



Thomas Pettit Sr.

BIRTH 1608

England

DEATH Oct 1668 (aged 59–60)

Queens, Queens County, New York, USA

BURIAL Old Newtown Cemetery

Elmhurst, Queens County, New York, USA

MEMORIAL ID 224090830



Photo added by Douglas Pettit

The date of birth & the date of death is an estimation. There is no christening record found that could determine his parentage.

The Genealogy of the Pettit's of America made the claim that Thomas Pettit was the son Henry Pettit the heir of Dandelion Castle of the Isle of Thanet. Source Visitation England and Wales buried inside St Mary Magdalene Church died AD 1624 his brass is next to his wife. Hanna one of the daughters of Sir Adam Sprakeling died AD 1641 (find a grave) they only had one son Henry who died 1661, buried in side Saint John the Baptist church (find a grave)next to his wife with a memorial plaque with the names of their children.

Thomas Pettit's origins get confused with a record of Ann Pettit who transferred her church membership from Saffron Walden England (state church) to Salem Church then to Boston Church as Ann Petters (Pioneers of Massachusetts Pope)

No one has found the authentic records of the marriage of Thomas Pettit & Christian Mellows as mentioned in the book "Genealogy of the Pettit Families in America"

Thomas Pettit origins are possibly from a Gentry family a descendant of the Pettit's of Shalmsford. The Pettit's of Shalmsford are cousins of the Isle of Thanet and were not French Huguenots in England. The Pettit's of



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Canterbury near Chilham Castle that dates back to William the Conqueror. They are all buried in St Mary's Church in Chillham that dates back to the 7th Century. In 1445 a Pettit of Shalmesford married the heiress of Dandelion and were known as the Pettit's of the Isle of Thanet.

The first name of Thomas Pettit's wife is known by a New Hampshire record; 1646/47 Hannah daughter Thomas and Christian Pettit was born February 1 ye beginning of February in Exeter. Early Pettit researchers have associated the surname of Christian the wife of Thomas Pettit with his indenture with Oliver Mellows.

Abraham Mellows & Martha Bulkeley did not have a daughter Christian their children were given a bequest in 1615 Will by a relative. source; the genealogy of the Bulkeley Family page 24. Abraham Mellows died in Charleston on the Mystic side his Will was delivered to Court on the 4th of June 1639. Berkeley Genealogy "the Mellow Connection names their children Oliver, Elizabeth, Anne, Abraham Catherine and Edward Mellows.

History of Boston Volume 2 page 22. Thomas Pettit having served with our brother Oliver Mellows these three and a half years, shall have a house plot. Historians say that the average time for an indenture was seven years.

Oliver Mellows was a shareholder in the Massachusetts joint-stock company and according to the by-laws was allowed to bring indentured servants with him. Some early books mention that Oliver Mellows was a clothmaker, but the only record I have seen is that he was a merchant. He is recorded as a freeman the 20th of July 1634, in Boston. There is no ship passenger record of their voyage as it has been either lost or destroyed. There is no such record of the birth of Thomas Pettit Jr. on the ship Talbot. This was inspired by the historical record of Rev. John Cotton Rev. John Cotton who married the Widow Storie and recorded the birth of their son Seaborn on the ship Griffin as they crossed the Atlantic Ocean to Boston.

Abraham Mellows was a wealthy merchant from a landed gentry family who married into the Bulkeley a gentry family who had a peerage or title. Oliver's cousin was Oliver St. John the son of Oliver St John of Cayshoe and Sarah Bulkeley of Odelle, Bedfordshire, England. He was a Judge & Politian who sat in the House of Commons in London 1640-1653. He married a cousin of Oliver Cromwell and was a close friend and advisor and supporter of his

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John Conley on the 1st of January 1633. Elizabeth was the daughter of Anthony Hawkredd & Isabel Dowse a gentry family with a peerage. Anthony Hawreed was the mayor of Boston, Lincolnshire, England, and his son Anthony was a councillor of law, there is a record of his membership in Gray's Inn (London)

It is required that Bannisters & Judges be registered as a member of one of the four Inns of the Court of London to practice law in England & Wales. This law has not changed for several centenaries.

