

# David Holmes of Milton, Massachusetts

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**DAVID HOLMES** was a Scottish soldier taken prisoner at the Battle of Worcester in 1651. He arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1652 on the *John and Sarah*.<sup>[1]</sup> He died in Milton, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, shortly before 2 November 1666.<sup>[2]</sup>

David married in Dorchester, Suffolk County, on 28 April 1659, **JOAN** or **JANE** \_\_\_\_.<sup>[3]</sup> She was born probably in England, probably about 1629.<sup>[4]</sup> She died in Dedham, Suffolk County, after 13 August 1691,<sup>[5]</sup> having married second John MacIntosh.<sup>[6]</sup>

The town of Milton was formed from Dorchester in 1662.<sup>[7]</sup> On 30 January 1662, Robert Vose of Milton made a deed, selling eight acres of land to the inhabitants of Milton. David and his wife Jane then signed it on 18 May 1664, and eighteen inhabitants, including David “Himes” covenanted to use it to provide for the “Publique Ministry amongst vs.”<sup>[8]</sup>

On 20 October 1664, David Holmes, “Scottishman,” purchased 23 acres and two 10-acre lots, the latter two not yet laid out, in Milton from Jonathan and Mary Gatlive.<sup>[9]</sup> His name is spelled “Himes” in the index, created from the original land records, but “Holmes” in the published deeds. Records cited here show that there should be no doubt as to whether David Himes was the same man as David Holmes.

David’s will, his name written “Dauid Homb<sup>s</sup>,” names son David, two younger sons, and daughter Margaret, and refers to his wife (unnamed).

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<sup>1</sup> Clarence Winthrop Bowen, *History of Woodstock, Connecticut*, 8 vols. (Norwood, Mass.: Plimpton Press, 1926–1943), 7:83. He was on the passenger list as “David Hume” (“Scotch Prisoners Sent to Massachusetts in 1652, by Order of the English Government,” *Register* 1 (1847):377–380, at 379).

<sup>2</sup> David Homb<sup>s</sup> will, Suffolk County Probate, File 417, online at AmericanAncestors.org; Suffolk County Probate Records, 1:491 (will), 5:1 (inventory), docket #417; abstract in the *Register* 16 (1862):52. There is no date on the will.

<sup>3</sup> [Twenty-First] *Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston Containing Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths to the End of 1825* (Boston: Rockwell & Churchill, 1890), 20, “David Hims was married unto Joan by Majr Atherton 28.2.59.” She was called Jane in the administration of her husband’s estate.

<sup>4</sup> Don Gleason Hill, *The Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths and Intentions of Marriage in the Town of Dedham* (Dedham, Mass.: Dedham Transcript, 1886), 13. Jane’s last child, by John Macintosh, was Samuel, born 21 November 1672. If she was about 43 at his birth she was born about 1629.

<sup>5</sup> Suffolk County Probate Records, 8:54–55, docket #1888. John Mackintosh of Dedham made his will 13 August 1691, naming his wife Jane.

<sup>6</sup> Jane Mackintosh, wife of John Mackintosh of Dedham, lately wife of David Holmes of Milton, deceased, administratrix, filed an additional inventory, a house and land in Milton, on 25 April 1671 (Suffolk County Probate, 7:124).

<sup>7</sup> William Francis Galvin, *Historical Data Relating to Counties, Cities and Towns in Massachusetts*, 5th ed. (Boston: NEHGS, 1997), 78.

<sup>8</sup> Suffolk County Deeds, 4:208a, image 142, online at FamilySearch.org.

<sup>9</sup> Suffolk County Deeds, 4:253, image 180.

