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## Innkeeper, Boston, Massachusetts and Falmouth, ME

John Wass was born probably about 1670 and died at Boston near the end of August 1741. He married first before 1711/12 Ann Wilmot, born in late 1670/71 and died at Boston 11 November 1735, daughter of Richard Wilmot of Falmouth, Maine. She was buried at the Granary Burial Ground, Boston. He married second at Boston 27 December 1736 Mrs. Elizabeth (Bradstreet) Slaughter, probably a descendant of Humphrey and Bridget Bradstreet, and widow of John Slaughter. She survived him and married third at Boston on 21 September 1751 Reverend Eliphalet Adams of New London, Connecticut, of Harvard College, 1694.

John Wass was admitted by Selectmen as a citizen of Boston 21 July 1712, six months before the birth of his son Wilmot. During the period 1712 to 1717, he kept an inn at least part of the time. One year he occupied the "Lieutenant Governor's House on Ye Long Wharfe." It was probably during a later period that he was proprietor of the Golden Ball Tavern, at the northwest corner of Merchants Row and Corn Court, near the town dock. (Not to be confused with the famous tavern of the same name at Weston, Massachusetts).

The Selectmen's minutes of 21 August 1716 show the following entry: "Wm. Speakman says that he came from England into this town about five months since, and that his lodging has been at ye home of Mr. John Wass."

In 1717 John and his father-in-law, Richard Wilmot, were among the first fifteen settlers who reoccupied Casco (Falmouth-Portland), Maine after it had been destroyed by the Indians. The house built on Queen Street included four acres, and in June 1718 they petitioned Governor Shute and the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts regarding incorporation and the establishment of boundary lines of Falmouth, Maine. John was elected Selectman in 1718/19. By the York Deeds of 1719, he was conveyed a one hundred acre farm on the Back Cove at Falmouth. Apparently John was an innholder at Falmouth while there, for the official town record of 7 March 1718, signed by Samuel Moody, Justice of the Peace, Falmouth, reads, "Call for town meeting to be held at the house of John Wass, Innholder - - - ."

In 1722 John was back in Boston and again received an innholder's license. In the spring of 1728, the Reverend William Cooper made the following entry in his

BOSTON

IN  
New England

by  
Capt. John Bonnier

1722

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Long Wharf; Merchants Row and Corn Court

Interleaved Almanac: Admissions to full communion since the earthquake, October 29, 1727: John Wass.

John's will was filed 1 September 1741, calling him "late innholder", and is still preserved in vaults of Old Suffolk County Courthouse, Boston (1994). His son, Wilmot was an innkeeper at West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard from 1739 to 1752.

Mike Wass  
85-35

## REFERENCES

1. Walter P. Wass, *The Wass Family*, [1945], 1, 19-24. (typescript at ME Hist. Soc., Portland and at NEHGS, Boston).
2. Boston Births and Marriages, 199.
3. Libby, Noyce, Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and NH*, 637, 760.

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