

THE NEW-ENGLAND ROYALLS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649165971

The New-England Royalls by Edward Doubleday Harris

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ROYALLS**

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BY
EDWARD DOUBLEDAY HARRIS.

A Reprint from the N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register, with additions.

BOSTON:
DAVID CLAPP & SON, PRINTERS.
1885.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO PRIVATE EDITION.

A DESCENDANT myself of the first Dorchester Isaac, the desire to determine his connection with the Casco Bay settler has led to the collection of the facts here presented. While I must confess to no little regret that some assumptions in the pedigree are unsubstantiated by documentary evidence, they should stand until some one more fortunate in resource can confirm or disprove them. The tabular sheet annexed displays in the baptismal names of the different groups such probability of the correctness of the assumed line that I think genealogists will be willing to accord it a generous degree of favor in the absence of proof to the contrary. Barely has it been my task to grapple with a more puzzling genealogical problem. Isaacs, Josephs, Jacobs, Williams and Johns of the same period seemed inextricably confused. The political difference of the last century broke up and scattered families, and a singular fatality followed the male lines of those that remained. In the female lines, records and even traditions seem to have been lost with the name. Traces of missing members might be found in Antigua, as the estates there were extensive and valuable.

Acknowledgments are due for kindly assistance furnished in the preparation of the work to Mr. William B. Trask and to Mrs. Harriet Proctor Poore of Boston; to Mr. Edward H. Payson of Salem, Mr. Daniel T. V. Hutton of Canton, the Rev. Dr. Teele of Milton, and Dr. Charles E. Banks of Chelsea.

I can find no evidence that the coat of arms engraved on the Dorchester Tomb was used by the family before 1724.

Dr. Banks found in Dorset, England, early records of a Ryall or Riall family.

EDWARD DOUBLEDAY HARRIS.

New York, Sept. 1, 1886.

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THE letter from the Governor and Deputy of the New England Company for a Plantation in Massachusetts Bay, to Captain Endicott at Salem, dated at Gravesend the 17th of April, 1629, and printed in full in Suffolk Deeds, I., contains the earliest mention that we have found of the emigrant WILLIAM ROYALL.*

"William Ryall and Thomas Brude Coops and Cleavors of Tymber are entertained by vs in halfe wth M^r Cradock o^f Go^t; pray ioynne others that can assist them vnto them and lett them prvide vs some Staves and other Tymber of all sorts, to bee sent vs by the Talbott, Whelpe, or the other 2 Shippes that come after. Wee have advised yo^r of the sending of Wilm Ryall and Thomas Brude Cleavors of Tymber."

He settled at Salem, probably during this year, 1629, and had a grant of land there, afterwards known as "Ryall's side," or "Ryall's Neck."

There is evidence that he was at Casco Bay as early as 1635-6, and from Winthrop's Journal it would appear that he was in possession of a land grant at Sagadahoc in 1639.† In 1643 he obtained possession of an important tract in Saco by purchase from Sir Ferdinando Gorges, confirming his rather uncertain title three years

* The emigrant spelled his own name Rial or Riall. Two, at least, of his sons preferred Ryall, one adhered to the primitive form used by his father, but the later spelling, Royall, was almost invariably used by the different members of the third generation.
† Savage's edition, 1853.

later by purchase from the rival claimant, Colonel Alexander Rigby.*

By the words of the conveyance it is certain that at its date Royall was in actual occupation of the premises and residing there. It is certain that his house had already been built on the south side of what was afterwards known as Royall's River, near its mouth, in North Yarmouth, and here it is probable he lived until the troubles with the neighboring Indian tribes induced him to remove in the summer of 1675, for safety to the town of Dorchester in Massachusetts. In March of 1673, with his wife Phoebe, he had conveyed to his sons William and John a portion (perhaps the larger part) of the Yarmouth lands, in consideration of support in his declining years.

He served as Assistant in 1636 under William Gorges, and again in 1648 under Cleaves. He was made Clerk of the Writs in 1667.

WILLIAM ROYALL married ("perhaps at Boston or Malden," says Savage) Phoebe Green, the daughter of one widow Margaret Green who afterwards married Samuel Cole, of Boston. This alliance is made certain by the terms of a deed recorded in Suffolk, an abstract of

* The Copy of a Grant from Thomas Gorges Esq. Deputy Governour of the Province of Maine in behalf of Sr. Ferdinando Gorges, Knight, Lord Proprietor of said Province, unto William Ryall.

