

George¹ Robinson of Watertown, Massachusetts, and His Children and Grandchildren

Marion Vermazen

The earliest reference to George¹ Robinson found was the record of the birth of his oldest child in Watertown, Massachusetts, on 7 January 1683/4.^[1] His ancestry has not been determined, and so he is treated as the immigrant. The only good published treatment of his family concentrated on his son David, and merely listed the births of the other children.^[2] Earlier publications had misidentified David as the son of William² (*William*¹) Robinson.^[3] A 1985 Robinson genealogy identified the wrong George Robinson as the immigrant ancestor.^[4]

I. GEORGE¹ ROBINSON of Watertown was born say 1657 (age 25 at the birth of his first known child). When he died in 1726, he was said to be of Weston.^[5] He married first in 1683 or earlier, **SARY/SARAH REED**,^[6] born in Woburn 12 February 1665[/6?],^[7] daughter of George² (*William*¹) and Elizabeth (Jennison) Reed.^[8] Sary died in Watertown 5 May 1703.^[9]

¹ *Watertown Records comprising the First and Second Books of Town Proceedings with the Land Grants and Possessions also the Proprietors' Book and the First Book and Supplement of Births Death and Marriages* (Watertown, Mass.: Fred G. Barker, 1894), Births, etc., 54.

² Marsha Hoffman Rising, "David Robinson (1704–1793) of Watertown, Newton, Needham, Weston, Natick and Marlborough, Mass." *The American Genealogist* 67 (1992):136–142.

³ *Ibid.*, *The American Genealogist* 67:136.

⁴ Opal Hanson, *The Family History and Genealogy of Sarah and Munson Robinson* (Racine, Wisc.: Shorecrest Printing, 1985), 14–17. See below for details.

⁵ *Town of Weston, Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1707–1850. 1703–Gravestones–1900. Church Records 1709–1825* (Boston: McIndoe Bros., 1901), 384, no day or month given.

⁶ Charles Hudson, *History of the Town of Lexington, Middlesex County, from Its First Settlement to 1860*, 2 vols. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1913), 558 (page 191 of the Genealogical Register), and Nora Emma Snow, *The Snow-Estes Ancestry*, 2 vols. (Hillburn, N.Y.: privately printed, 1939); 1:328. Both give the date of marriage as 12 December 1685, which is too late.

⁷ Edward F. Johnson, ed., *Woburn Records of Births, Deaths, Marriages, from 1640 to 1873*, 10 vols. (Woburn, Mass.: Andrews, Cutler & Co., 1890–1919), 1:204.

⁸ Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 2011), 2:1285, shows George Robinson's wife Sarah as Sarah Reed. The three sources Torrey lists are secondary sources and all say that Sarah Reed, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Jennison) Reed, married a Robinson. The three sources are Lucius R. Paige, *History of Cambridge, Mass., 1630 to 1877* (Boston: H. O. Houghton, 1877), 637, and the two sources cited in note 6.

⁹ *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988*, Watertown Vital Records, "A Booke for the Registering of Births and Deaths," 10, image 192, online at Ancestry.com.

George Robinson married second in Watertown 4 August 1703, **SARAH** (_____) **BEHONY**.^[10] She was the widow of Peter Behony, who died in 1700,^[11] and the mother of his two children Sarah Behony^[12] and Peter Behony.^[13] George's second wife survived him and died after 21 June 1728, when she signed with her mark on a deed in which her son David was selling land in Weston.^[14]

George and his first wife, Sary, had a son George Robinson in 1685, and Sarah (George's second wife) and her first husband had a daughter Sarah Bettoney/Behony born on 12 August 1688. The Rising article says George Robinson the father married the daughter Sarah Behony on 4 August 1703,^[15] but this seems unlikely because Sarah would have still been only age 14. It seems more reasonable that George Robinson Sr. married the widow Sarah Behony after the death of Peter, her first husband. George and his first wife Sary had their first child Beriah in 1683[4].^[16] Sarah Behony had her daughter Sarah in 1688. So George Robinson Sr. and the widow Sarah Behony probably would have been close in age.

