

Richard Sears , the Pilgrim

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Richard SEARS [68]

BORN: Abt 1590
DIED: 26 Aug 1676 Yarmouth
MARR: Abt 1632 Yarmouth

WIFE Dorothy [69]

BORN: Abt 1608
DIED: 19 Mar 1678 Yarmouth

DOCUMENTATION

The Ancestry of Thomas Brainerd by Dwight Brainerd- Richard Sears born in England, about 1612; died at Yarmouth, MA, buried 26 Aug 1676; married Dorothy Jones. A strange pedigree, in part at least concocted by that able genealogist but (alas!) occasional fabricator of illustrious pedigrees, the late Horatio G Somerby, was given circulation in 1857 when Rev. E H Sears included it in all innocence in Pictures of the Olden Time. This pedigree was gently but effectively castigated by Samuel Pearce May in 1886 in an article, "Some Doubts concerning the Sears Pedigree" published in The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (Vol 40, pp.261-268) Four years later, Mr May brought out an authoritative genealogy of the Sears family.

Richard was taxed at Plymouth, 25 Mar 1633, but seems to have moved soon to Marblehead, then part of Salem, MA, where his brother-in-law, Rev Anthony Thacher, settled in 1635. Early in 1639 he was among those who accompanied Thacher in the settlement of Yarmouth.

Freeman, 1652; Constable, 1660; Deputy to the Plymouth General Court, 1662.

His will makes his "brother Thacher" a trustee of his estate, and Thacher's son John calls Richard Sears "uncle." These terms led formerly to an assumption that his wife Dorothy was a Thacher, but that has been disproved, and it is now accepted [ed. by some people] that she was a sister of Thacher's second wife, Elizabeth Jones. Their brother, Richard Jones of Dorchester, MA, died intestate, and his widow in the inventory referred to her brother Thatcher, and also made Anthony Thacher of Yarmouth a trustee of the estate. Samuel Jones, son of Richard, in his will in 1661, made bequests to his six cousins in Yarmouth. Thacher had three children by his second (Jones) wife, and Richard Sears had three children, and that accounts for the six. (Savage, Genealogical Dictionary (1862), Vol 4, p.46, was misled by the pedigree and "family tradition" to the extent of giving Richard a mythical son, Knyvett.) Also New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Vol 42, pp.77-79.

(NEHGS NEXUS, Vol V, No. 1, p.14:editor's notes) The origins of Richard Sears, progenitor, b. ca 1590, are not known, but another tradition holds that he came from the Channel Islands. In both versions of his book (Richard Sears of Yarmouth and His Descendants rev.ed., 1913), and the published 1890 edition) Samuel May doubted that Richard Sears of the Channel Islands, Marblehead, and later Yarmouth, and Bartholomew Sears and Bastian Gazeau were from the same family. Richard's wife was probably Dorothy Jones of Dinder, co. Somerset, England (ibid., p14-15; see also TAG 58(1982):244-46). There was a Richard Serrie(s), bp.1605 in nearby Croscombe, co. Somerset. Richard Seers settled in 1638 in Marblehead, which was later (ca. 1650) settled by people from the islands of Guernsey and Jersey in the British Channel. This may be a case of 'the Seares and the Seares,' as in "Are there Two Kinds of Thayers?" (cf.NEXUS 2(1985):60-61).

SPM- The parentage, place and date of birth of Richard Sares are alike

unknown. It is possible that he was the Richard Sevier, son of Richard & Eve (Taylort) Serrys who was baptised at Croscombe, co. Somerset, England, 30 Mar 1605. Croscombe adjoins Finder, the birthplace of Dorothy Tom(?) wife of Richard.

His name is first found upon the records of Plymouth Colony, in the tax list of 25 Mar 1633, when he was one of forty-four, in a list of eighty-six persons, who were assessed nine shillings in corn at six shillings per bushel. His name is not on the tax list of 1634 or list of freemen, 1633.

He soon after crossed over to Marblehead, in Massachusetts Colony, and was taxed as a resident of that place, in the Salem rate-list for 1 Jan 1637-8, and on 14 Oct 1638, was granted four acres of land "where he had formerly planted." This would seem to indicate that he had some family.

What his reasons were for removing can now only be conjectured. It has been suggested that he sympathized with Roger Williams and followed him in his removal, but this is improbable. It may be that he wished to be near friends, former townsmen, or perhaps relatives.

