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I am seeking all genealogical and biographical details for the family documented below including their ancestors, children, and grandchildren and the spouses thereof, including the full names of those spouses' parents. All additions and corrections within this scope, however speculative, will be greatly appreciated.

Thomas and Ester/Esther (___) Stevens of Boston, Massachusetts

with additions and corrections to

"Homer-Stevens Notes, Boston" by Winifred Lovering Holman

with an emphasis on the family of

Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens of Boston, Massachusetts

*** WORK-IN-PROGRESS * CHECK FREQUENTLY FOR UPDATES ***

FOREWORD

The genesis of this chapter was the identification of my probable ancestor, Jane (Stevens) Dyer, as the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens of Boston (Lora Altine Woodbury Underhill, *Descendants of Edward Small* [Cambridge, Massachusetts: Privately Printed at The Riverside Press, 1910], 1174, citing Suffolk County, Massachusetts deed 53:41). I was doubtful that the deed explicitly identified Jane as the daughter of Thomas Stevens and I was even more doubtful that the deed identified the maiden name of Jane's mother. In 2009, in response to my posting on this topic on the Norfolk County, Massachusetts RootsWeb.com message board, Erin Kelley graciously agreed to obtain a copy of this deed for me. I was delighted to be proven wrong! As provided below, the deed clearly identifies the children of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens and also identifies Sarah (Place) Stevens as the daughter of John Place. Sandra Stevens responded to a similar posting on the Stevens GenForum message board and I was soon corresponding with her and Kirk Moulton, as leading Stevens researchers, about the origins of Thomas Stevens.

In January 2010, Kirk Moulton discovered an incredible source. Over 50 years ago, in January 1953, Winifred Lovering Holman, later known as Winifred Lovering (Holman) Dodge, a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogist (FASG), published "Homer-Stevens Notes, Boston" in the scholarly quarterly, *The American Genealogist*. The title does not describe the contents of this twelve-page article well; consequently, it appears that virtually no one today is aware of this gem today, as indicated by a dearth of Google search results. It is unfortunate that the article has been largely ignored because it includes a thorough section sub-titled "The Family of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Steven" and reveals that the parents of this Thomas Stevens were almost certainly Thomas and Ester/Esther (___) Stevens of Boston! A full copy of the article is available in the Stevens folder at www.perry.streeter.com. However, it is also a blessing that we discovered this article *after* beginning our research in earnest because we have discovered some additions and corrections to it that we might not have otherwise. Most notably, there is ample evidence to indicate that the elder Thomas Stevens and Erasmus Steven, both of Boston, were brothers or otherwise closely related; this connection eluded Holman.

I am posting incremental versions of this document as a work-in-progress to keep it exposed to Internet search engines. Hopefully, as others learn that they descend from this Stevens family, they will be inspired to collaborate on researching our common ancestry, for the

benefit of all. Kirk Moulton found a living descendant of Erasmus Stevens and Sandra Stevens convinced him to participate in the Stevens Y Chromosome DNA Project. Thus, we may soon be able to identify the immigrant ancestor of Erasmus Stevens and Thomas Stevens with confidence!

JANE (STEVENS) DYER WAS A DAUGHTER OF THOMAS AND SARAH (PLACE) STEVENS

Nearly a century has elapsed since Lora Altine Woodbury Underhill identified Jane (Stevens) Dyer, wife of Joseph Dyer of Weymouth, Massachusetts, as the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens, based on the following deed:

To all People unto whom this Present Deed of Release or Quit Claim shall come, **Isaac Hatch of Hanover in the County of Plimouth [sic] Husbandman, and Sarah his Wife, Jonathan Rogers of Newbury in the County of Essex, Taylor, and Margery his wife, Joseph Dyar of Weymouth in County of Suffolk [now Norfolk], Husbandman, and Jane his wife, Benjamin Stevens of Boston in the County aforesaid Mariner and Elizabeth his Wife, Mary Aubin Widow Woman, Hannah Stevens single woman both of Boston aforesaid. Which said Sarah Hatch, Jane Dyer, Benjamin Stevens, Mary Aubin, Hannah Stevens, Margery Rogers, are children of Thomas Stevens late of Boston Joiner and Sarah his Wife, both deceased, Which said Sarah was one of the daughters of John Place late of Boston aforesaid mariner, also deceased, send Greeting**

Know Ye, That we the said Isaac and Sarah Hatch, Joseph Dyar and Jane his Wife, Jonathan Rogers and Margery his Wife, Benjamin Stevens and Elizabeth his Wife, Mary Aubin, Hannah Stevens, For and in Consideration of the Sum of Five Shillings money to us in Hand at and before the Ensealing and Delivery of these Presents will duly paid by **Our Brother Thomas Stevens of Boston aforesaid Joiner**, the Receipt whereof We Do hereby acknowledge Have Remised Released and forever Quit Claimed and by these Presents, Do Remise Release and forever Quit Claim unto the said Thomas Stevens in his peaceable Possession and Siez in now being, and his Heirs and Assigns forever. All Our, and Each of our Right Estate Title Interest Inheritance Use Possession Property Reversion Remainder Claim and Demand whatsoever Of in and unto **A Certain Dwelling House and Land Situate standing and being in Middle Street in Boston aforesaid Fronting thereon South Easterly Adjoining North Easterly to the Dwelling House and Land of Anthony Underwood being formerly the Dwelling House and Land of the said John Place and where of our Father and Mother died siezed in Fee.** The Dwelling House and Land hereby Released containing in breadth Twenty three feet or thereabouts, and in length or depth One Hundred and Forty feet or thereabouts. Together with all the Privileges and appurtenances whatsoever thereto belonging or in any wife appertaining or which now do or hereafter may belong or appertain to the same, **All which are particularly described in a certain Indenture Tripartite of Division and Partition made and concluded about the 21st Day of January Anno Domi 1703, made between the said Thomas Stevens and Sarah his Wife, one other of the Daughters of the said John Place Deceased of the second part, and Sarah Bushnel [sic, Bushnell] formerly the Relic Widow of the said John Place of the Third part, as by the same or the Record thereof reference thereto being had may more fully appear.** To Have and to Hold all and singular the said Remised and Released Premises with Appurtenances and every part and parcel thereof unto him the said Thomas Stevens his Heirs and Assigns to his and their only proper who benefit and behoof forever, So that neither We, nor either of us, our [sic], nor either of Our Heirs, nor, nor any other Person or Persons Claiming or to claim by from or under Us or either of Us, Shall or may at any time or times hereafter Ask, Claim, Challenge or Demand any Estate Right Title or Interest of in or to the said Remised and Released Premises with the appurtenances or

