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A SEARCH FOR THE ENGLISH ORIGIN OF HENRY<sup>1</sup> WAY  
OF DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

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Henry<sup>1</sup> Way\* was in Dorchester, Mass., by 1631, and he is usually said to have come over in 1630 on the Mary and John, for which no contemporary passenger list is known to exist. He died in Dorchester on 24 3m [May] 1667, aged 84; his wife Elizabeth died there on 23 4m [June] 1665, also aged 84 (Dorchester Births, Marriages and Deaths..., Boston Rec. Com. Rep. No. 21 [Boston 1890] pp. 26, 27). Charles Edward Banks gives his children as Samuel [for whom I have seen no contemporary evidence], Richard, Henry, and Susanna (Planters of the Commonwealth [Boston 1930], hereafter Planters, p. 91). As I point out in my recent article on Bray<sup>1</sup> Wilkins and his children, Aaron Way should be added to the list and there was surely a daughter named Hannah or Anna, who became the wife of Bray Wilkins of Salem Village, Mass. (TAG 60:4-5). Bray and Hannah/Anna (Way) Wilkins are among the ancestors of Robert M. Sherman, late editor of this journal.

Despite intensive research over several years, I have not found full evidence of the ancestry of Henry<sup>1</sup> Way. None the less, a careful study of the evidence has made it likely that one of two hypotheses is correct. This article will consider two related questions: Henry Way's possible presence on the Mary and John and his English origin.

The Mary and John

The Mary and John carried 140 passengers from Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Devonshire, and Wiltshire, assembled under the leadership of the Rev. John White, who did not accompany them. The ship left Plymouth, co. Devon, on 20 March 1629/30 and arrived at Nantasket on 30 May 1630; all the passengers settled at Mattapan, which they renamed Dorchester (Planters p. 87). There is a tendency to place any early resident of Dorchester, Mass., on the Mary and John, especially those from the same four English counties. Dorchester, however, continued to attract immigrants from the same region, and some who have been placed on that ship are now known to have arrived later, usually because they had children baptized in England after the ship's departure (see, for example, James A. Rasmussen's demonstration that Giles<sup>1</sup> Gibbs had a child baptized in Exeter, co. Devon, in June 1631 [TAG 61:33]).

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\*Savage, Pope, and many later sources call him "Mr. Henry Way." William Wood's New Englands Prospect (1634) calls him "Master Way"; we have found no other contemporary source which does so, and suspect that there has been a confusion with several early references to a "Mr. Way," who was probably the Mr. George Way discussed later in this article, a confusion that William Wood may have shared.

immigrant was their son. We know that Henry and Mary (Gollop) Way were married about 1574 and that she died about 1600. Henry married again and could well have produced children by his second wife, including a son named Luke who would then have been a half-brother of Henry Way of Netherbury and who may be the Luke Way who had children baptized in Allington in the 1640s (if these three baptisms were not of children of two different men, as the different names of the mothers suggests). In addition, Henry and Edith (Denslow) Way had no known connections with Netherbury while Henry and Mary (Gollop) Way did. If Henry of Netherbury were a grandson of Thomas Gollop of Netherbury, the head of that family might well have witnessed his will. Henry Way of Netherbury seems to have been of lower social station than his putative father and cousins; that is, however, understandable, since the Chancery records abstracted above suggest that Henry Way, gent., was a spendthrift.

What then is the likely connection of Henry<sup>1</sup> Way of Dorchester, Mass., to the family of Way siblings shown from the Denslow-Way record Roberts found, and to Henry Waye of Bridport who died before 9 March 1589/90? The latter Henry had a son named Stephen; the Henry Waye of Bridport who was born about 1542 and who was part of the above group of siblings had a brother named William; a William Way had a son named Stephen baptized in Bridport in 1603, and Henry Way Jr. had a son named Steven baptized there in 1618/9; Elizabeth, the first known child of the immigrant Henry Way, was baptized in Bridport on 30 Nov. 1608. These observations suggest (though they do not prove) that we are dealing with three generations of one family. We postulate that Nicholas Way, Henry Way, William Way, and Joan (Way) Denslow were children of Henry Way of Bridport (d. bef. 9 March 1589/90) and siblings of his only proven child, Stephen. The use of the name "Stephen" suggests that the William Way who had a child baptized in 1603 and Henry Way Jr. who had a child baptized in 1618/9 were related to the Henry Waye who died before 9 March 1589/90. Henry Way Jr. was too old to be a son of the immigrant, and I suggest that he was an older son of the William who appears in the Bridport register in 1603. If these assumptions are correct, it appears that the immigrant was a grandson of the Henry Waye who died before 1589/90 and a son of Henry and Edith (Denslow) Way. That conclusion would make the immigrant a first cousin of his fellow immigrant Nicholas Denslow. If that is correct, Henry and Edith Way had a later son named Henry born ca.1583, a period for which the Allington parish register does not exist.

