

RICHARD SALTONSTALL, Esq.

MIGRATIONS/RESIDENCES: To Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1630, age 20, with his widowed father, siblings Rosamond, 18, Samuel, 16, Robert, 13, Henry 11, and Grace 8. His father and most of his siblings (Richard and Samuel remained) returned to England in April 1631. Richard, himself, embarked for England from Nantasket on the *Lyon* on 23 November 1631, remaining about four and a half years. In the summer of 1635, now 25 (although listed as age 23 in the passenger list), with his wife “Merriall,” age 22, and daughter “Merriall,” aged “9 months,” he embarked at London on the *Susan and Ellen* and settled at Ipswich, Massachusetts. Richard traveled back and forth between England and New England multiple times over the next decades, the final return in 1688.¹

PARENTAGE/FAMILY: Eldest son of Sir RICHARD SALTONSTALL (*GMB*, III:1618-21; *WF*, 587-91) and his first wife, Grace Kaye. On 25 October 1661, “Richard Saltonstall, armiger, natural and legitimate son of Sir Richard Saltonstall late of Wrexham in County Denbigh but dying at Crayford in County Kent” was granted administration on his father’s estate. Through his mother, Richard Saltonstall was a descendant of Edward III, King of England.²

BIRTH/BAPTISM: Born at Woodsome Hall, seat of the Kaye family, Yorkshire, England; baptized Almondbury, Yorkshire, 1 October 1610.³

DEATH/BURIAL: Died at Hulme, Lancashire, England, at the seat of his son-in-law, Sir Edward Mosley, 29 April 1694.⁴

MARRIED: Allhallows, Honey Lane, London, “1633 July 4 M^r Richard Saltinstall the sonne of S^r Richard Saltinstall, and M^{rs} Meriel Gurdon the daughter of Bramptin Gurdon, Esquier, of Assington in the county of Suffolk, both single p^rties were married here (their bannes being thrice published in the p^rish church, where they both lived) on Thursday the fourth of July 1633.”⁵

BRIDE: MURIEL/MERIAL/MERRELL GURDON.

PARENTAGE/FAMILY: Daughter of Brampton Gurdon, Esq., of Assington, Suffolk, and Letton, Norfolk, England, High Sheriff of Suffolk, and his wife Muriel Sedley. His will dated 19 October 1647 and proved 16 May 1650, gives “to my son Saltonstall fifty pounds, and to his wife fifty pounds, to be paid within twelve months after my decease.” The will of her brother Brampton Gurdon, dated 10 February 1662, left bequests to “my brother Richard Saltonstall Esq. and Meriell his wife...and to my niece Mrs. Meryell Moseley forty shillings to each of them to buy rings,” and in the codicil dated 21 February 1662, he gave “my dear sister Mrs Meriell Saltonstall ten pounds.” “Brother and sister Saltonstall” are also mentioned in the will of her brother John Gurdon dated 25 June 1677, who likewise left them 40 shillings each. Through her mother, Muriel Gurdon was also a descendant of Edward III, King of England.⁶

BIRTH/BAPTISM: Born England, say 1613.⁷

¹ Leverett Saltonstall, *Ancestry and Descendants of Sir Richard Saltonstall, First Associate of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Patentee of Conn.* ([Cambridge, Mass]: 1897) [hereinafter *Saltonstall Fam*], Part I:12-13; *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 1+ (Boston: NEHGS, 1847+) [hereinafter *NEHGR*], 14:309; Robert E. Moody, *The Saltonstall Papers, 1607-1815...*, Volume 1: 1607-1789 (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1972) [hereinafter *Saltonstall Papers*], 1:26-41; Scott C. Steward, *The Descendants of Dr. Nathaniel Saltonstall of Haverhill, Massachusetts* (Boston: Newbury Street Press, 2013) [hereinafter *Nathaniel Saltonstall*].

² Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1995) [hereinafter *GMB*], III:1619-20; Robert Charles Anderson, *The Winthrop Fleet, Massachusetts Bay Company Immigrants to New England 1629-1630* (Boston: Great Migration Study Project, NEHGS, 2012) [hereinafter *WF*], 588-89. Names in all capital letters followed by (*GMB*, *GM2*, *PM*, or *WF*) indicate individuals who are treated in *The Great Migration* series; Gary Boyd Roberts, *The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants to the American Colonies or the United States...* (Baltimore: 2008) [hereinafter *600 Royal Descents*], 198.

³ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:12; *GMB*, III:1619.

⁴ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:13; *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 39.

⁵ *GMB*, III:1619; *NEHGR*, 69:380.

⁶ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part II:98-99; *Saltonstall Papers*, 1:27; *NEHGR*, 49:105-12, 95:72; *600 Royal Descents*, 182.

⁷ *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, vol. 1+ (New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 1870+) [hereinafter *NYGBR*], 42:214 (if age 20 at marriage)

DEATH/BURIAL: Died at Hulme 21/22 April, buried at St. James' Church, Didsbury, Lancashire 25 April 1688.⁸

LAND/PROPERTY: Received a home lot at Ipswich in 1633.⁹ In September 1649, "being by God's Providence, upon a voyage to England," Richard appointed the present pastor and deacons of the church of Ipswich as his attorneys with the power to act about all of his estates in Ipswich.¹⁰ See **ESTATE** for description of his land in Essex County given to his son Nathaniel.

COMMUNITY: Admitted Freeman in Massachusetts Bay on 18 May 1631 as Mr. Richard Saltonstall of Watertown (he would have been in his 21st year). Deputy to the General Court from Ipswich 1635-1637 and deputized to set the tax rates for each town in the plantation. Assistant 1637-1649, 1680-1683. He served on committees to investigate price gouging, and to "consider a levy, petitions, and other trivial matters." He was appointed a referee "in business, between Henry Sewall and the town of Newbury" in 1638. In May 1644 he and two others were given full power to "hear and determine all businesses at Hampton, both about their differences, offences, and a new plantation, according to their several petitions."¹¹

In 1636 Saltonstall opposed the establishment of life-appointed magistrates in a Standing Council, and he later wrote a manuscript arguing against it. The "book" found its way semi-anonymously to the General Court in 1642, creating a stir among the magistrates and Governor Winthrop, who thought it included "very unsound, reproachful and dangerous" ideas. Saltonstall's supporters felt it had some merits, but blocked any discussion about the book until the court voted to protect the author from censure. He argued that there was no higher power in the commonwealth than God, that the officers and administrations were ordained by God, and that there was no evidence that God wanted them to change their civil laws in this manner. The elders agreed that these principals were sound and that Saltonstall had the right to give his opinion to the magistrates (although they wished some of his language had been moderated). According to Winthrop, Saltonstall was "brought to see his failings in that treatise, which he did ingenuously acknowledge and bewail, and so he was reconciled with the rest of the magistrates." The political struggle between magistrates and deputies continued, with Saltonstall and Richard Bellingham holding minority opinions, until in 1644, when Saltonstall asked to be left out of the next election. Winthrop wrote that this occasioned much grief and offence, but declared that these two gentlemen "were such as feared God, and endeavored to walk by the rules of his word in all their proceedings, so as it might be conceived in charity, that they walked according to their judgments and conscience," even if they couldn't "see the light." In 1643 he had another conflict with the authorities and he and Bellingham led the Essex county faction in opposition to the government's involvement with the French in the controversy between D'Aulney and La Tour. Saltonstall and Bellingham were "fortunately for them, protected by a fine line from charges of heresy which would have brought them into disrepute if not exile. Society position, wealth, education, and value to the commonwealth, as well as their careful orthodoxy, counted in their favor."¹²

Richard was one of the men appointed commissioners to England in October 1645 and while in England he was a member of the High Court of Justice established in 1650 to try cases against the Commonwealth. From 1651 to 1656 he was a trustee for settling sequestered estates in Scotland and later one of the Commissioners of Customs for the Commonwealth. However, he also ran up against authority in England after the restoration of King Charles II – "Richard Saltonstall, some time of New England, is lately come out of the common gaol at Shrewsbury to which he was sent by Lord Newport for refusing to take the oath of allegiance till he was informed about it, touching at something at which he scrupled."¹³

MILITARY: On 7 October 1641, Richard was appointed Sergeant Major in Col. Endicott's Regiment.¹⁴

COURT: Richard Saltonstall was one of the judges appointed to "keep court" at Ipswich in 1636 and at Piscataqua in 1644, 1646 and 1647. In 1645 when Capt. James Smith of Boston brought two black slaves from Guinea,

⁸ NYGBR, 42:214; *Saltonstall Papers*, 1:41; *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 39.

