

The American Genealogist

founded 1922 by Donald Lines Jacobus

October 1995

EDITORS

DAVID L. GREENE, Ph.D., C.G., F.A.S.G., Demorest, Georgia
ROBERT CHARLES ANDERSON, C.G., F.A.S.G., Derry, New Hampshire

MANAGING EDITOR

A. JANE MCFERRIN, Ed.D., Cleveland, Georgia

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

JEROME E. ANDERSON, A.M., Boston, Massachusetts
DAVID CURTIS DEARBORN, F.A.S.G., Shirley, Massachusetts
JANE FLETCHER FISKE, F.A.S.G., Boxford, Massachusetts
CHARLES M. HANSEN, F.A.S.G., Sausalito, California
GALE ION HARRIS, Ph.D., F.A.S.G., East Lansing, Michigan
HENRY B. HOFF, C.G., F.A.S.G., New York, New York
MYRTLE STEVENS HYDE, F.A.S.G., Ogden, Utah
NORMAN W. INGHAM, Ph.D., C.G., Granby, Massachusetts
ROGER D. JOSLYN, C.G., F.A.S.G., New Windsor, New York
JOHN PLUMMER, Waterbury, Connecticut
JAMES A. RASMUSSEN, C.G., F.A.S.G., La Jolla, California
MARSHA HOFFMAN RISING, C.G., F.A.S.G., Springfield, Missouri
DONNA VALLEY RUSSELL, C.G., F.A.S.G., New Market, Maryland
KIP SPERRY, C.G., F.A.S.G., Orem, Utah
ROBERT S. WAKEFIELD, F.A.S.G., Redwood City, California

Back Issues – See insert in the January issue, or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for list.

Indexed in *Genealogical Periodical Annual Index* and *Persi*, and microfilmed by University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The American Genealogist [TAG] (ISSN 0002-8592) is published quarterly by David L. Greene, P.O. Box 398, Demorest GA 30535-0398. \$25.00 (US) a volume (four issues), \$48.00 (US) for two volumes, \$70.00 (US) for three volumes. Single issues: \$7.00.

All books for review, correspondence, manuscripts, address changes, requests for permission to reprint, and subscriptions should be sent to the Demorest address below. Second Class postage paid at Cleveland GA and at additional mailing offices.

Copyright © 1995 by David L. Greene.

POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to:

The American Genealogist, P.O. Box 398, Demorest GA 30535-0398.

The American Genealogist

Whole Number 280

Vol. 70, No. 4

October 1995

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM² CARPENTER OF REHOBOTH, MASSACHUSETTS

With the English Origin of the Rehoboth Carpenters

By Eugene Cole Zubrinsky

A few days before 2 May 1638, sixty-one souls embarked at Southampton, England, on the *Bevis*, bound for New England. Among them were seven members of the Carpenter family: William¹, age 62, and [his son] William² Jr., age 33, carpenters of "Horwell" (i.e., Wherwell, Hampshire); "Abigael, 32 [*sic*]"; and four unnamed children "10 [*sic*] and under."^[1] When on 13 May 1640 William² became a Massachusetts Bay freeman, he and his family were residing at Weymouth.^[2] In 1643 he was among those who joined Weymouth minister Samuel Newman in establishing Seekonk [Rehoboth], Plymouth Colony.^[3] When he died at Rehoboth on 7 February 1658[/?], his surviving children numbered seven.^[4] Heretofore unpublished English parish records of this family reveal important new information about them. Also, a review of previously published Carpenter material indicates that several long-held beliefs about certain of its members are untenable.

^[1] John C. Hotten, *Lists of Emigrants to America, 1600-1700* (New York, 1874), 299; Samuel G. Drake, *Result of Some Researches Among the British Archives for Information Relative to the Founders of New England* (Boston, 1860), hereafter cited as *Founders of New England*, 60. For confirmation that "Horwell" is a seventeenth-century spelling of Wherwell, Hampshire, see Herbert F. Seversmith, *Colonial Families of Long Island, New York and Connecticut*, 4 vols. (Washington, D.C., 1939-58), hereafter cited as *Colonial Families*, 2:576; see also Peter W. Coldham, *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1660* (Baltimore, 1987), 196.

^[2] Lucius R. Paige, "List of Freemen," NEHGR 3(1849):187 [Weymouth cluster].

^[3] Rehoboth Proprietors' Records, 1:2; Rehoboth Town Meetings, hereafter cited as Rehoboth TM, 1:25; Rehoboth Proprietors' Meetings, p. 4 (1731 transcr. of less legible Rehoboth TM, 1:25); Richard LeBaron Bowen, *Early Rehoboth: Documented Historical Studies of Families and Events in This Plymouth Colony Township*, 4 vols. (Rehoboth, 1945-50), hereafter cited as *Early Rehoboth*, 4:2-4.

^[4] Rehoboth Vital Records [orig.], 1:50; Plymouth Colony Wills, 2:1:80-81.

