



*Copyright © 2025 Flagon & Trencher.*

*Provided for research purposes.*

*All rights reserved.*

*Proper citation for this document  
is as follows:*

*Flagon & Trencher: Taverner and Innkeeper  
Biographies (2025), at  
[www.FlagonAndTrencher.org](http://www.FlagonAndTrencher.org), all rights reserved.*

## The Blue Anchor, Newbury, Mass. 1670

Hugh March was born c. 1620 in the south of England; died 12 November 1693 at Newbury, Mass. He married first, Judith (Trueman?) in 1645. She was born c. 1623 and died 14 December 1675. He married second, Mrs. Dorcas (Bowman) Blackleach on 29 May 1676 at Newbury. She was born c. 1644 and died 22 November 1683. He married third, Sarah (Cutting) Healy on 3 December 1685. She was born c. 1629 and died at Newbury 25 October 1699.

Hugh Marsh sailed for America 24 April 1638 aboard the Confidence. In Newbury he served out a seven year indenture with Stephen Kent before marrying Judith. In 1653 Mistress Judith was haled into Essex County Court for wearing a silk hood and scarf. Puritanical law forbade this unless proof could be produced that her husband had a considerable estate. This was quickly done and the case dismissed.

A few years later Hugh and Judith moved to Woodbridge, N.J. with other from Newbury. After five years there, house builder no longer being in demand, he sold his Woodbridge property and returned to Newbury where the Town fathers prevailed upon him to open The Blue Anchor in his newly built house. The colony had twice had a tax imposed on it for its lack of an ordinary to accommodate travelers.

Five months after Hugh's first wife died he married Dorcas Bowman who claimed her first husband, Benjamin Blackleach, had deserted her, disappeared and was now presumed dead. The March children and their stepmother clashed bitterly over this matter so that in 1678 Hugh and his sons Hugh and John and two friends took the matter to the General Court. The court decided after hearing the case that Hugh should "retheyne Dorcas as a wife".

Although he was only 59 years old, Hugh conveyed all his property to his son John in 1679, keeping only the parlor and the chamber above it for his own use. Later that year John was married and returned the property to his father. When John applied for a

license to open his own ordinary on the banks of the Merrimac River Hugh appealed to the Court to deny the license, reminding the Court that "The Town of Newbury some years since were destitute of an ordinary and could not find any person to keep it. For want of an ordinary they were twice fined by the County and would have been again had I not undertaken it." John received his license.

On 3 December 1683 Hugh married for the third time. She was a widow for only five days when they were married, having been the fifth wife of William Healy. Hugh March continued to keep the Blue Anchor, made peace with his son John, to whom he conveyed all his property once again in 1693, providing for his widow Sarah to have the parlor and the chamber above it as well as financial support. After his father's death the Blue Anchor remained in John's name until his death when it was sold by his heirs to Capt. Henry Lyon on 31 March 1713. It remained standing until c. 1755 when it was torn down. Hugh's grandson, John Marsh, Jr., became an innholder at Salisbury, Mass. in 1718 and at least one more of his descendants did also in Maine.

- Ethel Farrington Smith  
# 79-31

#### REFERENCES

- March Manuscript at NEHGS, by C. K. Banks
- March Notes, typescript at NEHGS, by Winifred L. Holman
- Cutting Family, typescript at NEHGS, by Winifred L. Holman
- Abel Lunt of Newbury, Mass., by Walter G. Davis, 1963
- Stagecoach and Tavern Days, by Alice Morse Earle, 1900
- March Genealogy, by E.G. March in NEHGS Register 53:121-4
- History of Newbury, by Joshua Coffin, 1845
- Newbury Vital Records
- Deeds of Norfolk, Ipswich and Essex Counties
- Essex County Probate records
- Topographical Dictionary 1620 - 50, by Charles Edward Banks p.63