of the wealthiest and most benevolent men in the colony. He presented Marblehead with a fire engine in 1751.*

At his elegant house in Danvers he entertained General Gage for some time in 1774, and was an Addresser of Hutchinson the same year. He was appointed representative to the General Court in 1775, and declined a seat in the Governor's council in 1759 on account of deafness. He was one of thirty-six persons appointed as mandamus councillors of the province in 1774, at the beginning of the agitation that led to the Revolution, and was one of the twelve that did not accept of the honor, his deafness previously referred to being probably the reason, for he was a staunch loyalist. This, together with his age and known generosity, prevented his being driven forth from the town; it however did not prevent the loss of his great property, for when he died in 1790 he was insolvent. In a letter dated Marblehead, March 17, 1790, addressed to his granddaughter Ruth, the wife of Lewis Deblois, a Boston loyalist residing at St. John, N. B., he says: "But as you, justly observe we have been and still are 300 miles distance from each other and my advanced age makes it doubtful whether I may ever see you more in this world, your parting from me was next to burying you, there is nothing would give more pleasure than to hear of the health and prosperity of every branch of my family." This truly great and honorable man died, a little more than a month after writing this letter. He died May 20, 1790, aged 81 years.

Marblehead Arts Association

King Hooper Mansion Historic Home

The King Hooper Mansion, home of the Marblehead Arts Association since 1938 was built by Greenfield Hooper, a

candle maker, in 1728. His son, Robert Hooper, a wealthy shipping merchant, added the front section of the house in 1745. He was given the affectionate title of "King" by local seamen because of his reputation for geniality and fairness.

The rooms of the Mansion include a graceful parlor, a dining room, a small rear gallery, a second floor gallery and a third floor ballroom, which houses a Steinway piano. The original wine cellar of the Hooper's is located in the basement and opens onto the King Hooper Garden, meticulously maintained by the Cottage Gardeners of Marblehead. The Mansion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We are within walking distance of four churches and two public parks overlooking picturesque Marblehead Harbor, and we have the most elegant grand staircase for entrances and exits.

The King Hooper Mansion is the home of the Marblehead Arts Association (MAA), which includes 500 plus artist and non-artist members. Every month there are new art exhibits in the four galleries within the Mansion, which includes the Ballroom on the third floor, Parlor, Dining Room and Hendrick galleries on the first floor. The second floor includes an exhibit space that tells the history of the Marblehead Arts with work from the founding members. This floor also includes our Emerging Artist gallery featuring the work of young local artists.



William Pote

Dodd, Mead & Company, 1895 - Canada - 223 pages

I. THE POTES IN GENERAL.

Marblehead, Massachusetts, was incorporated in 1649. In 1674 a list of householders numbered 114. The name of William Pote appears in the number. He married October 4, 1688, Hannah Greenfield, and eleven days thereafter she died. On August 7, 1689, he married Ann Hooper (widow of Robert and sister of Hannah Greenfield). Their son William, born in 1689, married Dorothy Gatchell on June 2, 1715. Their children were: 1, Ann; 2, William; 3, Gamaliel; 4, Jeremiah; 5, Elisha; 6, Increase; 7, Samuel; 8, Thomas; 9, Greenfield. It is presumed that the first five children were born at Marblehead, Mass; the rest were born in Falmouth. Falmouth was incorporated in 1718. In 1728 Captain William Pote was admitted a citizen. June 15 of that year an acre lot for a house was granted him, and on the 18th day of the same month a three-acre lot was granted him.¹

Wikipedia

William Pote (15 December 1718 – c. 1755) was a surveyor and ship captain who wrote one of the few captivity narratives from Acadia/Nova Scotia when he was captured by the Wabanaki Confederacy during King George's War. By 1745, Pote was in command of the merchant vessel Montague. He was engaged to take supplies to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. During the Siege of Annapolis Royal, the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet took prisoner William Pote and some of Gorham's Rangers. During his captivity, Pote wrote one of the most important captivity narratives from Acadia and Nova Scotia. While at Cobequid, Pote reported that an Acadian said that the French soldiers should have "left their [the English] carcasses behind and brought their skins." He later witnessed the Naval battle off Tatamagouche, for which his journal is one of the primary sources.

