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HOMER-STEVENS NOTES, BOSTON

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Over sixty years ago, Thomas Homer Dixon published a 27-page account of the Homer family which is entirely inadequate and, as far as the English ancestry is concerned, entirely misleading. The material here presented is not the result of exhaustive research, but may be considered a basis for further investigation, and an aid to other students of genealogy who in the future may wish to extend the research. In this first chapter the identity of Margery Stevens, wife of Captain John Homer, will be considered.

The original records of Boston, Volume 9, Boston Marriages 1689-1720, under [page 3] "Registry of Marriages within the Town of Boston entered Ann<sup>o</sup> 1689: 90:91: 92: 93: 94: 95" contain [page 11] the entries:

Michael Homer & Mary Burroughs w<sup>r</sup> Mar<sup>d</sup> by } July 13 1693  
Rev<sup>d</sup> Cotton Mather Minist<sup>r</sup> }

John Homer & Margery Stephens w<sup>r</sup> Mar<sup>d</sup> by } July 13 1693  
Rev<sup>d</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Willard Minist<sup>r</sup> }

It will be borne in mind that, although these marriages occurred on the same date, Mather was pastor of the Second (Old North, later New Brick) Church, and that Willard was pastor of the Third (Old South) Church.

It has been suggested that Michael and John Homer were brothers, but proof has not been found, nor have their wives, Mary Burroughs and Margery Stevens, been positively identified. A careful survey of the Stevens families and records in and near Boston, in the seventeenth century, has failed to elicit Margery's parentage, with the exception that, in the Third Church, the one in which she was married, we find baptised, 14 Nov. 1686, a Thomas Stevens and wife Esther, and their children: Thomas; Roger; Benjamin; Margaret; Mary; and Sarah. Captain Homer and his wife Margery (Stevens) Homer named their children: John; Mary; Benjamin; William; Michael; Robert; Thomas; and Mary. The names Margery and Margaret were often used interchangeably.

In 1891, Mrs. Ellen Doane (Manson) Winchester (born 1835), a daughter of Eben and Ellen (Homer) Manson, sent some information on the family to the late F. L. Gay. The Gay Manuscripts, beautifully written and bound in red leather are in the possession of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. The Homer data in the Gay Manuscripts will be considered in detail later. Mrs. Winchester stated that John Homer was married "to Margery Stevens, daughter of Thomas and Ester Stevens." Much of her data was based on family Bible records and material gathered by Rev. Jonathan Homer.

A second statement of Mrs. Winchester's is to the effect that "Margery Stephens" was aged 27 when married and then gives the date of the marriage as 1696. However, the actual year was 1693, so Margery could have been born in 1669 or 1666. Whether the age was arrived at from her supposed age at death (which varies as to year and age according to the writer), or whether it was actually known that she was born in 1669 or 1666, is not certain; also whether it is known that her parents were Thomas and Esther, or if someone, noting that the marriage was recorded in the Third Church, consulted those records and found the Margaret baptised therein in 1686, is not clear. It seems not unlikely that Rev. Jonathan Homer examined these records or had someone examine them. But, in a careful search, the only possibility thus far found for her parentage is the said Thomas and Esther.

There is not the slightest doubt that several early men of the Stevens name in Boston were connected with Maine; see the fine Libby-Davis-Noyes, Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire, page 558.

Jacobus, Granberry and Allied Families, 1945, considers an early Thomas Stevens of Boston, with wife Sarah, whose son Thomas, was born in 1651 in Boston. The latter may, or may not, have been the witness Thomas Stevens, aged 29 in March 1681, an Essex County case. Thomas the husband of Sarah was a baker by trade owning land at the corner of Prince and Salem Streets, and had children born at Boston 1648-1663.

Second, Thomas and Mary Stevens had a son Thomas born at Boston, 20 May 1658.

Third, Henry and Alice Stevens had a son Thomas baptised at First Church, Boston, 11 July 1658.

Fourth, Edward and Mary Stevens had a son Thomas born at Boston, 15 Apr. 1669.

