

NEW ENGLAND MARRIAGES PRIOR TO 1700
COWES/COES, [Michael] (1639-1715) & Grace [STACEY] (1659-1736)

Marblehead

Births

COES (Coas, Coos)

Mary, d. Grace, bp. Sept. 6, 1684
Elizabeth, d. Grace, bp. Sept. 19, 1686
Elizabeth, d. Grace, bp. June 17, 1688
Samuel, s. Grace, bp. Mar. 22, 1690-9
Sarah, d. Grace, bp. Apr. 24, 1692
William, s. Grace, bp. Aug. 26, 1694
Elenor, d. Grace, bp. Feb. 23, 1695-6
Mary, d. Grace, bp. Nov. 8, 1702

MARRIAGES OF CHILDREN OF MICHAEL AND GRACE COWES:

Source: *The American Genealogist*
Michael was married by Rev. Cotton Mather in Boston
7 Jul 1701 to Rachel Short

Source for all below is the Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850:

COES (Coas, Coaze, Coose, Cose)

Agnes, and Samuel Nicholson, Apr. 25, 1700
Elenor, and Thomas Maine, July 16, 1714
Elizabeth, and William Nichelson, 21: xbr: 1713
Mary, and Thomas Peach, Dec. 14, 1704
Samuell, and Elizabeth Hawkins, Jan. 1, 1717
Sarah, and Benjamin Salter, Jan. 29, 1711-12

STASEY Grace, "alias Coaze," and '
Thomas Powsland Aug. 27, 1699

Marblehead

Deaths

Rachel, wid.: Apr. 1736
Grace, Mar: 1735-6, a. 77 y.

This Article Gives Insight into Michael Cowes' English Heritage

American Genealogist, The Volume 18 Page 67-70

The Thomas and Elizabeth Cowes Family

Thomas Cowes was born about 1535. He was a fisherman, and described himself as such when he made his will on 27 Jul 1587, leaving legacies to the church, to his sons John, Bennett, Robert, Gregory, and William, and to his wife and executrix, Elizabeth. The will was proved 25 Oct 1587. (Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 57 Spenser). His widow was buried at West Town (West Teignmouth) 13 Nov 1613.

1. Their son Thomas was baptized 16 Jul 1559 and was probably that sailor who was buried in Ireland while on voyage on 27 Jul 1587. He had two daughters Marie and Elizabeth, who were each left a sheep in their grandmother's will.

Their son William was baptized 8 Sep 1561 and married on 22 Jan 1589, Avis Tapley. They had eight children:

- Marie, bp 15 Nov 1590 who probably died in infancy;
- Twins John and Robert, baptized 24 Nov 1592 and buried 16 Dec 1594;
- **Michael, bp 3 Oct 1594**, who was left a clock in his grandmother's will;
- Robert, bp 1 Nov 1595;
- Twins Mary and Thomasine, who were both baptized and buried 10 Jan 1597; and
- Susan, bp 31 Aug 1606, who was left a sheep by her grandmother.

2. Their son Gregory was baptized 9 Jul 1564 and married Elizabeth ?. They had six children:

- Avis, who was left her grandmother's great chest; she married Edward Ford on 30 Oct 1620;
- Annis, buried 27 Jan 1594
- Johan, baptized 17 Oct 1596, received her grandmother's best petticoat in her will;
- Thomas, bp. 2 Sep 1599;
- Sidwell, bp 14 Aug 1603, who received one sheep from her grandmother. She married 1) Allen Leyman on 4 Feb 1625 and 2) Hercules Bassett.
- John, bp. 13 Jul 1606, who received his grandmother's great platter dish. He married 25 Nov 1635 Agnes Bak then died and was buried on 14 Feb 1643.

3. Their son Robert was bp 17 Nov 1568 and married 8 Feb 1596 Sidwell Zenie. They had no known children.

4. Their son Bennett married on 5 Dec 1597 Johan Cowes. Their children were:

Johan bp. 17 Aug 1598

- John, buried 18 Apr 1601
- Edward, bp 18 Sep 1603 who received a "crocke" from his grandmother
- Dorothy bp 29 May 1606 and buried 22 Dec 1607;
- **Michael bp. 6 Aug 1609** who also received a "crocke". He and his brother Edward were named as godchildren in their grandmother's will.

5. Their youngest son John was baptized on 30 Nov 1570 and received in his mother's will a "Butt of Bees."

Third Generation Michaels

Thomas and Elizabeth had two grandsons named Michael, the son of their son William bp. in 1594 and the son of their son Bennett bp. in 1609. Both of these boys lived long enough to marry and have children. William's son Michael married first Mary Lee on 26 Nov 1618, and they had Jane, bp 28 Sep 1619. He then married on 27 Jan 1624 Joan Peter, and they had Peter, Avis, Susan, and Silvester between 1627 and 1632. Bennett's son Michael married Grace Andrew on 22 Jan 1631. We know the child Grace to be theirs because she shares her mother's name.

