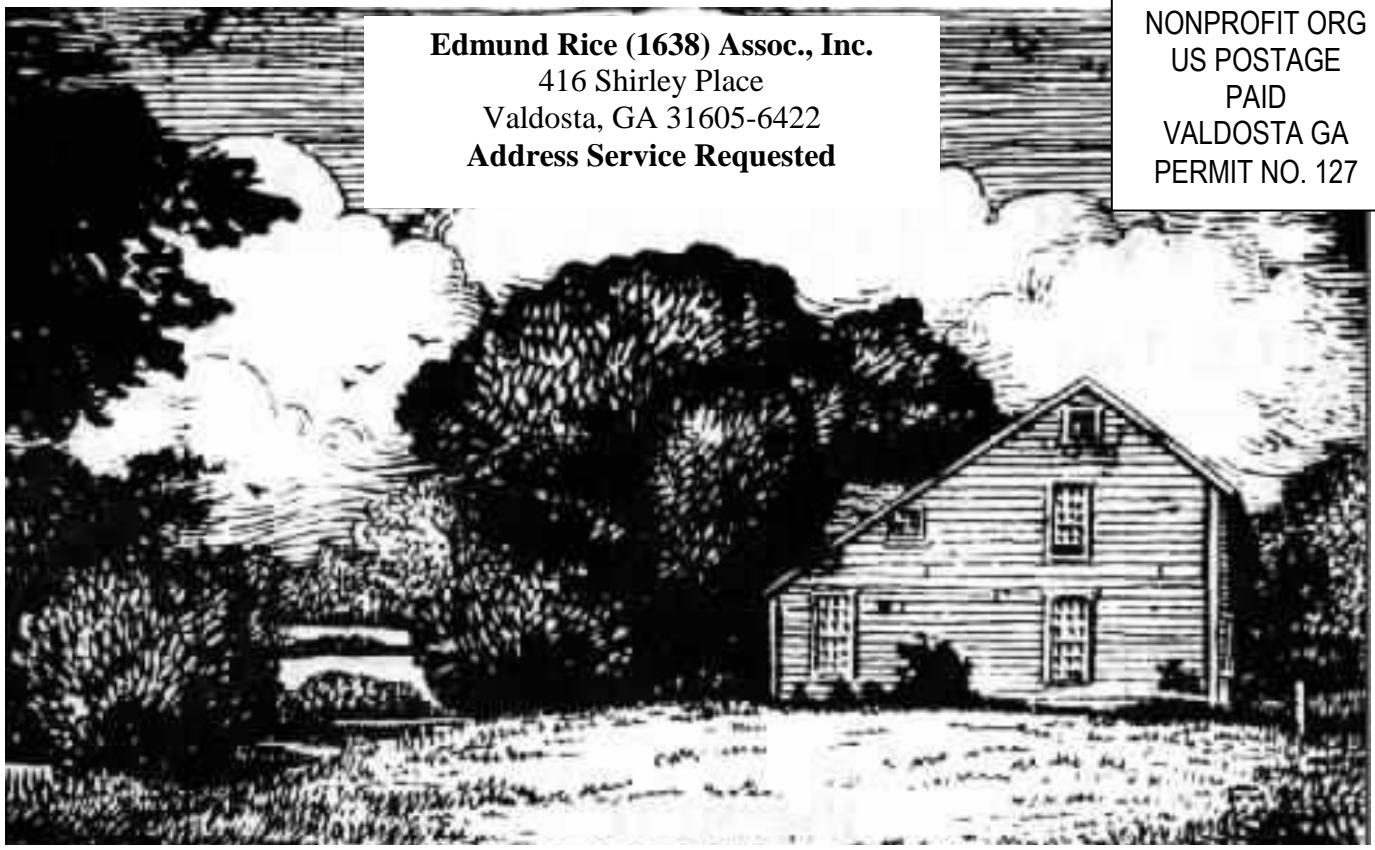


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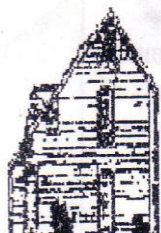


EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Published Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association
416 Shirley Place Valdosta, GA 31605-6422

The Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc. 24 Buckman Dr. Chelmsford, MA 01824 was established in 1851 and incorporated in 1934 to encourage antiquarian, genealogical, and historical research concerning the ancestors and descendants of Edmund Rice who settled in Sudbury, Massachusetts in 1638, and to promote fellowship among its members and friends.

The Association is an educational, non-profit organization recognized under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Edmund Rice (1638) Association Newsletter

416 Shirley Place, Valdosta, GA 31605-6422

Vol. 876, No.1 Winter 2013

The Edmund Rice Association publishes the newsletter four times a year: 1) winter, 2) spring, 3) summer and 4) fall. The summer newsletter is devoted to the annual September reunion and includes a description of the program and registration information. The other three newsletters include information of more general interest to our members. We invite all cousins to submit their genealogical information, newsletter corrections, items of interest, family articles and pictures, obituaries and queries. Send them to our newsletter editor: Susan Berger at editor@edmund-rice.org

President's Column

Greetings, cousins!

Now that winter has set in for real in New England, and the snow is blanketing the cemeteries, it's time to do wintry things, such as (A) indoor genealogy and (B) talking about the weather. As we get older, we accumulate a stock of weather experience, and, even though the weather is always "surprising" in one way or another, it comes more and more to remind us of other events we've seen. The recent storm (christened "Nemo" by the forecasters) is a case in point, calling up comparisons with the Blizzard of '78, almost exactly 35 years earlier. Both storms went on and on and left highway departments reeling and wondering what to do with all the white stuff. One of the biggest differences, in fact, is in the forecasting -- the storm warnings were much more precise and accurate last week than they had been back in '78. Certainly, people took the warnings very seriously this time. Last Thursday evening, I received three emails and one automated phone call, letting me know well in advance that the offices would be closed on Friday due to inclement weather, even though the storm wasn't due to get serious until Friday afternoon, and the brunt of it wasn't expected until night.

For me, personally, the biggest difference between now and '78 has to do with shoveling. Back then, I was a city apartment dweller and had no responsibility for snow removal. I could pop down to the convenience store at the end of the block for milk and eggs and be glad I didn't have a car that needed to be dug out of the snow bank piled up along the roadside by the plows. At first, it was necessary to struggle out to the plowed street to make decent progress in any direction, but eventually paths were cleared on the sidewalks.

Now, of course, things are quite different. I live in the country. The snow that falls on my property is my responsibility. There aren't any sidewalks, but I have a long, steep driveway. I have a contractor who plows the driveway whenever there's more than four inches of snow, but he doesn't do edges. Nowadays, milk and eggs come from the barn, and a certain amount of shoveling is necessary to get there and back.

Oh, did I forget to talk about indoor genealogy? George King and I are in the throes of our annual database comparison and reconciliation. I will perhaps talk about that next time.

John Chandler

Inside This Issue

Editor's Column	p. 2
Officers/Directors	p. 3
In Memory	p. 4
New Members	p. 4
In Celebration	p. 4
ERA Database	p. 5
Queries	p. 5
Books for Sale	p. 8
Membership Form	p. 9
Thomas King	p.10

Edmund Rice (1638) Association Newsletter

Send articles, corrections, member news, items of interest, obituaries, queries, etc. to the newsletter editor:

Susan R. Berger email: editor@edmund-rice.org

Membership

The Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc. is governed by a Board of Directors, of at least five members, elected at the annual reunion and meeting, usually held on a weekend in September.

Descendants of Edmund Rice were holding reunions as early as 1851, but it was not until 1912 that the Association was formed and officers elected. Incorporation under Massachusetts law took place in 1934.

Membership is open to anyone who claims to be a lineal descendant of Edmund Rice. Rigorous proof is not required and many members have been able to ascertain their pedigree only after access to the books and files of other members. Spouses and children are also eligible for membership.

Annual dues, payable *September 1*, are:
 Initial dues.....\$ 15.00
 Renewals:
 Under 80 years of age.....\$ 15.00
 Age 80 and above.....\$ 5.00
 Life membership.....\$200.00
 (single payment)

Checks To: EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSN., INC.

Membership Mailing Address:

Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc.
 Susan R. Berger
 416 Shirley Place
 Valdosta, GA 31605-6422

Membership Email Address:

srberger@bellsouth.net

Address Corrections:

The Post Office now forwards mail for 12 months if a member has submitted a forwarding address to the post office. The post office also returns the forwarding address to the association for a .65 fee. If a member has no forwarding address or 12 months forwarding has expired the post office returns the mail. Return postage and re-mailing postage costs the Association nearly \$1.50 per copy so please try to keep your address updated.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

If there is any member that remembers the ERA Presidents names or has a reunion program for the following years 1923-1924, 1929-1931 and 1942-1945 please contact me.

