

## THE BURGES FAMILY OF SANDWICH, MA: ENGLISH ORIGINS AND A CRITICAL BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

by Doug Sinclair

The path to finding where the Burges family of Sandwich, Massachusetts, likely came from in England was a relatively straightforward look at English parish records online. Conversely, previously published work on the family started out simply, if not altogether accurately, but through numerous misinterpretations, repetition of mistakes, and poor guesswork, it has grown to become a bewildering knot of misinformation. This article will first discuss the history of this knot, when and how things went wrong, and then posit origins for the Burgeses in England.

Thomas Burges is said in numerous publications to have sailed into Salem, Massachusetts Bay Colony, about 1630 and then lived in neighboring Lynn for seven years. Evidently this claim originated in two books. One is by Ebenezer Burgess, whose 1865 book *Burgess Genealogy, Memorial of the Family of Thomas and Dorothy Burgess, who were settled at Sandwich, in the Plymouth Colony, in 1637* was likely the first detailed, printed account of this family.<sup>[1]</sup> He says “it appears that he [Thomas] arrived in Salem with a young family not far from 1630, and lodged for a time at Lynn.” This is the earliest reference found to Thomas’s connection to Salem and an immigration about 1630, and it isn’t based on any credible evidence. Burgess’s reference to Lynn is a misinterpretation of the other of the two books, the first edition of Alonzo Lewis's *The History of Lynn*, published in 1829.<sup>[2]</sup> Lewis gives a list of Sandwich settlers from Saugus (which would incorporate as Lynn) in 1637 and then a separate list of other Sandwich proprietors in which Thomas appears. The wording here is subtle, and it’s easy to see that a casual reading could lead to confusion. *History of Barnstable County*, published in 1890, is more succinct. The first group are called “the Ten men of Saugus,” who were the first to settle in Sandwich in 1637.<sup>3</sup> Following them were the “later comers, who were fifty others from Lynn, Duxbury and Plymouth” and arrived by 1641. Thomas appears again on the second of the lists. Despite this, it was likely Ebenezer Burgess’s book that fixed the statement connecting Thomas to Salem and Lynn in the minds of subsequent researchers and the error that he was in Sandwich in 1637, highlighted in the book’s title.

Thomas first appears in New England records on 3 July 1637, when he was granted land “on Ducksborrow side” in Plymouth Colony.<sup>[4]</sup> This grant was made just after Duxbury was set off and incorporated from the town of Plymouth, and apparently the old descriptive phrasing lingered. Thomas first appears in Sandwich records on 16 April 1640.<sup>[5]</sup> This shows he was one of the “later comers” from Duxbury. He may have moved to Sandwich in 1638. His land grant in Duxbury was

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<sup>1</sup> Ebenezer Burgess, *Burgess Genealogy, Memorial of the Family of Thomas and Dorothy Burgess, who were settled at Sandwich, in the Plymouth Colony, in 1637* (Boston: 1865).

<sup>2</sup> Alonzo Lewis, *The History of Lynn* (Boston: J. H. Eastburn, 1829), 62.

<sup>3</sup> Simeon L. Deyo, ed., *History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts* (1890), 266.

<sup>4</sup> *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England* [hereafter *RCNP*], vol. 1, Court Orders, 1633-1640 (Boston: 1855), 63, “haveing a common marsh on the south side, the lands of Willm Basset on the east side, the lands of Mr. John Vincent on the north side, and the commons towards the woods on the west side; to have and to hold the said lands unto the said Thomas Burges, his heires and assignes forevr, & to their onely proper use and behoofe forevr.”

<sup>5</sup> *RCNP*, vol. 2, Court Orders, 1641-1651 (Boston: 1855), 149.

given to Nicholas Robins on 5 November 1638.<sup>[6]</sup> Towns granted land in the early years of New England settlement with the proviso that the grantee would live in the town provided they met with approval of the “townsmen,” or selectmen. This infers that Thomas forfeited his grant by moving out of Duxbury.

As for his family, his will mentions his unnamed wife, sons Thomas, John, Jacob and Joseph, and his son-in-law Ezra Perry, husband of Elizabeth Burges.<sup>[7]</sup> Dorothy is documented as Thomas’s wife when she acknowledged a deed on 5 April 1654.<sup>[8]</sup> Her first name can also be found in her death record.<sup>[9]</sup> Although no connection to Thomas appears there, the record follows that of Thomas’s death. She was given a gravestone at the time which disintegrated and was replaced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Sandwich’s Old Town Cemetery. This also happened to Thomas’s gravestone. While the late evidence of her name allows the possibility that she wasn’t the mother of Thomas’s children, all born before 1654, Joseph Burges and Elizabeth (Burges) Perry named daughters Dorothy, which wasn’t a common name in the mid 17th century. Richard Burges appears with Thomas Sr. and Jr. on a list of men “able to bear arms” in 1643.<sup>[10]</sup> This is the only mention of a Richard Burges/Burgess in Plymouth Colony. Donald Lines Jacobus assumes he was the man of the same name who lived in Fairfield, Connecticut Colony, by 1650.<sup>[11]</sup> He doesn’t provide sources and is evidently wrong about the year, since the oldest Fairfield town record of Richard says he was invited to settle there from Boston in 1672 to practice his trade as a smith.<sup>[12]</sup> He appears in other Fairfield town records thereafter. No record was found for him elsewhere in New England.

