

Our Belcher Ancestors

by
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Belcher

Robert Belcher	1565 -
Thomas Belcher	1590 - 1658
Jeremiah Jeremy Belcher	1613 - 1693
Abigail Belcher	1655 - 1687
Dorcus Belcher	1656 – 1730

Robert Belcher 1565 -

Robert Belcher of unknown parents was born about 1565 in Kingswood, County Wiltshire, England.

Thomas Belcher 1590-1658

Thomas Belcher, son of Robert Belcher of Kingswood, County Wiltshire. England was born about 1590. The connection of Thomas Belcher with Jeremiah or Jeremy Belcher below is tenuous and must remain tentative until further information is collected. Bartlet and Whitmore provide the following information on Thomas. He married Ann Solme daughter of Andrew Solme of Sandon on 29 January 1613. He died about 1658. Their children may have included,

Jeremiah Belcher b. About 1613
Andrew Belcher b. About 1615
John Belcher b. About 1615

For information on the descendants of Andrew and John see both the Whitmore and Bartlett articles.

Jeremiah Belcher 1613 - 1693

Jeremiah Belcher, possibly son of Thomas and Ann Belcher, was born in 1613 possibly in Wiltshire, England or London, England. He came to New England in the spring of 1635 aboard the ship “Susan and Ellen”. His age is listed at 22 years. About 1637 he married his first wife who may have been Mary Clifford. This Mary age 25 emigrated in the same ship in 1635 and stands next to her on the Passenger list.

He settled at Ipswich, Massachusetts where he was admitted a freeman March 1938-9. He acquired extensive land by grant and purchase. He is generally referred to in these records as “merchant” but sometimes appears as “sergeant”.

By his first wife he had the following children:

1. Samuel Belcher, b. 1639
2. Jeremiah Belcher, b. June 1641
3. John Belcher, b. About 1643 was deeded land in Haverhill by his father on May 15, 1661 probably died a young man unmarried.

4. Mary (First Mary) Belcher, b. About 1645; m. Joseph Russell of Cambridge They had 11 children

He married Mary Lockwood on 30 September 1652. He made a marriage contract 30 September 1652 conveying lands to trustees for her benefit for life. According to Bartlett's article she died in October 1700.

On May 15 1661 he deeded lands in Haverhill to his sons Jeremiah and John. On 1 July , 1721, John Gould of Charlestown, Walter Russell of Cambridge, Daniel Gould of Charlestown and Moses Barnham and Thomas Andrews of Ipswich, heirs of Jeremiah Belcher released to Samuel Adams all claims to a farm in Ipswich formerly owned by Jeremiah Belcher (Essex County Deeds Vol. Page 9).

He died in 31 March 1693 in Ipswich, Essex County, Massachusetts.

His children by his second wife Mary Lockwood include

5. Abigail Belcher, about 1653/54; m. John Gould in 1670 of Charlestown End (Stoneham) and had 7 children. One of Abigail's descendents 9 generations latter was Grace Atkinson.

6. Dorcus Belcher b. 1656 m. Daniel Gould of CharlestownEnd (Stoneham) Her eldest son signed the deed of 1721. 8 generations latter, descendent Clifford Retson leaving their children simultaneously 8th and 9th great grandchildren.

7. Judith Belcher, b. 19 August 1658; m. John Andrews of Ipswich, Essex County.

8. Mary (second Mary) Belcher, b. 12 July 1660; On 9 Feb. 1681-82 married Thomas Andrews, Ipswich, brother of John who married sister Judith. Her son Thomas signed the 1721 deed.

9. David Belcher, b. 1662

10. Richard Belcher, b. 10 September 1665

11. Ann Belcher, b. probably about 1668; m. Moses Burnham of Ipswich who signed the deed of 1721.

Abigail Belcher 1655-1687

Abigail Belcher, daughter of Jeremy and Mary (Lockwood) Belcher was born on 10 Mar 1655 possibly in Ipswich, Essex, MA. She married John Gould in 1670. She died on 20 Dec. 1687. One of Abigail's descendents 9 generations latter was Grace Atkinson.

Dorcus Belcher 1656-1730

Dorcus Belcher, daughter of Jeremy and Mary (Lockwood) Belcher in 1656, possibly in Ipswich, Essex, MA. She married Daniel Gould in 1676 or 1683/ 85. She died in Stoneham, Massachusetts, USA on 5 Jun. 1730. 8 generations latter, descendent Clifford Retson married Grace Retson the 9th great granddaughter of Dorcus's sister Abigail, thus making father Jeremiah simultaneously the 9th and 10 great grandfather of the children of Cliff and Grace Retson..

Sources

Anderson, Robert Charles, George F. Sanborn Jr. and Melinde Lutz Sanborn (1999) The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, 1634-35 Vol 1 A-B Pages 231-237

Bartlett, Joseph Gardner (1906) NEHGR 249-256

Whitmore, W.H. (!873) v.27 NEHGR p.239-245

