



John Bland was one of the earliest settlers of the Vineyard, owning land there as early as 1646 (Banks 2:41-2). The most striking document relating to this man is a deposition of 16 April 1691, in which Nathaniel and Abraham Drake, both elderly residents of Hampton NH, state that they knew John Bland when they had all lived in Colchester, co. Essex, in old England, but he was "sometimes called, by some persons, John Smith, but his name, and his ancestors name, was called Bland" (Dukes LR 1:282; Banks 2:42; NEHGR 21:316, 52:28). This deposition was in support of land claims by Thomas Leavitt and wife Isabel, also of Hampton. Immediately preceding the deposition, on the same page of the Dukes County deeds, is a power of attorney whereby Thomas and Isabell Leavitt authorize their son John Leavitt to recover "any of the lands, chattels, goods or any other estate that were the proper and lawful right of the abovesaid John Bland when he died." This power of attorney carries the same date as the deposition, and Isabel explicitly calls herself daughter of John Bland. In November of 1699 John Leavitt came to an agreement with Elias Watson, son of Philip Watson, who had somehow acquired an independent claim to the same land (Dukes LR 1:20, 59, 415); Leavitt immediately disposed of this land (Dukes LR 3:445).

Isabel Smith/Bland first married Francis Austen of Watertown, Dedham and Hampton. Austen had died by 1642, after which Isabel married Thomas Leavitt. Her death took place 9 Feb. 1698/9, when her age was given as about 87, thus placing her birth about 1612, or perhaps later, assuming that this age is slightly inflated (Noyes, Libby, and Davis, Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire [Portland ME 1928-1939; rpt. Baltimore 1976], hereafter GDMNH, pp. 68-69, 95-96, 425; her correct death date is given in New Hampshire State Papers (Volume 31): Probate Records of the Province of New Hampshire, Vol. 1, 1635-1717 [Concord NH 1907], p. 449).

The second daughter, Anabel, has been identified as the woman of that name who married William Barsham of Watertown about 1634 (Banks 2:44; GDMNH p. 96; Frederick C. Warner, The Ancestry of Samuel, Freda and John Warner [Boston 1949], typescript at NEHGS, Boston, hereafter Warner Ancestry, pp. 42-43, 64). Supporting this connection, and also the identification of John Bland of Martha's Vineyard with one of the John Smiths of Watertown, Banks states that "John Smith's homestead [in Watertown] was contiguous to those of Jeremiah Norcross and William Barsham and that later William Barsham succeeded in 1645 to the possession of Smith's lot."

We can be more specific than this, and also add that another property passed from John Smith to William Barsham: On 20 April 1645 Robert Sedgwick of Charlestown sold to John Benjamin of Watertown a sixteen acre lot in Watertown; John Benjamin died on 14 June 1645, and his heirs then conveyed this same parcel to Jeremiah Norcross on 22 March 1646 (Suffolk LR 1:103). In both deeds the abutters to the south,

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north and east were identical, but to the west the abuttor had changed between the two dates from John Smith to William Barsham. This would seem to be John Smith Sr., since he was the only John Smith holding land in Watertown at that time, according to the contemporary town land inventories.

The history of another parcel clinches the identification, however. In 1642 Watertown made more than a hundred grants of farms, large tracts of land in the remote part of the town, which were in time to be set off as the town of Weston. Among the recipients of these farm grants were both William Barsham and John Smith Sr. (Watertown Records... with the Land Grants and Possessions... [Watertown 1894], hereafter Watertown Records, pp. 12, 26, 82-83. Except for the burial record for Isabel Smith, all citations are to the land section in this volume). From the information in the published Watertown land records, the layout of these farms is not obvious. However, an extended investigation of Middlesex County land and probate records has resolved most of the ambiguities; the evidence is too extensive for publication here, but will be included in a book-length study planned for future publication.

The will of William Barsham, dated 28 Aug. 1683 and sworn 29 Aug. 1684, codicil 15 April 1684, gives only money or moveables to his sons and four of his six daughters. His only remaining pieces of land he gave to two of his daughters, Rebecca Winship and Elizabeth Barsham. They were to share four acres of meadow, and then each was given a farm, Rebecca's containing 73 acres and Elizabeth's 64 (Middlesex PR #1329). The will included a description of these farms, giving not only the acreage, but the abuttors as well. This allows us to identify the farm bequeathed to Rebecca Winship as the one originally granted to William Barsham (#56), while the farm given to Elizabeth Barsham turns out to be the one originally granted to John Smith Sr. (#97).

The conclusion seems inescapable that William Barsham succeeded to the homestead and the farm of John Smith Sr., and that this happened sometime in late 1645 or early 1646; it is not unreasonable to predict that if all the parcels known to have been in the hands of John Smith Sr. were traced, they would show up in the hands of William and Anabel Barsham. This, in conjunction with what we already know, tells us many things: John Bland of Martha's Vineyard was the same as John Smith Sr. of Watertown in the 1630s; William Barsham did marry Annabel, daughter of this John Smith/Bland; John Smith Sr. left Watertown for Martha's Vineyard about 1645, resumed the use of the surname Bland, and at the same time settled his Watertown lands upon one of his two daughters. This also helps explain why only the daughter Isabel was suing for the Martha's Vineyard land; presumably she felt, or knew, that this was her portion, to balance what her sister had obtained in Watertown.

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This knowledge about the history of John Bland also reinforces a suggestion by Banks regarding one of the earliest documents concerning the settlement of Martha's Vineyard. Very shortly after obtaining the rights to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket MA, Thomas Mayhew entered into an agreement with five men about the future exploitation of that grant; the five men named were John Daggett, Daniel Pierce, Richard Beers, Francis Smith, and John Smith (Banks 1:84-5, citing Dukes LR 8:83). The first four are easily identified as Watertown residents at the date of the agreement (16 March 1641/2); furthermore, all four were men of mature, but not advanced, years, men with families and good estates. This description also fits John Smith Sr. of Watertown, later John Bland; as we shall see below, it does not fit the man known as John Smith Jr. of Watertown.

Some other Watertown items now become relevant. An Isabel Smith was buried there on 12 Oct. 1639, aged 60 (Watertown Records, p. 7). Bond and others have suggested that she was wife of John Smith Sr., and material on the Drake family in England confirms this. Sir Anthony Richard Wagner contributed a chapter to The Drake Family of New Hampshire (by Alice Smith Thompson [Concord NH 1962]), giving material placing the immigrant Robert Drake as son of a William and Joan Drake of Halstead, co. Essex, not far from the large town of Colchester. William Drake and Joan Merrylls were married at Halstead 12 Oct. 1578, and their first recorded child was Robert, the immigrant to Hampton, baptized 23 July 1581 (p. 19). Joan (Merrylls) Drake left a will, dated 16 March 1616/7, in which she mentions, along with Robert and other children, "my dawter Esbell Drake the wife of John Smith" (pp. 15-6). Wagner was aware of the 1691 deposition of Nathaniel and Abraham Drake (sons of Robert the immigrant) in favor of Isabell (Bland) Leavitt, but not having all the data we have, he suggested that the John Smith mentioned in the will of Joan Drake was grandfather of Isabel (Bland) Leavitt, although we shall see differently in a moment (pp. 18-9).

