

WILLIAM³ CARPENTER (*WILLIAM*²⁻¹)
OF REHOBOTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Eugene Cole Zubrinsky, FASG
Ojai, California, 2008
Last revised 25 January 2017

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

WILLIAM³ CARPENTER (*William*² of Rehoboth, *William*¹) was baptized at Shalbourne, Berkshire, England, on 25 December (not 22 November) 1631 and died at Rehoboth, Massachusetts, on 26 January 1702/3, aged 72. He married first at Rehoboth on 5 October 1651, **PRISCILLA BENNETT**, who died there on 20 October 1663, probable daughter (widow?) of Edward Bennett of Weymouth, Massachusetts Bay Colony, and Rehoboth. William married second at Rehoboth on 10 12th month [February] 1663[/4], **MIRIAM SALE**, born between say 1644 (estimated age 20 at marriage) and about 1646 (see age at death) and died at Rehoboth on 1 May 1722, aged 76 (not 93), daughter of Edward Sale(s) (also Saile/Sails/Seal[l]e/Sall [the last probably comparable to *Abigall*]; occasionally S[e]arle[s]) of Weymouth and Rehoboth. All are buried in Old Rehoboth (Newman) Cemetery, in that part of Rehoboth now East Providence, Rhode Island (TAG 70:194, 204 [date correction forthcoming]; RVR 1:50, 178 [not 179], 2:234; Old Rehoboth Cem 14 [William “3rd”]; RI Cems 63, 69; BrCoPR 2:74–76; GM 1:253–54, 6:141–45; Rehoboth Hist 34, 38–39 [widow Bennett, 1646/7]; MBCR 1:98, 202–3, 225; PCR 4:83; NEHGR 65:63–65; Hotten 70; see also COMMENTS, 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.]

IMMIGRATION: William³ was the third 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 (probably 1638); and Rehoboth (1644).

OCCUPATION: Planter. He owned a “long Cross cutt saw” (willed to house-carpenter son John) and other, unspecified tools, suggesting some carpentry skills (see BrCoPR 2: 74, 103).

FREEMAN: Propounded 6 June 1660 but not admitted until 1 June 1663 (PCR 3:188, 4:38).

EDUCATION: He was for almost thirty-five years Rehoboth town clerk. His will mentions several volumes (mainly theological), and his estate inventory includes an item for unspecified books valued at £3 10s.

OFFICES: Surveying activity for the town, 1659, 1660, 1663, 1663/4, 1666, 1679, 1684, 1685 (probably other years); way warden (surveyor [overseer] of highways), 1659, 1675; constable, 1663; town clerk, 1668–1692, 1694–1702/3; coroner’s jury, 1668, 1679; committee to settle bounds between Rehoboth North Purchase and Taunton, 1670; chosen North Purchase “clerk of the community,” 1682; rater/assessor, 1679–1686, 1690–1691, 1694, 1696, 1700; juryman at Plymouth, 1682/3; committee to seat the meeting-house, 1683; townsman, 1683–1686, and selectman, 1687–1689, 1691–1693, 1695–1701 (see below); town treasurer, 1694, 1697–1699; “juror for trials,” 1694; pound keeper, 1694; committee to engage schoolmaster, 1700 (PCR 4:38, 5:6, 167, 6:8, 24, 28, 143–44, 206, 264, 7:258–60; RTM 1:59r/129, 69r–v/149–50, 72v/156, 2:10–89 passim; Rehoboth Hist 61, 66, 70, 121, 122, 171; Early Rehoboth 1:31, 51).