That leaves seven children born after 1633 when both Michaels were married. It is impossible to tell whether they are the children of William's son Michael and his second wife Joan or Bennett's son Michael and his wife Grace. These children were:

- Christian, bp 4 Aug 1633
- Edward bp. 3 Oct 1683, buried 24 Nov 1636
- Richard, bp 25 Oct 1635, buried 11 Feb 1643
- John, bp 29 Nov 1635
- **Michael bp 4 Aug 1639**
- Robert bp 2 Jul 1642
- Elizabeth bp 14 Oct 1649

Stokeinteignhead

Photo by Michael Bond



The First American Generations

MICHAEL COWES (*Michael, William or Bennett, Thomas*), baptized at Stokeinteignhead Aug. 4, 1639, was a fisherman in Marblehead, Massachusetts, in 1677 when he made a deposition in which his age was stated to have been "about forty." There is an earlier record of him in America, however, for in 1668 John Card of Kittery, Maine, who held an unexpired lease of property called Lower Gabwell at Combeinteignhead, the next parish to Stokeinteignhead, assigned it to Michael Cowes of Combeinteignhead, fisherman, whose father Michael Cowes the elder was already in possession.*

Michael Cowes married in Marblehead about 1677 **GRACE STACEY**, who died March, 1735/6, aged seventy-seven. He was constable of the town in 1679. His fishing business was carried on in partnership with his father-in-law John Stacey, and the records of their leases of flake-yards from the town appear in the books from 1685 to 1700. His home was on the east side of Broad street (now Washington street). Administration on his estate was granted to his widow Grace Cowes June 30, 1715.

Children, baptized in Marblehead:

- i. **MICHAEL**; m. by Rev. Cotton Mather in Boston July 7, (1701?), to **RACHEL SHORT**; administration on his estate granted to his widow July 16, 1718.* His widow kept a shop in Marblehead and it would seem very profitably. She died in April, 1736, and her will, dated March 3, 1735, left her "camblet Riding Hood and striped holland Gown" to her daughter Mary Killy, her "black silk Suit and silk Camblet Cloak" to her daughter Elizabeth King, her "chintz Gown lined with Green Lutestring and green Stuff Robe, sable Muff and Ear Rings to her daughter Rachel Watts, gold rings to her sons Samuel and Thomas, a silver knife and fork to her son Giles and named her sons Samuel Cowes and Daniel King executors. Her dwelling-house, shops and land were valued at £200.†

Children, bapt. in Marblehead:

1. **Michael**, bapt. Sept. 13, 1702.
 2. **Mary**, bapt. Nov. 8, 1702; m. (1) Sept. 15, 1720, John Norman; m. (2) July 30, 1728, Thomas Kelly.
 3. **Elizabeth**, bapt. Jan. 23, 1705, in Boston; m. May 12, 1729, Daniel King.
 4. **Rachel**; m. May 26, 1728, Alexander Watts.
 5. **Samuel**; m. Dec. 1, 1735, Mary Goold.
 6. **Giles**.
 7. **Thomas**, bapt. July 28, 1717.
- ii. **GRACE**. She lived with her grandmother Stacey who gave her a lot on the Broad street Nov. 16, 1680, and she was married as Grace Stacey *alias* Coaze to **THOMAS POWSLAND** Aug. 27, 1699.
- iii. **AGNES**; m. April 25, 1700, **SAMUEL NICHOLSON**.
- iv. **MARY**, bapt. Sept. 6, 1684; m. Dec. 14, 1704, **THOMAS PEACH**.
- v. **ELIZABETH**, bapt. Sept. 19, 1686; d. in infancy.
- vi. **ELIZABETH**, bapt. June 17, 1688; m. Dec. 21, 1713, **WILLIAM NICHOLSON**.
- vii. **SAMUEL**, bapt. March 22, 1690/1; m. Jan. 1, 1717/8, **ELIZABETH HAWKINS**.

Children, baptized in Marblehead:

1. **Elizabeth**, bapt. Aug. 13, 1718.
 2. **Samuel**, bapt. Oct. 16, 1720; died in infancy.
 3. **Samuel**, bapt. Feb. 4, 1722.
 4. **Michael**, bapt. Aug. 9, 1724.
 5. **Thomas**, bapt. June 26, 1726; d. in infancy.
 6. **Mary**, bapt. Oct. 26, 1729.
 7. **Thomas**, bapt. March 25, 1733.
- viii. **SARAH**, bapt. April 24, 1692; m. Jan. 29, 1711/2, **BENJAMIN SALTER**.
- ix. **WILLIAM**, bapt. Aug. 24, 1692.
- x. **ELEANOR**, bapt. Feb. 23, 1695/6; m. July 16, 1714, **THOMAS MAINE**.