"Know all Men by these Presents, that I, Thomas Gorges, Deputy Governour of the Province of Maine, according unto the Power unto me given from Sr Ferdinando Gorges, Knight, Lord Proprietor of the said Province, have, for divers good causes & considerations me thereunto Especially moving, given, granted, bargained, sold, assigned & confirmed unto William Ryall of Casco, his Heirs & Assigns forever these ensuing Tracts of Land, viz:—

"The Land whereon his House Standeth: being Bounded on the East where the Lot of Arnold Allen begins: on the South with the Sea, on the West bounded with a Creek's mouth running on the back side of his House, and on the North side bounded with a Creek which is on the back side of his House: also an Island before his House, being by Estimation Twenty Acres, be it more or less: also a Point of Land lying between the River West-gastigo and the River of Chusaquisacke, bounded on the South side with the River of West-gastigo, on the North side with the River of Chusaquisacke the Easter end not above Four Pole over, and the Wester end from the falls of West-gastigo to the Parting of the River of Chusaquisacke, lying near North & South, being by Estimation Two Hundred & Fifty acres, be it more or less.

"To have and enjoy all & Singular the aforesd premises to him the said William Ryall, his Heirs & Assigns forever, yielding therefore & paying to Sr Ferdinando Gorges, his Heirs & Assigns, as or before the Nine & Twentieth Day of September, the Sum of Ten Shillings, Yearly, forever.

"In Witness whereof I have unto this present Deed of Sale set my Hand & Seal at arms this 27th of March 1643.

"Thus: Gorges, Dep^y Governour."

Vide Old Times p. 474.

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which will be given on a following page. He died at Dorchester, 15 June, 1676, and his widow Phoebe died 16 July, 1678.

Records of the births and baptisms of their children have not been found. It is certain that there were:

- 2. i. WILLIAM, born about 1640.
- 3. ii. JOHN.
- 4. iii. SAMUEL.
- And probably,
- 5. iv. ISAAC, who was perhaps the eldest or second son.
- 6. v. JOSEPH, b. about 1645.
- 7. vi. MARY.
- 8. vii. MERRIABLE.*

2. WILLIAM[†] ROYALL (*William*), of North Yarmouth and Dorchester, was born about 1640, probably at the Casco Bay settlement. He retired from Maine in the summer of 1675, accompanied it is supposed by his aged parents, in order to escape molestation by the Indians, and settled in Dorchester, where he passed the remainder of his days. On 28 March, 1673, his father conveyed to him, jointly with his brother John, the neck of land lying between the Westgostncko and Chosquisicke Rivers, being a portion of the original purchase from Gorges.

He was a carpenter by occupation. His name occurs in the list of Massachusetts freemen in 1678, and he was a tythingman in 1682. The date when he acquired land in Dorchester, and the extent of his estate there, does not appear, but 29 Jan. 1716-17 he and his wife joined his sister Martha and her husband Benjamin Cheney in selling to Ebenezer Mandaley their rights in a cedar swamp in Dorchester New Grant, 26th lot.

The name of his wife, other than the baptismal name of Mary, has not come down to us, nor has the date of her death been preserved. He died 7 Nov. 1724, in the 85th year of his age, and was buried in the tomb built by his son Isaac in the Dorchester burying ground.†

* There is no reasonable doubt that Isaac and Joseph were both sons of the emigrant, although most diligent searches have thus far failed to produce recorded evidence of the relationship. The Shepley Papers are authority for the names of the daughters, but their fate is uncertain.

† The inscription upon the slab above the tomb is as follows:—
 Here lyeth ye Body of W^m. ROYALL
 of North Yarmouth in the PROVINCE
 of MAINE, who departed this Life
 Novem^r ye 7th 1724, in ye 85th year of his Age.
 this Stone is Erected to ye Pious memory
 of his Father, by his Eldest Son ISAAC
 as the last Act of a dutifull remembrance.

