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THOMAS TRAFTON c 1624 - c 1706

Tavern and Inn Keeper, York, Maine

Thomas Trafton probably was born in Cornwall, England, about 1624; died in York, Province of Main, about 1706. He married by 1668 Elizabeth Moore, daughter of William and Dorothy Moore.

Thomas Trafton, fisherman, came to York with Charles Martin from St. Newlyn Parish, Cornwall. A Trafton family was living in the Parish of St. Newlyn during the reign of Queen Elizabeth and in the same parish was Charles Martin who was connected with the family by marriage.

Thomas Trafton had a town grant on 16 August 1671 and bought 40 acres of land in 1678. About 1700 he built a fulling mill on a tributary of Old Mill Creek. He served as a Selectman six times and was a member of the Grand Jury from 1692 to 1695. He was Overseer of the Poor in 1697 when he was granted 50 acres for maintaining a town charge, "with vittles, washing and lodging Sutttable for him" for one year. Thomas was the ferryman at what is now Rice Bridge, probably before 1688. In 1692 Trafton, Ferryman, was allowed two pence for a man and sixpence for a horse and man. In 1706 his son Benjamin was given the franchise in succession to his dead father.

Travelers who reached the river late at night required an Inn and Thomas Trafton applied for a license in 1695. He was allowed to sell liquor in 1698. His son Zacheus followed him and in 1719 his son Charles was licensed to maintain a Tavern at this place, Trafton's Ferry.

- by Helen Trafton Ware Kernoul
76-39

REFERENCES

Noyes, Libby and Davis' Genealogical Dictionary of Maine
and New Hampshire
Banks' History of York