

**Search Web for “Prides Corner Executioner of Charles” for the whole story !**



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+ deaths he caused.

Joseph was 12 years old at the time.

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.

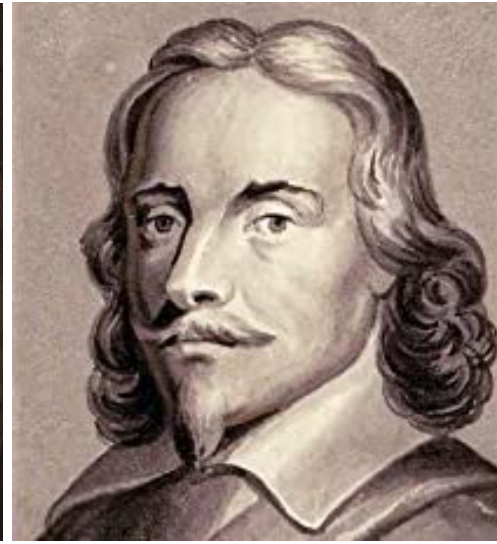
He emerged 26 years later, the year after Charles 2nd died, to baptize the six children he and Jane Pride raised on the shores of Highland Lake in the Wilderness of Maine.

**With the children, they traveled for safety on empty winter roads to the First Church in Beverly Massachusetts on Dec 12th 1686 for his personal day of complete victory over monstrous tyranny.**





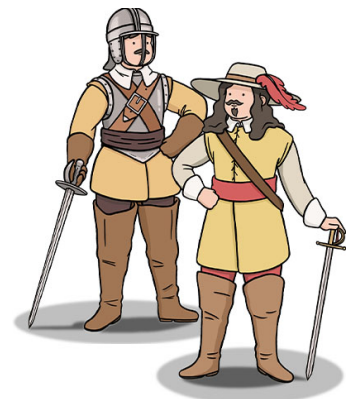
**Oliver Cromwell**



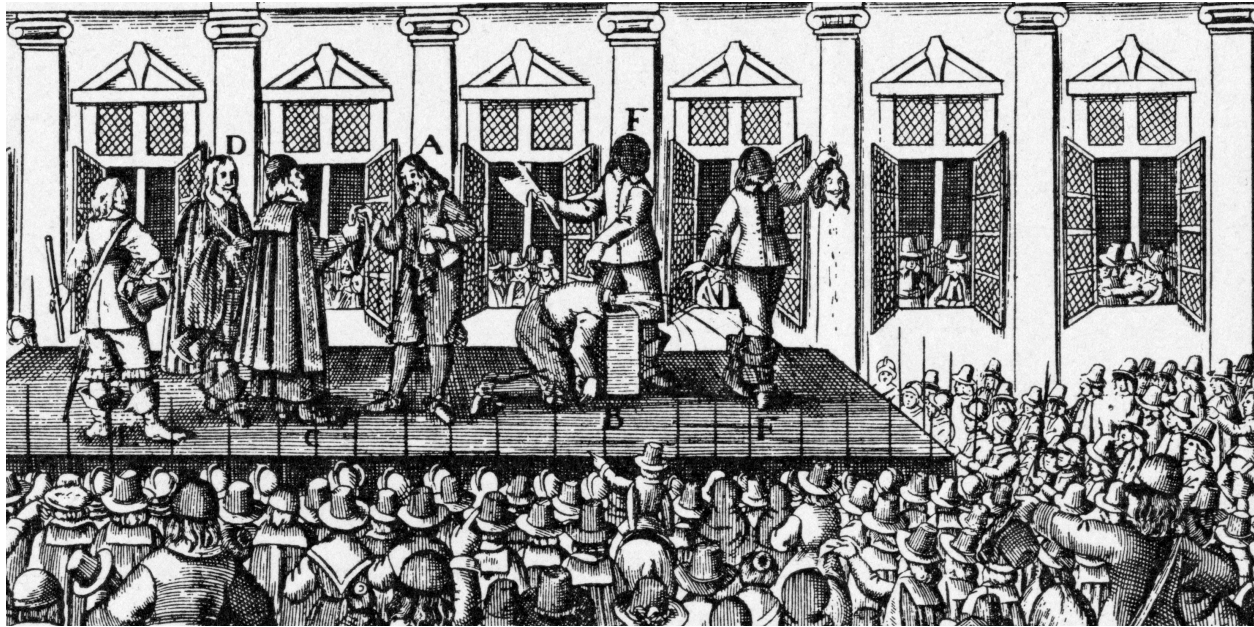
**Sir Thomas Pride**



**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 Charles the 2nd, one which also reveals the crowns reasons for hiding the identity for three centuries.

