

Regarding the Ancestors of John and Hannah (Wheaton) Robinson of Rehoboth, MA

In an updated narrative regarding John³ Robinson, Jr. [John², Isaac¹], I asked the perspective whether or not the ancestral connection for John Robinson, husband of Hannah Wheaton of Rehoboth, was the son of John and Sarah (Mason) Robinson of Salem, MA. I also mentioned the Topsfield, MA marriage of a John Robinson and Margaret Woodwell, then "both of Salem, MA." In the same narrative I introduced the name Jonathan Fuller, who effectively was the Rehoboth patriarch of the Fuller's in that town, since his father Robert moved back to Salem during the King Philip's War and did not return until the late 1690s.

Sometimes when one becomes focused on a specific genealogical problem one forgets the connection to others that also had a hand in one's existence. The aforesaid Jonathan² Fuller of Rehoboth, son of Robert¹ and Sarah² (Bowen) Fuller, was my ancestor. I write this narrative with my tongue in my cheek because I have learned that sometimes one cannot readily appreciate how hard it was to get to where you wanted to go only to find out the relationships you sought to understand began right where you first started.

Jonathan² Fuller's 2g granddaughter Abigail⁶ Fuller of Wrentham, MA was the grandmother of Mary⁶ Edna (Leach) Bell born in northwest Vermont in 1840. Mrs. Martin³ Powell (Mary⁶ Edna) Bell's daughter Anna⁴ married William⁷ Henry Robinson of Morrisville, VT [James C.⁶, Rev. Septimius⁵, Eliab⁴, Lt. Peter³, Peter², Isaac¹] and thus became my maternal great grandparents. Two cousins from an unrelated Leach genealogy married two older brothers of William⁷ Henry Robinson. In "Lawrence¹ Leach of Salem Mass. and His Descendants" (F. Phelps Leach, 1924) it is claimed that Lawrence's youngest child was Giles (from whom my Leach descent stems). Lawrence Leach arrived at Salem, MA on the Talbot in 1629 as part of the small entourage that established the framework for the subsequent 1630-1639 mass migration of Puritans from England and the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Lawrence Leach's purported 15-year old daughter Margaret arrived on the same ship in 1635 that brought Margaret Hanford, the first wife of our American ancestor, Isaac¹ Robinson.

The Lawrence Leach genealogy has been highly criticized by well-known and reputable New England genealogists. In the initial generations the author merged unrelated individuals from different parts of New England into a common Leach family. "Lawrence Leach" merges 1630s Puritan Congregational members of the Mass. Bay Colony in/near Salem, MA with Scotch-Irish Presbyterian families that arrived from Northern Ireland at the beginning of the 1700s. The latter Leaches settled at/near Portsmouth, NH.

There is absolutely no proof that Lawrence Leach had a son Giles, who settled at Bridgewater south of Boston in the original Plymouth Colony. Accordingly, one of my early research projects was to understand the nature of the Leach genealogies. At the time being new to genealogical research I ended up with a lot of uncoordinated notes with no notations for verification from primary records, something the Leach genealogy's author also failed to do. In conjunction with current research, I began to retrace and properly document the Leach family that was concentrated in/near Salem, MA. While the families of interest have vital entries on record in

Salem, Beverly, Manchester, Topsfield and Wenham, a large number of the families either traveled to Wenham to have their children baptized, or the minister of the Wenham Church traveled "a circuit" performing baptisms, perhaps due to vacant pulpits in adjoining towns.

In coordinating the Wenham baptisms to the records of birth in the surrounding towns, I now have a much better understanding of several key families that began at Salem, MA and ultimately chose Rehoboth, MA as their home. In particular a better understanding emerges regarding two different "Robinson" families in greater Salem in the late 1600s.

