

## Samuel Peele

### *People of London Town, Maryland\**

Samuel Peele was a merchant who lived in London Town during the latter part of his life.<sup>1</sup> He was the second son of a silk merchant, Samuel Peele. His father was a member of the Church of England and his mother a "Dissenter." He had four brothers, William, Roger, John, and Robert, and one sister, Anne. It is known that his brother, Roger, was born on Bishopgate Street "near the magpye and sieve" in London, Great Britain.<sup>2</sup> Thus, it is a possibility that Samuel Peele lived there as well since his father's home was connected to the silk shop he ran with his brother-in-law.

Samuel Peele owned a number of lots in and around London Town. In 1716, Samuel Peele purchased lot 19 from Edward Milchell.<sup>3</sup> This is the first known appearance of Peele in the Anne Arundel County land records. A year later, in 1717, he bought lot 28 from Thomas Gassaway,<sup>4</sup> and lot 92 from John Duvall.<sup>5</sup> He acquired lot 30 and 91 from Benjamin and Mary (nee Macklefish) Freeman in 1719.<sup>6</sup> He also bought another lot in London Town referred to as "Col. Thomas Taylors lott" from Thomas Macklefish in 1726.<sup>7</sup>

Samuel Peele made a number of other land purchases, mortgages, sales, and other deals appearing in the land records. He purchased land in Annapolis from Patrick Creagh in 1722 and 1725.<sup>8</sup> He bought tobacco produced on the tract called "What You Will" from Richard Sympson in 1730.<sup>9</sup> His brother in London, John Peele, appointed Samuel Peele as his attorney in 1726.<sup>10</sup> Peele made numerous transactions with men, such as Anthony Bale,<sup>11</sup> Benjamin Freeman,<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1717, Liber IB 2, folio 401, MSA C97-10, MdHR 4776.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [PREROGATIVE COURT \(Testamentary Proceedings\) Samuel Peele, 1738, Liber 31, folio 1, MSA S529-48, MdHR 987.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1716, Liber IB 2, folio 345, MSA C97-10, MdHR 4776.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1717, Liber IB 2, folio 405, MSA C97-10, MdHR 4776.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1717, Liber IB 2, folio 418, MSA C97-10, MdHR 4776.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1719, Liber CW 1, folio 71, MSA C97-11, MdHR 4777](#) and [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1719, Liber CW 1, folio 75, MSA C97-11, MdHR 4777.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1726, Liber SY 1, folio 251, MSA C97-13, MdHR 4779.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1722, Liber RCW 2, folio 99, MSA C97-12, MdHR 4778](#) and [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1725, Liber SY 1, folio 90, MSA C97-13, MdHR 4779.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1730, Liber IHTI 1, folio 47, MSA C97-16, MdHR 4782.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1726, Liber SY 1, folio 297, MSA C97-13, MdHR 4779.](#)

<sup>11</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1717, Liber IB 2, folio 401, MSA C97-10, MdHR 4776.](#)

<sup>12</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1719, CW 1, folio 64, MSA C97-11, MdHR 4777.](#)

Benjamin Dufour,<sup>13</sup> the executors of William Nicholson's estate,<sup>14</sup> Humphrey Godman,<sup>15</sup> David Macklefish,<sup>16</sup> Henry Bateman,<sup>17</sup> Thomas Howard,<sup>18</sup> Thomas Tilley,<sup>19</sup> Richard Sympson,<sup>20</sup> and William Pearce.<sup>21</sup>

Samuel Peele was a wealthy and successful man. His inventory was valued at 3593 pounds, 30 shillings, and 14 pence.<sup>22</sup> About 58 percent of his inventory consisted of merchandise or material goods.<sup>23</sup> It runs about 29 pages long and is divided up into specific categories such as "Linnen," "Gloves," "Stockings," "Sadles," "Cuttlary Ware," and "Tinn Ware."<sup>24</sup> Clearly, Peele was well off since his inventory needed to be divided into such specific groups and spanned so many pages.

Twenty-seven percent of Peele's inventory consisted of slaves.<sup>25</sup> He owned at least forty-six slaves (to see a complete list, [click here](#)).<sup>26</sup> One of Peele's slaves ran away in 1729. His name was Lime-House and he was thirty years old. Three runaway advertisements appeared in the Maryland Gazette requesting that Lime-House be returned to Peele in London Town or to his overseer at Turkey Hill.<sup>27</sup> Since, Lime-House did not appear in Peele's inventory taken in 1734, it is not known what happened to him.

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<sup>13</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1721, CW 1, folio 387, MSA C97-11, MdHR 4777.](#)

<sup>14</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1721, CW 1, folio 420, MSA C97-11, MdHR 4777.](#)

<sup>15</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1722, Liber RCW 2, folio 131, MSA C97-12, MdHR 4778.](#)

<sup>16</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1724, Liber SY 1, folio 11, MSA C97-13, MdHR 4779.](#)

<sup>17</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1725, Liber SY 1, folio 168, MSA C97-13, MdHR 4779.](#)

<sup>18</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1728, Liber RD 1, folio 58, MSA C97-14, MdHR 4780.](#)

<sup>19</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1730/1, Liber IHTI 1, folio 277, MSA C97-16, MdHR 4782.](#)

<sup>20</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1731, Liber IHTI 1, folio 346, MSA C97-16, MdHR 4782.](#)

<sup>21</sup> [ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT \(Land Records\) Samuel Peele, 1732/3, Liber IHTI 1, folio 540, MSA C97-16, MdHR 4782.](#)

<sup>22</sup> [PREROGATIVE COURT \(Inventories\) Samuel Peele, 1733, Liber 18, folio 150, MSA S534-18, MdHR 1025](#) and [PREROGATIVE COURT \(Inventories\) Samuel Peele, 1734, Liber 18, folio 518, MSA S534-18, MdHR 1125.](#)

<sup>23</sup> Mechelle L. Kerns, *London Town: The Life of a Colonial Town*, (University of Maryland Baltimore County: Masters of Arts Thesis, 1999), 292.

