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The Quiet Puritans  
The Birchards of New England

Volume I

The History of a Family  
Birchards, McMillans and Rears

Edna Manning Laughter

There is no more admirable character in history  
than the New England Puritan of the seventeenth century,  
his unswerving devotion to duty, his unlimited courage  
based on the fear of God,  
his love of liberty and hatred of tyranny—  
These are the qualities that have enthroned him in the memory  
of the American people.

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## The Robinson Family

### FIRST GENERATION of the ROBINSON FAMILY

18. Reverend Henry Robinson (Anne Wither-5, Lawrence-4, Robert-3, Richard-2, Thomas-1) Henry was born and christened April 4, 1550 in All Hallows Bread Street, London, Middlesex County, England.<sup>12</sup> He died November 6, 1625 in Fairsted, Essex, England and was buried November 16, 1625 in Fairstead. For subsequent research, care must be taken not to confuse Thomas Birchard's father-in-law with the Rt. Rev. Henry Robinson, born ca. 1553, at Carlisle, created Bishop of Carlisle in 1598, died of the plague at Rose Castle June 19, 1616 and buried the same day in the cathedral.

Henry Robinson was the rector of the church at Fairsted, Essex County, England. He christened all of his 13 children himself. With two of the children he recorded the hour of the christening.

Reverend Robinson's and Elizabeth Orvice's marriage took place in 1580 in Terling, Essex, England.<sup>13</sup> Elizabeth Orvice was born and christened November 23, 1561 in Terling.<sup>14</sup> She was buried December 11, 1621 in Fairsted, Essex, England. The Fairsted registers show: Elizabeth Robinson, "*wife of Henry, parson to this parish*," was buried at Fairsted 11 Dec. 1621.

Elizabeth Orvice was the daughter of Reverend John Orvyce, born in 1535 in Terling, and Jane, whose last name is not known. John and Jane Orvyce were married in 1560 at Terling. The Terling registers show the record of "*Mr. Orvyce late vicar of Terling buried Jan. 16, 1582, died Jan. 11*". Jane was born in 1539 in Essex County, England, and died June, 1592 at Terling. The Fairsted registers show Jane Orvice was "*buried June 20, 1592, wid. sometyne of John Orvis of Tearlinge (vicar) and her will proved before the byshops officers the 7 of Sept.*"<sup>15</sup>

Reverend Henry Robinson and Elizabeth Orvice had the following children:

21. i. Jane Robinson was born October 17, 1582 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. She was baptized October 21, 1582 in Fairstead. She married John Simpson March 3, 1606 in Fairsted. John was born in 1578 in Fairsted.
22. ii. William Robinson was born December 25, 1583 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. He was christened December 29, 1583 in Fairsted. He married Anne Warner November 16, 1607 in England.
23. iii. Elias Robinson was born February 2, 1585 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. He was baptized February 2, 1585 in Fairsted.
24. iv. Michael Robinson was born in May 1586 in Fairstead, Essex County, England. He was christened May 12, 1586 in Fairsted.
25. v. Elizabeth Robinson was born March 9, 1590 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. She married John Simson March 13, 1606 in England.
26. vi. Margery Robinson was born May 12, 1592 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. She was baptized May 16, 1592 in Fairsted. Margery Robinson married in Fairsted William Chapman October 23, 1620. This was the same day her sister, Mary, married Thomas Birchard. William Chapman was born in 1588 in Sturmer, Essex, England.
27. vii. Reuben Robinson was born April 14, 1594 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. He was baptized April 21, 1594 in Fairstead. The name of Reuben's wife is given in the "*Visitations of Essex*" 1664-8, p. 75 as Anne Hill, whom he married in 1619 in Fairsted. Anne was born in 1598 in Essex.
28. viii. Anne Robinson was born September 28, 1595 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. She was baptized October 5, 1595. She married Robert Savage September 21, 1618 in Fairsted.
- +29. ix. Mary Robinson was born March 18, 1597 in Fairsted. She was christened March 27, 1597 in Fairsted. She died March 24, 1655.

