

### History of Thomas King

Thomas, son of Thomas King and Sarah or Susan, was born 1605 in Dorset County, England. He married Anne Collins. Their first six children were born in Dorset County. The seventh child was born in Sudbury, Middlesex, Massachusetts.

In Banks Topographical Dictionary of 2885 English Emigrants to New England 1620-1650 page 34, it says: Thomas King came from Shaftsbury Parish, Dorsetshire county, England. Settled in Sudbury, Massachusetts.

Anne Collins died 24 November 1642 at Sudbury, Middlesex, Massachusetts. She probably gave birth to their son Thomas just before her death.

This was surely a sad occasion: seven children being left without a mother.

In the history of Sudbury, it gives the name of the first settlers in 1638 or 1639. Then it lists Thomas King and Peter King among the names of those who settled in Sudbury soon after it began.

Many ships were coming to New England during this period so we know not the ship they arrived on, nor the time of their arrival. We do know they came so they could have the privilege of worshipping God according to their belief.

Thomas King proved to be a good father. His two oldest daughters, Anna, about 16 or 17 and Mary 12 years old were old enough to take over the household duties, as children were taught to work young in those days. Thomas's oldest son Peter later became a deacon in the church.

Thomas and Anna's oldest son Peter becomes a man of some prominence in Sudbury. He was one of the contracting parties for the erection of Sudbury we find: "They again decided to build a new meeting house; and in 1652 a contract was made for the work.

This contract is on the Town Records, but has become considerably worn and defaced, so that parts are almost or quite unintelligible. There is, however a copy in the "Stearns Collection," which, with some slight immaterial alterations, is as follows:

"The town agreed with Thomas Plympton, Peter King & Hugh Griffin to build a new meeting house which was to be forty feet long & twenty feet wide measuring from outside to outside, the studs were to be 6 inched by 4 to stand for a four foot clapboard. There were to be 4 transom windows five feet wide and 6 feet high, and in each gable end a clear story window, each window was to be 4 feet wide and 3 feet high. There were to be sufficient dorments across the house for galleries if there should afterward be a desire for galleries the beams to be 12 inches by 14 and the ground sills were to be of white oak 8 inches square. The posts were to be a foot square, and the 2 middle beams to be smoothed on three sides and the lower corners to be run with a bowkell. They said Plympton, King & Griffin are to find timber to fell, hew, saw, cart, frame, carry to the place & they are to level the ground and to find them sufficient help to raise the house, they are to inclose the house with clap boards and to lyne the inside with cedar boards or otherwise with good spruce boards, & to be smoothed & over lapped and to be lyned up the windows, & they are to hang

the doors so as to bolt. One of the doors on the inside is to be sett with a lock. They are to lay the sleepers of the doors with white oak or good swamp pine, & to floor the house with plank. They are to finish all the works but the seats, for which the town do covenant to give them \*\*\* 5 pounds 20 to be paid in Sep' next to be paid in wheat, butter, or money & the rest to be paid as soon as the work is done in Indyan corn or cattle the corn to [be] merchantable at the price current."

Witness Edmnd Goodnow

Thomas Noyes

The new building was to be erected on the site of the old one. The town ordered "that the carpenters should provide 12 men to help them raise the meeting house," for which they were to be allowed half a crown a day.

The new building being brought to completion, the people probably left the little first meeting-house that the deft hands of John Rutter had reared, and went into this with hearts thankful for new comforts and conveniences.

At a meeting of the selectmen, 25 October 1678, it was ordered that "Mr. Peter Noyes, Peter Kinge and Thomas Steven of any of them are appointed to collect of the Inhabitants of this town what may be wanted of the sum granted by any person or persons toward the new college at Cambridge in building according to an order by the General Court."

Thomas King, the father of this family was also noted for his good works.

It was quite an undertaking to come into a wilderness and before they were hardly settled, take on the responsibility of father and mother both to a family of six children. He knew he would have to teach them to obey God's Commandments so they could be with their mother in the hereafter, and this he did.

He did not marry again until his youngest child was about 16 years old and most of his children were married. Then he married (2) Bridget 26 December 1655 in Sudbury, Massachusetts. She was the daughter of Henry Loker and Elizabeth French; and the widow of Robert Davis. He must have loved his family very much to be so devoted to them.

As we continue the life of Thomas King you will see what a wonderful man he was.

Thomas King owned land in the fourth squadron of the two mile grant, his lot being No. 50 and adjoining the cowpen in the southwest part of Sudbury.

Sudbury's original territory was divided by a wide, circuitous stream which was subject to spring and fall floods. It was a matter of no small importance to the settlers to have a safe crossing. At first they only had foot bridges. Then a ferry. But this could not long suffice for the settlement.

About 1642 it was ordered by the town, "That Mr. Noyes, Mr. Pendletown, Walter Hayes, John Parmenter Jr., and Thomas King shall have power to view the river at Thomas King's, and to agree with the workmen to build a cart-bridge over the river according as they shall see just occasion." A contract was soon made and the bridge was built.

Where this bridge was built was a beautiful spot where the meadows grew green in the springtime as the floods were passing away, and the willows, standing in the hedgerows like silent sentinels, sent forth their fragrant perfume. Here surely is a fit place for reflection, a suitable spot in which to meditate upon things that were long ago.

On the east side of the river in Sudbury there is a pond named after either Thomas or Peter King, probably both, which is still being called "King's Pond."

In 1656 Thomas King was one of the petitioners for the plantation of Marlborough, Middlesex. Massachusetts, and was on the first board of selectmen of that town.

Peter King, the elder of Shaston, Dorset, Gentleman, named his brother Thomas King, now dwelling in New England, in his will o 30 May 1658.

Thomas was a farmer. After Peter was married he had no sons left to help him put the land in Marlborough under cultivation, and very little farming equipment to work with and according to the law had only a certain length of time to get his land under cultivation. But Thomas was a hard working man so was able to overcome the problems of the times, and with God's help he made out okey.

Thomas King Jr., died in 1676. This was during the Philips War when Marlborough was practically destroyed by the Indians. He was killed in the massacre or died in Sudbury or Marlborough.

He (2) wife Bridget died a widow 1 March 1685.