

John Perkins



No Picture Available

Born: 23 Dec 1583 Newett, England

Married: 9 Oct 1654 Judith Gater (Gates)

Died: 23 Sep 1654 Ipswich, MA

Parents: Henry Perkins & Elizabeth Sawbridge

John Perkins of Ipswich, Massachusetts was christened December 23, 1583 in Hillborough, Warwickshire, England. He emigrated from England to New England. John died on September 20, 1654, in Ipswich, Essex County, Massashusetts. John married **Judith Gates/Gator** on October 9, 1608, in Hillmorton. Judith was born on March 19, 1588, in Hillmorton, Warwickshire, England. Her parents were Michael Gater and Isabel Bailey. Judith Elizabeth died in 1684 in Ipswich. John and Judith's daughter, **Mary Perkins, was accused as a witch in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692.** John was a freeman in May 1631. In 1633, he was a settler in Ipswich, MA. John's will was witnessed by William Bartholomew of Ipswich. John was a representative of the General Court in 1636. John owned a large island at the mouth of the Ipswich River, called "Perkin's Island." In 1856, this island was still owned by the Perkins Family. His house was near Manning's neck and close to the Ipswich river. John's will was dated March 28, 1654, and was proven September 1654. His estate was valued at 250 pounds, 5 shillings.

Above information from online research at Ancestry.com\

Dec 1630 John set sail from Bristol in the "Lyon" (with Wm. Pierce, Master) with wife & 5 children, and with Roger Williams. Reached Nantucket, Mass. 5 Feb 1631 and settled in Boston. He went in 1635 with John Winthrop, Jr. and helped settle Ipswich, Mass. He was the first of that name to settle in New England. On April 3, 1632, "It was ordered" by the General Court, "That noe pson wtsoever shall shoot att fowle upon Pullen Paynte or Noddles Ileland; but that the sd places shal be reserved for John Perkins to take fowle wth netts." Also, November 7, 1632, John and three others were "appointed by the Court to sett downe the bounds betwixte Dorchester and Rocksbury." He at once took a prominent stand among the colonists, and in 1636 and for many years afterwards, represented Ipswich in the general high court. In 1645 he was appraiser, and signed the inventory of the estate of Sarah Dillingham. In 1648 and 1652 he served on the grand jury. In March, 1650, "being above the age sixty he was freed from ordinary training of the Court." He made his will (probate office, Salem, Massachusetts), March 28, 1654, and died a few months later, aged sixty-four.

John married Judith Gater, daughter of Michael Gater and Isabel Bailey, on 09 Oct 1608 in Hillmorton Warwickshire England. (Judith Gater was born about 19 Mar 1588 in Hillmorton Warwickshire England, christened on 19 Mar 1589 in Hillmorton Warwickshire England and died in Ipswich Essex MA.)

The Perkins line has been traced back to the Norman invasion of Britain. The first known ancestor is Pierre DeMorlaix, born in Morlaix, Bretagne, Normandy, France in 1312. The line continues in England from his son Pierre Pierkyn (son of Pierre). His son, Seneschal John Perkins Esquire, anglicized the name to Perkins and received the coat of arms.

John Perkins's silver-headed walking cane is displayed in the Whipple House in Ipswich. Among his other possessions, John owned a Geneva (or Breeches) Bible, printed in London in 1599. Geneva Bible: "Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig tree leaves together, and made themselves breeches." – Genesis 3.7. (Also known as the "Breeches" Bible.

Sources: 1. "The Family of John Perkins of Ipswich, Massachusetts" by George A. Perkins, 1889. 2. Ipswich Vital Records 3. Will of John Perkins, Sr. 4. Salisbury Vital Records 5. Topsfield Vital Records 6. Genealogy of the Dodge Family



Above picture of John Perkin's cane provided by the Curator of the Ipswich Museum, Ipswich, MA.