Wrong claims and assumptions about the family continue with what are thought to be their English origins. They are a conglomerate of disparate information, and no plausible evidence bonds them together. This may have begun with the nugget statement that Thomas Burgess married Dorothy Waynes in 1628 in Tanfield, Yorkshire, England. This record appears in *Paver's Marriage Licenses*, published in 1909.<sup>[13]</sup> A note in the *NEHGR* brought the marriage to the attention of its readers in 1964, but only as something to consider.<sup>[14]</sup> Parish records in Truro, Cornwall, England, include generations of a politically prominent Burgess family. A Thomas Burgess was baptized there on 16 August 1601, son of Thomas and Elizabeth.<sup>[15]</sup> When this record became widely available isn’t obvious, but likely when the Mormon “International Genealogical Index” was put online, probably in the 1990s. This may have led Burgess researchers to wills for this family published in 1901 in *Genealogical Gleanings in England*.<sup>[16]</sup> Nearly all of Thomas Sr.'s

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<sup>6</sup> *RCNP*, 1:100.

<sup>7</sup> *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 7 (Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1851), 335.

<sup>8</sup> *The Mayflower Descendant*, vol.8 (Boston, MA: Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1906), 73.

<sup>9</sup> Sandwich, MA, town death record, FamilySearch image database online, “Births, marriages, intentions of marriage, deaths, and misc. town records, 1640-1886,” image 96 [FHL film 4000352]. No age given.

<sup>10</sup> *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England*, vol. 8, Miscellaneous Records, 1633-1689 (Boston, MA: 1857), 192.

<sup>11</sup> Donald Lines Jacobus, *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield*, vol. 1 (Fairfield, CT: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1930), 116.

<sup>12</sup> Elizabeth V. H. Banks, *This is Fairfield, 1639-1940* (New Haven: The Walker-Rackliff Co., 1960), 179.

<sup>13</sup> *The Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, vol. 20 (Leeds: 1909), 74.

<sup>14</sup> *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 118 (Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1964), 323.

<sup>15</sup> Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, Truro, 1597-1982, FHL film 1596278.

<sup>16</sup> Henry F. Waters, *Genealogical Gleanings in England*, vol. 2 (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1901), 993-998.

children are in the Truro parish records, which shows the naming in the will of Thomas's male heirs is chronological by birth. Thomas Jr. is named last. Researchers apparently failed to notice the baptism of a second Thomas into this family 1621. Through personal experience using online genealogical databases, it can be said that burial records were not nearly as prevalent in the transcribed and uploaded material at FamilySearch as baptisms. This may explain why the initial interest in the 1601 baptism wasn't tempered by a burial record for Thomas Jr. in Truro later in the same year.<sup>[17]</sup> It was his much younger brother who is named in the will and he could not have been Thomas of Sandwich.

The confusion compounded when someone apparently saw a reference in Thomas of Truro's will to his brother-in-law George Phippen, decided this was Dorothy's brother, and gave her the surname Phippen. This can be found online and in privately published genealogies. Lastly, this has all been combined to form the statement that Thomas of Sandwich was born in Cornwall and married in Yorkshire to Dorothy Waynes or Phippen. Most internet and later 20<sup>th</sup> century book references to this couple use some iteration of this garbled and poorly evaluated information, including the reference to Salem and Lynn, that began innocently in 1829.<sup>[18]</sup> We can even say the idea that the Burgeses settled in in 1637 is written in stone. It says so on Thomas's replacement gravestone.<sup>[19]</sup>

English records leave little doubt they came from the adjacent parishes of Hillmorton and Rugby in Warwickshire. Most significantly, as shown in the parish records listed below, they have a Thomas "Birge" baptized on 2 August 1601 in Hillmorton, son of John and Elizabeth, and Thomas and Dorothy "Burges" having children baptized in Rugby named Thomas, Jacob, Elizabeth and John. There is no trace of this family in either parish after 1633. Apparently coincidental to there being a Richard Burges in Plymouth, if there was one, they had a child named Richard who died young in Rugby.

John, the father of Thomas of Hillmorton, is the earliest plausible Burges ancestor found. Records for his immediate family use the spelling "Burge" or "Burdge." "Burges" is used for Thomas's children's baptisms and continued as one of the prevalent spellings in New England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. An older John in Hillmorton married Isabel Watts and had twins named Francis and Margaret. Francis died as a baby and Margaret probably died before her father. His 1592 will leaves all his estate to his wife.<sup>[20]</sup> Other early Burge entries in the Hillmorton records are the burials of Thomas in 1577 and Margery in 1587. The paucity of Burges in Hillmorton and

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<sup>17</sup> Parish registers for St. Mary's Church, Truro, 1597-1982 [FHL film 1596278].

<sup>18</sup> One of the more recent books published includes two myths just in its title: Katherine W. Hiam, *Burgess Genealogy, Descendants of the Four Sons of Thomas and Dorothy (Waynes) Burgess, Thomas Burgess, Jr. of Newport, Rhode Island (those Descendants who Returned to Massachusetts), John Burgess of Yarmouth, Massachusetts, Jacob Burgess of Sandwich, Massachusetts, and Joseph Burgess of Rochester, Massachusetts, Whose Parents Were Settled in Sandwich in 1637* (Boston, MA: NEHGS, 1997).

