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*Flagon & Trencher: Taverner and Innkeeper
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THOMAS LYNDE

Innkeeper, Charlestown, MA

submitted by Alexander Bannerman¹

Thomas¹ Lynde was born near the year 1597, and was of Dunstable, Bedfordshire, England, by 1625 when his son Richard was baptized there.² His parentage has not been learnt. Thomas married for the first time by about 1622, and although his first wife's identity is not certainly known, she is almost certainly the "Hannah Line" buried at Dunstable December 11, 1631.³ Thomas and Hannah had at least five children.

On November 27, 1632, Thomas married Margaret (___) Jordan, widow of Henry Jordan, at the Church of All Hallows-London.⁴ Six children were born to them. On August 23, 1662, Margaret died at Charlestown, and December 6, 1665, at Charlestown, Thomas married third, as her second husband, Rebecca (Hurlstone) Trerice, widow of Nicholas Trerice of Charlestown.⁵ No children were born of this last marriage, and Rebecca died his widow December 8, 1688, at Charlestown.⁶

Thomas, his second wife Margaret, and their young family arrived in the Massachusetts Bay in 1634. As the first order of business, consistent with the law, Thomas affiliated with the First Church at Charlestown, being admitted February 4, 1634/5, and later serving as a Deacon. He was granted freehold status at Charlestown March 4, 1634/5. On March 12, 1637/8, he was "allowed to sell wine & strong water" and also occupied himself as a maltster, no doubt

¹ The author is grateful to John Kishpaugh of Pennsylvania for his preparation of a first draft of this article. Mr. Kishpaugh served as the author's intern in connection with the former's desire to establish a minor in history in college.

² Thomas was probably at Dunstable by about 1622 when his first son likely was born. Unless otherwise noted, all genealogical information in this article is gleaned from Robert Charles Anderson, *Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635*, 7 Vols. (1999-2011), 4:369-78.

³ Thomas was referred to several times in Massachusetts court records as Thomas "Line" or "Lines." As there was no other Thomas of similar surname in residence at Charlestown, the conclusion is reasonable.

⁴ She is possibly Margaret Martin, a daughter of John Martin of that place; however, see Anderson, for a discussion of why her identity has not (to that time) been confirmed. We are unaware of any subsequent published source providing clarification of her identity.

⁵ Charlestown Vital Records; *NEHGR* 159 (2005): 235.

⁶ Her will, dated April 6, 1688, and proved December 17, 1689, makes provisions for the children of her first marriage, as well as numerous Trerice grandchildren, and her "son... Joseph Lynd." Massachusetts Bay Probate Records, Case #14430.

to service his tavern.⁷ Beyond his tavern-keeping and church-going activities, his involvement in civic and community affairs included service as Deputy to the General Court (1636-1639, 1645, and again in 1657). He also served as a selectman (1634/5 and 1636/7), and was on the committee to levy taxes (1642) and the committee to lay out highways (1634 and 1642). In 1655 he functioned as Charlestown's commissioner to end small causes.⁸

Thomas made his will December 21, 1671, at Charlestown and died nine days later. He was buried there January 3, 1671/2. In his will, proved February 2 following his burial, he made bequests to his "dearly beloved wife Rebeckah Lynde," his sons Joseph, Thomas, and Samuel, the church at Charlestown, son-in-law Robert Peirpoint "in right of his wife," and daughters Hannah Trerice and Mary Wicks. Within a few days, he added a codicil (undated, but written in his own hand) providing additionally for his wife and leaving monetary gifts to "Mr. Shepherd"⁹ and "widow Mrs. Symms." The inventory of his estate was presented at court April 2, 1672, revealing a monetary worth of £1929 9s. 9d. He owned several dwelling houses, a malthouse, and numerous other structures appropriate to any settler in his time, but of particular note are his books and "box of writings." These last items indicate he was educated.

7 Massachusetts Bay Court Records, 1:221, Charlestown [MA] Land Records, 1638-1802, in *Third Report of the Boston Record Commissioners*, 2nd ed. (1883).

8 Anderson, p. 369, citing Massachusetts Bay Court Records, 1:178, 191, 194, 204, 250, 2:96, 3:9, 39, 44, 422, 4:1:286, and Charleston Town Records, pp. 20 and 25 (as "Goodman Tho[mas] Line").

9 "Mr. Shepherd" was Thomas Shepard, the minister, who was ordained pastor of the Charlestown church April 13, 1659, and died from small pox, December 22, 1677. Rev. Shepard's son, Thomas (Jr.) (also a minister), married Mrs. Mary (Anderson) Lynde, the widow of Thomas¹ Lynde's grandson, Thomas³ Lynde (III), as shown above. The elder Rev. Thomas Shepard was a great-grandfather of Abigail (Smith) Adams, First Lady wife of President John Adams. See John Adams Albro, *The Life of Thomas Shepard* (1847), p. 322. "Widow Symms" was Sarah Baker, widow of Rev. Zachariah Symmes, also a minister at Charlestown's First Church. Like Lynde, Symmes was, for a time, at Dunstable. Zachariah and Sarah (Baker) Symmes were 3rd great-grandparents of First Lady Anne Tuthill (Symmes) Harrison, wife of President William Henry Harrison and grandmother of President Benjamin Harrison. See John Brooks Threlfall, *Twenty-Six Great Migration Colonists to New England & Their Origins* (1993), pp. 289-306, and Alexander Bannerman, Gary Boyd Roberts and Patricia Sears Wasilik, *Ancestors of American Presidents and First Ladies*, 4 Vols., Vol. 1 (2025), pp. 82-86.