Edmund Rice (1638) Association Presidents

1912-1920	Eustace Bond
1921-1922	H. Eugene Rice
1923-1924	
1925-1928	Harry C. Rice
1929-1931	
1932-1934	Russell J. Rice
1935-1936	Daniel H. Rice
1937-1939	Elsie Hawes Smith
1940-1941	Sturgis C. Rice
1942-1945	
1946-1947	Everett E. Rice
1948-1949	Ralph E. Rice
1950-1951	Ralston F. Rice
1952-1953	John A. Bigelow
1954	Sturgis C. Rice
1955	Charles W. Rice
1956-1957	Edgar W. Rice
1958-1959	Stanley I. Rice
1959-1960	Donald H. Whittemore
1960-1963	Frederick R. Rice
1964-1965	William H. Hoefler
1966-1967	Ray Lawther Ellis
1968	Edgar W. Rice
1969	Erwin R. McLaughlin
1970-1973	Col. Allen F. Rice
1974	Margaret E. Allen
1975	Charles W. Rice
1976	Seaver M. Rice
1977-1978	Henry E. Rice, Jr.
1979-1980	C. Whiting Rice
1981-1982	William H. Drury
1983	Patricia P. MacFarland
1984-1985	Janice R. Parmenter
1986-1987	Margaret S. Rice
1988-1989	Alex W. Snow
1990-1993	John S. Bates
1994	Alex W. Snow
1995-1997	Frederick H. Rice
1998-2006	Dr. Robert V. Rice
2007-present	Dr. John F. Chandler

Susan Berger

Website

Edmund Rice (1638) Association

info@edmund-rice.org

www.edmund-rice.org

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Ruth M. Brown, *DIRECTOR EMERITA*

Past Presidents

1960-1963	Frederick R. Rice
1964-1965	William H. Hoefler
1966-1967	Ray Lawther Ellis
1968	Edgar W. Rice
1969	Erwin R. McLaughlin
1970-1973	Col. Allen F. Rice
1974	Margaret E. Allen
1975	Charles W. Rice
1976	Seaver M. Rice
1977-1978	Henry E. Rice, Jr.
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1986-1987	Margaret S. Rice
1988-1989	Alex W. Snow
1990-1993	John S. Bates
1994	Alex W. Snow
1995-1997	Frederick H. Rice
1998-2006	Dr. Robert V. Rice

Memorial Gifts

Consider donating to the Edmund Rice Association in memory of a loved one.

IN MEMORY

Jeanette Pollard passed away January 26, 2013, her niece Joyce Haycock is also an association member. Jeanette liked to add interesting local information to George's discussions on our bus trips each fall. Jeanette was longtime life member and she will be missed.

NEW MEMBERS

Thais Crane of San Luis Obispo, CA; **Perry Youngs** of Naperville, IL; **Madge Smith** of Panama City, FL; **Dennis R Rice** of Richmond, IN; **William Bryan** of Arlington, VT; **Sandra Tenaglia** of Exeter, NH; **Karen Davis** of Star Valley, AZ; **Robert W Rice** of East Moriches, NY; **Charlotte Kensil** of Milford, MA

MEMBERS MAKING ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Rodney C Rice Margaret Stehle David LG Smith

IN CELEBRATION

Please join me in wishing the following cousins a Happy Birthday!

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR COUSINS” - “HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU”
WE HOPE YOU HAVE MANY MORE

JANUARY

Michael Willer of Creston, CA; **Christopher I Rice** of Newcastle, ME; **Dolores Rice Mandeville** of Broken Bow, NE; **Doris Austin** of Aurora, TN; **Katharine Paranya** of Oneonta, NY; **Nancy Boulter** of Berea, OH; **Becky Rice-Leanna** of Elk River, MN; **Stanley Heisler** of Ridgefield, CT; **Lynn McLaughlin** of South Hadley, MA; **Jane Rice** of Moultonboro, NH; **Susan Rice-Myers** of Sutton, MA; **Patricia Leslie** of S Windham, ME; **Laura Staublin** of Fulton, IL; **Perry Bent** of Framingham, MA; **Lois Morlock** of Hastings, MN; **William Amidon** of Laconia, NH; **Jillaine Smith** of Bethesda, MD; **Julia Holfey** of Bloomfield Hills, MI; **Richard Gariepy** of Barre, ME; **Stephen Bergstrom** of Fairfax, VA; **Robert Duggan Jr** of Stone Mountain, GA; **Robert K Rice** of Morgan Hill, CA; **Geraldine Rice Foty** of W. Brookfield, MA; **Robert M. Rice** of East Moriches, NY; **Donna Meszaros** of Phoenix, AZ; **Sandra Hyden** of Arlington, TX; **Wallace B King** of Beaverton, OR; **Herbert H Rice** of Lowell, MI; **Amy Hall** of Framingham, MA; **Robert T Rice** of Florence, MA; **Kathy Bond** of N. Stonington, CT; **James P Rice** of Pekin, IL; **Carl Ulrich** of Edmonton, AB CANADA; **Karen Davis** of Star Valley, AZ; **Barry Rice** of Edmund, OK; **Richard E Rice** of Anaheim, CA

FEBRUARY

Timothy P Rice of Richmond, VA; **James Fullerton** of Toronto, ON CANADA; **Helen Taylor** of Glassboro, NJ; **Lawrence Peters** of York Harbor, ME; **Peter Bundgard** of Washington, MS; **Larry Howe** of Dansville, NY; **Anne DiBuono** of Hubbardston, MA; **Pamela Harrison** of Evanston, IL; **William Sullivan** of Larchmont, NY; **Charles Thurlow IV** of Cumberland, RI; **Stephen Frazel** of Stow, MA; **Larry L Rice** of Gulf Shores, AL; **Earl Smith** of Rockville, MD; **David Rice Staublin** of Rockford, MI; **Bill Paeth** of Cedar Rapids, IA; **Joan Schacht** of Chesterfield, MO; **Janice Vanlysel** of Madison, WI; **David Alcorn** of Worcester, MA; **Rob Wood** of Glen Rock, NY; **Nancy Benkhart** of Woodstock, CT; **Karen Roop** of Concord, MA; **Craig Tally** of Joplin, MO; **George Rice Jr** of Wayland, MA; **David L.G. Smith** of Nova Scotia CANADA; **Rodney C Rice** of Waterman, IL; **Wendy Wesen** of Grosse Pointe Woods, MI; **John W Rice III** of San Diego, CA; **Mary Anne Mueth** of Howell, MI; **Josef Moorehead** of Gold River, CA; **William Bryan** of Arlington, VT; **Andrea Wetzstein** of Laughlin, NV; **Mary Ann Carney** of Wilbraham, MA

MARCH

Christine Rios of Murrieta, CA; **Colin Fairn** of Don Mills, ON CANADA; **Barbara Rice** of Florissant, MO; **Michael A Rice** of Wakefield, RI; **Stephen Seiple** of Hilliard, OH; **Pamela Speciale** of Charlestown, MA; **Alison Goeller** of APO, AE; **Richard B Rice** of Rockville Centre, NY; **Philip E Rice** of Saranac, NY; **Eugene Rice** of Oviedo, FL; **Diana Hageboeck** of Wayzata, MN; **Shirley C Rice** of Lake Forest, IL; **David E Rice** of South Burlington, VT; **Patricia LaRock** of Vancouver, WA; **Beatrice Hites** of Douglasville, GA; **Charlotte Reed** of Rockport, MA; **Thomas P Walker** of Kenai, AK; **Clifford 'Skip' Rice Jr** of Bethel, AK; **Col. George King** of Williamsburg, VA; **William S Rice** of Ormond Beach, FL; **Robert Howe** of Springfield, MA; **Dudley Titus** of St Louis, MO; **Patricia Blackmer** of Delavan, WI; **Stephen J Rice** of Seattle, WA; **Peggy Brown** of Maynard, MA; **Douglas J Rice** of Rochester, NY; **William J Rice Sr.** of Johnston City, IL; **Alvin Rice** of Flint, TX; **Patricia Stithem** of Clinton, AR; **Robert B Rice** of Mechanicsville, MD; **Martha McLaughlin** of Hockessin, DE; **Hope Pobst** of Barre, ME; **Debra Brownhill** of Honolulu, HI; **Lorraine Jacobs** of East Hartford, CT

ERA Database

Our computer database has been and will continue to be essential for DNA studies for Edmund Rice descendants and the descendants of other early Sudbury families. We need your continuing support. If you have not submitted your family line to us, why wait any longer? Have Questions? Contact our Historian at: gking5@cox.net

Nine-Generation Rice Database Available on CD

Your Board of Directors (BoD) agreed that we would offer the nine-generation report and database to our members (only). The BoD approved a charge of \$10 plus \$5 shipping and handling postpaid for a CD-ROM containing both documents. Please order from the Treasurer by sending a request for the CD-ROM, your name and mailing address and a check or money order for \$15 to:

Michael Rice
201 Old Post Rd
Wakefield, RI 02879-3908

The BoD placed three caveats on the distribution of these documents:

- 1) The information is copyrighted by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association and is restricted to the personal use of association members.
- 2) The CDs will be available only to Association members who agree to its terms of use.
- 3) The Association master database is an ongoing effort through September 2012. If you find any documentable errors, please let us know!

QUERIES

1) Some of the Edmund Rice descendants were in Maury Co., TN at the same time as my David Rice lived there. The earliest David is found in Maury Co. is in the 1808 tax lists. The last known time he was there is 1827 when he bought land. Ebenezer Rice is also there at the same time and both have property in the same area. David and Ebenezer are in the same age group. I know of two children of David. Nicholas Rice was born in VA in 1787 and Mary (Polly) Rice born in 1800 VA. Polly married Johnston Winstead and this is my line. Have you any idea how I can find David's parents. Would appreciate any help.

