

University, with an M.A. from Caius College in 1639.^[8] Walter Croke, M.A., of St. Dunstan in the West, bachelor, 25, and Mercy Archbold, of St. Clement Danes, spinster, 18, daughter of Edward Archbold, of same, gent., who consents, were married at St. Peter, Paul's Wharf by license of 26 June 1641.^[9] Walter died shortly thereafter. He was living at St. Giles when he signed his will on 30 Dec. 1641. He was "very weak in body," and asked that his father's will be performed towards his siblings John, Ruth and Samuel Croke, if they take good courses, though "my brother Christopher being unruly and disobedient." He gave all of his leases and goods to wife Mary, who was executrix. He gave Mrs Closen and Mrs. More and to cousin Thomas Wilson's wife, 20s each to buy rings. He named his father-in-law, Mr. Edward Archbold, as overseer. The will was proved on 18 April 1642.^[10]

- iv. ELIZABETH CROOKE, bp. 19 July 1618; not in her father's will.
- v. GEORGE CROOKE, bp. 24 Sept. 1619; not in his father's will.
- vi. CHRISTOPHER CROOKE, bp. as "Christofer" on 31 May 1621; he was apprenticed to Robert Bessey of the Haberdashers Company of London on 12 Jan. 1637/[8];^[11] living 30 Dec. 1641.
- vii. SARA CROOKE, bp. 11 June 1622; d. young.
- viii. THOMAS CROOKE, bp. 7 Sept. 1623; not in his father's will.
- ix. SARA CROOKE, bp. 29 Aug. 1624; not in her father's will.
- x. JOHN CROOKE, bp. 23 Oct. 1625 at Mortlake, Surrey;^[12] living 30 Dec. 1641.
- xi. MARY CROOKE, bp. 25 July 1627; mentioned in her father's will but not in her brother's will of 30 Dec. 1641.
- xii. BECCA CROOKE, bp. 19 Feb. 1628/[9]; d. Roxbury, Mass., 10 June 1675 in her 45th year; she emigrated to New England by the age of seventeen, and m. Roxbury 9 May 1646 PETER GARDNER.^[13]
- xiii. SAMUEL CROOKE, bp. 23 Mar. 1630/[1]; living 30 Dec. 1641.
- xiv. RUTH CROOKE, b. ca. 1632; living 30 Dec. 1641. She may have been the woman of that name who m. Boston, Mass., 20 1st month 1654 William Read.^[14]

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⁸ Joseph Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses: The Members of the University of Oxford, 1500-1714*, 4 vols. (Oxford: Parker, 1891-92), 1:353.

⁹ Joseph Lemuel Chester, *Allegations for Marriage Licenses Issued by the Bishop of London, 1520 to [1828], Volume II*, George J. Armytage, ed., Publications of The Harleian Society, Visitation Series, 26 (London, 1887), 260.

¹⁰ Commissary Court of London, London Division, registered wills, vol. 28, f. 369 (FHL 0,094,110).

¹¹ Apprenticeship bindings for the Haberdashers Company of London, 1618-1693 (FHL 1,551,159).

¹² Parish registers of Mortlake, Surrey (FHL 1,041,795).

¹³ A study of Peter Gardner's family was recently published in Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635, Volume III G-H* (Boston: NEHGS, 2003), 12-16.

¹⁴ This identification was suggested in Mary Walton Ferris, *Dawes-Gates Ancestral Lines*, 2 vols. (Milwaukee, Wis.: privately printed, 1931-43), 1:309.

THREE JOHN CARPENTERS: A CHAIN OF MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

Eugene Cole Zubrinsky

This was to have been a brief piece naming the parents of John Carpenter of East Greenwich, Rhode Island (ca. 1667-1753), whom the secondary literature consistently misidentifies, typically as the son of his actual uncle. It became evident, however, that his wives and children are popularly ascribed to a first cousin's son John Carpenter, thought to have been of East Greenwich but in fact of eastern Connecticut. Once the East Greenwich man's family had been retrieved from his Connecticut cousin, it was necessary to reconstruct the latter's family. This, in turn, revealed a tangle of errors pertaining to the wives, children, and eventual residence of a third John Carpenter, of Swansea, Massachusetts. Rectifying this succession of displacements—involving descendants of the Rehoboth, Massachusetts, family of Carpenters—gave rise to a second, unplanned article that follows this one, pertaining to Carpenters of both Massachusetts and Rhode Island origin. These unforeseen developments reaffirm that *Forrest Gump's* "box of chocolates" aphorism applies not only to life but also more narrowly to genealogical research and writing: "You never know what you'll get."

JOHN⁴ CARPENTER (JOSEPH³, WILLIAM²⁻¹) OF EAST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND

Among several John Carpenters born in the seventeenth century and descending from immigrant William² Carpenter of Rehoboth^[1] is one who died at East Greenwich on 25 August 1753 in his 87th year.^[2] A number of respectable sources misidentify him as the son of Abiah³ Carpenter (*William*²⁻¹) of Pawtuxet (Warwick), Rhode Island.^[3] One of these volumes, and a lesser-regarded but highly popular one, also err in assigning his children and one or (in the latter case)

¹ William² Carpenter of Rehoboth was the son of William¹ Carpenter who left England with William² and his family but who is not found in New England records (Eugene Cole Zubrinsky, "The Family of William² Carpenter of Rehoboth, Massachusetts: With the English Origin of the Rehoboth Carpenters," *The American Genealogist* 70 [1995]:193-204, at 193, 203). A chart of the members of the two families discussed in this article and the next is found on page 54.