Also, in some of the Watertown grants, the amount granted depended on family size. Thus, in 1636/7 John Smith Sr. received four acres in a division in which each inhabitant was to receive one acre for each person in the household, and also one acre for each twenty pounds worth of livestock (Watertown Records p. 6). Since at least one of John Smith Sr.'s daughters was married by this time, we may guess that he received three acres for himself, wife Isabel, and one unmarried daughter, and a fourth acre for a cow or two.

We are now in a position to make some chronological calculations. From what we know about the daughters, they must have been born not long after 1610; let us say that Anabel was born about 1613, and Isabel about 1615, realizing that we may be a couple of years off in either direction. This would place the birth of John Smith Sr. around 1585 or 1590, and the birth of his wife Isabel about the same time or a

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few years later. Her stated age at death of sixty would place her birth at 1579, but more likely this has been inflated a few years, or else is scribal error for fifty.

These calculations show that the Isabel, wife of John Smith, mentioned in the 1616/7 will of Joan Drake, must be the same as the Isabel, wife of John Smith Sr., who died in Watertown in 1639, and that there is not time for an additional generation, as suggested by Wagner. Since three years elapsed between the 1578 marriage of William and Joan, and the baptism of a child in 1581, Isabel could conceivably have been their eldest child, and perhaps really was born in 1579. On the other hand, baptismal records for only two additional children of this couple exist (Thomas in 1582 and Joshua in 1584), although there were at least six children. Thus Isabel might equally well have been born about 1586 or 1588. All of this means that Isabel (Bland) Leavitt was first cousin to the Drake brothers who testified in her behalf. (My thanks to George F. Sanborn Jr. of Boston for his expert help on Hampton families, and especially for pointing out to me this Drake material.)

Henceforth, we shall refer to this first John Smith as John Smith Sr., John Bland, or both.

The Second John Smith

The second John Smith to attract our attention also died on Martha's Vineyard. John Smith of Martha's Vineyard made his will on 14 Feb. 1670, naming wife Deborah, sons John, Samuel and Philip, and daughters Deborah and Abigail (Dukes LR 1:348; Banks 2:111-3). The bequests to his sons consisted of land on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. One of his sons, John, later lived in Hampton, and the daughter Deborah married Nathaniel Batchelder of the same place (Banks 3:440-1; GDMNH p. 644).

John Smith, the testator, first appears in the records of Martha's Vineyard in 1653 or 1654 (Banks 2:111-3); his residence before that date is not certain, but all clues point toward Hampton. He had married, perhaps in Hampton or Watertown, Deborah, daughter of George Parkhurst, who first resided in Watertown, and had many genealogical connections in that town and in Hampton (NEHGR 68:370-375).

In a list of the first-comers to Hampton a Goodman Smith is noted as coming the second summer, which would be 1639. When the seating of the meeting house was decided on 4 March 1649/50, we find ----- Smith among the men, and Goody Smith among the women (GDMNH p. 55). Since John Smith Sr./John Bland appears to have gone directly from Watertown to Martha's Vineyard, and was certainly there before 1650, these Hampton references could well apply to the John Smith who married Deborah Parkhurst. Unfortunately these records do not supply us with given names, so they may refer to some

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other Smith (GDMNH p. 647, #52 and #60). Additional research in Hampton records will be required to resolve this problem. What of the ages of this couple? Deborah Parkhurst was baptized in Ipswich, co. Suffolk, England, on 1 Aug. 1619 (NEHGR 68:373). Although the birthdates of the children listed in John's will are not known exactly, the evidence available would have them born in the 1640s and 1650s, which would be consistent with Deborah's age, and with a marriage about 1640 (Banks 3:440-1). This would indicate that this John Smith was born about 1615, or earlier.

We shall continue to refer to this man as the Second John Smith. Early Watertown land grants to a John Smith Jr. may pertain to this man, but we shall reserve discussion of this point until we consider evidence about Jeremiah Norcross.

The Third John Smith

To this point our path has not been straightforward, but with our third John Smith the way becomes truly tortuous. A John Smith died in Lancaster in 1669, leaving a will dated 12 April 1665, in which he names sons John and Richard, daughter Alice, and daughter Ann Moore and son-in-law John Moore (Middlesex PR #20654). Lancaster records show that on 27 Dec. 1659 "Mary wife of John Smith died," and John Smith died 16 July 1669 (Henry S. Nourse, ed., The Birth, Marriage and Death Register, ... of Lancaster Massachusetts, 1643-1850 [Lancaster 1890], hereafter Lancaster VR, pp. 12-3). The Miner genealogy claims that the Alice Smith who came to New England on the Planter in 1635 was the first wife of this John Smith, that he may have had a second wife Mary, and that he himself may have been the son of Adrean Norcross, wife of Jeremiah Norcross of Watertown (pp. 158-160).

First, let us examine Alice. The passenger list for the Planter is one of the most useful available to us. This is not a single manifest, but a series of short lists, recording the families and individuals as they registered their desire to emigrate; these lists frequently give the place from which they were certified in England. Alice Smith appears in a list dated 10 April 1635, along with several members of the Hassell (or Haffield) family and a few other individuals, all certified from Sudbury, co. Suffolk, her age given as 40. Next after her in the list is an Elizabeth Cooper, aged 24, and then a John Smith, aged 13 (John C. Hotten, ed., The Original Lists... [London 1874; rpt. Baltimore 1976], hereafter Hotten, pp. 54-55). The other three Smiths appear on a separate list dated 6 April 1635, and are widely separated within that list. Richard Smith, aged 14, is listed as a servant of Martin Saunders, and Hannah and Marie Smith, both aged 18, come a little later, scattered among another group of individuals rather than families (Hotten pp. 47-49). There is no justification, then, for considering these five Smiths to be part of one family unit. We can safely assume that there is some connection between

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Alice and John, but the others have all the appearance of being servants, or on their own.

If we now look around among the Smith families in New England, we come up with a very interesting and satisfying possibility. Francis Smith, first of Watertown but by the early 1640s of Reading MA, a man we have already encountered, had wife Alice and son John, born in England about 1621; his only other known child, a son Benjamin, was born in New England in 1637 (Warner Ancestry pp. 580-581). It would appear, then, that the passenger list of the Planter records the arrival of a wife and son to join the father who had already been in New England for a year or two. The connection of any of the Smith passengers on this ship with John Smith of Lancaster vanishes, the earlier presumed connection resulting from a misunderstanding of the passenger list, first suggested in print by Anson Titus in 1902 (NEHGR 56:181-2).

Second, the Miner genealogy (p.158) claims inaccurately that the 1654 will of Jeremiah Norcross leaves a bequest to "Mary, 'wife of my wife's son John Smith.'" But Jacobus, when working on the Norcross family, abstracts the will correctly (Edgar F. Waterman and Donald Lines Jacobus, The Granberry Family and Allied Families... [Hartford CT 1945], pp. 283-4). Jeremiah Norcross, in a will dated in Watertown 15 Sept. 1654 and proved 6 Oct. 1657, divided his estate into three parts, leaving one third to his wife Adrean; one third to his children Nathaniel Norcross (a double portion), Richard Norcross, and Sarah Masy wife of Francis Masy; and the last third to be divided among the following: daughter Mary, wife of my son Richard; her daughter Mary my grandchild; the wife of my wife's son John Smith; my brother's daughter Ann Davis wife of Samuel Davis; and her daughter [Jane?] her eldest child (Middlesex PR #16026). Thus, although the name Mary occurs twice in this latter part of the will, we have no Christian name for the wife of the John Smith who was son of Adrean Norcross. With this revelation, all assumed connections between Watertown and John Smith of Lancaster evaporate. (Before his death in England, Jeremiah Norcross made a second will there, dated 30 Sept. 1656 and proved 5 April 1658, confirming the earlier New England will, and making additional bequests; Granberry p. 284, citing PCC Wootten 152.)