As terms of elective office in early New England, *townsman* and *selectman* are generally regarded as synonymous. There are instances, however, in which treating them as such is inappropriate. In Rehoboth from 1644 through 1686, a townsman was someone elected to a board of usually seven men to manage the town’s affairs. From 1666 through 1686, a Rehoboth selectman was someone (usually also a townsman) chosen to sit on a “select court” of three (1666–1684) or five (1685–1686) local magistrates to adjudicate minor civil disputes. The Plymouth Colony General Court had in 1665 expanded the powers of a town’s “select men” (town councilmen) to include this judicial function. In contrast to the town of Plymouth, for example, which chose a single set of officers (selectmen) during this period, Rehoboth (and adjacent Swansea) elected its governing board (townsmen) and local magistrates (selectmen) separately. The 1685 edition of colony laws (distributed in mid-1686) reaffirms that both roles belong to the single office of selectman. (The previous edition, published in 1672, does not do so.) Presumably in response to this, Rehoboth in 1687 ceased electing townsmen (as had Swansea in 1686). From 1683 through 1701, William³ was named to Rehoboth’s governing board every year but two, first as a townsman, then as a selectman; in the latter post, his duties included those of local magistrate (Rehoboth Hist 29, 62; RTM 1:12r/35, 12v/36–108r/219 passim, 2:10–55 passim; PCR 6:9, 115, 206, 264, 11:213, 227, 238; PTR 82–205 passim; SwTM 9–86 passim; Pilgrim Laws xviii, 18 [1672], 22 [1685]).

Amos B. Carpenter has William³ as deputy to the General Court in 1656 and 1668 and, in the latter year, also as deacon of the Rehoboth church (see Carpenter [1898] 44). The deputy of that name in 1656, however, was his father (see William² of Rehoboth sketch, OFFICES). William³ was ineligible for the office until becoming a freeman, in 1663 (see FREEMAN, above). Leonard Bliss lists Rehoboth’s deputies to the General Court at Plymouth (1646–1692) and Boston (from 1693), and, except for 1656, the name William

Carpenter is not among them; the deputies in 1668 were Peter Hunt and Henry Smith (Rehoboth Hist 168–69; PCR 4:180).

Neither was William—in 1668 or ever—a deacon. Bliss’s history of Rehoboth (almost certainly Amos Carpenter’s source for this) quotes a 1668 town record as mentioning a Deacon Carpenter (see Rehoboth Hist 68). The original record, however, shows the surname to be Cooper, which is consistent with many other records, dated between 1650 (at least) and 1690, referring to Deacon [sometimes Thomas] Cooper (see RTM 1:86/179; Rehoboth Hist 62, 67, 69, 70; Early Rehoboth 1:29, 56, 2:42, 44, 3:94n4, 4:13; RVR 1:87 [not 89]).

WILL/ESTATE: William Carpenter’s will, dated 10 November 1702 and proved 20 April 1703, names as legatees wife Miriam (executrix); sons John (eldest), William, Benjamin, Josiah, Nathaniel, Daniel, Noah, Obadiah, and Ephraim; and daughters Priscilla, Miriam, Hannah, and Abigail. His estate, inventoried on 5 February 1702/3, was valued at £215 5s. 4d., including housing and lands. Between 25 May 1703 and 15 May 1704, the widow/executrix obtained receipts confirming her distribution of William’s estate to all the sons except Benjamin (living at Northampton) and to daughters Priscilla (Mrs. Richard) Sweet, Miriam (Mrs. Jonathan) Bliss, and Hannah Carpenter (her receipt is dated eight weeks before her marriage). That daughter Abigail appears not to have received her share at this time is explainable by her youth and the likelihood that her mother was her guardian (BrCoPR 2:74–76, 103–4; see also OCCUPATION and EDUCATION, above).

CHILDREN: All born at Rehoboth (RVR 1:9).

With first wife:

- i. JOHN⁴ CARPENTER, b. 19 Oct. 1652, d. Dedham, Mass., after 13 May 1708, probably on 9 April 1713; m. (1) prob. Rehoboth, by 1677 (1st child, Amos [not Aaron], b. 19 Dec. 1677), [Rebecca Redway](#), b. Rehoboth mid-Feb. 1654, d. Woodstock, Conn., 29 Dec. 1702, dau. of James¹ Redway and unknown wife (*not* Mary Whipple [2nd wife of James³ Redway]); m. (2) prob. Dedham, between 29 Dec. 1702 and 7 March 1705/6, SARAH (FULLER) DAY, widow of Ralph Day of Dedham. Widow Sarah m. (3) Dedham 27 July 1721, Samuel Ware (not Ward) (WorCoLR 7:355; SufCoPR 16:127–28, 434; DeVR 17, 24, 37, 47; RVR 1:12, 35; WVR 1:11; PCPR 4:2:73).

