

Edmund Rice was born about 1594. In 1639 he immigrated from Berkhamstead, England, to Sudbury, Massachusetts, which he helped to settle. He served as "selectman" of the town in 1644, deacon of the church (Puritan) in 1648, and in 1656 was one of the thirteen petitioners who besought the General Court of Massachusetts for a new plantation saying;

"Whereas your petitioners have lived divers years in Sudbury, and God hath been pleased to increase our children, which are now divers of them grown to man's estate, and we, many of us grown into years so that we should be glad to see them settled before the Lord take us away from hence; as also God having given us some considerable quantity of cattle, so that we are not so straightened that we cannot so comfortably subsist as could be desired; and some of us having taken some pains to view the country, we have found a place which lieth westward about eight miles from Sudbury, which we conceive might be comfortable for our subsistence."

Sudbury, at that time, contained less than seventy-five families and one would think they were straightened more for neighbors than for more territory. So it was found even twenty years later, when, with an increased population, the town was broken up and nearly destroyed by the Indians. But one of the duties of the General Court was to establish new towns by granting tracts of unimproved land to groups of settlers who wished to push out from the older towns to establish new ones. The land was then allotted to individual owners by the action of the town meeting. The allotment made to Edmund Rice in this new town, which was laid out and given the name, Marlboro, in 1660 was a house lot of fifty acres.

Edmund Rice had nine children by his first wife, Tamazine, who died June 13, 1654, and two by his second, Mercie, widow of Thomas Brigham, "whom he married in March, 1655. Edmund Rice died in Marlboro, May 3, 1663.

About the same time that Edmund Rice came to this country, Thomas King, born about 1605, with his wife Ann Collins and their six children, was preparing to leave his home in England, also. They settled in Sudbury, Massachusetts, where another child, Thomas was born November 4, 1642, but died two weeks later, and in December his wife Anna Died. On December 26, 1655, he married Bridget, the widow of Robert Davis, who had been killed by the Indians a few months before. She had a daughter, Sarah Davis, whom Thomas adopted as his own.

The two families of Edmund Rice and Thomas King were closely associated in both social and business affairs. Thomas King was one of the thirteen petitioners with Edmund Rice in 1656. And Thomas King was one of three, "who took inventory of the estate of his friend. Rice, at his death.

Thomas King was on the first board of selectmen of the new town of Marlboro, 1661-1664. In 1664 he was one of a group to petition for permission to form a new Puritan church at Marlboro on account of the distance from Sudbury. At the out-break of the horrible "King Philip War" in 1675, Thomas King was one who attended a meeting on October 1st of the citizens of Marlboro, headed by their minister, to adopt such measures of defense against the great Indian leader, "King Philip" as might be thought most expedient. Thomas King died the following January, 1676.

The Rice and King families were bound more closely together - three of the Rice sons marrying King girls. Thomas and Mary were married in 1651. Samuel and Elizabeth in 1655; and Joseph and Mercie in 1658, all before the death of either Edmund Rice or Thomas King.

Rice & King Family Genealogy

Samuel and Elizabeth Rice were married November 8, 1655, and made their home at Sudbury and Marlboro, Massachusetts. To them were born six children. Two weeks after the birth of the last child, Samuel Jr., on October 14, 1667, Elizabeth died, and her husband gave his infant son to his wife's only brother, Peter King. Being childless, he and his wife Sarah, adopted young Samuel and changed his name to King.

Samuel Sr. remarried a year later. His wife, Mary (Dix) Brown, died at Concord, June 15, 1675, where they had probably retired during the Indian War. In December, 1675, he married a third wife, Sarah Hosmer, whose husband had been killed that spring when the Indians had attacked Sudbury. (Death date of Samuel Rice was not given - Feb. 22, 1684-5)

Had it not been for the adoption of Samuel Rice Jr., by his uncle, Peter King, the family name of King, descendants of Thomas King, would have become extinct at the death of Peter, who was Thomas' only son and childless. (There was a younger son, Thomas, who died in 1642, as before stated)

Therefore, the two families of Rice and King were joined together as "King alias Rice" for two generations, after which the alias Rice was dropped and the family name of King continued.

Peter King must have been devoted to his adopted son, for he made him sole heir as his will shows. The little family resided in Sudbury (Now Wayland) Mass., not far from the town bridge on the East side of the river which still bears the family name "Kings Pond".

