

Sorting Fact and Fiction for the Family of John King of Weymouth, Massachusetts Bay Colony

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There is no credible origin information found for John and Mary King of Weymouth. The earliest we can take them back is before John Humfrey came to Massachusetts Bay Colony in July 1634, sailing from Weymouth, England.¹ John King and his wife were servants of Humfrey in England. John was about 34 at the time, and surely was settled in his occupation, which Massachusetts documents show was a seaman. This legal document describes their indenture:²

They say that being bound to serve foure yeares only it was agreed that they should be freed when they came to New England for two dayes worke a weeke by the said John King only for seven yeares wch comes to at the rate of twelve pence a day meat & drinke 36-8s. And whereas the said servants did serve one yeare and a quarter of the said foure yeares the same being valued according to the said rate of 6s a weeke for the said John King and three shillings a weeke for his said wife comes to 29l 5s. And wheras the said John King since his departure hath served the said John Humfrey twelve weekes wch comes at the said rate of 6s a weeke to 3l 12s in all 32l 17s wch being deducted out of the said 36l 8s There remaynes due to the said John Humfrey 3l 11s.

*John King
Mary King*

Boston 2 Sept. 1640

The wording suggests John and Mary made the agreement shortly before coming to New England. It also implies their original agreement was for both to serve Humfrey, then revised, calculating what John would do for Humfrey by himself before he was legally free. The original monetary compensation agreed on apparently didn't change. Once in New England, the service seems to have reverted to both John and his wife serving. John's "departure" is cryptic. If he left Humfrey's service, he wouldn't have served for another three months. Was this a physical departure? Did he go to sea for Humfrey for three months? Did the family move from one town to another? The latter assumes the Kings lived near Humfrey and when they moved, it was no longer practical to act as servants beyond another three months. It was John who continued after his "departure," so it might have been a combination of moving and being of service at sea and wherever he landed.

¹ "Great Migration 1634-1635, G-H," AmericanAncestors.org database online (New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2009). Originally published as: Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635*, Volume III, G-H (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2003).

² *Note-book kept by Thomas Lechford, esq.* (Cambridge, MA: 1885), 307.

In his journal, Edward Winslow has an entry about Humfrey arriving in New England in July 1634.³ "He brought more ordnance, muskets, and powder; bought for the public by moneys given to that end." He also "brought sixteen heifers given by a private friend...to every of the ministers one, and the rest to the poor..." He was granted land in Saugus, which became Lynn and is in what is now the town of Swampscott, Massachusetts, and he lived there until he and his family left New England in 1641.⁴ It's possible, as a seaman, John may have helped Humfrey distribute the things he brought from England.

John may have married shortly before he came to New England. As outlined above, it seems that their original agreement was for service performed by both, and it's doubtful they would do so if his wife had a very young child to look after. Maybe with the birth of their first child, the agreement was amended to John being the sole servant. Once in New England, there may have been a way worked out for Mary to be of service, thus reverting to the original agreement. She may have helped look after the babies in the Humfrey household. Their mother was the daughter of the Earl of Lincoln, so it's easy to imagine she wasn't a typical "hands-on" mother, even to the extent that Mary may have been a wet nurse to the Humfrey children. Dorcas, Sarah and Theophilus Humfrey were born between about 1633 and 1637.

The date of the indenture account above was September 1640. The Kings were already settled in Weymouth by then, since their daughter Mary is in the town's records with a birth in June 1639 followed by Abigail in 1641 or 42.⁵ It's possible they left Humphrey's service much earlier, and it took some time to discover the monetary discrepancy. There isn't a court case involving the Kings and Humfrey, so what led up to the invoice being made is a guess.

The first time John King of Weymouth is likely mentioned in New England records is in the minutes of the December 1638 session of the Massachusetts Bay Colony General Court.⁶ He and two other men were called to court to testify about a "murtherer" (an archaic term, along with "murderer," for a small cannon) they had taken from "the island," which was probably Governor's Island in Boston Harbor, where there was military activity.⁷ John King is known to have been a seaman,⁸ and transporting armaments from an island would be a plausible activity for him. Governor's Island (now a part of the Logan Airport footprint) was about 10 miles by boat from Weymouth. It's worth noting that a younger John King of Weymouth was a "lighterman." Lighters were "a low, open boat used to move goods to and from ships in a harbor."⁹ As will be discussed later, these two Johns, both seamen, were likely father and son. In England, boys apprenticed to be

³ John Winthrop and James Kendall Hosmer, *Winthrop's Journal: History of New England, 1630-1649*, vol. 1 (New York: 1908), 127-8.