Many of the Gentry sent there male sons to be educated at a specialized school for boys and then to be apprenticed at one of the Livery Companies of London associated with a trading guild depending on the Trade. "Worshipful Company of Haberdashers was for merchants."

The links between the gentry & the livery companies of London were always close, the two groups intermingled constantly and formed as homogeneous a landed gentry/trading class as any in Europe. The younger sons of the gentry received very little inheritance because of the primogeniture law that gave the estate to the eldest son, so it was a common practice to acquire a trade to earn a livelihood. There were many advantages for members of a livery company such as voting rights in the joint-stock company called today a corporation.

Thomas Pettit was not a journeyman cloth weaver. Thomas Pettit knew the law and was most likely himself from a gentle family and was either a legal clerk at one of the four Inns of the Court of London or a councillor of law. He would have been useful for keeping records & negotiating trade. In Exeter the court granted Thomas Pettit the principal head officer because he knew the law.

Upon the petition of the inhabitants of Exeter the court granted that sergeant Thomas Pettit as their principal officer for the present hath power to exercise the Company according to law C Rec, Vol 2 p 163 source Provincial Papers Documents & Records related to the Providence of New Hampshire, From the earliest period of its settlement 1623-1776.

Source; Pioneers of Maine and New Hampshire 1623 to 1660

Thomas Pettit. Boston having served Oliver Mellows three and a half years. ✕

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Allowance was made to him in 1650 for attending Hampshire Court as constable. Wife Christian; children Hannah b. at the beginning of February 1647. Thomas Jr. had a grant of land in 1647.

Source; The History of the town Exeter, New Hampshire.

Thomas Pettit was of Boston in 1634, from which time he served for three years and a half with Oliver Mellows and there upon January 8, 1638, received from the town a grant of a house plot "towards the new mylne" Mellows was in sympathy with Wheelwright and was disarmed in 1637, and it would be very natural that his journeyman should be led by the same feelings to migrate to the new settlement which Wheelwright was founding. Pettit received six acres of land and thirty poles as his share of the Exeter uplands, and also affixed his name to the Combination. He was for a while a man of some prominence in the town and served as selectman in 1652 and 1655 after which his name disappears from the records. His wife was named Christian, they had a daughter Hannah, born in Exeter in the beginning of February 1647-48. His son Thomas Pettit, Jr., had a grant of thirty acres of land in 1649.

Source; The History of Newfield New Hampshire 1638-1911

Thomas Pettit was allotted uplands December 4, 1639, joined the combination April 2, 1640; petitioned that Exeter be joined to Massachusetts in May 1643. held office and was on committee June 13, 1655, to make a new agreement with Mr. Dudley respecting his support. He had a wife Christian and daughter Hannah born in February 1646/47 and died in December 1647.

Source. Rev. John Moore of Newtown, Long Island and some of his descendants.

Thomas Pettit was in Boston Mass. as early as 1634. On January 8, 1638, he received a house lot. In the founding of Exeter, he received 6 acres and 30 polls as his share of uplands and signed his name to the combination. More than half of the 34 made their mark on the combination. He served as Selectman 1652 to 1655. In 1655 his name appears at Newtown and May 8, 1657, he is made Marshall. His name appears on the Dongan Charter 1686. His Wifes maiden name was Christian Mellows.

Source; C.H. Pope, Pioneers of Massachusetts

Pettit Thomas, Boston having served with Oliver Mellows this 3 1/2 years, had a house plot granted him (8) 11 1637. The lot is referred to in a deed of George ^x

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venture together exporting and importing goods on the Ketch (sloop) owned by William Tuttle. George Griggs mortgaged a house and land that was formerly owned by Thomas Pettit on Beacon Street to William Tuttle on October 8, 1650. On the property deed is listed the previous transfer of ownership. The property George Griggs mortgaged to William Tuttle was next to his residence and is mentioned in a probate inventory report that was filed in court after his death.

George Griggs of Boston will was dated 4 July 1655 and proved 3 August 1660 (note) Is George Griggs related to Thomas Griggs recorded in Roxbury??? The inventory of the estate of "George Griggs," taken 7 July 1660, totalled 132lb. 11s. 4d. (against which were debts of 14lb. 3s. 2d.), of which 92lb. was real estate: "two acres of land at Long Island," 2lb.; "a dwelling house and the land belonging unto it with fruit trees," 70lb.; and "another lot joining to this garden upon the west side which was before bought of one Pettitt & an old barn," 20lb. (SPR 3:202 3)

The Antinomian Controversy also known as the "Free Grace Controversy" was a religious & political conflict in Massachusetts 1636-1638 that pitted the colony ministers & magistrates against adherents of the free grace theology.