Anthony Thacher, and his wife who was sister to Richard Sares wife, were then living in Marblehead, and this fact probably influenced his removal to that place.

The early settlers of Marblehead were many of them from the Channel Islands, Guernsey and Jersey, and in these places the family of Sarres has been established for several centuries, and is still represented in Guernsey under the names of Sarres and Serres.

Early in the year 1639, a party under the leadership of Anthony Thacher crossed over to Cape Cod and settled upon a tract of land called by the Indians Mattakeese, to which they gave the name Yarmouth. (After Great Yarmouth in East Anglia, England which sits at the mouth of the Yar river on the North Sea, ed.).

With them went Richard Sares and family, accompanied probably by his wife and infant sons Paul and Silas. He took up a residence in what became the East Precinct of Yarmouth (now Dennis) on Quivett Neck, between Quivett and Sesuit creeks, where in September of the same year their daughter Deborah was born, perhaps the second white child, and first girl born in Yarmouth; Zachary Rider being supposed to have been the first boy.

His first house was built upon the southerly side of the bluff near the sea shore, where the cellar, a mere hole for vegetables, some ten feet square, was pointed out to my informant early in this century.

At a later date he built again a short distance north-west from the ancient house built by Captain John Sears, circa 1704, which is still standing [ed. and occupied by Robert Kelley] and the site of his later residence is still recognizable. [ed. The foundation of Richard's house was supposedly identified on the southwest corner of the intersection of Airline Rd and Rt 6A about 200 yards west of the Ancient Sears Cemetery, which makes sense.]

His first house was, perhaps, what was called "a palisade house;" such houses were built by placing sills directly upon the ground, in these, two parallel rows of holes were bored, some six inches apart, for the insertion of poles, the space between being filled in with stones and clay, openings being left for door and windows.

"The roof was thatched with the long sedgegrass found in the meadows, and as a substitute for glass in the windows, oiled paper was used. The chimney was built of sticks, laid up cobhouse fashion, and well daubed with clay, or mortar made from shells.

"A southerly slope for the house was preferred, and the back of the chimney was then hollowed out of the hill-side, thus saving some labor in building. The fire-place was of stone, some eight feet wide and four feet deep, and the mantel laid so high that a tall person could walk under it by stooping a little. The oven was often built upon the outside of the house with the mouth opening in one corner, on the back side of the fire-place. The fire was built in the center, and on a cold winter evening a seat in the chimney-corner was a luxury unknown in modern times.

"Straw or sedge-grass served for a floor and carpet. Some of the palisade houses built by the early settlers were the most comfortable and durable houses built. That of Mr John Crow stood for nearly two centuries, seldom needing repairs, and in fact the last owners did not know the

peculiarities of its construction until it was taken down. The walls of this house were plastered inside and outside with shell mortar, and at some later period it had been clap-boarded, thus concealing the original construction."

Tea was unknown, and china and porcelain are not found in the inventories before 1660. Forks were not in use in England when the Pilgrims left, and chairs were articles of luxury with them, the use of stools being almost universal. An idea of the household furniture may be obtained from the inventories printed later on.

In early colonial times a large family was considered a great blessing in a pecuniary point of view. The boys assisted the father on the farm, and at seventeen were able to do the work of a man. The girls were also brought up to more than earn their own living. They assisted the mother, spun and wove the flax and the wool, and made their own and their brother's garments, and in hay-time and harvest assisted with their brothers in the fields.

A man with a large and healthy family of children was then the most independent of men. From his farm and his household he obtained an abundance of the prime necessities of life. The surplus which he sold was more than sufficient to pay the bills of the mechanic, and to buy the few articles of foreign merchandise then required.

Taxes were paid in agricultural products, at a rate fixed by law; and if land or other property was sold, unless it was expressly stipulated in the contract that payment should be made in silver money, it was a barter trade, payable in produce at "the prices current with the merchants."

Aged people were wont to remark that their ancestors estimated that every son born to them added £100 to their wealth and every daughter £50. However heterodox this theory may now appear to apprentices or to political economists, it was undoubtedly true in early times.

The Seares with but few exceptions all married early in life, had large families, acquired good estates, lived comfortably, and were respected and honored members of society.

