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WILLIAM CLARKE

-1647

The Ship's Tavern, Salem, Mass.

William Clarke, possibly born in Yarmouth, England; died in Salem in the summer of 1647.¹ He married first, probably Elizabeth Quick about 1608 in England; married second, Katharine (-) who survived him.

William Clarke was one of the first to plant at Agawam (Ipswich) in 1633 on April 1st. He removed to Salem in 1637 and was a vintner, living between Lynn and Ipswich. The Massachusetts General Court granted him permission to entertain passengers and cattle on June 2nd, 1641.² In 1645 he was proprietor of "The Ship's Tavern" in Salem where he was frequently mentioned in the Town Records - a property owner, a man of means and an officer in the town's militia.³

According to the inventory of his estate, Clarke owned a 200 acre farm near Cedar Pond, two dwelling houses and was part owner of two barks and a shallop. His possessions were somewhat richer than other inventories have shown, and included six silver spoons and two small pieces of plate; pewter pieces which were kept in the kitchen, such as 20 platters, two great platters and ten little ones, one great pewter pot, one flagon, pints and quarts, beer bups, wine cups, candlesticks, chamber pots, lamps and other pieces of pewterware. The household was also supplied with 'china dishes'. Also listed was a sempiternum (everlasting or perpetual cubbard cloth with silk fringe) and two cubbard cushions one of damask and the other of needlework.

The business and commercial items of the inventory were released by the Court to Clarke's widow on the date of the inventory as Mrs. Clarke, of Salem, was licensed to keep the ordinary and required to provide a "fit man yt is godlie to manage the business Katharine Clarke, widow, married John Gedney, Sr., as his second wife, and from then on the ownership of "The Ship's Tavern" was

in the Gedney family.

- by Mary Louise Wallenhorst Johnson
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REFERENCES

- 1 Winthrop's Journal
- 2 Pope's Early Settlers of Massachusetts
- 3 William Clarke by McTeer and Warner, in The American
Genealogist, April 1963

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