

James BUNKER of Durham, New Hampshire

James Bunker was born about 1628 Devon, England.

No proof has been found that connects him to James and Elizabeth Buncker of Slapton. He may not be the James baptized there in 1633/4. Another possibility for his father is James the son of Nicholas and Elizabeth Bunker of Blackawton. No records have been found to substantiate this. Nicholas was the brother of William also of Blackawton, born Rattery, father Gregory. The whole family moved from Rattery to Blackawton and then to the next door parish of Slapton in about 1640. They then returned to Blackawton. When James went to America he would have given the name of his abode, not necessarily the name of the place he was born.

If James Bunker was the one baptized in Slapton, Devon, England 10 Feb 1633, he was the son of James Buncker b. 1610, East Alington, Devon, England. This James married Elizabeth in 1627. He was the son of Phillip Buncker b. about 1590 who married Agnes 1628. He was baptized 10 Feb 1633 possibly, Slapton, Devon, England.

It has been said that he immigrated possibly, on "Mary and John". However, that ship made many trips to America and there are no passenger lists known.

James was living in 1646 at Kittery, Maine.

He was on a Coroner's Jury 24 Mar 1646/47 at Eliot, Maine, examining Charles Frost concerning the death of Warwick Heard. Boys as young as 14 and 15 were allowed to vote at the time. They could also serve on coroner's juries. All 17 year old males were allowed to vote. The lines defining when a male reached his majority were blurred. There is no record that James came here with his parents or any relative. It is possible that he was an apprentice to the Shapleighs or worked as a ship's boy on one of their ships.

James was residing in 1648 at Kittery, Maine at the home of Mrs. "Trueworthy." Mrs. Trueworthy was really Catherine Shapleigh Treworgy. Her name was frequently misspelled as Trueworthy.

James BUNKER I (73) appeared on the census of 1648 at Dover, Strafford, New Hampshire.

He was indicted 14 Oct 1651 at Maine with Nicholas Frost, William Ellingham and others for conspiring to steal from Mr. Shapleigh. By this time he was no longer living in Kittery. The act was alleged to have happened in 1648 when he was a resident of Kittery and an employee of the Shapleighs. There was a resolution against others charged in the matter but none can be found for James Bunker. Perhaps the charge was eventually dropped when others were convicted and/or admitted the act.

He witnessed a deed in 1652 at Dover, New Hampshire.

Granted 236 acres of land between Bunker's Creek and Johnson's Creek, Oyster River Plantation 10 Aug 1653 at Oyster River, New Hampshire.

His garrison house was built prior to the Indian raid of 1675, probably between 1656 and 1675 at Oyster River, New Hampshire. He married Sarah NUTE (5481), daughter of James NUTE (9404) and Sarah (--?--) (9405), about 1663.

It was speculated Sarah's maiden name might have been Pepperell due to Pepperells signing as witnesses of James' will. However, Sarah Pepperell married another and was not the right age to be James' wife. The only Sarah in Oyster River at the time that did not marry another was Sarah Nute. Sarah's father, James Nute was an early settler of Oyster River and they lived near the Bunkers. The Nute family genealogy accepts Sarah's marriage to James Bunker. The Pepperells witnessed many documents at that time. As James could not read or write the will may have been written by one of the Pepperells and the others merely were present and acted as witnesses.

Genealogical Dictionary Maine and New Hampshire states James' wife was Sarah Nute but gives no source supporting that statement.

James signed petition that New Hampshire be freed from the jurisdiction of Massachusetts 1665.

He stated his age to be 50 in a deposition 1678 at Dover, New Hampshire.

He was a representative along with James Nute, Jr. at the general assembly in Portsmouth. Both men signed with an X 16 Mar 1679/80.

2 soldiers from Massachusetts were assigned to his garrison house. He was paid 5.6.0 for their upkeep between 25 Jul 1693 and 24 Nov 1694.

Disbursed 5.8.0 for the upkeep of Massachusetts soldiers assigned to his garrison house 8 Apr 1696.

1 Massachusetts soldier assigned to Bunker's Garrison 1697.

His son, James Bunker, Jr. was executor of will of James Bunker, the immigrant. He died about 24 Jan 1698 at Dover, Strafford Co, New Hampshire.

Prepared 14 Jan 2009 by:

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