

SAMUEL³ CARPENTER (*WILLIAM*²⁻¹)
OF REHOBOTH, MASSACHUSETTS

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SAMUEL³ CARPENTER (*William*² of Rehoboth, *William*¹) was born about 1638 (not 1644), probably at Weymouth, Massachusetts Bay Colony, and was buried in Old Rehoboth (Newman) Cemetery, in that part of Rehoboth, Plymouth Colony, now East Providence, Rhode Island, on 20 February 1682[/3]. He married at Rehoboth on 25 May 1660, [Sarah Redway](#), born about 1642, probably at Hingham, Massachusetts Bay Colony, and died at Rehoboth on 15 July 1717 (not 8 Jan. 1717/8), daughter of James¹ Redway. Sarah married second at Rehoboth on 18 January 1687[/8], as his second wife, Gilbert Brooks, born about 1621 (aged 14 in 1635) and died at Rehoboth on 13 June 1695 (TAG 70:194, 195–97, 204; PCR 3:215, 6:102; RVR 1:44, 48, 56, 57, 2:230, 266; PCPR 4:2:73; RPropR 2:11; Early Rehoboth 1:128–29, 130–31, 4:32; RI Cems 63; BrCoPR 1:129; GM 1:407–11; see also BIRTH, DEATH, 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: A 1995 journal article makes a strong circumstantial case that Samuel was born about 1638, rather than 1644, as often said (see TAG 70:195–97; also, for example, Carpenter [1898] 48). The article's author (this writer) has since confirmed this conclusion, having discovered that Samuel Carpenter was sworn a Grand Enquest juryman at Plymouth on 4 June 1661 (PCR 3:215). In that the age requirement for holding public office was twenty-one, Samuel must have been born by 4 June 1640. But since his sister Hannah was born in April of that year, it is appropriate to estimate Samuel's birth year as about 1638. A brother of the same name had died as an infant at Shalbourne, England, in 1637 (TAG 70:194, 196, 204; see also [William² of Rehoboth sketch](#), CHILDREN).

DEATH: Samuel's gravestone inscription and Rehoboth vital records give his year of death and burial, respectively, as 1682 (RVR 1:56; RI Cems 63 [year only]). That this is an Old Style date (year beginning 25 March) is evident from the fact that his estate was settled and letters of administration were granted by the Court of Assistants on 6 March 1682/3 (PCR 6:102). Plymouth Colony law required that a decedent's will (if any) and/or estate inventory be presented at the next Court of Assistants held after his death; the previous such court had met on 31 October 1682 (Pilgrim Laws 36 [1672]; PCR 6:97–99). Accordingly, Samuel's year of death is expressed in the first paragraph as 1682[/3].

RESIDENCES: Weymouth (probably from birth, ca. 1638); Rehoboth (1644).

OCCUPATION: Cooper and planter (see ESTATE, below).

FREEMAN: Though there is no known record of Samuel's having been propounded for or admitted to freemanship, he appears on the Plymouth Colony list of freemen dated 29 May 1670 (PCR 5:278).

EDUCATION: Samuel's estate inventory includes an item for four books, and his signature as a witness appears on several deeds (PCPR 4:2:42; see, for example, PCLR 3:1:6, 3:2:224–25, 4:2:330).

OFFICES: Grand juror (Plymouth Colony Grand Enquest), 1661; surveying activity for the town, 1663, 1663/4; way warden (surveyor [overseer] of highways), 1664, 1680; constable, 1666, 1677; coroner's jury, 1668, 1673/4 (PCR 3:215, 4:123, 5:6, 231, 6:42; RTM 1:62r/135, 69v/150, 72v/156, 73r/157, 79/166, 2:18, 30).

ESTATE: Samuel's estate inventory was taken on 27 February 1682[2/3], and widow Sarah swore to its accuracy on 1 March 168[2/3] (PCPR 4:2:42, 44; DEATH, above). The inventory contains ample evidence in land, implements, and animals of his having been a farmer; it also lists many tools and materials pertaining to the cooper's trade. His estate (land included) was valued at £436 10s. 6d. The inventory identifies tracts of specified area totaling 220 acres and several other parcels of unspecified size, including his home lot, described elsewhere as comprising twelve acres (PCPR 4:2:42–44; RPropR 1:13).

