



AN ENTRY POINT INTO THE

KOUROO CONTEXTURE

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“Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” Project

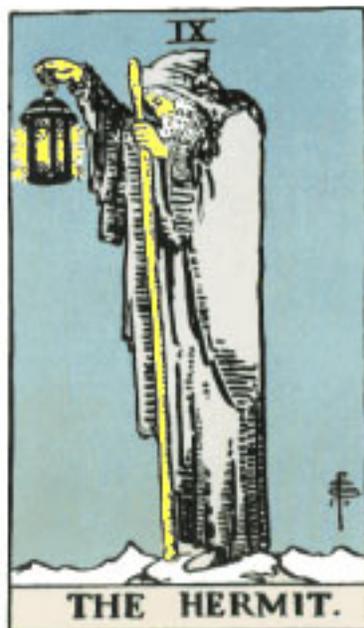
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1689

In roughly this timeperiod, a [hermit](#) of Braintree, Massachusetts called “Tom Revel” was being rumored to be a [regicide](#), or holy man gone crazy. He lived with a pig, in a habitation that seemed to other residents of the area to resemble a pigsty. Whitney’s HISTORY OF QUINCY offered the tale that, when the man died, the Governor of the Province and other distinguished men came out from Boston and served as his pall-bearers. Several facts point to this being sheer fantasy: we know of no regicide of this name, we know that government officials could not have dared to display such public honor to one of the regicides, and we know that they would have been unwilling to show public honor to a mere hermit.



In what would become Windham, New Hampshire a mystery man named John Cates or Kates, who had been around New England at least since 1686, built the initial house. There has been a report that he had come to New England from Virginia, and it was considered possible that he had been the passenger from London who appeared under that name in the manifest of the ship *Safety* as of 1635. He withdrew from society, living for some time as a [hermit](#) in a cave near Windsor.





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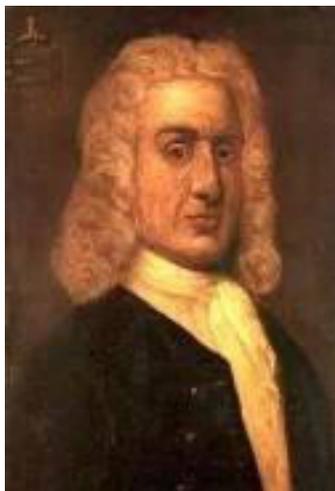
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There has been the idle speculation that he was one of the [regicides](#), hiding out, but that seems implausible. The Boston genealogist James Savage has suggested that perhaps John Cates had been merely a “misanthropic humorist, perhaps had been a [buccaneer](#), and thought seclusion his safest course.” We know now that he had not always been an isolate, as it would be discovered upon his death on July 16, 1697 that in his will, filed on May 5, 1696, he mentioned offspring in England. In this will he donated land for a community school, and for the poor of Windham, and money to the church (the popular tale that he what he had donated to the church was a set of silver plate is not accurate).

The Sieur Raveneau de Lussan, apparently in debt to some creditors in Paris and unable to continue his fashionable life, had become involved in several [buccaneering](#) expeditions which had taken place in the West Indies and the Pacific coast of South America. In this year he published his *HISTOIRE DES FILIBUSTIERS DE LA MER DE SUD* which would later be translated into English as *JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE INTO THE SOUTH SEAS IN 1684 AND THE FOLLOWING YEARS WITH THE FILIBUSTERS*.

When French [privateers](#) threatened [Block Island](#), a Captain [Thomas Paine](#) (later to become an associate of Captain [William Kidd](#)) sailed from [Newport, Rhode Island](#) and succeeded in driving them off. But where was Captain Kidd himself? In this year he was a member of a privateer crew that commandeered a French ship and brought it to the English colony on the island of Nevis in the Caribbean. Governor Christopher Codrington renamed this ship *Blessed William* in honor of King William III and appointed Kidd to be its captain, with a privateer appointment to defend the island against the French and an agreement that to pay for this service he would be entitled to anything he could seize from the French (it would be interpreting this commission very liberally that would get Kidd into beaucoup trouble as a [pirate](#), and lead to his hanging in irons).





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In [Newport](#), the [Quakers](#) agreed that “the Yearly Men and Womens Meeting which useth to be at William Coddinton’s shall be ye first part at ye Meeting House and later part for ye affayers of ye Church to be at Walter Newberry’s.” The meetinghouse referred to would presumably have been the repurposed residence that had been donated by the governor, Friend Nicholas Easton.



GREAT MEETINGHOUSE

In [Rhode Island](#), Henry Bull was in charge. From this year into 1763, there would be intermittent colonial wars between England and France, a 75-year struggle for empire that would frequently involve this little colony’s men, money, and ships.

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