

# Daniel Salmon

{1634, Lynn}

Version of April 1, 2024.

A New England settler sketch  
by Ian Watson.

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**ORIGIN:** Thurlaston, Leicestershire.

**MIGRATION:** By 1634. (On 1 July 1657, “Daniell Salmon” deposed that he had driven wolves out of Nahant when he was “Master Humphrey’s servant about twenty-three years ago” [EQC 7:128] (see also EQC 2:394, 4:383, 9:316). Daniel Salmon is among those Lynn residents who some nineteenth-century historians claimed had arrived in 1630 [Savage 4:6; Lynn Hist 114, 127], but no actual evidence for such an early migration year has been seen.

**FIRST RESIDENCE:** Lynn.

**OCCUPATION:** Servant to John Humfrey [EQC 2:331, 394, 7:128, 9:316]. Husbandman [ELR 2:127, 3:37]. Worked for the Saugus Iron Works (see *COMMENTS*).

**EDUCATION:** Signed deeds and depositions. Original signatures reportedly survive in the Essex County court files (i.e., ECF) [EQC 2:98, 211, 240, 3:108, 159, 273, 5:45, 9:316]. His wife Margery made her mark to a document [EQC 3:273].

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Served in the Pequot War [EQC 4:383]. In 1657, he spoke of having “commanded the whole [Lynn] trainband” to drive out wolves from Nahant about 1634 [EQC 7:128].

**PROPERTY:** At a Lynn town meeting on 13 December 1661, “upon a request of Daniell Salmon for some land in regard as he was a soldier at the Pequid wars &c, it was ordered by vote that Ensign John Fuller, Allen Bread senior & Richard Johnson should view the land adjoining to his house lot and to give report of it unto the next town meeting” [EQC 4:383]. According to a later report by Bread and Fuller, “the committee reported to the town that the grant to Daniel Salmon could not be made because it would be very prejudicial to several neighbors” [EQC 4:384].

On 23 March 1664/5, “Danyell Salmon of Lynn ... husbandman” mortgaged to “John Hathorne, his now dwelling house, & a parcel of land adjoining thereunto, bounded on the west with the land of Theophilus Baily, & with the town common on the other sides of it ... and also I have ... made over unto John Hathorne, two cows, a brown cow & a black cow, for a valuable consideration to me in hand paid.” The condition of the mortgage was that “Daniell Salmon shall pay or cause to be paid, unto John Hathorne ... the full & just sum of £12 13s 1d, the one half in fat beef & corn, at or before the twenty-ninth day of September next ... & the other half to be paid in corn or pork, or both, at or before the last day of November next ... to be delivered to ... John Hathorne ... at his now dwelling house.” On 18 September 1666, John Hathorne assigned the mortgage to “Mr. Ralph King” [ELR 2:127].

On 17 March 1667/8, “Danyell Salmon of Lynn ... husbandman” sold to “John Hathorne ... for the value of six pounds ... a parcel of salt marsh or meadow ... in Linn, in Rumney marsh, containing by estimation six acres ... being sold unto the aforesaid Salmon by the town of Lin, or selectmen thereof, being three two-acre lots, being given by the town to Michaell Spencer, Nathaniell Whiteing & Jerard Spencer” [ELR 3:37].

These two land transactions with John Hathorne were evidently to cover Daniel Salmon's debts at Hathorne's inn (see *COMMENTS*).

In 1671, Daniel Salmon sued the town of Lynn for a land grant, saying that he had "been an inhabitant of Lyn nearly forty years and never had a foot of land given him, also having been at the Pequot wars, without recompense for it, although the town at town meeting promised to grant him land in satisfaction" [EQC 4:383]. As part of the suit, on 25 May 1671, six acres of the Lynn town common were attached. These six acres "[lay] near Goodman Baily and Daniell Salmon" [EQC 4:384], which when compared to the bounds in Daniel Salmon's 1664/5 mortgage, suggests that he was still in possession of his house. On 27 June 1671, the court "remitted the entry of Daniell Salmon's action and ordered the clerk to write in the name of the court to the town of Lynn, requesting and advising them to give the said Salmon about six acres of land near his house, in some convenient place fit for his use, which they may secure for his wife and children" [EQC 4:397].

