



ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, the parish church of Shalbourne, where William and Abigail (Briant) Carpenter married and five of their children were baptized



SHALBOURNE VILLAGE AND RIVAR DOWNS

WILLIAM² CARPENTER (*WILLIAM*¹)
OF REHOBOTH, MASSACHUSETTS

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Ojai, California, 2008

Last revised 25 February 2018

Prepared for [*Carpenters' Encyclopedia of Carpenters 2008 Update*](#)

WILLIAM² CARPENTER (*William*¹) was born in England about 1605 and died at Rehoboth, Plymouth Colony (that part now Rumford, East Providence, Rhode Island), on 7 February 1658[/9]. He married in the parish of Shalbourne, that part then in Berkshire, England, on 28 April 1625, **ABIGAIL BRIANT**, baptized there on 27 May 1604 and buried at Rehoboth on 22 February 1686/7, daughter of John and Alice (_____) Briant of Shalbourne. Both are buried in Old Rehoboth (a.k.a. Newman) Cemetery, Rumford (TAG 70:193–94, 203; RI Cems 63; see also BIRTH, DEATH, BURIAL, MARRIAGE, and COMMENTS sections, below). [Sources are cited in full in KEY TO SOURCE NOTES, at the end of this sketch. The format below is patterned loosely after that used by Robert Charles Anderson in his *Great Migration* series.]

BIRTH: The earliest known record of William² and his family of origin is that of their tenancy at Westcourt Manor, in the Wiltshire part of Shalbourne parish, beginning in 1608 (see RESIDENCES, below). The line separating Wiltshire and Berkshire bisected the parish, and the Hampshire border was/is only about four miles distant; it is therefore likely that he was born in one of these three counties. The entirety of Shalbourne parish has been in Wiltshire since 1895.

William²'s approximate birth year is calculated from his age, 33, as reported a few days before 2 May 1638 and recorded on that date in the passenger list of the *Bevis*, on which ship he and his family sailed to Massachusetts (TAG 70:193–94, 203; see also IMMIGRATION, below). William is named with his father in the aforementioned 1608 Westcourt Manor record (see RESIDENCES, below). The copyhold was reaffirmed in 1614 by cross-outs and insertions in the original, 1608 record, augmented by a margin note. Presumably in 1621, when the *copy court roll* was compared to the manorial court book, William²'s age, 16, was inserted in the original record in a space theretofore left blank (Westcourt Recs 7; Crookston). *No record of his specific date of birth or baptism has been found, and any such date appearing in the secondary literature is a fabrication.*

DEATH: Original Rehoboth vital records give William²'s date of death as 7 February 1658. In May of that year, however, William Carpenter Sr. was chosen Rehoboth waywarden, and on 22 June 1658, he was one of forty-nine proprietors (also including William Jr.) who drew lots for meadows lying on the north side of the town (RTM 1:31v/74, 1:58r/127; RPropR 4A:7). His year of death is therefore presented in the first paragraph

as 1658[9], indicating that the original death-record date is Old Style (year beginning 25 March). For details concerning Old and New Style dating and the proper treatment (then and now) of pre-1752 dates between 1 January and 24 March, see Donald Lines Jacobus, *Genealogy as Pastime and Profession*, 2nd ed. (Baltimore, 1968; repr. 1999 [paperback]), 109–13; “A Member Responds to ‘Ask a Librarian’ Question,” *NEHGS eNews* 6, no. 6, whole no. 152 (6 Feb. 2004), online at carpentercousins.com/Calendars_Dating_Styles.pdf; Mike Spathaky, “Old Style and New Style Dates and the Change to the Gregorian Calendar: A Summary for Genealogists,” online at www.cree.name/genuki/dates.htm.

BURIAL: William²’s grave marker is an ordinary field stone inscribed with the initials “WC” and “1658” chiseled below it; nearby are wife Abigail’s headstone (“AC”) and footstone (“1686”) (Early Rehoboth 4:32, 34–35). An image of the former is available at findagrave.com (ignore birth data).

