

## Mary Who?

“Behind every great man is a great woman,” as the saying goes. In the case of Barnabas Horton (1600–1680), the great or more precisely, the *influential* woman was his second wife, Mary Langton. Their marriage of convenience propelled Barnabas to New England and ultimately to Southold. Without Mary, Barnabas would have probably died in England, unknown in America today.

Barnabas and Mary married while at the peak of his earning power as master bread baker. In 17<sup>th</sup>-century England, this meant Barnabas wasn't wealthy or even middle-class, but just scraping by. The price of bread was regulated by law and so were his profits, while unregulated millers charged any price to process grain into flour. The Langton family of Wigston Magna, were grain millers going back at least three generations.<sup>1</sup> Securing an extended discount from his in-laws on a major component of bread baking (flour), allowed Barnabas to save enough money to migrate. But to where?

Again, Mary steered Barnabas in a fateful direction—to the town of Ipswich in Massachusetts Bay Colony where her brother Roger was already a freeman.<sup>2</sup> Undoubtedly, Roger helped his brother-in-law and sister upon their arrival by offering lodging, advice, and most importantly, assurances to other settlers. At least two early Ipswich acquaintances became life-long friends. William Purrier witnessed an important land transaction.<sup>3</sup> Matthias Corwin, born five miles from Barnabas in England, became his neighbor in Southold.<sup>4</sup>

Too long in the background, let's recognize Mary Langton for providing the groundwork of Barnabas's success in Southold.

Jacqueline Dinan

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<sup>1</sup> Her brother, William, bequeathed separate wind mills to each of his two sons in his 1638 will. Transcription in Jacqueline Dinan's *In Search of Barnabas Horton* (2015): 338.

<sup>2</sup> The New England Historic and Genealogical Society's *Great Migration 1634–1635* series documented Roger Lancton/Lanckton's arrival around 1634 and subsequent activities in Volume IV (I–L): 228–230. While the entry listed his origin as “unknown,” Roger's relationship to Mary, Barnabas's wife, is confirmed by the will of their mother, Mary Langton, dated January 6, 1639, who named Roger and his family, as well as “my daughter Mayrie Orton...and her husband Barnabee Orton.” [*In Search of Barnabas Horton*: 338–339.]

<sup>3</sup> Barnabas sold six acres of common land to Moses Pengry in 1642. George A. Schofield, *The Ancient Records of the Town of Ipswich, from 1634–1650*, Volume 1 (Ipswich, MA: George A. Schofield; 1899): image 84/144 [at Archive.org. Schofield's book is unpaginated].

<sup>4</sup> Corwin was from Sibbertoft, Northamptonshire (*Great Migration 1634–1635*, Volume II (C–F): 264. Horton from Mowsley, Leicestershire (table stone in Southold's Old Burying Ground). There's no evidence they knew each other prior to migrating.