⁴ *Great Migration*, see note 1.

⁵ *Vital Records of Weymouth, Massachusetts, to the year 1850* [hereafter *VRWM*], vol. 1 (Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1910), 161.

⁶ 4 December 1638, *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*, vol. 1 (Boston: 1853), 245.

⁷ The other men were William Reeves and John Davies. Reeves may have been the man who deposed that he was a crewman on a ship owned by John Treworgy of Piscataqua, Maine, in the 1630s, and he was probably still in Maine in the early 1650s when he made another deposition. *Documentary History of the State of Maine*, vol. 4 (Portland, ME: Maine Historical Society, 1889), 99, 106.

⁸ Suffolk, Co., MA, wills 1:69. 14 June 1652, Dorothy's will says she was the wife of "John King of Waymoth, seaman."

⁹ CambridgeDictionary (dictionary.cambridge.org).

lightermen due to the specific skills needed,¹⁰ and it may be that the elder John also did lighterman work early in his adult life and passed the skills on to his son.

In Weymouth, John (the elder) is named as either a former owner or abutting property owner in an inventory of land grants and purchases dating to about 1642 to 1644, but he isn't among those whose property is individually described.¹¹ I can't account for this. One of the descriptions of William Torrey's pieces of real estate says it was twenty-four acres on "Round Island," fourteen of which were originally "given" (by town grant) to Thomas Holbrook and ten were given to John King.¹² This was later called Sheep Island and is in Hingham Bay. A two-acre piece of land held by Richard Bowen had also previously been given to John. The description of bounds doesn't provide an obvious locale in Weymouth. The inference is that John had sold all his land before the inventory was taken, unless a page is missing from the inventory.

John was "in possession" of a Weymouth house owned and sold by Thomas Jenner as late as December of 1649.¹³ This implies a tenancy, which might accord with his evident lack of land ownership. In preparation for laying out the "great lots" in Weymouth on the east side of town by Hingham at a town meeting on 26 November 1651, the town ordered a list made of those granted rights to the lots. John is on that list, dated 2 February 1651/2.¹⁴ Another list, dated to "the latter part of 1663," gives the names of grantees of property in two divisions within Weymouth.¹⁵ John King "planter" and John King "seaman" are on the list, likely differentiating between father (the older "planter") and son. Both Johns were seaman. John the planter had eight acres in the "first" division "beginning on the Braintree Line," and twenty-four acres in the "second" division by Braintree. John the seaman had acreage in the second division, and land there is mentioned in his estate inventory of 1691,¹⁶ confirming that he was the younger of the two John's. The lot descriptions from the early 1640s and the lot grants and lay-outs are the only references found to John having land. He doesn't appear in Suffolk County deed records as a buyer, seller or abutting property owner, nor did he have an estate to probate when he died. Chamberlain says he owned the land around King's Cove in North Weymouth, but no primary source for this idea was found.

In a deposition made about April 1641, there is a snapshot of John's business activity.¹⁷ About October 1640, John proposed to and agreed with Thomas Applegate of Weymouth to captain one of Applegate's boats to transport goods. Either King or Applegate would find someone to go on the trip to help "manage" the boat. Destination and specifics on what goods might be involved isn't said, but John was to have "his owne parte of the fishe taken by himslefe in the sd boate freight free & that the said Thomas Applegate should have the 4th penny of freight of goods carryed in the said boat. John was to be liable for any damage to the boat or goods. An accompanying deposition says that about early November, at John King's house, John was heard to refuse involvement with transporting a boat with hogsheads of salt. The boat's owner, William Newland,

¹⁰ "The Company of Watermen and Lightermen," the records of which start in 1688.

¹¹ George Walter Chamberlain, *History of Weymouth, Massachusetts* [hereafter *HWM*], vol. 3 ("Historical") (Boston: Weymouth Historical Society, 1923), 349-50.

1:184, 190, 195.

¹² *HWM*, 1:190.

¹³ 28 Dec 1649, Suffolk Deeds, vol. 1 (Boston: 1880), 111.