MARRIAGE: William and Abigail’s marriage record (only Bishops’ Transcripts of Shalbourne parish records survive for this period) has her surname as *Briante* (Shalbourne ParR; TAG 70:194). The five remaining Shalbourne church records mentioning Abigail’s family (including her baptismal record) spell the name *Briant* (Shalbourne ParR). Her father’s will, however (including his signature), has it as *Bryan* (PCC).

St. Michael and All Angels, the church where the couple married and their first five children were baptized, is situated in what was then the Berkshire part of Shalbourne parish. The church was nevertheless under the jurisdiction of the dean and chapter of the cathedral church at New Sarum (Salisbury), Wiltshire (TAG 70:194, 194n5).

Some sources give wife Abigail’s maiden name as Bennett or Searles. The first instance, however (prompted by the maiden name of her son William³ Carpenter’s first wife, Priscilla Bennett), represents unwarranted linkage to a Bennett family of Sway, Hampshire. The second reflects apparent confusion with the maiden name of William³’s second wife, Miriam Sale(s) (TAG 70:194n9, 204; see also Second Boat 1:15).

IMMIGRATION: William², his wife, four children, and father embarked at Southampton, Hampshire, on the *Bevis*. The preamble to the ship’s passenger list, dated 2 May 1638, indicates that “they [had been] some Dayes gone to sea” (NEHGR 14:336). They landed probably at Boston (the point of all but a handful of Bay Colony arrivals) in June or July 1638 (the average ocean crossing took five to eight weeks).

RESIDENCES: William Carpenter “iunr” was about three years old when his father and he were first recorded as copyholders at Newtown, in the Wiltshire part of Shalbourne; their tenancy began on 1 June 1608. (The inclusion of William¹’s presumably eldest [perhaps only] son and his sole heir [according to the law of primogeniture] gave the Carpenter copyhold potential continuity beyond the father’s lifetime.) He remained at

Newtown until at least September 1637, if not January 1637/8 or later (Westcourt Recs 7; see also [William¹ of Shalbourne sketch](#), BIRTH, MARRIAGE, and RESIDENCES).

The *Bevis* passenger list describes William² and his father as “of Horwell,” that is, Whorwell (now Wherwell), in Horwell Hundred, Hampshire, about 15 miles south-south-east of Shalbourne. Wherwell, which had a tradition of religious dissent—at least two of its vicars, Stephen Bachiler (1587–1605) and his probable brother-in-law John Bate (1605–1633), were nonconformists—lies on a straight line from Shalbourne to the *Bevis*’s port of departure, at Southampton. (Another *Bevis* passenger in 1638 was Richard Dummer, who, with kinsman Bachiler, had been a partner in the Plough Company, which had recruited dissenters for migration to New England in 1631 and 1632.) It is clear from the chronology of Carpenter records at Shalbourne that the family was at Wherwell for a few months at most. It is indeed possible that they paused there only long enough to obtain from sympathetic authorities the *certificates of conformity* (one for each man) that customs officials would require for the Carpenters to leave England and from which the residence recorded for them on the passenger list was probably copied (TAG 70:193–94, 195n14; NEHGR 14:336; Old Hampshire Maps; see also “Focus on the *Planter*,” GMN 15, no. 4).

William² was living at Weymouth by 1640, having probably settled there soon after arriving in Massachusetts, in 1638 (see FREEMAN and CHILDREN sections, below; Weymouth Hist 1:197–98). On 10 1st month [March] 1644, he was among fifty-eight original Rehoboth proprietors who drew lots for the “first Division in the Neck” (RTM 1:6; RPropR 4A:5). (There is no record of home-lot grants, which undoubtedly had already been made.) That the earliest Rehoboth proprietors’ meetings were held at Weymouth in late 1643 suggests that actual settlement of Rehoboth did not begin until 1644 (see RTM 1:27, [29?], 31; Rehoboth Hist 24–25, 55).

Amos B. Carpenter’s statement that William Carpenter was admitted an inhabitant of Rehoboth on 28 March 1645 has no documentary support (see Carpenter [1898] 38). There is no town record of that date, and no explicit admissions are recorded during this period (only the occasional grant of a home lot). It would have been superfluous, moreover, to admit as an inhabitant an original proprietor, to whom several lots had already been granted.

