

Major Thomas Savage



Thomas Savage was born about 1607, probably in England, and arrived from London on the *Planter* in 1635. He died 14 February 1681/2. He has been stated to be the son of William Savage, a blacksmith in Taunton Somersetshire, and was apprenticed by his father 09 January 1620/1 to the Merchant Taylors Guild of London. In addition to being a tailor, he was also a merchant and assumed control of the Ironworks on the Saugus. He was an owner of a considerable amount of land, such as 2,500 acres in Braintree, MA alone. As shown in *The Great Migration Begins*, Robert Charles Anderson, 1620-1635, 2013, Thomas held many offices:

OFFICEHOLDING: Assistant, Massachusetts Bay, 19 May 1680, 13 October 1680, 4 January 1680/1, 22 February 1680/1, 11 May 1681, 12 October 1681 [MBCR 5:265, 290, 302, 304, 308, 322].

Deputy for Boston to Massachusetts Bay General Court, 3 May 1654, 23 May 1655, 14 May 1656, 6 May 1657, 11 May 1659, 30 May 1660, 19 December 1660, 22 May 1661, 7 August 1661, 7 May 1662, 23 May 1677, 10 October 1677, 8 May 1678 [MBCR 3:340, 373, 422, 4:1:181, 221, 255, 286, 364, 416, 449, 4:2:1, 30, 41, 5:132, 154, 184; BTR 1:118, 128, 134, 149, 154, 159, 2:5, 107, 116]. Speaker, 11 May 1659, 30 May 1660, 23 May 1677, 8 May 1678 [MBCR 4:1:365, 417, 4:2:485, 5:132, 154, 184].

Boston commissioner to end small causes, 19 October 1652, 23 October 1657, 19 October 1658, 12 November 1659, 1 September 1673, 31 August 1674, 30 August 1675, 28 August 1676, 3 September 1677, 29 August 1679 [MBCR 3:293, 4:1:115, 313, 353, 410; BTR 1:112, 2:78, 89, 97, 103, 113, 131].

Boston selectman, 8 March 1651/2 [BTR 1:108]. Town meeting moderator, 11 March 1660/1, 10 March 1661/2, 9 March 1662/3, 13 March 1664/5, 12 March 1665/6, 11 March 1666/7, 16 March 1667/8, 15 March 1668/9, 14 March 1669/70, 10 March 1672/3, 3 March 1678/9, 8 March 1679/80, 14 March 1680/1 [BTR 2:1, 6, 14, 24, 30, 34, 39, 46, 52, 73, 126, 137, 142].

Deputy for Hingham to Massachusetts Bay General Court, 27 May 1663 [MBCR 4:2:71]. Deputy for Andover, 31 May 1671, 15 May 1672 [MBCR 4:2:485, 507].

Thomas was admitted to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1637, as a founder and 4th signer of the Roll of the Artillery Company. However, his name is not on the charter since he was disarmed (see below). He held various ranks in the militia: Ensign by 1643, Lieutenant by 27 March 1648, Captain by 08 March 1651/2. In May 1653, Commissioners of the United Colonies considered him as the possible commander-in-chief of the New England forces in the event of a war with the Dutch. On 24 June 1675, he was commissioned Major, led a force of foot soldiers in the expedition of Mount Hope, and on 21 February 1675/6 was appointed the commander-in-chief of all the forces at Medfield. He led the forces to Brookfield and then into the Connecticut River Valley.

Thomas had the right to bear arms, with the Savage Coat of Arms shown below:



Arms: Silver six lions sable

Crest: Out of a crown gold a lion's gamb erect

Thomas was first married to Faith Hutchinson, the daughter of William and Anne Marbury, by 1637. In the religious controversy in which his mother-in-law Anne became involved, Thomas was one of her adherents. Prior to her trial, Thomas was disarmed and obliged to leave Boston in late 1637. With William Coddington, William Hutchinson, and others, Thomas purchased Aquidneck of the natives, and began the settlement of Rhode Island. Soon after his arrival at Aquidneck, Thomas recanted and was allowed to return to Boston, probably as early as June 1638. He married second Mary Symmes, the daughter of Reverend Zechariah Symmes, on 15 September 1652.

Further reading:

The Great Migration Begins, Robert Charles Anderson, 1620-1635, 2013.

The Savage Family. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register. Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, Vol. 67, p198-214.