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Ordinary keeper, Ipswich, Massachusetts, 1637 -

John Perkins, son of John and Judith (-) Perkins, was born in England about 1614. He married Elizabeth (-) c. 1635 in Ipswich, Massachusetts and died there 14 December 1686. Elizabeth died 17 September 1684.

The ship LYON out of Bristol had a stormy sixty day passage, arriving at Nantucket 14 February 1631 with 20 passengers, among whom were Roger Williams, John and Judith Perkins, their two daughters and three sons, one of them John Perkins, Jr., then about 17 years old. The family first settled in Boston, but removed to Ipswich in 1633 where John Perkins, Jr. at age 20 received 6 acres of land in 1634, 6 additional acres in 1635, a 1 acre house lot and 45 acres along the Chebacco River to build a weir for catching alewives. He built his house and married Elizabeth that same year. By 1637 he received additional land and was the first person licensed to open a public house in Ipswich; he was then about 23 years old.

John was engaged in coastal fishing. He began curing fish for export in 1645. He was chosen Quartermaster of the Ipswich Militia and retained that title until his death. In public documents he is recorded as "John Perkins, Quartermaster and Ordinary Keeper." He accumulated a large landed estate and eventually each of his eight sons received a farm or house lot.

by Col. Donald R. Perkins

84-41

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