

# HISTORY OF YORK MAINE

*Successively known as Bristol (1632), Agamenticus (1641),  
Gorgeana (1642), and York (1652)*

IN THREE VOLUMES  
VOLUME II

BY  
CHARLES EDWARD BANKS  
Assistant Surgeon General, U. S. P. H. S. (Retired)

*Member of the MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETIES  
and of the AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY*

*Author of COL. ALEXANDER RIGBY AND THE PROVINCE OF LYGONIA (1885),  
LIFE LETTERS AND PUBLIC SERVICES OF EDWARD GODFREY (1887),  
HISTORY OF MARTHAS VINEYARD, MASS. (1911), ENGLISH  
HOMES AND ANCESTRY OF THE PILGRIMS (1929), THE  
WINTHROP FLEET OF 1630 (1930) AND PLANTERS  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH (1930)*

*With Contributions on Topography and Land Titles  
By ANGEVINE W. GOWEN, C. E.  
SKETCHES BY THE AUTHOR*

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THE DEMESNE OF THE YOUNGER GORGES

I ffancis Raynes being in my perfect health and memory do make this my last Will and Testament of the Estate I have in this life, and do give my Executors the full power of it, to perform what is aboue mentioned after my decease.

My own hand  
ffancis Raynes

Witnes/  
Nathaniel Raynes  
John Woodman  
ffancis Raynes Junr }

Recorded October 15, 1706,  
(Probate Office 1, 125)

The family genealogy will appear in Volume III of this work.

● WILLIAM HILTON

*William Hilton*

This pioneer of York was one of the earliest settlers in New England as he came to Plymouth in 1621 on the *Fortune* from London, and his letter descriptive of the country, appearing in "New England Trials," 1622, is the first published letter written by a Plymouth Pilgrim describing this part of the country. One phrase in it is striking: "We are all free-holders, the rent day doth not trouble us." His wife and two children followed in the *Anne* and there he lived until some time in 1624 when the inevitable church "row" ensued. William Hilton, like many others at Plymouth, had no connection with the Leyden church organization and when Rev. John Lyford, sent over as minister by the Merchant Adventurers of London, baptized one of Hilton's children, the Leyden faction started a quarrel with Lyford because William Hilton "was not joined to the church (as a member) at Plymouth" (*Hubbard History of New England, ch. xvi*). Lyford was banished in 1624 and doubtless Hilton left about the same time. He is next heard of in Dover with his brother Edward, a freeman of the Fishmongers Company of London, who probably emigrated on the advice of his elder brother.

The family from which they descended probably originated in Lancashire, and about 1550 the representatives of this branch removed to Northwich, township of Witton, County Chester, and engaged in the manufacture of salt, for which industry that place was then noted. It is believed that this branch consisted of at least three

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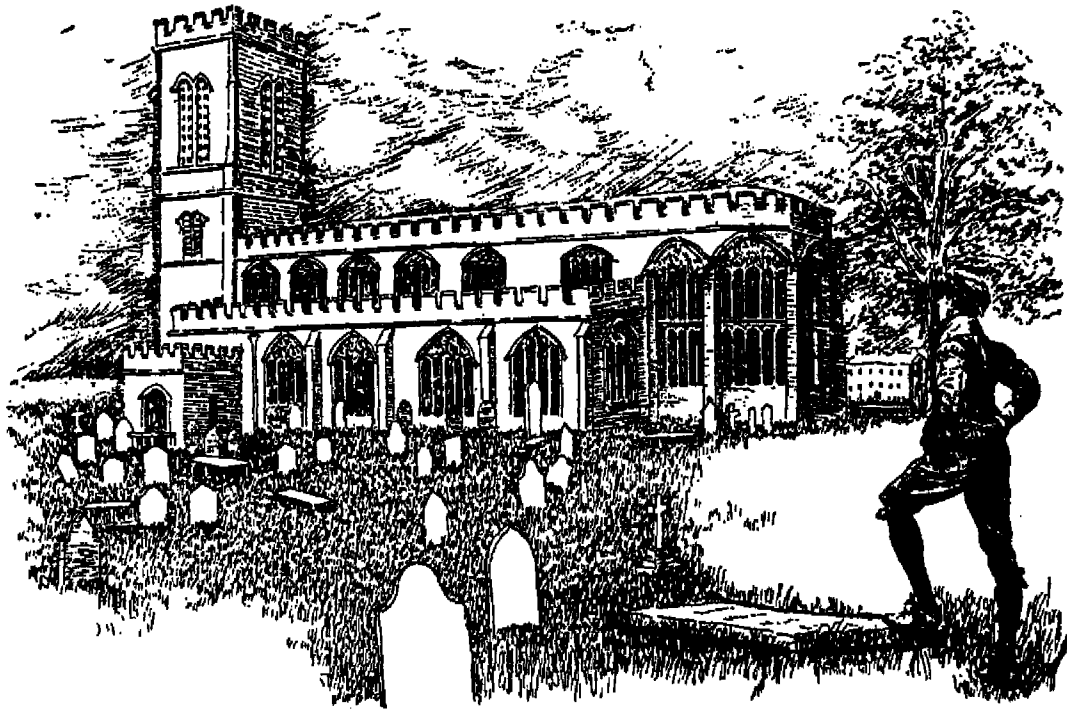
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## HISTORY OF YORK

