

**MAJOR THOMAS
SAVAGE OF BOSTON
AND HIS DESCENDANTS**

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Major Thomas Savage of Boston and his descendants by Lawrence Park

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BOSTON

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MAJOR THOMAS SAVAGE OF BOSTON AND HIS DESCENDANTS

I. THOMAS¹ SAVAGE was born, probably in England, in 1607 or 1608. He embarked from London in the ship *Plover*, Nic^o Trarice, master, in Apr. 1635, having been certified by the minister of St. Albans, Hertfordshire. In the list of the ship's passengers he is called a tailor, and his age is given as 27, which corresponds with his age as given by him in a deposition dated 26 (2) 1664, in which he states that he is about 57 years old (*Essex County Files*, vol. 10, p. 59). According to his descendant, Hon. James Savage, the noted antiquarian of Boston, he was a son of William Savage, a blacksmith of Taunton in Somersetshire, and was apprenticed by his father 9 Jan. 1620/1 to the Merchant Taylors Guild of London. Aside from this statement, I have found nothing to show that Thomas Savage had any connection with William, the blacksmith of Taunton. In his will, dated 28 June 1675 but probably written some years earlier, Thomas Savage leaves money to "my coz Leonard Savage in Barbadoes" and "to my sister." The sister's name is written in the will, but it is difficult to decipher. It is, however, apparently "Perking." These two bequests, together with another to his son Arthur, who was probably dead when the will was dated, are interlined in the original, and do not appear in the copy of the will on file in the Suffolk Registry of Probate in Boston. In the registers of the church of St. John sub-Castro at Lewes, co. Sussex, is recorded the burial, 9 Nov. 1617, of Leonard Savage, mercer and householder. In the will of Henry Crabbe of St. Gregory, London, merchant tailor, dated 25 Nov. 1620, mention is made of William, Margaret, and Anne (all under 21 years), children of Leonard Savage, deceased, "my late master," who is doubtless the same man who was buried at Lewes in 1617. In 1784 Samuel Phillips Savage, a great-grandson of Thomas Savage, compiled a chart of the family from information given him before her death in 1755 by his grandmother Hannah (Gillam) Phillips, a granddaughter of Thomas Savage, and by Mrs. Joshua Wells (Sarah Savage), another granddaughter. Mrs. Phillips was born in Boston in 1662, twenty years before her grandfather Savage died, and doubtless derived the information directly from him. In this chart, which is now in the possession of a descendant of the compiler, it is stated that Thomas Savage was a linen draper (mercier) and had two brothers in England, one of whom was Arthur, "Dean of Carlisle," while the other, name unknown, lived about fifty miles from London, which is the distance between London and Lewes. Arthur Savage, I find upon investigation, was not dean of Carlisle, but a prebendary or vice-decanus of the Cathedral of Carlisle, and in his will made in 1698 he bequeathed money to Arthur, James, and Elizabeth, the children of his nephew James Savage, a soldier of Lewes. Arthur Savage matriculated at Oxford 16 Mar. 1637/8 at the age of 16, and in the catalogue of Oxford University graduates he is called a son of John Savage, Esq., "of Wootton Hall in the County of Salop." It seems impossible to identify this estate, and researches thus far have not disclosed any will of a John Savage in Shropshire. If Thomas Savage's father was named William, it is a little strange that he gave his father's name to none of his twelve sons. He did,

however, call one son Arthur, a name which has since been frequently used in the family, and named another Richard, which was also the name of a Savage who married at Lewes in 1673.

In the January after his arrival Thomas Savage was admitted to the church in Boston. In the following month he was given seven acres of marsh ground at Muddy River, now Brookline, Mass., "for the keeping of his cattle (being in number, five)" (Boston Records), and on 25 May 1636 he was made a freeman of the town of Boston, upon whose records his name appears with frequency during the remainder of his life. In the religious controversy in which his mother-in-law, the famous Mistress Anne Hutchinson, became involved, Savage was one of her adherents, and previous to her trial was disarmed and obliged to leave Boston, as he did apparently late in 1637. With William Coddington, William Hutchinson, and others, Savage purchased Aquidneck of the natives, and began the settlement of Rhode Island. Soon after his arrival at Aquidneck Savage returned, and was allowed to return to Boston, where he was again settled, probably as early as June 1638. In 1637 he became a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston, where his name stands fourth on the roll of membership, and in 1651 he succeeded Capt. Robert Keayne as captain of the Company, holding this position again in 1659, 1668, 1675, and 1680. In 1651 and 1652 he was the recorder or town clerk of Boston, and a selectman in 1652. On 12 Mar. 1653/4 Savage, with one other, was chosen to represent Boston in the General Court, holding that position until 1657. He was again a representative from 1659 to 1662, and in 1677 and 1678, and held the office of assistant from 1680 to his death. In 1669 he was one of the founders and members of the Third (Old South) Church, and was a liberal contributor toward establishing a free school in Boston. In 1673 he, with others, erected a barricade in Boston Harbor for protection against an expected attack upon Boston by the Dutch. This barricade eventually grew into Long Wharf, portions of which have ever since been owned by some of his descendants. In 1675, at the beginning of King Philip's War, Savage was appointed to the chief command of the Massachusetts forces, Denison, the major-general, being prevented by illness from participating, and on 28 June he set out upon the campaign at the head of a force numbering about three hundred men. Upon their arrival at the Wampanoag country in the northeastern portion of Rhode Island they found that Philip and his forces had fled, and peace being soon declared, Savage and his men returned to Boston, where the army was disbanded. Philip, however, was soon again upon the war-path, and in the spring of 1676 Savage was once more placed at the head of the Massachusetts troops and acquitted himself with distinction during the remainder of the war.

