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DAVID THOMSON

by

Mrs. Flora Lusk Ward

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SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA.

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Richard Thomson was a mariner. He married 25 June 1579, St. James Church, Clerkenwell Parish, London, England, Florence Cromlan.¹ He was engaged in the Mediterranean trade, as is shown by his lawsuit in 1582 with the Turkey Co. He was part owner of the ship "Jesus" of London, which was captured and taken to Algiers. Tomson, in 1583, made a voyage to ransom the prisoners. In January, 1588, he was in Flanders and there was solicited by some Spaniards to undertake the delivery of a great quantity of iron ordnance, for which he would have been paid a large sum of money. He refused, knowing the material would be used for outfitting the "Spanish Armada," and informed Sir Francis Walsingham, chief organizer of the English government's secret service in London.² In 1588, he was Lieutenant of the "Margaret and John," a merchant ship, owned by Capt. John Fisher, against the Armada, and took part the night after the first battle, the 23 of July, and helped in the capture of Calais, (France), of the galleass, which were large low built three masted vessels propelled by sails and oars, and carrying 20 or more guns. His account of the battle of Gravelines is in the British Record Society, London. Richard Tomson was later employed to negotiate ransom and payment of prisoners of war.³

The Spanish Armada consisted of 132 armed craft and 33,000 men, and was engaged with the English fleet between July 21 and 29, 1588. The British in those days had no large fleet as now, and if they owned some 13 armed ships, and had a Navy of 146 vessels, of which some 133 were privately owned and armed merchant vessels used in trade and piracy, they were well supplied. These merchant ships were pressed into service by the Crown in time of war.

Queen Elizabeth looked ^{up} on piracy almost as a legitimate business, especially against Spain and Rome, because to capture and rob Spaniards

was to avenge the Christian martyrs of the Inquisition and despoil the enemies of the Lord. There were no trade agreements between countries, as each nation was jealous and afraid of the other. The piracy against France yielded the greatest spoils of silk and jewels, which brought the highest prices on the London market.⁴ Therefore, these merchant seamen and traders were rich, respected and very able and resourceful fighters under all conditions.

The defeat of the Armada was brought about when the British sent flaming ships into the midst of the enemy, just as it was reported in this war, that the British prevented the Germans from invading England by spreading burning oil on the water of the English Channel.

As usual in countries after a war, money was not immediately available to pay for the services of the privately owned vessels and men,⁵ which had come to the rescue of their country, so the Crown granted from time to time extraordinary powers to their merchant seamen for further explorations, trade, fishing rights, and even large grants of land. These settlements were held up for years and payment would be made to the heirs of the fighters in many cases.

Richard Thomson's debt was settled probably in this way, and David, his son, was given the grant to land in New England in North America. David was christened the 17 of December 1592, in the same church in which his parents were married.⁶ In this same parish of Clerkenwell, they must have lived. It is situate in the northeastern part of London, where Oliver Cromwell is said to have signed the death warrant of Charles I. The district was filled with watch and metal workers in 1938, and later suffered damage by German bombs and fire.

David was well educated. In the patent of Robert Gorges and others, he is referred to as "gentleman," meaning that his superior position was rated by superior birth and breeding, and that he was worth at least $\frac{1}{2}$ 2000.⁷ He is listed in the Massachusetts records as a Master mariner,

chartist, apothecary,⁸ (a druggist's clerk or first aid man, as now-even given to setting bones and administering medicine). Under the English law, every male child had to serve an apprenticeship, and his father selected and paid for it, according to his station in life. Perhaps as his father sailed the seas, and Plymouth was an important fortified seaport, he was sent there to finish his training begun on his father's ships. David Thomson was well thought of by Sir Ferdinando Gorges, commander of the Fort at Plymouth, Captain John Mason, mayor of the city, and other men of importance.

David Thomson married the 18 of July 1613, in St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth, England, Amyas Colle.⁹ This beautiful fifteenth century church had stood in the center of Plymouth until the present World War II, when its picturesque barrel roof and furnishings were burned and its monuments badly damaged by Nazi bombing. Only the tower withstood the attacks of 1942.¹⁰

Amyas was the daughter of a well-to-do ship builder, William Colle and his wife Agnes Bryant (Briant), of Plymouth. They too were married in St. Andrew's Church, the 10 of Feb. 1594.¹¹ William's house, shop and court-lage stood near the "ould conduit (canal), in Plymouth proper.¹²