¹⁴ *HWM*, 1:199. John had a right to two lots. There is another similar list but separate from the other that John isn't on dated 3 February.

¹⁵ *HWM*, 1:200-201.

¹⁶ Suffolk Co., MA, probate file 1853.

¹⁷ *Letchford Notebook*, 392-3.

intended to add one more hogshead to the load, which King said would sink the boat. Newland ignored him, loaded the barrel and the boat tipped over on the side with the added weight and sank.

In a deposition in 1657 he said that he had been with Richard Collicut's boat at the "Kenebeak River" settlement in May of 1656.¹⁸ By 1656 there were two major trading posts on the Kennebec River, one at Cushnoc, which later became the city of Augusta, Maine, and one on Arrowsic Island at the mouth of the river. The deposition refers to Alexander Thoit's house, which was at Cushnoc. John may have been a member of the ship's crew, but Collicut was the master. At about 57 years old and capable of navigating on his own, he probably wasn't there to do basic crew tasks.

This is the deposition transcribed from the original manuscript, which differs slightly from published versions. The month reference "4" is to June, it being the fourth month on the Julian calendar used at the time:

John King aiged about fifty seven yeares : Sworen Sayeth : that he was with mr Richard Colicott in kenebeak River & master & owner of the Vessell In May 1656, about which tyme mr Joshua Teads Vessell was taken by the Inhabitants of the sd River at wch tyme this deponant Sayeth mr Colicott was : from the place that mr Teads Vessell was taken above twenty Milles : about fouer dayes after mr: Teads Vessell was taken mr Colicott being at the house of Alex Thoys in Kenebeak River mr: Tead with mr George Munings Came to the sd : hous : to Request him the sd : mr Colicott to Asist mr Munings: about Recovering of the vesell & goods the: wch he did: and when it was Effected: the Sayed mr Tead was Very thankfull boath to mr: Colicott and mr Munings : & firther Sayeth nott

Sworne in Court by Jno. King. 23. (4) 57.

Thomas Danforth Recorder

The testimony of John : King formerly sworn : sayeth that the goods Received of Mr Tead by John Richards & Companie un the delivery of his Barke: was transeptorted by the sd Richards & Companie from thence I know not whether : but to the best of my knoledg not any of the sd goods Came on board of mr Colicotts vessell and firther Sayeth nott

Sworne in Court — 24. (4) 57.

Thomas Danforth Recordr

There is no proof found of where the King family lived between 1634 and 1639. In the latter year, John's daughter Mary has a recorded birth in Weymouth, followed by Abigail in 1641.¹⁹ There isn't documentary proof that John, Samuel, Thomas and Phillip were sons of John, but circumstantial evidence shows a likely connection.

¹⁸ Original ms., Middlesex Co., MA, county court, folio 19, group 3. Transcribed in *New England Family History*, vol. 3 (New York, NY: 1910), 352.

¹⁹ See note 46.

As mentioned above, John King “planter” and John King “seaman” were likely father and son. John “Sr.,” who will be called John¹ hereafter, was voted a selectman for Weymouth in November 1669,²⁰ at which point he must have had retired from the sea. There is no suffix when John King is listed as being paid for mending the meeting house earlier that year.²¹ Also without suffix is the John King who was chosen to be a selectman in November 1671.²² Since the younger John King was a seaman and surely not retired about the age of 36, he wouldn’t have been serving the town in that capacity. It also makes sense that it was the older John who was re-elected. These records suggest that none of the John Kings mentioned in the town records between 1669 and 1671 were the younger John (John²), but he apparently was the one named as a co-owner of Grape Island in 1673, since this property is in his estate inventory.²³ If, as the oldest son, he had inherited this from his father, there is no record of it. This evidence makes it plausible that John¹ King died between 1671 and 1673. It should be noted that Chamberlain is mistaken in saying John¹ and his third wife Abigail sold land in 1669, as recorded in Plymouth Colony records.²⁴ He was undoubtedly referring to Abigail's petition regarding land bequests in Plymouth Colony by her father John Hewes, dated 14 April 1669.²⁵ Although she is called Abigail King, John King wasn't involved or mentioned, nor is she called a widow.