What do we really know about this third John Smith? The earliest records which we can confidently connect with him are in Sudbury MA, where his sons John and Richard married in 1647. Ann Smith married John Moore in Sudbury in 1654, Richard Smith had a child there in 1651, and the younger John Smith had three children recorded, the last in 1658 (Sudbury VR). John Smith and Richard Smith appear on a list of those who took the oath of fidelity sometime after 9 July 1645 (Sumner Chilton Powell, ed., The Sudbury Records: 1639-1706 [undated typescript, NEHGS and other locations], hereafter Sudbury TR, p. 66). The first dated entry for a mem-

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ber of this family is on 1 Oct. 1648, when Richard Smith is sent off on some minor town business (p. 93). On 5 Jan. 1651/2 John Smith and Richard Smith (and only those two men) are cited for being delinquent in paying their highway rate (p. 109). Then on 18 June 1653 "old Goodman Smith was released by the towne from all that he owed for highway worke levied upon him in the tyme he lyved in Sudbury" (p. 118). By the mid-1650s records for all of these families except that of the younger John Smith begin to appear in the Lancaster records (Lancaster VR, pp. 9-14). As we have already seen, Mary, the wife of the elder John Smith, died there in 1659.

In summary, then, John Smith, with only known wife Mary, and with four children, appears in Sudbury around 1647, without any earlier history yet revealed to us, and lived there a few years before moving to Lancaster, where he died. From the known ages of marriage of three of his children, we can estimate that John and Richard were both born around 1620, and that Ann was probably born a few years later. This would indicate that the elder John was born no later than 1600, and perhaps somewhat earlier. The Miner family gives this couple an elder daughter Ann or Hannah who married Amos Richardson, but she does not appear in the will, and it would seem that she has been placed there because of misinterpretation of the Planter passenger list.

This third John Smith we shall refer to henceforth as John Smith of Lancaster.

The Norcross Connection

We now have summarized and clarified the careers of three John Smiths, all of whom were described incorrectly in the three passages at the outset of this paper. If we look a little more closely at the family of Jeremiah Norcross, we will be able to judge whether any of these John Smiths might in fact be the son of Norcross's wife Adrean; but before we do this, we must introduce some additional data.

First, on 1 Dec. 1640 the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony issued the following order (Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England [Boston 1853], Volume I, 1628-1641, p. 311):

Mr. Collens, Mr. Sparhauke, & Goo: Bridge are desired to heare businesses between John Smyth & his father, Jeremy Norcross, & examine accounts, & settle things if they can; if not, to make report to the Courte if there bee cause.

As there are no further reports, we may assume that the difficulties were resolved. Second, a John Smith Jr. was granted four parcels of land in Watertown in 1636, 1637 and 1638 (Watertown Records, pp. 4, 8, 10, 11). In the spring

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of 1642, an inventory was made of the landholdings of Watertown residents, showing only land which the individuals had acquired by grant from the town (rather than by purchase or inheritance), and which were still in their possession. (In a preface to the fifth published volume of Watertown records [pp. i-ii] J. Gardner Bartlett expounds brilliantly on the three early inventories, revising their dates and explaining the different purpose of each.) John Smith Sr. (whom we now know to be identical with John Bland of Martha's Vineyard) appears in this inventory (and an inventory made in late 1643 or early 1644), but John Smith Jr. does not (Watertown Records, pp. 26, 82). This would indicate that by early 1642 he had alienated all the land granted to him, and had probably moved elsewhere.

Third, inspection of the IGI (International Genealogical Index), followed by examination of the registers of two London parishes, adds much to our knowledge of this family. At Saint Luke in Chelsea (then in Middlesex but now in London) on 14 Sept. 1611 "Jeremy Norcroste married Audrie Smithe wyddow" (LDS Film #585471). At All Hallows, Bread Street, in London, two children of Jeremy Norcross were baptized, Richard on 16 Dec. 1621 and Mary on 5 Sept. 1626; Mary was buried on 7 Sept. 1626. Also in the records of this parish we find on 30 Nov. 1631 two marriages of interest: "Francis Maysye and Sara Norcrosse, both of this parish"; and "Samuell Davis & Anna Norcrosse, both of this parish." And on 23 Feb. 1633[4] is recorded the baptism of Mary, daughter of Francis Massey, "sonne in lawe to Mr. Norcrosse" (W. Bruce Bannerman, ed., The Publications of the Harleian Society... Volume XLIII, The Registers of All Hallows, Bread Street, [London 1913], pp. 21, 22, 25, 107, 183). The other two known children of Jeremiah of Watertown, Nathaniel and Sarah, could comfortably have been born between 1611 and 1621 so that it would appear that the marriage noted above would have been Jeremiah's first, which is consistent with the fact that there is no notation of marital condition after the groom's name, while the bride is called a widow.

If Audrie (or Adrean) was at the end of her child-bearing years when she had Mary in 1626, then her birth would have been about 1580 (if not later). She could then have married an unknown Smith no earlier than about 1600, so that the birth of her son John Smith must be placed somewhere between 1600 and 1610, and more likely at the latter end of this decade. There is a slim chance that she could have married Smith and had a child in the closing years of the sixteenth century, but this is stretching the chronology, I think, beyond acceptable limits.

Looking back at our three John Smiths, could any have been son of Adrean? John Smith Sr./John Bland was at least as old as Adrean, and perhaps somewhat older, so he is eliminated unequivocally. John Smith of Lancaster, if he was born at the latest possible time for him, around 1600 or

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1602, would just barely overlap with the earliest time at which Adrean could have borne a child. The Second John Smith was born no later than 1615, we have estimated, but there is no reason why he could not have been some years older, being born sometime between 1605 and 1610.

We have two possibilities out of three, but there are reasons why we should prefer one of these. The Second John Smith, of Martha's Vineyard, married a Watertown girl, Deborah Parkhurst. Also, the land grants of 1637 to John Smith Jr. are of one acre each, indicating that he was a single man at the time. Thus, three different groups of records could conceivably apply to the same man. John Smith Jr. receives grants of land in Watertown in 1636, 1637 and 1638, but has disposed of this land by 1642; John Smith, son of Adrean Norcross, settles accounts with his stepfather in 1640; and the Second John Smith marries Deborah Parkhurst about 1640. All these facts fit well with one another, and are consistent with a removal of the newlywed couple to Hampton (or elsewhere), prior to their appearance on Martha's Vineyard in the early 1650s.

There are no links of this nature with John Smith of Lancaster, who in 1637 already had a wife and four children. Thus, there is an almost vanishing possibility that John Smith of Lancaster was son of Adrean, but a much greater chance that the Second John Smith was this son. But since we have not demonstrated any positive link, the son of Adrean Norcross may be some John Smith to whom we have given no attention; and John Smith Jr., the Second John Smith, and John Smith (son of Adrean Norcross) may be three distinct individuals (or two). Further English research may reveal the earlier marriage for Adrean (or Audrie) to a Smith, or the baptism of their son John, which could very easily eliminate John Smith of Lancaster totally.