Eight children are recorded at Rehoboth (eighth is Martha, b. 30 Jan. 1691/2) and two more at Woodstock: *Rebecca* (b. 4 Nov. 1694, d. Dedham 24 Jan. 1723[4], aged 29; m. Dorchester, Mass. [also rec. Dedham], 29 Dec. 1715, Benjamin Colburn, b. Dedham 25 May 1689, d. there 15 Aug. 1747, aged 58y 2m 18d, son of Benjamin and Bethia (Bullen) Colburn); and *Anna* (b. 1 March 1696/7, d. Woodstock 13 Dec. 1717, unm.) (RVR 1:35; WVR 1:4, 5, 27, 3:1; DeVR 23, 37, 49, 50, 78; DVR 107; Dedham 1st Par Cem; Pope 78). Amos Carpenter adds a son John, who he says “m. prob. *Ruth Inman*, of Cranston, R. I.” (Carpenter [1898] 64), but supporting evidence is neither given nor has it been found. (The John Carpenter who on 20 Nov. 1763 married Ruth Inman was probably he, “late of Smithfield,” R.I., who died at Providence, 15 April 1806, in his 69th year, son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Rhodes)

Carpenter of Providence, Cranston, and Smithfield [RIVR 2:2(Cranston):9, 13:250; NEHGR 114:282–84].) John⁴ Carpenter took his family from Rehoboth to Woodstock about 1692 (not 1690) (RVR 1:35; WVR 1[reverse]:29, 30, 31).

- ii. WILLIAM CARPENTER, b. 20 June 1659, d. Attleborough, Mass., 10 March 1718/9, in 60th yr.; m. Rehoboth 8 April 1685, ELIZABETH ROBINSON, b. Rehoboth 3 April 1657, living 17 April 1725, dau. of George and Joanna (Ingraham) Robinson (AVR 648; RVR 1:8 [not 88], 44, 48; BrCoPR [abstr] 1:141).
- iii. PRISCILLA CARPENTER, b. 24 July 1661, d. East Greenwich, R.I., 1745; m. prob. Rehoboth, say 1681, RICHARD SWEET, b. prob. Warwick, R.I., say 1660, d. East Greenwich (not Westerly), R.I., 1744, son of John² and Elizabeth (_____) Sweet; both bur. Richard Sweet Lot, East Greenwich (RI Cems 313; Austin 110, 121, 194–95; WarTR 105–7). Richard Sweet was elder of North Kingstown Six Principle Baptist Church, 1710–1740 (NKingstown Hist 438).

Electronic databases often identify Richard Sweet's mother, Elizabeth, as the daughter of Robert Jeffreys. This appears to be based solely on the fact that Elizabeth Jeffreys (aged 6 in 1635) and Elizabeth (_____) (Sweet) Wilson (aged 55 [not 45] in 1684)—the latter had been the longtime wife of Richard's father, John² Sweet (d. 1677)—were both born about 1629 (see Hotten 77; Austin 194–95). In his sketch of John¹ Sweet, however, Robert Charles Anderson gives no surname for John² Sweet's wife (GMB 3:1789–90). And in his sketch of Robert Jeffreys, Anderson states that “[n]o record for any member of this family has been found in New England after 1646 [WP 5:118], so they probably returned to England or removed to some other colony outside New England” (GM 4:33 [WP = *Winthrop Papers*]).

- iv. BENJAMIN CARPENTER, b. 20 Oct. 1663, d. Coventry, Conn., 18 April 1738, in 74th yr. (g.s., aged 73); m. Northampton, Mass., probably 1691 [but not 4 or 14 March], HANNAH STRONG, b. Northampton 3 Feb. 1670[1], d. Coventry 20 March 1762, in 92nd yr., dau. of Jedediah and Freedom (Woodward) Strong (CVR 176; Cov Cem Inscr; NVR 1:12, 15, 95, 102). Benjamin was of Northampton (his home since at least 1691) when on 22 June 1708 he quitclaimed to his brother Nathaniel a portion of the estate their father had left Benjamin. He was of Coventry by 1 July 1709, when he quitclaimed the remainder of his legacy to his brother William; the deed describes him as late of Northampton and formerly of Rehoboth (Carpenter [1898] 53; recorded documents not found).

