

RICHARD BULLOCK

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REHOBOTH,

MASSACHUSETTS.

Compiled by:

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RICHARD BULLOCK OF REHOBOTH, MASSACHUSETTS.

Born in Essex County, England, 1622
Settled in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, in 1643-4
Died in Rehoboth November 22, 1667

"We pride ourselves in weighing worth and merit,
Too much in virtue that we but inherit.
Some punctual grandsire makes us hate delay,
And we are proud to keep our oath and day.
But our ancestral follies and abuses
We still indulge in, and make for them excuses.
Let him be proud -- dared man be proud at all: --
Who stands where all his fathers used to fall,
Holding their virtues fast, and passing on
Still higher good through his own virtues won."

Great interest certainly centers around the man who lived long, long ago, and from whom one knows oneself to be descended. Imagination draws vivid pictures of such an ancestor, yet it remains for one to be satisfied with the few facts, eagerly gathered here and there, while all the rest of the earthly life of this far-off personage must remain forever clothed with a mantle of exasperating mystery. How many times over the mind will question: Was he good? Was he bad? Was he homely? Was he handsome? Was he ordinary, or was he distinguished? Was he a stern, repelling old Puritan, or was he of a kindly heart?

The far-off past gives no answer. So satisfy yourself, Dear Reader, his descendant, and ask yourself if, in your own life, you are building a record worthy of any ancestor, whatever his characteristics may have been.

I, Mary Bullock Shaw Parker, have the honor to claim descent in the eighth generation from Richard Bullock, who first appeared on the scene of early Colonial history at Rehoboth, Massachusetts, in 1644.

From various sources, and mostly through descendants of Richard Bullock, some of whom I have always looked upon

as relatives, and through others whom I have chanced to meet in life's journey, who perhaps should also be classed as kin, and with gratification, also, because of their own merits and attainments, I have gathered the following facts in reference to Richard Bullock, my far-off ancestor on my mother's side.

In 1641, Gov. Bradford, under the authority of the Plymouth Charter of 1629, granted to Joseph Peck, Stephen Paine, and others, their associates, the territory constituting the town of Rehoboth in Massachusetts, being eight miles square.

In the same year, John Brown and Edward Winslow, acting as agents of the Colony, extinguished the Indian title to this territory, by purchase from Massasoit, the great chief or sachem of the Wampanoags. No Bullock should be satisfied to pass this point in the story without pausing to study the life of this historical Indian and his experiences in surrendering his lands to the oncoming white race.

In October, 1643, Peck, Paine, and their associates, the granters from the Colony, met in Weymouth and agreed to move in and settle upon this territory within twelve months. They further agreed with each other to give an account of the value of their estates in order that the lands of the town and its charges might be equitably allotted among the settlers according to their "persons and estates".

In the first recorded allotments of land among the fifty-eight then proprietors, Lot No. 32, called the "Governor's Lot", was stated to belong now to Richard Bullock, his estate being rated at two hundred pounds sterling, a large sum for that day. No earlier mention of his name has been found.

The facts to this point are from a manuscript compiled by Hon. J. Russell Bullock, and furnished me by Miss Susan Peck, also a descendant of Richard Bullock, living at Lockport, New York, in 1926.

Certain brief records furnished by the American Historical Society of New York City state that Richard Bullock was born in 1622 in Essex County, England, and died in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, November 22, 1667; also, that he was accompanied in his migration to America by two brothers, one of whom settled in Virginia, and that Richard was in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, in 1643 and left the town soon after 1644. The Colonial Records show that he was made a freeman in May, 1646, but do not indicate his residence at that time.

Miss Susan Peck also had a copy of a manuscript written by Horace J. Bullock, another descendant of Richard Bullock, then a resident of Coaticook, Province of Quebec, Canada, September, 1875, to Viall Bullock of Columbia, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. This manuscript makes the following statements under the heading: The First American Bullocks:

Three brothers, sons of Henry Bullock, viz., Richard, Samuel, and Israel, came to America, probably with Roger Williams in the ship "Lyons" or The Lyons in the year 1632. (NOTE: This statement connecting Roger Williams with Richard Bullock, delightful as it sounds, it seems to me should be taken with a grain of allowance. In Arthur B. Strickland's Life of Roger Williams, which was prepared as a memorial for the Baptist Denomination and which is doubtless authoritative, it is stated that Roger Williams sailed with his newly married wife "on the ship "Lyon" from Bristol, England, December 1, 1630. After a tempestuous journey of sixty-six days they arrived off Nantasket February 5, 1631". This book also states that Roger Williams came in contact with the Indians who visited Plymouth from time to time, and gained the confidence of Massasoit, the father of the famous Philip. As all the records of Richard Bullock which give any statement about the date of his birth mention the year 1622, he would only have been eight years old when Roger Williams first came from England. As he was a member of Plymouth Colony in 1645, he may have seen Roger Williams many times and known him well.