The following year, among other places, Pote was taken to the Maliseet village Aukpaque on the Saint John River. While at the village, Mi'kmaq from Nova Scotia arrived and, on 6 July 1745, tortured him and a Mohawk ranger from Gorham's company named Jacob, as retribution for the killing of their family members by Ranger John Gorham. On 10 July, Pote witnessed another act of revenge when the Mi'kmaq tortured a Mohawk ranger from Gorham's company at Meductic. Pote's voyage to Quebec took four months. He was allocated to a group of Hurons from Lorette, near Quebec.

Early in June 1747, Pote and some of his companions learned that they would soon be sent home. Before Pote was released from prison in June 1747, he gave his journal to a woman prisoner to carry to (British controlled) Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island (Île Royale) "Under her petticoats," lest it be confiscated. Pote left Quebec on 30 July 1747 aboard the schooner Le Saint-Esprit and in mid-August reached Louisbourg, where he reported to John Henry Bastide for employment. He continued his life at sea, commanding a merchant vessel as late as 1752. Neither the place nor the circumstance of his death is known.

King George's War

Part of the War of Austrian Succession, American Indian Wars



Engraving depicting the landing of New England troops near Fortress Louisbourg in 1745

Date 1744-1748

Location North America

Margaret Greenfield

The Magazine of history with notes and queries, Volume 18

THE HENLEY FAMILIES

2. ELIAS³ HENLEY, Jr. (Elias¹) bapt. at the First Church of Salem, 26 Sept. 1666; "eldest son," b. probably about 1661; m. at Marblehead, July 21, 1686, Margaret Greenfield. He and his wife were summoned to Court as witch-craft witnesses, 14 Sept. 1692, but he "being at sea" did not appear. He d. between Feb. 27, 1713, and July 2, 1713, upon which latter day his widow Margaret Henly and his "eldest son" Elias Henly were appointed administrators. On April 6, 1716, the Judge of Probate ordered his estate divided into seven equal parts—which under the English law of inheritance shows that he had surviving six children. What were the names of those children?

His widow Margaret Henly m. (2) at Marblehead, 16 Oct. 1713, John Girdler, a fisherman, who lived in Marblehead from 1707 to 1723 or later. He appears in several deeds as grantor or grantee in each of which he is described as a "fisherman" or "mariner" of Marblehead. He mortgaged his property to his brother Robert Girdler of Marblehead, a "shoreman," 13 March 1721/2, and this was released unto his heirs 8 June 1734.

Elias Hendly, Senr. of Marblehead, mariner, with the consent of his wife Margaret for £40 deeded his son Elias Hendly, Jr. of Marblehead, fisherman, a dwelling house, barn and land they stand upon adjacent to my own land, 27 Feb. 1712/3. (Essex Deeds. 25:175).

A partial list of Margaret Greenfield's children have been identified as follows:

- I. Elias³ Henly, "eldest son" b. about 1687; m. at Marblehead, 5 Dec. 1710, Hannah Stadden.
- II. Benjamin Henly, "upward of 14 years" June 15, 1715. He was selectman of Marblehead, 1733, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1747, 1749, 1750 and 1751; deacon of the First Church of Marblehead from 1749 till his death.
- III. ———Henly, living Apr. 6, 1716.
- IV. ———Henly, alive April 6, 1716.
- V. ———Henly, living April 6, 1716.
- VI. ———Henly, alive April 6, 1716.
- VII. Hannah Girdler, bp. at First Church of Marblehead, June 5, 1720.
- VIII. Robert Girdler, bp. at the same, Oct. 13, 1723.

Will of Richard Knott

Richard Knott, 4mo., 1684.

Inventory of Estate of Ric'd Knott, of Marblehead, taken by John Peach and John Legg of the same place, June 16, 1684, amount £307 10s 6d, returned July 29, 1684, by Hannah Knott, who is appointed admx.

Children of Richard Knott at his decease :

Elizabeth, 11 years old, disabled in her understanding. 1673
 Richard, 8 years old. 1676
 Mary, 6 years old. 1678 Some records record her as "Hannah"
 Elenor, 13 months old. 1683

Military Records

ROSTER OF THE OFFICERS OF THE ARMY OF THE UNITED COLONIES, AS ORGANIZED FOR THE NARRAGANSETT CAMPAIGN, AND MUSTERED AT PETTISQUAMSCOT, DECEMBER 19, 1675.