Benjamin W. Dwight's 1871 Strong genealogy, repeating published transcriptions of Caleb Strong's 1777 manuscript, gives Benjamin Carpenter and Hannah Strong's marriage date as 4 March 1691 (Strong Gen 1:xxv–xxvii, at xxvi, 2:952; NEHGR 8:180–83, at 182, 23:294–96, at 295; see also Carpenter [1898] 53 [m. 14 March 1691]). The Northampton marriage record of that date (actually 1690/1), however, pertains to Ebenezer Pomeroy and a different Hannah Strong, born 7 Oct. 1669, dau. of Ebenezer and Hannah (Clapp) Strong (NVR 1:12, 95, 102; NEHGR 15:225; Strong Gen 1:xxvii, 2:1120). Immediately below it—undated—is the Carpenter–Strong marriage record, one of seven such entries (another gives only the year) out of the fifteen records on that page; a cluster of three undated marriage records also appears near the bottom of the previous page (NVR 1:101–2). (Except for those fifteen records—the eight containing at least a partial date have respective years of 1685, 1686 [2], 1690/1, and 1691 [4]—there is a gap in Northampton marriage records from 1684 to 1695 [NVR 1:101–3].) Based on the dated records surrounding Benjamin and Hannah's undated one, and on the 13 July 1692 birth date of their first child (NVR 1:26), it is probable that they did marry in 1691 [New Style, year beginning 1 Jan.]. The day and month, however, are unknown.

Amos Carpenter presents correct birth data for Benjamin and Hannah's son Jedediah (Northampton, 1 Oct. 1697) but otherwise confuses him with another Jedediah Carpenter, a blacksmith, born at Rehoboth 15 Dec. 1696 and died there 15 Dec. 1731, son of Samuel⁴ and Patience (Ide) Carpenter; the latter married 24 May 1725

Mercy Brown of Barrington, Mass. (now in R.I.) (Carpenter [1898] 65, 96–97; CVR 19; BrCoPR 7:313–14; RVR 1:48, 56, 2:144, 241; RI Cems 69; see also [Samuel3 Carpenter sketch](#), CHILDREN, no. i). Benjamin and Hannah’s son Jedediah, of Coventry and Stafford, Conn., died at the latter place on 2 March 1781; his unnamed widow died there on 9 Jan. 1784, aged 84 (StVR [Barbour] 2:177; StChR 69). They had seven known children, 2–7 baptized at Bolton (adjacent to Coventry): 1. *Daniel*, b. Coventry or Bolton by 1725; 2. *Joel*, bp. 10 Dec. 1727; 3. *Ruth*, bp. 4 Jan. 1730; 4. *Nathan*, bp. 2 April 1732; 5. *Samuel*, bp. 28 July 1734; 6. *Dorcas*, bp. 22 Feb. 1736; 7. *Ezekiel*, bp. 25 June 1738 (CLR 4:470; NEHGR 52:180–85).

With second wife:

