

A Tale of Two Hugh Parsons'

Or is it three?

A work in progress



Matteson Historical Congress of America
70th Annual Reunion
Warwick, RI August 6-8, 2010

Not these Hugh Parsons'!

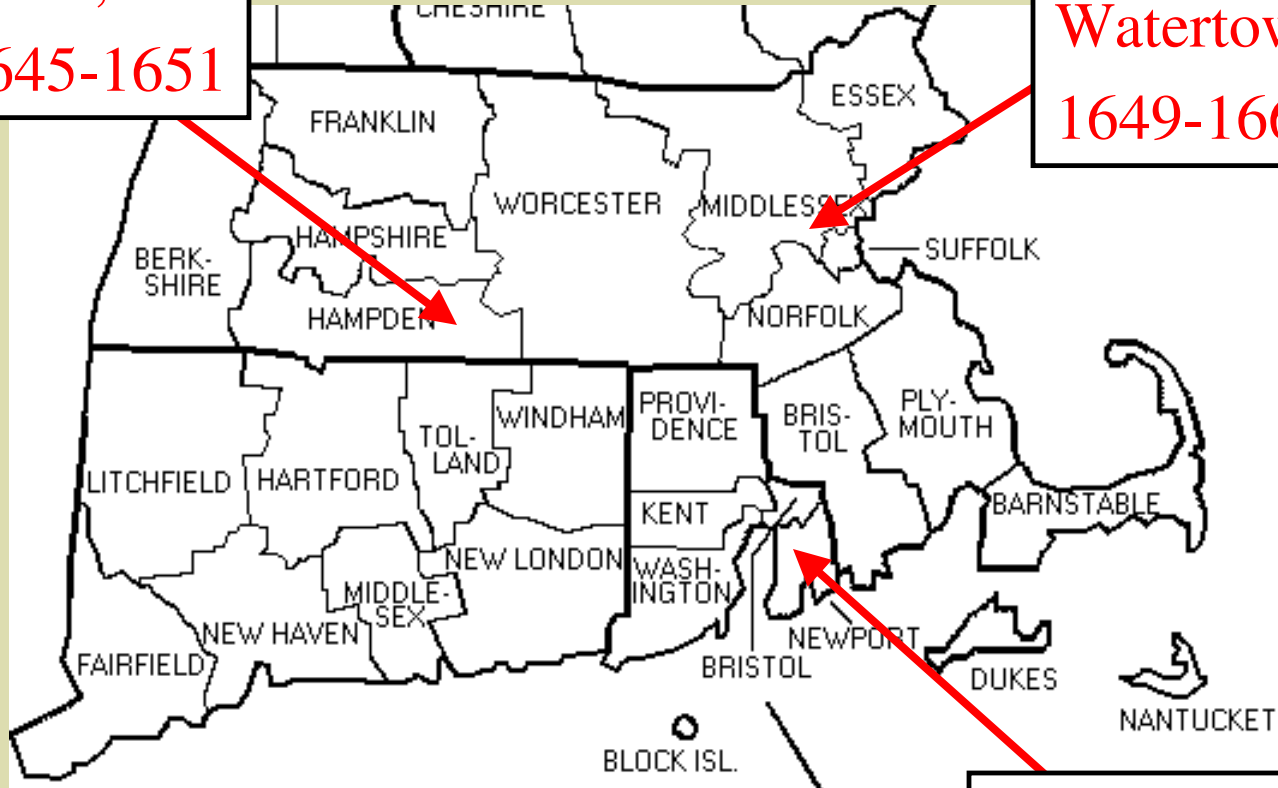


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Town records of Hugh Parsons

