

Robert Barker

97

Since Robert and Hannah named their first child Isaac, it is likely that this Robert is the son of Isaac Barker, son of ROBERT BARKER. This Hannah is very likely the daughter of Edward Wanton of Scituate, who names a daughter Hannah Barker in his will. (There is a marriage in Scituate on 2 October 1710 of James Barker to Hannah Wanton, but this is Hannah (Allen) Wanton, widow of Stephen Wanton [MFIP Warren 121-22].)

In 1662 Robert Barker, his wife and his son [presumably Isaac, the eldest] were fined for trading guns with the Indians [PCR 4:11-17]. Between 1638 and 1673 Robert Barker appeared occasionally as either plaintiff or defendant in minor civil suits [PCR 7:9, 72, 102, 125-26, 177, 180].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: The 1899 article on the family of Robert Barker, by James Atkins Noyes [NEHGR 53:426ff.], and the 1927 *Barker Genealogy* by Elizabeth Frye are not fully documented and have many errors. The treatment by L. Vernon Briggs in his Briggs genealogy [*History and Genealogy of the Briggs Family, 1254-1937*, 3 vol. (Boston 1938), pp. 278-83, 297-304] improved greatly on these earlier versions, reproducing full texts of wills and abstracts of many deeds. Some errors remained in this rendition of the family of Robert Barker, mostly regarding the marriages of the younger Robert; as noted above, many of these have been corrected more recently [Thomas Cook Gen, MFIP Warren]. None of these sources adequately covers Isaac, the eldest son of the immigrant.

JOHN BARNES

ORIGIN: Unknown

MIGRATION: 1632

FIRST RESIDENCE: Plymouth

OCCUPATION: Yeoman, merchant.

FREEMAN: In "1633" list of freemen, among those admitted between 1 January 1633/4 and 1 January 1634/5 [PCR 1:4]. In list of freemen dated 7 March 1636/7 [PCR 1:52].

EDUCATION: Inventory includes "2 bibles 1 English and another Indian" valued at £1 and "an old psalm book and 2 other old books" valued at 1s. 6d." Signed his deeds and his will by mark.

OFFICES: Colony committee to regulate wages, 5 January 1635/6 [PCR 1:36]; Plymouth jury, 2 January 1637/8, 6 March 1637/8 [PCR 7:7, 8]; coroner's jury on death of John England, 5 June 1638 [PCR 1:88]; Plymouth representative to colony committee on repair of highways, 5

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March 1638/9 [PCR 1:117]; committee on construction of the prison, 3 March 1639/40 [PCR 1:142]; committee to survey meadows, 5 May 1640 [PCR 1:152].

Plymouth (town) surveyor of highways, 7 March 1642/3, 5 June 1644, 1 June 1647, 7 June 1648, 8 June 1664, 2 June 1667 [PCR 2:53, 72, 116, 124, 4:61, 149]. Committee on bounds between land of Nathaniel Warren and Robert Bartlett, 1 June 1658 [PCR 3:142].

ESTATE: Assessed 9s. in Plymouth tax list of 25 March 1633, and 18s. in list of 27 March 1634 [PCR 1:10, 28].

On 10 January 1633/4 Edward Holman sold to John Barnes for £20 one shallop and one dwelling house with twenty acres of land (for which Holman acknowledged payment on 6 May 1635) and Barnes shall "possess the said Edw: Holman of 20 acres of land in some convenient place in Scituate" [PCR 1:24]. On 13 January 1633/4 John Barnes sold to Richard Higgins the dwelling house and twenty acres of land which Barnes had recently bought of Edward Holman, and Higgins is to pay Barnes £10 and "shall possess the said John & his heirs of 20 acres of land at Scituate" [PCR 1:24].

On 20 October 1634 Edmund Chandler sold to John Rogers a lot "which the said Edward [sic] bought of John Barnes" [PCR 1:31].

On 4 December 1637 John Barnes was granted seven acres of land "lying on the north side ... to lie to his house at Plymouth & not to be sold from it" [PCR 1:71]. On 1 June 1640 he was granted "one hundred acres of upland and ten acres of meadow next beyond the Six Mile Brook in the way to Namascutte" [PCR 1:154, 7:78-79].

On 23 June 1639 John Winslow of Plymouth, yeoman, sold to John Barnes of the same town, yeoman, for £8 four acres of meadow at the High Pines, and on 20 July 1639 Barnes sold to Mr. Robert Hicks of Plymouth for £9 15s. the same four acres [PCR 12:45-46].

On 7 November 1639 Edward Holman sold to John Barnes for 40s. two acres of meadow at Turkey Point [PCR 1:167, 12:49].

