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Charles 1st King of England **THAT MAN OF BLOOD** meets his End !“

On 30 January 1649 Joseph Pride, pioneer and first resident of Prides Corner, Maine, beheaded the tyrannical King of England, Charles 1st

Charles 1st is known in history as “that man of Blood” because of the 200,000 violent deaths he caused.

Joseph was 12 years old when he beheaded the King.

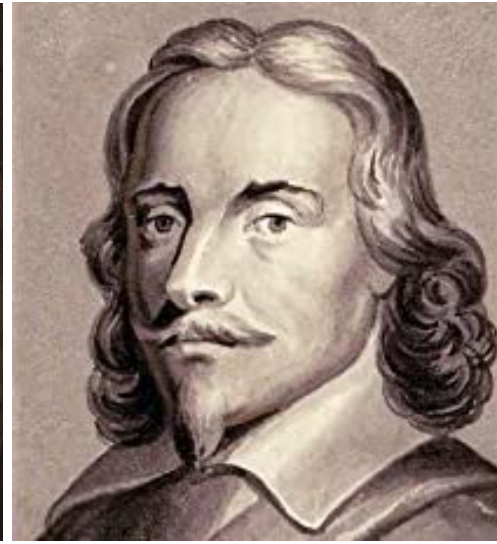
In 1660 Joseph fled the Kings son, King Charles 2nd, and hid here in Maine for 26 years while the new King of England and the entire British Empire sought him to kill him.

He emerged 26 years later, the year after Charles 2nd died, to baptize the six children he and Jane Pride raised on the shores of Highland Lake in the Wilderness of Maine.

They traveled with six small Children on empty winter roads, avoiding the Red Coats to the First Church in Beverly Massachusetts on Dec 12th 1686 for his day of victory over monstrous tyranny.



