
A New Thomas Rogers Family Marriage is Documented

Submitted by Peggy M. Baker

The *Thomas Rogers Silver Book (Generations One through Five)* names the four children of Crisp Rogers [#117] and his wife, Mary (Yates) Rogers. The birth of the oldest, Joseph⁶ Rogers [#559], on 7 October 1730, was listed in the Eastham records. The other three children are known only from their father's will, written 13 February 1770, in which he made bequests to his son Crisp Rogers [#560], and his daughters Mary Mayo [#561] and Mercy Rogers. Knowing the surname of Mary Rogers' husband made it possible to identify her marriage, however with Mercy being unmarried at the time of her father's will, and with no land records available, it was improbable that any future marriage made by a Mercy Rogers could be identified as that of Mercy, daughter of Crisp, particularly given the popularity of the name "Mercy Rogers" on the Cape.

A marriage was found however! And it was serendipity, and based on yet another Rogers descendant, Heman Cole, who was born at Eastham 26 July 1749, the son of Daniel and Martha (Rogers) Cole. Like Mercy Rogers, Heman Cole is a sixth generation descendant of Pilgrim Thomas Rogers [#572]. The records of Harwich indicate that Heman Cole of Eastham published intentions 17 July 1771 with a Mercy Rogers of Harwich.¹ The question remained, however, how could this Mercy Rogers' parentage be proven? That extra,

1. *Harwich Online Vital Records.*

vital piece of information was found in intentions that were filed at Eastham² the same day between Heman Cole of Eastham, and Mercy Rogers, “daughter of Crisp Rogers of Harwich.” Information on parentage is almost never included in marriage intentions, making this discovery all the more wonderful.

A “follow-through number” has now been assigned to Mercy Rogers, daughter of Crisp: #561A, maintaining the correspondence between the 5th and 6th generation volumes. The usual conventions will be followed, whereby basic biographical information (see below) will be given for Mercy Rogers [#561A] with a full family biography, including her two children, given a little later (but still within the same volume, currently “in progress”) under Heman Cole [#572].

561A Mercy⁶ Rogers (*Crisp⁵, Joseph⁴, John³, Joseph², Thomas¹*) was born, probably at Eastham between 1748 and 1753, based on her date of marriage, the daughter of Crisp and Mary (Yates) Rogers. She is also a descendant of Pilgrim Thomas Rogers through her mother [see Rogers #44; *MF* 19:67], as well as a descendant of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins.³

Mercy Rogers is known through her father’s will, written 13 February 1770, in which Crisp Rogers of Harwich gave land to his daughter Mercy Rogers along with “my best Bed, Bedstead and furniture for said Bed, and my best cow.”⁴ She last appears, as Mercy Cole, in the records on 14 April 1785 when she presented her final accounting as executor of Heman Cole’s estate.⁵ She presumably died after her son Ephraim Cole reached the age of 21 in 1798; she had been appointed Ephraim’s guardian in 1782 and no further guardian was appointed for him.⁶

Mercy Rogers, as the “daughter of Crisp Rogers of Harwich,” published intentions at Eastham and at Harwich 17 July 1771 and married **Heman Cole**.⁷ He is also a sixth generation descendant of Pilgrim Thomas Rogers [see Rogers #572 for a complete family biography].

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2. *Eastham Online Vital Records.*

3. Peggy Baker. *Silver Book Families, Thomas Rogers*, (rev. 2013), 19:67; John D. Austin. *Silver Book Families, Stephen Hopkins*, (2001), 6:156-7.

4. Barnstable Co. PR 13:530-31.

5. Barnstable Co. PR 26:69-70.

6. Barnstable Co. PR 18:144.

7. *Orleans and Eastham Online Vital Records; Harwich Online Vital Records.*