any part or parcel thereof, but therefrom and from every part and parcel thereof, We and they and each and every of us shall and will be debarred and forever excluded by force and vertue [*sic*] of these Presents. In Witness where of We have hereunto set our Hands and Seals, **the fourteenth day of February, Anno Domini One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Six**, And in the Ninth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Second King over Great Britain &c. Jonathan Rogers and a seal. Margery X Rogers her mark and a seal. Mary A Aubin her mark and a seal. Hannah t Stevens her mark and a seal. Signed Sealed and Delivered in the Presences of Anthony Underwood, John Underwood. Suffolk &c. Boston Feb. 17th 1735/6. Then Jonathan Rogers and Margery Rogers his Wife, Mary Aubin, and Hannah + Stevens, all personally appeared and severally acknowledged this Instrument to be their Act and Deed. Before me, Joseph Wadsworth, Justice Peace. Joseph Dyar and a seal. Jane X Dyar her mark and a seal. Witness Benjamin Dyar. Mary Dyar. Suffolk &c. June the 16. 1736. The within Named Joseph Dyar and Jane his Wife Personally appeared and acknowledged the within written Instrument to be their Act and Deed, Before me Benjamin Dyar, Justice of Peace. Isaac Hatch and a seal. Sarah + Hatch her mark & a Seal. Sam^{ll} Pooll. Sam^{ll} Pool Jun^r. Ply. &c. June 16th 1736. Isaac Hatch and Sarah Hatch within named appeared and acknowledged this written Instrument to be their Act and Deed. Before me Sam^{ll} Pooll, Justice of Peace. August 28th 1736. Received and accordingly Entered & Examined by Samuel Gerrish Reg^r.

[And vertically added in the margin...]

Ben. Stevens and a Seal. December 30th 1738. Benjamin Stevens Signed this Instrument in the Presence of Samuel Sewall, John Russell. Suffolk &c. Boston Dec. 30th 1738. Benjamin Stevens Personally appeared before me the Subscriber, One of His Majesty's Justices for the County aforesaid, and acknowledged this Instrument to be his Act and Deed. Samuel Sewall J. Peace. Mar. 8. 1739. Entered and Examined. Samuel Gerrish Reg^r.

(*Suffolk County [Massachusetts] Deeds*, 53:41–43, in "Deeds V. 53-53 1735–1736" [Family History Library US/CAN Film 493953]).

The forgoing deed was one of several utilized by Holman in her treatment of "The Family of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens" within her article, "Homer-Stevens Notes, Boston." Holman's research regarding Thomas and Sarah was tangential to her primary purpose—determining the origins of Margery Stevens, the wife of John Homer, for her client, Mrs. Homer Pierce Clark; several extended excerpts from the article follow:

...Who was the Thomas Stevens who married in 1696, Sarah Place, named a daughter Margery, and had a son Place Stevens who owed money (as his estate records show) to Mrs. Margery Homer? It seems very probable that this Thomas was a brother of Margery (Stevens) Homer...

... A careful survey of the Stevens families and records in and near Boston, the seventeenth century, has failed to elicit Margery's parentage, with the exception that, in the Third Church, the one in which she was married, we find baptised, 14 Nov. 1686, a Thomas Stevens and wife Esther, and their children: Thomas; Roger; Benjamin; Margaret; Mary; and Sarah. Captain Homer and his wife Margery (Stevens) Homer named their children: John; Mary; Benjamin; William; Michael, Robert; Thomas; and Mary. The names Margery and Margaret were often used interchangeably.

In 1891, Mrs. Ellen Doane (Manson) Winchester... stated that John Homer was married "Margery Stevens, daughter of Thomas and Ester [*sic*] Stevens" Much of her data was based on family Bible records and material gathered by Rev. Jonathan Homer.

A Thomas Stevens was taxed in Boston, 1695, and signed a Boston petition, 1696 [*Boston Rec. Com.* 1: 163; Mass. Archives, 113:139]. This may have been the father.

There are two deeds from Joseph Plaice of Kingston, R.I., yeoman, and wife, Joanna, "one of the daughters of John Plaice, mariner, late of Boston, decd.," the first being on 20 Oct. 1703 to Anthony Underwood of Boston, turner; and the second on 25 Oct. 1703 to Thomas Stevens, "Joyner," of Boston conveying their rights in the house of Peter Plaice father of John Plaice which said Peter bought of Matthew Chase in 1650, now in the possession of Sarah Bushnell, widow [Suffolk Deeds, 24:181,, 182].

There are also two tripartite deeds of division, dated 1 Jan. 1703/4 and 21 Jan. 1703/4, between Thomas Stevens of Boston, joiner, and wife Sarah, and Anthony Underwood, turner, and wife Jane, both described as daughters of John Place, and Sarah Bushnell, formerly widow of John Place; the second deed recites that Stevens and Underwood have lately purchased of Joseph Plaice of Kingston, R.I., and his wife Joanna, the remaining daughter of said John Plaice, he said Joanna's portion [*Ibid.*, 24:183; 21:448].