The only pertinent reference to a John King, Jr., in Weymouth is on an Oath of Allegiance list dating to either 1678 or 1679, which includes John King, Sr., listed alone, then John, Jr., Phillip, Thomas, Samuel and Hezekiah listed together as a group.²⁶ John² King had sons named John (John³) and Hezekiah, and both were alive at this time, over the minimum oath age of 16, and life-long residents of Weymouth. Since there was a Samuel King in Weymouth at that time and of the same generation as John², Thomas and Philip,²⁷ he was probably the one on the list rather than John²'s son Samuel, who, although alive and about 25, left no certain record in Weymouth. Like his brother Fearnot, he may have left Weymouth and settled elsewhere.

Thomas had two of his children’s births recorded in Weymouth.²⁸ There are no vital records there for Philip’s family, but he appears in various town meeting minutes, the last in December 1682.²⁹ Thomas and Phillip moved to Taunton, Plymouth Colony (now Bristol County, Massachusetts). Philip moved in 1683. Thomas bought land there on 18 June 1683 as a resident of Taunton. Philip bought land there, also as a Taunton resident, on 20 July 1683 with Thomas as a witness.³⁰ Other deeds involving Thomas and his children name a wife and mother Mary, which was the name of Thomas of Weymouth’s wife. Although deed records identify their younger children, for whom there are no known birth records, their children John and Mary, who have birth

²⁰ *HWM*, vol. 2 (“Historical”), 518.

²¹ 7 July 1669 (p. 68, image 49)

²² *HWM*, 2:520.

²³ *HWM*, 2:522.

²⁴ See note 7.

²⁵ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, transcribed in *Plymouth Colony Records*, deeds, vol. 3, part 1, 167.

²⁶ *A Volume of records relating to the early history of Boston: containing miscellaneous papers* (Boston: Municipal Printing Office, 1900), 173-4; *HWM*, 1:203-4. The Weymouth list is undated, but others in this group of town’s lists are dated in 1678 and 1679.

²⁷ Marriage: *VRWM*, 2:109; children: *VRWM*, 2:161; Suffolk Co., MA, probate vol. 17:433.

²⁸ *VRWM*, 1:161.

²⁹ Philip was chosen for a committee to assess the condition of the old meeting house and if a new one should be built on 27 November 1682, which met on 18 December 1682.

³⁰ Bristol Co., MA, deeds 1:17 (Phillip), 2:355 (Thomas).

records in Weymouth, evidently died young and can't help with a proof of continuity from Weymouth to Taunton. Philip of Weymouth's wife is proven to be Judith Whitman of Weymouth,³¹ and the will of Philip King of Taunton names his wife Judith.³² Given this evidence, John² King, Phillip King and Thomas King are also posited to be the sons of John¹ and presumably his first wife Mary.

There isn't a marriage record for John¹ and his probable second wife Dorothy () Barker Hunt.³³ Her second husband, Enoch Hunt, was dead by 5 October 1647, when "Dorothy Hunt" is named an abutting property owner in a deed.³⁴ John¹'s son Phillip was evidently the last born, about 1645, so Mary may have died in childbirth then or with a next child that also died. A plausible circa date for John¹'s marriage to Dorothy is then 1648.

John¹'s probably third wife, Abigail, was the daughter of John Hewes and widow of William Hatch. This is evident in several deed records.³⁵ There is no death record for John¹, nor was there any probate of an estate. This means he didn't have real estate when he died, but there are no deed records showing he or any of his heirs sold it. Given the appearance of "John King, Sr." in the Weymouth town meeting record for November 1669, as mentioned above, followed by the appearance of "John King" with no suffix in November 1671, John¹ likely died between November 1669 and November 1671.³⁶

George Chamberlain is very lax in his scholarship when making claims about John¹ in his *The History of Weymouth, Massachusetts*, which has long been used as a single source for most King researchers³⁷ Although credited to research by Rev. William Hyde of Weymouth, it was Chamberlain who said there was a John King among the settlers who came to Thomas Weston's failed Wessagusset Colony (later the site of Weymouth) in the ship "Charity" in 1622.³⁸ No details or sources for his conclusions are given and none were found. In newspaper articles about the Wessagusset Colony in the early 20th century,³⁹ Hyde says he identified 30 men who went there and briefly explains why except when mentioning John King, the information for whom he copied almost verbatim from Chamberlain. Chamberlain adds that John was among the settlers who fled Wessagusset to the "fishing post" in Maine (on Richmond's Island) in 1623, then back to England. There were Wessagusset escapees known to have gone to Richmond Island, but John King isn't

³¹ Inventory of John Whitman, Suffolk Co., MA, probate case 2012. "Phillip King who married Judeth, the daughter of Deacon Whitman."

