

## 1600s Ancestors in York, Maine

**Richard Banks 1642-1692 and Elizabeth Curtis 1644-1667**  
**Elizabeth Banks 1646-1666**

*York was first settled in 1624 as Agamenticus, named for the mountain. Sir Ferdinando Gorges, lord proprietor of Maine, named the capital of his province Gorgeana. In 1642 it became the first incorporated city in America, giving vote regardless of religion. In 1652 Massachusetts claimed the area, changed the name to York, and required citizens to sign an oath of allegiance to Massachusetts. Control of the region was contested between England and France. Native Americans were enlisted to destroy Maine settlements. Massachusetts required Maine inhabitants to stay and fight, as a protective ring around the Massachusetts settled area. A church was organized in 1672. During King William's War, York was destroyed in the Candlemas Massacre of 1692. About 50 were slain, including our ancestor Richard Banks.*

### **Richard Banks 1607-1692 and Elizabeth Curtis 1624-1667**

Richard Banks was born 1607 in England, and died January 25, 1691/92 in York, Maine. He married (1) Joan Harrison October 25, 1631 in St. Andrews, Canterbury, England. He married (2) Elizabeth Curtis 1644 in England. She was born Abt. 1624 in County Kent, England. He married (3) Elizabeth Alcock 1667 in York, York County, Maine, daughter of John Alcock and Elizabeth unknown. She was born 1636 in York, Maine, and died in Boston, MA. Richard and his son Job were killed by Indians in the Candlemas Massacre of 1692. It was snowing heavily that day and the attack started at about 10:00 am and lasted until early afternoon.

**In 1643, Richard Bankes, Abraham Preble, Thomas Curtis** [Richard's brother-in-law] and John Twisden settled on land in York, ME, known as Scituate Row. During his residence at York, Richard was provincial councillor (1651, 1652), selectman (1653, 1654, 1656, 1659, 1676, 1679, 1680). He was selected as a juror in 1649, 1653, 1655, 1656, 1658, 1661, 1662, 1664, 1665, 1668, 1669, and 1671. He was a trial justice or "commissioner" in 1669, 1672, & 1679. He was a court appraiser in 1659, 1663, 1671, 1676, 1679, 1681, 1686, and 1691. In 1652 he was tax commissioner. In 1673 he was overseer of the county prison. In 1681 he was listed as one of those swearing allegiance to the King. In 1654, he was the losing party in a suit brought for trespass involving title to marsh lands in York. In 1673, he and Edward Rishworth were joint signers of a letter inviting delegates to a council to settle the Rev. Shubael Dummer, H.C. 1656 (his brother-in-law, they having married sisters), as pastor of the church at York. His last entry in the York records was 3 Apr 1691 when he was appointed an appraiser (York Records, vol 1, p 65) [All info from "The Bank(e)s Family of Maine," Charles E. Banks, Jul 1890, New England Hist. & Gen. R., vol 44, p 259]

The Richard Banks house burned in 1692. His son Joseph was given the property to maintain Elizabeth Alcock and presumably built a new home. In 1963 that home was owned by Gertrude Blaisdell and then sold to Mildred McDonald. It is near the grammar school. Richard Banks home address is 112 York Street, York.