Sandy Stith

2) I am hoping you can give me some information. While not a descendent of Edmund Rice (that I know of), I do fit into "Group 5" on your web site in that James Rice, of 120 year-old fame, is one of my ancestors via his daughter, Hannah Rice Lambert Withrow (who lived to be 102). Is there a member of that group who could answer specific questions about what the DNA testing says about that line? I am particularly interested in pinning down the names of James' children.

Calley Jarrell Savage

3) I was just doing my relationship check to Edmund Rice and found that he is my 6th great grandfather which is probably one of the closest relationships of any living person. This is due to the fact that my Fay ancestors had very long generations. Ex. Beriah was 48 when he married my grandmother, Harriet Lucinda Ballard at the tender age of 26. In fact, the old letters reveal that her brothers, particularly Daniel, Jr., were very upset that she was marrying this "older man". They had been married 14 years before my mother was born in 1882 and she was 43 years old when I was born. I am descended from Edmund by numerous lines, but this one is the closest.

Edmund to Henry to Mercy & Elnathan Allen to Anna Allen & Amos Pratt to Mary Pratt & Solomon Fay (father of 24 children by 2 wives) to Jonas Fay & Anna Raymond Ward to Beriah Ward Fay & Harriet Lucinda Ballard to Beatrice Annie Fay & Nathan Justus Hunting to Ward Martin Hunting and Fay Emma Hunting. My brother, Ward, passed away in 2004. Can anyone top me?

Fay Bennett

If you mean, is there anyone in the ninth generation who is younger, then the answer is a definite yes. We have at least three members of the ninth generation in the ERA database born in the 1940's. One of them was a member in good standing of the Association a couple years ago and even attended a reunion, though the membership has since lapsed. In contrast, the earliest member of Generation 9 that I found in the database was Dr. Ebenezer Ames (1788-1861).

John Chandler, President

4) Russell Carter wrote:

> I have recently digitized an early genealogy which has as its author Charles Elmer Rice. There is no date but references in the paper point to 1910.

Sad to say, that book is a notorious hoax. It is not even entirely reliable for the stuff in New England, although much of the latter is ok.

> great aunt, Estelle Rice, Lauderdale County, TN, piggy-backed her personal interviews with her grandmother, Louisa Linnirieux Rice, wife of Shadrach Rice. That portion is dated 1927.

It would have been better to start from scratch.

> I had to suspend my disbelief on that one but most of the others listed are identified to specific battles, particular Orders and other historical fact that can be determined.

The issue in all genealogy is that any break in the chain invalidates everything beyond the break. Charles E. Rice's account of the Edmund Rice's parentage is pure fiction. End of story.

> I know the part by my great aunt is since it is directly from what was a living source.

We are interested in the reliable material, but the first thing that is necessary is to figure out whether and where it connects up to Edmund Rice. There were lots of Rices in Tennessee who were not at all related to us, and so we would need to work back from Shadrach Rice to find a valid connection. Can you supply names and dates for his line?

John Chandler, President

5) Can you please tell me if you have anything about this family? They are my complete mitochondrial sequence match at Family Tree DNA. My maternal lineage traces to Elizabeth King, who married Samuel Rice, son of Edmund Rice; three daughters of Elizabeth's mother married three sons of Edmund Rice. My complete mitochondrial sequence match is likely also descended from Edmund Rice.

Henrietta Mead (e), born June 1837, probably New York or Massachusetts, was married to Charles Durando and living in Manhattan by 1856. Charles Durando was possibly born in Connecticut. In 1860, they had a Matthew Mead (e), allegedly born in 1823, living with them. In 1870 they had Martha Mead, possibly an in-law, and her daughter Jane aged 6, living with them.

The 1850 census finds a Henrietta Mead(e) the right age in downstate New York, but no 14 years older Matthew, and there was another living in Maine. She was called Henrietta/ Henriette with absolute consistency, but when girls were called that it wasn't always their first name. They could also have been missed by the census, especially if they were moving around. If you don't find them, I'm sure I'll be back if I learn the name of her mother.

Dora Smith

There's nothing in the database about those Meads or Durandos, but I'm forwarding your note to our newsletter editor and our historian for further consideration. The possible Massachusetts link sounds promising for an eventual documented connection. Is your mtDNA match an exact one?

John Chandler, President

6) Do you have Waite Rice born 3 June 1814 in Barkhamsted, CT in your database? He married Laura Case (no marriage date); he died Boone County IL 1848? Their daughter Laura M. Rice married Homer Bowen in IL. I don't know his parents' names.

Ermine Payne

No we have none of the folks that you mentioned in our association records. Do you have compelling information that Waite Rice was an Edmund Rice descendant? I ask because there were other Rice/Royce families in Connecticut in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

George King, Historian

We have not been able to connect Wait Rice to his parents, but we do have documentation for his marriage. The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records shows two entries separated by almost a year, both in Barkhamsted and both listing him as "Wait Rice of Canton" marrying "Laura Case of Barkhamsted". It's possible that the earlier entry is the filing of intention to marry, but it's also possible that the year is wrong in one of the entries, in which case the "later" entry becomes the "earlier" entry in fact. The two dates are 1835 Oct 11 and 1836 Sep 18. There is no birth entry for Wait anywhere in the collection. What is your source for the 1814 birth?

John Chandler, President

Rice Books Available

The Rice Family, by Andrew Henshaw Ward (1858) [**\$5**] 379 pages

Hard-cover- reprint. New, unused. A genealogical history of descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice who came from Berkhamstead, England, and settled in Sudbury, Massachusetts, in 1638. Includes a soft-cover supplement (1967) containing additions and corrections. 110 pages.

The Rice Family, Supplement 2 (Part 1) [**\$7**] 224 pages

Supplement Number 2 (Part 1) to *The Rice Family*, compiled by Margaret S. Rice (1983). Hard-cover. New, unused. Additional lines of descent through the first eight generations, which were unknown at the time of publication of *The Rice Family* and the 1967 supplement.

The Rice Family, Supplement 2 (Part 2) [**\$8**] 720 pages

Supplement Number 2 (Part 1) to *The Rice Family*, compiled by Margaret S. Rice (1985). Hard-cover. New, unused. A continuation of *The Rice Family Supplement 2 (Part 1)* from the ninth generation to the present (1985).

Edmund Rice and His Family and We Sought the Wilderness [**\$5**] 357 pages

Two manuscripts in one binding. Hard-cover. 1986. New, unused.

Edmund Rice and His Family, by Elsie Hawes Smith (1938) An historical narrative about the early days of the Rices. Contains much genealogical information, as well as being a charming story.

We Sought the Wilderness, by Rev Claton Rice (1949) An historical narrative based on those Rices who pushed Westward to the prairies after short stays in New Hampshire and Vermont.

A Genealogical Register of Edmund Rice Descendants [**\$15**] 1594 pages, published by the association in 1970. A continuation of A.H. Ward's Rice Family (1858) and the supplement to that book, bring it up to date at the time of publication. *This book is out of print but is available for purchase on CD - Association members only.*

More Books... by our cousins

Frederic A. Wallace, Framingham's Town Historian, is the author of "**Ancestors and Descendants of the Rice Brothers of Springfield, Mass.:** David Rice, William Marsh Rice, Caleb Hall Rice, Frederick Allyn Rice, Seven Generations – 1704 to 2004". This is a serious genealogy and history of the family descended from David Rice, who first appeared in the records of Milton and Weymouth, Mass., around 1725. Special attention is given to four brothers, born in Springfield, Mass., who went to Texas in the early to mid-1800's to seek their fortunes. One, William Marsh Rice, became the founder of Rice University in Houston. Their story is a classic example of a family torn apart by the Civil War. DNA evidence, obtained through the ERA's Rice Family DNA Project, is presented to resolve longstanding questions about the origins of this line. From the author, \$30 (includes postage to the continental US): Frederic A. Wallace, 53 Eaton Road, Framingham, MA 01701

Mildred L. Henschel is the author of **Lickiss Families and English Ancestors** consists of 292 pages and is spiral-bound with laminated covers. It consists of 3 parts: the first is English Ancestors, which includes Rice, Towne, Ball, Boland, Bullard, Mellen, Southworth, Whale, French, Fox, Frost, Moore, and Hancock. The second part starts with Hancock-- Sarah Jane who married the first John Lickiss to come to America and their descendants. The 3rd part consists of other Lickiss families, and includes a Table of Contents and Index. Price is \$45, postage and handling included. Mailing address is: 835 Valentine Dr., Dubuque, IA. 52003-0211

Timothy L. Sanford - *Searching for the Forgotten War – 1812, Canada*, Publication Date February 15, 2011, and *Searching for the Forgotten War - 1812, United States of America*, Publication Date March 2011. Just in time for this war's 200th anniversary, these two volumes provide valuable information to those interested in the War of 1812 and those who wish to learn about the people, places, and the battles fought between North American neighbors in the early nineteenth century. Both books are available on Amazon.com.



Edmund Rice (1638) Assoc., Inc.

Susan R. Berger
ERA Membership Chair
416 Shirley Place
Valdosta, GA 31605-6422
srberger@bellsouth.net

Please check your membership cards, if they don't read **for year ending Sept 2013** your annual dues are due.

