

# Beck Register Report

## First Generation

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1. **Henry<sup>1</sup> BECK<sup>[1]</sup>** was born ca 1617 in Dover, Hertfordshire, England<sup>[2,3,4]</sup>. An eighteenth century written record from his grandson Henry Beck (son of Thomas & father of Mary - SEE) of Greenland, Rockingham co., NH claimed that "My grandfather Henry Beck was born In the Paresh of geywareck in warickshear In old england."<sup>[sic]</sup><sup>[3]</sup> Meaning, this Henry was born in Guy Warwick, Warwickshire, England<sup>[1]</sup>. According to Stearns, Beck is an ancient name in the East of England<sup>[5]</sup>.

Henry died in New Castle, Rockingham co., NH before 1687; he was 70<sup>[4,5]</sup>. Henry's estate was administered on 26 April 1686, with his widow Elizabeth as administratrix<sup>[5]</sup>.

While the tale has been spun that Henry was one of the unfortunate passengers on the *Angel Gabriel* (which was wrecked at Pemaquid, ME in 1635), the facts show otherwise. Henry came to America in 1635 from London, England to New England aboard the *Blessing*, Mr. John Leicester [Lester], Master. Henry was 18 years old<sup>[3,7]</sup>. He settled in Strawberry Banke (now Portsmouth), Rockingham co., NH.

"Beck's Slip", otherwise known as "Harford's Ferry" is at Beck's Point on the Fore River in Dover, Strafford co., NH. It is indeed named for this Henry Beck. The point was part of his land grant and he had and ran the ferry rights from this point in Dover to Kittery (now Eliot), York co., ME. He also used it as a shipping & receiving point for goods and trade. He may have begun his business there as early as 1636<sup>[20]</sup>.

Beck signed the "Combination Document" at Dover, Strafford co., NH in 1640<sup>[19]</sup>. Dover was settled from Hilton's Point in 1623 on back through Dover Neck in 1633 and the Back River District in 1642. Scales describes this as "...one of the best farmland sections of the town & the dwellers therein have always been among the best citizens of the town..."<sup>[21]</sup> Land grants of 20 acre lots were made in 1642 and Henry received lot #21. He appeared on the tax list during the 1640s. The "town rate of 4d. on a £ was made" with Henry Beck being assessed at £40 16s. 0d. and taxed at £0 13s. 7d.<sup>[22]</sup>

On 16 June 1648, Henry received a land grant in Cocheco Marsh (now mostly Rollinsford), Strafford co., NH of Lot #9..."Henry Becke, 6 yeackers"<sup>[23]</sup>

Henry received a 10 acre land grant of one of the "out lots" in Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH<sup>[16]</sup> -- a.k.a. Strawberry Banke -- on 13 January 1652. He lived there until he moved to New Castle (also known as Great Island and Goat Island), Rockingham co., NH by 11 August 1685 (when he deeded house and land there to Richard Welcome, of Star Island)<sup>[3]</sup>.

Around 1660, he moved to the Sagamore Creek area of Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH and was definitely there by 28 June 1659, when he sold land in Dover and listed Sagamore Creek as his current residence<sup>[8,16]</sup>. In the Court Records of Portsmouth in 1668, "Henry Beck of Sagamore Creek in ye town of Portsmouth, planter" & his wife Ann are mentioned<sup>[16]</sup>.

Stearns records several real estate transactions of Henry's: "...On June 28, 1657, 'henrie beck' of Sagamore Creek (Portsmouth), sold to Thomas Laiton, of Dover, land in Dover. Henry and Ann Beck sold land in Portsmouth to Joseph Walker, September 1 1668. They deeded to Thomas Beck (their son) land, buildings and personal property January 6, 1679, all then being of Portsmouth..."<sup>[6]</sup>

Finally, on 14 December 1658, Henry first subscribed 5 shillings for the support of the Portsmouth ministry (church unknown) and continued this for many years<sup>[3]</sup>.

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Around 1645 when Henry was 28, he first married **Ann FROST**, in Dover, Strafford co., NH<sup>[4,8,9,10,11,12]</sup>. Ann was born in Piscataqua, NH and died before 1675/1680<sup>[4,5]</sup>.

They had the following children:

- 2**
  - i. Thomas (ca1657-1734)**
  - ii. Joshua
  - iii. Caleb
  - iv. Henry
  - v. Mary

ca 1675/1680 when Henry was 58, he second married **Elizabeth [surname not known]**, in Great Island (New Castle), Rockingham co., NH<sup>[4,5,12,13,14]</sup>. She is the administratrix for Henry's estate on 26 April 1686<sup>[5]</sup>.