* Essex, Mass., Probate 312: 375.

† Essex, Mass., Probate 320: 302.

Grace Pousland Lot. This lot was a part of the lot of Mrs. Eleanor Stacey of Marblehead, and she conveyed it to her daughter Grace (wife of Michael) Coes' daughter Grace Coes Nov. 16, 1680.† She married Thomas Pousland Aug. 27, 1699, and owned this lot for many years.

† Essex Registry of Deeds, book 5, leaf 93.

* Essex Registry of Deeds, book 124, leaf 91.

† Essex Registry of Deeds, book 2, leaf 99.

‡ Essex Registry of Deeds, book 3, leaf 63.

§ Essex Registry of Deeds, book 7, leaf 25.

|| Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaf 89.

Michael Coes House. This house and lot of land was owned by Thomas Bowen of Marblehead, fisherman, and, for twenty pounds, he conveyed the estate to Robert Codner of Marblehead, fisherman, Aug. 10, 1660.|| The house and lot were in the possession of Michael Coes of Marblehead, fisherman, before 1689; and he died, possessed of the estate, before June 30, 1715, when administration was granted upon his estate. His children, Samuel Coes of Marblehead, fisherman, Grace, widow of Thomas Pousland of Marblehead, deceased, Thomas Peach and wife Mary, Samuel Nicholson, for himself and his children, William Nicholson and wife Elizabeth, Benjamin Salter and wife Sarah, Thomas Main and wife Elenor, released their interest in the southwestern part of the house and lot to their mother Grace Cows in 1719-20.* This was apparently a new part that had been added to the old house by their father, and his widow was then living in it. It was apparently nearer the street than the old house, though one stack of chimneys was used for both parts. Mrs. Coes, for ninety pounds, conveyed that part of the house and lot to her son Michael's widow, Rachel (he having deceased before July 16, 1718, when administration was granted upon his estate), of Marblehead, shopkeeper, June 3, 1720.† Mrs. Rachel Coes died possessed of her part of the house and land in April, 1736; and for one hundred and ninety pounds, the executors of her will conveyed eight-ninths of her end of the house and lot to Alexander Watts of Marblehead, mariner, Feb. 1, 1738.‡

The old part of the house and the northeastern part of the lot was conveyed by William Nicholson, fisherman, and wife Elizabeth, widow Ellenor Main and widow Grace Pousland, all of Marblehead, children of Michael Cowes, who died in 1715, for four pounds, to Alexander Watts of Marblehead, merchant, who owned the rest of the premises, May 10, 1750.§ The old house was gone before April 23, 1766.

Excerpt of a Document Dividing the Thomas Pousland Estate

No. 22620

Pousland

Thomas [Jr.]

1713

*Sheweth To The Honourable Thomas Berry
Esq^r Judge of Probate of Wills & and
for the said County of Essex*

*In Obedience to your Honours Commission
granted to us the Subscribers Dated the Twentieth
Day of November A.D. 1714 to Divide the Real Estate
of Thomas Pousland late of Marblehead Dec^d into five
shares or parts with heirs; and we have accordingly set off
the said to and among the Children of the said Dec^d
and that is as follows*

*1st To The Heirs of John Pousland Dec^d Forty Eight
feet of land in the front bounding on a main street
at a northeast of the Dec^d house beginning at Pittmans
land so called so running to a southeast on a straight line
to a point and twenty feet back home to a bay road; and
also we set off to the said heirs half a four leaf in a
middle Division of the Common lands of Marblehead
so called which we Judge Judge to be two full parts
at the Dec^d Real Estate*

*2nd To Thomas Pousland Son of the said Dec^d one half
of one half of the northeast end of a said Dec^d house
with half the land under the same and three feet
of land in a front at a northeast end of said house
which we Judge to be one full part of said Estate*

*3rd To Sarah Mary ^{Major} Widow Dafter of the said Dec^d one
half of the said half of said house with half the land
under the same; and three feet of land in the front at a north
east end of said house which we Judge to be one
full part of said Estate*

*4th we set off to Mary Grist ^{Grist} Dafter of the said
Dec^d and Wife of Cap^t John Grist Twenty nine
feet of land in the front at the southwest end of the
said Dec^d land Twenty six feet of it being under the
house that our Peter Roman now lives in, and the other
three feet at the northeast end of said house Roman
now lives on, bounding on Thomas Pousland land all in Marblehead
which we Judge to be one full part of said Estate*

Dated At Marblehead Dec^r 3 1714

as Witness Our Hands

Richard Rish

John Jackson

Jonathan Thomson

Essex & Ipswich Dec^r 30. 1714 William Roman

Daughter Agnes Cowes

1728

*Nov 19 — Samuel Nicholson Marbled a Minor of abt 19 years hath made
choise of Thomas Peach his Guardian, as*