In 1694 George lived in the western part of Watertown where he was one of a list of subscribers for a committee to consider building a new meeting house.^[17] The issue of the location of the meeting house was a divisive one. More people lived in the western precincts than in East Watertown. They were tired of traveling all the way to East Watertown, and wanted to put the meetinghouse in a more central location. They decided on the location of the current intersection of Belmont Street and Lexington Street in Belmont. But the East Watertown residents decided to hire their own minister and remain at the original meetinghouse. This split was the first step in the formation of the town of Waltham in 1738.^[18]

George was one of the founders of the church established 11 October 1709 by William Williams in "the West part of Watertown. Commonly called Watertown Farms. – made a distinct town 1 January 1712/13 called Weston"^[19]

At the meeting of the Watertown selectmen on 10 March 1709/10 it was agreed to pay George Robinson to keep "Old widdow Sanger until the third of April next Ensuing" and then on 15 February 1713/14 it was ordered to pay "George Robinson for supporting of the Widow Sanger."^[20]

¹⁰ *Watertown Records Comprising the Third Book of Town Proceedings and the Second book of Births Marriages and Deaths to End of 1737 also Plan and Register of Burials in Arlington Street Burying Ground* (Watertown, Mass.: Fred G. Barker, 1900), 17.

¹¹ *Middlesex County, MA: Probate Files, 1648–1871*, File 1477, Peter Behoni, online at AmericanAncestors.org.

¹² *Watertown Records comprising the First and Second Books* [note 1], 62, Sarah Bettoney Daughter of Peter and Sarah Bettoney Born 12 Aug [1688].

¹³ *Ibid.*, Peter Bettoney son of Peter and Sarah Bettoney Borne 13 March [1689/90].

¹⁴ *Middlesex County Deeds*, 27:422.

¹⁵ Rising, "David Robinson (1704–1793)" [note 2], *The American Genealogist* 67:141.

¹⁶ *Watertown Records Comprising the First and Second Books* [note 1], 54.

¹⁷ *Watertown Records Comprising the Third Book of Town Proceedings* [note 10], 75.

¹⁸ Email from Marie Daly of NEHGS to the author, dated 31 January 2015, "Query re Watertown Records Vol.2:pg.75."

¹⁹ *Weston Births, Deaths and Marriages* [note 5], 383–384.

²⁰ *Watertown Records Comprising the Third Book of Town Proceedings* [note 10], 194, 219.

On 10 January 1721/2, George and his second wife Sarah sold a 15-acre piece of land in Weston to Samuel Jennison. Samuel was a cousin of Sary, George's first wife.^[21] One of the witnesses was Joshua Biglo, their daughter-in-law, Mary (Learned) Robinson's uncle.^[22]

There is some confusion in an earlier Robinson genealogy about George Robinson of Watertown. In *The Family History and Genealogy of Sarah and Munson Robinson*, Opal Hanson includes pages from a Robinson genealogy titled "George Robinson of Dudley, Massachusetts."^[23] These pages say that George of Watertown was the son of George Robinson who married Mary Bushnell 3 October 1657 in Boston.^[24] George and Mary (Bushnell) Robinson did indeed have a son George who was baptized in Boston 30 March 1658.^[25] He and his wife Elizabeth had eight children all of whom were born in Boston between 1680 and 1695.^[26] Elizabeth died 7 July 1697.^[27] Clearly this George of Boston could not be George of Watertown who with his wife Sary had a child Beriah born in 1683[/4].

The four sons of George Robinson and his first wife — George, John, Ebenezer, and Samuel — appear to have left Watertown and Middlesex County after their mother died and their father remarried. In the land records for Worcester County there are twenty-six Robinson deeds listed in the grantor/grantee indexes prior to 1744. The only first names on these deeds are George, John, Ebenezer, and Samuel, strong evidence that George's sons moved to Worcester County.

Children of George and Sary (Reed) Robinson all born in Watertown:

- i. BERIAH ROBINSON, b. 7 Jan., 1683[/4]. No further record of him has been found.
2. ii. GEORGE ROBINSON, b. 1 July 1685;^[28] m. (1) MARY LEARNED; (2) LYDIA (BAYLEY) JEFFARDS. There appears to be a duplicate birth record for George exactly one year later 1 July 1686.^[29]

²¹ Samuel's father was a brother of Sary's mother, Elizabeth (Jennison) Reed (Mary Walton Ferris, *Dawes-Gates Ancestral Lines*, 2 vols. [Milwaukee, Wisc.: Wisconsin Cuneo Press, 1943], 1:369–373).