Annual dues are payable by September 1 st	\$ _____
Additional voluntary contribution	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

The schedule of dues is as follows:

Under age 80	15.00
Age 80 and above	5.00
Life membership (in a single payment)	200.00

Membership Type: New _____ Renewal _____ Information Update _____

Preferred Newsletter Delivery Method: Paper via US Mail _____ or Email _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ - _____

Email address _____

Birthday (MM/DD/YYYY) _____
Added to ERA database for identification (kept confidential) and for Birthday Wishes

Name _____
Due to duplicate first & last names: Please include First, Middle, "Maiden" Last, Suffix

Address _____

City/Town/Province _____

State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Country (if not USA) _____

Note: Dues rate is per person; there is no discount for a spouse or children. The Board of Directors voted to insert the "Additional Voluntary Contribution" line in an attempt to offset the erosion of our treasury due to the current low interest rates. Additional contributions are appreciated.

You may pay your annual dues via PAYPAL and then complete and submit this form via our website www.edmund-rice.org. Both websites email me when you submit.

-OR-

Make your check payable to Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc., send with this form to:

**Susan Berger
416 Shirley Place
Valdosta, GA 31605-6422**

THOMAS KING OF SUDBURY
(circa 1602 – 1676)

The King Family Connection to the Edmund Rice Family
by Larry King

As identified by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association’s website, there are thousands of Edmund’s descendants proudly carrying the surname of this distinguished ancestor. Even more bear a widely diverse array of names derived through married maternal lines of descent.¹ However, there is one prominent and numerous paternal line that comes through the adoption process: this name is KING.

Edmund and Thomasine’s eighth of ten children, Samuel (1634-1685), married Elizabeth King, the daughter of Thomas and Anne King. Upon Elizabeth’s premature death in October 1667, her newborn son, Samuel, Jr. was given to Elizabeth’s childless brother, Peter King and his wife Sarah. Samuel became known as Samuel King alias Rice. After several generations, the alias Rice was dropped and all descendants of Samuel, Jr. are known by the name of King.

The Thomas King (Kinge, Kynge) family was contemporary with Edmund and his family,² and who immigrated from Shaftesbury, Dorset, England to Sudbury, Massachusetts³ in 1642. The King family included Thomas, his wife Anne, and their six known children.⁴

<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Approximate Age in 1642</u>	
Thomas	circa 1603	Thirty-nine
Anne	circa 1605	Thirty-seven
Peter	circa 1627	Fifteen ⁵
Anne	April 17, 1629	Thirteen ⁶
Mary	circa 1630	Twelve ⁷
Sarah	June 5, 1634	Eight ⁸

¹ A person only has to look at the Edmund Rice (1638) Association (ERA) website to sample the wide array of names. See www.edmund-rice.org/.

² During the Great Migration of the 1630s, there were several Thomas Kings arriving in America from England. For example there is a Thomas King (1615-1644) who settled in neighboring Watertown, Massachusetts. Another Thomas King is believed to have arrived in April 1634 on the ship *Elizabeth* going to an unknown residence. A third known Thomas King (1614-1691) came from Essex, England and settled in Scituate, Massachusetts. His son, Thomas (1645-1711), became Deacon of the Church and married Elizabeth Clapp (1648-1698), a first cousin once removed to Abigail Clapp, wife of Samuel King Alias Rice. (Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England 1634-1635*, Boston: Great Migration Study Project, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005, Vol. IV, I-L, 168-173). This last Thomas King may be the basis of identifying Thomas King of Sudbury as a Deacon of the Church. There is no record of the Sudbury Thomas ever serving as a Deacon in either Sudbury or Marlborough as reported by the ERA website.

³ Charles Edward Banks, *Topographical Dictionary of English Emigrants to New England 1620-1650* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969), 34. See also Sumner Chilton Powell, *Puritan Village: The Formation of a New England Town* (Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 1963), 168. It appears these references have relied on the work of Charles Henry Pope, *The Pioneers of Massachusetts* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1991), 271. Mr. Pope is using the will of Peter Kinge, Thomas King’s brother, as his source that Thomas came from Shaftesbury. (See footnote #12)

⁴ The uncertainty of the baptismal dates and place of these children belonging to our Sudbury Thomas lies in the fact that there is a second Shaftesbury Thomas King, a son of Nicholas King who was born in 1602, the same time frame as our Sudbury Thomas King. This second Thomas is possibly the same person who married Alice ____(?). The difficulty in searching the parish records is they simply identify a child’s name, son or daughter of the father’s name, with no mother’s name.

⁵ Peter in a 1668 Court Affidavit, Middlesex County, Massachusetts gave his age as “about forty,” and the New England Ancestors.org website identifying the *Legislators of the Massachusetts General Court, 1691-1780*, gives the year of birth as 1627. Peter’s baptismal date and place may be missing due to the custom of the oldest child being christened in the parish where their mother came from. The place of Anne’s birth has not been determined.

⁶ Wilsdon, December 16, 2006. The information is taken from the Shaftesbury Parish Register of St. James Church. As the oldest daughter, she is probably named after her mother.

⁷ No parish record has been found. This is an estimate based on her approximate marriage date to Thomas Rice in Sudbury, Massachusetts.

⁸ The information on Sarah is from the Dorset Online Parish registers for Shaftesbury St. Peter’s Church baptisms 1623-

Elizabeth	circa 1635	Seven ⁹
Mercy	March 10, 1639	Three ¹⁰

One reason for the missing christening dates for some of Thomas and Anne’s children might have to do with their Puritan conviction. One historian has reported that: “there had sprung up in the town [Shaftesbury] ‘certain sectaries and factious people,’ who refused to come to divine service according to the *Book of Common Prayer*, to bring their children to be baptized, or to receive the Sacrament kneeling.”¹¹ Or, it may have been that Thomas was working in another town when the children were born.

Thomas King was born circa 1603, probably in Shaftesbury, Dorset, England.¹² He was a son of Peter King and had two known older brothers and three known older sisters as follows:¹³

Grace	christened circa 1593 married in Shaftesbury, September 11, 1609, William Lush ¹⁴
John	christened in Shaftesbury, March 17, 1594 ¹⁵ married in Shaftesbury, June 9, 1623, Mary Privote ¹⁶

1680: <http://www.opcdorset.org/ShaftesburyFiles/St.Peter/St.Peter.htm>.

⁹ No parish record has been found. This is based on her marriage date of November 8, 1655 in Sudbury, Massachusetts to Samuel Rice.

¹⁰ Wilsdon, email June 28 2012 to Larry King confirms that the entry in the parish record of Shaftesbury St. Peter’s Church is for a daughter to Thomas King, but the first name is very difficult to read. Through a close examination of a copy of the microfilm parish register, the name could possibly read Martha, another name for Mercy. The ERA website has Mercy being born February 26, 1639 in Sudbury, but this information does not appear to be correct. If it was accurate, it would have positioned Thomas as one of the first settlers of Sudbury where he would have received land in the 1638 and 1639 divisions. From the records of these divisions, Thomas’ name is noticeably absent. The first record of Thomas in Sudbury is in 1642 when he purchases the home of Thomas Noyes. (See Sudbury Town Documents #169, Sudbury, Massachusetts Archives website: <http://www.town.sudbury.ma.us/archives>.) Also, on February 28, 1641 Thomas and his brother Peter signed a Protestation Return in Shaftesbury (Wilsdon, March 28, 2012 to Larry King). My thanks to John Chandler, President of ERA, for his direction in working through this issue

¹¹ Frederic William Weaver, editor, *Notes & Queries for Somerset and Dorset* (Sherborne: J.C. and A.T. Sawtell, 1913, Vol. 13), F.J. Pope, “Puritans at Shaftesbury in the Early Stuart Period,” p. 160, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, #942.3, B2m. Another problem is reading the early records of Shaftesbury. A researcher reports that parts of the register “is discolored and the writing is very faint and has to be read under UV (ultraviolet) light.” Wilsdon, January 16, 2012.

¹² The date is an estimate based on the birth of Thomas’s eldest son, Peter. There is no confirmation of the place, only circumstantial evidence of four siblings being baptized in Shaftesbury. This begins with an entry in the “New England Historical and Genealogical Register” (NEHGR) Vol. 49, p. 509 identifying a transcribed and abbreviated copy of the will of a Peter Kinge of Shaftesbury who in 1658 had a sister, Grace Lush, a second sister Frances Haine, and a brother, Thomas, “now dwelling in New England.” The records of Shaftesbury’s St. Peter’s Church date the burial for Peter Kinge as June 1, 1658, “sometime Mayor.” Peter’s sister, Grace is located in the marriage records of Shaftesbury’s St. James Church as marrying Wm Lushe September 11, 1609, and the baptismal records point out the christening of John, Susannah, Frances, and Peter (Jr.) all sons and a daughter of Peter King (Sr.). Based on the will of Peter and the records of Shaftesbury’s St. James Church, it would mean Thomas’s father is Peter King, Sr. Unfortunately, no specific baptismal record for Thomas has been found. (The will of Peter Kinge was originally copied in a condensed form by Henry Waters from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Somerset House, London. The original will can be located at the British National Archives or on line through the “Genealogist” website, but it is very difficult to read. A transcribed copy is in my possession.)

