

ABIGAIL³ CARPENTER (*WILLIAM*²⁻¹)
OF REHOBOTH, MASSACHUSETTS

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ABIGAIL³ CARPENTER (*William*² of Rehoboth, *William*¹) was baptized at Shalbourne, Berkshire, England, on 31 May 1629 and died at Rehoboth, Massachusetts, on 5 March 1709/10. She married first probably at Rehoboth, by 1650, **JOHN TITUS**, born about 1627 (aged 8 in April 1635) and buried at Rehoboth on 16 April 1689, son of Robert¹ and Hannah (Carter?) Titus. Abigail married second at Rehoboth on 9 November 1692, as his second wife, **JONAH PALMER**, son of Walter¹ Palmer (TAG 70:194, 203–4; RVR 1:44, 87 [not 89], 185 [not 181]; Hotten 46; NYGBR 12:94; NEHGR 122:251; BrCoPR 1:17–18; see also BIRTH, 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: Amos B. Carpenter identifies Abigail as her brother Abiah's twin, born at Weymouth on 9 April 1643 (see Carpenter [1898] 47). This, however, is the result of his misinterpretation of their father's will and of Weymouth vital records (TAG 70:200–3; see also [William² of Rehoboth sketch](#), COMMENTS).

MARRIAGE: Amos Carpenter asserts (and others repeat) that Abigail married John Titus about 1659, after the death of a first wife Rachel (see Carpenter [1898] 47). There was no such woman, however. Abigail is recorded as the mother of all John² Titus's children, the eldest born on 18 December 1650 (TAG 70:198–200).

IMMIGRATION: Abigail was the second eldest of four Carpenter children who accompanied their parents and paternal grandfather to Massachusetts on the *Bevis* in 1638 (see [William² of Rehoboth sketch](#), IMMIGRATION).

RESIDENCES: Shalbourne; Weymouth, Massachusetts (probably 1638); and Rehoboth (1644).

CHILDREN: All born at Rehoboth (RVR 1:19).

With first husband:

- i. JOHN TITUS, b. 18 Dec. 1650, d. Rehoboth 2 Dec. 1697; m. (1) Rehoboth 17 July 1673, LYDIA REDWAY, b. Rehoboth 30 May 1652, bur. there 25 Nov. 1676, dau. of James¹ Redway and unknown wife (*not* Mary Whipple [2nd wife of James³ Redway]); m. (2) Rehoboth 3 July 1678, SARAH MILLER(D), b. there 15 Oct. 1655, d. probably Rehoboth, perhaps before 31 March 1722 (on 10 March 1731/2? after 4

