

THE ANCESTRY AND DESCENDANTS

of

MAJOR JOHN RUDDOCK

of

BOSTON

1704 - 1772

Compiled by

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Robert D. Dodge, February 2004.

RUDDOCKS of BOSTON before 1700.

The earliest Ruddock in New England seems to have been John Ruddock of Sudbury, who became Freeman in 1640. Savage seems to think that he came from Co. Wilts in England, the section whence the three Goodenow brothers came in 1638. In his Will one of these mentions "my two brothers John Ruddock and John Goodenow". Will was dated Apr. 6, 1667.

John Ruddock's first wife was Doritha -----, who died May 9, 1686. He then married Jane Brimstead, the sister of Rev. William Brimstead the clergyman, settled in the town. She died Feb. 9, 1687/88 and he married for a third wife, Rebecca, who died Dec. 25, 1694, according to the Marlboro records. He died Jan. 28 or 29, 1692/3.

John Ruddock was one of those that petitioned the Court at Boston for permission to extend the bounds of Sudbury and thus secured the grant for the town of Marlborough. On Sept. 25, 1656 at the first meeting of the settlers he was one of the four chosen to put the affairs of the town "in an orderly way". Beside serving as a Selectman he was the Town Clerk and on various committees for other town services. He was a deacon of the Church and in all respects an influential man in the Community.

Neither the records of Marlborough or Sudbury show the births of any children, so nothing more is known of the family of John Ruddock of Sudbury. It seems probable that he was related in some way to the Boston Ruddocks mentioned below. He may even be the John Ruddock who was appointed the administrator in the following paragraph.

Jolliff Ruddock, a merchant of Boston died in 1649 and on the 21st of the 10th mo. 1649 administration was granted to John Ruddock. Savage says

that John might have been a son or brother. There was a Joliff family in Boston at this time, and it seems probable that it was related to this Ruddock.

Edward Ruddock, a sailor, in 1667 died at sea on a trip from the Island of Nevis, one of the British West Indies, to New England. He was on the ketch Hope, out of Salem. The papers connected with the settlement of the estate show that Thomas Ruddock of ERBRIDGE, co. WILTS, was his oldest brother. William Ruddock of London, weaver, son of Richard Ruddock, late of Truckekill, Co. Summerset, dec'd, aged 30 years, and William Ruddock of London, Taylor, son of Edward Ruddock of High-littleton, in Co. of Summerset, mercer, aged 40 years, at the request of Thomas Ruddock of Trowbridge, Co. Wilts, depose that Thomas is the eldest brother of Edward Ruddock, who died at sea on board the Ketch, Hope, on the way from Nevis. (Suffolk Co. Vol. I, pp. 80 and 81).

Thomas Ruddock of Trowbridge appointed William Calhoone to act for him and William Calhoone, in turn empowered David Ruddock of Boston, merchant to act as his attorney.

Administration on the estate of the late Edward Ruddock (Boston Probate, 5.72) is granted to Thomas Dewer of Boston, who hath some parts of his the sayd Ruddock's estate in sugar, consigned to him from Nevis in his hands before his death, he bringing in an inventory of that Estate and what else shall come to his hands, etc. The Inventory of May 28, 1668, showed powder, sugar and a negro boy. The items of expense "Payed to sink the body of Edward Ruddock" and another item, money paid to Esther Crabtree, give no clue to the relationship of David of Boston, Edward the sailor of the ketch, Hope, John and Joliff of Boston to each other,

although they are all in Boston at about the same period, and probably are related.

Mary Ruddock married at Boston, Feb. 1, 1693 Robert Griffin. She may have been a sister of the following Fortune, who was married in 1704.

Henry Ruddock was in Providence as early as 1653. His wife was Mabell, (Early Providence Records XV, p. 67 and III, p. 115). He had a daughter Mary, who married about 1656 Christopher Hawkhurst of Rhode Island and Oyster Bay, and a son, John and a daughter Elizabeth, who received a bequest from William Barrows in Oct. 17, 1658. (E.P.R. XV, p. 74)

John Ruddock, his horse, being employed by Capt. Leverett in his journey to the Manhatos is to have his bill of charges signed by the auditer and paid by the treasury, provided he make it appeare under the hand of Capt. Leverett or Capt. Davis what is due him. May 15, 1654. (Records of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. Vol. 3, p. 347.)