Samuel died intestate. On 6 March 1682/3, the Plymouth Colony Governor and Court of Assistants granted letters of administration on Samuel's estate to his brother William, son Samuel Jr., and relict Sarah. His estate was settled the same day, with Sarah to receive a widow's one-third, dower share and £26 “for and toward the bringing vp of four smale children, and the remainder to be deuided into eleuen p[ar]tes, the eldest to haue a double p[ar]te, and the rest to be deuided amongst the children equally and in a like proportions, viz., the children of M^r Samuell Carpenter, late deceased” (PCR 6:102).

CHILDREN: All born at Rehoboth (RVR 1:6).

- i. SAMUEL⁴ CARPENTER, b. 15 Sept. 1661, d. Rehoboth 17 Jan. 1736/7, in 76th yr.; m. Rehoboth 8 Jan. 168[2/3], PATIENCE IDE, b. Rehoboth 25 May 1664, d. there 28 Oct. 1732, aged 68, dau. of Nicholas and Martha (Bliss?) Ide (RVR 1:19, 48, 2:242, 244; Old Rehoboth Cem 15; RI Cems 69; Early Rehoboth 1:132). Their marriage record, entered at Rehoboth with the year 1683, appears in Plymouth Colony records as part of an undated year's list of vital records forwarded by Rehoboth town clerk William³ Carpenter. The list includes several birth records originally dated in 1682/3 and none of several originally dated in 1683/4 (see PCR 8:87–88; RVR 1:24, 29, 37, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49). The year of marriage is therefore presented above as 168[2/3].

It is often said that Patience (Ide) Carpenter's mother, Martha, was the daughter of Thomas¹ Bliss of Rehoboth (formerly of Daventry, Northamptonshire, England, and Braintree, Mass. Bay Colony). This is far from certain, however. For arguments pro and con, see the thread of messages on GenForum's Ide Family Genealogy Forum beginning with #275, online at <http://genforum.genealogy.com/ide/messages/275.html>. A 1647 marriage at Springfield, Mass., sometimes attributed to Nicholas Ide and Martha Bliss is not recorded and almost certainly did not occur. The earliest Blisses of Springfield were children of a different Thomas Bliss, who lived at Hartford, Connecticut, and had no daughter Martha (see GenForum, as above).

Amos Carpenter presents Samuel and Patience's son Jedediah's correct birth data (Rehoboth, 15 Dec. 1696) but assigns his wife and children to another Jedediah Carpenter, born at Northampton, Mass., 1 Oct. 1697 and died at Stafford, Conn., 2 March 1781, son of Benjamin⁴ and Hannah (Strong) Carpenter; the latter's wife is unknown (Carpenter [1898] 65, 78, 96–97; RVR 1:56; CVR 19; StVR [Barbour] 2:177; NVR 1:102; see also [William³ Carpenter sketch](#), CHILDREN, no. iv). Samuel and Patience's son Jedediah died at Rehoboth 15 Dec. 1731; he married there 24 May 1725 Mercy Brown of Barrington, Mass. (now in R.I.), born at Swansea, Mass., 25 Nov. 1699, dau. of James and Margaret (Denison) Brown (RVR 2:144, 241; SwVR A:36, 93; BrCoPR [abstr] 1:317–18). They had four children, all born at Rehoboth: 1. *Amy*, b. 24 May 1726; 2. *Rebecca*, b. 9 March 1728; 3. *Caleb*, b. 13 March 1729/30; 4. *Patience*, b. 6 Feb. 1731/2 (RVR 2:65).