Fifth, Thomas and Margaret (Forly) Stevens had a son Thomas born at Boston, 6 May 1674. Some record of the parents will be given below.

Sixth, Thomas and Esther Stevens, as already mentioned, had Thomas, Margaret and other children baptised

at the Third Church, Boston, 14 Nov. 1686.

Seventh, George Kelley, with sureties John Sweete and Michael Martin, all of Boston, was appointed, 15 Oct. 1673, administrator of the estate of "his late brother in law Thomas Stevens deceased....in Roanoke." [Suffolk Probate, 612.]

Eighth, Thomas Stevens, a "Boateswayne" of the ship George of Bristol, appears in Court, 18 Nov. 1680, about the ship's master and wages. [Records of the Court of Assistants, 1:173-4.]

Ninth, considerable information is available about the Thomas Stevens, born about 1620, of Maine, who married the widow Margaret Watkins. [Gen. Dict. Maine and N.H.; Superior Court of Judicature, 1959; New Eng. Hist. Gen. Register, 21:354; 44:170; Suffolk Deeds, 57:223.]

Referring to the Thomas born in 1674 (listed fifth above), we have some data on his parents, from Suffolk County Court, Session 28 Apr. 1674: "Thomas Stevens bound over to this Court to answer for his committing Fornication with his now wife (Margaret formerly Margaret Forley) before marriage shee being now with childe by Fornication all which hee Owned in Court, the Court sentenced him to bee whip't with Fifteen stripes & his wife to be whip't with ten stripes within one month after her next delivery of Childe or to pay five pounds in mony five to the County & fees of Court standing committed till the Sentence bee performed & to give caution to the Selectmen of Boston to save the Town from charge or to remove with his wife to Newbury Where-to shee doth belong."

Idem, Session 27 Oct. 1674: "Order for Margart Stevens returning to Charlestown The Court Orders that the Clarke grant a warrant to the Constable of Boston to return Margaret Stevens the wife of Thomas Stevens to Charlestown the place of her abode. Shee being left there by her husband & provided for: the Court declaring that if any matter of charge happen by her & a dispute should arise about the same, that the Law is open: and that the Ferrimen doe not abridge her of passing too & again as other persons doe." [Records, Suffolk County Court, Colls. Col. Soc., 29, 30.]

If our Margery Stevens was born in 1666 or 1669 (or for that matter as late as 1672), she could not have been a daughter of the above Thomas and Margaret (Forly) Stevens. Who was the Thomas Stevens who married in 1696, Sarah Place, named a daughter Margery, and had a son Place Stevens who owed money (as his estate records show) to Mrs. Margery Homer? It seems very probable that this Thomas was brother of Margery (Stevens) Homer, and the son (baptised 1686 but born earlier) of the Thomas with wife Esther.

Family of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens

Thomas Stevens, possibly born in Maine, about 1675, baptised in the Old South or Third Church of Boston (together with Roger, Benjamin, Margaret, Mary and Sarah), 14 Nov. 1686, died in Boston by 20 July 1724, intestate, son of Thomas and Esther (—) Stevens and brother of Margery (Stevens) Homer; married (intention at Boston, 13 July 1695), by Rev. John Bailey, then of the First Church of Boston, 9 Apr. 1696, Sarah Place, born at Boston, 11 July 1674, died there, 30 Nov. 1723, buried in Copp's Hill Cemetery, daughter of John and Sarah (Lovering) Place. Her age at death is given as 39, 52 and 55; she was really 49.

"Upon ye 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1696 I maryed in my house in Boston Thomas Stevens & Sarah Place both of Boston being legally published." [Watertown Vital Recs., 4:103]

John Place, a mariner, son of Peter and Alice Place, baptised in Boston, 1 Sept. 1650, was taxed there in 1674 and 1681; administration of his estate granted to the widow, Sarah, 27 Apr. 1687; he married, about 1673, Sarah Lovering, sister of William Lovering [who married Margaret, daughter of Rev. Robert Gutch, and was an ancestor of the compiler], and of Jane Lovering [who married John Pride, for whom Pride's Crossing is named]. These Loverings were originally of Maine [see compiler's "Lovering Manuscript," 1932, also New Eng. Hist. and Gen. Register, vol. 102].