²² Middlesex County Deeds, 23:86. The 15 acres bordered land already owned by Samuel Jennison and land formerly belonging to Caleb Grant. The land owned by Samuel Jennison may have been the land Samuel purchased from his brothers William Jennison and Robert Jennison in 1715 (Middlesex County Deeds, 17:556). The deed says the land was "granted to our honored Uncle Capt. William Jennison late of Watertown 150 acres in the ninth division of farmland." Although I have not found how George and Sarah acquired their 15 acres, it may also have been some of the land originally granted to Capt. William Jennison. This would tend to support the statement above that Sary's mother was Elizabeth (Jennison) Reed.

²³ Hanson, *The Family History and Genealogy of Sarah and Munson Robinson* [note 4], 15–17, from "Robinson Genealogy, Volume VI, George Robinson of Dudley Massachusetts."

²⁴ *[Ninth] Report of the Record Commissioners Containing Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, 1630–1699* (Boston: Rockwell & Churchill, 1883), 62.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 64.

²⁶ *Ibid.* George born 1680, 152; John born 1684, 163; Martha born 1687, 176; Nathanll born 1689, 185; died 1690, 194; Nathanll born 1690, 191; Robert born 1692, 202; Sarah born 1693, 208; Martha born 1695, 223.

²⁷ *Ibid.* 237.

²⁸ *Watertown Records Comprising the First and Second Books* [note 1], 57.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 58.

3. iii. JOHN ROBINSON, b. 4 March 1688[9];^[30] m. SARAH MORSE.
- iv. EBENEZER ROBINSON, b. 22 Sept. 1692.^[31] According to Daniels's history of Oxford one of George Jr.'s sons was Ebenezer. This is not supported by either George's will or his land transactions. It is highly likely that the Ebenezer that Daniels refers to is actually this Ebenezer, George's brother. Daniels says that Ebenezer "it is thought, had no family."^[32] This is supported by the fact that there are no vital records for Ebenezer in Oxford or the surrounding towns. In May 1724 Ebenezer bought 50 acres from [his brother] George for £28. The land adjoined George's land.^[33] In 1727 Ebenezer purchased another 9 acres for £12.^[34] Both transactions were recorded in March 1736/7. In 1748 when Ebenezer's brother George transferred land to his son Samuel, the land was partly described as bordering the land of Ebenezer Robinson.^[35]
- v. SAMUEL ROBINSON, b. 13 Oct. 1695.^[36] There are several records for Samuel Robinson in Worcester County but none of them has been shown to be for Samuel Robinson son of George Robinson.

Children of George and Sarah (____) (Behony) Robinson born in Watertown:

4. vi. DAVID ROBINSON, b. 15 May 1704;^[37] m. (1) MARY/MARCY/MERCY SEGUR; (2) RUTH (____) FOWLER.
5. vii. JONATHAN ROBINSON, b. 14 Feb. 1705/6;^[38] m. (1) MARTHA BRUCE; (2) PATIENCE HUNTING; (3) ABIGAIL ____.

2. GEORGE ROBINSON was born in Watertown 1 July 1685. He died in Dudley 13 April 1752.^[39] He was listed as George Robinson of Dedham when he married, first, in Dedham 17 January 1706/7, **MARY LEARNED**.^[40] She was born in Sherborn 13 April 1686, the daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Bigelow) Learned.^[41] Mary (Learned) Robinson died in Dudley 30 June 1750.^[42] George married second in Dudley 16 December 1750, **LYDIA (BAYLEY) JEFFARDS**.^[43]

³⁰ Ibid., 61

³¹ Ibid., 65.

³² George F. Daniels, *History of the Town of Oxford, Massachusetts, with Genealogies and Notes on Persons and Estate* (Oxford, Mass.: the author and the town, 1892), 666.

³³ Worcester County Deeds, 9:128.

³⁴ Worcester County Deeds, 9:129.