On 24 Sept. 1709, Thomas Stevens, joiner, of Boston, owing Capt. Nathaniel Cary of Charlestown £150. 8s, mortgages to Cary his rights to a double house on Middle Street, referring to the tripartite deed of 1703, and his wife Sarah releasing her dower; Cay then conveys his rights to Capt. Samuel Turrell, 26 Aug. 1724; and on the margin Turrell acknowledges full payment made to him by Place Stevens, 15 Dec. 1729 [*Ibid.*, 24:237; 38:41].

Thomas Stevens died before 20 July 1724, when Place Stevens, mariner, with bondmen Edward Richard, joiner, and Thomas Stevens, joiner, all of Boston, was appointed the administrator of the estate of his father, late of Boston, joiner, deceased. The inventory of the estate of "Mr." Thomas Stevens, made by John Nicholls, Edward Richards and James Cary, and filed 3 Aug. 1724, came to £212:10:10. The account, 11 July 1726, presented by the administrator, mentions the expenses of the funerals of his father and the latter's wife, also speaks of "brother Thomas," and "sister Mary," a mortgage on the deceased's property, etc. A second accounting, 30 July 1729, mentions the house and the mortgage on it, the property then coming to a total of £343:08:00. [Suffolk Probate, 4942.]

The estate was further settled by deeds. On 1 Dec. 1729, Plaice Stevens of Boston, joiner, as administrator of the estate of his father, Thomas Stevens, late of the same, joiner, his wife Susanna releasing dower, conveyed to Thomas Foster of Boston, housewright, the house and land in Boston bounded by land of Anthony Underwood and formerly property of John Place, referring to the tripartite deed, and the same day Foster (with wife Anne releasing dower) conveyed the same property to Plaice Stevens. Then, on 15 Dec. 1729, Place Stevens, joiner, and wife Susanna, conveyed to their loving brother, Thomas Stevens, rights on the property on Middle Street; and the next day, Thomas Stevens, joiner and wife Mary, mortgaged to Plaice Stevens, joiner for £75, his rights to the property bounded by Anthony Underwood. This mortgage was released on the margin, 16 Sept. 1732, by Susanna Stevens [autograph], wife of Plaice and as his attorney. [Suffolk Deeds, 44:22; 46:62; 44:250.]

After abstracting the 14 February 1736 "informative deed" provided in full above, Holman stated:

Benjamin Stevens did not sign until 1738. Perhaps he was away at sea when the deed was drawn. Thomas Stevens, joiner of Boston, sold the Middle Street property to **John Clark**, physician, 5 Mar. 1739; his wife Mary released dower. [*Ibid.*, 53:41; 58:263.]

Holman's treatment of the Thomas Stevens who married Sarah Place included the following excerpt but the analysis that follows demonstrates that this passage must actually pertain to a different Thomas Stevens.

...Thomas Stevens, from Boston, a shipwright, lived in 1695 [1696?] in Joseph Ryall's house, in Charlestown, Mass., and had a wife Sarah who was a "Member of ye North Church in Boston," according to Wyman [*Charlestown Genealogies and Estates*, p. 899]. His eldest child and namesake was born [22 October] and baptised there [25 October 1696 [and died young]...

Somewhat surprisingly, Holman's generally excellent research failed to uncover the following birth records in Boston for the twin sons (and first children) of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens (*Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, 1630–1699*, Volume 9):

—"Place of Thomas & Sarah Stevens born Jan. 19"

—"Thomas of Thomas & Sarah Stevens born Jan. 19"

If Holman had discovered these records, she would have concluded that the same couple could not have had two sons both named Thomas born in 1696, on 19 January in Boston and on 22 October in Charlestown. In fact, the latter baptism actually occurred in Charlestown on 25 August 1696, rather than October (*Records of the First Church in Charlestown*, 88); thus, it was impossible for the same couple to have had another full-term birth in the same year!

The recognition that there were two individuals named Thomas Stevens, both with wives named Sarah, one in Charlestown and one in Boston, instead of a single individual so-named, resolves the contradictions in Holman's analysis:

... When Thomas married, in April 1696, he was called of Boston, and he was certainly again of Boston 5 June 1698, so his stay in Charlestown was of short duration...

The deeds of Thomas in Boston always describe him as a joiner, or a carpenter of interior finish. In Charlestown he was called a shipwright, or ship carpenter. Thomas Stevens of Charlestown... on 15 Apr. 1687, being still of Charlestown...

Thomas Stevens of Charlestown was most likely Thomas³ (*Thomas*², *William*¹, *Thomas*^Δ). Of course, the possibility that these men of the same generation both named Thomas Stevens were kinsmen of some degree cannot be ruled out!

THE PROBABLE KINSHIP OF THOMAS STEVENS & ERASMUS STEVENS

Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens were buried in Copp's Hill Burying Ground in Boston with several of their children. In *The Graveyards of Boston: First Volume Copp's Hill Epitaphs* (William H. Whitmore [Albany: Joel Munsell, 1878]), the grave marker inscriptions are recorded in an order reflecting proximity, rather than alphabetically. Within the sequence of inscriptions pertaining to the family of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens are also found the following the following descendants of Erasmus Stevens of Boston.:

269. Here lyes buried y^c body of Mr John Stevens, dec^d April y^c 2^d 1721, in y^c 50th year of his age.

274. Here lyes Buried the Body of Mr. John Stevens, son of Capt John & Mrs Abigail Stevens of Charlestown who died Sept. 26th, 1748 aged 23 years & 27 Days. (Page 14)

Elsewhere in the same cemetery and source are recorded the following inscriptions for other descendants of Erasmus Stevens:

426. Erasmus, son to Erasmus & Persis Stevens, aged 2 years dec^d Nov^r y^c 1st 1721.

427. Here lyes Buried the Body of M^r Erasmus Stevens, who died y^c 22^d June 1750, aged 64 years. (Page 23)

These four burial records all pertain to descendants of Erasmus Stevens as documented by Eugene R. Stevens and Colonel William Plumb Bacon in *Erasmus Stevens [at] Boston, Mass., 1674–1690 and His Descendants* ([New York: Tobias A. Wright, 1914]).