brothers: Charles, who went to London and became a member of the Fishmongers' Company; Anthony, who also went to the same city; and William, who remained in Northwich. This William the first died in 1605 and from his will of that year, dated February 8, which was proved October 28 following, and from other sources, these children are believed to be his issue by wife Ellen who was buried March 27, 1606, as a widow:

- i. Richard, b. (1571); m. Catherine Underwood December 2, 1594. They had a son Richard who came to Dover, N. H., about 1645 but returned to England and died there.
- ii. Amy, b. (1573); m. John Dickson or Jackson.
- iii. (daughter), b. (1575); m. William Robinson, co-executor of will.
- iv. Arthur, b. (1578); m. Jane Royle; co-executor of father's will.
- v. William, b. (1585); the emigrant to New England
- vi. Edward, bapt. June 9, 1596; apprenticed in 1612 to the widow of his uncle Charles, the fishmonger. He was free of the Company in 1621 and emigrated to New England a few years later to join his brother William. Settled Dover, N. H.



CHURCH OF SS. HELEN AND LUKE, NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE  
Where children of William Hilton were baptized

These are all the children who can be definitely placed as the issue of William and Ellen, but doubtless there were others as his will only mentions "my children" without naming them. The maiden name of his wife is not known but it is believed to be Mainwaring, which was perpetuated in the family of William, Jr., for several generations. The names of Charles and his son Paul were also perpetuated in the descendants of William and Edward.

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## THE DEMESNE OF THE YOUNGER GORGES

Of the early life of William before he emigrated to New England but little is known. He was in London at the date of his father's will and may be identical with a William Hilton, a vintner's assistant in Greenwich in 1613, in view of his engaging in the occupation of taverner in the latter years of his life in Maine and New Hampshire. About 1615 he had returned to Northwich, probably married there (wife's name unknown). Two children were baptized there, the last in 1619; and a further presumption is that he again went to London where in association with his brother Edward, living in the parish of St. Botolph's Billingsgate near London Bridge, he was undoubtedly cognizant of the sailing of the *Mayflower* and familiar with all the tales of adventure in the New World. He decided to cast his lot with the Pilgrims and when the Plymouth Adventurers made up a passenger list for sailing in the *Fortune* in the summer of 1621 he decided to go in that party. After arrival he wrote to an unnamed "loving cousin" in which he asked "your friendly care to send my wife and children to me." Following his removal from Plymouth to Dover, N. H. about 1624, he remained there for about twenty years, during which time he was Deputy to the General Court and a Commissioner. He removed later to Kittery, residing at the Great Cove on Piscataqua River. He was licensed on June 27, 1648, to keep an ordinary there and also to operate a ferry at that point. It is probable that he married a second wife, Frances (surname unknown), and continued to reside there for the next two years preceding his removal to this town in 1650. There is no record of his purchase of land here or a grant to him from the town, but his home was situated on the opposite shore from Stage Neck and in December 1652, he was appointed to keep the ferry at that place, as stated elsewhere. He was Selectman 1652, 1653, 1654 and Grand Juror 1654, and died the following year or the year after. He must have been a man of education and ability as he was a correspondent of Governor Winthrop and is generally called "Mr." in the records. When a member of the General Court of Massachusetts in 1644, as representative from Dover, he was appointed one of a committee to examine the new law book prepared by Bellingham and advise on same before printing.