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 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 hid in Prides Corner for 26 years as the King of England and the entire British empire sought him to kill him, only to emerge to baptize the six children he and Jane raised on the shores of Highland Lake after his persuer Charles 2nd had died and the fury of the hunt had provably lessened.

See ‘Prides Corner Executioner’ Website for BBC Videos

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 for two centuries. 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



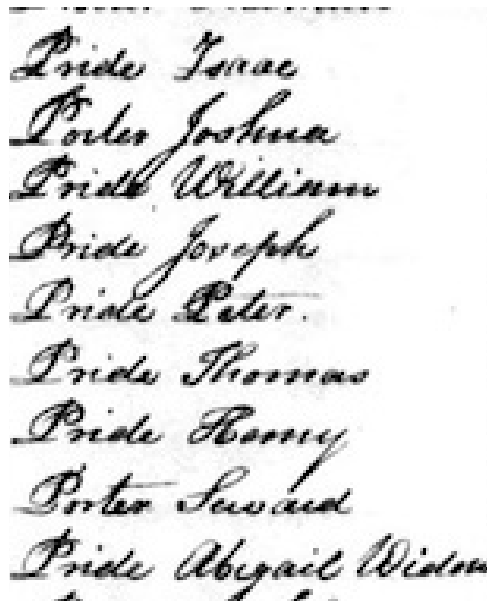
for each generation.

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 200 years of Josephs are noted. They are, without exception for 200 years the same Family Names. General Thomas Prides sons were **Thomas**, **William**, **John**, **Samuel** and **Joseph**, his father was **William** Pride, his uncle **Henry**. This puritan revolutionary family's determination to leave



of Families	
Moses Knights	1 0 4
John Webb	1 1 7
Northwick Glebe	2 2 5
Henry Pridel	1 0 4
Joseph Pridel	1 1 2
Benjamin Austin	1 0 9
Williams Pridel	1 5 9
Williams Walther	1 3 3
Charles Walther	1 2 3
William Hunt	2 3 1
Joseph Pridel	2 3 3
John Crowl	1 1 2

1790 Census



Pride Isaac  
Pride Joshua  
Pride William  
Pride Joseph  
Pride Peter  
Pride Thomas  
Pride Henry  
Pride Samuel  
Pride Abigail Widon

1820 Census

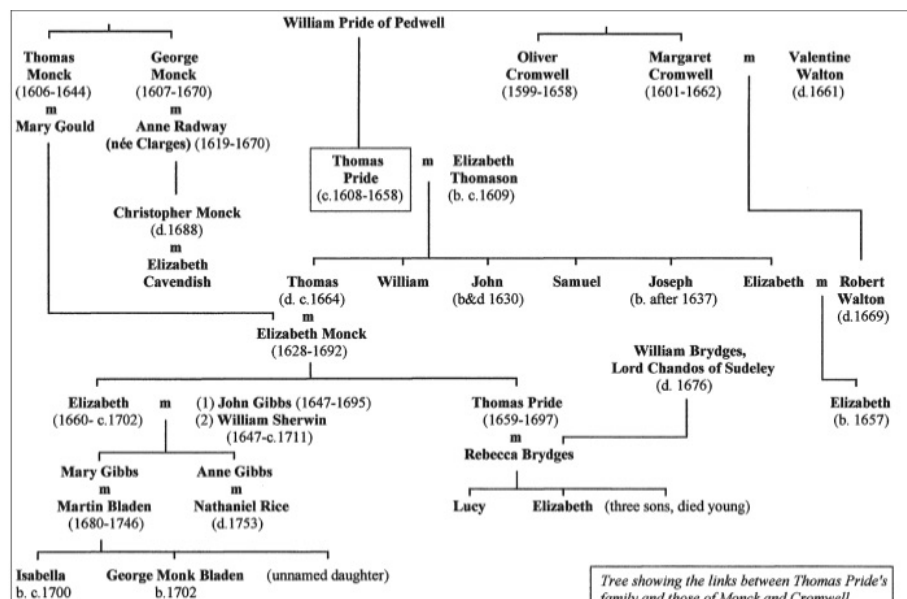
a mark over

multiple generations of Joseph

always first, not General, Grandee, and Knighted, Sir Thomas is a powerful statement of determination by multiple generations. One that also breaks the normal father grandfather name usage customary at this time.

