

MYLES TARNE
 SARAH _____ (before 1668)

"From the 'New England Historical Soc. Vol. 86: 258,' Myles or Miles Tarne (Terney, Tarney) was living in Yorkshire in 1578. The name Tarne is such an odd surname that it is possible that Yorkshire was the home county of Miles Tarne. (map 1, #6) He was a leather dresser who was in Boston, Massachusetts, as early as 1638. His wife, Sarah, joined the church at Boston Apr. 14, 1639. He joined Oct. 8, 1642 and became a freeman May 10, 1643.

"Myles and Sarah Tarne were the parents of three daughters:

1. Sarah Tarne; md. Sept 7, 1654, Edward Babbitt of Taunton, Mass. (7-1)
2. Hannah Tarne, B Oct. 1638, bp. Apr. 21, 1639; inherited five pounds, Mar. 1652 from Thomas Oliver.
3. Deliverance Tarne, bp. Sept. 19, 1641, 8 days old." ¹ (b. 11 Sept. 1641)

Sarah, the wife and mother, apparently died prior to Oct. 1668, for Myles married (2) Elizabeth, widow of _____ Rice. There seems no record of death dates, nor any evidence that Myles lived outside the area of Boston while in New England and it is assumed that he was buried there as well as was his first wife Sarah.

Boston, in its early beginnings, covered a large area that soon comprised the settlements of Malden, Woburn, Watertown, Cambridge (then known as New Town). Bookline, Milton (then known as Dorchester), and others. Lynn and Salem were the more northerly of the Massachusetts Bay settlements and Braintree, Weymouth and Hingham were settlements inland just away from the southern shore of the bay.

Since the Tarne family is said to have been living in Boston, it is natural to conclude that they were situated in what is now Boston proper, more particularly the settlement around the shores of the Boston Harbor and on the peninsula that lay within (see map #2).

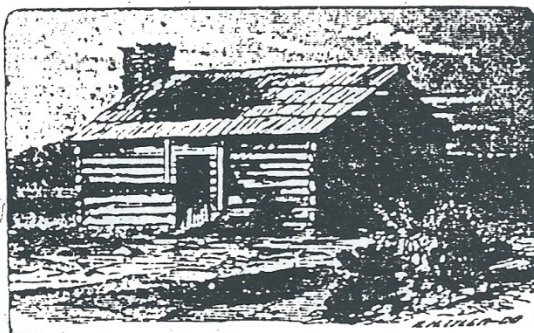
Boston has a colorful and interesting history. Old Boston, or Boston proper, was first settled by a number of colonists who came with John Winthrop from Salem, Mass., in 1630 and then went to Charlestown. Soon afterwards, however, Mr. Winthrop moved back to the peninsula which was the original site of the old city. The peninsula, named Shawmut, or Sweet Waters, by the Indians, had been occupied by Rev. William Blackstone, an Anglican clergyman; but he sold his rights to the settlers of 1630 four years after they had established themselves. The place was then named Boston after Boston in Lincolnshire, England.

Fierce persecutions and vexatious religious controversies marred the early life of the town. Through the years a post office, a printing house, a mint, and a bank had been established; and at the beginning of the 18th century, its increased growth and the founding of the first American newspaper, the Boston "News Letter" (1704), gave the town a leading position and a larger political life.

The independent spirit of Boston exerted itself through the years and became more fixed and hostile as exhibited after the Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770, while the Boston Tea Party of 1773 was a decided defiance of the British government. The inhabitants were among the first in active duty on the outbreak of the Revolution; the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought on June 17, 1775.

Some of Boston's notable edifices of historical fame that have been preserved in their original appearance are the Old South Meeting house (1729), the old State House (1748), and the Old North Church (1723).

During the lifetime of Myles Tarne and his wife Sarah, however, none of the physical features of a regular town existed. Log houses were scattered, each with its acreage of soil to provide the sustenance for family members.



The picture is typical of the homes that had to be hastily built to accommodate the immigrant family. The earliest ones, most generally, had sod roofs and dirt floors with no windows. Windows would have provided just another entry for hostile Indians.

The smoke spiraling from the chimneys of each tiny abode was the warm welcome given to each new immigrant who was seeing America for the first time from the deck of a ship as it sailed into the Boston Harbor.

Myles and his wife had come with hopes and dreams of a home in New England's wilderness, eager, no doubt, to meet the challenge and willing to take the risks. Such courage is not equalled in any of the usual endeavors of life. Their log home became the warm welcome for other new immigrants who followed them. They lived to see many of our to-be immigrant ancestors make their entrance into New England by being lowered from the larger sail boat into a smaller craft that was rowed to the shore of the Boston peninsula.

Here at Boston's early beginnings Myles made his home and carried on a trade that contributed a vital necessity of his time. He dressed the hides of many animals found to be so prevalent in the area; furs that could be shipped to his homeland and many pelts found serviceable for the domestic use of New England settlers.

1. #71 pp. 101, 102