Bishops' Transcripts from Shalbourne Parish, Wiltshire/Berkshire,^[5] show that William Carpenter was married there on 28 April 1625 to Abigail "Briante,"^[6] who was baptized at Shalbourne on 27 May 1604, the daughter of John and Alice Briant.^[7] Also baptized at Shalbourne were five children of William and Abigail Carpenter: John, 8 October 1626; Abigail, 31 May 1629; William, 22 November 1631; Joseph, 6 April 1634; and Samuel, 1 March 1636[7], buried 20 April 1637.^[8] There can be no doubt that these are the records of William² of Rehoboth, his wife,^[9] and their first five children: Shalbourne Parish is about fifteen air miles north-northwest of Wherwell; the baptized children's names are identical to those of five of William²'s seven surviving children; and their baptismal dates fit nicely with other facts—some heretofore misstated or ignored—pertaining to the approximate and relative ages of his above-named children, including a second Samuel.

Only the last of the six Shalbourne records naming William², that of son Samuel's baptism, distinguishes him as "Junior." From this and the absence of a Shalbourne baptismal record for William², it is likely that William¹ joined his son at Shalbourne sometime between 1634 and 1636/7 and that neither was native to the parish.^[10] The remaining Shalbourne record containing the Carpenter name is that for the burial of Alice Carpenter on 25 January 1637[8].^[11] While she may have

^[5] The Parish Church of Shalbourne was under the jurisdiction of the dean and chapter of the cathedral church at New Sarum (i.e., Salisbury), Wiltshire, but was situated in the Berkshire part of the parish (Shalbourne Parish Records [Bishops' Transcripts], Bundle 1, Wiltshire Record Office, Trowbridge [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #1,279,426, item 1.1]). Original Shalbourne parish registers are available only for the period 1672–1862.

^[6] Shalbourne Parish Records (Bishops' Transcripts), Bundle 1.

^[7] Unsorted Bishops' Transcripts, RJ/AH/CR.72. Misc. 1.52, photocopy from Wiltshire Rec. Off. (not on FHL microfilm; for abstract [names, years only], see FHL film #1,526,634, item 17).

^[8] Shalbourne Parish Records (Bishops' Transcripts), Bundle 1.

^[9] Material submitted to the Carpenter Family Association by Harry F. Rogers includes the proposition that Abigail's maiden name may have been Bennett (*The Carpenter Family News-Journal* 1 no. 3[1971]: n. pag., hereafter cited as *News-Journal* [microfiche 3 of 18, FHL set #6,047,153; repr. in *The Second Boat* 1 no. 1(1980):15]). Unfortunately, the statement's tentative wording has been ignored by many readers.

^[10] For a nine-generation ancestry of William¹, see, with caution, Raymond G. Carpenter and Harry F. Rogers, "From England to America: 3 Centuries of Carpenters," *News-Journal*. The authors believe that William¹ was the son of Robert and Eleanor Carpenter of Marden, Wiltshire. Marden is 15 air miles west-southwest of Shalbourne and 10 north-northwest of Amesbury, the pre-emigration residence of William¹ Carpenter of Providence, R.I., who many believe was William²'s cousin. (For another view of the two William Carpenters' possible relationship, see L. Effingham deForest and Anne L. deForest, *James Cox Brady and His Ancestry* [New York, 1933], hereafter cited as *Brady Anc.*, 124.; see also Mary Lovering Holman and Winifred Lovering Holman, *Ancestry of Colonel John Harrington Stevens and His Wife Frances Helen Miller*, 2 vols. [n.p., 1948–52], hereafter cited as *Stevens-Miller*, 1:264).

^[11] Shalbourne Parish Records (Bishops' Transcripts), Bundle 1.

been an unmarried sister or daughter of William¹,^[12] his having emigrated with his son only three months after her death suggests that she had been his wife (though not necessarily William²'s mother).^[13] The date of Alice's burial at Shalbourne also indicates that the Carpenters' stay at Wherwell was brief, perhaps involving no more than preparation for the voyage.^[14]

Despite abundant circumstantial evidence to the contrary, it has been widely accepted since the publication in 1898 of Amos B. Carpenter's *A Genealogical History of the Rehoboth Branch of the Carpenter Family in America*^[15] that the birth order of William²'s surviving children is reflected in the arrangement of their names in his will—i.e., John, William, Joseph, Hannah, Abyah/Abiah, Abigail, and Samuel.^[16] The Shalbourne records (whose pertinence to the Rehoboth Carpenters is further demonstrated below) provide direct evidence that the will does not express precisely the Carpenter children's birth order: Abigail is named sixth but was baptized second. There is also substantial evidence that last-named Samuel was not the last born. In part because their father's will names Abigail immediately after Abiah, Amos Carpenter wrongly deduces that the two were twins, born at Weymouth in 1643 (as recorded for Abiah).^[17] Maintaining his adherence to the

^[12] He is said to have had a sister Alice (*News-Journal*).

^[13] It is generally supposed that William¹, of whom there is no record after that of the *Bevis* passenger list, returned to England. Also unrecorded, however, is the New England birth, probably in 1638, of the second of William²'s sons to be named Samuel. It therefore seems more likely that 62-year-old William¹ died during the voyage to New England or shortly after arriving.

