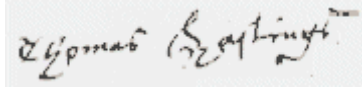


A RECORD OF THE PUBLIC LIFE OF THOMAS HASTINGS

from the Watertown Records (WR) and other Sources

Note: Unless otherwise noted, WR records have not been updated for style or spelling.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Hastings".

1634

Historical Context

AT THE TIME OF ARRIVAL, THERE WAS NO WAY TO CROSS THE CHARLES RIVER OTHER THAN ON FOOT (AT LOW TIDE), BY BOAT OR BY CAREFULLY WALKING ACROSS THE 980 FOOT EARTHEN DAM (FISH WEIR) THAT HAD COMPLETED BETWEEN 1632-1634 (ALTHOUGH REBUILT OVER TIME, IT CAN STILL BE SEEN TODAY).

[April, 1634] *Thomas & Susan(na) Hastings* depart from Ipswich in Suffolk for the Massachusetts Bay Colony on the ship the *Elizabeth*.



1635

[May 6, 1635] Boston [presumably]: *Thomas Hastings* is on list of men desiring the status of freemen. It is granted that day.

[Source: *Records Relating to the Early History of Boston, Vol. 29, pg. 136*]

[May 6, 1635] Due to his status as a freeman, he was presumably admitted to the Watertown church on that day as well.

[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235, derived from MBCR 1:370*]

1636

Thomas Hastings is listed as a Dedham Selectman, with John Coolidge, in 1636. No evidence that he ever resided there but he did own property there in the 1630's. He sold it when the village mandated residency to own property.

[Feb. 28, 1636] *Thomas Hastings* is among the settlers who received grants of "plowland" in the town's "Beaverbroke Planes" area. He was allocated 2 acres.

[Source: *History of Middlesex County, Mass., ... Vol. 3, pg. 350*]

[July 25, 1636] [The earliest list of inhabitants in Watertown¹, a total of 120] In the "Grant of Great Dividends" of that date, *Thomas Hastings* receives 25 acres. By comparison, Sir Richard Saltonstall received 100.

[Source: *History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, pg. 440*]

[Aug. 18, 1636] Dedham² ... being ye 6: month Assembled whose names are heervndr written vizt Edward Alleyn, Abraham Shawe, Samuell Morse, Phillemon Dolton, John Dwite, Richard Eurard, Rase Shepheard, John Coolidge, *Thomas Hastings*, Nicholas Phillips, John Kingsbery, John Gaye, John Rogers, Francis Austen, Daniell Morese, Joseph Morese, John Huggen, John Ellis

And with one accord agreed uon these conclusions following vizt ... [Note: Proceeds to describe their covenant with their fellow citizens and the new town]

[Source: *Early Records of the Town of Dedham, pg. 20*]

[Sept., 1636] [Note: Continuation of Dedham covenant and grants discussion]

¹ Watertown was settled and incorporated in 1630.

² Dedham was settled in 1635 and incorporated in 1636.

... note yt after ye assembly was dissolved: mr Robte Feke came and subscribed his name unto ye sayd petieon. And *Thomas Hastings* & John Huggin did the like at Boston. soe yt. All ye names of them weh are admitted into our society are subscribed thervnto ...

[Source: *Early Records of the Town of Dedham*, pg. 22]

1637

[**May 11, 1637**] *Thomas Hastings* laying down his lot unto our society John Eaton is enterteyned into ye same and subscribed.

Thomas Hastings, whose lot thus passed to John Easton, left town; but “20th of last Month: 1637 (February 20, 1638) *Thomas Hastings* was enterteyned agayne & subscribed.” In 1639 he had removed once more to Watertown.

[Source: *Dedham Historical Register*, Vol. 11, pg. 75]

1638

Historical Context

THE BOUNDARIES OF WATERTOWN WERE FINALLY SET IN 1638 AND INCLUDED TODAY'S WALTHAM, WESTON AND MOST OF BELMONT AND LINCOLN.

[**April 9, 1638**] *Thomas Hastings* is among the settlers who received grants of land within the town. The standard was 6 acres and that is what he was allocated.

[Source: *History of Middlesex County, Mass.*, ... Vol. 3, pg. 350-351]

[**December 10, 1638**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman for the first time.