- ii. SARAH CARPENTER, b. 11 Jan. 1663, d. Rehoboth 5 Jan. 1747/8; m. Rehoboth 17 May 1683, NATHANIEL PERRY, b. Rehoboth 8 Oct. 1660, d. there before 22 April 1715 (estate inv.), son of Anthony and Elizabeth (_____) Perry (RVR 1:3, 47, 2:257; BrCoPR [abstr] 2:39, 55; BrCoPR 3:222, 244, 264–67).
- iii. ENS. ABIAH CARPENTER, b. 10 Feb. 1665, d. Rehoboth 28 April 1732, in 68th yr.; m. (1) Rehoboth 30 May 1690, MEHITABEL READ, b. Rehoboth 13 April 1667, d. there 19 March 1702[/3?], dau. of John² and Rachel (_____) Read; m. (2) Rehoboth 7 June 1703, SARAH READ, d. there 17 July 1724 (prob. b. Rehoboth 10 March 1666, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth (Clarke) Read); m. (3) Rehoboth 16 July 1726, MARY ORMSBEE (not Mary Perrin [m. (1) Jacob (not Isaiah) Ormsby 1670, (2) Nicholas Ide 1677]; not dau. of Jeremiah and Mehitabel (Willmarth) Ormsbee [b. 1708, d. 1789, in 81st yr.; m. Thomas Redway 1749]). Widow Mary probably m. (2) Rehoboth 19 April 1733, John Read of Barrington, Mass. (now in R.I.) (RVR 1:21, 24, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 53, 121, 173 [not 169], 2:142, 152, 235, 241, 262; Old Rehoboth Cem 16, 17; BrCoPR [abstr] 1:203; NEHGR 62:236–37; Early Rehoboth 1:150; RVR [pub] 481).
- iv. JAMES CARPENTER, b. 12 April 1668, d. Rehoboth 27 April 1738, in 71st yr.; m. (1) Rehoboth 26 June 1690, DOROTHY BLISS, b. Rehoboth 27 Jan. 1668[/9?], d. there 28 Oct. 1694, dau. of Jonathan Bliss and probable wife Rachel Puffer (not Miriam Harmon/Wilmarth); m. (2) Rehoboth 15 April 1695, GRACE PALMER, b. Rehoboth 1 Oct. 1668, living there 2 March 1737/8 (James's will), dau. of Jonah and Elizabeth (Grissell) Palmer (RVR 1:5, 13, 44, 49, 80, 89 [not 91], 163 [not 95], 2: 246; Old Rehoboth Cem 18; RI Cems 69; NEHGR 151:31–37, 159:361–62; BrCoPR 2:255–56; BrCoPR [abstr] 1:270; 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).
- v. JACOB CARPENTER, b. 5 Sept. 1670. He survived the 1690 Canada Expedition (in which he is said probably to have been killed [Early Rehoboth 1:132]), but fell sick in Rhode Island and died there not long before 23 Sept. 1693, when his estate inventory was taken at Rehoboth (BrCoPR [packets]).
- vi. JONATHAN CARPENTER, b. _ [illegible (not 6, as per RVR [pub] 571)] Dec. 1672, d. Rehoboth 23 Aug. 1716, aged 44; m. Rehoboth 13 March 1699, HANNAH FRENCH,

