

## JORDAN

STEPHEN JORDAN came to New England in the *Mary and John* which sailed from Southampton in March, 1633/4, with many passengers who settled in Newbury, Ipswich and Salisbury. The list includes only adult males who took the required oaths before sailing, but presumably Jordan was accompanied by his wife and daughters. He went to Ipswich where his name is first on the records in 1636. The town granted him a house-lot—three rods of ground lying in Stony Street leading to the river, first granted to Humphrey Bradstreet, and a planting-lot next to that of Robert Cross who became his son-in-law. Later he came into possession of Thomas West's house-lot "near the foot bridge" and sold it with the house thereon to Samuel Younglove, jr., in 1659.\*

Jordan subscribed to Major Denison's salary as military commander in 1648. In 1650 he was excused from ordinary training because of his age, which indicates that he was born about 1590. Gov. Bradstreet entrusted Jordan, Robert Cross and William White with thirty ewes about 1653, and they were turned over to the care of Cross's two boys, Robert and Stephen. The boys were possibly careless—they said that many of the sheep had been killed by a great bear—and Bradstreet sued their father and grandfather in 1657.†

The name of Jordan's first wife is not known. Some time after 1655, when Nathaniel Merrill of Newbury died, Stephen Jordan married the widow, Susanna Merrill, and went to live in Newbury. Before his death on February 8, 1669, he was "in a very weak condition a long time and not able to support himself nor wife with things necessary for his so low condition and being in debt & could not pay it." It is recorded that "the old man did not care to go into the wet to mow his meadow" but let John Fuller mow it.‡ The selectmen went to Ipswich to inform his sons-in-law, and Cross and Andrews came to Newbury and said that they had property belonging to Jordan which he was to have if need be. On their return they sent Jordan Indian corn, wheat, sugar, currants, veal, cloth, "a Lardg Red Wastcoat," all valued at £2:18:0, and cattle worth £20. These last Susanna Jordan sold without making an accounting.§

Stephen Jordan made his will April 5, 1667. To his daughters Cross and Andrews, both of Ipswich, he left £15 apiece. To his

\* Ipswich Deeds, 3: 75.

† *Records and Files*, III: 396.

‡ *Records and Files*, IV: 4.

§ *Records and Files*, IV: 334.

wife, his house and land at Newbury for life, and at her death to Steven, son of Robert Crose of Ipswich, his son-in-law. Half of his household goods to his wife, and the other half to his two sons Robert Crose and John Andrews. Steven Crose was to give "his kinswoman and my grandchild Elizabeth Andrews" £5. Witnesses: Susanna Wheeler, Mary Poore. The inventory listed a very small estate of £39. He owed his wife's son Abel Merrill for "attendance on him both night and day for three years." The will was allowed by the court, but with the contradictory order that the entire estate be left in the hands of the widow for her subsistence for life. This was pointed out by Cross and Andrews when they brought suit against her Nov. 29, 1670, for withholding the legacies. They obtained a verdict.\*

Widow Susanna Jordan died in Newbury January 25, 1673. Administration on her estate was granted to Abel Merrill, her youngest son, March 25, 1673.†

Children:

- i. ANN (or ANNA); m. Robert Cross. (*See Cross.*)
- ii. JANE; m. John Andrews.

\* *Records and Files*, IV: 247, 334.

† *Pobate Records of Essex County*, II: 322.