Sarah (Lovering) Place married secondly, about 1686, John Bushnell, and was again a widow in 1703, having had a son John Bushnell, born 4 Aug. 1687, Boston, perhaps also Jane in 1689 and William in 1691. Her Place children, besides Sarah (Place) Stevens, were (born in Boston): Hannah, 10 July 1679; Joanna, 7 Jan. 1681, who married Joseph Place of Kingston, R.I.; and Jane, 18 Apr. 1683, who married Anthony Underwood of Boston [see York Deeds, 18:253]. On 28 July 1682, John Place, mariner, of Boston, and wife Sarah, mortgaged their house and land in the North End of Boston, wherein Peter Place decd., formerly lived, this property being on the northwest side of Hanover Street between Cross and Parmenter Streets; on the margin the mortgagee, Madam Elizabeth Winsley, acknowledged payment, 21 Feb. 1688/9, from "John Bushnell who married the Relict of John Place" [Suffolk Deeds, 12:256; see also 5:88; 11:49].

A Thomas Stevens was taxed in Boston, 1695, and signed a Boston petition, 1696 [Boston Rec. Com. 1: 163; Mass. Archives, 113:139]. This may have been the father. Thomas Stevens, from Boston, a shipwright, lived in 1695 [1696?] in Joseph Ryall's house, in Charlestown, Mass., and had a wife Sarah who was a "Member of ye North Church in Boston," according to

Wyman [Charlestown Genealogies and Estates, p. 899]. His eldest child and namesake was born and baptised there in October 1696. When Thomas married, in April 1696, he was called of Boston, and he was certainly again of Boston 5 June 1698, so his stay in Charlestown was of short duration. Thomas and Sarah Stevens had baptised in the Third (Old South) Church in Boston: Place, 5 June 1698; Sarah, 4 Aug. 1700; and Thomas, 4 Jan. 1701/2; this was the same church in which the children of Thomas and Esther Stevens were baptised in 1686.

The deeds of Thomas in Boston always describe him as a joiner, or a carpenter of interior finish. In Charlestown he was called a shipwright, or ship carpenter. Thomas Stevens of Charlestown, shipwright, recovered judgment against John Row, of the same, shipwright, 22 Dec. 1696, for £8-17-04, and one and a half acres of land there were accorded to him, which on 15 Apr. 1697, being still of Charlestown, he sold for £8 to Ebenezer Phillips of same, victualler, his wife Sarah resigning her dower right [Middlesex Deeds, 12:40, 41, 42].

There are two deeds from Joseph Plaice of Kingston, R.I., yeoman, and wife Joanna, "one of the daughters of John Plaice, mariner, late of Boston, decd.," the first being on 20 Oct. 1703 to Anthony Underwood of Boston, turner; and the second on 25 Oct. 1703 to Thomas Stevens, "Joyner," of Boston, conveying their rights in a dwelling house of Peter Plaice father of John Plaice which said Peter bought of Matthew Chase in 1650, now in the possession of Sarah Bushnell, widow [Suffolk Deeds, 24:181, 182].

There are also two tripartite deeds of division, dated 1 Jan. 1703/4 and 21 Jan. 1703/4, between Thomas Stevens of Boston, joiner, and wife Sarah, and Anthony Underwood, turner, and wife Jane, both described as daughters of John Place, and Sarah Bushnell, formerly widow of John Place; the second deed recites that Stevens and Underwood have lately purchased of Joseph Plaice of Kingston, R.I., and his wife Joanna, the remaining daughter of said John Plaice, the said Joanna's portion [Ibid., 24:183; 21:448].

