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Ordinary Keeper, Southampton, Long Island, New York - 1655/6 -

John Cooper arrived on the Hopewell, aged 41 years, from Olney, County Bucks, England, with his wife Wilbroe ( - ) and children Mary 13, John 10, Thomas 7, Martha 5. Born about 1594, by deduction, John died in Southampton, Long Island, New York leaving a will dated 6 May 1662, about 78 years of age.

John Cooper was first of Lynn, MA in 1635, was made a freeman at Boston 6 December 1636. He was one of the elders of the church when it was organized at Lynn where in 1638 he owned 200 acres of land. He was one of the 20 heads of families who formed the association for the settlement of Southampton in 1639.

In 1651 Richard Mills, the schoolmaster and Town Clerk, became the first keeper of the ordinary in his own house, enlarged for the purpose by the addition of the old meeting house. A year later he sold that property to John Cooper and moved to Middlebury, NY. Between 1651 and 1654 Thomas Goldsmith was licensed to keep the ordinary by the town, but the profit was too small for him and he gave up the job. John Cooper, still in possession of Richard Mills' former property, was appointed in Goldsmith's place, "his rituals and lodging for strangers only except it be for town dwellers upon court day and training day."

In addition to keeping the ordinary, which was at all times under the watchful eye of the town fathers, John Cooper had the only town license to erect stages for salting and drying fish. He had privileges concerning whales washed up on the beach, and with his son Thomas he carried on an extensive business exporting horses to Barbadoes.

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#80-25

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