

COWES

The pedigree of Giles and Christopher Cowes may be found in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 85: 385. From the beginning of the parish register this family was very numerous in Stokeinteignhead, and Michael Cowes of Marblehead was not closely related to the brothers. If the identification is correct, and the probabilities are distinctly in its favor, his ancestry works out as follows:

THOMAS COWES was born about 1535, possibly a son of that Thomas Cowes who was the father of children baptized at Stokeinteignhead from the opening of the register in 1538 until 1545. He was a fisherman, and so described himself when he made his will July 27, 1587, leaving legacies to the church, to his sons John, Bennett, Robert, Gregory, and William and to his wife and executrix, Elizabeth. The will was proved Oct. 25, 1587.*

His widow ELIZABETH COWES was buried at West Town (West Teignmouth?) Nov. 13, 1613. She also left a will, dated Nov. 11, 1613, and proved Feb. 18, 1613 [1613/14]. To my godchildren, Edward and Thomas Cowse, a Crocke each. To Johane Cowse, daughter of Bennett Cowse, my best pettycott. To Avys Cowse, daughter of Gregory Cowse, my great cheist. To Johane and Sidwell Cowse, daughters of Gregory Cowse, a shepe each. To John, son of said Gregory, my best platter dish. To Marie Cowse, daughter of Thomas Cowse, deceased, one shepe. To Elizabeth Cowse, daughter of Thomas Cowse, deceased, one shepe. To Avis, Johane and Sidwell, my best pillow-tie. To Michael, son of Bennett Cowse, one shepe. To Susan Cowse, daughter of William Cowse, one shepe. To Ellen Luxe, daughter of Christopher Luxe, a Lambe. To Michael Cowse, son of said William, a Cloocke. To John Cowse of Ringmore, a Butt of Bees. To said William Cowse, my son, a Cowe. Residue to Gregorie Cowse, my son, and he to be executor.†

Children, baptized in Stokeinteignhead:

- i. THOMAS, bapt. July 16, 1559; probably that sailor who was buried in Ireland, while on a voyage, July 27, 1587.

Children, legatees of their grandmother:

1. Marie.
2. Elizabeth.

- ii. WILLIAM, bapt. Sept. 8, 1561; m. Jan. 22, 1589, Avis Tapley, who was buried June 29, 1623; buried Nov. 18, 1627.

Children, baptized in Stokeinteignhead:

1. Marie, bapt. Nov. 15, 1590; probably d. in infancy.
2. John (twin), buried Dec. 16, 1592.

* Prerogative Court of Canterbury. 37 Speocer.

† Archdeaconry Court of Exeter.

3. Robert (twin), bapt. Nov. 24, buried Dec. 16, 1592.
4. Michael, bapt. Oct. 3, 1594; legatee of his grandmother.
5. Robert, bapt. Nov. 1, 1595.
6. Mary (twin), bapt. and buried Jan. 10, 1597.
7. Thomasine (twin), bapt. and buried Jan. 10, 1597.
8. Susan, bapt. Aug. 31, 1606; legatee of her grandmother; possibly the Susan Cowes who was buried June 7, 1623.

- iii. GREGORY, bapt. July 9, 1564; m. ELIZABETH ——— who survived him and was the administratrix of his estate; buried June 4, 1637. She was buried Sept. 5, 1642, her nuncupative will leaving her property to her daughter Sidwell, wife of Hercules Bassett and her son John Cowes, with small legacies to Mary Lemmon and Andrew Graunte.*

Children, baptized in Stokeinteignhead:

1. Avis; legatee of her grandmother; m. Oct. 30, 1620, Edward Ford.
2. Annis; buried Jan. 27, 1594.
3. Johan, bapt. Oct. 17, 1596; legatee of her grandmother.
4. Thomas, bapt. Sept. 2, 1599.
5. Sidwell, bapt. Aug. 14, 1603; m. (1) Feb. 4, 1625, Allen Leyman; m. (2) Hercules Bassett.
6. John, bapt. July 13, 1606; m. Nov. 25, 1635, Agnes Baker, who on his death (buried Feb. 14, 1643) was appointed administratrix of his estate and of that of her mother-in-law *cum testamento annexo*.

- iv. ROBERT, bapt. Nov. 17, 1566; m. Feb. 8, 1596, Sidwell Zevix who was buried Sept. 16, 1626; no children baptized at Stokeinteignhead.