An affidavit by the Indian Sagamore shows that David Thomson made a voyage to North America as early as 1619, and explored the Isle of Trevour, now Thompson Island, in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts, and was familiar with the New England coast line, living conditions and opportunities in the new world. David must have been among those selected by Sir Ferdinando Gorges to accompany Thomas Dermer, that year, from Plymouth, England, in a 200 ton vessel to New England. Captain Dermer, with several of his company, explored parts of New England and bargained for furs and fish, rejoining the others, some six weeks later, the 23 of June, at Monahigan. They set sail from that place with their rich cargo and thirty-six men and boys for Plymouth, England.¹³

Such information as young Tomson gained on his trip could have influenced the Council of Plymouth, of Plymouth, England, a powerful organization

of some twenty prominent men, holding a charter dated the 3 Nov. 1620, from King James, for the planting, ruling, ordering and governing of New England in North America, from the 40th to the 46th degree of latitude and from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, to make David their "messenger," or confidential agent, and the attorney of Gorges, its executive director. This Company had the granting of all land in New England for the Crown.¹⁴

From 1620 until 1622, Thomson was in London representing the Council of Plymouth, and looking after his own affairs. He attended the House of Lords, the 15 July 1622, to solicit the Lords for procuring from His Majesty, King James, a proclamation concerning fishermen in the western parts, and to punish fishermen's contempt for the authority of the Council. A shrewd business man, he was making sure that he would reap a rich reward for his fishing in New England waters, as each man traded at his own risk, with his own capital, in conformity with England's maritime rules and the Association of Merchants. That same month, on the 24th, he attended the House of Lords for forfeits committed by Thomas Weston; and for drawing a new patent for his own land in New England,¹⁵ because Parliament, zealous of its rights, thought the King had exceeded his authority in former grants. Then, the 8 of November, he was ordered to pay Leo Peddock, an employee, £ 10 for his last employment to New England, indicating that David must have gone back and forth between England and America at a very early date. His business for the Council apparently ended the 11 Nov. 1622, when he attended Sir Robert Mansell, concerning Capt. Squibbs' commission.¹⁶ A captain of every ship or company was always commissioned by the Crown.

At that time ships were few, risks great, and it took much planning and time to assemble capable men and provisions for a long hard journey to the New England coast. It was not until late in the year, 1622, which ended the 24 of March 1622, and not the 31 of December as our calendars are now, that the journey was begun.

The facts as set forth have been taken from a photostat of the original David Thomson Indenture, dated the 16 of October, 1622, giving to him alone 6000 acres of land and an Island anywhere in New England. In order to promote his colonization party, secure provisions, equipment and skilled workmen, David entered into a five year Agreement as of December 1622, with three wealthy and influential merchants, viz.: Abram Colmer, Leonard Pomeroy and Nicholas Sherwill. These merchants were to provide and send men with Thomson on the ship "Jonathan," of Plymouth, England, to New England, with victuals, provisions, etc., "as shall suffice until they are landed." And if they land in the space of three months, the usual time for a voyage in those days, after the ship passes Rame Head, (a promitory just outside of Plymouth Sound), the residue of the three months' victuals were to be delivered to Thomson on his landing, "there to be disposed of by him towards finding a fit place for habitation, and to begin the same."

Thomson was to pay the greater amount or three-fourths of the expenses of planting crops and erecting buildings on the land or island, and the other one-fourth was to be divided equally among the other three partners. The colony was to engage in fishing, trade with the Indians for furs and hides, cut timber, raise grapes, crops, and engage in all other husbandry. Thompson had a contract also to carry twenty passengers for the Plymouth Company. These persons, he must have left, as well as his wife, and any family and servants he had brought, at the Plymouth Plantation on his arrival at that place, until such time as he could prepare a fit home for his wife.¹⁷

He then proceeded to the Piscataqua river, which flows between New Hampshire and Maine, and at the very entrance of this river on the west side, 25 leagues (each league being three geographical miles) northeast from the Plymouth settlement to a point of land known as Pannaway (later

Little Harbor), he and his party built a fort house, which passed into the hands of Gorges and Mason under the Laconia grant. The Fort house is described as a strong and large place, enclosed with a large and high Palizado, with mounted big guns, and stored extraordinarily with shot and ammunition, which "proved to be the Terror of the Indians,"¹⁸ who preyed on the unprotected settlers of the Plymouth Plantation and coast of New England.

Salmon fishing was very profitable in this river, so Thomson and his party took an Island in the middle of the Piscataqua, 'commonly called the "Great Island," which extended up the river to a point known as Bloudy Point,¹⁹ and by the sea four miles. This insured Thomson full control over this river to the mainland.