The early settlers were engaged principally in agricultural pursuits, stock-raising and fishing. Many whales were cast upon the coast, and the shore was divided into sections, under the charge of whaling squads chosen by the town. Capt Paul Sears and Lt Silas Sears belonged to one of these gangs. Capt John Sears was also engaged in whaling.

Oil, fish, and tar were exchanged with the traders visiting the coast for goods which were needed, and which they did not themselves produce. They traded in their own vessels with the West Indies, bringing home molasses and spirits, and built vessels which they themselves manned. The Cape seamen have always been famed for their skill and daring.

At a later date John Sears invented the method of making salt by solar evaporation, and was the pioneer in an industry that added much to the wealth of the Cape, until superseded by the salt-springs of Syracuse, etc: ___ and Elkanah Sears of Dennis was the first to set out and cultivate cranberries (named after the red color of a sand crane's beak, ed.) at Flax Pond in 1819.

The Cape farms produced good crops of Indian corn, rye, barley and some wheat, and all sorts of vegetables; berries were plenty, and cranberries were indigenous. Game was plenty, and fish abundantly supplied the table; cows and goats were kept for milk, and bees for honey.

Beer was regarded as a necessity, and each family brewed at regular intervals. Spirits were consumed in considerable quantities, and the name of many of the best citizens are upon record as "licensed to draw wine," etc.

The mothers of the town were expert in the use of the loom and made most of the cloth used in their families. In the summer they wore homespun linen, and in the winter flannel. The sails of a vessel built at Hockanum at the close of the Revolutionary war were made of cloth woven by them.

Clocks were at first unknown, a sun-dial cut upon the sill of a southern window gave them the time of day, and it was long customary to face the house due south. In 1745, but one clock and one watch were taxed in the town of Heroic.

The observance of the Lord's day was rigidly enforced, and, no one was allowed to labor, engage in any game or recreation, or travel upon that day, under penalties proportioned to the offense. The tithing men appointed in each town had with other duties, that of keeping order in church, and were

armed with long rods, tipped at one end with a squirrel tail or rabbit's foot, for the purpose of awakening sleeping women, and at the other with brass or a deer's hoof, which they brought down with emphasis on the heads of male offenders. The journey to and from meeting was, to many, long and tedious. Those who had horses were wont to "ride and tie," i.e., one would ride a specified distance, and then alight and fasten the animal, and proceed on foot, leaving the coming pedestrian to mount and ride for the next stage. The women and small children rode on pillions behind their lords and masters, but the young people of either sex were expected to make the journey on foot, and no doubt with congenial company they found the miles short enough.

In winter the only mode of keeping themselves warm in meeting was by use of foot stoves, or a hot brick or stone. In the intervals between morning and afternoon service, the men and boys assembled outside to discuss town affairs, the prospect of crops, or fishing; while the women over their luncheon, in the meeting-house, or at some convenient neighbors, had their gossip.

But to return to my narrative. In 1643, the name of Richard Seeres appears in the list of "inhabitants of Yarmouth, between the ages of 16 and 60, liable to bear arms." 26 Oct 1647 a commission was appointed to meet at his house on Indian affairs. 3 Jun 1652, Richard Seeres was "propounded to take up Freedom," and Richard Sares "took oath of Fidelity at Plimouth," 7 Jun 1652, and Constable, 6 Jun 1680.

3 Jun 1662, Richard Saeres was chosen Representative to the General Court at Plymouth. These are some of the early spellings of the name on the records, but in his will and in the deed to him of Sesuit, he is called Richard Sares, husbandman, and such I assume to have been the correct form of spelling and pronunciation in those days.

Why Richard Sares did not sooner apply to be made a freeman does not appear. To become a freeman each person was legally required to be a respectable member of some Congregational church, and none but freemen could hold office or vote for rulers. Many people avoided citizenship to escape petty offenses and court duties which a freeman might not decline without suffering a fine, and the Government found it necessary to use persuasion and something like compulsion to lead desirable men to accept these duties and privileges.

Richard Seares was one of the Committee appointed 1 Mar 1658, to levy church tax, and 30 Jun 1667, the name of Richard Sares is signed with fourteen others to a complaint against Nicholas Nickerson for slander of Rev Thomas Thornton. The original document is now in the possession Hon HC Thacher of Boston, and a reduced fac-simile of it may be seen in Swift's "Hist. of Old Yarmouth," 1884.