- April 1736?), dau. of John¹ and Elizabeth? (_____) Miller(d) [subsequently Millard]. A Sarah Titus m. Rehoboth 16 Aug. 1716, as his third wife, John Garnsey Sr. In 1717, his daughter Waitstill and son John married John and Sarah (Millard) Titus's son Timothy and daughter Elizabeth, respectively; another of Garnsey's sons, Seth, married a Millard. A Bristol Co. probate record dated 22 June 1723 indicates another Titus–Garnsey connection: Sarah Titus, widow, declares herself “fully Satisfied [with unspecified compensation from Seth Garnsey, administrator of the estate of his father, John Sr.] for Taking Care of my mother [presumably mother-in-law] Sarah Garnsey the Last year of her Life.” (The subscriber of this statement [also signed by David and Martha Chaffee] was perhaps the widow Sarah Titus who died at Rehoboth on 10 March 1731/2.) Sarah (Millard) Titus thus appears to have taken John Garnsey as her second husband and to have died by 1723. Additional evidence implies that she predeceased Garnsey, who died on 31 March 1722: his widow, also named Sarah, received a series of forty-shilling payments from Seth Garnsey “for my yearly Rent for my Dower in the Real Estate of my Late Husband John Garnsey Deceased”; the last recorded of these is dated 4 April 1736 (RVR 1:30, 38, 45, 46, 54a, 55a, 90 [not 91], 159, 161 [not 167], 167 [not 163], 2:133, 234, 241, 266; MilVR 27; SwVR A:27, 62, B:99/217; NEHGR 64:27–28; MD 21:110; BrCoPR 8:432–34; BrCoPR [abstr] 1:85, 307).
- ii. ABIGAIL TITUS, b. 18 Feb. 1652[3?], d. Attleborough, Mass., 31 May 1734, in 82nd yr.; m. (1) Rehoboth 25 April 1673, JOHN FULLER, b. probably Rehoboth ca. 1647, bur. there 23 Aug. 1676, son of Robert¹ and Sarah (Bowen) Fuller; m. (2) Rehoboth 16 Oct. 1679, as his second wife, THOMAS CUSHMAN, b. Plymouth, Mass., 16 Sept. 1637, d. Plympton, Mass., 23 Aug. 1726, aged almost 89, son of Thomas² and Mary (Allerton) Cushman (AVR 656; RVR 1:45, 47, 54a; NEHGR 122:249–54).
 - iii. SILAS TITUS, b. 18 May 1656, d. Rehoboth before 15 Dec. 1741 (will proved); m. (1) Dedham, Norfolk Co., Mass., 23 8th mo. [Oct.] 1679, SARAH BATTLE/BATTELLE, b. Dedham 8 6th mo. [Aug.] 1654, bur. Rehoboth 8 April 1689, dau. of Thomas¹ and Mary (Fisher) Battell(e); m. (2) Rehoboth 4 July 1689, HANNAH (MILLER[D]) THURSTON (widow of Daniel of Medfield, Norfolk Co., Mass.), b. Rehoboth 23 Dec. 1653, d. before 24 Jan. 1716/7, dau. of John¹ and Elizabeth? (_____) Miller(d) [subsequently Millard]; m. (3) Rehoboth 24 Jan. 1716/7, MEHITABEL (BOYDEN) ORMSBEE (widow of Joshua of Rehoboth), b. Medfield 31 Jan. 1679/80, living 21 Oct. 1729 (Joshua Ormsbee estate settlement), dau. of Jonathan and Mary (Clark) Boyden (BrCoPR [abstr] 174, 177, 314–15; DVR 1:6, 17, 126; RVR 1:30, 47, 49, 55a, 87 [not 89], 166 [not 162], 2:133; MVR 22, 120, 161, 237; MD 21:110).
 - iv. HANNAH TITUS, b. 28 Nov. 1658, bur. Rehoboth 13 Nov. 1673 (RVR 1:52a).
 - v. SAMUEL TITUS, b. 1 June 1661, d. Attleborough 12 July 1726, aged 65; m. Rehoboth 21 or 27 Nov. 1693, ELIZABETH JOHNSON, b. Rehoboth 19 May 1673, bap. there (as adult) 11 June 1699, d. Attleborough 5 Sept. 1726, dau. of John and Mary (Ammidown) Worrell/Johnson (AVR 732; RVR 1:39, 163 [not 95]; NEHGR 15:68; WVR 1:2:2, John Worrell, alias Johnson, m. Mary “Anna Downe,” 15 Dec. 1668; PCR 5:138–39, John Johnson named in Roger¹ Amnadowne/Annadowne estate distribution).
 - vi. JOSEPH TITUS (twin), b. 17 March 1665, living Rehoboth 16 June 1741, aged 76; m. Rehoboth 19 Jan. 1687/8, MARTHA PALMER, b. Rehoboth 6 July 1666, dau. of Jonah² and Elizabeth (Grissell) Palmer [Martha's death data unknown; not Rehoboth 18 Sept. 1762: that Martha Titus b. 1 April 1689, d. in 74th year, unmar. dau. of Silas and Sarah (Battle/Battelle) Titus (no. iii above)] (Early Rehoboth 2:13–14; NEHGR 114:169; RVR 1:13, 44, 49, 51, 3:362; GMB 3:1382). Elizabeth Grissell's father, Francis Grissell, died in Cambridge, Mass., in 1652 and should not be confused with Francis Griswold, who died in Norwich, Conn., in 1671, son of Edward¹ Griswold (GMB 3:1382; MidCoPR 167–73; NorVR 1:18; NEHGR 155:247).
 - vii. MARY/MERCY TITUS (twin), b. 17 March 1665, d. Rehoboth 27 Jan. 1747, in 83rd yr.; m. there 9 Jan. 1683[4], RICHARD BOWEN, b. probably New London, Conn., —

Aug. 16— [1660 (calc.)], d. Rehoboth 12 Feb. 1736/7, in 77th yr., son of Thomas² and Elizabeth (Nichols) Bowen (Old Rehoboth Cem 8; RVR 1:2, 48, 57, 2:245; MD 16:128, 39:85–87).

- viii. EXPERIENCE TITUS, b. 29 Oct. 1669, d. after 14 Sept. 1723 (husband's will); m. Rehoboth 12 June 1692 or 18 July 1693, LEONARD NEWSOME, d. there (by 25 Aug.) 1724 (RVR 1:162 [not 94], 163 [not 95], 2:235; BrCoPR [abstr] 105, 106).