<sup>19</sup> "Thomas Burg" gravestone, formerly in the Old Town Cemetery, Sandwich, accessed at Eldreds.com as an auction item in July 2024, "THOMAS BURG AGED ABOUT 80 YEARS DIED FEBR YE 4th. 1685." Tradition says the stone was sent from England, which is certainly not true. It is typical in every way to late 17th century gravestones carved in the Boston area except the tympanum, which has a simple floral arrangement rather than a winged "soul effigy" or "death's head." The lettering is well carved but slightly too big for the stone, and the rest just has lines suggesting shapes. It's likely that, given what the Burgeses were willing to pay, the workshop had an apprentice carver take the work as far as the money would go. There are many examples of more skillfully crafted stones of the same style in the Boston area.

<sup>20</sup> "Staffordshire, Dioceses of Lichfield And Coventry Wills And Probate 1521-1860," Findmypast image database online (findmypast.co.uk).

neighboring parishes make it plausible that Thomas and Margery were the younger John's parents and that the elder John was his uncle.

After John the elder's burial in 1592, the next Burge record in Hillmorton is the marriage in 1593 of the younger John to Elizabeth Keble. Their nuclear family are the only Burges in the Hillmorton registers from 1593 up to at least 1640. John and Elizabeth's son Thomas, who is posited here to be the New England immigrant, had his children baptized in neighboring Rugby parish. It's probably a great loss for the history of the Burges family that the parish registers in Rugby are only extant after 1621. John the younger's baptism and other records of his parents and siblings may have been recorded there or in Kilsby, also adjacent to Hillmorton, where parish records are extant only after 1706. Although there were females named Dorothy baptized in the Hillmorton area who could have been Thomas's wife, no obvious candidate stands out. Given that their first child was baptized in 1625, it may be that Thomas and Dorothy married in a nearby parish about 1623/4, and that is where Dorothy was baptized.

Elizabeth (Keble) Burge was the daughter of William Keble of Hillmorton. His will was written there on 26 June 1598 and probated on 6 January 1601/2.<sup>[21]</sup>

In the name of God Amen, In the year of our Lord god one thousand five hundred four score & eighteene, the xxvith day of June, I William Keeble of Hillmorton...give to my sonne Willm a malt quarne pvided that my wife Alice shall have the use of yt during her life...I give to my sonne Henry the flower over the hall, but he shall not remoove it during his mothers life...I give to my daughter Elizabeth Burdge the presse in my Chamber & the table in the hall, wt the forme, pvided that she shall not remoove them away during her mothers life. The residue of my goods unbequeathed I give unto Alice my Wife moveable & immoveable, whom I doe make my wholl & sole executrix to see my bodie brought unto the grounde, my funerall discharged, my debts paide, and legacies pformed. In wytnes wherof I have putto my hand the daye & yere above written

In the psence of John Smithe & Rice Oxenton

William's estate inventory was taken on 25 June 1601. This and his will infer he was a tenant, having no real estate holdings, and had a modest personal estate. The "working tools," new cupboard, new press, and sawn boards in the workhouse and the "ash tree standing" suggest he was a carpenter:<sup>[22]</sup>

A true inventorie of all the goods & chattels of Willm Keeble late of Hillmorton deceased, taken by Henry Pirkins, Thomas Kitts, the xvth daye of June in the xliiith yere of the Raigne of our sovraigne Lady Queene Elizabethhe

In the hall

One cubborde, ii tables, one forme, i olde pe[]me, the flower over the hall, one chere & [?]taine stooles...xxiii s iiii d

In the p[ar]lor

Twoo beds wt furniture to them, one bedsteede, iiii coffers & one presse...xxvi s, viii d  
Itm six payer of sheets...xxiii s

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<sup>21</sup> "Staffordshire, Dioceses of Lichfield And Coventry Wills And Probate 1521-1860."

<sup>22</sup> "Staffordshire, Dioceses of Lichfield And Coventry Wills And Probate 1521-1860."

Itm the testators apparel...xvi s

In the hie chambers

Twoo beds wt the furniture, ii olde bedsteeds & one forme...xx s

In the kytchine

One malt querne...x s

Itm ii brasse potts, ii panes, ii kettells, pewter, loomes, pales & other wooden ware...xxvi s, viii d

Itm ii spyning wheelles...xii d

In the workhouse

The working tooles...vi s, viii d

One new cubbord & certaine sawen bords...xx s

Itm one new chest...iiii s

Itm ii pounce of lynnne yarne...xii d

Itm ii pound of course wooll...vi d

In the yarde

Twoo ky[n]e & one sowe...iii lbs

Pullen...xii d

Old hovell tymber...ii s, vi d

Itm iii hives of bees...ix s.