^[14] Harry F. Rogers is said to have "assembled much evidence showing that William Carpenter of Horwell (Wherwell [*sic*]) and his son, William of Rehoboth, were either friends or relatives of many [of the religious dissenters] who sailed with them on the *Bevis*" (*News-Journal*). The evidence presented in the *News-Journal* is suggestive but not conclusive. Among the nonconformists with whom the Carpenters are said to have been at least indirectly connected were the Rev. Stephen Bachiler, former vicar of Wherwell, and Richard Dummer, Bachiler's kinsman and fellow member of the Plough Company, which organized dissenters for immigration to New England. Dummer and his family (for whom he had returned from New England) were the Carpenters' fellow passengers on the *Bevis* (*Founders of New England*, 61).

^[15] *Carpenter Family* has been described as containing "many obvious inaccuracies and contradictions," and parts of it—pertaining mainly to certain of William²'s grandchildren and their descendants, the Carpenters' English origins, and supposed connections to other Carpenter lines—have been "extensively revised" or remain controversial (*Brady Anc.*, 135 [see also 124 ff.]; *Colonial Families*, 2:543, 549, 559 n., 569 [see also 2:535–77, 1010–13]).

^[16] *Plym. Col. Wills*, 2:1:80–81; *Carpenter Family*, 40, 43–48. For easily the most accurate transcription (barely abridged) of the Carpenter will, see George Ernest Bowman, "Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories," *MD* 14(1912):231–33.

^[17] *Carpenter Family*, 46–48; William B. Trask, transcr., "Early Records of Boston," *NEHGR* 8(1854):348.

will's name order, Carpenter then puts Samuel's probable birth year at 1644^[18] and ignores incompatible facts. Perhaps the most obvious of these is that Samuel married at Rehoboth, 25 May 1660, Sarah Red(a)way, who was then about 18.^[19] Had he been the youngest of William²'s children, his age at marriage would not have been more than 16—dubious in itself and all the more so in relation to his bride's age.

The Carpenter will directs that Samuel and his mother help Abiah build a house on land left to him by his father, "because Samuell hath an house built alreddy."^[20] Amos Carpenter concludes that the assistance of Samuel's mother was required because of his tender age.^[21] Yet the widow is instructed to have nothing to do with that land if she remarries. The house that Samuel is said to have had built already was his father's and was situated on the latter's home lot, of which half was left to Samuel (two-thirds, if his mother were to remarry). Since the will, dated "the 10th month the 10th day of the month [no year]," was proved in April 1659, it was written no later than 10 December 1658 and perhaps a year or two earlier (below). If born in 1644, Samuel would have been no more than 14 when his father's will was made. For one so young to receive such a sizeable inheritance without its being predicated upon his coming of age would have been highly unusual, yet the will contains no such proviso. Moreover, if Samuel had been the younger of the two sons remaining at home, Abiah, not he, would probably have been the principal heir.

William² Carpenter was Rehoboth town clerk from 1643 to mid-1649.^[22] Had Samuel's birth occurred in 1644 it would have been at Rehoboth, and his father most likely would have recorded it.^[23] Finally, having lost seven-week-old Samuel at Shalbourne in April 1637 and not knowing what the future held, William² and Abigail probably made their first, rather than second, subsequent son the deceased infant's namesake. Since sister Hannah was born at Weymouth in 1640,^[24] and all the English-born children are accounted for by the Shalbourne records, the surviving Samuel was born probably in late 1638, several months after the Carpenters'

^[18] *Carpenter Family*, 48. Seversmith, apparently not satisfied with the birth year supplied by Carpenter, calls Samuel's birth date uncertain but nevertheless lists him last (*Colonial Families*, 2:560).

^[19] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:12, 44; see also *Early Rehoboth*, 1:130.

^[20] Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:81.

^[21] *Carpenter Family*, 48.

^[22] Leonard Bliß Jr., *The History of Rehoboth, Bristol County, Massachusetts* (Boston, 1836), 171.

^[23] The earliest recorded birth at Rehoboth is that of John Redway, 10 Dec. 1644 (VR [orig.], 1:12).

^[24] NEHGR 8(1854):348.

arrival in New England.^[25] That a record of his birth has not been found suggests that it occurred either before the family settled at Weymouth or so soon thereafter that it was neglected when the town's vital records were first compiled in 1644.

While the Carpenter will departs from the practice of naming the offspring in descending order of age, it does so only insofar as Abigail and Samuel are removed from their "proper" places and put last. This was not inadvertent but reflects the nature and value of the children's legacies—particularly those of Abigail and Samuel. John, William, and Joseph are each to receive farm animals and goods, personal effects, and a small amount of money in behalf of a son.^[26] But presumably because each already owned and occupied his own land,^[27] none re-

^[25] Mary Lovering Holman has heretofore been alone in estimating (without explanation) Samuel's birth year at about 1638 (*Stevens-Miller*, 1:265). She places him as fifth in the birth order.

^[26] Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:80.