John Ruddock had a servant James Rose, in 1655, for "James Rose being now in prison for abusing his master, John Ruddocke, upon his petition and promise of reformation, hath libertie to go home to his said master agayne." (Records of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. Vol. 3, p. 395.) The John Ruddock of this record May 28, 1655 is doubtless the same John who administered for Joliff Ruddock. Since Fortune Ruddock was married in 1704 he was probably born between 1675 and 1685, and since he named three sons John, it seems probable that he was a son or grandson of this John Ruddock. But at the date of this compilation no relationship has been discovered.

The Ruddocks of Boston

FORTUNE RUDDOCK

What relationship Fortune Ruddock of Boston bore to the several Ruddocks, who appear at an earlier date in Boston and the surrounding towns has not as yet been discovered. On Feb. 8, 1704 he was married by Mr. Cotton Mather (Boston Mar. Vol 28, p. 14) to Abiel Ireland, daughter of Mr. John and Grace (Healy) Ireland, who were married July 15, 1680 (Charlestown Families). Mrs. Grace Ireland is buried at Copps Hill. Abiel Ireland was born the 17th of 12 mo. 1684 and baptized the 22nd of the same month.

In 1713 Fortune Ruddock lived on Lynn Street. This corresponds roughly with the present Commercial St. in the North End of Boston. On May 4, 1713 Fortune Ruddock "was granted liberty" by the Selectmen of Boston "to dig open the Highway across Lynn St., for laying his Cellar drain there, provided he as Little as may be obstruct ye passage, while the same is doing and that he lay ye sd draine with Brick or Stone and speedily make good ye way where he shall so dig". (Boston Records Vol. 11, p. 184)

On Nov. 9, 1714 Fortune joined with two others in a petition to the Selectmen to have the pavement on North Street extended downward to the end of the street and agreed that if this was done "they would undertake the effecting thereof and defray the charge of 9 feet in breadth on each side of the whole." The petition was granted. (Boston Records Book 11, p. 218). These two items show that Fortune had his home very near the North

Battery site in command of which fortification his son John Ruddock was placed at a later date, and held for about 13 years.

Fortune was twice elected Scavenger for Boston, first on Mar. 14, 1714/5 and again on Sept. 6, 1715 when his duties were confined to Broughton's ward. (Boston Rec. Bk. 9, p. 108 and Bk. 11, p. 234)

On Jan. 14, 1715 (O.S.) Fortune Ruddock made a will, which was probated Apr. 3, 1716, when Abiel Ruddock, widow, relict of Fortune Ruddock, mariner, qualified as sole executrix. (Boston Probate, Bk. 19, p. 79, 80) In the will Fortune instructs his wife Abiel, to sell the south-east part, now in occupation of Pearse and Joshua Todd and to sell the north-west part for her support and "for the education of my son John Ruddock, an infant, if necessary, otherwise to have my dwelling-house, wharf, and warehouses until son comes of full age. I do empower my said wife Abiel to sell to her mother, Mrs Grace Ireland, a slip of land 10 feet wide adjoining her dwelling-house and to go down from the Street, four feet below the porch to be for the accomodation of that house." Paul Dudley, Solomon Townsend and Edward Weaver were the witnesses.

CHILDREN (Boston Rec. Vol. 24, pp. 50, 57, 85, 95) (Copp's Hill Epitaphs)

- 2 Abiel Ruddock, b. June 5, 1707; d. July 22, 1707, aged 6 weeks.
- 3 John Ruddock, b. Jan. 3, 1708/9; d. Oct. 12, 1709, aged 9 mo.
- 4 John Ruddock, b. May 7, 1712; d. young.
- 5 * John Ruddock, b. July 8, 1713.

5 JOHN RUDDOCK (Fortune) was born in Boston, July 8, 1713; d. in Boston, Sept. 2, 1772, aged 59 years and 2 months. He married Tabitha Drinker (or Drinkwater), daughter of Edward and Tabitha (Baker) Drinker. They were married by Addington Davenport of Kings Chapel on Jan. 5, 1737, (Boston Records Vol. 28, p. 203). John Ruddock was buried on Copps Hill, where the Irelands also were buried. His stone bore the following epitaph, -

"Here lies buried the body of Maj. John Ruddock, Esq.

Dec'd Sep. 2, 1772, age 59, 2.

He was in commission of the Peace and Justice of the quorum of the County of Suffolk 13 years. He commanded His Majesty's North Battery in Boston 13 years and was Selectman for the same town 9 years.

