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frequently before the courts as plaintiffs or defendants, or who were not otherwise controversial. Jacob Barney is a clear exception to this practice, for he served frequently at every level, and yet did many things which could not have endeared him to the community leaders, such as opposing Robert Child's sentence, refusing on more than one occasion to serve in office, or engaging in a decades-long dispute with the Ingersoll family. His talents were obviously of sufficient importance that other leading citizens were willing to overlook his antisocial activities.

WILLIAM BARSHAM

ORIGIN: Unknown

MIGRATION: 1630

FIRST RESIDENCE: Watertown

OCCUPATION: Possibly a carpenter, as he was involved twice in assessing work on building the meetinghouse, 10 December 1652, 14 October 1654 [WaTR 1:29, 31, 38], and on 19 January 1662/3 was to determine the repairs necessary to the Mill Bridge [WaTR 1:75]. In his will he gave to son Nathaniel "all my working tools and my furnace kettle"; a furnace kettle could be used to melt metals, especially lead, so William Barsham may also have found work as a glazier, producing leaded windows.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Watertown church prior to 9 March 1636/7 implied by freemanship.

FREEMAN: 9 March 1636/7 [MBCR 1:372].

EDUCATION: Signed his will on 28 August 1683 with a firm and distinctive hand, and signed the codicil on 15 April 1684 with a shaky but still legible hand. Bequeathed his Bible to daughter Hannah Spring. Inventory included "four old small old books" valued at 5s.

OFFICES: Gave evidence in death of Austen Bratcher, 28 September 1630 [MBCR 1:78]; petty jury, 19 September 1637 [MBCR 1:203].

Chosen Watertown selectman, 22 December 1652 [WaTR 1:31]; chosen "clerk of the market to seal weights and measures," 26 February 1655/6 [WaTR 1:45]; committee for the proprietors of the farms, 6 October 1662 [WaTR 1:75].

ESTATE: "William Bassum" granted thirty acres in Watertown Great Dividend, 25 July 1636 [WaBOP 4]; granted three acres in Beaverbrook Plowlands, 28 February 1636/7 [WaBOP 5]; granted three acres in the Remote Meadows, 26 June 1637 [WaBOP 10]; granted a farm of eighty-eight acres, 10 May 1642 [WaBOP 12]. In the 1644 Watertown Inventory of Grants, William Barsham held five parcels: homestead of twenty-eight acres, Great Dividend of thirty acres, three acres [Beaverbrook] Plowlands, three acres Remote Meadow, and six acres of

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upland at the Town Plot [WaBOP 83]; in the Inventory of Possessions he held one parcel: twenty-acres of upland [abutting his homestall] [WaBOP 118]. In the Composite Inventory he held five parcels: homestall of forty-eight acres, Great Dividend of thirty acres, three acres Remote Meadow, three acres [Beaverbrook] Plowlands, and a farm of eighty-eight acres [WaBOP 26].

In his will, dated 28 August 1683 (with codicil of 15 April 1684) and proved 29 August 1684, William Barsham bequeathed to son John a two-year old heifer and the "vantage" [increase], four ewe sheep and £5 in silver; to "William Barsham the son of my son John Barsham" twenty shillings in silver; to son "Joshuah Barsham" twenty shillings in silver and "my good musket"; to son "Nathaniel Barsham ... all my working tools and my furnace kettle"; to daughter "Hanna Spring" a cow, four ewe sheep, £3 in silver and "my bible"; to daughter "Susanna Capen" a cow, four ewe sheep, £3 in money and "my joined chair"; to daughter "Sarah Browne" a cow, four ewe sheep, £3 in silver and "my great armed chair"; to daughter "Mara Bright" a pair of oxen, four ewe sheep, £3 in silver and a great armed chair; to daughter "Rebecka Winship ... my farm of seventy-two acres"; to daughter Elizabeth Barsham "my farm of sixty-four acres"; to last two daughters, Rebecca Winship and Elizabeth Barsham, four acres in Thatcher's Meadow and all household stuff not previously mentioned to be divided between them; in a codicil of 15 April 1684 he bequeathed to "my daughters Hannah Spring, Susanna Capen, Sarah Browne, Mary Bright and my son John Barsham to each of them twenty shillings apiece" [MPR Case #1329].

The inventory of "the estate of William Barsham who deceased the 3d of July 1684" was taken 5 August 1684; no total of the values was made, but the inventory did include £26 in real estate: "seventy-two acres of land called farm land," £10; "sixty-four acres of land called farm land," £10; and "four acres of meadow in Thatcher's Meadow," £4 [MPR Case #1329].

BIRTH: By about 1610 based on approximated date of marriage.

DEATH: Watertown 3 or 13 July 1684 "widower" [MPR Case #1329; WaVR 55].

MARRIAGE: By 1635 Anabel Smith alias Bland, born say 1615, daughter of John Smith alias Bland [TAG 61:20-21]; d. by 23 August 1683 (not named in husband's will).

CHILDREN:

- i JOHN, b. Watertown 8 December 1635 [WaVR 4]; Harvard College 1658 [Sibley 1:539-40]; m. by 1670 Mehitabel _____ [GDMNH 78].

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- ii ANNA/HANNAH, b. Watertown 7 January 1637/8 [WaVR 5]; m. Watertown 19 December 1656 John Spring [WaVR 18].
- iii JOSHUA, b. Watertown 15 March 1640 [WaVR 8]; on 24 April 1657 a writ was issued to the constable of Watertown "to attach the body of Joshuay Barsham & take bond of him to the value of twenty pounds with sufficient surety or sureties for his appearance at the next County Court held at Charlestown to answer the complaint of John Sherman Sr. in an action of the case for calling his son John Sherman from his work & going away with him & for damage sustained thereby ..." [MCF Folio #19]; d. after 28 April 1683, apparently unmarried.
- iv SUSANNA, b. Watertown 28 January 1641[2] [WaVR 9]; m. Dorchester 19 November 1663 John Capen [DTR 21], son of John Capen and grandson of BERNARD CAPEN.
- v NATHANIEL, b. ca. 1644; m. Watertown 13 March 1678[9] Elizabeth Bond [WaVR 45].
- vi SARAH, b. say 1646; m. (1) Lynn 3 March 1673/4 Samuel Mansfield; m. (2) Reading 14 November 1681 John Brown [Bailey 3:80].
- vii MARY, b. Watertown 23 June 1648 [WaVR 14]; m. Watertown 7 May 1675 John Bright [WaVR 40].
- viii REBECCA, b. Watertown 12 December 1657 [WaVR 20]; m. Cambridge 14 May 1683 Edward Winship.
- ix ELIZABETH, b. Watertown 29 July 1658 [sic] [WaVR 20]; m. Watertown 5 July 1694 Adam Eve [Bailey 3:107].

COMMENTS: The dates of birth for the last two children are obviously too close, and Savage has corrected the year of birth for Elizabeth to 1659, but given the long gap between Mary and Rebecca, the more likely solution is that Rebecca was born in 1656.

Bond gives William a son William "mentioned in his father's will," and is followed in this by Savage. Bond must have misread the will, which refers to "William Barsham the son of my son John Barsham." Joshua apparently never married, and Nathaniel had no children, so the only grandson with the Barsham surname was this William, son of John.

William Barsham refers to his daughter Sarah only as "Sarah Browne," and on this basis various Brown families have claimed her as the wife of some man with an otherwise unidentified wife Sarah. In Torrey's index "Sarah [Barsham?]" is suggested as the wife of John Brown of Reading (as his second wife, the marriage taking place on 14 November 1681) and of William Brown of Salem and Marblehead (the marriage taking place by 1669).