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.

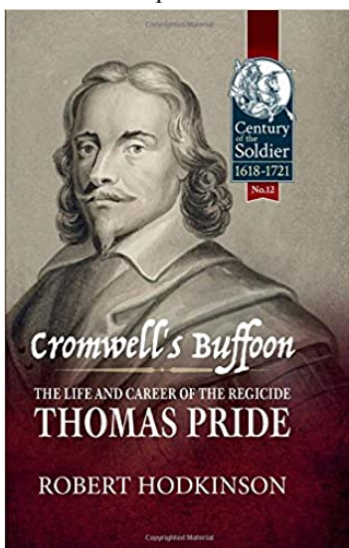
**1 Samuel 17:25** The king will give **great wealth** to the man who kills him (Goliath).

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, thru **14 Pride Generations** 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 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.<sup>71</sup> Needless to say, there is not a shred of evidence to substantiate this

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 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, (the anchor record for so many later references to the parent Joseph of the Joseph born in 1728 as "arriving" from Beverly) 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. This source lists 50 pages of baptisms for the tiny hamlet of Beverly Essex before 1710, obviously including religious families far beyond Beverly. Most are single baptisms, with the occasional double, but the family of a John Pride shown as born in London in 1637 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). Additionally, British searches to date show no records of a John Pride born in London in 1637 nor on passenger lists and no record of a John Pride marrying Jane anybody. Research is ongoing.

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

5.	Dec.	William and Judith, of Nicholas and Mary ( <u>Eliot</u> ) <u>Woodberry</u> .
12.	"	John, William, Peter, Joseph, Mary and Elizabeth, of John and Jane <u>Pride</u> .

Rename Highland Lake Joseph's Lake it was his refuge from the King !!



The remains of the original Pride Farm, depicted on an early 1700's painted plate, are located somewhere off Duck Pond Road and Pride Farm Road. The painted plate was handed down through the generations, along with the story, and still exists today. The site of the farm depicted on the plate is against a gentle slope in a field. To my knowledge, it has not yet been archaeologically excavated. Maybe something will turn up :)

Of the twelve regicides who fled England in the spring of 1660, the fate of three in the US is officially known. Geoffe, Whaley and Dixwell were actively hunted in various episodes until 1689 throughout Massachusetts and New Haven (some 40 years later). One attempt included a contingent of 450 British Redcoats. They escaped with the assistance of widespread puritan support. In a very real sense the American Revolution was simply a continuation of the British Civil War on new ground. In 1775 British soldiers, 135 years later, made a point of seeking out and spitting on Dixwell's stone. They eventually found safety in the wilderness in western Massachusetts **just beyond the western edge of civilization**, far away from towns and possible gossip, and survived.

It is fascinating to note the pervasive influence in the Prides Corner, Falmouth area of the British Civil War and the Puritans. Falmouth Maine was named for the Battle of Falmouth and the rolls of the New Model Army that fought there read like the town registers. Levolor names predominate. A Rainsborough cut my hair as a child, another was my teacher, as was Mr Graves, a Winslow trained my fathers race horses, and a Richards drove them, our neighbors... Frye, Moody, Potter, Butler and Bailey. The New Model Army names that matched my childhood was stunning. I can imagine how strong the mythology must have been through the revolutionary war years and later. The ongoing puritan character of the area would go far to explaining the second century of Josephs and the uniquely puritan twist of private pride and public shunning on a topic like Regicide and Execution in the family tree (especially without proof). Even as late as the 1950's Oliver Cromwell was oft quoted in my family circles. "Warts and All" was a favorite.