On the 19th of April 1637 the leaders called for a day of fasting and repentance. The Rev. John Cotton invited the Rev John Wheelwright to give a sermon at his Boston Church. The sermon caused a furore. March 1637, the Rev. John Wheelwright was accused by the court of contempt and in November he was sentenced banishment from the colony.

Source; Records of the governor and company of the Massachusetts bay in New England in New England. (1637 record) Thomas Pettit for suspicion of slander, idleness & stubbornness is censured to be severely whipped & to be kept in Hould. /Attachment was ordered for Will: Powell to appear the 28th present for contempt, & to answer to the accusation of Thomas Pettit.

The Nov 1637 banishment ordered by the court was close to winter, Rev. Wheelwright and his followers left Massachusetts by ship to Dover colony (established 1623) where they were given warmth and safety until they could find land to purchase from the Indians for a new settlement.

On the 3rd of April 1638 Rev. John Wheelwright purchased two deeds from



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In 1643 a Federation was created called the New England Confederation also called the United Colonies of New England. The federation included Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Haven & Plymouth. The negotiations were completed in May by Puritans who represented each colony. Several factors influenced the formation of this alliance including the solution of trade, boundary and religious disputes but the principal impetus was a concern over the attacks by the French, the Dutch or the Indians.

The representatives of Portsmouth & Dover negotiated for several months before joining on June 14, 1641. Exeter followed on Sept 8, 1642. The year 1643 marks the consummation of the New England Confederacy also known as "The United Colonies of New England"

On the sixteen of February 1647, it was required that every inhabitant should ease felling timber. John Legat & Thomas Pettit were appointed cullers of pipe staves for the town.

Thomas Pettit, Nicholas Listen, Thomas Cornish, John Warren and Frances Swain received from the town a privilege for a sawmill at Lamprey River on the next great fall above the fall that some of them have already taken possession of, paying five pound a year for the privilege. source History of the town of Exeter.

Thomas Pettit may have had some business involving the Gilman's as there are many records witnessed by Thomas Pettit. Edward Gilman Jr. established one of the first sawmills in 1647 and established a lumber business, he owned a 50-ton sloop to conduct his lumber business, in 1653 he was lost at sea while traveling to England on business.

In Exeter New Hampshire Thomas Pettit served as selectman that would have required knowledge of Law. Selectman served the townships executive body and had the responsibility for the general operation of the town's government. The board of selectmen met to act as local legislature to approve budgets and laws.... Thomas Pettit was the Sergeant of the Massachusetts Militia that was raised after Exeter New Hampshire was absorbed into the New England Confederacy and was appointed principal officer of the colony because he knew the Law. The military was used to enforce the Law and protect the fisheries in the Colony. There are records of

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in 1642 Rev Wheelwright was still under the sentence of banishment. He left the colony with his followers to the territory controlled by Ferdinando Gorges in Maine. After the withdraw of Rev. Wheelwright the church of Exeter was regarded as extinct. It became difficult to raise the funds for a new pastor. The act of September 3, 1642, freemen and deputies of New Hampshire were specifically exempt from the obligation of being church members.

After some years seeking a reputable minister for the church of Exeter, the Massachusetts general court found candidate Rev. Samuel Dudley. In 1655 the committee that included Thomas Pettit had to re-negotiate his salary because of lack of funds. To have a minister was not without sacrifice and the town taxes were raised. At a town meeting held April 28, 1656, a vote was passed required all the sawmills of the town to be rated for the maintaining of public ordinances.

In 1657 Thomas Pettit and family arrived by ship to the English settlement of Middleburgh near Maspeth Creek a Dutch outpost in the region of New Netherlands in New Amsterdam. The Dutch allowed English merchants to profit from trade on the condition they use Dutch West India ships. On Maspeth Creek there was the Trading House established by the Dutch West India Company where several valuable cargoes of beaver and other skins were shipped from the area. The Dutch also established a centre for milling building tide pools along Newtown Creek and their tributaries that served as a centre of trade in New Netherlands.

