

I find the earliest mention of Richard Beares is that he embarked, date of September 2, 1635, on the ship "*William*," John Loughram, Master, sailing from Gravesend, County Kent, England. In common with other passengers, he took, before sailing, the usual oath of "Conformity to the Protestant religion and that he was no subsidy man." His age is conjectural. He presumably arrived in 1636, and, as he immediately assumed prominence in the Colony, it is probable that he was in the full vigor of early manhood, having, been born about 1600. He left in England a brother, JAMES (1), who, by occupation a mariner, was lost at sea in 1653. This JAMES had two sons who later came across the water to Massachusetts.

Richard resided at Watertown. In 1642, records call him Sergeant Beers. In 1668, "Leftenant" Beares. In this year he was appointed one of a committee of three to "lay out the City of Boston." This argues that he may have been a surveyor. This is not a certainty but a probability, as very frequent commissions of this kind were awarded him, the latest found being of date 1666. In October, 1664, the General Assembly of the Colony "Granted to Leftenant Beers, he having been one of the first settlers in the Colony and having served the country twice in the wars against the 'Peckquotts,' the said court deemeth it fit to grant unto the said Leftenant Beers three hundred acres of land, which shall be held according to law." As Richard was said to have been a "deacon in the church, and wealthy for those times," he did not find it necessary to take up this land. In 1682, Eleazer Beers, his son and executor, for the benefit of his widow prays the "General Assembly for Liberty to lay out three hundred acres of land formerly granted Richard Beers." This of May 27th to which "humble prayer" assent was given.

In 1675, Captain Beers, was Deputy in the General Assembly as he had been for thirteen successive years, having been made a Freeman as early as 1637. He was marked present at the session of July 9, 1675.

It a digression, but I can not refrain from giving some extracts from the proceedings of the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, of which Richard was a member.

At session of March 1, 1641 :

"John Dane, for making an Indian *drunke*, was fined five shillings,