David had power of government given him by the Council of Plymouth of England over his 6,000 acre plantation, the island and settlers, and he directed the cultivating of the vine, mining, fishing, trade with the Indians, and upholding of God and liberty according to the terms of his contract.

An historic marker at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, records that David Thomson in 1622/3 became the first permanent white settler in what is now that state.²⁰

Amyas, David's wife, joined him in his large Fort House and thus became the first white woman permanently settling in New Hampshire.

Capt. Christopher Leavitt, sea captain and traveler, visited him in the summer and fall of 1623, at Pannaway, and describes life in America. He states David was a scholar, very cordial, and ready to entertain visitors and strangers alike, freely dispensing his supplies and hospitality.

The Plymouth Company suffered severely in 1623 for want of corn, and sent Capt. Miles Standish over to Piscataqua to get some. Thomson, as the appointed agent of that company, accompanied him with the provisions back to Plymouth Plantation, and there renewed his friendship with Capt.

Robert Gorges, of Plymouth, England. Thomson, as Gorges attorney, conveyed at this time, the large grant of territory in Massachusetts he had selected for him, and the two men then proceed^{ed} on foot to Winnissemet (Chelsea) to claim it.²¹

Colonial Governor Bradford relates that understanding a Plantation at Monhiggon (Island), belonging to some merchants of Plymouth, England, was to break up and divers good sold, went hither with Mr. Winslow. But Mr. David Thomson, who lived at Pannaway (Piscataqua), knowing their purpose, took opportunity to go with them, which was "some hindrance to them both;" for they perceiving the joint desire to buy, held the goods at higher rates, and would not sell a parcel to them, except they sold all, so lest they should further prejudice one another, they agreed to buy all and divide equally between them." They also bought a parcel of goats, which they distributed at home. The moiety, or half, in the goods came to about 400 li.²²

David, after a few years, left Pannaway, to engage in business at Thompson Island, probably because the growing settlements in New England were meeting with stiff competition from the new Massachusetts Co., which in ~~the~~^{the} 15 October, 1629, voted at a court held in London that "this company shall have the trade of beaver and all other furs in those parts, (including Pannaway), for a term of seven years from the fifteenth of that month."²³ This order interfered greatly with individual enterprise and usurped the occupation and living of many settlers.

Since David and the Indian Sagamore of Agamon had been over in 1619 Thompson Island (Isle of Trevour), lying between Moon Island and Dorchester, three and one-half miles from Boston Harbor, and ^{had} found plenty of fresh water from a small river, ~~there~~ and "no Indians or wigwam or planting,"²⁴ he knew he could realize a good living there. Thomson built and lived in a house near the eastern shore, just south of the center of the Island,

for as late as 1889 parts of the basement and building were excavated. The Farm and Trades School occupied the entire one hundred and fifty seven acres where David's old home stood,²⁵ amid beautiful trees and shrubs. He also claimed the neighboring peninsula of Squantum, which gave him easy access to the sea and a fine anchorage. There he dealt in furs and fish with the friendly Neponset Indians, who were noted trappers.

David Thomson did not live long to enjoy his Island in Boston Harbor. There is no record of his burial place. His young widow Amyas became chief of the plantation, paid taxes, and in 1630 her share, $\frac{1}{2}$ 0-12, for the eviction of Thomas Morton, who had been selling arms, ammunition and liquor to the Indians, and harboring men of ill repute.²⁶ No woman could live alone, with a young son, in the wilds in those early days of Indian depredations, so within a short time widow Thomson married a family friend, Samuel Maverick (1602-post 1669), son of an English Episcopalian clergyman, and owner of Noodles Island (Brereton), East Boston, Massachusetts Bay. This Island Maverick had received by Charter from the King of England and had built a Fort House, with four great guns as a protection against the Indians, owned the Ferry, which he operated until 1634, and also had a grant of land in Maine.²⁷

John Thompson's step-father was very active in the affairs of the colonies, was one of the earliest slave holders in Massachusetts, and made frequent trips to Virginia and England for provisions and ammunition. There was no freedom of speech in the colonies, such as we enjoy to-day, and Samuel Maverick was arrested for his views regarding the baptism of infants by the church, and was fined one hundred and fifty pounds sterling, but after a long and expensive trial, his fine was remitted.²⁸

Many changes were taking place in the New World, just before the beheading of Charles I, in 1649, and the times of Oliver and Richard Cromwell. Land and offices were redistributed with the new political parties. In the meantime Thompson Island had grown into the prosperous

settlement of Dorchester, while John was growing up, perhaps among his mother's people, and the Island passed into other hands in 1634/5.²⁹ When John reached his majority, 21 years, he brought suit against Dorchester for the return of Thompson Island, which had been left him by his father David. After careful consideration of the testimony presented to the Massachusetts Court by Myles Standish, the old Indian Saggamore of Agaman, William Blaxton, and others,³⁰ John Thompson was pronounced the legal owner of the Island the 10 May 1648,³¹ and the very successful settlement of Dorchester was granted in lieu thereof one thousand acres wherever it could find vacant land in Massachusetts.