John wrote his will on 28 March 1654. It was probated on 26 September 1654. Estate of John Perdins, Sr. of Ipswich

"28th of first mo called March 1654 I John Perkin the Elder of Ipswich being at this tyme sick and weake in body yet through the mercy and goodnes of the Lord retaining my vnderstanding and memory: do thus Dispose of and bequeath my Temporale estate as ffolloweth first I Doe giue and bequeath vnto my Eldest sonn John Perkin a foale of my young mare being new with foale if it please the Lord shee foale it well also I give and bequeath to my sonn Johns two sonnes John and Abraham to each of them one of my yearleing heyfers: also I give and bequeath to my sonn Thomas Perkin one cow and one heyfer also I giue & bequeath to his sonn John Perkin one ewe to be delivered for his vse at the next shearing tyne [time] also I doe give and bequeath **to my Daughter Elizabeth Saricant** one cow and an heyfer to be to her and her children after her Decease as it may please ye Lord they may increase the proffits or increase to be equelly Devided amongst the satde children also I Doe five to my Daughter mary Bradbery one cow and one heyfer or a young steere to remaine to her & to her children in theyr increase or proffits as it shall please the Lord to bless them and to be equally Devided to the children: also I Doe give and bequeath to my Daughter Lidia Bennitt one cow and one heyfer or steere to be equally Devided to her children in theyr increaseproffits after her Decease: I Doe also give vnto my Grandchilde Thomas Bradbery one ewe to be sett apart for his vse at ye next shearing tyne: also I Doe give and bequeath vnto my sonn Jacob Perkin my Dwelling howse together with all the outhowseing, and all my landes of one kinde and other together with all improvements therevpon to be his in full posession & according to a former covenant, after the decease of my wyfe and nott before and so to remaine to him and to his heires forever: all the rest of my estate of one kinde and other I Doe wholly leave to my Deare wife Judeth Perkin apointing and ordaining my sayde wyfe the sole Executrix of this my Last will and Testament Desireing my sayde wife to Dispose of the cattell aboue mentioned according to her discrecion as they hshall prosper steeres or heyfers as also to Dispose of somoe of the increase or some of the increase of the sheep to || the || children of my sonn Thomas and of my three Daughters at the Discrecion of my sayde wife and this I Doe ordaine as my Last will and Testament subscribed with mine owne hand this twnty eighth Day of he first month 1654:

his mark John Y Perkin

Witness: william Bartholmew, Thomas Harris. Proved in Ipswich court 26:7:1653 by the witnesses.

Inventory taken by William Bartholomew and John Annable:

[Essex Co. Probate Files, Docket 21,337]^[12]

An Inventory of the Estate of John Perkins Senior, deceased.

Item	Value
the Dwelling house and barn with outhousing	40.00.00
Land about the House about eight acres	12.00.00
More land unbroke up about fourteen acres	21.00.00
a parcel of Marsh about six at 40s per acre	12.00.00
a parcel of upland and Marsh being much broken about 20 acres at 20s per acre	20.00.00
12 acres of improved land 50 per acre	24.00.00
one mare with a mare foal at	25.00.00
six milch cows at	30.00.00
four yearling Heyfers and a Steere at	11.10.00
six ewes at 35.s	05.00.00
one yearling weather and two weather lambs	02.00.00
one young Calf	00.15.00
one cow at the pasture a sow & 3 piggs all	08.00.00
one feather bed with bed & furniture	04.00.00
Coverlid with other small things linen most	02.00.00
left in mony at his decease	10.00.00
a Cart, plows, a harrow with several goods of lumber	05.00.00
as casks, tubbs, cheares, axes, hoes etc. valuable	
Severall ketles pottes & Dishes in the Kitchin	02.00.00
his wearing aparell	05.00.00
	250.05.00
Witnesses & Appraisers	
William Bartholmew	
John Anable	

Value listed as pounds.schillings.pence

Read in the court held at Ipswich the 26 of the (7) 1654. Robert Lord cleric." ("The Perkins Family" by George Perkins, 1889, pg. 6)