

James Hosmer: baptized 8 Dec 1605 at Hawkhurst, Kent, England. He died 7 Feb 1685, Concord, MA. He married (first) about 1633, Ann _____. She was born about 1608. She probably died in the winter of 1636. He married (second) about 1637, Mary _____. She was buried 11 May 1641 at Concord, MA. He married (third) **Alice** 11 May 1641. She died 3 Mar 1664/65 at Concord, MA.

Children:

To First Wife

1. Mary (Marie) Hosmer: born about 1632 in England. She probably died in Cambridge, MA during the winter of 1636.

2. Ann Hosmer: born about 1635-36 in England. She probably died in Cambridge, MA during the winter of 1636.

To Second Wife

3. James Hosmer Jr.: born about 1637, New England. He died 31 Mar 1676 at the Sudbury fight near Haynes Garrison during King Philip's War. He married 13 Oct 1658, Sarah White. She was born 9 Apr 1643, in Salem, Essex, MA, the daughter of John White and his wife Joane West. She later (16 May 1678) married Samuel Rice (1634-1685) and died in 1711 in Marlborough, Middlesex, MA.

4. John Hosmer: born about 1639

5. Mary Hosmer: born about 1639 and baptized 10 Jan 1641 at Concord, Middlesex, MA. She died 18 Aug 1642. (from early Boston MA Records)

To Third Wife

6. Stephen Hosmer: baptized 27 Nov 1642, Concord, Middlesex, MA. He died 15 Dec 1714 in Concord. He married, 24 May 1667. Abigail Wood. She was born 10 Apr 1642 and died 5 Dec 1717, in Concord. Stephen Hosmer fought under Captain Wheeler in King Philip's War.

7. Hannah Hosmer: born 16 Aug 1644, Concord, Middlesex, MA. She died 15 Dec 1675 in Concord. She married 26 Oct 1665, Joseph Haywood. He was born in 1643 and died at Concord 13 Oct 1714. His second wife was Elizabeth Treadway (born 1646 in Watertown, Middlesex, MA). They were married 23 Mar 1677 in Concord, MA.

8. **Mary Hosmer:** baptized 14 Feb 1646, Concord, Middlesex, Massachusetts and died 1 Oct 1710 in Lexington, Middlesex, Massachusetts. She married **Thomas Smith** (See His story on his Ancestry.com page.) He was born 26 Aug 1640 in Watertown, Middlesex, Massachusetts and died 25 Dec 1727 in Lexington, Middlesex, Massachusetts.

James Hosmer was born in 1605 in Hawkhurst, Kent England, the son of Stephen Hosmer and Dorothy Selden. James Hosmer and his brother Thomas Hosmer were Puritans by faith and during the reign of King Charles I, non-conformers were severely persecuted. As a result, both James and Thomas Hosmer along with thousands of other Puritans left for the colonies in New England in order to obtain religious and economic freedom. Their father Stephen Hosmer had died in England in 1632, and the two brothers came to America a few years later.

James Hosmer, who was a clothier by trade, came to America from London in the Ship

“Elizabeth,” in 1635, sailing 9 Apr 1635. He took the oath stating that he conformed to the Church of England and was not subject to payment of any subsidies before he left. English Law required this statement before a person could leave, though it was common for Puritans to stretch the truth about their loyalty to the Church of England. In this record James Hosmer indicates that he was age 28. He brought with him to New England his wife Ann (age 27), two daughters, Marie (age 2) and Ann (age 3 months) and two maidservants.

The original oath reads as follows:

“ixth Aprilis 1635

In the Elizabeth de London prd Mr. Willm Staggs bound for New England: Theis underwritten names have brought Cert: from ye Minister of Huakhurst in Kent: and Attestation from two Justices of the Peace being conformable to the Church of England and that they are no subsidy men.

A clothier	James Hosmer	28 yeres
Uxor	Ann Hosmer	27 yeres
Wife & children	Marie Hosmer	2 yeres
	Ann Hosmer	3 mo.
Maidservts	Marie Donnard	24 yeres
	Marie Martin	19 yeres”

James Hosmer may have been prompted to come to America by his older brother Thomas Hosmer who was known to have been in Cambridge Massachusetts in 1632. Thomas was made a “freeman” at Cambridge in 1635 and resided on the south side of Brattle Street and in 1642 owned land on the south side of Winthrop Street. He left Cambridge about 1636 and went to Hartford, CT, probably with Rev. Thomas Hooker.

