

George BUNKER of Charlestown, Massachusetts

George BUNKER (420).

The marriage of George Bunker and Judith Major and the baptisms of their children: Mary, Martha, Elizabeth, John b. 1630, and Joseph appear in the Odell, Bedfordshire, England Parish Records.

Marriage (1) to Judith Major, recorded in British Museum, London.

Mary Dyer, famous Quaker, was hanged in 1660 on the Boston Common. This incident was seen as God's displeasure against the Antinomians. Many of the Antinomians later became Quakers, but it seems George Bunker remained a member of First Church.

George Bunker was a wealthy immigrant and a large land owner. He had one lot over the summit of Bunker's Hill (later called Bunker Hill). He owned twenty-two parcels of real estate in Charlestown, MA. His homestead consisted of about 10 acres valued at £ 154 in the inventory of his estate in 1654. He owned a farm in Malden of two hundred acres and ten acres of swamp at the head of North River. He was one of the proprietors of Malden, MA and was granted 10 acres of land in 1633. He also owned 270 acres of land in Woburn, MA, some of which he gave to the town in 1641 for a Common. In 1663, he sold 238 acres of land to Woburn "for a valuable consideration." He gave 8 acres of land to Harvard College in 1646.

The girls in this family were quite sturdy and lived normal life spans. However, the boys were a different matter. The first John died at birth or shortly thereafter. The second John lived only to be 42 years old. Joseph died at birth or shortly thereafter. Benjamin lived to be only 34 years old. Jonathan died at the age of 40. George lived to be 64 years old, which was a little above normal for that era for people that survived childhood. Judith lived only to her forties. In that era, if someone survived childhood, the average life at death was in the 50s to 60s. All of the boys that lived to adulthood died very young. Jonathan died of smallpox but the cause of death of the others is unknown.

In 2008, we can find only 7 living male Bunkers descended from George Bunker of Charlestown. He was born circa 1600, possibly at Bengoe, Hertfordshire, England.

George BUNKER (420) married Judith MAJOR (25629) on 8 Sep 1624 at Odell, Bedfordshire, England.

George and Judith Bunker came from Odell, England some time between 15 April 1632 when Joseph was baptized and 9 Jan 1633 when they were allotted 10 acre lots in Malden, MA. There is no record of Joseph in America but no record of his burial in England either. Perhaps he died aboard ship.

On 9 Jan 1633 their residence was at Charlestown, Massachusetts.

On 3 Dec 1634 George was admitted to 1st Church as member at Charlestown, Massachusetts.

In 1634/35 George was listed on the tax roll at Charlestown, Massachusetts.

GEORGE BUNKER, RADICAL

**Anne Hutchinson was a good Puritan. So faithful in fact, that she followed her preacher, John Cotton, from England to America in 1634. But, she was also a feminist. It did not take long before she drifted away from the church and formed a group of women who believed in Antinomianism (Christians not bound by moral law). The Rev. Wheelwright also preached these beliefs.

**The Puritans got more than a little upset about this and forced Wheelwright to leave. He went to New Hampshire.

**The followers of Anne Hutchinson were looked upon with great suspicion. On November 20, 1637, the court issued the following order:

"Whereas the opinions and revelations of Mr. Wheelwright and Mrs. Hutchinson have seduced and led into dangerous errors, many of the people here in New England, insomuch as there is just cause of suspicion that they, as others in Germany in former times, may, upon some revelation, make some suddaine irruption upon those that differ from them in judgment; for prevention whereof it is ordered that all those whose names are underwritten shall (upon warning given or left at the dwelling-houses), before the 30th day of this month of November, deliver in at Mr. Cane's house, at Boston, all such guns, pistols, swords, powder, shot and match, as they shall be owners of or have in their custody, upon pain of ten pound for every default to be made thereof; which arms are to be kept by Mr. Cane till this court shall take further order therein. And it is ordered upon a like penalty of XI that no man who is to render his arms by this order shall buy, or borrow any guns, swords, pistols, powder, shot or match, until this court shall take further order therein."1*

(1 New Hampshire Records, Provincial Papers, Vol. 1, 1623-1686, p.131)

Seventy-five men were disarmed. Amongst them were: "Charlestown men, George Bunker."

**March 3, 1638, Anne Hutchinson was banished from Massachusetts. She went first to Rhode Island and then in 1642 to New York where she was killed by Indians in 1643.

**George Bunker arrived in Charlestown between April 1632 and January 1633. It is not known if he heard John Cotton preach in Boston, England prior to his arrival in America. Obviously, George did not like the rigid constraints of the Puritans. The church was so concerned about him following the seditious Wheelwright and Hutchinson, they disarmed him! At the time of the disarmament order, Hutchinson was already being held in jail by the authorities. She was to be tried in the Spring of 1638 and the accusers were not taking any chances that any of her followers might cause trouble.

George BUNKER (420) married Margaret (--?--) (25632) between 10 Aug 1646 and 1647 at Charlestown, Massachusetts.

In 1649 Ralph Hall of Charlestown and his wife, Mary, granted unto Richard Cooke a parcel of land of 35 acres more or less, bounded on the southeast by land owned by Mr. Norton, northwest by George Bunker, southwest by Christ. Bunker and Robt. Cutler, Mrs. Coitmore & others, northeast Capt. Keines.

Who was Christ. Bunker? Christian or Christopher Bunker? Which family did he belong to? He owned land right near George's land in Charlestown. It would be amazing if he was not related to George, but who was he? William and Mary Macy had a son named Christian but he was not born until 50 years later. Christian and Christopher are not very common names amongst Bunkers.

Suffolk County Deeds, p. 238. Edward Burt of Charlestown, Hugh Burt of Lynne and George Bunker of Charlestown gave bond to William Parke o Roxburie, Oct. 18, 1651, to pay money at the house of "Mr. ____ Browning in Bell Ally in London or at the house of Mr. Willm Peake in Cannon streete."
Witnesses: Samuel Stow and John Johnson
Published in The Essex Antiquarian, vol. 9, p. 103, 1905.

In 1664 Will # 3517 filed in Malden, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts. He died in 1664 at Malden, Massachusetts.
George signed a petition in 1635 but was only able to make his mark on his will in 1664, probably because he was so ill.

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