³⁵ Worcester County Deeds, 26:200.

³⁶ *Watertown Records Comprising the Third Book of Town Proceedings* [note 10], 5.

³⁷ Ibid., 26.

³⁸ Ibid., 32.

³⁹ *Vital Records of Dudley, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, Mass.: F. P. Rice, 1908), 279; *Worcester County, MA: Probate Files, 1731-1881*, File 50851, George Robinson, online at Ancestry.org.

⁴⁰ Don Gleason Hill, *The Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths, and Intentions of Marriages in the Town of Dedham, Massachusetts, Volumes 1 & 2, 1638 - 1845* (Dedham, Mass.: Dedham Transcript, 1886), 247; *Vital Records of Sherborn, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1911), 166.

⁴¹ *Vital Records of Sherborn* [note 40], 149 (parents' marriage); Eugenia Learned James, *Learned Family in America* (St. Louis, Mo.: Setco Printing Co., 1967), 7.

⁴² *Vital Records of Dudley* [note 39], 279.

⁴³ Ibid. 215.

She was born in Newbury, Massachusetts, 25 November 1695, daughter of Joseph and Priscilla (Putnam) Bayley,^[44] and widow of John Jeffards.^[45]

On 2 April 1710, George Jr. and Mary Robinson of Dedham sold to Joseph Lovel Sr. a “certain piece of meadow containing two acres and a half . . . situated and being within the limits and bounds of the above Town of Dedham in the Northerly part thereof next to . . . Watertown.” One of the witnesses on the deed was Peter Bethoney, George Jr.’s half-brother. The deed was recorded 8 April 1723.^[46]

According to Daniels’s history of Oxford, George “bought in 1719 of William Dudley 500 acres lying on the west side of Chaubunagungamaug Lake, which with later purchases from Josiah Kingsbury and others included most of the present East Village at Webster.”^[47]

On 9 May 1723, William Dudley sold to George Robinson “now living in Oxford late of Needham . . . Land between the town of Oxford and Killingley in the colony of Connecticut . . . bounded as follows northerly on the land of . . . Robinson . . . from a heap of stones near unto Chabunnagungamoag Pond . . . about two hundred acres . . . also a piece or parcel of meadow and swampy land southwesterly of the land containing 24 acres more or less.” This deed was not recorded in Worcester County until 12 May 1807.^[48]

The fact that George is listed as late of Needham is significant. His half-brother David is also listed as of Needham in land transactions, and Rising in her article about David Robinson, points out that it is likely that the boundaries around George Robinson Sr.’s land altered over time. “In 1702, Watertown and Dedham connected in the southwest section of Watertown. In 1713, that part of Watertown became Weston; and, in 1711 Needham was formed from the northern part of Dedham (the area is now Wellesley).”^[49]

On 24 March 1736/7 three land transactions in Worcester County involving George were recorded:

- On 12 May 1724, George sold 50 acres in Oxford, Suffolk County (Worcester County was created in 1731), to [his brother] Ebenezer Robinson. The land bordered the land of Isaac Learned (probably George’s brother-in-law).^[50]
- On 21 March 1736/7, George sold another 9 acres in Oxford to Ebenezer. The land bordered the land Ebenezer already owned.^[51]
- Also on 21 March 1736/7, George bought from Josiah Kingsbury “a certain piece of land lying upon both sides of the brook

⁴⁴ *Vital Records of Newbury, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1911), 1:49 (birth); Walter Goodwin Davis, *Massachusetts and Maine Families in the Ancestry of Walter Goodwin Davis (1885–1966)*, 3 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996), 1:67 (parents’ marriage).

⁴⁵ *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 6 vols. (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1916–1926), 3:543, marriage of John Jeffards and Lydia Bayley, 5 May 1721.

⁴⁶ Middlesex County Deeds, 23:206.

⁴⁷ Daniels, *History of Oxford* [note 32], 666.

⁴⁸ Worcester County Deeds, 166:500.

⁴⁹ Rising, “David Robinson (1704–1793) of Watertown” [note 2], *The American Genealogist* 67:140.

⁵⁰ Worcester County Deeds, 9:128.