Other Smith Families of Early Watertown

And what of the other early Smith families of Watertown? We have already considered briefly Francis Smith in our discussion of John of Lancaster. There is some possibility of a link between Francis and John Smith Sr./John Bland, for both of these men were associated with the Mayhews in the earliest dealing with regard to Martha's Vineyard, even though Francis chose to go to Reading MA instead. And since we have identified Alice Smith of the Planter with the wife of Francis, and since she was certified from Sudbury in Suffolk, we have an excellent clue for searching further in England. We have already seen that John Smith Sr./John Bland was reputed to have been from Colchester in co. Essex, less than fifteen miles from Sudbury. These potential connections are worth investigation.

Two other Smiths of Watertown were mentioned in passing in the quotation from Bond, Thomas and Daniel. Thomas Smith

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was a single man at the time of the grants of 1637, but he married very soon, had several children, and died in Watertown advanced in years (Bond p. 433). There is no hint whatsoever that he was connected genealogically with any of the Smiths we have been discussing.

Daniel Smith was a somewhat later arrival who married Elizabeth, only child of Thomas Rogers (whose widow Grace later came to Watertown), and had an only son Daniel who went to Stonington CT; again there is no indication of a connection with the other Smith families (Bond p. 439; Richard Anson Wheeler, History of the Town of Stonington, County of New London, Conn. [rpt. Mystic CT 1966], p. 570).

The Peripatetic Richard Smith

And finally, we must take a look at a man who has received no mention at all to this point, although he does receive some attention in the Miner genealogy (p. 158). In 1680 a Richard Smith died in Sudbury MA, leaving a most interesting will. This document was summarized in the Miner genealogy, but the entire instrument is worthy of presentation (Middlesex PR #20747 & 5:412-413):

This is the last will and testament of Richard Smith of Burfelld in Barkshire [England] the son of Anthony Smith of Burvilld in Barkshire being aged about 55 years or there about he having lived in the new england in the parts of America in the county of Middlesex at Watertown 14 years served Jeremy Norcross and from thence come [to] John Nap [i.e., Knapp] of Watertown and from thence to Sudbury to the house of Thomas Read Senior of Sudbury and from thence to Boston and there was married and buried his wife and one child and then went to live in the eastern parts of america from one place to another and at the last came from Mrs Dummer at Yorke where he lived one year and half and came to the aforesaid Thomas Read his house and there was taken sick and laid in a low condition near like to die having nothing to relife him with and being in expectation of death did then cause his last will to be made and having made my cousin Thomas Read Senior of Sudbury my whole and only heir to all that I have right unto both in New England and Old England if there be any land or money or any estate that is or may be given to me Richard Smith that was born at at [sic] Burrvilld in Barkshire this I do declare that it is my last will and do bequeath all my worldly goods to Thomas Read Senior and to his heirs forever and in confirmation I the said Richard Smith have set to my hand and seal being now at this time in perfect memory and right mind blessed be God for ever.

Richard Smith made his mark the 14th day of June 1680
Witnesses: Matthew Gibbs, Samuel How
Sworn 5 October 1680; inventory appraised 22 July 1680

It is not difficult to see why those interested in John Smith of Lancaster would latch on to this will. John of Lancaster had son Richard; there is a connection with Jeremiah Norcross; and Richard and John both lived in Sud-

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bury MA. Is there any significance to all this, or is it just coincidence?

Let us first attempt to pin down the remarkable, and sad, wanderings of this Richard Smith. Our first anchor will be the service under Jeremiah Norcross. As we have seen Jeremiah first appears on record in Watertown in 1640; he then made his will 15 Sept. 1654, shortly before his return to England, where he died. Jeremiah Norcross was in New England exactly fourteen years, and he may well have brought Richard Smith with him as a servant; in 1640 Richard Smith would have been fifteen years old. The Richard Smith who took the Oath of Fidelity in 1652 as of Watertown must be this man (NEHGR 3:401).

The servitude under Jeremiah Norcross immediately raises the question of a possible connection between Richard Smith and the husband of Adrean. The early registers for Burghfield (the Burvilld of the will) in Berkshire exist, and have been microfilmed, but they are virtually illegible; fortunately the rector of the parish in 1845 made a complete transcript, which appears to be carefully executed, in places where one can still check the original (LDS Film #88209; original is item #1 and transcript is item #2). On page 36 of the transcript of the first volume we find: "Richard Smith the sonn of Anthony Smith was baptized the 25th day of January 1624/5." Here undoubtedly is our man. There are dozens of entries for Smiths, but no marriage of a Smith to an Audrie or Adrean. Further work on this large Smith family of Berkshire seems warranted, however.

Returning to New England, our next anchor is in Boston, where we find the birth on 6 Jan. 1676 of Richard, the son of Richard and Margaret Smith, and then on 9 June 1677 the birth of Joseph, the son of Richard and Joyce Smith (Report of the Boston Record Commissioners 9:139, 143). If the earlier birth was intended for 1676/7, then these would have to be two different couples. Unfortunately, there are no death records in Boston for these years. In any case, Richard Smith with wife Joyce later appears in Bristol RI (James N. Arnold, ed., Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636-1850 [Providence 1894], 6:Bristol:103), while there is no history elsewhere for Richard Smith with wife Margaret, and it would seem that this is the man we are interested in. We then have nearly twenty-two years, from 1654 to 1676, for Richard's sojourn with John Knapp in Watertown and Thomas Read in Sudbury. Since John Smith of Lancaster had left Sudbury no later than June of 1653, we see that he and Richard Smith did not reside in Sudbury at the same time.

At the end of our time scale, there are only three years (1677 to 1680) for the wandering in the eastern parts (Maine) and the return to Sudbury. In the court records of York County we find that on 2 July 1678 the grand jury presented Richard Smyth for being drunk. He was fined, and "Mr. Dummer Ingageth to pay it" (Charles Thornton Libby,

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John Smith of Watertown, Mass.

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ed., Province and Court Records of Maine [Portland ME 1931], Volume II, p. 343). GDMNH has attached this incident to a younger Richard Smith of Kittery (p. 647).

So what are we left with? John Smith of Lancaster, we now know, had no known connection with Jeremiah Norcross; John and Richard did not reside in Sudbury simultaneously; Richard is not a rare name, especially when we are dealing with the surname Smith. There is no obvious or necessary connection, then, between these two men. There are many reasons, though, for maintaining an interest in this Richard Smith. The connection with Jeremiah Norcross may lead to an identification of Adrean Smith's husband in the Smith family of Burghfield in Berkshire. The later servitude under John Knapp may indicate a relationship to Thomas Smith of Watertown, who married a sister of John Knapp. The relationship to Thomas Read of Sudbury should be investigated.

The failure to demonstrate a connection between John Smith of Lancaster and Richard Smith, the testator of 1680, points up the difficulties of basing genealogical conclusions on indirect evidence. We have laid special emphasis on the connections between Watertown and the communities settled from Watertown. John Smith Sr./John Bland went from Watertown to Martha's Vineyard; the Second John Smith went possibly from Watertown to Hampton and then to Martha's Vineyard; our third John Smith went from Sudbury to Lancaster (and once thought to have been earlier in Watertown); Richard Smith went from Watertown to Sudbury, then adrift in Boston and Maine, and finally back to Sudbury. Such considerations can be very helpful, but we must be careful not to make too much of them.

In summary, we have clarified the lives of several men by the surname of Smith, including three with the given name of John; we have shown that some previously proposed genealogical connections cannot be correct; and we have made some new connections and raised many more possibilities. There is much left to be done on these Smith families, but the path ahead is now somewhat clearer.

