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Innkeeper, Barnstable, Massachusetts, 1663

Thomas Huckins was born c. 1617 and was lost in a gale on 9 November 1675 in his 62nd year. He married first, in 1642, Mary Wells of Barnstable who was buried 28 July 1648. He married second, on 3 November 1648, Rose, widow of Hugh Hyllier of Yarmouth. Rose died in 1687, aged 71 years.

Thomas Huckins, one of the charter members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, was granted land in Barnstable adjoining the lot of Dolar Davis on 14 September 1640. Over the years his land holdings in Barnstable, where his seven children were born, increased. Thomas was a responsible and respected citizen, holding many town and colonial offices. As early as 1646 he served as constable. In later years he was selectman, surveyor of highways, member of Town Council, Deputy to the Colony Court, member of the Grand Jury, and Commissary General of Plymouth Colony during King Philip's War.

In 1653 Huckings was licensed "to sell wines and strong waters" and ten years later the court renewed his former liberty to keep an ordinary at Barnstable. In that year he was collector of the excise levied on wines and liquors brought into town. His return shows that he imported for himself 35 gallons of wine and 9 of brandy. In his capacity as an innkeeper, it is quite logical that he would have been chosen in 1661 as part of a committee "to take notice of any who should intrude themselves without the town's consent". One of the reasons was to keep away those whose religions were not orthodox.

Thomas was a member of Rev. John Lothrop's church. In 1670 and 1671 he and Thomas Huckleley were appointed "to look after the minister's rate" and in 1674 he was ordered to "lay down three acres of land at the meeting house for the town's use as a burying ground."

When he was lost at sea in a gale on 9 November 1679, the inventory of Huckin's estate was made 10 February 1679/80 and totaled over £ 1000. His only surviving son, Thomas Jr., was made administrator.

- by Susan Hawkes Cook

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