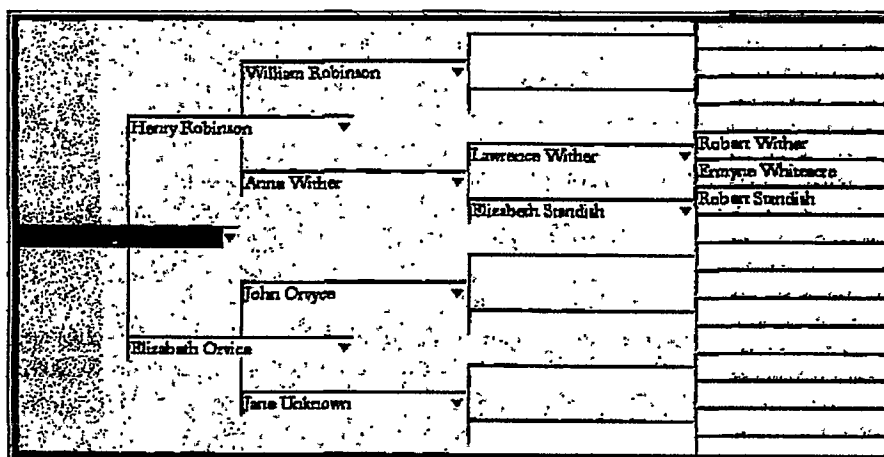
- 30 x. Henry Robinson was born May 8, 1598 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. He was baptized May 14, 1598 in Fairsted. He died in June, 1620 in Fairsted. He was buried June 16, 1620 in Fairsted.
- 31 xi. Deborah Robinson was born August 18, 1600 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. She was baptized September 2, 1600 in Fairsted. She married John Hohnstead April 15, 1623.
- 32 xii. Priscilla Robinson was born April 12, 1602 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. She was baptized April 29, 1602 in Fairsted.
- 33 xiii. Martha Robinson was born April 5, 1605 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. She was baptized April 15, 1605 in Fairsted.<sup>16</sup>

## SECOND GENERATION of the ROBINSON FAMILY

29. Mary Robinson (Henry Robinson-6, Anne Wither-5, Lawrence-4, Robert-3, Richard-2, Thomas-1) Mary was born March 18, 1597 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. She was baptized March 27, 1597 in Fairsted. Mary married Thomas Birchard October 23, 1620 in Fairsted. She immigrated in November 1635 to Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts. She died March 24, 1655 in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Mary's death was recorded at the Roxbury church.

Although Mary was born in England the author classified her in the first generation of American Robinsons. Thomas Birchard and Mary Robinson Birchard's story appears in the following section. They had the following children:

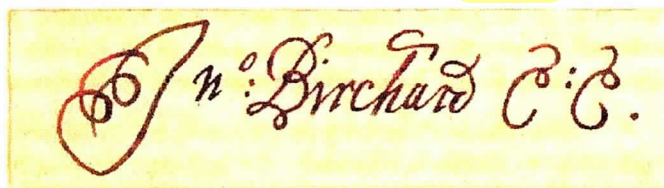
- +34 i. Elizabeth Birchard was born November 1, 1621. She died February 28, 1700.
- +35 ii. Marie Birchard was born April 2, 1623. She died in 1658 in Saybrook, Connecticut.
- +36 iii. Sarah Birchard was born Aug 22 1624 and died after 1698.
- +37 iv. Susanna Birchard was born June 26, 1626. She died June 9, 1682.
- +38 v. John Birchard was born January 31, 1627 and died November 17, 1702.
- 39 vi. Thomas Birchard was born September 24, 1629 and died February 19, 1631.
- 40 vii. Deborah Birchard was born April 18, 1632 and died April 6, 1633.
- +41 viii. Hannah Birchard was born October 17, 1633.





## FIFTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN

38. **John Birchard** (Thomas-4, William-3, Robert-2, James-1) was born January 31, 1628 in Terling, Essex County, England. John was christened January 31, 1628 in Terling, Essex, England. He died November 17, 1702 in Lebanon, New London County, Connecticut.



John married **Christyan Andrews** July 22, 1653, on Martha's Vineyard, Duke County, Massachusetts. Christyan Andrews was born in 1630 in St. Giles, England.