On 5 August 1640 John Combe, gent., and Phineas Pratt, joiner, sold to John Barnes for £3 two acres which they had of "Godbert Godbertson in marriage with their wives" [PCLR 1:101]. On 15 January 1640 Mr. Thomas Hill sold to John Barnes for £20 "all that his house & garden and lands thereunto belonging lying on the northside of Wellingsly Brook" [PCLR 1:119]. On 30 December 1642 John Barnes sold to Edward Edwards for £16 the above two parcels; on 30 October 1644 Edwards assigned this land to "Thomas Whitney" with further payments to be made to Barnes, and on 27 October 1647 Barnes released "Thomas Whitten" from all debts [PCLR 1:154].

On 5 October 1640 Josias Winslow sold to John Barnes for £52 "all that his house, messuage and outhouses and garden place with the upland belonging to the said house in Plymouth aforesaid and the two acres of marsh meadow lying at the Wood Island" [PCLR 1:105].

John Barnes

99

On 27 November 1640 Mark Mendlove sold to John Barnes for £12 "all that his house and land lying at the fishing point upon the Eele River" [PCLR 1:109]. On 10 February 1640 Barnes sold this land to William Baker for £18 [PCLR 1:119], but on 5 April 1641 John Barnes leased to William Baker the house and lands at Eel River which he had lately bought of Mark Mendlove, the sale having fallen through [PCR 2:13].

On 24 August 1651 and on 14 October 1651 John Barnes of Plymouth made deeds of gift of livestock to his children "Jonathan, Mary, Hanna and Lidia" [PCR 12:214-15; note that the first wife of John Barnes had died on 2 June 1651].

On 28 December 1653 John Jourdain of Plymouth, tailor, sold to John Barnes for 5s. "a small parcel of upland ground being about two pole and an half in length ... and I do hereby also acknowledge that I sold the said parcel of land unto John Barnes in the year one thousand six hundred and forty two, although not until now acknowledged and confirmed" [MD 5:93-94, citing PCLR 2:1:95]. On 26 February 1654 Josias Hallott of Barnstable sold to John Barnes for £15 "an hundred acres of upland and twenty acres of meadow"; Mary Hallott relinquished her right in the land on 3 March 1654 and noted that the marsh was at "Swan Pond River, the upland lying between Barnstable and Yarmouth" [MD 9:232-33, citing PCLR 2:1:153].

On 27 March 1660 Stephen Bryant of Plymouth sold to John Barnes for a valuable sum his quarter part or share in purchase land at Dartmouth which came to him from his father-in-law John Shaw Sr. [MD 14:143-44, citing PCLR 2:2:32]. On the same day Bryant sold to Barnes for a valuable sum his share as a townsman of Plymouth in the land at Punckatesett [MD 14:144-45, citing PCLR 2:2:33].

On 10 November 1661 John Barnes sold to John Haward of Acushena for a valuable sum the quarter share at Dartmouth which he had purchased from Stephen Bryant [MD 16:181-82, citing PCLR 2:2:71]. On 26 November 1661 John Barnes sold to Jone Tilson, widow, for £13 "one half of his farm land at the place or village commonly called and known by the name of Lakenham near the town of Plymouth ... the whole said farm ... containing one hundred acres of upland and ten acres of meadow ..." [MD 16:183-84, citing PCLR 2:2:73].

On 24 March 1661[?] William Palmer of Accushenah, cooper, sold to Mr. John Barnes of Plymouth, yeoman, for £15 "all that his home lot lying and being at Accushenah aforesaid containing twenty-five acres of upland with all the house, housing and fences thereon with three acres of meadow as yet unlaid out," but not including right of commonage [PCLR 2:2:86]. On 10 August 1666 Barnes exchanged this land with Benjamin Bartlett of Plymouth, receiving in return an eleven acre parcel lying on the southside of Plymouth [PCLR 3:74].

On 7 August 1666 John Barnes of Plymouth, yeoman, sold to Hugh Cole of Plymouth, shipcarpenter, for a valuable consideration "all that my share of land lying and being at Taunton or Teticutt River being the twenty-sixth part of all the uplands and meadow," being the twenty-second lot [PCLR 3:68].

In his will, dated 6 March 1667/8 and proved 29 October 1671, John Barnes bequeathed to wife Joan Barnes one half the housing and lands for life; to son Jonathan the other half of the housing and lands forever (unless he forfeit it based on conditions stated later); to grandson John Marshall land lying near Rhode Island; to "my cousin the wife of Henery Samso[n]" 40s.; to wife one-third of movables forever (on certain conditions); to son Jonathan one-third of movables "in case he do not demand any part of that estate that formerly I gave to my daughter Lyddyah now deceased, in case he shall so do then third shall fall unto my grandson John Marshall"; to "my grandchildren now in being together with my kinswoman Ester Ricket" one-third of movables; wife Joan Barnes and son Jonathan Barnes to be executors [MD 4:98-100, citing PCPR 3:1:31; PCR 5:81; Stratton 447-49].