According to the Book of Possessions, Savage's house and garden were on the north side of the present Bennet Street, near Scarlet's Wharf, where afterwards stood the King's Head Tavern. At the same time he was the owner of a farm in Braintree, containing about 65 acres, 26 acres of which he sold early to James Everill of Boston. He afterwards increased his holdings in Braintree to nearly 2500 acres. In 1656 Savage built a new house "between the drawbridge and the conduit," on the southerly side of the present North Street, near Dock Square, on land which he had purchased two years earlier for £130. In the deed of this purchase he is called a "merchant," and his shop stood on what is now the easterly corner of Washington Street and Adams Square.

He married first, probably in Boston in 1637, FAITH HUTCHINSON, who was baptized at Aiford, co. Lincoln, England, 14 Aug. 1617, and died in Boston 20 Feb. 1651/2, daughter of William and Anne (Marbury), who came to Boston in 1631. He married secondly, in Boston, 15 Sept. 1652, Increase Nowell officiating, MARY SYMMES, who was born at Dunstable, co. Bedford, England, 9 Apr. 1628, daughter of Rev. Zechariah of Charlestown, Mass., who came to Boston in 1634 in the same ship with the Hutchinsons.

Maj. Savage died suddenly in Boston 15 Feb. 1681/2, and was buried in the burial-ground now adjoining King's Chapel, where his tomb, upon which are engraved the arms of the Savages of Rock-Savage, may still be seen. On 28 June 1675 he dated his will, by which he appointed John Hull and Isaac Addington overseers, and his sons Thomas, Ephraim, and Perez his executors, and disposed of property amounting, as shown by the appraisal of his estate, to nearly £3500. Among the items of the inventory are arms and armor valued at £5; plate, gold, and rings, £29. 10s. 1½d.; servants, £83; pewter, £11. 3s. 6d.; books, £2. 10s.; and debts of £644. 8s. 6d. In the real estate are included his house and land in Boston, land at the South End of Boston and a "parts of the out wharfe," Hog (now Breed's) Island, a farm at "Romly Marsh," and lands in Braintree and Lynn. His portrait, showing him in military dress and painted in 1679 by an unknown artist, is in the possession of a descendant, and is reproduced in Winsor's Memorial History of Boston, vol. 1, p. 318.

Maj. Savage's widow, who became a member of the Third Church in 1674, was married, between 7 Dec. 1683 and 16 Apr. 1684, as his fourth wife, to Anthony Stoddard, who, when he died on 16 Mar. 1686/7, was called by Sewall "the ancientest shop-keeper in Town." Mrs. Stoddard died in Boston 18 July 1710, and was buried, the day following her death, in the Savage tomb. In her will, made 5 Feb. 1697/8 and proved 21 July 1710, she gives to her daughter Sarah Higginson her "Molatto Girl named Ann and also all the wrought plate;" to her son-in-law John Higginson her "Great bible;" to the two children of her grandson John Higginson, Jr., a silver spoon each, of the value of fifteen shillings; and the remainder of her estate is to be equally divided between her six grandchildren, the five children of John Higginson and the daughter of her deceased son Ebenezer Savage. She appoints John Higginson and his wife Sarah her executors.

Children by first wife, born in Boston:

2. I. HANNAH, b. 1 Aug. 1638.
3. II. THOMAS, bapt. 17 May 1640.
- III. HANNAH, b. 28 June 1643; bapt. at the First Church 2 July 1643, "being about 5 dayes old;" d. in Boston betw. 11 Oct. 1721 and 21 Feb. 1721/2; m. (1) in Boston, Maj.-Gen. Humphrey Atherton officiating, 26 Oct. 1660. BENJAMIN GILLAM, son of Benjamin and Anne of Boston, b. in England abt. 1643, d. probably in Boston and bur., according to Sewall, 13 June 1685. He was a merchant, mariner, and ship-owner of Boston, having a "mansion house" on Battery-march and wharves and a ship-yard near. He was second in command of an expedition, during King Philip's War, led by his father-in-law, into central Massachusetts, and was a lieutenant in Capt. Savage's second Boston company in the Suffolk regiment under Maj. Thomas Clarke prior to 1675. He also served in the Narragansett campaign in King Philip's War, and succeeded Capt. Savage as captain of his company, 6 Feb. 1675/6. His will, made 28 Mar. 1691, was proved 17 June 1696. Mrs. Hannah (Savage) Gillam m. (2) in Boston, early in Sept. 1685, GILLES SYLVESTER, son of Nathaniel and Grizel (Bridley) of Shelter