³² Bristol Co., MA, probate vol. 3:33.

³³ Dorothy's will, as the wife of John King, names her daughter Sarah Hunt, Ruth Barker and John Barker. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 5 (Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1851), 239. Suffolk Co., MA, probate vol. 1:81-2.

³⁴ Suffolk Deeds, "Liber I" (vol. 1) (Boston, MA: 1880), literal translation of records, no pagination other than original ms. page references, original ms. page 85.

³⁵ *Plymouth Colony Records*, Deeds, vol. 3, part 1, 167-8.

³⁶ *HWM*, vol. 3 ("Genealogies of Weymouth Families"), 350; also 1:221, where there is mention that the selectman (not individually named) were to see that taxes were gathered to by the minister. That meeting (for which Chamberlain doesn't give a day of the month) wasn't found in the original manuscript town records filmed by the Church of Latter Day Saints, but the records aren't completely chronological and the microfilming is very poor and unreadable in places.

³⁷ His family sketch of the Kings is given in *HWM*, vol. 3:349-50, but some references to him in the "Historical" volumes aren't included in the sketch.

³⁸ *HWM*, 2:48.

³⁹ "Weymouth Gazette and Transcript," Nov. 1921, <https://archive.org/details/WeymouthGazette192111/-page/n5/-mode/2up>.

one of them. Chamberlain was surely confusing John of Weymouth with another John King, who was a merchant of London⁴⁰ and a kind of overseer of affairs at Richmond Island for the Trelawny family as late as 1644. Relating to this is Chamberlain's claim that John King of Weymouth signed a deed in 1631 in Plymouth, presumably in New England, which follows the vague statement "Being a mariner he took many journeys about, so we find him in these trips making visits to several places in New England." What he refers to is a deed made in Plymouth, England, involving land in what is now Maine.⁴¹ Robert Trelawny, Mayor of Plymouth (England), Thomas "Coga" and John "Kinge" attested to the accuracy of a copy of the deed on 4 January 1631/32.

Another of Chamberlain's claims is that John of Weymouth was the one with that name who "went with others in a boat from Lynn to Sandwich."⁴² According to a history of Barnstable County, a group (with a John King) migrated from Plymouth, Duxbury and Saugus to Sandwich as first settlers in 1637.⁴³ Apparently most if not all of them were families, and a large portion were from Saugus. It isn't obvious why Chamberlain connected the two John Kings - maybe due to the same name and to the possible connection to Humfrey in Saugus, but there isn't enough documentary evidence to say more certainly who this John King was. It would, however, explain John's "departure." It would also mean the Kings falling short of their money agreement wasn't discovered or acted on for another three years or so. Some of the migrants to Sandwich from Saugus didn't stay. Some were considered "not fit for church society," according to the standards set by Sandwich's Rev. Leveridge, and therefore unfit as settlers. Despite the Barnstable history, I found no corroborating record of a John King in Sandwich at this time. He was certainly gone by 1643, since he isn't on a list of men between 16 and 60 who was "able to bear arms" there.⁴⁴ Chamberlain also says that John of Weymouth was in Newtown (now Cambridge), Massachusetts, in 1636. I find no evidence of a John King in Newtown at this time.

To summarize, Chamberlain would have us believe John was a colonist at Wessagusset in 1622, an escapee from there to Maine in 1623, a London merchant in 1631, an indentured servant in 1634 sailing from Weymouth, England, with the Humfreys, a resident of Newtown in 1636, a transplant from Saugus to Sandwich in 1637, and finally a resident and seaman in Weymouth. Many publications and websites have taken what Chamberlain said without question.

Genealogical summary

1. **JOHN¹ KING**, born probably in England about 1600; died probably in Weymouth, Suffolk County, Massachusetts Bay Colony, between November 1669 and November 1671. He married 1. probably in England perhaps in 1634 **MARY** (surname unknown); 2. in Massachusetts Bay Colony about 1648 **DOROTHY** (___) **BARKER HUNT**; 3. in Weymouth, 14 Oct. 1658 **ABIGAIL** (**HEWES**) **HATCH**.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ *Trelawny*, 362-3.