OCCUPATION: House-carpenter/joiner and planter. The *Bevis* passenger list describes him as a carpenter, and his estate inventory contains many house-carpenter’s tools (NEHGR 14:336; WILL/ESTATE, below).

FREEMAN: Weymouth, 13 May 1640 (TAG 70:193); Rehoboth, 4 June 1645 (PCR 2:84).

EDUCATION: William²’s will mentions many books, including “technical religious works of the time, Latin classics, Greek and Hebrew grammars, biblical concordances [and] some legal works” (MD 14:231–33; Colonial Families 2:553). Given his father’s apparent illiteracy and both men’s modest station in England, it is not surprising that William²

fails to appear in Oxford or Cambridge matriculation records; he was perhaps tutored by a local clergyman (see [William¹ of Shalbourne sketch](#), OCCUPATION, EDUCATION/OFFICES; OCCUPATION, above).

OFFICES: Weymouth: deputy to Massachusetts Bay Colony General Court, 1641, 1643; constable, 1641. Rehoboth: deputy to Plymouth Colony General Court, 1645, 1656; townsman (councilman/selectman), 1645, 1647, 1648, 1653, 1655[/6]; one of six to hear land-allotment grievances, 1645; grand juror, 1646; fence-viewer, 1646, 1647; surveying activity for the town, 1649 (perhaps other years); constable, 1654; surveyor (overseer) of highways (way warden) 1654, 1658 (MBCR 1:313, 318–19, 2:33; PCR 2:85, 102, 3:48–50, 99; Rehoboth Hist 32–33, 36, 38, 39, 40–41, 44–45, 46, 168, 171; RTM 1:41r/93, 58r/127).

Perhaps the most repeated assertion as to the offices occupied by William² Carpenter is that he was Rehoboth's first proprietors' and town clerk. Amos Carpenter states that "[a]t a proprietors' meeting held in Weymouth before the emigration to Rehoboth, the latter part of the year 1643, William Carpenter was chosen Proprietors' clerk. . . . He served as Proprietors' and Town Clerk from 1643 until 1649" (Carpenter [1898] 39). At the bottom of the same page, author Carpenter presents a mistake-ridden transcription of a 1644 Rehoboth town order establishing wage rates for common labor. Following this (on a new line and near the right margin) is the phrase "WILLIAM CARPENTER, clerk." It thus appears that William² identified himself as the one who, as town clerk, had entered the record in the town book. The original record, however, is followed by no such indication of the clerk's identity (RTM 1:7). Nothing but a blank space separates it from the next, unrelated record. Neither does William² Carpenter's name appear in the records of the proprietors' meetings held at Weymouth in late 1643, nor does it appear thereafter in connection with a clerkship of any kind (RTM 1:27, [29?], 31; Rehoboth Hist 24–25, 55).

The claim that William² was Rehoboth town clerk was first made in 1836 by Leonard Bliss: "*No Town Clerk is mentioned by name in the town records till the year 1651* [emphasis added], when Peter Hunt was chosen to the office. But previous to this date the records appear to have been written by the same hand; and it appears from various returns made by the town clerk and on record at Plymouth, that the first who filled that office in Rehoboth was William Carpenter, and that he retained it from the date of the commencement of the town records in October, 1643 till 1649, when Mr. Hunt was probably chosen" (Rehoboth Hist 171). This writer, though among the many who have repeated Bliss's conclusion (see TAG 70:196), has recently discovered it to be erroneous.

Almost all Rehoboth records made from 1643 to mid-1649 are written in a single, distinctive hand. During this period, however, only one return from the Rehoboth town clerk is entered in Plymouth Colony records: "a Record of Land pchased from The towne of Rehoboth with an agreement of what other lands are to be aded [*sic*] for John Browne," dated 20 10th month [December] 1645 and recorded at Plymouth in 1649 (day/month not given). At the end of the colony copy is the Rehoboth town clerk's certification: "p[er] me

Edward Smith Towne Clarke” (PCR 12:177–78; PCLR 1:2:293). The original town record (dated 29 10th mo. 1645) is written in the same hand as virtually all other Rehoboth records of this period (RTM 1:71).