² James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636-1850*, 21 vols. (Providence, R.I.: Narragansett Historical Publishing Co., 1891-1912), 1:2 (East Greenwich):107.

³ See John Osborne Austin, *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island*, rev. ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969), 35-36, 309; L. Effingham de Forest and Anne Lawrence de Forest, *James Cox Brady and His Ancestry* (New York: de Forest Publishing Co., 1933), 135; Herbert F. Seversmith, *Colonial Families of Long Island, New York and Connecticut*, 5 vols. (Washington, D. C.: the author, 1939-58), 2:559. The area called Pawtuxet is on both sides of the Pawtuxet River, partly in Warwick and partly in Cranston (formerly southern Providence).

two of his wives to another John Carpenter, son of Oliver⁴ Carpenter (*Abiah*³) of Warwick and North Kingstown, Rhode Island.^[4]

John Carpenter's forty-nine or more years at East Greenwich^[5] (on Warwick's southern border) and his calculated birth year of about 1667 make it plausible that Abiah, then aged twenty-three or twenty-four, was his father. Indirect, primary evidence indicates, however, that John was the son of Abiah's brother Joseph³ Carpenter of Rehoboth and adjacent Swansea.^[6] Joseph had become a second-rank proprietor^[7] at Swansea by 22 12th month 1669 [22 February 1669/70], when he became the twelfth admitted inhabitant to sign the town's covenant.^[8] In his will, dated 3 May 1675, Joseph leaves to sons Joseph, Benjamin, and John "my Rights of Comonage within the Towne of Rehoboth and all my Rights in Swansea on the east syde of the River."^[9] On 10 January 1708 John Carpenter of East Greenwich, Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, sold to his brother Benjamin Carpenter of Swansea "the one third part of two Reanks in ye undevided Lands" there.^[10] This was clearly the fractional interest in Swansea commonage rights that the East Greenwich man had inherited from his father, Joseph Carpenter, more than thirty years before.^[11]

Joseph Carpenter married at Rehoboth on 25 November (not May) 1655,^[12] Margaret Sutton, who died between 21 March 1675/6 and 4 October 1676 (not in

⁴ See de Forest, *Brady Ancestry* [note 3], 137; Amos B. Carpenter, *A Genealogical History of the Rehoboth Branch of the Carpenter Family in America* (Amherst, Mass.: Carpenter & Morehouse, 1898), 75, 128–29. Despite the former source's splitting John Carpenter of East Greenwich into two men—son of Abiah³ (who had no son John) and son of Oliver⁴ (whose son John was not of East Greenwich)—the de Forests' account of Abiah's descendants is far more reliable than Amos Carpenter's and more extensive than Austin's [note 3]. The latter identifies Abiah's grandchildren but not the families they created. Seversmith [note 3] takes Abiah's line only as far as his children (repeating those presented by Austin and the de Forests). For a more accurate account of Abiah³ Carpenter and his family, see the article following this one.

⁵ East Greenwich Land Evidence, 2:41–42, 66; 3A:88–89; 6:23, 24, 34–36, 160–61.

⁶ Joseph³ Carpenter was baptized at Shalbourne, Wiltshire/Berkshire, England, 6 April 1634, fourth child of William² and Abigail (Briant) Carpenter of that place and subsequently of Weymouth and Rehoboth, Massachusetts (Zubrinisky, "The Family of William² Carpenter" [note 1], *The American Genealogist* 70:193–94, 200–02, 204).

⁷ A proprietor's rank in Swansea's three-tiered system determined the amount of acreage he received in common-land divisions.

⁸ Swansea Town Meetings (1667–1793), 18, and Swansea Proprietors' Grants and Meetings (1668–1769), 5, transcribed in Richard LeBaron Bowen, *Early Rehoboth: Documented Historical Studies of Families and Events in This Plymouth Colony Township*, 4 vols. (Concord, N.H.: Rumford Press, 1945–50), 1:36, 38, respectively.

⁹ Plymouth Colony Probate, 3:2:33.

¹⁰ Swansea Proprietors' Records, 1:167.

¹¹ For the Rehoboth commonage rights his father left him (see will quotation in text), John subsequently received land (see Rehoboth Proprietors' Records, 2:301; Rehoboth Town Meetings, 2:41–42, 72, 93–94; Bowen, *Early Rehoboth* [note 8], 1:57).

¹² Rehoboth Vital Records, 1:44; Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 45, says May, which is repeated by Seversmith [note 3] at 2:558.

1700), daughter of John¹ Sutton of Hingham and Rehoboth.^[13] Their first four children were born at Rehoboth between 1656 and 1661; three others, born between 1671 and 1675 (the last only two days before their father's burial), are recorded at Swansea.^[14] A Martha Carpenter died at Swansea on 22 March 1735, "in the :73: year of her age or their about."^[15] Based on her place of death and implied birth year (ca. 1663); the ten-year gap between the fourth and fifth recorded births of Joseph Carpenter's children; his bequests to "my five daughters"; and the elimination of all other contemporary Carpenter couples as her possible parents, Martha was probably Joseph and Margaret's daughter and is so identified in the literature.^[16] Secondary sources present their son John—named in Joseph's will but having no birth record—as the twin of Hannah, born 21 1st month [March (not January)] 1671, with no further information.^[17] As above, however, John's age at death implies that he was born about 1667—presumably at Rehoboth, where his father was still living on 2 April 1669.^[18]

The earliest record of John Carpenter's being of East Greenwich is dated 29 November 1704, when he purchased fifty acres there from Benjamin Nickols.^[19]