**BIRTH:** Baptized at Thurlaston, Leicestershire, 25 December 1610 (as "Daniel Sammon") [ParR at DGS 8078400:8], son of John and Grace (Salesburie) Salmon, who ("both of Thurlston") were married there 7 February 1604[/5] [BT at DGS 8041360:7]. John Salmon was the minister of Thurlaston parish from at least 1628 [ParR at DGS 8078400:23, 24; TAG 90:216; John Ordish Hulme, *The History of Thurlaston ...* (Leicester 1904), 161].

**DEATH:** After 3 May 1687 [ELR 9:238].

**MARRIAGE:** By about 1639 (assuming she was the mother of all his children) **Margery** \_\_\_\_\_. She was first recorded by name on 29 November 1663 and was living on 25 June 1672 [EQC 3:273, 4:306, 308, 5:63].

**CHILDREN:** (See *COMMENTS*.)

- i (probably) GEORGE SALMON, b. say 1639; m. Salem in October of an unknown year **Remember Felton** [EVR 264; GM 2:515] (see *COMMENTS*), daughter of BENJAMIN FELTON {1635, Salem, GM 2:512}.
- ii SARAH SALMON, b. about 1640-1641 (deposed 29 November 1659 aged 18 [EQC 2:194]); m. Lynn 6 January 1663[/4] **Robert Driver** [EVR 299; GM 2:366], son of ROBERT DRIVER {1634, Lynn, GM 2:365}.

**ASSOCIATIONS:** Daniel Salmon and JOHN FRANCIS ALIAS DEACON {1631, Penobscot, PM 161} came from the same region of Leicestershire and they, or at least their families, were acquainted (see *COMMENTS*).

Daniel Salmon was a servant to JOHN HUMFREY {1634, Lynn, GM 3:462}. On 1 July 1657, “Daniell Salmon ... deposed that he [was] Master Humphrey’s servant about twenty-three years ago” [EQC 7:128]. On 29 September 1684, he deposed that he “lived with Mr. Humphrey about fifty years ago” [EQC 9:316]. On 30 June 1640, “Daniell Salmon” sued “the worshipful Jno. Humphrey Esquire” for debt [EQC 1:19].

After Humfrey’s death in England, the administrators of his estate attempted to recover his property at Lynn, and Daniel Salmon testified several times in these cases. On 26 November 1661, he deposed about a “marsh [which] was called Mr. Humphrey’s marsh” and he said that “Mr. Otley” (i.e., Humfrey’s son-in-law ADAM OTLEY {1638, Lynn}) “did enjoy it as for master Humphreys for he on an occasion would have had me for to have had this marsh for to have done some business for Mr. Humphreys” (*sic*) [EQC 2:331]. In 1662, in a case involving title to a windmill, Daniel Salmon “deposed that Mr. John Humfrey built the windmill and placed it on Sagamoore hill in Lyn” [EQC 3:11].

It is noteworthy that the six-acre tract of salt marsh sold by the town of Lynn to Daniel Salmon sometime before 1668 was in “three two-acre lots, being given by the town to Michaell Spencer, Nathaniell

Whiteing & Jerard Spencer” [ELR 3:37]. NATHANIEL WHITING {1638, Lynn} has long been identified with the man of that name who was in Dedham by 1641 [Savage 4:519]. MICHAEL SPENCER {1634, Cambridge, GM 6:436} had died by 1653, while his brother JARED SPENCER {1634, Cambridge, GM 6:419} left Lynn for Connecticut in 1660.

Possibly Daniel Salmon’s purchase of land on these men’s original rights had nothing to do with any association or relationship to them. The Spencer brothers, though, lived at Lynn for some time, so one would not expect the town to reassign their rights without their input. As well, on 25 September 1639, “Garret Spencer” served as surety for a bond by Daniel Salmon to pay a debt [EQC 1:13]. As William Salmon of Amesbury (see *COMMENTS*) was a ferryman, it is interesting to note that Jared Spencer was, at least in the late 1630s, a ferryman at Lynn [GM 6:419].