On 3 5th month [July] 1644, thirty Rehoboth inhabitants (out of fifty-eight original proprietors) entered into a covenant, agreeing to subject themselves to the authority of an elected town council (Rehoboth Hist 27–28). (That William Carpenter was not among the subscribers suggests that he may have been away, perhaps moving his family from Weymouth.) Fortunately, the compact is incorporated into Rehoboth town-meeting records with the original signatures, of which the second is that of the aforementioned Edward Smith (RTM 1:3). The rendering of Smith’s full name introducing a 1645 list of his land holdings matches his signature, as do other instances of the letters of his signature that occur in this record (RTM 1:22r/55). The land-possession record, in turn, is in the same hand as practically all other Rehoboth records dated between 24 8th month [October] 1643 (at “Weimoth”) and 1 4th month [June] 1649 (RTM 1:3–41r/93 passim).

The Rehoboth town (and proprietors’) clerk from 1643 to 1649 was clearly Edward Smith and not William² Carpenter. (Smith was of Weymouth by 1642, Rehoboth in 1644, and Newport, R.I., by 1653; the latest known Rehoboth record in which he appears is dated in December 1650. He was at least thrice a Rehoboth townsman [town councilman] and while at Newport served several terms each as deputy and general assistant to the Rhode Island General Assembly [Austin 380; Rehoboth Hist 29, 32, 39, 42].) Bliss’s aforementioned reference to the “various returns” of Rehoboth records copied into Plymouth Colony records that bear the name of William Carpenter undoubtedly reflects confusion with our subject’s son William³, who, as Rehoboth town clerk almost continuously from 1668 to 1702/3, certified many lists of Rehoboth vital records forwarded annually to Plymouth (see [William3 sketch](#), OFFICES; PCR 8:52–88 passim).

Less often repeated but nevertheless persistent is the claim by Amos Carpenter (whose volume about the Rehoboth Carpenters contains many genealogical and biographical errors) that William² was commissioned a captain by the authorities at Boston “about 1642” (Carpenter [1898] 42–43); another source has the commission coming from the Essex court (see Colonial Families 2:552). The date’s lack of precision is consistent with the fact that evidence of such an appointment is not found in the records of either Massachusetts Bay Colony or the Essex Quarterly Court (the latter lacked the authority for such an act). If a William Carpenter were to have been made a captain about this time, it would have been William¹ of Pawtuxet, Rhode Island (d. 1685). (Pawtuxet—not to be confused with Pawtucket—was then part of Providence Plantation and is now in Cranston. Our subject, the eventual William² of Rehoboth, was then of Weymouth.) In September 1642, Pawtuxet inhabitants—“Willi: Arnold, Rob: Coale, Willi: Carpenter, & Bened: Arnold, his company” (not a militia company but the remainder of Pawtuxet residents)—put themselves and their lands (on both Providence and Warwick sides of the Pawtuxet River) under Massachusetts Bay Colony authority to fend off the encroachments of

Samuel Gorton and his followers (MBCR 2:26–27). Most of the alleged interlopers were arrested by Massachusetts troops under Captain George Cooke in early October 1643. On the twentieth of that month, the Bay Colony General Court commissioned Carpenter and five other Pawtuxet men to seize and return to Boston certain of Gorton’s people who had not already been gathered up; no military ranks were assigned or mentioned (Samuel Gorton 48–50, 68, 109; MacDonough–Hackstaff 299–300 [facsimile of original commission opposite 299]). No known record of William² of Rehoboth (or William¹ of Pawtuxet) includes a military title of any kind. It is therefore inappropriate to use the title *Captain* (as some do) to distinguish William² of Rehoboth from his father, William¹, or his son William³.