General Josiah Winslow, Governor of Plymouth Colony, Commander-in-chief.	
General Staff	
Daniel Weld	of Salem, Chief Surgeon
Joseph Dudley	of Boston, Chaplain
Benjamin Church	of Little Compton, R.I., Aid
MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT	
Samuel Appleton	of Ipswich, Major and Captain of First Company
Regimental Staff	
Richard Knott	of Marblehead, Surgeon.
Samuel Nowell	of Boston, Chaplain
John Morse	of Ipswich, Commissary

Name, Rank, Vessel	Date of Accounting, Probable Residence	Conflict, Company, Commanding Officer
KNOTT, Richard Surg.	12/19/75 Marblehead	

A Story about Richard Knott and Job Tookey, Who Was Accused of Witchcraft

Job Tookey (Acquitted, January 1693)

An even more direct exemplar of the way falling social status could lead to turbulence of spirit, less poignant only for the fact that he was not executed in 1692, is Job Tookey, a laborer and sea-hand who lived over the Salem Village line in the town of Beverly. In the only extended autobiographical statement known to exist for any of the accused witches, Tookey compared his present "sad, miserable, and deplorable condition" (he was writing this back in 1682) with the station to which he had been born:

[M]y education and bringing up . . . was to learning: my great-grandfather was a Doctor of Divinity in London in Queen Elizabeth's time and deceased there. My grandfather was minister of St. Ives Covell—known by the honored Governor Bradstreet, as his honor told me himself. . . . My father . . . and Mr. William Bridge preached twelve years together in the new church of Great Yarmouth.

I being his eldest son, he did intend I should have been a minister, and in my thirteenth year of age [he] sent me to Emmanuel College in Cambridge, it being the same College he himself was brought up in. But the providence of God ordered it so [that]

the times altering, I had been there but a fortnight before my father sent for me home and asked me if I was willing to go to London to be an apprentice. My answer was that I was willing to submit to his pleasure; whereupon he sent me to London, and I was bound an apprentice to a wholesale grocer in Cheapside. But I had not been an apprentice much above a year before the chiefest part of the city was burnt; my master sustaining thereby so great a loss . . . [that he] was not able to set up his trade again. Whereupon I, being very young, desired my father, if he pleased, that he would give his consent that I might go to sea; which request of mine . . . he consented unto, and bound me an apprentice for three years to Capt. Samuel Scarlet of Boston, to serve to the sea.⁴¹

Tookey served his three years apprenticeship, but he continued to meet with a series of misfortunes, including an accident which severely injured his right hand and rendered him temporarily unemployable—"not being able to use one of my fingers in six months time." At this point a Marblehead physician, merchant, and ship-owner named Richard Knott offered to pay the debts Tookey had accumulated during his convalescence in return for his services as deck-hand. Tookey accepted, and early in 1682 he worked briefly for Knott. But the two men took an intense dislike to each other—Knott accused his laborer of being lazy and defiant—and when Tookey refused to continue in Knott's employ, Knott had him jailed.⁴²

41. Deposition of Job Tookey, June 1682, 8 EQC, 336-337.
 43. *Ibid.*, 336, 334, 335.
 42. *Ibid.*, 337, 330-331, 333.

During the three months of Tookey's imprisonment, from March through June, 1682, Knott engaged in a vindictive campaign to break his proud spirit and shame him into the deference he had refused to display. On periodic visits to the prison he rejected Tookey's emotional requests for his clothing and books, "reviled and railed" at him, and actually threatened to obtain the permission of the court to sell Tookey into slavery in Virginia or Barbados. On June 16, as Tookey reported, Knott approachd the prison "and called to me, saying 'Job, Job'; whereupon I looked out of the prison window and saw him scrape with his stick upon the ground. 'Job,' says he, 'do you know what this means?' I answered him 'No.' 'Oh,' says he, 'Sirrah, you are like to learn how to hoe in Virginia!'" Obviously aware of Tookey's pride in his family background, Knott tried yet another tack: insulting the prisoner's clergyman-father, "telling . . . me that he had better at home to wipe his shoes than ever my father was, for he said he was an anabaptistical quaking rogue that for his maintenance went up and down England to delude souls for the Devil." Cut to the quick, Tookey was prompted by this into an impassioned defense of his father, neither an anabaptist nor a Quaker, but "well known to be a religious Godly man by several good Godly people in New England . . . [including] a great many scholars of Cambridge, which bought several of the books pertaining to my father's library." Everywhere in these petitions it is plain that for Job Tookey, the discomfort and humiliation of imprisonment were intensified by the memory of those high expectations with which he had begun his career: "[C]onsider, I beseech you, my education and bringing-up, which never was in being used to a jail . . . [where I am] almost poisoned with the stink of my own dung. . . ."⁴³