Although Peter King is not in our direct line of ancestors, there are recorded several interesting incidents in his life's history. He was a man of some prominence in the town, being deacon of the church and a representative to the colonial court in 1689-90. In 1676 he was one to receive of the gift of money sent on the good ship "Katherine of Dublin" by Christians at Ireland, "for the relief of such as are impoverished, destitute and in necessity by the late Indian war, (King Philip's War). Peter's losses were stated as forty pounds, besides ye uncovering of many houses and barns, and some hundred acres of land which are unimproved for fear of ye enemy, to our great loss and damage. "

October 25, 1678, Peter King was appointed on a committee of three, "to collect of the inhabitants of this town what may be wanted of the sum granted by any person or persons toward the new college at Cambridge (Harvard University) in building according to an order of the General Court. "

In 1688 he and others were appointed to take the public stock of ammunition into their hands for safekeeping. In 1689 Sudbury sent him as a delegate to the council of Safety at Boston to protest the encroachment of Sir Edmund Andres, who had been appointed viceroy over all New England, by the tyrant. King James II, in 1686. Andres was not only to rule in place of the King but to govern instead of the people. The General Courts, the town meetings, and the courts of justice were abolished. People were taxed without their consent, imprisoned without trial, and brow-beaten for raising objections. In Massachusetts the oppositions were strong.

Rice & King Family Genealogy

Peter King died August 27, 1704. In his will, on file in the county probate records at East Cambridge, he bequeathed unto his well and beloved son and heir, Samuel King alias Rice, the whole - - - of all my estate - - - as also my mind and will is that my dearly beloved wife, Sarah King, out of my estate as above mentioned, be carefully comfortably and constantly, with all tenderness, helped, relieved, and supplied during her life. The whole I doubt not will be performed by my adopted son and heir."

Peter King's adopted son after arriving at years of maturity, was referred to on the records of Sudbury as Lieut. Samuel King alias Rice. He was born October 14, 1667. He married Abigail Clapp of Milton, Mass. on October 30, 1693.

To them were born eight children.

In the history of Sudbury, mention is made of Lieut. Samuel King alias Rice in connection with a meeting of the proprietors of the Common, which was the unallotted land that was part of the tract granted for the establishment of the town and held in common for the benefit of all. (See under Edmund Rice.) Record of this meeting, held June 15, 1705 reads: "At ye above said meeting, voted that we, ye proprietors of ye common and undivided land in Sudbury will lay out all or part of their undivided land in Sudbury at ye above said meeting voted that Peter King, alias Rice, Graves and William Jenson are chosen a committee to prosecute those who leave or shall trespass in falling of wood or timber on our undivided land. "

Samuel King died March 4, 1713, forty-six years of age. His wife, Abigail, died the following July, and their five youngest children were left to the care of John Rice, Samuel's cousin.

Ezra King, second child of Samuel and Abigail King alias Rice, was born May 22, 1697, being over fourteen at the time of his mother's death he was not considered a minor and therefore not submitted to the guardianship of his father's cousin, John Rice.

He married Silence Bond (no data given) and they made their home in Worcester, where five of their ten children were born. They moved to Brimfield, Mass., about 1728. Records there reveal that Ezra King, alias Rice served as selectman in 1731. He owned a good deal of property. From the history of Brimfield, Massachusetts, page 229, is the following. "July 6th, 1732, voted that whereas some of the inhabitants of Brimfield did formerly by vote give Ezra King 20 acres of land for encouragement of building a great mill on Elbow Brook, and he, the said Ezra King, having built that and having laid out his substance there, do give him said 20 acres and stream."

Ezra King was a sergeant in Williams 2nd Company of the 8th Regiment. In 1745 his company, under Sir William Pepperell of Boston, 3,000 men from New England captured the great French fortress at Louisburg, located on the isle of Capi Breton. The victory caused great rejoicing in Great Britain as well as the colonies, and although it was given back to France in the Treaty at the close of King George's War, 1746, its capture proved the strength of the colonists. It is thought that Ezra King was severely "wounded in the battle, as the Brimfield records show that he died at Cape Breton, January 14, 1746. The fort was taken a short "while before, in 1745.

William King, (the "alias Rice" being dropped) was the third son of Ezra and Silence King, born October 24, 1724 at Worcester. He married Elizabeth Cushings of Main. After the death of his

Rice & King Family Genealogy

father he moved to Medumcook in Maine, he was engaged in farming. In 1760 he moved his family to Brattleboro, Vermont.

William King was 51 when the Revolutionary War broke out. He and his four sons enlisted. One son, Ezra, fought also in the war of 1812 and was killed November 12th. William died in South Newfane, Vermont, in October 1793. His widow died the fall of 1817.

Thomas King, eighth child of William King, was born in Brattleboro, Vermont, October 16, 1771. On January 15, 1795, he married Ruth, daughter of Capt. Eliphat Hyde, of Whittingham, Vermont. They settled at Pittstown, New York. About 1804 they moved to Anondaga County, N. Y. and later to Palmero, March 20, 1838. Thomas King became converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which had then been organized eight years. No details of his conversion are given. He was privileged to enjoy the Gospel seven years, until he died, July 31, 1845, at Montrose, Iowa, where his youngest son lived.

Thomas Rice King was born March 9, 1813, at Marcellus, Ondandaga County, New York, he was married to Matilda Robinson, daughter of Joseph and Cornelio (Gustwell) Robinson, December 25, 1831.