The Reason the plot of 100 acres is deeded in 1726 is due to the conclusion of the Casco treaty after years of negotiation in 1725. Once the treaty was signed many plots in the area were registered that year to establish rights to properties already long occupied and worked. The nearby Presumpscot river falls, little more than a mile or so away, by water, was the first area of settlement activity with fishing and trading beginning in 1623. Presumpscot river falls had been superseded by 1660, by what later became Portland Maine. Given the decades long world wide campaign to execute the Regicides and the level of settlement in the area around Presumpscot river falls in the 1660's, the location, **just beyond the northern edge of civilization**, far away from towns and possible gossip, actually makes sense if you don't want to get hung drawn and quartered. It was the same solution as the others,

just a different direction, 100 miles north of Boston instead of 100 miles west.

Joseph Pride was Thomas Prides son, brother in-law of Oliver Cromwell's nephew, and brother-in-law of Thomas Monks daughter, definitely Puritan Royalty :) The man who landed here was at the very center the puritan movement, and it turns out, its history.

\*Contemporary accounts reveal any levolor would have seemingly gladly hefted the axe,... so the statement is a sore thumb for all to see on its face. I am of the opinion, awaiting evidence, a universal decline (except for Joseph) probably did happen, almost would have had too, bumping it into the supernatural realm for its participants anyway, leading to the 40 and phrasing of its result. But the religious, spiritual and moral aspects of the decision which is being noted here are difficult to discern. Did Cromwell, upon finding no volunteers, initiate a survey of 40 ? (shame shame Oliver,... tho shalt not test...). Worse possibility, did he ask none or reject all, and sponsor adolescent murder to use in the manufacture of allegory to support his contention that he lead the second army of the living God ? Of course, it also could have been 40 arrived at without guile, which almost certainly would have lead to the same result by the power of its allegory alone. Its not a number a puritan would have missed under the circumstances.

Ironically, It was My Grandmother's (Inez Pride) irritation with the pamphlet "The Early History of Prides Corner" ignoring her claims that caused her to shake her finger at my father and insist he tell me the story in the fall of 1968. Byron Pride (my father) was a skeptic. He said everybody's been claiming this since day one, I am supposed to tell you so... and afterward shrugged and says who really knows, but with a smile added "heck of a good story tho." I heartily agreed, I was as you



**Byron (1847), Merritt (1888), Byron (1921)**

can imagine floored. He also dutifully told me to tell my kids and to tell them to tell theirs. Despite his doubts, when he added that there was a deep seriousness in his demeanor unlike anything else I ever witnessed from this honorable citizen, community leader and all round wonderful human being. My dad. It made the impression he intended. In response to my specific query he traced his sources back as far as his grandfather Byron Pride born in 1847 (pictured above - note the distinctly puritain appearance), his father Merritt born in 1888, and several others whose names I



did not recognize, long dead by the fall of 1968. My Great Grandfather Byron, the legends oldest direct source, was alive during the living memory of the last Joseph.

A long lost Pride family branch in West Virginia, believed to be descendants of Revolutionary War Captain Joseph Pride's son has recently published a very similar story ! This roots the story back to the time of the Maine/West Virginia split after the Revolutionary War. Joseph is the only offspring of Thomas whose life is unaccounted for. The history in England of all the other offspring is known. They all died in England leaving no Pride lineage. The West Virginia version of Prides Purge also uses the word "escaped" and describes being hunted, Their takeaway is one of disgrace rather than puritanic hero over tyranny which itself may be an long lived artifact of a family split. The site is incomplete and hints of much more to come,...See the Website (Prides Corner Executioner) for the West Virginia Pride family video.

The title of Cromwells Buffon is a play on the characterizations of the bitter Royalists in the centuries that followed. It is an unfortunate label for those who do not read the text. The text makes it very clear Sir Thomas was completely the opposite of the royalist characterization. He was a successful and very capable individual, one who was obstinately independent to the point of opposing Cromwell on some important occasions. He was active in civic life, a leading london businessman in the decade before the war, a central figure in the New Model Army, a central figure in building the British Fleet, and a leader of charitable agencies for aging soldiers and the poor in his senior years and much more. He changed the world forever for the better with his actions. He single handedly, apparently by his own decision, changed the entire sweep of British History with Prides Purge and abolished absolute monarchy for us all. Right Man, Right Place, Right Time.

by Dan Pride

The Last Pride in Prides Corner



Recently this article is getting support from several authoritative sources. The following is a recent post from the Author of "In the Name of the Crown" which was a published work about the flight of the regicides.