The inventory of "Mr. John Barnes lately deceased", taken 30 August 1671, was lengthy, and totalled £226 18s. 8d. [MD 19:61-62; PCPR 3:1:32-36; Stratton 449-56].

On 5 March 1671/2 the court "ordered, that notice be given to Mr. Robert Marshall, that forasmuch as Mistress Jone Barnes complaineth that she can not provide for his children, now in her custody, that he, within one month or six weeks after the date thereof, take care to provide for his said children, viz: John Marshall and Robert Marshall, or otherwise the Court will take course for the disposal of them" [PCR 5:85]. On 8 March 1682/3 the court ordered the Plymouth selectmen to "inquire after and use means that what appertains to Robert Marshall may be delivered to him, and also to take into their custody whatsoever appertains to the widow, Mistress Jone Barnes, and to improve it for her support as she shall or may stand in need thereof" [PCR 6:103].

BIRTH: By about 1608 based on date of marriage.

DEATH: Died between 6 March 1667/8 (date of will) and 30 August 1671 (date of inventory), and certainly closer to the latter date. (In an undated report to the Plymouth court of 5 March 1671/2 a coroner's jury viewed "the corpes of Mr. John Barnes" and stated that "being before his barn door in the street, standing stroking or feeling of his bull, the said bull suddenly turned about upon him and gave him a great wound with his horn on his right thigh, near eight inches long, in which his flesh was torn both broad and deep, as we judge; of which wound, together with his wrench of his neck or pain thereof (of which he complained) he immediately languished; after about 32 hours after he died" [PCR 5:88].)

John Barnes

101

MARRIAGE: (1) Plymouth 12 September 1633 MARY PLUMMER [PCR 1:16]; she died Plymouth 2 June 1651 [PCR 8:13].

(2) before 1 March 1652/3 Joan _____ (who on that day was presented at Court for "slandering and defaming the children of Captain Willett and the daughter of George Watson" [PCR 3:23]); living on 8 March 1682/3 [PCR 6:103].

CHILDREN:

- i MARY, b. say 1640; m. Plymouth in 1660 [day and month lost] Robert Marshall [PCR 8:22].
- ii JONATHAN, b. say 1642; m. Plymouth 4 January 1665 Elizabeth Hedges [PCR 8:31]. (Savage claims a birthdate of 3 June 1643, but the evidence for this is not seen.)
- iii HANNAH, b. say 1644; received deeds of gift from father 24 August 1651 and 14 October 1651; no further record.
- iv JOHN, b. say 1646; d. Plymouth 25 December 1648 [PCR 8:5].
- v LYDIA, b. Plymouth 24 April 1648 [PCR 8:4, 290]; in his will John Barnes enjoined his son Jonathan from demanding "any part of that estate that formerly I gave to my daughter Lyddyah now deceased," which may simply refer to the cattle which she had received after her mother's death; there is no indication that she married or had children.

ASSOCIATIONS: In his will John Barnes makes bequests to "my cousin the wife of Henery Sams[o]n" and to "my kinswoman Ester Ricket." John Barnes had married on 12 September 1633 Mary Plummer, and HENRY SAMSON had married 6 February 1635/6 ANNE PLUMMER [PCR 1:16, 36]. There is no Plummer family in Plymouth Colony this early, and so Mary and Anne may have come on their own or, more likely, as part of some family of a different surname. Given the dates of marriage, they would seem to be of the same age, and so one might expect that they were sisters, but in that case Barnes should refer to Anne (Plummer) Samson as his sister and not cousin. Thus, Anne and Mary Plummer may have themselves been cousins, or, less likely, they may have been aunt and niece; other more distant relationships are also possible.

On 31 October 1651 at Plymouth John Rickard married Hester Barnes [PCR 8:13]. As Hester was about the same age as the children of John Barnes, the likeliest suggestion is that she was the daughter of a brother of John Barnes. On 5 July 1666 John Barnes had a servant named Thomas Barnes [PCR 4:133], also a likely candidate to be a relative, and possibly a brother of Hester. If Hester and Thomas were siblings, and if John Barnes was their uncle, there is no evidence that their father came to New England. (See NEHGR 112:154.)

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COMMENTS: John Barnes appeared in the court records constantly, giving us a detailed view of a complicated personality. He was a man of high social standing, for he was frequently referred to as "Mr.," and he was a man of wealth who engaged in mercantile activity. But there was a dark side to his character, which placed him constantly at odds with the authorities, and prevented him from taking the place in Plymouth society which should have been his based on his wealth and social standing.