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## HISTORY OF YORK

He had the following children by first wife:

- i. William, bapt. June 22, 1617 at Northwich; m. (1) Sarah Greenleaf about 1640; (2) Mehitable Nowell about 1661. Had issue ten children by both wives.
- ii. Mary, bapt. May 11, 1619 at Northwich; m. James Wiggins.
- iii. John, b. (1621); living in Dover 1648.
- iv. Magdalen, b. (1624).
- v. Mainwaring, b. (1627); mariner; m. Mary Moulton. (probably by second wife)
- vi. William, b. (1642); so named during the life of his elder brother William (*Deeds iii, 125*).
- vii. Anne (Agnes), b. (1644); m. Arthur Beal.

His widow, Frances, married (2) Richard White of York (*q. v.*). The genealogy of this family will appear in Volume III.

### THOMAS CROCKETT

He is said to have arrived at Piscataqua about 1631 (*B. of T. Mss. i, 7*), but nothing further is known of him until 1641 when he received a grant of one hundred forty-seven acres at Spruce Creek, Kittery, where he lived in that town for the next ten years. He bought and sold several lots in Kittery, and was ferryman at Brave Boat Harbor. In 1652 he signed the Submission as resident of Gorgeana, and in 1653 was granted forty acres "next the sea-side" between the lands of Godfrey and Raynes (*Deeds i, 36*). He was town constable in 1657, but seems to have held no other office in the town. He deposed in 1654 aged forty-three years (*Mass. Arch. xxxviii, 152*), which places his birth about 1611; and this fact, without much doubt, identifies him as from Stoke Gabriel, County Devon, where Thomas Crockett and wife Anne had a son Thomas baptized January 13, 1610-11, the same year as the emigrant's birth. The name Crockett is very rare in England, which adds to this probability. He died about 1679 and his widow Anne administered the estate that year. Her maiden name is unknown, but it is not improbable that she was connected with the Gunnison or Lynn family of Kittery. She married (2) before 1683 Digory Jeffreys and survived as late as 1712, leaving the following issue by her first marriage:

- i. Anne, b. (1642); m. William Roberts of Arundel.
- ii. Ephraim, b. 1644; tailor; m. Anne —.

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- iii. Sara
- iv. Elij
- v. Josh
- vi. Jose
- vii. Hug
- viii. Mar

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- i. James, 1678 1685 marr

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## HISTORY OF YORK

Saywards, Lymans, Kingsburys and by intermarriage with the Sewalls, Moodys and Emersons is now thoroughly fixed in the traditions of York as one of its outstanding families. The genealogy of the family will be found in Volume III of this history.

### TAVERNS

William Hilton, who had been combining the two occupations of "mine host" of the inn and ferryman in Kittery, did not apparently do so when he settled in York. Whether, after his death, this double function was undertaken by the ferrymen who succeeded him does not appear in the records. It would seem that there was no reason for an inn on the south side as there were two conveniently situated across the river.

Thomas Trafton was undoubtedly the first inn-keeper on this side. He had established a ferry, where Rice's Bridge now spans the stream, to accommodate the traffic which came across the post road that had come into use as an additional highway to and from Sayward's mills. Travelers who reached the river late at night by the Beech Ridge road required an inn, and he applied for a license in 1695 and was allowed to retail liquor in 1698. He probably continued to keep an ordinary until his death (about 1707), and his son Zaccheus followed him. In 1719 his younger son Charles was licensed to maintain a tavern at this place.

### OLD MILL CREEK

The inception and installation of the milling industry on the south side of the river of Agamenticus is of national historic interest, for it is probable that the first sawmill here was also the first one to be operated by tidal power in the United States. This little inlet also has the further distinction of furnishing the motive power for milling purposes continuously for nearly three hundred years. Within the present century the stones of the gristmill were still grinding corn at the upper end of Old Mill Creek, as they had done for a hundred and fifty years. The remains of the dam and the ruins of these once busy mills can yet be located by the curious.

In the early Summer of 1634 Gorges and Mason, anticipating the building requirements of their growing prov-

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