THE HICKS FAMILY

The first traceable Hicks is SIR ELLIS HICKS who was knighted September 19, 1356 at the Battle of Poictious by the Black Prince. JOHN HICKS of Totsworth in Gloustershire is descended from him. JOHN marries a woman named JOAN and they have two sons, THOMAS and Robert, and a daughter, name unknown. JOHN HICKS dies in the 7th year of King Henry VII, probably 1492. There is not a lot of historical information on this family until about 1550.

We pick up the family line again with JAMES HICKS. JAMES made a major religious change of direction that eventually brought this family line to the shores of America. His occupation was a leather dresser. It appears when he was 25 he was baptized into the Puritan church which means he left the state Church of England (Anglican). His wife, PHEBE ALLEYNE also came from a Puritan family. PHEBE’s father is the Reverend EPHRIAM ALLEYNE, son of BAPTIST ALLEYNE (1501), born in 1527. Her mother was NANCY EVARTS, daughter of JAMES EVARTS.

JAMES and PHEBE had six sons. Four of those sons migrate to America. Their oldest son is ROBERT HICKS. PHEBE dies in England. JAMES eventually follows his son, ROBERT, to America as it is recorded that he died at a very old age of 94 in May, 1644 in Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts.

ROBERT HICKS had been a leather dresser like his father at Bermondsey, a suburb of London, which at that time was the seat of the leather tanning industry. He lived at Southwark, London.

The following deposition taken in 1638 gives us an insight into ROBERT’s life in England:
“Clement Briggs of Weymouth, fellmonger, deposed 29 August 1638 that about two and twenty years since this deponent then dwelling with one Mr. Samuell Lathame in Barmundsey Street in Southwarke,a fellmonger and one Thomas Harlow then also dwelling with Mr. Rob(ert) Heeks in the same street, a fellmonger (took hairs off of hides) the said Harlow and this deponent had often conversed together regarding how many pelts each of their masters pulled a week. And this deponent deposeth and saith that the Rob(ert) Heeks did pull three hundred pelts a week and at diverse times six or seven hundred & more a week in the killing season, which was the most part of the year (except the time of Lent) for the space of three or four years. And that the said Rob(ert) Heeks sold his sheep's pelts at the time for 40s a hundred to Mr. Arnold Allard, whereas this deponent's Mr. Samuell Lathame sold his pelts for 50s per hundred to the same man at the same time and Mr. Heeks pelts were much better ware.”

ROBERT married first, in England, in 1596, Elizabeth Morgan, who died about 1607. She was the daughter of John Morgan of Southwark, a leather dealer.

He married a second time in London, England in 1610 to MARGARET WINSLOW.
ROBERT and MARGARET HICKS had nine children, 5 sons and 4 daughters. Their fifth child was SAMUEL HICKS.

According the "English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers", ROBERT came from Southward. Parishes St., George and St. Savior, and an adjoining parish, Bermondsey, listed the baptisms of children: Thomas, Sarah, John; children Richard, Phoebe, SAMUEL, Lidia and Mary.

ROBERT came to America on the ship "Fortune", which followed the “Mayflower” with a party of Puritans. The ship Fortune arrived at Plymouth on November 9, 1621, just a few weeks after the First Thanksgiving. His second wife, MARGARET WINSLOW, followed on the ship "Anne", arriving at Plymouth in June 1922/23. She was the half-sister of Edward Winslow, one of early governors of the colony.

Between 1621 and 1647 ROBERT and his family lived in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In the 1623 division of land "Robart Hickes" was granted one acre as a passenger on the Fortune, and his wife and children were granted four acres as passengers on the Anne. MARGARET was the first woman teacher in America.

ROBERT’s name is found on many legal records of the colony.

In the 1627 “Plymouth Division of Cattle” ROBERT HICKS, MARGARET HICKS and their children SAMUEL HICKS, Ephriam Hicks, Lydia Hicks and Phebe Hicks were the sixth through eleventh persons in the twelfth company.

