

History of Robert Leach

Robert was probably born in Ash Martock, Somersetshire, England in 1605. He came to Salem, Massachusetts with his father Lawrence, and mother Elizabeth, and other members of the family who came on "The Talbot" with Rev. Frances Higginson, in 1629.

Rev. Higginson kept a diary of the voyage. He writes the following: "When we came first to Nehum-kek, now Salem; we found about half a score houses built, and a fair house newly built for the Governor. We found also abundance of corn planted by them, very good and well liking. And we brought with us about two hundred passengers and planters, were all combined together into one body politic, under the same Governor.

"There are in all of us, both old and new planters, about three hundred, whereof two hundred of them are settled at Nehum-kek, now called Salem, and the rest have planted themselves at Masathulets Bay, beginning to built a town there, which we do call Cherton of Charlestown.

"We that are settled at Salem make what haste we can to build houses, so that within a short time we shall have a fair town."

Robert Leach received a land grant in 1636, in the portion of Salem which later became Manchester.

It gives in The History of Manchester, by D.F. Lamson the following:

"As early as 1640, when there were but sixty-three people in all living at "Jeffrys Creeke," we find these sturdy and independent pioneers "jointly & humbly" requesting the Honorable

Court to give them "power to erect a Village." This petition was granted. In 1645, the inhabitants petitioned for a change of name, and on 18 June, the settlement received the name of Manchester."

Robert Leach is listed as one of the first settlers of Manchester. He owned many places of land.

Robert Leach married first Mary or Miriam about 1639. She was admitted to the church 9 Sept 1639. They had four children. Mary or Miriam Leach, died 11 February 1648. Robert married second Alice Alls about 1649. they had four children that were born in Manchester, Essex, Massachusetts.

Besides farming Robert was also a collar maker. He was a freeman 1644. He was the town Clerk of Manchester, and he was Selectman from 1658 to 1661, and again in 1680. Robert died 22 May 1688, age 83.

Alice's will was dated 27 March 1691.

History of Robert Leach 1650

Robert was born 1650 in Manchester, Essex, Massachusetts. Robert tried to follow the good example set by his parents, Robert and Alice. Being a good church member he was on a committee chosen 5 Dec 1715, to look for a minister to preach at Manchester. As a result of this action, Rev. Ames Cheever, a grandson of the celebrated Ezekiel Cheever, was ordained 4 Oct 1716.

In the book "History of Manchester," by Lamson it gives an account of this story: "The church members had been connected with the church in Salem up to 1677. Then they gathered in Beverly until they were dismissed from the church in order to come into a church state by themselves in Manchester.

Among those who became members of the church in Manchester were Robert Leach, Samuel Stone and John Knowlton."

Robert was Selectman 1687, 88, 91, 94, 96, 98, 1700, 01, 02, 03 and 1705. During his term of office, as selectman in 1700, for 3 pd. 19 s., a deed of the town of Manchester was obtained from the Indian (Acknowledged at Salem 18 December 1700.)

Robert was a soldier in King Philip's War.

Robert married first Sarah in 1678. They had two children which were born in Manchester, Essex, Massachusetts. Sarah died about 1683 in Manchester.

Robert married second Hannah in 1684. They had eight children which were born in Manchester.

Robert died 1717 in Manchester.

History of Sarah Leach

Sarah was born 11 June 1680, Manchester, Essex, Massachusetts.
She was named after her mother Sarah.

She married Ezekiel Knowlton, 29 January 1698. Sarah and Ezekiel had four children. Sarah married second Joseph Allen on 20 Jan 1712/3.

She died 18 March 1734/5 in Manchester, Essex, England.