[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35*, Vol. III, pg. 235]

[**December 10, 1638**] These 11 Freemen chosen to order the civill Affaires of ye Towne for this yeare following, Thomas Mayhew, Edward Howe, William

Jennison, Abram Browne, Robert Feke, John Coolige, Thomas Bartlet, Hugh Mason, Richard Browne, *Thomas Hastings*, Simon Eire.

Ordered yt the Highway to ye little Plaine beyond the Mill shal be laid out as Edward How, William Jennison, & Richard Browne have appointed it.

Ordered yt the Highway leading to Concord shal be 6 rod broad.

Ordered yt whosoever shall kill a wolfe in the Towne shall have for ye fame 5s.

[Source: *WR*, pg 6]

1639

[before 21th: of ye 4th Month 1639] Wheras *Thomas Hastings* hath sould unto Edward Richards all yt his Lott Formerly graunted unto him with out Cosent of ye Towne & Contrary unto an order made ye 14th September 1636 whereby ye sayd Lot is become forfeated unto ye Towne: The same is Referred unto ye aforesaid Seaven Comittees Chosen for ye Towne afayres to be ordered as they shall thinke fitting.

[Source: *Early Records of the Town of Dedham*, pg. 54]

... Lott Ceased

Wheras *Thomas Hastings* hath made sale of his Lott contrary to an order made formerly in yt behalfe wherby it is become forfeatt unto the Towne. It is nowe ordered yt the sayd Lotte shalbe seased upon And Remyne in ye hands of ye Towne until the sayd *Tho: Hastings* be spoaken with concrneing ye same, & then disposed of as ther shalbe Just cause.

[Source: *Early Records of the Town of Dedham*, pg. 55]

[Nov. 1, 1639] *Thomas Hastings* aping to answer in his Case, and he acknowledging his fault in making sale of his Lott with out consent of ye Towne Freely submitted unto ye sensure of ye Towne to stand to what they shall determine in ye same. And for yt he (living at Watertowne) was misinformed yt ye purchaser was accepted formerly for a townsman, soe yet his faulte apped to us to be Rather of mistake then of any willingness. Wherefore we thinke fitting to Remitt ye wholl penalty yt was Fallen upon ye Lott by ye same fault Comitted.

[Source: *Early Records of the Town of Dedham*, pg. 61]

[December 6, 1639] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.

[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1640

[May 13, 1640] *Thomas Hastings* is elected to the Committee on Colony Assessment.

[Source: The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235, derived from MBCR 1:295]

Historical Context

PRIOR TO 1641, THE PLACE WHERE TODAY'S GALEN ST. BRIDGE STANDS NEAR WATERTOWN SQUARE WAS A LESS PRECARIOUS TO FORD THE CHARLES THAN WAS THE TOP OF THE DAM. IN 1641 THE FIRST FOOT BRIDGE WAS BUILT HERE AND WAS LATER EXPANDED FOR HORSES.

[December 29, 1640] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.

[Source: The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235]

1641

[November 29, 1641] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.

[Source: The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235]

1642

[November 21, 1642] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.

[Source: The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235]

1649

[December 10, 1649] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.

[Source: The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235]

1650

[**Feb. 2, 1650**] Susan(na) Hastings dies³. He marries Margaret Cheney of Roxbury, probably that same year⁴.

[**December 10, 1650**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.
[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1650-51

[**Dec. 10, 1650-51**] Att Mr Brisko his howse decem. The 10th 1650⁵
The towne apoynted Mr Brisko, *Thomas hastings* & Ephraim Child to take an
acompt, of John Shearman, & the two Constables of the same yeare, & Samuell
hosier of the yeare before and Edward dikes the rate of the towne in the yeare
(49) ...

[Source: *WR, pg 25*]

1653

[**December 19, 1653**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.
[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1655

[**May 23, 1655**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected to the Committee to lay out
Watertown land.

[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235, derived from MBCR⁶
1:295*]

1657

[**December 16, 1657**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.
[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

³ They had no children together.

⁴ The Cheney Genealogy by C.H. Pope places their marriage in April 1650.

⁵ Source indicates it was probably really 1651.

⁶ Records of the Governor & Company of Massachusetts Bay in New England,
1628-1686.

