

Benjamin₃ Cooley b. 8 Oct 1681 d. Abt* 1745 Margaret Bliss b. 28 Nov 1683 d. Est* 1744

Written by Daniel Berton Cooley 11th generation New England Cooleys

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*Explanation of abbreviations:

- **Abt**, short for about, means there is limited documentation for an event. For example, a death year engraved on a gravestone.
- **Est**, short for estimated, means there is no information for the event whatever. For example a marriage year can be estimated from the documented birth date of the first child. For the above death year there is an apocryphal source, Find-A-Grave but no gravestone picture.

Benjamin₃ Cooley born 1681 and Margaret Bliss born 1683

Preface

The Cooley antecedents of the 11th generation author, Daniel Berton Cooley b. 1939 are: Clifford Coyne₁₀, Robert Berton₉, Robert Reed₈, Andrew₇, Noah₆, Benjamin₅, Benjamin₄, Benjamin₃, Daniel₂, and Ensign Benjamin₁.

Confusion abounds in the early generations of this line as regards the Benjamins especially the third, fourth, and fifth generations, all named Benjamin. To minimize the confusion I must distinguish between Ensign Benjamin₁'s son, Benjamin Junior who was not in this line, and his grandson, Benjamin₃ born in 1681 to Ensign Benjamin's third child, Daniel, and whom was often wrongly identified as Benjamin Junyr. Thus, to distinguish the Benjamins they have been designated generationally as follows: **Benjamin₁, Daniel, Benjamin₃, Benjamin₄, and Benjamin₅.**

The confusion doesn't stop here. Benjamin₃'s eldest son, Benjamin, is sometimes Benjamin and sometimes Benjamin Junyr so his son will be designated Benjamin₄; likewise, Benjamin₄'s son Benjamin will be designated Benjamin₅.

This essay concerns the third generation Cooley in the Ensign Benjamin Cooley-Daniel line.

Benjamin₃ Cooley and Margaret Bliss

Ten months after his parents, Daniel Cooley and Elizabeth Wolcott, were married¹ (in Springfield on 8 Dec 1681), Benjamin₃ was born 8 Oct 1681 in Springfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts Bay Colony (MBC),² probably in the Long Meddowe part of the town.³

Two years after Benjamin₃'s birth, his future wife, Margaret Bliss, was born 26 Nov 1683 in Springfield, Hampshire County, MBC,⁴ daughter of Samuel Bliss and Sarah Stebbins, both well-known family names in the founding of Springfield.⁵ Please note that the oft-mentioned *Margaret A Bliss* was born in 1684 and was wed to George Colton. She was not our Margaret Bliss.

On the 4th day of January 1700/1701 Benjamin₃ (Benjamin Cooley Junyr) officially announced his intention to marry Margaret Bliss.⁶ Just 26 days later "Benjamin₃ (Benjamin Cooley Junyr) was married⁷ to Margerit (sic) Bliss 30 Jan 1700/1701 in Springfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts Bay Colony. It is curious that the "junyr" was used incorrectly (his father was Daniel, not Ensign Benjamin). That very same year on 5 Nov 1701 Benjamin Cooley₄ was born in Springfield and soon *he* would become known as Benjamin Junyr.

Benjamin₃ Cooley died about 1745 in Greenwich or Brimfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts. His grave site has not been located. Margaret Bliss died about 1744 in Brimfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts. There are neither extant death records nor a grave site location for Margaret either. See further discussion at the end in "*The lives of Benjamin Cooley and Margaret Bliss come to an end*" section.

Benjamin₃ and Margaret's Children

The wonderful ancestry.com database, *Massachusetts Vital Records Springfield 1640-1894* (from a study by Jay Mack Holbrook, Oxford Mass, 1987) has been used extensively; it is as solid as any source can be from the 17th and 18th centuries. The database has LDS Church microfilm images of actual pages containing the original handwriting of various clerk recorders at the time. The database is abbreviated as MVR.

Utilizing MVR the various lists of the children of Benjamin₃ Cooley and Margaret Bliss have been scrutinized with numerous errors found, even in the list of eight children in the *Cooley Genealogy* (CG). There is much confusion during the years 1710 through 1717 with some online databases having three or more Cooley children born in the space of less than three years.

There are two errors in the CG as follows: (1) viii - Son, Feb 22, d Feb 23 1717. In consulting MVR it is learned that a male child was born in 1715 not 1717. Yet, a closer examination of MVR reveals a 1715 birth year for Baby Boy is no better than a 1717 birth year when compared to next child Ebenezer Cooley's birth in 1716; and (2) the spelling Zerniah should be Zeruah, a Biblical name.

Examining each child regarding sources for their births reveals all their children were born in Springfield, Hampshire County (Hampden County wasn't erected until the mid-19th century). When this is tied in with the formation of the town of Brimfield (the settlement of which began in earnest after 1717) in which Benjamin₃ was a member of the original 84 petitioners, one can see that Benjamin₃ and Margaret's childbearing years were behind them when they arrived in Brimfield with seven children, the eldest aged about 17.

i. **Benjamin₄**,⁸ b. 5 Nov 1701⁹ in Springfield and d. 1 Apr 1790, in Pittsford, Vermont. He m(1) 1 Sep 1730 Elizabeth Charles in Brimfield, m(2) 14 Feb 1744/45 Mary Needham in Brimfield. His gravestone (and that of Mary's) are well-worn but in acceptable condition in Old Burying Ground on the highway in Pittsford, Vermont.

ii. **Keziah**,¹⁰ b. 29 Oct 1702¹¹ in Springfield (358 days or 11.7 months after Benjamin₄) and d. before 17 Sep 1742 place unknown. (11.7 months between births is unacceptably close. In fact birth dates closer than 16 months apart are suspect). Keziah m(1) 25 Nov 1723¹² Philip₅ Goss and m(2) abt 1744, Timothy Brown but there are no sources for this event.

Philip₅ Goss, d. Brookfield bef 17 Sept 1742 (date of inventory of his estate); m. there 25 Nov 1723 KEZIAH COOLEY, b. Springfield 29 Oct 1702, d. Brookfield bef 4 Feb 1745, daughter of Benjamin and Margaret (Bliss) Cooley. Did widow Keziah Goss m. Brookfield 18 April 1744 Timothy Brown?...An inventory of the estate of Philip₅ Goss of Brookfield was made 17 Sep 1742. The bond on Philip₆ Goss is dated 4 Feb 1745 to administer his father's estate "which was formerly committed to his widow now deceased".¹³

iii. **Azariah**,¹⁴ b. 21 Aug 1704¹⁵ in Springfield (662 days or 21.7 months after Keziah) and d. abt 1734.¹⁶ Azariah m? Rebekah Dicks.¹⁷

iv. **Nathaniel**,¹⁸ b. 24 Jun 1706¹⁹ in Springfield (672 days or 22 months after his elder brother Azariah's birth) and d. unknown. Nathaniel m. 14 Jun 1734 Rachel Bliss Sikes in Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts.

v. **Zeruah**,²⁰ b. 29 Feb 1708/9²¹ in Springfield (615 days or 20.2 months after Nathaniel) and d. unknown. This name has been variously spelled as Zerniah (CG), Zerviah, or Larviah. From the MVR entry it is clear that the recorder spelled the name with a 'u' not a 'v' so I have adopted the 'u'. Zeruah m(1) 12 Apr 1737 Joseph Jennings Jr in Brimfield and m(2) Joseph Frost (no legitimate source for this marriage).

vi. **Margaret**,²² b. 30 Jan 1709/10²³ (701 days or 23.0 months after Zeruah) in Springfield and d. unknown. Margaret m. 25 Dec 1729 Joseph Morgan.²⁴

vii. **Son Cooley** b. 19 Aug 1715²⁵ in Springfield (2027 days or 66.5 months or 5.5 years after Margaret) and d. 31 Aug 1715 in Springfield. See endnote for the 7th and 8th children according to the *Cooley Genealogy*.²⁶

viii. **Ebenezer**,²⁷ b. 6 Jul 1716²⁸ in Springfield (321 days or 10.5 months after Son; not possible) and d. 31 Oct 1753. Ebenezer m. 10 Jul 1736 Mary Barnes in Brookfield, Worcester County, PMB.

Taken *together* the two entries for Son Cooley and Ebenezer Cooley in both the CG and MVR are not possible.

Massachusetts Bay Colony transformed

During Benjamin₃'s first 19 years in Springfield (1681-1700) several sea changes occurred that, in hindsight, foresaw the revolution to come in 90 years. In 1685, the Duke of York ascended the English

throne as King James II, the first Scottish king of England, and, later, responsible for the King James Version of the Bible.

James began the consolidation of the New England colonies into a single entity called the Dominion of New England depriving colonists of their local political rights and independence. Legislatures were dissolved, and the King's representatives assumed all judicial and legislative powers.

James was deposed by the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and was replaced by William and Mary but the restrictions on the colonists continued under Royal Governor Sir Edmund Andros until he was jailed by the colonists in 1689 and sent back to England.

The Colony reverted to rule under its old charter until 1691 when a new charter was issued for the Province of Massachusetts Bay (PMB). This province combined the Massachusetts Bay territories with those of the Plymouth Colony and proprietary holdings on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Sir William Phips arrived in 1692 bearing the charter and formally took charge of the new province.

Brimfieldⁱ

Aside from the duties of becoming a husband and father, Benjamin₃ Cooley was to play an important role in western Massachusetts at the beginning of the 18th century. A unique American restlessness was taking hold that was to mark the Cooleys of the 3rd generation and forward as true pioneers in the expansion of the United States. Except for Daniel, each succeeding Cooley in this line was found at the forefront of the white man's frontiers until the early 20th century.

This urge to blaze new trails was spurred on by the second generation inhabitants of Springfield, including Benjamin₃'s father, Daniel Cooley, who envisioned a new settlement east of Springfield but which would still be within the expanded bounds of Springfield. It would give the 3rd generation something new yet keep them close by. See Fig 1—Originally-planned Brimfield comprised what are now Wilbraham, Monson, and Brimfield.

In February 1700/1 they petitioned the Massachusetts General Court as follows:

...some young men have left Springfield to sute themselves in the neighborn Colony [future Brimfield]...in order to not be "diminished & weakned" the petitioners request an "Increase & Inlargement" [of Springfield] to a "Tract of land about twelve or fourteen miles Eastward of this Towne, which may make a Plantation or Towneship of fifty or sixty famyls or more...(we propose) this land Eastward of Springfield Bounds a line from Chikkepy River on the North to run Southward to Enfield Line which is in length from North to South only Eight miles it having bene exactly measured...(and) extend East at least Eight miles from Springfield bounds... Springfield Febr 4th 1700 Daniel Cooley Senr, Joseph Cooley...Ephraim Colton...John Pynchon...Thomas Colton...Samuel Stebbins.²⁹

The "diminished and weakened" phrase is interesting in the sense that the older generation probably wanted to maintain control over the new plantation because the flight of the youngsters to a new and separate community would remove valuable human resources away from their hometown (in modern parlance, a "brain drain"). The younger generation had other ideas so they rose up to demand the petition be nullified.

Considering the date of the original petition it appears that the younger generation had either telegraphed their intention to establish a *new* plantation at a time earlier or had actually surveyed the area so the petition could be, in modern terms, "pre-emptive" in nature. Nonetheless, the youngsters prevailed and would continue to do so exceeding 23 years.

ⁱ There is no recorded origin of the name Brimfield



Fig 1. Modern relationship of Springfield and Brimfield³⁰

On 20 Jun 1701 "the General Court...appointed a prudential committeeⁱⁱ of Springfield men consisting of Col. John Pynchon, Capt. Thomas Colton, James Warriner, David Morgan, and Joseph Stebbins to lay out a new township extending along the eastern boundary of Springfield" and south of the Chicopee River. The township was to be eight miles square, and grants of land were to be made to 60 to 70 families, but no more than 120 acres were to be assigned to any one person. At that time the tract was known as simply "Plantation adjoining Springfield" (the name "Brimfield" would come along much later)³¹

The first meeting of said committee of five occurred 22 Sep 1701 with about twenty others from Springfield (among whom Benjamin₃ was a probably participant). It spent several days in the selection of a town site which, at first, was Grout's Hill (now in the town of Monson) but land lying to the east was eventually chosen as better for farming. Thirteen grants of land were made 31 Dec 1701, on the condition that work thereon should be started the next spring. Amongst 84 grants, two of 120 acre plots were given to Benjamin₃ Cooley (aged 20) and to one his first son (who turned out to be Benjamin₄ Cooley just one month old at the time).³²

Alas, come the spring of 1702, not one of the original grantees fulfilled his end of the bargain; the future of the plantation east of Springfield was in limbo.

Impediments to establishing the settlement

Since there was a sincere intention to resettle the tract east of Springfield, it is useful to examine the possible contingencies the earlier effort faced. Wars were the major impediment to potential settlers who were constantly being called up to fight in various skirmishes arising in New England from wars fought in Europe.

For a number of years [after 1702] no grants were made by the original committee. In a petition to the General Court, the reason for inaction was, "through the Distress of War, they could not Possibly settle the Place In Such manner and time as was appointed".³³ Things moved very slowly those days but the General Court was sympathetic so on 15 Jun 1709 the "Eastern Plantation" committee was granted an extension of time until "four years after the conclusion" of Queen Anne's War (the War of the Spanish Succession in Europe).

ⁱⁱ Characterized by the use of prudence and caution; arising from careful thought or deliberation. [from 15th C.]

The French and Indian Wars

Excepting King Philip's War (1675-1678), which was local to North America, wars were a way of life in 17th-18th century Europe, each one affecting the Colonies one way or another. The French and Indian Wars, so-called by the colonists because Native Americans were involved, were a series of four wars, each an outgrowth of disputes among England, France, and Spain. As known by their names in the New World (European name in parentheses), they were:

- King William's War, 1689-1699 (Nine Year's War)
- Queen Anne's War, 1702-1713 (War of the Spanish Succession)
- King George's War, 1744-1748 (War of the Austrian Succession)
- French and Indian War, 1754-1763 (Seven Years' War)

Of present interest are the first two.

King Williams's War

King William's War began in Europe on 13 Feb 1689, when Benjamin₃ was 8 years old, with the ousting of King James II and the installment of William and Mary as monarchs of England during the Glorious Revolution. From *Britannica*:

[The war in North America was an] extension of the War of the Grand Alliance waged by William III of Great Britain and the League of Augsburg against France under Louis XIV. Canadian and New England colonists divided in support of their mother countries and, together with their respective Indian allies, assumed primary responsibility for their own defense. The English [allied with the Iroquois Confederacy], led by Sir William Phips, captured Port Royal, Acadia (later Nova Scotia), but failed to take Quebec. The French [allied with the Wabanaki Confederacy], under the Count de Frontenac, carried out successful attacks on Schenectady, N.Y., Salmon Falls (in present New Hampshire), and Casco Bay (in present Maine) but failed against their main target—Boston.³⁴

King William's war was fought to a stalemate in North America and was ended with the Treaty of Rijswijkⁱⁱⁱ in 1697 which formally ended the Nine Years War in Europe. The war did not affect Springfield directly being primarily fought along the ill-defined border between present US and Canada. Whether militiamen were drawn from Springfield is not known. But, as we'll see, the next French and Indian War came frighteningly close, unquestionably involving Springfielders.

Queen Anne's War

In March 1702 Queen Anne ascended the English throne. Just two months later England declared war on France to stop the union of France and Spain after the death of the King of Spain, Charles II. It was called the *War of the Spanish Succession* in Europe but it was called *Queen Anne's War* in the colonies, where the English colonists would battle the Spanish, French, and their Native American allies for the next eleven years.

Many colonists served in local militias during Queen Anne's War most of whom were between the ages of 16 and 60, born between 1642-1697, though some as early as 1632 or as late as 1701.³⁵ When the War started, Benjamin₃ was 21 years old. When it ended in 1713 he was aged 32. His father, Daniel, was 51 years old at the start and 62 at the end of the conflict.

ⁱⁱⁱ Rijswijk is a town and municipality in the western Netherlands, in the province of South Holland. Presently, it is a suburb of The Hague

Deerfield Massacre

On 29 Feb 1704/5 the "Deerfield Massacre" or the "1704 Raid on Deerfield" commenced when French and Native American forces under the command of Jean-Baptiste Hertel de Rouville attacked the English frontier settlement at Deerfield PMB some 35 miles north of Springfield. The French-led raid relied on a coalition of French soldiers and a variety of Native American warriors including about 300 Pocumtucs³⁶ who lived in the Deerfield area.

The Governor of Massachusetts, Joseph Dudley, had advance notice of the raid and had sent 20 men from nearby communities on the 24th of February. Capt. Jonathan Wells was placed in command of these men plus another 70 Deerfield men of fighting age. When the attack began they took cover in garrison houses in the village putting up courageous resistance until reinforcements from Hadley prompted the raiders' retreat. Reinforcements from Northampton and Springfield and Connecticut continued to arrive into the next day swelling their ranks to over 250 men. Later, Capt. Wells decided the difficulties of pursuit of the fleeing attackers were not worth the risks.

The raiders destroyed 17 of the village's 41 homes, and looted many of the others. Out of the 291 people in Deerfield on the night of the attack only 126 remained in town the next day. They killed 44 residents (10 men, 9 women, and 25 children), five garrison soldiers, and seven Hadley men. They took 109 villagers captive representing 40% of the village population. Those captives were taken on a "death march" up to Ft Chambly just north of the present New York/Quebec border with only 89 surviving the ordeal. Many of the survivors were absorbed into Native American villages or into French-Canadian society. Gov. Dudley negotiated the release of the remaining captives with most back in Boston by 1706.

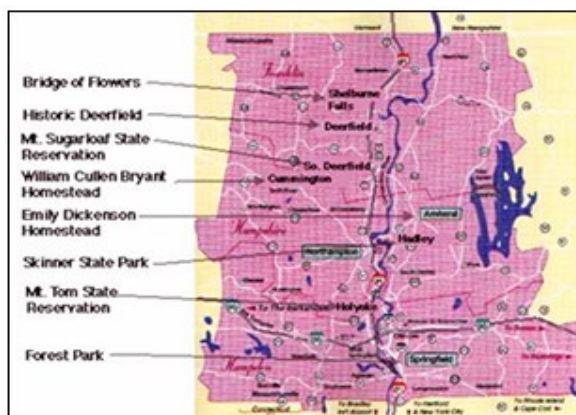


Fig 2. Upper Connecticut River valley historic sites³⁷

Emboldened by the successful raid on Deerfield, French Governor Pierre de Rigaud de Vaudreuil set his sights on Northampton (about 20 miles north of Springfield). Vaudreuil formed an army of 700 Native Americans and 125 Frenchmen under the command of Capt. Beaucours to carry out project. However, Lord Combury, Governor of New York sent messages to the General Court of Massachusetts to the effect that his scouts had learned of Governor Vandreuil's plans.

A large garrison of men from western Massachusetts and Connecticut assembled in Northampton, an unforeseen development in the French plans that thwarted the initial attack. The men were withdrawn but

"...constant rumors of an approaching enemy kept [Connecticut River Valley residents] in a continued state of alarm. At no time since [King] Philip's war, 28 years previous, had there been so many [militiamen roaming the countryside]...They were quartered in every town, and there were marchings and counter-marchings in every direction. Indians, spies and scouts of the approaching army filled the forest. Parties of English, many of them citizens of the river towns, incessantly ranged the woods. None of the inhabitants dared venture far beyond the fortifications without an efficient guard and the occupations of the farming community were greatly interfered with, if not wholly suspended."³⁸

Constant Warring

In the summer of 1708, the house of Lieut. Wright at Skipmuck³⁹ was attacked and several persons killed. In a diary kept by Deacon Edward Chapin of Chicopee there is frequent mention of encounters between the settlers and the Native Americans and evidence of the fear that they would break through the frontiers and descend upon this part of the Connecticut River Valley.^{iv}

The residents of Springfield had grown weary and sought relief from the constant demands of wars away from their town.

[During the war] so many drafts for troops were made upon Springfield, that on July 30, 1708, at a meeting of the freeholders & others Inhabitants of the Town of Springfield, It was voted to send Joseph Parsons, Esq., to his Excellency the Governor to Intercede with his Excellency that the Inhabitants of the Town of Springfield may not be called away, or impressed to keep Garrison In the other Towns, but continue In their own town for the defence of it from the enemys, as also to Intercede with his Excellency that he be further pledged to send us men to garrison in this Town of Springfield for some time.⁴⁰

Many Connecticut River Valley skirmishes with Native Americans continued through 1711 and early 1712.⁴¹ In what is thought to be the last raid of Queen Anne's War in the Connecticut River Valley, a militant Native American chief named Gray Lock (whose raids would again become a factor in 1722) with 12 warriors swooped down on Springfield capturing Benjamin Wright of Skipmuck and two others.⁴²

Other events of interest during Queen Anne's War: Benjamin Franklin, one of the United States' great founding fathers, was born 17 Jan 1706; 14 women who had been accused of witchery in 1692 were cleared in a general amnesty of 1711; and the Tuscarora War between Native Americans and North Carolina settlers broke out in 1711 as Queen Anne's war was winding down.

The War of Spanish Succession officially ended in Europe when the *Peace and Friendship* treaties were signed in the city of Utrecht, Dutch Republic, in March and April of 1713 by representatives of the belligerents: Louis XIV of France and his grandson Philip V of Spain on the one hand, and Anne, Queen of Great Britain, the Duke of Savoy, the King of Portugal, and the United Provinces of the Netherlands on the other. In North America, the English gained several sizeable and important concessions from France in the treaties among them Acadia, the island of Newfoundland, the Hudson Bay region, and the Caribbean island of St. Kitts. Also, France was required to recognize British authority over the Iroquois.⁴³

Despite the peace accords in Europe, Queen Anne's war still smoldered in in North America. The outstanding problem was that the Native American combatants were not signatories to the Peace of Utrecht. For instance, the Iroquois weren't necessarily agreeable with "British authority". The instability of northern borders continued leading up to the third and fourth French and Indian wars in mid-century.

The end of hostilities on the western front, however, did not see renewed attempts to settle the Springfield eastern plantation. "Individual settlers or travelers frequently fell victims to Indian ambushes, or were carried captives to Canada. These Indian depredations put a stop to the settlement of new townships".⁴⁴

While threats of war had been somewhat ameliorated, additional impediments to the establishment of the eastern plantation in the early 18th century must be considered besides Native American raids on individual settlers.

Epidemics

In late 1711 news reached Boston of a "malignant distemper"⁴⁵ that had taken the lives of over 700 Connecticut residents whence the disease had traveled up the Connecticut River. In 1712, Jonathan Burt (eldest son of English immigrant Henry Burt, an original Proprietor⁴⁶ of Springfield) wrote a poem entitled A

^{iv} Present Springfield and Chicopee to the north are adjacent, sharing streets and blocks.

lamentation Occasion'd by the Great Sickness & Lamented Deaths Of Divers Eminent Persons In Springfield that expressed his grief over the deaths of certain leading members of Springfield society. "The poem interprets the unknown disease...as evidence of God's displeasure..."⁴⁷

Other disease outbreaks possibly affecting the Connecticut River Valley were a smallpox epidemic that broke out in most of New England lasting from 1715-1725, a measles epidemic that broke out in Boston in 1713, and the smallpox epidemic of 1721.