When the court actually met at the end of June 1682 Dr. Knott withdrew his charges and Job went free. But a decade later he was still a poor laborer in Beverly, still antagonizing people by his manner, and still preoccupied by questions of status. All these elements converged in his dangerous boast, reported at his witchcraft examination in the summer of 1692, "that he was not the Devil's servant, but the Devil was his."⁴⁴ (Were memories of Dr. Knott, and perhaps others like him, still rankling?)

At Tookey's examination, Mary Warren, herself the servant of accused wizard John Proctor, saw eight of Tookey's murder victims—"three men, and three women, and two children . . . all in their winding sheets." Said she: "[T]hey look pale upon us, but red upon Tookey—red as blood." Other specters, too, "rose from the dead," reported Ann Putnam, Jr., "and cried 'Vengeance! Ven-

SALEM POSSESSED

Paul Boyer
 Harvard University Press, Jan 1, 1976

TOWN CLERKS.

Moses Maverick, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678.
Richard Knott, 1679, 1680.
 Samuel Ward, 1681, 1682, 1683.
 Archibald Ferguson, 1720, 1721, 1722.
 Richard Trévet, 1723, 1724.
 John Stacey, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728.
 Benjamin Boden, 1729, 1730, 1734, 1736, 1737, 1742 to 1748, 1751 to 1777.
 John Reed, 1731, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1749, 1750.
 Capt. Abraham Howard, 1732, 1733.
 Capt. John Skinner, 1735.
 Francis Felton, 1778, 1779 to 1790.
 Woodward Abraham, 1792 to 1796, 1798 to 1803.
 William Boden, 1797.

The Marblehead Manual

Statesman Publishing Company, 1883 -

Underlined Names are Our Direct Ancestors

In 1674 the town had increased to such an extent that there were then one hundred and fourteen householders, whose names, with their commonage, are recorded in the records.¹ At a town meeting held during this year it was

¹ The names are as follows: John Deverix, James Smith, Richard Rowland, John Waldern, John Gatchell, William Woods, Thomas Rose, David Thomas, John Legg, William Nick, Erasmus James, Thomas Bourne, John Stacey, Senior, John Codnar, John Northey, Nicholas Marriatt, Thomas Pitman, Elias Henly, Roger & Lott Conant, Mr. Christopher Latimore, Francis Johnson, Mr. Samuel Cheever, Moses Maverick, Mr. Walton, Henry Stacey, Wm. Chichester, Sam. Carwithy, Thomas Smith, Rich'd Norman, David Cartwithy, John Peach, Jr., Widow Bartoll, Joseph Dollaber, Robert Knight, Widow Bennett, Mark Pitman, Samuel Ward, Ambrose Gule, Richard Knott, Samuel Cundy, Matthew Clarke, Thos. Cowley, Wm. Waters, John Roads, Henry Trevett, William Beal, S. Griggs, Thomas Dixie, Benj. Parmeter, Edw'd Read, Saml. Morgan, Wm. Browne, Capt. Corwin, Thadeus Redden, Wm. Bartholemew, Wm. Pitt, John Legg, Jr., Rich'd Read, Thos. Read, John Brimblecome, Rich'd Hemeford, Henry Russell, Thos. Sanden, Dinson Stilson, Thomas Trevy, Rich'd Reith, Saml. Reed, Thomas Tainors, Edw'd Homan, Thos. Ellis, Edw'd Damon, Nicholas Fox, Thos. Pousland, Thos. White, Thos. Dodd, Robert Houper, John Houper, John Pedricke, Sr., John Pedricke, Jr., Elias Russell, John Martin, Francis Godlette, Saml. Tribby, George Pickle, Roger Fustell, Andrew Tucker, Robt. Bartlett, Saml. Sadding, Rich'd Crocker, George Bradfield, Wm. Pow, John Harris, George Godfry, Samuel Gatchell, Jeremiah Gatchell, John Hoyle, Alexander Gilligan, John Williams, Saml. Nicholson, John Bartlett, William Poat, George Darling, Josiah Codnar, John Roads, Jr., James Watts, Wm. Lightfoot, Philip Harding, Widow Boatson, Robt. Johnson, Saml. Walton, Josiah Gatchell, Wm. Brown, John Marriatt, Widow Stacie.