Elias Bayley who fulfilled the office of Schout in the English settlement of Middelburg in New Netherlands ventured upon an abuse of his powers when he was directed by the magistrates to execute a judgement against Thomas Steverson. A complaint was made to Council May 1657, and they decided that Bayley should pay reparation. He was removed by vote of Council and Thomas Pettit Sr. chosen instead.

Source; Courts and Lawyers of New York, History 1609-1925 Volume 1 page 279.

Scouts of Municipal Courts; In general, the magistrates were chosen more on the account of their standing in the community than because of their knowledge of law. Some were, or became, well versed in Dutch law, but as a rule the magistrates relied upon the schouts to make clear the points of law. ✕

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schout to make a reiteration here unnecessary. The schouts of municipal outside New Amsterdam during the Dutch period.....Middleburgh Thomas Newton, Elias Bayley & Thomas Pettit.

Source. History of Fairfield Connecticut; Elias Bayley was Mr. Denton's attorney for the settlement of his accounts here, in 1651 he buys land of John Coe with a house and sells it to John Wood in 1657 when he was living in Middleburgh/Newtown L.I (2)

Thomas & Christian Pettit issue (1) Thomas Pettit II m. Sarah Perry second Hannah Jessup widow of John Moore (2) Mary Pettit m. Judge John Firman second Nicholas Edes (3) John Pettit m. Sarah Bayley the daughter of Elias & Sarah Bayley (4) Nathaniel Pettit m. Mary Bayley the daughter of Elias & Sarah Bayley (5) Hannah Pettit m. Thomas Morrell from Portsmouth N.H. (6) Sarah Pettit m. Thomas Skillman (7) Moses Pettit.

There was a family dispute over the goods of Thomas Pettit Sr. with Judge John Firman the husband of their sister Mary. in the Minutes of Newtown Volume 1 pages 216, 263 & 264, concerning two shirts and some other household goods and necessities. John Pettit filed an action against John Firman and the issue was later settled.

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John Pettit plaintive enters an account of the case against John Pettit defendant concerning two shirts and some other household goods and necessities.

John Pettit sworn in court declares that he went to John Firmans house to fetch the goods which formerly belonged to his father Thomas Pettit, several barrels were there, some of them in use which John Firman said he could not spare, but he said when they were empty, he would deliver them to said John Pettit.

Nataniel Pettit being sworn in the court testified to the truth of his brother John Pettit with evidence.

Sarah the wife of Thomas Pettit testified that she heard John Firman say that he was out for twelve or thirteen days for Nathaniel Pettit ...unreadable dressing of Flax.

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We Thomas Pettit Senior, John Pettit & Sarah the wife of John Pettit do hereby with these presents make void and null the former engagements and do freely acquit and discharge John Firman and his wife of all demands therein as witness or hands the 3rd of March 1668/69 (testes) witnesses. Moses Pettit, John Holden, John Pettit, Thomas Pettit & the mark of Sarah Pettit (wife of John Pettit) recorded the 4th of March at Newtown 1668 (Thomas Holden clerk)

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Be it known unto all men by these presents that I John Pettit of Newtown in the West Riding of Yorkshire on Long Island have with the consent and appreciation of my father Thomas Pettit and likewise the Court, have received my said fathers' belongings from the said John Firman. I do hereby exonerate, acquit and discharge the said John Firman his heirs' executors and administrators from all and every action of his engagement which he made with my father formerly in the presence of the Court in reference to his maintaining my father during his natural life, and I do acknowledge myself to have received all my father's goods according to our agreement and a parcel of meadow with an assignment of a bill of sale for the same and a young mare come three years old, and two yearling steers, and one two year old heifer which is in full satisfaction for my maintain my father during his life, and I do hereby clear free the said John Furman and his heirs of all charge and trouble that may here after arise upon any account in reference to my said father. In witness to which I have hereunto set my hand and seal this third day of March in twenty first year of the reign of sovereign lord king Charles in the year of our Lord God 1668/69, The postscript was before the sign and sealing hereof;

It is to be understood that the lot, which is within the fence of John Firman, he is to enjoy in consideration of the above mentioned premises and also the SWORD which was my fathers. Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of us. John Pettit, Thomas Pettit, Moses Pettit and the mark of Sarah Pettit (wife of John Pettit)