On 10 Feb 1629 ROBERT HICKS purchased two acres on the north side of town from Steven Dean. On 29 August 1638 Clement Briggs acknowledged his sale of "one acre of land in the upper fall near the second brook" to Mr. Rob(erte) Heeks". On 9 December 1629 "Mr Rob(erte)Hicks" rented five acres of Reed Pond to John Smyth for three years, Smyth to fence the east side of the land.

ROBERT HICKS was assessed 18 shillings on the Plymouth tax list of 25 March 1633 and 12 shillings on the list of March 1634. "Robert Hickes" was the thirty-seventh on the list of Purchasers.

On 13 July 1639 George Sowle acknowledged his sale of two acres of land to ROBERT HICKS of Plymouth. On 20 July 1639 John Barnes of Plymouth, yeoman, acknowledged his sale of four acres of meadow at High Pynes to ROBERT HICKS.

On 13 July 1639/40 ROBERT HICKS of Plymouth, planter, sold to SAMUEL HICKS, his eldest son his house, outhouses and garden in Plymouth, together with four acres of land and eight acres of land and all the meadow at the Heigh Pines and Island Creed, and all his right title and interest in the land, and three cows.

On 7 April 1642 ROBERT HICKS sold two acres of marsh at Heigh Pines to Mr.
William Bradford, the Governor of Plymouth Colony. On 7 May 1642 ROBERT HICKS sold seven acres of upland at Island Creek to William Brett of Duxbury.

On 9 October 1645 ROBERT HICKS sold to George Patrich a parcel of marsh meadow consisting of two acres.

ROBERT signed a will on 28 May 1645 in Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts. His inventory included 3 books valued at 8 shillings. He died the 24th May 1647. His estate inventory is valued at £39.13 pounds. No real estate was counted in this sum.

His will reads:
“In this will, dated 28 May 1645 and proved 15 March 1648, "ROBERT HICKS of Plymouth...being full of infirmities of body" bequeathed to "my son Ephriam all that my dwelling house barn and buildings with the garden...in Plymouth". also "all those three fields only lying on the north side of the said town of Plymouth..., the second which I lately purchased of Mr. John Alden and the third called the south field; "but my mind and will is that my executors hereafter named shall have and enjoy three rooms in the said house during her life she keeping herself unmarried, viz. the hall and chamber over and cellar underneath, and also that my said son Ephriam shall pay her the thirds of the said land during her life and widowhood"; to "my said son Ephraim all my lands lying in Island Creek on Duxbury side except two lots of upland of twenty acres apiece lying next unto Mr. Kemp's lands, which I hereby give and bequeath unto John Bangs my grandchild"; to "my executors...the rents of the said land not set and let forth for six years yet to come if she shall long live, but all the rest of my lands...I give unto my said son Ephriam"; "I give unto John Reyner the son of Mr. John Reyner our teacher fifty acres of purchased land accruing...to me as a purchaser of my share of lands lying at Seawams or Secunk if the said Mr. John Reyner his father do remain at Plymouth"; to "SAMUEL my eldest son" fifty acres; to "my said son Ephriam" fifty acres; to "John Bangs "fifty acres; to the younger of Mr. Charles Chancey's sons which his wife had at one birth when he dwelt at Plymouth "fifty acres"; to "my said son Ephriam" household goods; to the Town of Plymouth one cow calf; to "William Pontus" 20s; to John Faunce" 20s; to "Nathanell Morton" 20s; to "Thomas Cushman" 20s; "MARGARET my loving wife" sole executrix and residue; Mr John Howland and Mannases Kemton 10s each for a remembrance; to Joshua Pratt" a suit of my wearing clothes with a pair of shoes and stockings”; to Samuel Eddy a pair of wearing stockings; to "my said son Ephriam...my four oxen, paying my loving wife...the thirds of the profits of the lands as is before mentioned...and to draw her twenty loads of wood yearly to her house in Plymouth during her life.”

