

# John Tapley 1638 first settler in Salem Mass

## FIRST GENERATION.

I 1 JOHN TAPLEY was born in England in 1638; he married in Salem, 6 Dec. 1663, Elizabeth, daughter of John Pride of Salem.

In the Essex Registry in Salem is a deed dated 28 June 1666, in which John Mason conveyed 3-4 acre of land in Salem to John Tapley, fisherman, Robt. Brage and John Webb, all of the same town, fishermen. (Book 3, p. 207.) This is the earliest Tapley deed recorded. Another deed of 21 Oct. 1671 states that John Webb sold his share of the above land to James Froude, seaman, the deed witnessed by John Tapley and John J. Tapley. (Book 3, p. 413.)

21 Mch. 1678, John Tapley sold his house and one-half acre of land at the Cove to John Higginson, Jr. (Book 4, p. 679.) The land was bounded as follows:—"Upon ye highway southerly; with ye land of James Frude, westerly; with ye great cove northerly and easterly."

The following indenture in connection with this transaction is also recorded:—"If John Tapley shall pay to John Higginson Jr., "ye full & just sume of twenty-six pounds & six shillings in refuse or merchantable dry fish at ye current price, at or before the first day of May in ye year of our Lord one thousand six hundred eighty three," then this indenture be void. Signed, John Tapley, and a seal.

It is with great difficulty that any facts relating to John Tapley have been obtained, and those presented are meagre and not wholly satisfactory. In 1680, his name appears as one of the petitioners for a new church at Salem. At this time he paid a county tax of 2s: 8d, and a tax of 4s: 5d for the support of the minister. He was taxed in Salem for many years. In 1668, he was one of the petitioners to the General Court against imposts. His last tax paid in Salem was in 1689, and in