5069 Cottonwood Lane, Salt Lake City UT 84117

QUERIES

WHALEY-PEASE: Seek parents of Lysander WHALEY b. Canada (according to 1850 census Cattaraugus Co. NY) 8 Mar. 1813, d. Hampshire IL 17 Mar. 1887, m. 12 (or 18?) Oct. 1840 Mary Ann PEASE, b. CT(?) 2 June 1823, d. Hampshire IL 17 July 1882. Also need parents of Mary Ann.

BREWER-BARNHART-SHELTON: Need parents of Jane BREWER b. Oneonta, Otsego Co. NY 1823, d. Walworth Co. WI 29 Sept. 1892, m. Westfield NY 12 Mar. 1840 Jacob BARNHART Jr., son of Jacob and Nancy (SHELTON) BARNHART. Also need dates and parents of Jacob Barnhart and Nancy Shelton. --Mrs. Leonard Metzinger, 119 N. 8th St., Delavan WI 53115

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THE GIBBS FAMILY OF WINDSOR CT

Part One

By James A. Rasmussen, C.G.

Giles¹ Gibbs was buried at Windsor CT on 21 May 1641. Henry R. Stiles' History of Ancient Windsor, 2 vols. (1892; rpt. Somersworth NH 1976) 2:287-88 (unless otherwise noted, all later references to Stiles are to these pages), cites church, land, and probate records on his family and gives his descendants for several generations, but the account contains several misstatements of fact as well as a number of omissions. Much of this incorrect material was later incorporated and amplified in Robert A. Gibbs' "The Descendants of Giles Gibbs," Gibbs Family Bulletin, #5 pp. 37-59 (Los Angeles 1925), hereafter Gibbs Desc., Ruth Gibbs Wiley's Gibbs Genealogy, 1629-1966 (Whittier CA 1967), hereafter Wiley, and Maude Pinney Kuhn's The Mary and John (1943; rpt. Rutland VT 1971) pp. 31-33.

When I explored original materials in my attempt to place Stephen Gibbs (say 1725-1782/83) of Windsor within the family, it became apparent that considerable additional information was available. Some of this new material is presented below, not only to correct existing accounts but also to encourage the searcher who finds an account of his family in some standard work that cites church, land, and probate records, and who too often assumes that there is nothing further to be discovered. In this article, additional information will be given on the generations preceding Stephen Gibbs, followed by a more formal genealogy of Stephen's family.

GILES¹ GIBBS. The will of Gyles Gibbs, yeoman, dated at Windsor on 18 May 1641 (date of probate not given in the published abstract), names his children as Gregory (about whom his father had fears that his overseers might "judge him unworthy a fathers blessing"), Samuel, Benjamin, Sarah, and Jacob, all under 21 (Charles William Manwaring, A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records: Hartford District, 3 vols. [Hartford 1904-6], hereafter Manwaring, 1:14-15).

Giles' widow is also buried at Windsor; her gravestone at the Palisado Cemetery reads: "Kathern Gibbs/ who dyed/ the 24 of October/ An Dom 1660" (Windsor Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions [Windsor 1929], hereafter Windsor g.s., p. 32). Her will, made at Windsor on 12 Sept. 1660, includes "my Eldest sonne Jacobb," "my second Sonne Samuell," land "Purchased off Gregory Gibbs my son In Law [i.e. stepson]," "My sone Jacob's daffter Mary" (unmarried and a minor), "My youngest sone & Xseckter Beniamin," and "my daffter Sarah," and mentions Sarah and Samuel among the three youngest children. The inventory, totalling £220-07-00, was taken 21 Nov. 1660/1 [sic] (Manwaring 1:116-17).

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The fact that in May 1641 all of Giles' children were under 21 indicates that the oldest must have been born no earlier than 1620; the will of Giles' widow Katharine shows that Gregory was the eldest child and son of an unidentified first wife; Katherine was the mother of Jacob, Samuel, and Benjamin, who were born in that order, and of Sarah, who was mentioned among the three youngest children. Thus Gregory could not have been "b. at W[indsor] 1639," as Stiles has it. Approximate birth years for Katherine and two of her sons have been deduced from the medical journal of John Winthrop Jr. (TAG 23:126), but the English records presented below indicate that the ages of Jacob and Samuel are exaggerated. Winthrop includes under Windsor, 1657: "Jacob, almost 30; widow, almost 80; Gregory, elder than his brother Jacob"; and under Windsor, 1668: "Samuel, 37 years."

James Savage says that Giles Gibbs was at Dorchester, Massachusetts Bay Colony, in 1630 (Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, 4 vols. [1860-62; rpt. Baltimore 1981] 2:246). He was certainly there by 4 March 1632/3 when he was made a freeman at Boston (A Volume of Records Relating to the Early History of Boston..., Bost. Rec. Com. Rep. 29 [Boston 1900] p. 134), but it has commonly been assumed that he was one of the party led by the Rev. John White, which sailed aboard the Mary and John from Plymouth, co. Devon, on 20 March 1630 and arrived in Nantasket Bay on 30 May (Charles Edward Banks, Planters of the Commonwealth, [1930; rpt. Baltimore 1975] hereafter Planters, p. 88; Banks, The Winthrop Fleet of 1630 [1930; rpt. Baltimore 1972] p. 102); all the passengers settled at Dorchester MA. Another of this party was the Rev. John Warham, the outspoken Puritan minister of St. Sidwell, Exeter, co. Devon, who later led a group from Dorchester to settle Windsor CT and who witnessed Giles' will in 1641.

C.A.I. Fursden's transcript of the baptisms in the parish registers of St. Sidwell, however, indicates that Giles Gibbs did not sail on the Mary and John, for it shows the baptisms of "Jacob, son of Gilus Gibes," on 28 March 1629/30 [sic] and of "Sarah, daughter of Giles Gibbes," on 5 June 1631. The close association in America between Giles Gibbs and John Warham and the fact that the baptisms recorded at St. Sidwell correspond with Giles' eldest two children by his second wife make it almost certain that in these records we have identified the Windsor settler. I am indebted to Mr. David Gibbs of Tampa FL for information that the original registers of St. Sidwell, which were examined in his behalf in 1973, show the marriage of Giles Gibbs and [blank] Carwithe on 13 April 1629; given Jacob's baptism eleven months later and the fact that he was a child of Giles' second wife, we can say with confidence that Giles' marriage in 1629 was to the woman who became his widow and that her name was KATHERINE CARWITHE. There are no earlier or later entries for Giles Gibbs, so it appears that his family came from some other parish to St. Sidwell, perhaps because of Warham's renown, and left after the baptism of

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Sarah. Giles and his family may well have sailed aboard the Lyon, which left London about 23 Aug. 1631 and arrived at Nantasket on 2 Nov., bringing "in all about sixty persons" (Planters p. 94).

SAMUEL² GIBBS (Giles¹). Stiles, following Royal R. Hinman's A Catalogue of Names of the First Puritan Settlers of... Conn. (1846; rpt. Baltimore 1968), hereafter Hinman, p. 213, says that Samuel² Gibbs died in 1716, but this conclusion is disproved by Samuel's will, which is dated at Windsor, 1 Oct. 1718, with an inventory dated 24 Feb. 1719/20 and a notation in the file that Samuel died on 8 Feb. 1719/20 (Manwaring 2:388-89). The Windsor VR (all Connecticut Vital Records cited in this paper are from the Barbour Index at the Connecticut State Library [CSL], Hartford, unless otherwise noted) confirm that Samuel Gibbs Sr. died on that date. His will names eldest son Samuel; land "which was my father Dibble's"; son Benjamin; "my daughters... to the heirs of my deceased daughter Hepsibah Dickinson, to Patience Denslow, to Elizabeth Hayden, to Joannah Loomis, to Experience Huxley, and to Miriam Bissell...; sons Benjamin Gibbs, Josiah Bissell and Moses Loomis, to be executors."