The five known children of Thomas Lynde and first wife, Hannah, were as follows, the first unrecorded and the rest baptized at Dunstable:¹⁰

Thomas² (Jr.) b. (say) 1622, prob. at Dunstable; d. 15 Oct 1693, Malden, MA;

m. by 1647, prob. Charlestown, MA, Elizabeth [*not* Tufts] (d. 2 Sept 1693, Malden); ch.: Thomas³ (III) (m., as her 1st husb. Mary Anderson, who m. [2nd] Rev. Thomas Shepard [Jr.], and m. [3rd] Samuel Hayman), Elizabeth (m. Peter Tufts), Joseph (m. Elizabeth Tufts), and John (m. 1st Mary Pierce; m. 2nd Elizabeth Hills; m. 3rd Judith Worth).

Richard bp. [30?] Nov 1625; no further record.

Rebecca bp. 21 Feb 1626/7; no further record.

Mary bp. 24 Feb 1629/30; d. in or aft. 1693, Barnstable, MA; m. (1st) by c. 1649, John Butler (bp. 2 Jan 1624/5, Ashford, Kent, Eng.; d. soon bef. 21 July 1658, Edgartown, MA); m. (2nd) aft. 1658, as his 2nd wife, William Weeks (the taverner, d. betw. 29 Dec 1688 and 3 Aug 1689); ch. (1st marr., surnamed *Butler*): John (d.y.), Mary (m. Simon Athearn), Thomas (m. Jemima Daggett), Joseph (no known descendants), and Hannah (m. James Chadwick).

Zachariah bp. 9 Oct 1631; bur. by March 1631/2, Dunstable.

The children of Thomas and second wife, Margaret, the first baptized at Dunstable, and the rest recorded at Charlestown:

John² bp. 29 March 1634; no further record.

Joseph b. 3 and bp. 5 June 1636; d. 29 Jan 1726/7, Charlestown; m. (1st) 29 March 1665, Charlestown, Sarah Davidson (d. 13 Dec 1678, Charlestown, dau. of Nicholas Davidson of Charlestown); m. (2nd) 24 Dec 1679, Charlestown, as her 2nd husb., Emma (Anderson) Brackenbury (d. 1 Sep 1703 Charlestown, dau. of John Anderson, and wid. of John Brackenbury); m. (3rd) 13 March 1705 [1704/5?], Boston, MA, as her 2nd husb., Mary (Luttrell) Winthrop (d. 30 Oct 1715, Charlestown, wid. of Adam Winthrop); ch. (1st marr.): Nicholas³ (d. soon), Sarah (m. Thomas Clark), Margaret (m. Thomas Savage),

¹⁰ See comments in Anderson, pp. 377-78, revealing the possibility two additional children, both named Anne, and both dying in infancy. In addition to Anderson above, information relative to Thomas's children and their families, see also 4:46-50; many Massachusetts vital records; Thomas Bellows Wyman, *Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown...*, 2 Vols. (1879), 2:637-41, 762, 859-60, 952; Charles Edward Banks, *The History of Martha's Vineyard...*, 3 Vols. (1911, 1925), 2:120, 3:496; Lora Altine Woodbury Underhill, *Descendants of Edward Small of New England...*, 3 Vols. (1910), 3:1489; *NEHR* 143 (1989): 37-38 and 19 (1865): 247-48.

Joseph (m. Sarah Belcher), Nicholas (again, m. Dorothy Stanton), Anna (m. Isaac Greenwood), Johanna (m. Samuel Everton) and Thomas.
Sarah bp. 14 April 1639; m. 18 Feb 1656/7, Charlestown, Robert Pierpont (son of James Pierpont of Roxbury); ch. (surnamed *Pierpont*): Benjamin (liv. 1689/90), Ebenezer (d.y.), Ebenezer (again; m. Rebecca Wait), John (m. Mary Oliver), and an unk. son (drowned 1801 an adult, and may have had descendants).
Hannah b. 2 and bp. 8 May 1642; m. (1st) 3 Sept 1663, Charlestown, John Trerice (her step-brother, b. 26 May 1639, Charlestown; d. by 1679), son of Nicholas Trerice and Rebecca Hurlstone (above) of Charlestown; m. (2nd) 12 Dec 1679, Charlestown, James Kelling; ch. (1st marr., surnamed *Trerice*): Hannah (m. William Austin), Nicholas (m. Hannah Trecothick), John (m. Dorothy [Stanton] Lynde, wid. of Nicholas Lynde), and Rebecca.
Samuel b. 14 Oct 1644; m. 3 June 1673, Charlestown, as her 1st husb., Rebecca Jenner (b. 7 Feb 1655/6; d. aft. 1708; dau. of Thomas Jenner [Jr.] and Rebekah Trerice, elder sister of John Trerice, her sister Hannah's husband); ch.: Thomas and Rebecca.
Henry d. 9 April 1646 as an infant, Charlestown.¹¹

Noted descendants of Thomas Lynde include Hon. Henry Marchant, a signer of Articles of Confederation; Dorothea Dix, chief of the Civil War nursing corps and a mental health activist; and Presidents George Herbert Walker Bush and his son, George Walker Bush. Descendants therefore qualify for membership in numerous other lineage societies, including the Hereditary Order of the Families of the Presidents and First Ladies of America, Scions of Freedom Signers, and the Registry of Infamous and Famous Relatives in American Families. In addition, his service as a Deputy to the General Court in 1638 makes his descendants eligible for membership in lineage societies that focus on the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.



¹¹ Though Henry is shown as a child in this list, see comments in Anderson, 4:376.