

## Bowers Register Report

Surname variations include Bower and Bowers.

### First Generation

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**1. Mister George<sup>1</sup> BOWERS** was probably born circa 1595, based upon his marriage, and died in 1656<sup>[1]</sup>. According to a tidbit in the *New England Historic Genealogical Register*, volume 8, page 278, searches of the Manby, Lincolnshire and Brathwell, Yorkshire, England Parish Registers turned up no baptism records for George, his wife or children. Pity, that...

While the Bowers' migration information is currently lost to the ages, they were at Scituate, Plymouth co., MA by 1636/7<sup>[2]</sup>. They removed to Plymouth, Plymouth co., MA by 1639<sup>[2]</sup>. Yet, George only sold lands at Scituate and bought land at Plymouth in 1640 -- after the initial move<sup>[2]</sup>. Then, he bought lands at the Eele River from Governor Winslow, who reserved the right to repurchase them in case he himself decided to settle there<sup>[2]</sup>. His neighbors soon complained after his settlement in Plymouth that he was not allowing others' cattle to pass through his land. So a committee was appointed to lay out a cattle path through his land which "would be least prejudicial to him<sup>[2]</sup>." Finally, the family moved to Cambridge, Middlesex co., MA in 1641/2 in order to be near his sons whilst they went to Harvard<sup>[2]</sup>.

George was a Planter, as opposed to a Husbandman and was referred to as "Mister"<sup>[2]</sup>. He made Freeman on 7 March 1636/7 at Scituate, Plymouth co., MA<sup>[2]</sup>. Yet, on 31 May 1652, he was called before the Court for voting without being a Freeman<sup>[2]</sup>. This fact originally made me go "Huh...?!" Then, Doug Schneider shared the following insights on George & this case: "George Bowers was in trouble for voting without being a freeman in Chelmsford [Essex co., MA] because he was not a freeman there. Yes, he was a freeman in Scituate, [Essex co., MA,] and I guess he thought that was good enough - as he told the court. I think they let him off easy. He was apparently a man of some means, but often at odds with his son Benanual and with local authorities."<sup>[31]</sup>

Bowers was elected constable for Plymouth, Plymouth co., MA on 5 March 1638/9<sup>[2]</sup>. In 1640, George Bower and John Barnes were put in charge of getting timber for the new Colony jail<sup>[2]</sup>. In January of 1641/2, George joined a consortium of 16 Plymouth men contracted to build a barque, with each owning 1/16th share<sup>[2]</sup>.

George's will was dated 8 November 1656 and proved on 30 December 1656. He did not mention his daughter Ruth Knowles. He did leave bequests to his wife; his sons Benanuel, John and Jerathmeel and his daughters Patience and Silence<sup>[2]</sup>.

On 9 February 1614/15 George first married **Barbara SMITH or SMYTH**, in Braithwell, Yorkshire, England<sup>[1,3,4,5,6,2,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15]</sup>. Their marriage license as given in "Paver's Marriage Licenses" reads: "George Bower, of Manby, [dioc. Lincoln], and Barbara Smith, of Braythwell -- at Braythwell.". Barbara died on 25d:1m(March):1644 in Cambridge, Middlesex co., MA<sup>[1,16]</sup>.

They had the following children:

- |          |      |                |
|----------|------|----------------|
| <b>2</b> | i.   | Ruth           |
| <b>3</b> | ii.  | Matthew        |
| <b>4</b> | iii. | John           |
| <b>5</b> | iv.  | Benanuel       |
| <b>6</b> | v.   | Patience       |
| <b>7</b> | vi.  | <b>Silence</b> |

Generation: G8 Grandparents  
Person Numbers: 1954/1955

On 15 April 1649 George second married **Elizabeth WORTHINGTON**, in Cambridge, Middlesex co., MA<sup>[1,2,4,9,10,17,18,19,20,]</sup>.

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They had one child:

**8**

i.

Jerathmeel

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### Second Generation

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#### Family of Mister George BOWERS (1) & Barbara SMITH

2. **Ruth BOWERS** (*George*<sup>1</sup>) was born circa 1619 as based on her marriage date. On 15 August 1639 when Ruth was 20, she married **Richard KNOWLES**, in Plymouth, Plymouth co., MA<sup>[21]</sup>.

3. **Matthew BOWERS** (*George*<sup>1</sup>) died in 30d:11m(January):1644/5 in Cambridge, Middlesex co., MA<sup>[22]</sup>.

4. **Reverend John BOWERS** (*George*<sup>1</sup>) died on 14 June 1687 in Derby, CT<sup>[23]</sup>. He graduated from Harvard in 1649<sup>[2]</sup>. Before 1657 John first married **Rebecca GREGSON**, daughter of **Thomas GREGSON & Jane [surname not known]**, in New Haven or Derby, CT<sup>[1]</sup>. He second married **Bridget THOMPSON**, daughter of **Anthony THOMPSON**.

5. **Benanuel BOWERS** (*George*<sup>1</sup>) died in 1698<sup>[11]</sup>. According to "interesting letters written by his granddaughter", Benanuel was persecuted as a Quaker and sent his four eldest daughters to Philadelphia for their education. One of them became the noted author Bathsheba Bowers<sup>[15]</sup>. On 9 December 1653 Benanuel married **Elizabeth DUNSTER**, in Cambridge, Middlesex co., MA<sup>[2]</sup>.

6. **Patience BOWERS** (*George*<sup>1</sup>) married **Humphrey BRADSHAW** of Cambridge, Middlesex co., MA<sup>[15]</sup>.

7. **Silence BOWERS** (*George*<sup>1</sup>) was born circa 1630/1635 as based on her date of marriage. Silence died in Medfield, Norfolk co., MA on 9 November 1677; she was 47<sup>[1,15]</sup>.

In 14d:10m:1656 when Silence was 26, she first married **Elnathan DUNKLEE**, in Dedham, Norfolk co., MA<sup>[1,20,24,25,26,27,28]</sup> as "Elnathan Dunckly & Silence Bowers".

They had the following children:

- i. Ruth
- ii. David
- iii. **Nathaniel**

Generation: G7 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 976/977

On 25 May 1675 when Silence was 45, she second married **Nicholas ROCKETT**, in Medfield, Norfolk co., MA<sup>[1]</sup>. Nicholas died in 1680<sup>[1]</sup>.

They had one child:

- i. Isaac

#### Family of Mister George BOWERS (1) & Elizabeth WORTHINGTON

8. **Captain Jerathmeel BOWERS** (*George*<sup>1</sup>) was born on 3 May 1650 in Cambridge, Middlesex co., MA<sup>[2,30]</sup> and died in Groton, Middlesex co., MA on 23 April 1724; he was 73<sup>[15]</sup>.

Before 1674 when Jerathmeel was 23, he married **Elizabeth [surname not known]**, in Billerica, Chelmsford or Groton, Middlesex co., MA<sup>[1]</sup>. Elizabeth was born in 1645<sup>[15]</sup> as based on her given age at death. She died in Chelmsford, Middlesex co., MA on 4 March 1721; she was 76<sup>[15]</sup>.

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**29.** "Dedham, Norfolk co., MA Vital Racords," [DedhamVR], 11.

**30.** "Cambridge, Middlesex co., MA Vital Records," [CambridgeVR], l:76.

**31.** Research of Doug Schneider.