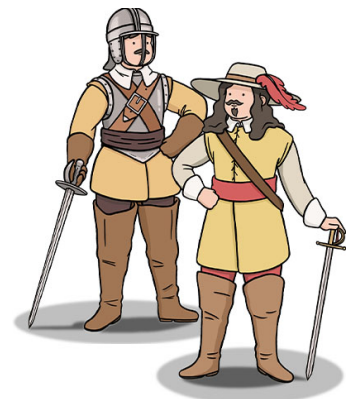
Oliver Cromwell

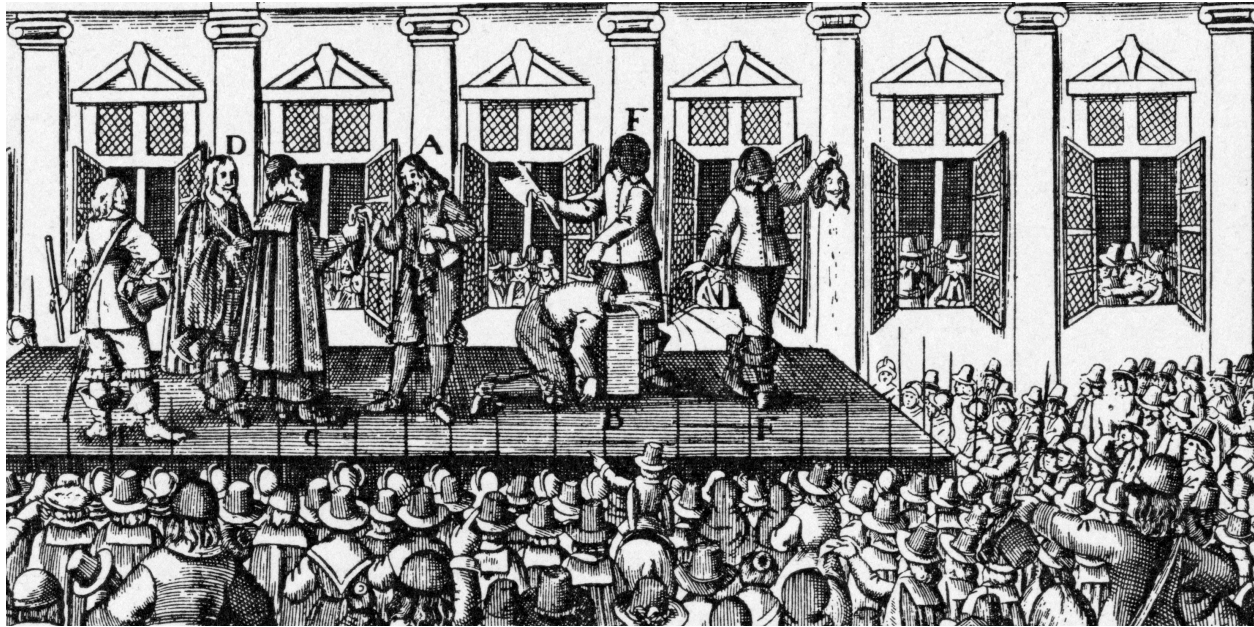


Sir Thomas Pride



King Charles 2nd





Joseph Pride

Executioner of Charles 1st

Pioneer of Prides Corner Maine

On 6 December 1648, at the end of the English Civil War, **Colonel Thomas Pride** and his soldiers stood outside the entrance to St Stephen's Chapel in the House of Commons of England and, as the Commons convened that morning, arrested 45 Members and excluded a further 186 Royalists. It is known in history as "**Prides Purge**". On 6 January 1649, the remaining members of parliament, called the rump parliament, established a court to try Charles I for high treason. The court later executed the King, beheading him in public in front of Whitehall as Oliver Cromwell and thousands of others looked on. The identity of the executioner, hidden in a hood, wig, and grotesque fake beard, is officially unknown. The executioners identity and the princes in the tower have been the two great mysteries of British History for over three centuries until now. Its down to one. Family legend has recently been confirmed by a riddle left by Oliver Cromwell, six Massachusetts baptismal records from 1686 and a clear direct statement by King Charles the 2nd (one which also reveals the crowns reasons for hiding the identity for three centuries) and incredibly revealing datasets from the new Ancestry.com release (9/26/23).

A decade after the purge, in 1658, **General Thomas Pride**, Knighted Grandee of Oliver Cromwell's victorious New Model Army, and member of the House of Lords, died. Two years later, After the English Restoration of King Charles the 2nd in 1660, his body was ordered dug up and posthumously executed, suspended on the gallows at Tyburn along with those of Oliver Cromwell, Henry Ireton and John Bradshaw, though it is said that the sentence was not carried out because his corpse was too far decayed. The Royalists thereupon attempted to hang his son, Joseph Pride, who barely escaped.

According to Prides corner family legend the escape from the Kings men had a dramatic and ironic twist.

“Red Coats hot on his heels,... Joseph ran down a hill, out a dock, and dove into the sea and swam to a longboat that had already departed the Dock. As luck would have it, it was the last longboat to the ship which was setting sail to the New World”.

The legend also stated that **every Generations first born that followed was named Joseph in honor of the unsung puritain hero**, the executioner of Charles.

Joseph is presumed to have spent some time with relatives in Beverly Essex who first arrived in 1637, but as the world wide hunt by the Royalists progressed, fled to the wilderness. His grandson Joseph registered the parcel of land in Falmouth/Westbrook now known as Prides Corner Maine almost a century later. Joseph Pride hid in Prides Corner Maine for 26 years as the King of England and the entire British Empire sought him to kill him. and then he emerged to baptize the six children he and Jane Pride succesfully raised on the shores of Highland Lake in the wilderness of Maine. They traveled with six small children on empty winter roads, avoiding the Red Coats, to the First Church in Beverly Mass Dec 12, 1686, one year after his persuer Charles 2nd had died, and the fury of the hunt had provably lessened

S e e ‘ P r i d e s C o r n e r E x e c u t i o n e r ’ W e b s i t e f o r B B C V i d e o s

Joseph Pride’s son Joseph is likely referred to in an contemporary article by Parson Smith noting the death of “Old Man Pride” that year (1747).. (No graves of anyone survived from the late 1600’s in the then wilderness of Maine). The backward looking article from 1895 cites “The Joseph Pride to whom this tract of 100 acres was granted was ‘most likely’ the first person of the name in the area”, and somewhat mysteriously that “he ‘probably’ was in mid life when he emigrated to this vicinity, but that persons of that name still reside, having acquired their homes by inheritance from **ancestors who have long been domiciled with our present town limits**”. It also states that “On April 12 1726 Joseph and Sarah Pride had a son Joseph born in Falmouth” (Thomas, Joseph, Joseph, Joseph, Joseph’s, Joseph). The Joseph born in 1726 would go on to become **Captain Joseph Pride in George Washington’s Continental Navy** where he served with his son Joseph Pride Jr, and his youngest teenager, John Pride.

