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Ordinary Keeper, Freetowne, Massachusetts 1684

John Hathaway, Jr. was born in Taunton, Massachusetts 16 August 1650; died June 1730 Freetowne, Massachusetts. He married in 1668 Hannah (Anna) Burt, daughter of James Burt of Taunton. She died after 28 June 1705. He married 2) Christian (-), probably Maxfield.

John Hathaway, Jr. was the grandson of Nicholas¹ who emigrated to Braintree from Rauradeen, Gloucestershire, England in the 1630's with his son John who later lived in Berkeley and Taunton.¹

In 1671 in consideration of £ 52 John² purchased of Nathaniel Morton the 18th lot in Freetowne and thereupon installed his oldest son, John³ Jr. who later became one of the foremost citizens of that community. Lot 18 was 100 rods by four miles and was located about a mile below Assonet Village on Fall River Road.

John Jr. was in military service during King Philip's War 1675-76.³ He became a Freeman 6 June 1682 and was appointed to the grand inquest (jury) 3 June 1684. In 1701 he was assessor of Freetowne, and also its constable. He served as a selectman for twelve years.⁴

Court Orders of 1 November 1684 contained this entry by which John Hathaway, Jr. became the first licensed tavernkeeper in Freetowne:

This Court graunts liberty to John Hathaway, Juni^r to keep an ordinary att Freetowne, and to be provided with such necessities as are requisite for that purpose, as lodging and victualles for men, and provender for horses; and that hee keep good orders in his house with those that lodge ther or shall stay ther in their jornings that hee incurr not just blame by his negligence.⁵

John also owned two mills on the pond, a grist mill and a sawmill; he was the original owner of an iron works and a shipyard. He evidently owned considerable other land for his will refers to a great deal of property for which several deeds were recorded between 1690 and 1726 in Fall River.

Katherine Parkins Robison
#75-40

REFERENCES

- 1 Hathaways of America, by Versailles, 1970
- 2 Ancestry and Descendants of Isaac Hathaway, by Randall, 1950
- 3 History of Taunton, by Emery, 1893
- 4 A History of Freetown, 1902
- 5 Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England, Court Orders