



Anne Freestone

583

In 1953 G. Andrews Moriarty argued that Anne Freestone was the first wife of George Gardner of Salem and Hartford [EIHC 89:211-12], but in 1954 George E. McCracken demonstrated that this could not be so [TAG 30:158-62], and that George Gardner had married as his second wife Anne's sister, Elizabeth (Freestone) Turner, widow of Robert Turner.

FRANCES FREESTONE

On 28 December 1634, "Frances Freiston, one of our brother Willyam Hutchinson's kinswomen," was admitted to Boston church [BChR 19].

COMMENTS: Frances Freestone was baptized at Horncastle, Lincolnshire, 13 October 1610, daughter of Richard and Margery (Freestone) Freestone, and sister of ANNE FREESTONE {1634, Boston} and of ELIZABETH FREESTONE {1640, Boston} (who married ROBERT TURNER {1635, Boston}) [NEHGR 72:51-63, 74:140-45, 79:170-75; TAG 30:158-67; EIHC 48:265-68, 89:211-12].

Frances Freestone married by 1638 VALENTINE HILL {1636, Boston} [TAG 30:160-61; EIHC 48:265-66; NEHGR 74:143].

WILLIAM FREETHY

ORIGIN: Unknown

MIGRATION: 1635

FIRST RESIDENCE: Richmond Island

REMOVES: Portsmouth 1640, York by 1652

OCCUPATION: Fisherman.

Ferryman. On 28 October 1684, York Court "judgeth meet to appoint William Freathy to keep a constant ferry for strangers as well as for town inhabitants, over the other side of the river, where John Stover once lived, to that way lately cut which goeth over to Spruce Creek, & so to Strawbury Banke, to which end he said Freathy is enjoined to provide canoes or a boat, suitable to transport men or horses or both as occasion requireth over said river" [MPCR 3:205].

FREEMAN: 22 November 1652 (upon submission of York to Massachusetts Bay government [Doc Hist ME 4:63; MBCR 4:1:129]).

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EDUCATION: William and his wife Elizabeth both signed their deeds by mark.

ESTATE: On 10 June 1671, "William Frethy, & Elizabeth Frethy, wife of the said William Freathy, ... as well for the natural love & affection that I bear unto my daughter Joane Holms, the wife of Thomas Holms & her children born & to be born of her body, & for & in consideration that the said Thom[ajs] Holms married my daughter Joane, as also for diverse other good causes," deeded to Thomas and Joan "a certain lot of land, or tract of land, by estimation thirty or forty acres be it more or less, which is a part of that land which I said William Freathy purchased from one Rice Howell & it is that tract of land that said Thomas Holms now dwelleth in, & hath set an house upon" [YLR 3:81].

On 31 October 1681, "William Freathy, now resident in the Town of Yorke in the Province of Mayne in New England, fisherman, with the free consent of Elizabeth my wife," deeded to "my beloved son John Freathy, now living in the town & province aforesaid, ... a certain tract, parcel or portion of land, the full quantity being the one-half of my homestall field & lot, that I have these many years possessed & occupied, & do now live upon & possess, being the full north part & half ... and I do upon the same considerations, give & grant unto my said son John Freathy, after the decease of myself, my wife & his mother, the other half being on the southwest part of my aforesaid lot" [YLR 3:105].

On 4 December 1683, "William Freathy & Elizabeth Freathy" made a deed of gift to "my two sons Samuells Freathy & John Freathy," giving to "my son Sam[u]ell Freathy all the land on the southeast side of my now planted field" and "the whole propriety of my house & orchard ... after my decease & his mother's," and to "my son John Freathy the northwest side of my now planting field" [YLR 4:5-6].

On 24 April 1688, "William Frethe of York, fisherman & inhabitant in the aforesaid province, & Elizabeth Frethe my wife" sold to "Jeremiah Moulton of York in the aforesaid province, husbandman, ... a certain tract or parcel of upland containing about forty acres more or less with three acres of marsh more or less adjoining thereunto being & lying in the northwest branch of York River in the aforesaid province near York bridge"; acknowledged 25 April 1688 by "William Frethe & Elizabeth his wife" [YLR 9:63].

BIRTH: By about 1617 (assuming he was at least eighteen when he appeared in New England as a contract laborer).

DEATH: After 25 April 1688 [YLR 9:63].

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MARRIAGE: By about 1651 Elizabeth ____ (assuming she was the mother of all his children). (She was not Elizabeth Barker [TAG 40:238-39].) On 1 July 1671, "Elizabeth Freathy the wife of William Freathy" was convicted for "defaming Mrs. Rishworth & inordinate drinking" and was fined 30s., "which her husband refusing or neglecting to pay ... the said Freathy's wife is to be punished by fifteen stripes" [MPCR 2:103, 373]. She was living on 25 April 1688 [YLR 9:63].