The name of Richard Sares is well and plainly written, but it is not certain that it is his autograph, (and no other is known,) several signatures may have been written by one hand, such is their resemblance, one to the other. The document is not a legal one, and it was not unusual for parties then, as now, to allow their names to be appended by others to such papers.

His will dated 10.2 mo.(May) 1667, and the codicil thereto, dated ten years later, viz, 3 Feb 1676, are both signed with his mark [R.S. one over the other], a by no means unusual circumstance in those days. It will be noticed that he made his mark to his will a month previous to the date of the Thacher document, to which a full signature is affixed.

Mr HG Somerby in his manuscript collections in the library of Mass. Hist. So. Boston, mentions a tradition that he held a commission in the militia, and lost his right arm by a gun-shot wound in a fight with Indians in 1650, but neither fact is recorded, nor is any such tradition known to Cape antiquarians.

20 Oct 1647, he entered a complaint against Nepoytan, Sachamus, and Felix, Indians; and 2 Oct 1650, he with sixteen others complained of Wm Nickerson for slander, damage £100, and at same term of court we find his name with seventeen others against Mr John Crow, Wm Nickerson and Lieut Wm Palmer for trespass, damage £60.

in 1664, Richard Sares, "husbandman," purchased a tract of land at Sesuit, from Allis Bradford, widow of Gov Wm Bradford, for the sum of £20. Paul Sears paid Maj Wm Bradford xx to release his claim to the same.

On 10.3 mo.(May) 1667, he made his will, to which he added 3

Feb 1675/6, a codicil which with the inventory are recorded in Ply Rec, Book 3, Part 2, pp.53-55. Therin he mentions "wife Dorothy," "elder" and "eldest son Paule Sares," "youngest son Syllas Sares," "daughter Deborah," "son-in-law Zachery Paddock," and requests "brother Thacher with his two sons as friends in trust," etc. There may have been other children who died young. His inventory in the original record is footed up to £169.06.06, a manifest error, the real estate alone being valued at £220 and the amount of the last item not being carried out. Nor would the correct sum represent his worldly condition fairly, as he had previously given to his children such portions of his property as he could conveniently spare.

In the proper places I give copies of the wills and inventories of Richard Sares and his sons, by a careful examination of which, the location of the original estates may be traced in part, and some idea be formed of the relative wealth and personal belongings of each.

No gravestones remain to mark the burial places of Richard Sares and his wife, though they are supposed to rest in the ancient cemetery in Yarmouth, or perhaps on his farm, and they probably never had any inscribed stones; upright gravestones did not come in use in England until the time of Queen Elizabeth, and the early graves in Plymouth Colony were generally marked with a boulder. [ed. This is an interesting note. Reference to my analysis of the Ancient Sears Cemetery which is located not more than 200 yards from his homestead, shows a boulder in the center of the original upright gravestones. This would certainly make a more reasonable burial place than over in Yarmouth center.] Some years since a granite monument was erected in Yarmouth cemetery by the late Hon David Sears of Boston, which is popularly supposed to mark the spot of their interment, but I am informed by aged members of the family that it was really placed over the grave of Paul Sears, his gravestone being removed for the purpose, although it is highly probable that Paul was buried by the side of his parents. There is no stone to his (Paul's) wife Deborah, nor to his brother Silas, whose burial place is unknown. The stone to Paul Sears records his death 1707/8, and it is the oldest inscribed memorial in the cemetery, although Swift in his "Hist. Old Yarmouth," accords that credit to the gravestone of Col John Thacher, who died in 1713.

There are no reliable traditions extant of Richard Sears and his family, and our only sources of information relative to them are the public records to which I have referred.

In Plymouth Colony, the governor, deputy-governor, and magistrates and assistants, the ministers of the gospel and elders of the church, schoolmasters, commissioned officers in the militia, men of wealth, or men connected with the families of nobility or gentry, were alone entitled to the prefix Mr., pronounced Master, and their wives, Mrs, Mistress. This rule was rigidly enforced in early Colonial times, and in lists of names it was almost the invariable custom to commence with those who stood highest in rank, and follow that order to the end. Our forefathers claimed, and were cheerfully accorded the title due to their birth and position, and it is unwise to claim for them any title which they did not themselves assume.

I do not find that Richard Sares was given the prefix of respect, and in the town records it is written that his wife, "Goody Sares was buried 19 Mar 1678-9."