In addition to graves of their descendants being adjacent to each other, another point of association between the descendants of the eldest Erasmus Steven and Thomas Stevens occurred in 1729 when Erasmus Stevens purchased land from Joseph Place (Suffolk Deeds, 24:181-182) and from the "Partition" of the estate of John Place (Suffolk Deeds, 24:183); John Place was the father-in-law of the Thomas Stevens who married Sarah Place.

Erasmus Stevens was already a property owner in Boston by 6 August 1666 when his land was cited in deed (Suffolk Deeds, 10:179) so he must have been born about 1645 or earlier. There are no records in the International Genealogical Index (IGI) for any Erasmus Stevens born in all of England in the seventeenth century so he probably was born in the New World.

Sarah Place, who Thomas Stevens married in 1696, was born in 1674 so Thomas was probably also born in 1674 or earlier. It follows that his father, the Thomas Stevens who married Esther, was probably before 1653. Thus, Erasmus Stevens and the elder Thomas Stevens were approximately of the same generation; they were probably brothers or otherwise closely related.

If the elder Thomas Stevens was a nephew (or other kinsman) of Erasmus Stevens instead of his brother, one potential match for Thomas Stevens that merits further research was identified by Holman:

[Noted genealogist Donald L.] Jacobus, *Granberry and Allied Families*, 1945, considers an early Thomas Stevens of Boston, with wife Sarah, whose son Thomas, was born in 1651 in Boston. The latter may, or may not, have been the witness Thomas Stevens, aged 29 in 1681, [in] an Essex County case. Thomas the husband of Sarah was a baker by trade owning land at the corner of Prince and Salem Streets and had children born at Boston 1648-1663.

However, the simple fact that this Thomas Stevens was a baker makes it unlikely that he was part of the family that we are researching—the majority of whom were engaged in woodworking or seafaring trades.

SPECULATIONS ON THIS STEVENS FAMILY'S ORIGINS

Let us assume that the Thomas Stevens who married Ester/Esther and fathered the Thomas Stevens who married Sarah Place was indeed the brother (or other close kinsman) of Erasmus Stevens. From multiple deeds, we know that Erasmus Stevens was a shipwright of Boston.

The earliest record in Boston for Erasmus Stevens dates from 6 August 1666 in a deed from **Thomas Baker**, blacksmith of Boston and his wife, Sarah, to William Snelling, physician of Boston:

"bounded by the **Steete that goes to Charlestown ferry from the great Street that comes from the Mill Bridge** North East by the sd. Snelling land South East by the **land of Erasmus Stevens bought of the sd. Baker** on the North west (Suffolk, Deeds: 10:179).

On 28 February 1678, Erasmus Stevens of Boston Shipwright bought land in the North End of Boston from **Thomas Baker** and his wife, Sarah:

...adjoining unto the house and land of the late Doctor William Snelling... and abutting on the North-east side by the **Streete that leadeth toward Charlestown ferry place...** (Suffolk Deeds, 11:136).

Erasmus Steevens [sic] of Boston... Shipwright and Elizabeth his wife for in consideration of the Sume of One Hundred Twenty ffoure pounds... paid... by James Smith of Boston... marriner... sell... all that their Messuage or Tenem^t with all the Land

thereunto ... att the Northerly End of the Towne of Boston... neer adjoining unto the house and Land of the Late Doctor William Snelling decd... bounded on the Northwest by the Land of **Thomas Baker** Smith and on y^e Southwest by the Land of the late Richard Bennett, and on the North East **by the Street that Leadeth towards Charlestowne Ferry place**... the Sixth day of February... One thousand Six hundred Eighty and Five... (Suffolk Deeds, Liber I-XIV [1629-87], 442-444)

In 1654, a deed from Sampson Shore to William Waters mentioned "ye lands of Thomas Steephens" that had to have been in very close proximity to the properties of Erasmus Stevens cited in the excerpts above:

... ye parcel of Lande Ling onye north side of ye strate **leadeing from Boston Myll toward the fyrry place leading to Charlestown**... lying betwixt ye lands of **Thomas Steephens** [*sic*] and the lands [of] Late Thomas Stanburyes (Suffolk Deeds, 2:107).

Was this "Thomas Steephens," born no later than 1633, identical with the Thomas Stevens, born no later than 1653 who married Ester/Esther or is this a different individual of an earlier generation who could have been the father (or other kinsman) of the Thomas Stevens who married Ester/Esther and/or his brother (or other kinsman) Erasmus Stevens?

Who was the Thomas Stevens for whom administration of his estate was granted in 1672?

Erasmus Stevens [at] Boston, Mass., 1674–1690 and His Descendants, includes some speculation on his possible origins in Maine:

Of this first Erasmus Stevens little is known. There is a tradition in the family that **he was of ancestry of Cornwall, England, and that he came to Massachusetts from Pemaquid, Maine**, but there is no evidence forthcoming to support either belief. His name is on the tax lists of Boston 1674, 1687, 1688 and 1691...

Erasmus Stevens was associated with William, afterwards Sir William Phips, as appears from the following extract from Court Records:

At a Court of Assistants or Court of Admiralty held at Boston 15th June, 1682.

Theophilus Poole, one of the Adventurers in the Ship, Resolution, plaintiff, agt. Wm. Phipps, Commander of the said ship and Erasmus Steevens [*sic*] and Nicholas Hayward, Quartermasters...