¹³ Plymouth Colony Probate, 3:2:36, 37; Mary Lovering Holman and Winifred Lovering Holman, *Ancestry of Colonel John Harrington Stevens and His Wife Frances Helen Miller*, 2 vols. (Concord, N.H.: Rumford Press, 1948–52), 1:269–70; Howard Dakin French, "Sutton Family," *Register* 91 (1937):61–65, at 64. Joseph Carpenter was buried on 6 May 1675, three days after naming wife Margaret his executrix (Swansea Vital Records, A:147; Plymouth Colony Probate, 3:2:33). His estate inventory, which Margaret submitted to the court on 21 March 1675[6], was exhibited on 2 November 1676, as was her own, which had been taken on 4 October 1676 (Plymouth Colony Probate, 3:2:33, 36, 37). Amos B. Carpenter transcribed a Newman (Old Rehoboth) Cemetery gravestone inscription as "M. C. D. Y. 1700 A. G. 65" and identifies "M. C." as Margaret (Sutton) Carpenter (Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 45, this error repeated by Holman). The inscription, however, almost certainly refers to Mary (Kingsbury) Cooper, born at Dedham, Massachusetts, 1 September 1637, and died at Rehoboth, 18 September 1700, wife of Thomas² Cooper (*Register* 10 [1856]:176; 16 [1862]:338; Don Gleason Hill, ed., *The Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths . . . in the Town of Dedham, Volumes 1 & 2* [Dedham, Mass.: Dedham Transcript, 1886], 1; Rehoboth Vital Records, 1:93a). If, as Amos Carpenter claims, Joseph Carpenter is buried in that part of Swansea now Barrington, Rhode Island, it is highly probable that Margaret is buried there also (see *Rehoboth Carpenter Family*, 45). Guardianship records regarding their children have not been found.

¹⁴ Rehoboth Vital Records, 1:10; Rehoboth Town Meetings and Vital Records, 1:240 (including Benjamin⁴ Carpenter, born 15 January 1657[8]); Swansea Vital Records, A:17, 33, 59, 147; Nathaniel B. Shurtleff and David Pulsifer, ed., *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England*, 12 vols. (Boston: William White, 1855–61), 8:51.

¹⁵ Swansea Vital Records, B:138.

¹⁶ Plymouth Colony Probate, 3:2:33; see also Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 58; Seversmith, *Colonial Families* [note 3], 2:558; Holman, *Stevens-Miller* [note 13], 1:266. Even counting Martha—but not Margaret, who was born the day after her father made his will (his wife's pregnancy is acknowledged therein)—only four of Joseph's five daughters born before 4 May 1675 are accounted for.

¹⁷ Swansea Vital Records, A:17; Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 58, says January; Seversmith, *Colonial Families* [note 3], 2:558; Holman, *Stevens-Miller* [note 13], 1:266.

¹⁸ Plymouth Colony Deeds, 3:1:174.

¹⁹ East Greenwich Land Evidence, 2:66.

On 28 November 1705 Matthew Grinnell gave him ten acres at East Greenwich "for the Love & affection that I the sd matthewe Griniel doe Beare unto my Loving sonn in Lawe John Carpenter."^[20] Carpenter's age in 1705 (about thirty-eight) makes it uncertain that the unknown Grinnell daughter was his first wife. The mother of the four of his children whose births are recorded is given as Elizabeth.^[21] But her having had them between 1721 and 1726 and the existence of four other, probably older Carpenter children (named in their father's will)^[22] suggest that John Carpenter had children by two wives.

This John Carpenter's will, dated 14 July 1748, was proved at East Greenwich on 10 September 1753, two weeks after his death.^[23] Two important sources nevertheless identify its author as another John Carpenter, son of Oliver⁴ Carpenter (*Abiah*³) of Warwick and North Kingstown (see next section); accordingly, they attribute to the latter John the widow and children named in the will of the former (plus another child, Prudence, found only in East Greenwich vital records).^[24] His estate inventory, however, taken 4 September 1753, begins by describing him as having "Departed this Life the Twenty fifth Day of August A:D 1753," the precise death date recorded in East Greenwich vital records for the John Carpenter established above as Joseph and Margaret Carpenter's son.^[25] He leaves to "my beloved Wife Abigail Carpenter all the Goods She Brought With her to me . . . together with all the Movable Estate that we have Gotten to gether [*sic*] Since we Come together."^[26] This and the aforementioned likelihood that the children recorded to Elizabeth were the youngest suggest that none of John Carpenter's children was Abigail's. Based on the foregoing facts and interpre-

²⁰ East Greenwich Land Evidence, 1:21B, 2:41-42; Austin, *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* [note 3], 308. Grantor Matthew² Grinnell of Portsmouth and East Greenwich was the son of Matthew¹ and Rose (French) Grinnell of Loxden and Colchester, co. Essex, England, and Newport, Rhode Island (Jane Fletcher Fiske, "Matthew Grinnell's French Connection," *Register* 147 [1993]:71-72).

²¹ Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 2], 1:2 (East Greenwich):107.

²² Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 2], 1:2 (East Greenwich):107; East Greenwich Probate, 2:67-73, at 68. The children whose births are unrecorded—Martha, Mary, Sarah, and Diadema—are the first four of five daughters named successively (presumably in descending order of age) in their father's will, made in 1748. While only fifth-named daughter Dinah Green[e]'s surname is mentioned, Diadema was then also married (see text below). Thus, despite the inability to link the first three with specific marriage records of Carpenter women named Martha, Mary, or Sarah, it cannot be assumed that they were unmarried at this time.