He was a farmer, hard-working and industrious, an affectionate husband and kind parent, a God-fearing man, and respected by his neighbors. His descendants showed good breeding, and many of them were prominent in church and town affairs, and in the militia. Their names may be found in the records of the French and Indian wars, the Revolutionary war, and that of 1812. Numbers served during the late Civil war, and shed their blood freely for their country. [ed.- I have tried to note WWI, WWI and Vietnam war veterans also]

The family has always been very religious in its tendency, in latter years leaning to the Methodist and Baptist persuasions, and rather given to isms; some of its members have been foremost in the temperance and anti-slavery movements, but it has never given rise to any prominent politicians, and while holding many local offices, not aspiring beyond the State Legislature.

Of good stature, and comely appearance, they are healthy and

long-lived, enterprising and esteemed citizens wherever found.

"Worth is better than Wealth,
Goodness greater than Nobility
Excellence brighter than Distinction."

[Sears' Monument]

A deed appointed to be recorded.

"Witnesseth these p'sents, that I, Allis Bradford the widow of Willaim Bradford, late of Plymouth n America, esq^r, deceased, have the day and year aforesaid, for and in consideration of the sum of twenty pounds to me the said Allis Bradford in hand payed before the ensembling and delivery of these p'sents, by Richard Sares of the town of Yarmouth, in the colony of New Plymouth, aforesaid, husbandman, whereof and of every p'te and p'cell thereof, I the said Allis Bradford do fully acquit and discharge him the said Richard Sares, his heirs and assigns forever, abrgained and sold, enfeoffed, assigned and confirmed, and by these presents do bargain, sell, enfeoffe, assign and confirm unto him the said Richard Sares, his heirs and assigns, two allotments of land containing forty acres, be they more, or be they less, lying and being at a place commonly called and known by the name of bound brook, and a brook called Saquahuckett brook, --twenty acres whereof was the first lot, (so called) of upland with a small neck of land next the said bound brook, on the Easter side the said brook, and was the lot of the aforesaid William Bradford (the location of the Ancient Sears Cemetery, ed.) deceased; the other twenty acres of land lying and being the next adjoining hereunto on the Easter side of the 2cond lott, and was late an allotment of land of Experience Michels; both which allotments of land are bounded on the Wester side with bound brook aforesaid, and on the Easter side with an allotment of land late Nicholas Snowes, now in the tenure and possession of Peter Worden, as also a certain tract of meadow to the aforesaid lots appertaining, of seven acres and one half be it more or less, lying, being and abutting, between the norther side of the said nook of upland bound brook and small creeke, as from the Easter corner of the said nook, from a spring which runs through the meadows into the said bound brook; together with all the perquisites, profits, ways, easments, emoluments and appurtences thereunto belonging; with all my right, title, claim and interest unto the said lots of upland and meadow or any part and parcel thereof.

To have and to hold the said two lots of upland, nook and meadow with every p'te and p'cell thereof, together with all the perquisites, profist, emoluments, ways, easements and appurtneances thereunto or to any part or parcel thereof any ways belonging.

To him the said Ricahrd Sares, his heirs and assigns forever, I say to the only use and behoof of him the said Richard Sares, his heirs and assigns forever.

In witness whereof the said Allis Bradford have heerto these presents set my hand and seal even the twenty third day of November, Anno dom. 1664.

ALLIS BRADFORD

Signed, sealed and delivered her + mark,
in the presence of and a seale. x

Thomas Southworth
Mary Carpenter, her + mark.

Plymouth, ss. June 2, 1885. The foregoing is a true copy from Plymouth Colony Record of Deeds, Vol.3, Part 1, Page 18. Attest, Wm. S. Danforth, Reg. of Deeds, and having charge of the Plymouth Colony Records.

1667. The last Will and Testament of Richard Sares, of Yarmouth, late deceased, as followeth;-

In the name of God, Amen. I, Richard Sayers of Yarmouth, in the Colony of New Plymouth, in New England, do this 10th day of the third month, Anno dom. 1667, make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, in manner and form following:-

First, -I give and surrender up my soul to God that gave it, and my body to the earth, from whence it was, in comely and decent manner to be

buried, &c; and all my lands and goods as God hath given me, I give and bequeath as followeth:

First.- I give and bequeath, and my Will is, that Sials Sares, my younger son, shall have all my land, that is, all the upland upon the neck where his house stands in which he now dwells, thus bonded and lying between the cart pathway as runs through the swamp into the said neck unto land of Peter Werden, and so all along by the lands of said Peter Werden unto the meadows as are betwixt the said upland and the sea, and so as it is surrounded by the meadows unto the aforesaid cartpath as runs through the swamp aforesaid, after mine and my wifes decease.

