

"Three Mary Peases of Salem, Massachusetts"
by Ian Watson

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THREE MARY PEASES OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

The Wives of Nathaniel Carrell, Hugh Pasco,
and Electious/Alexius Reynolds

By Ian Watson

There is a large amount of printed work on the prolific Pease family of Salem, Massachusetts; Enfield, Massachusetts [later Connecticut]; and Martha's Vineyard. The first work was by Frederick S. Pease, *An Account of the Descendants of John Pease, Who Landed at Martha's Vineyard in the Year 1632* [sic] (Albany, 1847), which was followed by his "The Pease Family" (NEHGR 3[1849]:27-31, 169-75, 233-38, 390-98). Twenty years later, the standard work on the family was published: Austin Spencer Pease's *The Early History of the Pease Families in America* ([Springfield, Mass., 1869], hereafter A.S. Pease), usually bound with the Rev. David Pease, *A Genealogical and Historical Record of the Descendants of John Pease. . .*, which covered the Enfield branch of the family. The essential critical analysis of the family was made by Charles E. Banks, *The History of Martha's Vineyard* (3 vols. [Edgartown, Mass., 1966], hereafter Banks, 2:Edgartown:91-103, 3:385 ff.). Banks's Pease manuscripts at the New England Historic Genealogical Society (call no. A B32, vol. 18) contain notes not only from Martha's Vineyard but also from Salem. Phillip J. Rice's *Pease Family History* (Monticello, Ky., 1982) followed the 1869 books, with revisions and extensions.

Briefly, the brothers John¹ and Robert¹ Pease emigrated from Great Baddow, Essex, on the *Frances* in 1634 and settled at Salem. John¹ moved to Martha's Vineyard between 1644 and 1647 and died there between 1677 and 1689, leaving ten children. Robert¹ died in Salem in 1644 and left several children, the eldest being John² and Robert². John² lived in Salem until moving to Enfield, Connecticut (then part of Massachusetts), about 1682; Robert² stayed in Salem until 1713.

I first became interested in the Pease family while researching the ancestry of Mary Pease, who married Hugh¹ Pasco at Salem on 16 December 1678 (VR, 4:169). The major secondary sources listed several possible Mary Péases of Salem, but told different stories about their fathers, birthdates, and marriages. The truth is straightforward, but has been so repeatedly obscured that it needs to be presented fully and clearly in print. This article lays out the primary evidence which proves the basic facts about each Mary Pease of Salem.

In total, six Mary Peases married or could have married in mid- to late-seventeenth-century Massachusetts. Robert¹ Pease had a daughter Mary, baptized with

her siblings Nathaniel and Sarah at Salem First Church on 15 8m [Oct.] 1643 (Richard D. Pierce, ed., *Records of the First Church in Salem* . . . ([Salem, 1974], hereafter *Salem 1st Ch. Recs.*, 19). His son Robert² had a daughter Mary born on 15 12m [Feb.] 1666[/7] (Salem VR, 2:149). Robert¹ also left a widow Mary, who, as we will see below, remarried Richard Haines.

Robert¹'s son John² also had a daughter Mary, born on 8 October 1658. Savage, Frederick S. Pease, and A.S. Pease all called her Mary. But the compiler of the published Salem vital records misread her name as "Marg" and extrapolated that to "Marg[aret]" (VR, 2:149). Indeed, John had good reason to name a daughter Margaret since he was the major beneficiary of his grandmother Margaret's will. Most Pease historians since the publication of the Salem vital records have copied this error. But an examination of the original record at the Essex Institute in Salem (now part of the Peabody Essex Museum) shows conclusively that the entry reads "Mary" (Essex Co. Superior Court Recs., Ser. VI, Book 3). As further confirmation, John²'s probate shows that he had a daughter Mary living in 1690, but no Margaret (Hampshire Co., Mass., Probates 1:270). And a Mary Pease was one of four children of John Pease baptized at Salem in 1667 in order by age (*Salem 1st Ch. Recs.*, 28). Many other pieces of evidence show that John² Pease had a daughter Mary but no daughter Margaret.

