

## Saunders Register Report

The Saunders (or Sanders) family came from "Torbay, England", settled on the Isles of Shoals and took up the familiar, albeit dangerous, lives of commercial fishermen. Then, as now, commercial fishing was one of the most dangerous occupations in America. The list of those who were lost at sea is great in this family.

While "Torbay, England" is not found in the modern atlases of that country, the "Torbay" referred to is possibly now the town of Torquay, England - which is a harbor town south of Exeter. It is between Hope's Nose and Paignton, just south of Babbacombe Bay.<sup>[6]</sup>

The Great Gale of 20 October 1770 was one of the most destructive and violent ever on the New England coast. It was a vicious Nor'Easter which started late Friday, 19 October 1770 and continued in full force on Saturday, 20 October 1770. Contemporary readers would recognize it as having the strength and ferocity of "The Perfect Storm" of October 1990.

"...In the bay at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, two schooners from Rye were out fishing, and were seen about sunset Friday night, but were never again heard from. On one of the vessels were six men, John Sanders and his son John, John Yeaton, William Thomas and two others and two boys; and on the other were Samuel Sanders, Joshua Foss, Samuel Sanders, Jr., and two boys. Six of the men left wives and a number of children. How many wives were made widows and children orphans by this storm is not known, but the number must have been large..."<sup>[4]</sup>

The Saunders family clearly suffered tremendous loss in this one gale.

### First Generation

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**1. [not known]<sup>1</sup> SAUNDERS<sup>[1]</sup>.** Nothing is currently known of him or his wife.

They had the following children:

- |          |      |                    |
|----------|------|--------------------|
| <b>2</b> | i.   | John (-1770)       |
| <b>3</b> | ii.  | Samuel (-1770)     |
| <b>4</b> | iii. | George (1732-1786) |
| <b>5</b> | iv.  | Robert (-1807)     |

Generation: G8 Grandparents

Parent Numbers: 1150/1151

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## Second Generation

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2. **John<sup>2</sup> SAUNDERS** (*[not known]*<sup>1</sup>) was born in Torbay, England and was lost in the Great October Gale of 1770<sup>[2]</sup>. John emigrated from Torbay, England before 7 April 1740 (date of marriage) and settled at the Isles of Shoals<sup>[2]</sup>.

John first married **Mary BERRY**. We've yet to figure out her parentage from the many Berrys along the New Hampshire coast at that time. She died before 1760.

They had the following children:

<b>6</b>	i.	<b>Esther</b>
<b>7</b>	ii.	Robert (-1839)
<b>8</b>	iii.	Mary
<b>9</b>	iv.	John
<b>10</b>	v.	George

Generation: G7 Grandparents

Parent Numbers: 570/571

In 1760 John second married **Tryphena PHILBRICK**, in Rye, Rockingham co., NH<sup>[2]</sup>.

They had the following children:

<b>11</b>	i.	Abigail (1760-)
	ii.	William
<b>12</b>	iii.	Sarah
<b>13</b>	iv.	Olly (1766-)

3. **Samuel SAUNDERS** (*[not known]*<sup>1</sup>) was born in Torbay, England<sup>[2]</sup> and was lost along with his brother in the Great Gale of October 1770<sup>[2]</sup>. Samuel emigrated from Torbay, England before 1746 (date of marriage) and settled at the Isles of Shoals<sup>[2]</sup>. In 1746 Samuel married Hannah FOSS/FOST<sup>[2]</sup>.

The Joshua Foss who was a hand on Samuel Sanders, Sr.'s fishing schooner when it was lost in the Great Gale of 20 October 1770 was probably her brother. This meant that Hannah lost her husband, son and brother in this one storm.

4. **George SAUNDERS** (*[not known]*<sup>1</sup>) was born on 18 April 1732 in Torbay, England and died in Rye, Rockingham co., NH in 1786; he was 53<sup>[2]</sup>. George emigrated from Torbay, England before 1756 or 1757 (date of marriage). He settled at the Isles of Shoals and was a member of Captain Parsons' company, serving in the Revolutionary War<sup>[2]</sup>. In 1756-1757, when George was 23, he married **Sarah KIVE**, in Rye, Rockingham co., NH<sup>[2]</sup>.

5. **Robert SAUNDERS** (*[not known]*<sup>1</sup>) died on 7 March 1807 in Rye, Rockingham co., NH. Robert emigrated from Torbay, England and also settled at the Isles of Shoals<sup>[3]</sup>. Robert married Elizabeth BERRY.

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### Third Generation

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6. **Esther SAUNDERS**<sup>[8]</sup> (*John*<sup>2</sup>, [*not known*]<sup>1</sup>) was baptized on 17 September 1741.

On 24 August 1759 Esther first married **John YEATON**<sup>[8]</sup> (*see Yeaton*), son of [not known] YEATON, in New Castle, Rockingham co., NH<sup>[9]</sup>. John was lost in the Great October Gale of 1770 along with Esther's father and uncle<sup>[10]</sup>.

Esther lost her father, John; her brother, John, Jr.; her uncle, Samuel; her nephew, Samuel, Jr. and her husband, John Yeaton in this storm. In addition, I can only imagine that the "two others and two boys..." who rounded out the crew of John Saunders' fishing schooner were also related.

Generation: G6 Grandparents

Person Numbers: 284/285

They had the following children:

- i. **John**<sup>[11]</sup> (1762-)
- ii. Mary (1764-)
- iii. Elizabeth (1766-)
- iv. Esther (1769-)
- v. Merribah<sup>[9]</sup>
- vi. Polly<sup>[9]</sup>

Esther second married **Simon KNOWLES**.

7. **Robert SAUNDERS** (*John*<sup>2</sup>, [*not known*]<sup>1</sup>) lived at Epsom died in 1839 in Rye, Rockingham co., NH and in Effingham. On 7 July 1765 Robert married **Mary LOCKE**, in Rye, Rockingham co., NH<sup>[7]</sup>.

8. **Mary SAUNDERS** (*John*<sup>2</sup>, [*not known*]<sup>1</sup>). In 1763 Mary first married **William THOMAS** of Gosport, second married [not known] and third married **William MATHES**<sup>[2]</sup>.

9. **John SAUNDERS** (*John*<sup>2</sup>, [*not known*]<sup>1</sup>) married **Dorcas PITMAN** and was lost at sea<sup>[3]</sup>.

10. **George SAUNDERS** (*John*<sup>2</sup>, [*not known*]<sup>1</sup>) lived at Epsom and was killed in a fall from his horse. George married **Anna PAGE**<sup>[2]</sup>.

11. **Abigail SAUNDERS** (*John*<sup>2</sup>, [*not known*]<sup>1</sup>) was born on 7 October 1760 on the Isle of Shoals, Rockingham co., NH and married **William LOCKE**<sup>[2]</sup>.

13. **Sarah SAUNDERS** (*John*<sup>2</sup>, [*not known*]<sup>1</sup>) first married **William SAUNDERS**, in Rye, Rockingham co., NH on 6 March 1783. She second married **Joseph VERRILL**<sup>[2]</sup>.

14. **Oilly SAUNDERS** (*John*<sup>2</sup>, [*not known*]<sup>1</sup>) was born in 1766 on the Isle of Shoals, Rockingham co., NH and married **William TUCKER**<sup>[2]</sup>.

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## Sources

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