- v. JOSIAH CARPENTER, b. 18 Dec. 1664, d. Rehoboth 28 or 29 Feb. 1727/8 [leap year], in 64th yr.; m. Rehoboth 24 Nov. 1692, ELIZABETH READ, b. Rehoboth 25 Jan. 1668, d. there 8 Oct. 1739, aged 72, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth (Clark) Read (RVR 1:24, 44, 162 [not 94], 163 [not 95], 2:238, 247; Early Rehoboth 2:89; Old Rehoboth Cem 18; RI Cems 68, 69).
- vi. NATHANIEL CARPENTER, b. 12 May 1667, d. prob. Rehoboth or Attleborough, date unknown (not 28 Feb. 1727 [see bro. Josiah, above]), living 1740/1 (will); m. (1) Rehoboth 19 Sept. 1692 or 18 Sept. 1693, RACHEL COOPER, b. Rehoboth 6 Aug. 1671, d. or bur. there 9 July 1694, aged 23, dau. of Thomas Jr. and Mary (Kingsbury) Cooper; of Attleborough when he m. (2) Dorchester 13 10th mo. [Dec.] 1695, MARY PRESTON, b. Dorchester 1 Sept. 1675, d. Rehoboth 26 (not 25) May 1706, in 31st yr., dau. of Daniel and Abigail (Jackson) Preston; m. (3) Rehoboth 18 (not 8) July 1707, MARY (SABIN) COOPER (widow of Nathaniel), b. Rehoboth 8 Sept. 1675, d. there 9 April 1712, aged 36, dau. of William and Martha (Allen) Sabin; of Attleborough when he m. (4) Roxbury, Mass., 13 Nov. 1716, MARY (DAVIS) BACON (widow of George), bp. Roxbury 14 1st or 2nd mo. [March or April] 1675 (Mary, dau. of John) or b. there 6 or 16 April 1676 (Marie, dau. of John), dau. of John and Mary/Marie (Devotion) Davis (Carpenter [1898] 53 [unrecorded will]; RVR 1:7, 10, 89 [not 91], 93a, 162 [not 94], 163 [not 95], 164 [not 96], 160, 175 [not 171], 178 [not 179], 181 [not 173]; NEHGR 5:255, 14:26, 16:338, 36:52; DVR 14, 102; Old Rehoboth Cem 16, 18; RI Cems 69; RVR [pub] 5, 331; RoVR 1:96, 2:17, 62, 108, 459; Davis Fams 43–46; Woodstock Hist 2:281).
- vii. DANIEL CARPENTER, b. 8 Oct. 1669, d. Rehoboth 14 Sept. 1721; m. (1) Rehoboth 15 April 1695, BETHIAH BLISS, b. Rehoboth __ Aug. 1671, d. there 27 Feb. 1702/3, aged 31, dau. of Jonathan Bliss and probable wife Rachel Puffer (not Miriam Harmon/Wilmarth); m. (2) Rehoboth 30 March 1704, ELIZABETH BUTTERWORTH, b. Rehoboth 15 Jan. 1682/[3?], d. there 13 June 1708, aged 25, dau. of John and Hannah (Wheaton) Butterworth; m. (3) Rehoboth 12 Dec. (intentions 28 Oct.) 1710, MARGARET THURSTON, b. Medfield, Mass., 30 March 1677/8 [*sic*], d. Rehoboth 19 March 1717/8, in 40th yr., dau. of Thomas and Sarah (Thaxter) Thurston; m. (4) Rehoboth 15 Oct. 1718, MARY (HYDE) HUNT (widow of Lt. John), b. Cambridge, Mass., 6 Sept. 1678, living 16 Sept. 1726 (father’s will), dau. of Jonathan and Dorothy (Kidder) Hyde of Cambridge and of Canterbury, Conn. Widow Mary prob. m. (3) Rehoboth 4 Jan. 1727/8, as his 2nd wife, Joseph² Kent and d. Rehoboth after 5 June 1735 (RVR 1:5, 31, 46, 163 [not 95], 173 [not 169], 177, 178 [not 179], 182 [not 174], 2:134, 141, 230, 231, 234; NEHGR 71:261–62, 151:31–37, 159:361–62; MVR 96, 177; RVR [pub] 464; Old Rehoboth Cem 14, 17, 18; RI Cems 63, 68, 69, 185; CaVR 1:350; BVR 268; BrCoPR [abstr] 1:72, 247).
- viii. NOAH CARPENTER, b. 28 March 1672, d. Attleborough between 1 Feb. 1749/50 (will) and 6 April 1756 (probate); m. (1) Dorchester (also rec. Attleborough and Rehoboth) 3 Dec. 1700, SARAH JOHNSON, b. Lynn, Mass., 15 June 1680, d. Attleborough 29 Sept. 1726,