On 24 Sept. 1709, Thomas Stevens, joiner, of Boston, owing Capt. Nathaniel Cary of Charlestown £150. 8s., mortgages to Cary his rights to a double house on Middle Street, referring to the tripartite deed of 1703, and his wife Sarah releasing her dower; Cary then conveys his rights to Capt. Samuel Turrell, 26 Aug. 1724; and on the margin Turrell acknowledges full payment made to him by Place Stevens, 15 Dec. 1729 [Ibid., 24: 237; 38:41].

Thomas Stevens died before 20 July 1724, when Place Stevens, mariner, with bondsmen Edward Richards, joiner,

and Thomas Stevens, joiner, all of Boston, was appointed the administrator of the estate of his father, late of Boston, joiner, deceased. The inventory of the estate of "Mr." Thomas Stevens, made by John Nicholls, Edward Richards and James Cary, and filed 3 Aug. 1724, came to £212:10:10. The account, 11 July 1726, presented by the administrator, mentions the expenses of the funerals of his father and the latter's wife, also speaks of "brother Thomas," and "sister Mary," a mortgage on the deceased's property, etc. A second accounting, 30 July 1729, mentions the house and the mortgage on it, the property then coming to a total of £343:08:00. [Suffolk Probate, 4942.]

The estate was further settled by deeds. On 1 Dec. 1729, Plaice Stevens of Boston, joiner, as administrator of the estate of his father, Thomas Stevens, late of the same, joiner, his wife Susanna releasing dower, conveyed to Thomas Foster of Boston, housewright, the house and land in Boston bounded by land of Anthony Underwood and formerly property of John Place, referring to the tripartite deed, and the same day Foster (with wife Anne releasing dower) conveyed the same property to Plaice Stevens. Then, on 15 Dec. 1729, Plaice Stevens, joiner, and wife Susanna, conveyed to their loving brother, Thomas Stevens, rights to the property on Middle Street; and the next day, Thomas Stevens, joiner, and wife Mary, mortgaged to Plaice Stevens, joiner, for £75, his rights to the property bounded by Anthony Underwood. This mortgage was released on the margin, 16 Sept. 1732, by Susanna Stevens [autograph], wife of Plaice and as his attorney. [Suffolk Deeds, 44:22; 46:62; 44:250.]

The sisters of Place and Thomas Stevens, with the youngest brother, Benjamin, later conveyed their interest in an informative deed. On 14 Feb. 1736, Isaac Hatch of Hanover and wife, Sarah; Jonathan Rogers of Newbury, tailor, and wife, Margery; Joseph Dyar of Weymouth, husbandman, and wife, Jane; Benjamin Stevens, mariner, and wife, Elizabeth; Mary Aubin, Widow; and Hannah Stevens, single woman; the last three of Boston; reciting that Sarah, Jane, Benjamin, Mary, Hannah, and Margery are children of Thomas Stevens, late of Boston, decd., and of Sarah, his wife, also decd., said Sarah having been one of the daughters of John Place, late of Boston, mariner, decd., conveyed to "our brother," Thomas Stevens of same, joiner, all rights to land in Middle Street bounded by land of Anthony Underwood and formerly possessed by "our parents," the house being formerly occupied by the said John Place, and quoting from the tripartite deed. Witnessed by Anthony and John Underwood, Benjamin and Mary Dyar, and Samuel Poole, Sr. and Jr. Benjamin Stevens did not sign un-

til 1738. Perhaps he was away at sea when the deed was drawn. Thomas Stevens, joiner, of Boston, sold the Middle Street property to John Clark, physician, 5 Mar. 1739; his wife Mary released dower. [Ibid., 53:41; 58:263.]