Knott, Hannah House 23 Watson St MAR.339 1672

Jodseph Swett and His Son and Granddaughters

THE SWETT FAMILY OF MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS

Ben H. Swett
Colonel USAF (Retired)
31 July 2002

The first Joseph Swett in Marblehead was born 28 November 1657 at Newbury, son of Stephen and Hannah (Merrill) Swett, and grandson of John Swett of Newbury. When he grew up, he moved to Marblehead. About 1688 he married Mrs. Hannah Knott, twice widowed daughter of John and Ann Devereaux. [Everett S. Stackpole, Swett Genealogy, Lewiston, Maine, circa 1914, head of family #7, p. 10]

Joseph Swett, Jr., the only child of Joseph and Hannah (Devereaux) Swett, was baptized 25 August 1689 at Marblehead. [Stackpole, head of family #16, p. 16]

On 16 December 1710, Joseph Swett, cordwainer, of Marblehead, and Hannah his wife, deeded all their property to their son, Joseph Swett, Jr., cordwainer, of Marblehead. [Stackpole, p. 11. See deed at Salem.]

Although Joseph Swett, Jr., started his adult life as a cordwainer (shoemaker), like his father and grandfather, and probably his great-grandfather, he became the first truly successful businessman in Marblehead. More than 300 years after he was born (1997), when I and my son Scott visited Abbot Hall in Marblehead, where the great painting "The Spirit of '76" is displayed, we asked about the Swett family, and were told: "Joseph Swett put this town on the map." How it happened will be described at the end of this paper.

Joseph Swett, Jr., married Ruth Parker, daughter of Stephen and Susanna Parker of Watertown. The Marblehead Church Records for 27 March 1715 read: "Entered Joseph Swett & Ruth Swett, his wife." They had five children:

Hannah, baptized 16 September 1716, died young
Ruth, baptized 8 January 1719, married Robert Hooper in 1735
Joseph, born 23 April 1721, married Mary Palmer in 1745; of Portland, ME
Stephen, born 3 March 1724, was not named in his father's will
Hannah, born 15 March 1725, married Joseph Lemmon in 1742

Ruth (Parker) wife of Joseph Swett, Jr., died 4 April 1725, about three weeks after the birth of her last child.

He married (2) Martha A. Stacey, 13 September 1725. They had four children:

Martha, born 12 June 1726, married Jeremiah Lee in 1745
Mary, (birth date unknown), married Henry Saunders
Samuel [42], baptized 9 November 1729, married Anna Woodbury in 1752
Henry, baptized 5 August 1733, was not named in his father's will

Martha (Stacey), second wife of Joseph Swett, Jr., died in late 1733 or 1734.

He married (3) Mrs. Hannah Strahan, daughter of Jabez and Sarah (Browne) Negus of Boston, 23 September 1734. They had two children:

Sarah, baptized 23 February 1735, married Benjamin Marston in 1755
Rebecca, baptized 12 September 1736.

In 1734, Joseph Swett of Marblehead drew a lot in Amherst, NH, "for his brother Stephen Swett." This was Joseph Swett, Sr., then 77 years old. These lots in Amherst were given to veterans of King Phillip's War or their closest male heir. [Stackpole, pp. 8, 10-11]

Joseph Swett, Jr., was 55 years old when he died. His will, dated 20 March 1744 and probated 16 April 1745, names wife Hannah, sons Joseph and Samuel, and five daughters: Ruth wife of John Hooper, Hannah wife of Joseph Lemmon, Martha Swett, Sarah Swett, and Rebecca Swett. [Stackpole, p. 16-17]

Martha Swett, daughter of Joseph Swett, Jr., and Martha (Stacey) Swett, married Jeremiah Lee on 25 June 1745. He became one of the wealthiest men in America. The Jeremiah Lee mansion at 161 Washington Street, Marblehead, which he built in 1768, now includes the offices of the Marblehead Historical Society.