- v. BENNETT; m. Dec. 5, 1597, JOHAN COWES; no burial or testamentary record of either.

Children, baptized in Stokeinteignhead:

1. Johan, bapt. Aug. 17, 1598.
2. John, buried April 18, 1601.
3. Edward, bapt. Sept. 18, 1603; legatee of his grandmother.
4. Dorothy, bapt. May 29, 1606; buried Dec. 22, 1607.
5. Michael, bapt. Aug. 6, 1609; legatee of his grandmother.

- vi. JOHN, bapt. Nov. 30, 1570; probably the John Cowes of Ringmore mentioned in his mother's will in 1613.

It will be seen that Thomas Cowes had two grandsons called Michael—Michael (William, Thomas), baptized in 1594, and Michael (Bennett, Thomas), baptized in 1609. Both of these boys lived to marry and have children. The first children of Michael (William, Thomas), born before his cousin married, are easily ascertainable but there comes a time when both men were fathers, and when Michael, son of Michael Cowes, was baptized on August 4, 1639, we have no certain means of saying whose son he was. Unfortunately the parson did not record the names of mothers nor did he use "the elder" and "the younger" when two men of the parish bore identical names. Nor did either Michael make a will.

* Archdeaconry Court of Exeter.

Broad street (now Washington street). Administration on his estate was granted to his widow Grace Cowes June 30, 1715.

Children, baptized in Marblehead:

- i. MICHAEL; m. by Rev. Cotton Mather in Boston July 7, (1701?), to RACHEL SHORT; administration on his estate granted to his widow July 16, 1718.* His widow kept a shop in Marblehead and it would seem very profitably. She died in April, 1736, and her will, dated March 3, 1735, left her "camblet Riding Hood and striped holland Gown" to her daughter Mary Killy, her "black silk Suit and silk Camblet Cloak" to her daughter Elizabeth King, her "chintz Gown lined with Green Lutesring and green Stuff Robe, sable Muff and Ear Rings to her daughter Rachel Watts, gold rings to her sons Samuel and Thomas, a silver knife and fork to her son Giles and named her sons Samuel Cowes and Daniel King executors. Her dwelling-house, shops and land were valued at £200.†

Children, bapt. in Marblehead:

1. Michael, bapt. Sept. 13, 1702.
2. Mary, bapt. Nov. 8, 1702; m. (1) Sept. 15, 1720, John Norman; m. (2) July 30, 1728, Thomas Kelly.
3. Elizabeth, bapt. Jan. 23, 1705, in Boston; m. May 12, 1729, Daniel King.
4. Rachel; m. May 26, 1728, Alexander Watts.
5. Samuel; m. Dec. 1, 1735, Mary Goold.
6. Giles.
7. Thomas, bapt. July 28, 1717.

- ii. GRACE. She lived with her grandmother Stacey who gave her a lot on the Broad street Nov. 16, 1680, and she was married as Grace Stacey alias Coake to THOMAS POWSLAND Aug. 27, 1699.

- iii. AGNES; m. April 25, 1700, SAMUEL NICHOLSON.

- iv. MARY, bapt. Sept. 6, 1684; m. Dec. 14, 1704, THOMAS PEACH.

- v. ELIZABETH, bapt. Sept. 19, 1686; d. in infancy.

- vi. ELIZABETH, bapt. June 17, 1688; m. Dec. 21, 1713, WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

- vii. SAMUEL, bapt. March 22, 1690/1; m. Jan. 1, 1717/8, ELIZABETH HAWKINS.

Children, baptized in Marblehead:

1. Elizabeth, bapt. Aug. 13, 1718.
2. Samuel, bapt. Oct. 16, 1720; died in infancy.
3. Samuel, bapt. Feb. 4, 1722.
4. Michael, bapt. Aug. 9, 1724.
5. Thomas, bapt. June 26, 1726; d. in infancy.
6. Mary, bapt. Oct. 26, 1729.
7. Thomas, bapt. March 25, 1733.

- viii. SARAH, bapt. April 24, 1692; m. Jan. 29, 1711/2, BENJAMIN SALTER.

- ix. WILLIAM, bapt. Aug. 24, 1692.

- x. ELEANOR, bapt. Feb. 23, 1695/6; m. July 16, 1714, THOMAS MAINE.

* Essex, Mass., Probate 312: 375.

† Essex, Mass., Probate 320: 302.