Springfield, MA
1645-1651

Watertown, MA
1649-1663



Portsmouth, RI
1658-1684



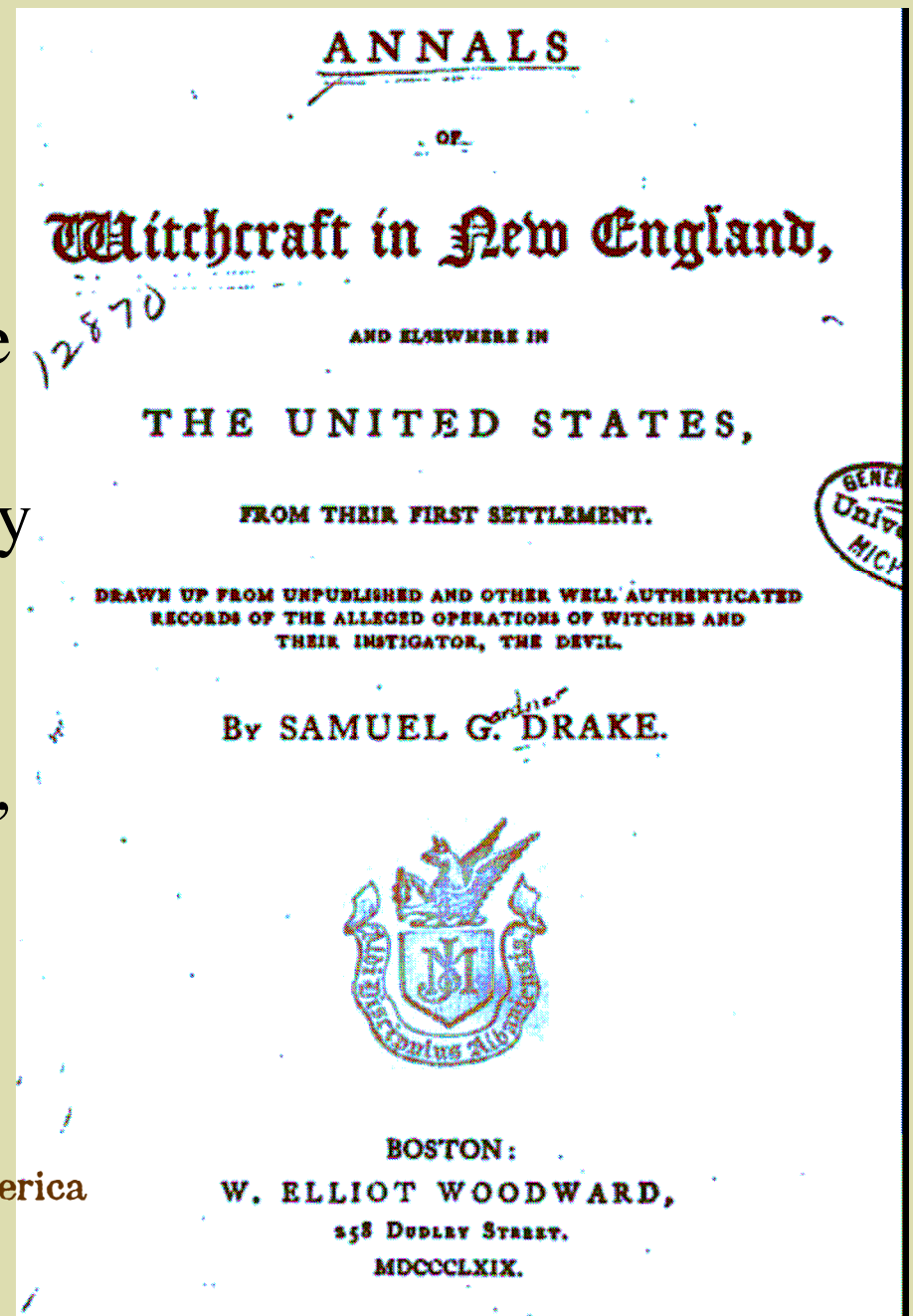
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Mary Parsons

- Tried on May 7, 1651 for:
 - “having familiarity with the devil as a witch” and
 - “wilfully and most wickedly murdering her owne child”
- Found innocent of the first charge and guilty of the second, having confessed.
- Was “condemned to Dy”.