Children of Thomas and Sarah (Place) Stevens, all but the eldest born in Boston:

- i. Thomas, b. 22 Oct., bapt. 25 Oct., 1696, Charlestown; d. young. (New Eng. Register, 28:449.)
- ii. Place, bapt. 5 June 1698; a mariner; d. intestate by 15 Jan. 1733/4; m. Boston, 25 July 1726, Susanna Pettell, by whom he had issue. On 15 Dec. 1730, Place Stevens and wife Susanna mortgaged to Madam Mary Saltonstall, widow, guardian to the children of William Clark, merchant, decd., their house and land on Middle Street (Suffolk Deeds, 44:25). Susanna Stevens, widow, with sureties Thomas Stevens, joiner, and George Hews, tanner, all of Boston, was appointed administratrix of the estate of her husband, Place Stevens, late of Boston, decd., 15 Jan. 1733/4. The inventory of the estate of "Mr." Place Stevens decd., made 21 Jan. 1733/4 by Anthony Underwood, Joseph Ricks and Edward Marion, came to £348:08:06, mainly real property, attested by the widow the next day. The estate was insolvent, and 4 Apr. 1734 the commissioners, Joseph Ricks, Edward Marion and Anthony Underwood made their return. Among the creditors were Mr. Edward Marion, Mr. Thomas Stevens, Mr. John Rachell, Mrs. Margery Homer (2s., 8d.), Mrs. Susannah Wright et als. An account, 17 Mar. 1735, mentions property mortgaged to Mr. John Clark, valued at £325, and which was forfeited as no bidder appeared to buy it in; also, the allowance made to the widow and her two children. (Suffolk Probate, 6537.) The will of Susanna Stevens, dated 8 Jan. 1753, proved 19 Mar. 1763, named sons Thomas Stevens and William Edes. (Ibid.)
- iii. Sarah, b. 29 July, bapt. 4 Aug., 1700; alive 1742; m. 8 June 1721, Boston, Isaac Hatch of Scituate and Hanover; they had issue at Hanover born between 1723 and 1742, the eldest being Stephen Hatch.
- iv. Thomas, bapt. 4 Jan. 1701/2; d. 6 May 1761, Boston, bur. Copps Hill; m. int. 28 Apr. 1729, Boston, Mary Lawrence, b. 23 Feb. 1706/7, Charlestown, d. 9 May 1785, aged 74 (78?), Boston, bur. Copps Hill, dau. of Benjamin and Anna (Phillips) Lawrence. Wyman says he was from Sheepscoot, Me.; he may have lived there a few years. On 17 May 1742, John Barton of Boston, housewright (wife Katherine releasing dower), sold to Thomas Stevens of Boston, housewright, land in South End; the next day, Stevens (wife Mary releasing dower) mortgaged the premises to James Smith of Boston, merchant, John Underwood being a witness; mortgage released 23 Jan. 1760 (Suffolk Deeds, 63:

104, 106). Thomas Stevens drew his will 5 Feb. 1761, proved 22 May 1761; wife Mary to be executrix and residuary legatee as long as she remains a widow, if she marries just her thirds; rest to the children, Benjamin, Lawrence, Mary, Sarah, and Anna wife of Joseph Eyres (Suffolk Probate). On 7 July 1785, Benjamin Stevens, trader, and wife Hannah, with Joseph Eyres, housewright, and wife Ann, conveyed to John Taylor, trader, two-thirds of a house and lot, late the property of their mother, Mary Stevens, decd., and now in possession of said Taylor and wife, on west side of Purchase Street (Suffolk Deeds, 150: 97).

- v. Jane, b. abt. 1704; d. 6 Dec. 1806 ae. 99, Weymouth; m. 27 June 1726, Weymouth, Joseph Dyer, whose grandfather, Christopher Dyer, was of Maine. They had issue at Weymouth between 1727 and 1746, among them a son, Stevens Dyer. See *Hist. of Weymouth*, p. 213.
- vi. Mary, b. abt. 1706; m. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Aubin, perhaps a Huguenot; a widow in 1736; m. (2) 3 Nov. 1742, Boston, John Thompson.
- vii. Benjamin, b. abt. 1708; a mariner, living 1739; m. 23 June 1731, Second Church, Boston, Elizabeth Graham.
- viii. Margery (probably named for her aunt, Mrs. Homer), b. abt. 1710; m. 6 Aug. 1735, Boston (int. 12 July 1735, at Newbury), Jonathan Rogers of Newbury. They had issue at Newbury.
- ix. Edward, b. May 1712; d. 8 Aug. 1712 ae. 3 months, bur. Copps Hill.
- x. Hannah, b. abt. 1714; living unm. 1739, Boston.