The children of William and Mary Royall, so far as known, were:

7. i. ISAAC, b. about 1673.
- ii. HANNAH, b. in Dorchester, 7 Aug. 1677.
- iii. MARTHA, b. in Dorchester, 6 Sept. 1679; bapt. 2 Nov. 1679; m. 2 Feb. 1699, Benjamin Cheney, of Dorchester.
8. iv. JACOB, b. in Dorchester, 23 June, bapt. 2 July, 1682.
- v. WAITTILL, bapt. in Dorchester, 28 July, 1686; living in 1701.
- vi. SARAH, b. in Dorchester, 16 Dec., bapt. 25 Dec. 1687; m. 24 Aug. 1716, Ebenezer Dunton.
- vii. MARIA, bapt. in Dorchester, 8 June, 1690.
- viii. JEMIMA, b. in Dorchester, 13 Jan., bapt. 29 Jan. 1692-3; d. 9 Nov. 1709, aged 17 (Dorchester grave-stone).
9. ix. SAMUEL, b. in Dorchester, 7 Aug. 1696.

One of the daughters of William Royall married Amos Stevens, mariner of Boston and North Yarmouth, the same man who 16 November, 1682, bought of John Royall fifteen acres from the original grant of Gorges to the emigrant William Royall.

8. JOHN^s ROYALL (*William's*), of North Yarmouth and later of Boston, first appears on the records as grantee of a portion of his father's estate in Casco Bay in 1678. He seems to have been temporarily a resident of York in 1680, where he took the oath of allegiance. The following year he had returned to the Waugustogo settlement, for on the 13 July he was named as one of a committee "in behalf of y^e Town to procure and settle among them a pious orthodox minister." In 1682 he sold to his brother's son in law Amos Stevens, fifteen acres from his portion of the paternal estate. He was actively interested in town affairs for several years thereafter, serving as one of the Trustees of North Yarmouth.

July 16, 1688, he petitioned Sir Edmund Andros "that the tract of land his father William Royall with himself had lived on for fortie years, containing about three hundred Acres, with twenty-five Acres of meadow adjoining and A house lot containing ten Acres, on the south side of Royal's River: These tracts is bounded between Royal's River & Cozon's River: and eight Acres of meadow on Estron arm of Cozon's river all of which he has been to great charge: he humbly prays that the above said premises with addition of five hundred Acres of land with two small Islands, the one Called Basquett Island con^t tena Acres, the other Hope Island con^t fifty Acres may be confirmed to him, with rent as shall meet to your Excell^{ty}."

A few days later, 27 July 1688, it is recorded that "Upon grate Causes of suspicion that John Riall of North Yarmouth have and doe presume to trade with the Indians, a warrant was Ishued ought for the s^d Jn. Rial to appear before Litt^l Cour^t Tyng, one of the Council to Answer on his Oath in that Case & also for Refusing to assist the Constable in the securing of an Indian called Joseph, that had made an attack of and abuse unto Henry & Sam Lane. Upon Examination said Indian Joseph why he offered abuse to Those; he said hee did not know what he did it for, he was drunke; hee was asked where hee had the drinke that made him drunke; hee said it was Room he had at John Riall's the Day before, being eight quarts of Room that s^d Jn^r Riall sould him, and the said Indian Joseph firther said the same Room that the Constable seized was four quarts hee had of Jn^r Riall this day the 27th Jn^r Riall upon exrimination denied that the Indian Joseph had the same Room of which hee is charged, which is to say, the eight quarts or the four quarts: and as to the Rum left that the Constable demanded of him, the Indian took it from him & had carried it away, and hee did not know what the Indian had done with it; as to the Refusing to assist the Constable he saith he could not goe himself but his men might goe, but the Constable said that the said Riall's men were at work on the marshes at a far distance from the place. John Swanton & Henry Comes, a constable testify to the Indians running towards John Riall's house, and the said John Riall taking the Rum left from the Indians, but when the Constable asked John Rial for it he gave it immediately back to the Indians.

John Rial testified that on Sunday about two months sence, about twenty Indians came to his house and demanded Room. It being Sunday hee refused to let them have it, where upon they seized him while the Indian Joseph went into the cellar and brought out sixteen gallons of Room. That he followed them to the water side but the Indians got the Room into a canoe and the said Rial told the Indians he would complaine of them to the Governor, & the Indian Ebermett said he did not care for the Governor, & spoke very slytly of him. John Riall was committed to the constable of North Yarmouth to be transported to Boston to appear before His Excellency the Governor."* Whether he made the enforced journey to Boston

* Vide "Old Times," page 226.