WILL/ESTATE: William²’s will is dated “the 10th month [December] the 10th day of the month” (year not given—perhaps as early as 1656, no later than 1658) and was proved on 21 April 1659 (TAG 70:196, 199n45). His extensive estate inventory, taken on 21 February 1658[9], values his Rehoboth and Pawtuxet lands at £180 and £60, respectively. (The Pawtuxet property was in northern Warwick, R.I., across the Pawtuxet River from the Providence section of the same name. “[T]he Island” mentioned several times in the will was not a location in the Pawtuxet River [see Carpenter [1898] 41] but was simply short for Rhode Island.) His personal estate contained many carpenter’s implements, including a lathe and turning tools; various types and sizes of saws and planes; jointers, spokeshaves, drawing knives, chisels, adzes, gouges, a vise, and glue. The value of his entire estate is not given but amounts to £644 19s. 10d. when all items are totaled (see PCPR 2:1:80–90A). (About 1643, William’s estate was calculated at £254 10s. [RPropR 1:1–2]. Of that amount, £108 was not actual wealth but simply reflected his having a family of nine. Land was allotted “according to person and Estate,” and “one person [was] valued at Twelve pounds Sterling in Division of Lands” [RPropR 4A:3; RTM 1:31].) For the most accurate transcription of the will by far (only slightly abridged), see MD 14(1912):231–33; for analysis of important passages, see TAG 70 (1995):195–200 and NEHGR 159(2005):64.

CHILDREN: Numbers i–v baptized at Shalbourne, vii–viii born at Weymouth (TAG 70: 194, 203–4). For details and source citations, see the respective sketches of those listed below (except no. v).

- i. JOHN³ CARPENTER, bp. 8 Oct. 1626; m. HANNAH SMITH.
- ii. ABIGAIL CARPENTER, bp. 31 May 1629; m. (1) JOHN TITUS, (2) JONAH PALMER SR.
- iii. WILLIAM CARPENTER, bp. 25 Dec. (not 22 Nov.) 1631; m. (1) PRISCILLA BENNETT, (2) MIRIAM SALE (TAG 89:314–15 [date correction]).
- iv. JOSEPH CARPENTER, bp. 6 April 1634; m. MARGARET SUTTON.
- v. SAMUEL CARPENTER, bp. “ffyt” [5] (not 1) March 1636[/7], bur. Shalbourne 20 April 1637 (TAG 70:194, 196, 204, 89:314–15 [date correction]).
- vi. SAMUEL CARPENTER (again), b. ca. 1638; m. [SARAH REDWAY](#).
- vii. HANNAH CARPENTER, b. 3 2nd mo. [April] 1640; m. JOSEPH² CARPENTER (*William*¹ of Providence).
- viii. ABIAH CARPENTER, b. 9 2nd mo. [April] 1643; m. [MARY REDWAY](#).

COMMENTS: The record of William² Carpenter's participation with fifty-seven others in a division of woodland is dated at the upper edge of a disintegrating page whose filmed image shows only the number of the day (RTM 1:25). A 1731 transcription has the date as 31 ___ month 1643, whereas Bliss's *History of Rehoboth* (1836) has it as 31 4th month [June] 1644, as does Arnold's *Vital Record of Rehoboth* (1897) (RPropR 4A:3–4; Rehoboth Hist, 27; RVR [pub] 911). Thirty-one and June (a thirty-day month) are of course incompatible, and the year stated in the latter two sources conflicts with that in the first one. In the late 1940s, the original record still showed the month, but it was so faded as to appear to the naked eye as a blank space (as it apparently had even in 1731). Using magnification, Richard Bowen concluded that the month appeared to be written as the number 5, representing the Old Style month of July (see Early Rehoboth, 4:3–4). Apparently, however, no one paid much attention to the number of the day in the original record. After examining it carefully and comparing it with other, contemporaneous Rehoboth records in the same hand, this writer has concluded that the day is written as 3th, with the slightly elevated, uncrossed *t* giving the appearance of a 1. (Though written in a different hand, the first volume of Rehoboth vital records is full of dates in which ordinarily numbered days that one expects to end in *st*, *nd/d*, or *rd/d* end instead in *th*: 1th, 3th, 22th, 23th, and 31th, for example.) While this restores June as a possibility, the month and year nevertheless remain uncertain: Is the former June or July? Is the latter 1643 or 1644? The best that can be said is that since the earliest Rehoboth proprietors' meetings were held at Weymouth in late 1643 (see RESIDENCES, par. 3, above), it is likely that the record in question was made in mid-1644.