For years researchers have linked Thomas King to a person christened September 5, 1599 in St. Mary’s Church in Tarrant Hinton, England, located eleven miles south of Shaftesbury. If so, his father would have been Thomas, Sr. and mother Agneta with eight possible siblings. The names of the Tarrant Hinton Kings do not include a Peter, a Grace, or a Frances, which is a strong indication that the Tarrant Hinton Thomas is not our subject. Others researchers in the LDS Church who have contributed to the IGI and New Family Search have identified our Sudbury Thomas as a “Jr.” indicating that his father’s name is also Thomas with a mother Sarah, but again this does not hold up against the information above. As the name of Thomas King is fairly common throughout southern England, many other researchers have linked our Sudbury Thomas to other Thomas Kings of various locations.

Other contemporary Kings in Shaftesbury with Peter King, Sr., include a Nicholas, Thomas, John, William, and Edward who all or part could possibly be brothers, but this is unverifiable.

¹³ Wilsdon, January 16, 2012 to Larry King Information is taken from the parish record of Shaftesbury, St. James Church.

¹⁴ The Parish records of Shaftesbury’s St. James Church on line: www.opcdorset.org/ShaftesburyFiles/St.James/ShaftStJMarrs-A.htm.

¹⁵ Wilsdon, January 16, 2012 to Larry King Information is taken from the parish record of Shaftesbury, St. James Church.

¹⁶ Wilsdon, December 16, 2006. The information is taken from the Shaftesbury Parish Register of St. James Church.

Susannah	buried in Shaftesbury, May 22, 1645 ¹⁷ christened in Shaftesbury, March 6, 1596 ¹⁸ died before June 1658 ¹⁹
Frances	christened in Shaftesbury, February 25, 1599 ²⁰ married a Mr. Haine. ²¹
Peter ²²	christened in Shaftesbury, November 9, 1600 ²³ married in Shaftesbury, April 2, 1642, Mary Dade ²⁴ buried in Shaftesbury, June 1, 1658 ²⁵
Thomas	christened, circa 1603 married circa 1626 died at Marlborough, Massachusetts, in March 1676 ²⁶

Of the six known children, it is interesting to note that while the marriage date of Grace is known, her birth date is missing from the Shaftesbury records. The date may be missing due to the custom to baptize the eldest child at the former home of the mother, and that the majority of marriages took place in the bride's hometown.²⁷ This would be a good indication that Peter King, Sr.'s wife may have come from out of the area and may carry the name of Grace, but the real question is with Thomas. No record has been found of his birth, marriage, or the birth of many of his children. It also must be remembered that in the early 1600s in England, records in many parishes were nonexistent or incomplete, or due to age have become unreadable, and yeomanry were "continually moving from parish to parish as opportunities for work or improved conditions of tenancy offered."²⁸

It appears that Anne's surname is Collens or Collins and may have some tie to a small parish of West Wittering a small coastal community in southwest Sussex, a short distance from the Hampshire Sussex border and ninety miles from Shaftesbury.²⁹ However, a search of the parish records could not corroborate this possibility.

¹⁷ The Parish records of Shaftesbury's St. James Church on line.

¹⁸ Wilsdon, January 16, 2012 to Larry King Information is taken from the parish record of Shaftesbury, St. James Church.

¹⁹ The date of Peter Kinge's will. Susannah was not mentioned.

²⁰ The Parish records of Shaftesbury's St. James Church on line.

²¹ Peter Kinge's will

²² Peter was a financially well off and a reluctant community leader in Shaftesbury. It is noted that at one point in 1651 he was elected mayor, but fined £10 for refusing to serve. He was again elected in 1655 and this time took the office (John Hutchins, *A History of the Ancient Town of Shaftesbury*, p. 110, found on Google Books). The value of ten pounds today would equal about \$1700. (See the website: Measuring Worth: <http://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/ppoweruk/>). Peter's son and grandson continued the family tradition and also served as mayor of Shaftesbury. Peter, Jr. in 1661 and 1666 for two year terms, and Joseph in 1684. Two other Peter Kings served in 1688, 1690, and 1703 (Hutchins, 110-112).

Another bit of information contained in Peter's will was that he owned a tenement in the neighboring community of Stower Provost called Horth(?), only five miles from Shaftesbury. (Email letter from Alexandra Saunders, researcher in England, April 30, 2012 to Larry King.) In his will he gives his interest in this property to his son, Joseph, but it is not known how or when Peter acquired it. He may have purchased it or received it from his father.

²³ Wilsdon, January 16, 2012 to Larry King Information is taken from the parish record of Shaftesbury, St. James Church.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ The Parish records of Shaftesbury's St. Peter's Church on line:

<http://www.opcdorset.org/ShaftesburyFiles/St.Peter/St.Peter.htm>

²⁶ The will of Thomas King is dated 12.1.1675.1676 [March 12, 1675/1676], and an inventory of his estate was made 24.1.1676 (March 24, 1675/6). A hand written transcribed copy of the will is found in a Middlesex County, Massachusetts Probate File #133334, Vol. 5, p. 23-28, Family History Library, 35 North West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, FHL Film #521,762. Ms. Elizabeth Bouvier, Head of Archives, MA Supreme Judicial Court, Boston, Massachusetts reported to me April 19, 2012, by email that "the original file for Thomas King has been missing for some time: possibly since the late 19th century when the First Series was organized."

²⁷ Charles Edward Banks, *Topographical Dictionary of English Emigrants to New England 1620-1650* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969), xxi

²⁸ Ibid. Tenancy refers to tenant farmers who leased land from a Manor, a larger property owner.

²⁹ William Richard Cutter, *Historic Homes and Places and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company 1908) Vol. 1 p.130. This reference suggests the possible surname of Anne is Collins and is taken from the will of Elizabeth Lee, March 22, 1660 and states "to Ann King, wife of Thomas King of New England of Westweltringe or Wesretringe (West Wittering?) Parish ten pounds," (See *New England Historical and Genealogical Society Journal*, Vol. 50, p.529). The will then identifies other family members by the name of "Collens." The Sudbury Anne King died eighteen years prior in 1642. In that time frame, it is quite possible that word would had been received in England of her death; but as exhibited in Thomas's will, he could not read or write, and unless a letter was written by one of Thomas's children, it is possible the Collins family may not have received notification.

Shaftesbury in the sixteenth and early seventeenth century was a declining market town of a few thousand people. It is located on a hilltop in the northeastern part of the Dorset county 750 feet above sea level making it one of the highest towns in England. Because of its strategic position, it had military importance in early Celtic and Saxton times, but later became a religious center when King Alfred created a Catholic abbey for 100 nuns in 888 A.D. The abbey soon became the wealthiest Benedictine nunnery in England. Adding to its importance, a hundred years later it became the burial place of the murdered English King Edward who became known as “St. Edward the Martyr.” As a result Shaftesbury became a prosperous destination for pilgrimages during the medieval period until the dissolution and confiscation of the abbey property under King Henry VIII’s English Reformation mandate of 1539.

Giving Shaftesbury even greater economic support, in the middle of the thirteenth century, it was also granted a charter for a weekly market, later increased to two markets which gave rise to its famous cobbled street, “Gold Hill,” on what became the main street of the town with the medieval St. Peter’s Church at the top of the hill and the wall of the Benedictine Abbey on the west side of the street. Over the years the majestic and romantic image of “Gold Hill” has been the object of many advertisements, films, books, and calendars. In early years Shaftesbury was also known as Shaston.

Being a rural community, Shaftesbury’s economy in the early 1600s was significantly influenced by agriculture, as the town was the major distribution point for much of the grain grown in the countryside. Town markets also sold fish and salt and other goods as well as ironware, candles, gloves, leather, and a lower grade cloth. Commercial interests of “Gold Hill” brought in outsiders for a profitable trade and became one of the most frequented of all markets in the region, all providing reason to support twenty-four licensed inns and alehouses.³⁰ While this commercial activity gave an outward appearance of prosperity it masked a grim and serious problem of poverty and unemployment. Still feeling the economic effects of the loss of the abbey a half dozen decades earlier, Shaftesbury was a poor town. Many lived in want and by begging,³¹ and in the early seventeenth century several almshouses were established for both men and women. How Thomas fit in to the economic structure of community is not known.

But, as Thomas was growing up he would experience the many political and religious conflicts that engulfed the English nation at this time. In the century before his birth, England had gone back and forth in the bloody struggle under Henry VIII, Mary, and then Elizabeth trying to decide whether to be a Catholic or a Protestant nation. But with the eventual rise of Protestantism and the Church of England the factions of leadership against traditional methods of worship rose up against the Episcopal Bishops wanting greater liberty in religious views. The Puritans felt that the Church of England was but a shadow of the Catholic worship service with its vestments and rituals, and the use of the *Book of Common Prayer* brought forth charges of “popery.” The Puritans wanted to purify the Church and move more from a hierarchal leadership to a congregational form of Church governance.