1658/59

[**January 10, 1658/9**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.
[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1659/60

[**January 9, 1659/60**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.
[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1660

[**Dec. 31, 1660**] Att a Generall towne meeting apou the Last of Dece. 1660 ... Chosen to Order the towne affaires [Selectman] for this year, Capt masan, Ephraim Child. Left. Beeres. Mihell Bearsto, John Winckoll, *Thomas Hastings*. Sargant Bright.
[Source, *WR, pg. 70*]

1661

[**Dec. 30, 1661**] A meeting of the Select men ... att Left: Beeres. Apou *Thom: hastings* acompt

In reference to the Former orders concerning the bounds of the Farme of the towne Comonly called the Cowpen; it was committed onto Left. Beeres & Henery Bright, In primis it is bounded with Sudbury line; the North with the highway. the east with the farme land which Curtise doth Famre: the South with the como land, all which bounds was to the Sattisfaction of the towne & John Sawin, & the twenty ackres of medow belong to the ? famre, was layd out by the above name & John Shearman butted and Bounded

Witness our Hands

Ric Beers
Henrie Bright

[Source, *WR, pg. 72-73*]

Historical Context

THE "GREAT BRIDGE" (AT HARVARD SQUARE) OVER THE CHARLES WAS COMPLETED IN 1662 AND WITH IT PASSAGE SOUTH OF THE RIVER TO BOSTON AND OTHER TOWNS AND VILLAGES SUCH AS DEDHAM AND ROXBURY WAS GREATLY EASED.

1661/62

[**January 6, 1661/62**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.
[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1662

[**Jan. 12, 1662**] at a public town meeting.
Chosen to manage the Affairs of the town Capttain Masson, Leift Beers, *Tho Hastings*, Willi Bond, Nathanel Tredaway ...
[Source, *WR, pg. 75*]

[**October 1, 1662**] At a meeting of the propriators of the farme lands the fixt Day of october 1662

Chosen to moderate the proceedings of the meeting

Deacon Thomas Hastings

In absence of the clarke John Wincoll was chosen to record the acts of the meeting

Voted by the major part of the propriators that the farme lands shall bee laid out

Agreed by the major part of the propriators of the said farme lands that acording to order of the comitioners for plotting of the lands the propriators have agreed with Ensigne John Sherman to plott it and whereas there lies severall hundreths acres of meadow within the sd land the said meadowes are to be measured and cast out & a plott of the uplands brought in to the propriators for the drawing of lotts, in which plott of upand the sd John Sherman shall also bring in the number of acres contained in it, and when the severall lotts are proportioned and drawn the sd John Sherman shall measure out to every proprietor his pticular lott and to have for his paines in the whole worke, two pence p acre the meadow excepted that is to be cast out : the sd two pence p acre to be paid in wheate pease rye or Indian corne at merchants price for monyes & the chaine to be carried at the charge of the propriators for the whole worke and whole worke to bee finished by the first of Aprill 1664 and it is further

agreed that the said John Sherman shall hire men to carry the chaine in taking the plott aforesd & to bee allowed by the sd proprietors three shillings p day for every man so hired and to be paid when the generall plott is brought in.

This consented unto by the sd John Sherman

/Original Signed/
John Sherman

This agreement consented to by the Comittee

/Original Signed/
Thomas Hastings
Willm Barsham
John Wincoll

[Source, WR, pg. 74-75]

1662/63

[**January 12, 1662/63**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.
[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1666

[**November 1, 1666**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.
[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1669

[**November 1, 1669**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.
[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1670

[month the 2d and 8 day in 70] I Received a bill of Brother Barron wher in Mr Norcrose doe acknowlidg that he had Received eleauen pounds fitten shillings and three pence wch was by me *Thomas hastings* apointed to be paid as a debt dew from brother Barron to the town in part of the payment for brabrooks Land and dew to Mr. Norcrose from the town as a part of his sallery for keeping schooll in the yere 1699

What the town was in debt in the yeere 1670 to these men under written

.....

To *Thomas Hastings* 01[L] - 04[S] - 04[S]

.....

[Source: WR, pg. 100-101]

[November 7, 1670] At a generall town meeteing of the inhabitants of the Town November the 7th 1670 ther was Chosen for moderator Thomas Hastings.

