

Mark¹ Haskell Revisited

Richard E. Haskell

Of the three Haskell immigrant brothers, Mark, the youngest (and my ancestor), is the least well-known. One reason is that he had only two sons and therefore many fewer descendants than his older brothers. Another reason is that he came to New England later than his brothers due to a nine-year apprenticeship in England. While it has been thought that he was a fisherman, the evidence suggests that he might have been more than that. Also, unlike his two older brothers, Mark married a widow with three young children. The story of how this happened goes back to the very founding of Salem, Massachusetts.

In the spring of 1624, the *Zouch Phenix* sailed from Weymouth, England, bringing passengers who settled in Cape Ann, on the westerly side of present-day Gloucester harbor, later called Stage Fort. The passengers included **John Woodbury**, **John Balch**, **William Trask**, and **Peter Palfrey**.^a They were sent by the Dorchester Company to establish a permanent settlement in Cape Ann to assist with their fishing operations in that area. They were later joined by **Roger Conant**, who had been in Nantasket. After some disputes with a group from Plymouth, who had also set up a settlement in Cape Ann, and finding the land difficult to farm, **Roger Conant** suggested they try to find a new location. About fifteen miles south of Cape Ann, they found a “fruitful neck of land” called Naumkeag, present day Salem. In 1626, **Roger Conant** led his group in settling at Naumkeag, where they became known as the *Old Planters*.^b

In the fall of 1627, **John Woodbury** returned to England to report on the difficulties they were encountering and to seek re-enforcements. He came back to New England in June 1628, bringing with him his son, **Humphrey**, aged 18-21. Humphrey’s mother, John Woodbury’s first wife, had died some years earlier. While back in England in 1628, **John Woodbury** married his second wife, **Agnes**, who became pregnant and remained in England when John and Humphrey sailed back to New England.^c

John Woodbury’s brother, **William Woodbury**, lived in South Petherton, Somerset, England. He was married to **Elizabeth Patch**, daughter of **Nicholas Patch, Sr**, and sister of **Nicholas Patch, Jr**. **Hannah Woodbury**, the sixth child of **William Woodbury** and **Elizabeth Patch**, was born in 1629 in South Petherton, Somerset, England. **Nicholas Patch, Jr** had two sons, **James Patch**, who was born in 1626 South Petherton, Somerset, England, and **John Patch**, who was born in 1623.^d



Stage Fort Park
Gloucester, Massachusetts

William and Elizabeth (Patch) Woodbury and their six children, plus John Woodbury’s wife, **Agnes**, and her newborn son, **John, Jr.** were all in Salem, Massachusetts in 1636. They most likely came together on the same ship. They settled on the “Bass River side” of Salem, which was first laid out by the *Old Planters*, **Roger Conant**, **John Woodbury**, **William Trask**, **John Balch**, and **Peter Palfrey**. **Nicholas Patch, Jr** and his wife and two sons, **James** and **John** most likely came on a later ship, but they would have been in New England by 1638 when they had a third son, **Thomas**, and in 1639, **Nicholas Patch, Sr** was granted 40 acres of land next to **William Woodbury’s** land on the “Bass River side” of Salem near Mackerel Cove. This was the part of Salem that would eventually become Beverly in 1668.



About 1646, **Hannah Woodbury**, **William and Elizabeth (Patch) Woodbury’s** daughter, married her first cousin, **James Patch**, son of **Nicholas Patch, Jr** (and Elizabeth’s brother). Their first child, **Mary**, was born on 21 May 1646 but died when she was one years old. They

^a Charles Edward Banks, *The Planters of the Commonwealth*, 1930, page 58.

^b Frances Diane Robotti, *Chronicles of Old Salem*, 1948, pages 13, 15.

^c Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633, Volumes I-III*, 3 vols., 1995, pages 2054-2057.

^d *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 71, April 1917, pages 166-170.

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then had the following three children:^e

Mary	b. 6 April 1649
Elizabeth	b. 16 June 1654
James	b. 21 June 1655

James Patch had been granted 40 acres on 21 Jan 1650 on which he built a house for his growing family. A fifth child, **Nicholas**, was born on 21 October 1657 but died within three months. Seven months later, on 10 August 1658, **Hannah's** husband, **James Patch** died. **Hannah**, now only 29, was left with three children: nine-year-old **Mary**, four-year-old **Elizabeth**, and three-year-old **James**.