Chapter 4.

Marblehead and the American Revolution

Marblehead Myths, Legends and Lore
By Pam Matthias Peterson

As Marblehead's reputation and importance as a major port for the production and trade of salted fish increased, so did its population. In the first half of the eighteenth century, Marblehead grew tremendously. Merchants took charge of their own fate, selling salted cod directly to the market, which eliminated the fees and profits of middlemen and earned the merchants a much higher profit. This was due in large part to Parson John Barnard, a young man trained in theology at Harvard College. It has been said of him that if he lived today he would have had a MBA instead of becoming a minister.

John Barnard came to Marblehead in the early 1700s and quickly assessed the financial situation. He had new ideas and felt the timing was right to expand the fishing trade and let Marblehead merchants take control of their own product. Under his guidance local merchants were persuaded to take a risk and strike out on their own. He convinced Joseph Swett to try selling salted fish in Barbados himself, rather than through an agent. Swett's resulting profits were high, and his example set the stage for the prosperity that Marblehead began to enjoy. A winning combination was already in place with Marblehead's deep harbor, experienced fishermen and an efficient salt-fish processing system. Everyone benefited.

Jeremiah Lee and His Mansion

In the 1720s and '30s many men were attracted to Marblehead because of opportunities that seemed on the rise. Among them was a young man named Jeremiah Lee. He and his father came from Manchester on Cape Ann, a town a little farther north of Marblehead. They saw possibilities for money to be made and took advantage of them. Lee began by supplying ships for ocean voyages as a shoreman, the predecessors of longshoremen, who still are responsible for loading and unloading vessels all over the world. Then he began buying ships. He also married well, choosing as his bride Martha Swett, daughter of Joseph Swett, the daring and successful early merchant trader. Lee's financial success grew until he became without question the wealthiest man in Marblehead, and arguably the richest man in the American colonies.

As his wealth grew, Lee had a desire to build for himself and his family a fabulous mansion. Many prosperous colonists did the same, though few of these impressive mansions remain. Lee found his spot on what was to become Washington Street in Marblehead. He purchased several houses, tore them down and began construction on the Lee Mansion. It was built following English Georgian architectural plans, and is a classic Georgian home of elegant proportions, with a center entrance framed by a Greek columned portico, a massive Palladian-influenced window at the stair landing and a double-wide hall and staircase. No expense was spared in the embellishments of the house, and colonial master craftsmen showed their skill in carved mahogany rosettes and a grand staircase as well as a Baroque fruit and floral mantel and over mantel in the great hall. Hand-painted wallpaper was ordered from paperstainers in London, with classical Greco Roman designs in the hall and stairway, pastoral scenes in one upstairs bedroom and maritime scenes in another. Hand-blocked wallpaper was chosen for most of the other rooms. Fireplace tiles were ordered from Messrs. Sadler and Green in London, and furniture was made by cabinetmakers in Boston and the North Shore. Completed in 1768, the Lee Mansion has been a showplace from the day it was completed until the present, and a source of pride for Lee and the whole town of Marblehead. Jeremiah and Martha Lee moved in with five of their six children. Their eldest son had just left to attend Harvard College, which was essentially the only college available at the time.

Jeremiah Lee had been active in Marblehead town affairs from the time he arrived, was colonel of a Marblehead militia, represented the town on various committees and generally took an active role in civic matters. He was clearly an intelligent and involved citizen. As the years that led up to the American Revolution progressed, his feelings about independence became more pronounced, as did those of many colonists.

The causes of the American Revolution are complex, and the events leading to the war are as involved as those leading to any war. But the growing wealth and success of the colonies, based on a sense of self-reliance and freedom from governmental constraint, created an attitude of independence. It was this attitude that caused colonists to increasingly rebel against forms of taxation and restricted freedom that they felt to be unfair. England, financially strained by years of European wars, sought more and more income from the American colonies. They were such a rich prize, waiting to be plucked. Perhaps if the Crown had been less greedy, and more willing to extend self-governing rights, an open break would not have occurred.

