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Marshfield's Tavern, Springfield, MA 1659 - 1667

Samuel Marshfield was born probably in England and died in Springfield, Massachusetts 8 May 1692. He married 1) Esther (Hester) Wright in Springfield 18 February 1652. She died 3 April 1664. Samuel married 2) Catherine Chapin (Bliss) (Gilbert), widow, on 28 December 1664. She survived Samuel.

Samuel Marshfield was a Proprietor in Springfield in 1648. He served in many town offices such as Marshall of the County, selectman, deputy to the General Court and sheriff.

At a town meeting of 5 March 1659/60 Marshfield was allowed to "keepe an ordinary or howse for common entertainment to sell wine, liquior, etc." At a town meeting of 31 December this same year, Samuel "who now keeps an ordinary" was granted one acre of meadow land for the purpose of keeping his ordinary. In addition to his tavern keeping, Samuel worked at other jobs such as carpentry and tailoring.

In the year 1667 Samuel was in debt to the sum of £ 53.1.48 and his house and lands were sold to clear his obligations. He died in 1692. In 1704 the sons and sons-in-law of Samuel's widow Catherine were ordered to pay her 25 shillings each on an annual basis for her support. Samuel Marshfield had not netted a vast fortune from his tavern keeping and other activities.

- Doris H. Sheridan
#81-15

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