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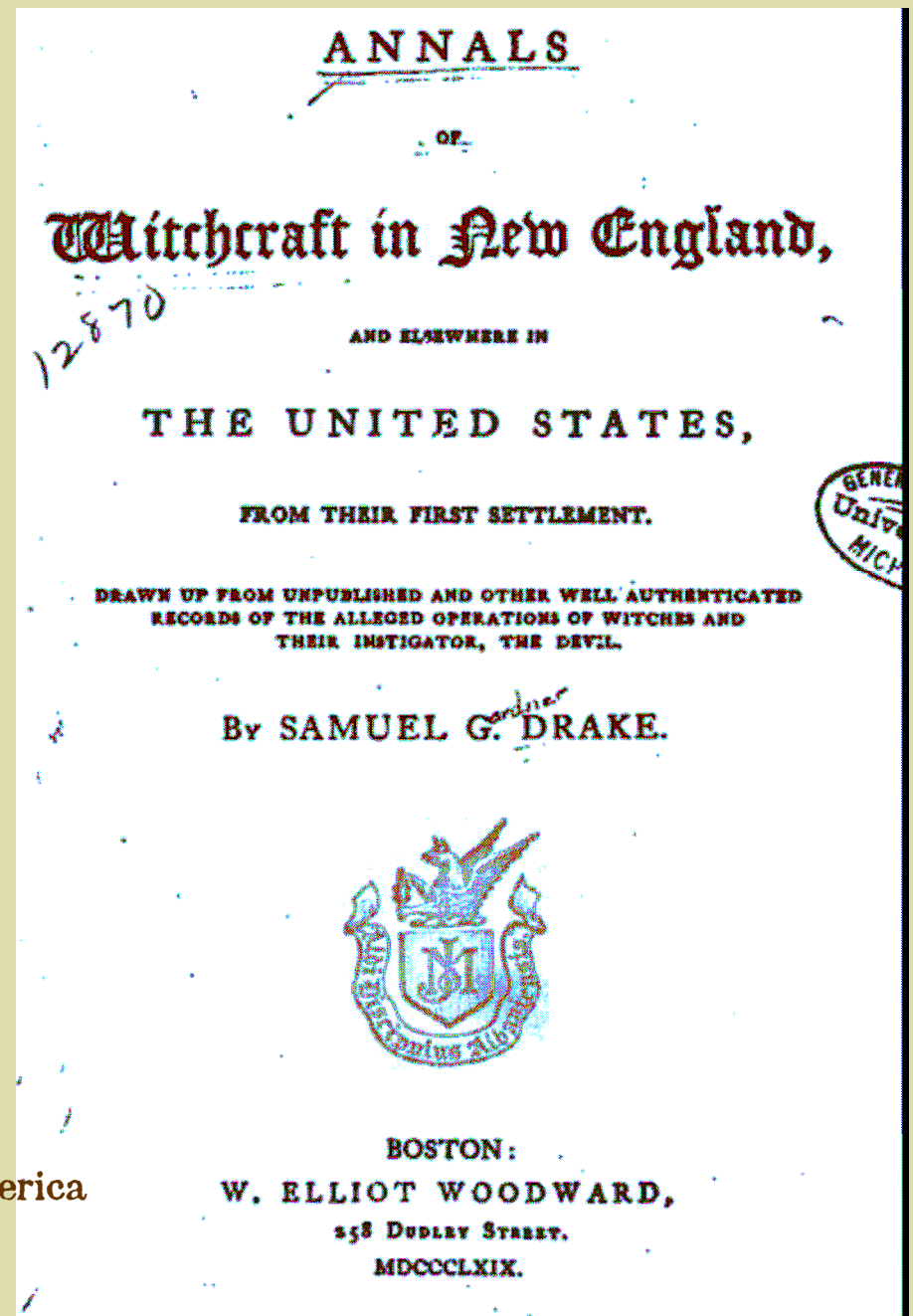


Hugh Parsons

- Prosecuted at Springfield in March, 1651 for:
 - “not haveing ye Feare of God before his Eyes”
 - “did use divers devilish practices and Witchcrafte”
- Found guilty in Springfield.
- Sent to Boston where the conviction was reversed by the Magistrates.