- b. Rehoboth 19 Oct. 1679, d. there 2 Oct. 1768, in 80th [*sic*] yr., dau. of John and Hannah (Palmer) French. Widow Hannah m. (2) Rehoboth 18 Nov. 1725, as his 2nd wife, David Thurston (RVR 1:37, 46, 152, 174 [not 168], 2:140, 230; Old Rehoboth Cem 18, 51; RI Cems 69, 358; RVR [pub] 363, citing RVR 7:11). The will of John French, dated 31 May 1723, names daughter Hannah Carpenter, widow. Dated 16 May 1726, the account of the will's executor, French's son Jonathan, calls David Thurston the husband of Hannah Carpenter (BrCoPR [abstr] 1:119, 134).
- vii. DAVID CARPENTER, b. 17 April 1675, d. Rehoboth 26 July 1701, aged 26; m. Rehoboth 22 Nov. 1697, REBECCA (WARD?) HUNT (widow of Ephraim, m. Rehoboth ca. 1686), b. ca. 1665, d. Rehoboth 14 April 1749, in 85th yr. Widow Rebecca m. (3) Rehoboth 25 Nov. 1706, Samuel Wilson; she m. (4) Rehoboth 25 May 1713, Lt. John Wilson of Billerica, Mass. (not related to Samuel) (RVR 1:93; Old Rehoboth Cem 16; RI Cems 63; NEHGR 159:60–63). Fourteen years Ephraim Hunt's junior and about ten years younger than Hunt's widow, David had been bound out to him and presumably remained in the Hunt household until turning twenty-one, if not longer. His marrying Rebecca (a year and a half after coming of age) probably grew out of their close living and working conditions, which extended through at least the first two years of her widowhood (NEHGR 159:61–62).
- viii. SOLOMON CARPENTER, b. 23 Dec. 1677, d. South Kingstown, R.I., between 30 April (will) and 8 Oct. 1750 (probate); m. prob. South Kingstown, before 1703 (1st child b. 4 Jan. 1703), ELIZABETH TEFFT, b. Providence, R.I., or Kingstown (that part now South Kingstown) say 1682, d. before 30 April 1750 (not named in Solomon's will), dau. of Samuel and Elizabeth (Jenckes?) Tefft (Austin 36, 113, 392, 393; RIVR 5:2 [South Kingstown]:40; NEHGR 159:58–59, 362; Prov Co Hist 2:119). For definitive evidence that this Solomon was the son of Samuel³ Carpenter—not of the latter's brother Abiah, as often stated—see NEHGR 159:362. A secondary source presents Elizabeth (Tefft) Carpenter's birth date as 29 Sept. 1687 (see Ancestral Lines 618). But as the Tefft Family Association's genealogist confirms, there is no known documentary source for this—or for attributing to Elizabeth's mother the maiden name Jenckes (Tim Tefft, e-mail to this writer). In light of Solomon's birth date and that of their first child, a 1687 birth date for Elizabeth seems too late by several years.
- To view Library of Congress photographs of the Solomon Carpenter house, in South Kingstown, click [here](#).
- ix. ZACHARIAH CARPENTER, b. 1 (not 10) July 1680, d. Rehoboth 8 April 1718, aged 38; m. Rehoboth 8 Nov. 1705, MARTHA IDE, b. Rehoboth 18 March 1682/3, d. there (as Martha Walker) 22 Aug. 1756 (not 17 June 1727, date of their dau. Martha's death), dau. of Nicholas and Mary (Perrin) (Ormsby) Ide. Widow Martha m. (2) Rehoboth 24 March 1718/9, as his 2nd wife, Ephraim Carpenter, b. 25 April 1681, d. Rehoboth 30 April 1743, aged 62, son of William³ and Miriam (Sale) Carpenter; m. (3) Rehoboth 8 Dec. 1748, as his 3rd wife, Peter Walker (his 2nd wife was widow Martha Read [d. 1647/8]), b. Rehoboth 18 Sept. 1689, d. there 24 March 1760, at/in 74th [*sic*] yr. (RVR 1:9, 43, 44, 45, 46, 53, 54, 174 [not 170], 2:8, 134, 145, 231, 238, 250, 256, 264, 3:359, 361; Early Rehoboth 1:112; BrCoPR [abstr] 1:157, 340, 2:263, 265; Old Rehoboth Cem 14, 53; RI Cems 68, 372; RVR [pub] 507).
- x. ABRAHAM CARPENTER, b. 25 Sept. 1682, d. Rehoboth 20 or 22 April 1758, in 75th yr.; m. (1) Rehoboth 1 May 1705, ABIELL/ABIALL (not Abigail) BULLARD, b. Medfield, Mass., 29 [prob. Sept. or Oct. 1681], d. 5 June 1713, dau. of Joseph and Sarah (_____) Bullard (also Bullerd/Bullward/Bullen); m. (2) Rehoboth 22 April 1714, ELEANOR (WATERS) CHARD (widow of Caleb, m. Bridgewater, Mass., 23 April 1700; he d. there ca. 1709), b. ca. 1678, d. Rehoboth 27 Dec. 1762, in 85th yr. (RVR 1: 122, 158, 161, 174 [not 170], 3:360, 362; MVR 25–28; BVR 2:393; Porter Gen 19).

COMMENTS: T. E. Delaney’s biographical account of Samuel³ Carpenter (compiled for an undergraduate anthropology class at the University of Virginia) is prominently featured in the notes for Samuel in CECD 2001 (see SamCarpSr). It contains many errors and omissions, however, and should be read with great caution.

Sarah Redway's approximate birth year (1642) and probable birthplace (Hingham) are deduced from her father's having served a three-year term of indenture at Hingham beginning in mid-1637. It is also assumed that he did not marry until the year following his release therefrom, and that the period between his first two children’s births was the typical two years; his second child was born on 10 December 1644 (Early Rehoboth 1:124–26, citing SLR 3:176–77; RVR 1:12).

The published volume of Rehoboth vital records has widow Sarah (Redway) (Carpenter) Brooks’s date of death as 8 January 1717/8 and describes her in that record as a “stranger” (non-inhabitant) (see RVR [pub] 804). That information, however, belongs to an adjacent entry; the original record gives her date of death as 15 July 1717 (RVR 2:230).

