

# CAPTAIN THOMAS BRADBURY AND HIS WIFE MARY PERKINS

BY JOHN V. BECK

(ED. NOTE: THIS HISTORY OF THOMAS BRADBURY AND HIS WIFE MARY PERKINS IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK *ELISHA S. AND LAVINA (LOCKE) ANDRUS - THEIR ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS*. WE PUBLISH HIS WORK HERE IN MEMORY OF JOHN VICTOR BECK AND IN APPRECIATION OF HIS HARD WORK TO PROVIDE US WITH SO MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANDRUS FAMILY. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SUB-HEADINGS ARE MINE. I HAVE ALSO TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF CHANGING THE ABBREVIATIONS SUCH AS "B." AND "D." TO "BORN" AND "DIED".) --  
ROGER NAVARRE

## ***ARRIVED IN YORK, MAINE IN 1634***

Captain Thomas BRADBURY was in London 1 May 1634 and in New England the same year when he arrived in Agamenticus (now York, Maine) with authority from Sir Ferdinando Gorges to act as his steward and personal representative in the new settlement, and did in that year sign with Thomas MORTON in attestation of a deed from Gorges and Mason (NEH&G Register V, p. 346). He apparently owned no land at York and probably lived on Gorges Neck at Point Christian, occupying the Lord Proprietor's manor property there.

## ***REMOVED TO SALISBURY, MASSACHUSETTS IN 1634 AND REMAINED THERE THE REST OF HIS LIFE***

In 1636 he removed to Salisbury, Massachusetts, where he spent the remainder of his life and where he married Mary PERKINS, daughter of John and Judith (GATER) PERKINS, who'd been baptized 3 Sept. 1615 at Hilmorton, County Warwick, from which parish her parents emigrated in 1630, sailing in the "Lion" from Bristol.

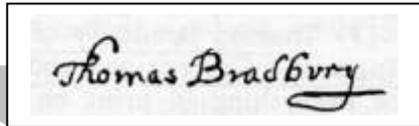
## ***MAN OF PRESTIGE AT SALISBURY***

Thomas BRADBURY was one of the most distinguished citizens of Salisbury; made a freeman there 13 May 1640 and on 10 Dec. 1641 he was appointed the first clerk of the writs, He is probably the "John" BRADBURY appointed constable in 1641. In Mar. 1648 he was appointed a "commissioner to end small causes" in Salisbury. In Mar. 1648 was appointed ensign of the train band at Salisbury. In 1651 he was chosen deputy to the General Court and again in 1651, '56, '57, '60 '61 and '66. Here he appears to have voted on the liberal side - in some instances, at least. In 1651 and 1652 he was commissioned to lay out the bound of Hampton, and he served on a similar committee to lay out a private grant to Emanuel DOWNING. In May 1654 he was appointed a member of a special court to examine certain petitioners who prayed the General Court to restore Lieut. PIKE, he having been removed from office for some alleged refractory conduct.

In October, the same year, and again in 1656, 1658 and 1659 he was appointed on various committees to settle differences concerning lands, to fix boundaries and to locate grants. In May 1657, the law providing for commissioners for ending small causes having been repealed Mr. BRADBURY was commissioned to bind over offenders in criminal cases. That same year he was of a committee to inquire if ministers' widows and orphan children were properly provided for. May 1660 he was chosen to settle some difficulties at Portsmouth, requiring the intervention of the General Court. In 1666 he was of a committee to examine and report to the Legislature on the state of the defenses in and about Boston, constructed by Major General John LEVERETT. In April 1668 he was appointed one of the Commissioners of Customs for Norfolk County. In 1675, '76, '77 and '79 he appears as one of the associate judges for Norfolk.

Although Mr. BRADBURY'S term as clerk properly expired with the separation of New Hampshire from Massachusetts Bay in Feb. 1680 he still acted as recorder or clerk up to July 8 1681 (Norfolk County Records in Registry of Deeds and Clerk's Office, Salem), and he appears to have kept the records even before his appointment. These he may have completed from the memoranda of his predecessor.

In addition to the duties already enumerated he's found acting as captain of a military company at Salisbury, and in 1686 on the committee with APPLETON and GERRISH "to take account of births and deaths." To crown all, he was, of course,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Bradbury". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The box has a thin black border and a grey arrow-shaped shadow pointing to the left.

licensed as an innkeeper or retailer, He was an easy, legible and industrious penman (his signature is shown here), and evidently a man of sound judgment and more than ordinary ability. He was sometimes called "Judge" in Salisbury.

He gave a deposition that he was living in York when two of William HOOKE's sons were born, and presumably his own, 1 Apr. 1637 and 2 Oct. 1638. His wife suckled William HOOKE "Starved for spiritual food" at York 13 Sept. 1637.