Could a heart that felt & a hand that relieved the miseries attendant upon humanity; could the truest patriotism, equally superior to the frowns of power and the rage of party, which with invincible constancy asserted and defended universally (for he was a citizen of the world) the right of mankind; could undeviating integrity in every office which he dignified by holding, joined to the most impartial dispensation of justice;- in fine- could extensive virtue or distinguished worth rescue from the tomb,

Reader, thou hast not been told HERE LIES RUDDOCK.

Depart. Imitate his virtue and with him merit the eulogium of thy country.

Time may efface this monumental stone,
 But time nor malice can his worth dethrone,
 For villians living oft may buy a name,
 But virtue only swells posthumous fame."

(Copied by Robert W. Devereux of Providence, in 1878)

Time has already obliterated the words on this stone, but they are fortunately preserved in Bridgman's "Copp's Hill Epitaphs", p. 154; where the words "of the Court and" replace "of the quorum".

John Ruddock was a devout man, and practiced the principles of Christian living. He was a member of the Old North Church, which he served as deacon.

He served as Captain and then Major of the North Battery. Among the papers preserved by his granddaughter, Tabitha (Story) Devereux is a certificate which he signed for Ralph Morgan, who was a neighbor and friend. The upper part of this certificate is an engraving of the North Battery, from which flies the British flag. A boat with sails is just below. Across the river the height of Charlestown can be seen. There are boats on the river and tied up to the wharf is a larger vessel flying the British flag. The spire of the North Church can be seen behind the two storied houses which abut the wharf. Just below the picture at the right are the words "P Revere Sculp". Below is a copy of the certificate.

This may Certify all whomit may Concern, that the Bearer hereof Ralph Morgan is an Inlisted MONTROSS at his MAJESTY'S NORTH-BATTERY, in Boston under my Command. Given under my Hand this 18 April In the Tenth Year of his Majesty's reign. John Ruddock Captain

(Note, - The words underlined are in writing. As George III ascended the throne in 1760, the date of this document would be about 1770.)

From the time that he was twenty-five years of age John Ruddock began to be interested in town affairs. The many volumes of the Boston Records are full of the work given him to do at various periods. He began by

serving as constable, then as viewer of shingles, and as fence viewer. Having served in these capacities, he is put on a committee to consider some effectual means to prevent frauds in the measurement of cord-wood. Then he works as a member of a committee to carry into effect the providing of necessary utensils for making cannon and other arms effective. By 1746 he was elected to be one of the Collectors of Taxes, and as a result of this position, he was chosen a member of various committees, which settled different financial problems. Often he was auditor of the Town Treasurer's accounts, and the accounts of the one who took charge of the Lotteries, sanctioned by the Town, such as one instituted to obtain money to repair Fanueil Hall. Often he was elected to have charge of repairs on Public Buildings, or Bridges or Ferries.

At times he was Overseer of the Poor, and often a member of the Committee who made a "General Walk or Perambulation of the Town" to study the condition and state of the streets and also to study the buildings with reference to their condition as a fire-hazard. Yearly he was chosen to be one of the committee "To visit Public Schools in Town the year ensuing at such times as they shall think proper, to See What number of Children are in each school, to Enquire into their behavior and Attendance, and the Government and Regulation they are under and they are desired to make a Report at the General Town Meeting next March." The Governor and other officials headed this committee.

During the small-pox epidemic he was called upon to help make laws to govern the conduct of the citizens and to see that these laws were carried out. One entry with respect to this duty is of interest. (Vol. , p. 6). The town clerk was directed to write Mr. Justice Ruddock desiring him to

permit Mr. Adams, the carpenter for his working on the approaching Sabbath or Lord's Day that so fences and barns may immediately be erected and placed to prevent passing and repassing the Houses infected with the small-pox. Jan. 1764

Finally he was elected Selectman, and he held that position for the last nine years of his life, dying in office in August of 1772. During those years, the most turbulent in the history of Boston, his mature judgement, his integrity, his foresight and his felicity of speech, made him a valued member of the board of Selectmen, who often called upon him to present their views clearly in the statements of their judgements and acts.

On Sept. 12, 1765 A town Meeting was called "to determine whether Instructions shall be given to the Representatives of the Town in the General Assembly for their Conduct at this very alarming Crisis." He was placed upon the Committee to consider instructions which they should give to the Representative at the General Court, after "conferring upon what measures shall appear necessary to be taken in consequence of the Stamp Act and other matters of grievance." The Selectmen presented their report at the next Town Meeting and that Report will live forever.

