

NAME: KNAPP, Thomas

PARISH:

ENTERED SERVICE: 1720

DATES: b. ca. 1685 d. 1750

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*:

Position:

Post:

District:

HBCA Reference:

**An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May*

Thomas Knapp first acquired Hudson's Bay Company Stock on 2 May 1720 with the transfer of £300 stock from Henry Spence of London, dyer. In the record of the transaction Knapp is described as 'Thomas Knapp of London, Merchant'. In July of the same year Knapp acquired a further £50, stock, transferred from Charles Toriano of London, merchant. (1) Knapp was present at the General court of the Company held on 30 August 1720 to approve the proposal for enlarging Company stock. (2) On 20 September following Knapp paid to the Company £35 as first instalment on £350 of new issue stock. (3) On 27 October 1720 Knapp acquired £750 stock from the Executors of Thomas Lake, and on 26 October 1721 and additional £95 stock from the same sources. (4)

Knapp was elected to the Hudson's Bay company's Committee at a General Court on 18 November 1720 He continued on the Committee and was made Deputy-Governor at the General Court held on 17 November 1743. A General Court of the Company was held on 2 April 1746 and Thomas Knapp was chosen Governor in the room of {Benjamin Pitt} the late Governor Deceased' (5) On 19 February 1748 {N.S.} Knapp lent the Company the sum of £798 to save the Company selling bonds at loss and on 4 July 1750 he loaned a sum of £300 to the Company in order that 'remaining Tradesmens Bills and the several Dividends yet unpaid' could be settled without having to resort to selling bonds. (6)

Knapp's death was reported at a Committee meeting of the Company on 3 September 1750, the news having come by letter from Sir Atwill Lake, Deputy-Governor, dated Bath, 30 August. According to the Company's "Book of Wills and Administrations" Knapp by will of 11 July 1750 bequeathed his Company stock to his sister, 'Rebeckah Knapp & Her Heirs'. Rebecca Knapp was appointed sole executrix. The will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 11 September 1750.

Rebecca Knapp, spinster of Richmond, Jurey, held the Hudson's Bay Company's stock bequeathed to her by Thomas Knapp, and by her will of 8 September 1769 and codicil of 7 January 1774 bequeathed the stock of Jerome Knapp and William Pocock. This will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 8 February 1770. (8) According to the Stock Ledger 'Jerome Knapp Esqr Haberdashers' Hall' sold his Company stock in November 1786. (9)



NOTES

1. H.B.C. Arch. A.43/3, fos. 99 and 101.
2. H.B.C. Arch. A.2/1, fo.37d. For details regarding the trebling Of the Company's stock, 1720 (by which Knapp's stock was increased to £1,050), a new issue of stock, 1720, and the general financial climate, see E.E. Rich, The History of the Hudson's Bay Company 1670-1870 Volume 1 1670-1763 (London, Hudson's Bay Records Society, 1958), pp. 476-480.
3. H.B.C. Arch. A.1/118, fo.25d. Owing to the general collapse of the market, the original scheme for the new issue was not followed. Knapp was given three times the amount of payment made, viz. £105 (H.B.C. Arch. A.40/3, fo.50)
4. H.B.C. Arch. A.40/3, fo.50; A.40/4, fo.15.
5. H.B.C. Arch. A.2/1, fo.38-38d.; A.2/2, fos. 4 and 6.
6. H.B.C. Arch. A.1/37, p.255; A.1/38, p.223. In both cases Knapp was repaid with interest.
7. H.B.C. Arch. A.1/38, p.239; A.44/1, p.26.
8. H.B.C. Arch. A.44/1, p.70.
9. H.B.C. Arch. A.40/5, fo. 128.

