

WORTHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Worthington, MA 01098

4 December 1999

Jack Worthington
228 W. Main St
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Dear Mr. Worthington:

Sorry to have missed you on your recent visit to Worthington.

In response to your inquiry I am enclosing a paper on John Worthington by Elizabeth Payne and a genealogy of the Worthington Family which information you may already have since it starts with Nicholas Worthington.

Following is an excerpt from A Handbook of Questions and Answers Relating to the History of Worthington, Massachusetts by Elsie V Bartlett:

“Question 43: What do we know of the life of Colonel John Worthington:

“Answer: Colonel John Worthington, an outstanding man in the early days of Springfield, Massachusetts, was born in that city November 20, 1719. His father was Lt. John Worthington, who came from Hatfield in 1701 and accumulated a fortune. In deeds recorded at the registry office, he is styled in 1729 as “Innholder”: in 1736 as “Shop-keeper,” and in 1738 as “gentleman.” On April 16, 1812 (1712 ?) he bought of the widow and heirs of Elizur Holyoke three tracts of land, the second and third lying on the east side of Main Street, between the present Bridge and Worthington Streets. The first tract, seven and one-half acres, described as bounded north by John Pynchon, and south by land of the Parson’s. This became the Worthington homestead. It was a little south of where (in 1905) is the Springfield National Bank Building. In this rambling, wooden structure he kept the finest tavern in town..

“The emigrant ancestor, Nicolas, came from the south part of Lancashire, near Liverpool, England, about 1650 and later from Hatfield, then part of Hadley, to Agawam. His residence was where an old tavern once stood, which was in the south part of the town, on the car line. There is a sign “Worthington Corner” on this spot.

“Col. John Worthington graduated from Yale in 1740, studied law and returned to Springfield in 1744 to begin the practice of his profession. The son and father accumulated large land holdings the number of deeds to both being about two hundred fifty.