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Thomas Dane

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THOMAS DANE

On 9 May 1635, "Tho[mas] Dane," aged 32, a carpenter, was enrolled at London for passage to New England on the *Elizabeth and Ann* [Hotten 77].

COMMENTS: This Thomas Dane has been repeatedly credited as the man of that name who first appeared in Concord records in 1642/3 at the birth of his child [CoVR 10]. The seven-year gap between the enrollment at London and the appearance in Concord records, coupled with the lack of evidence to suppose that the Concord man was a carpenter, makes the identification unlikely.

NICHOLAS DANFORTH

ORIGIN: Framlingham, Suffolk

MIGRATION: 1635

FIRST RESIDENCE: Cambridge

OCCUPATION: Innkeeper (licensed "to sell wine & strong water" at Cambridge, 12 March 1637/8 [MBCR 1:221]).

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Cambridge church prior to 3 March 1635/6 implied by freemanship.

FREEMAN: 3 March 1635/6 (as "Mr. Nich: Danforth," fourth in a sequence of eleven Cambridge men) [MBCR 1:371].

EDUCATION: The range of offices to which Nicholas Danforth was elected or appointed indicates a high level of education.

OFFICES: Deputy for Cambridge to Massachusetts Bay General Court, 8 September 1636, 7 December 1636, 18 April 1637, 17 May 1637, 26 September 1637 [MBCR 1:178, 184, 191, 194, 204].

Committee to "set out the bounds of the new plantation above Charles River" and to "view the meadow about the Blue Hills & to inform the next General Court to what towns it may most conveniently be laid," 3 March 1635/6 [MBCR 1:166, 173]. Committee to "measure & set out the bounds of Roxbury, & such farms as lies near adjoining to the aforesaid plantation," 8 September 1636 [MBCR 1:180]. Committee to "set out the purchased land belonging to Dedham" and to "set out the bounds between Dedham & Dorchester," 15 November 1637 [MBCR 1:208-9, 228, 261]. Committee to lay out "Mr. Gurling's land," 6 March 1637/8 [MBCR 1:219].

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Committee to "take order for a college at Newetowne," 20 November 1637 [MBCR 1:217].

Cambridge selectman, 23 November 1635, 7 November 1636, 4 September 1637 [CaTR 14, 23, 29]. Committee "for the surveying of all men's lots," 7 November 1636 [CaTR 24].

ESTATE: On 20 October 1635, "John White of the Newtowne" sold to "Nicholas Danforth ... all the right, title and interest which he hath in those several parcels of land as they are recorded in this book in folio 3 [i.e., CaBOP 4-5]" [CaBOP 36]. On 1 April 1636, "William Spencer of the New Towne" sold to Nicholas Danforth "all the right which he hath in three acres and half of land lying on the southwest side of the highway to the oyster bank" [CaBOP 37-38].

On 1 May 1636, "John Taylcott of the Newtowne" sold to "Nicholas Danforth all the right, title and interest which he hath in the parcels of land following, viz: in the Westend one dwelling house with outhouses, gardens and backside and planting ground about three acres and half ..., in the Old Field about three acres three roods ..., in Old Field about two acres ..., in the Neck of Land about two and thirty acres ..., in the Great Marsh about seven and twenty acres ..., in the marsh by Windmill Hill about five acres of land ..., in the Long Marsh about seven acres and half ..., in the Ox Marsh about two acres and half ..., with about seven and twenty acres in Rocky Meadow and all his part in the house and ground paled in and six acres of upland ground" [CaBOP 37].

On 2 May 1636, "Thomas Hooker of the New Towne" sold to "Nicho[las] Danforth ... about one acre of land being the lot of Edward Hopkins lying near the land of the said Nicho[las] Danforth" [CaBOP 38]. On 30 May 1636, "John White of the New Towne upon Quinetucquet [Connecticut] River" sold to "Nicho[las] Danforth ... all the right, title and interest which he hath in the Fresh Meadows and the Ox Pasture in Newtowne in the Massach[u]sets that is to say in Aylwife Meadows twelve acres and half and two acres of land in the Ox Pasture" [CaBOP 36].

In the 8 February 1635/6 list of "those men who have houses in the town," "Nicho[las] Danforth" held four in Cowyard Row [CaTR 18].

By 1639 Nicholas Danforth had sold to John Bridge "five acres of marsh & upland" [CaBOP 65]. By 1642 Nathaniel Sparrowhawk had bought of "the feoffees of Nicholas Danforth deceased and of Thomas Parrish seven acres & half of marsh in the Long Marsh" [CaBOP 124].

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BIRTH: Baptized Framlingham, Suffolk, 1 March 1589[/90?], son of Thomas and Jane (Sudbury) Danforth.

DEATH: Cambridge [blank] April 1638 [NEHGR 4:55].

MARRIAGE: Aspall, Suffolk, 11 February 1617/8 Elizabeth Barber (from microfilm of modern transcript of parish register). She died in England in 1629 [Magnalia 2:59].