Itm one ashetree standing...iii s, iii d

Itm grasse in the field...vi s

Som total xiii lbs, xi s, viii d

Henry "Pirkins" was one of the men who appraised the estate. There was only one Henry Pirkins/Perkins in Hillmorton in 1601, and he was the father of New England immigrant John Perkins.<sup>[23]</sup> In Henry's father Thomas Pirkins's will, made on 15 September 1588, he bequeathed items to "my brother kebbles wyfe," "Thomas Kebble" and "Sisley Kebble." No family relation, if any, are given for the latter two. "William cebbelle" witnessed the will. He could have been either William Sr. or Jr. of Hillmorton, since both were adults. If he was literate, William's original will would have his signature to compare with this witness, but evidently only a copy of it exists, as given above, and neither a signature nor a mark are indicated. Thomas Pirkins's marriage predates the extant Hillmorton registers. It's most likely, given the bequest, that his "brother kebbles wyfe" was a widow and that Thomas and Sisley were her children. Although there is no other obvious record of Thomas Kebble, Sisley was undoubtedly the woman with that name who married in Hillmorton in 1590.<sup>[24]</sup> Given this, they weren't children of either of the William Kebbles since

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<sup>23</sup> "The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III," Online database at AmericanAncestors.org (New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2010) [Originally Published as: Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III*, 3 vols. (New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995), 1431].

<sup>24</sup> She married Richard Lucke in Hillmorton on 29 Apr. 1590 and was buried there on 13 Sep. 1603.

neither are named in the elder William's will and his son William was too young. It may be that they were William Sr.'s nephew and niece. All things considered, Alice, named as Thomas Perkins's wife in his will, was likely a Keble.

The nuclear family of William Keble Sr. account for all the Kebles in the Hillmorton and adjacent parish registers in the 16th century. As with the Burges, others may have lived in Rugby or Kilsby. Regardless of whether Thomas Burges of Hillmorton was the New England immigrant, he and immigrant John Perkins were likely second cousins. Thomas Perkins, evidently the brother of Henry, was one of those inventorying William Jr.'s estate in 1615.<sup>[25]</sup> There is another connection between these families. Henry Pirkins, father of John the immigrant, had a brother Thomas. His son Edward Perkins married Alice Harding, Thomas Burges's niece, in 1637.

A 17th century abstract of Alice "Kibble's" estate probate in 1608 lists William and Henry Kibble and daughter Elizabeth "Bridge" as her heirs. The only original document on file is her inventory. The will, written on 7 March 1607(/08) is described as "plundered," leaving only the abstract for reference.<sup>[26]</sup>

The inventory of Alice Keble:<sup>[27]</sup>

A true Inventorie of the goods and chattalls of Alice keble deceased taken the third day of Aprill 1608 by Willm Bromich and Robt Daulton of hill morton

Imprimis her Apparell xx s  
Itm ii payre of hurden<sup>[28]</sup> sheets vi s  
Itm one ould hempen sheete ii s  
Itm one ould diaper towel & a diaper napkyn xii d  
Itm an ould drawer vi d  
Itm one coffer ii s, vi d  
Itm one kennell<sup>[29]</sup> vii d  
Itm one bolster iii s, iii d  
Itm one ould pillow xii d  
Itm three hillinge<sup>[30]</sup> xiii s, iii d  
Itm one ould blanckett xii d  
Itm one bedsteede iii s  
Itm one brasse pott vi s, viii d  
Itm one brasse panne x s  
Itm tow pewter platters xii d  
Itm one candelstike xi d  
Itm one littell kettelle vi d  
Itm one lynn timer wheele x d  
Itm one ould matrice xvi d

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<sup>25</sup> "Staffordshire, Dioceses of Lichfield And Coventry Wills And Probate 1521-1860."

<sup>26</sup> "Staffordshire, Dioceses of Lichfield And Coventry Wills And Probate 1521-1860." Since the will was probated with an inventory dating to Apr. 1608, the dual year of the will was very likely 1607/8.

<sup>27</sup> "Staffordshire, Dioceses of Lichfield And Coventry Wills And Probate 1521-1860."

<sup>28</sup> A coarse fabric made from hards, the refuse of hemp.

<sup>29</sup> A tub for salting meat.

<sup>30</sup> Quilt.

Itm one Joynte stoole vi d  
Itm one backstoole and littell forme<sup>[31]</sup> x d  
Itm one earthen can ii d  
Itm one table napkyn vi d  
Itm a littyll pewter pott iiii d  
Itm one white stone pott ii d  
Itm for depte owing her iii lbs

som total vi lbs, xix s

Parish records of St. John the Baptist, Hillmorton, Warwickshire, England<sup>[32]</sup>

baptisms

1565 8 Apr Frauncis and Margaret Burdge sonne and daughter of John Burdge  
1565 16 Apr Jone Keble daughtr of Willia Keble  
1566/7 13? Jan William Keble sonne of William Keble (record partially unreadable)  
1568/9 19 Mar [-]abeth Keble daughter of Willam Keble (record partially unreadable)  
1572/3 14 Mar John Keble sonn of Willam Keble  
1575/6 1 Feb Henry Keble sonne of William  
1583 2 Jun Thomas Wattes sonne of John Wattes  
1589 6 Apr Elizabeth Wattes daughter of John Wattes  
1595 13 Jun Alice ye daughtr of John Burge  
1596/7 20 Feb Judeth ye daughtr of John Burge  
1598 28 Apr Sarah ye daughtr of John Burdge  
1600 2 Apr Elzebeth burge daft of John  
1601 12 Aug Tomas birge sonne of John Birge  
1605/6 26 [Jan?] Margeret Bridg the daughter of John Bridge<sup>[33]</sup> (record partially unreadable)  
1607 5 Apr Edward the sonn of Thos Perkins  
1607/8 21 Feb John Birdge the son of John Birdge  
1611 7 Jul Elizabeth the daughtr of John Burdge  
1614/5 27 Feb Alice the daughter of Robt Harding

