

william Carpenter born abt 1610 died feb 1659

There are **two prominent William Carpenters** in early colonial New England, often confused due to their similar names and overlapping dates:

William Carpenter of Rehoboth	William Carpenter of Providence (Rhode Island)
Born: about 1605, England	Born: about 1610, probably Amesbury, Wiltshire, England
Died: 7 February 1658 (Old Style), Rehoboth, MA	Died: 7 September 1685, Pawtuxet, Providence, RI
Notable for: Early settler of Rehoboth, Plymouth Colony	Notable for: Co-founder of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Death date confusion: In the Old Style (Julian) calendar, the year began on March 25, so 7 February 1658 Old Style is 7 February 1659 New Style ^[1] ^[2] .	

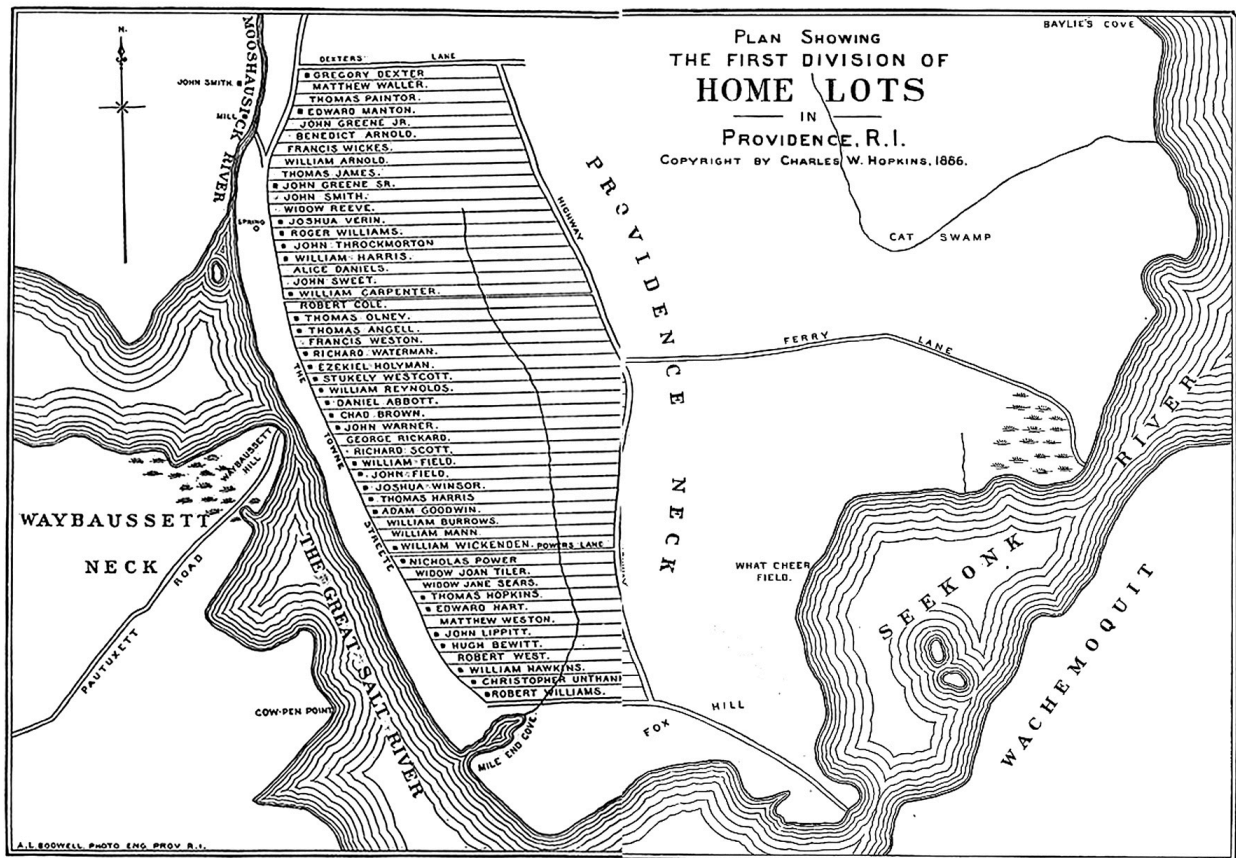
Your query matches most closely to **William Carpenter of Rehoboth**, who:

- Was born about **1605** in England
- Died **7 February 1658 Old Style** (which is considered **7 February 1659 New Style**) in Rehoboth, Plymouth Colony (now Massachusetts)^[1] ^[2].
- The confusion over year comes from the calendar change from Julian to Gregorian: dates between 1 January and 24 March before 1752 are often shown as 1658/9^[1] ^[2].

The other William Carpenter—**of Providence, Rhode Island**—was born about 1610 and died in 1685. This is a different individual^[3] ^[4] ^[5] ^[6].