CHILDREN (i-vii baptized at Framlingham, Suffolk):

- i ELIZABETH, bp. 3 August 1619; m. Cambridge 1 October 1639 Andrew Belcher. (In the January 1658/9 survey of Cambridge church members, "Andrew Belcher & Elizabeth (daughter of Mr. Nicholas Danforth) his wife, [are] both in full communion" [CaChR 9].)
- ii MARY, bp. 3 May 1621; m. by 1637 Thomas Parish [Dawes-Gates 1:254 (arguments and evidence in footnote)].
- iii ANNE, bp. 3 September 1622; m. by 1645 Matthew Bridge (eldest known child b. Cambridge 15 June 1645; in the January 1658/9 survey of Cambridge church members, "Anne Bridge the wife of Matthew Bridge daughter also of Mr. Nicholas Danforth (before named) is in full communion with this church" [CaChR 9]). (Some secondary sources give a precise date for this marriage [19 January 1643], but this marriage has not been found in the published Cambridge vital records or in any other contemporary source.)
- iv THOMAS, bp. 20 November 1623; m. Cambridge 23 February 1643[/4?] "Mary Withington, daughter of Henry" [HENRY WITHINGTON {1636, Dorchester)].
- v LYDIA, bp. 24 May 1625; m. Saybrook 9 December 1643 WILLIAM BEAMON {1635, Salem} [SayVR 3 (her name published as "Lidia Sanford")] [GM 2:1:221].
- vi SAMUEL, bp. 17 October 1626; Harvard College 1643 [Sibley 1:88-92]; m. [5 November] 1651 Mary Wilson, daughter of Rev. JOHN WILSON {1630, Boston} [GMB 3:2015, and sources cited there].
- vii JONATHAN, bp. 2 March 1628[/9?] (deposed 29 May 1677 "aged about fifty years" [EQC 6:325]); m. (1) Boston 22 November 1654 Elizabeth Poulter [BVR 48], daughter of John Poulter [NEHGR 141:218]; m. (2) Billerica 17 November 1690 Esther (Champney) Converse, daughter

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of RICHARD CHAMPNEY {1635, Cambridge} [GM 2:2:44] and widow of Josiah Converse [GMB 1:462].

ASSOCIATIONS: On 2 May 1636, Nicholas Danforth bought several parcels of land in Cambridge "for the use of Edward Collins" [CaBOP 38-39, 71-72].

COMMENTS: Cotton Mather, in his biography of Rev. Samuel Danforth, described Samuel's father, "Mr. N. Danforth," as "a gentleman of such estate and repute in the world, that it cost him a considerable sum to escape the knighthood, which King Charles I imposed on all of so much per annum; and of such figure and esteem in the Church, that he procured that famous lecture at Framlingham in Suffolk, where he had a fine manor, which lecture was kept by Mr. Burroughs, and many other noted ministers in their turns, to whom, and especially to Mr. Shepard, he proved a Gaius, and then especially when the Laudian fury scorched them. This person had three sons, whereof the second was our Samuel, born in September, in the year 1626, and by the desire of his mother, who died three years after his birth, earnestly dedicated unto the 'schools of the prophets.' His father brought him to New England in the year 1634, and at his death, about four years after his arrival here, he committed this hopeful son of many cares and prayers, unto the paternal oversight of Mr. Shepard, who proved a kind patron unto him" [Magnalia 2:59].

Mary Walton Ferris (and others before her) suggested that Nicholas Danforth had a daughter Martha who married Richard French; this suggestion was based on various supposed land transactions involving Richard French and Thomas Danforth, son of Nicholas [Dawes-Gates 1:253 (especially a footnote which sets out the three alleged land transactions)].

On 26 January 1651[2?], "Tho[mas] Danforth of Cambridge" for £98 sold to "Richard French his now dwelling house, outhouses and gardens, yard & orchards and land adjoining by estimation near 2 acres ..., also the yard on the south side about 25 pole ..., also the woodlot that belongs to Mr. Philip's house & commonage for two cows" [MLR 1:91-93]. On 8 May 1654, "Richard French of Cambridge ..., husbandman," and "Martha his wife" sold to Edmund Angier of Cambridge "all that his messuage or tenement" in Cambridge "containing one dwelling house & about two acres of land ..., also a small parcel land about twenty & five perches lying anent the same, on the south side of the highway, also a woodlot on the west side Wenotttime River containing about seven acres more or less, also two cow rights on the cow common, ... lately had to the said Richard

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Nicholas Danforth

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French his heirs and assigns by purchase of Tho[mas] Danforth of the same place, and to the said Thomas by right of inheritance from his father Nicholas Danforth deceased" [MLR 1:106-9].

The first of these deeds has apparently been read in different ways by different researchers, finally being interpreted in the footnote created by Ferris as three different instruments when there was only one. Nothing in either of these documents suggests any relationship between Thomas Danforth and Martha, the wife of Richard French.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1853 William Thaddeus Harris, in his "Notes on the Danforth Family," compiled a brief account of the immigrant [NEHGR 7:315-21].

In 1931 Mary Walton Ferris prepared a brief account of Nicholas Danforth [Dawes-Gates 2:279-82]; and then in 1943 she published a longer treatment of Nicholas and his son Jonathan [Dawes-Gates 1:250-69].

ELIZABETH DANIEL

On 15 April 1635, "Elizabeth Daniell," aged 2, was enrolled at London as a passenger for New England on the *Increase* [Hotten 65].

COMMENTS: In this list, Elizabeth Daniel is included in the family of SAMUEL MORSE {1635, Watertown}. She was daughter of ROBERT DANIEL {1636, Watertown}, whose wife was Elizabeth Morse, daughter of Samuel Morse.

PENELOPE DARLOE

On 18 July 1635, "Penelope Darno," aged 29 years, was enrolled at London for passage to New England on the *Pied Cow* [Hotten 107]. (On board the same vessell was the family of ROBERT KEAYNE {1635, Boston} of Bergen Lane, St Michael Cornhill, London.)

On 24 April 1636, "Poenelope Darloe one of our brother Robert Keaine's maid servants" was admitted to Boston church [BChR 21].

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