James¹ Redway’s wife has not been identified. Mary Whipple is sometimes mentioned, but she married in 1748, as his second wife, Capt. James³ Redway (RVR 2:266).

KEY TO SOURCE NOTES:

Ancestral Lines	Carl Boyer, <i>Ancestral Lines</i> , 3rd ed. (Santa Clarita, Calif., 1998)
Austin	John Osborne Austin, <i>The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island</i> , rev. ed. (Baltimore, 1969)
BrCoPR	Bristol County, Massachusetts, Probate Records, vols. 1–4 [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #461,882]
BrCoPR [abstr]	H. L. Peter Rounds, <i>Abstracts of Bristol County, Massachusetts, Probate Records</i> , 2 vols. (Baltimore, 1988)
BrCoPR [packets]	Bristol County, Massachusetts, Probate Files (Carpenter, Caroline – Carpenter, Jarvis) [FHL film #572,197]
BVR	<i>Vital Records of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850</i> , 2 vols. (Boston, 1916)

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)
CVR	<i>Births, Marriages, Baptisms and Deaths, from the Records of the Town and Churches in Coventry, Connecticut, 1711–1844</i> , ed. Susan Whitney Dimock (New York, 1897)
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)
GM	Robert Charles Anderson, George Freeman Sanborn Jr., and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, <i>The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635, Volume I A–B</i> (Boston, 1999)
GMB	Robert Charles Anderson, <i>The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633</i> , 3 vols. (Boston, 1995)
MD	<i>The Mayflower Descendant</i> , vol. 1 through present (1899–1937, 1985–)
MidCoPR	Robert M. Rodgers, <i>Middlesex County . . . Records of Probate and Administration, October 1649 – December 1660</i> (Boston, 1999)
MVR	<i>Vital Records of Medfield, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850</i> (Boston, 1903)
NEHGR	<i>The New England Historical and Genealogical Register</i> , vol. 1 (1847) through present
NorVR	<i>Vital Records of Norwich 1659–1848</i> , 2 vols. (Hartford, 1913)
NVR	Northampton, Massachusetts, Vital Records [FHL film #186,161]
Old Rehoboth Cem	Marion Pearce Carter, “Old Rehoboth Cemetery . . . Near Newman’s Church” (Attleborough, 1932; typescript) [FHL film #22,366, item 16]

PCLR	Plymouth Colony Deeds, vols. 2–4 [FHL film #567,789]
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)
Pilgrim Laws	John D. Cushing, ed., <i>The Laws of the Pilgrims: A Facsimile Edition of The Book of the General Laws of the Inhabitants of the Jurisdiction of New-Plymouth. 1672 & 1685</i> (Wilmington, Del., 1977)
Porter Gen	Joseph W. Porter, <i>A Genealogy of the Descendants of Richard Porter, Who Settled at Weymouth, Mass., 1635 . . .</i> (Bangor, Maine, 1878)
Prov Co Hist	Richard M. Bayles, ed., <i>History of Providence County, Rhode Island</i> , 2 vols. (New York, 1891)
RI Cems	The Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Transcription Project Master Index, online at www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/cemetery
RIVR	James N. Arnold, <i>Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636–1850</i> , 21 vols. (Providence, 1891–1912)
RPropR	Rehoboth, Massachusetts, Proprietors Records, vols. 1–4 [FHL film #550,004]; transcription of vols. 1–2 also available [FHL #550,001]
RTM	Rehoboth, Massachusetts, Town Meeting Records, vols. 1 and 2 [FHL films #562,558 (uncatalogued), item 4, and #562,561, item 2, respectively]
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 RVR [pub]

RVR [pub]	James N. Arnold, <i>Vital Record of Rehoboth, 1642–1896</i> (Providence, 1897)
SamCarpSr	T. E. Delaney, “Samuel Carpenter, Sr., of Rehoboth, Plymouth Colony” (1999), online at www.histarch.uiuc.edu/plymouth/Carpenter.html , a Plymouth Colony Archive Project webpage
SLR	Suffolk County, Massachusetts, Deeds
StVR [Barbour]	<i>The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records: Stafford 1719–1850, Tolland 1715–1850</i> (Baltimore, 2002)
SwVR	Swansea, Massachusetts, Vital Records [FHL film #903,395, item 5]
TAG	<i>The American Genealogist</i> , vol. 9 (1932) through present

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