^[27] John's real estate, registered about 1662 in nine items as "The Land of James Reddeway purchased of John Carpenter," amounted to 33+ acres and £125 of commonage (Rehoboth Prop. Recs., 1:1, 12-13; for calculation, with contradictions, of compilation dates of so-called Rehoboth Land Records [i.e., Rehoboth Prop. Recs.], Book I, see *Early Rehoboth*, 4:13-14). (Redway was the father of Sarah and Mary, who wed John's brothers Samuel and Abiah, respectively [Rehoboth VR (orig.), 1:44; Plym. Col. Wills, 4:2:73; *Early Rehoboth*, 1:132-33]. Among the parcels Redway registered as having bought from Carpenter was the six-acre home lot on which he was then living and which was bounded on the north by the home lot left by William² Carpenter to his widow and their son Samuel [Rehoboth Prop. Recs., 1:12-13].) John had sold his Rehoboth holdings and migrated to Huntington, L.I., probably before 22 Dec. 1657, when a rate list of 55 Rehoboth inhabitants included his brothers William Jr. and Joseph but not him. He is also absent from the list of those, including William Jr., who drew meadow lots on the north side of Rehoboth, 28 June 1658 (Rehoboth TM, 1:231, 1:74). John would have been eligible for this allotment of common lands if he had still owned the commonage rights registered by Redway as formerly belonging to him. His brother Joseph, on the other hand, owned no commonage rights (below) and thus would not be expected to appear on the 1658 list.

Amos Carpenter says that John Carpenter "of Huntington, Conn.," bought land at Hempstead, L.I., in 1660 (*Carpenter Family*, 43). The Connecticut township of Huntington (now Shelton), however, was not established until 1789. The Hempstead deed, dated 7 Dec. 1660, says that "John Carman of Hempsted in the new netherlands . . . [sells his] dwelling house and home lott . . . in Hempstead and eleven acers of meddoe . . . [at] hixes neck to . . . John Carpendar of hontinton" (Benjamin D. Hicks, ed., *Records of the Towns of North and South Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y., 1654-1880*, 8 vols. [Jamaica, N.Y., 1896-1904], 2:97). Since the deed gives no colonial jurisdiction for Huntington, it must be assumed to have been the same as that for Hempstead—particularly since Huntington, L.I., was separated from Hempstead only by Oyster Bay. Robert¹ Titus, the father of John Carpenter's brother-in-law John Titus, had sold his Rehoboth property in 1654 and settled with his other sons at Huntington, L.I. (Anson Titus Jr., "The Titus Family in America," NYGBR 12[1881]:93).

The eight-item registration of William³'s real estate, also recorded about 1662, lists 30+ acres and £100 of commonage (Rehoboth Prop. Recs., 1:18). And brother Joseph was on 25 May 1657 granted an eight-acre home lot adjoining the parcel of his father's land on which he was then living (Rehoboth TM, 1:122). When his lands were recorded, probably some months after

before
28 June 1653
(Plym. Col. Deeds,
2:1:78-79) ECZ

ceives real estate. By contrast, the legacies of the children named fourth through seventh include varying amounts of land or, in one case, the offer of it to a spouse.^[28] Like the first three, Hannah and Abiah are listed according to their ages relative to each other and to John, William, and Joseph. At the same time, each is to receive lands at Pawtuxet, Rhode Island, whose total value (£60)^[29] would probably result in the same placement. (It is difficult to discern whose inheritance was of greater value, though Amos Carpenter believes it was Abiah's.)^[30] Abigail's husband, John Titus, is offered a house and four-acre home lot contiguous to William's Rehoboth homestead. And Samuel is left half or more of his father's home lot. House, land and "accomodation att Rehoboth" were evaluated at £180.^[31] Thus, while the children named first through fifth appear in descending order of their ages, those named fourth through seventh are listed in ascending order, according to the value of the real estate left them.

Along with his conviction that William's will holds the key to his children's birth order, Amos Carpenter's misreading original records and misrepresenting important evidence contribute to two other major errors concerning certain of William's children. One is that Abigail Carpenter was not the first wife of John Titus "Jr. [sic]"^[32] but married him in 1659, making her the mother of only the last four of his eight children.^[33] Carpenter states that "on the Rehoboth Town Records the family is recorded as the children of John Titus by wife Rachel."^[34] But examination of the record indicates that all eight children of John Titus were "borne off his wife Abigall."^[35] Consistent with this are several items of indirect evidence: John Titus Sr.'s first daughter, born in 1652, was named Abigail, as was the last child of John Titus Jr. and his second wife, Sarah Miller.^[36] (Born 18 December 1650, John Jr. was the eldest of Titus Sr.'s children.)^[37] The name *Rachel*, on the other hand, does not appear among the Tituses of Rehoboth. The will of

those of his elder brothers, he owned an eight-acre home lot (not the one granted in 1657) and a parcel of meadow (Rehoboth Prop. Recs., 1:72).

^[28] Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:80-81.

^[29] Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:81, 90A.

^[30] *Carpenter Family*, 46.

^[31] Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:90A.

