

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY HULL,
MASSACHUSETTS, AND HER PEOPLE

Ethel Farrington Smith*

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JONES

The Jones name has survived in Hull longer than that of any of the other original planters. In early Hingham there were three Joneses who received land grants: Robert, who remained in Hingham but whose sons Robert² and Benjamin² resided in Hull; Richard, who went to Dorchester; and Thomas, who moved to Hull.

ROBERT JONES

1. ROBERT¹ JONES came from the vicinity of Reading, Berkshire, England, about 1636 to Hingham, Massachusetts, bringing with him his wife and four children (Melvin E. Jones, *Jones, Hathaway-Richards-Gooding Genealogy* [Boston, 1934], 3). He died at Hingham between 20 April 1688, when he made his will, and 27 January 1691/2, when it was proved (Suffolk Co. Probate File 1909).

He was probably married three times, if birthdates as estimated for his children and stepchildren are correct. The name of his first wife, mother of his son Robert², has not been discovered. He evidently married, second, _____ (perhaps ALEXANDER) CURTIS, a widow with at least two daughters, Elizabeth and Jane Curtis. On 4 December 1646 these two girls gave "Robert Jones of Hingham their father in law" power of attorney to handle matters relating to a legacy from their grandmother, Jane Alexander, "late of Reading in Oxfordshire [sic] deceased" (*Aspinwall's Notarial Records*, 41; see also the *Register*, 60[1906]:60). (Jane Curtis married Thomas² Collier of Hull in 1647. See the Collier Family, in the *Register*, 142[1988]:356-359.) Robert's second wife, who would have been too old to have borne a child in 1662, died sometime after the birth of their son Ephraim in 1649, and Robert married third, before 1662, ELIZABETH _____, who became mother of his two youngest children. She died at Hingham 25 September 1712 (Lincoln, *History of Hingham*, 2:387).

In his will (cited above), Robert Jones of Hingham, planter, named his sons Joseph, John, and Benjamin, daughters Sarah Belknap and

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[stepdaughter] Jane Collier, and children of his deceased son Robert. He left all housing, estate, and lands, to his wife Elizabeth, and "to Benjamin Jones the younger whom my wife Elizabeth bore to me." Witnesses were James Hawke, Theophilus Cushing, and Daniel Cushing, Sr. When the will was proved 27 January 1691/2, it was stated that Elizabeth, the executrix, was unable to come to court but desired that the will be presented for probate.

Children, by first wife; surname *Jones*:

2. i. ROBERT², b. ca. 1626; m. ANNE BIBBLE.
- ii. JOSEPH; d. at Hingham 18 July 1714; m. at Weymouth, 11 Nov. 1657, PATIENCE LITTLE, b. ca. 1639, d. at Hingham 25 Oct. 1723, daughter of Thomas and Anna (Warren) Little. For more on their children and grandchildren, see R. S. Wakefield, J. A. Beebe, and others, *Richard Warren of the Mayflower and His Descendants for Four Generations* (Plymouth, Mass., 1987, a Mayflower Families in Progress pamphlet), 12-13, 54-57.
- iii. JOHN; res. Marshfield; his will dated 21 May 1720 named, among others, children of brother Joseph (*ibid.*, 13).
- iv. SARAH; m. before 1653 SAMUEL BELKNAP, son of Abraham and Mary () Belknap, b. probably ca. 1627/8. Their places of residence included Salem and Haverhill, Mass. (*Register*, 68[1914]:195-196).
- v. BENJAMIN, bp. at Hingham in March 1638 (*Register*, 121[1967]:10); d. at Bristol, Mass. (later R.I.), 12 Jan. 1717/18 (James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island*, 21 vols. [Providence, 1891-1912], 6:253 [hereinafter cited as *Bristol VRs*]); m., perhaps second, before 1684, BATHSHEBA BOSWORTH (*Jonathan*², *Edward*¹), b. ca. 1654, d. at Bristol 17 Sept. 1740.