Ther was Chosen to Order the prudentiall affaires of the towne [i.e., Selectman] Leiftenent Beers: *Thomas Hastings* Willyam Bond John Edy Seni Isaake Sternes John Bigullah and Thomas Flege Seni for this year

Thomas Hastings was Chossen to keepe the town booke

Mr Norcrose was Chossen to keep a fre schooll and was to have thirty pound for his wagis this year in fueing....

[Source: WR, pg. 101-102]

[November 29, 1670] at a meeting at the house of *Thomas Hastings*

It was ordered that Leift Beers Willyam Bond and *Thomas Hastings* should make the Contry Rate for this year....

[Source, WR, pg. 102]

[December 13, 1670] At a meeteing at the house of John Bigullah of the select men december the 13th 1670

It was ordered that Willyam Bond and *Thomas Hastings* should veiw a peece of Land of the towns leying neer the Land of Christopher Grant and to mak relation of it to the selectman....

ordered that Leift Beers Willyam Bond and *Tho Hastings* shall make the pastuors Rate and the town Rate and *Thomas Hastings* shall sign the rats for the Contry Pastuor and town and shall deliver the Contry and town Rate in to the Constables hand to gather also to a sign the ceverall payments to every man to whom they are dew....

[Source, WR, pg. 103]

1671

Thomas Hastings is Watertown's Town Clerk, a Selectman and Moderator of the Town Meeting

[**June - Dec. 1671**] Summary: The *Thomas Hastings* family is embroiled in controversy when Thomas, Jr., fathers a child out of wedlock with Susannah Woodward⁷. Although history accepts it as truth, at the time the allegation was "fiercely disputed" as there was another likely culprit.

[Source, *Middlesex County Records, Folio 59*]

Historical Context

THE FIRST POSTAL SYSTEM WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1672 AND THE "OLD CONNECTICUT PATH" THROUGH WATERTOWN AND SUDBURY BEFORE TURNING SOUTH BECAME THE FIRST POST ROAD.

1673

[**May 7 & September 16, 1673**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected to represent Watertown in the General Court (i.e., Massachusetts Bay Colony legislature)

[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235, derived from MBCR 4:2:551, 560*]

1675

[**May 24, 1675**] *Thomas Hastings* was called to Boston to serve on a Grand Jury of the Massachusetts Court of Assistants concerning a capital punishment case involving a "Dutchman" named "Peeter Roderigo" who was sentenced to death for piracy.

[Source: Capt. Francis Champernowe, *the Dutch Conquest of Acadie, and ...*, pg. 358]

[**September 1675**] The Massachusetts settlements of Deerfield [*Thomas Hastings* owned land there) and Hadley experience the first of three raids from the Wampanoag and Nipmuck peoples.

⁷ The Woodwards came over with the Hastings on the Elizabeth in April 1634.

Historical Context

BETWEEN JUNE 1675 AND APRIL 1678, A STATE OF WAR EXISTED BETWEEN NEW ENGLAND AND THE INDIANS. "KING PHILIP'S WAR," AS IT BECAME KNOWN TOOK A HEAVY TOLL ON BOTH SIDES. A 23 YEAR OLD THOMAS HASTINGS, JR. SERVED UNDER CAPT. RICHARD BEERS WHEN THE WATERTOWN MILITIA OFFICER AND OTHERS IN HIS COMMAND WERE AMBUSHED AND KILLED NEAR NORTHFIELD ON SEPT. 3, 1675.

1676

[May - June, 1676] *Thomas Hastings* is listed as an Executor in the Will of George Woodward who died May 31, 1676.

[November 6, 1676] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.
[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1677

[1677] ordured that Captin mason and Simon stone shall goo to John fiske to see if his children be taught to read inglish and thear catticize and *deacon heastings* and father coolidg to willyeam price and john whiticus and leftenant and Corporall bond to gorg lorranc and allso to treat with him about his Refusing to pay the pastur his Reat.

