

## Samuel Shattuck

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Born: 1594 Dorset, England

Married: Damaris Sibley

Died: 6 Jun 1698 Salem, MA

Parents: William Shattuck & Damaris

What follows is the story of Samuel Shattuck and his fight for Quakers to practice their faith without persecution:

What had happened with Friend Christopher Holder was that he had caused a disruption by attempting to speak in church in Salem after the Sunday sermon (it was during this year, incidentally, that meetings for worship were beginning locally). A guard there had brought him to the floor and stuffed his glove and handkerchief into Holder's mouth. When a member of the Puritan congregation, Samuel Shattuck, got the glove and handkerchief out of Holder's mouth, and resuscitated him, Shattuck was taken to the Boston lockup and had to pay a 20-shilling fine to get released. (Shattuck would become a Quaker and be exiled.

In Salem, Friend Samuel Shattuck was fined for absence from the Puritan church's First-Day worships and for aiding visiting Quakers. (He had, at the Salem church, attempted to intervene when Friend Christopher Holder was being silenced.) Persisting "in his course and opinions as a Quaker" despite this fine, he would be jailed. At mid-year he and other of Salem's "resident converts" would suffer banishment, on pain of death should they return.

The first victims to this severe law were Lawrence and Cassandra Southick, their son Josiah, Samuel Shattock, Nicholas Phelps and Joshua Buffum. They were called before the court 11th of 3rd mo., 1659, and on their trial (such as it was), the same arbitrary spirit of tyranny appeared in their manner of executing as in passing their laws. The prisoners making a rational objection to their proceeding against them by their law as being in custody when it was made, and therefore as to them an ex post facto law. To their query whether it was for an offence against that law which then had no existence, they were committed to prison and banished, they received no reply; then one of them desired the governor that he would be pleased to declare before the people the real and true cause of their proceedings against them. He answered, it was for contemning authority in not coming to the ordinances of God. He further charged them with rebelling against the authority of the country in not departing according to their order; to which they answered they had no other place to go, but had their wives, children, families and estates to look after; nor had they done anything worthy of death, banishment or bonds, or any of the hardships or ignominious punishments which they had suffered in their persons, beside the loss of one hundred pound's worth of their property taken from them for meeting together. This remonstrance of their recent accumulated injuries silencing the Governor, Major General Denison made this unanswerable reply,

that they stood against the authority of the country in not submitting to their laws, that he should not go about to speak much of the error of their judgements but added he, you and we are not able well to live together, at present the power is in our hand, and therefore the strongest must fend off. After this the prisoners were put forth for a while, and being called in again, the sentence of banishment was pronounced against them, and no more than a fortnight's time allowed for them to depart on pain of death; and although they desired a respite to attend to their affairs and till an opportunity of a convenient passage to England might occur, the unrelenting malice of their persecutors would not grant them even this small and reasonable request; so Samuel Shattock, Nicholas Phelps, and Josiah Southick were obliged to take an opportunity that offered four days after, to pass for England by Barbadoes, in order to seek redress from the parliament and council of state there, but without success.

Friend Samuel Shattuck and a number of other prominent New England members of the Religious Society of Friends were residing in London, in exile from their homes.

Friend Edward Burroughs used his influence at the royal court to seek suspension of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's order of banishment upon Friend Samuel Shattuck and a number of other Quakers currently resident in London . The colony's representatives at court argued that they had found the Quakers to be disruptive.

May: In London , Friends Edward Burroughs and Samuel Shattuck learned of the hanging of Friend William Leddra in Boston in March. Shattuck and another banished convert petitioned the monarch to stop this "letting of blood in the Bay Colony," alerting him to the fact that this had been the 4th such incident. A Royal Mandamus was prepared and signed.

November: A shipload of arrived in Boston harbor, among them Friend Samuel Shattuck. He appeared before Governor John Endecott with his hat on, and his hat was struck off. When he presented the king's writ, the governor, sweeping off his own hat, ordered that Shattuck's hat be replaced upon his head. A new era of tolerance of dissenting opinion seemed to have arrived nonviolently, through sheer patience in suffering, for rather than submit to the authority of the mother country by sending its religious prisoners to England for trial, the Boston authorities clearly preferred to take no more religious prisoners, and to release all religious prisoners then in custody. (Friend Samuel Shattuck had managed to arrive just in time to intercept the planned hanging of Friend Winlock Christian. This new era of tolerance would endure all of ten months.)

<http://www.kouroo.info/kouroo/thumbnails/S/FriendSamuelShattuck.pdf>