²³ East Greenwich Probate, 2:68; Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 2], 1:2 (East Greenwich):107.

²⁴ See Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 58, 75; de Forest, *Brady Ancestry* [note 3], 135, 137. The former source goes further, claiming that Oliver's son John "m. 1st, Elizabeth Grinnell, dau. of Matthew Grinnell, she d. in 1748; m. 2d, Abigail Grinnell, probably sister of his first wife" (*Rehoboth Carpenter Family*, 75). Even if this were associated with the correct man, the available evidence does not support it (see text).

²⁵ East Greenwich Probate, 2:69; Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 2], 1:2 (East Greenwich):107, citing East Greenwich Vital Records, 2:22.

²⁶ East Greenwich Probate, 2:68.

tations, John Carpenter apparently married at least three times, first to _____ Grinnell, second to Elizabeth _____, and third to Abigail _____.

Children of John Carpenter, i-iv (in order of appearance in their father's will) born probably at East Greenwich, perhaps to wife _____ Grinnell; v-viii recorded at East Greenwich to John and Elizabeth Carpenter:

- i. MARTHA⁵ CARPENTER.^[27]
- ii. MARY CARPENTER.
- iii. SARAH CARPENTER.
- iv. DIADEM(I)A(H) CARPENTER, m. (1) East Greenwich 28 June 1744 THOMAS STAFFORD JR. of Cranston and Coventry, R.I.;^[28] perhaps m. (2) CALEB BAILEY.^[29]
- v. PRUDENCE CARPENTER, b. 25 July 1721; not mentioned in her father's will.
- vi. CORNEL(L)/CORNAL/COLONEL CARPENTER, b. 10 April 1723; m. ELIZABETH _____ by 1748.^[30]
- vii. DINAH CARPENTER, b. 16 Nov. 1724; m. East Greenwich 12 Feb. 1746 JOSHUA GREENE of North Kingstown.^[31]
- viii. JOSEPH CARPENTER, b. 23 Oct. 1726.^[32]

JOHN⁵ CARPENTER (*OLIVER*⁴, *ABIAH*³, *WILLIAM*²⁻¹)
OF NORWICH, WINDHAM, AND STAFFORD, CONNECTICUT

The aforementioned confusion of John Carpenter of East Greenwich with the son of Oliver⁴ Carpenter^[33] undoubtedly stems in part from the former man's having been nearly sixty when his last child was born. Probably more influential, however, is John Osborne Austin's assertion (repeated by Amos Carpenter and later by the de Forests) that on 23 November 1724 Oliver Carpenter deeded 160

²⁷ Martha, whose only known appearance in New England records is in her father's will, is overlooked by all relevant secondary sources cited herein.

²⁸ Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 2], 1:2 (East Greenwich):73; 4 (Coventry):49.

²⁹ Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 128, says that Diadema Carpenter, born 25 July 1721, was twin of Prudence (but only the latter's birth is reported in vital records), and that Diadema married second Caleb Bailey; Rhode Island Cemeteries Master Index, online at www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/cemetery/search.html: Caleb Bailey (born 1720, died June 1803) and "Diadana" Bailey (no dates) buried in the Caleb Bailey Lot, West Greenwich.

³⁰ Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 2], 1:2 (East Greenwich):107, first child born 13 March 1748; Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 128, says Cornell born 18 April 1723, married East Greenwich 4 May 1747, Elizabeth Allen.

³¹ Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 2], 1:2 (East Greenwich):33; East Greenwich Probate, 2:68.

³² Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 129, says Joseph died 29 March 1762.

³³ Of Oliver Carpenter's many children, William is the only one whose birth (at Warwick on 9 June 1701) is recorded (de Forest, *Brady Ancestry* [note 3], 136-40; Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 2], 1:1 [Warwick]:154). It is uncertain if William's mother, identified in his birth record as Sarah, was the mother of his brother John⁵ as well; however, Oliver's widow, also named Sarah, was a different woman, whom he married in 1721 (see the following article).

acres at East Greenwich to his son John "of Warwick."³⁴ It is easy to picture the grantee's moving across the Warwick town line, establishing himself on the East Greenwich property his father had given him, and remaining there. But while Oliver was then of Warwick, the deed depicts his son John as "of Norwich in the Colony of Coneticut in the County of New London."³⁵ He was again described as being of that place when on 6 January 1727/8 he sold to Thomas Bra(i)ton the East Greenwich property his father had conveyed to him little more than three years before.³⁶ Having settled at Norwich by 1720, when the first of five children recorded there to him and wife Sarah was born, they migrated to Windham in 1728/9 and to Stafford in 1738.³⁷ Based on the eldest known child's birth year and the twenty-five years' average age at which an early New England man first married, we may estimate that this John Carpenter was born say 1694, probably at Warwick. Sarah died at Stafford on 12 December 1751, and John married secondly at Stafford on 8 December 1752 Martha (Gould) Hibbard of Windham, widow of Joseph Hibbard.³⁸ Oliver⁴ Carpenter's son John died, apparently intestate, at Stafford on 23 February 1766,³⁹ never having lived at East Greenwich—or Swansea (see next section).

