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Innkeeper, Rowley, Massachusetts, 1647 - c. 1653

Thomas Miller, possibly the youngest child of John and Mary (Pylston) Miller of Bishop's Stortford, County Herts, England, born 7 November 1609. He married first, probably in England about 1633, Isabel (-) who died in Middletown, Connecticut before 6 May 1666. He married second, 6 June 1666 Sarah Nettleton, daughter of Samuel Nettleton of Branford, one month after the birth of their son Thomas. Thomas Miller died 14 May 1680 at Middletown. Sarah married second, John Morris and died 20 March 1727/28.

Thomas Miller, his wife Isabel and daughter Anna who later married Nathaniel Bacon, arrived in Dorchester, Massachusetts about 1639 with the group from Yorkshire led by the Rev. Ezekial Rogers. By 1643 they were living in Rowley where he was a land owner. In 1647 Thomas was allowed to keep an inn and was licensed to draw wine, paying 15 shillings annually to the town. A member of the Rowley church, he was made a freeman there 28 March 1648.

The Millers went to Middletown, Connecticut, with friends and neighbors in 1653. A carpenter by trade, he agreed to build the town's corn mill and to keep it in good working order. Sarah Nettleton, then age about 15 or 16, was the maid in the Miller's household when her son, Thomas Miller, Jr. was born on 6 May 1666. Thomas married Sarah 6 June 1666. The church fathers in Rowley, where he was still a member, excommunicated Thomas, a trial was held, he was imprisoned in Hartford, but the problem was not settled for nearly a decade, after he confessed. He was finally dismissed to the Middletown Church. His name appears on 22 March 1670 as a proprietor in Middletown with an estate of £50. When he died ten years later in 1680 he was over 70 years old and left Sarah, then age 30, with 8 Miller children.

-by Lois Hall Barrington
#80-31

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