

**RECORDS OF JOHN CARY,  
THE FIRST TOWN CLERK  
OF BRIDGEWATER, MASS.,  
FROM 1656 TO 1681**

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Records of John Cary, the first town clerk of Bridgewater, Mass., from 1656 to 1681 by Loring W. Puffer

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**LORING W. PUFFER**

**RECORDS OF JOHN CARY,  
THE FIRST TOWN CLERK  
OF BRIDGEWATER, MASS.,  
FROM 1656 TO 1681**



*To the numerous family in AMERICA bearing  
the honored name of CARY, this record is respectfully  
dedicated, by*

*LORING W. PUFFER.*

*Brockton, July 1, 1889.*

not drawn from  
state library

## NOTE.

John Cary, or Carew as it was once spelled, the immigrant, came to New England from Somersetshire, England, and settled in Duxbury, Mass., in 1639, being then 25 years old. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Godfrey, in 1644 and by her had in Duxbury, John, 1645; Francis, 1647; Elizabeth, 1649.

He then removed to Braintree, and had James, 1652, and finally settled in Bridgewater where his remaining eight children were born. He was one of the fifty four original proprietors of the town of Bridgewater. He removed from Braintree to Bridgewater in 1654. In 1656 he was chosen Constable, being the first town officer and only one elected that year.

He was the first town clerk, serving until 1681. He lived in what is now West Bridgewater, and about one fourth of a mile <sup>ساحل</sup>west of the old church. He died in 1681. His wife died in 1680.





# TOWN RECORDS

—OF—

## BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

*From the Incorporation of the town in 1656.*

4\*

The children of John Cary;  
Eleventh whose name is Sarah was  
borne the second of August 1667.

The twelfth whose name is Mahitabell  
was born the twenty-fourth of the last  
month, 1670. See 10th page for record  
of 10 first children.

The day and yeare of the Birth of the  
Children of John Cary Junior heare in  
the towne of Bridgewater is as followeth.  
And his marriage was the 7th of De-  
cember 1670.

Imprimis, his first borne whose name  
was John was brought forth into the  
world the first November 1671, and the  
Lord took him to himselfe, and was  
buried the nine and twentieth of Decem-  
ber '71.

The second whose name is Seth was  
borne the 28th of January 1672.

The third whose name is John was  
borne the 9th of Desember 1674.

The fourth whose name is Nathaniel  
was born the 24th of November 1676.

The fifth whose name is Eliazer was  
born the 27th of September, 1678.

The sixth whose name is James was  
born the 16th of June 1680.

The marriage of James Cary which  
was solemnized the 4 day of January in  
the year of our Lord 1681.

His first born being a daughter who  
was borne in the sixt of November in 1683  
of the same month  
son whose name

[The residue torn off.] to the world

5

Lands laid out for Experience Michell  
in the towne of Bridgewater, as follow-  
eth: seventy six Acres of upland liing  
between Thomas Heyward seynior but-  
ting upon Johns river on the North side,  
runing in length about South West and  
North East. m A parcel of meddow  
land laid out in the Great meddow liing  
upon the North side of Nunchketatesett  
River lying between Goodman Browne's  
lott & George Partridge's lott in the  
same meddow.

6

It is Ordered and Agreed upon by  
the Towne, the tenth of July 1660, freely  
And willingly to give to Mr. Buncker if  
he shall come Heyther to supply the  
place of A minister, the sum of twenty  
pounds & his diet.

It is Inacted by the Towne this 22d.  
of february 1660, that all cattle that  
goith upon the Common till a midsum-  
mer day, whether it be their own or  
other folks, are to be rated for.

7

Be it knowne unto all men by these presents that Nathaniel Willis and Lawrence Willis Inhabitants of the Towne of Bridgewater do bind ourselves to free the said town of Bridgewater from any charge or Damage upon said Towne by the keeping their brother Jonathan Willis, and to the which Engagement we the aboved named Nathaniel Willis and Lawrence Willis have Hereunto sett our hands this eighth day of January 1656.

NATHANIEL WILLIS,  
LAWRENCE WILLIS.

It is agreed upon by the Towne of Bridgewater the twelke of March 1656. that there shall be five woulfe traps made and completely finished, the first tow traps by Goodman Bassett and Goodman Heyward Junior and Goodman

Goodman Heyward Senior  
Goodman Harris & Goodm  
Lawrence Willis John  
Goodman Lathrope & Goo  
finish another and that Goo  
Edson and Goodman Foabs  
& that Goodman Willis Goodman  
Goodman Richmond and Goodman  
Ames

finish another, and these traps to be by the last of March Insuing the date if any shall be found defective in not these said traps they are to pay tow for every day they do neglect the work the aforesaid time is expired.

[ The residue on the right side is torn.]