Three days before he died, **James Patch** signed his last will and testament, in which he wrote, "I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife **Hannah Patch**, my house and lands, orchard, and all the appurtenances of it, belonging to my home grounds, together with that parcel of meadow laying near Richard Dodges; also two cows, together with ten acres of rocky land laying on the east side of the home lot for wood; also all the household stuff in the house for the competent bringing up of the children." **James** also gave land, cows, and oxen to each of his three children. His total estate was valued at 250 pounds and 16 shillings.^f

Hannah clearly had her hands full with three young children and a farm to maintain. Most likely within the next year, she married **Mark Haskell**. We are not sure exactly when **Mark Haskell** came to New England, but it certainly wasn't at the same time that his two older brothers came about 1635. (See "When Did the Haskell's Come to New England" Issue 99 of the *Haskell Journal*.) On 26 April 1635, **Mark Haskell** was apprenticed to **John Whiting**, a broad weaver at Shepton Mallet, Somerset, for a period of nine years.^g Thus, it is unlikely that **Mark Haskell** came to New England before 1644, although it wasn't unheard of for such apprenticeships to be terminated early. The first record of **Mark** being in New England is when he was fined for wearing broad lace on 30 September 1652.^h This would indicate that his net worth at that time would have been less than 200 pounds—the minimum net worth required to wear "excessive apparel."

There is no record of **Mark Haskell** receiving a grant of land, so he may well have been living with his brother **Roger**. He owned half interest in the ketch *Frances and Hanna*, indicating he may have been a fisherman, but could he have used the boat for trading? The other half-owner of the ketch was **Henry Russell** who took **Mark** to court in Ipswich in September 1661 for not giving **Henry** his share of the profit for thirty months.ⁱ Inasmuch as **Mark**

had spent nine years in England learning to become a weaver, it would seem to make sense for him to exploit those skills after coming to New England. Were such opportunities available at that time in Colonial America? In a 1996 doctoral dissertation at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, **Susan Ouellette** argues that a home-based textile industry was thriving in Massachusetts as early as 1640.^j In particular, flax seeds, easily brought from England, grew well in Massachusetts, and wild hemp was plentiful. In 1645, special effort was made in Massachusetts Bay to increase the sheep population, which grew to an estimated 3,000 sheep by 1651, producing up to six tons of raw wool per year, an amount which could then double each year. Ipswich used common lands for grazing sheep, and Ipswich would become a center of textile production. There is some indication that **Mark** may have lived in Ipswich at some time.

There is no evidence that **Mark** brought a loom with him when he came from England, as some immigrants had done. About 3%-4% of all probate inventories in Essex County included at least one loom. On the other hand, about a third of all probate inventories included at least one spinning wheel. **Mark** could have used looms owned by other people, or, because of his nine years of experience, he may have taught other young men how to weave.

In addition to making linen cloth from flax and woolen cloth from sheep, cotton was imported to Massachusetts from the West Indies, particularly Barbados. Could **Mark** have used his ketch to trade salted beef and fish for cotton? Sailing from Salem to Barbados and back would probably take at least six weeks, and depending on how long he stayed in Barbados, **Mark** could be gone for a few months. This may be why his first child, **William**, was born about 1665—five year after he married **Hannah**. Their second son, **Mark**, was born about 1668.

Mark Haskell died at the age of forty-six, sometime before 16 January 1668/1669 when his estate inventory was taken, leaving **Hannah** a widow for the second time. Her nineteen-year-old daughter, **Mary Patch** had married **Paul Thorndike** the previous April. **Paul Thorndike's** mother, **Elizabeth Stratton** had Royal ancestry.^k Her other daughter, **Elizabeth Patch**, was fourteen, and her son, **James Patch**, was thirteen, so they would be able to help care for their half-brothers, **William Haskell**, age four, and **Mark Haskell**, age one.

The value of **Mark Haskell's** total estate, after deducting debts, was 370 pounds, 8 shillings, 3 pence—a not insignificant amount for those days. Of this amount, 200 pounds went to his two sons, the older, **William** getting twice as much as **Mark**. The balance went to his widow,

MA, Vol. II, 1656-1662, page 325.

^j Ouellette, Susan M., *All hands are enjoined to spin: textile production in seventeenth-century Massachusetts*. (1996). Doctoral Dissertations 1896 - February 2014. 1224.

https://scholarworks.umass.edu/dissertations_1/1224

^k Douglas Richardson, *Royal Ancestry*, Vol. II, p. 440, Vol V, p. 74.

^e Salem Vital Records, Vol. 2, page 141.

^f *Probate Records 1638-1691*; Probate Court (Essex County, Massachusetts)

^g W. A. Haskell, *The Haskell Family Anthology, Volume I*, page 36.

^h *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, MA, Vol. I, 1636-1656*, page 274.