⁴¹ *The Trelawny Papers* (hereafter *Trelawny*) (Portland, ME: 1884), 14.

⁴² George Walter Chamberlain, "Genealogies of Weymouth Families," *History of Weymouth, Massachusetts*, vol. 3 (Boston: Weymouth Historical Society, 1923), 349-50.

⁴³ *History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts* (1890), 266. The History of Lynn and other publications are less detailed in describing this and assume all the 1637 migrants were from Lynn. I don't know which is correct.

⁴⁴ *History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts*, 267.

⁴⁵ *VRWM*, 2:108.

Children of John King and Mary ():⁴⁶

2. i. JOHN KING, b. abt. 1634/5.
3. ii. SAMUEL KING, b. abt. 1636/7.
4. iii. MARY KING, b. 15 Jun. 1639.
- iv. ABIGAIL KING, b. 14 Mar. 1640/1.
5. v. THOMAS KING, b. abt. 1643.
6. vi. PHILLIP KING, b. abt. 1645.

2. **JOHN² KING**, born probably in Massachusetts Bay Colony about 1634/5 or perhaps England about 1626/7; died probably in Weymouth about 1688.⁴⁷ He married probably in Weymouth, ESTHER BAYLEY, daughter of Thomas Bayley.⁴⁸

John, Jr.'s, first child of record was John in 1659, but two others, Samuel and Hezekiah, were surely older.⁴⁹ John, Jr.'s, will names a daughter Sarah Bogle, whose marriage to Alexander Bogle was in 1662.⁵⁰ Chamberlain gives her birth as "near 1647,"⁵¹ which was obviously a guess, probably to fit her into the other circumstances around the family of John, Jr., and his wife Esther. This means she was about 15 when she married. People marrying at 15 in 17th century New England was extremely rare for either sex. John's birth would be pushed back to at least 1629, unless he also married at a very unusually young age. No evidence suggests a close circa date for his wife Esther's birth. There isn't a birth record for her youngest child, Johannah. The previous child, Patience, was born in 1668.⁵² If Esther had Patience when she was about 40 and then Johannah when she was about 45,⁵³ Johannah's birth would then have been about 1673, and Esther's about 1628. Given this, it's possible Sarah could have been her child if born about 1647. If John was born say 1626-1628, it means there was probably a wide gap between his birth and Samuel's, and he would have been a 6-8-year-old when the Kings indentured to Humfrey. It's possible John, Jr., was married before Esther and Sarah was born to the earlier wife, but adoption is also plausible and would relieve the stress on the other evidence.

⁴⁶ *VRWM*, 1:161, corroborated in "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," Weymouth, Births, Marriages and Death [sic], image 292. This the earliest record of Mary and Abigail's births predating several transcriptions. Mary's birth is recorded as "15 (4) 1639" and Abigail's is "14 (1) 1641. It appears the births for Weymouth are missing for 1644-1654. They start in 1633 as recorded at the (Suffolk) County level but are few enough to show many are missing until 1639.

⁴⁷ His estate inventory is dated "29th 1688," the month missing. Suffolk Co., MA, probate file 1853 (original document), probate vol. 8 (New Series):205 (transcription).

⁴⁸ In his 1681 will, Thomas Bayley of Weymouth names his daughter Esther, wife of John King. Suffolk Co., MA, probate file 1197. In John's will, he refers to Thomas Bailey as his wife's father.

⁴⁹ *VRWM*, 1:161.

⁵⁰ *VRWM*, 2:109.

⁵¹ *HWM*, 3:351.

⁵² *VRWM*, 1:161.

⁵³ Historically, women's fertility varied depending on time and place. In late 17th and 18th century New England, there are numerous instances of women having children up to the age of 40 followed by a 4 to 5-year gap, and a last child about the age of 45. This was less common when Mary was having children, perhaps due to the more precarious conditions under which families generally lived.