marriages

1564 12 Oct John Burdge & Isabell Wattes  
1590 29 Apr Richarde Lucke & Sisley Keble  
1593 29 Nov John Burrdge or Barrdge & Elizabeth Keble  
1607 18 Apr William Kebble & Elizabeth Watts  
1617 22 May Frauncis Cryer & Elizabeth Kebble

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<sup>31</sup> Base for a tabletop.

<sup>32</sup> Parish register of St. John the Baptist, Hillmorton, Warwickshire, England. Findmypast image database online, from Warwickshire County Record Office, DR0256/1.

<sup>33</sup> The baptism record is damaged, but it follows 28 Dec. and precedes 2 Feb. She is the only Bridg(e) recorded in Hillmorton within a 40-year range of this baptism, suggesting she was a Burge/Burdge.

1619 1 May William Birdges & Anne Clarke<sup>[34]</sup>  
1637 14 Sep Edward Perkins and Alice Harding  
1652 23 July John Abbott & Alice Harding

#### burials

1565 28 Sep Jone Keble  
1565 13 Oct Frauncis Burge  
1577 17 Oct Thos Burge  
1587 7 May Margery Burge  
1592 28 Sep John Burge  
1565 13 Oct Frauncis Burge  
1577 17 Oct Thos Burge  
1587 7 May Margery Burge  
1592 28 Sep John Burge  
1596/7 22 Feb Judeth Burdge  
1600 17 Apr Elzebeth birge  
1601 23 May William Kebell  
1607/8 29 Feb<sup>[35]</sup> Alice Kebble  
1611/2 3 Jan Elizabeth the daughter of John Burdge  
1638 8 Aug Elizabeth Cryer  
1650 23 Oct Robt Harding

#### Parish records of St. Andrew, Rugby, Warwickshire, England<sup>[36]</sup>

#### baptisms

1625 [prob. 17] Apr Thomas Burges sonne of Thomas & Dorothy (record partially unreadable)  
1626 [?] Sep Richard Burges sonne of Thomas & Dorothy (record partially unreadable)  
1629 12 Apr Jacob Burges sonne of Thomas & Dorothy  
1630 12 Dec Elizabeth Burges daughter of Thomas & Dorothy  
1632/3 10 Feb John Burges the sonne of Thomas

#### burials

1629 2 Sep Richard Burges sonne of Thomas and Dorothy

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<sup>34</sup> If William was a Burge/Burdge, he doesn't have an obvious place in the family of John and Elizabeth (Keble) Burge.

<sup>35</sup> The record says "the last day of ffebruarye" 1607 (1607/8). The Gregorian calendar year of 1608 was a leap year.

<sup>36</sup> Parish registers of St. Andrew, Rugby, Warwickshire, England, Findmypast image database online, from Warwickshire County Record Office, DR0258/1.



Parish records of St. Peter, Church Lawford, Warwickshire, England<sup>[37]</sup>

marriage

7 Feb 1613/4 Robert Harding & Alice Burges

**GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY**

**BURGE/BURGES**

**2. JOHN<sup>A</sup> BURGE** was probably born in Hillmorton say 1567 and probably buried in Hillmorton on 13 January 1649/50. He married in Hillmorton on 29 November 1593 **ELIZABETH<sup>A</sup> KEBLE**, daughter of William<sup>B</sup> and Alice Keble. Elizabeth was baptized in Hillmorton 19 March 1569 and buried there on 12 January 1635/6.

Children of John and Elizabeth (Keble) Burge (Hillmorton records unless otherwise noted):

- i. ALICE BURGE, bp. 13 June 1595; prob. bur. 16 Feb. 1659/60 (“Alice Abbott”). She prob. m. 1. Church Lawford, Warwickshire, England, 7 Feb. 1613/4, ROBERT HARDING.<sup>[38]</sup> He was prob. bur. 23 Oct. 1650. She prob. m. 2. Hillmorton, 23 Jul. 1652 JOHN ABBOTT, who was prob. bur. 2 Dec. 1669. Child with Robert: *Alice*, bap. 27 Feb. 1614/5, m. 14 Sep. 1637 Edward, son of Thomas and Mary (Bate) Perkins and first cousin of New England immigrant John Perkins.
- ii. JUDITH BURGE, bp. 20 Feb. 1596/7, bur. 22 Feb. 1596/7.
- iii. SARAH BURGE, bp. 28 Apr. 1598, perhaps bur. 16 February 1622/3.
- iv. ELIZABETH BURGE, bp. 2 Apr. 1600, bur. 17 Apr. 1600.
- 3 v. THOMAS<sup>1</sup> BURGE, bp. 2 Aug. 1601.
- vi. MARGARET BURGE, bp. 16 Jan. 1605/6;<sup>[39]</sup> perhaps m. Hillmorton, April 1637 WILLIAM GLENNE.
- vii. JOHN BURDGE, bp. 21 Feb. 1607/8.
- viii. ELIZABETH BURDGE, bp. 7 Jul. 1611, bur. 3 Jan. 1611/2.