Eastern Plantation still largely unsettled by 1723

In 1714 the 1700/01 committee petitioned the General Court for an extension of the township three miles farther east which was dismissed by the General Court. Undaunted, "...the first family [that] settled in Brimfield was of the name of Hitchcock in 1714 or 1715. The principal settlers were from Springfield."⁴⁸ There is some disagreement as to the beginning years of settlement⁴⁹ but it can be said that by 1716-1717 there were very few settlements in the eastern area.

Even though slow settlement was taking place after 1717 the proprietor's progress in getting their plantation to become a town dragged on and on with roadblocks encountered at every turn.

On 7 May 1717 a "remonstrance"⁵⁰ to the General Court concerning the original 1700/01 pact was entered by Robert Moulton *et al* as follows: "...the people were very backward in settling the said plantation and maney person neglected to comply with the terms of their respective grants and by their soe doing they forfeited the same and soe the town still remained in a verry unlikely way to be settled..."⁵¹

Later, the selectmen of Springfield petitioned the General Court to appoint a new committee which was granted June 12, 1723. With quick approval of this petition the General Court appeared to be non-sympathetic with the original committee of 1700/01.

The Winthrop Family's early attempt to pre-empt land near the Connecticut River

At an earlier time, some or all of the land along the eastern side of Springfield had been claimed by the heirs of Judge and Major General Waitstill Winthrop, a tract known as the "Winthrop Farm".

Smarting under this and other long-festering impediments to settlement, the original committee again petitioned the General Court on 22 Nov 1723 to the effect the Winthrop Farm was hindering establishment of the town and that the 1701 grantees, namely Nathaniel Hitchcock (the first Inhabitant and who dwelt there with his family one winter before there was a second family there), Ebenezer Graves, David Hitchcock, Benjamin Cooley, Leonard Hoar, Capt John Sherman, David Morgan, & Nathan Collins should be granted their original allotments of 120 acres each plus another 120 acres for one son.

The original committee's *Statement of Grievances* read as follows:

"Province of the Massa Bay...To His Excellency the Governour of the Honorable Council and House of Representatives in General Court Assembled at Boston December 2, 1723 [that] the Petition of Several of the Inhabitants of Brimfield in the County of Hampshire hereto subscribed most humbly sheweth That your Petitioners...were induced to settle themselves and families within the said Township...to secure an estate in lands to themselves and posterity".

"[prior claims of men] being advanced in years some of them being Dead and others declining [that] they made many grants [in the Eastern Plantation and those] "Lotts have been granted without any condition of settlement as we also conceive...we question their Power in the premises."

"[An additional grievance arises] for want of Mr Winthrops Survey at the Lead mine Grant being completed & his Bounds made certain We have Reason to fear said Grant intranches upon our Addition which if allowed will be exceeding prejudicial to the Plantation."⁵²

While the numerous disputes concerning the Eastern Plantation needed immediate attention, the General Court took no further action until 1729. Another war may provide an explanation.

Gray Lock's War

A conflict arose in 1722 on the Maine frontier concerning the border between Acadia and New England that New France defined as the Kennebec River in southern Maine. It later became known as **Father Rale's War** in that northeastern section and which, as with King Philip's War, did not have its origin in Europe. On the western front a year later that conflict became known as Gray Lock's war.

Gray Lock was a Western Abenaki Missisquoi chief of Woronoco/Pocumtuck ancestry who was born in 1670 near present Westfield, Mass. He became leader of the Waranoak Indians, who inhabited the Connecticut Valley region of New England.⁵³

The first recorded encounter in the Connecticut River Valley occurred 13 Aug 1723 when Gray Lock with four warriors raided Northfield (50 miles north of Springfield) and two citizens were killed. The next day they attacked Joseph Stevens and his four sons in Rutland (48 mi northeast of Springfield and 43 miles southeast of Northfield). Stevens escaped, two boys were killed, and the other two sons were captured.

On 9 Oct 1723 Gray Lock again struck the Northfield area inflicting casualties and carrying off one captive. On 18 Jun 1724, Gray Lock attacked a group of men working in a meadow near Hatfield (24 miles north of Springfield). Throughout the summer of 1723 raids were conducted on Northfield and Deerfield and in Westfield, the closest raid to Springfield that was only 9 miles west.

While Springfield itself was left unscathed by Gray Lock it is quite likely militiamen from there would have been called upon to quell disturbances in nearby townes thus Benjamin₃ (aged about 42) and his children of age, Benjamin₄ (ae 22), Azariah (ae 19), and Nathaniel (ae 17) could have been involved.

After the summer of 1724 the area of conflict moved north to Ft Dummer (near present Battlebro, Vermont) and Gray Lock's raids ceased in the mid Connecticut River Valley.

On the northeastern front, following negotiations, Massachusetts Lt Governor Dummer announced a cessation of hostilities on 31 July 1725. At a major gathering at Falmouth in the summer of 1727 the peace was reconfirmed by all except Gray Lock whom other tribal envoys claimed they were not able to locate. Gray Lock's activity came to an end in 1727, after which time he disappears from English records.⁵⁴

The new committee takes action

Much time had elapsed when in September 1729 the new Committee on Land Grants, that was formed in 1723, recommended annulment of the grants of land made by the committee of 1700/01 and a new allotment effected. They singled out one person in particular: "... Benjamin Cooley had a grant of 120 acres for a son, as well as for himself whereas there's many persons in said town that can safely swear that they have heard of the said Coolly say at Divers times that he the said Coolly never had but 120 acres from the former Committee and we think it a very strange thing that the last Committee should take upon them to give the said Coolley and sundry other persons 120 acres of grant Land and also 120 acres of Divisions [to one son]..."

Those affected (the original grantees of 1700/01) addressed the General Court a year later in a petition of 9 Sep 1730, setting forth the injustice which would be done them if they were deprived of lands which they had improved: "in Pursuance of a vote of this Great & General Court of the 12th of June 1723, the said Committee [of 1700/01] have often Repaired to Brimfield, & mett together to pursue & perfect the Settlement of the Town".

Continuing, "That in order to regulate or reconcile the affair relating to the Grants made by the former Committee which were much perplexed in respect both to their Excess in the number of Grants made out & the Quantity of Land therein Granted [they recommended] "16 grants of 120 acres each to 8 of the principal Inhabitants, who had for themselves and one each of their Sons Two Grants of 120 acres each. Several of whose Sons are Married, and have now built and settled there as well as their Fathers)...The names of the said Grantees are as follows: viz Nathaniel Hitchcock (the first Inhabitant, and who dwelt there with his

family one winter before there was a second family there) Ebenezer Graves, David Hitchcock, Benjamin Cooley, Leonard Hoar, Capt John Sherman, David Morgan, & Nathan Collins".

On 18 Jun 1731, in complete agreement, the General Court reaffirmed the original petition and "settled the conflicting titles to the town lands, by confirming to the occupants the grants made by the original committee [of 1700/01], declaring the claims of some non-residents to be void...full rights were granted to sons of several of the proprietors. It was further ordered, that the whole of the remaining lands should belong to certain grantees, eighty-four in number, specified in the act, the lands to be proportionately divided among them".⁵⁵

Hallelujah! It had been 30 years since the original petitioners had first made their wishes known. Now they had a real towne in Massachusetts. Benjamin₃ Cooley (ae 50) and his son Benjamin₄ (now aged 31), were full-fledged proprietors of the Towne of Brimfield.

Early Towne Meeting

In anticipation of the General Court's decision the first town meeting was held on 16 Mar 1731, about three months before the General Court re-affirmation on 18 June 1731, in which selectmen and other official positions were established. In the spirit of "if you can't beat'em, join'em" Robert Moulton (who, 14 years earlier, had written a remonstrance against the original committee of 1700/01) was appointed town clerk, a selectman, and the representative of the town to the Massachusetts General Court.

Among the officials of this new towne were Samuel Bliss and Benjamin Cooley elected to the position of "hog-reeves"⁵⁶ (From later records, Benjamin₄ was referred to "Benjamin Junyr" so I have assumed Benjamin₃ was the hog reeve).

Proprietors Records

Both Benjamins, father and son, pop up frequently in the official *Proprietors of Records of Brimfield*⁵⁷ as found in Ancestry.com database *Massachusetts Vital Records*. Many of the entries involved the apportioning of "lotts by draught".

8 Sep 1731. The proprietors " Voted that John Stebbins,...., Anthony Needham be a committee to Requier and Receive the afosaid account from the former trustees: to witt, Capt. John Sherman, Benjamin Cooley, Daniel Hitchcock, Leonard Hoar, and Nathan Collins".⁵⁸

27 Mar 1732. It was "voted & established to be one bridge upon the Brook by Mr Treats another bridge on the Plain brook by Benjamin Cooley junior house...another Bridge {on Chickuppee Brook} by Cooley & Scotts field on the road to Hain hill..."⁵⁹

23 May 1732. Benjamin₃ Cooley was awarded Lott 3 in the First and Second Divisions of Brimfield and Benjamin Cooley Junyr Lott 73. It should be noted that through these formative years the following proprietors connected to the Cooleys also appear: John Stebbins and John Stebbins Jr., Thomas Stebbins, Anthony Needham, the partnership of John Pynchon (non-resident proprietor), John Charles Jr, Samuel Bliss, and Obadiah Cooley [who did not reside on the grants, but provided materials for finishing the meeting house, plus later improvements].

In another order of business at this 23 May 1732 meeting "...an account of the draughts of the first & second Division in Brimfield as they were drawn for by the grantees & the names of Each grantee as the lotts came forth. Viz John Lumbard, 1st; George Erwin, 2nd; Benjamin Cooley, 3rd....Benjamin Cooley Jun Lott 73...Anthony Needham Lott 69..."⁶⁰

9 Apr 1734 Benjamin Cooley was awarded Lott 9 in Cedar Swamp and Benjamin Cooley Junyr Lott 42. On 22 Apr 1736 drawings were held for lots in the Third and Fourth Divisions with Benjamin Cooley winning Lott 8 and Junior Lott 80.

5 Apr 1744 another drawing for the 3rd and 4th divisions was held with Benjamin Cooley winning Lott 49 and Benjamin Cooley Junyr Lott 82.

Confoundingly, both father and son appear in Brimfield Proprietor's records as late as 1781 yet Benjamin₃ died in 1745 and Benjamin Junyr (Benjamin₄) resided in Greenwich by 1747.

- 27 Feb 1759, drawing for 5th and 6th divisions, Benjamin Cooley Lott 37 and Benjamin Junr Lott 19.
- 6 Feb 1775 drawing for 9th & 10th divisions Benjamin Cooley Lott 83, Benjamin Jr Lott 77
- 5 Apr 1781 drawing for 11th & 12th divisions Benjamin Cooley Lott 3, Benjamin Jr Lott 69⁶¹

From a list of selectmen of Brimfield, "Benjamin Cooley" appears in 1734, 1738, and 1745. This Benjamin Cooley is quite likely the Junyr Cooley, Benjamin₄.⁶²

Major Hawks Expedition to Canada

The *Cooley Genealogy* states on p458 "...during the Canada Expedition [263 Benjamin Cooley³] served with Major Hawks' Company". This is certainly an error since Major Hawks conducted an expedition to Canada from the Lake Champlain-Crown Point area in 1758. Some online family trees even have his grandfather, Ensign Benjamin₁ Cooley on the Hawks expedition (Ensign Benjamin₁ died in 1684).

The source of this information was quite probably the *History of the Town of Northfield Massachusetts for 150 Years...* by J.H. Temple and George Sheldon. Here is the referenced excerpt from that book:

1758		<i>The Last French and Indian War.</i>		303
Nathan Beach	Northfield	Perez Bardwell	Hatfield	
Richard Chamberlain	"	Sam ^l Bardwell	"	
Abial Chamberlain	"	Michael Gilson	"	
Jacob Elmer	"	Nehemiah How	"	
Thomas Elgar	"	Joel Alexander, Amherst		
Michael Frizzel	"	Nath ^l Dickinson, Deerfield		
Benj. Miller	"	David Johnson, Pelham		
Samuel Orvis	"	Wm Kentfield, Cold Spring		
Darius Wadkins	"	Benj. Knight	"	
Amos Tute	"	Thomas Stearns		

In Maj. John Hawks's company, April 15 to Nov. 16, are the following names: Hilkiah Grout, and Richard Carey, of Deerfield, Benj. Cooley, Miles Alexander and Jona. Field of Sunderland, Shammah Pomeroy of Northampton. On other rolls are found: Moses Wright, Charles Wright, Israel Warner, James Corse, Gad Corse, Simeon Burt, Aaron Field, Stephen Crowfoot.

Fig 3. Personnel in Maj. John Hawk's Company of April and November 1758

In Fig 3 note that the listed Benjamin Cooley was from Sunderland Mass and Cooleys were indeed prominent in that town. Benjamin₃'s brother Simon was a founder of that town and his son Abner was a Massachusetts officer in the French and Indian Wars. However, there is no documentation to the effect a Benjamin Cooley of any generation was associated with Sunderland.

In another angle, there are several military men with the name Hawks: Sergeant Hawks who was to have conducted a raid up into Canada but the "circumstances of his family" prevented him from doing so. The same Sgt. Hawks was probably commander of Fort Massachusetts (in the far northwestern corner of present Massachusetts) when it was besieged in 1744 with only 22 people present. Sgt. Hawks surrendered the fort.

Major John Hawks served under Gen. Jeffrey Amherst on a semi-successful Ticonderoga-Crown Point Campaign for the years 1759-60. Whether this could be considered a "Canada Expedition" is debatable. The campaign was well documented by Major Hawks in his diary.⁶³

What we do know is Benjamin₃ Cooley was born in 1681 and died in probably 1745 and he could not have been on any expedition to Canada in the years 1758 through 1760 (aged 77 through 79).

Distribution of Property

According to several un-sourced write-ups on Ancestry.com Benjamin₃'s property was eventually distributed amongst his children and their families in 1772. I cannot verify a Benjamin₃ Cooley will.

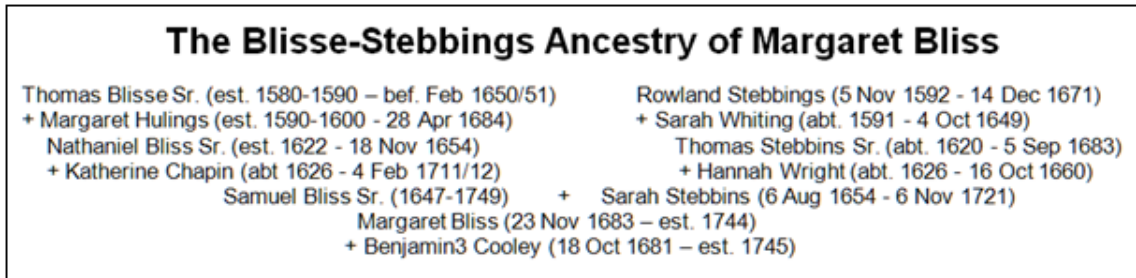
The lives of Benjamin Cooley and Margaret Bliss come to an end

Some apocryphal sources say Margaret Bliss died 16 Jun 1744 in Brimfield, Mass. This is a wild and fanciful factoid totally unsupported by any records. Lack of records throws her death date into suspicion since there is no good reason for her grave site not having been found in Brimfield. I will enter 1744 as an estimated death year even though it is unsubstantiated.

Benjamin₃ Cooley died about 1745 in possibly in Greenwich⁶⁴. His grave site has not been found but there are mitigating circumstances: In 1932 Greenwich, and three other villages, were flooded by the filling of the newly-constructed Quabbin Reservoir. *All bodies, in all graveyards*, so it is said, were exhumed with the majority being re-buried in Quabbin Park Cemetery. Despite those assurances neither Benjamin nor Margaret can be found in Quabbin Park.

Blisse and Stebbings

The following is the ancestry of Margaret Bliss. The first and second generations shown in the diagram were born in England while Samuel Bliss Sr and Sarah Stebbins were born in New England.



The ancestry of Margaret Bliss in New England is well known and well documented. However, a major problem arises when attempting to trace the ancestry of her great grandfather, immigrant Thomas Blisse Sr born in England. There are numerous conflicting online accounts of Bliss roots in England so I will cull and generalize from several sources what I think to be pertinent to Thomas Bliss Sr's early life in the South West England and his emigration therefrom.⁶⁵ For instance, there is no consensus as to the precise location of the Blisse family in England so I will generalize to the modern term "South West England".

Puritans in 16th Century England

In the mid-to-late 16th century there was a Blisse family residing in South West England comprising head Thomas Blisse, his wife, and at least five children: Jonathan, Thomas, Elizabeth, George, and Mary. At some point the Church of England (Archbishop Laud) identified certain families as "Puritans" thus subject to persecution. All the males of the Thomas Blisse family suffered some form of punishment including torture. Of the three sons, Jonathan suffered such extreme torture in prison that he died there in 1635.⁶⁶

The other two sons, George and Thomas Bliss, whom I'll designate "Senior" with reference to his generation in New England (not England), escaped to New England about 1635-36. George, it is fairly certain, had a grant of land for a home lot at Sandwich, Massachusetts Bay Colony on 16 Apr 1640 and was appointed to make and mend arms at Newport in 1649. He was one of the original proprietors of Quononicut Island⁶⁷ in Narragansett Bay, "Providence Plantations" (later Rhode Island Colony) and was admitted a freeman before 1655-56. He died August 31, 1667.⁶⁸

Which Thomas Bliss

Confusion concerning the Bliss given name "Thomas" does not end in England despite better New England records, Thomas Sr's brother, Jonathan, had a son named Thomas whom I'll designate Thomas(sJ) to distinguish him from his uncle, Thomas Sr and cousin Thomas Jr. Thomas(sJ) appears to have emigrated about the same time as Thomas Sr and George thus confusing Bliss descendants right up to this day.⁶⁹

Thomas(sJ) landed in Boston later removing to a location about 5 miles east of present Providence Rhode Island (then disputed land with MBC), where in 1643 he joined in founding the settlement of Rehoboth. With this knowledge we can put to rest that Margaret's great grandfather, Thomas Sr, had any connection with Rehoboth Mass. In fact, in 1639/40, Thomas Bliss Sr was a founder of Hartford Plantation on the lower Connecticut River.

Even as a founder of Hartford, Thomas Sr can be confused with his son Thomas Jr who is also listed, in some sources, as another founder.⁷⁰ Identification of Thomas Jr is made easier with the knowledge he removed from Hartford to Saybrook, Connecticut Colony where he was married to Elizabeth Birchard on 30

Oct 1644. The births of six children of Thomas Jr and Elizabeth are recorded in Saybrook. Later there were two additional births in Norwich, Connecticut Colony.

Thomas Bliss Sr. and two Margarets

Thomas Bliss Sr of Hartford, Connecticut Colony was a native of Gloucestershire England probably living his adult life in the Town of Gloucester prior to emigration. With the discovery of records of St Nicholas Church of Gloucester (a Puritan church), it has been established Thomas was first married 14 Apr 1616 to Margaret Snowe.⁷¹ She died just five years later and was buried 4 Jun 1621 in the St Nicholas churchyard.⁷²

Thomas and Margaret Snowe had three children all born in Gloucestershire: Ann chr 1617, Thomas Jr chr 1618/19, and Sarah chr 23 Apr 1620 at St Nicholas. It is assumed Sarah did not survive childhood as Thomas and his second wife named one of their children Sarah.⁷³

Thomas was married a second time to Margaret Hulings (Hulins, Hulinge) at St Nicholas Church on 18 Oct 1621.⁷⁴ Their children born in Gloucestershire were Nathaniel est 1622-1625, Mary est 1625, Lawrence est 1628, Hannah est 1632, and John est 1634-5.⁷⁵ Their four remaining children were born in Hartford, Connecticut Colony: Sarah est 1639, Hester and Elizabeth twins est 1640, and Samuel abt 1642.⁷⁶

The birth year of Samuel is particularly vexing. One commonly seen birth year is 1624 used in relation to Samuel's documented death year of 1720 to show he lived 96 years. Sources are sparse for the 1624 birth year.

Recently, a Gloucester church record has been found that refers to a Samuel Bliss, son of a Thomas Bliss, who was christened 4 Feb 1637/8 at St Mary de Crypt in the Town of Gloucester. Given the circumstances surrounding the removal of Thomas Sr and his brother, George Bliss, to New England, estimated to have occurred about 1635, the Samuel Bliss christened at St Mary de Crypt would not be the son of our subject Thomas Bliss Sr.

Finally, there is a birth year of 1642 found in various Bliss trees online but with no documentation. Nonetheless, I have selected 1642 since Samuel's marriage to Mary Leonard at age 23 makes more sense than a marriage at age 41 (birth year 1624). With my arrangement, Samuel was the last child of the family, a boy who lived only eight years before his father died.

Thomas Hooker, Leading Puritan

Since Thomas Bliss Sr, a Puritan and a founder of Hartford Plantation, is linked to the great English Puritan leader Thomas Hooker, who led the expedition in 1636 that founded Hartford, it appears worthwhile to take a brief look at Hooker's life.⁷⁷

Thomas Hooker (July 5, 1586 – July 7, 1647) was a towering figure in the early development of colonial New England. He was a prominent Puritan colonial leader, who founded Connecticut Colony after dissenting with other Puritan leaders in Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was known as an outstanding speaker, an advocate of universal Christian suffrage, an erudite writer on Christian subjects, the first minister of Cambridge, Mass and one of the first founders Hartford Plantation and Connecticut Colony. He is cited as the inspiration for the "Fundamental Orders of Connecticut" that has been called the world's first written democratic constitution establishing a representative government.

In England, about 1626, Hooker became a lecturer at what was then St Mary's Parish Church in Chelmsford and curate to its rector, John Michaelson. However, in 1629, Archbishop William Laud suppressed Puritan church lecturers whereupon Hooker retired to Little Baddow where he kept a school. Eventually his leadership of Puritan sympathizers brought him a summons to the Court of High Commission. Forfeiting his bond, Hooker fled to Rotterdam, Dutch Republic from which he immigrated to the Massachusetts Bay Colony aboard the *Griffin*.⁷⁸

Soon, Hooker was at odds with the Puritan religious establishment; voting in MBC was limited to freemen, those individuals who had been formally admitted to [an acceptable] church after a detailed interrogation of their religious views and experiences. Hooker disagreed with this limitation of suffrage, putting him in direct conflict with the influential pastor John Cotton.

Owing to this conflict, Hooker, now an outcast, and Rev. Samuel Stone fled MBC in 1636 leading about 100 people and 160 cattle southwest on a two-week journey on the Old Connecticut Path⁷⁹ to the Connecticut River in present central Connecticut. There they settled in a place occupied by the Suckiaug Native Americans founding Hartford Plantation named for Stone's place of birth, Hertford in England.

Hooker becomes a political leader in Connecticut Colony

The General Court representing Wethersfield, Windsor and Hartford met at the end of May 1638 to frame a written constitution in order to establish a government for the new commonwealth. Hooker preached the opening sermon at First Church of Hartford on May 31 1638 declaring that "the foundation of authority is laid in the free consent of the people".