Children of John and Sarah () Carpenter, i–v born and baptized at Norwich, vi–vii at Windham:⁴⁰

- i. SARAH⁶ CARPENTER, b. 5 May 1720, bp. 3 July 1720; d. Norwich 10 Dec. 1724.⁴¹
- ii. LOIS (not Louis) CARPENTER, b. 30 July 1722, bp. 16 Sept. 1722; m. Windham 25 April 1746 ZEBULON PALMER.⁴²
- iii. MEHITABEL CARPENTER, b. 22 June 1724, bp. 30 Aug. 1724; d. unm. Stafford 3 Nov. 1798 age 74.⁴³

³⁴ Austin, *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* [note 3], 35; Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 58 (130 [sic] acres); de Forest, *Brady Ancestry* [note 3], 136, 137.

³⁵ East Greenwich Land Evidence, 4:62.

³⁶ East Greenwich Land Evidence, 4:183.

³⁷ Norwich Vital Records (transcription), 1:94 [FHL 1,311,434]; Windham Deeds, G:40, 170, 426; Stafford Deeds, 1:2:622.

³⁸ Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records at the Connecticut State Library, citing Stafford Vital Records, 1:45, 2:168 (Sarah's death); 1:25, 2:125 (1752 marriage); and Windham Vital Records, 1:245 (Joseph Hibbard's marriage and death).

³⁹ Barbour Collection, citing Stafford Vital Records, 2:173. No probate record has been found.

⁴⁰ Norwich Vital Records, 1:94; Barbour Collection, citing Windham Vital Records, 1:107; Connecticut State Library Index of Church Records, from Norwich First Congregational Church Records, 1:81, 84, 87, 89, 91, 2:87, 90, 93, 95, 97, and Windham First Congregational Church Records, 1:13, 16. Amos Carpenter mistakenly includes children ii–vii among the eleven he assigns to John⁵ Carpenter (*Benjamin*⁴) of Swansea, whom he merges with the Connecticut man (Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 74, 124–25); see the following section.

⁴¹ Norwich Vital Records, 1:94.

⁴² Barbour Collection, citing Windham Vital Records, 1:258; Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 124, says "Louis."

⁴³ L. Belle Gorton, transcriber for the Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames of America, Stafford First Congregational Church Records, 95 [FHL 1,013,276, item 10].

- iv. HULDAH CARPENTER, b. 4 April 1726, bp. 22 May 1726; m. Windham 12 May 1746 JOHN SILSB(UR)Y (not [Rehoboth] 21 March 1744/5 Peter Perrin).⁴⁴
- v. JOHN CARPENTER, b. 30 April 1728 (not 4 Jan. 1728/9), bp. 2 June 1728; m. Stafford 5 June 1755 MARY LOOMIS.⁴⁵
- vi. SARAH CARPENTER (again), b. 20 March 17[29/30], bp. 5 July 1730; d. unm. Stafford 12 April 1761.⁴⁶
- vii. ELIZABETH CARPENTER, b. 16 May 1733, bp. 24 June 1733. She is said to have married [at Woodstock, Conn.] 26 April 1759 Hezekiah May, but this is almost certainly wrong.⁴⁷

JOHN⁵ CARPENTER (*BENJAMIN*⁴, *JOSEPH*³, *WILLIAM*²⁻¹)
OF SWANSEA AND REHOBOTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Once the preceding John Carpenter and family of Connecticut is correctly identified, it becomes apparent that Amos Carpenter's highly popular but seriously flawed Carpenter genealogy mistakenly incorporates them into an account of still another John Carpenter, son of Benjamin⁴ and Renew (Weeks) Carpenter of Swansea.⁴⁸ Born at Swansea on 25 March 1691,⁴⁹ this John Carpenter married first, at Rehoboth on 12 September 1717, Sarah Thurston (both then of Rehoboth),⁵⁰ who was born at Medfield, Massachusetts, on 29 July 1691, daughter of John and Hannah (Cary) Thurston.⁵¹ By dating Sarah's death in

⁴⁴ Barbour Collection, citing Windham Vital Records, 1:257; Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 124, gives the Perrin marriage, which is in Rehoboth Vital Records, 2:159.

⁴⁵ Barbour Collection, citing Stafford Vital Records, 2:125. He is said to have died at Stafford on 3 October 1816 age 88 (Elias Loomis, *The Descendants [by the Female Branches] of Joseph Loomis . . .*, 2 vols. [New Haven, Conn.: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, 1880], 2:618; Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 124, fuses this John Carpenter and the namesake son [born 4 January 1728/9] of John Carpenter of Swansea and Rehoboth, treated in the following section).

⁴⁶ Stafford Church Records [note 43], 43; Barbour Collection, citing Stafford Vital Records, 2:172.

⁴⁷ See Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 125; *Vital Records of Woodstock, 1686–1854* (Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1914), 295. The Elizabeth Carpenter who married Hezekiah May was of Woodstock, and was probably the Elizabeth born there on 25 July 1740, daughter of Eliphale⁶ (*Eliphale*⁵, *John*⁴, *William*³⁻¹) and Mary (Bacon) Carpenter (*Vital Records of Woodstock*, 14, 46, 72; Rehoboth Vital Records, 1:9, 35; Zubrinsky, "The Family of William² Carpenter" [note 1], *The American Genealogist* 70:203–04). The Woodstock woman is said by Amos Carpenter to have married Joseph Peck (at Norwich on 22 December 1754), but that was Elizabeth (Lathrop) Carpenter, widow of Joseph Carpenter of Woodstock and Norwich, the aforementioned Eliphale⁶'s brother (*Rehoboth Carpenter Family*, 92, 167; Norwich Vital Records, 1:163, 2:99; Norwich Probate District, 6:87–89, at 88; Woodstock Deeds, 4:87–88; *Vital Records of Woodstock*, 19; see also Mary E. Perkins, *Old Houses of the Antient [sic] Town of Norwich, 1660–1800* [Norwich, Conn.: Bulletin Co., 1895], 307, 435, 508, 546–47).

