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Tavern Keeper, Aquaneck, R.I., 1637

William Baulstone was born in London 1600/01 and married there Elizabeth ( - ) before coming to America. He died at Portsmouth, R.I., 14 March 1679, ae 79. He wife died there 14 April 1683, ae 86.

William and Elizabeth ( - ) Baulstone were in Rhode Island by 6 June 1637 when he was licensed to "keep a house of entertainment and to sell such claret and white wine as is sent for." On 2 November 1637 he was disenfranchised, fined £ 20 and discharged from bearing any public office, for setting his hand to a "seditious libel called a remonstrance or petition." This petition had been signed by him and others in the previous March, they affirming that Mr. Wheelwright was innocent and that the Court had condemned the truth of Christ.

On 2 May 1638 Baulstone was fined 20 shillings for selling beer at 2 pence a quart. The history of Aquaneck relates that on 20 May 1638, "an Inn, brewery, and general grocery to sell wines and strong waters and such necessary provisions as may be useful", was established. William Baulstone was to be in charge. This was probably the first established tavern in the Rhode Island colony.

Despite his troubles with the law, William Baulstone was made Treasurer of both Portsmouth and Newport, by 1640-1641, and he and his wife lived to be quite elderly.

- Grahame Thomas Smallwood, Jr.  
71-03

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