In summary:

William Carpenter, born about 1605 in England, died **7 February 1658 (Old Style)**—equivalent to **7 February 1659 (New Style)**—in Rehoboth, Plymouth Colony^[1] ^[2].



Map showing the first division of home lots in early Providence, R.I., copyrighted by Charles W. Hopkins in 1886.



What sources can I trust for accurate information on William Carpenter's life

For **accurate information** on the life of William Carpenter (both the Rehoboth and Providence settlers), the most **trustworthy sources** are:

- **WikiTree** — Collaboration among genealogists and researchers provides detailed profiles, family relationships, sources, and expert commentary, with notes about conflicting information and documentation practices^[7] ^[8].
- **ISOGG Wiki** — The International Society of Genetic Genealogy offers well-researched biographical accounts, genealogical discussions, and, notably, incorporates findings from **Y-DNA genetic research** projects (such as the Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project), helping clarify family relationships and debunk unsupported claims^[9].
- **Reputable genealogical publications** — These include cited works like *Genealogy as Pastime and Profession* by Donald Lines Jacobus and New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) eNews, particularly valuable for interpreting historical records and understanding date conventions^[7].

Wikipedia can provide a summary and useful references, but should be cross-checked with primary sources and recognized genealogical platforms^[10]. [Geni.com](https://www.geni.com) and similar genealogy aggregators may help find leads but vary in reliability and require verification against sourced research^[11].

For disputes about relationships between different Carpenter families, look for sources that directly address genealogical evidence and DNA studies, such as ISOGG and major Y-DNA projects^[9].

Primary sources (original town records, church registers, wills), when cited or digitized, give the most direct evidence; check whether secondary sources provide such references^[7].

Avoid unsourced family lore or sites lacking clear citation, as confusion between William Carpenter of Rehoboth and William Carpenter of Providence is common and persists in public genealogies^[9] ^[8].



What role does genetic research play in confirming William Carpenter's family history

Genetic research—specifically Y-DNA analysis—plays a crucial role in confirming and clarifying the family history of William Carpenter of Rehoboth (b. c.1605) and distinguishing him from William Carpenter of Providence (b. c.1610).

Key contributions of genetic research:

- **Verification of Descent:** The Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project has tested dozens of male descendants with documented lineages. Their results show that the direct male lines descending from immigrant William Carpenter of Rehoboth share a distinct Y-DNA signature, providing robust biological evidence that supports documented genealogical lines^[12] ^[13] ^[14].
- **Reconstruction of Ancestral DNA:** By "triangulating" Y-DNA results from many descendants, researchers have reconstructed the likely Y-DNA haplotype (set of genetic markers) of William Carpenter of Rehoboth. His haplogroup is identified as **R1a1a1b1a (R-Z282)**^[12] ^[15].
- **Clarification of Relationships:** DNA comparisons between descendants of the Rehoboth and Providence Carpenter lines indicate that these two Williams were NOT closely related (i.e., not brothers or first cousins). Genetic distance implies their shared ancestor lived several generations before the immigrants, contrary to frequent genealogical claims^[15].
- **Identification of Mutation Patterns:** DNA analysis has also detected mutations unique to certain subgroups within the broader Carpenter family, aiding researchers in mapping specific branches and validating or questioning genealogical records^[14].
- **Grouping of Unlinked Lines:** Some men with the Carpenter surname who match genetically but lack a paper trail have been associated with the known Carpenter group, providing evidence of kinship and sometimes guiding further genealogical investigation^[12] ^[14].

In sum, **genetic research has both confirmed well-documented branches and disproved long-standing but unsupported assumptions about relationships among early Carpenter immigrants**. It is now considered essential alongside traditional historical records for accurate Carpenter family history ^[12] ^[15] ^[13] ^[14] .



1. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Carpenter-19>
2. <https://www.geni.com/people/William-Carpenter-of-Rehoboth/6000000008076790911>
3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Carpenter_\(Rhode_Island_colonist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Carpenter_(Rhode_Island_colonist))
4. [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/articles/William_Carpenter_\(Rhode_Island_colonist\)](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/articles/William_Carpenter_(Rhode_Island_colonist))
5. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Carpenter-1122>
6. [https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:William_Carpenter_\(7\)](https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:William_Carpenter_(7))
7. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Carpenter-19>
8. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Carpenter-1122>
9. https://isogg.org/wiki/William_Carpenter_of_Providence
10. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Carpenter_\(Rhode_Island_colonist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Carpenter_(Rhode_Island_colonist))
11. <https://www.geni.com/people/William-Carpenter-of-Rehoboth/6000000008076790911>
12. https://isogg.org/wiki/Rehoboth_Carpenter_family
13. https://isogg.org/wiki/Carpenter_Cousins_Y-DNA_Project
14. <https://carpentercousins.com/carpdna.htm>
15. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Carpenter-1122>