The Pride lineage of Prides Corner, is one Joseph Pride after another, every generation across three centuries from 1637 to 1900! It is the Pride family’s silent testimony to its history, the

only safe testimony possible for such a hunted figure at first, and as decades passed,... for a forgotten one. The **1790 Census** for Falmouth, Maine for example lists **Henry, Joseph, William**, and a second **Joseph**, a Joseph for each generation.

The **1820 census** gives a tantalizing glimpse into the family secret listing both a **Thomas**, another **Joseph**, and another **Henry** and **William**. Multiple second born **Thomas, Henry, John**, and **William** Prides occurring over the years of Josephs are noted. They are the same Family Names for the 263 years of Josephs. General

of Families	
Moses Knights	1 0 4
John Wilb...	1 1 7
Nathaniel White	2 2 5
Henry Prides	1 1 2
Joseph Prides	1 1 2
Benjamin Austin	1 1 9
William Prides	1 5 3
William Walker	1 3 3
Charles Walker	1 2 3
William Lamb	2 3 1
Joseph Prides	1 0 3
John Grant	1 1 2

1790 Census

Thomas Prides sons were **Thomas, William, John, Samuel** and **Joseph**, his father was **William**

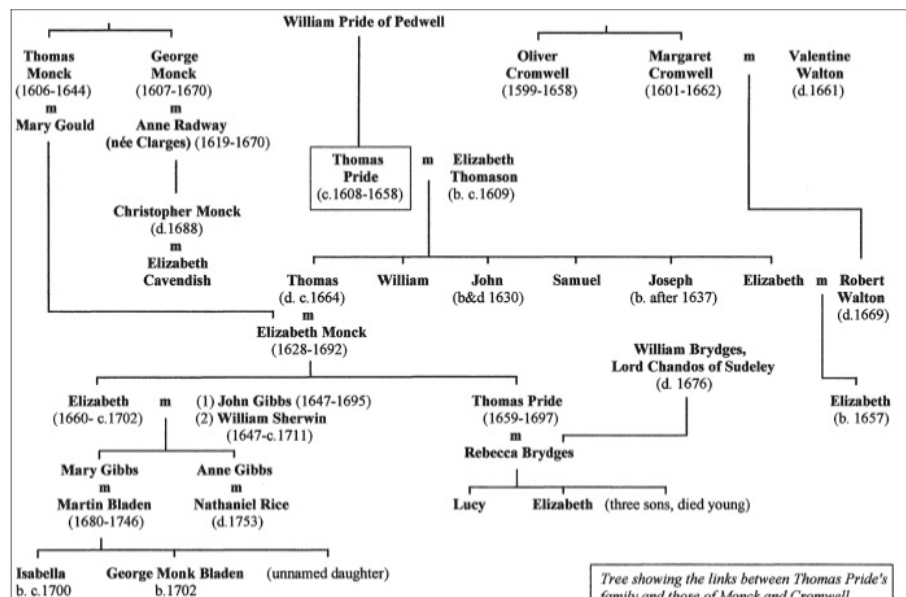
Pride Isaac
 Porter Joshua
 Pride William
 Pride Joseph
 Pride Peter
 Pride Thomas
 Pride Henry
 Porter Seward
 Pride Abigail Widner

1820 Census

Pride, his uncle **Henry**. This puritan revolutionary family's determination to leave a mark over multiple generations of Joseph always first, not General, Grandee, and Knighted, Sir Thomas is a powerful statement of determination by multiple generations.

Ancestry.com lists 974 records of Josephs with sons named Joseph. Currently 2700 Prides live in USA.