Daniel Salmon’s other surety on this bond was JOSEPH ARMITAGE {1636, Lynn}, who also appears together with him on several other records [EQC 1:205, 2:73, 3:108, 4:383; ELR 9:238; SLR 2:271, 3:30; SCF 1973:32].

**COMMENTS:** Daniel Salmon was a minister’s son who became a servant to a prominent (though not fully committed) colonist. He had some education, was trusted (in his earlier years) with other peoples’ affairs, and was given responsible tasks in his work at the Saugus Iron Works. Yet he never became a freeman, held office, or received a full land grant from the town of Lynn, and his later years were marked by personal and financial woes. While his life is amply documented in Essex County court records (of which only a selection is presented here), our knowledge of his family is deficient.

On 2 June 1640, “Daniell Salmon of Saugust came before the governor [of Plymouth Colony] and showed a letter of attorney made to him by Richard Francis (alias) Deacon of Barleston in the county of Leicester ... demanding a certain legacy bequeathed ... by his brother

John Francis (alias) Deacon deceased” in New England, amounting to “ten or twelve pounds.” The letter said that “I ... have appointed ... my wellbeloved in Christ Daniell Salmon of Saugust ... attorney to ask receive and take the said sum.” The letter was dated 13 January 1638/9, witnessed by “John Salmon” and “Joseph Salmon,” and certified at Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, 1 March 1638/9, by two justices of the peace, “W. Dixie” and “Will[ia]m Roberts.” On 2 July 1640, “Daniell Salmon” acknowledged receiving full payment of the legacy from “Mr. John Howland” [PCR 12:62-63]. This document was the key to the discovery of Daniel Salmon’s origin. Thurlaston is seven miles from Barlestone and nine from Market Bosworth, and Daniel Salmon of Thurlaston had brothers named John and Joseph [TAG 90:215-216]. His 1610 baptism at Thurlaston is consistent with nine age statements in Essex County court and land records [EQC 2:211, 331, 394, 3:11, 5:60, 7:128, 8:198, 9:316; ELR 9:238].

We have not looked carefully for the origin of John Francis alias Deacon of Penobscot, but we note that a child of “John Frances alias Deacon” was buried at Thurlaston 4 April 1641 [ParR at DGS 8078400:24], and we see that this double surname appears in the probate records of the Archdeaconry Court of Leicester. A more systematic study would be welcome.

**Children:** Records of Daniel Salmon’s children are very sparse. He was a father, as on 27 June 1671, the quarterly court mentioned the welfare of “his wife and children” [EQC 4:397]. On 29 November 1659, “Sarah Salmon, aged about eighteen years” testified to something she had overheard while “at the pound milking her father’s cows”; as Daniel Salmon was a witness in the case, Sarah was almost certainly his daughter [EQC 2:194]. On 18 October 1670, Francis Axey of Lynn bequeathed to “the wife of Danell Salmons five pounds to be paid in 20s a year in corn, and to herself and her daughter either of them an every day’s waistcoat and apron” [EQC 4:306]. The simplest



interpretation is that this daughter was Sarah Salmon.

At a Salem court on 29 November 1664, “George Samon and his wife were fined £5 each” (a heavy sum) “for uncleanness before marriage” [EQC 3:221]. The Essex County copy of the Salem vital records says that “George Samon & Remember Felton married October [16]54 their da[ughter] Elizabeth born some time before they were married, da[ughter] Mary born the 16 March 1663/4, da[ughter] Susana born 30 May 1670 ..” [EVR 264]. We concur with other authors that the 1654 marriage year must be an error, given Remember Felton’s baptism in 1643 and motherhood as late as 1679 [GM 2:515]. Given the November 1664 prosecution, one could reasonably propose that this couple married in October 1664, not 1654, and that the clerk wrote a 5 where a 6 was meant. Sidney Perley, perhaps wishing to make the family’s story more respectable, gave birthdates for George and Remember (Felton) Salmon’s children that differ from those in the vital records [Salem Hist 2:218-219]. In any case, George “Samon” easily fits into Daniel Salmon’s family, even if firm evidence is lacking.