Administration was granted to his widow Jane on 15 November 1666, and the inventory is dated 2 November 1666.<sup>[10]</sup>

Six years later, on 8 April 1672, Thomas Holman and John Kenney testified that “beeing with Daud Holmes in the Tyme of his sickness but beeing then of good vnderstanding,” David declared that he desired Elder Stephen Kingsley to take the land and pay Jonathan and Mary Gatliff for it. At the “Same tyme Jane the wife of the Said Daud consented thereto.”<sup>[11]</sup>

Children of David and Jane/Joan (\_\_\_\_) Holmes, recorded in Milton:<sup>[12]</sup>

- i. DAVID HOLMES, b. 8 July 1660; d. Falmouth, York Co., Maine, ca. 21 Sept. 1689.<sup>[13]</sup>
- ii. JOHN HOLMES, b. 10 July 1661; d. Woodstock, Windham Co., Conn., 20 June 1713 aged 53;<sup>[14]</sup> m. Woodstock 6 April 1690, HANNAH NEWELL,<sup>[15]</sup> b. Roxbury, Suffolk Co., 4 Feb. 1670/1, daughter of Isaac<sup>2</sup> (*Abraham*<sup>1</sup>) and Elizabeth (Curtis) Newell,<sup>[16]</sup> bp. First Church Roxbury, 19 Feb. 1670/1,<sup>[17]</sup> d. Woodstock 9 May 1743 “in the 73d year of her age”<sup>[18]</sup> bur. Woodstock Hill Cemetery.<sup>[19]</sup>

“He was one of the original proprietors of Woodstock in 1686.”<sup>[20]</sup> On 23 July 1713, Hannah Holmes of Woodstock, widow of John Holmes, housewright, was given letters of administration. The inventory, taken 21 June 1713, included buildings, lands and carpenters’ tools. According

<sup>10</sup> Suffolk County Probate, File 417, online at AmericanAncestors.org. A transcription of David’s will and inventory appears in George Arthur Gray, *The Descendants of George Holmes of Roxbury, 1594 to 1908* (Boston: D. Clapp & Son, 1908), 344–347, but Gray’s account of the family is not entirely accurate.

<sup>11</sup> Suffolk County Deeds, 7:280, image 826.

<sup>12</sup> *Milton Records, Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1662–1843* (Boston: Alfred Mudge & Son, 1900), 32, the name spelled “Himes” or “Hims”; Bowen, *History of Woodstock* [note 1], 7:83–85.

<sup>13</sup> Suffolk County Probate Records, 9:364. David’s brother John was made administrator and posted bond on 18 December 1689 (Suffolk County Probate Records, New Series 4:73). He exhibited the inventory on 29 March 1690. The bond refers to “David Holm’s who was Slaine in the country service under the Command of Capt Hall at ye eastward upon the first day of September in the year 1689.” It does not mention Falmouth and does not say 21 September. Massachusetts State Archives, 35:14, has a “liste of the men that were slaine in a fite at ffallmoth,” dated 7br 21th 1689 (21 September 1689), including David “Homes.” The fight was probably several days earlier.

<sup>14</sup> *Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686–1854* (Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1914), 18; Bowen, *History of Woodstock* [note 1], 7:84.

<sup>15</sup> Bowen, *History of Woodstock* [note 1], 7:84; *Vital Records of Woodstock* [note 14], 1; *Vital Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1925), 2:295.

<sup>16</sup> *Vital Records of Roxbury* [note 15], 1:258; Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634–1635, Volume V, M–P* (Boston: NEHGS, 2007), 250 (marriage of Isaac and Elizabeth [Curtis] Newell); Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1995), 1:500–501 (marriage of Elizabeth Curtis and John [sic] Newell), corrected to Isaac Newell at 3:2090.

<sup>17</sup> Robert J. Dunkle and Ann S. Lainhart, *Records of the Churches of Boston* (Boston: NEHGS, 2002), CD-ROM, but not included online at AmericanAncestors.org in the corresponding database, *Boston, MA: Church Records, 1630–1895; [Sixth] Report of the Record Commissioners Containing the Roxbury Land and Church Records*, 2nd ed. (Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1884), 129, “Moneth 12 Day 19 . . . Hanna, daughter to Isaac Newel.”

<sup>18</sup> *Vital Records of Woodstock* [note 14], 76.

<sup>19</sup> Photograph of the gravestone online at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 65819408.