It is often said (though not by reliable sources) that William² Carpenter of Rehoboth was a first cousin of William¹ Carpenter of Providence (son of Richard^A Carpenter of Amesbury, Wiltshire) and also of the daughters of Alexander^A Carpenter of Wrington, Somersetshire, and Leiden, Netherlands, four of whom came to Plymouth. This derives from Amos Carpenter's unsupported claim that William¹ (*Bevis*, 1638), Richard^A, and Alexander^A Carpenter were brothers (see Carpenter [1898] 34; [William¹ of Shalbourne sketch](#), COMMENTS). No evidence has been found even hinting at a link between the Wrington Carpenters, on the one hand, and either of the other two aforementioned families, on the other; a connection is highly improbable. Traditional genealogical research methods provide good reasons to doubt also that Rehoboth William and Providence William were closely related (see NEHGR 159:64–66, 67n63). Results of recent genetic testing coordinated by the [Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project](#) support this conclusion: Based on a number of 67-marker tests, “we can state with 95% confidence that the most recent common ancestor of the two groups [descendants of the Providence and Rehoboth Carpenters, respectively] was more than 2 generations before the immigrants and less than about 20. Therefore, the DNA testing has very nearly ruled out the often-repeated claim that the Williams were first cousins. The most likely estimate is about 7 generations, but that is a very rough estimate, and the 95% confidence interval is a more reasonable description of what the DNA is telling us” (Carpenter Cousins).

Clerical errors in and misinterpretation of original Weymouth vital records cause that town's published vital-records volume to attribute to William² a son Abraham and to identify him as the twin of William²'s son Abiah. Amos Carpenter correctly concludes that Abraham did not exist but nevertheless retains the idea that Abiah had a twin—his sister Abigail (see Carpenter [1898] 46). It has since been established, however, that she was several years older than Abiah. There was neither an Abraham nor a multiple birth in this family (TAG 70:200–3).

Occasionally, a researcher includes in the list of William²'s children a son Ephraim. The earliest Ephraim among Rehoboth Carpenters, however, was the son (1681–1743) of William³ and Miriam (Sale) Carpenter (RVR 1:9, 2:250; [William3 sketch](#), CHILDREN).

An 1847 genealogical-journal item states the following: “CARPENTER, WILLIAM, Hingham, 1641, witnessed, and seems to have drawn the deed of a tract of land there from the Indians, ‘to John Tower the elder.’ His autograph, and the instrument to which it is attached, are a most elegant specimen of the chirography of that age” (NEHGR 1:137; see also 139 [deed dated 17 June 1641 (*sic*), endorsed in 1662/3]). Amos Carpenter quotes this passage without elaboration but with the implication that the handwriting is William² Carpenter's (see Carpenter [1898] 39). His quotation is inaccurate in several respects, including his substituting Weymouth for Hingham. But more important, the original statement is itself flawed: while John Tower was of Hingham (hence the inference that Carpenter was also), the deed describes land in Rhode Island (probably in present-day Scituate, Providence County) and is dated not in 1641 but 1661; it is witnessed by Joseph Peck Sr. (Rehoboth), Nathaniel Baker (Hingham), and William Carpenter (Tower Gen 28–29). Based on the foregoing facts—and knowing that William² had died in 1658/9, and that his namesake son, who had excellent handwriting, often signed his name with great flourishes—we conclude that the creator of this “elegant specimen of . . . chirography” was William³ Carpenter, who became Rehoboth town clerk in 1668 (see [William3 sketch](#), OFFICES).

The only extant document known to contain William² Carpenter's handwriting (discovered by this writer in the mid to late 1990s) is his transcription of a “memorandum,” dated 14 10th month [December] 1653, between the Indians of Pawtuxet, on the one hand, and Robert Coles, William Carpenter, and Richard Chasmore, all of Pawtuxet, and William Carpenter of Rehoboth, on the other (see Indian Deed). (William Carpenter of Pawtuxet [Providence] was the immigrant from Amesbury, Wiltshire, whose son Joseph married, a few years later, Hannah Carpenter, daughter of William² of Rehoboth [see CHILDREN, no. vii, above; also this section, par. 1]. Coles and Chasmore lived across the river, in the part of Pawtuxet in Warwick.) In return for twelve pounds and four shillings, the Indians are to build and maintain a fence to keep the Englishmen's animals (grazing on adjacent land) out of their corn fields in Pawtuxet (Warwick); the planters will not bear the costs of damage from subsequent incursions. Appended to this agreement, in the same hand, is the following statement: “These presents is a true Coppie of