- aged 46, dau. of Daniel and Martha (Tarbox) Johnson (not Matthew Johnson; his dau. Sarah b. Woburn 14 April 1677, d. there 1703; m. there 17 Jan. 1699/1700, Daniel Reed); m. (2) Rehoboth (also rec. Attleborough) 22 May 1727, RUTH (FOSTER) FOLLETT (widow [not daughter] of Abraham Follett of Salem, Mass., and Attleborough), b. prob. Salem 18 Oct. 1684, d. before 9 Nov. 174_ (see below) [d. Rehoboth 10 June 1745, as per Carpenter [1898] 55, but rec. not found there or Attleborough], prob. dau. of Joseph and Anna (Trask) (Wilson) Foster; m. (3) (intentions) Attleborough 9 Nov. 174_ (mar. rec. not found), TABITHA (HADLEY) BISHOP (widow of William), d. aft. 1 Feb. 1749/50 (Noah's will) [d. 7 June 1753, as per Carpenter [1898] 55, but rec. not found] (BrCoPR [abstr] 1:249, 2:181–82; DVR 103; AVR 67, 364, 423, 447, 648, 670; LVR 1:223, 224, 2:209; RVR 1:104, 174 [not 168], 2:141; WoVR 1:128, 2:153, 3:142; SVR 1:311, 319, 3:372, 377; NEHGR 56:73).
- ix. MIRIAM CARPENTER, b. 26 Oct. 1674, d. Rehoboth 21 May 1706, aged 32; m. Rehoboth 23 June 1691, JONATHAN BLISS, b. Rehoboth 17 Sept. 1666, d. there 16 Oct. 1719, son of Jonathan Bliss and probable wife Rachel Puffer (not Miriam Harmon/Wilmarth). Jonathan m. (2) Rehoboth 10 April 1711, MARY FRENCH, dau. of John and Hannah (Palmer) French (RVR 1:5, 37, 46, 86, 162 [not 94], 177, 181 [not 173], 2:232; Old Rehoboth Cem 4; RI Cems 39; NEHGR 151:31–37, 159:361–62).
- x. OBADIAH CARPENTER, b. 12 March 1677/8, d. Rehoboth 25 Oct. 1749, in 73rd yr.; m. prob. Dorchester, intentions Rehoboth 6 Nov. 1703, DELIVERANCE PRESTON, b. Dorchester 14 July 1683, d. Rehoboth 12 June 1767, in 85th yr., dau. of Daniel and Abigail (Jackson) Preston of Dorchester (RVR 2:257; RVR [pub] 436; DVR 19; Old Rehoboth Cem 15; RI Cems 68, 69; NEHGR 5:255, 14:26). Although the dates of Obadiah's probate records begin in 1739, the items predating his recorded date of death are receipts from a couple of his children for goods received from his estate undoubtedly while he was living. His estate inventory was taken on 18 Nov. 1749, and son Edward was appointed administrator of the estate on 5 Dec. 1749 (BrCoPR [abstr] 2:71, 81, 88).
- xi. LT. EPHRAIM CARPENTER, b. 25 April 1681, d. Rehoboth 30 April 1743, aged 62; m. (1) Rehoboth 14 Aug. 1705 (also rec. 1704, but intentions dated 5 May 1705), HANNAH READ, b. Rehoboth 12 April 1682, d. there 13 or 30 Aug. 1717, in 36th yr., dau. of Thomas and Hannah/Anna (Perrin) Read; m. (2) Rehoboth 24 March 1718/9, MARTHA (IDE) CARPENTER (widow of Zachariah [*Samuel*^β]), b. Rehoboth 18 March 1682/3, d. there (as Martha Walker) 22 Aug. 1756 (not 17 June 1727, death date of Zachariah and Martha (Ide) Carpenter's dau. Martha), dau. of Nicholas and Mary (Perrin) (Ormsby) Ide. Widow Martha 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, in 7[4?]th [*sic*; probably 71st] yr. (RVR 1:24, 43, 45, 46, 53, 54, 173 [not 169], 174 [not 170], 2:8, 145, 134, 230, 231, 238, 250, 256, 264, 3:359, 361; RVR [pub] 78 [mar. int.], 507; Early Rehoboth 1:112; Old Rehoboth Cem 14, 18, 53, 54; RI Cems 68, 69, 372; BrCoPR [abstr] 1:157, 340, 2:263, 265).
- xii. HANNAH CARPENTER, b. 10 April 1684, d. prob. Rehoboth, after 19 Jan. 1767 (probate-court order); m. Rehoboth 23 Nov. 1703, JONATHAN CHAFFEE, b. there 7 April 1678, d. there 31 Dec. 1766, in 89th yr., son of Nathaniel and Experience (Bliss) Chaffee (MD 49:125; RVR 1:42, 173 [not 169], 364; SwVR A:107; Old Rehoboth Cem 19; RI Cems 73).
- xiii. ABIGAIL CARPENTER, b. 15 April 1687, d. Rehoboth 15 Jan. 1781, in 94th yr.; m. Rehoboth 12 Nov. 1706, DANIEL PERRIN, b. Rehoboth 18 March 1682[3?], d. there 29 March 1754, in 71st yr., son of John and Mary (Polley) Perrin (Early Rehoboth, 1:112–13, 115; Old Rehoboth Cem 43; RI Cems 281; RVR 1:33, 175 [not 171], 3:358).