That year, settlers from Wethersfield, Windsor, and Hartford ratified the "Fundamental Orders of Connecticut" in what John Fiske called

"The first written constitution known to history that created a government. It marked the beginnings of American democracy, of which Thomas Hooker deserves more than any other man to be called the father. The government of the United States today is in lineal descent more nearly related to that of Connecticut than to that of any of the other thirteen colonies".

Thus, Hartford Plantation became Hartford Towne as a result of the establishment of Connecticut Colony by the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut.

Thomas Bliss Sr and Thomas Hooker

Due to his 1635 emigration from South West England, it is unlikely Thomas Bliss Sr was in Thomas Hooker's original plantation-founding party of 1636 although an early 1635 arrival allows for it. A more acceptable scenario is that Thomas Sr and family arrived in Boston, settled in its environs, and later made their way to Hartford, probably at one of Thomas Hooker's followers' behest.

Thomas Bliss Sr & Jr Founders of Hartford

The full list of original settlers is inscribed on the Founders Monument in the Ancient Burying Ground northeast of the buildings of Center Church at Main Street and Gold Street (see Fig 4).⁸⁰



Fig 4. Hartford Founders Monument

Thomas Bliss Sr Hartford Land Holdings

Thomas Bliss Sr and Thomas Bliss Jr are among those who settled in Hartford by February 1639/40 on the "south side of the riveret" (the Little River, a tributary of the Connecticut River that lay west-east through the center of town, now called Park River and covered over⁸¹).

From the book *Distribution of Lands in Hartford*:⁸² "Severall parcels of land in Hertford upon the River of Conecticott belonging to Thomas Blisse senr & to his heires forever.

One parcell on which his dwellinge house now standeth with yards or gardens therein being Contayninge by Estimation two roods (more or lesses) Abuttinge on the high way leading from John Barnards land toward the North on the west & on Thom Richards land on the North & on Thom Blisse jun(r) land on the south & on Paul Pecks land on the East.

One parcell of upland Contayninge by Estimation two acres & two roods (more or lesse Abutting on the high way leading from the Towne over Rocky hill toward the little River on the North & on the highway leadinge from the Towne over Rocky hill toward the west on the south & on Mr Andrews his land on the East & on Georg hubbards land on the west".

Besides their home lots, Thomas Sr and Jr owned other pieces of land in various parts of the towne.

In the *Towne Booke* there is a list of inhabitants of Hartford, probably made in 1639, that shows both "Thomas Blisse Seno and To Blisse Jno were granted lotts to have only at the towne's courtesy with liberty to fetch wood and keepe swine or coves by proportion on the Common."⁸³

On 3 Mar 1640 the towne "ordred ye thomas blise Senier shall have 2 aceres of grownd near hucanum pownd as the comitye shall apoynte".

At the division of the lands on the east side of the Great River in 1641, "Thomas Blyse Senior" was given six acres and "Thomas Blyse Junior" was given four acres.

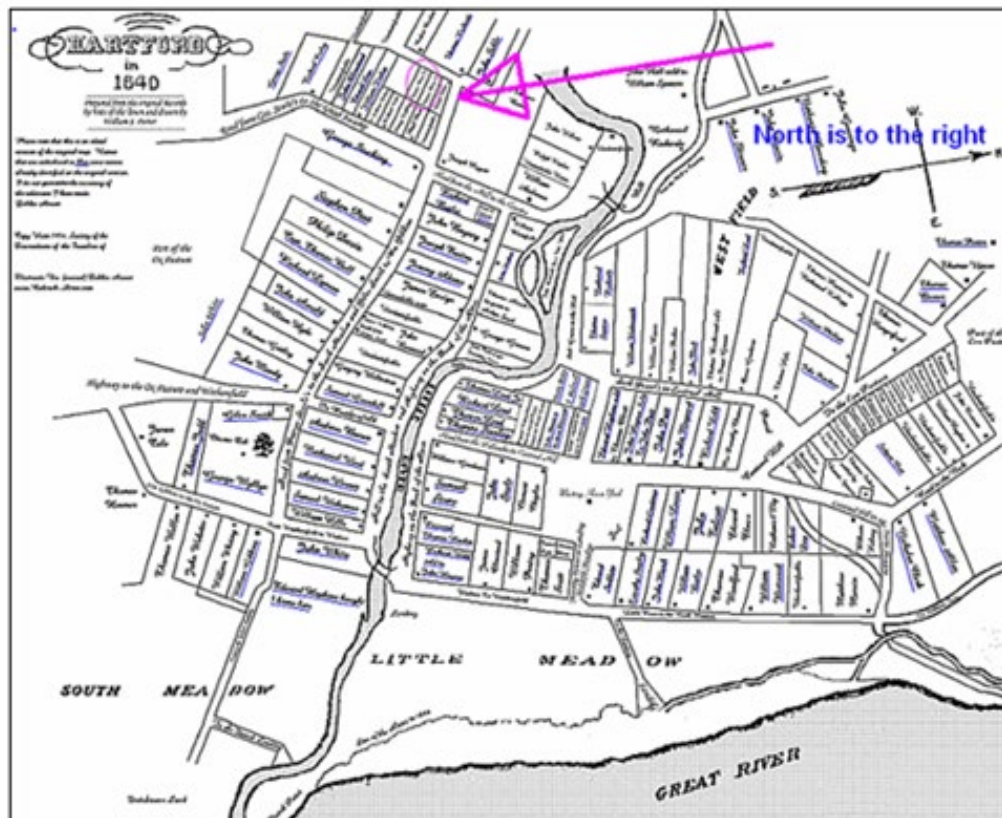


Fig 5. Thomas Bliss Sr and Thomas Bliss Jr house lots upper left (southwest corner of Hartford)

Military Trayning

On 4 Mar 1646/7 we find a Thomas Blisse fined for being absent from military training: "March the 4th, 1646. Tho: Blisse for not trayneing, is fyned 2s 6p".⁸⁴ While this seems straightforward—Thomas Blisse Jr had already removed to Saybrook—it flies in the face of certain other information surrounding Thomas Sr. For instance, with a 1580 birth year, he would have been aged 66 when he supposedly skipped training. It seems unlikely the Hartford Train Band would have required a 66-year-old man to keep up with his military training. In fact, a young man of about 17 was required to participate in 17th century train bands and probably no more than 20-25 years of service was required.⁸⁵

Thomas Bliss Sr's death

The only death information available for Thomas Blisse Sr is circumstantial in the form of orally-expressed wishes to his wife and daughter, an end-of-life situation known as a nuncupative will.⁸⁶ The will was officially "taken" in February of 1650/51 but the actual date of the expressed wishes is not known but assumed to be prior to late 1650.⁸⁷

From Hartford Probate Records: "Bliss, Thomas, Hartford, Invt, £86-12-08. [Inventory] taken 14 Feb 1650/1 by Nathaniel Ward and Joseph Mygatt. Testimony of John Pynchon, Henry Smith, and "...mary parson of Springfield the daughter of Thomas Bliss late of Harford deceased, doth testifie, that when her father lay on his death bed Shee heard her mother Aske him, how hee would dispose of his estate, hee Answered hee would give it to her, who should have it elce, her mother asked him if hee would not dispose of it to his Children, her father Answered againe no, her mother Should have it, this Shee Shall be ready to testifie if Called thereunto. Wittness John Pincheon Hen: Smith⁸⁸

In the Particular Court Record of 20 Feb 1650/51, p17: "Adms. to the Relict [wife of Thomas Bliss Sr], Shee to keep the whole Estate in her Hands for her Use if Shee So long Continue a widdow and the Education of the Children during her life; then to be divided among the Children, viz: to Lawrence, to John, to Samuel, to Hester, to Elizabeth, to Hannah, and to Sarah Bliss.

Widow Bliss

After her husband's death, Margaret Hulings (Widow Bliss) wasted no time in taking over the management of her husband's estate. At the Particular Court of Connecticut held on 7 Mar 1650/51 "Goody Bliss⁸⁹ of Hartford" commenced a lawsuit against William Ayers for the unlawful detaining and wrongful selling of her cow.

Shortly after the filing of the Bliss v Ayres lawsuit in Hartford it can be assumed Margaret removed to Springfield (year 1651). Her sons Nathaniel and Lawrence had already settled Springfield about 1645 and it appears they arranged for their mother's settlement in Springfield as early as that year. (See Fig 7, Land Grants of 1645 in the Long Meddowe).

Under the date of "Janye 22 1651/52" on page 107 of the first volume of *Springfield Towne Votes*: "Widow Bliss" appeared as a grantee of three acres "on Pacowsic beginning at ye lower end with a lot by the Great River".⁹⁰ (See Fig 6 below).

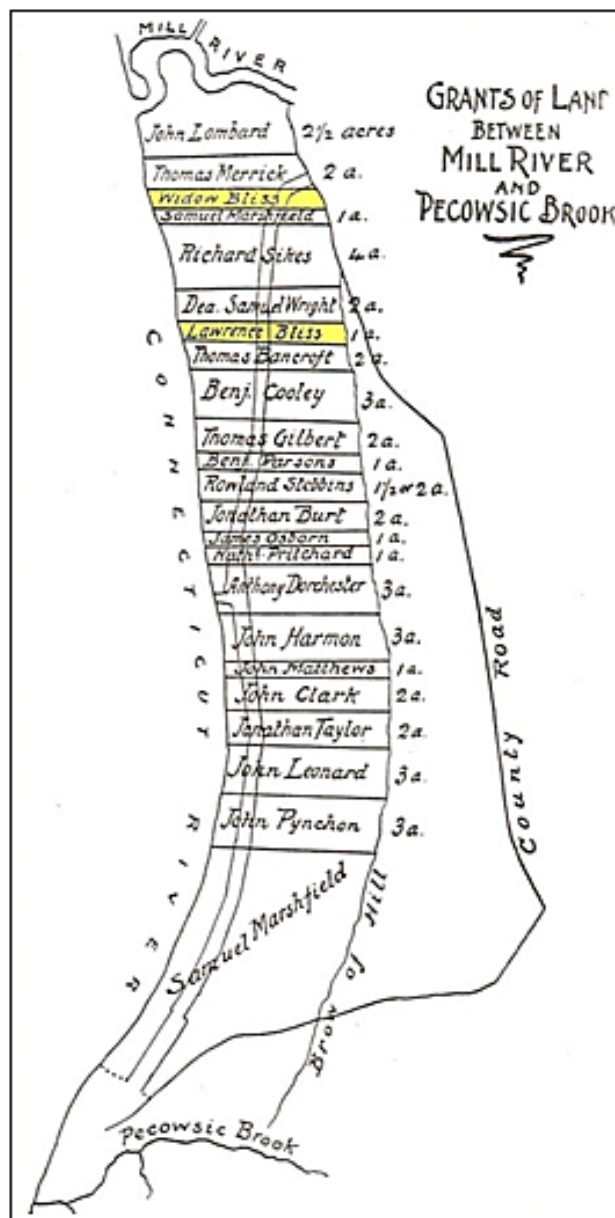


Fig 6. Bliss property in Pecowsic area

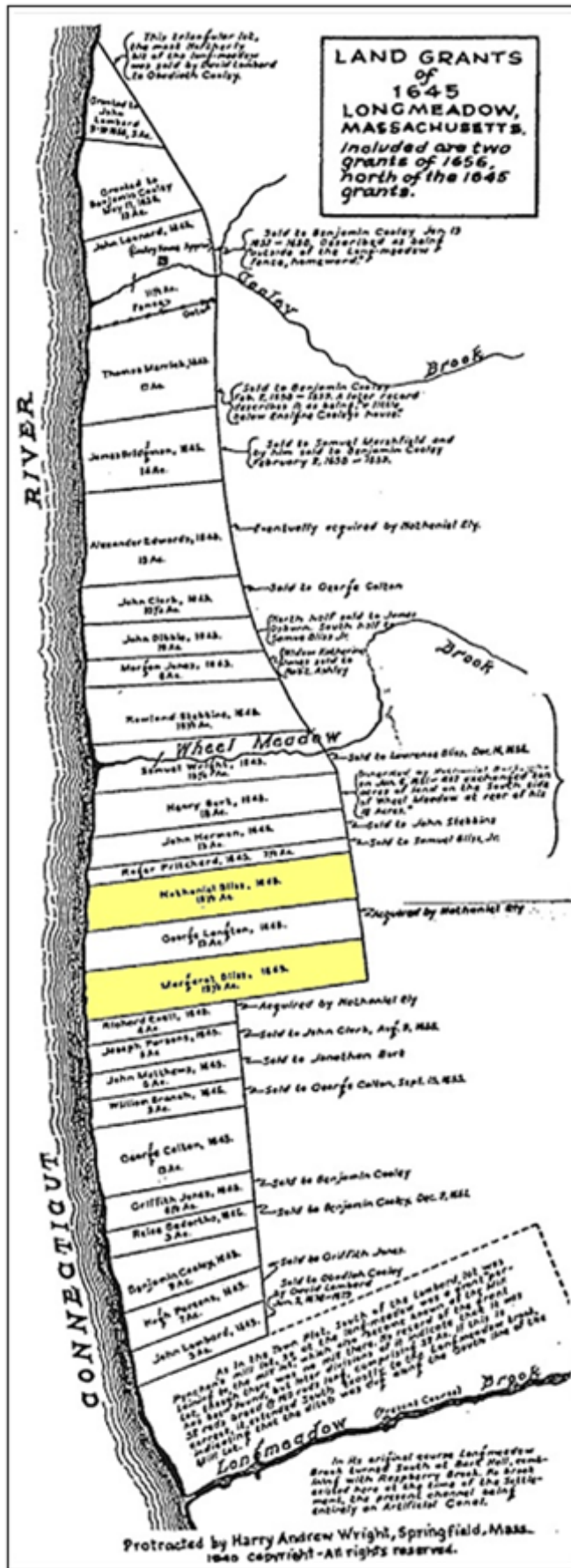


Fig 7. Land Grants in the Long Meddowe 1645
Widow Bliss already established.

On page 24 of a book kept by the Springfield Clerk, known as the *Book of Possessions* Margaret Hulings appears in undated entries as follows: "Widdow Bliss is Possesed of a howse lott by purchase from Thomas Tomson with the additions viz. seven acres more or less. Breadth, 14 rood, length 80 rood. Bounded North George Langhton. South Geo Langhton". See Fig 8 below.

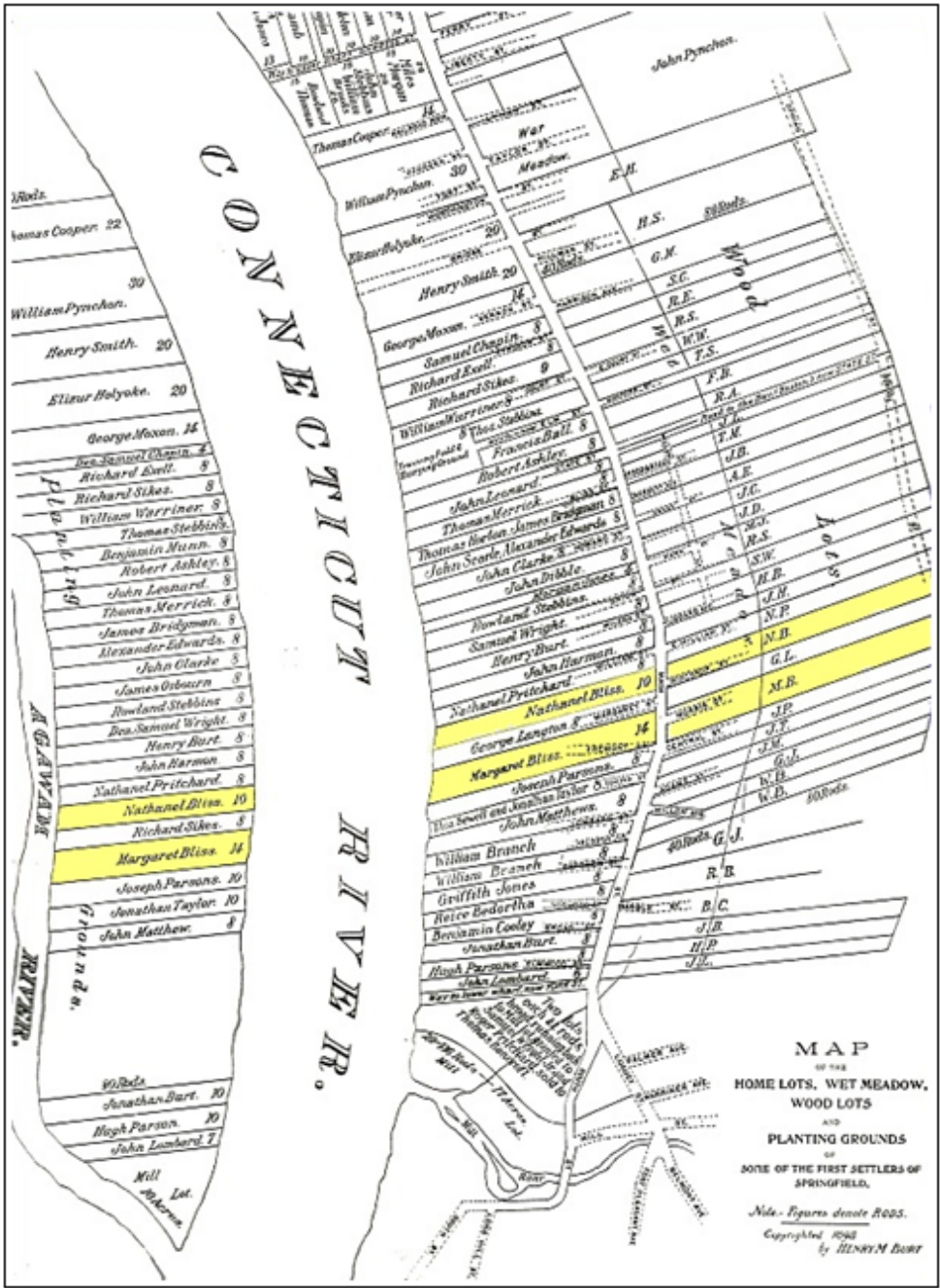


Fig 8. Widdow Bliss’s and Nathaniel Bliss’s property in Springfield Proper. Note that lots across the river were also granted more or less parallel to the east side lots though they were mostly untended by their eastside owners.

From the map in Fig 8, obtained from Henry Burt's "First Century...Springfield" it can be seen that the property purchased from Thomas Tomson was on the west side of Main street, extending therefrom westerly to the Connecticut River, the northerly and southerly bounds now being Margaret street and Fremont street.

Adding to that lot: "In the same line Eastward opposite to hir howse lott [on the west side of Main Street] 3 acres of wett meddow more or less, of the same breath with a wood lott of 7 acres. Breadth 14 rod extending East from the wett meddow 80 rod. Bounded on both sids by Geo: Langhton".

Besides these lots on the east side the river, she held 19½ acres in the Long Meddowe south of Springfield proper, 11 acres on the west side of the Great River opposite her house lot on the east side, five acres in the second division over Agawam River (now Westfield River), and four acres of land probably in the Pecowsic area bought from her son Lawrence.

On March 26, 1661 Widow Margaret Bliss filed a complaint to the Hampshire County Court of damage sustained by her by reason of the passage of the water to the mill at Springfield. The Court ordered Lieutenant William Clark of Northampton and John White, Senior, of "ye New Towne" to view and judge what should be done by Mr. Holyoke for her relief. The settlement of the complaint was not recorded.

About 1665, "Widdy Bliss hath granted unto her soe much of the pond as is at the end of her lott in Long Meddow, provided the Indians be not molested in comeing to or gathering of their pease".

West side properties neglected

On 3 Jan 1661 Margaret was among those with land holdings on the west side of the River who agreed to build a fence of posts and rails before the next April (1662) from the Agawam River to the Great River.

In May of 1678 (about 13 years later) and again in September 1680 (15½ years later) Margaret and other owners of lands on the west side of the Great River were fined for defects in the fences around their lands. From these facts it is assumed many of the east side owners had abandoned their land on the west side. The plight of the permanent residents on the west side was well known by this time.

There was a provision by the Magistrate (William Pynchon) of a labor "tithe" requiring any able-bodied man (and his work animals) to labor up to six eight-hour days on local (east side) roads. Because the Connecticut River was too wide (about 427 meters or 1400 feet) to be bridged at the time, crossings had to be made by boat. Consequently, the required labor became a hardship.

Not only were they required to work on the east side for the common cause, they had to maintain their own living by farming their land on the west side. Their harvested crops were taken to market requiring another crossing of the river to a landing place on the east side of the Connecticut River later called "Hay Place" (near present Town Common). The west side people were indeed overwhelmed by the dictatorial hand of William Pynchon.

For the early settlers of Springfield attendance at both town meetings and weekly Congregational church services (often both held in the town meetinghouse) was mandatory and enforced with fines. West side residents were not exempt from these requirements so the need for numerous crossings of the river became a dreadful burden. After 62 years of complaints and the tragic deaths of a small family making the crossing, the west side residents were finally granted autonomy by the General Court.

Thus, it is easy to see that those owners who had land on both sides of the river, such as Margaret Bliss, simply wanted to avoid the river crossings so their west side properties fell into neglect.

Margaret Hulings (Widdow Bliss) dies

From Massachusetts Vital Records (MVR) database: "Widow Margaret Bliss was sicke & died Aug 28 1684".

Her will, dated 25 Jun 1684, was witnessed by Benjamin Parsons and Samuel Marshfield. On 30 Sep 1684 her son, Samuel Bliss of Springfield, presented the last will of his mother to the Hampshire County Court and at the same time an inventory of her estate. The inventory (not dated) showed real estate to the amount of £230 and household goods, clothing, cattle and other personal property of £78 for a grand total £278.⁹¹ Thus, she had increased the value of her inherited estate by over three times (£86 to £278).

The bulk of her estate was left to son Samuel. To her son John, £20 (she had already "given" him her land in the Long Meddowe for which he had not paid); to grandson Samuel 2nd, son of Lawrence, 7 acres "in the Neck on the river" (probably Pacowsick; presently Forest Hills Park); to grandson Nathaniel Morgan £5 when aged 20; to daughters Mary Parsons and Sarah Scott, household stuff and clothing; to Sarah Scott £5; and to grandson John Scott, a cow.

Nathaniell Blisse

From Gloucestershire Church of England records: "Nathaniell the sonne of Thomas Blisse was baptized the eight and twentieth daye of December [1622]". Some family trees state that Nathaniel was baptized in Rodborough or Stroud but the church at Rodborough was affiliated with the Church of England and it is known this particular Blisse family was Puritan. Furthermore, in the early 17th century, Minchinhampton was the name of the parish, not Rodborough. Thus, I have generalized his birth place to the shire but have retained the year of birth as 1622.