Although he may be the Benjamin Jones stated by Lincoln in *History of Hingham* to have removed to Exeter, N.H., with members of the Gilman, Foulsham and Leavitt families, by 1679 he had followed his stepsister Jane Collier, wife of Thomas, and his brother Robert² Jones to Hull. Thomas Collier of Hull, husbandman, and wife Jane on 4 February 1679 sold to Benjamin Jones of Hull, mariner, for £5, all that piece of land in Hull and that lot called Gallop's Lot, containing 20 rods more or less, bounded southerly by the highway, northerly by Benjamin Bosworth's land, easterly by Thomas Collier's land, and westerly by rocks and stakes. Thomas signed and Jane wrote her initials JC, witnessed by Nathaniel Bosworth and Samuel Prince (*Suffolk Deeds*, 14:71-72). This deed was acknowledged 25 Oct. 1686, along with another dated 10 December 1684, whereby Benjamin Jones of New Bristol in the Colony of Plymouth, husbandman, and Bathsheba his wife, sold to Luke Squire of Hull their dwelling house and land lying in Hull, it being eight rods long and four rods, six feet wide, bounded with Thomas Collier's land on the east, the Town Commons on the south, and Robert Goold's land on the west and north (*ibid.*, 14:56-57). Benjamin and Bathshua Joans both signed, witnessed by Job Chamberlin, Robert Milton, Robert Goold, and David Cary. For additional information on this family, see *Bosworth Genealogy*, 2:174-178 and also *TAG*, 62[1987]:55-56.

Benjamin should not be confused with Benjamin³ Jones (*Abraham², Thomas¹*), b. ca. 1668, who m. Elizabeth Deering. The two Benjamins lived across the street from one another in Hull.

Children by third wife, Elizabeth, both baptized at Hingham by Rev. Peter Hobart; surname *Jones*:

- vi. ELIZABETH, bp. Aug. 1662 (*Register*, 121[1967]:113).
- vii. BENJAMIN the younger, bp. 27 Aug. 1666 (*ibid.*, 119); living in 1688 when named in his father's will.

2. ROBERT² JONES (*Robert¹*) was born probably in or near Reading, Berkshire, England, about 1626, and died at Swansea, Massachusetts, 24 June 1675. He married, probably at Hull in late 1651 or 1652, ANNE BIBBLE, daughter of John and Sybil (Tincknell) Bibble of Hull and Malden, Massachusetts, who was born in England about 1630 and died between 7 June 1677 and 22 September 1681 (John Insley Coddington, "Sybil (Tincknell) (Bibble) (Nutt) Doolittle and Her Family," in *TAG*, 31[1955]:90-101). The Bibble family has been discussed earlier in this series on Hull families (*Register*, 142[1988]:273-274).

Robert was a child when he accompanied his family to Hingham. Later he spent a few years at Rehoboth, returning to Hingham until his marriage, when he apparently moved to Hull. On 28 October 1651, Anne Bibble, then of age and single, signed a petition requesting that the Reverend Marmaduke Matthews remain as minister at Malden; she and Robert probably married soon after that date. Records show that they cared for Anne's parents until the death of her father at Hull on 21 July 1653 when they and their son John inherited from him. After the birth of their second child, Robert moved his family back to Rehoboth, where he bought land from Robert Titus 23 March 1653/4 and was settled by September of that year. On 24 January 1666 they were at Swansea, Massachusetts, formerly part of Rehoboth; on that date "Robert Jones propounded and in the declaration of his faith & experiences gave full satisfaction and is to be admitted to comunion with us the next sabbath..." (Swansea Church Records, *Register*, 139[1985]:25).

King Philip's War brought great tragedy to this family. The Hingham home of Robert's brother Joseph was burned by Indians. On 24 June 1675 there was a skirmish at Swansea, during which Robert Jones, his son John, and his son-in-law Joseph Lewis were all killed and scalped by Indians (*TAG*, 31:97). In 1679 Robert was granted posthumous membership in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company (Oliver Ayer Roberts, *Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts*, 1[1895], 234,256).