Phips was born Feb. 2, 1651, in Pemaquid, Maine, and died in London, Feb. 18, 1695. His expedition against Quebec sailed from Boston in August 1690. It ended in disaster and many died. This time corresponds with the disappearance of Erasmus Stevens from Boston. (22–24)

The excerpt above seems to suggest that Erasmus Stevens perished in Quebec in 1690 but that it is conflict with the earlier statement in this same excerpt that his name is found on a 1691 tax list of Boston.

More recent scholarly research has pinpointed the place of Sir William Phips birth in Maine as **Nequasset** on the **Sheepscot** River, now within the Town of **Woolwich**, rather than Pemaquid where the Phips family had first settled:

[Sir William] Phips was born 2 February 1651 on his father James' farmstead at Jeremisquam Neck [now Phipps Point], overlooking the **Sheepscot** River at **Nequasset**, in what is now **Woolwich**, Maine. As a young man, James Phips had been one of the first wave of English settlers to move to coastal Maine. He had been raised in Mangotsfield, one of the four parishes of the hundred of Barton Regis, several miles

east of Bristol. Apprenticed to John Brown, a Bristol blacksmith and probably a gunsmith, Phips migrated with Brown at some time in the late 1620s or early 1630s....

After his father's death, James left England for the fishing and trading post of Pemaquid...

Situated a few miles east of the **Sheepscot** River, Pemaquid was among the first New England settlements and was the easternmost English outpost.

(Emerson W. Baker, John G. Reid, *The New England Knight: Sir William Phips, 1651-1695* [Toronto: University of Toronto Press Incorporated; 1998])

[Phips, born in 1651] was a poor shepherd until he was eighteen [about 1669], and then a ship's carpenter's apprentice in Maine for four years [until about 1673]. [Starting about 1674,] He worked at this trade in Boston, Massachusetts for a year where he learned to read and write. With his wife's property he established a shipyard on the **Sheepscot** river in Maine [by 1675], but soon abandoned it because of clashes with the Native Americans, in which the settlement was burned to [the] ground after everyone escaped in a ship that had been built. (Wikipedia entry for William Phips, viewed 7 February 2010).

From the "History of Newcastle, Maine," within *A Gazetteer of the State of Maine* (Geo. J. Varney; Boston: B.B. Russell, 1886), we have further confirmation that William Phips was a "Boston citizen" prior to 1675:

Sullivan, in his history of Maine, says, quoting from Aylvanus Davis, a resident proprietor: "There were in the year 1630, 84 families, besides fishermen, about Pemaquid, St. Georges, and **Sheepscot**, and about 50 of these were said to be on the **Sheepscot** farms."

In 1665, Robert Carr, George Cartwright and Samuel Maverick, commissioners appointed by the Duke of York, arrived at **Sheepscot**, this being within the limits of the territory claimed by him under his patent from the English crown. The house of John Mason, at which they met and organized a government, is supposed to have been in the Sheepscot Plantation. Mason, about 1649-50, purchased of the sagamores Robin Hood and Jack Pudding, a considerable tract about his residence. The commissioners erected the whole extensive territory... into the county of Cornwall, applied the name New Dartmouth, to the whole region about the plantation, and established the line between this and Pemaquid. The commissioners vested justices of the peace, and a recorder. The justices were Nicholas Raynal, Thomas Gardiner and **William Dyer** [William¹ Dyer, great-grandfather of Joseph⁴ Dyer, husband of Jane (Stevens) Dyer]. This government lasted until 1675, when the first Indian War desolated the region. When Arrowsic fell beneath the tomahawk, a little girl escaped, flying 10 miles through the woods to the **Sheepscot**, giving the inhabitants a timely alarm. A ship which **William Phips**, a Boston citizen, has been building near this place was ready for sea; and instead of taking to Boston a cargo of lumber, as he had intended, he took the affrighted inhabitants and their goods, and conveyed them to a place of safety. Phips, who was a native of this region, was afterward knighted by the King, and became a distinguished governor of Massachusetts. There years later the war had closed and many inhabitants returned. Commissioners John Palmer and John West, appointed by the Duke's governor at New York, and Colonel Dungan, arrived at **Sheepscot** in 1686, and began to layout the town in lots as before. Their administration was obnoxious to the inhabitants, but was soon terminated by another French and Indian War in 1688. The settlement were again laid in ruins, continuing in this condition for nearly 30 years.

Recall that all the known children of Thomas and Ester/Esther (___) Stevens were baptized together in Boston on 14 November 1686. If they had been residing in Boston prior to 1686, we would expect to find an individual baptism recorded for each child following the sequence in which they were

born. Was this Stevens family among those to whom the arrival of Palmer, West and Dungan in **Sheepscot** in 1686 had been "obnoxious?" Did this event trigger Thomas Stevens to leave Sheepscot and settle in Boston near his brother (or other kinsman) Erasmus Stevens?