But first, the irony of it all. Alice² Bowen [Richard¹], the oldest sister of Jonathan² Fuller's mother, Sarah² (Bowen) Fuller, was the wife of Robert¹ Wheaton and the grandparents of Hannah³ (Wheaton) Robinson. Thus, Jonathan² Fuller of Rehoboth was Hannah³ Wheaton's uncle. Jonathan's younger brother Thomas² m. Elizabeth Nichols and died at Rochester, MA in the Plymouth Colony in 1663. The widow Elizabeth (Nichols) Fuller then married Rev. Samuel² Fuller, Jr., who was a young passenger on the Mayflower in 1620 with his father, Dr. Samuel¹ Fuller, Sr., the first medical practitioner in the Plymouth Colony. Although Samuel¹ Fuller's brother Edward¹ was also on the Mayflower, Edward died soon after arrival. It was another 20-years before Edward's oldest son, Dr. Matthew² Fuller, arrived in America (the ancestor of Mrs. Peter³ (Ruth⁵ Fuller) Robinson, Jr. of Windham, CT [Peter², Isaac¹]).

Jonathan² Fuller's sister Elizabeth married Nehemiah² Sabin [William¹] of Rehoboth, who was slain by Indians in June 1676 during the King Philips War. Nehemiah's only surviving son, Daniel³, was born either shortly before or soon after his father's death. In March 1701 at Windham, CT Daniel³ Sabin [Nehemiah², William¹] married Abigail Abbe at Windham and through daughter Sarah became the father-in-law of Israel³ Robinson [Peter², Isaac¹]. Abigail Abbe's ancestral family is in the baptism record of the same Wenham, MA church.

Now hold on, I'm not finished with this trip down irony lane - Daniel³ Sabin's 1st cousin once-removed, Grace⁴ Sabin [Samuel³⁻², William¹], was the wife of Jeremiah² Robinson, the first born child of John¹ and Hannah³ (Wheaton) Robinson.

As ironic as this all is, while I can honestly lay claim to Hannah³ Wheaton being a distant ancestral relative, I cannot lay claim to any family relationship with her husband, John Robinson.

I suppose I should get to the point of what the title to this narrative attempts to address. There was the additional family of John and Dorothy (Perkins) Robinson in Topsfield, MA, whose son John was born there on 16 Jan. 1673-4 [Topsfield VRs]. At the time of marriage the younger John was probably residing in Salem. This was the John Robinson who married Margaret Woodwell "of Salem" at Topsfield on 18 June 1694 [ibid.]. This leaves the door ajar to the continued possibility that John, son of John and Sarah (Mason) Robinson born at Salem on 25 November 1668 [Salem VRs], might have been the husband of Hannah³ Wheaton. The associated details.

John Robinson, b. c1641 possibly at Haverhill, Essex, MA m. Dorothy, believed nee Perkins, possibly also of Haverhill. They have seven children in the Topsfield, Essex, MA birth records, two whom also appear in the Wenham Church baptism records.

Topsfield in Essex County, MA was called by the Indians "Shenewemedy," whereas the first white settlers applied the name of "New Meadows" to the grant of land made by the General Court, 5 Nov. 1639, to inhabitants of Salem and Ipswich. On 18 Oct. 1648, the Court voted "The village at the newe medowes at Ipswich is named Toppesfeild" and on 18 Oct. 1650 "Topsfield" was established as an inland town north of Salem. Relevant to the time period in question, on 19 Oct. 1658 and 29 May 1664, the bounds between Topsfield and Salem to the south were established. On 5 May 1682, the bounds between Topsfield and Wenham to the southeast were established and on 28 April 1684 and again on 31 May 1697, the bounds between Topsfield and Ipswich to the northeast were established. On 25 Feb. 1701 and again on 17 June 1731, the bounds between Topsfield and Boxford to the northwest were established.

As a teenager in southern New Hampshire, one of my high school chums raised sheep in his father's circa-1720's era barn. Every year he went "to show" at the Topsfield Fair, at the time the largest FFA-sponsored fair in northeast MA.