During Thomas’s early years, James I was monarch of England succeeding Elizabeth and for over twenty years he was able to keep a lid on the many religious and political conflicts, but at his death in 1625 and with the ascension of Charles I the simmering pot began to boil over. Charles and parliament became deadlocked in a power struggle over taxation issues and the “Divine Right of Kings.” In 1641-1642 as tension was running high, parliament declared that all adult men sign a Protestation swearing an oath to maintain and defend the “Reformed Protestant religion, expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England.” A person also swore allegiance to the King and Parliament. Those refusing to sign were declared unfit for service in Church or Commonwealth. Thomas, his

Another thought might be that this could be an additional mistaken identity with the Thomas King of Scituate. The Scituate Thomas King married as his third wife, Anne (surname unknown), after October 8, 1653, the death date of his second wife, Jane Young. According to the Scituate records Anne King was still alive as late as 1711 including a marriage in 1707 to Abraham Suttiff. (See Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England 1634-1645*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, 2005, Vol. IV, I-L, p.171-3.) However, to link the Scituate Ann to Elizabeth Lee is probably a bigger stretch than the claim that the Sudbury Anne’s family would have been notified of her death within an eighteen-year period. If she was a sister to Elizabeth Lee, the Anne King in Scituate would be getting married and close to a hundred years old.

Unless another Thomas and Anne King surfaces within this Massachusetts time frame, the Anne referred to is probably our Sudbury Anne. It should also be mentioned that there were several Collins (Collens) families that immigrated to the Boston area in the 1630s, but no link can be established between these families and Ann. In the Elizabeth Lee will only Ann is mentioned in “New England.” If other direct family members had also immigrated, there would be a strong possibility that some mention of them would have been made in Elizabeth’s will.

³⁰ Sally L. Joyce, editor, *Records of Early English Drama: Dorset, Cornwall* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press Incorporated, 1999), p. 23, Google Books.

³¹ Frederic William Weaver, editor, *Notes & Queries for Somerset and Dorset* (Sherborne: J.C. and A.T. Sawtell, 1913, Vol. 13), F.J. Pope, “Puritans at Shaftesbury in the Early Stuart Period,” p. 161, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, #942.3, B2m.

brother Peter, and several other members of the Kynge family all signed on February 28, 1642 at St. Peter's Church, in Shaftesbury.³²

These religious and political struggles opened the floodgates of immigration to the shores of the New World for people looking for a new life, new opportunities, and greater religious freedom. In New England it became known as the Great Migration with some 20,000 colonists arriving between 1630 and 1640,³³ primarily to Puritan dominated Massachusetts where over a score of new settlements began flourishing.

Following the Protestation, the political storm in England became acute with frightening civil war clouds forming. Shaftesbury was a divided town with perhaps a minority but active and influential group of people of Puritan persuasion,³⁴ and it could be argued that perhaps Puritan Thomas felt threatened or was strongly encouraged to leave. By 1642 immigration to the New World had slowed dramatically except for those who were more generally motivated by political events unfolding in the Old World. In addition, Anne was pregnant during the voyage and the urgent pressure to immigrate may have contributed to her premature death soon after arriving.

Unique to the Puritan migration was the family structure under which most settlers immigrated. They primarily migrated as a family unit or with kinfolk, rather than as isolated individuals, giving greater social stability and determination to their settlements. However, there are no known family ties to any other immigrant family that may link to the King or Collins family.

In order to withstand the rigors of travel and settlement, generally speaking most Puritan immigrants at this time were in their 20s or 30s or in some cases 40s. While seeking greater religious freedom for their style of worship, they gave little quarter to others who were deemed a threat to their society. Most notably were the expulsion of religious leaders such as Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson, and the brutal persecution of Quakers, Baptists, and members of other faiths who were deemed heretical.

The King family's emigration date and ship of passage has been lost in time, but from all indications the King family arrived in the summer or early fall of 1642. It could be argued that after arriving in Massachusetts, Thomas may have moved his family to Sudbury at the encouragement of Thomas Goodnow, also from Shaftesbury and who settled in Sudbury in 1638. The two Thomases may have been friends; although later in the settlement of Marlborough, they would become political adversaries.

It would also be interesting to know the financial means of Thomas. The cost of passage from England was no small matter and could range from £6 to £10 a person. For a family of eight, it might equate to £70 to £80, or a couple years wages for many people.³⁵ In current dollars it could have amounted close to \$16,000 to \$18,000.³⁶

To make the trip many people without means were at times supported by family members or religious congregations for the purpose of settling the New World, or to get away from religious persecution, or they simply became indentured servants to those with substantial resources who could pay their cost of travel. The fact that Thomas had the resources to purchase land in Sudbury soon after arriving is an indication that he may have been a small landowner or merchant of some type in England. There is also some evidence that his brother Peter was a freeholder (land owner) and a wealthy merchant in addition to being a respected town mayor in Shaftesbury.³⁷ To what extent this economic and social success may have transferred to Thomas is unknown. Thomas may well have earned his own way or he may have received assistance from Peter who was known as a charitable man.³⁸

The sea voyage itself must have been an ordeal beyond description for any individual, but it was only accentuated for parents with small and energetic children. Generally fifteen to twenty families plus a few single men were crowded together in only a few square feet of space below deck with limited chance to experience the fresh air of the open sea or daylight above. The passenger ships of the day were no more than converted cargo vessels, about

³² Wilsdon, March 28, 2012 to Larry King, Information taken from the Dorset Protestation Returns 1641-1642, Dorset History Centre, Dorchester, England. This is another indication that Thomas could not have immigrated to Massachusetts in 1638.

³³ See "Puritan Migration to New England (1620-1640)," Wikipedia Encyclopedia.

³⁴ One historian, F.J. Pope, records that by 1617 a group of prominent citizens arose within the Puritan faith and made quite a stir, then things died down until 1634 when there was a resurgence (See "Puritans at Shaftesbury in the Early Stuart Period."); and an article on "Shaftesbury" in Wikipedia states "the town was broadly Parliamentary in the Civil War, but was in Royalist hands." Another author, Sally Joyce, argues that "An active Puritan faction ... seems not to have prevailed." Another writer identified Shaftesbury as the home of a disproportionate number of royalist pensioners after the Civil War (See *Records of Early English Drama: Dorset, Cornwall*, p. 23). Shaftesbury also had a band of vigilantes known as the "Clubmen" who during the war tried unsuccessfully to protect their town against the depredations and excesses by the armies on both sides.

³⁵ Harold Underwood Faulkner, *American Economic History*, (New York: Harper & Brother, 1960), 72

³⁶ Based on the Retail Price Index See <http://www.measuringworth.com>.

³⁷ Saunders to Larry King, May 9, 2012.

³⁸ The will of Peter King, Peter not only cared for his immediate family, but he gave generously to his siblings, grandchildren, his minister, and the poor of his community.

100 feet long and 26 feet wide, weighing perhaps 200 to 300 tons. All together perhaps as many as one hundred people, plus captain and crew, would occupy the ship for the two difficult months of travel.

There were no real sanitation facilities on board except for small buckets, and fresh water was too scarce for washing. They also had to share their limited space with hogs, sheep, and goats; and most ships were beset with rats and reeked of bilge water, spoiled food, human and animal waste, and most anything else on board. Seasickness plagued the travelers as they were tossed back and forth to the degree that prevailing weather conditions imposed. In stormy weather, the little ship and its passengers must have taken a frightful beating.

Food was limited to unappetizing hard biscuits (hardtack), cheese, and perhaps some salted beef or fish. Each family was allowed a few meager household and personal possessions including tools, a flax spinning wheel, ammunition and firearms, and perhaps a chest with blankets and linens. Furniture had to be left behind and would have to be fabricated upon arrival in their new settlement. But the magnetic dream of the New World kept the people motivated, and it must have been an immense relief when the call rang out, "land ahoy."

By immigrating in 1642, Thomas would have been close to forty years old and Anne would have been in her early to middle thirties. She would also have been pregnant with Thomas, Jr., during the voyage, adding to her discomfort.

After arriving, Thomas King purchased a house and seven acres of upland property on the east side of the Sudbury River from Thomas Noyes.³⁹ In addition, he purchased eight acres of meadow on the west side of the river. In 1649 Sudbury received a two-mile extension to the west of the township; in January 1658 this land was divided among the town's citizens in the form of additional grants. Thomas received 130 acres in the far southwest corner adjacent to the cow pens.⁴⁰ Perhaps it was not the most favorable spot, but the lots were usually determined by lottery.

The last child and namesake of Thomas was born December 4, 1642.⁴¹ However, the birth was too much for Anne and she passed away on Christmas Eve three weeks later.⁴² She would only have been about thirty-seven years of age. Unfortunately, young Thomas, Jr. was also not able to survive. He died ten days later on January 3.⁴³ This left Thomas with six children to raise, ranging in age from five to fifteen years. No doubt the older children shared in the responsibility of caring for the home and younger children.

In spite of this personal setback, Thomas continued to be active in his community. He took the Freeman's Oath on July 9, 1645, and by February 1649 he was being referred to as "Goodman Kinge."⁴⁴ The Freeman's Oath bound an individual to the government and laws of the Plantation of Sudbury, "and further that I will not plot or practice any evil against it nor consult with any that shall soe doe, but will timely discover the same to lawful Authority now here established for the suppressinge of the same soe help me God and the Lord Jesus Christ."⁴⁵ Oaths were common in that day and this was the second major oath subscribed by Thomas.