(Note: The Thomas Stevens of Scituate who m. 25 Dec. 1702, by Willard, in Boston, Mary Holland, was son of Thomas of Pejepscot, Maine; see *New Eng. Register*, 34:190, and *Dict. of Maine and New Hampshire*.)

#### Family of Capt. John and Margery (Stevens) Homer

John Homer, mariner, born perhaps in the west of England, or in Warwickshire, about 1647, died in Boston, Mass., 1 Nov. 1717, and, according to the records of Kings Chapel, aged 70 years. He married in Boston, ceremony by Rev. Samuel Willard of the Third, or Old South, Church, 13 July 1693, Margery "Stephens," probably born in Maine, about 1669, died in Yarmouth, Mass., about 1762, age at death given as 95, 96 and 98, daughter of Thomas and Esther (\_\_\_\_\_) Stevens.

It is evident that John Homer was a Church of England man, for he never joined any of the Bible Commonwealth faiths, nor were his children baptised in them. Kings Chapel, at the time of his death, was Church of England.

The name of Homer was apparently confined, in the

neighborhood of Boston, to but two men, John, and his probable relative, Michael. (An exception may be the Robert Homard or Homer who appears in Suffolk County Court records, 1678-9, *Coll. Col. Soc.*, 30.) No direct proof has been found that John and Michael were brothers, but since they married on the same day in Boston, and the former named a son Michael, it seems a reasonable assumption that they were so related. Furthermore, as we shall later see, John's son Michael was living in 1725 on property originally owned by the elder Michael.

As to the identification of John Homer of Boston, in the *Homer Genealogy* (1889), by T. H. Dixon, with the John baptised at Etingshall, near Bilston, parish of Sedgley, Staffordshire, 20 March 1665, son of Edward and Anne (Gibbins) Homer, there seems to be no evidence. The Boston John had no children named Edward or Anne, after the alleged parents; the name Michael does not seem to occur in the Sedgley family; and the age of the John said to have been baptised there in 1665 is some eighteen years at variance with the recorded age of our John at death.

The first known historian and genealogist of the family was the Rev. Jonathan Homer, A.M., S.T.D., a great-grandson, born in 1759, a few years before Margery (Stevens) Homer died. Much of the data given to F. L. Gay by Ellen Doane (Manson) Winchester, maternally descended from Capt. John Homer, is evidently based on the research of Dr. Homer. And in 1854, when Jackson published his *History of Newton*, it was stated (p. 310) that Capt. John Homer came from the west of England, from Warwickshire.

John Homer took no part in the civic affairs of Boston. As a mariner, he was doubtless away much of the time. We do know that, in 1706, he lived, a tenant of John Ricks, in the North End, and on the northwest side of Hanover Street, between Mill Creek and Cross Street. This is shown by a mortgage deed, 27 Dec. 1706, from John Ricks of Boston, tailor (with wife Charity), for £100, to Richard Cheever of Boston, cordwainer, covering a house and land in the "Tenure and Occupation of John Homer Marriner formerly belonging to William Ricks late of Boston deceased father of sd Ricks," near the Mill Bridge and bounded by land of the heirs of Samuel Ward decd., now and late of Henry Butterfield, the road to the Mill Bridge, and by land of Phillip Landon and John "Eustice"; when the rights of this property (then Middle Street) were conveyed by Cheever's heirs to Daniel Pecker, 27 Dec. 1715, no mention is made of Homer or of any other tenant [Suffolk Deeds, 28:88; 30:104].