⁵¹ Worcester County Deeds, 9:129.

running northwestward out of a pond known by the name of Chabxmogonbemooge Pond bounded . . . land of said Robinson.”^[52]

Between 1738 and 1749 George gave land in Dudley to each of his five children.^[53] On 25 February 1739/40, a piece of land owned by William Dudley was sold at auction for taxes owed the town of Dudley. George signed the deed as one of the selectmen.^[54] On 17 December 1751, George sold to his son Silas for £15/6/8 “a certain sedar swamp and upland in Dudley . . . 40 acres.”^[55]

When George died in 1752 he left a third of his estate to “my beloved wife Lydia.” He left the remainder of his estate to his two oldest sons Paul and Silas. The will states that he gave his son Samuel five shillings because he had previously given him land by deed. George had actually gifted land to all of his children, but Samuel’s gift is the only one mentioned in George’s will. George left bequests to his Wakefield and Thompson grandchildren, the children of his two deceased daughters Mary and Sarah.^[56]

A Robinson Family Cemetery in Webster (created from Dudley and Oxford in 1832) is shown on FindaGrave.com, but with no photographs of the cemetery or any gravestones.^[57] The cemetery is supposed to contain gravestones for George and Mary (Learned) Robinson and for their son Silas and his family.^[58]

Children of George and Mary (Learned) Robinson; births of all but the youngest recorded in Needham at one time.^[59]

- i. MARY ROBINSON, b. 13 Aug. 1708; d. by 19 March 1752 (date of her father’s will); m. (1) Sutton, Mass., 3 Aug. 1725, JOSEPH WAKEFIELD; b. ca. 1702, d. Oct. 1746,^[60] m. (2) Dudley 4 April 1747, NATHANIEL JONES.^[61]
- ii. SARAH ROBINSON, b. 28 Sept. 1711; d. Dudley 31 July 1741;^[62] m. Oxford, Mass., 17 June 1730, JOHN THOMPSON;^[63] d. Dudley before 22 Jan. 1738/9 when an inventory of his estate was taken.^[64]

⁵² Worcester County Deeds, 8:288.

⁵³ Worcester County Deeds, 12:139; 19:227, 294; 23:200; 26:170.

⁵⁴ Worcester County Deeds, 14:369.

⁵⁵ Worcester County Deeds, 29:502.

⁵⁶ See note 39.

⁵⁷ The cemetery is not listed in David Allen Lambert, *A Guide to Massachusetts Cemeteries* (Boston: NEHGS, 2002).

⁵⁸ FindaGrave.com, memorial nos. 155133779 (George), 155133845 (Mary), and 155133990 (Silas)

⁵⁹ *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988*, Needham Births, Marriages and Deaths, image 53, online at Ancestry.com.

⁶⁰ *Vital Records of Sutton, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, Mass.: F. P. Rice, 1907), 381 (marriage); Homer Wakefield, *Wakefield Memorial . . .* (Bloomington, Ill.: privately printed, 1897), 138. Mary is listed in her father George Robinson’s 1752 will as Mary Wakefield alias Jones deceased (see note 39).

⁶¹ *Vital Records of Dudley* [note 39], 233.

⁶² *Ibid.*, 282.

⁶³ *Vital Records of Oxford, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, Mass.: F. P. Rice, 1905), 228.

⁶⁴ *Worcester County, MA: Probate Files* [note 39], File 59,021; Shirley Robinson Pizziferri, “Worcester County, Massachusetts, Probate Abstracts,” *Mayflower Descendant* 43 (1993):180–181. *Vital Records of Dudley* [note 39], 282, says he died 22 January 1739/40.