MARGARET evidently had a disagreement with her son SAMUEL over his brother Ephriam’s estate, as well as her husband’s estate, as is documented in the following court record:
“On 23 January 1648 John Rogers of Duxbury bought the rent of lands improved by Mr. Robert Hicks, now deceased from Ephriam Hicks of Plymouth. On 1 May 1660 "George Watson," on behalf of his son John Watson and nephew John Banges, requested that, because 'Samuel Hickes" was mistakenly entered in the court records as purchaser of
lands at Cushenah and Accoksett, etc., and it should have been "Mr. Robert" Hickes, it be corrected; the matter was referred to a later court. On 3 October 1662 "Samuell Hickes" was offered an equal division with others in the lands of Mr. Robert Hickes at Accushena, Coaksett, etc. but he declined. Margaret and Samuel could not agree on the division of goods in Robert's estate and the matter was taken to court 7 June 1661. On 7 October 1662 "Margarett Hickes of Plymouth, widow, as sole executrix to my husband Mr. Robert Hickes," confirmed his bequest of fifty acres to "Elnathan Chauncey the younger of twins of Mr. Charles Chaucye". On 22 March 1663/64 "Mistris Hickes" and "Samuell Hickes" were granted Lot 7 in the Plymouth lands at "Puncteesett Necke".

It is apparent the dispute had not ended by the time of Margaret’s death. She granted some monies to her daughter-in-law and her grandchildren by Samuel, but requested that he pay it from the debt he owned.

In her will, dated 8 July 1665 and proved 6 March 1665/66, “Margaret Hickes, widow of the town of Plymouth" bequeathed to "my son Samuel Hickes" 0%; to "my daughter-in-law Lydia Hickes" 30s: to "my son Samuel's children" 10s each "there being seven of them"; said legacies to be paid by "son Samuel Hickes" from his debt "he having already received a large portion of that which God had given me not only in lands but also in goods and chattels which was not only my husband's and son Ephriam's estate formerly but also given to me at my son Ephriam's death"; to "my grandchild John Banges" 40s; residue to "the children of my son-in-law George Watson and my loving daughter that is deceased Phebe Watson," also said estate to be "at the dispose of my son-in-law George Watson"; "my son-in-law George Watson and my friend Captain Southworth" overseers. The inventory of Margaret Hickes, taken 5 March 1665/66, totalled £53 12s 6d, and included no real estate. On 6 March 1665/66 "George Watson" was granted administration on the estate of "Mistris Margarett Hickes", deceased."

SAMUEL HICKS married LYDIA DOANE, daughter of Deacon JOHN DOANE on 11 September, 1645.

SAMUEL HICKS seems to have been a man of some substantial standing in the community. He was in Plymouth in 1639, when he bought his father's house, out-houses and garden-plot, with two cows, and lands on the north and south sides of the town. He was admitted a freeman March 1, 1641-2 and contributed one-sixteenth part of the money to build a barge of forty or fifty tons, costing £200. He was among the first men who went to Nauset, or Eastham, after the settlement commenced. He was constable there in 1646, and represented the town in the Colony Court in 1647, and again in 1649 with his father-in-law Deacon John Doane. He returned to Plymouth, where two of their children were born, and was a constable in that town in 1654. He was sometime an inhabitant of Barnstable. Mr. Otis says, he was admitted an inhabitant there Oct. 8, 1662, but had then resided in the town several years.

In 1661, there was 'a difference' between SAMUEL HICKS and his mother, about the will of his father Robert and it was agreed that Samuel should pay his mother ten pounds, and leave 'the winescot bedstead and the table in the hall to remain in the house as now it
stands,' the house to revert to Samuel at his mother's death. This was the ten pounds she was referring to as “debt” in her will.

SAMUEL moved to Dartmouth where his father had been interested in some landed estate. In 1666 an Indian named 'Daniel' was examined before the court for striking SAMUEL HICKS, of Acushna or Dartmouth 'so that he languished and hath been in danger of death.' The Indian confessed that he 'struck or punched HICKS with an axe or the shaft of it,' but claimed that HICKS first struck him. After a hearing Daniel was fined four pounds and four shillings for bill of charges, and forty shillings for loss of HICKS time, and ten shillings to John Haward for going to Plymouth as a witness.

"On June 5, 1667, SAMUEL HICKS was one of the selectmen and a Receiver of Excise for Dartmouth. He was in the list of freemen there in 1670, and a deputy to the Colony Court."

SAMUEL HICKS’ death is undocumented.

MARGARET HICKS, their daughter, marries JOHN JENNEY and dies sometime between 1689 and 1699.