#### ***MARY BRADBURY TRIED AND CONVICTED OF WITCHCRAFT***

Mary (PERKINS) BRADBURY was one of those unfortunate people who, in the dark days of witchcraft delusion, was among the accused. Among those accused of assuming animal forms (most were beasts common to the pioneers) Mary's most unusual metamorphosis was that of a blue boar. Her specialty was supposedly in casting spells upon ships, and Massachusetts merchant Samuel ENDICOTT testified that two firkins of butter, purchased from Mary by one of his captains, had been bewitched and caused dire effects on the seamen's voyage. As the ship sped through the warm waters of the Caribbean, the butter turned sour just before an unexpected storm arose. One night soon after ENDICOTT was sitting on deck and happened to glance upward in the moonlight and there perched jauntily on the windlass was none other than Mary BRADBURY, or her spirit, dressed as she customarily appeared, in a white cap and neckcloth. His testimony and that of others proved costly and she was found guilty of practicing magic and was sentenced to be executed.

The conviction could not be reversed, but by the efforts of her friends her execution was delayed, the horrid delusion passed away, and she was discharged. By some accounts

she was allowed to escape, 'though not officially released she did return to her home. The papers connected with her trial, as well as those of others, who were (some of them) less fortunate, have been preserved, and are to be seen on the files in the Clark of Courts Office in Salem, Massachusetts.

***MANY CAME TO HER DEFENSE***

Her defense in answer to the accusations of her persecutors, the testimony of her husband with that of Rev. James ALLIN and John PIKE (father of her daughter-in-law), her ministers, and the united testimonial of over one hundred of her neighbors and townspeople all were of no avail. These papers show her to have been a most estimable, pious and good woman, and should be recorded to her praise; copied here from the original:

*The answer of Mary Bradbury to the charge of witchcraft or familiarity with the Devil. - I do plead not guilty. - I am wholly innocent of such wickedness through the goodness of God that hath kept me hitherto. I am the servant of Jesus Christ and have given myself up to him as my only Lord and Saviour, and to the diligent attendance upon him in all holy ordinances, in utter contempt and defiance of the devil & all his works as horrid and detestable; and have endeavored accordingly to frame my life & conversation according to the rules of his holy word, and in that faith and practice resolve, by the help and assistance of God, to continue to my life's end. For the truth of what I say as to matter of practice, I humbly refer myself to my brethren and neighbors that know me, and to the searcher of all hearts for the truth & uprightness of my heart therein, human frailties & unavoidable infirmities excepted, of which I bitterly complain every day.*

***Mary Bradbury.***

*July 28: 1692. - Concerning my beloved wife, Mary Bradbury, this is what I have to say: We have been married fifty-five years, and she hath been a loving and faithful wife to me. Unto this day she hath been wonderfully laborious, diligent and industrious, in her place and employment about the bringing up of our family (which hath been eleven children of our own and four grandchildren) she was both prudent and provident, of a cheerful spirit, liberal and charitable. She being now very aged and grieved under her affliction, may not be able to speak much for herself, not being so free of speech as some others may be. I hope her life and conversation have been such among her neighbours as gives a better and more real testimony other than can be expressed by words.*

***Tho. Bradbury.***

*Being desired to give my testimony, concerning the life and conversation of Mrs. Bradbury of Salisbury among us w<sup>ch</sup> is as followeth, viz: I have lived nine years at Salisbury in the work on the ministry and now four years in the office of a pastor; to my best notice and observation of Mrs. Bradbury she hath lived according to the gospel among us, was a constant attender upon the ministry of y<sup>e</sup> word; and all the ordinances of the gospel, full of works of charity and mercy to the sick and poor, neither have I seen or heard anything of her unbecoming the profession of the gospel.*

***James Allin.***

*Having lived many years in Salisbury and been much conversant there, according to my best observation and notice of Mrs. Bradbury must needs affirm to what is above written, and give my oath to it if called thereto. **John Pike.***

*Concerning M<sup>rs</sup> Bradburys life and conversation, We the subscribers do testify that it was such as becometh y<sup>e</sup> gospel, shee was a lover of y<sup>e</sup> ministry in all appearence and a diligent attender upon Gods holy ordinances being of a curteous and peacable disposition and cariag, neither did any of us (some of whom have lived in y<sup>e</sup> town with her fifty yeare) ever heare or know that she ever had any difference or falling oute w<sup>th</sup> any of her neighbors, man, woman or child - but was alwayes readie and willing to doe for them w<sup>t</sup> laye in her power night and day, though w<sup>th</sup> hazard to her health or other danger - more might be spoken in her comendation but this for the p<sup>r</sup>sent.*

*(signed by 117 men and women of Salisbury).*

#### ***THE WILL OF THOMAS BRADBURY***

Thomas BRADBURY made his will 14 Feb. 1694 and died 16 Mar. 1694/95 at Salisbury; the small stone marking his grave is almost obliterated. His wife survived until 20 Dec. 1700. On 17 Dec. 1711 the governor and council authorized payment of £578.12s to the claimants representing twenty-three persons condemned at Salem, and the heirs of Mary BRADBURY received £20. A petition to reverse the attainder of twenty-two of the thirty-one citizens convicted and condemned as a result of the trials was passed by the Massachusetts General Court in 1711, and in 1957 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts reversed the stigma placed on all those not covered by earlier orders.