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## The Ross Line

THOMAS<sup>1</sup> ROSS, born in Scotland, about 1630, died in Billerica, Mass., 20 Mar. 1694-95, aged sixty-four years. He married 16 Jan. 1661, Cambridge, Mass., SEETH HOLMAN, born about 1640, "Slain by y<sup>e</sup> Indian Enemy," 5 Aug. 1695, daughter of William and Winifred Holman.

Thomas Ross was a "Scotch Prisoner". After the battle of Worcester, when Cromwell by his decisive victory over the Scots and Royalists became leader of England, he sent the prisoners he had taken to this country, selling them as indentured servants to the colonists. They were permitted to work out the terms of sale and became some of the best of the colonists of that time (1651). Thomas Ross arrived 11 Nov. 1651, on the "John and Sarah" of London, Capt. John Green. (*Suffolk Deeds*, 1: 6.)\* In 1656, he was a servant to Edward Winship of Cambridge; in 1658-59 "he had liberty to mow the grass in the swamp anent the north end of Spy Pond." He became a substantial citizen, leaving at his death an estate of over £222. After his marriage he lived for a few years more in Cambridge, removing about 1670, to Billerica. The Cambridge Church records give (p. 27.)

"Seth Rosse the wife of Thomas Ross (the daughter of Mr. Homan) admitted May 2 & Baptized 28 May 1665, as also

Her child.

Marget, baptized May 28, 1665.

Thomas baptized July 1, 1666."

Thomas's wife, Seeth Holman's, name is often contracted to Seth and it is possible that Seth Livingstone was named for his grandmother. The name is of course Puritan and probably a contraction of God Seeth, carrying that idea, as did Thanks-the-Lord Shepard which was contracted to "Thanks" but never in all her descendants was it "Thankful."

Thomas Ross, son of Thomas of Billerica, deceased, with Oliver Wellington and Simon Crosby Jr., on his bond, appointed administrator of his father, 15 July 1695. His inventory amounted to £222-07-01. In the account, he pays "to my mother" and mentions "my father and mother". His mother was killed about five months after his father died.

Division of the estate was made, 21 May 1696, to Thomas Ross, Eldest Son; Margaret Leviston; Sarah Dittson; Hannah Patten; John Ross.

\* The printed copy erroneously gives the name as "Jonas" instead of "Thomas."

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Children:

1. Thomas b. 19 Dec 1662 - Cambridge - d. 19 Jan 1672-73
2. Margaret b. 22 Jan. 1663-4. Cambridge - md. John Livingstone
3. Thomas b. 20 June 1666. Cambridge. Mass.
4. Sarah b. 21 June 1671. Billerica; md. Hugh Dittson
5. Hannah b. 3 Mar. 1679. Billerica; md. Nathaniel Patten
6. John b. 18 Jan 1686-7.