

Philip at Hopkinton

By the evidence above presented we know that Philip, after having resided at Beverly for some twenty-five years,⁷⁹ became a resident of Hopkinton⁸⁰ (Massachusetts). In this town he lived many years, probably twenty-three years, and here his life came to a close in 1743.⁸¹

While there is no record indicating the precise date at which Philip became a resident of Hopkinton, we know by a land-record⁸² that he acquired land⁸³ there in May of 1720. By various indications⁸⁴ it seems a reasonable conclusion that he did not become a resident there until some two years later. That he was a citizen of Hopkinton some time before 1723 is plainly indicated by a record in the town-book⁸⁵ of Hopkinton; this record⁸⁶ notes his appointment in January, 1724, to the office of "constable⁸⁷ for the west part of the town," and scarcely would he have received such an appointment except he had been a citizen there for at least a year. By records⁸⁸ concerning the land acquired by Philip at Hopkinton we learn that it was part of a tract being leased to prospective farmers under terms that within a reasonable time would constitute ownership. That Philip fulfilled these terms we know by his will⁸⁹ which bequeathes this land to his family.

What a prodigious task Philip had before him in seeking to make a worthwhile farm out of this land is evidenced by the archives concerning the tract of which it was a part; for by a reading of these we learn that this land was not only entirely uncultivated, but was for the most part uncleared of its original growth. Accordingly although the amount of money needed to acquire the land was small, a considerable sum was doubtless required for clearing and preparing it for planting, and for the initial stocking of it. For meeting the expense of all this, Philip must have had at hand an appreciable reserve in money; for, as we know by deed-records, he did not sell any of his Beverly holdings until, as may be judged by above quoted record from the Hopkinton town-book, he had been a resident of Hopkinton for at least two years and during this time he was doubtless engaged in forwarding the preliminary work of this farm-making.

By certain intimations from the records⁹⁰ it seems a reasonable surmise that Martha did not join Philip at Hopkinton until a year or so after he became a resident there. Doubtless this time had been needed by Philip to make a portion of his land ready for family habitation. That Martha joined him some time in 1724 seems indicated by a record in the Hopkinton townbook⁹¹ which states that on January 4th, 1725, Philip and Martha became members of the church at Hopkinton. Certainly then by this date the family had become well established as residents of Hopkinton. Of the family household coming to this new Hopkinton home besides Philip and Martha, there were doubtless the two younger of the children, Thomas and Mary, then still in their teens;⁹² and perhaps also Isaac, the next older, who as seems likely by certain indications may have accompanied his father at the first of his residence at Hopkinton. The two older sons, John⁹³ and Joseph⁹⁴ had married, and as the records show did not then come to live at Hopkinton, though they did later. The third child, Abraham⁹⁵ died when a child, as above stated.

In the town-book⁹⁶ of Hopkinton there are various records concerning Philip by which we learn that, besides serving as constable for a time, he rendered various other services to this community. There is a record noting his appoint-

ment with others to attend to "laying out of new roads" and there is one noting his appointment to see to collecting money "for providing pews for the church." A record of considerably later date notes his appointment as a kind of custodian of the church building. By such records made in the old town-book of Hopkinton, more than two hundred years ago there is for us his descendants the pleasant evidence that our first American ancestor, Philip of Beverly and of Hopkinton (1698-1743) was a man whom his neighbors and associates regarded as capable and worthy of rendering service for the maintenance of the church and for the welfare and good order of the community.

That this ancestor, Philip, made good with his own affairs may well be concluded by a reading of his will which is appended below. This will, written in 1739, was probated early in 1743 at which time, as may by this be judged, his death occurred. He was doubtless buried in the cemetery⁹⁷ which adjoined the church, though no marker indicating his grave can now be found. As we searched among the crumbling and weather-worn stones which marked the graves of that time we found some with their records entirely obliterated and we judged that of these there was one which had borne the names of Philip Cody and his wife Martha.