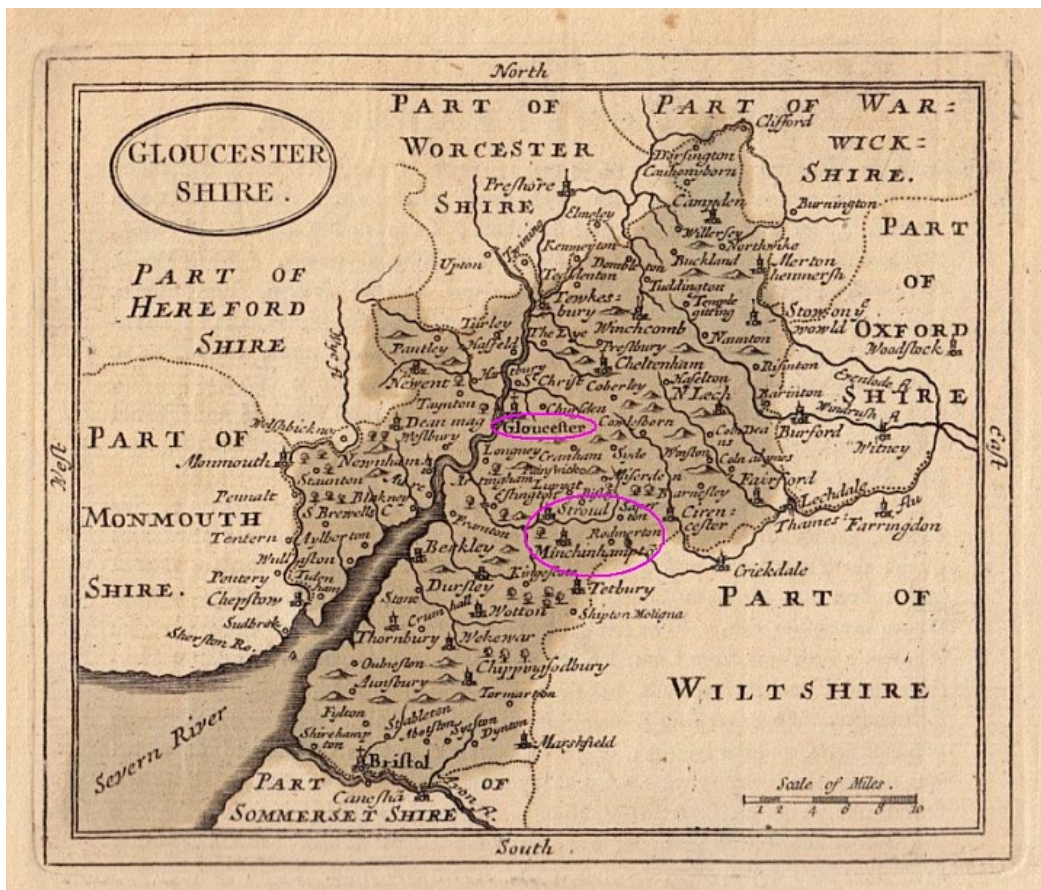


Fig 9. Ancient Gloucestershire. Notice the parish of Minchinhampton about 12 miles south of Gloucester

Nathaniel, aged 13, came to New England about 1635 with his father, Thomas Blisse Sr, his mother, Hargaret Hulings, his half-brother, Thomas Jr, his half-sister, Ann, and his four siblings, Mary, Lawrence, Hannah, and John.

There are no records of his life in Hartford. In 1645 there is evidence Nathaniel, aged 23, had already removed to Springfield and there is some reason to believe his younger brother, Lawrence, aged 19, accompanied him. See Fig 7 which shows that his mother (Widow Bliss, granted 1650/51) and Lawrence each owned property between Mill River and Pecowsic Brook. It is quite possible Lawrence had obtained her lot prior to her removal from Hartford in 1650 at which time he transferred ownership to her.⁹²

Bliss-Chapin Marriage

On 20 Nov 1646 Nathaniel Bliss was married to Katharine Chapin, daughter of Deacon Samuel Chapin and Cicely Penny.⁹³ She was born about 1629 at Berry Pomeroy, Devonshire, England.^{94 95 96} They were married a few days before Nathaniel's sister Mary was married to Joseph Parsons.

Children Analysis

- i. **Samuel**, b. 7 Nov 1647 in Springfield, Non-County Area 1, Massachusetts Bay Colony (MBC);⁹⁷ m. 18 Aug 1654, in Springfield MBC, Sarah Stebbins;⁹⁸ b. 6 Aug 1654 Springfield MBC,⁹⁹ s. 6 Nov 1721 in Springfield, Hampshire Co, Mass;¹⁰⁰ dau Lt Thomas Stebbins and Hannah Wright; He d. 19 Jun 1749 in Springfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts.¹⁰¹
- ii. **Margaret**, b. 12 Nov 1649, Springfield, MBC;¹⁰² m. 2 May 1672 at Springfield¹⁰³ to Nathaniel Foote III (son of Nathaniel Jr and grandson of Nathaniel Sr, "The Settler"). He was b. 14 Jan 1648/9 at Wethersfield, Connecticut Colony, d. 12 Jan 1703.¹⁰⁴ Margaret d. 3 Apr 1745 at Colchester, Connecticut Colony.¹⁰⁵ Margaret was born 24 months, 5 days after Samuel was born.
- iii. **Mary**, b. 23 Sep 1651 in Springfield MBC;¹⁰⁶ m. 27 Feb 27 1670 in Springfield MBC¹⁰⁷ to Nathaniel Holcomb (son of Thomas Holcomb of Windsor Conn) who was b. 4 Nov 1648¹⁰⁸ and was a farmer in Simsbury, Connecticut Colony. Mary d. est 1722 from apocryphal sources. Mary was born 23 months after Margaret was born.
- iv. **Nathaniel Jr**, b. 27 Mar 1653 in Springfield MBC;¹⁰⁹ m. 28 Dec 1676 in Springfield to Deborah Colton (dau of Quartermaster George Colton) who d. 26 Nov 1733.¹¹⁰ Nathaniel Jr d. 23 Dec 1736.¹¹¹ The couple had no issue. "Having no children of their own, they adopted Joshua Field, son the Samuel and Sarah Field, of Hatfield and made him principal heir of their estate".¹¹² Nathaniel Jr was born 18 months after Mary was born.

Nathaniel's Land Ownership in Springfield

"At the beginning of 1647, there were forty-two lot owners in Springfield and six vacant lots. These lists were kept by William Pynchon and are invaluable to genealogy researchers as they give a clear picture of who was there, when, and the affluence of the families and individuals".¹¹³ One takeaway: The more land one owned, the higher his ranking in early Springfield.

For instance, Wm Pynchon 237 acres, Henry Smith, 148 acres, Elizur Holyoke, 125 acres. For comparison, Ensign Benjamin Cooley, 40½ acres, Rowland Stebbins, 38½ acres, and Thomas Stebbins, 34 acres.

Our present subject, in 1647 Nathaniel Bliss, owned 51½ acres. In Springfield, his home lot was ten rods wide and was the second below the present William Street. See Fig 8.

Nathaniel Bliss' Death

Nathaniel Bliss, merely in his 30s, died and was buried 18 Nov 1654¹¹⁴ in Springfield, some 30 years before his mother, Margaret Hulings died (in 1686). He died intestate so the Probate Court gave control of Nathaniel's estate to his wife Katherine Chapin until she was once again married. Since she had already announced her intention to be married to Thomas Gilbert his instructions were also included in the final disposal.

Springfield, March: 5th 1654/5 Concerninge the disposinge of the estate of Katharine Bliss Widdow late wife of Nathaneel Bliss deceased who died intestate. It was Ordered that shee should enjoy all the Estate, left by her said Husband, and that shee may be carefull of the children which shee had by her said Husband which children are for present of very tender yeares: And it Is further

Ordered that when her Eldest Son attaynes to the age of One and Twenty yeares shee shall pay unto him, the Summ of Eight pounds, and when the Two daughters attayn to the age of sixteen yeares shee shall pay to each of them the summ of Foure pounds: and Foure pounds to the youngest son at the age of One and Twenty yeares: And in case any of them dy under such ages aforesaid, the portion or portions of the decease shalbe divided equally among the rest. Know all men by these presents that whereas there is a marriage intended to be solemnized between the above mentioned the Widdow Katherine Bliss of this Town, and Thomas Gilbert of Windsor. The said Thomas Gilbert doth for good causes and considerations him hereunto mooving covenante and promise, and hereby bynd himself his heires executors and administrators to pay or cause to be paid unto the children above mentioned of the said Widdow their Severall portions in the order above mentioned, and at the severall tymes of payment above mentioned: In witness whereof he hath hereunto sett his hand this 23d of May 1655. The mark of Thomas Gilbert Signed before us Elizur Holyoke and Samuell Chapin.¹¹⁵

Thomas Cooper, Jonathan Burt, and Benjamin Cooley took inventory of Nathaniel Bliss' estate that showed a value of over £54.¹¹⁶

Katherine Chapin was married 31 Jul 1655 to Thomas Gilbert and by him had four more children. Gilbert died 5 Jun 1662 after which Katherine was married a third time on 28 Dec 1664 to Samuel Marshfield by whom she had four more children. She died 4 Feb 1712 at Springfield.

Old Burying Ground

While there are no details relating to Nathaniel's burial, in the late 17th century most Springfield residents were buried in the "Old Burying Ground on the Banks of the Greate River" between Old First Church meetinghouse and the Connecticut River at the Foot of Elm Street. It is therefore assumed Nathaniel along with his mother and other family members were buried there. Note that stone markers were not used in Springfield until the early 1700s.

About 1844 the Hartford & Springfield Railroad began construction making its way up the east side of the Connecticut River requiring that the Old Burying Ground in Springfield be moved. Extensive digging began in 1848 and, after nearly 200 years of floods¹¹⁷ and neglect, virtually nothing remained of the early burials especially those in the latter half of the 17th century when permanent markers were not used. Anything that could be salvaged was moved about one mile to the newly-laid-out Peabody Cemetery and placed in a mass burial pit located on its Pine Street side. A few recognizable stones were found and arranged neatly near the mass burial site but those were from the second decade of the 18th century.

Samuel Chapin

Samuel Chapin was a prominent early settler of Springfield, Massachusetts Bay Colony. He served the town as selectman, magistrate, and deacon and is best known today as the subject of the Augustus Saint-Gaudens sculpture entitled Deacon Samuel Chapin (also known as 'The Puritan') currently located in Springfield's Merrick Park.

He was born 8 Oct 1598 in Paignton, Devonshire, England.¹¹⁸ On 9 Feb 1623/4 Samuel was married to Cicely Penny. They had seven children: David, Katherine, Sarah, Josiah, Henry, Japhet, and Hannah. The oldest five children were born in England and the two youngest in MBC: Japhet in Roxbury and Hannah in Springfield.

Samuel, Cicely, and five children emigrated from England after the birth of their last child, Josiah, who was christened 29 Oct 1637 in Berry Pomeroy, Devonshire, England. Their first New England residence was Roxbury MBC where Samuel and Cicely became members of John Eliot's First Church. He took the Oath of a Freeman¹¹⁹ on 2 Jun 1641 becoming an official voter of the colony at that time.

The Chapin family continued their residence in Roxbury at least until the birth of their first child, Japhet baptized in Roxbury 15 Oct 1642. Their transition window from Roxbury to Springfield was almost exactly two years when on 26 Sep 1644 Samuel Chapin was elected as a member of the first Prudential Committee of Springfield. Just 2½ months later their last child, Hannah, was born 2 Dec 1644 in Springfield.

Samuel, as a member, of a prudential committee was a Selectman. Such a committee of selectmen generally comprised three to nine in number in early New England. They were elected by a vote of all the freemen of the town and were to serve for one year. Selectmen were given significant authority over town finances, care of the poor, schools, admission of new residents into the town, roads and other public works, land regulation, local defense, and appointment of other town officials not elected by the town meeting.¹²⁰

Samuel Chapin held the office of Selectman continuously from 1644 to late 1652 but sea changes would roil the town. In 1650 Springfield founder and Magistrate William Pynchon published a book entitled *The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption* that argued obedience was the price of atonement rather than punishment and suffering. In 1652 the book was adjudged to be heresy by the Massachusetts General Court whereupon Pynchon was ordered to appear before the Court and retract the book's argument. Instead, Pynchon stealthily transferred his land holdings to his son John and returned to England where he remained for the rest of his life.¹²¹

To fill the void of magistrate¹²² left by the departure of William Pynchon, the General Court pulled John Pynchon and Samuel Chapin from the 1652/53 group of seven selectmen to be co-magistrates or co-commissioners.

Samuel Chapin held office as a commissioner until late 1660. He then alternated between being a selectman (1660 and 1663) and a commissioner (1662, 1664 and 1665).

Chapin died in Springfield about November 1675 shortly after the town was sacked during King Philip's War. Cicely survived him by just over seven years, dying in February 1682.¹²³

Samuel Bliss Jr and Sarah Stebbins

Samuel Bliss Jr was b. 7 Nov 1647 in Springfield, Non-County Area 1, Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was a contemporary of Daniel Cooley, b. 1651, eldest child of Ensign Benjamin Cooley (b. 1615).¹²⁴ Samuel was m. 2 Jan 1671/72 to Sarah Stebbins dau Lt Thomas Stebbins and Hannah Wright.¹²⁵ Sarah was b. 18 Aug 1654 in Springfield, Non-County Area 1, MBC¹²⁶ and d. 6 Nov 1721.¹²⁷

Samuel Bliss Jr Death aged 102

"On the 19th past [19 June 1749] died at Springfield, Mr. Samuel Bliss, in the 102d Year of his age: He was born in that Town, Sept 7, 1647; and has left alive 6 Children, 38 grandchildren, 114 Great-Grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren". - *Boston Post-Boy*, Boston, Massachusetts dated 17 Jul 1749.

Children

The following list was taken from the *Bliss Genealogy*. All of the children were born in Springfield, Massachusetts Bay Colony (MBC), 1628-1686, or Dominion of New England, 1686-1689, or Province of Massachusetts Bay (Mass), 1690 to statehood.

- i. **Samuel Jr-1st**, b. 10 Aug 1677 in MBC and d. 31 Aug 1692
- ii. **Nathaniel**, b. 8 Sep 1679 in MBC; m. 20 Jan 1704 Mary Morgan b. 24 Dec 1742 and d. 24 Dec 1686; he d. 12 Mar 1751
- iii. **Sabah**, b. abt Oct 1681 in MBC; m. 15 Jan 1702 Nathaniel Mighel of Westfield, Mass
- iv. **Margaret**, b. 23 Nov 1683 MBC; m. 31 Jan 1701 Benjamin₃ Cooley, son of Daniel Cooley and Elizabeth Wolcott, he was b. 28 Oct 1681 and d. abt 1745 possibly in Greenwich. She died est 1744 possibly in Brimfield
- v. **Thomas**, b. 22 Jan 1684/85 in MBC; m. 2 Nov 1710 Sarah Dorchester, b. ? and d. 16 Sep 1745; he d. 4 Sep 1767
- vi. **Hannah**, b. abt Aug 1687 in Dominion of England; m. 9 Jan 1707 Ebenezer Warner of Springfield; she d. 15 Apr 1711
- vii. **John**, b. 4 Nov 1690 in Mass; m. 18 Apr 1724 Lydia Field of Sunderland Mass, b. abt 1659 and d. 29 Feb 1760; he d. 8 Oct 1784
- viii. **Samuel Jr-2nd**, b. 25 Apr 1694 in Mass; m. 4 Dec 1713 Elizabeth Warriner; he d. 21 Dec 1724
- ix. **Ebenezer**, b. 4 Mar 1695/96 in Mass; m. 29 Jan 1719 Sarah Colton of Enfield, she b. abt 1692 and d. 14 Jan 1780; he d. 29 Aug 1784.

Samuel Blisses in Springfield

There were numerous Samuel Blisses associated with Springfield and J. Homer Bliss made no attempt to straighten it out in the *Bliss Genealogy*. Henry Burt made a feeble attempt by designating four Samuels as Sr, 2d, 3d and just plain Samuel but he did not identify the parents. The Samuel problem is further confused with the bizarre situation in the Samuel Sr-Sarah Stebbins family where there were two Samuel juniors designated by me as Samuel Jr-1st and Samuel Jr-2nd. For reference, Fig 9 shows the Samuel Blisses in the index of Henry Burt's *First Century of Springfield*.

450	INDEX O
Bliss, Samuel.—	
Constable, 432.	
Defective fence—fined, 431, 436.	
Due him for two voyages with his horse, 315.	
Fence viewer, 357, 397, 416.	
Granted land, 308, 310, 320, 351.	
Portion of brook fence, 425.	
Seat in meeting-house, 127, 129, 330, 331.	
Selectman, 29, 31.	
Subscription for mill, 353.	
To stop noise at east door of meeting house, 430.	
When settled, 43.	
Wood for minister's salary, 387.	
Bliss, Samuel, Jr.—	
Absent from town meeting—fined, 419.	
Fence viewer, 413, 423.	
Fined for fast riding, 58, 375.	
Granted land, 320, 351, 397.	
Portion of brook fence, 425.	
Bliss, Samuel, 2d.—	
Killing wolf, 433.	
Selectman, 31.	
To measure upland fence, 426.	
Wood for minister's salary, 388.	
Bliss, Samuel, 3d.—	
Killing a wolf, 439.	
Selectman, 30, 31.	

Fig 9. Samuel Blisses in *First Century of Springfield* by Henry Burt

Land ownership of four Samuel Blisses

Referring to the Burt index (Fig 9 above), and the map shown in Fig 10, there were two Samuel Blisses who owned Springfield land on the high ridge east of the Long Meddowe: Plain Samuel Bliss (1st on the map) and Samuel Bliss 2d according to Burt. The Samuel Blisses age-eligible to own land were: Plain Samuel Bliss, son of Thomas Bliss Sr and Margaret Hulings, Samuel Sr (sNK), son of Nathaniel Bliss and Katherine Chapin and subject of this chapter; Samuel Jr-2nd, the second son named Samuel of Samuel Sr and Sarah Stebbins, and Samuel (sLL), son of Lawrence Bliss and Lydia Wright.

If the same Samuel designations were used as in Burt, then Samuel (sNK) was Samuel 2nd but the Samuel 3d is a tossup between Samuel (sLL) and Samuel Jr-2nd).

From an additional analysis of the long list of Springfield Selectmen in Burt (pp26-32) versus age it can be tentatively concluded the subject of this chapter, Samuel (sNK), son of Nathaniel and Katherine, served as a Springfield Selectman in 1723, 1724, 1725, and 1727 but keep in mind, he would have been 76 in 1723 and 80 in 1727.

In 1703, after the Petition of 1701 was approved to remove from the lowland of the Long Meddowe to the higher ridge to the east, "Samuel Bliss" acquired several lots on that ridge along which present highway 35/Longmeadow Ave runs. This Samuel Bliss is undoubtedly the son of Thomas Bliss Sr and Margaret Hulings.

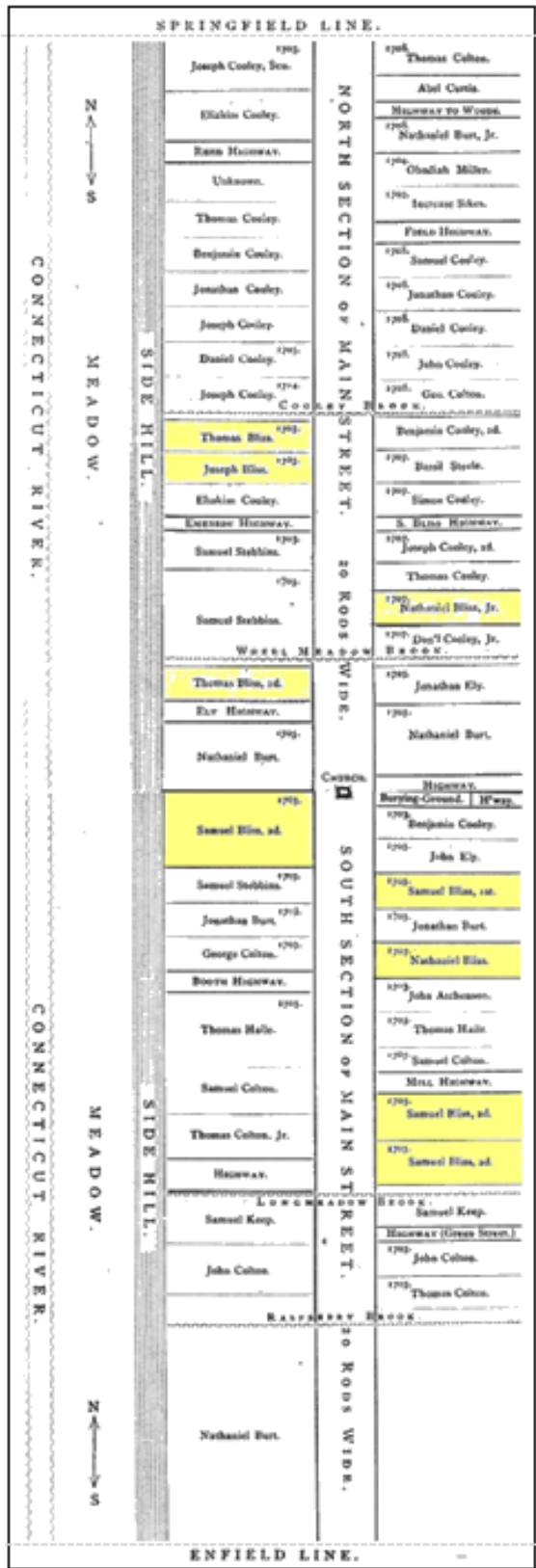


Fig 10. Bliss land holdings on the East Ridge above the Long Meddowe.

Towne Meetings

From Henry Burt's *First Century* the following are related to "Samuel Bliss" (no suffix):

- Towne of Springfield Disbursements Dec 30th 1680..."The Towne dr desembar the 30: 1680...To Samuel Blisses account for the Constabell what at times when he reseived the rates...00 01 4
- Fined for defects in fences on the west side of the Connecticut River, same as their mother, Sept 4th 1680
- Samuell & nathanell Bliss 0 3 0 (likely Samuel(sTM) Blisse s. of Thomas Blisse Sr and Margaret Hulings).....Widow Bliss 0 2 0...
- "Goodman Merick & Charles fferry ffence viewers for ye home Lots bring in deffects as followeth...Samll Bliss one [defect] 3 sh".
- At a meeting of selectmen Mar 2nd 1663/4: Recd by his paying Sam: Bliss for w(t) the Town owed him for 2 voyadges with his horse02 02 00".
- At a meeting of selectmen Feb 11th 1666/7 "viz George Colton, Benjamin Cooly, Nathanel Ely Roland Thomas and Samuell Marshfeild There was choise made of veuars of fences for the severall feilds...John Keep & Samuell bliss veiwers for the long medo and the Home Lots of as far as the meeting house and downward".
- At a meeting of selectmen Feb 12th 1671/2..."Veiwers of fences for ye yeere ensueing there are now chosen & appointed...John Clark & Samll Bliss for ye Longe Meddow".
- At a meeting of selectmen May 11th 1663...Also there is granted to Lawrence Bliss Six acres of Meddow which was formerly grannted to Deacon Wright: this meddow is in ye meddow comonly called Watchuett^v...Likewise to Richard Sikes Samuell Bliss & Edward Foster there is grannted to each of them foure acres in ye Same wett meddow.
- At a towne meeting Feb 6th and Feb 26th 1665/6 it was agreed the present mill "on Mill Streame" was not adequate and new mill should be built nearby. Capt Pynchon promised to build the new mill for £200 but he solicited contributions from town folk of whom Samll Bliss contributed 10 shillings.