John¹ Pease's will (Dukes Co., Mass., Deeds 1:340) shows that he had a daughter Mary living in 1674, for whom Banks (3:386) conjectures a birthdate of 1649. As there is no evidence that she ever left Martha's Vineyard, there is no reason to suspect that she married in Salem. We may also remove from consideration John¹ Pease's widow Mary, whose remarriage to a Creber is shown clearly in Dukes County Deeds 1:99 and 2:309.

This leaves us three young Mary Peases seeking husbands in Salem: Robert¹'s Mary, baptized in 1643; John²'s Mary, born in 1658; and Robert²'s Mary, born in 1666.

In 1869, A.S. Pease wrote that Robert¹ Pease's daughter Mary, baptized in 1643, married Hugh Pasco in 1678. However, Hugh and Mary Pasco had a son Jonathan born in 1696 and a son James baptized in Salem in 1700; Robert Pease's daughter was obviously too old to be their mother. By 1911, contributors to the *Boston Evening Transcript* had correctly identified Robert¹'s Mary as the wife of Nathaniel Carrell of Salem, and one C.H.A. presented the evidence partially no less than three times in the next ten years. The proof of this comes from two Essex County Deeds (5:36–37). The first, dated 14 September 1677, reads in part:

wee Richard Haines of Beverly & Mary now wife of the sd Richard Haines . . . in consideration that wee are ancient & desire to be freed from incumbrances of worldly business . . . wee . . . give unto our son in law John Sampson the full & free possession . . . of our personall estates, housing, lands, & outhousing . . . only of our cattle wee reserve a fower or five yeare old steere to be to the use of Nathaniel Carrill . . . alsoe if it shall please God wee should dy within three or

fower yeares then then [*sic*] fower pounds . . . shalbe paid to Mary the wife of Nathaniel Carrill . . . & alsoe Nathaniel Pease to have a two yeare old heifer after our decease from the sd John Sampson & all the rest & residue of our p[er]sonall estate to be to the proper use of the sd Sampson . . . provided th[a]t the sd John Sampson shall for & during the naturall life of the sd Richard & Mary Haines find & provid unto both & either of them during theire naturall life. . . .

On 23 May 1679, John Sampson of Beverly sold for £100 to "my brother in law John² Pease of Salem" all his land in Beverly. John Sampson had married Sarah Pease in Beverly on 22 October 1667 (*Early Records of the Town of Beverly* . . . [Boston, 1907], 4).

These facts, combined with our knowledge of the children of Robert¹ Pease, give convincing proof that, after the death of Robert¹ Pease in 1644, his widow Mary remarried Richard Haines, that Haines provided for the young children, and that Mary² Pease, daughter of Robert¹ and Mary Pease, married Nathaniel Carrell. Banks also reached this conclusion, but the full evidence has never been cited in print before.

Nathaniel Carrell was born about 1637–38, as he deposed age 23 in 1661 and age 44 in 1682 (*Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County* . . . , 9 vols. [Salem, 1911–75], hereafter *Essex Co. Quart. Ct. Recs.*, 2:283; *Essex Co. Deeds* 6:67). Mary (Pease) Carrell deposed age 35 in 1672 (see *Essex Co. Quart. Ct. Recs.*, 5:52–55), suggesting a birthdate of 1636–37, which is consistent with her 1643 baptism with her siblings. Their marriage took place in time to have a daughter Mary in 1661 (Salem VR, 1:160). Mary was likely dead by 26 June 1683 when Nathaniel Carrell and the "widow Willson" were presented to the court "for living singly together in one house in Salem" (*Essex Co. Quart. Ct. Recs.*, 9:82). Nathaniel had a wife Hannah in 1692 (see Boyer and Nissenbaum, eds., *The Salem Witchcraft Papers* . . . , 3 vols. [New York, 1977], 1:235). There is plentiful documentation on Nathaniel Carrell's descendants in the standard Essex County sources. I have not found any clear evidence linking Nathaniel to the other early Carrells or Carrolls in Massachusetts.