In November 1643 he was authorized by the town, together with four individuals, "to view the river at Thomas Kinges and to agree with workmen to build a cart bridge over the river accordinge as they shall see inst. occasion."⁴⁶ Then in February 1649 he was given three acres of meadow "for damage done in the meadow at the bridge which he bought."⁴⁷

On May 22, 1649, Thomas was one of two surveyors of highways appointed for a year by the town.⁴⁸ They were given the authority to call men to work. Besides surveying the land for lots and roads, it appears that town surveyors were also responsible for helping to maintain the public fences.

By March 1653, Thomas's community leadership continued to develop as he was elected as a town selectman. He was elected in March 1653, 1655, and 1661.⁴⁹

³⁹ Sudbury Town Document #169, Sudbury, Massachusetts Archives website, <http://www.town.sudbury.ma.us/archives/>. No month or day is given in the record.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, #313.

⁴¹ *Vital Records of Sudbury, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, at the charge of the Eddy Town-Record Fund, 1903), 82

⁴² *Ibid.*, 314.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, #238.

⁴⁵ Sudbury Town Document #15, Sudbury, Massachusetts Archives website, <http://www.town.sudbury.ma.us/archives/>.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, #197.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, #238.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, #241.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, #278, #304, #320.

Under the selectman's tutelage nearly every aspect of community life was governed. For example appointments were made to see that the children and servants were employed in work and in the ways of God according to the order of the General Court. And, by order of their governing council every swine that "shall be found within the meadows without a ringe or a yoake . . . shall forfeit for every hogge found twelve pence"⁵⁰

For thirteen years, Thomas raised his family and participated in community life and affairs as a single parent. This was quite unusual since marriage at this time was more of an economic unit than a social or romantic union. However, in 1655 he married Bridget Loker (Davis) on December 26th,⁵¹ widow of Robert Davis, who had been killed by the Indians the previous July.⁵² Bridget, in the early 1640s, had immigrated from Bures, Essex, England with her widowed mother, Elizabeth, and two brothers: Henrie and John.⁵³ It appears that all four were single at the time and possibly paid their passage from their inheritance from Bridget's father, Henrie, who had passed away in 1631.⁵⁴ Bridget married Robert Davis in circa 1645, and they had one daughter, Sarah,⁵⁵ who was nine years old when Bridget and Thomas married. Robert had immigrated in 1638 on the ship "Confidence" as a servant of Peter Noyes. His marriage to Bridget may have been held up until he had served his indenture, usually seven years, to repay the cost of immigration.

As family and community life continued to develop in this small and fragile community, the friendship between the Rice and King families moved to a new level as marriages began to occur within the two families, not once but three times between three Rice sons and three King daughters. The first was Thomas and Mary in circa 1651,⁵⁶ followed by Samuel and Elizabeth on November 8, 1655,⁵⁷ and Joseph and Mercy on May 4, 1658.⁵⁸ Edmund and Thomas began sharing children as well as grandchildren. This social and marital interchange between families would provide an interesting case study in colonial New England. Three brothers and three sisters getting together is quite unusual and demonstrates the closeness of the King and Rice families.

In addition to the above, there is some thought that Thomas's son, Peter, married a daughter of Edmund, by the name of Sarah. But there is no evidence of a Rice daughter by that name; and Peter's wife, Sarah, has been an enigma, puzzling researches for years.⁵⁹

Later as several Sudbury settlers saw fresh opportunities in forming a new community, Thomas and Edmund were two of thirteen freemen who petitioned the General Court for another plantation eight miles further west. This

⁵⁰ Ibid., #288.

⁵¹ *Vital Records of Sudbury, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, at the charge of the Eddy Town-Record Fund, 1903), 228

⁵² Ibid., 302.

⁵³ NEHGR, July 1909, Vol. 63, p. 280.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ *Vital Records of Sudbury, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, at the charge of the Eddy Town-Record Fund, 1903), 40

⁵⁶ Edmund Rice (1638) Association website, <http://www.edmund-rice.org/>.

⁵⁷ *Vital Records of Sudbury, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, at the charge of the Eddy Town-Record Fund, 1903), 227 and 260

⁵⁸ Ibid., 227 and 259.

⁵⁹ The only reference to the identity of Sarah is in Peter's will where he states on February 7, 1697(8) to "my dearly beloved wife Sarah King." There is no reference to a person in the vital records, marriage or death, of Sudbury that can be tied to a Sarah King. A further search of the records of the surrounding communities including Watertown, Cambridge, and Concord reveal no reference to a marriage of Peter King and Sarah.

The earliest record identifying Sarah as a daughter of Edmund appears in 1903 in a gathering in Worcester, Massachusetts sponsored by the Worcester Society of Antiquity to honor the memory of Major Jonas Rice, the first permanent settler of Worcester. Indirectly, this gathering also honored Edmund Rice and his decedents, and in the record of the proceedings a Judge Estey of Framingham, Massachusetts speaks of "Sarah Rice who married Peter King, this Sarah being a newly discovered name in the list of Edmund Rice's Children." (*Proceedings of the Worcester Society of Antiquity*, Vol. 19, p. 325)

Other credible publications have followed this lead, although it is difficult to find who is leading who, and continues to raise the possibility of Sarah's parentage. In *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, it identifies the marriage of Peter and "Sarah (Rice?)" in Sudbury. (Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1985, 439.) This same statement with a question mark is given in *Legislators of Massachusetts General Court*. (John Schulz, *Legislators of Massachusetts General Court*, (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1997, 268.)

Others have argued that the cryptic statement in Samuel's will implies that Sarah was a sister to Samuel. "To my son Samuel Rice, whom I have given to brother (Peter) and sister (Sarah) King for their own..."

Interestingly enough, in the book, *A Genealogical Register of Edmund Rice Descendants*, compiled by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc., it identifies Sarah as Sarah (Rice). (Ray Lowther Ellis, Managing Editor, *A Genealogical Register of Edmund Rice Descendants or The continuation of the descendants found in A.H. Ward's 'Rice Family' of 1858 and in the 1967 'Supplement' to that book*, (The Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc., 1970), p. 8.) Regardless of this statement in the *Genealogical Register*, the Edmund Rice Association does not recognize Sarah as part of the Edmund Rice family.

was approved on May 14, 1656 and the town of Marlborough was incorporated in 1660 with both Thomas and Edmund playing a prominent role, including being elected to five successive terms as town selectmen.

Thomas's other two daughters, Anne and Sarah, also married, settled, and died in Marlborough. Anne married William Kerley, Jr. at Sudbury October 6, 1646,⁶⁰ and Sarah married Nathaniel Joslin in 1656.⁶¹ Thomas' adopted daughter, Sarah, married John Brigham in circa 1665.

Following Edmund Rice's death in May 1663,⁶² a hidden but hostile undercurrent within the community began to erupt into the open. Whether the passing of Edmund had anything to do with the surfacing of this antagonism is hard to tell; but after their father's death, Edward, Thomas (Mary King), Samuel (Elizabeth King), and Joseph (Mercy King) Rice all moved to Marlborough. Many people had received an allotment of land and there was considerable trouble over paying a 20 shilling assessment.⁶³ No doubt as selectmen, both Edmund Rice and Thomas King had been responsible for the eviction of some people from their land, and there were differing opinions about how and to what degree the regulations should be administered. Among strong-minded people there is always some conflict and Edmund, Thomas, and their associates were no weaklings.

As the town became more organized, divisions and difficulties soon arose and multiplied within the community. Many town and church records have been lost with time that prevents a specific determination as to "the causes of this alienation, or to decide who were in fault."⁶⁴ But, the Kings and the Rices were united in the events that unfolded.

Included in this dissension was Thomas Rice, Edmund's son. Apparently Thomas had refused to pay his assessment and legal action was started against him by the town of Marlborough in the county court at Cambridge. The court ruled in favor of the city, and Thomas was directed to pay £3 for the delinquent claim. The court further advised all the other citizens of Marlborough in the same predicament to pay their assessments and "that they all Joynly concurre in such waies as might lead to the furtherance of peace among themselves."

Several in the community were not able to follow the court's advice, and apparently there was still a dispute over how the city was to compensate for property improvements in the event of foreclosure. A petition was made to the General Court in Boston who sent out a committee to inquire into the facts of the case. The committee recommended in 1663 that, in all such cases, the city should compensate property owners for all improvements on forfeited estates.⁶⁵

Rather than putting the matter to rest, another petition was filed with the General Court "to appoint a committee, with full power to hear and settle all their difficulties. They declared that their differences are such as to render them incapable of carrying on their affairs."⁶⁶ Apparently, the disputes involved both church and state matters as the petitioners admitted that their troubles have "arisen partly from our own corruption, and the temptations of Satan, hindering their own good feelings in matters both civil and ecclesiastical, which have been and are very uncomfortable to them and their friends."⁶⁷

⁶⁰ *Vital Records of Sudbury, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, at the charge of the Eddy Town-Record Fund, 1903), 227

⁶¹ George Oscar King (1842-1917), "A Genealogy of the Family of Rice and King alias Rice, Descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice and Thomas King of Sudbury and later of Marlborough, Massachusetts, and from which the family of King alias Rice descend" (Corry, Pennsylvania: unpublished), 1. Much of the genealogical information on the King family for the next several generations is taken from this manuscript. Mr. King's passion for many years in the later part of the nineteenth and early twentieth century was researching the King family. A grandson, Norman Thomas King Newton, wrote in 1976 that "Oscar King's consequent prolific King-Rice notes ... were the result of wide correspondence, many interviews, and intensive personal exploration His notes have aided many inquirers, but were never published." (NEHGR, Vol. 130, 302-4.) A transcribed copy of King's work is in my possession and is known to many family members.