Towne Meetings mentioning Samuel Bliss Senior (not Burt's notation)

This "Samuel Bliss Senior" is most likely the son of Thomas Blisse and Margaret Hulings.

- On Feb 9th 1679/80 Samuell Bliss Snyer was appointed to quell "disorderly practis by youth" outside the east door of the meetinghouse. He was "seryously to admonish any disorderly persons and if they will not be reformed then to mak returne of the persons to the Select men".
- Feb 12th 1676/7...Att a meet of the Seleck men, Gorg Coulton John Dumbleton, Ben Parsons, John Dorchester, Henry Chapin, Survaiors of fences for the longmedo Nathanel Burt and Samuel Stebin...For the homlots Samuel Bliss Senior Thomas Stebing Juner.
- Land Grants at a meeting on Dec 8th 1664...To Samuell Bliss Senr five and thirty acres.
- Again on March 5th 1665/66 at a Meeting of the Comittee impowered for the grannt...There is granted to John Bliss & Samuell Bliss Senior {probably brothers, sons of Thomas and Margaret} Six acres a peece in a Meddow on a brook that runs into fresh water brook (about a mile & halfe beyond Nathaneell Elyes Meddow) if there be soe much there: Samll Bliss his share to begin at ye higher end next ye swamp that the brook runs out of. Also to Samll Bliss Junior is granted three acres in ye same meddow if there be soe much beside the former grants there (This Samll is probably the subject of this chapter, son of Nathaniel and Sarah).

^v The only modern hint at this name is Wachusett St in Springfield but it is not close to Longmeadow.

Towne Meetings mentioning Samuel Bliss Junior (Burt's notation)

This may be Samuel (sLL), son of Lawrence Bliss and Lydia Wright.

- At a meeting of selectmen Feb 12th 1671/2...Granted Samll Bliss Jun(r) 2 or 3 acrs of Medd: in ye Medd: where he had a former grant in march 65-66 if there be soe much there & on like Cond: as yet Also 3 acrs more of wett medd is granted to him behind Long Meddow below N Burts Medd".
- Feb 11th 1677. The names of such persons as did afterwards absent themselves in ye town meting without Leave from ye moderator or ye major part of ye Inhabitants & present no reason for ye absenting themselves, vizt: Henry Chapin, John Riley, Obadiah Miller, Edward Foster, Joseph Leonard Jnr...Ephraim Colton, Samll Bliss Junr, [and] Samll Stebbins [all of] whose Penalty is two shillings according to Towne order.
- At a meetin of the Select men Febuary the 7th 1675/76. Theyr was made of vewers of fences for the feilds for the Longe meadow Isaack Coulton Samuell bliss Junyr.
- At a meeting Feb 10th 1678/79 veiwers of fences to ye genll feilds were chosen...For Longmed. Obad. Cooley Sa. Bliss Junr.
- Land Grants at a meeting on Dec 8th 1664. To Samuell Bliss Junor twenty acres on condition that his Mother of Some other satisfy all manner of charges that may come on the land before he or any other improve it.¹²⁸

Indiscretions of Our Puritan Youth

"It being observed & complayned of that Persons do frequently take liberty to ride very swiftly with their horses in the streets to ye endangering of children and others, it is therefore ordered that if any person be observed to Run his horse or to ride faster than an ordinary gallop in ye streets of this town, except upon such urgent occasions as shall by ye Selectmen be judged warrantabel so to do, he shall be liable to a fine of 3s 4d, to be paid, one shilling to the Informer & the rest to ye Towne". The first to transgress this order were Thomas Stebbins Jr, Timothy Cooper, John Hitchcock, Samuel Bliss Jr, and Jonathan Ashley, all young men.¹²⁹

Tho Stebbing Junr last Wednesday in ye forenoon feircely Galloping & running his Horse^{vi} in ye streete fro: Godm: Miricks upward & was seen by many psons & he acknowledged it before ye Select men, it being expressly against ye Towne order. He was accordingly sentenced to pay 3s 4d (the Informer taking 1s according to Towne order) The 2s 4d is payable to ye Towne. Tim Cooper & Jonath Ashly likewise Jo Hitchcock & Sam Bliss Junr being complained of for running their horses in ye Streete on ye same day.¹³⁰

Seating People in the Meetinghouse

The selectmen and the deacons, or a committee appointed by the selectmen, determined the order in which the seats in the meetinghouses in New England, in the early settlement, should be occupied. Ability and general regard, as well as wealth, had much to do with the order of selection. The women, as a rule, do not appear to have been assigned to particular seats, but occupied, in another part of the house, such as suited their own preferences.¹³¹

The first list, still of record, bears the date of December 23, 1659, and reads: 'The order which persons now seated in the meetinghouse by the Selectmen and Deacon Chapin. The selectmen are as followeth: Robert Ashley, Benjamin Cooley, William Warriner, Jonathan Bnr, Thomas Cooper.

... 9th Seate. — Abell Wright, Hugh Dudley, John Bagg, John Sacket, David Ashley, Samuel Bliss, John Riley.

... In ye upper pt above ye Pillars on ye South side. — Francis Pepper, James Warriner, Samuel Bliss (Sr).

... In ye Backer seate above the Pillars on the North side. — John Hitchcock, John Clarke, John Lombard, Samuel Bliss.¹³²

^{vi} Little has changed to this day, the only difference being cars.

Samuel Sr's Death notice

From *Boston Post-Boy*, Boston, Massachusetts dated 17 Jul 1749.: "On the 19th past [19 June 1749] died at Springfield, Mr. Samuel Bliss, in the 102d Year of his age: He was born in that Town, Sept 7, 1647; and has left alive 6 Children, 38 grandchildren, 114 Great-Grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren".

Samuel's and Sarah's children and their death years were: Samuel Jr-1st, 1692; Nathaniel 2nd, 1751; Sarah, ?; Margaret, est 1744, Thomas Bliss, 1767; Hannah, 1711; John 1784; Samuel Jr-2nd, 1724; and Ebenezer, 1784.

By my count four children were definitely alive after 19 Jun 1749: Nathaniel 2nd, Thomas, John, and Ebenezer. Sarah's death date is unknown but if it was after 1749, she would be the 5th child still alive.

Stebbing/Stebbins

Rowland Stebbing of England

Despite the thorough research of the Stebbings/Stebbins name by the Greenlee brothers in the *Stebbins Genealogy*, published 1904, no records concerning Rowland Stebbing were found in England. However, the Greenlees made some interesting conjectures that ultimately were shown to be correct:

"[T]here is a strong probability that he was born in or near the parish of Stebbing, Essex County. While in England he is said to have been a friend of William Pynchon, who was born at Springfield, Essex County (ten miles from Stebbing), in 1590, being only four years older than Rowland. William Pynchon came to New England in 1629, and was the principal founder of Roxbury...where Rowland settled upon his arrival in New England in 1634 or 1635".

A breakthrough occurred in the early twentieth century when American genealogist Lothrop Withington found missing parish records for many counties of England.¹³³

In the register of *Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials* of St Mary's Church, Bocking, Essexshire, England there was an entry in Latin dated 5 Nov 1592: "Rowlandus Stebing filius^{vii} Thomae baptizatus 5 November". Also in 1594: "Marinus Stebing filius Thomae baptizamus 28 April" who would have been Martin Stebing, Rowland's younger brother. Then in 1618 "Rowlandus Stebbing & Sara Whiting nupti 30 November" also in Bocking, Essexshire.

Of further interest, a 1625 entry shows "Elizabetha Stebbing filia [daughter] Rowlandi Stebbing sepultus [buried] est 15 June".

To sum up: Rowland Stebbing was baptized 5 Nov 1592¹³⁴ in Bocking, Essexshire, England; m. 30 Nov 1618 Sarah Whiting b. est 1591 probably in Essexshire, England; she d. abt Oct 1649 in Springfield MBC;¹³⁵ Rowland d. 14 Dec 1671 Northampton MBC.¹³⁶

Children

From the *Stebbins Genealogy*, here is a list of four children born in Essexshire to Rowland and Sarah, all estimated birth years.¹³⁷ I have added Elizabeth Stebbing who was buried 15 Jun 1625 in Bocking, Essexshire. She will be designated Elizabeth-1st.

- i. Thomas b. 1620 m. Hannah Wright
- ii. Sarah b. 1623 m. Thomas Merrick
- iii. Elizabeth-1st buried 15 Jun 1625
- iv. John b. 1626 m(1) Ann ?, m(2) Abigail Bartlett
- v. Elizabeth-2nd b. 1628 m. John Clark

Emigration

In the spring of 1634 the Rowland Stebing family emigrated from Ipswich, Suffolkshire, England. They were among the 84 passengers "which tooke shipping in the ffrancis^{viii} of Ipswich...bound for new England the last of Aprill 1634".¹³⁸ The names and ages of the family were Rowland Stebing aged 40, Sarah his wife aged 43, Thomas Stebing aged 14, Sarah Stebing aged 11, Eliz Stebing aged 6, John Stebing aged 8, and Mary Winche aged 15. It is not known who Mary Winche was or how she was associated with the Stebbing family.¹³⁹

^{vii} Son

^{viii} The English legal handwriting of the Middle Ages has no capital F. A double f (ff) was used to represent the capital letter.

Incident at Ipswich

In a blog at website fineartistmade.com, Patrick Mealey and Joyce Jackson¹⁴⁰ wrote of their genealogical research concerning an ancestor, Edward Bugby b. 1594 in Stratford-le-bow, England who emigrated aboard the *Francis* with the Rowland Stebbing family and others. I have excerpted from that blog as well as the NEHGR Vol VIII concerning the trials and tribulations experienced by the emigrants seeking to escape the Church of England and their hatchet man, Archbishop Laud.

We never give much thought to the English side of the Great Migration, usually focusing on the problems of settlement in New England as well as the colonists' relationship with the Native Americans. On the other hand, just walking up the plank at the various embarkation points in England and waving goodbye to loved ones was not the case at all.

In the early 17th century England was in great social unrest and political turmoil having to do with Charles-I's troubles with his Parliament. To make things worse, the Church of England began a campaign of persecution of those people known as Puritans who wished for religious reform (see Thomas Blisse Sr above).

In 1633 William Laud, a fierce opponent of the Puritan movement, was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. It is not known if Edward Bugby or Rowland Stebbing underwent direct persecution and torture directed by Laud, as was the family of Thomas Bliss, but the urgency to get away was so strong they risked a voyage to a completely unknown land.

The preparation for the transatlantic trip was difficult and convoluted. First they had to obtain licenses and documents to pass the port. Then they had to locate a ship that would take them. In general they were required to procure provisions for the seaward passage and enough to get them by for one year after arrival.

Rowland Stebbing had found a ship that would take them, the "Francis" commanded by Master John Cutter. Alas, on the day they were to leave in February 1633/34, a "stay" was placed on all ships at Ipswich bound for New England.

Apparently the Commissary of Suffolk in Ipswich, Henry Dade, had, in the weeks prior, written a letter to Archbishop Laud informing him of the planned departure of the *Francis* and a sister ship the "Elizabeth" with 84 and 101 persons respectively. Dade supposed they were debtors or people discontented with the English church/government.

Dade self-righteously warned of the economic ill-effects that "swarms" of people leaving England could have, especially those deeply in debt. He placed the blame squarely on the Puritan minister Samuel Ward for inciting his congregation to flee to Massachusetts Bay Colony. He complained "...Mr. Ward of Ipswich is chief of these parts who, by preaching against ye contents of ye Booke of Common Prayer, and set prayer, and of a fear of altering our Religion, hath caused this giddiness".

Dade appealed to Laud to delay the two vessels at Ipswich. On February 14th 1633/34, Laud temporarily stayed the two ships in Ipswich port and ten other ships docked on the Thames near London, all bound for New England.

In Laud's letter of instruction to the bailiffs (officers of customs) at Ipswich he said "...you the Bayliffs send upp some fitt person to attend the Board [Privy Council] on fryday next, authorized and instructed to shoue unto us upon what grounds or by what warrant or authority the said shipp & passengers goe thither".

A council meeting was held on Feb 21st 1633/34. Present were the Archbishops of York and Canterbury and Matthew Craddock, first governor of Massachusetts Bay Company. "Whereas the Board being given to understand of the frequent transportation of greate numbers of His Maje's subjects out of this Kingdome to the Plantation called New England (whom divers persons know to be effected & discontented as well as with the civill as ecclesiasticall gov'mt) are observed to resort thither, whereby much confusions and disorder is already growne there, especially in point of religion...It was thought fitt and ordered that stay should be forthwith made of the said shippes until further order from the Board".

At a subsequent meeting of the Board, several shipmasters with lists of passengers and provisions showed up as well as Mr Craddock who brought "the Letter Patent for that Plantation" with him. There are no minutes available for the meeting but it appears that Archbishop Laud was sufficiently satisfied with the results of his inquiry that he was moved to lift the stay if certain conditions were met.

The council convened on March 1st 1634 where it was announced that the ships would be released provided that each shipmaster guarantee:

- Thatt all and everie person aboard these Shippes now bound for New England, as aforesaid, that shall blaspheme or profane the holly name of God, be severely punished.
- That they cause the Prayers contayned in the Booke of Common Prayers established in the Church of England to be sayde dayly at the usuall howers for morning & Evening Prayers and that they cause all persons aboard these said Shippes to be present at the same.
- That they do not receive aboard or transporte any person that hath not Certificate from the Officers of the Port where he is imbarqued that he hath taken both the Oathes of Allegiance and Supremacie.
- That upon theire returne into this Kingdome they certifie to the Board the names of all such persons as they shall transport, together with theire proceedings in the execution of the aforesaid Articles.

"It was therefore and for divers other reasons best Knowne to their Lo-- thought fitt, that for this tyme [Gavriell Marsh Esq, Marshall of the Admiraltie and all other his Majs'te's Officers] should be permitted to proceed on their voyage...A lyke order, mutatis mutandis^{ix}, Requiring the Bailiffs and Officers of the Customes of the Port of Ipswich to discharge the *Francis* and the *Elizabeth*, bound likewise for New England and stayde by like Warrant within that Port".¹⁴¹

After the harrowing, nearly 4-month hold, the Rowland Stebbings family were finally rid of their persecutors.

Rowland Stebbing of New England

Upon their arrival in New England, Rowland Stebbing and family probably settled in Roxbury MBC.¹⁴² About 1639 the family removed to the new plantation Agawam established four years earlier by William Pynchon.¹⁴³ (Agawam later became Springfield).

The first record of Rowland Stebbing in Agawam was dated 19 Jun 1640 when Rowland was empaneled in a petit jury.^x

Founding of Springfield

In 1635, William Pynchon, then the assistant treasurer of the Massachusetts Bay Company, along with John Cable and John Woodcock, sailed up the Connecticut River in "great Shallops"^{xi} to where it met the Agawam River. Pynchon returned to Roxbury leaving Cable and Woodcock at the site over the winter.

The next spring, 1636, Pynchon led a settlement expedition of at least seven other men. The route they followed is controversial to this day. Pynchon probably took what was then called the Old Connecticut Path

^{ix} Mutatis mutandis is a Medieval Latin phrase meaning "with things changed that should be changed" or "having changed what needs to be changed" or "once the necessary changes have been made". -Wikipedia

^x In English common law, a petit jury hears the evidence in a trial as presented by both the plaintiff (petitioner) and the defendant (respondent) and returns a verdict.

^{xi} Shallop is a name used for several types of boats and small ships (French chaloupe) used for coastal navigation from the seventeenth century. The shallops used by English explorers were about 30 feet (9.1 m) long and equipped with oars and a mast with one or two sails. These larger English shallops could take over a dozen people and usually had a shallow draft of about 2 feet (0.6 m). The larger vessels of this design could carry a substantial load and be armed with cannon.

to a point in central Massachusetts where the path headed southwest to present Windsor Connecticut. It is conjectured they headed, instead, straight west on an Indian trail later to be named the "Bay Path" or the "Boston Post Road". Livestock accompanied the men overland but the majority of supplies was transported by boat from Boston around to the mouth of the Connecticut River then up to Agawam.

Settlers trickled in for the next few years. In 1639 or 1640 Rowland and Thomas Stebbins arrived along with Deacon Samuel Chapin, Elizur Holyoke, Thomas Cooper, and William Warriner. It is not clear whether families accompanied the men on these forays.¹⁴⁴

Oath of a Freeman

On 6 Feb 1648/9 Rowland took the "Oath of a Freeman"¹⁴⁵ in which he pledged fidelity to the civil government of Massachusetts Bay Colony. Prior to 1632 laws of MBC required all voters (freemen) to be members of the church. The law was amended that year to require an additional oath besides the implied covenant a freeman had with the church. Note that the Oath of a Freeman was eliminated by King Charles II in April 1678 in deference to an Oath of Allegiance to the King himself. This change is discussed below.

Rowland Stebbing Land Transactions

On 24 Dec 1640, "Rowl: Stebbins" was granted a lot "for the 2d division of plantinge grounde...10 rod in breadth", the standard allocation for "maryed P'sons". [Burt Springfield Hist 1:167 - for single P'sons 8 rod in breadth, for bigger familys 12 rod all to begin upward at ye edge of ye hill" meaning the east side of Main Street].(Springfield Hist 1:167).

"Aprill 6th 1643; A list of ye Alotments of Plantinge lotts as they were cast w(th) ye order how men doe fall, begininge at ye ends of ye 80 rod lotts y(t) face to ye greate River...Rowl: Stebbins 7 [7th in the list] 11 acres".

"Lots cast for meddow ground on Agawan side. wher is 2 Pts of ye quantity to be divided...Rowl: Stebbins 10 (10th in the list) 2½ acres".

"Lotts on ye other side of ye great river for meddow: Rowl: Stebbins 1 (1st on the list) 1½ acres.

On 6 April 1643, "Rowland Stebbins" was granted eleven acres for a planting lot, two acres and a half "for meadow ground on Agawam side," and one acre and a half "on the other side of the great river for meadow"

On 6 May 1644, "Rowl: Stebbines" was assessed 11s 6d. "in part of payment for ye Indian purchas of the land of ye Plantation" but "this rate is made voyd by an order made the 26 January 1646".

On 6 Mar 1646, "Rowl: Stebbins" was assessed 10s 8d based on his 38½ acre lot in Springfield proper "for the purchase of the lands of the plantation".¹⁴⁶

"In a 1667 Springfield land inventory, "Rowland Stebbins held nine parcels: a house lot by the grant of the plantation with the addition, viz: four acres"; "in the same line east from the street two acres... of wet meadow"; "a wood lot four acres...extending from the wet meadow"; "also over the river opposite to his house lot four acres"; "a meadow lot over the river one acre & half": "over Agawam River in the upper meadow two acres & hall"; "in the Long Meadow thirteen acres & half"; "on the north branch of the Mill River two acres ... of meadowish land... and more two acres... over the Mill River".¹⁴⁷

Seating Men and Boys in the Meetinghouse

"Perhaps no duty was more important and more difficult of satisfactory performance in the church work in early New England than 'seating the meeting-house'. Our Puritan forefathers, though bitterly denouncing all forms and ceremonies, were great respecters of persons; and in nothing was the regard for wealth and position more fully shown than in designating the seat in which each person should sit during public worship".¹⁴⁸

"The selectmen and the deacons, or a committee appointed by the selectmen, determined the order in which the seats in the meetinghouses of New England... should be occupied. Ability and general regard, as well as wealth, had much to do with the order of selection". Women, in general, were not assigned particular seats but sat in another part of the meetinghouse".

The first list drawn up by the selectmen dated 23 Dec 1659 reads: "The order which persons now seated in the meetinghouse by the Selectmen and Deacon Chapin... Henry Burt in the little Seate by the Deacon's seate. First Seate: Robert Ashley, Thomas Cooper, Rowland Stebbins, George Colton, Benjamin Cooley; 2d Seate: Richard Sikes, Thomas Merrick, William Warriner, Richard Fellows; and so on through ten rows of seats".

On 23 Feb 1662/3 assigned to ye first seate were once again: Robert Ashley, Benjamin Cooley, Thomas Cooper, George Colton, and Rowland Stebbins.

Sarah Whiting Died

Sarah Whiting died in Springfield in early October 1649. From MVR, "Sarah Stebbin wife of Rowland Stebbin was buried ye 4th day of the 8th mon 1649".¹⁴⁹

Removal to Northampton

It is not known how long Rowland continued to live at his Springfield house lot after his wife's death in 1649 but it is known he did not re-marry. Judging from land transactions and meetinghouse seating assignments he could have lived alone in Springfield as late as 1666-1667 before he removed to Northampton. On 8 Apr 1668, Rowland, as a non-resident of Springfield, "sold to Lawrence Bliss of Springfeild... his house where he 'formerly dwelt' and certain parcels of land... within the town Sprinfeild or the precincts thereof".¹⁵⁰

Northampton land records indicating Rowland as a landowner have not been found so it is assumed he went there to live the rest of his life with his son John Stebbins. The first proof of his presence in Northampton was in 1669 when he wrote his will. He died in Northampton on 14 Dec 1691 and was buried at the Bridge Street Cemetery in Northampton.

In 1806, Daniel Stebbins MD, a descendant, had the old burial ground in Northampton examined to "discover the precise spot where the remains of Rowland Stebbing were deposited" but the attempt failed. In 1840 Daniel had a granite cenotaph erected "in the centre of my family square in the New Yard". Subsequently Rowland's original place of burial was found, the grave was opened in Sept 1850, "the remains having been in it 179 years". A second cenotaph was place at that spot.¹⁵¹

Rowland Stebbins' Will

Here are some excerpts from Roland's will, dated 1 Mar 1669/70:

"... I RowLand Stebbins of Northampton in Hampshire in the Collony of the Massachusetts haueing my pfect Memory (through the goodness of God) though uery weak & sick in body wayting for my great change w(ch) I desire the Lord in mercy to fitt me for doe make & ordayne this to be my last will & testamt viz(r)".

"Also I doe make my beloved son John Stebbins to be my full & sole executor w(ch) I hope wil be faythfull in all things comitted to his trust. Also my will & desire is that all my just debts & funerall expences be satisfied & paid".

"I give & bequeath to my beLoved Son Thomas Stebbins his Seaven children twenty shillings a peece to be paid wthin three yeeres after my decease those that be of age the sons to be Twenty One yeeres & Daughters Eighteen yeeres".

"I give & bequeath to my Son Johns Children" several articles of clothing and shillings to three children and 20 shillings apiece to the rest not receiving clothes".

"I give a & bequeath to "my Son in Law Mericks three daughters twenty shillings apiece to Sarah, Mary & Hannah"; to "my beloved daughter Elizabeth Clarke three pounds... & to her three children twenty shillings apiece... and to Mary the bell mettall Skellett"; to "Mary Munde ten shillings"; to "my son John Stebbins my great brass pott & my best coate & to my son Johns wife my best Stockins".

"And as for the rest of my estate that remaynes, my will is that it should be equally divided between my two beloved Sons Thomas Stebbins and John Stebbins: also my desire is my much hono(r)d freind Capt John Pynchon & my beloved Brother Robert Bartlett would be the overseers of this my last will & testamt".