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The town of Watertown, MA
 granted aid to Hugh Parsons:
 Dec. 10, 1649 – “small grant”*
 Oct. 22, 1653 – money for house
 Jan. 31, 1659 - corn
 Dec. 29, 1663 – corn and silver
 *before the Springfield trial!

PARSONS.—PATTEN.—PATTERSON.—PEIRCE.

869

PARSONS.—Concerning the sad story of Hugh Parsons and his wife, Mary, see Drake's History of Boston, pp. 322-4. At a town meeting, Dec. 10, 1649, a small grant was made to Hugh Parsons. Oct. 22, 1653, money was granted “to make a house” for him. Jan. 31, 1659-60, the selectmen ordered some corn to be supplied to Hugh Parsons, for his family. Among the expenses Dec. 29, 1663, are corn and silver furnished to H. Passam (Parsons), when his wife was sick, and H. Godden's, bill for dressing his leg. He had lands, but needed aid on account of his infirmities. [See Blois p. 685].



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FAMILY MEMORIALS.
 GENEALOGIES
 OF THE
 FAMILIES AND DESCENDANTS
 OF THE
 EARLY SETTLERS OF WATERTOWN,
 MASSACHUSETTS,
 INCLUDING
 WALTHAM AND WESTON;
 TO WHICH IS APPENDED
 THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE TOWN.
 WITH
 ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS, AND NOTES.
 BY
 HENRY BOND, M.D.
 VOL. II.
 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, AND EARLY HISTORY.

BOSTON:
 LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY.
 NEW YORK: JOHN WILEY, 351 BROADWAY.
 PHILADELPHIA: LINDSAY & BLAKISTON.
 CINCINNATI: H. W. DERBY.
 1855.

First mention of Hugh Parsons
in Portsmouth, RI
February 16, 1658

At a meting of the ffre habtitants of Portsmouth this 16: of
ffebruary 1658

M^r John Porter is Chosen Modratur for this day:
William Cadman Hugh Parsons Richard Sisi[]n Chosen Jury
men for to Tend the Generell Corurt of Triels helld at Proui-
denc the Sekond Tewseday in march insewing:



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©Albert Ross Parsons 1898

Springfield, MA Hugh
Parsons connected to
Watertown, MA

10 (a) Hugh Parsons appears on the Springfield Records in 1645, when he married Mary Lewis of Wales. He died, June 18, 1675, at Watertown. (b) Hugh Parsons, born 1613, was made freeman of Portsmouth, R. I., in 1663; he enlisted in a troop of horse August 10, 1667, and died in 1684. His family became extinct.



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CORNET JOSEPH PARSONS
ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF
SPRINGFIELD AND NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
SPRINGFIELD, 1636
NORTHAMPTON, 1655
AN HISTORICAL SKETCH FROM ORIGINAL SOURCES, VIZ., TOWN,
COUNTY, COURT, AND PRIVATE RECORDS
BY
HENRY M. BURT

WITH SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTERS
"On Colonel Joseph Lemuel Chester's Alleged English Parsons Ancestry,"
"The 'Honorable Family of Parsons' in England and its Connection by
Marriage with Sir Edward Pynchon, Knt., Cousin of William
Pynchon, Founder of Springfield, Massachusetts,"
and "Parsons Genealogies"
BY
ALBERT ROSS PARSONS
PUBLISHED BY
ALBERT ROSS PARSONS
GARDEN CITY, LONG ISLAND, N. Y., U. S. A.

Lots to Do!

- Visit Watertown town hall for early records



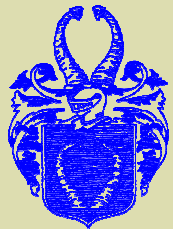
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