

Family Group Record for Thomas Smith

Husband		Thomas Smith	
Born	7 Jun 1661	Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts	
Baptized			
Died	2 Dec 1726	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Buried			
Married	2 Dec 1689	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Other Spouse	Joanna Barber (1667-1688)	18 Mar 1685 - Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts	
SealS (LDS)			
Wife		Mary Younglove	
Born	Abt 1666	Quaboag Plantation, Massachusetts	
Baptized			
Died	24 Jun 1743	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Buried			
Children			
1	M	Thomas Smith	
Born	26 Aug 1690	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Baptized			
Died	1759		
Buried			
Spouse			
2	F	Mary Smith	
Born	7 Nov 1692	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Baptized			
Died			
Buried			
Spouse			
3	F	Sarah Smith	
Born	7 Oct 1694	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Baptized			
Died	10 Jun 1720	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Buried			
Spouse	Nathaniel Harmon (1695-1774)	5 Jan 1719 - Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut	
4	F	Joanna Smith	
Born	7 Apr 1697	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Baptized			
Died	1745		
Buried			
Spouse			
5	F	Experience Smith	
Born	5 Feb 1701	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Baptized			
Died	1756		
Buried			
Spouse			

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Children (cont.)		
6	M	Eleazer Smith
Born	5 Feb 1701	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut
Baptized		
Died	21 Feb 1701	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut
Buried		
Spouse	Never Married	
7	F	Obedience Smith
Born	28 Jan 1703	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut
Baptized		
Died	11 Apr 1731	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut
Buried		
Spouse		
8	F	Ruth Smith
Born	13 Apr 1707	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut
Baptized		
Died	1722	Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut
Buried		
Spouse	Never Married	

General Notes (Husband)

Thomas first appears in Suffield town records in 1682 when at a town meeting held on the 17th of November the town voted to accept additional settlers. He was one of a number of men added to the original list of inhabitants and that day was granted a 40 acre "home lot". Two years later Thomas was married by Governor John Pynchon. On 29 April 1686 the town granted Thomas an additional allotment of land to compensate him for the portion that had been taken for the new highway. He lost his wife in 1688 one week after the birth of their first child. He remarried the winter of 1689. Thomas was appointed town constable at a town meeting held on 1 March 1691/2. Two months later on 2 May 1692 the town agreed that he "should have full liberty to peele barke on ye commons for the use of his trade" [he was a tanner] -- see Sheldon's Documentary History of Suffield. He held a number of town offices, being chosen as an assessor in 1690; a town constable in 1691; a Tything Man in 1695 and 1715. "A Tything Man was deemed a very important and responsible office. They were to inspect all licensed houses of entertainment and to inform of all disorders, or misdemeanors committed in them, to present, and inform of all idle, & disorderly persons, prophane swearers, or cursers: sabbath breakers, and the like offenders. They were called informers; and were much revered by the law abiding, and much feared by the transgressor. Their insignia of office was "a black staff two feet long, tip't at one end, with brass about three inches; as a badge of their office, to be provided by the selectmen at the charge of the Town" -- see Sheldon's Documentary History of Suffield. On 2 March 1697 Thomas was chosen one of three town assessors "for this present yeare, and sworne to the faithfull discharge of their trust". He was elected as a surveyor in 1699 and 1700 and the following year was chosen as one of five selectmen, a position he was reelected to in 1708 and 1713: "At the Anniversary, or Generall Town meeting, March the 5th, 1701/2: for the choice of needfull officers, to order the affairs of a General concernment for the welfare of this place; and the persons chosen to their several places of trust, for this ensuing yeare ... Select Men ... Corporal Nathaniel Harmon and Corporal Thomas Smith" Thomas was made a corporal in 1702 when Queen Anne's war broke out. The town voted to fortify their pastors home lot. They probably built a palisade nearby where the settlers could gather to defend themselves. The palisades usually enclosed several acres of land with rows of sharpened stakes set in the ground, a few inches apart. It was a necessary precaution. Suffield was only about 35 miles from Deerfield, where at daybreak on the 29th of November 1704, a party of nearly four hundred French and Indians attacked and burned the town slaughtering 56 men, women and children and capturing 112 settlers who were forced to march through heavy snows to Canada. A few years later Haverhill, Massachusetts, met with a similar fate. The war finally ended in 1713. In 1706 the town of Springfield gave "Thomas Smith of Suffield liberty to mow three smal peices of boggy medow near the soutwest corner of Springfield bounds, between muddy brooke and the mountaine til the town se cause to deny him furher use thereof" -- see Burt's First Century of Springfield. In 1722 Thomas, now in his mid-60s and perhaps in ill health, sold his home lot in Suffield. He died four years later.

Suffield Land Grants:

- 1681 - Thomas is granted a 40 acre home lot
- 1688 - Thomas is granted 26 acres
- 1713 - Thomas is granted 7 acres [annulled by county court in 1716]
- 1715 - Thomas is granted 11 acres [annulled by county court in 1716]

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General Notes (Husband)(cont.)

Hampshire County Deed Books:

AB:84 - Thomas buys 12 acres from Thomas Cooper - 1692

D:72 - Thomas sells 26 acres in Suffield to Abraham Adam - 1718

D:183 - Thomas sells his home lot in Suffield to Samuel Dwight - 1722

General Notes (Wife)

Mary was the third of seven children and was probably born not long after her parents moved to Quaboag Plantation, where her father preached for a number of years. She was about nine when the Indians burned the town and destroyed her family's home. She, and the rest of the settlers, probably spent three days of terror barricaded inside the safe house wondering if they would survive. The Indians kept trying to set the house on fire but didn't succeed, even though at one point they rolled a burning cart with hemp and flax into the house. A sudden thunderstorm extinguished the flames. On the night of 4 August 1675 Major Willard and 48 troopers came to their rescue and the Indians fled. By then Quaboag was a smoking ruins and Mary's family moved to Hadley, where her father taught school for several years. He probably taught her to read and write. When she was about 14 her father was asked to serve as Suffield's first minister and once again the family moved on. It was in Suffield that she met and later married Thomas Smith. Her father died when she was six months pregnant with her first child. He had been driven from the Suffield church and for a number of years Mary and her husband attended Westfield's First Church, about nine miles from Suffield. Mary's next three children were baptised in Westfield's church, even though they were born in Suffield. In 1701 she became the mother of twins, one a boy who died just 16 days after his birth. The following year her husband rejoined Suffield's Church but it wasn't until 14 January 1710, three days before her mother's death, that Mary was finally readmitted to membership in the Congregational Church in Suffield by the Reverend Ebenezer Devotion. Mary was the mother of two boys and six girls. She lost two of her grown daughters from complications of childbirth, one in 1720 and one in 1731. Her youngest daughter Ruth died in 1722 at age 15 and four years later she lost her husband. She never remarried, remaining a widow for 17 years. At her death in 1743 she had become the grandmother of nine children, all born in Suffield or nearby Springfield.