COMMENTS: Priscilla Bennett is often said in electronic databases to have been born at Weymouth, England, on 5 October 1631, and her mother's name is sometimes given as Elizabeth/Alice Egington; never, however, do primary-source citations accompany these claims. That the date is exactly twenty years before that of Priscilla's marriage to William Carpenter raises suspicion that it originated from an estimate of her age on the latter date. It is not certain, moreover, what Priscilla's relationship to Edward Bennett was (see first paragraph, above). And in any case, his origin and the identity of his wife are unknown. But even if, for example, a baptismal record (parish registers do not record births) of a Priscilla, daughter of Edward Bennett, were found, it would not by itself be sufficient to conclude that such a pair were Carpenter's eventual wife and father-in-law.

Edward Sale's first wife, Margaret _____, was in 1637 convicted of adultery with two men (MBCR 1:198, 202–3; GM 6:142–43, 145). In 1637/8 all three were sentenced to be whipped and banished, "never to return again, on pain of death" (MBCR 1:225; GM 6:143). It is often assumed that Margaret was Miriam Sale's mother, but this has not been established and, in light of the above, is open to serious doubt. By 1664 Edward Sale's wife was Rebecca _____, who in that year hanged herself at Rehoboth (PCR 4:83; RVR 1:50; GM 6:143). Miriam had a sister, Rebecca, who was probably older than she (GM 6:144). If this Rebecca was named after her mother, it is likely that Miriam was the latter's child also. In a letter dated at Weymouth in 1690, William³ Carpenter's son Daniel conveys greetings to him from "Grandfather [Edward Sale] and Grandmother and unkeel Natthanell [Nathaniel Sale]," all then living at Weymouth (Carpenter [1898] 54; GM 6:144). From this we conclude that Edward had again remarried.

The will of Stephen French of Weymouth, dated in 1678/9, mentions "my sister Mary Randol" and "my brother Searle." Robert Charles Anderson identifies the latter as "almost certainly Edward Sales of Weymouth" and goes on to say that "Edward Sales's [first] wife was Margaret _____." This family strongly resembles that of Richard French of Misterton, Somersetshire, who had (among others) Steven and Margerie with his first wife, and Mary and Joseph with his second. None of these children is mentioned in the 1638 will of their father" (GMB 1:701–2). The reader will note that Anderson stops short of identifying Edward Sale's wife Margaret as Stephen French's sister.

KEY TO SOURCE NOTES:

Austin John Osborne Austin, *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island*, rev. ed. (Baltimore, 1969)

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]
- BrCoPR [abstr] H. L. Peter Rounds, *Abstracts of Bristol County, Massachusetts, Probate Records*, 2 vols. (Baltimore, 1988)
- BVR *Vital Records of Billerica, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, 1908)
- 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)
- CaVR *Vital Records of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1914)
- CLR Coventry, Connecticut, Deeds, vols. 3–4 [FHL film #3,848]
- Cov Cem Inscr Cemetery inscriptions of Coventry, Connecticut [FHL film #3,328, item 2], in Charles R. Hale Collection [of Newspaper Notices and Headstone Inscriptions]; Nathan Hale Cemetery inscriptions, on Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Records website, at http://dunhamwilcox.net/ct/nathan_hale_coventry_cem.htm
- CVR *Births, Marriages, Baptisms and Deaths, from the Records of the Town and Churches in Coventry, Connecticut, 1711–1844*, ed. Susan Whitney Dimock (New York, 1897)
- Davis Fams Samuel Forbes Rockwell, *Davis Families of Early Roxbury and Boston* (North Andover, Mass., 1932)
- Dedham 1st Par Cem First Parish Cemetery, Dedham, in Cemetery Transcriptions from the NEHGS Manuscript Collections, online at www.newenglandancestors.org/research/database/cemeteries/default.asp
- DeVR *The Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths . . . in the Town of Dedham, Volumes 1 & 2 . . .*, ed. Don Gleason Hill (Dedham, Mass., 1892)