Thomas Rice King was twenty-five years old when his father was converted to the Gospel, and whether or not he was converted then or later it is not known. Never the less, after having resided in various parts of New York and Ohio, he crossed the plains about 1849, settling at Fillmore, Millard County, Utah.

In 1849, Thomas Rice King, his wife, five boys and one girl crossed the plains and settled in Fillmore, the then Capital of Utah. He later lived at Cove Creek, during the period in which much trouble with the Indians were experienced.

In 1867, a fort was built at Cove Creek. It was built to accommodate ten or twelve families, with big thick heavy stone walls and gates. One day the men left the women and children and went to the canyon for wood. The Indians had not bothered them for some time, so the gates were left unbolted. Soon after the men had departed, several war-painted and vicious looking Indians stalked through the gate and into the fort. The poor, frightened women caught up their children and hurried to Thomas Rice King's wife's room. The Indians followed the women to her door, upon which they loudly banged and demanded food. The terror-stricken women did not dare refuse, so allowed the Indians to enter, while they quickly set food on the table.

Matilda King concealed her fright more than the other women. As the Indians started grubbing down their food, one of them, who appeared to be their leader, motioned to her and grunted, "You sing now." Matilda King hesitated, not knowing what to do. She felt she could never control her voice for the fright she felt. But at the second more gruff request, the other sisters, fearing for their own and for the children's lives, pleaded with her, "Please Sister King, sing for them. As the Indians again began to grunt, "Hurry Up, sing", she started singing the first song that came to her mind, hardly realizing what it was—"Oh, Stop and Tell Me Red Man, Who Are You? - - Why do you roam - etc.", a Latter-Day-Saint Hymn.

Rice & King Family Genealogy

"O, Stop and Tell Me, Red Man," by W. W. Phelps, #224 in the "Songs of Zion".

1. "O, stop and tell me red man, who are you,
why do you roam and how do you get your living;
Have you no God, no home ?
With stature straight and portly, and decked in native pride,
With feathers, paints, and breeches, he willingly replied, "
2. I once was pleasant Ephriam, When Jacob for me prayed;
But Oh, how blessings vanish, when man from God has strayed,
Before your nation knew us some thousand moons ago,
Our feathers fell in darkness, and wandered to and fro.
3. And long, they've lived by hunting, fishing, instead of work
and arts, and so our race has dwindled to idle Indian hearts,
Yet hope within us lingers. As if the spirit spoke,
He'll come for your redemption, and break your gentile yoke.
4. And all your captive brothers, from every clime shall come,
And quit their savage customs to live with God at home.
Then joy will fill your bosoms, and blessings crown our days,
To live in pure religion, and sing our makers praise. "

After the first verse she stopped, but the Indians, who had stopped eating to listen, seemed intensely interested, and demanded more. The women were looking at her in open astonishment. When she had sung the entire four verses of the hymn, the Indians, to the utter astonishment and relief of the women, quietly arose and filed silently out of the door and out of the gate.

"Why, Sister King, " the women exclaimed as they gathered around her, "We didn't know you knew the Indian language. " Matilda King couldn't imagine what they meant, and quickly told them she didn't. "But you sang the entire song in their own language, they said excitedly. " They understood every work of it." And so she had God's spirit directing her, sung so that the Indians understood, and it went straight to their hearts, and they left the frightened women to go back to their camp to ponder the words of the song they had heard.

Thomas Rice King was an elder in the church and filled two missions to England. Four of his five sons filled missions. His eldest son, William, spent twelve years in the Hawaiian Islands. Later he helped colonize and establish the Skull Valley Colony in Utah.

His second son, Culbert King, after filling a mission became Bishop of Kanosh, where he did a wonderful work among the Indians. May 28, 1887, he baptized eighty-five Indians of the Kanosh Tribe.

In 1877, Thomas Rice King and his sons were sent by President Brigham Young to establish the United Order in Piute County. The town was called Kingston. Thomas Rice King was President, Joel White, Vice-President, and John Wilcox, Secretary. It is the testimony of all who lived in this order, that it was the happiest time in their lives. Everything was established for their convenience. Houses were all built alike. There was a large vegetable garden, with an expert gardener. The dairy was in Grass Valley, thirteen miles away, where grass and food were plentiful. John King

Rice & King Family Genealogy

(Robison) was overseer of the dairy. They had sheep, and woolen mills were built, where they spun and wove their own cloth, blankets, yarn, etc. The old mill still stands, as does the Gristmill where their flour, corn meal, bran and shorts were made. Thomas Rice King made a success of whatever he undertook and a great friend to the Indians. He was loved by all and everyone mourned his passing, February 5, 1879. He was buried in the Kingston Cemetery. When Matilda, his wife, died February 19, 1894, at Kingston, Thomas Rice's body was taken up and they both were interred February 21, 1894, Coyote, Utah, now known as Antimony.