Jeremiah Lee was, and remains, a man of mystery for a variety of reasons. His name appears in various town records, and he was on a committee with Elbridge Gerry, Azor Orne and other Marbleheaders known to be sympathetic to the patriotic cause. But no letters or personal papers of any sort have survived. The story of his death is both tragic and perplexing. Jeremiah Lee had probably been using his ships to smuggle weapons into the colonies in direct defiance of embargos aimed at keeping the colonists' supply of arms to a minimum. Lee had been helping the patriotic cause by transporting gunpowder and weapons. Once these goods arrived in Marblehead they were conveyed to Concord in hogshead barrels labeled "Fish." On April 18, 1775, the same night that Paul Revere rode to every village and town, Lee attended a meeting in a tavern in Menotomy, now Lexington, with Samuel Adams and John Hancock. They stayed overnight and finally heard the Redcoats coming, searching house to house for traitors. John Hancock in particular was a well-known target, but they were all involved in treasonous activity, so they ran from the inn in their nightclothes and hid in the surrounding cornfields to avoid being taken. Of course the next morning the war was launched with the "shot heard 'round the world," Lexington and Concord became forever famous and the American Revolution had begun. But the night in the fields had been as fatal as a bullet for Jeremiah Lee. He caught his death of cold, quite literally, developed pneumonia and died three weeks later. He never came home to Marblehead. He was taken up the Charles River to a farm in Newbury apparently owned by him or a family connection and was nursed there, without success. Mrs. Lee was left a widow, and the Lee fortune was in a precarious state. Lee's twenty-two ships were mostly at sea when war was declared and it took thirteen years for his estate to be settled.

Jeremiah Lee's story represents one side of the reaction to British control of the American colonies. The more common response for most wealthy merchants was to want to preserve the status quo. This was true throughout the colonies, and Marblehead was no exception.

When the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in 1775 and named George Washington as leader of the army, it became clear that decisions as to loyalty had to be made. Although the popular myth is that all American colonists rallied around the cause for freedom and independence, the reality was quite different. There were many who wanted to find a compromise and wished to avoid war. For as many reasons as men wanted war, there were also many reasons to oppose it. In Marblehead, most members of St. Michael's Church, the Church of England, were against the war. Seen as a bastion of dissent, the Church of England was outlawed by the Continental Congress, and St. Michael's was ordered to be closed. British sympathizers, or Tories, became the enemy as well as the British themselves. Giving aid or supplies to the British troops was forbidden and known Tories began to be arrested.

As sentiments escalated and the war began, it became increasingly difficult for Tories to continue their lives in the colonies. Many returned to England or fled to Canada. When a Tory took refuge in the home of Mrs. Bowden of Marblehead, angry citizens pounded on her door and demanded that she give him up. She answered the door and said, "Gentlemen, I assure you that the man you seek is not under this roof!" She did not lie. The escaping man was up on the roof, hiding behind the chimney.

Some wealthy merchants were unwilling to give up their property and tried to hold out. In Marblehead, Thomas Robie was one. He had made enemies by overtly opposing separation from England. He and his family made their disdain for the cause of freedom well known. By 1775 they could hold out no longer, and left Marblehead for Halifax, Nova Scotia. They sailed from the town landing, where an angry mob had gathered to see them off with jeers and taunts. Mrs. Robie was incensed and told the crowd, "I hope that I shall live to return, find this wicked rebellion crushed and see the streets of Marblehead so deep in Rebel blood that a long boat might be rowed through them." The Robies and many other Tories eventually did return to Marblehead, but when they did it was as citizens of a new republic.