HENRY<sup>1</sup> WAY was born, we believe, in co. Dorset, England, ca.1583; two possibilities for his parentage are discussed above. He died in Dorchester, Mass., on 24 3m [May] 1667, ae 84. His widow ELIZABETH was born ca.1581 and died in Dorchester, Mass., on 23 4m [June] 1665, ae 84.

Children of Henry<sup>1</sup> Way, all but the putative first child bp. in Bridport, co. Dorset, England:

- i possibly a son<sup>2</sup> b., say, 1606. If the "Way his son," who drowned off the coast of New England before 5 Feb. 1630/1, was a son of Henry Way of Dorchester, there must have been two sons in addition to those found in New England records. One is accounted for by iii below.
- ii "ELYTH" [Elizabeth] bp. 30 Nov. 1608; n.f.r.
- iii HENRY bp. 28 March 1611; he may be the sailor who drowned 1630/1 or the son killed by Tarrantine Indians in 1631/2 (William Wood, New Englands Prospect [Amherst, Mass., 1977] pp. 79-80).
- iv AARON bp. 2 Sept. 1613; d. bet. 25 Aug. 1695 and 26 Sept. 1695, when his will was executed and probated (Pope pp. 482-83); m. JOAN<sup>2</sup> SUMNER, dau. of William and Mary (Swift Sumner of Dorchester (for the Sumners, see TAG 19:156-66)).
- v HANNAH or ANNA bp. 3 March 1615[76]; living Salem, Mass., 26 Jan. 1701/2; m. 1636 or earlier BRAY WILKINS (TAG 60:3-5)
- vi LYDIA bp. 23 Aug. 1618; n.f.r.
- vii SUSANNA bp. 14 Oct. 1621; m. JOHN PELTON of Dorchester, Mass. (see Suffolk Co., Mass., LR 24:255).
- viii RICHARD bp. 2 May 1624; deposed 1666 ae about 42 (Pope p. 483); d. Boston 23 June 1697; m. (1) HESTER JONES, dau. of Thomas and Ellen Jones; m. (2) BETHIA (MAYHEW) HARLOCK, dau. of Thomas and Jane (Gallion)(Paine) Mayhew and widow of Thomas Harlock; m. (3) KATHARINE -----, whose g.s. at Copp's Hill, Boston, shows that she d. 28 April 1689, ae ca. 55 (William H. Whitmore, The Graveyards of Boston... Copp's Hill Epitaphs [Albany 1878] p. 88); m. (4) Boston 1 Aug. 1689 HANNAH (TOWNSEND)(HULL)(ALLEN) KNIGHT (Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 1630-1699, Rec. Com. Rep. No. 9 [Boston 1883] p. 187).

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#### QUERIES

- WHITE-SHAW: What relation was Hannah Shaw WHITE b. Middleborough MA, 1801, daughter of Samuel and Olive (Hathaway) White (TAG 48:246), to Hannah SHAW who m. Middleborough ca.1756 as his second wife, Benjamin White, Jr.? They had sons Ebenezer, 1757; Andrew, 1761; Nathan, 1763; and Solomon, 1771.
- JORDAN: Want wife and ancestry of Thomas JORDAN, head of family in Fermanagh Twp., Mifflin Co. (now Juniata Co.) PA, in 1790.
- TAYLOR-HEDGE: Want ancestry of Mary N. TAYLOR b. NC ca.1802; m. bef. 1830, CHARLES HEDGE, who d. bef. 1850; she lived Carroll Co. TN, 1850.
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