Children, surname *Jones*:

- i. JOHN³, b. probably at Hull; bp. at Hingham by Rev. Peter Hobart 17 July 1652; d. at Swansea, Mass., 24 June 1675. Lincoln in *History of Hingham* (2:387) confuses this child with his uncle, John².

- ii. MARY, b. probably at Hull soon after 21 July 1653 (not mentioned in grandfather's will of that date); d. before 1 April 1720, probably at Malden, Mass.; m. (1) at Swansea, Mass., 13 June 1671, JOSEPH² LEWIS, son of Edmund Lewis of Lynn, Mass., who d. at Swansea 24 June 1675, killed by Indians; m. (2) at Malden, Mass., where she was living with her grandmother, 11 Jan. 1676/7, OBADIAH² JENKINS, son of Joel and Sarah (Gilbert) Jenkins. Mary was mentioned in the will of her step-grandfather John Doolittle, dated 22 Sept. 1681. Her two children by her first marriage and six by her second are listed in TAG, 31:99-100.
- iii. SARAH, b. at Rehoboth "middle of September" 1654 (James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rehoboth 1642-1896*, 2 vols. [Providence, 1897], 2:654); d. after 1691; m. at Lynn, Mass., 22 Dec. 1680, JOSEPH BROWN (*Vital Records of Lynn, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* [Salem, Mass., 1905], 2:69).
Children, b. at Lynn (*ibid.*, 1:78-80); surname *Brown*: 1. *Joseph*, b. 12 April 1682; mentioned in will of his great-grandmother Sybil Doolittle. 2. *John*, b. 31 March 1684; d. 23 Oct. 1691 (*ibid.*, 2:442). 3. *Thomas*, b. 20 Dec. 1685. 4. *Mary*, b. 17 May 1688; d. 7 July 1688 (*ibid.*). 5. *John*, b. 20 Oct. 1691.
- iv. ANN/HANNAH, b. at Rehoboth "latter end of August" 1656 (*Rehoboth VRs*, 2:654); d. at Swansea 18 Jan. 1725/6; m. there 21 Dec. 1673 JOHN² PADDOCK. Their five children are listed in TAG, 31:101.
- v. MERCY, b. at Rehoboth "last of April 1662" (*Rehoboth VRs*, 2:654); d. after 1683 when she was named in the will of her grandmother Sybil Doolittle (*Register*, 9[1855]:307). The transcription of the will in TAG, 31[1955]:98, missed her name, which appears separately from those of her minor siblings.
- vi. REBECCA, b. at Rehoboth in May 1665 (*Rehoboth VRs*, 2:654); living 1683 when she was named in the will of her grandmother.
- vii. ROBERT, b. at Rehoboth "middle of November" 1667 (*ibid.*); living in 1696 when he sold land in Swansea; named in 1683 will of his grandmother.
- viii. ZACHARIAH, b. at Rehoboth 28 Feb. 1669 (*ibid.*); living in 1706 when he bought land in Providence, R.I.; named in 1683 will of grandmother.
- ix. BENJAMIN, b. at Swansea 8 May 1674 (Swansea Births, Marriages and Burials, in *Mayflower Descendant*, 19[1917]:68). His death record has not been found; he was mentioned in wills of his grandmother Sybil and step-grandfather John Doolittle. Melvin E. Jones in *Jones, Hathaway-Richards-Gooding Genealogy* (p. 3), claims that he was the Benjamin Jones who m. at Bristol, Mass., 18 Sept. 1696, Elizabeth Borden (*Bristol VRs*, 29) and had seven children, all but the first b. in Swansea. Researchers of Jones and Borden families should note John Insley Coddington's discussion of the problem in TAG 31:98. See also Benjamin² Jones (*Robert*¹), above, who lived in Bristol.