⁴⁸ See Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 74, 124–25.

⁴⁹ Swansea Vital Records, A:26.

⁵⁰ Rehoboth Vital Records, 2:133.

⁵¹ *Vital Records of Medfield, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1903), 96; George A. Gordon, "Old York County [Maine] Records," *Register* 49 (1895):46 (marriage of parents).

1744, Amos Carpenter implies that she was the mother of all eleven children he attributes to Benjamin and Renew Carpenter's son John.^[52] Only John's first child, Hannah (born 16 July 1718),^[53] was born to Sarah Thurston, however. Though still living on 17 March 1718/9,^[54] Sarah had died by 6 May 1722, when John Carpenter of Swansea married at Tiverton, Massachusetts, a second Sarah, Sarah Hillard,^[55] who was born at Little Compton, Massachusetts,^[56] on 28 June 1692, and died, probably at Swansea (certainly not in Connecticut), on 24 October 1744, in her 53rd year (not age 53), daughter of William² and Deborah (Warren) Hill(i)ard, formerly of Hingham, Massachusetts.^[57] Only three of the remaining ten children whom Amos Carpenter assigns to John and Sarah (Thurston)

⁵² Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 74, 124–25.

⁵³ Rehoboth Vital Records, 2:8.

⁵⁴ On that date John Carpenter, his wife Sarah, and Bethiah Thurston, all of Rehoboth, acknowledged a deed, dated 12 November 1718, by which they and John and Hannah [Thurston] Cary, both of Windham, conveyed to David Thurston their three-sevenths interest in Rehoboth real estate that John Thurston had left to his seven daughters (Bristol County Deeds, 15:61–62 [also 13:72, 15:62–63, 490]; Bristol County Probate, 3:83).

⁵⁵ Tiverton, Rhode Island, Vital Records, 2:10. The phrase “of Swanzy,” appearing in the marriage record after the names of groom and bride, undoubtedly refers to both of them. Records in which one party is not of Tiverton typically state explicitly that the other is.

⁵⁶ Little Compton and portions of Tiverton were ceded to Rhode Island in 1747 (William Francis Galvin, *Historical Data Relating to Counties, Cities and Towns in Massachusetts*, 5th ed. [Boston: NEHGS, 1997], 67, 115).

⁵⁷ Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 2], 4:6 (Little Compton):127; Cemetery Transcriptions from the NEHGS Manuscript Collections, NEHGS Database, online at www.newenglandancestors.org/research/database/cemeteries, citing Waldo C. Sprague and Benjamin F. Wilbour, transcribers, “Swansea, Mass., Cemeteries [Old Cemetery (1957)],” MS 70/SWA/12, 1r; Hingham Vital Records, 1:23 [FHL 0,423,520, item 1]. Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 74, says Sarah died age 53 and implies she died in Connecticut.

For the Hillard family, see Victor Grant Hillard, “William Hillard of Duxbury, Massachusetts,” *Mayflower Descendant* 49 (2000):95–115 at 98; 50 (2001):117–41; 51 (2002):117–29, at 120. Robert Charles Anderson, having first contended that William¹ Hill[i]ard of Plymouth and Duxbury was not the Boston and Hingham man of that name, now concurs with Victor Hillard that one William Hill[i]ard [Sarah's grandfather] lived successively in all four towns; see Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635, Volume III, G-H* (Boston: NEHGS, 2003), 330–31, and his “Focus on Revising Sketches,” *The Great Migration Newsletter* 12:4 (Oct.–Dec. 2003), online at www.newenglandancestors.org.

That John⁵ Carpenter (*Benjamin*⁴) of Swansea married both Sarah Thurston and Sarah Hillard is supported by the following additional facts: (1) John and Sarah (____) Carpenter of Connecticut, whom Amos Carpenter (followed by others) misidentifies as John and Sarah (Thurston) Carpenter, are established in this and the previous section as being a separate couple; (2) in or near Swansea, almost fifteen years separate the birth of John⁵ Carpenter from that of the same-named person nearest his age, namely, John Carpenter, born Rehoboth 7 February 1705/6, died Medway, Massachusetts, 17 October 1776 in his 72nd year, son of William Jr. and Elizabeth (Robinson) Carpenter (Rehoboth Vital Records, 1:48, 61; *Vital Records of Medway, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* [Boston: NEHGS, 1905], 33, 296; Cumberland, Rhode Island, Probate, 5:162); and (3) John⁵ Carpenter's third son's forename, Warren, is identical both to the maiden name of Sarah Hillard's mother and to the forename of Sarah's sister Abigail (Hillard) Gibbs's husband, whom Abigail had married in 1714 (Hingham Vital Records, 1:23; Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island* [note 2], 4:6:27, 116, 127).