⁹ *Saltonstall Papers*, 1:27.

¹⁰ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part II:87.

¹¹ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part II:87-91; *Saltonstall Papers*, 1:31; John Winthrop, *The History of New England from 1630 to 1649*, ed. James Savage, 2 vols. (Boston: 1853) [hereinafter *Winthrop Journal*], 1:262, 2:464-67; Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, 1628-1686*, 5 vols. in 6 (Boston: William White, 1853) [hereinafter *MBCR*], 1:175 *et al.*, 2:22 *et al.*, 3:48, *et al.*, 4:1:455, 4:2:27, 99, 5:308 *et al.*

¹² *Winthrop Journal*, 2:76-77, 107-09, 139-40, 256-57; *MBCR*, 2:5, *et al.*; *Saltonstall Papers*, 1:28-34.

¹³ *Saltonstall Papers*, 1:36-37.

¹⁴ *MBCR*, 1:343.

reportedly having killed hundreds more, Saltonstall petitioned the court and demanded that the perpetrators be prosecuted. “The oath I took this yeare att my enterance upon the place of assistante was to this effect: That I would truly endeavor the advancement of the gospel and the good of the people of this plantation... [according to this oath he was compelled to bring to their attention] the case concerning the Negers taken by captain Smith and Mr. Keser; wheren it is apparent, that Mr. Keser upon a Sabbath day gave chace to certain Negers; and upon the same day tooke divers of them; and at another time killed others; and burned one of their townes.” He declared that murder was against the law of God, and “the act of stealing Negers, or of taking them by force, (whether it be considered as theft, or robbery) is (as I conceive) expressly contrary both to the law of God, and the law of this country,” and that chasing them on the Sabbath day “being a servile work” was equally against the law of God. The two captured men were ordered to be sent back to Guinea at public expense.¹⁵

OCCUPATION: Planter, colony founder, official, investor, trader. In 1645 the Court granted a charter for a trading company to Richard Saltonstall, Esq., Simon Bradstreet, Samuel Symonds, Richard Dumer, Willie Hubbard, Capt. William Hathorne, and Mr. William Paine.¹⁶

Granted a mill privilege by Ipswich, Richard owned several mills for grinding corn, sawing lumber, and fulling wool. In March 1671/2 he made an agreement with Edward Lumax/Lumas of Ipswich to build a fulling mill and attend it as miller for half of the profits, as well as to take charge of the corn mill run by Freegrace Norton. In 1674, Lumax wrote to Saltonstall in “Lankeshire,” England “to release him, the letter being written with very much earnestness and importunity.” Saltonstall appointed Michael Farley as his new miller and sent him to New England in 1675. Lumax gave up his keys to Farley and was paid his whole salary, but in 1681 he sued Farley for trespass, claiming the arrangement for the fulling mill had been promised for life and that Saltonstall’s agent William Stoughton had told Farley he could keep that mill. The jury found in favor of Lumax, although Farley appealed to the next court.¹⁷

PERSONAL: Matriculated as “Mr. Fellow-commoner” in Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 14 December 1627, but came to New England with his father in 1630 before taking a degree. During his first return stay in England he received some legal training at the Inner Temple. He was a supporter of Harvard College, subscribing £104 in 1654, and later sending £320 from England, possibly part of his father’s legacy. His son Nathaniel graduated from Harvard with the class of 1659 and was the first of many successive generations to attend the university. Johnson in *Wonder Working Providence* describes him as “the much honoured and upright hearted servant” of God. An example of his autograph is reproduced in Bond’s *Watertown*.¹⁸

The first two generations of the Saltonstall family clearly were more comfortable in Old England than in New. Sir Richard stayed in the new world less than a year before scuttling permanently back to England with most of his children. Moody states in *The Saltonstall Papers* that Sir Richard’s son Richard “never really became a New Englander. The Puritan dream fascinated and inspired him. Its accomplishment may have left him unhappy, dissatisfied.” Only his son Nathaniel³ Saltonstall established a family in New England.¹⁹