John Thomson was born ante 1625. He was a mariner, and Captain of the ships "Elizabeth, " " Gift of God," and of the bark named "Prittie." He was engaged in trade between New England, England, Lisbon, Barbadoes, sold fish in Balboa, and elsewhere, and on one of his trips he was to get "four negroes" from Guiana.³² His wife's name was Sarah --.

Samuel Maverick, who had married his mother, Anyas Cole Thomson, was a Royalist, and had many ups and downs in business between 1653 and 1658, while the Cromwells were in power in England. It was not until 1660, when King Charles II was restored to the throne of England and Scotland, that Maverick was reinstated in royal favor. He then made a trip to London and was granted extraordinary powers, and the 25 Apr. 1664, was appointed by the King with Sir Robert Carr, Col. Richard Nicolls and Col. George Cartwright, one of the first four Royal Commissioners to subjugate the Dutch at Manhadoes, and to settle every kind of controversy that had arisen or would arise in New England. His ship was authorized to carry troops and to oust the Dutch from the Atlantic coast and Long Island that same year. With the Dutch subdued, he was in high favor. Because of this important service and his loyalty to the King, he was presented by the Duke of York, with a house and lot, situate on the easterly side of Broadway, running through New street, beginning 125 feet south from

Church street (afterwards Garden), and now Exchange Place, New York City, and known as 50 Broadway. Mrs. Anyas Thomson Maverick lived there until her husband's death ca 1669. Their daughter Mary Maverick Palfry (Mrs. Francis Hook, of Kittery Point, Maine), received the property by her father's will, which she sold shortly at public vendue to the Deacons of the city.³³ Mrs. Maverick then went to Maine to be near her daughter, and died post 3 Sept. 1672.

John Thomson died in Mendon, Mass., 9 Nov. 1685, and willed his "beloved" daughter Mehitabel Haywood, a small sum of money. His Island had been pledged to Joseph Jackson and Hugh Browne, merchants, of Bristol, England, in 1650, as security for a debt, amounting to one hundred and sixty-three pounds six shillings,³⁴ which John was unable to pay.

Mehitabell Tomson married in Medfield, Mass., the 28 of Nov. 1666, Samuel (Hayward) Howard,³⁵ b 1646, Mass., (the son of an early Massachusetts settler, William Hayward, and his wife, Margery Thayer).

Samuel Hayward, Haywood, or Howard as the name is interchangeably written to this day, lived in Braintree (Quincy), Mendon, and other nearby places. He was an original proprietor of Mendon, a surveyor of highways in 1669, a selectman, 1692, a housewright, and owned much land in Howardtown (Mendon), Mass. He died the 29 Nov. 1713.

Their youngest son, Benjamin (Howard) Hayward, was born the 14 of Feb. 1689, Mendon, and died in 178_, at Milford, Mass. The Indians drove the settlers from settlement to settlement and burned the towns. There is no record of the parentage of his wife Anna or Hannah. His father, in consideration of a moderate annuity, deeded Benjamin a large farm on both side of Second Bridge (now Charles) river, in 1708. This included a part of the northerly section of the lands his father had taken out of common, extending from opposite the old Mansion House, through Howardtown, to the border of South Milford district. For fifty years he lived at what was known as the old Nathan Wood place.

He also inherited on his father's death the southeasterly part of his father's farm, which he sold in 1755 to Captain Samuel Hayward. Benjamin was an original member of the Congregational Church, which was established in 1741.³⁶ He saw military service as did all able bodied men in those days. He was the ancestor of William Howard Taft, twenty-seventh President of the United States.