King Hooper, one of the most successful of Marblehead's merchant traders in the revolution, was also driven out of town. He was Jeremiah Lee's brother-in-law, and had made a huge fortune in the salted cod trade. Older than Lee, Hooper was considered the first "king" of the trade. He was very well liked for his fair dealing and generosity in the provisioning of his ships. He always made sure there was an ample supply of food and water for the voyages, and that they were of high quality. He remodeled his father's small seventeenth-century house into an imposing Georgian mansion, building onto the existing house so that examples of both seventeenth- and eighteenth-century style still coexist in the house on Hooper Street. Hooper added parlors, a staircase and two additional floors to the original house. The top floor is an elegantly appointed ballroom with a sprung floor designed for dancing. It was the first of its kind in Marblehead, and was the scene of many a beautiful candlelit ball. But all his prosperity and popularity couldn't protect King Hooper from the desire for independence and the emotions that it left loose. He finally left town, headed, as many other Loyalists, for the Canadian Maritime Provinces. Hooper also eventually returned to Marblehead, but he never regained either his wealth or his popularity.



The Lee Mansion lithograph.
Illustration from *Nooks and Corners of New England* S.A. Drake, 1875

MARBLEHEAD 101: Martha Lee and her mansion

Granddaughter of Hannah Devereux



Portrait of Martha Lee by John Singleton Copley.
- FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WAUSWORTH ATHENAEUM

www.wickedlocal.com

By Pam Peterson/Marblehead Museum director
Posted Sep 13, 2012 at 12:01 AM

In the 1720s, many men were attracted to Marblehead. Among them was a young man named Jeremiah Lee, who saw possibilities for money to be made and took advantage of them.

In the 1720s, many men were attracted to Marblehead. Among them was a young man named Jeremiah Lee, who saw possibilities for money to be made and took advantage of them.

Lee began by provisioning ships for ocean voyages, and then he started buying ships. He also married well, choosing as his bride Martha Swett, daughter of Joseph Swett, the daring and successful early merchant trader. Lee's financial success grew until he became without question the wealthiest man in Marblehead, and arguably the richest man in the American colonies.

His wife, Martha, as the daughter of a wealthy merchant, was already a part of Marblehead's "Codfish Aristocracy" before she married. Her sister was married to Robert "King" Hooper, the leading merchant of his generation.

Martha Swett married at age 19 and had nine children, six of whom lived to be adults. Martha and Jeremiah lived for many years on Union Street, in the house now known as the Lafayette House. It was there that they spent most of their married life. Martha gave birth to all of her children there between 1747 and 1763. In the Union Street house, Martha and Jeremiah established their life, with Jeremiah steadily increasing his wealth and prominence in the town and Martha steadily increasing their family and social position.

Their number of dining-room chairs suggests that they entertained a great deal. At Union Street, they had 12 lovely Chippendale-style chairs, made by an American craftsman. When the Lees moved in to the mansion on Washington Street, they had 12 more chairs made, copying the existing chairs almost exactly. Clearly, there was more entertaining to be done.

Though the house on Union Street is grand, it was not as impressive as what Jeremiah had in mind. There is conjecture that he felt himself to be in competition with "King" Hooper, whose mansion on Hooper Street was a showplace.

Lee found his spot on the King's Highway, which later became Washington Street, purchased two houses, tore them down and began construction on the Lee Mansion. It is a classic Georgian home of elegant proportions. No expense was spared in the embellishments of the house. Completed in 1768, the Lee Mansion has been a showplace from the day it was completed. Jeremiah and Martha Lee moved in with five of their six children. Their eldest son had just left to attend Harvard College.

Martha Lee's full-length portrait, painted by John Singleton Copley in 1768, shows her in her prime. Elegantly gowned in rich satin, velvet, ermine and pearls, Martha Lee is the epitome of colonial American success. She graciously welcomes onlookers as she prepares to ascend to even greater heights. In her skirt, she carries ripe fruits that symbolize both her prosperity and her "fruitfulness" as the mother of six.

In fact, Martha Lee's life had many tragedies as well. Seven years after the portrait was painted, Jeremiah Lee was dead. His vast fortune was lost during the American Revolution, and while Martha Lee retained the Lee Mansion, she lost the means to live there in style.

Martha Lee did have the pleasure of planning a wedding for her daughter Mary Lee to Nathaniel Tracy in the Lee Mansion in February of 1775, just a few months before Jeremiah died. After Lee's death, Martha spent much of her time with her married daughter in Newburyport.

George Washington came to the Lee Mansion with Martha Lee's permission in 1789, and the house continued to be admired throughout Martha Lee's lifetime and beyond. The Lee Mansion and the Copley portrait represent the few tangible legacies of the life of Martha Swett Lee of Marblehead.