

JOHN COOK

(1656 - July 1737)

Son of John Cook and Mary Borden Father of Thomas Cook GGG Grandfather of Henry Freeman Cook

(Henry Freeman, William, Abial, Job, Thomas, **John**, John, Thomas, Thomas)

(The following was taken from the book *Thomas Cooke of Rhode Island*,
Compiled and published by Jane Fletcher Fiske, Boxford, Massachusetts, 1987,
Volume One, pages 63-64.)

17. **JOHN COOK**, son of John Cook [3] and his wife Mary Borden, was born probably in 1656 at Portsmouth, R.I., and died ca. July 1737 at Tiverton. He married about 1680, **RUTH SHAW**, who was born 10 October 1660 and died after 1737, daughter of Anthony and Alice (Stonard) Shaw. (See Austin p. 174).

He was known as John Cook of Puncatest, distinguishing him from his cousin John Cook [9] who lived in north Tiverton. A Town Council record of 25 March 1709/10 mentions a son of Capt. John Cook, and then "John Cook son of Whitehead," obviously referring to John of Puncatest. An early record in the Minutes of the Pocasset Proprietors refers to John [9] as "Black" (see above), which suggests that one cousin was light, the other dark. This was mentioned by Albion C. Cook in a talk given to the Fall River Historical Society on 27 Jan. 1931, printed in the Fall River Herald News. It is possible, however, that John [17] was not really light, but had a notable head of hair which had turned white by that time.

John Cook was one of the original inhabitants of Tiverton when it became a town in 1692; court records quoted below indicate that he lived on Puncatest Neck as early as 1680. In 1691 he inherited from his father 150 acres at Puncatest and 4 acres of saltmarsh at Sapowet. On 4 April 1692 he bought 33 acres from Edward Gray of Tiverton (Bristol Co. Deeds 5:101).

On 15 August 1700 he sold to Thomas Waite of Tiverton two tracts of land, one about 10 acres in the 12th lot, on the Little Compton line. Sarah Richmond and Grace Church witnessed this deed (ibid., 4:76).

He served several times on juries and as surveyor of highways for the town of Tiverton. In 1714 he was chosen, with Edward Briggs, to "see to the true observance of the law relating to swine" (Tiverton TC [town council] Records).

John Cook of Puncatest evidently transferred his real estate to his sons sometime before 1727, when his son John Jr. sold to his brother Thomas certain lands laying on Puncatest Neck which he had received from his father (Bristol Co. Deeds 19:164).

A bitter dispute with the Almy family over land began during the lifetime of this John Cook. Court records give a picture of some of the events. At September court 1735 a deposition by Jonathan Record was entered (Court Files, Suffolk, 40252), who stated that he had been

at the house of Isaac Waldron in Bristol in July court time laste past in company

with John Cook senr of Tiverton and others ... I observed the sd John Cook to be somewhat uneasy in his mind ... at he comes to me, lays his hand upon my shoulder & tells me he was like to be wronged by William Almy & then fell into discourse concerning the laying out of the Lands in Puncatest Neck then coming nearer to the matter in controversie saying that his Lott was formerly Col. Churches and Coll. Church lett my father have it and my father lett me have it and then I had a mind to fence it but some of the Bounds was lost but I made my Fence as Right as I could & have enjoyed it five and fifty years.

The boundary concerned was between the 9th and 10th lots on Puncatest Neck. Almy owned the 9th, Cook the 10th. Litigation was continued by John Cook Jr. of Tiverton, cordwinder, son of John Cook of said Tiverton, yeoman (ibid., 39691). The will of John Cook Sr. disposed of no real estate (Bristol Co. Probate file, not numbered).

John Cook of tiverton, in the County of Bristol, Province of the Massachusetts Bay, yeoman, in his will dated 23 January 1736/37 and proved 11 August 1737, witnessed by Peleg Shearman, Richard Sisson and Giles Slocu, stated that he was 'now but weak in body.' He provided as follows:

... to Ruth Cook my well beloved wife my Negro woman called Philis ... also the sum of Forty Pounds a year in Curant Money or Lawful Bills of Publick Credit of New England, ten pounds (to be paid by each of his four daughters) during (her) Natural life ... to my son John Cook five Shillings in Silver Money ... to my son Thomas Cook five Shillings in Silver Money ... to my daughter Mary Howland one hundred Pounds in Lawful Bills of Publick Credit of New England ... to my daughter Deborah Howland one hundred Pounds ... all the rest of my moveable Estate both quick and dead that is not herein given, I give to my four daughters, namely Ruth ffish, Mary Howland, Deborah Howland and Ann Trip to be equally divided between them ... I give to Ruth Cook my well beloved Wife one good feather bed and furniture thereto belonging ...

I do Constitute Nominated and appoint my four Trusty and Loving Sons In Law Preserved Fish, John Howland, James Howland and James Tripp to be whole and sole Executors Equally to see this my last Will and Testament Performed according to the true Intent and Meaning thereof...

Children (all probably born Tiverton; only John's birth recorded):

- +49 i **RUTH**, b. ca. 1982; m. Preserved Fish.
- +50 ii **JOHN**, b. 1 Nov. 1685; m. Alice Southworth.
- +51 iii **THOMAS**, b. ca. 1689; m. (1) Lydia Taylor; m. (2) Susanna [Wilcox) Cornell.
- +52 iv **MARY**, B. CA. 1691; M. John Howland.
- +53 v **DEBORAH**, b. ca. 1693; m. James Howland.
- +54 vi **ANN/ANNA**, b. 14 April 1695 or 1697; m. James Tripp

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(The following is taken from the book *Little Compton Families*, Published by the Little Compton Historical Society from records compiled by Benjamin Franklin Wilbour, "The Cook Family" Salt Lake Family History Library call # 974.56/L2 D3w, 1985, p 206.)

JOHN COOK, born in 1656. Residence: Portsmouth and Tiverton.
He married **RUTH SHAW**, daughter of Anthony and Alice (Stonard) Shaw.
His will proved 7 Aug. 1737 mentions wife Ruth, sons John and Tomas Shaw, daughters Deborah Howland and Mary Howland, Ruth Fish and Ann Tripp.

Children:

JOHN, b. 5 Nov. 1685.

THOMAS.

DEBORAH, m. 25 July 1717 James Howland.

MARY, m. 2 aug. 1712 in Dartmouth, Mass. John Howland.

RUTH, m. 30 May 1690 in Portsmouth Preserved Fish.

ANN, m. 13 Mar 1719 in Tiverton James Tripp.

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