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Innkeeper, Springfield, Massachusetts, 1640 - 1648

Samuel Hubbard was born in Mendelsham, County Suffolk, England, in 1610, the youngest son of James and Naomi (Cocke) Hubbard; married 28 year old Tase Cooper born in England, on 4 January 1636/7 in Windsor, Connecticut. Samuel died by 1689 in Newport, Rhode Island, where his wife was living in 1697.

Samuel Hubbard arrived in Salem, Massachusetts probably aboard the James on 10 October 1633. In Watertown by 1634, on 15 October 1635 he was among the group of about 60 who went by land toward Connecticut, "with their cows, horses and swine." After a very difficult trip they arrived in Wethersfield where their first winter was one of extreme cold. The ships which were carrying their furniture and provisions from Massachusetts became frozen in the Connecticut River. That winter they subsisted on "acorns, malts and grains."

Religious matters shaped Samuel's whole life. When friction developed in the Wethersfield church in 1638/9 Samuel and Tase left for Springfield, Massachusetts where they kept an inn and soon became founders of a church. From Springfield, the family moved to Fairfield, Connecticut where in 1647 having embraced the Baptist faith his religious fervor created difficulties and he was "sore threatened with imprisonment to Hartford jail." He wrote "If they persecute you in one place, flee to another, and so we did, 2 day of October, 1648, we went for Rhode Island," where he lived in Newport for over forty years. During this period he was often enlisted to represent his church at other congregations. Again there were differences in the church - between the observers of the seventh day Sabbath and other members. On 16 December 1671 Samuel wrote to his children in Westerly, R.I. that "it was a tumult." One week later, with his wife, one daughter and four others, he formed the first Seventh Day Baptist church in this country. Highly respected by his community he included among his friends Roger Williams, John Thornton and Governor Leete of Connecticut.

-Joan Wilson Hantel

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