Thomas (Howard) Hayward, son of Benjamin, was born in 1719, in Massachusetts, and died in Templeton, same state, 24 Sept. 1793. He was the father of ten children. His first wife was Elizabeth (Gyles) Giles, whom he married in Hopkinton, Mass., in Aug. 1746. She was baptised the 18 June 1729, and died at Templeton, the 24 March 1772.³⁷

Their son (Eleazer) Eliezer (Howard) Hayward was baptised the 7 March 1753, Mendon, Mass. and died at Shrewsbury, Vermont, 1789. He married Kezia Shed, who was born 25 May 1760. Her earliest ancestor, Daniel Shed, settled at Braintree as early as 1643, and owned much land, including Shed's Neck (Quincy), Mass., in Massachusetts Bay, where his descendants erected as a memorial a granite shaft in the form of a lighthouse, about twenty feet high with a powerful electric light, as a beacon to the sailors of Snug Harbor.³⁸

Eliezer Hayward lived in Hopkinton, Templeton and Mendon, Mass., and Grafton and Shrewsbury, Vt. He enlisted twice in the Revolutionary Army and served in Capt. John Moore's Co., Col. Rufus Putnam's Fifth Regt., Continental Army, from 14 Apr. 1777 to 31 Dec. 1779, and again under Col. Gardner until 9 Dec. 1780. He is described in War Department records as being five feet seven inches tall, of dark complexion.

Their son Benjamin (Hayward) Howard was a farmer. He was born 9 July 1788, died 19 Dec. 1860, Rutland, Vt., and married 18 Jan. 1816, Elisabeth Marshall, who was born 8 March 1792, and died 18 Nov. 1871, Olney, Illinois. Franklin Pierce, the fourteenth President of the United States

was descended from the great³ grandfather of Elizabeth Marshall.

Horace Hayward, son of Benjamin, used but one spelling of this name. He was born in Shrewsbury, Rutland Co., Vt., 1824, and died 5 Jan. 1878, Olney, Illinois. He was educated at Troy Conference Academy and Castleton Seminary, same state, and studied law under Judge Robert Fierpont, later Judge of the Supreme Court of Vermont. The 14 of Feb. 1849, Horace Hayward and sixteen other New Englanders, left New York on the "Brig Empire" for Vera Cruz, Mexico, and crossed that country on foot and by mule by way of Mexico City to San Blas, then by "Brig Don Amingo" to San Francisco, California, arriving there the 15th of June. After a six months' stay, digging gold along the American river, he took passage the 1 December 1849 on the "Unicorn" for Panama, and crossed via Cruces, through the yellow fever and cholera stricken country to the Atlantic coast, and back to New York by water.³⁹ Soon after his return home, the 26 of Sept. 1850, he was admitted to the bar at Rutland, Rutland Co., Vt.; and the 14 of Nov. that same year he arrived in Olney, Illinois, at the home of his aunt, Clarissa Marshall, ~~xxxxxx~~ wife of Hiram Barney, Jr. Horace married there the 1 Jan. 1852, Ellen Jane McCollough, a school teacher, who was born in Mansfield, Ohio, the 28 Dec. 1831, and died Olney, 1 March 1898. He was a director of the First National Bank and trustee of Olney, supervisor of the county of Richland, president of the Grayville and Mattoon railway, and elected probate judge of Richland county, 1873, serving in that capacity until his death, a 32 degree mason, holding all offices, including Eminent Commander of Gorin Commandry.

Their daughter, Tinnie Elisabeth Hayward, was born the 11 June 1857, Olney, ~~xx~~ and died Parsons, Kans. 19 June 1894. She married the 14 Apr. 1875, Harry H. Lusk, born Edinburg, Indiana, 14 Apr. 1855, and died Parsons, Kans., 29 Nov. 1902. They were the parents of ~~five children xxxxxx~~ Ralph Hayward, Roy Hayward, Flora, Don Winston and Harry Hayward. Harry Lusk,

the elder, learned the newspaper business from his father, David Winston Lusk,⁴⁰ journalist, historian, and State Printer of Illinois. Harry, at seventeen years of age, bought and successfully published the "Olney Republican" (later "Ledger"), at Olney. He was assistant editor the 26 June 1878, while his father was editor, of the "Illinois State Gazette," Springfield.⁴¹ He purchased the weekly "Sun," the 14 Dec. 1878, Parsons, Kans., which he enlarged into the "Parsons Daily Sun," the 5 Dec. 1880,⁴² thus becoming the youngest publisher-editor of a daily paper in that state. He served as postmaster there 1889-94 and 1896-1901.

Flora Lusk, the only daughter, was born 14 March 1881, and married Grafton, West Va., 12 July, 1909, Charles Cresap Ward. She was educated in public and private schools, Mary Institute, St. Louis, Mo., and George Washington University, Washington, D.C. During World War I, she served in the Planning Branch, War Department, and later^{as} law clerk, General Land Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

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