To him, the said Sylas Sares, to him, and his heirs and assigns forever, (provided, and my will is, that whereas my son-in-law Zachary Paddock is possessed of, and now lives in an house that is his own proper right within the aforesaid tract of land, that he the said Zachary shall have and enjoy two acres of the aforesaid lands about his said house for and during the life of Deborah, his now wife; together with all ways, easements, and emoluments, to the same appertaining, without any molestation, and eviction or denial of him the said Silas, his heirs or assigns:) And my will is, and I do hereby give unto the said Silas Sares, all that tract of meadow land, as is, and lyeth between the aforesaid neck of upland, and the river, commonly called and known by the name of Sasuett harbor, river bound: also thus from the Great Pine tree as bounds the meadows between the meadows of the aforesaid Peter Werden, and my meadows, unto a knoll of upland called the Island, towards, the said harbour's mouth, to the said Sylas and his heirs and assigns forever, after mine and my wifes decease.

Further.--I do give and bequeath to my son Sylas, after mine and my wifes decease, as aforesaid, one half moiety of all that my land called Robins, as is unfenced.

O mean only one half moiety, and part of the upland.

To him the said Sylas, his heirs and assigns forever.

And my Will is, and I do give and bequeath unto my elder son Paul Sares, all the rest of my lands, whatsoever, and every part and parcel of them whatsoever, after mine and my wifes decease, both upland and meadow lands, which I have not in this my last Will, disposed of.

To him, the said Paul Sares, his heirs and assigns forever.

And my Will is, and I do give unto Dorethy my wife, all my lands whatsoever to be at her dispose during her natural life, and I do give unto her all my other goods and cattle whatsoever during her life, and at or before her death, to give and bequeath them amongst my children, at her pleasure, who also I do make sole executrix of this my last Will and testament: and do intreat my brother Thacher, with his two sons as friends in trust, to see this my last will performed:

Furthermore my Will is, that whereas I have bequeathed to my two sons Paul and Silas all that tract of upland called Robins, as is unfenced, by an equal proportion between them, my Will is, I say, that my son-in-law Zachery Paddock shall have two acres of the said upland before it be divided as aforesaid during his said wifes life: and after the decease of his said now wife, my will is, and I do give unto Ichabod Paddock, the said two acres of Robins, and also the aforesaid two acres of land adjoining to the house of his father, Zachery Paddock during his natural life.

In witness whereof, I have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand.

In the presence of
 Anthony Thacher
 Anthony Frey

The marke of
 RICHARD (RS) SARES

Anthony Frey testifieth to the former part of this Will that he saw Richard Sares sign it as his Last Will and Testament, this second day of March, 1676.

Before me, John Freeman, Assistant

CODICIL 3 Feb 1675/6

Be it known to all whom these presents shall come, that I, Richard Sares of Yarmouth, in the Colony of New Plymouth, as in this my will before mentioned, being now weak in body, but of perfect sense and memory, do by

these presents ratify and confirm my Will, as it has been made on the other side, bearing date the 10th of the third month 1667.

And I do add hereto as followeth, that at my wifes decease my eldest son Paul Sares shall have and enjoy to his own proper use, the house which I now live in, and my bed and bedding thereto belonging, and my clothing, and the cattle that shall be left at my wifes decease, and also my warming pan, and the earthen pott with the cover that belongs to it, and the iron pot and the table: and in witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seale, this third day of February Anno Dom. 1675.76.

In the presence of
 John Thacher
 Judah Thacher

The mark of (RS) Richard Sares.

I, John Thacher do testify, that myself and my brother did set our hands as Witnesses to this Will, as being his last Will and Testament, and when my Uncle signed this Appendix to the Will, he delivered the Will to me, and desired me to new draw the whole Will, and to leave out of the new draft, the legacy of land that is given to Ichabod Paddock, for saith he, I have anseized it in another way, but if I die before you have done it, then it must go as it is; and trouble took me off so that I did not redraw the will.

I having thus explained myself, do testify that this Will is the last Will and Testament of my Uncle Sares, so far as I know.

This fift of March 1676.