Generation: G8 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 1028/1029

### Second Generation

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**2. Thomas<sup>2</sup> BECK** (*Henry<sup>1</sup>*) was born ca. 1657 in Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH<sup>[5]</sup>. Thomas died on 7 Nov 1734; he was 77<sup>[5]</sup>. Thomas died in Newbury, Essex co., MA on 7 November 1734; he was 77<sup>[5,24]</sup>. His identity is confirmed because he is listed as "s. Henry and Ann" in his Newbury Death Record<sup>[24]</sup>. Thomas' occupation is given as Farmer<sup>[5]</sup>. Thomas supposedly lived in Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH his entire life<sup>[5]</sup>. However, he and his (second?) wife lived with or near Thomas' son Joshua and his family in Newbury, Essex co., MA at the time of his death in 1734 and through her death in 1753.

In Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH, he served on the petit jury in 1693, 1695 & 1696 and on the grand jury in 1694. He was constable there in 1697 and Selectman in 1703<sup>[5]</sup>.

Sometime before 1683 when Thomas was 26, he married **Mary FROST**, in Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH<sup>[4,10,11,15]</sup>.

They had the following children:

- 3.**
  - i. Henry (ca1695-)**
  - ii. Thomas
  - iii. Joshua
  - iv. Abigail
  - v. Mary
  - vi. Samuel
  - vii. Hannah

I think that Thomas second married **Anna [surname not known]**. She is only known via her death record in Newbury where she is listed as "Beck, Anna, wid. Thomas, Feb. 25 1753, a. 94 y."<sup>[24]</sup> She would have been born circa 1659 and died in Newbury, Essex co., MA on 25 February 1753; she was 94. It could be that she was Mary, but Anna is an unusual variant of the name.

Generation: G7 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 564/565

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### Third Generation

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**3. Henry<sup>3</sup> BECK** (*Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Henry<sup>1</sup>*) was born ca. 1695 in Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH<sup>[16]</sup>. Henry lived in Portsmouth, Rockingham co., NH<sup>[5]</sup>. According to Stearns, "...He was evidently a man of means, and planned to settle his children comfortably..."<sup>[6]</sup>

Stearns records several real estate transactions of his: "...He took a deed of land and house in that town [Portsmouth] from Samuel Moore in 1725. His wife's name appears as Jane in the records of several transactions. They united with Thomas and Elizabeth Beck in selling land in Rye, January 12, 1744. They sold land and buildings in Barrington to George Foss, March 31, 1747. He removed to Greenland [Strafford co., NH] as early as 1750, for he is called of that town in a deed given for land, buildings and other property in Portsmouth, September 13, 1756...[Further,] on April 25, 1746, he purchased from Nathaniel Lang one-half a pew in the South Church at that place [Portsmouth]...On October 22, 1765, he took deed from Samuel and Mary Cate, of Portsmouth, to land and buildings in Rumford (Concord), New Hampshire. This land is in the northeastern part of Concord, near the Loudon line..."<sup>[6]</sup>

Henry married **Jane CATE**<sup>[5]</sup>, daughter of John CATE & Judith [surname not known].

They had the following children:

- |          |           |                         |
|----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| <b>4</b> | <b>i.</b> | <b>Mary (1745-1822)</b> |
|          | ii.       | Margaret                |
|          | iii.      | John                    |
|          | iv.       | Nathaniel               |
|          | v.        | Hannah                  |
|          | vi.       | Elizabeth               |
|          | vii.      | Henry                   |

Generation: G6 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 282/283

### Fourth Generation

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**4. Mary<sup>4</sup> BECK** (*Henry<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Henry<sup>1</sup>*) was born in 1745 in New Castle, Rockingham co., NH<sup>[17,18]</sup> and died in New Castle, Rockingham co., NH in Dec 1822; she was 77<sup>[17,18]</sup>.

On 31 Dec 1770 when Mary was 25, she married **Benjamin ODIORNE** (*see Odiorne*). Benjamin lived in Rye, Rockingham co., NH at the time of his marriage in 1770<sup>[17]</sup>.

They had the following children (*surname Odiorne*):

- |           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| <b>i.</b> | <b>Benjamin (1777-1823)</b> |
| ii.       | Ebenezer (1772-1826)        |
| iii.      | Mary (1776-1856)            |
| iv.       | John (1783-1825)            |
| v.        | Elizabeth (1774-)           |
| vi.       | George Beck (1782-1833)     |
| vii.      | Joseph (1788-1863)          |

Generation: G5 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 140/141

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## Sources

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