Samuel² Gibbs married at Windsor 15 April 1664 HEPSIBAH³ DIBBLE, baptized there 25 Dec. 1642, died there 22 Feb. 1697/8, daughter of Thomas² Dibble (Robert¹), whose unnamed first wife died at Windsor 14 May 1681 (all Windsor VR). On 20 March 1635, Thomas Dible, husbandman, aged 22, embarked from Weymouth, co. Dorset, for New England, and on 17 Dec. 1635, land was allotted at Dorchester MA to "Robert Deeble" and his son Thomas to build a house thereon within a year (NEHGR 25:14, 21:334-335). Thomas Dibble Sen^r died at Windsor 17 Oct. 1700 (VR). He conveyed land to his "son-in-law" Samuel Gibbs Sen^r on 11 Jan. 1699/1700 (Windsor LR, hereafter WLR, 2:384), and his will dated at Windsor 17 Feb. 1699/1700 (inventory taken 1 Nov. 1700) names, among others, son-in-law Samuel Gibbs, grandson Sam^l Gibbs and granddaughter Elisabeth Gibbs; as well as Experience Gibbs, Mirriam Gibbs, Hezbibah Dickson [sic], Patience Denslow, and Johanah Lomis [sic], all of whom were also his granddaughters, though not so called in the will (Hartford PR #1661 at CSL; abstract in Manwaring 2:56-57 omits grandson Samuel Gibbs).

SAMUEL³ GIBBS (Samuel², Giles¹). Hinman (p. 213) states that Samuel³ Gibbs died in 1720, an obvious confusion with the death of Samuel². Unfortunately, this is one of the errors perpetuated by Robert Gibbs and Maude Kuhn.

According to the Windsor VR, Samuel³ Gibbs was born at Windsor on 16 April 1677 and was baptized six days later. I shall show below that he was probably living on 5 Oct. 1756 and dead before 5 Sept. 1757. He was named as eldest son in his father's will, cited above, and he married at Windsor on 4 March 1702/3 MARY³ WINCHELL, daughter of Nathaniel² Win-

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chell (Robert¹) and Sarah Porter. Her parents married at Windsor 8 April 1664, where her father died 8 March 1699/1700 and her mother died 7 Oct. 1725 (Windsor VR). Mary was a granddaughter of Deacon Thomas Porter and great-granddaughter of Deacon Stephen Hart, both of Farmington CT (see Manwaring 1:579 and 1:320 for their respective wills). Mary was born about 1683 (age 17 in 1700, according to a notation on her father's inventory [Hartford PR #6137, CSL]). Windsor VR show that Samuel Gibbs Jr. and wife Mary had children Samuel, born 30 Nov. 1704, and Giles, born 8 Aug. 1706 and died 28 Oct. 1708. Stiles suggests, apparently correctly, that they were parents of another Giles whose birth was not recorded. They were also parents of Stephen⁴ Gibbs, whose identity has been the focus of this research.

STEPHEN⁴ GIBBS (Samuel³⁻², Giles¹). Stiles provides little information about Stephen⁴ Gibbs, showing him only as an unplaced member of the Windsor family and stating only that:

Stephen and Charity had [North Soc. Rec.]

1. Samuel }
2. Rufus } bp. March 1765
3. Charity }
4. Levi, bp. 27 May 1778; bur. 28 June 1778
5. Benjamin, ae 14, bp. 17 Aug. 1783
6. a child bur. 27 Jan. 1794 [E. Windsor Ch. Rec.]

Gibbs Desc. (p. 58) and Wiley² suggest that Stephen was a son of Samuel⁴ Gibbs (Samuel³⁻², Giles¹), born in 1704. This conclusion appears to make chronological sense, but evidence from Windsor Land Records shows that the men were brothers and allows us to demonstrate an unsuspected longevity for their father, Samuel³, a man for whom death and probate data have been lacking.

On 12 March 1745/6, Ebenezer Bliss of Windsor for £62 conveyed 18.5 acres there to Stephen Gibbs, the deed bearing the statement, "I Sam^{II} Gibbs... being in sd. possession of sd. above granted premisses in part, do hereby resign up to my son Stephen Gibbs my possession and seizen... therein" (WLR 8:176); both Ebenezer Bliss and Samuel Gibbs signed the deed. Which Samuel Gibbs was this? A further review of deeds shows that on 6 March 1715/6, Sarah Winchell of Windsor conveyed to her "loving son & daughter John Winchell & Mary Gibbs the wife of Samuel Gibbs Jun^r," three parcels of land at Farmington "received by agreement from the children or heirs of Thomas Porter Sen^r, formerly belonging to Deacon Hart" (WLR 4:90; also recorded Farmington LR, hereafter FLR, 4:352, where Sarah calls herself widow of Hartford Co.). On 22 Feb. 1715/6, Samuel Gibbs Jr. purchased from Samuel Mather Jr. "for good consideration" 200 acres over the Great or Connecticut River. Signing without the "Jr." (his father having died), he mortgaged to Timothy Thrall on 21 May 1721 (due 1723), 100 acres on the east side of the Great River, "being part of the farm I bought of Doc Sam^{II} Mather" (WLR 4:158). On 1 May 1742, Timothy Thrall of

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Windsor quitclaimed to Samuel Gibbs "100 acres... it being ye same ye said Sam¹¹ Gibbs conveyed to my honorable father Timothy Thrall [deceased]... by mort. deed" of 30 April 1723 (WLR 7:276). These deeds show that the Samuel Gibbs born in 1677 was alive in 1742. In Oct. 1744, the town of Windsor allotted Samuel Gibbs 17 acres east of the river, which in turn he sold to Henry Wolcott on 28 April 1748 (WLR 8:23, 76). Since these last deeds bracket the conveyance to Stephen in 1746, we can presume that Samuel³ Gibbs was the grantor. This identification is confirmed by deeds of 30 Oct. 1753 and 21 Feb. 1754 whereby Samuel Gibbs of Windsor and Mary his wife quitclaimed lands in Farmington to Deacon Porter and to Stephen Gibbs (FLR 10:518, 11:294). Stephen in turn quitclaimed his parcel on 22 Nov. 1763 to Ebenezer Stedman of Farmington (FLR 13:402). No further record of Mary (Winchell) Gibbs has been found, but the following evidence suggests that Samuel³ Gibbs lived until sometime between Oct. 1756 and Sept. 1757.

As noted above, Samuel⁴ Gibbs (Samuel³⁻², Giles¹), Stephen's brother, was born in 1704, and he is next of record on 5 July 1726, when he bought 50 acres in the East Precinct of Windsor, a name then used interchangeably with Windsor Goshen and Ellington. He mortgaged this land to Robert Winchell on 27 Feb. 1728/9, but obtained a release on 24 March 1731 [1730/1] and sold the property to John Brown on the next day (Enfield LR D:616, E:269, H:459, H:462; the mortgage to Winchell and the sale to John Brown are also recorded in the Hampshire Co. MA LR E:269, H:463). In each but the first of these transactions, Samuel⁴ is called "Jr." The fact that he was not called "Jr." in the Enfield VR when he married Rebeckah Geary on 24 Aug. 1728 and when he had a son Samuel⁵ Gibbs born on 2 May 1729 has caused him to be confused with his father. However, the Windsor VR show the son Samuel and a daughter, Mary, born in 1735, as children of "Samuel Gibbs Jr & [wife] Rebeckah, born at Enfield." I have not discovered Rebecca's parentage.