Mr John Thacher attested to this Will before me, John Freeman, Assistant.

October the Eighth day in the year of our Lord, one thousand, six hundred and seventy six,

This being a true inventory of the Estate of Richard Sares, lately deceased, according to our best information and judgement, taken by us whose names are under written, as followeth:

	£ s. d.
Imp. his house and land.....	220 00 00
Item, five cows.....	10 00 00
Item, 1 bull, 1 heifer of three years	03 10 00
Item, 5 year olds	05 00 00
Item, 2 calves	01 00 00
Item, his bed and the furniture thereto	08 07 00
Item, more, 2 pairs of sheets	02 15 00
Item, 1 table cloth, 1 pillow beare .	00 08 00
Item, britches and hat	02 03 00
Item, his coat and cloak	02 00 00
Item, 1 pair of stockings and shoes .	00 05 00
Item, 1 great Bible and other books .	01 03 00
Item, pewter and tin	01 03 00
Item, brass	00 06 00
Item, 1 pair of stilliyards	00 15 00
Item, iron furniture for the fire ...	00 12 00
Item, more on rugg	00 04 00
Item, 2 chests	00 16 00
Item, 1 beer barrell & 1 earthen pott	00 04 00
Item, 3 chairs	00 07 00
Item, his bees	01 00 00
Item, other householdments	00 08 00
Item, more, two waistcoats	00 12 00
Item, 1 mare and colt	00 10 00
Item, debts in cash	01 19 00
Item, more, 2 Indian trays	

169 06 06

Thomas Boardman
 Lancher Winslow
 Samuel Worden
 This 15th day of November 1676.

Dorothy Sares the relict of
Richard Sares, and Paul
Sares his eldest son, made
their appearance and gave
oath to the truth of this
Inventory above written
before me, John Freeman
Assistant.

Plymouth, ss. Apl. 24, 1883. The foregoing is a true copy from
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol III of Eills, folios 53,54,55.
Attest, Wm S. Danforth, Reg.

NOTE: The Will total is incorrect and should read £269.06.06.

John W Sears - A speech from the Essex Genealogist - Nov 1986, Vol vi, No. 4 - We move to the name Sears... My great-grandfather, David Sears, No. 1378, retained H G Somerby, the leading genealogist of Great Britain in the 1830s, and Somerby confused my family story in the most inconceivable way. He claimed, without the slightest proof, that the Sears family had intermarried with the great noble family of Knivet in Norfolk. David **Sears** took **Somerby's** research and turned it over to his saintly relative, Rev Edmund H. **Sears**, No. 2356. Not only did Rev Edmund do the genealogy based on the errors, but he also wrote three novels about figures that appeared in the genealogy - two of whom, clearly, never existed at all. I was in the British museum last year and we pulled out Somerby's own copy of the Sears genealogy, and at the top of the front page it says "not to be shown to the public" - and there is a letter from Sir Bernard **Burke** expressing his concern and deciding he would not circulate the book. Fifty years later my folks asked a professional genealogist, Dr Samuel **May**, to update the genealogy, and he discovered all these mistakes and made a lot of his own.

The best guess I can give you about my great uncle Knyvet and his suffering through life with that name - Mr Somerby probably thought that David **Sears** wanted to be the oldest son of the oldest son, etc. He almost was, but in the generation right after the Sears invaded Essex County (Plymouth Colony) in 1633, there were apparently three children - two sons and one daughter. David Sears, my ancestor, descended from the younger son. So Somerby got inventive. We surely have a Paul Sears who was born and baptized, a fence viewer, juror, in court litigation, in trouble with an Indian named Felix, Army Ensign, churchgoer, died - all recorded - so also his brother Silas amply recorded. But there was, according to Mr Somerby, a more important and older brother named Knyvet. Well, all I can say about this Knyvet is that he was never born, never baptized, never died - never did a darn thing. There are just no records. Rev Dr Sears, trying to be scholarly about it, said Knyvet went back to England seeking his ancestral estates and died in the arms of his cousin, Baroness Berners. It would be fun if it were so, but I unhappily agree that Knyvet probably wasn't. I have not, however, told the Vicar at St Peters in Colchester, where there is a plaque hanging on the wall commemorating him.