The escape story makes sense in this light. The preference of the name Joseph over one of the greats of your religion and cause,... lends credence to the rest,but there is more.



Thomas Pride Geneology

Great effort was taken to hide the identity of the executioner. Many guesses were later made, most naming prominent puritans like Hugh Peters. But all were accounted for. Soldiers lined the platform to obscure the view, the executioner was obviously somebody they wanted to protect. The executioner wore a wig and **a grotesque fake beard**. The executioner held the head aloft but flubbed his lines and did not say the traditional "behold the head of a traitor", and then unceremoniously dropped the king's head into the crowd (two strong indicators of inexperience). The fake beard, the total silence, and the flubbed performance may support the story further. From the evidence we have, Joseph was still a boy in 1649 and it may have been necessary to hide his lack of a beard to avoid recognition as well as his child's voice. His actual birth date is unknown, but the evidence we have indicates he was 12 or 13 years old in 1649.

But if he indeed was that young, how could such a decision be arrived at? The circumstances offer a possible explanation and a very strong validating hint. **Oliver Cromwell, famous for his puns, crude practical jokes, and riddles,... left a last riddle for posterity and now we know what it was.**

Firstly, you are dealing with the religious zealot Oliver Cromwell here. Second the impetus would have to have originated with the boy Joseph. The regular puritan executioner refused £200 pounds to do it,... no one wanted the job. They all knew the wrath of the royalists would follow the axe man all his days. Colonel John Hewson was given the task of finding an executioner and he offered **40 soldiers** the position of **executioner or assistant** in exchange for £100 and quick promotion, though none came forward.

The puritans make no secret of the rejection by **40 soldiers** for an **executioner or assistant**, they actually seem to promote it even. It would seem an odd point for them to put into history*, but then there is this...

Twice a day for **40 days, morning and evening**, Goliath, the champion of the Philistines, comes out between the lines and challenges the Israelites to send out a champion of their own to decide the outcome in single combat, but Saul is afraid.

The first army of the living God had declined to fight 40 times in pairs (morning and evening), as did the army of Oliver Cromwell (executioner or assistant). Both Goliath and Charles were alike accused of defying the armies of the living God. Only the boy David stepped forward to represent the first army of the living God, and only the boy Joseph for the second? Did at this point the boy make an impassioned plea to be the David of the

Age, to step forward where no other would?

The religious parallels at the most religious of moments for the puritans would have been an intoxicating brew for the devout. It is the only possible path by which to arrive at such a selection... and the pieces fit so well.

1 Samuel 17:25 The king will give **great wealth** to the man who kills him (Goliath).

He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.”

Also called...

(£100 and quick promotion)

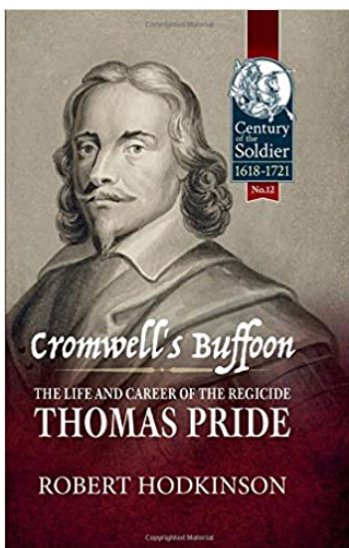
King Charles 2nd reputedly told his life long mistress, Louise de K rouaille, Duchess of Portsmouth, the executioner was "Pride" but it is unclear what was said (see page image). For over three hundred and fifty plus years now the literati have always assumed he meant Thomas Pride. However, because Thomas was seen unmasked on the stage, the King's comment has been rejected and ignored with disdain. But it is unknown if he actually said Thomas Pride or just Pride ?

Charles 2nd's soldiers detained, jailed, and tortured or executed almost the entire puritan leadership, and made deals with the rest for clemency. Any candidate for executioner, it would seem, needs to address the reason for the Crown's silence on what it knew, for it surely knew something. Ten years on with the flush of numerical revelations well in the past, the question has to be asked which of the parties left standing would have a motivation to reveal the truth in the year 1660 ?