**3. THOMAS<sup>1</sup> BURGE** (*John<sup>A</sup>*) was baptized in Hillmorton on 2 August 1601 and died in Sandwich, Plymouth Colony, on 4 February 1684/5.<sup>[40]</sup> He married in England about 1624 **DOROTHY** (\_\_\_\_). She died in Sandwich on 27 February 1686/7.

Twentieth century gravestones in Old Town Cemetery, Sandwich, for Thomas and Dorothy refer to broken originals.<sup>[41]</sup> The information given is that Thomas died on 13 February 1685, age 82. The Sandwich town records give the date 23 February 1685, with no age.<sup>[42]</sup> The original stone for

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<sup>37</sup> Parish registers of Church Lawford, Warwickshire, England, Findmypast image database online, from Warwickshire County Record Office, DR0309/1.

<sup>38</sup> Parish registers of Church Lawford.

<sup>39</sup> She may have been the Margaret Burdge who married in Hillmorton, 22 April 1637 William Glenne. Her baptism says she was the daughter of John “Bridge.” This is the only baptism using this surname in Hillmorton within a 40-year range. There was one marriage, William Bridges, in 1619, and one burial, Sarah Bridge, in 1622. Alice (?) Keble's will, according to the abstract, calls her daughter Elizabeth “Bridge,” whereas her husband's will uses the spelling “Burdge.”

<sup>40</sup> “Thomas Burg” gravestone, see note 19.

<sup>41</sup> Photos at Find a Grave, memorials 38446827 and 38446914.

<sup>42</sup> See note 9.

Thomas came up for auction in July 2024.<sup>[43]</sup> Although clearly readable, it appears to have been reconstructed from somewhat weathered pieces, with small areas of infill, had a wooden frame fitted for it and used as a wall decoration. It says he died 4 February 1685, age about 80. This shows the replacement stone replaced but wasn't based on the original, which says 13 February 1685, age 82. The entry in the town records for Thomas and Dorothy's deaths is contemporary to the 1680s. The Sandwich town clerk recorded family groups as was common in early New England towns, asking residents periodically for information about births and deaths. The deaths of Thomas and Dorothy are together, although they don't appear to have been written at the same time. Also, Dorothy's record has a dual year, but Thomas's doesn't. It may be that surviving family members gave the clerk the two death dates when he was visiting for updates, but someone made a mistake in the day Thomas died. This record says 23 February 1685. There is no obvious explanation for these discrepancies, but the stone is contemporary, bearing a style typical of late 17<sup>th</sup> century Massachusetts. The date is surely in the "Old" or Julian calendar style, so the dual year is 1684/5. This puts his birth about 1605. Given the passage of eighty or more years between his birth and death, and that whoever gave the information to the stone carver wasn't sure how old he was, four years can be forgiven if Thomas was born in 1601.

The age at death on Dorothy's original is said to have been unavailable when the new stone was made, but the town record and the stone agree as to the death date. The town record gives the dual year 1686/7, while the stone says 1687. There is no record of who took possession of Thomas's stone or when, but it may have been long enough before the new stones were made that whoever ordered them couldn't obtain the information on them. They may have used the already mistaken town record but incorrectly transcribed the day. That would explain the three different days of death. The claim that he was 82 (but not "about") on the replacement stone doesn't come from the original stone or the town record, making the overall accuracy even more suspect. Dorothy's stone may have been in worse shape than Thomas's and wasn't preserved.

Children of Thomas and Dorothy (\_\_\_\_) Burges (Rugby baptism and burial records). The surname spelling in this generation, which is found mostly on documents not signed by family members, varies greatly (Burg, Borg, Burge, Burges). Burges is chosen based on the Rugby register. "Burgess" was not a contemporary alternative but is usually applied to all in this family anachronistically:

- i. THOMAS BURGESS, bp. 17 Apr. 1625; m. 1. prob. Sandwich, 8 Nov. 1648 ELIZABETH BASSETT,<sup>[44]</sup> daughter of William and Elizabeth Bassett.<sup>[45]</sup> They were divorced on 10 June 1661 due to

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<sup>43</sup> "Thomas Burg" gravestone, formerly in the Old Town Cemetery, Sandwich, accessed at Eldreds.com as an auction item in July 2024, "THOMAS BURG AGED ABOUT 80 YEARS DIED FEBR YE 4th. 1685." Tradition says the stone was sent from England, which is certainly not true. It is typical in every way to late 17<sup>th</sup> century gravestones carved in the Boston area except the tympanum, which has a simple floral arrangement rather than a winged "soul effigy" or "death's head." The lettering is well carved but slightly too big for the stone, and the rest just has lines suggesting shapes. It's likely that, given what the Burgeses were willing to pay, the workshop had an apprentice carver take the work as far as the money would go. There are many examples of more skillfully crafted stones of the same style in the Boston area.