From whom did Erasmus Stevens and Sir William Phips, both shipwrights of Boston, learn their trade? The following excerpt indicates that a William Stephens/Stevens, also a shipwright of Boston, owned property at **Nequasset**, where Sir William Phips, the associate of Erasmus Stevens, was born:

WILLIAM SLACK, Some Time of Boston (now of Atleborough) Carpenter, in y^c Right of **Wm Stevens Some time of Boston Ship wright**, Claimes, one Tract of Land vizt upland lying and being in y^c bounds of Newtown on y^t Tract of Land Comonly Called and known by y^c name of **Nequasset, Containing one hundred and five acres**.... that Can be found as by Deed or Patten to sd W^m Stevens, by Jn^o Palmer Esq^r, Comissionated by Coll Thomas Dougan L^t Gou.^r of the Collony of New York, Dated, y^c first Day of Septembr 1686. Recorded y^c sd Day By Jno West D: Secrey—and Assigned over to W^m Slack by sd Wm Stephens to sd W^m Slack as p^r Jndorsmt on sd Deed or patten the 16th. of Decemb^r—and acknowledged by sd Stevens y^c Same Day before Nec^h. Manning, Jus in Yo^r. ("Book of Eastern Claims," *The Maine historical and genealogical recorder* [Portland, Maine; 1884], 78-79)

Were Thomas Stevens and Erasmus Stevens related to this William Stephens/Stevens? The following excerpt probably pertains the same William Stephens/Stevens, born before 1665 (age 21 or more in 1686), cited in the preceding excerpt:

WIDOW STEPHENS: Claimes a Tract of Land on y^c West side of **Sheepscott** River at y^c head of Wichcahassick Bay Containing in Quantity of **about one hundred acres**, which **William stephens [sic] her husband Deced [sic, deceased]** built ahouse [sic] upon and Dwelt thereon — Witness — Rob^t. scott [and] Thomas Jent. ("Book of Eastern Claims," *The Maine historical and genealogical recorder* [Portland, Maine; 1884], 15)

The book of Eastern claims, now among the Massachusetts archives in the State House, was made about 1700, and was the claims of men dispossessed by the Indians (*Source?*)

According to Kirk Moulton, these references pertain to the William Stephens who married Elizabeth Draper, daughter of Nathaniel and Ester (Mercer) Draper. The Draper and Mercer families were also tied to the **Sheepscot** River valley in Maine.

In any case, the descendants of Thomas and Ester/Esther (___) Stevens also had multiple points of association with Maine, including **Sheepscot** specifically:

- Margery (Stephens) Homer, daughter of Thomas and Ester/Esther (___) Stevens, was "probably born in Maine," according to Holman.
- Thomas Stevens, son of Thomas and Ester/Esther (___) Stevens, was "possibly born in Maine," according to Holman; his mother-in-law, Sarah (Lovering) (Place) Bushnell, had resided in **Sheepscot**, Maine prior to settling in Boston.
- Place Stevens, son of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens, as a proprietor of Falmouth, Maine, signed a petition to the General Court in 1717 to have Falmouth incorporated as a town (William Willis, *History of Portland [Maine]* [1865], 889–890).
- Thomas Stevens, son of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens, married Mary Lawrence in Boston on 23 April 1729; when her father, Benjamin Lawrence of Charlestown, Massachusetts, wrote his will on 7 September 1733, he included "dr. Mary Stevens, of **Sheepscot**, York Co.

—Jane Stevens, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens, married Joseph⁴ Dyer, whose grandfather, Christopher² Dyer, and great-grandfather, William¹ Dyer, were killed by Indians at **Sheepscot**, Maine in 1689.

BAKER-CLARKE-STEVENS ASSOCIATIONS

The families of Thomas Stevens and Erasmus Stevens both had multiple known and potential points of association with the Baker and Clarke families of Boston. These associations are included here with the goal of identifying any potential kinship between these families.

- Erasmus Stevens married Elizabeth; according to as-yet unsubstantiated claims, she was identical with "Elizabeth Stevens," the daughter of Thomas Clarke of Dorchester and Boston, per the latter's inventory of 1678 (Justin Winsor, *The memorial history of Boston: including Suffolk County, Massachusetts, 1630-1880* [Boston: James R. Osgood; 1882], x).
- Thomas Baker, neighbor of Erasmus Stevens, was a son-in-law of the above-named Thomas Clarke of Boston, also per the latter's inventory of 1678.
- Elizabeth Stevens et al purchased property from Thomas Clarke (Suffolk Deeds, 11:72-74).
- Prior to 6 August 1666, Erasmus Stevens bought land from Thomas Baker blacksmith of Boston (Suffolk Deeds, 10:179).
- On 2 March 1678/9, Erasmus Stevens purchased the "Charlestown Ferry place" from Thomas Baker (Suffolk Deeds, 11:135)
- On 28 November 1701, the estate of Elizabeth Stevens sold property to Thomas Baker (Suffolk Deeds, 20:448).
- On 26 May 1704, John Stevens & al purchased land from Thomas Baker at Scarlett's Wharf (Suffolk Deeds, 21:275?,573).
- On 26 May 1704, John Stevens also sold land to Thomas Baker (Suffolk Deeds, 21:573).
- On 7 Feb 1716, the children of John Stevens and Jane Stevens sold property to John Baker (Suffolk Deeds, 31:2).
- On 25 March 1734, the estate of Place Stevens sold property to John Clark (Suffolk Deeds, 48:167).
- On 18 March 1739, the estate of Thomas Stevens sold property to John Clark (Suffolk Deeds, 48:167).
- On 13 April 1734, the estate of Thomas Stevens sold property to Thomas Kellond including Aquahadongonak, Grape Island, Wigwam Pond, creek near Casco Bay & Wasquick Creek & Abbascoggin River, Tcogogauangebo River with a cross reference to eastern land claims and a John Clark (Suffolk Deeds, 57:223)
- On 25 March 1739, Thomas Stevens sold property to John Clark (Suffolk Deeds, 58:263).

On 18 November 1701, "Leah Baker of Boston in the County of Suffolk widow and relict of Thomas Baker" granted "unto my son Thomas Baker Jr. of Boston and Mary his wife" about one-half of an acre that "came to me by the death of my sister Elizabeth Stephens Alos [*sic*; alias] Bligh [Blygh] that was late in the tenure and occupation of my brother Thomas Clarke. (Suffolk Deeds, 20:448)

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1. **STEVENS**, if the father of both Erasmus Stevens and Thomas Stevens, was born say 1624 or earlier, if only the father of the latter, was born say 1632 or earlier.