CHILDREN:

- i JOAN, b. say 1651; m. by 1671 Thomas Holmes [YLR 3:81; GDMNH 346].
- ii (probably) ELIZABETH, b. say 1653; m. (1) by 1673 Isaac Botts (only known child b. 1673 [GDMNH 100]); m. (2) by 1679 Moses Spencer, son of THOMAS SPENCER {1635, Kittery} [GDMNH 651-52] (on or before 23 July 1679, administration on the estate of "Isacke Botts deceased of Kittery" was "removed from Nathaniell Maysterson to Moses Spencer" [MPCR 2:356], implying that Spencer had married the widow of Botts; a son of this Moses named a son Freathy [GDMNH 651]).
- iii JOHN, b. say 1656; m. by about 1681 Hannah Bray (eldest known child m. by 1701 [GDMNH 245]), daughter of Richard Bray [Felt Anc 29, 52-56, and the sources cited there; GDMNH 108].
- iv JAMES, b. say 1658; m. by about 1683 Mary Milbury (eldest known child m. by 1703 [GDMNH 245]), daughter of Henry Milbury (in his will of 10 June 1695, Henry Milbury of York included a bequest to "my daughter Mary Blackledge" [Maine Wills 108-10]; on 8 September 1726, "Mary Blackledge of York ..., widow," for natural love and affection, deeded land to "my well beloved son Joseph Freethy of said York, yeoman" [YLR 12:55; NEHGR 148:36-38]).
- v SAMUEL, b. say 1660; on 25 November 1685, a coroner's jury convened "to view the body of Samuell Freathy deceased November 24: 1685" found that "upon search according to our best understandings & judgments that falling out of a canoe into the water, the water & the cold was the cause of his death" [MPCR 3:230-31]; on 18 December 1685, administration on the estate of "Samuell Freathy, lately deceased," was granted to "Mr. Robert Eliett of the

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Great Island in New Hampshire, merchant" [MPCR 3:222]); apparently unmarried.

ASSOCIATIONS: Brother of ALEXANDER FREETHY (1636, Richmond Island) [Trelawny Papers 120, 125, 137; GDMNH 245].

COMMENTS: In a letter of 28 June 1636 to Robert Trelawny, John Winter reported that the "company fell into a mutiny with me because I would not give them bills for the last year's for the money which they were to have above their shares, which I know not whether it be paid or not; but they taking such distaste at it, some of them fell into such a mutiny, & they are gone away from the plantation, & do purpose to fish for themselves. They went to the westward by land, & where they are gone I know not.... The parties which are gone is Lander, which I doubt is the leader of them all, & William Ham, Oliver Clarke, John Bellin, William Freythey, & John Simmons, 6 in all, & whether they will come again or no I know not" [Trelawny Papers 93]. One day later, on 29 June 1636, Narias Hawkins wrote to Trelawny, stating that "since the receipt of my bills there are 6 of them men which came with me, Lannder, Ham, Billin, & Clarke, William Frethey, & Symons, have excepted against the bills, & would not take them unless Mr. Winter would give them bills for the last year's portledge, which he would not do"; a marginal addendum tells us that "[s]ince there are 2 which have recanted & returned again, William Frethey & Symons" [Trelawny Papers 97-98], so Freethy did not stay away for very long.

In the Richmond Island accounts for 27 May 1639, the entry for "W[illia]m Farethey" shows that he owed £11 6s. 9d., against which he was owed £10 "for his two year's wages" [Trelawny Papers 190], and an accounting of 15 July 1639 shows that "William Freythy" had been paid £8 13s. 6d. [Trelawny Papers 194]. On 27 June 1640, John Winter reported that "William Freythy promiseth to pay me the 20s. his mother had from you; he is gone from us" [Trelawny Papers 220], and in an account for the period from 15 July 1639 to 22 June 1640, "William Freythy" was paid £3 13s. 3d. "for his third year's service as by the former account will appear" [Trelawny Papers 300].

On 8 September 1640, "Henry Watts and William Frethey" were presented by the Saco grand jury "for prophaning the Sabbath in carrying of boards contrary to his Majesty's law," and were fined 20s. [MPCR 1:75-76].

"William Frethy" attended a Portsmouth town meeting of uncertain date, the published version being "5th of Aprill 16[52]," with the last two

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dates of the year supplied by the transcriber [Portsmouth TR 13].

On or soon after 24 September 1641, Thomas Beard sued "William Fraisey" for an unknown cause [NHPP 40:5]. On 31 August 1643, "W[illia]m Fraysey [was] presented for neglecting the ordinances of God & refusing to live in an orderly course of life among his neighbors" [NHPP 40:11-12]. On 10 September 1645, "William Fraysey [was] fined for fighting 6s. 8d. & fees" [NHPP 40:17]. Noyes, Libby and Davis assign these records to William Freethy [GDMNH 244-45]. These are the only records under this name; they are all during the period when William Freethy would have been living in Portsmouth; and nothing appears in these court records under the name "William Freethy" or a similar spelling.

An undated "imperfect list of the names of the inhabitants of York" includes "Will[iam] Freathy" [Doc Hist ME 4:34]. On 22 November 1652, "W[illia]m Freathy" was among the residents of York who submitted to Massachusetts Bay government [Doc Hist ME 4:63; MBCR 4:1:129].

On 19 October 1667, "William Freathy [was] complained of by James Grant, grand jury man, for being drunk; William Freathy owns his offense, fined five shillings" [MPCR 1:300].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1931 Charles Edward Banks published a marriage record for a William Freethy and Elizabeth Barker, supposedly of Plymouth [York Hist 1:219], and in 1964 Frank V. Freethy published parish register entries for a Freethy family of St Michael, Landrake, Cornwall, including this marriage [TAG 40:238]. Donald Lines Jacobus commented on these records, noting that this was almost certainly not the Freethy family that resided in New England, and particularly that the marriage on 13 January 1639/[40] of "William Freathie and Elizabeth Barker" did not therefore pertain to the immigrant [TAG 40:239].

In 1993 Philip Howard Gray challenged the conclusions made by Jacobus, stating that he could not find the New Hampshire records for William Freethy which would conflict chronologically with the marriage of a William Freethy in England early in 1640 [Penobscot Pioneers 3:58-61]. Gray clearly did not discover the records for "William Fraisey," or did not agree with other writers that these records were for the subject of this sketch, nor did he take into account the ten-year gap between the marriage in England and the apparent date of birth of the first child of the immigrant.

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