<sup>44</sup> *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 9 (Boston, MA: Samuel G. Drake, 1855), 313, transcript of Plymouth Colony records.

<sup>45</sup> "The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III" [original publication p. 129].

- Thomas's adultery with Lydia Gaunt.<sup>[46]</sup> Thomas m. 2. LYDIA GAUNT,<sup>[47]</sup> bp. St. Peter at Gowts, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England, 2 Apr. 1636, daughter of Peter and Lydia Gaunt.<sup>[48]</sup> Supposed child: *Thomas Burges*.<sup>[49]</sup>
- ii. RICHARD BURGES, bp. 2 Sep. 1626/7; bur. 2 Sep. 1629.
  - iii. JACOB BURGES, bp. 12 Apr. 1629; m. Sandwich, 1 Jun. 1660 MARY NYE.<sup>[50]</sup> daughter of Benjamin and Katherine (Tupper) Nye.<sup>[51]</sup> A claim that he d. 17 Mar. 1719 is widely repeated, but the source for or evidence of it wasn't found.<sup>[52]</sup> Children:<sup>[53]</sup> *Samuel Burges*, b. 8 Mar. 1671(/2?); *Ebenezer Burges*, b. 2 Oct. 1673; *Jacob Burges*, b. 18 Oct. 1676; *Thomas Burges*, b. 29 Mar. 1679/80, supp. *Benjamin Burges*.
  - iv. ELIZABETH BURGES, bp. 12 Dec. 1630; m. Sandwich, 2 Feb. 1651[/?] EZRA PERRY.<sup>[54]</sup> Children: *Ezra Perry*, b. 11 Feb. 1652(/3?); *Deborah Perry*, b. 28 Nov. 1654; *John Perry*, b. 1 Jan. 1656(/7?); *Sarah Perry*, b. abt. 1659; *Samuel Perry*, b. 4 Mar. 1667(/8?); *Benjamin Perry*, b. 15 Jan. 1670(/1?); *Remembrance Perry*, b. 1 Jan. 1676(/7?). Her last child being born after a 6-year gap between the previous one suggests she was in her mid-40s. If so, her birth was about the same time Elizabeth of Rugby was baptized, who would have just turned 46.

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<sup>46</sup> *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England*, Court Orders, vol. 3, 1651-1661 (Boston: 1855), 221.

<sup>47</sup> Israel Gaunt will. Familysearch.org database online (Salt Lake City, UT: 1972), Barnstable Co., MA>Probate records, 1686-1894 [FHL film 7705400], original vol. 2:51. "Lidia Burg" is referred to as a niece. She is also mentioned without a surname in her mother's will (see Barnstable probate vol 1:67).

<sup>48</sup> "Lincolnshire Baptisms," FindMyPast.co.uk database online, images of the parish register of St. Peter at Gowts, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England, daughter of Peter and Lydia.

<sup>49</sup> John Osborn Austin, *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* (Albany, NY: Joel Munsell Sons, 1887), 163. The evidence found appears vague to connect this Thomas, who m. Esther Richmond and lived in Little Compton, RI Colony, to Thomas of Sandwich, but it's plausible.

<sup>50</sup> "Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1626-2001," Familysearch.org database online (Salt Lake City, UT: 1972), Sandwich> Births, marriages, deaths 1651-1691, image 112.

<sup>51</sup> Mary's birth is in "Sandwich> Births, marriages, deaths 1651-1691," image 122.

<sup>52</sup> Ebenezer Burgess, *Burgess Genealogy* (Boston, MA: 1865), 13.

<sup>53</sup> "Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1626-2001," image 111.

<sup>54</sup> "Sandwich> Births, marriages, deaths 1651-1691," image 115.

- v. JOHN BURGES, bp. 10 Feb. 1632/3; m. Sandwich, 8 Dec. 1657 MARY WORDEN.<sup>[55]</sup> Children (order uncertain):<sup>[56]</sup> *John Burges; Thomas Burges; Joseph Burges; Samuel Burges; Jacob Burges; Patience Burges; Martha Burges?*, b. abt. 1671;<sup>[57]</sup> *Mercy Burges; Mary Burges; Sarah Burges?*
- vi. JOSEPH BURGES, b. say 1638, Plymouth Colony; d. Rochester, Plymouth Co., Prov. of MA Bay, Aug. 1695;<sup>[58]</sup> m. prob. Sandwich, abt. 1666 PATIENCE FREEMAN, daughter of Edmund and Rebecca (Prence) Freeman.<sup>[59]</sup>

## KEBLE/KEBBLE

### A. [UNKNOWN]<sup>C</sup> KEBLE

Children of [unknown] Keble:

- 2 i. WILLIAM<sup>B</sup> KEBLE, b. say 1532.
- ii. ?ALICE KEBLE, b. say 1534, m. THOMAS PERKINS, bur. Hillmorton 20 Aug. 1613. Children: *Henry Perkins*, b. say 1555 (took William Keble Sr.'s inventory in 1601, father of John Perkins of Ipswich, MA Bay Colony); *John Perkins*, b. say 1557; *William Perkins*, b. say 1559; *Thomas Perkins*, b. say 1561 (took William Keble Jr.'s inventory in 1615); *Edward Perkins*, b. say 1563; *Frances Perkins*, bap. 20 Apr. 1565; *Luke Perkins*, bap. 20 Sep. 1568; *Isaac Perkins*, bap. 20 Dec. 1571.
- iii. ?[male] KEBLE, b. say 1536, prob. d. bef. 15 Sep. 1588 (Thomas Perkins's will), m. [\_\_\_\_], who was Thomas Perkins's "brother kebbles wyfe," d. aft. 15 Sep. 1588. Probable children, both prob. b. bef. 1565: *Thomas Keble*, d. aft. 15 Sep. 1588; *Sisley/Cecily Keble*, m. Hillmorton 29 Apr. 1590

<sup>55</sup> "Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1626-2001," image 112.