"That this is my Last will & testament I declare the same by setting my hand & Seale the first day of the first month Anno Dni. 1669/70. my will is that my son John Stebbins doe keepe this my Last will & testament. "Signed Sealed in ye p(r)sence of Wilim Jeanes [and] Thomas Hanchett Sen(r). Rowland Stebbins [signed with X)".¹⁵²

Inventory

"An Inventory of the goods & chattells of Rowland Stebbins deceased in Northampton & prized the 2d of January 1671(/72)."

The property consisted of: Personal clothing valued at £4-17-00; Bed and bedding 2- 6- 2; 2 pots and a pair of pot hooks 2- 0- 0; real estate in Springfield 66- 0- 0 ("in the Long Meddowe... 13 acres, £26"; "another parcel over Agawam River 3 acres, £8"; "another parcel over the great river 10 acres, £30"; and another little parcel this side Agawam River, £2); Debts due him 46- 2- 0; Making a total of £121-05-02.¹⁵³

Will Contested

"John Clark of Springfeild laying claime to a brass pott w(ch) was his father Stebbins his pott & is in the possession of John Stebbins Sen(r) w(ch) pott John Clark claimes as given to his daughter Mary by her Grandfather Stebbins" [to which the probate court answered] "Jn° Clark that if he fynd himself aggrieved by Jn° Stebbins detayning the pott that he hath the liberty of the Law to obtayne his & y(t) Jn° Stebbins must have Legall warning to answer him". In other words, the controversy had to be settled between himself and John Stebbins in a separate court proceeding.

"Also Thomas Stebbins Sen(r) of Springfeild making some objections about his said deceased fathers will the matter came into debate before ye Co(r)te but in the issue he and his brother John Stebbins came to an aggreemt about the estate Left by their father w(ch) aggreemt was allowed & approved of by the Co(r)te".¹⁵⁴

Lieut Thomas Stebbins Sr

Thomas Stebbins Sr^{xii} was born abt 1620 probably in Essexshire, England;¹⁵⁵ m(1) Nov 1645 Hannah Wright¹⁵⁶ who d. 16 Oct 1660 at Springfield, Hampshire Co, Mass;¹⁵⁷ m(2) 14 Dec 1676 Abigail Burt (two-time widow 1-Francis Ball; 2-Benjamin Munn who was b. abt 1623 in England) in Springfield;¹⁵⁸ Thomas died the 5th or 15th of Sept 1683 at Springfield.¹⁵⁹

Children of Thomas Stebbins Sr and Hannah Wright

All children were born in Springfield, Massachusetts Bay Colony. Data obtained from the *Stebbins Genealogy* unless otherwise noted.

- i. **Samuel**, b. 19 Sep 1646; d. 13 Jul 1708 at Springfield; m(1) 22 Jul 1679 Joanna Lamb at Springfield, b. ? d. 8 Aug 1683 at Springfield¹⁶⁰; m(2) 10 Dec 1685 Abigail Brooks at Springfield, b. 25 Jan 1665/66 at Springfield
- ii. **Thomas Jr**, b. 31 Jul 1648; d. 7 Dec 1695 at Springfield; m(1) 21 Dec 1672 Abigail Munn at Springfield, b. 28 Jun 1650 at Springfield, d. 6 Feb 1692/93 at Springfield; m(2) 12 Apr 1694 Mary Day Ely, b. abt 1641 at Hartford, Connecticut Colony, d. 17 Oct 1725 at Hatfield, Hampshire Co, Mass
- iii. **Joseph 1st**, b. 18 May 1650; d. 9 Nov 1651 at Springfield
- iv. **Joseph 2nd**, b. 24 Oct 1652; d. 15 Oct 1728 at Springfield; m. 27 Nov 1673 Sarah Dorchester, b. 16 Oct 1653 at Springfield, d. 18 Aug 1746 at Springfield
- v. **Sarah**, b. 8 Aug 1654; d. 6 Nov 1721 at Springfield (Long Meddowe); m. 2 Jan 1671/72 Samuel Bliss, b. 7 Nov 1647 at Springfield, d. 19 Jun 1749 at Springfield (Long Meddowe)
- vi. **Edward**, b. 14 Apr 1656; d. 31 Oct 1712 at Springfield; m(1) 12 Apr 1679 Sarah Graves, b. abt 1659 at Wethersfield, Connecticut Colony, d. 12 Jun 1700 at Springfield; m(2) 18 Oct 1701 Mary Cooper Colton at Springfield (Long Meddowe), b. 15 May 1651 at Springfield, d. 30 Aug 1743 at Springfield (Long Meddowe)
- vii. **Benjamin**, b. 11 Apr 1658; d. 12 Oct 1698 at Springfield; m(1) 9 Oct 1682 Abigail Denton at Springfield, b. ? prob New York, d. 24 Aug 1689; m(2) abt 1690 Mary (Graves) Ball at Springfield, b. abt 1654 at Wethersfield, Connecticut Colony, d. 21 May 1727 at Springfield
- viii. **Hannah** (twin), b. 1 Oct 1660;¹⁶¹ d. abt 1677
- ix. **Rowland** (twin), b. 2 Oct 1660;¹⁶² d. 24 Apr 1661¹⁶³

Thomas Stebbins, aged 42, along with his father Rowland, mother Sarah Whiting, and three siblings, Sarah, John, and Elizabeth, came to New England in 1634, probably settling at first in Roxbury, Massachusetts Bay Colony, where William Pynchon resided.

Thomas and his father Rowland removed to Agawam in late 1639 or early 1640. On 24 Dec 1640 in "A list of ye Alotmeuts of planting lotts as they were cast w'th ye order how men doe face, beginninge at ye ends of ye 80 rod lotts yt face to ye greate River" contained Thomas Stebbins who was allotted about 15 acres but the allottment was soon "disanulled agayne".¹⁶⁴

In the division of the "Lotts on ye other side of ye greate river [Agawam] for meddow...where is 2 pts of ye quantity [of meddow grownd] to to be divided", Thomas Stebbins received two lots, containing 1½ acres and one acre, respectively.

Thomas Stebbins and Old First Church Grounds

In 1642 Thomas Stebbins purchased an estate from the towne that it had previously bought from Goodman Gregory for 9p 1s 6d. One of the Gregory lots along with the adjacent lot south owned by Francis Ball occupied an area that was subsequently re-acquired piecemeal by the towne to make way for the First Church meetinghouse, a burying ground, a training ground, and Elm Street.

^{xii} My own convention is that Rowland the immigrant was a Stebbings but the children are Stebbins

Those Stebbins and Ball properties were located in what is presently Court Square where the 4th iteration of Old First Church now stands.

First Meetinghouse

From the *Stebbins Genealogy*: "On January 10th 1644-5, when the location of the very first meeting-house was considered, it was voted to take forty rods of land from the lot of Thomas Stebbins; but later six rods square was deemed sufficient, and for the remainder of the forty rods, he was to allow a rod in breadth for a passage way (Elm Street) to the training field.

According to a report made to the town, February 26, 1644-5, William Pynchon and Henry Smith, by order of the town, bargained with Francis Ball and Thomas Stebbins for two and one-half acres of land west of the meeting-house, on the banks of the Connecticut River, to be used for a burying ground and a training-field. The town took an acre of the Ball lot and an acre and a half of the Stebbins lot, for which it gave in payment double the number of acres elsewhere".



Fig 11. First Meeting House

Second Meetinghouse

On 15 Apr 1674 it was decided to build a new meetinghouse to replace the first one built in 1645. The location of the second meetinghouse was settled at the "Gen '11 Town Meeting, febr: 6th 1676" and again Thomas Stebbins' property was involved but this time Thomas Jr was also involved.

An exchange of land in the same area was agreed upon as follows: "Whereas ye Comittee of ye New meeting house impowered by ye Town for ye disposing four Acres of land on ye North side of ye round hil to Tho: Stebbin Senior & to Tho: Stebbins Junior for land [near the old meetinghouse] to set ye New meeting house on".

"He ye said Stebbin agreed to grant & give up his land between ye old meeting house & ye New meeting House unto ye town: The Town also agreed to give up to Thomas Stebbin ye land, which lies next Him, Two Rod in breadth where it fronts on ye street Easterly [Main Street]".

The towne not only exchanged land on the easterly side of of the 80 rod lot (from Main Street to the Conn River) they "give & grant to [Stebbins] out of ye Town land in ye training feild one rod & half of ground next to ye said Stebbin his lot in ye reer of it, al yt breadth of his lot, at ye westerly end, which with allowance aforesaid next ye street is accepted by ye said Stebbin as satisfaction for ye said land which he hath hereby given up to ye town".

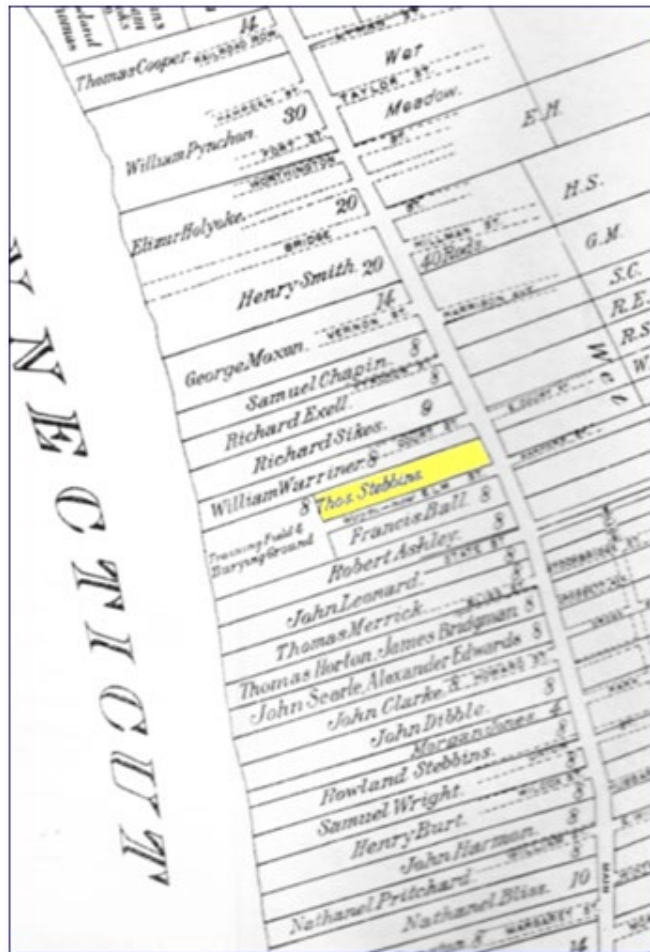


Fig 12. Thomas Stebbins property after a training ground and a burying ground were established

Thomas Stebbins Tailor

Thomas' account with Magistrate John Pynchon indicates he was a tailor. The account was opened in August 1652 and by the following February his income amounted to £14 10s.

The first items of credit were:

- By making 12 waste-coates, 8s
- By 10 doz. caps at 6s pr doz £3
- By 11 doz & 9 "Wasteoates at 8s per Doz £4. 14s
- By making 3 doz & 1 coates £3. 2s
- By one doz stockens 5s
- 2 days Taylering 2s
- mending my cloathes, 6d
- By 4 dayes harvesting work, 8s

A debt was incurred as follows: "Delivered to Thomas Stebbins 54 yds of white shag cotton for wastecoates, & stockens, & p'ce of Red tape, and 30 yds of cloth in Remnants".



Fig 13. Current Springfield Court Square with prior meetinghouses and the burial ground spotted

Settling future Northampton

Thomas Stebbins Sr was chosen a selectman on 2 Nov 1652, in 1653, and 1655. "He was one of the witnesses to the Indian deed, dated September 24, 1653, conveying the land of Nonotuck (future Northampton) to John Pynchon of Springfield".¹⁶⁵ The planters began at once to arrange for the settlement and at a meeting on October 3, 1653. 20 persons signed the following agreement:

"It is agreed by the plant'rs of Nonotuck which Petition to the Court in the [Spring] or any that shall Joine with them that they shall bee resident there [and] dwell themselves and ther families by the next Spring come _____ next ensuing the date hereof, or els every such p'rson as shall be deficient in that Kinde shall loose his mony paid for the purchase with the Charges that they have binn att unlesse hee shall give such [reason] to the Company designed for that worke that the said Company [Please to] give them more time".¹⁶⁶

Thomas is thought to have been the third signer to this agreement but the surname after "Thomas" is illegible. Nonetheless, the Towne interpreted the document as an indication the signers (including Thomas Stebbins) wished to settle the new Nonotuck Plantation.

As with the establishment of Brimfield in 1701 (Benjamin³ Cooley was a founder), the Springfield town fathers did not want to lose its young and productive men to a new plantation so the Towne proposed a deal as an inducement for Thomas to remain in Springfield.

At a meeting on 30 Jan 1655 he was granted "one acre of ye wet meddow next above Symon Sackett, to run ye whole length y't others do: & this upon condition he continue five yeares in Towne and further y't he shal not desire any more share in ye meddow if it come to be given out".¹⁶⁷

It is apparent Thomas took them up on the deal but another Stebbins, his brother John, went to Nonotuck in 1653, becoming a founder and quite well-to-do as the owner of a mill.

Towne duties

On 3 Nov 1646, "Thomas Stebbins and William Warrener are chosen surveyors for this next yeare ensuinge, and till another be chosen in yr roome^{xiii}". After 1646 his name appears frequently on the town records, as an office holder, and as a member of important committees.¹⁶⁸

At a town meeting on 29 May 1654 "itt was voted thatt Thomas Stebbins should be the Towne measurer". He served again in this capacity in 1672, 1674, 1675, 1681, and 1682.¹⁶⁹

On 2 Nov 1658 "Serjant Stebbins & Serj. Morgan [were chosen] viewers of fences for ye upper p"t of ye Towne fro: ye meeting house upwards". He was chosen jurjman "for the tryall of Causes" at Springfield, on March 29, 1659 and on March 26, 1661".¹⁷⁰

On 14 Jan 1669/70 Thomas was appointed to "veiw & consider a highway over wet meadow". The wet meadow was probably on the west side, not the Long Meddowe. Likewise, at a general towne meeting on 7 Feb 1670/71 a committee was appointed, of which Thomas a member, "to consider of high wayes and to determine both where they shall lye & who shal be called to make & maynteyne ye same".¹⁷¹

On 12 Feb 1671/72 "Serj Stebbin & James Warrener" were appointed viewers of fences "for the house lotte from ye Lower wharfe to ye upper wharfe & for the northrly fence of ye wharfe lane, & to ye lower gate y't opens to ye corner meddow". One year later Thomas and, this time, John Matthews were appointed fence viewers for the same general area.¹⁷²

Additional land

On 11 May 1663 Thomas Stebbins Sr was granted 30 acres of land (no location specified). On 11 Feb 1666/67 he was allowed to build [structures] on his lot near Robert Ashley's house but on 26 Nov 1668 he asked the Towne if he could exchange that lot of four acres with an equivalent four acres the Towne owned and it was so granted.

About 1668/69 the Towne resolved that land Thomas Stebbins owned on the west side of the Conn River should be occupied by himself. He appealed, offering to place one of his sons on the land; the Towne approved of this arrangement as long as neighbors on that side approve of the son. If those neighbors do not approve of the son then Thomas was at liberty to sell the land.

On 1 Jan 1672/73 the Towne "graunted to Serjeant Stebbin Six acres of land lying at the reer of Dr. Pynchons wood lotts (that were beyond the little wett meddow of the said mr. Pjmehon) & between mr. Pynehons further wood lott & Jno Stewarts wood lott".¹⁷³

Extravagances

Thomas Stebbins, his wife Hannah Wright, and others were "presented by ye Grand jury to ye Courte at Northampton March 26, 1676, some for wearing of silk & y't in a flouting manner & attire for Long haire & other extravegancies. Contrary to honest & Labor Order & Demeanor not Becoming a "Wilderness State at Least ye Profession of Christianity & Religion."¹⁷⁴

Allegiance to the wrong party

Apparently King Charles II got wind of the "Oath of a Freeman" that was being administered in Massachusetts Bay Colony requiring allegiance to the Colony itself upsetting him no end. "[On April 27th

^{xiii} In your place or in your stead

1678] a letter was sent from the King to the Massachusetts General Court ordering that an Oath of Allegiance to the King be administered to all subjects in the colony"¹⁷⁵

The letter stated that the imposition of the oath of fidelity to the colony was very displeasing to him "inasmuch as the allegiance due to us, and the fidelity to the country are joyned together in the same undecent forme, wherein such fidelity is made even to precede your allegiance to us".¹⁷⁶

On 2 Oct 1678 the Massachusetts General Court dutifully directed the various magistrates to administer the "Oath of Allegiance" (to the King) as follows:

Whereas it hath pleased his most excellent Majesty, our gracious king by his letter bearing date the twenty-seventh of Aprill 1678 to signifie his Royall pleasure, That the Authority of this his Colony of Massachusetts in New England, do give forth Orders that the Oath of Allegiance, as it is by Law established within his Kingdome of England, be administred and taken by all his subjects within this Colony who are of years to take an oath.¹⁷⁷

Springfield Magistrate John Pynchon performed that duty 3 Dec 1678 and 1 Jan 1679. Among those inhabitants were Edward, Thomas, Joseph, and Benja Stebbein; Eliakim, Obadiah, Daniel, Benjamin, and Joseph Cooley; and Samuel, Sam'll Senio'r, Samuel Jun, and Nathan'll Blisse.

Establishment of Enfield

In 1674, the General Court of Massachusetts granted land stretching as far south as Asnuntuck (Freshwater) Brook¹⁷⁸ to the Town of Springfield. That year, John Pynchon built a saw mill on that Brook, the first European structure in the area. Unfortunately, the saw mill was destroyed one year later during King Philip's War.¹⁷⁹

At a towne meeting 4 Aug 1679 Lieut Thomas Stebbins was appointed one of a committee¹⁸⁰ "fully impow'rd to mannage all the affaires of the tounship a litle below Springfeild at Freshwater Brooke". This committee was delegated "w'th ful power to admit inhabitants, to Grant free & undisputed Lands there, to such as are capaeiated to go thither & dwel & improve the same & this said Comittee are fully empowered to order and act for the settling it a Towne of it selfe". The committee held its first meeting 31 Dec 1679, at which a plan for granting out the lands was agreed upon.^{181 182}

Enfield's first settlers, John Pease, Jr. and Robert Pease, arrived in 1679 from Salem, Massachusetts, and spent their first winter camping in a shelter dug into the side of a hill. The next spring, they were joined by their families and other settlers from Salem; by the end of that year about 25 families had settled in the area.¹⁸³

On 16 May 1683 when the General Court again took up the matter, their action recorded as follows: "In answer to the petition from Springfeild & others, craving a touneship a litle below Springfeild at Freshwater Brooke, this Court doth grant a timeship there to the subscribers & such others as the comittee this Court appoints shall associat to them and that the toun be called Enfeild and for the admittance of inhabitants, granting allotments, & ordering all the prudentiall affaires of sd touneship, this Court doth appoint Major John Pynchon, Leiut Tho Stebbins, Mr. Samuell Marshfield, Deacon Jonathan Burt, & Deacon Benja Parsons, or any three of them. Major Pynchon being one, to be a comittee, who are fully empowred to mannage all the affaires of said touneship till this Court take further order".¹⁸⁴

Border Dispute

For nearly 160 years there was a border controversy between Massachusetts and Connecticut regarding the boundary between the two states especially the small section between current Longmeadow and current Enfield.

The dispute was a result of an error in a survey conducted in 1642 by Woodward & Saffery that fixed the boundary too far to the south of the specified line thus placing Enfield and other townes in Massachusetts.

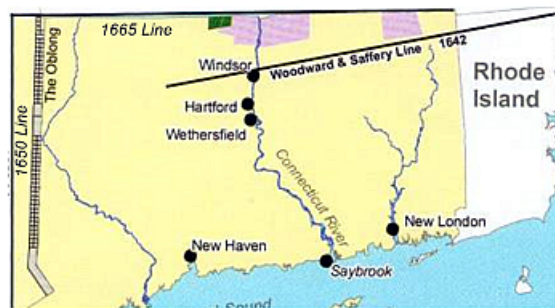


Fig 14. Showing the wrongly-surveyed border of 1642 between Mass and Conn Colonies

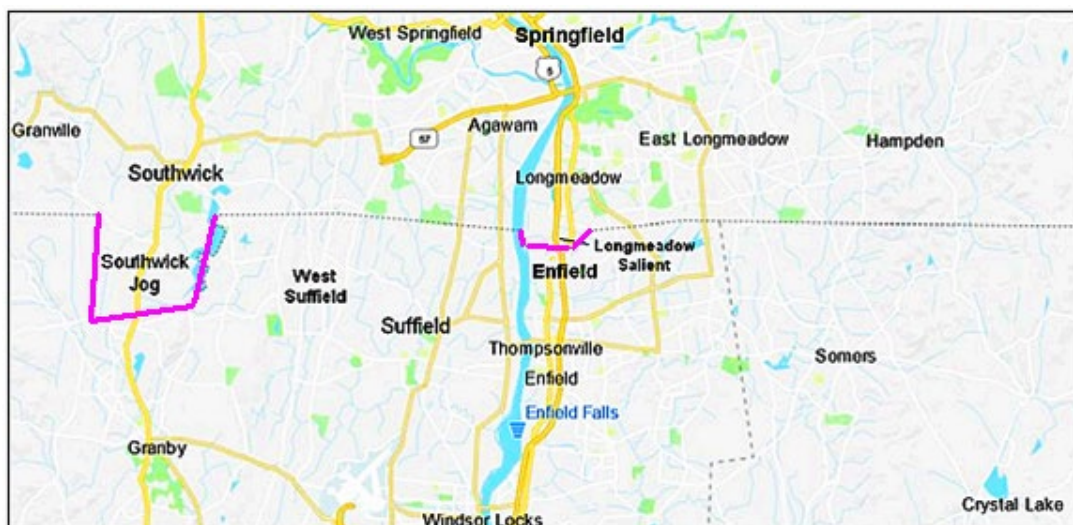
In 1662 after many years of occasional sparring, Connecticut, which would benefit from the relocation of the line according to the charters of both colonies, invited Massachusetts to a joint survey that would address the issue. Massachusetts refused maintaining that the 1642 survey established the line correctly.

Connecticut then decided to take matters into its own hands so in 1695 commissioned the firm Butler and Whitney to re-survey the border which confirmed the mistake of 1642. Once again Massachusetts refused to consider re-location.

A *joint* commission addressed the issue in 1713 that resulted in Massachusetts agreeing to move the line north but which placed Enfield, Suffield, and Somers still within Massachusetts.

Unhappy with that situation, in 1747 the citizens of Enfield, Suffield, and Somers began to officially pursue becoming part of Connecticut. Legal action was taken and in 1751 it was finally settled whence the three towns became a part of Connecticut except a small salient extending south from the new border.¹⁸⁵

At the same time, Southwick, long established before Connecticut Colony, chose to remain in Massachusetts and a larger salient, called the Southwick Jog, was established.



Lt Thomas Stebbins Estate

Thomas Stebbins Sr died intestate. A court hearing was held in Springfield on 25 Sep 1683 where it was determined "the relict of the deceased" [Hannah Wright] would become executor of the estate while Thomas Stebbins Jr and Samuel Bud would take the inventory.