I guess the greatest puzzle in my tribe is Richard himself. Richard **Sears** showed up in Plymouth in 1632; then came to Essex County. Neither Rev **Sears** or Dr **May** solved who he actually married. I believe he married - not Dorothy **Thacher**, but Dorothy **Jones**. This Dorothy must have been something! She was executrix of her father's will with two older brothers living - pretty amazing for the year 1626. She's in the Bishop's register for Dinder - a little farming community in southwest England. She came across the ocean with s sister who married Anthony **Thacher**. A good deal of reasoning of Rev Edmund Sears that Dorothy Thacher was Richard's wife comes from the fact that the Thachers referred to Richard Sears as "my brother Sears," and John Thacher, in his will, referred to him as "Uncle Sears." That was good manners in the 17th century. It was the way people were apt to refer to their cherished relatives. Brother-in-law was brother and cousins were sometimes called brother. Jones in Wales really means the daughter or son of John. In Welsh genealogy, until the 1700s, there were no last names. You simply took the name of your father. "Dorothy from John"

elided into Dorothy Johns or DOrothy Jones. It does look as though Dorothy can be accredited.

If I were to consider a coat of arms, it would have a storm on it. There was a hurricane around here which mattered to my family, as no doubt to many of yours - the tempest of 1635. Into Marble harbor (Marblehead) in 1632/3 bustled a crude blustering politician, Isaac Allerton, with a raucous group of fishermen, in the White Angel. I think Richard Sears was one of those rogues. Proof that they were a rough bunch was that for four years they did naught about a church - no meeting house! They did have a burying ground - ten years before the house of worship. In 1635, Allerton arranged to send a minister to Newburyport. Rev Avery and wife went in a shallop, a storm came up and the boat went over. Averys and all the Thacher children were lost. Anthony and wife, Elizabeth Jones, survived and felt God had sent them a message. They moved to Yarmouth and Richard Sears went with them. You Sears out there must remember, your origins are not only from Cape Cod, but include the five to six years in Essex County, before the move. Paul Sears and probably Silas, were born there. Marblehead was set off from Salem in 1646.

Where did Richard come from? Not everything I've searched has been helpful. Thanks to the MOrmon IGI, and the incredible resources at the NEHGS, I have located fourteen Richard Sears born between 1590 and 1610 and I have killed off six of them, but must check out the rest.

Genealogy is one small voice in our country in favor of the family. It may help restore your collapsing image of the family. Genealogy is a skill - a respect. You are paying homage to the folks who made it possible for you, your children and theirs to be here. It is a wonderful introduction to history.

Edward P Ward - "Who was Mrs Richard Sears of Yarmouth, Mass" After reviewing the articles by Totten on the Thacher family and Lea's articles on the Batt family, it was my belief that Richard's wife was Dorothy Batt. Hyde's article in T.A.G. holds the view she was Dorothy Jones.

Excerpts from Mr Ward's article quoted with permission. In 1910, James R Totten authored the ... "Thacher-Thatcher Genealogy." Nowhere is there to be found in the Thacher-Thatcher Genealogy a Dorothy Thacher that could possibly fit the profile to be Mrs Richard Sears.

Was she Dorothy Jones? Aside from the fact that there is no affirmative evidence that Dorothy Jones actually came to Massachusetts [from Dinder], there is the apparent disparity in marriage ages between Dorothy Jones and Richard. Dorothy Jones could have been born as early as 1599 or as late as 1604. Age 31 - 36 at marriage. The birth date of Richard was 1613. This would make his marriage age 22.

Was she Dorothy Batt? May said "it is more probable that Richard Sares (se he wrote his name) married Dorothy Batts, a sister of the above named Christopher, who came over with her brother and his family, in the Bevis, from Southampton to Lynn, in 1638, she then being aged 20." Dorothy Batt was the fifth daughter and youngest of eight children of Thomas, 1571-1632, and Joane (Byley) Batt [Lea, p.142]. Dorothy's sister Alice in her will refers to Anthony Thacher as "brother" when actually he was her brother-in-law. There is proof that Dorothy Batt did come to Mass, probably a member of Anthony Thacher's household. It is submitted that... little has been done to clarify the real maiden name of Mrs Richard Sears. For that reasoning and until further creditable records come to the fore, if ever, the reader is left to draw upon his own empirical experience as to her true maiden name.

CHILDREN

- +2. i. Paul **SEARS** Capt [57]
- +3. ii. Deborah **SEARS** [70]
- +4. iii. Silas **SEARS** [71]