<sup>56</sup> The will of "John Burg" names his sons and daughter Mary (Barnstable Co., MA>Probate records, 1686-1894, 2:127). Mercy and Patience are named in their mother's estate disbursement document (Barnstable Co., MA>Probate records, 1686-1894, 4:377). Martha and Sarah, claimed to be another two daughters, are not named as children in any documents, but nothing bars the possibility of it. "Thomas Burge," a known son of John, and Martha "Burge" (parents undocumented) married Storrs siblings, Thomas to Sarah and Martha to Samuel Jr. Charles Storrs is incorrect in saying Sarah Storrs married Joseph Jacobs (Charles Storrs, *The Storrs Family: Genealogical and other Memoranda* (New York: 1886), 111). There is a marriage record in Yarmouth for Thomas Burge of Yarmouth and Sarah "Stoors" of Barnstable, where the Storrs family lived at the time ("Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1626-2001," Familysearch.org database online (Salt Lake City, UT: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1972), Barnstable >Yarmouth>Births, marriages, deaths 1657-1823, image 140). Mrs. Joseph Jacobs's age at death (gravestone, Old Mansfield Center Cem., Mansfield, CT, age 79 years, 10 mos. in January 1734/5, b. Mar. 1655) puts her birth about 4 years before Sarah Storrs (b. 26 Apr. 1670, "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," Ancestry.com image database online (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011), Barnstable>Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1643-1714; Town Records, 1736-1885, image 182). Samuel Storrs Jr. and Martha Burge m. 21 Oct. 1700 in Windham, CT, ("Connecticut: Vital Records (The Barbour Collection), 1630-1870," Americanancestors.com image database online, Windham volume, p. 241) after the Storrs family moved there from Cape Cod, and after Thomas and Sarah (Storrs) Burges married, establishing how Samuel and Martha likely met. Sarah Burges(s) appears on lists of John and Mary's children due to the speculation that she was Sarah, wife of Jeremiah O'Killey.

<sup>57</sup> Martha's gravestone in Old Mansfield Center Cem., Mansfield, CT, says she died in "dsember ye 3 172-, aged 57 years" ("Connecticut, U.S., Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629-1934," Ancestry.com image database online, image 565; photo of gravestone for Martha Burgess Storrs, memorial ID 11591259, Findagrave.com. Two probate documents for her husband show the year was 1728 (*The Storrs Family*, 86-7).

<sup>58</sup> Joseph Burges will, Barnstable Co., MA>Probate records, 1686-1894, 2:8-9.

<sup>59</sup> Joseph and Patience are named in the estate administration of Edmond Freeman. Barnstable Co., MA>Probate records, 1686-1894, 2:145. Her parents' marriage is in *RCNP*, vol. 2, Court Orders 1641-1651 (Boston: 1855), 98.

Richard Lucke, bur. there 13 Sep. 1603.

**B. WILLIAM<sup>B</sup> KEBLE** ([*unknown*]<sup>C</sup>) was born say 1532 and was buried in Hillmorton on 23 May 1601. He married **ALICE** (\_\_\_\_), who was buried in Hillmorton on 29 February 1607/8.

Children of William and Alice (\_\_\_\_) Keble (Hillmorton records):

Possible children born before 1565 who died young

- i. **JOAN KEBLE**, bap. 16 Apr. 1565, bur. 28 Sep. 1565.
- ii. **WILLIAM KEBLE**, bap. 13 Jan. 1566/7; bur. 5 Feb. 1615/6. He prob. m. 18 Apr. 1607 **ELIZABETH WATTES/WATTS**. She was likely a relative of the Isabell Wattes who married John Burdge, in Hillmorton, possibly a great uncle of Thomas Burges.
- 3 iii. **ELIZABETH<sup>A</sup> KEBLE**, bap. 19 March 1568/9.
- iv. **JOHN KEBLE**, bap. 14 Mar. 1572/3, d. bef. 26 Jun. 1598 (father's will).
- v. **HENRY KEBLE**, bap. 1 Feb. 1575/6; prob. bur. Rugby, 31 Aug. 1639. He was one of the men who took the inventory of his brother William's estate in 1615.

**C. ELIZABETH<sup>A</sup> KEBLE** (*William<sup>B</sup>*, [*unknown*]<sup>C</sup>) was baptized in Hillmorton on 19 March 1568/9 and buried in Hillmorton on 12 January 1635/6. She married in Hillmorton on 29 November 1593 **JOHN<sup>A</sup> BURGE**.

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