Although named executor, Hannah's sons virtually wrote her out of the settlement, giving her a pittance.

"Springfield, October 16 1683. This writing testifieth to an agreement made between the heirs of Lieut. Thomas Stebbins lately dec'd and Samuel Ball in reference to our Mother's thirds, we whose names are underwritten, do engage ourselves jointly and severally as follows, to pay our Mother ye sum of Seventeen pounds twelve Shillings in manner as followeth — a third in corn — a third in pork — a third in neat cattle as they shall be prized by two indif'erent men, the payment is to be made in 3 years.

We also agree that our Mother shall have two Loads of Indian Corn and an acre of Rye and four Swine, only there is to be 10 bushels deducted out of the Indian Corn, also anything she brought with her is to be returned to her again, it is also agreed that our Mother shall relinquish her interest in the little house, and in consideration thereof we engage to pay her 40£ and a bed stead with a cord in it as witness our hands.

Signed: Thomas Stebbins, Joseph Stebbins, Ed. Stebbins, Benj. Stebbins, "the mark S of o'r Mother Stebbins".

At a hearing held 25 Mar 1684 Thomas Sr's five sons, Samuel, Joseph, Benjamin, Thomas Jr, and Edward "with full consent of their sister [Sarah], agreed to a final settlement of the estate. The inventory. "...of the Real & personal Est.d amounts to £294. 02. 00."¹⁸⁶

The settlement details were:

- Samuel Stebbins (aged 37y 6m) received all his father's land in the Long Meddowe
- Thomas Stebbins (aged 35y 7m) was to receive all the land and the house thereon adjoining the meetinghouse; also wet meadow at the "upper end of the Town" and another wet meadow that Thomas Sr bought from the Towne and the house thereon.
- Joseph (aged 31y5m) and [his son] Benjamin (aged 15y 11m) Stebbins were to get "the house lot at Taunton and the other two 3d of ye meadow on the South side of ye causeway and all the Lands in the lower plain and all in the upper plaine, also the Land at Crooked Points and the eight acres of Woodland at the upper end of the Town all the parcels of land are equally divided between Joseph and Benjamin".
- Edward Stebbins (aged 27y 11m) was to receive "the wet meadow against the Round hill and the upper Land belonging to it, also six acres of Wood Lot, and the other four Brothers (Samuel, Thomas, Joseph, and Benjamin) doe engage to pay in equal proportion the sum of Two Pounds ten shillings".
- Sarah Bliss (aged 29y 7m) our Sister having rec'd one yoke of oxen, a feather bed, and other things to the value of twenty Pounds which is by her husband accepted as her full portion with what she had formerly".

Curiously, their mother-in-law, Hannah Wright's mother, was to be given £30 in two payments.

Abbreviations

- ABR** - Abarim Publications' Biblical Name Vault <http://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning>.
- BHC** - *Historical Celebration of the Town of Brimfield, Hampden County, Mass, Wednesday, October 11, 1876...* Published by vote of the town; The Clark W. Bryan Co, Printers, Springfield, Mass, 1879.
- BLF** - Website *The Bliss Family - Colonial Americans*, <http://brblog-myotherblog.blogspot.com/2016/11/the-bliss-family-colonial-americans.html>
- BLISS** - *Genealogy of the Bliss Family in America from about the year of 1550 to 1880* compiled by John Homer Bliss, Norwich, Conn; Boston, Mass 1881.
- BURT** - Henry Martyn Burt and Silas Wright Burt, *Early Days in New England: Life and Times of Henry Burt of Springfield and Some of His Descendants, Genealogical, and Biographical*; 1893.
- BURT-1** - Burt, Henry Martyn. *The First Century of the History of Springfield; the Official Records from 1636 to 1736, with an Historical Review and Biographical Mention of the Founders*; Springfield, Mass; by the author, 1898.
- CCI** - Connecticut Individual County Chronologies
http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/CT_Individual_County_Chronologies.htm
- CG** - Cooley, Mortimer Elwyn; Cooley, Lyman Edgar, Cooley, Ernest Linwood; Compiled by Keatley, Vivien Bulloch; *The Cooley Genealogy, the descendants of Ensign Benjamin Cooley, an early settler of Springfield and Longmeadow, Massachusetts; and other members of the family in America*; Tuttle Publishing Co, Inc., Rutland, Vermont; 1941.
- CHAPIN** - *The Chapin Genealogy...Descendants of Dea Samuel Chapin who settled in Springfield Mass in 1642* by Orange Chapin' Metcalf & Co, Northampton Mass, 1862
- COL** - A Genealogical Record Of The Descendants Of Quartermaster George Colton 1644-1911 by George Woolworth Colton; Private Circulation by John Milton Colton, Philadelphia, Penna, 1912, Wickersham Printing Co, Lancaster, Penna.
- DOG** - Sherman, Ruth Wilder and Robert Moody Sherman; re-edited by Robert S. Wakefield, *Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Descendants of the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth, Mass. December 1620*.
- ESB** - Early Settlement of Brimfield; <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mahampde/brim.htm#index>
- GOOD** - *Various Ancestral Lines Of James Goodwin And Lucy (Morgan) Goodwin Of Hartford, Connecticut, Compiled By Frank Farnsworth Starr For James J. Goodwin; Volume II Morgan Lines*; Copyright 1915 by James J. Goodwin; The Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor Press.
- GRM** - *The Great Migration; Immigrants to New England 1634- 1635* by Robert Charles Anderson, NEHGS, Great Migration Study Project, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, 2007
- HAR** - *The Harmon Genealogy* by Artemas Canfield Harmon, 1920
- IHB** - Indian History, Biography and Genealogy: Pertaining to the Good Sachem Massasoit of the Wampanoag Tribe, and His Descendants by Ebenezer Weaver Peirce
- LMC** - Chronology of Longmeadow, Massachusetts History
<http://www.longmeadowhistoricalsociety.org/timeline.htm>
- MM** - Dodd, Jordan, Liahona Research, comp. *Massachusetts, Marriages, 1633-1850* [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
- MCH** - Massachusetts Individual County Chronologies
http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/MA_Individual_County_Chronologies.htm#Individual_County_Chronologies
- MVR** - *Massachusetts Vital Records Springfield 1640-1894* by Jay Mack Holbrook, Oxford Mass, 1987

MTV - *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Original data: Town and City Clerks of Massachusetts. Jay and Delene Holbrook of Holbrook Research Institute provided the original research.

NEHGR – *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. In 1847 NEHGS published the first issue of the NEHGR, the country's oldest genealogical journal. For over 160 years a wide variety of genealogies and source material have been published in the *Register* with an emphasis on New England families.

NEHGS - The New England Historic Genealogical Society was formed in 1845 and is the oldest genealogical society in the United States.

NEM - *New England Marriages Prior to 1700* by Clarence Almon Torrey; Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, 1985. This work, compiled over a period of thirty years from about 2,000 books and manuscripts, is a comprehensive listing of the 37,000 married couples who lived in New England between 1620 and 1700. Listed are the names of virtually every married couple living in New England before 1700, their marriage date or the birth year of a first child, the maiden names of 70% of the wives, the birth and death years of both partners, mention of earlier or later marriages, the residences of every couple and an index of names. The provision of the maiden names makes it possible to identify the husbands of sisters, daughters, and many granddaughters of immigrants, and of immigrant sisters or kinswomen. Database and images, <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3824>, Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2012.

PRB - "Copied from Proprietor's Records of the Town of Brimfield Massachusetts" from Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988 [ancestry.com database on-line]. Note: Dates all Old Style.

SPG – *Springfield 1636-1886 including an Account of the Quarter-Millennial Celebration at Springfield Mass May 25 and 26 1886* by Mason A Green; CA Nichols & Co, Publishers, MDCCCLXXXVIII (1888)

STE - *The Stebbins Genealogy in Two Volumes, Vol I* by Ralph Stebbins Greenlee and Robert Lemuel Greenlee, Privately printed, Chicago Illinois, 1904.

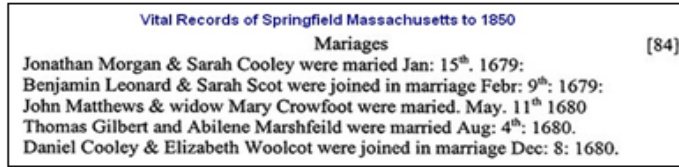
SFM – *Memoir of the Stebbins Family* collected and compiled by Daniel Stebbins, 1873; Family History Books, Research Library (CS71 .S81 1873)

VRS - *Vital records of Springfield, Massachusetts, to 1850* by Stott, Clifford L. (Main Author) and Joslyn, Roger D, 1948 (Added author); 4 volumes, ISBN: 0880821493; Subject Class: 974.426/S1 V2. Published in Boston, Massachusetts by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2003

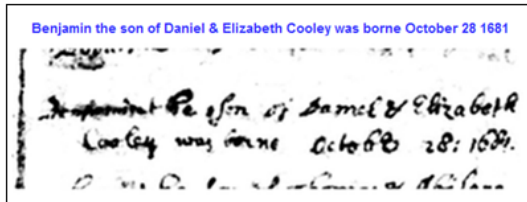
WIKI - Wikipedia <https://www.wikipedia.org/>

Endnotes

¹ VRS

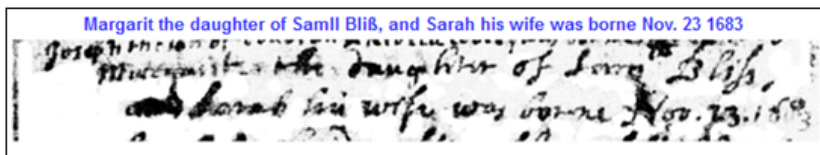


² MTV "Births" p 31



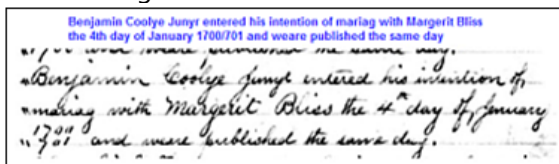
³ LMC - William Pynchon, a Puritan leader and Treasurer of the Massachusetts Bay Company, led an expedition of men up the Connecticut River hoping to establish a trading post and Puritan "plantation." The year was 1636. They came upon meadow land on the west side of the Connecticut River near the Agawam (now Westfield) River that appeared to be ideally suited for farming and grazing. More importantly, the land was rich in beaver and their pelts were in high demand in Europe commanding large sums of money. Pynchon "purchased" the land from the Agawam Tribe but was soon driven by angry natives across the river to the east bank where present Springfield is located.

⁴ MTV "Births"

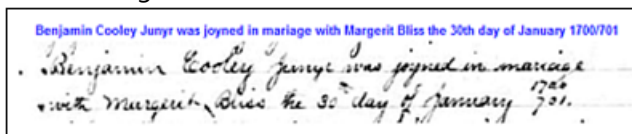


⁵ BLISS - Samuel Bliss was born 7 Nov 1647 in Springfield to Lt. Thomas Bliss who was the son of Nathaniel Bliss of Springfield. Nathaniel was the son of the Widow Margaret Bliss (whose garrison house was used during the Siege of Springfield in 1675). Sarah Stebbins was born 18 Aug 1654 in Springfield daughter, of Lt. Thomas Stebbins (1620-1683) and Hannah Wright (1626-1660) - MVR.

⁶ MTV "Marriages"

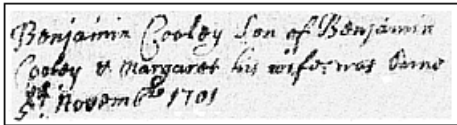


⁷ MTV "Marriages"



⁸ Benjamin is a Biblical name from the Hebrew name Binyamin that means "son of the right hand". Benjamin, in the Old Testament, is the twelfth and youngest son of Jacob and the founder of one of the southern tribes of the Hebrews. The Qur'an, in the narrative of Joseph, refers to Benjamin as the righteous youngest son of Jacob. As an English name, Benjamin came into general use after the Protestant Reformation. A famous bearer was Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790).

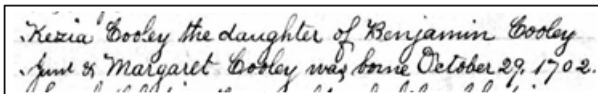
⁹ The birthdate 5 Nov 1701 appears in the MVR as an original entry, "Births", page 58.



Benjamin Cooley son of Benjamin
Cooley & Margaret his wife was borne
5th Novem^r 1701

¹⁰ The name Keziah is a Biblical name taken from the Hebrew Bible. It is variously spelled Keziah, Kezia, Kesia, and Kesiah and is variously pronounced k'zye-ah, kee-zha, or k'zee-ah. Keziah was the second of three daughters of Job the others being Jemimah and Keren-happuch. In Hebrew, the name's meaning derives from the Cassia tree and the spicy sweet-smelling cinnamon powder obtained from that tree.

¹¹ Keziah's birthdate 29 Oct 1702 appears in the MVR as a transcription of an original entry, "Births", page 60. This birthdate is suspect since it is only 11.7 months after the previous child's birthdate. In a study of frequency of births I determined that the average length of time between births for a large family is about 20 months.



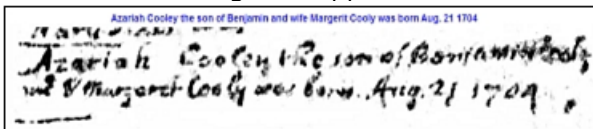
Kezia Cooley the daughter of Benjamin Cooley
& Margaret Cooley was borne October 29 1702.

¹² DOG

¹³ Goss Family History which got its information from *Descendants Of The Pilgrims Who Landed At Plymouth, Massachusetts December 1620* Volume One (Pages 125-127)

¹⁴ The name Azariah (or Azariahu) means "Yahweh has helped" in Hebrew where it was the name of the god represented by the tetragrammaton ("four letters") Yod Heh Vav Heh. Azariah was the name of several Old Testament characters including Abednego (Babylonian name for Azariah), who was one of the three holy children including Shadrach and Meshach, from the Book of Daniel that the King of Babylon Nebuchadnezzar ordered cast into a fiery furnace because they wouldn't bow down to the image Dura.

¹⁵ The birthdate 21 Aug 1704 appears in the MVR as an original entry, "Births in Springfield" page 1.



Azariah Cooley the son of Benjamin Cooley
& Margaret Cooley was borne Aug. 21 1704.

¹⁶ Apocryphal source for this death year

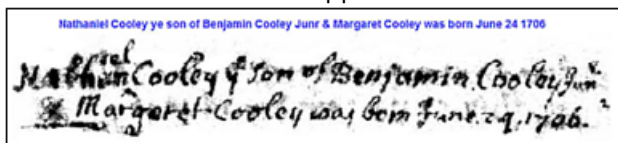
¹⁷ Azariah Sr Cooley's association (marriage) with Rebekah Dicks is not documented. However, the birth of a child, "Azariah, is found in MVR Brimfield Births (printed transcription p43), born on 7 Mar 1731 with only its mother, Rebekah Dicks listed under the general heading "Cooley". This leads to the conclusion Azariah and Rebekah were not married if, indeed Azariah was the father which is not clear-cut. I have, therefore, assigned Azariah Sr the father of Azariah Jr.

COOLEY, Abner, [twin] ch. David and Margret, Nov. 26, 1747.
Abner, s. David, bp. Sept. 24, 1752, C.R.
Adonijah, s. Nath[anie]ll and Rachel, Sept. 2, 1741.
Amanda, d. Azariah and Eleanor, Mar. 23, 1774.
Azeriah, s. Rebekah Dicks, Mar. 7, 1731.
Azeriah, s. Azer[ia]h and Elenor, Jan. 26, 1760. [Azariah, s. Azariah, C.R.]

¹⁸ The name Nathanael (as it was originally spelled) came from the Hebrew name Netan'el meaning "God has given" or "Gift of God". In the New Testament it is the name of an apostle also known as Bartholomew.

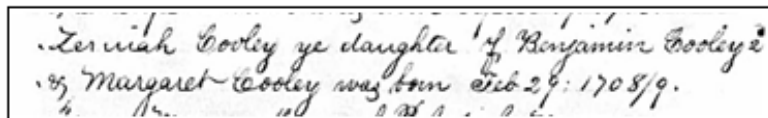
<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/nathanael/>

¹⁹ The birthdate 24 Jun 1706 appears in the MVR as an original entry, "Births in Springfield", page 61.



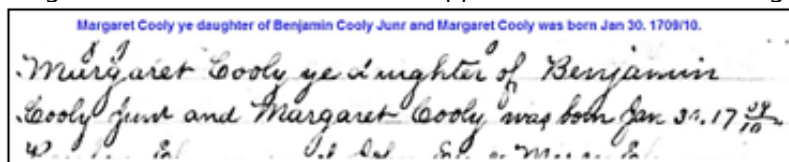
²⁰ Zerui'ah Is a Biblical name. She was one of two sisters of David the other being Abigail. They were daughters of Jesse of Bethlehem. Zeuriah was mother of the three leading heroes of David's army: Abishai, Joab, and Asabel, "the sons of Zeruiah". - Dr William Smith's Dictionary of the Bible... Vol 4.

²¹ The birthdate 29 Feb 1708/9 appears in the MVR as an original entry, "Births", page 71.



²² Margaret is a female first name, derived via French (Marguerite), Latin (Margarita), and from Greek Margaritea which is derived from the noun margaron meaning 'pearl'. The original Greek New Testament uses the word "margarita". Margaret has been an English name since the 11th century, and remained popular throughout the Middle Ages. It became less popular between the 16th century and 18th century, but became more common again after this period, becoming the second most popular female name in the United States in 1903. Since this time, it has become less common, but was still the ninth most common name for women of all ages in the United States as of the 1990 census. In early Massachusetts records the name is variously spelled: Margerit (clerks), Margret or Margrit (German), or by 1708, Margaret

²³ Margaret's birthdate 30 Jan 1709/10 appears in the MVR as an original entry, "Births" on page 74.

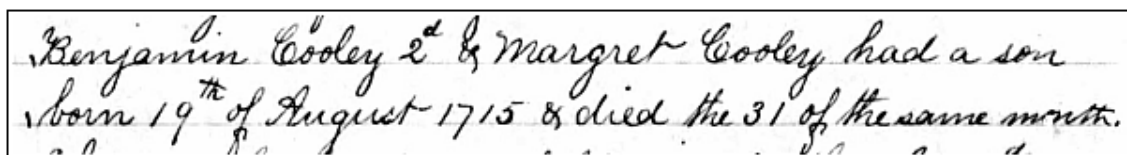


²⁴ MVR, Springfield Marriages page 6.

1729 Joseph Morgen & Margret Cooley Married December 25th

Weddings	(L)	(M)
1729	Thomas Linn & Margret Shaw Married May 5 th	Joseph Morgen & Margret (only married December 25 th)
1744	Ruben Linn & Hannah Young Married Sept: 18 1744	John Linn & Mary Day Married October 4 th
1751	Ruben Linn son	Benjamin Linn & Felicia

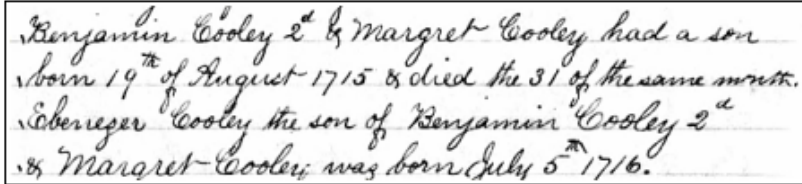
²⁵ The birthdate 19 Aug 1715 appears in the MVR as an original entry, "Births", page 86. The same MVR entry states he "died the 31 of the same month".



²⁶ Son and Ebenezer according to the Cooley Genealogy
 vii. Ebenezer born 5 July 1716, 2348 days or 77 months or 6.4 years after Margaret was born.
 viii. Son b 22 Feb 1716/17; d 23 Feb 1717, 232 days or 7.6 months after Ebenezer was born.
 The order of the 7th and 8th children as listed in the Cooley Genealogy is not possible.

²⁷ Ebenezer means "stone of help". It appears in the Bible in the book of Samuel. Israel experiences revival under the leadership of Samuel but during this time of repentance and renewal the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. The Israelites won decisively. To commemorate the divine victory "Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Eben Haezer saying: 'Thus far the Lord has helped us'".

²⁸ Ebenezer's birthdate 6 Jul 1716 appears in the MVR as an original entry "Births" page 86 just below the entry for Son born in 1715 Ebenezer's listed birth date is 321 days or 10.5 months after Son was born so these dates of birth *together* are not possible.



Benjamin Cooley 2^d & Margaret Cooley had a son
born 19th of August 1715 & died the 31 of the same month.
Ebenezer Cooley the son of Benjamin Cooley 2^d
& Margaret Cooley was born July 5th 1716.

²⁹ BHC p239-41

³⁰ <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cismaps.htm>

³¹ *Town of Brimfield Wed Oct 11 1876 Historical Address Rev Charles M. Hyde*; p20-21 and <http://www.brimfieldducc.org/our-history/>

³² Ibid p20-21

³³ Ibid p21

³⁴ *American Indians of the Northeast and Southeast* by Britannica Educational Publishing

³⁵ http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Queen_Anne's_War_1702_to_1713

³⁶ WIKI At the time of the arrival of European colonists, the middle reaches* of the Connecticut River (now the Deerfield Mass area) was inhabited by the Algonquian-speaking Pocumtuc Nation. In 1665, white villagers from the eastern MBC town of Dedham acquired land titles of uncertain legality from a variety of Pocumtuc individuals. The colonists established the village of Pocumtuc (later Deerfield) in the early 1670s.

*in contrast to the upper reaches of a drainage basin where the rivers start, the middle reaches are characterized by more gentle relief and wider valley floors

³⁷ Thanks to the website *Literary Landscapes of Western Massachusetts* who have given the Upper Connecticut River valley through Massachusetts the name "Pioneer Valley Region".



³⁸ Trumbull, James Russell, *History of Northampton, Massachusetts, from its settlement in 1654*, 1898

³⁹ The name *Skipmuck may have been based on the Nipmuc Native American term "Skipmaug," meaning "chief fishing place" or "Shipmuck" meaning "big watery place"; it was a fishing place east of Chicopee Falls on the south side of the Chicopee River but was always considered a district of Chicopee. - City of Chicopee website

⁴⁰ BURT The authors, Henry and Silas Burt, didn't mention whether the petition was accepted and acted upon

⁴¹ Most of these skirmishes are documented in *A Biographical Memoir of the Rev. John Williems, First Minister of Deerfield, Massachusetts* by Stephen West Williams.

⁴² Rev. John H. Lockwood, D.D., *Westfield and its historic influences, 1669-1919; the life of an early town, with a survey of events in New England and bordering regions to which it was related in colonial and revolutionary times*; (Sylvester, Vol. III, p. 150, note)

⁴³ WIKI

⁴⁴ BHC

⁴⁵ In the modern forensic essay "In Pursuit of Pestilence" Ernest Caulfield thought the epidemics in Connecticut and Springfield "...had epidemiological characteristics of [influenza]."

⁴⁶ WIKI Proprietary Colony: The English Monarch generally granted transatlantic territory to an individual or a small group, rather than to a chartered company (corporation). The men who received these grants, called Proprietary Governors or Magistrates, were invested with property and gubernatorial authority to administer with extraordinary control.