Chronology and abundant circumstantial evidence show that it was Mary, daughter of John² Pease, born on 8 October 1658, who became the second wife of Hugh¹ Pasco of Salem on 16 December 1678. On that same day another child of John² Pease, Robert³ (born 1656), married Abigail Randall (for whose ancestry see TAG 35[1959]:44–47); it makes sense that brother and sister had a double wedding. In 1682, John² Pease Sr. late of Salem, now of Enfield, Massachusetts [later Connecticut], sold land in Salem to Hugh Pasco (*Essex Co. Deeds* 6:68). No relationship is stated, but Hugh Pasco moved to Enfield shortly before his death in 1706 and in 1708 his son John Pasco bought land in Enfield from James³ and Margaret (Adams) Pease, John²'s son (Hampshire Co., Mass., *Deeds* B:210). Mary (Pease) Pasco's last child was baptized in 1700, and she died in Enfield on

29 May 1737 "aged about 73" (Enfield VR [orig.]), both facts compatible with a 1658 birthdate.

Hugh¹ Pasco was in Salem as early as 1666 (*Essex Co. Quart. Ct. Recs.*, 3:387), and was probably born around 1640–41 as he deposed age 44 in 1685 (Archie N. Frost, comp., "Verbatim Transcriptions of the Records of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts," typescript at the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, 46:92[4]). He and his family moved to Enfield in 1706, and Hugh died there on 29 August of that same year, age "between seventy and eighty" (Enfield VR [orig.]). His sons lived and left descendants in East Windsor and Stafford, Connecticut. I have placed extensive compiled research and notes on his descendants in the manuscript section of the New England Historic Genealogical Society library.

At this point, chronology and elimination are sufficient evidence that it was Mary, daughter of Robert² Pease, born in 1667, who married "Allexander Renalds" in Salem on 16 July 1686 (Salem VR, 4:169). They removed that same year to Manchester, Massachusetts, where James, son of "Eleksha and Mary Reynals" was born on 15 January 1687[8?] (*Town Records of Manchester. . .*, 2 vols. [Salem, 1889–91], 1:28, 31; Manchester VR, 107). Electious next shows up in Middleborough, Massachusetts, as the father of five children born from 1693 to 1707 (no mother's name given, but the dates are consistent with a 1667 birth). The only further record of Mary is her cosignature on a deed of 1 March 1716 involving land of Electious and his son James in Littleton, Massachusetts (Middlesex Co., Mass., Deeds 22:320; see also 16:300, 16:301, 19:431, 20:182, 21:542, and D.T. Konig, ed., *Plymouth County Court Records 1686–1859*, 17 vols. [Wilmington, Del., 1978–81], 1:281, which confirm that we are dealing with one Electious). Electious, whose name appears in many different ways, was first recorded in Salem as "Alexis Renoll" in 1678 (*Essex Co. Quart. Ct. Recs.*, 7:160). As "Eleckieas/Alexius Ronalls," he was age 25 on 18 April 1682, still age 25 (as "Alexis Reinolds") on 24 March 1682/3, and in his 85th year at his death in Middleborough on 19 June 1738 (*Essex Co. Quart. Ct. Recs.*, 8:341–42, 9:55; Middleborough VR [orig.], 1:189), suggesting a birthdate anywhere from 1653 to 1658. As with Nathaniel Carrell, no clear evidence links Electious/Alexius Reynolds to others of his surname in and around Salem.

Ian Watson's address is 450 Rugby Ave., Rochester NY 14619.

QUERY

GREEN-WHIPPLE: Joseph GREEN d. Westboro, Mass., 3 Sept. 1758. Children: Joseph Jr. and Sara, who was b. ca. 1725 and m. Westboro, 14 Dec. 1743, Edwards WHIPPLE. Need Sara's death date and all information on Joseph Green.

—Marilyn Powers, 6 Ridgewood Rd., Wilbraham MA 01095