Carpenter are his, and none is hers: Barnard, John, and Warren are this John Carpenter's sons with second wife Sarah Hillard; Mehitable, Huldah, Louis [*sic*, Lois], Sarah, and Elizabeth are daughters of John and Sarah (____) Carpenter of Connecticut (see previous section); Eliphalet belongs with none of these families; and Harriet (given the same birth date as John's first child, Hannah, and described as her twin) is non-existent.^[58]

All secondary sources but one (published in 2002) ignore the Carpenter–Hillard marriage.^[59] Amos Carpenter identifies this John Carpenter's second wife as “*Martha H—* of Windham, Conn.,” and others follow suit.^[60] She, however, was undoubtedly Martha (Gould) Hibbard, identified in the previous section as the second wife of John Carpenter of Stafford. From the marriage intentions of John Carpenter of Swansea, published at Rehoboth on 19 March 1747/8, it is presumed that he married a third time, to widow Hannah Martin of Rehoboth (not Warwick, Rhode Island).^[61] Despite Amos Carpenter's having this John Carpenter migrate to Connecticut (and acquire all the children and the second wife of the Connecticut man of that name), there is substantial evidence that he lived continuously at Swansea until at least 1754: his father's estate inventory and distribution, both made at Swansea in 1727, mention the land and house there of John Carpenter;^[62] the record of his namesake son's first marriage, in 1749, refers to the groom as “Jun.”;^[63] and he appears in Swansea church records periodically from 1731 to 1754.^[64] With this last of the three John Carpenters whose identities

⁵⁸ See Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 124–25. There were several Eliphalet Carpenters in New England at this time (Amos Carpenter approximates this one's birth year as 1720), but the only one with a father named John was born at Rehoboth 17 April 1679, son of John⁴ (*William*³⁻¹) and Rebecca (Redway) Carpenter (Rehoboth Vital Records, 1:9, 35; Zubrinsky, “The Family of William² Carpenter” [note 1], *The American Genealogist* 70:203–04). So-called Harriet, of whom no record is found, almost certainly represents a misreading of Hannah's birth record or a misrecollection of her name.

⁵⁹ See Hillard, “William Hillard,” [note 57], *Mayflower Descendant* 51:120. The Hillard article correctly identifies the mother of John Carpenter's three sons (Barnard, John, and Warren) as Sarah (Hillard) Carpenter rather than Sarah (Thurston) Carpenter. But Amos Carpenter's merging of John and Sarah (Thurston) Carpenter's family with that of John and Sarah (____) Carpenter of Connecticut causes author Hillard to err in concluding that the former couple “had removed from Rehoboth to Norwich, Conn., by 1720” and that a different John Carpenter married Sarah Hillard (*ibid.*, n. 64).

⁶⁰ Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 74. Seversmith (who warns that he is repeating Amos Carpenter except for the lines of John³ and Abiah³) and Holman give John Carpenter's second wife simply as “Martha” and “Martha _____,” respectively (neither mentions a place of residence); Holman notes that John Carpenter's “marriages have not been verified” (Seversmith, *Colonial Families* [note 3], 2:558, 559n; Holman, *Stevens-Miller* [note 13], 267n).

⁶¹ James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rehoboth, 1642–1896* (Providence, R.I.: Narragansett Historical Publishing Co., 1897), 437; Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 74, says she was of Warwick.

⁶² Bristol County Probate, 6:3–4, 47–48.

⁶³ Rehoboth Vital Records, 2:262.

⁶⁴ Ilston (Glamorgan, Wales) and Swansea (Massachusetts) Baptist Church Records [FHL 0,104,833, item 10], 149/232 (John's baptism in 1731), 152/235 (1734), 154/237A (Sarah's

have been so thoroughly confused, we have come almost full circle: his father, Benjamin⁴ Carpenter, was the brother of John⁴ Carpenter of East Greenwich, with whom we began.

Child of John and Sarah (Thurston) Carpenter:

- i. HANNAH⁶ CARPENTER, b. Rehoboth 16 July 1718;^[65] probably the Hannah Carpenter who m. Stafford, Conn., 7 Nov. 1750 SAMUEL KENT (not [Killingly, Conn.] 23 Nov. 1752 Thomas Ormsbee).^[66] Samuel Kent's wife Hannah d. probably in the mid to late 1750s (almost certainly before 5 June 1786).^[67]

That John⁵ (*Oliver*⁴) and Sarah (____) Carpenter were the only couple of that surname at Stafford when Hannah Carpenter married Samuel Kent makes them the logical choice as her parents. The births and baptisms of their seven known children, however, transpired with classic continuity from 1720 to 1733 and were systematically recorded (see above); Hannah is not among them. One might nevertheless suppose that she was an unrecorded daughter of the Stafford couple, born before 1720 (perhaps in Rhode Island). Consistent with this hypothesis is that Hannah (Carpenter) Kent's second daughter was named Sarah.^[68] There is reason to believe, however, that Hannah's daughter Sarah was the namesake of one or both wives of John⁵ (*Benjamin*⁴) Carpenter of Swansea. Hannah, daughter of Sarah (Thurston) Carpenter and the stepdaughter of Sarah (Hillard) Carpenter, had a connection with Stafford. Sarah (Thurston) Carpenter's sister Bethiah married at Rehoboth on 7 Dec.

baptism in 1736), 162/244 (1743), 166/248A (1748), 169/249B (1754, "Brother Carpenter"). Except for wife Sarah's baptismal record, John is the only Carpenter mentioned in Swansea church records from 1731 until 1756; Benjamin Carpenter of Rehoboth was baptized in the latter year (*ibid.*, 243/330).

⁶⁵ Rehoboth Vital Records, 2:8.