**Dan Pride** 4 months ago

There is a hidden meaning in this puritan report of events, and it reveals the identity of the executioner in very shocking detail....

...

[Read more](#)



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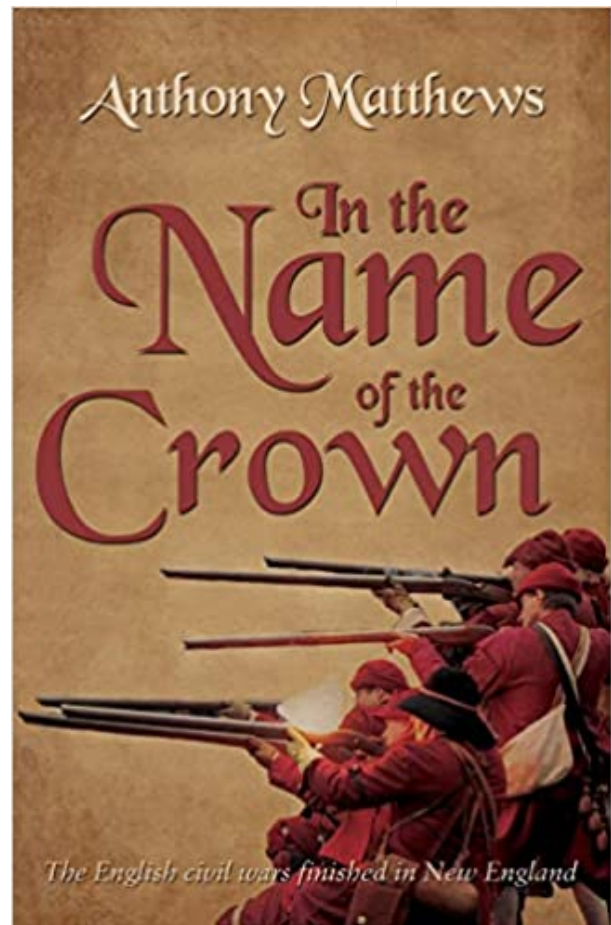
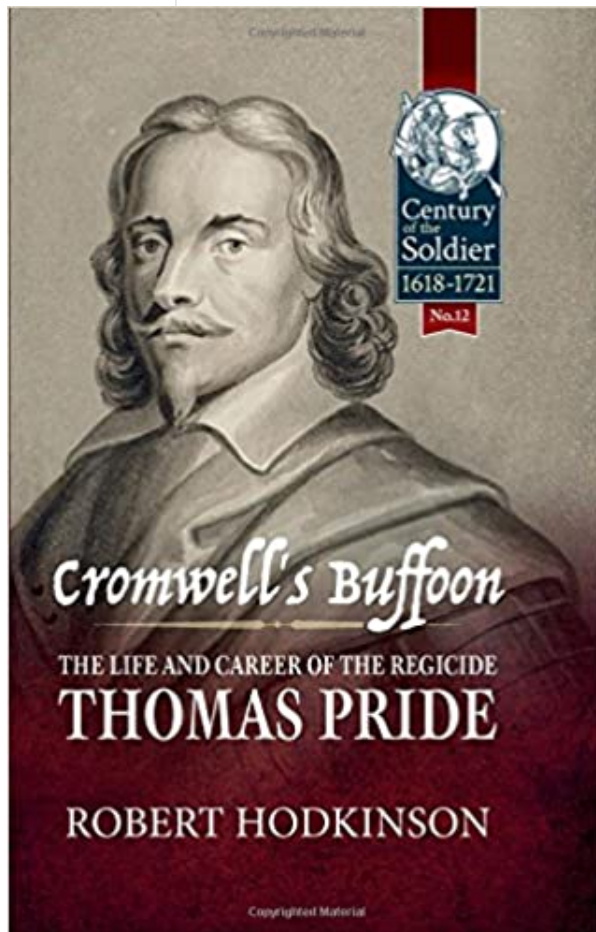


**Highlighted reply**

**Tony Matthews** 1 hour ago

Very, very interesting link, thanks for sharing. I think that is correct, Pride did the execution. Whalley, Goffe, Dixwell 4,14,38 to sign the death warrant, fled to Hadley Western Massachusetts. My book In the Name of the Crown tells their story and the hunt for them.

[Show less](#)



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