- iii. ELIAKIM ROBINSON, b. 12 Sept. 1714; d. Dudley Jan. 1734.^[65]
- iv. PAUL ROBINSON, b. 2 July 1717; d. after 1763;^[66] m. (1) intentions in Dudley 23 April 1737, MARY JEONS [*sic*, Jones?], d. Dudley 8 March 1747/8;^[67] m. (2) Dudley 19 Oct. 1749, HANNAH TRUMBLE.^[68]
- v. SILAS ROBINSON, b. 19 Nov. 1721; d. Dudley 4 Sept. 1801;^[69] m. Oxford 14 Sept. 1743, SUSANNA MOORE;^[70] b. Oxford supposedly 25 Jan. 1728[9], but more likely ca. 1725,⁷¹ daughter of Collins and Bersheba (Woods) Moore;^[72] d. Dudley 8 May 1792 “in 64th year.”^[73] Silas Robinson served in the American Revolution as a private from Dudley.^[74]
- vi. SAMUEL ROBINSON, b. Dudley 9 June 1726;^[75] d. by 15 March 1773 when an inventory of his estate was ordered;^[76] m. Oxford 25 Aug. 1748, HANNAH LEARNED;^[77] b. Oxford 12 July 1730, daughter of Isaac and Sarah (How) Learned.^[78]

3. **JOHN ROBINSON** was born in Watertown 4 March 1688[9]. He died sometime after 16 April 1746 when he quitclaimed land in Oxford.^[79] He married in Sherborn or Weston 26 October 1713, **SARAH MORSE**.^[80] She was

⁶⁵ *Vital Records of Dudley* [note 39], 279.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 100 (birth of daughter Phebe 5 June 1764).

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 215 (marriage), 279 (death).

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 215.

⁶⁹ National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Silas Robinson, Ancestor #A097743, online at services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/. See note 58 for cemetery information. There is a probate file for Silas Robinson (*Worcester County, MA: Probate Files* [note 39], File 50921), which says only, “1773 Receipts of advancement of Reuben Robinson, George Robinson and Eliakim Robinson, papers missing,” with a reference to records at 12:262. These three men were adult sons of Silas Robinson. However, Worcester County Probate Records, 12:262 [FHL 0,856,281], include receipts from these three men, all acknowledging monies received from their “honored father,” with no indication he was dead.

⁷⁰ *Vital Records of Oxford* [note 63], 228; *Vital Records of Dudley* [note 39], 215;

⁷¹ *Vital Records of Oxford* [note 63], 83; *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988*, Oxford Births, Marriages and Deaths, p. 38, image 28, with question marks after the dates of birth for Susanna and two of her siblings, online at Ancestry.com.

⁷² *Vital Records of Groton, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1926–1927), 2:187 (parents’ marriage); L. Effingham de Forest and Anne Lawrence de Forest, *William Henry Moore and His Ancestry, with Accounts of the Moore Families in the American Colonies, 1620–1730* (New York: De Forest Publishing Co., 1934), 344–345.

⁷³ *Vital Records of Dudley* [note 39], 279.

⁷⁴ Massachusetts Secretary of State, *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution*, 17 vols. (Boston: Wright and Potter, 1896–1908), 13:399; National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Ancestor #A097743 [note 69]. Ensign Silas Robinson voted in the Dudley town meeting on 2 January 1781 (*Town Records of Dudley, Massachusetts*, 2 vols. [Pawtucket, R.I.: Adam Sutcliffe Co., 1893–1894], 2:219).

⁷⁵ *Vital Records of Dudley* [note 39], 100.

⁷⁶ *Worcester County, MA: Probate Files* [note 39], File 50914, Samuel Robinson.

⁷⁷ *Vital Records of Oxford* [note 63], 228.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 69; James, *Learned Family* [note 41], 10–11.

⁷⁹ Worcester County Deeds, 21:287.

⁸⁰ *Vital Records of Sherborn* [note 40], 166; *Weston Births, Deaths and Marriages* [note 5], 266.

born in Sherborn 5 January 1689[90?],^[81] daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Barbour) Morse.^[82] Sarah died after 1732 when her last child was born.