His trading activities are seen on occasion as the records of normal transactions [e.g., PCR 1:9, 13, 138, 2:31, 54], but more frequently when he engaged in some practice which the General Court deemed illegal, or at least unfair. On 1 December 1640 John Barnes was presented "for exaction in taking rye at four shillings per bushel, and selling it again for five without adventure or long forbearance in one and the same place"; he was found not guilty [PCR 2:5]. On 2 March 1640/1 he was presented "for selling black & brown threads at five shillings, four pence per lb."; he was found not guilty [PCR 2:12]. (See also PCR 1:34, 167-68 and, for a case which goes into great detail, PCR 7:120-22.)

John Barnes was also in court frequently as either plaintiff or defendant in civil suits, usually over debts arising from his business activities. These cases cover a period of thirty years, from 1636 to 1667 [PCR 1:42, 168; 2:50, 108; 3:203; 4:9, 12, 79, 89, 158; 7:16, 19, 28, 29, 63, 69, 72, 76, 93, 103, 113, 117, 124, 127, 137].

Aside from these legal disputes over business activities, Barnes was occasionally in court under accusation of having slandered one of his neighbors. On 9 June 1653 he was presented for having accused Winifred Whitney of lying, but was unable to bring forth proof and acknowledged his fault in making the accusations [PCR 3:38]. On 1 March 1663/4 Samuel Allin complained that Barnes had defamed him by stating that he was one of three men who might have been the father of the child of William Newland's daughter; Barnes wrote an apology, explaining that he was merely passing on a rumor [PCR 7:114].

Evidence for his wealth may also be seen in the frequency with which he was acquiring the time of servants from other men, or otherwise involved in disputes over his servants. On 26 August 1634 "John Rouse, the servant of the said Thomas Prince, having a desire to forsake the service of his master, and to dwell with the forementioned John Barnes the remainder of his time; and also Richard Willis, servant of John Barnes aforesaid, having inclination to dwell with the said Thomas Prince," the parties so agreed [PCR 1:30]. On 4 August 1638, for £6 10s. and twenty bushels of Indian corn, John Barnes assigned to Robert Bartlett the remaining term of service of Thomas Shreive (being three years from the first day of August instant), Robert Bartlett also paying Shreive £3

6s. 8d., and Shreive agreeing to serve an additional year for another £5 [PCR 12:32]. Especially suggestive is the court case of 5 July 1666 in which "Thomas Barnes, servant unto Mr. John Barnes of Plymouth," complained of some problem in the agreement between the two parties; some kinship relation between the two men seems likely [PCR 4:133]. (See also PCR 1:129, 132; 2:38; 3:27, 39, 126.)

Another side of John Barnes may be seen in the frequency with which he was called on by others to stand surety for them when they had problems, as on 16 April 1639 when he posted bond of £20 for Richard Derby when he was accused of poisoning John Dunford [PCR 1:121.] (See also PCR 1:19, 75, 105; 2:73, 107; 3:159, 177).

The worst of the difficulties encountered by Barnes were the frequent occasions when he was presented at court for drunkenness. The first occasion of record was on 4 December 1638 when John Barnes was "presented for inordinate drinking about four months since, and in regard the evidence thereof was not adjudged sufficient evidence, it was remitted to better proof" [PCR 1:107]. On 7 November 1643 "John Barnes, proved to be drunken, both in the Bay and at Scituate ... is fined £5" [PCR 2:66]. On 5 June 1650 "We present John Barnes, of Plymouth, for being drunk. Cleared by paying the fine" [PCR 2:156].

This problem became so serious that on 1 March 1652/3 John Barnes, having been accused of drunkenness and then having come into court drunk was fined £10 and ordered to post an additional £40 bond for his good behavior [PCR 3:22-23]. This penalty clearly had little effect, for on 6 October 1659 John Barnes was disfranchised for "frequent and abominable drunkenness" [PCR 3:167, 176]. Still John Barnes did not alter his behavior, for on 10 June 1661 the Court ordered that the "ordinary keepers of the town of Plymouth are hereby prohibited to let John Barnes have any liquors, wine, or strong drink at any time," under penalty of 50s. fine [PCR 3:219]. (See also PCR 3:5, 129, 4:106.)

There may be some humor, however, in a few other court occurrences related to the excessive drinking. On 2 October 1637 he was to testify against a number of servants and others who were drinking at the home of Stephen Hopkins on the sabbath [PCR 1:68]. On 2 May 1648 "John Barnes, of Plimouth, is allowed by the Court to brew and sell beer unto comers and goers until the Court shall see reason to the contrary in regard of his intent to bake biscake, and for that otherwise it would be prejudicial unto him" [PCR 2:122]. On 14 September 1666 John Barnes was recorded as having brought fifty gallons of rum into Yarmouth for Elisha Hedge [PCR 4:152]; this may be the source of the false claim that Barnes had resided for some time at Yarmouth.

For other estimations of the character of John Barnes see Stratton [240-41, 447-56] and Darrett B. Rutman, *Husbandmen of Plymouth: Farms and Villages in the Old Colony, 1620-1692* (Boston 1967).