^[32] John Titus was the son of Robert and Hannah (Carter?) Titus; he was eight when his family immigrated on the *Hopewell* in April 1635 (*Founders of New England*, 17; Peter Walne, "Emigrants from Hertfordshire 1630-1640: Some Corrections and Additions," NEHGR 132 [1978]:22-23).

^[33] *Carpenter Family*, 47-48.

^[34] *Carpenter Family*, 47-48.

^[35] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:19. See also James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rehoboth, 1642-1896* (Providence, 1897), hereafter cited as Arnold's *Rehoboth VR*, 755.

^[36] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:19, 38, 46.

^[37] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:19.

John Titus Jr., dated 1 November 1697, refers to Abigail Palmer as his mother. (Widow Titus had married Jonah Palmer Sr. on 9 November 1692.)^[38]

It will be recalled that the Carpenter will is dated with only the day and month, 10 December, and was proved 21 April 1659. In it William² leaves 20s. to John Titus "his son to bee payed a yeare after my Decease."^[39] Amos Carpenter misreads the first half of this phrase as "his for to be payed"^[40] and consequently fails to recognize that the testator had a Titus grandson previous to 1659. This item goes on to say that "if John Titus Come to Dwell and take the house and land; which I sent him word hee shall have if hee Come; then hee shall have the land but not the mare [given to Abigail in the preceding item]."^[41] A memorandum at the end of the will elaborates: "If my son Titus Come and Doe possesse the land I told [sic] hee should have; as namely the house land and orchyard and Corne[.] Joseph [sic] had the land in two Devisions. . . ."^[42] At a Rehoboth town meeting held 25 May 1657, Joseph Carpenter was granted an eight-acre lot adjoining "unto the lott w^{ch} now hee lives upon w^{ch} was given to John Titus."^[43] The offer of land to Titus,^[44] apparently made and accepted by 1657,^[45] makes little sense unless he was already William's son-in-law. Amos Carpenter nevertheless concludes that Abigail Carpenter and John Titus must have married in early 1659, after the body of the will was written but before the memorandum, in which he first recognizes a reference to Titus as "son," was added.^[46] Yet the testator's signature follows the memorandum and is dated "the day and year [sic] before written [at the beginning of the document]."^[47]

^[38] Bristol Co. Probate, 1:206-9; Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:163 (not 1:95 [see Arnold's *Rehoboth VR*, 276, 365]).

^[39] Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:81.

^[40] *Carpenter Family*, 40.

^[41] Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:81.

^[42] Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:82.

^[43] Rehoboth TM, 1:122; see also Plym. Col. Deeds, 2:2:113, and *Carpenter Family*, 45.

^[44] William² Carpenter's will indicates that the land offered Titus was adjacent to the former's home lot: "My wife . . . shall have the meddow that was made in John Titus lott because it is neare and shee is to have a way to the Swamp through the lott" (Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:82). About 1662 Titus's four-acre home lot was registered as being bounded on the south by the 12-acre home lot left by William² Carpenter to his widow and son Samuel (Rehoboth Prop. Recs., 1:13, 15; Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:81).

^[45] Since the will gives no indication of the offer's acceptance, it could have been made as early as 10 Dec. 1656 (prior to the grant to Joseph Carpenter), rather than 1658, as generally assumed. (It was written no earlier than that, since it names Joseph's son Joseph, who was born 15 Aug. 1656 [Rehoboth VR (orig.), 1:19].) That Joseph's father leaves him no land, on the other hand, suggests that he had already received the grant when the will was written (10 Dec. 1657?).

^[46] *Carpenter Family*, 47.

^[47] Plym. Col. Wills, 2:1:83.

The evidence is overwhelming that Abigail was John Titus's only wife,^[48] having married him about 1649 or 1650, and was thus among the eldest Carpenter children. The 1629 Shalbourne baptismal record, which now can be said with absolute certainty to be hers, corroborates this and indicates that Abigail was about 20 when she married Titus; he was about 22. (Carpenter's versions of Abigail's date of birth [below] and of marriage lead to an unlikely bridal age of 15, while Titus was then 31.)

The last of Amos Carpenter's more noteworthy inaccuracies pertaining to William² Carpenter's children is his proposition that the birth of Abiah, at Weymouth on 9 April 1643, was accompanied by that of a twin, who he concludes was Abigail.^[49] While her baptismal record positively eliminates Abigail from consideration as Abiah's twin, Carpenter is not alone in asserting that Abiah was the product of a multiple birth. The published vital records of Weymouth include the following entries: "CARPENTER (see Carpinter), Abraham, [twin] s. William. Apr. 9, 1643"; "CARPINTER (see Carpenter), Abia, [twin] d. W[illia]m, Apr. 9, 1643"; and, also under the Carpinter heading, "Hannah, d. William, Apr. 3, 1640."^[50] Although the second record shows Abia as a "d[au]ghter," William²'s will identifies Abyah/Abiah as his son.^[51] Other Massachusetts and Rhode Island records, from which Abiah's sexual status is easily inferred, confirm that the record should indicate a male birth. Insertion of the bracketed "twin" into both 1643 birth records reflects an editorial judgement, presumably based on the entries' identical dates and perhaps influenced by the pronouncements of Amos Carpenter. But the spelling differences between these two records suggest that they derive from separate sources.