Children of ___ Stevens; birth order uncertain:

- i. (probably) **ERASMUS STEVENS**, b. say 1645 or earlier, m. **ELIZABETH** ___.
- ii. **THOMAS STEVENS**, b. say 1653 or earlier; m. **ESTER/ESTHER** ___.

2. **THOMAS STEVENS** was born say 1653 or earlier (age 21 or older when son born 1674 or earlier); married **ESTER/ESTHER** ___.

Known children of Thomas and Ester/Esther (___) Stevens; all baptized in the Third Church of Boston on 14 November 1686; in order as baptized:

3.
 - ii. **THOMAS STEVENS** [name of father]; m. **SARAH PLACE**.
 - iii. **ROGER STEVENS**.
 - iv. **BENJAMIN STEVENS**.
 - v. **MARGARET STEVENS**, "probably born in Maine" about 1669; d. Yarmouth, MA about 1762; m. Boston by Rev. Samuel Willard of the Third, or Old South, Church 13 July 1693 **JOHN¹ HOMER**, b. England about 1647, d. Boston 1 Nov 1717, bur. Kings Chapel Cemetery, Boston 6 Nov 1717, mariner.
Children, surname *Homer*: 1. *John*. 2. *Mary*. 3. *Benjamin*. 4. *William*. 5. *Michael*. 6. *Robert*. 7. *Thomas*. 8. *Mary*.
 - vi. **MARY STEVENS**.
 - vii. **SARAH STEVENS**.

3. **THOMAS STEVENS** (*Thomas*) was born say 1674 or earlier (marriage intentions at age 21); he died, as a Joiner of Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, by 20 July 1724, intestate, leaving an estate valued at £212:10:16 "old tenor" (Colonial Society of Massachusetts, *Boston Furniture in the Eighteenth Century* [Boston: Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1974], 297). Thomas was married (intention at Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts on 13 July 1695) by Rev. John Bailey, then of the First Church of Boston, 1696, to **SARAH³ PLACE** (*John², Peter¹*), daughter of John² and Sarah (Lovering) Place (*Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751* [Boston: Municipal Printing Office; 1898], 348). "Sarah of John & Sarah Place" was born in Boston 11 July 1674 (Boston Registry Department, *A Report of the Record Commissioners Containing Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 1630–1699* [Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, City Printers, 1883], 133). Sarah died on 30 November 1723, per the following epitaph from the Copp's Hill Burying Ground: "270. Here lyes the Body of Sarah Stevens, wife to Thomas Stevens, aged about 52 years, dec^d Nov^r ye 30, 1723" (William H. Whitmore *The Graveyards of Boston: First Volume Copp's Hill Epitaphs* [Albany: Joel Munsell, 1878], 14).

Children of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens, all born in Boston:

- i. **PLACE STEVENS** [surname of mother], b. Boston 19 January 1696 "Place of Thomas & Sarah Stevens born Jan. 19" (*Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, 1630–1699*, Volume 9); a twin of Thomas; bapt. 5 June 1698; d. intestate before 15 January 1733/4; married at Boston 25 July 1726 **SUSANNA PETELL** by Mr. Sam Miles (groom recorded as Peirce [*sic*] Stevens in marriage record but recorded as Place Stevens in marriage intentions) (Boston Registry Department, *A Report of the Record Commissioners of the city of Boston, Containing the Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751* [Boston: Municipal Printing Office, 1898], 134), will dated 8 Jan 1753 and proved 19 March. 1763, naming her sons Thomas Stevens and William Edes, thus Susanna apparently m. (2) ___ Edes.
As a proprietor of Falmouth, Maine, a Place Stevens signed a petition to the General Court in 1717 to have Falmouth incorporated as a town (William Willis, *History of Portland [Maine]* [1865], 889–890). Place Stevens, twin brother of Thomas Stevens, worked in Boston (Colonial Society of Massachusetts, *Boston Furniture in the Eighteenth Century* [Boston: Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1974], 297); "had issue."
- ii. **THOMAS STEVENS** [name of paternal grandfather and father], b. Boston 19 January 1696 "Thomas of Thomas & Sarah Stevens born Jan. 19" (*Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, 1630–1699*, Volume 9); a twin of Place; died young.

- iii. **SARAH STEVENS** [name of maternal grandmother and mother], b. 29 July 1700; baptized 4 Aug 1700; d. after 1741; ; the marriage intentions of "Isaac Hatch of Situate [*sic*] & Sarah Stevens of Boston" were recorded at Boston 7 June 1721 (*A Report of the Record Commissioners of the city of Boston, Containing the Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751* [Boston: Municipal Printing Office, 1898], 158); m. Scituate, MA 28 July 1721 **ISAAC HATCH JR.** (*Vital Records of Scituate, Massachusetts to 1850*, II:141, citing C.R.2 [church record of Second Church of Scituate (the First Unitarian Church of Norwell in 1908), which identifies Isaac as a junior]); ten children b. Hanover, MA between 1723 and 1742, the eldest being Stephen Hatch.
- iv. **THOMAS STEVENS** [name of paternal grandfather, father and deceased brother], bapt. 4 Jan 1701/2; d. Boston 6 May 1761; bur. Copp's Hill Burying Ground near his mother: "273. Here lies Buried the Body of Mr Thomas Stevens, Died May 6th 1751 [*sic*, 1761], age 56 years" (William H. Whitmore *The Graveyards of Boston: First Volume Copp's Hill Epitaphs* [Albany: Joel Munsell, 1878], 14); a Joiner and Housewright of Boston ; m. **MARY LAWRENCE**, bapt. Charlestown 23 Feb 1706/7, d. Boston 9 May 1785; bur. Copp's Hill Burying Ground near Thomas: "In Memory of Mrs. Mary Stevens wife of Mr. Thomas Stevens who Departed this Life May 9th 1785 in the 75th year of her age." (William H. Whitmore *The Graveyards of Boston: First Volume Copp's Hill Epitaphs* [Albany: Joel Munsell, 1878], 14), dau. of Benjamin and Anna (Phillips) Lawrence.