She died about 1677 in Norwich, New London County, Connecticut. John Birchard and Christyan Andrews had the following children:

- 95 i. **Thomas Birchard** was born in October, 1654 in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. He died in 1658 in Edgartown.
- 96 ii. **Katharine Birchard** was born in November, 1656 in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard. She died in 1656 in Edgartown.
- 97 iii. **John Birchard** was born in January, 1658 in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard. He died in 1658 in Edgartown.
- 98 iv. **John Birchard** was born in December, 1659 in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard. He died in 1662 in Norwich.
- 99 v. **Mary Birchard** was born in May, 1661 in Norwich, Connecticut. She died in 1664 in Norwich.
- 100 vi. **Sarah Birchard** was born in May, 1661 in Norwich, Connecticut. She died in 1664 in Norwich.
- +101 vii. **Samuel Birchard** was born July 16, 1663. He died between October 6, 1712 and January 3, 1713, probably in Coventry, Connecticut.
- +102 viii. **James Birchard** was born on July 16, 1665. He died after 1745 in Norwich West Farms, Connecticut.
- +103 ix. **Abigail Birchard** was born in November, 1667. She died after January, 1732.
- +104 x. **Thomas Birchard** was born in January, 1669. He died in 1741.
- +105 xi. **John Birchard** was born on February 3, 1671. He died June 30, 1735, in Lebanon, Connecticut.
- +106 xii. **Joseph Birchard** was born in February, 1673. He died March 9, 1755, in Norwalk, Connecticut.
- 107 xiii. **Benjamin Birchard** was born in December, 1675 in Norwich, Connecticut. He died in 1675.
- +108 xiv. **Mary Birchard** was born in June, 1677. She died after 1758.

John also married **Jane Lee Hyde** (daughter of Thomas Lee and Phebe Brown) after 1680. Jane Lee Hyde died January 21, 1723 in Lebanon, Connecticut. She was born and baptized September 12, 1640 in Rusper, England. John Birchard and Jane Lee Hyde had the following children:

- +109 i. **Daniel Birchard** was born in November, 1680. He died after August 14, 1765.
- +110 ii. **Lydia Birchard**.

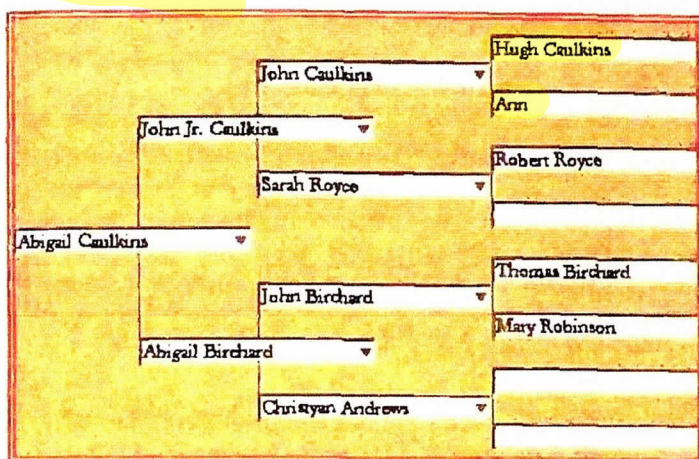
In the days when early marriages were considered necessary for the welfare of the community, the delay of John Birchard's sons is striking. Samuel was 32 when he married; James was 30 or 31; Thomas was 39; John was 37; Joseph was 37; and Daniel was married at the age of 41.<sup>154</sup>

The Terling Public Records show that John was born in Terling, Essex, England. He was eight years old when his parents brought him to America. The family first lived in Roxbury, outside of Boston. In 1639, when John was 12, they moved to Hartford, Connecticut, where John's father,



## SIXTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY : JOHN'S DAUGHTER ABIGAIL

103. **Abigail Birchard** (John-5, Thomas-4, William-3, Robert-2, James-1) was born November, 1667 in Norwich, Connecticut. She married **John Caulkins Jr.** (son of John Caulkins and Sarah Royce) October



23, 1690. John was born July, 1661 in Norwich, Connecticut. He died December 25, 1755.

Abigail and John moved to Lebanon, Connecticut after they were married. John was chosen the first town constable at the town's organization, May 31, 1698. In 1700 John was a corporal in the first Lebanon militia.<sup>364</sup>

On September 27, 1725, "*John Calkin ye first*" of Lebanon, Connecticut deeded land to his son James.

Abigail was living in January, 1732 according to a deed when John Calkins Jr. of Lebanon, deeded to his son, Jeremiah Calkins, also of Lebanon, certain lands, reserving the use of the land and house during the "*life of me the said John Calkins and the natural life of my beloved wife Abigail Calkins.*"

John and Abigail must have moved to New York, for on January 29, 1745 "*John Calkins of Phillips Parrish Dutches County, New York for £20, sold to son James Calkins of Norwich, Connecticut, all rights to any lands in Norwich, or Lebanon, not heretofore disposed of; the witnesses to the deed were John Calkin Jr, and Jeremiah Calkin.*"<sup>365</sup>