8

June the 3 1657. Whereas this General Court taking into their serious Consideration the great defect that either is or like to be in severall Townshippes in this jurisdiction for want of an able Godly teaching ministrey, and the great prejudice to the soules of many like to suffer, and being desirous according to our duties that such defects should not be for want of due Incouragement to such as either are or shall be Employed in so good a worke of the Lord, for his honner, and the good of soules, and in consideration that inasmuch as the severall townshippes granted by the Government was that such a Company

might be received as should maintaine the public worshippe and service of God, there doe therefore judge that both church and town are mutually engaged to support the same: and therefore do order and agree, That in whatsoever towne there either is or shall be an Able godly teaching ministrey, which is aproved by this Government, that then fowre men be chosen by the Inhabitants or in case of their neglect, chosen by and three of the mayjisstrats to make an equal and just proportion upon the estates of the Inhabitantes according to their Abyltyes to make up such a convenient maintainance, for his comfortable attendance on his worke, as shall be agreed upon by the church in each townshipp, where any is with the concurrence of the Inhabitants if it may be had, or by the maygesstrates aforesaid in case of their apairante neglect, and that distress according as in other just cases is due be made upon such as shall refuse to pay their proportions, which is in justice due, but in case there be any other way whearby any townshipp Doe or shall agree that may effect the end aforesaid, this law not to be binding to them.

[The above is a transcript of a law of the General Court of New Plymouth Colony, enacted at Plymouth June 3d, 1657.]

by the Towne meet together that those that made the weare at have the fish there for this year made the ware in Towne are to have fish there for this present yeare Aforementioned.

About the holsters bought of Goodman Hill, Goodman Hey Seynior and Goodman Harris having Engaged for the payment of them being twelve shillings, the town was willing to pay it them again in their rate, in the best of their pay which they shall be amerced to pay out of their rates.

9

LANDS laid out for Goodman Harris  
the town of Bridgewater  
20 Acares of land upon Johns river

length about South West and North East

tween John Cary's and the highway on the river  
acres of land being his house lott butting

the river Runing in length about North And South liing between Goodman Brett's house lott and Goodman Willis house lott which Goodman Harris bought of Goodman Willis, which also is six Acares running in length as above mentioned.

more A parcel of land graunted to Goodman Harris butting upon the river liing betweene the said house lott which was John Willis & then running in length up to the cartway and there bounded

m 2 Acares & 1-2 of meddow liing between Goodman Gannett's lott of meddow and those lots that fell to Goodman Godfrey & John Cary butting upon the river and Goodman Foard's meddow neer to Cutting Cove.

m 2 Acares & 1-2 of meddow be it more or less liing between the minister's lott & Mr. Willis being in the meddow which was formerly called the name of Goodman Fobes his meadow.

m 2 rood of land which Goodman Harris bought of Goodman Brett liing before his Doore between his owne land and Godman Brett's house lotts butting upon the river runing in length to the highway.

10

The Day And Birth and year of John Cary's Childrens; 1645.

Imprimis, John Cary being his first the fourth of November in Duxborough the second being Francis was borne And place the nineteenth of January the third which is Elizabeth was Twentieth day of December 1649. m The fourth whose name is James was born at Braintree the eight and twentieth day of March 1652.

The fift whose name is Mary was born at Bridgewater the eighth of July 1654. The sixt whose name is Jonathan was born at Bridgewater the fourth and twentieth day of September 1656.

The seventh whose name is David was born at Bridgewater the seven and twentieth day of January 1658. the eighth whose name is Hannah was born at Bridgewater the last of Aprill 1661.

The ninth whose name is Joseph was born at Bridgewater the eighteenth of Aprill 1633.

The tenth whose name is Rebecka was born the thirtieth day of March 1665.

11

The thirteenth of November 16

WHEREAS certaine lands graunted by the Countrey to the Inhabitants of Duxborough at Massacquetuccut now being graunted A Townshipp and called Bridgewater, these are to informe and declare the manner of laying out these lands.

Whereas Constant Southworth, William Paybody and William Brett in the Behalfe of the rest of the sefues which weare appointed by the Court for the Disposing and laying out of these lands: they having laid out divers shares of lands in the place: now in and upon A third division having laid out fifty Acares to a share to the number of twenty and two lots.

But finding that it will be preditionall to the town, and it being desired by the Inhabitants of Bridgewater to have their lands, namely the present division of fifty acares to a lott to lay by themselves—

We the above named sefues have agreed that the inhabitants of Bridgewater shall have their lands liing by themselves within themselves, to have power to lay out so much lands as shall

In quantitie so much upland Laid out to the Inhabitants of Duxborough namely twenty acare Lotts fiftie acares to a share That they come no nearer to namely the hous lotts then the other Acare lotts do which

their being thirty and four lotts yet to be made up in whole or in part.

12

In any place within this Government under the penalty of forty shillings a time for every speaker, and ten shillings