As previously explained, in 1891 two written statements were made about the Homer family by Mrs. Winchester, which are preserved in the F. L. Gay Manuscripts,

to which Mr. Gay added a few notes. Briefly, she stated that Michael and John, "undoubtedly" brothers, came about 1670 to Boston; the former being surely here by 1676 when he petitioned the General Court; and that Michael left no issue [sic]. John married, at forty-five, to "Margery Stevens, daughter of Thomas and Ester Stevens," he was born in 1647 and died in 1717, his widow survived and died at Yarmouth, nearly one hundred. The children are then listed and the son Michael carried forward. Her second paper states that John was born in the west of England in 1647 and was married to "Margery Stephens," who was aged twenty-seven, in 1696 [sic], by Rev. Samuel Willard of the Old South Church. [How her age was arrived at is not clear.] "Margery died at her son Benjamins at Yarmouth between 90 and 100." The children are then listed as:

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| i. Mary, b. June 1693, d.y.            | (no such daughter)       |
| ii. John, b. 8 May 1694                | (8 Aug. 1694 also given) |
| iii. Benjamin, b. 7 May 1697           | (8 May 1698, B.R.C. 9)   |
| iv. Mary, b. 6 May (no year), d.y.     | (7 May 1696)             |
| v. William, b. 23 June 1701            | (29 June 1701, B.R.C.)   |
| vi. Michael, b. 23 Sept. 1703, d. 1760 | (26 Sept. 1703, B.R.C.)  |
| vii. Robert, b. 29 Mar. 1706           | (29 May 1706, B.R.C.)    |
| viii. Thomas, b. 30 May 1707           | (6 May also given)       |
| ix. Mary, b. 11 Aug. 1708              | (Aug. 1708, also given)  |

The family of John Homer, the first, was taken by J[onathan?] from a Bible of J[ohn?], who was connected as a clerk, or wine cooper, or seller of wines, etc., in the store of Andrew Belcher, the first, the father of [Gov.] Jonathan Belcher of Mass., and last of N.J. [This is important: did Mr. Gay ask Mrs. Winchester how she obtained the data about Capt. John Homer and his family, and was this her reply?—that she had secured it from the Bible, or from a copy of Bible records made by Rev. Jonathan Homer? If so, possibly this old Bible contained the information that Margery, wife of Capt. John, was a daughter of Thomas and Ester Stevens.]

She continues with the statement that Robert Homer [son of Capt. John] was the most married man of all the Homers; his sons were sent to Boston to the care of his brother, Michael, with their mother for their education and plenty of silver with them, about 1745; the mother returned to her husband, and afterwards Robert and his wife embarked for final residence in Boston, with their property, from Honduras, but perished by shipwreck.

"The late David H. was the son of —, who died at 93, Boston. Charles Homer, Esq., son of Eleazer. Numerous applications were made to Mr. Homer for his silver in exchange for the — notes." It is evident that Mr. Gay could not understand just what she meant by some of the above. The notes may refer to the colonial paper

money, subject to depreciation as a result of the French War. "His sons were dressed as lads of rich parents while their father lived to transmit monies for their support and education," undoubtedly refers to Robert. Her statements about Michael and others will be included in their respective accounts. She was evidently, as was perhaps Mr. Gay, a descendant of Michael.

Tradition asserts that Capt. Homer was master of a ship that sailed between London and Boston. Mention has been made of the association, following his retirement from the sea, of Capt. Homer and the Belchers. Andrew Belcher, father of the governor, died in Boston 31 Oct. 1717, a wealthy and prominent merchant [Belcher Family, 1941, p. 26].

The Admiralty Records and Suffolk Files, 1629-1729, contain the same references for John Homer, viz.: vs. Caswell, no date (25287); John Homer vs. Daniel Newman, no date (28061, 28109). Capt. Homer has no recorded deeds, nor do we find any mention of him in the many sources examined. There is no settlement of his estate.