It would be surprising if Daniel Salmon did not have other offspring, and some may still have been under age or at least living at home in 1671 when the quarterly court mentioned his “children.” A number of other men with the surname Salmon were recorded in later seventeenth-century New England, and one or more of them may have been further sons. (A Y-DNA study of male-line Salmon descendants might be fruitful.)

Of these men, William Salmon of Amesbury is a promising candidate. He gave the name Daniel to his first son, who was born at Amesbury in 1676. He was a ferryman [EQC 5:402, 8:429], and was born say 1649 (based on the birth of his first known child, a daughter, at Amesbury in 1675) [Hoyt 308-309].

Another candidate is Peter Salmon, who married Anna Thompson at Salem 4 June 1677. The names of their children, born at Salem, do

not give evidence of any relationship with Daniel Salmon.

Savage [2:6] places the Daniel Salmon born at Lynn 2 May 1665 as another child of this immigrant, but this is chronologically improbable (unless Margery was a second wife). A more likely hypothesis is that this younger Daniel Salmon was a grandson of this immigrant, either a child of George and Remember (Felton) Salmon or of another, unknown son. This birth record appears in the published Lynn vital records, but we have not yet found the original.

**Saugus Iron Works:** Many records of Daniel Salmon link him to the Saugus Iron Works and its employees, and give a wide but fragmentary picture of his activities there. On 27 October 1653, Francis Perry, the iron works carpenter, deposed that “Daniell Salmon was employed by [iron works manager John] Gifford to plow and work on the farm” that belonged to the iron works, and was involved with the farm’s livestock [EQC 2:93]. Another deponent, William Emery, said that “the farm work was done by the Scotchmen and Daniell Salmon,” and referred to “the team [of oxen] called Daniel Salmon’s” [EQC 2:96]. James Adams, a young man, recalled that “Daniel Salman & myself carried the company oxen to Salem” [SCF 184:525].

After the iron works ran into financial trouble, Daniel Salmon was among its many creditors in court actions which dragged on for decades. Among other things, on 27 September 1653, money was due him for 42½ weeks of wages, for “ringing a pair of whates [i.e., weights?],” for the “diet of George Darling” for forty weeks and the “diet by John Purdeeye” for nineteen weeks, and for carting a great number of “loads” [EQC 1:291-293]. Darling and Purdy were among the Scottish ex-prisoners-of-war employed at the iron works [IWP 2:3:10, 15]. Another account, under the heading “Daniell Salmon team,” lists amounts for “carting mine,” “carting coal,” and “ringing wheels” [SCF 225:111].

On 28 November 1654, Daniel Salmon was among several credi-



tors of the Saugus Iron Works to whom the court at Salem awarded property as compensation. Daniel Salmon and Edward Baker were jointly awarded land near the furnace in Braintree in lieu of £49 19s 3d. They then sold this land to Thomas Savage of Boston on 7 January 1655[/6?]. As well, Daniel Salmon and four other Lynn men were jointly awarded a house and land at Boston. On 11 April 1655, they sold this property to the same Thomas Savage for £25 10s, with Daniel Salmon serving as attorney for “William Tingle,” one of the other men [SLR 2:266, 271].

On 27 March 1655 and 26 June 1655, “Daniell Salmon” was called “assignee and attorney of Joseph Bouey” in a debt case against the iron works [EQC 1:386, 393]. On 27 November 1655, “Daniell Salmon” was “appointed administrator of [the] estate of Joseph Boovey,” and on 24 June 1656 Daniel Salmon was to pay “Mr. Holliock” for Bovey’s “funeral charges” [EQC 1:410, 426]. Joseph Bovey was born about 1626-1627 (as he deposed 24 January 1653[/4] aged “about twenty-seven” [EQC 2:94]) and he was due money for employment at the iron works at the same time as Daniel Salmon [EQC 1:291-292, 425]. On 13 May 1657, Daniel Salmon sold to “William Pen” land in Braintree which had been awarded to Joseph Bovey’s estate as compensation for money owed by the iron works [SLR 3:30].