<sup>24</sup> [PREROGATIVE COURT \(Inventories\) Samuel Peele, 1733, Liber 18, folio 150, MSA S534-18, MdHR 1025.](#)

<sup>25</sup> Kerns, 292.

<sup>26</sup> [PREROGATIVE COURT \(Inventories\) Samuel Peele, 1733, Liber 18, folio 150, MSA S534-18, MdHR 1025](#) and [PREROGATIVE COURT \(Inventories\) Samuel Peele, 1734, Liber 18, folio 518, MSA S534-18, MdHR 1125.](#)

<sup>27</sup> ["Run away from Samuel Peel's Quarters." Maryland Gazette, June 10, 1729.](#)

**R**UN away from *Samuel Peele's* Quarter, call'd *Turkey-Island* in *Anne-Arundel* County, on *Sunday* the 27th of *April* last, a *Negroe* Fellow call'd *Lime-house*, about *Thirty* Years old. He had on when he went away, a new felt Hat, a new grey Fear-nothing Coat, one new and one old Cotton Jacket, a new brown Osnabrig Shight, a pair of white Country made Yarn Stockings, a pair of good *Negroe* Shoes. Whoever will secure the above *Negroe*, so as to deliver him to his Overfeer *Nicholas Aldridge*, at the said Quarter, or to the Subscriber at *London-Town*, shall be paid *Twenty Shillings* more than the Law allows, by me  
*Samuel Peele.*

*Maryland Gazette, July 8-15, 1729*

Samuel Peele died intestate in May 1733, meaning he died with no legal will. He was also unmarried and did not have any children.<sup>28</sup> Thus, his brothers were to inherit his estate. William Peele, his older brother and another merchant in London Town, took out the "letters of administration."

However, in 1734, Roger Peele Jr., the son of William and Samuel Peele's younger brother, Roger, took William Peele to court. At the time, Roger Peele was a shipwright living in Salem, Massachusetts. He was representing himself and his two brothers who were out to sea, Robert and Samuel.

Roger Peele Jr. demanded that he and his two brothers receive a quarter of Samuel Peel(e)'s estate and a third of Robert Peele's estate. Robert Peele, a tailor, was another brother of William, Samuel, and Roger Peele and he died intestate in September of 1733 with no wife or children. Roger Peele Jr. asked "in a friendly manner" to be paid his due. He even "offered to give Security to Refund in Case of Latent Debts."

William Peele refused to pay Roger Peele his share because he needed proof that Roger was in fact the legitimate son of his brother. He stated that his brother, Roger, "had for many years been absent from Great Britain and from his friends and Relations." After Samuel Peel(e), the father of Samuel and William Peele died, their younger brother, Roger, was "bound an Apprentice" to a Captain Gourney, commander of a Man of War called *Defyance*.

However, Captain Gourney died in Barbados before the end of Roger Peele's indenture, so he set off for Newfoundland. William Peele did not hear about him until 1700 when Roger was in New England. William Peele then wrote to his brother, Samuel Peele in London Town, stating that their brother was in fact alive.

Roger Peele died intestate on June 8, 1723 and left his estate to his three sons, Roger, Robert, and Samuel. In order for Roger Peele Jr. to prove that he was in fact the son of Roger Peele and the nephew of William, Samuel, and Robert Peele, he had to produce a pocketbook with proof of his father's handwriting.

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He also produced the marriage certificate of his parents. His father, Roger, married Margaret Kempton, widow, on November 15, 1709. They were married in Salem, Massachusetts by Minister Nicholas Noyes. Roger was born on August 5, 1710, Robert was born on August 29, 1712, and Samuel, named after his grandfather and uncle, was born on March 23, 1716/7.<sup>42</sup>

In order to gather even more proof, five members of the Salem community were interrogated: Perez Webb (age 57), Margaret Stone (age 55), Sarah Peard (age 52), Margaret Cook (age 41), and Daniel Webb (age 48). They all agreed that Roger Peele's marriage and sons were legitimate and that they often heard him talk of his family in Great Britain. Margaret Stone was so specific in her description that she discussed how many siblings Roger Peele had, what his father did, and that he "had an aversion or antipathy to Choose", just like his father.

It seems there was a delay in making a decision because the court needed to hear from William, Samuel, Robert, and Roger's other brother, John, a merchant in London, in regards to the case.<sup>29</sup> In 1743, William Peele exhibited Samuel Peele's accounts and paid Roger Peele and his brothers their share.<sup>30</sup>

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\* As the research into colonial London Town's inhabitants is an ongoing process, the caveat is offered that additional information may be found at any time and that a correction of information might also occur at any time.

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<sup>29</sup> PREROGATIVE COURT (Testamentary Proceedings) Samuel Peele, 1738, Liber 31, folio 1, MSA S529-48, MdHR 987.

<sup>30</sup> [PREROGATIVE COURT \(Testamentary Proceedings\) Samuel Peele, 1743, Liber 31, folio 387, MSA S529-48, MdHR 987.](#)