James Hosmer settled first at Cambridge, and undoubtedly was assisted by his brother Thomas while he became established. James Hosmer was granted two acres of land 4 Jan 1635/36, that may have been near the site of Harvard College. There was a provision that he “buy a house in the town or else return again to the town.” This provision seems to indicate that he was already contemplating a move to another area. It seems that his wife Ann and two daughters had died in Cambridge that first winter. James Hosmer soon married his second wife named Mary and his son James may have been born in Cambridge in 1637. James and Mary also had a daughter Mary, probably born in Concord. This Mary died as an infant.

In 1637 James disposed of his property in Cambridge, selling his 2 acres to Edward Winship, and joined the company, under the leadership of Simon Willard and Peter Bulkeley that moved 15 miles through the woods to the meadows of the Concord River. This was probably a difficult move in those early days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. They established the new town of Concord on the site of the old Indian town of Musketaquid. This was the first settlement above the tidewaters in the colony.

The General Court on 2 Sep 1635 had granted a Charter for the town of Concord. The town was to be 6 miles square and was then bounded by Indian lands. Payment for the land was made to the Indians 5 Aug 1637. James Hosmer was among the 63 settlers who were granted land in the new settlement. He received 4 lots containing 164 acres in the “South Quarter” of the town, considerably more than the 2 acres he had at Cambridge. The size of his farm was also much larger than any

commoner could hope to freely own in England. He was made a freeman at Concord 17 May 1637. In 1666 his tax is given as one pound, eight shillings, seven pence.

Early Boston records show that "Mary, the wife of James Hosmore, was buried 11/3/1641." He soon remarried a woman named Alice as his third wife. In one record she is called "Elinne," possibly a bad transcription of Ellice. This has led some genealogists to probably incorrectly call her Alice Ellen. James and Alice had 3 children, Stephen, Hannah and Mary. These 3 and their older half-brother James lived to be adults.

Like other pioneers establishing a home in a new town, James Hosmer undoubtedly was occupied in clearing the land and building a shelter. The first shelters consisted of huts formed by leaning rough logs against the hillside, which served the double purpose of a support and a chimney back. As time permitted, a more substantial log cabin and eventually a board house was constructed. As in all new towns in New England there was urgency in the construction of a water mill and a meetinghouse/church. The Concord Church had been organized in Cambridge prior to moving to the new settlement and, in the case of Concord, the parsonage was built before the church. One of the earliest discussions, which James Hosmer was a part, was on the need for a common pasturage or "cowcommon" for the new town.

Early traditions of Concord indicate that James Hosmer's first home was on Main or West Street, not far from the house of Mrs. Damon. He is also supposed to have given land for the burial ground. He later moved to his farm on the intervale about a mile and a half west of the town on the west bank of the north branch of the Concord (Assabet) River. This farm extended from the stone road at Darby's Bridge, northwest to the site of the Groton Road. Nothing remains of his house today, but for a long period a cellar hole was still recognizable.

The farm of James Hosmer had a fine open view to the west over the intervale, river, and hill beyond. It was of this place that Henry Thoreau used to say, "I must walk to Abel Hosmer's to see the sunset."

It seems that James Hosmer was not heavily involved in public affairs in Concord. The only office he held was that of overseer for the South quarter. He had charge of the maintenance of highways and bridges in that part of the town.

Alice, the third wife of James Hosmer Sr. died 3 Mar 1664/65 at Concord, Massachusetts.

James Hosmer Junior built a house on the farm about half a mile away after he was married. Later the farm was split between James and Stephen Hosmer, with Stephen owning the part on which the old house stood. Descendants of the Hosmer family owned this land well into the nineteenth century.

The Indians did not attack Concord during King Philip's War, but James Hosmer junior was killed when several men from Concord, part of the militia, were ambushed near the garrison house of Walter Haynes at Sudbury. James was killed when he was shot while swimming across the river, attempting to flee from the ambush. His father handled the administration of his estate, apparently writing out the inventory in his own hand.

James Hosmer Sr. died 7 Feb 1685, Concord, Massachusetts. He was probably buried in Concord Church yard, but his stone (if there was one) has not survived.