

History of Joan Harris

Joan Harris was christened in 1603 in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England. She was the daughter of Henry Harris and Johan Austin. She was married by special license on 24 January 1625, Richard Palgrave, in Great Yarmouth, England. Richard was the son of John Palgrave and Amy.

Her father Henry Harris was born about 1550 in Staplehurst, Kent, England. Her parents were married 25 October 1579.

Richard Palgrave and Joan Harris had one daughter: Ann Palgrave, who was born 29 October 1626 in Great Yarmouth.

Joan's heart was filled with sorrow when her husband Richard Palgrave died on 30 March 1630 in Great Yarmouth. They probably had bought themselves a nice home in Yarmouth as their daughter later inherited her father's estate.

Joan believed if she lived worthily she would see her husband in the hereafter.

She probably read comforting words from the Bible.

Joan knew her daughter would be better off with a father but he would have to be a good man that not only believed in good principles but also was living a good life. With this in mind she fell in love with a minister, Rev. John Young, he had been married to Joan Herrington and had two boys, John and Thomas, both baptized in 1625. His wife had passed away in 1630. He surely needed a mother for his children, and no doubt two good people very much in love, were married about 1631.

They were blessed with three more children, probably all born

in Southwold, Suffolk, England.

The following is taken from "Youngs Family," by Selah Young, Jr.

"These two parishes, prior to 1751, constituted one "living." Reydon is located two miles inland from Southwold, and is of greater antiquity. The mother church is here, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1081-86, as "St. Margaritt's, Rissemere" (now Reydon), but is only one third the size of that at Southwold.

Southwold (also spelled Southold in the old records), Suffolk County, England, lies on the coast about twenty miles south of Yarmouth, and has a church dedicated to St. Edmunds, situated on an eminence overlooking the North or German Sea.

The Church dates back to 1202, but the present splendid edifice - built of gray flint and freestone, with a steeple tower nearly one hundred feet high, was built in 1460. The "Jack," a small figure of dark oak, three and a half feet high, stands against the north wall of the church near the end of the beautiful rood-screen, and formerly struck the hours."

Joan Harris and her husband Rev. John Young were probably well to do and could have lived very comfortably in England had they gone along with the Church of England's beliefs.

In Green's History of the English People we find:

"The people of Suffolk County were strictly non-conformist; under Charles I and Archbishop Laud, the Catholic forms and ceremonies had been restored in the churches, and pastimes and recreations after service revived as had been the custom before the

Reformation."

The non-conformists did not go along with this. Therefore, Rev. John Young and his wife Joan and family decided to move to New England where Rev. John Young would preach according to their beliefs.

Here is an account of what did happen, taken from - "Directory of the Ancestral Heads of New England Families" compiled by Frank R. Homes.

"John Young Clergyman, born 1602, came from St. Margaretts, County of Suffolk, England to Salem, Massachusetts, 1637, removed Southold Long Island 1640."

St. Margaretts was the parish of which he was a minister. (Green's History of English People, page 40 give this account:

"On the 11th or 12th of May 1637, Rev John Young made the following application for permission to take passage on the Mary Anne, of Yarmouth, William Goose (or Gooch), master.

"This man was forbyden passage, by the Commissioners and went not from Yarmouth. The examination of John: Yonges of St. Margaretts: Suff / Minister age 35 years, and Joan, his wife / age / 34/ years with / 6 / children / John: Tho: Anne: Rachel: Marey: and / Josueph: as desirous, to passe of Salem: in New England to inhabit it."

This order by the High Commissioners did not prevent, or even seem to delay his leaving. the passenger list of the Mary Anne included sixty-two persons for Salem, and eleven for Holland; and, disregarding the order, he promptly left England, and doubtless

crossed the Atlantic on this vessel either from Yarmouth or Holland, and in less than three months was in Salem, Massachusetts."

We find Rev. John Young in Salem. "On 14 August 1637, he was received as an inhabitant and granted land there. On the same day, Samuel Greenfield, who was a passenger on the Mary Anne, was granted land, indicating that they came on the same vessel.

On Christmas day of that year (1637), the town made an allotment of meadow lots, and "Mr. Yong," described as having eight persons in his family the same number as given in his application to emigrate), received one acre.

December 21, 1639, the town granted him fifty acres of land, on condition that he "continue in the Plantation to use the same."

Joan Young's will was probated in 1639.

Rev. John Young married Mary Gardner about 1640.

In "Pioneers of Massachusetts," by Pope it gives the following:

"John brother of Christopher, Salem, 1636. He married Mary, daughter of Thomas Warren of Southwold, England, merchant, who beq. to her two children, Mary Gardner, and Benjamin Young, in his will dated 4 March 1641, probated 13 September 1645."

As Salem was not in need of a minister at this time, Rev. John Young left Salem and became the pioneer and founder of Southold Long Island, Connecticut in 1640. Here he was the planters first pastor of the church.

Rev. John Young died 24 February 1672.