The seven Selectmen, Hon. Samuel Wells, Esq., Richard Dana, Esq., John Rowe, Esq., Mr. Samuel Adams, John Erving, Esq., Joseph Green, Esq. And John Ruddock, Esq., approved the suggestion that the Representatives should be instructed and the Committee chosen to draw up the Report, reported as follows,

"To the Hon^{ble} James Otis, Esq., Thomas Cushing, Esq., and Mr. Thomas Gray.

Gentlemen,

At a time when the British American Subjects are everywhere loudly complaining of arbitrary unconstitutional Innovations, the town of Boston cannot any longer remain silent without Just Imputation and Inexcusable Neglect. We therefore the Freeholders and other Inhabitants legally Assembled in Fanueill Hall to consider What steps are necessary for us to take at this alarming crisis, think it proper to communicate to you our united Sentiments and to give you our Instructions thereupon.

It fills us with great concern to find that measures have been adopted by the British Ministry, and Acts of Parliament made, which press hard upon our invaluable Rights and Privileges and tend greatly to distress the Trade of the Province, by which we have heretofore been able to contribute so large a share towards the Inriching of the Mother Country--- But we are more particularly alarmed and astonished at the Act called the Stamp Act, by which a very grievous and we apprehend unconstitutional Tax is to be laid upon the Colonies---

By the Royal Charter Granted to our Ancestors the power of making laws for our Internal Government and of levying Taxes, is vested in the General Assembly; and by the same Charter the Inhabitants of this Province are entitled to all the Rights & Privileges of natural freeborn Subjects of Great Britain. The most essential Rights of British Subjects are those of being represented in the same body which exercises the power of levying Taxes upon them and of having their Property tried by Juries; These are the very pillars of the British Constitution, founded in the common Rights of Mankind. It is certain that we were in no sense represented in the Parliament of Great Britain when this Act of Taxation was made; and it is also certain that this Law admits of our Propertys being tryed in

Controversies arising from Internal concerns by Courts of Admiralty without a Jury; It follows that at once it annihilates the most valuable privilege of our Charter, deprives us of the most essential Rights of Britain and greatly weakens the best securities of our Lives, Liberties and Estates; which may hereafter be at the disposal of Judges who may be strangers to us, and perhaps malicious, mercenary, corrupt and oppressive.

But admitting that we had no complaints of this nature, we should still have reason to except against the Iniquity of these Taxes; It is well known that the people of these Provinces have not only settled this country, but enlarged and defended the British Dominion in America with a vast expense of treasure and Blood; they have exerted themselves in the most distinguished services for their King by which they have often been reduced to the greatest distress, brought upon themselves a debt almost insupportable in the late War more especially by their surprising Exertions; And we are well assured if these expensive services for which very little if any advantage hath ever accrued to themselves, together with the necessary Charges of supporting & defending his Majesty's Government here had been duly estimated, the Moneys designed to be drawn from us by this Act would have appeared greatly beyond our proportion. We look upon it as a peculiar hardship that when the Representative Body of this Province had prepared and sent forward a decent Remonstrance against these proceedings, while they were depending in the House of Commons, it failed of admittance there; and this we esteem the more extraordinary, in as much as being unrepresented, it was the only method, whereby they could make known their Objections to Measures, in the Event of which their Constituents were to be so deeply interested. Moreover this Act if carried into Execution, will become a further Grievance to us as it will

afford a precedent for the Parliament to tax us in all future time, and in all such Ways and Measures, as they shall judge meet without our Consent.

We therefore think it our indispensable Duty in Justice to ourselves and Posterity, as it is our undoubted Privilege in the most open and unreserved, but decent and respectful terms to declare our greatest dissatisfaction [several words unreadable] think it incumbent upon you by no means to Join in any public Measures for countenancing and assisting in the Execution of the same, But to use your best endeavors in the General Assembly, to have the Inherent unalienable Rights of the people of this Province asserted and vindicated, and left upon the Public Records, That Posterity may never have Reason to charge the present times with the Guilt of tamely given them away.

(Boston Records, Vol. 16, p. 156)

Later he served on a Committee "to apprehend what shall be further necessary for the Town to do in order to testify their Gratitude to those Patriots on the other side of the Water to whose endeavors it is owing that the Liberties of America are secured and Love and Harmony between his Majesty's subjects in Great Britain and the Colonies is perpetuated by the happy Repeal of the Stamp Act." Mar. 18, 1766.

