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Ordinary Keeper, Wenham, Mass., 1643-1654

William Fiske was born in County Suffolk, England, c. 1613; died in Wenham, Mass., 1654. He married in 1643, at Salem, Mass., Bridgett Musket (Matchet), who was born in Pelham, County Norfolk, England.

William Fiske, brother of Rev. John Fiske, arrived in Salem in 1637. He had a grant of land that year, was a member of the Salem church on 2 July 1641, became a freeman 18 May 1642 and constable on 26 (12) 1643. Shortly afterward he moved to Wenham, where he took an active part in the town's affairs. He was elected the first Town Clerk. Among other public offices he held were representative to the General Court of the Commonwealth, 1647-1652, and clerk of the market, 1649. He served on various juries. Last, but not least, he was a tavernkeeper.

Actually, the tavernkeeper part was one of Fiske's first activities in Wenham, for it was in 1643 that he received liberty from the General Court to keep an ordinary. The court licensed him to sell wine 13 November 1644 and 1646 saw his right "to sell wine and strong water." Evidently he continued as a tavernkeeper until his death, when these privileges were transferred to Phineas Fisk.

-Douglas Chandler Wright
74-18

REFERENCES

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