

BAXTER, Thomas

Stone # 1016

Death Date: 1713

Age 60

Born: 1653

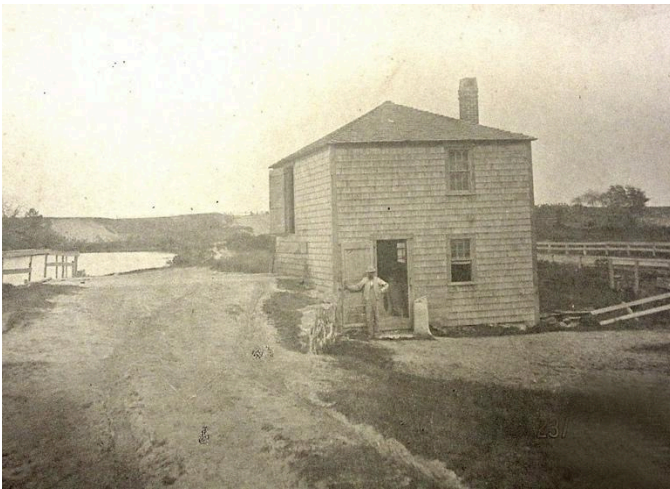
Died: 22 June 1713 Yarmouth, Barnstable, Mass.

Burial: Ancient Cemetery Lot 554, Section E

Spouse: Thomas Baxter married Temperance Gorham as her second husband, on 27 January 1679/80 in Yarmouth, Barnstable, Plymouth Colony. Temperance Gorham (5 May 1646-12 March 1715) married (1) Edward Sturgis (2) Thomas Baxter. Temperance was the daughter of Captain John Gorham.

Temperance's first husband, Edward Sturgis died 15 Nov 1678. In his will Edward left one third to Temperance as his widow and provided for his children and a "reasonable allowance" to Thomas Baxter and Temperance to bring up Edward's children. He had provided securities for the children's estate until they were of age.

Thomas Baxter of Yarmouth was an "ordinary soldier" in Capt. John Gorham's company in 1675, part of the Plymouth Colony's forces in King Philip's War. In June of 1675, Capt. Gorham and twenty-five men from Yarmouth took up their first march for Mount Hope, without results. In October the second company of Plymouth Colony gathered 159 men and were engaged in the Great Swamp fights.



Baxter lost the use of an arm from a wound sustained during the first expedition. Unable to work thereafter in his trade of bricklaying, "he devoted his time to study, and was much employed in public business."

With his brother-in-law Shubael Gorham and his sons, he built a fulling mill at western Swan Pond River (now Parker's River) and a grist mill for corn known as Baxter's Mill in Yarmouth. He built a dam first as the pond wasn't deep enough to support the overshot

wheel. Baxter's mill built about 1710 is the only surviving 18th century water powered mill on Cape Cod. Originally it was powered by an externally mounted wheel, subject to damage from winter conditions. Renovated in 1860 and then in 1961. [photo Historical Society of Old Yarmouth]

The Baxter Boys, they built a mill
Sometimes it went, sometimes stood still
And when it went, it made no noise
Because 'twas built by Baxter's boys.

Thomas and Temperance lived on the South Sea side of town (now West Yarmouth).

Children of Thomas and Temperance Baxter

- i. John Baxter b. 11 May 1679; d. after 18 April 1749; m. Desire Gorham
 Baxter, son Joseph.
- ii. Thomas Baxter Jr. b. 1683, Yarmouth; d. after 15 April 1745.
- iii. Shubael Baxter b. 1687 Yarmouth; d. 12 April 1741.

Thomas Baxter died 22 June 1713 in his 60th year. Will 2 June 1713 leaves estate to loving wife Temperance and three sons. (Barnstable records; Probate 3:303)
Temperance Gorham Sturgis Baxter died March 12th, 1714-15.



Possible ancestry in Scotland "The Yarmouth Register Library of Cape Cod Families, No. 79, p. 1, states: Thomas Baxter came from Scotland. "

Note a different Thomas Baxter was born 1653 in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk England, son of Capt. Thomas Baxter and Bridget Clark, married Rebecca Adams, lived in Westchester, NY.

Records

Massachusetts vital records

Historical Society of Old Yarmouth (article on Baxter's Mill)

Barnstable Probate records

Ancestry.com

Submitted by: Dorothy Robinson 3/1/2023