The earliest record of Fearnot King's birth is in the annual returns of vital records sent to the Suffolk County General Court, and says he was the son of John and Esther.⁵⁴ The early manuscript Weymouth vital records are lost. Oran White transcribed them in 1852 before this loss, but he says Fearnot was the son of Abraham Warren.⁵⁵ Oran White's transcript was used for the published Weymouth vital records. Fearnot first appears as an adult as a soldier from Westfield, Massachusetts, in King Philip's War.⁵⁶ He married there in 1677.⁵⁷

Children of John King and Esther Bayley:⁵⁸

- i. poss. SARAH KING, although perhaps adopted, m. Alexander Bogle.
- ii. SAMUEL KING, b. perhaps abt. 1653.
- iii. FEARNOT KING, b. 29 Jun. 1655.
- iv. HEZEKIAH KING, b. abt. 1657.
- v. JOHN KING, b. Apr. 1659.
- vi. JOHN KING, b. Dec. 1661.
- vii. SUSAN KING, b. abt. 1663.
- viii. ESTHER KING, b. 28 Sep. 1664.
- ix. PATIENCE KING, b. 4 Oct. 1668.
- x. JOHANNAH KING.

2. **SAMUEL² KING**, born in Massachusetts Bay Colony about 1634/5; died in Weymouth by 24 December 1711.⁵⁹ He married in Weymouth, 17 September 1658 EXPERIENCE PHILLIPS.⁶⁰ She was born in Weymouth on 8 May 1641, daughter of Nicholas Phillips.⁶¹

Children of Samuel King and Experience Phillips:⁶²

- i. SAMUEL KING, b. 12 Feb. 1660/61.

⁵⁴ "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," Boston, Transcript of County Records, 1643-1660; Vol. 1 Births, Marriages Deaths from 1630-1666 image 190 of pg. 374.

⁵⁵ "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," Weymouth, Births, Marriages and Death [sic], image 284,

⁵⁶ Bose, George Madison, *Soldiers in King Philip's War* (Leominster, MA: 1896), 366.

⁵⁷ 15 May 1677. "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," ancestry.com database online (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011), Westfield, Births, Marriages and Death [sic], image 1546 of ms pg. 82.

⁵⁸ *VRWM*, 1:161. His will was written on 2 Dec. 1686, probated on 25 May 1691, and mentions Samuel, Hezekiah, John, Sarah Bogle, Susan, Esther, Patience and Hannah. Suffolk Co., MA, probate volume 8 (New Series):40, FHL film 7703368, image 329

⁵⁹ Date of estate inventory, Suffolk Co., MA, probate file 3395, will written 20 Jan 1710/11. Suffolk Co., MA, probate vol. 17:433.

⁶⁰ *VRWM*, 2:109.

⁶¹ "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," Ancestry.com database online (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011), image 95. This record comes from the Suffolk County General Court annual returns of vital records from the towns. There appears not to be a contemporaneous record of it in the Weymouth town records. The court record appears in later collected records for the town, which were the source for the published vital records.

⁶² *VRWM*, 1:161. Samuel's will names wife Experience, sons John and Hezekiah, and daughters Susannah, Elizabeth, Experience, Sarah, Hannah and Abigail, thus filling in the list in lieu of birth records.

- ii. ELIZABETH KING, b. 22 or 23 Sep. 1662.
- iii. EXPERIENCE KING, b. 6 Oct. 1664.
 - SARAH KING, b. 31 Jan. 1666/7.
 - SUSANNAH KING, b. 6 May 1669.
 - SAMUEL KING, b. 1 Mar. 1671/2.
 - HANNAH KING.
 - JOHN KING.
 - HEZEKIAH KING.
 - ABIGAIL KING, b. 20 Apr. 1681.

4. **MARY² KING**, born in Weymouth on 15 Jun. 1639; died in Braintree, Suffolk County, Massachusetts Bay Colony, on 30 May 1676.⁶³ She married in Weymouth on 30 Nov. 1658 **JOSIAH CHAPIN**, baptized in Berry Pomeroy, Devon, England, 29 October 1637, son of Samuel and Cecily (Peny) Chapin.⁶⁴

Children of Mary King and Josiah Chapin:⁶⁵

- i. SAMUEL CHAPIN, b. 11 Nov. 1659.
- ii. JOHN CHAPIN, b. 11 Jun. 1661.
- iii. MARY CHAPIN, b. 27 Aug. 1662.
- iv. DEBORAH CHAPIN, b. 16 Jun. 1664.
- v. JOSIAH CHAPIN, b. 17 Dec. 1665.
- vi. SHEM CHAPIN, b. 11 May 1667.
- vii. SETH CHAPIN, b. 4 Aug. 1668.
- viii. JOSEPH CHAPIN, b. 17 May 1670.
- ix. HENRY CHAPIN, b. 15 Feb. 1671/72.
- x. EPHRAIM CHAPIN, b. 18 Dec. 1673.
- xi. DEBORAH CHAPIN, b. 12 Feb. 1675.