COMMENTS: The passenger list of the *Hopewell*, which departed London for Massachusetts in April 1635, describes Robert Titus as a husbandman “of St. Katherins” (Hotten 46). The absence of further information implies that St. Katherine’s was a London parish or precinct (see Hotten 50, 70). It is often said online that Robert’s son John, eventual husband of Abigail Carpenter, was baptized at St. Katherine’s, London, on 18 December 1627. There is no basis for this, however: three London churches were dedicated to St. Katherine, and documentation is not found in the records of any of them. The earliest extant baptismal records of St. Katherine Cree are bishops’ transcripts beginning in 1639. A Guildhall Library (London) archivist’s check of the relevant St. Katherine Coleman parish register (containing baptismal records between 1559 and 1659) found no Titus entry for the period searched (1 January 1625/6 to 1 January 1628/9). And from 1584 to 1695, at least, the surname Titus does not appear in the records of St. Katherine by the Tower. His father’s having been a farmer, John was probably baptized in a rural church (see below). It is likely that the *Hopewell* list’s mention of St. Katherine’s refers not to the Titus’s residence but to the parish or precinct from whose church Robert obtained the minister’s certificate needed for emigration (NEHGR 132:22–23; see Hotten 46, 50, 70).

It is possible (though not proved) that Robert Titus and Hannah Carter, whose 24 June 1624 marriage is recorded in the parish register of Watford, Herefordshire, are the eventual Robert and Hannah Titus of Rehoboth (NEHGR 132:22–23; Hotten 46). The confusing organization of Drake’s and Hotten’s respective transcriptions of 1635 lists of passengers embarking at London has misled some to conclude that the Titus family came from a parish near Stanstead Abbots, Herefordshire (NEHGR 132:22–23).

Repeating a Titus source, Amos Carpenter asserts that John² Titus and his namesake son were “engaged” in King Phillip’s War (1675–1676) (see NYGBR 12:94; Carpenter [1898] 47). Actually, both were among many Rehoboth inhabitants who advanced money to the town to defray the expenses of the war, but neither is named as having fought in it (NEHGR 99:93–109).

KEY TO SOURCE NOTES:

AVR

Vital Records of Attleborough, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849 (Salem, Mass., 1934)

- BrCoPR Bristol County, Massachusetts, Probate Records, vols. 1–4 [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #461,882], vols. 8–9 [FHL #461,884]
- BrCoPR [abstr] H. L. Peter Rounds, *Abstracts of Bristol County, Massachusetts, Probate Records, 1687–1745* (Baltimore, 1988)
- Carpenter [1898] Amos B. Carpenter, *A Genealogical History of the Rehoboth Branch of the Carpenter Family in America* [informal title: *Carpenter Memorial*] (Amherst, Mass., 1898)
- DVR *The Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths . . . in the Town of Dedham, Volumes 1 & 2 . . .*, ed. Don Gleason Hill (Dedham, Mass., 1886)
- Early Rehoboth Richard LeBaron Bowen, *Early Rehoboth: Documented Historical Studies of Families and Events in This Plymouth Colony Township*, 4 vols. (Rehoboth, Mass., 1945–1950)
- GMB Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston, 1995)
- Hotten John C. Hotten, ed., *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality . . .* (London, 1874)
- MD *The Mayflower Descendant*, vol. 1 through present (1899–1937, 1985–)
- MidCoPR Robert M. Rodgers, *Middlesex County . . . Records of Probate and Administration, October 1649 – December 1660* (Boston, 1999)
- MilVR *Milton Records: Birth, Marriages, and Deaths, 1662–1843* (Boston, 1900)
- MVR *Vital Records of Medfield, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, 1903)
- NEHGR *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 1 (1847) through present
- NorVR *Vital Records of Norwich 1659–1848*, 2 vols. (Hartford, 1913)

NYGBR	<i>The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record</i> , vol. 1 (1869) through present
Old Rehoboth Cem	Marion Pearce Carter, “Old Rehoboth Cemetery . . . Near Newman’s Church” (Attleborough, Mass., 1932; type-script) [FHL film #22,366, item 16]
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)
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]; citations of vol. 1 in text, above, include any necessary corrections to page numbers cited in James N. Arnold, <i>Vital Record of Rehoboth, 1642–1896</i> (Providence, 1897)
TAG	<i>The American Genealogist</i> , vol. 9 (1932) through present
SwVR	Swansea, Massachusetts, Vital Records [FHL film #903,395, items 5, 7]
WVR	Warwick, Rhode Island, Vital Records [FHL film #925,490]

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