On 30 Jan. 1726/7, Samuel Gibbs and Mary his wife deeded land at Farmington to Samuel Gibbs Jr. (FLR 5:493), which in turn Samuel Gibbs "of Amenia precinct in Dutchess Co., province of New York" quitclaimed on 1 Oct. 1763 to Giles Gibbs of Windsor (FLR 13:422). In 1734 Samuel Gibbs, Samuel Gibbs Jr, and Giles Gibbs all signed petitions as inhabitants of "Windsor Goshen," that is, east of the river, and in 1735, the two Samuels again signed a petition (Stiles 1:813, 814). On 25 Sept. 1738, they jointly witnessed a deed of Isaac and Nathaniel Davis, acknowledged at Ellington (WLR 7:157).

In April 1743, some six months before the town grant of 17 acres to Samuel³ Gibbs already noted, Samuel Gibbs Jr. deeded 13.5 acres "upon which I now dwell" in Ellington Parish to Giles Gibbs, and, also as Samuel Gibbs Jr., bought additional land there on 10 May 1749 (WLR 7:209, 8:180). On 1 April 1751, Samuel Gibbs Jr. bought 9 acres in the "Equivalent" [the eastern part of Ellington] from Barzillai Green,

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which in turn, calling himself Samuel Gibbs Jr., "alias 2nd," he sold to Samuel Gibbs 3rd (WLR 9:162, 161). This Samuel "3rd" is Samuel⁵ Gibbs (Samuel⁴⁻³⁻², Giles¹), that is, the Samuel born in 1729, son of Samuel Jr.; he was two days short of his 22nd birthday at the date of the above deed from his father. He died before his father at Somers CT on 20 May 1775, called Samuel Gibbs Jr. (Somers VR; Stafford PR #869, CSL). His inventory was exhibited by widow Elizabeth Gibbs and Jabez Collins on 7 Aug. 1775 (Stafford PR 2:24). Three children are recorded at Windsor to this couple: Josiah born 11 March 1754, Elizabeth born 5 Oct. 1756, and Huldah born 5 Sept. 1757. In addition, his probate names son Jehiel, aged 17 when he chose Uriah Coy as his guardian on 21 Feb. 1776, and daughter Azubah, aged 15 when she also chose Uriah Coy as guardian on 29 Feb. 1776 (Stafford PR #886 & #884). The first two children recorded at Windsor were entered as children of "Samuel Gibbs 3rd & [wife] Elizabeth," but Huldah's birth is recorded without her father's being designated "3rd." Thus, Samuel³ must have been living on 5 Oct. 1756, when his grandson was called Samuel 3rd and may have died before 5 Sept. 1757, when the grandson appears without that designation. It should be noted that the Barbour Index at the CSL gives Huldah's birth year as 1751, but Stiles gives 1757, and the 1757 date has been confirmed by a letter from the Windsor Town Clerk.

Stephen⁴ Gibbs, son of Samuel³ Gibbs (Samuel², Giles¹) and his wife Mary Winchell, was probably born no later than 1725 since he was old enough to receive land in March 1745/6 (WLR 8:176); he sold land in June 1747 (WLR 8:243). Very likely he was one of "Samuel Gibbs three children bor[n]" at Ellington between 1717 and 1740 and recorded in the back of the "Matthew Grant Record" (Some Early Records and Documents of... Windsor... 1639-1703 [Hartford 1930] p. 102). He died intestate at Windsor between 16 Sept. 1782, when he sold a lot at East Windsor, and 10 Feb. 1783, when his widow Charity signed an inventory of his estate, which totalled only £12-05-06. On the same date, she and "the Heirs" [not named] requested Ebenezer Read of East Windsor to accept administration. The inventory was accepted on 15 April 1783, but no distribution was recorded, doubtless because the debts exceeded the value of the estate (East Windsor LR, hereafter EWLR, 3:59; Hartford PR #2150, CSL).

Stephen married, probably about 1753, and possibly in Ellington, where the registers of the Congregational Church before 1799 are missing, CHARITY⁴ READ, daughter of David Read (Josiah² of Norwich CT) by his wife Hannah Raynsford (for the Raynsfords, see my "Edward Raynsford of Canterbury & Wife Abigail Balch," TAG 56:174-178, and "Edward Raynsford of Boston..." NEHGR 139:225-238, 296-315; for the Reads, see Vital Records of Norwich 2 vols. [Hartford 1913], hereafter Norwich VR, 1:15, 58, 157, and Norwich LR 2:266, 6:5). Charity Read was born in the Newent area of Norwich on 24 Nov. 1734, and baptized at the Newent [now Lisbon] Congregational Church on 30 Nov. 1734 (Norwich VR 1:157; Canterbury

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VR; "Lisbon [formerly Newent Society] Ch. Rec. 1722-1786" 1:59, ms. CSL). Her parents were sometime of Newent and Windham CT, but of "Windsor Goshen" by Sept. 1748 when Edward Rainsford of Canterbury CT conveyed to "my daughter Hannah, wife of David Read" (Canterbury LR 5:262). Full proof of the marriage of Stephen Gibbs to Charity Read remains to be found, but it is strongly attested by circumstantial evidence. Stiles (2:633), whose great-grandmother was a daughter of Ebenezer Read, son of David and Hannah, shows this marriage under "Read" but not under "Gibbs." As noted, Charity chose Ebenezer as administrator of her husband's estate in 1783, and her grandchildren bore "Read" and "Ransford" as given names. Mary Read, probably Ebenezer's wife, witnessed the 21 Feb. 1754 quitclaim of Samuel and Mary Gibbs to Stephen Gibbs, and on 13 May 1754, Stephen Gibbs witnessed the purchase of land in Ellington Parish by David Read from Medinah Fitch (WLR 11:150). David Read died intestate in 1762 (not 1763, as Stiles has it [2:633]), his estate insolvent. Documents in his probate files show that Ebenezer Read posted bond on 6 April 1762 and was appointed administrator on 9 Aug. 1762 (Stafford PR #1760 and Hartford PR #4432; there are two non-identical files for this estate apparently because the probate district serving David's area was changed shortly after his death). The first inventory was dated 3 March 1762, but the widow Hannah signed another on 29 April 1763 and received her thirds of the movable estate on that date. No heirs were named, and after the estate sale, only £58/07/04 was realized against creditor's demands of £217/10/09.

No death record or probate has been found for the widow Charity Gibbs. She was at Windsor at the 1790 census with three males over 16, none under, and one female (Heads of Families... 1790 Connecticut [1908; rpt. Baltimore 1972] p. 54), and may be the widow Gibbs admitted to the Congregational Church, West Parish, Granville (now Tolland) MA by profession 6 July 1806, and whose undated death is the third of four entries recorded in 1806 ("Tolland Ch. Rec.", hereafter TCR, p. 4, transcript in the Cooke Collection, Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield MA).

