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*Flagon & Trencher: Taverner and Innkeeper  
Biographies (2025), at  
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First Innkeeper of Hampton, New Hampshire, ca. 1640-1664

Robert Tucke was born, perhaps at Gorleston, Norfolk, England about 1600 and died at Hampton, Old Norfolk County on 4 October 1664. Before 1636 he married Joanna (---) probably at Gorleston and their children were born in England before that year, when they emigrated to America. Joanna, whose ancestry is unknown, died at Hampton on 14 February 1674.

Robert Tucke came to America by 1636 from Gorleston, a coastal town just south of Yarmouth, Norfolk, England, bringing with him his wife and four children. (Dow's History of Hampton, NH erroneously refers to it as Suffolk County). Bordering on the North Sea, with its long sandy beach, it closely resembled the town in which he settled here. He lived shortly in Watertown in Massachusetts Bay Colony and perhaps briefly in Salem until 1639 when, with others, he was a petitioner to the General Court in Boston for permission to settle at Winnecunnet, later to be renamed Hampton. In June 1640 he was granted one hundred acres there, and in 1645, three shares of the Common. On arrival he was called tailor, and later vintner and chirurgien.

On 7 September 1639 Robert Tucke was made a freeman. He later served the town as Selectman in 1648, 1649, 1652, and 1657. On 16 March 1647 he became Town Clerk and on 2 October 1649 he was appointed Clerk of the Commissioners for Small Causes.

Soon after arrival at Hampton, Robert Tucke was licensed to open its first ordinary, located near the first town meetinghouse at a junction of roads. He continued to run it until his return to

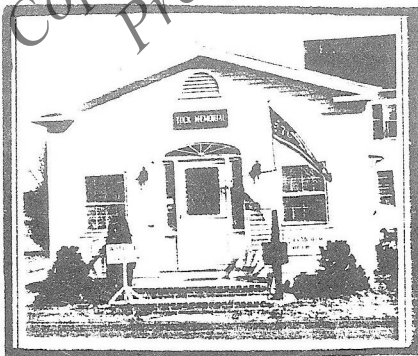
England for a brief period in 1654, when the town authorized Anthony Taylor to replace him. Returning to Hampton about a year later, he reopened his establishment without license, for which he was fined. The matter was soon settled and he continued to operate the ordinary until 1664 when he died intestate. Leaving no male heir of age to take over, he was then succeeded by Mr. Henry Deering of Salisbury, who leased his house and land and was licensed by the town to carry on the ordinary. At Hampton Falls, New Hampshire there is now a Robert Tuck Memorial Museum containing relics of the early settlers of Hampton and vicinity, and dedicated to the memory of Robert Tucke.

Norma Lovett Gregory Flude

#89-34

#### REFERENCES

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5. Pioneers of Massachusetts, by Charles Henry Pope.



TUCK MEMORIAL HOUSE

Credit: Norma Flude