I had a very wonderful cousin, Rev. Motier A. Bullock, for twenty-five years pastor of the Vine Congregational Church of Lincoln, Nebraska. Motier Bullock always took a great interest in the family history, and on May 6, 1918, he wrote me a letter from which I quote the following:

The genealogy (referring to the copy I have) was compiled by Miss Edna Bullock, of Lincoln, our third cousin. Her father

C. G. is the son of Stephen Van Rensselaar Bullock, the youngest brother of Grandfather Benoni Bullock (my grandfather), and is your mother's first cousin. Miss Edna and her sister Flora are graduates of our state University. Flora is assistant professor in the Agricultural College of the University. Edna is a professional librarian in charge of our State Legislature library and is frequently called East to arrange and catalogue libraries and in this work became interested in our genealogy and worked it out. She tells me that one of our ancestors was a minute-man in the Revolutionary War and received a grant of land in Eastern New York after the War. This would entitle us to belong to the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, but I fear the legal proof went up in smoke when the fine Albany library was burned a few years ago. I have had some interesting experiences in recent years. In our National Council held in Kansas City in 1915, I roomed with E. E. Bullock of Rhode Island, whose line was the same as ours for some three or four generations. He sent me a copy of his line and I sent him a copy of ours. I had heard of a Miles Bullock in Howells, Michigan, who was distantly related but I never met him till a few weeks ago when he visited Lincoln. He told me one thing of interest about Richard Bullock. He said that Richard came as a young man to Salem, Massachusetts, with Roger Williams, and that when Roger had his trouble with the Salem Church in which he was an officer--teacher I believe was his title--Richard Bullock left with him, going as far as Rehoboth while Roger finally went on to Providence, R. I., where he organized the first Baptist church in New England. Our ancestors were nearly all Baptists or Methodists.

I have quoted this lengthy letter because of my great personal interest in the writer, who went to his heavenly home in October, 1924, revered and honored by the city of Lincoln where he was the senior pastor, and also because I wish to preserve his allusions to Roger Williams. This tradition prevails far and wide in connection with Richard Bullock. Who can say what the real truth of the connection is?

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Referring again to the manuscript of Horace Bullock of which Miss Susan Peck has a copy, he says:

The progenitors of these three Bullock brothers, the first Bullocks in America, can be traced back to the Norman Conquest in 1066, three hundred years before surnames were introduced into England. The Bullock Coat of Arms is as follows: The Insignia on the shield is a crest of three bulls' heads; above the shield a crest of five battle-axes, and the motto is conscivi sibi or as nearly as it can be concisely rendered Conscious Integrity. (It is interesting to note that this manuscript was compiled by a Bullock fifty-two years ago.)

We now return to the manuscript of Hon. J. Russell

Bullock of Bristol, R. I.

I am inclined to think that in all probability his statements are accompanied by authenticity.

After stating that no earlier mention of the name of Richard Bullock has been found than 1644, he says:

His name appears next in 1645 when he is admitted as a freeman of the Colony. No known record exists of his birth place or of his parentage or of the vessel in which he came over. In 1647, July 16, in testifying in a matter relating to the estate of Alexander Winchester, deceased, he states he is then 25 years of age. This would make the year of his birth 1622.

He was the second town clerk of Rehoboth, succeeding Peter Hunt, and serving from 1659 to 1668 at a salary of sixteen shillings a year with additional fees for recording births, marriages, etc.

In 1644, he draws 21 rights in the Great (Seekonk) Plain. In 1647 he is allotted Matthew Pratt's rights in the town land, Pratt having removed from the town.

In June, 1653, he is one of 49 to draw for meadows in the north part of the town, according to their "persons and estates".

In 1656, he visited Newtown, Long Island, with a view to settling there but soon returned to Rehoboth.

In 1657 he took the Oath of Fidelity.

In 1658, he again shared in the drawing of lands in the north part of the town.

In 1662, he was chosen a committee to see what liquors and powder were brought into town.

In 1664, he was licensed to keep a ferry on Palmer's River.

In the same year, 1664, he was chosen to ~~the~~ collect the town assize.

In 1666, he protested in town meeting against the citizens' selecting the minister, declaring it to be the work of the church.

In the same year, 1666, he shared in the division of the Wannamoisett lands, and in 1669 his widow, representing his estate, shared in the division of the "North Purchase".

He died before October 30, 1667, for then Elizabeth, his widow, and Samuel, his eldest son, petitioned the court for a division of Richard's lands. This division, as to Samuel, then of age, was concluded in 1670 when the widow was allowed "three cows and a mare for the bringing up of the small children".

In July, 1673, his widow, having married again, the court ordered his estate settled upon his children, and, in June, 1677, the widow's second husband being then dead, the court made a second order to the same effect.

After the death of Rev. Samuel Newman in 1663 and the organization of the church at Swansea it is believed that Richard, and known that his family attended the Swansea Church until 1711-13 when the second church building was erected in Rehoboth. It was much nearer their residence.

Richard Bullock settled upon a tract of land of several hundred acres lying mostly along the west bank of Palmer's River and extending from near the north boundary of Swansea in the northerly direction to a point nearly a mile north of the Orleans Factory Site. A portion of this land remained in the name and blood of its first settler for more than two centuries, and the ancient "landing" place below Miller's Bridge at the head of large boat navigation, in the olden time a place of much importance for the receiving and shipment of goods and farm products, is still (1892) in the ownership of ex-Governor Davis of Rhode Island, a descendant of the seventh generation.

Richard Bullock was twice married, first August 11, 1647, to Elizabeth Ingraham of Rehoboth, who was the mother of six children. She was my ancestral grandmother, as her oldest son and child, Samuel, was my ancestor of the second generation. She died Jan. 7, 1659. Richard next married Elizabeth Billington on July 26, 1660. She was the mother of four children.

Elizabeth Billington Bullock survived her husband, who died in 1667, and on June 25, 1673, she married Robert Beers of Irish descent. He was killed by the Indians on March 28, 1676, two days after the massacre of Captain Micah Pierce's command near Pawtucket.

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RICHARD BULLOCK
1622 - 1667

I think I like my ancestral grandfather very much. At the age of twenty-five he appeared on the pages of Colonial history, possessed of two hundred pounds which he brought from somewhere. He seems to have entered immediately into public affairs and, until his death twenty years later, apparently was much in the public eye.

He constantly increased his land holdings, and the brief facts related of him tell their own story of an active life as a citizen and successful business man. He managed to marry two wives and to become the father of ten children. What facts are known in