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DEBORAH (PRINCE) KING 1657 - 1712/13

Innkeeper, Boston, Mass., 1693 -

Deborah Prince, daughter of John and Margaret (-) Prince of Hingham, Mass., was baptized there 23 August 1657; died before 8 May 1713. She married first, William King on 11 July 1678; he died 8 February 1690/1. She married second, Robert Smith, who married after Deborah's death, on 8 May 1713, Elizabeth Allen who survived him. Robert Smith died in 1725.

Deborah (Prince) King, widow of William King, was licensed by Boston's Selectmen on 26 June 1693 to retail spirits which she did from her home on Summer Street. She had become a member of Old South Church in 1683, and the King house was 30 feet west of Church Green where the new South Church was built in 1716/17. The house was listed on tax lists of 1681, 1687 and 1688.

With six small children to support Deborah tried to make her task easier by marrying Robert Smith. It was his name that replaced Deborah's on the 1695 tax list. There were three Smith children born, but none survived. On 5 April 1710 "Deborah Smith, late King" charged William King's estate for maintainance of four and burial of two of his children.

"James King, only son and heir of William King" died as an adult. His widow Rachel, John Salef and Deborah his wife, "only surviving daughter of sd King", signed an agreement with Robert Smith and Deborah his wife, "late King", for the use of the Summer Street house, on 18 August 1712. It is believed that Deborah died shortly after this date.

Robert Smith continued to sell spirits and food at the house until 1719, but from 1720 to 1725 his license was renewed on Milk Street. From 1726 to 1733 Robert's widow Elizabeth continued their business on Milk Street, Boston.

- James Anthony Rasmussen
#80-08

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