This is indeed so. Although the published Weymouth volumes do not say so, the pre-1655 vital records they contain are only indirectly of local origin.^[52] They were taken from two lists included in a Boston volume into which were copied vital records submitted periodically by Suffolk County towns, beginning in 1644. Transcriptions of these records, begun by David Pulsifer and completed by William Trask, were published in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* over several years, starting with the January 1848 issue.

^[48] Several accounts correctly give Abigail as John Titus's only wife (see, for example, NYGBR 12[1881]:94; *Stevens-Miller*, 1:263-64; Andrew J. Provost, *Titus Family of Long Island and Dutchess County, N.Y.*, 2d ed. [New Rochelle, 1960], 2). The most recent, however, repeats Amos Carpenter's two-wife version (see Elroy W. Titus, *A History of the Titus-Capron and Related Families*, 3 vols. [Columbus, 1984], 1:29, 128, 140).

^[49] *Carpenter Family*, 46, 47.

^[50] *Vital Records of Weymouth, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1910), 1:70.

^[51] *Plym Col. Wills*, 2:1:81, 82.

^[52] The earliest volume of original Weymouth vital records begins with entries dated 1655.

The first list of Weymouth records copied at Boston was compiled retrospectively in early 1644 for the period 1633 through 1643.^[53] It includes two entries mentioning Carpenter children: "Hannah dau. of Will Carpinter borne 3 (2) 1640" and "Abia dau. of Will Carpinter 9 (2) 1643." A second county list of Weymouth vital records was made about 1650 or 1651.^[54] But rather than covering the years since the compilation of the first list, it inexplicably encompasses the same period. Yet it differs from its predecessor in important respects: Its single Carpenter item says, "Abraham sonne of W^m Carpenter borne 9 (2) 1643." (The only other known reference to Abraham in Massachusetts records is a duplicate of this record, appearing in a card file at the Weymouth town clerk's office, with the words "single birth" added. The origin of the file, which contains no card for Abiah, is unknown.) Of the first list's eighty-two records, thirty-one are omitted from the second, which has fifty-six items (including five new ones). Among the fifty-one pairs of repeated records are six with conflicting dates. Of thirty-one surnames common to both lists, twelve are spelled differently from one to the other, and their roughly alphabetical order is somewhat different.

The records in the Boston volume had been transcribed at least twice—first by the various town clerks, then by the county clerk.^[55] Most of the inconsistencies between the two lists of Weymouth records can therefore be attributed to mishaps and mistakes associated with the transmittal and copying process. The absence of Hannah's birth record from the second list undoubtedly resulted from such an occurrence: Robert C. Anderson points out that all but one of the records omitted are for the period June 1639 to March 1640/1.^[56] He deduces from this that the records submitted by the Weymouth clerk were organized chronologically and that the page(s) containing these missing records had been lost by the time the county clerk began copying those that remained. The second list's substitution of *Abraham* for *Abia* probably occurred in the copying process itself: Perhaps, for example, the second submis-

^[53] NEHGR 8(1854):348. The background and reliability of these so-called Boston records are discussed by Robert Charles Anderson in the *Great Migration Newsletter* 2(1991):17-18, 24, and 4(1993):5.

^[54] NEHGR 9(1855):171.

^[55] The "original" Boston volume, in the custody of the Boston City Registrar (City Hall Archives), is itself a transcription, made in the 1660s (Robert C. Anderson, phone conversation with the author, 2 March 1995). The accuracy of the NEHGR's transcription of the Carpenter records is confirmed by a reproduction of the original Boston volume and two nineteenth-century copies of its contents: Suffolk Co. VR, 1630-1666, n.pag. (69, 70 [b. date illeg.], 83) (Boston microfiche #10, Holbrook Research Institute, Oxford, Mass.); Gilbert Nash, "Classified Record of Weymouth Births to 1843 & 4" (1879, MS at Weymouth Town Clerk's office), 42 (Weymouth microfiche #1, Holbrook Res. Inst.); (Weymouth Town Clerk) Oran White (1852, untitled MS at Weymouth Town Clerk's office), 1B, 1D (Weymouth microfiche #12, Holbrook Res. Inst.).

^[56] "Focus on Weymouth," *Great Migration Newsletter* 5(1994):28-29.

sion from Weymouth included the birth record of "Abia" (correctly designated as William's son), which was read by the county clerk of "Abra." and spelled out accordingly.

In a serious distortion, Amos Carpenter claims that the *Register* refers to "Abia daughter, and Abraham son, born Feb. [sic] 9, 1643, children of William Carpenter."^[57] The unmistakable impression is of a single record of a multiple birth, rather than two records, each of a single birth, made several years apart. Forty years earlier, before he had discovered William²'s will and knew of Abigail's existence, Carpenter had contributed to a genealogy of the Vinton family,^[58] in which Abiah's birth record (cited from "Geneal. Reg., Oct. 1854") is depicted as separate from and in conflict with that of the same date naming Abraham; there is no reference to twins. Savage presents Abraham or Abiah as having been born at Weymouth on the date in question,^[59] indicating that he, too, considered their birth records as conflicting, rather than representing a multiple birth. Carpenter's mischaracterization of the 1643 birth records seems to reflect his determination to make all other evidence relating to William² Carpenter's children comport with the name order in his will.