the grant and deed that was made by the Indians above said to the parties above said the which grant and deed is in the hand and Custodie of mee William Carpenter of Rehoboth And this presents I make and assigne over unto William Carpenter of pautuxett for his ashourance and to satisfye all men whome it may Consearne and is made verbatim with the grante deed In witness where of I doe sett my hand heare unto [signed] William Carpenter.” Following this statement, in another hand, is a note: “This grant deed was Recorded in the towne Reccordes of warwicke in the 64th page of the booke of Land Evidences p[er] mee John Potter Clearke.” Presumably, it was William¹ Carpenter of Providence or one of his sons who, belatedly, took this document to the Warwick town clerk for recording, which was done immediately below a deed dated in 1684 (see WarLE 1:64–65).

The will of John “Bryan” the elder of Newtown, parish of Shalbourne, grocer—dated 11 July 164[torn] and proved 20 June 1643—mentions (in order of appearance) son John’s daughters Mary (eldest), Lucie (youngest), and Dorothe (under 21; “if shee turne protestant”); son Joseph’s son Edmund (under 24); daughter Elizabeth Tubbe’s sons John and Nathaniel (both under 24); daughter Elizabeth Tubbe; William Carpenter (under 24), son of William Carpenter; sons John and Joseph (primary beneficiary and, if necessary, successor executor); godson Jonathan Pearse alias Moone; goddaughter Mary Webbe; the poor of Shalbourne and Chilton; wife Alice (executrix); overseers Mr. Beniamine Some (“my pastor”) and Mr. Edmund Halford; and witnesses Edmund Halford and Geffrey Platt (PCC).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: See, for example, Leonard Bliss Jr., *The History of Rehoboth, Bristol County, Massachusetts* (Boston, 1836); Richard LeBaron Bowen, *Early Rehoboth: Documented Historical Studies of Families and Events in This Plymouth Colony Township*, 4 vols. (Rehoboth, 1945–1950); John Demos, *A Little Commonwealth: Family Life in Plymouth Colony*, 2nd ed. (New York, 1999 [paperback]); Eugene Aubrey Stratton, *Plymouth Colony: Its History & People, 1620–1691* (Salt Lake City, 1986 [paperback]); Hugh Trevor-Roper, *Archbishop Laud: 1573–1645* (London, 1940; repr. 2000 [paperback]); Keith Wrightson and David Levine, *Poverty and Piety in an English Village: Terling, 1525–1700*, 2nd ed. (Oxford, England, 1995 [paperback]).

KEY TO SOURCE NOTES:

Austin	John Osborne Austin, <i>The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island</i> , rev. ed. (Baltimore, 1969)
Carpenter [1898]	Amos B. Carpenter, <i>A Genealogical History of the Rehoboth Branch of the Carpenter Family in America</i> [informal title: <i>Carpenter Memorial</i>] (Amherst, Mass., 1898)
Carpenter Cousins	Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project website , maintained by John F. Chandler (13 March 2008 update); see discus-