Muriel (Gurdon) Saltonstall apparently suffered from chronic ill health. In May 1643 the General Court stated “M^r Saltonstall had leave to depart because of his wife’s ilnes.” It was thought that the doctors in England might help. “There is also some evidence that Mrs. Saltonstall was no lover of New England. Her dislike extended, according to her daughter, to a desire that her portrait not be sent over to New England, even after her death.”²⁰

ESTATE: On 29 August 1664, Richard Saltonstall of Ipswich, “for and in consideration of the Naturall affection he beareth to his sayd Sonn, and for his maintenance & comfort, and for and in respect of any promise or pmisses made upon his marriage with Elizabeth his now wife” settled on his son Nathaniel “his Farme

¹⁵ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part II:88-92; *Winthrop Journal*, 2:245, 462-63; *MBCR*, 2:74 *et al.*; 3:46.

¹⁶ *MBCR*, 2:138.

¹⁷ *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, 1636-1686*, 9 vols. (Salem: 1897-1909), 8:110-12.

¹⁸ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:12, 19-20. Muriel is called “Jane Muriel” in a pedigree of the Mosely family; John Langdon Sibley, *Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Harvard University* (Cambridge: C.W. Sever, 1873-85) [hereinafter *Harvard Grads*], 2:7-8; Henry Bond, *Genealogies: Families and Descendants of the Early Settlers of Watertown, Mass., Including Waltham and Weston; to Which Is Appended the Early History of the Town*, 2 vols. in 1 (Boston: 1860) [hereinafter *Bond’s Watertown*], 921.

¹⁹ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part II:93; *Saltonstall Papers*, 1:28, 41.

²⁰ *MBCR*, 2:35, 3:171; *Saltonstall Papers*, 1:35.

lyeing in Ipswich at the new meddows conteineing by estimation eight hundred acres;...another Farm at Chebacco...containing one hundred & fiftye acres...with fifteen Acres more or lesse of meddow...the ox pasture...of forty acres” in Ipswich.²¹

The will of Richard’s son, Richard Saltonstall of London, dated 25 August 1665 and proved 16 October 1667, left ten pounds each for the purchase of mourning clothes to “my dear father Richard Saltonstall, Esq. and to my dear mother Mrs. Meriall Saltonstall...to my brother Nathaniel Saltonstall and his wife Elizabeth” [plus another £10 to Nathaniel as a legacy]...to my brother in law Edward Moseley Esq. and to my sister Meriall his wife...to my brother in law Thomas Harley Esq. and to my sister Abigail his wife...to my brother in law Mr. Hercules Horsey and to my sister Elizabeth his wife.” Also “To my cousin Robert Harley, the only son of my said brother in law Thomas Harley, fifty pounds” at age 21. “To said brother Hercules Horsey such gelding or mare as I shall have at the time of my decease, and the further sum of one hundred pounds in consideration of the pains he shall be at in the performance of this my will” as executor. The residue was to be divided among the “children which my said brother Nathaniel Saltonstall, my said brother Edward Moseley and my said brother Hercules Horsey now have or shall have by their present wives before named living at the time of my decease....”²²

The will of son Nathaniel Saltonstall of Haverhill, dated 19 May 1707, gives to his wife, Elizabeth, “that two Hundred Pound of Sterline money, which came to me by the Procurement of my dear Honourd Mother of Her Relations, & then given to me (and is now in my Sister Mrs. Elizabeth Horseys Hand, & by her let out to Interest, at my Risque for five pound per Annum)...unto my Dear Neece Merriall Horsey as a Token of my Love & thankfulness, the sum of Ten Pounds in Sterling money...It was my intent to settle a suitable Double Portion of my estate on my son Gurdon Saltonstal, but my Honoured Father Richard Saltonstal Esq. agreed with the Feoffes in Trust in England, to alter the Infeofment & entaile which is judged did determine in me, and hath (after my death) determined and settled it upon my Son Gurdon & so to goe to his Children, whereby I am disappointed of my first intent. The estate in England being Annually of Better worth, than all my Father settled upon me, or any where, that I know of.”²³