⁶² There is some question as to Edmund's death year and place of death. All ERA records give the date as May 3, 1663 at Sudbury, but the Marlborough Colonial Records, p. 27, identify "Edmond Rice" as being elected a selectman "March 6, 1663/4." This would put Edmund's election ten months after his death. In support of the 1663 year, the inventory of his estate was taken May 15, 1663. The question of place has to do with the fact he was living in Marlborough not Sudbury at the time of his death. The source of Edmund's death is Andrew Henshaw Ward's book, *The Rice Family*. The problem may be in the transcription of the Marlborough Colonial Records. (See Edmund Rice Website at <http://www.edmund-rice.org/> and <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~historyofmarlborough/record27to30.htm#COLONIAL>).

⁶³ Charles Hudson, *History of the Town of Marlborough, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, From its First Settlement in 1657 to 1861* (Boston: Press of T.R. Marvin & Son, 1862), 33

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 45.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 46

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

This latest petition apparently was led by a group of seventeen prominent families such as the Wards, Ruddocks, and Goodnows against a coalition of eighteen led by the Kings and Rices who opposed the petition.⁶⁸ The contest this time had something to do with the “Town Book” and the recordings contained therein. Apparently the Kings and Rices wanted to make some changes that were opposed by the first group. There was also the charge that the Kings and Rices were “trying to root out the minister.”⁶⁹

The nature of the ecclesiastical conflict is unknown, only that the minister, a Mr. Brimsmead, was disheartened by the distracted state of affairs in his parish. He left for a couple of years and settled in Plymouth; but returned in October 1666. Evidently Mr. Brimsmead, though well respected, may have been part of the problem as his Puritan orthodoxy may have been somewhat extreme even for his parishioners. He never married, and it is reported that he uniformly refused to baptize children who were so “irreverent” as to be born on the Sabbath. This position was not unique among the Puritan clergy.⁷⁰

When Mr. Brimsmead left, the King/Rice coalition petitioned the Magistrates for a church to be organized in Marlborough. While Mr. Brimsmead had lived in the community and had a house provided at community expense, no formal church had been organized. The petition set forth:

... that their distance from the church at Sudbury, of which they were members, rendered it inconvenient to go there to enjoy church privileges; that there were several aged sisters residing in Marlborough, who were almost entirely deprived of the privileges of communion; and that there were others in town who would gladly unite with the church, if one were established in the place.⁷¹

In answer to this request and upon the return of Mr. Brimsmead, the church was formed on October 3, 1666, and Mr. Brimsmead was ordained as pastor.⁷²

The committee’s report back to the General Court dragged out for another seven and a half years until May 27, 1674. The committee reported that, after much deliberation,

. . . the result of all which is now mostly contained in the New Town Book, which we have caused to be finished, wherein not only their fundamental orders and grants are recorded, but also the particular stating and bounding of all those lands that are already laid out to the several inhabitants there. This New Town Book, as it now stands under the hands of Mr. John Green, we have by our order publicly approved, enstamping upon it what authority is with us to convey, humbly representing to this honored Court.⁷³

Again one would have to wonder if this wouldn’t put matters to rest and end all strife; but as soon as the report was filed by the commission, one writer reported that “Thomas King, who appears to have been fond of the bitter waters of strife, together with other inhabitants of the town, preferred another petition, reflecting upon the Committee, and demanding another hearing.”⁷⁴ The “other inhabitants” were probably the Rices.

The Court passed on the petition May 12, 1675; but due to the coming Indian troubles, (King Philip’s War) findings were delayed for another four and a half years. The fact that the Court again passed on the petition is an indication there may have been merit in the arguments of the Kings and Rices, but without all the records it is difficult to assess both sides of the argument.

At seventy-three years of age, Thomas’s health began failing; and on March 12, 1676 he made out his will.

It having pleased God to cast me, Thomas King, of Marlboro, upon the bed of sickness and being weak, yet in perfect understanding, considering that God and his providence and dispensation towards me at this time, calls for me to set my house in order, and to dispose of the estate that God in his mercy hath given me, to my beloved wife, children and relatives.⁷⁵

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid., 51.

⁷¹ Ibid., 49.

⁷² Ibid., 50.

⁷³ Ibid., 47.

⁷⁴ Ibid., 48.

⁷⁵ The date of Thomas’s will is 12.1.1675.1676 [March 12, 1676], and an inventory of his estate was made 24.1.1676 (March 24, 1675/76). Under the Julian calendar, month one is March with March 25th the first day of the New Year and the twelfth month would be February. Under the Gregorian calendar, between January 1st and March 25th the years would be marked by a “double date” or year.

Thomas passed away in Marlborough within a few days after making his will.⁷⁶ His place of burial is unknown. Even though he died in Marlborough, it is possible he was interred in Sudbury next to Anne. Bridget lived another nine years before passing away March 11, 1685 in Marlborough.⁷⁷

The death of Thomas came at a distressing time in Marlborough. A year earlier the King Philip Indian War broke out and became one of the most devastating in destroyed lives and property of all the Indian wars in the country. With Marlborough on the western frontier an attack seemed imminent. Only a few days after Thomas's death, on March 26, 1676, when the people were attending church the cry went out that "the Indians are upon us." The town of about 225 people⁷⁸ had prepared for a possible assault and nine out of about thirty-five homes were identified as garrison homes with some type of stockade. While the people could protect themselves, they could not protect their property. Thirteen houses and eleven barns were burned, fences were torn down, fruit trees were hacked and peeled, and the cattle were killed.⁷⁹ After the attack, many people temporarily went to Watertown, Concord, and other towns until the war's ending. For Bridget all of these events must have been most painful. There is no record to know if the King home was one of those destroyed or to what extent any animals may have been killed.

From Thomas's will it is hard to determine the complete lifestyle of the King family. With assets of £383, and with a home and seventy acres of land in Marlborough listed at £200, he must have had a fairly comfortable living, although his list of assets does not include items that would indicate an upscale lifestyle or trappings of any degree of affluence compared to Edmund Rice. Outside of his real estate, he had four head of oxen, two horses, two mares, two saddles, pigs, three cows and household goods worth £12. It must be remembered that an inventory of assets at death is not always a complete record of a person's estate. If death is anticipated or as a person gets older they could start giving away assets before death.

Another key to Thomas's activities are the butchering tools he gave to his son Peter. Thomas must have spent part of his time as a meat cutter. Also, Thomas appears to have had some type of store in or connected to his home. Most estate inventories do not list commodity items to the extent listed for Thomas. His inventory lists a large stack of hay in the barn, 12 lbs. of flax, four barrels of beef, 5 lbs. of yarn, twenty bushels of Indian corn, seven bushels of wheat, six bushels of rye, four bushels of barley, and bacon. For his protection, he owned a fowling piece, musket, and sword.

In his will, Thomas provided for his wife, Bridget, his son Peter, and three living daughters: Anna, Mary, and Sarah. An interesting note is that he also provided for the oldest living sons (his grandsons) of Mary (Thomas, age 21), of Elizabeth (Joshua, age 14), and of Mercy (Josiah, age 13), but left out the oldest son of Sarah (Nathaniel), who was about twelve years old. Perhaps Thomas did not consider him old enough to receive a distribution. No other grandchildren are mentioned.

Without personally meeting Thomas it is difficult to fully describe him. But in any event he was a determined and religious person full of Puritan faith and devotion. While a fairly bright individual he was without formal education and in his will he signed his name with his mark. In today's language, he would be considered street wise and street smart with many leadership qualities. He aspired for a better life, more than he could ever have been experience in England; and he lived a full and eventful life carving out a home in the wilderness of early colonial Massachusetts. He raised an honorable and enduring family, including a dozen critical years as a single parent. He was a right-minded and noble individual who helped establish a proud legacy for thousands of King/Rice descendants in America.

⁷⁶ Ibid. An argument could be made that Thomas passed away the following year. The date of his transcribed will is March 12, 1675/1676, but an addendum to his will is dated March 15, 1676 and the inventory of his estate is March 24, 1676. In the last two items there is no "1675" year given which could give the appearance that the addendum and inventory were not prepared until the following year. But the support for the assumption that the addendum and inventory were made in March 1675/1676 comes from the inventory itself. Thomas has "4 oxen, 3 cows, 2 mares, 2 horses, and house and lands in Marlboro." The problem is that much of this property could have been destroyed during the coming Indian attack. It is doubtful Thomas would have had all of this property to give away if the inventory had been made a year later after the assault. In addition, it would have been a matter of coincidence for Thomas' death and the inventory of his estate to have occurred exactly a year later.

⁷⁷ *Vital Records of Sudbury, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, at the charge of the Eddy Town-Record Fund, 1903), 375

⁷⁸ Marlborough, Massachusetts website hosted by rootsweb: "A Little History – Chronological," 13 see <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~historyofmarlborough/>.

⁷⁹ Hudson, *History of the Town of Marlborough*, 73.