DVR	<i>Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths to the End of 1825</i> , Twenty-first Report of the Boston Record Commissioners (Boston, 1890)
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); Robert Charles Anderson, <i>The Great Migration . . . Volume IV I–L</i> (Boston, 2005) and <i>Volume VI R–S</i> (Boston, 2009)
GMB	Robert Charles Anderson, <i>The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633</i> , 3 vols. (Boston, 1995)
Hotten	John C. Hotten, ed., <i>The Original Lists of Persons of Quality . . .</i> (London, 1874)
LVR	<i>Vital Records of Lynn, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849</i> , 2 vols. (Salem, 1905)
MBCR	<i>Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, 1628–1886</i> , ed. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, 5 vols. in 6 (Boston, 1853–1854)
MD	<i>The Mayflower Descendant</i> , vol. 1 through present (1899–1937, 1985–)
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
NKingstown Hist	J[oseph] R. Cole, “Town of North Kingstown,” chap. 11 in <i>History of Washington and Kent Counties, Rhode Island</i> (New York, 1889)

NVR	Northampton, Massachusetts, Vital Records [FHL film #186,161]
Old Rehoboth Cem	Marion Pearce Carter, "Old Rehoboth Cemetery . . . Near Newman's Church" (Attleborough, Mass., 1932; typescript) [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)
PCPR	Plymouth Colony Probate Records [Wills and Inventories, 1633–1686], vols. 1–4 [FHL film #567,794]
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)
Pope	Charles Henry Pope, <i>The Pioneers of Massachusetts</i> (Boston, 1900)
PTR	<i>Records of the Town of Plymouth</i> , vol. 1 (Plymouth, Mass., 1889)
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
RIVR	James N. Arnold, <i>Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636–1850</i> , 21 vols. (Providence, 1891–1912); digital images online at www.ancestry.com
RoVR	<i>Vital Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849</i> , 2 vols. (Salem, 1925–1926)
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 pages cited in RVR [pub]
RVR [pub]	James N. Arnold, <i>Vital Record of Rehoboth, 1642–1896</i> (Providence, 1897)
StChR	Records of the First Congregational Church, Stafford, Connecticut, 1757–1817 (transcr.) [FHL film #1,013,276, item 10]
Strong Gen	Benjamin W. Dwight, <i>The History of the Descendants of Elder John Strong, of Northampton, Mass.</i> , 2 vols. (Albany, 1871)
StVR [Barbour]	<i>The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records: Stafford 1719–1850, Tolland 1715–1850</i> (Baltimore, 2002)
SufCoPR	Suffolk County, Massachusetts, Probate Records [FHL film #584,132, item 2]
SVR	<i>Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849</i> , 6 vols. (Salem, 1916–1925)
SwTM	Swansea, Massachusetts, Town Meetings, 1670–1718 [FHL film #903,396, item 5]
SwVR	Swansea, Massachusetts, Vital Records [FHL film #903,395, item 5]
TAG	<i>The American Genealogist</i> , vol. 9 (1932) through present
WarTR	<i>More Early Records of the Town of Warwick, Rhode Island</i> , ed. Cherry Fletcher Bamburg and Jane Fletcher Fiske (Boston, 2001)
Woodstock Hist	Clarence Winthrop Bowen, <i>The History of Woodstock, Connecticut</i> , 8 vols. (Norwood, Mass., 1926–1943)

- WorCoLR Worcester County, Massachusetts, Deeds [FHL film #843,214, item 2]
- WoVR Edward F. Johnson, *Woburn Records of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, from 1640 to 1873*, 4 vols. (Woburn, Mass., 1890–1894)
- WVR Woodstock Vital [and Town] Records, vols. 1–4 (Book 1 has early town meeting records at back of volume, upside down; Book 3 includes vital records transcribed from Book 1 and elsewhere by town clerk Elisha Childs [1724/5–1798]) [FHL film #1,376,372]

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.

Gene Zubrinsky (GeneZub@aol.com) has contributed many articles, including four Carpenter pieces, to the leading genealogical journals and local-history magazines.