

nearer to the square or market-place, which was the centre of population and business. The new location was near where the Charlestown end of the Charles River Bridge now is, between the two avenues that lead to the Charles River and Warren Bridges. The first-named bridge stands upon, or very near, the track of the old ferry. Burrage resided in the house bought of Russell until his death.

The items relating to him, to be found in the town and county records, are so few that we are unable to get a very definite idea of the occupation and mode of life of John Burrage for the first twenty years of his residence in Charlestown. We know that he was married about 1639, but know only the first name of his wife, — Mary. He took the freeman's oath, and was admitted a freeman of the commonwealth, May 18, 1642. He had qualified himself for this by becoming a member of the First Church of Charlestown on the 10th of the same month.* His wife had been admitted to the same church one year before. We have found no record of the death of his first wife; it occurred subsequent to 1646 and previous to 1654. In 1654 or early in 1655 he married Joanna Stowers, daughter of Nicholas and Amy Stowers. The Stowers family were of the com-

* Under the first charter of the Massachusetts Colony, before a member of society could vote or hold any public office he must be made a freeman (upon taking the freeman's oath) by the general or quarterly Court. To become such he was required to produce evidence that he was a respectable member of some Congregational church.