This Thomas Stevens has been confused with yet another man of the same name who m. 1729 Elizabeth Martin (Colonial Society of Massachusetts, *Boston Furniture in the Eighteenth Century* [Boston: Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1974], 297) and "Thomas Stevens & Elizath [*sic*] Martin" were married at Boston 27 Aug 1729 by Dr. Tim. Cutler (Boston Registry Department, *A Report of the Record Commissioners of the city of Boston, Containing the Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751* [Boston: Municipal Printing Office, 1898], 151)].

- v. **MARY STEVENS** [name of paternal aunt], b. [say 1703 or earlier if age 21 at marriage]; m. (1) Boston 10 February 1724 **PHILIP AUBIN**: "Philip Obbine & Mary Stevens" by Mr. Joseph Sewall; in the intentions Aubin was recorded as "Obbin" (*A Report of the Record Commissioners of the city of Boston, Containing the Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751* [Boston: Municipal Printing Office, 1898], 121), died before 1736; m. (2) Boston 3 Nov 1741 **JOHN THOMPSON**.

On 24 July 1734, "At a Meeting of the Select Men," a Philip Aubin of Boston was one of many for whom "Sundry Petitions for Licence to retail Strong Liquors out of Doors, were Disallow'd" (*A Report of the Record Commissions of the City of Boston, Containing the Records of the Boston Selectmen, 1716 to 1736* [Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, City Printers, 1885], 256–258).

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- vi. **JANE STEVENS** [name of maternal aunt], b. ca. 1707 (age 99 at death in 1806); Widow Jane Dyer d. of "old age" in Weymouth, MA on 6 December 1806 at age 99 (*Vital Records of Weymouth Massachusetts to the Year 1850 Volume II—Marriages and Deaths* (New England Historic Genealogical Society, [Boston, Stanhope Press: 1910], 267 citing C.R.1. [church record, First Church of Christ, North Precinct]); m. Weymouth on 27 June 1726 as JANE STEPHENS (vital record) or JANE STEVENS (church record) (*Vital Records of Weymouth Massachusetts to the Year 1850 Volume II—Marriages and Deaths* (New England Historic Genealogical Society, [Boston: Stanhope Press, 1910], 65, citing C.R.2. [church record, First Church of Christ, South Precinct]) to "Joseph Dyar" [**JOSEPH⁴ DYER**] (*William³, Christopher², William¹*), son of William³ and Joanna (Chard) Dyer, born Abington, Plymouth Co. MA 1703, when of Weymouth, Norfolk Co. MA, he drowned on 10 November 1749; my probable direct ancestors, see *William Dyer of Sheepscot, Maine* at www.perry.streeter.com for more information.

- vii. **BENJAMIN STEVENS** [name of paternal uncle], b. [say 1710 or earlier if age 21 at marriage]; d. after 1738; m. Boston 23 June 1731 **ELIZABETH GRAHAM/GRAYHAM** by Dr. Joseph Sewall (*Boston Marriages 1646–1751*); note that Mr. Joseph Sewall performed the marriage of Benjamin's sister, Mary.
- viii. **EDWARD STEVENS**, b. [31 May] 1712; d. 31 Aug 1712; bur. near his mother in Copp's Hill Burying Ground: "272. Edward, son of Thomas & Sarah Stevens, aged 3 months died Augst y^e 31st, 1712" (William H. Whitmore *The Graveyards of Boston: First Volume Copp's Hill Epitaphs* [Albany: Joel Munsell, 1878], 14).
- ix. **MARGERY STEVENS** [name of paternal aunt], b. [say 1714 or earlier if age 21 at marriage]; m. Boston 6 August 1735 **JONATHAN ROGERS** by Rev. William Welsted (*Boston Marriages 1646–1751*). Jonathan Rogers (*Robert², John², Robert¹*) was bapt. Ipswich, MA March 1714 and filed intentions of marriage at Newbury, MA on 12 July 1735 (Janet I. Delorey, "John² (Robert¹) Rogers of Ipswich," *NEXUS*, No. 6 - December 1986, 288).
 Children, all born Newbury, MA, surname Rogers (courtesy of Kathy Parkinson, citing Vital Records of Newbury and Newburyport): 1. *Jonathan*, b. 16 June 1736. 2. *Robert*, b. 21 April 1738; possibly m. Newbury, MA 15 Oct 1761 Mary Titcomb 15. 3. *Benjamin*, b. 27 Jan 1740; possibly m. Newbury 22 April 1762 Mary Stevens. 4. *Margery*, b. 2 May 1742, possibly m. Newburyport, MA 21 April 1771 Joseph Smith. 5. *Hannah*, b. 18 March 1744.
- x. **HANNAH STEVENS**, b. [say 1715 or earlier if age 21 or older when identified as a single woman in 1736], named perhaps in honor of her maternal aunt, Hannah Place; unmarried as of 14 February 1736.
- xi. **JOANNA STEVENS** [name of maternal aunt], not identified by Holman, b. [31 October] 1717; d. 2 Nov 1718; bur. near her mother in Copp's Hill Burying Ground: "271. Joanna, Dau^r to Thomas & Sarah Stevens, aged 1 year & 2 Da^s Dec^d Nov^r ye 2^d 1718" (William H. Whitmore *The Graveyards of Boston: First Volume Copp's Hill Epitaphs* [Albany: Joel Munsell, 1878], 14).

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This is a complete every-name index for the entire document; each woman is indexed under her maiden name and her married name(s). A question mark, (?), indicates an unknown maiden name.