[Source: *Great Little Watertown, pg. 54*]

1678

[Nov., 1678] *Deacon Hastings* is among several prominent religious lay-leaders called to Charlestown – “*To the Reverend and Honoured the Elders and Messengers of the Churches formed into a Council in Charlestown, November 5th, 1678. The Reasons of us, who are underwritten, upon which we dissent from our Brethren, who have called Mr. [Rev.] Daniel Russell⁸ unto office in this*

⁸ Rev. Daniel Russell (1642-1679/80), graduated from Harvard in 1669. The controversy revolved whether the Charlestown Church was right and within their local authority to select Rev. Russell as its new minister

Church.” The council was led by Gov. John Leverett, Esq. and moderated by Mr. John Sherman.⁹

[Source: *Collections of the Mass. Historical Society, Vol. 1, 3rd Series, pg. 254*]

1679

[**Oct, 1679**] *Thomas Hastings* (“my loving bretheren and friend”) is listed as an Executor in the Will of Amos Woodward of Cambridge, son of George Woodward of Watertown. Amos died October 9, 1679. Curiously, Amos refers to property in Cambridge as follows, “ ... the corner between the end of my leanto and Deacon Hasting’s hovel I sold to him ... “ If understood correctly (and not confused with the Hastings family of Cambridge), this would be the only known property of *Thomas Hastings* in Cambridge. Amos went on to bequeath to Deacon Hastings’ wife “my great iron pot.”

[Source: *History of Cambridge, by Paige, pg. 702*]

[**November 3, 1679**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.

[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

1680

[**November 1, 1680**] *Thomas Hastings* is elected as a Selectman.

[Source: *The Great Migration, 1634-35, Vol. III, pg. 235*]

Historical Context

A ROYAL GOVERNOR WAS APPOINTED IN 1684 AND CONSEQUENTLY THE COLONY LOST ITS GUARANTEES UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY CHARTER OF 1629.

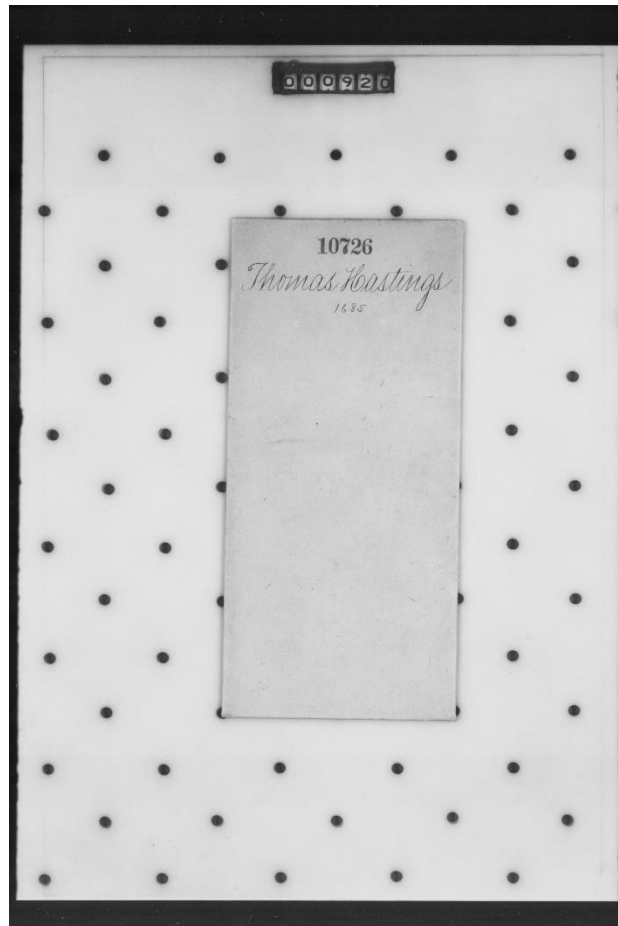
over Rev. Thomas Shepard. The council was composed of some very eminent men including Gov. John Leverett, Increase Mather, Thomas Danforth and Samuel Willard.

⁹ In this entry he is only referred to as Deacon Hastings. The Cambridge Hastings were more closely associated with the Mathers so there remains some uncertainty as Walter Hastings (1631-1705) was also a Deacon.

1685

[September, 1685] *Thomas Hastings* dies at approximately 80 years old and his Will is "proved" on September 7th.

[Source: *Bond's Watertown Genealogies*, pg. 285]



The Thomas Hastings Folio among the Records of Middlesex County, Mass.