Stephen Gibbs appeared in land transactions eighteen times between 1746 and 1757 but only five times between 1761 and 1782. He does not appear to have held any civic or church offices. The Windsor North or 2nd Congregational Society Records, 1761-1794 (orig. ms. CSL; microfilm #006,209 at Gen. Soc., Salt Lake City), hereafter WNSR, pp. 2, 3, and 6, show that in Feb. 1765 with four other couples, "Stephen Gibbs and his Wife made their Confession for the Sin of fornication [sic] and was Excepted [sic] by the Chⁿ." They owned the Baptismal Covenant the same month, and we find recorded: "March 1765: Then was Baptized Samuel Rufus Sons and Charity Daughter Children of Stephen Gibbs and Charity his wife." A more precise record of these baptisms was entered in the West Hartford Congregational Church Records (ms. CSL), 1:261, by the Rev. Nathaniel

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Hooker under "Baptisms out of Parish...": "1765, March 17th: I baptised at N. Windsor, Samuel, Charity, and Rufus, the Children of Stephen Gibbs." This is probably the children's correct order of birth. Two additional children are recorded in WNSR pp. 17, 38, and 19: Levi, "son of Stephen and Charity Gibbs," baptized 27 May 1778 and died (not buried, as Stiles has it) 28 June 1778, and Benjamin Gibbs, baptized 17 Aug. 1783, "a youth of 14 years old presented by his mother Charity Gibbs." The 1794 entry Stiles cites for this couple is actually for a grandchild.

Two older sons, Stephen and David Gibbs, whose baptisms were perhaps recorded in the missing Ellington registers, are proved members of this family by the latter's probate (Hartford PR, unnumbered file for 1839, CSL). On 15 July 1840, a distribution on the estate of David Gibbs, late of Windsor, was made to "the heirs of Samuel Gibbs, brother of the dec'd," as well as the heirs of Benjamin Gibbs, the heirs of Rufus Gibbs, and the heirs of Stephen Gibbs, all identified as brothers of the deceased, and to Charity Mather, widow of Azariah Mather and sister of the deceased. The actual heirs were not named.

Children (GIBBS) of Stephen⁴ and Charity (Read):

- 1 i STEPHEN⁵ b. ca. 1754; d. 25 Nov. 1826.
- ii DAVID, b. "at Windsor" ca. 1755-6, and deposed ae 76 or more, 20 Aug. 1832 (affidavit in David Gibbs' pension file #S1314); d. intestate at Windsor 17 June 1839 ae 84 ("Windsor 1st Ch. Rec. 1639-1932," 3:112, ms. CSL). Among notes due his estate were those against David Gibbs 2nd of Norwalk OH and Levi Gibbs of NY state, and among debts was that to Oliver Hayden for David's board at the time of his death. His gravestone has been read as "David Gibbs, Col. Wyllys' Reg. 1777 Died June 17/1839 Age 86" (Windsor g.s. p. 32).
- iii SAMUEL b. ca. 1757; d. 9 Oct. 1829.
- iv CHARITY b. perhaps ca. 1759-60; d. after 1840.
- v RUFUS b. ca. 1763; d. 25 March 1831.
- vi BENJAMIN b. ca. 1769; d. bef. 1840.
- vii LEVI b. 27 May 1778; d. 28 June 1778.

1 STEPHEN⁵ GIBBS was born in Windsor CT ca. 1754, son of Stephen⁴ and Charity (Read) Gibbs; he died at East Windsor CT on 25 Nov. 1826 (deposed ae 64, 24 May 1818; ae 66, 2 Aug. 1820; daughter Ann Dodd of Hartford deposed 12 April 1834 about her father's death [Rev. War pension file #R3989, Nat. Archives]). His obituary in the Hartford CT American Mercury 5 Dec. 1826 and gravestone at South Windsor CT give his age at death as 72 (Charles R. Hale Coll. of Newspaper and Cem. Abstracts at CSL; this is the source for subsequent citations to these records, unless otherwise noted).

He married at Glastonbury CT by the Rev. David Huntington at the home of the bride's father on 13 Dec. 1777, RUTH⁵ CHAMBERLIN (deposition of Ann Dodd, cited above; 9 April

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1844 deposition of "a cousin of Ruth Chamberlain," Solomon Finley aged 98, who witnessed the marriage [pension file]). She was born at Glastonbury on 6 April 1755 (VR) and died, according to Ann Dodd's deposition, at the home of her daughter Elizabeth Crane at Sandisfield MA on 5 Dec. 1837. Ruth was a daughter of Richard⁴ Chamberlin (Daniel³, Benjamin², Richard¹) by his wife Mary Dickenson, whom he had married at Glastonbury on 21 Dec. 1752 (VR). The printed Sandisfield VR (Elizur Yale Smith, comp. [Rutland VT 1936]), which do not inspire confidence, give Ruth's death date as 5 Dec. 1835, ae 80. Her gravestone at the Sandisfield Center Burying Ground [also called Clam River Cemetery] gives 5 Dec. 1836, ae 80 (Elizur Yale Smith, comp., "Grave-Stone Inscriptions of Sandisfield... 1750-1916," [1939], hereafter Sandisfield g.s., unpagged typescript at NEHGS, Boston).

On 20 May 1818, Stephen Gibbs of East Windsor CT stated that he had enlisted there in Dec. 1775 in Capt. Ozias Bissell's Co., Col. Jed⁵ Huntington's Regt. of the Connecticut Line, where he served until his discharge at Newtown PA in Jan. 1777; he also stated that he had been present at the "battle of Long Island, York Island" (pension file). A supplemental deposition made on 2 Aug. 1820 states that he was then a shoemaker, his wife--name not given--was aged 64, and that they had a daughter Betsey aged 37 at home. Stiles (1:698) shows that Stephen was among those who marched from East Windsor to the relief of Boston at the Lexington Alarm in April 1775, and that he was at the siege of Boston and served in the 4th Continental Regt. under Col. Hinman.

On 26 July 1789, Ruth Gibbs, wife of Stephen, entered into full communion with the East Windsor Congregational Church, and she is listed among the members in May 1809 ("E. Windsor Ch. Rec., 1695-1853," hereafter EWCR, pp. 96 and 98, ms. CSL). Five children are recorded in these records, but not the baptisms Stiles cites for 29 Nov. 1778, Sept. 1779, and 17 Sept. 1780 for unnamed children of this couple. Stiles states that a private register kept by the Rev. Shubael Bartlett, minister of Scantic Parish, East Windsor, has later entries on this family.

No probate records have been located in Connecticut or Massachusetts for Stephen or Ruth Gibbs. The pension file contains a 10 Sept. 1844 declaration by Elizabeth Crane of Sandisfield MA that she was a daughter of this couple and that her "four sisters now living [were] Lucinda Willcox of Deerfield, Portage County, Ohio, Ann Dodd of Hartford, Hartford County, Connecticut, Rumah Flint of East Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut, and Mary Crane of Sandisfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts."

Children (GIBBS) of Stephen⁵ and Ruth (Chamberlin):

- 1 RUMAH⁶ b. ca. 1779; d. 4 Feb. 1854 ae 75 (g.s., cem., 1st Ch. South Windsor CT); m. East Windsor 26 April 1797 JAMES FLINT (EWCR p. 121), b. East Windsor 7 Dec. 1770; bp. 16 Dec. 1770

The American Genealogist. New Haven, CT: D. L. Jacobus, 1937-. (Online database. *AmericanAncestors.org*. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2009 - .)