When the memorials to the Homer family were erected in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, it was stated that John, born in 1647 in England, died 1 Nov. 1717, Boston, and that his son, Michael, born 23 Sept. 1703, died 28 Apr. 1760. Of course neither was actually interred in that cemetery. We know that John was buried in Kings Chapel Burial Ground, in Boston, "From Great Britain," a Captain, aged seventy, 6 Nov. 1717. The old Sextons' Bills in Boston give the burial as 2 Nov. 1717. Possibly the dates for John and Michael, as they appear in Mt. Auburn, were copied from the family Bible?

Children of Capt. John and Margery (Stevens) Homer, born in Boston:

1. John<sup>2</sup>, b. 8 Aug. 1694; d. by 19 Dec. 1738, a housewright of Boston; m. (1) 9 May 1716, Boston, by Wadsworth, Ann Morter; m. (2) 26 Jan. 1726/7, Boston, Mary Belknap, b. 15 Oct. 1694, dau. of Joseph and Abigail (Buttolph) Belknap; she survived him and passed many deeds. On 9 Jan. 1725/6, John Homer was bapt., "a man," in the New Brick Church, with his dau. Anna. Mary, perhaps his wife, was bapt. there 17 May 1730. On 19 Dec. 1738, Mary Homer, widow, was granted administration on the estate of John Homer, late of Boston, housewright, decd.; there was some £200 in land; also silver plate at ill. (Suffolk Probate, 7247.) Children b. at Boston, by Ann: (1) Jacob, b. 26 Apr. 1717; prob. d. inf.; (2) Ann, b. 15 Oct. 1721; m. 23 July 1742, John Thwing, as his second wife, and had John, bapt. 3 June 1744, New Brick Church (see Thwing Gen., 1883, p. 25); by Mary, (3) John, b. 23 Dec. 1727; a John Homer was at Louisbourg, 1745. (New Eng. Register, 25:251; see

- also 42:153; 13:17; and B.R.C. 15:61.) On 2 Sept. 1729, John Homer, housewright, bought of Francis Borland, land at southwest corner of Chardon and Hawkins Streets; he mortgaged land in 1733 and 1734, and sold with wife Mary in 1738 (Suffolk Deeds, 44:33; 48:50, 269; 56:201; his widow appears in 58:164).
- ii. Mary, b. 7 May 1696; d. young.
  - iii. Benjamin, b. 8 May 1698; m. Elizabeth Crowell; vide post.
  - iv. William, b. 29 June 1701; d. by 9 Mar. 1764, mariner, prob. s.p. He signed a petition at Kings Chapel, 25 Aug. 1745. On 16 Dec. 1762, William Homer, a mariner, with Benjamin Cobb, bought a house and land on the corner of Chardon and Bowdoin Streets, of Samuel and Mary Pemberton (Suffolk Deeds, 102:24). On 9 Mar. 1764, John Homer, merchant, with sureties William Bowes, merchant, and Edward Carnes, rope-maker, all of Boston, was appointed administrator of the estate of William Homer, late of Boston, decd., no trade mentioned; the Letter calls him a mariner; no heirs named nor any relationships expressed (Suffolk Probate, 13419).
  - v. Michael, b. 26 Sept. 1703; m. Sarah Kneeland; vide post.
  - vi. Robert, b. 29 May 1706, a merchant in Honduras, sent his sons to Boston to be educated, perished with his property en route to retirement in Boston. Robert Homer appears in Suffolk Files, 20390. Perhaps the Robert who d. 24 Oct. 1822 ae. 92, bur. Granary, was one of his sons. Also note that Margery, dau. of Robert and Jane, d. 1755 ae. 15, bur. same. He was the ancestor of a Charles (son of Eleazer?) who m. a dau. of Horatio Sprague and had issue; and perhaps of David who d. ae. 93 in Boston; vide ante and B. R. C.
  - vii. Thomas, b. 6 May 1707; m. 10 June 1736, Boston, by Cooper, Lydia Kill. No further record.
  - viii. Mary, b. 11 Aug. 1708.

Unplaced: Avis Homer, m. 9 July 1730, Boston, by Welstead, Nathaniel Brewer; also, a John Homer, 1744 (B. R. C. 17:66).

(To be Continued)