⁶⁶ Barbour Collection, citing Stafford Vital Records, 1:25, 2:125; Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 124, gives the Ormsbee marriage, which is in the Barbour Collection, citing Killingly Vital Records, 1:65, 181. The Hannah Carpenter who married Thomas Ormsbee (born Rehoboth on 26 March 1726), both then being of Pomfret (adjacent to Killingly), was probably the woman of that name born Pomfret on 23 August 1721, daughter of Samuel⁵ (*Samuel*⁴⁻³, *William*²⁻¹) and Hannah (Johnson) Carpenter (see Frederic W. Bailey, *Early Connecticut Marriages*, 7 parts [1896–1906; repr. as 1 vol., Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968], 2:53, from Thompson Congregational Church Records; Barbour Collection, citing Pomfret Vital Records, 1:13 [Hannah's birth], and Killingly Vital Records, 1:159, 232, 307; *Vital Records of Woodstock* [note 47], 21; Rehoboth Vital Records, 1:6, 48, 56, 2:64; Zubrinsky, "The Family of William² Carpenter" [note 1], *The American Genealogist* 70:203–04).

⁶⁷ Samuel and Hannah Kent's second child, Sarah (apparently the only one to reach adulthood), was born in 1753; Joseph, their third and last recorded child (b. "17[–]"), died in 1758 (Barbour Collection, citing Stafford Vital Records, 1:38, 2:8, 171). In 1776 Samuel sold 30½ acres of his West Stafford homestead to daughter Sarah's first husband, Elijah Russell; Kent sold his farm's remaining 37½ acres to her second husband, Nathan Webster, in 1783 (Stafford Deeds, 5:280, 6:76; Barbour Collection, citing Stafford Vital Records, 2:130, 132, 176). In neither case did a wife of Samuel's sign away her dower rights. In 1785 Webster sold to Timothy Torrey the parcel the former had bought from his father-in-law and then repurchased it from Torrey on 5 June 1786 (Stafford Deeds, 6:174, 261). In the latter instance, the property was encumbered by the obligation to maintain Samuel Kent during his natural life; there is no mention of a wife.

⁶⁸ Barbour Collection, citing Stafford Vital Records, 1:38.

1721, Joseph Kent Jr., and their son Samuel [who would be Hannah's first cousin] was born there on 17 Jan. 1724/5.^[69] In late 1744 the Kent family migrated to Stafford, where they were living when the Carpenter–Kent marriage occurred.^[70] In that Samuel Kent was twenty-five when he married, his having been six and a half years younger than his Carpenter cousin would have been relatively insignificant.

Children of John and Sarah (Hillard) Carpenter, born at Swansea.^[71]

- ii. BARNARD CARPENTER, b. 26 June 1723; living at or near Dover, Dutchess Co., N.Y., in 1771;^[72] m. Swansea 30 Aug. 1744 [*sic*] ALSE/ALICE LAKE.^[73]
- iii. JOHN CARPENTER, b. 4 Jan. 1728/9; d. (probably Milton [not Stillwater]), Saratoga Co., N.Y., between 25 Jan. 1804 (will) and 13 March 1804 (probate);^[74] m. (1) Rehoboth 23 Oct. (int. 16 Sept.) 1749 JUDAH/JUDITH HORTON of Rehoboth; m. (2) 16 July 1757, perhaps in Dutchess Co., N.Y., RUTH HORTON; m. (3) ANN _____.^[75]
- iv. WARREN CARPENTER, b. 26 Jan. 1731/2 (not June 1732);^[76] d. Russia, Herkimer Co., N.Y., between 16 Mar. 1813 (will) and 2 May 1815 (will recorded);^[77] m. Swansea 21 Aug. 1755 REBECCA HORTON.^[78]

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⁶⁹ *Vital Records of Medfield* [note 51], 97; Rehoboth Vital Records, 2:40, 136.

⁷⁰ Bristol County Deeds, 33:88, 119–20, 130–31; Stafford Deeds, 2:124, 3:431, 432, 526, 527.

⁷¹ Swansea Vital Records, B:8/18, 39/73, 72/160. For the Hillard ancestry of Barnard, John, and Warren Carpenter and details concerning their respective wives, children, migrations, etc., see Hillard, "William Hillard" [note 57], *Mayflower Descendant* 49:95–100; 51:120–22 (and see note 57 above). Additional genealogical and biographical material about them appears in Frank J. Doherty, *Settlers of the Beekman Patent, Dutchess County, New York*, 7 vols. to date (Pleasant Valley, N.Y.: the author, 1995–2003), 3:240–45. Most of Doherty's material on pp. 240–41 comes directly from Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], and contains many of the mistakes corrected herein.

⁷² *Settlers of the Beekman Patent* [note 71], 3:241–42, citing Dover Baptist Church Records.

⁷³ Swansea Vital Records, B:149 (first child born 16 April 1744 [*sic*]), 171.

⁷⁴ Saratoga County Wills, 1:249–51; 1800 U.S. Census, Milton, Saratoga County, New York, roll 27, p. 19B (including Reuben Weed Jr., named executor of John's will); Hillard, "William Hillard" [note 57], *Mayflower Descendant* 51:121, says Stillwater.

⁷⁵ Rehoboth Vital Records, 2:262 (also Swansea Vital Records, C:185); Arnold, *Vital Record of Rehoboth* [note 61], 82 (intentions); Revolutionary War Pension File R1716; Saratoga County Wills, 1:249; Hillard, "William Hillard" [note 57], *Mayflower Descendant* 51:121. Mary Loomis, whom Amos Carpenter misidentifies as this John's second wife, was the wife of John⁶ Carpenter (*John*⁵, *Oliver*⁴), born at Norwich on 30 April 1728 (see text above; Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 124).

⁷⁶ See Carpenter, *Rehoboth Carpenter Family* [note 4], 125, which says 26 June 1732.

⁷⁷ *Tree Talks* 10 (1970):235 (probate date not given).

⁷⁸ Swansea Vital Records, B:103/223.