On 24 May 1736, Ebenezer Learned sold 120 acres in Oxford to John Robinson. Two days later John Robinson in turn executed a note against the land to Ebenezer Learned to be paid in one year.^[83] As noted above, on 16 April 1746, John Robinson quitclaimed the same piece of land back to Ebenezer Learned.^[84]

Children of John and Sarah (Morse) Robinson:

- i. SARAH ROBINSON, b. Wrentham 23 July 1715;^[85] m. Oxford 16 April 1735, JOHN CURTIS;^[86] b. Sudbury 20 Sept. 1707, son of Ephraim and Mary (Stone) Curtis.^[87]
- ii. HANNAH ROBINSON, b. Sudbury 24 Aug. 1717;^[88] d. Oxford 5 July 1736.^[89]
- iii. JOHN ROBINSON, b. Weston 25 April 1719;^[90] m. Sutton 9 Oct. 1745 AL-LATHEA/ELLETHEAH/ELIZABETH (TITUS) CARPENTER,^[91] b. Rehoboth 29 May 1714, daughter of Joseph and Jane (____) Titus.^[92]
- iv. ESTHER/HESTER ROBINSON, b. Oxford 16 July 1723.^[93]
- v. TIMOTHY ROBINSON, b. Oxford 6 July 1726.^[94]

⁸¹ *Vital Records of Sherborn* [note 40], 69.

⁸² J. Howard Morse and Miss Emily W. Leavitt, *Morse Genealogy: Comprising the Descendants of Samuel Anthony, William, and Joseph Morse and John Moss, Being a Revision of the Memorial of the Morses Published by Rev. Abner Morse in 1850* (New York: Morse Society, 1903), 17; Edmund Dana Barbour, comp., *Descendants of Captain George Barbour of Medfield*, 7 vols. Boston: the compiler, 1907), 6:7, 9–10, 3080–3081; Alicia Crane Williams, “Daniel Morse,” *Early Families of New England*, 3, database online at AmericanAncestors.org.

⁸³ Worcester County Deeds, 9:131, 138.

⁸⁴ Worcester County Deeds, 21:287.

⁸⁵ *Vital Records of Wrentham, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1910), 180.

⁸⁶ *Vital Records of Oxford* [note 63], 228.

⁸⁷ *Vital Records of Sudbury, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1903), 34 (birth), 184 (parents' marriage).

⁸⁸ *Weston Births, Deaths and Marriages* [note 5], 8, spelled “Robison.”

⁸⁹ *Vital Records of Oxford* [note 63], 305 “in her 19th year.”

⁹⁰ *Weston Births, Deaths and Marriages* [note 5], 8.

⁹¹ *Vital Records of Oxford* [note 63], 228; *Vital Records of Sutton* [note 60], 224.

⁹² James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rehoboth 1642–1896* (Providence, R.I.: Narragansett Historical Publishing Co., 1897; reprint Bowie, Md: Heritage Books, 1992), 756; Claude W. Barlow, “The Titus Family of Douglas, Mass., and Vershire, VT,” *Register* 114 (1960):169. Among the legatees named in Joseph Titus's will, dated at Douglas, Massachusetts (adjacent to Sutton), 22 May 1756 and proved 30 June 1756, is daughter Elethea Robinson (*Worcester County, MA: Probate Files* [note 39], File 50914), citation courtesy of Eugene C. Zubrinsky, FASG. The accounting in probate for Allatheah's first husband Isaiah Carpenter reads “John Robinson Jr. & Alithea Robinson previously Alithea Carpenter admx on the estate of her late husband Isaiah Carpenter late of Douglas” (*Worcester County, MA: Probate Files*, File 10077).

⁹³ *Vital Records of Oxford* [note 63], 96, 97; Hester on page 97 and Esther on page 96 appear to be the same person.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, 97. Possibly both Timothy and Esther/Hester moved to Pomfret, Windham County, Connecticut, married and had families there, but this hypothesis is based only on the similarity of names and the relative closeness of Pomfret to Oxford (Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records, citing Pomfret Vital Records, 1:101, Esther Robinson married Jabez Dike, 9 June 1748; 1:105. Timothy Robinson married Kezia Goodell, 5 January 1757). There is a Timothy Robinson in the Barbour Collection, from Durham Vital Records, 262, 349, who could also be the Timothy in the Pomfret marriage. There is an Esther Robinson in the Barbour Collection, citing East Haven Vital Records, TM1:248, who could be the Esther in the Pomfret marriage.

vi. EBENEZER ROBINSON, b. Oxford 8 Oct. 1732.^[95]

4. DAVID ROBINSON was born in Watertown 15 May 1704. He was “of Marlborough,” Middlesex County, when he died about February 1793, about three months before 17 May 1793 when Jonathan Robinson was ordered to appear in court.^[96] He married first, in Newton 20 July 1726, **MARY/MARCY/MERCY SEGER**,^[97] who was born in Newton, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Bishop) Segur.^[98] She drowned 7 February 1746[/7].^[99] David married second, in Newton 31 October 1753 **RUTH (_____) FOWLER**,^[100] who apparently died before him as she is not mentioned in his probate file.