Abigail Birchard and John Jr. Caulkins had the following children:

- 476 i. **Abigail Caulkins** was born September 8, 1691. She married **David Spencer** July 9, 1712.
- 477 ii. **Sarah Caulkins** was born February 14, 1694. She died in 1736. Sarah married **Jacob Munsell** December 30, 1717.
- 478 iii. **Mary Caulkins** was born September 21, 1697. She married **Abel Wright** November 7, 1717.
- 479 iv. **John Caulkins** was born November 19, 1699. He died in 1769. He married **Sarah Huntington** April 9, 1721. Sarah Huntington was born October 22, 1701. John and Sarah went to Dutchess County, New York.
- 480 v. **James Caulkins** was born April 29, 1702 and died in 1756. He married **Abigail Huntington** April 15, 1734. James graduated from Yale College in 1725. He was ordained as a minister and preached for several years. He later settled as a farmer in the western part of Norwich, now Bozrah, and died there in 1756.<sup>366</sup>
- 481 vi. **Jeremiah Caulkins** was born September, 1705 in Lebanon, Connecticut. He married **Rachel Jones** November 10, 1725. In 1756 Jeremiah lived in Phillips Precinct, Dutchess County, New York with his father and brother, John.<sup>367</sup>

Appendix F contains the background and family charts of the Caulkins' family. John Caulkins Jr. was the first cousin of Ann Caulkins Birchard (#66), who married Abigail's brother, Samuel Birchard (#101). The Caulkins family contributed much to the early settlement of Norwich and Connecticut. A member of the family later wrote the history of Norwich.

## F. Hugh Caulkins Genealogy and Background

Both of Hugh's sons, John and David, were ancestors of Birchards as the accompanying charts show. Since Hugh Caulkins was a common ancestor of several members of the Birchard family, his background story is included.

**Hugh Caulkins** was born about 1600 in England. He died in 1690 in Norwich, Connecticut. He was married to Ann. Six children have been traced. Probably the oldest four were born in England, Hugh Caulkins and Ann had the following children:

- i. **Sarah Caulkins** married **William Hough** at Gloucester, Massachusetts, in 1645. They moved in 1651 to New London. Several of their descendants settled in Norwich.
- ii. **Mary Caulkins** married **Hugh Roberts** at Gloucester in 1649. They moved to New London, Connecticut.
- iii. **Rebecca Caulkins** died March 14, 1651 in Gloucester, Massachusetts.
- iv. **Deborah Caulkins** was born March 18, 1644. She married **Jonathan Royce** who was one of the first Norwich proprietors.
- v. **David Caulkins** married **Mary Bliss** (#60), granddaughter of Thomas Birchard.
- vi. **John Caulkins** was born about 1634. He married **Sarah Royce** at New London, Connecticut. He died January 8, 1703. In 1652 he was old enough to be summoned to work on the milldam at New London. He was an original proprietor of Norwich and his lot appears on the 1660 Norwich map on page 63. In 1669 John was one of 25 men on the Norwich Freemen's list. He was one of the selectmen of Norwich in 1671, a constable of Norwich in 1679 and on the jury of the county court as late as 1691. John Caulkins had six children. His oldest son was **Hugh**, who married **Sarah**, daughter of **Thomas Sluman** and **Sarah Bliss** (#59).

Hugh was one of a group of emigrants, called the Welsh Company that came to New England in 1640 from Chepstow in Monmouthshire, England, which was on the border of Wales. They came with their minister, the Reverend Mr. Blinman. Most of the group settled first at Marshfield, moved to Gloucester, Massachusetts and soon moved to New London, Connecticut. John Winthrop had founded New London and invited Mr. Blinman and his group there.

Hugh was deputy from Gloucester to the General Court of Massachusetts in 1650 and 1651. While living at New London, he was chosen 12 times to be deputy to the Connecticut Assembly and was one of the Townsmen, or Selectmen, from 1652 until he moved to Norwich. He was deputy from Norwich at 10 sessions of the Legislature between March, 1663 and October, 1671 and was one of the first deacons of the Norwich church.

At each of the three towns in which he was an early settler and proprietor, he was employed in public business. He was appointed a member of committees for consultation, for fortifying towns, for drafting soldiers, for settling difficulties and surveying lands and for determining boundaries. He must have had a large range of information and executive talent, yet he seems to have had little early education as he made a bold "*H*" for his signature.<sup>455</sup>

Hugh is probably buried in the old Post Gager cemetery in Norwich, as is Thomas Birchard.