CHILDREN of Richard and Muriel (Gurdon) Saltonstall:²⁴

- i. **MURIEL/MERIEL³ SALTONSTALL**, bp. Assington, Suffolk, Eng., 29 May 1634; d. 8 July 1697, bur. St. James’ Church, Didsbury, 14 July 1697²⁵; m. in Eng., Sir **EDWARD MOSLEY** of Hulme, Lord of the Manor of Manchester, Lancs., son of Oswald and Anne (Lowe) Mosley, bp. Manchester Cathedral, 6 Dec. 1618; d. 1695, age 77, bur. St. James’ Church, 31 July 1695.²⁶
- ii. **GURDON SALTONSTALL**, b. say 1635; d. bet. 6 Oct. 1661 and 25 Aug. 1665.²⁷
- iii. **RICHARD SALTONSTALL**, b. say 1637; d. London, bet. 25 Aug 1665 and 16 Oct. 1667²⁸; unm.
- iv. **NATHANIEL SALTONSTALL**, b. Ipswich, say 1639; d. Haverhill, 21 May 1707²⁹; m. Haverhill, 28 Dec. 1663,³⁰ **ELIZABETH WARD**, dau. of John and Alice (Edmunds) Ward, b. Haverhill, 1 Apr. 1647³¹; d. Haverhill, 29 Apr. 1714.³²

²¹ *Harvard Grads*, 2:7; *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:19; *Saltonstall Papers*, 1:38.

²² *NEHGR*, 48:511-12.

²³ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:19-20; *Essex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1638-1840*. Online database. *AmericanAncestors.org*. NEHGS, 2013. (From records supplied by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives.) [hereinafter *Essex Co PR NEHGS*], #24,538; *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 39-43, 51.

²⁴ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:13; *NYGBR*, 42:214; *NEHGR*, 142:24; *Saltonstall Papers*, 1:36-37.

²⁵ *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 39.

²⁶ *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 40.

²⁷ *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 41 (when his mother wrote to her brother Brampton Gurdon referring to a previous letter “that gave you the good tidings of my daughter Horsey’s safe delivery of a son, and this acquaints you with the sad tidings of my son Gurdon’s weakly condition. I have small hope for his recovery. This is the 9th day, Dr. Gurdon speaks as if there were some hope. He is in the hands of a merciful God, who I trust will deal well with him,” and the date of his brother Richard’s will).

²⁸ *NEHGR*, 48:511 (dates of will and probate).

²⁹ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:20; *Vital Records of Haverhill, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Topsfield, MA: 1910, 1911) [hereinafter *Haverhill VR*], 2:466.

³⁰ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:19; *The Essex Antiquarian* (13 vols., Sidney Perley, ed.) (Salem: 1897-1909) [hereinafter *Essex Antiquarian*], 4:140; *Haverhill VR*, 2:275.

³¹ *Haverhill VR*, 1:299; *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:19; *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 51.

³² *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:20; *Haverhill VR*, 2:466.

- v. **ABIGAIL SALTONSTALL**, b. say 1641; d. aft 25 Aug 1665³³; m. **THOMAS HARLEY** of Hinsham Court, Hereford, son of Sir Robert Harley and Brilliana (Conway), Lady Harley; b. 1698³⁴; d. 18 Jan. 1738.³⁵
- vi. **ELIZABETH SALTONSTALL**, d. bet. 28 Feb. 1723/4 and 6 March 1728³⁶; m. **HERCULES HORSEY**, Esq., b. abt. 1631³⁷; d. 27 July 1699, aged 68; bur. Dissenters' Burying Ground, Bunhill Fields, Islington, Middlesex.³⁸

RESOURCES: See biographies of Richard Saltonstall and his son Nathaniel in *Saltonstall Papers*, pp.15-41, 48-60. Scott C. Steward, *The Descendants of Dr. Nathaniel^[6] Saltonstall of Haverhill, Massachusetts* (Boston: Newbury Street Press, 2013), provides detailed information on the early Saltonstall family in England and New England.

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³³ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:19 (brother Richard's will).

³⁴ *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 41.

³⁵ *Saltonstall Fam*, Part I:20.

³⁶ *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 42.

³⁷ *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 42.

³⁸ *Nathaniel Saltonstall*, 42.