- Island, N. Y., b. 1657, d. probably in New York City in or soon after 1705. His father was the first settler and later the owner of the entire island, where he had a manorial estate. Giles Sylvester lived on this estate, but spent much time in New York, and in 1695 was living in Boston. At his father's death in 1680 he inherited a large portion of the island, of which he left, by will, one-third to his widow. Mrs. Sylvester, after her husband's death, returned to live with one of her daughters in Boston, where she was admitted to the Third (Old South) Church in 1707. Children by first husband: 1. *Hannah*, b. 27 Apr. 1662; d. 1755; m. Samuel Phillips; * eight children. 2. *Ann*, b. 6 June 1665; d. in Boston 11 Nov. 1678. 3. *Folk*, b. 18 July 1668; d. after 1747; m. (1) Matthew Middleton; m. (2) Capt. Westworth Paxton; one child by first husband, and three children by second husband. 4. *Dionisia*, b. 8 Feb. 1671/2; d. young. 5. *Benjamin*, b. 5 June 1677; d. young. 6. *Thomas*, b. 10 Aug. 1679; d. young. 7. *Mary*, b. 9 June 1682; d. probably 1747; m. (1) Robert Spenns; m. (2) Richard Hubbard; two children by second husband.
4. iv. **ERRAM**, b. 20 July 1645.
- v. **MARY**, bapt. 6 June 1647, "aged about 8 days;" m. abt. 1670 **THOMAS THACHER**, son of Rev. Thomas and Elizabeth (Partridge) (Kemp). He settled in Boston, where he became a prosperous merchant, and died there 2 Apr. 1696. Mrs. Thacher d. in Boston 22 July 1730, leaving all her property to her son Peter. Children: 1. *Elizabeth*, b. 26 Dec. 1671; d., probably in Boston, 3 Jan. 1678/9. 2. *Thomas*, b. 25 Sept. 1678; d. in Boston 16 Dec. 1722; m. (1) Margaret Haywood; m. (2) Katherine (Tuck) Everton; no children by either marriage. 3. *John*, b. 22 Jan. 1674/5; m. Mary Mould; no record of his death or of any children. 4. *Peter*, bapt. 26 Aug. 1677; d. 1 Mar. 1739; H. C. 1696; m. Hannah Curwen; no record of any children. 5. *Mary*, b. 28 Jan. 1679/80; d. betw. 24 Apr. 1729 and 5 Nov. 1736; m. (1) George Kilcup; m. (2) Joseph Bill; two children by first husband, none by second husband.
- vi. **DYONISIA**, bapt. 30 Dec. 1649, aged about one day; living in 1708, but d. bef. 1723; m. (1), probably in Boston, abt. 1683, **SAMUEL RAVENSCROFT**; m. (2), in York Co., Va., in 1695, **THOMAS HADLEY**. Samuel Ravenscroft became a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1679, second sergeant in 1682, and ensign in 1686, and in Mar. 1686/7 was commissioned captain of a militia company in Boston. His three oldest children were bapt. at the Third Church, but in 1693 he, with a few others, founded King's Chapel, the first Anglican church in Boston, where his younger children were bapt. On 29 June 1689 he was chosen one of its wardens. In Apr. 1639 he was imprisoned for sympathizing with the policies of Gov. Andros, but was soon after released, and united in a loyal address to King William. About 1692 he removed with his family to Virginia, where he d. bef. 1695. Children by first husband: 1. *Dyonisia*, b. 12 Apr. 1681; probably d. young. 2. *Sonnet*, b. 12 Apr. 1682; probably d. young. 3. *George*, b. 20 Mar. 1682/3; probably d. young. 4. *Sarah*, b. 20 Nov. 1686; m. ——— Berry; living in York Co., Va., in 1723. 5. *Thomas*, b. 29 June 1688; d. in Bristol Parish, Prince George Co., Va., in Dec. 1735 or Jan. 1735/6; living in James City Co., Va., in 1723; ja. and had one son.†
- vii. **PENAZ**, b. 17 Feb. 1651/2, and bapt. at the First Church five days later. He enlisted as an ensign in Capt. Mosley's company in King Philip's War, was badly wounded in the thigh at Swansey, R. I., during the first week of the war, and was again wounded in the "Great Swamp fight" in the Narragansett campaign on 19 Dec. following, when he had become lieutenant of the same company. A

* *Vide infra*, p. 17, note.

† John Stark Ravenscroft, b. 1772, d. 1830, a great-great-grandson of Samuel and Dyonisia (Savage) Ravenscroft, was the first Bishop of North Carolina.