5. **THOMAS² KING**, born probably in Weymouth about 1643; died in Dighton, Bristol County, Province of Massachusetts Bay, between 30 March 1713 and 23 February 1718/19,⁶⁶ He

⁶³ *Records of the Town of Braintree, 1640-1793* (Randolph, MA: 1886), 640.

⁶⁴ Parish register of Berry Pomeroy, Devon, England, "England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975," Familysearch database online, "Josias," son of "Samuell" Chapin. Marriage of Samuell Chapin and Cecily Peny, parish register of Paignton, Devon, England, "Devon Marriages And Banns," Findmypast database online, from South West Heritage Trust, 3134A/PR/1/1.

⁶⁵ *VRWM*, 1:71; *Records of the Town of Braintree*, 644-652, 819.

⁶⁶ Bristol Co., MA, deeds 8:115, 15:264.

probably married about 1669 MARY SPRAGUE.⁶⁷ She was baptized in Hingham, Plymouth Colony, on 25 April 1652, daughter of William and Millicent (Eames) Sprague.⁶⁸

Children of Thomas King and Mary Sprague:⁶⁹

- i. JOHN KING, b. 29 Aug. 1670.
- ii. MARY KING, b. 12 Jun. 1673.
- iii. THOMAS KING.⁷⁰
- iv. JOANNA KING.⁷¹
- v. COMFORT KING, b. abt. 1687.⁷²

6. **PHILIP² KING**, born probably in Weymouth about 1645; died in Taunton, Bristol County, Province of Massachusetts Bay, 26 December 1710.⁷³ He married prob. in Weymouth JUDAH/JUDITH WHITMAN, daughter of John Whitman.⁷⁴

Children of Philip King and Judith Whitman:⁷⁵

- MARY KING.
- ELIZABETH KING.
- EXPERIENCE KING.
- HANNAH KING.
- LYDIA KING.
- JUDITH KING.
- JOHN KING, b. abt. 1675.⁷⁶

⁶⁷ In his will, William Sprague names daughter Mary King and her husband Thomas King. Suffolk Co., MA, probate vol. 6 (Old Series):106.

⁶⁸ "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," Ancestry.com database online (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011), Hingham>Hubbard's Journal, with Births, Marriages, and Deaths, image 15. *Records of the First Church in Charlestown, 1632-1789* (Boston, MA: David Clapp & Son, 1880), 8.

⁶⁹ *VRWM*, 1:161.

⁷⁰ Of Dighton, referred to in a deed as son of Thomas, Sr. Bristol Co., MA, deed 8:116, 30 Mar. 1713.

⁷¹ signed a deed with her husband John Alger in 1719 for property sold to John from Thomas King in 1713, calling John his son-in-law. Bristol Co., MA, deed 13:537.

⁷² she, as a daughter, and husband Ebenezer Briggs are named in a petition of Mary (Sprague) King. *The Acts and Resolves, Public and Private, of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay*, vol. 11 (Boston:1903), 82.

⁷³ This death date and place is in his estate inventory, Bristol Co., MA, probate file 15083.

⁷⁴ The specific relationship between Philip, Judith and her father John Whitman is in John's estate inventory, which itemizes 6 acres of land in the Ferry Field (Weymouth) occupied by "Phillip King who married Judeth the daughter of Deacon Whitman." It was bequeathed to them in John Whitman's will. Suffolk Co., MA, probate file 2012.

⁷⁵ Philip's will. See note 62.

⁷⁶ Gravestone, King Cemetery, Raynham, Bristol, Massachusetts (see photo at findagrave.com, memorial 4852239). He died 6 Oct. 1741. "in his 66th year." The gravestone was transcribed and is included in an appendix to *Vital Records of Raynham, Massachusetts* (Plymouth, MA: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1997), 162. Two 19th and 20th century family memorial stones were put up in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Taunton, MA.