	sion of Carpenter descendant groups 2 (Providence) and 3 (Rehoboth)
Colonial Families	Herbert F. Seversmith, <i>Colonial Families of Long Island, New York and Connecticut</i> , 5 vols. (Washington, D.C., 1939–1958)
Crookston	E-mails, dated in Aug. and Sept. 2007, to Gene Zubrinsky from Andrew Crookston (andrewcrookston@wiltshire.gov.uk), Archivist, Wiltshire and Swindon Archives, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham (formerly Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office, Trowbridge), England
Early Rehoboth	Richard LeBaron Bowen, <i>Early Rehoboth: Documented Historical Studies of Families and Events in This Plymouth Colony Township</i> , 4 vols. (Rehoboth, Mass., 1945–1950)
GMN	<i>Great Migration Newsletter</i> , online at www.greatmigration.org (subscription website; printed issues available)
Indian Deed	Pawtuxet Indians' memorandum/deed to local yeomen (transcribed by William ² Carpenter of Rehoboth), Rhode Island Historical Society Manuscripts Collection, MSS 9003, vol. 5, p. 5, Rhode Island Historical Society; digital image online at http://carpentercousins.com/Deed%20in%20Hand%20of%20Wm2%20Carpenter%20of%20Rehoboth.pdf
MacDonough–Hackstaff	Rodney MacDonough, <i>The MacDonough–Hackstaff Ancestry</i> (Boston, 1901)
MBCR	<i>Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England</i> , 1628–1886, ed. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, 5 vols. in 6 (Boston, 1853–1854)
MD	<i>The Mayflower Descendant</i> , vol. 1 through present (1899–1937, 1985–)
NEHGR	<i>The New England Historical and Genealogical Register</i> , vol. 1 (1847) through present

Old Hampshire Maps	“Old Hampshire Mapped,” online at www.geog.port.ac.uk/webmap/hantsmap/hantsmap/hantsmap.htm (select “John Speed’s map of Hampshire . . . , 1611” or “John Blaeu’s map of Hampshire, 1645” → Index sheet to part of the map → SU44; also either map → Gazetteer, in Hundreds → Horwell Hundred)
PCC	Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, The National Archives, PROB 10/639/11:19–20 (John Bryan will [digital image])
PCLR	Plymouth Colony Deeds, vol. 1 [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #567,788]
PCPR	Plymouth Colony Probate Records [Wills and Inventories, 1633–1686], vols. 1–4 [FHL film #567,794]
PCR	<i>Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England</i> , ed. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff and David Pulsifer, 12 vols. in 10 (Boston, 1855–1861)
Rehoboth Hist	Leonard Bliss Jr., <i>The History of Rehoboth, Bristol County, Massachusetts</i> (Boston, 1836)
RI Cems	The Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Transcription Project Master Index, online at www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/cemetery
RPropR	Rehoboth, Massachusetts, Proprietors’ Records, vols. 1–4 [FHL film #550,004], 4A–5 [FHL film #550,005]
RTM	Rehoboth, Massachusetts, Town Meetings (and Vital Records), 1644–1673 [FHL film #562,558 (uncataloged), item 4]
RVR	Rehoboth, Massachusetts, Vital Records vol. 1 [FHL film #562,559 (personal copy; no longer cataloged), item 3], vols. 2–3 [FHL #562,558 (old loan copy; no longer cataloged), items 5–6]
RVR [pub]	James N. Arnold, <i>Vital Record of Rehoboth, 1642–1896</i> (Providence, 1897)

Samuel Gorton	Adelos Gorton, <i>The Life and Times of Samuel Gorton</i> (Philadelphia, 1907)
Second Boat	<i>The Second Boat</i> , vols. 1–7 (Machias, Maine, 1980–1986)
Shalbourne ParR	Shalbourne Parish Records (Bishops' Transcripts), bundle 1 and unsorted box, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham, England
TAG	<i>The American Genealogist</i> , vol. 9 (1932) through present
Tower Gen	Charlemagne Tower, <i>Tower Genealogy: An Account of the Descendants of John Tower, of Hingham, Mass.</i> (Cambridge, Mass., 1891)
WarLE	Warwick, Rhode Island, Land Evidences, 1669–1711 [FHL film #22,500]
Westcourt Recs	Survey of Shalbourne Westcourt (c1610–1639/40), Saver-nake Estate Collection, ref. 9/24/460, Wiltshire and Swin-don Archives, Chippenham, England
Weymouth Hist	George Walter Chamberlain, <i>History of Weymouth, Massa-chusetts</i> , 4 vols. (Boston, 1923)

Thanks to Jim Bullock (Littleton, Colo.), John R. Carpenter (La Mesa, Calif.), Terry L. Carpenter (Germantown, Md.), and John F. Chandler (Harvard, Mass.) for reviewing the original sketch. Thanks also to Peter Blanthorn, Chairman, Shalbourne Parish Council, for the photographs with which it continues to begin.

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