The nature of Daniel Salmon’s relationship to Joseph Bovey is an open question. Joseph Bovey’s age in 1653/4, coupled with the involvement of “Mr. Holliock” in the settlement of his estate, means that he was very probably identical with Joseph Bovey, son of Florizell and Mary (Holyoke) Bovey, who was baptized at Alcester, Warwickshire, 3 December 1626 [ParR at DGS 4291024:46], and was the nephew of EDWARD HOLYOKE {1638, Lynn} [NEHGR 147:19].

In 1657, as part of the debt case against the iron works, Daniel Salmon was deputized “to the marshal of Salem” and “while serving a writ, attaching a parcel of bar iron, was violently resisted by

Olliver Purchis, Henry Leoneard and Richard Blood, who took the iron from him, in the forge at the iron works” [EQC 2:98, 99, 109]. On 26 June 1660, “Daniell Salmon ... deposed that, being servant to the iron works under Mr. Geffards, he laid out the marsh given to Mr. [Adam] Hauckes for damage,” and his signature appeared on a written agreement of 31 October 1652 between Gifford and Hawkes [EQC 2:210-211].

A closer examination of the now digitized, but still unindexed iron works manuscripts at the Baker Library at Harvard [IWP], specifically the wage records cited by Hartley [187-190], might possibly add extra detail to the story of Daniel Salmon’s employment there.

**Drinking problem:** Later in life Daniel Salmon suffered from a drinking problem. The first sign of this was on 28 June 1659, when he was “fined for excessive drinking” [EQC 2:167]. On 24 November 1668, he was fined specifically “for being drunk in the house of John Hathorn” [EQC 4:86]. On 28 June 1670, he was fined “for excessive drinking” [EQC 4:270, 275]. On 29 November 1670, he was presented “for being drunk some time the past summer in hay time” [EQC 4:325].

Again on 25 June 1672, he was fined “for excessive drinking” [EQC 5:68], and this time detailed testimony gives a picture of the problem. Thomas Looke testified that having gone to John Hathorne’s to drink, “there was Danell Sallmon who had been drinking and there were several Indians in the house. ‘Robart Potter spake unto Mistress Hathorne and said I wonder why you will suffer Danell Sallmon to be here and to be in this condition when you have warning to the contrary ...’ ” [EQC 5:59]. Robart Potter and John Burall testified that they had been “appointed by the selectmen of Lyn to warn John Hathorne not to entertain Danell Sallmon in his house, according to the law against common tipplers, which the selectmen considered him to be, and they gave the warning over a year ago.” Thomas Newhall and John Burall testified that “they heard Mr. Leighton, in the name of

and in the presence of the selectmen, give Danell Sallmon warning not to frequent John Hathorne's house" [EQC 5:60].

Daniel Salmon's drinking impoverished his family. On 25 June 1672, William Clarke "testified that Goodwife Sallmon had complained much of this man [Hathorne] to him, that he had suffered her husband to spend so much there to her grief" [EQC 5:61]. "Margarey Sallmon," meanwhile, testified that "her husband had spent his money at Hathorne's house," and she said that "when nothing was to get, he [Hathorne] got our house and land" [EQC 5:63]. The language of Daniel Salmon's two land transactions with John Hathorne, on 23 March 1664/5 and 17 March 1667/8, confirms that he transferred his land and livestock to cover his debts to the innkeeper [ELR 2:127, 3:37].

The authorities were evidently concerned enough about Daniel Salmon's household that on 27 June 1671, when the quarterly court "requested and advised" the town of Lynn to give Daniel Salmon six acres of land, they added the instruction that "they may secure [it] for his wife and children" [EQC 4:397]. This appears to imply that they were not counting on Daniel Salmon to provide properly for them himself.

**PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIP:** In 2018, Ian Watson established Daniel Salmon's origin at Thurlaston [TAG 90:215-216].

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