

Roger Braley



No Picture Available

Born: 1672

Married: Alice Abbott

Died: 1707 Rhode Island, USA

Parents: Unknown

Roger Braley, according to early records in Portsmouth, RI, is believed to be the progenitor of the American family. His name was sometimes spelled "Brailey."

Tradition says that three Welshmen, who were brothers, were "pressed" into service on a British vessel. These men were of the Quaker faith. The tenets of their religion forbade participation in war, and accordingly, they availed themselves of the first opportunity to escape.

The legend relates that because of destitution, they ate the soles of their shoes for food, and to conceal their identity, they changed the spelling of their last name to Braley.

Of the three brothers, one is thought to have returned to Wales. Nothing is known of the other two.

Perhaps one of these three was an ancestor of Roger Braley.

There is very little known of this first Roger, the exception being that on

July 6, 1696, he was a witness in a drowning inquest. He was recorded as being a weaver in a land sale.

He and his wife Alice had several children whose births are recorded in Portsmouth, RI.

Elizabeth	June 25, 1697
Roger	November 15, 1698
Alice	March 28, 1700
Ambrose	December 4, 1701
John	March 26, 1703
Grace	February 22, 1704/05
Sarah	March 25, 1707

Information from online research at: Ancestry.com

Roger Braley¹, born Abt. 1672. He was the son of 2. James Brayley and 3. <Unnamed>. He married (1) Alice Abbot Abt. 1695 in Prob. Portsmouth, RI. She was born Abt. 1670.

From Harold E. Brailey, Jr., (1943):

This Roger was a witness at a drowning inquest in Portsmouth RI, in 1696. Later moved to Rochester MA, where he is on the records as Bralee, Brailey and Braley

The Braley family was again the subject of a book "Yankee Stock, Our Colonial Ancestors" by Ellen May Jones and Barbara May Honea, 1992. This is a very well written and documented (footnotes) book and I feel that the information given in this book is as accurate as can be found, and this is reflected in the information given here. This book says that the first Braleys to America were from Wales and assumed the Braley name to further their escape from Wales. Whatever the origin, Roger is the Founder of "Our Line".

Story of the Roger Brailey Deed, 1725/26

Bruce Braley found that Roger and Alice Abbot-Braley lived along the Sakonnet/Seaconnet/Seakonk River in the South Side Addition of Portsmouth, RI (laid out in 1693). The deed Roger executed for the sale of this land to Joanna Bennet (Portsmouth Town Deed Book 1, page 523) read:

One certain lott of land with a dwelling house thereon in number the 119th lott containing 56 Rods of ground lying and being at a place called the SouthSide in the Township of Portsmouth aforesaid amongst the small lotts contained in said South-side being butted and bounded as by a Plat of the said SouthSide may more at large appear lodged in the Town Clerk's office in said Town.

A scan of this deed is found on the next page.

To all Christian People to whom these presents shall come Greeting Know ye that I Roger Brailey of Portsmouth in the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England Weaver for and in Consideration of the Sum of eighty four pounds in good Current money of New England to me in hand at the time of the Dispaying and Delivery of these presents well and truly paid by Joanna Bennett of Portsmouth in the Colony aforesaid widow, the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge and own my self therewith fully Satisfied and Contented and thereof and of every part and Parcel thereof do Demerit Acquit and discharge the said Joanna Bennett her heirs Executors and Administrators for ever by these presents Have given granted bargained sold Aliened Conveyed and Confirmed and by these presents do freely fully and absolutely give grant bargain sell Alien Infeoff convey and Confirm unto her the said Joanna Bennett her heirs and assigns for ever one certain lot of land with dwelling house thereon lying in Number the 119th lot containing 36 Rods of ground lying and being at a place called the Southside in the Township of Portsmouth aforesaid amongst the small lots contained in said Southside being butted and bounded as by a Plat of the said Southside may more at large appear lodged in the Town Clerk's office in said Town To have and to hold the said granted and bargained premises with all and singular the Orchards fences profits Privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining to her the said Joanna Bennett her heirs and assigns for ever to her and heirs proper Use benefit and behoof for ever, and I the said Roger Brailey for me my heirs Executors and Administrators do Covenant promise and grant to and with the said Joanna Bennett her heirs and assigns that before and at the time of the Dispaying hereof I am the true sole and lawful owner of the above bargained premises and am lawfully Seized and possessed thereof in my own proper Right as a good pure perfect and absolute Estate of Inheritance in Fee Simple and have in my self full Right full Power and lawful authority to grant bargain sell Alien Infeoff convey and Confirm the said bargained premises in manner as aforesaid and that the said Joanna Bennett her heirs and assigns shall and may from time to time and at all times for ever hereafter by force and virtue of these presents lawfully peaceably and Quietly have hold Use Occupy possess and enjoy the said premises and bargained premises with the Appurtenances Free and Clear and freely and Clearly Reconveyed Acquitted and Discharged of and from all and all manner of former gifts grants bargains sales Leases Mortgages Wills Endowments Incumbrances Incumbrances Executions and of and from all and every other Incumbrances whatsoever which may or can by any lawful ways or means after Change defeat or make Null and Void this present Sale and I the said Roger Brailey do further Covenant bind and oblige my self my heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these presents to Warrant Secure and defend the said Joanna Bennett her heirs and assigns in Quiet and Peaceable Possession of all and singular the said granted and bargained premises against the just and lawful Claims and demands of all and every other Person or Persons whomsoever. In Witness whereof the said Roger Brailey have hereunto set my hand and seal this fifteenth day of the Month called February in the twelfth year of his Majesty's reign George by the grace of God King over Great Brittain the United Dominions 1723/6

Signed Sealed and Delivered
in the presence of
Stephen Drayton
Caleb Bennett

Portsmouth in the Colony
of Rhode Island &c.

Roger Brailey
his mark & Seal

Roger Brailey the Subscriber to the above written Instrument personally appeared on the day of the date hereof and acknowledged the Execution of the same to be his free voluntary act and deed and seal thereto set before me

The above written Instrument is a true copy
of the Original Received on the day of the
date of the same and Recorded

Wm Sanford Justice

Wm Sanford Town Clerk