⁴⁷ {<http://www.answers.com/topic/jonathan-burt>}

⁴⁸ John Warner Barber, *Historical Collections Relating to the History and Antiquities of Every town in Massachusetts with Geographical Descriptions*, 1848

⁴⁹ <http://www.brimfielducc.org/our-history/> In a somewhat contradictory quote: "...the plantation had received its first white settlers in 1721 and the First Congregational Church was established that year with the Rev. Richard Treat as first minister. The first meetinghouse was built beginning in 1722 and the 'Church on the Hill' stands in the same spot to this very day".

⁵⁰ Remonstrance or expostulation: A strong representation of reasons against a measure, either public or private, and when addressed to a public body, a prince or magistrate, it may be accompanied with a petition or supplication for the removal or prevention of some evil or inconvenience. - <http://1828.mshaffer.com/d/word/remonstrance>

⁵¹ BHC p272

⁵² BHC p246

⁵³ WIKI - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_Lock

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ BHC

⁵⁶ WIKI - A hog reeve (hogreeve, hog-reeve) is a Colonial New England term for a person chartered with the prevention or appraising of damages by stray swine. Wandering domestic pigs were a problem to the community due to the amount of damage they could do to gardens and crops by rooting. Owners of hogs were responsible for yoking and placing rings in their noses, and if they got loose and became a nuisance in the community, one or more of the men assigned as hog reeve would be responsible for capturing the animal and impounding the animal. If the animal did not have a ring in its nose, then the reeve was responsible for performing the necessary chore for the owner; who could legally be charged a small fee for the service. There were punishments and fines established for not having hogs yoked and failing to control animals.

⁵⁷ PRB

⁵⁸ BHC pp288-290

⁵⁹ BHC p291

⁶⁰ BHC p296

⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² BHC p357

⁶³ *Orderly Book and Journal of Major John Hawks on the Ticonderoga-Crown Point Campaign under General Jeffrey Amherst, 1759-1760*; Pub. Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York; 1911

⁶⁴ This death information is from the *Cooley Genealogy* which I suspect is an estimate at best

⁶⁵ HAR, BLISS, and BLF

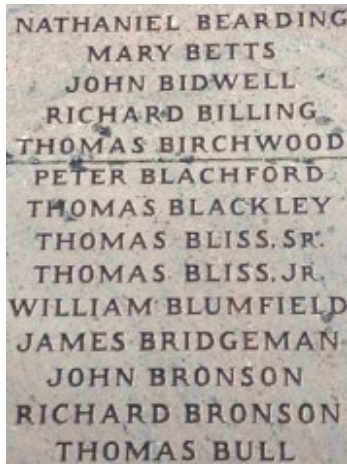
⁶⁶ Said by Richard Cutter (see endnote 68 below): Thomas' father, a Puritan, was persecuted by the Church of England on account of his faith by both civil and religious authorities under the direction of the infamous Archbishop Laud. He was maltreated, impoverished, and imprisoned. Three of his sons, Jonathan, Thomas (our Thomas Sr), and George were also maltreated with Jonathan dying (1635-6) as a result of 35 lashes to the back with a three-corded whip which tore his back in a cruel manner".

⁶⁷ WIKI Quononicut or Canonicut is an island west of Newport Rhode Island situated in the southern inlet of Narragansett Bay. Named for Canonicus (1565-1647), the eldest of four sons of Tashtassuck was the first of the recorded chiefs/Sachem of the Narragansett tribe of Indians. The town on the island is now called Jamestown, a town in Newport County, Rhode Island in the United States. Jamestown is situated almost entirely on Conanicut Island, the second largest island in Narragansett Bay. It also includes the uninhabited Dutch Island and Gould Island.

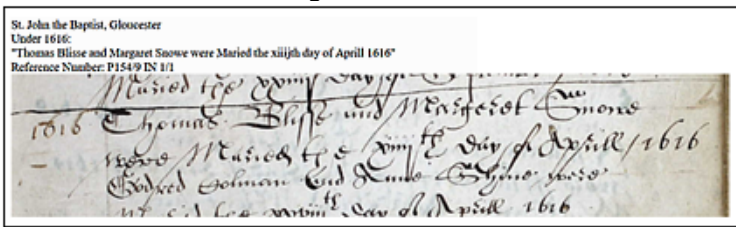
⁶⁸ *New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial*, Vol 3 by William Richard Cutter, 1911, p1824

⁶⁹ Posted Bliss trees on ancestry.com are wildly different, so much so that none are reliable. The most useful sources are WikiTree and <https://oliveandeliza.com>

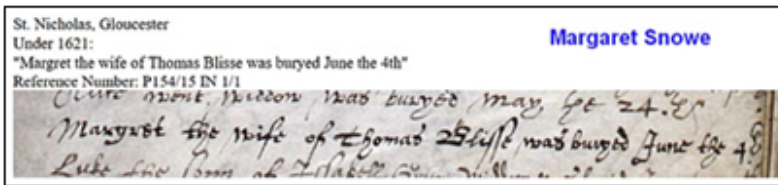
70 Monument in Hartford



71 Gloucestershire Church of England records

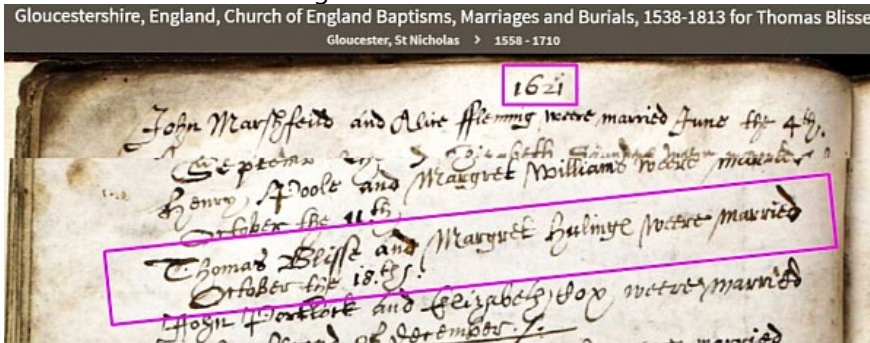


72 Gloucestershire Church of England records



73 BLISS

74 Gloucestershire Church of England records



75 BLISS

76 New England Marriages Prior to 1700; Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, 1985; Ancestry.com database; Birth years estimated from marriage records

77 WIKI

78 Griffin was the name of a 17th-century ship known to have sailed between England and English settlements in Massachusetts Bay Colony having made several such journeys in 1633 and 1634. A 1633 journey left Downs, England carrying religious dissidents including Thomas Hooker, Samuel Stone, John Cotton, and others totaling about 200 people. They landed at Plymouth Colony on September 3rd.

⁷⁹ The Old Connecticut Path (OCP) was the first of the New England trails that led west from the settlements close to the Atlantic coast to the interior. OCP led west along the north bank of the Charles River from New Town (Cambridge) to newly settled Watertown and passed through what are now Waltham and Weston, curving southward where it entered the southeasterly section of the new town of Sudbury, Mass.

In Sudbury OCP was known as "the road from Watertown to the Dunster Farm" because it crossed a tract that was granted to Henry Dunster, president of Harvard College. The path split at Sudbury, the northern part heading westerly becoming the Bay Path or the Boston Post Road and the southern part heading southwesterly passing through the present Mass towns of Worcester and Sturbridge-Southbridge, the Nipmuck State Forest, and Tolland Conn before reaching Wethersfield, Windsor, and Hartford plantations in the lower Connecticut River Valley.

⁸⁰ <https://www.foundersofhartford.org/historic-sites>

⁸¹ WIKI. The Park River, in ancient times, the Little River, flows through and under the city of Hartford, Connecticut. Between 1940 and the 1980s, the 2.3-mile (3.7 km) river was covered by the Army Corps of Engineers to prevent the spring floods regularly caused by increased surface runoff from urban development.

⁸² *Original Distribution of the Lands in Hartford among the Settlers, 1639*, Connecticut Historical Society, 1912, Secretary's Record Book Vol 1 Pt 2; p256

⁸³ *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, Vol XIV, Hartford, published by the Society 1912

⁸⁴ GOOD p3

⁸⁵ WIKI Trainbands were companies of militia in England or the Americas first organized in the 16th century and dissolved in the 18th. In the early American colonies the trainband was the most basic tactical unit. However, no standard company size existed and variations were wide. Trainbands were not combat units. Generally, upon reaching a certain age a man was required to join the local trainband in which he received periodic training for the next couple of decades. In wartime, military forces were formed by selecting men from trainbands on an individual basis and then forming them into a fighting unit - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trainband>

⁸⁶ WIKI - A nuncupative will, also known as an oral will or a verbal will, and sometimes called a deathbed will, is instructions for distribution of personal property given by a person who is too sick to execute a written will. Nuncupative wills come from an oral tradition before written documents were common and required for legal validity. After the 19th century nuncupative wills were not legal in most jurisdictions. Currently, in jurisdictions in which they are legal, they require a set number of witnesses and must be written down by the witnesses as soon as possible. A few U.S. states permit nuncupative wills made by military personnel on active duty.

⁸⁷ GOOD – p4

⁸⁸ GOOD – p4 *Probate Records of Hartford Co., Conn*, Vol II pp28-29 lists the inventory of the estate of Mr. Bliss as found in the records of the Particular Court of Connecticut. The inventory was witnessed by Nathan Warde and Joseph Mygatt. Value: 86 pounds, 12 shillings, 8 pence.

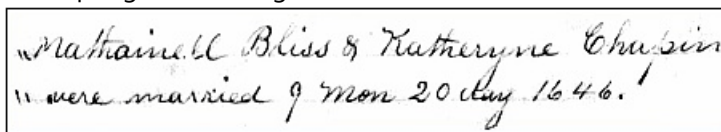
⁸⁹ Margaret Hulings was called "Goodwife" or "Goody" as she was the wife of a "Goodman", a class roughly one step below a "Gentleman" or "Gentlewoman" (addressed as "Mister" or "Mistress").

⁹⁰ GOOD – p5

⁹¹ Hampshire County Mass, Probate Records, Vol I, Folio 237

⁹² HAR - John Harmon of Springfield, Massachusetts & Land/Lot Owners from 1647, Part 5

⁹³ MVR Springfield Marriages



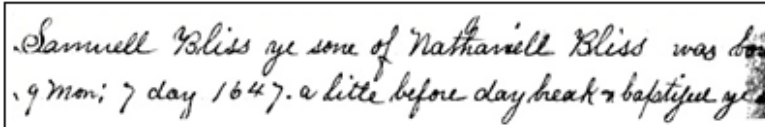
Nathaniel Bliss & Katherine Chubbin
were married 9 Mon 20 day 1646.

⁹⁴ CHAPIN

⁹⁵ NEHGS "Vital Records from The NEHGS Register" [AmericanAncestors.org online database, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2014]. The database was compiled from articles originally published in The New England Historical and Genealogical Register.) Vol 83, pp352, 355. "The English Ancestry of Dea Samuel Chapin"

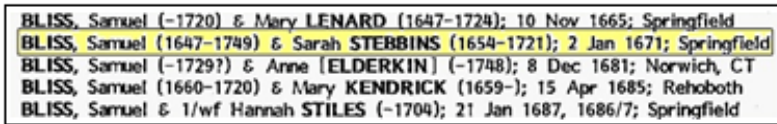
⁹⁶ "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975." [Database. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org> , 6 April 2020]. Index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City

⁹⁷ MVR - The birth record states Samuel as being born on the "9 mon 7 day 1647, a little before day break and baptized ye same day".



Samuell Bliss ye son of Nathaniell Bliss was born
9 mon; 7 day 1647. a little before day break & baptizd ye

⁹⁸ New England Marriages Prior to 1700



BLISS, Samuel (-1720) & Mary LENARD (1647-1724); 10 Nov 1665; Springfield
BLISS, Samuel (1647-1749) & Sarah STEBBINS (1654-1721); 2 Jan 1671; Springfield
BLISS, Samuel (-1729?) & Anne [ELDERKIN] (-1748); 8 Dec 1681; Norwich, CT
BLISS, Samuel (1660-1720) & Mary KENDRICK (1659-); 15 Apr 1685; Rehoboth
BLISS, Samuel & 1/wf Hannah STILES (-1704); 21 Jan 1687, 1686/7; Springfield

⁹⁹ STE p97

¹⁰⁰ Ibid p60

¹⁰¹ Ibid p97; died while a resident of the Long Meddowe precinct of Springfield.

¹⁰² BLISS p36 also MVR "born on "ye 12 day of 9th mon 1649" (12 Nov 1649)

¹⁰³ BLISS p12

¹⁰⁴ Ibid p36

¹⁰⁵ Ibid

¹⁰⁶ MVR. Mary was born "ye 23 of ye 7 mon 1651" [23 Sep 1651] also BLISS p36

¹⁰⁷ MVR Springfield Marriages Bk 1, p15

¹⁰⁸ AGBI

¹⁰⁹ MVR. Nathaniell was born on "ye 27 of ye 1 mon 1653". [27 Mar 1653]

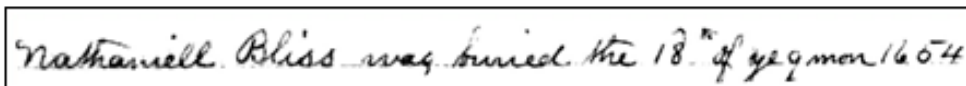
¹¹⁰ COL p4

¹¹¹ BLISS p36

¹¹² COL p4

¹¹³ HAR

¹¹⁴ MVR "Nathaniell Bliss was buried on the 18th of ye 9 mon 1654" (18 Nov 1654)



Nathaniell Bliss was buried the 18th of ye 9 mon 1654

¹¹⁵ HAR

¹¹⁶ In 1650, a person could buy one of the following with £54: 8 horses; 10 cows; 67 stones of wool; 14 quarters of wheat; or pay a skilled tradesman 771 days of wages

¹¹⁷ Connecticut River Floods (year, high stage or crest in feet at Springfield): 1683, 19.7; 1692, 19.9; 1801, 21.7; 1841, 20.0; 1843, 20.9. Except for 1801, the high stage at Springfield was estimated from Hartford data

¹¹⁸ CHAPIN

¹¹⁹ WIKI The laws of the Massachusetts Bay Colony required that all freemen (voters) be members of the church. In 1632, the colony amended its laws to prohibit church elders from serving as civil magistrates, creating some separation between the governing authorities of church and state. At the same time, the colony adopted an oath to be taken by all men which gave explicit consent to the authority of the civil government and pledged fidelity to that government. Members of the church already voluntarily embraced the church covenant, which established a set of reciprocal obligations among church members. The **Oath of a Freeman** created a civil supplement to those religious covenants.

¹²⁰ <https://www.wbrookfield.com/?SEC=143B3658-4432-4588-B5BB-EF8542DD149A>

Early in the history of the Commonwealth, towns had no regularly elected town officials. Town meetings would periodically "select" prominent citizens to perform the business of the town between town meetings. Gradually, town functions became involved enough to require more consistent supervision. Borrowing the concept of councils from their English heritage, the colonists began to elect between three and nine "selectmen, or "townsmen", to serve for fixed terms. Beginning with Dorchester in 1633, towns in Massachusetts quickly adopted this unique form of government.

Initially, the powers and duties of selectmen differed from town to town. In general, selectmen were required to carry out and enforce the votes of the town meeting, but were granted additional authority over specific administrative areas of town government. During the late 17th century, the Massachusetts General Court began passing laws that shaped the character of the office. Selectmen were given significant authority over town finances, care of the poor, schools, admission of new residents into the town, roads and other public works, land regulation, local defense, and appointment of other town officials not elected by the town meeting. Selectmen were almost solely responsible for the content of warrant articles until 1715, when the General Court passed a law requiring them to accept articles on the petition of ten or more property owners.

¹²¹ WIKI - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Pynchon

¹²² WIKI - In the 11th century certain knights were known as "keepers of the peace" who were responsible to the King in ensuring the law was upheld and in preserving the "King's peace". Three centuries later during the reign of Edward III the keepers' title had become "justice of the peace" (JP). The "peace" to be guarded was the sovereign's, the maintenance of which was the duty of the Crown under the *royal prerogative*. JPs used the power conferred to them bind unruly persons "to be of good behaviour". The justices' alternative title of "**magistrate**" dates from the 16th century, although the word had been in use centuries earlier to describe some legal officials of Roman times.

¹²³ WIKI - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Chapin

¹²⁴ MVR

¹²⁵ MVR. Jan. 2d 1671 Samll Bliss & Sarah Stebbings Joined in Mariage - Samll Marshfeild & Tho: Stebbings attested their Legall Publication.

¹²⁶ STE p97

¹²⁷ STE p60

¹²⁸ BURT p320

¹²⁹ BURT p57

¹³⁰ BURT p375 probably 1667

¹³¹ BURT-1 Vol I, p126

¹³² Ibid pp126-7

¹³³ Compiled in several volumes entitled "Parish Record Abstracts" and published in the United States.

¹³⁴ There is a serious conflict between the year Rowlandus Stebbing was born, 1592, and the year calculated from Rowland Stebbing's age on the 1634 passenger list of his emigration vessel, the "Francis" (aged 40 hence b. 1594). See endnote 133 below

¹³⁵ NEHGR, Vol 9, p171, a Sarah Whiting was "buried 4 (8) 1649" in Springfield, Mass

Sarah Stebbin wife of Rowland Stebbin was buried ye 4 day of the 8th mon 1649

¹³⁶ NEHGR, Vol III, No. 1, Jan 1849"Register of Deaths in Northampton, Ms"

1671, October 23, John Hannum's child; 11 December, Mary, dau. Matthew Clesson; 14 December, Rowland Stebbins.

¹³⁷ It appears that in the list of family members of the Stebbings family in the *Stebbins Genealogy*, their birth years were calculated from the passenger list of their emigration vessel, the *Francis*, which gave the ages of all aboard. Rowland's age was listed as 40 so, if correct, his birth year would be 1594 in direct conflict with the parish information found at St Mary's Church, Bocking, Essexshire

¹³⁸ *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol 14, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1860

¹³⁹ Passenger list information was transcribed in the 19th century by Michael Tepper from records found in London, the Public Rolls Office, formerly at Carleton Ride - https://familypedia.wikia.org/wiki/Francis_1634_voyage

¹⁴⁰ Mealey and Jackson referenced, *The English Home of Mr. Timothy Dalton, B. A.* by John Laurens Blake, privately printed, 1889

¹⁴¹ NEHGR - The New England Historical & Genealogical Register, Vol 8, p137

¹⁴² Roxbury is presumed since Rowland's brother Martin settled there at an earlier date plus Rowland's close association with William Pynchon who founded Roxbury. This may indicate immigrant Ensign Benjamin Cooley (great grandfather of Benjamin₃) did indeed migrate to Roxbury from his coastal landing place. Cooley had to have crossed paths with Pynchon at some point before arriving in Springfield also founded by Pynchon. So far (2024) Cooley has not been found in MBC before 1643 with the birth of his first child, Bethia, in Springfield

¹⁴³ GRM pp494-5

¹⁴⁴ WIKI - From Wikipedia and <http://josfamilyhistory.com/locations/springfield-ma.htm>

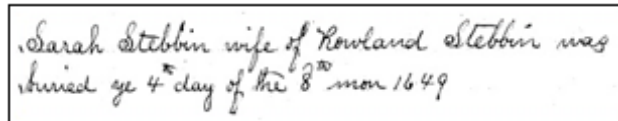
¹⁴⁵ See endnote 118 above

¹⁴⁶ BURT All land transactions pp167-191

¹⁴⁷ GRM Refers to "folio 38" of the Springfield "Book of Possessions"

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.reformedreader.org/puritans/sabbath.puritan.newengland/sabbath.puritan.newengland.chapter5.htm>

¹⁴⁹ MVR



Sarah Stebbin wife of Rowland Stebbin was buried ye 4th day of the 8th mon 1649

¹⁵⁰ GOOD

¹⁵¹ SFM

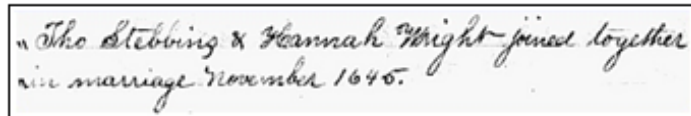
¹⁵² STE pp57-58

¹⁵³ GOOD

¹⁵⁴ *Hampshire County Mass Probate Records, Vol I, pp136-137*

¹⁵⁵ STE pp60-61

¹⁵⁶ NEM



The Stebbing & Hannah Wright joined together in marriage November 1645.

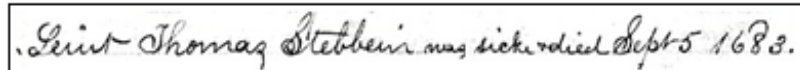
¹⁵⁷ MVR



Hannah Stebbin the wife of Thomas Stebbin dyed the 16th of the 8 mon: 1660

¹⁵⁸ STE p60

¹⁵⁹ MVR



Lieut Thomas Stebbin was sick & died Sept 5 1683.

¹⁶⁰ Joanna the wife of Samuel Stebbein was sicke and dyed Aug 8, 1683

¹⁶¹ MVR "Hanna Stebbin daughter of Thomas Stebbin Borne the 1 day of the 8 mon 1660".

¹⁶² MVR "Rowland Stebbin Sonne of Thomas Stebbin Borne the 2 day of the 8 mon 1660".

¹⁶³ MVR "Rowland Stebbin Sonne of Thomas Stebbin died the 24 of the 4 mon 1661".

¹⁶⁴ STE p63

¹⁶⁵ STE p65

¹⁶⁶ Ibid

¹⁶⁷ STE p66

¹⁶⁸ STE p64

¹⁶⁹ STE

¹⁷⁰ STE p66

¹⁷¹ STE p67

¹⁷² Ibid

¹⁷³ BURT-1

¹⁷⁴ STE p70

¹⁷⁵ Edward Randolph and Robert Noxon Toppan, *Edward Randolph* vol. 3, pp. 1-2; W. Noël Sainsbury and J.W. Fortescue, *Calendar of State Papers 1677-1680*, pp. 247-248 and 250, items 685-686 and 691

¹⁷⁶ George Lewis Beer, *The Old Colonial System 1660-1754, Part I, The Establishment of the System 1660-1688*; the Macmillian Co, New York, 1912; p274

¹⁷⁷ *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, October 1921, "Oaths of Allegiance in Colonial New England" by Charles Evans p377-8

¹⁷⁸ Freshwater Brook runs through present Enfield just north of the Connecticut-190/191 interchange about four miles south of the current Conn-Mass border.

¹⁷⁹ <https://www.enfieldhistoricalsociety.org/EHShistory.html>

¹⁸⁰ SPG John Pynchon, Samuel Marshfield, Thomas Stebbins, Jonathan Burt, and Benjamin Parsons p195

¹⁸¹ SPG p195ff

¹⁸² STE p70

¹⁸³ <https://www.enfieldhistoricalsociety.org/EHShistory.html>

¹⁸⁴ STE p70

¹⁸⁵ <https://www.enfieldhistoricalsociety.org/EHShistory.html>

¹⁸⁶ STE pp71-72