As recorded at Topsfield by the surname Robinson:

- i. Samuel, "s. John," b. Nov. 22, 1668 [Topsfield VRs]; no further record.
- ii. Thomas, "s. John," b. Mar. 18, 1671 [-2]; m. at Topsfield on Nov. 20, 1695 Hannah Dorman, d. of Thomas and Judith (Wood), b. at Topsfield Dec. 2, 1684 [ibid.]
- iii. John, "s. John," b. Jan. 16, 1673 [-4]; probably m. at Topsfield on June 18, 1694 Margaret Woodwell, both called "of Salem" at marriage [ibid.]. She was probably the d. of Mathew and Mary (----) Woodwell, b. at Salem on the "4d 6m (Aug.) 1671" [Salem VRs]. No children can be found. However, by intention published at Salem on Aug. 26, 1709, John Homan [or Hooman] of Marblehead announced to marry Margaret Robinson. No record of the birth of a Margaret Robinson appears in the Salem VRs and she is not identified as being a widow. The marriage was subsequently recorded at Marblehead, east of Salem, from which there also are no children of record.
- iv. Daniel, "s. John," b. Sept. 16, 1677 [Topsfield VRs.]; no further record.
- v. Jacob, "s. John," b. June 2, 1680 [see Wenham 1st Church Baptism Record, No. 74, in series dated "1680" (NEHGR 62:34 et seq.)]; m. at Topsfield on May 9, 1709 Elisabeth Cummings of Topsfield [ibid.]. Jacob m. 2) at Topsfield on July 8, 1719 Dorothee Perkins (poss. his 1st cousin). The widow Dorothy Robinson m. 2) at Topsfield on Sept. 2, 1733 to John Rigg[s] of Gloucester, MA [ibid.]

- vi. Dorithy, "d. John and Dorithy," b. Dec. 8, 1682 [see Wenham 1st Church Baptism Record, No. 134, in series dated "1682" (ibid.)]; m. at Topsfield on Oct. 7, 1702 to Ensign Amos Dorman of Topsfield, s. of Thomas and Judith (Wood), b. at Topsfield March 14, 1671/72 [ibid.]
- vii. Joseph, "s. John and Dorothy," b. Dec. 16, 1684; m. at Topsfield on Sept. 25, 1706 Dorcas Dorman of Topsfield, the d. of Thomas and Judith (Wood), b. at Topsfield Apr. 17, 1686 [ibid.]

The "other" Robinson family of concern:

Robinson, William, Salem, a tailor, by w. Isbella [records call her "Isabell"] had Ann, bapt. 3 Dec. 1637, the mother having united with the church that yr.; Samuel, 26 Jan. 1640; Mary, 12 Mar. 1643; Timothy, 28 Apr. 1644; and Esther, 28 May 1654; was a freeman 27 Dec. 1642; names in his will of 9 Feb. 1677, proved 29 Nov. 1678, s. Joseph, eldest, who then lived at Barbados; **Samuel, and John, who were made executors**; d. Sarah Newbury, whose husband is not of my acquaintance and grandchild Timothy Robinson when he comes of age. [Savage's *Dictionary of the First Settlers...*] (Note that Savage did not include a birth date for the son John described below).

Robinson, John, Salem, son of William of the same, m. 16 Oct. 1665, Sarah, d. of Elias Mason, had Elias, b. 25 Jan. 1667; John, 25 Nov. 1668; Joseph, 27 Sept. 1670; and Sarah, 18 Feb. 1673; was living in 1677/8 [ibid.]

The John and Sarah (Mason) Robinson family of Salem is recorded as follows in the Salem Vital records:

Robinson, John, md. Sara Mason, [m.] 16 Oct. 1665. CT.R (Essex Qrtrly Court Rec.) [Salem VRs].

- i. Elias, "s. John and Sara (Mason)", 25: 11m: 1666 (e.g. 25d 11m [Jan.] 1666-67) [Salem VRs]; no further record.
- ii. John, "s. John and Sara (Mason)", 25: 9m: 1668 (e.g., 25d 9m [Nov.] 1668) [ibid.]; no further record.
- iii. Joseph, "s. John and Sara (Mason)", 27: 7m: 1670 (e.g. 27d 7m [Sept.] 1670) [ibid.]; no further record.
- iii. Sarah, "d. John and Sara (Mason)", 18: 12m: 1672 (e.g. 18d 12m [Feb.] 1672-3) [ibid.]; no further record.