From the absence of all but a birth record for so-called Abraham and the abundance of records of Abiah, Carpenter correctly recognizes that Abraham's existence is highly dubious and that male Abiah's is certain. But instead of rejecting the idea of a multiple birth, he notes that Abiah's sister Abigail is named immediately after him in their father's will and concludes that the name Abraham was mistakenly entered, not for Abiah, but for Abigail.^[60] This has always been rebuttable with the evidence that Abigail had married John Titus by 1650 and is now refuted directly by her 1629 baptismal record. It is therefore reasonable to conclude (in keeping with the note on the town clerk's file card) that a single Carpenter birth—Abiah's—occurred at Weymouth in 1643. The record of so-called Abraham was almost certainly a repetition of Abiah's, with his filial status correctly given but his name misstated (virtually the reverse of the first record). Abiah's sexual misidentification in the first record probably resulted from confusion of *Abiah*, a boy's name from the Bible, with the almost identical *Abia* (as it appears in his birth record), a girl's name from Greek mythology.

The Shalbourne baptismal records make it clear that the four children who accompanied William² and Abigail (Briant) Carpenter on the *Bevis* in 1638 were John, Abigail, William, and Joseph. And careful analysis of Massachusetts records

^[57] *Carpenter Family*, 46.

^[58] John A. Vinton, *The Vinton Memorial* (Boston, 1858), 480–81.

^[59] James Savage, *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, 4 vols. (Boston, 1860–62), 1:337.

^[60] *Carpenter Family*, 46, 47.

leads inescapably to the conclusion that three, not four, children were born to the couple following their arrival at New England: Samuel, Hannah, and Abiah.

Reflecting the prevailing standards of nineteenth-century genealogical scholarship, Amos Carpenter's *magnum opus* has not fared well, above and elsewhere. Nevertheless, such compilations serve as useful points of departure for further research.

SUMMARY

1 WILLIAM¹ CARPENTER was born about 1576. His wife may have been the ALICE CARPENTER who was buried at Shalbourne, Wiltshire/Berkshire, on 25 January 1637/[8]. In 1638, aged 62, he emigrated from "Horwell" [i.e., Wherwell, Hampshire] with his son and daughter-in-law, William and Abigail Carpenter, and their family. No further record is found for William¹; he died probably during the voyage or shortly after his arrival in New England.

Only known child of William¹ Carpenter:

2 i WILLIAM² CARPENTER, b. ca. 1605; m. ABIGAIL BRIANT.

2 WILLIAM² CARPENTER (*William*¹) was born about 1605; he died at Rehoboth, Massachusetts, on 7 February 1658/[9?].^[61] He married at Shalbourne, on 28 April 1625, ABIGAIL BRIANT. She was baptized at Shalbourne on 27 May 1604, a daughter of John^A and Alice Briant, and was buried at Rehoboth on 22 February 1686/7.^[62]

William and Abigail (Briant) Carpenter, with their four eldest children, immigrated to Massachusetts on the *Bevis* in 1638.

Children of William² and Abigail (Briant) Carpenter, first 5 bp. at Shalbourne:^[63]

i JOHN³ CARPENTER, bp. 8 Oct. 1626; m. HANNAH (SMITH?).^[64]

ii ABIGAIL CARPENTER, bp. 31 May 1629; m. (1) ca. 1649–50, JOHN² TITUS, son of

^[61] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:50.

^[62] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:57.

^[63] For information not cited earlier or below, see *Stevens-Miller*, 1:264–65.

^[64] John's widow was named Hannah (*Carpenter Family*, 44); it is, however, not certain that she was the mother of some or all of his children. Amos Carpenter suggests that her maiden name was *Hope* on the unlikely grounds that she gave a child that name. Seversmith presents evidence that Hannah was probably the daughter of William¹ Smith of Weymouth (and Rehoboth), Mass. (and Huntington and Jamaica, L.I.) (*Colonial Families*, 2:544, 549–50).

- Robert¹ Titus of Rehoboth^[65], (2) Rehoboth, 9 Nov. 1692, JONAH PALMER Sr.^[66]
- iii WILLIAM CARPENTER, bp. 22 Nov. 1631; m. (1) Rehoboth, 5 Oct. 1651, PRISCILLA BENNETT,^[67] prob. dau. of Edward¹ Bennett of Rehoboth,^[68] (2) there, 10 12m [Feb.] 1663[4], MIRIAM "SAILE,"^[69] dau. of Edward Sale/Sarle of Weymouth and Rehoboth.
- iv JOSEPH CARPENTER, bp. 6 April 1634; m. Rehoboth, 25 Nov. (not May) 1655, MARGARET² SUTTON,^[70] dau. of John¹ Sutton of Hingham and Rehoboth.^[71]
- v SAMUEL CARPENTER, bp. 1 March 1636[7], bur. Shalbourne, 20 April 1637.
- vi SAMUEL CARPENTER (again), b. say 1638; m. Rehoboth, 25 May 1660, SARAH² REDWAY, dau. of James¹ Redway of Rehoboth.^[72]
- vii HANNAH CARPENTER, b. Weymouth, Mass., 3 2m [April] 1640; m. JOSEPH² CARPENTER, son of William¹ Carpenter of Providence, R.I.^[73]
- viii ABIAH CARPENTER, b. Weymouth, 9 2m [April] 1643; m. prob. MARY² REDWAY (James¹).^[74]