ⁱ *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*,

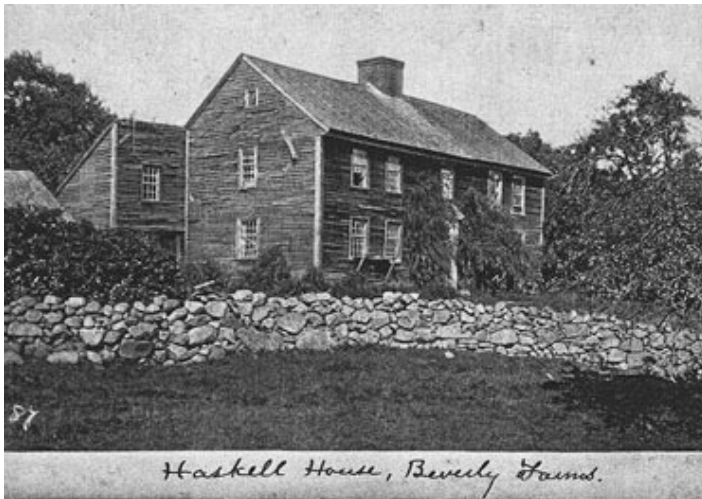
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Hannah, now age forty. Interestingly, his probate inventory included cotton as well as numerous fabrics such as wearing apparel, linen cloth, pillow cover, and tablecloth and napkins.

So, was **Mark Haskell** a farmer, a fisherman, a weaver, or a sailor-merchant? Perhaps all of the above. He could have learned to sail from his brother **Roger's** father-in-law, **John Hardy**, who was a fisherman and part owner of three ketches. **Mark** must have had the sailing gene, because his son, **William**, and several direct descendants down to the mid-nineteenth century became sailors and ship captains, some of whom sailed around the world.

By 1675, **Hannah** had probably moved to Ipswich where her 20-year-old daughter, **Elizabeth Patch**, married **Richard Thissell**. In 1803, their 2nd great-granddaughter, **Peggy Thissell**, married **Samuel Haskell**, the 3rd great-grandson of **Hannah** and **Mark Haskell**.

Five year later, **Hannah's** son, **James Patch**, married **Sarah Balch**. **Hannah** and **Mark's** older son, **William Haskell**, married **Ruth West** on 29 March 1688 when **William** was twenty-three. He died at sea in 1694 on the ketch *Return* at the age of twenty-nine. After losing a daughter at birth, **William** and **Ruth** had two sons, **William** and **Robert**. Only **Robert** would marry and have children. He would also build the old *Haskell House* at 680 Hale Street in Beverly, the house we visited at the Concord-Beverly Haskell Reunion in 2013.



Hannah's younger son, **Mark Haskell**, married **Charity Gale** on 7 January 1696/1697 in Marblehead, Essex, Massachusetts. They had several children and many descendants.

Hannah (Woodbury) Patch Haskell continued to live in Ipswich, where she died in 1703 at the age of 73. In [Issue 80 of the *Haskell Journal*](#), I suggested that **Hannah Woodbury** had earned the moniker of Matriarch of the Haskell Family.

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Generation Five	No. of members
Roger	
Jeremiah Jascall and Hannah Nichols	1
Samuel Hascall and Esther Starkweather and Chloe Hosford	1
Joseph Hascall and Catherine Green	2
Benjamin Hascall and Sarah Foster	2
William Haskell and Rhoda Small and Hannah Bragg	5
Isaac Haskell and Mary Brayley and Salome Brayley	1
Nathaniel Haskell and Lydia Foster	4
Mehitable Haskell and Cornelius Cannon	1
Andrew Haskell and Chloe Freeman	2
Jacob Haskell and Diantha Robinson	1
William	
Nathan Haskell and Betsey Haskell and Lucy Torrey	1
Nathaniel Haskill and Abigail Sawyer	2
Abner Haskell and Martha Ward	1
Benjamin Haskell and Susanna Stone	1
Henry Bray and Lydia Bray	1
Jacob Haskell and Anna Godfrey and Matilda ...	1
Samuel Haskell and Mary Jane Turner	6
Amos Haskell and Abigail Bray	2
Israel Haskell and Judith Wellcome	1
Moses Haskell and Susannah Haskell	8
Josiah Haskell and Abigail Fellows	3
Joshua Haskell and Esther Parsons	4
Stephen Haskell and Rebecca Marston	1
Enoch Haskell and Mehitable Swett	3
John Haskell and Eunice Chick	5
Mark Haskell and Elizabeth Ingersoll	3
Nathaniel Haskell and Deborah Bailey	6
Job Haskell and Isabel Winship	2
William Haskell and Rebecca Bradbury and Rebecca Lane	3
Hubbard Haskell and Anna Davis	4
Nathan Haskell and Judith Witham	2