Again in 1770 he was on the Committee chosen to wait upon the Lieutenant Governor "to acquaint him that it is the unanimous opinion of this Meeting that the Inhabitants and Soldiery can no longer dwell together in safety, that nothing can be rationally expected to restore the Peace of the Town and prevent Blood and Carnage, but the immediate removal

of the Troops and that they therefore most fervently pray his Honor that his Power and influence may be exerted for their instant removal."

And in 1772 he served on the Committee to search out the truth about the Tryalls of the Soldiers and others after the Boston Massacre and give a true account of the Tryalls and what preceded.

Thus we find that in every emergency his judgment was sought and we of these later days how sound it was. Had he not died in August of 1772, his name, also, would be numbered among the great American Patriots of the Revolution, who lived in and around Boston, whose names are on the lips of every schoolboy.

The administration on his estate was given to his eldest son Abiel Ruddock, who died before the estate was entirely settled and then his son-in-law, Dr. Elisha Story was appointed to finish the work. The Inventory of his possessions is very interesting.

The Inventory shows that he had a very complete wardrobe and that the furnishing of his home was such as would be characteristic of a man of means. He had much silver and china, copper and brass and if one may judge by the value assigned to the furniture it was of the best. He owned a half of the sloop "Freedom"; one half of the "John and Abiel"; one-half of the schooner "Two Friends"; and one-half of the brig "Endeavor". His real estate consisted of a Mansion -House in Lynn St., and a tenement with land about it in Lynn St. wharves, storehouses, ship-yards etc in Boston; a house and land in New Boston, Cumberland County (now Gray, Me. Directly north of Portland) and a farm in Stoughton; as well as three pews in the New Brick Meeting House and a pew in the New North Church.

261,264,268,271,280)

Children (Boston Records Vol. 24. pp.230,238,241,246,249,252,

- 6 John Ruddock, b. Oct. 2, 1737; died young.
7 Nathaniel Ruddock, b. Jan. 18, 1738/39; d. young.
8 Edward Ruddock, b. May 18, 1740; bp May 17, 1741.
9 Abiel Ruddock, a son b. July 23, 1742; bp July 25, 1742.
10 John Ruddock, b. Nov. 9, 1743; bp Dec. 11, 174-
11 Edward, b. Dec 13, 1744.
12 Ruth Ruddock, b. Mar. 5, 1745/6
13 Rebecca Ruddock, b. Feb. 16, 1746/47; d. young.
14 Ebenezer Ruddock, b. Jan. 28, 1747/8.
15 Richard Ruddock, b. Nov. 10, 1749; d. young.
16 Samuel Ruddock, b. Sept. 29, 1752; d. about 1773. He attended
Harvard College. Abiel, when settling his father's estate
speaks of debts for the funeral of Samuel, which had to be
paid out of the estate. In the Inventory of Abiel's
possessions there is a College Gown and cap. I think that
this probably belonged to Samuel.

14 EBENEZER RUDDOCK (John, Fortune) was born in Boston (Boston Records Vol. 24, p. 268) on Jan. 28, 1747/8. He was living as late as Feb. 7, 1785, when he agreed to serve as bondsman for Dr. Elisha Story, when he was appointed administrator on the estate of his brother, Abiel Ruddock. (Boston Probate 84.77) He married on Jan. 18, 1770 Molly Ingerfield (Boston Rec. Vol. 30, p. 439). During the Revolutionary War he served as armorer on the frigate "Boston" commanded by Capt. Samuel Tucker. He was engaged Jan. 16, 1779. (Roll was made up for advance pay for 1 month. (Mass. Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War, Vol. XIII, p. 644).

Child (Letter of Tabitha Story)

- 37 Ruth Ruddock. She m. (1) Oct. 14, 1792 John Dodge. By him she had four children. By 1806 she had married a second time, a man by the name of Bruce. He was a Baptist in religion. They were going to move very soon into the country. Letter of Ruth Bruce to Tabitha Story, 1806)

(Note,- In Vol. 25, p. 331 of the Boston Records there is an item stating that widow Mary Ruddock received some money from Mrs. Brookins donation. From the date it would seem to be Ebenezer's widow, to whom reference was made.) Also see vol. 27, p. 6.