<sup>20</sup> Bowen, *History of Woodstock* [note 1], 7:84.

to the settlement on 8 February 1714/5, eldest son David Holmes was to pay £4 to each of his siblings: John, Ebenezer, and Isaac Holmes, Hannah Mason, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Experience Holmes. After the death of their mother, he was to pay each a further £17.<sup>[21]</sup> John Holmes's daughter Hannah married Robert<sup>3</sup> (*Robert*<sup>2-1</sup>) Mason.<sup>[22]</sup>

- iii. JAMES HOLMES, b. 14 Aug. 1663; d. Woodstock 18 Sept. 1743 "in his 81st year,"<sup>[23]</sup> m. "at Marlborough [Middlesex Co., Mass.], both of Worcester," 26 Jan. 1687/8, JANE STEPHENS.<sup>[24]</sup>
- iv. MARGARET HOLMES, b. 28 April 1666; d. Stoughton, Suffolk Co., 7 July 1744,<sup>[25]</sup> bur. Canton Corner Cemetery, Canton (now in Norfolk Co.), Mass.,<sup>[26]</sup> m. (1) Boston 12 Nov. 1702, JOHN<sup>1</sup> DUNBAR,<sup>[27]</sup> a Scottish immigrant.<sup>[28]</sup> Margaret m. (2) Boston 25 April 1717, WILLIAM HIPPY.<sup>[29]</sup> He was probably the William Hippy admitted to the Second Church in Boston 22 May 1709.<sup>[30]</sup>

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- <sup>21</sup> Suffolk County Probate Records, 18:127, 327, 434–445; *ibid.*, File 3481, online at AmericanAncestors.org. Woodstock was part of Suffolk County at the time.
- <sup>22</sup> George F. Sanborn Jr., FASG, and Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG, "Some Descendants of Robert Mason of Boston, Massachusetts," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 20 [2003]:131–40; 21 (2004):57–64, 102–112, 21:57, at 20:138 and 21:57.
- <sup>23</sup> *Vital Records of Woodstock* [note 14], 76.
- <sup>24</sup> Bowen, *History of Woodstock* [note 1], 7:85; Frederic W. Bailey, *Early Massachusetts Marriages Prior to 1800*, 3 vols. (New Haven, Conn.: Bureau of American Ancestry, 1897–1914; repr. 3 vols. in 1, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968), 3:63.
- <sup>25</sup> [Canton First Congregational] Church Records, 1717–1957, microfilm (Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. Microreproduction Service, 1957), 157, "Aged Mrs Margaret Hippy Aet 78 widow of the late Mr Wm Hippy of Boston & mother of the Revd Saml Dunbar."
- <sup>26</sup> Waldo Chamberlain Sprague, "Inscription of Proprietors Burying Ground + Episcopal Churchyard, Washington St., Canton, Mass.," manuscript in the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Dept. of NEHGS, Mss A 334, "Here lyes ye body of Mrs. Margaret Hippy, parent of ye Revd Mr. Samuel Dunbar who departed this life July 7, 1744 in ye 78th year of her age" (transcription reviewed by David Allen Lambert, who created FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 197690089 for this gravestone, based on this article).
- <sup>27</sup> [Twenty-Eighth] *Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston, Containing the Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751* (Boston: Municipal Printing Office, 1898) 3, John Barr and Margaret Holmes, by Mr. Cotton Mather. But the family clearly used the name Dunbar. Their son Samuel Dunbar was minister of the First Church in Canton, Massachusetts (Clifford K. Shipton, et al., *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*, 18 vols. [Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1873–1999], 7:166). Note also Annie Haven Thwing, *Inhabitants and Estates of the Town of Boston 1630–1800 and The Crooked and Narrow Streets of Boston 1630–1822*, CD-ROM (Boston: NEHGS and Massachusetts Historical Society, 2001), online at AmericanAncestors.org refcode 38746 (John Barr).
- <sup>28</sup> *Sibley's Harvard Graduates* [note 27], 7:166.
- <sup>29</sup> *Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751* [note 27], 70, William Hippy [intention reads "Hippy"] and Margaret Dunbar, by Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather; Thwing, *Inhabitants and Estates of the Town of Boston* [note 27], refcode 24771 (William Heppy).
- <sup>30</sup> *Boston, MA: Church Records, 1630–1895* [note 17], database online at AmericanAncestors.org, 98.