Does the David 2 story burnish the rejected puritan rule, or sound more like child murder ten years later? Does the Crown want it known it was a child that finished a King? Worse in a still largely puritan England does Charles 2nd want to promote a myth with Charles 1st in the role of Goliath and

the new David still on the loose ? In 1660 all parties have strong motivations to not disclose the truth and the situation does not change thereafter. The reasons for the Crown's silence are now clear, the truth was both a challenge to the very concept of monarchy, a child killing a King, and a personal threat to Charles II himself, casting him in the role of usurper to the "new David".

The entire issue of the early events is of course clouded and confused by the fugitive status under pain of death, which discouraged accurate regicide identifying documentation in the strongest possible manner for multiple decades, even for descendants. In the unlikely event any local records (death records) were created they would have been destroyed in



The identity of the man who was to wield his axe is unknown, and has naturally been the subject of much speculation. It was commonly believed, so Charles II reputedly told his mistress, the Duchess of Portsmouth, that the executioner was Pride himself.⁷¹ Needless to say, there is not a shred of evidence to substantiate this

the town hall fire that wiped out all Pride Corner records in the 1820's. However, Massachusetts records recording the birth of a Joseph Pride on 12 Dec 1686 in Beverly Essex, also list an unlikely Six Prides being born on that same day in tiny Beverly Essex. However the Massachusetts source for these official Massachusetts birth records are the church baptisms of the First Church. Most are single baptisms, with the occasional double, but the family of a John Pride are all registered the same day proving this family of six Pride children were coming from a great distance for baptisms that were greatly delayed in 1686. If not Prides Corner then from where? There simply are no other candidates, no other concentrations of the Pride name pre 1800 save Beverly itself. Why such an extreme delay in a puritan family risking eternal damnation for the children? Dying without Baptism was a very serious matter in the puritan world. (and Maine's first church was still 57 years in the future at this point). Did the death of his persuer Charles 2nd the year before finally reduce the intensity of the search enough to finally allow the baptisms? Joseph the executioner was born in 1637 in London and his brother John died at Birth. Of the six names baptised Dec 12, 1686 for the mysterious "John" five are names from Thomas Prides family. For a deeply Religious fugitive in hiding, baptisms are where the rubber meets the road. They MUST BE BAPTISED, his real name could bring down the crown on all of them (the hunt was still on), no name implies bastard and that would not do either. Joseph was caught between the proverbial rock (Death) and a hard place (Damnation).

There is a record of a John Pride marrying Jane Lovering in Beverly, during King Philips War in 1675, when Indians were killing colonists all over the east coast, especially in Maine. But as would be expected if the newly weds returned to Maine for safety when it was safe, the names of all Six Children show up repeatedly in the Pre-Civil War Falmouth Maine Census Records (John William Peter Joseph Mary Elizabeth) while only Peter shows up in the Beverly Essex Pre-Civil War Census records and not until 1800.

Somewhat conclusively,...given Ancestry.com's level of comprehensiveness...Joseph is not listed on any passenger list (because he swam for it !). There is only one immigration record for last name Pride between 1600 and 1700 to New England. John Pride, 1637, Salem, Massachusetts who died in 1647 leaving three children and an entirely different trail of family names,... not to mention providing the absolutely letter perfect Cover Name. Like all Prides,... Joseph was lucky :)

Name	John Pride
Birth	12 Dec 1686 Beverly, Massachusetts, USA
Name	Mary Pride
Birth	12 Dec 1686 Beverly, Massachusetts, USA
Name	William Pride
Birth	12 Dec 1686 Beverly, Massachusetts, USA
Name	Peter Pride
Birth	12 Dec 1686 Beverly, Massachusetts, USA
Name	Joseph Pride
Birth	12 Dec 1686 Beverly, Massachusetts, USA
Name	Elizabeth Pride
Birth	12 Dec 1686 Beverly, Massachusetts, USA

5. Dec. William and Judith, of Nicholas and Mary (Eliot)
Woodberry.
12. “ John, William, Peter, Joseph, Mary and Elizabeth,
of John and Jane Pride.

For ongoing research updates, full source citations, **Videos**, or extra copies:
www.KingSolomonsGate.com/josephpride.html

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