Gene Zubrinsky, author of several articles published in The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, taught sociology at Ventura College (California) for twenty years and is now engaged as a musician and bandleader. He resides at 559 Pala Drive, Ojai CA 93023.

RULES FOR QUERIES

Queries are published without charge for subscribers only, as space is available. Those submitting a query should already have completed basic research on the problem and reached an impasse. Queries should include at least the following data: (1) first and last name of the person being sought; (2) at least one date (birth, marriage, or death) for the person, or some other way of narrowing the time period; and (3) place where the person lived—the state or colony and, ideally, the county and town of residence.

^[65] Lillian Lounsberry (Miner) Selleck, *One Branch of the Miner Family* . . . [ed. Donald Lines Jacobus], (New Haven, 1928), hereafter cited as *Miner Family*, 167–68; NYGBR 12 (1881):94.

^[66] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:163; *Miner Family*, 168; NYGBR 12(1881):94.

^[67] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:44.

^[68] See James S. Elston, *Descent from Seventy-Nine (Now Ninety-Two) Early Immigrant Heads of Families*, 2 vols. (Burlington, Vt., and Middleboro, Mass., 1962–71), 1:16.

^[69] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:44.

^[70] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:44.

^[71] For these Suttons, see *Stevens-Miller*, 1:269–70, and Howard Dakin French, "Sutton Family," NEHGR 91(1937):61–65.

^[72] Rehoboth VR [orig.], 1:44; *Early Rehoboth*, 1:130–31.

^[73] *Carpenter Family* (p. 46) says that Hannah and Joseph were married on 21 April 1659; Mary Holman (*Stevens-Miller*, 1:264) accepted this date as deriving from an authentic record but suggested that the year was a misreading of 1657. This oft-repeated date should be regarded with great skepticism: It is identical with that on which her father's will was proved, and substantiation of it has not been found.

^[74] *Early Rehoboth*, 1:132–33.

THREE MARY PEASES OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

The Wives of Nathaniel Carrell, Hugh Pasco,
and Electious/Alexius Reynolds

By Ian Watson

There is a large amount of printed work on the prolific Pease family of Salem Massachusetts; Enfield, Massachusetts [later Connecticut]; and Martha's Vineyard. The first work was by Frederick S. Pease, *An Account of the Descendants of John Pease, Who Landed at Martha's Vineyard in the Year 1632* [sic] (Albany 1847), which was followed by his "The Pease Family" (NEHGR 3[1849]:27–31, 169–75, 233–38, 390–98). Twenty years later, the standard work on the family was published: Austin Spencer Pease's *The Early History of the Pease Families in America* ([Springfield, Mass., 1869], hereafter A.S. Pease), usually bound with the Rev. David Pease, *A Genealogical and Historical Record of the Descendants of John Pease* . . . , which covered the Enfield branch of the family. The essential critical analysis of the family was made by Charles E. Banks, *The History of Martha's Vineyard* (3 vols. [Edgartown, Mass., 1966], hereafter Banks, 2:Edgartown:91–103, 3:385 ff.). Banks's Pease manuscripts at the New England Historical Genealogical Society (call no. A B32, vol. 18) contain notes not only from Martha's Vineyard but also from Salem. Phillip J. Rice's *Pease Family History* (Monticello, Ky., 1982) followed the 1869 books, with revisions and extensions.

Briefly, the brothers John¹ and Robert¹ Pease emigrated from Great Baddow Essex, on the *Frances* in 1634 and settled at Salem. John¹ moved to Martha's Vineyard between 1644 and 1647 and died there between 1677 and 1689, leaving ten children. Robert¹ died in Salem in 1644 and left several children, the eldest being John² and Robert². John² lived in Salem until moving to Enfield, Connecticut (then part of Massachusetts), about 1682; Robert² stayed in Salem until 1713.

I first became interested in the Pease family while researching the ancestry of Mary Pease, who married Hugh¹ Pasco at Salem on 16 December 1678 (VR, 4 169). The major secondary sources listed several possible Mary Peases of Salem but told different stories about their fathers, birthdates, and marriages. The truth is straightforward, but has been so repeatedly obscured that it needs to be presented fully and clearly in print. This article lays out the primary evidence which proves the basic facts about each Mary Pease of Salem.

In total, six Mary Peases married or could have married in mid- to late-seventeenth-century Massachusetts. Robert¹ Pease had a daughter Mary, baptized with