Death of Thomas Pettit 1668

Be it known to all men by these presents that I John Furman of Newtown in the West Riding of Yorkshire on Long Island have from me my heirs executors

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consideration of part of satisfaction for the lot which I had of his father's which is done by consent of his father according to the contract formerly made by his father and me during the term of his life in witness to which I have here unto set my hand and seal this third day of March in the 21th of the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles the second by the grace of God King of Great Britain, France and Ireland defender of the faith and in the year of our Lord god 1668

signed and sealed Moses Pettit

John Holden

signed John Furman

Signet Rings & Swords were possessions kept by the Gentry. Thomas Pettit's occupation and indenture connections would lead to believe he was from a Gentle family. It's possible he was a descendant of the Pettit's of Shalmsford street in the parish of Chartham.

Thomas Pettit esq. 1580-1625 Councillor of Law in Canterbury & Francesca the daughter of Henry Paramour are buried inside St Mary's Church in Chilham England.

Thomas Pettit 1580-1625 esq of Canterbury was a gentleman of modest means; he was the son of William Pettit & Susanna the daughter of Thomas Payne expert of law. When his father William died, he inherited the Manor of Shamlesford Bridge that he sold sharing the profit with his sisters. Thomas Pettit died in Canterbury but it was his last wish to be buried inside St Marys church of Chilham where the ancient forbearers of the Pettit family were laid to rest. The Pettit's of Shamelsford Manor were distant cousins of the Pettit's of Isle Thanet and have a linage that dates back to the 11th Century. William Pettit the father of Thomas Pettit of Canterbury was the son of Thomas Petyt esq. of Shamlesford and his first wife Joanna the daughter of Walter Crois, his second wife was Margaret the daughter of William Samson, and his second son Cyriac Petyt esq. of Boughton Blean, who was a member of Parliament & speaker of the House of Commons in 1554.

Connections...

In England joint-stock trade venture companies were established in London to minimize the risk of Colonization in 1554. The Massachusetts Company was formed as a joint stock company by a group of Puritans and merchants who were landed gentry and supported by members of parliament who were

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it was seized by the Spanish.

Many of the Gentry who were Company Stock holders and did not wish to immigrate to New England hired lands men to take care of their business interests or hired relatives.

Thomas Pettit was indentured to Oliver Mellows a merchant and shareholder of Massachusetts Company who was the cousin of Oliver St. Johns a London Judge of the House of Lords was a member of the Joint Stock Providence Island Company established by William Fiennes the 1st Viscount of Say & Sele who devoted time and money in colonization, in 1632 he purchased land to establish Connecticut River Colony and in 1633 purchased Dover New Hampshire. Bridget the daughter of William Fiennes the 1st Viscount of Say & Sele married Theophilus Clinton 4th earl of Lincon his sister was Arabella the wife of Rev. Isaac Johnson one of the biggest contributors of Massachusetts Company. They named Matthew Craddock the first governor of Massachusetts Company who was also the director of East India Company the secretary of East India Company was John Messingbird, the son of a Goldsmith from Lincolnshire, his wife was Cecilla Pettit and her brother was Thomas Pettit a merchant for East India Company (grandchildren of Cyriac Petyt)

Gravesite Details

Newtown burial ground 1652 was located on a hill near Horse brook meadows present day 56th and 92nd St. In 1915 a park was built over the cemetery.

Family Members

Spouse



Christian *Mellows* Pettit
1611–1665

Children



Thomas Pettit
1636–1699



Mary *Pettit* Edes
1638–1700



John Pettit
1641–1699



Nathaniel Pettit
1645–1718



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Sarah *Pettit* Skillman
1648-1704

Created by: Miranda • RELATIVE • GREAT-GRANDCHILD

Added: 10 Mar 2021

Find a Grave Memorial ID: **224090830**

Find a Grave, database and images

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/224090830/thomas-pettit>: accessed 06 February 2023), memorial page for Thomas Pettit Sr. (1608-Oct 1668), Find a Grave Memorial ID 224090830, citing Old Newtown Cemetery, Elmhurst, Queens County, New York, USA; Maintained by Miranda (contributor 47442646).

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