On 21 November 1726, David provided bond for guardianship of his nephew Caleb Segor.^[101] The probate for Henry Segur Sr. in 1726 indicates that David Robinson and his wife (Henry’s daughter Marcy) were read the notice to appear.^[102]

On 21 June 1728 David sold 41 acres in Weston. His mother Sarah and his wife Mercy yielded their dower rights. This same land had previously been owned by his father George Robinson.^[103]

This David possibly was the David Robinson in Capt. Robert Fuller’s company from Needham, who served as a private for five days in September of 1747.^[104]

On 9 October 1793, Moses Eames posted bond as administrator on the estate of David Robinson late of Marlborough, cordwainer. His inventory, consisting almost entirely of clothing and shoemaker’s equipment, amounted to only £6 3*d* and his debts to £17 16*s* 11*d*.^[105]

5. JONATHAN ROBINSON was born in Watertown 14 February 1705/6. He died in Marlborough 24 February 1793 aged 87.^[106] On 12 March 1793 Abigail

⁹⁵ *Vital Records of Oxford* [note 63], 96.

⁹⁶ *Middlesex County, MA: Probate Files* [note 11], File 19363. Jonathan was erroneously identified as David’s father.

⁹⁷ *Vital Records of Newton, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1905), 373 (as Mary, Mercy, or Marcy).

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 173 (birth, as Mercy), 242 (parents’ marriage); Francis Jackson, *A History of the Early Settlement of Newton . . . with a Genealogical Register of its Inhabitants, Prior to 1800* (Boston: Stacy and Richardson, 1854), 402, which erroneously says she married Daniel Robinson.

⁹⁹ *Vital Records of Newton* [note 97], 496, as “Marcy.”

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 283, 367, David of Natick, “late of Needham,” and Ruth Fowler. “sometime of Natick.” The intention, noting Ruth was a widow, was recorded in Natick (Thomas C. Baldwin, *Vital Records of Natick, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* [Boston: Stanhope Press, 1910], 143).

¹⁰¹ *Middlesex County, MA: Probate Files* [note 11], File 20042.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, File 20045.

¹⁰³ A detailed description of this land transaction and the conclusion that the land was previously owned by George Robinson are provided in Rising, “David Robinson (1704–1793) of Watertown” [note 2], *The American Genealogist* 67:139

¹⁰⁴ Robert E. MacKay, ed., *Massachusetts Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars, 1744–1755* (Boston: Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1978) 379, included in *Colonial Soldiers and Officers in New England, 1620–1775*, database online at AmericanAncestors.org.

¹⁰⁵ *Middlesex County, MA: Probate Files* [note 11], File 19363.

¹⁰⁶ William Barry, *A History of Framingham, Massachusetts: Including the Plantation from 1640 to the Present Time* (Boston: James Monroe & Co., 1847), 384.

and Patience Robinson requested that Samuel Hunting administer the estate of Jonathan Robinson “late of Marlborough.”^[107]

Jonathan married first in Needham 13 April 1727, **MARTHA BRUCE**,^[108] who was born in Framingham 23 June 1708, daughter of John and Elizabeth (____) Bruce.^[109] She died there 28 April 1752.^[110] Jonathan married second, in Needham 11 January 1753, **PATIENCE HUNTING**.^[111] She died in Framingham 11 August 1768.^[112] He married third **ABIGAIL** _____^[113] who died probably in Sudbury or Marlborough 28 December 1806.^[114]

In 1790 “Jona” Robinson was listed in Framingham, a male 16 or over with a male under 16 and two females.^[115] Jonathan “prob. lived on ‘the Leg,’ which was set off to Marl[borough].”^[116] His farm is described in his probate file as 60 acres of land bordered by the land of Benjamin Clark, Ephraim Potter, Uriah Parmeter, and Ebenezer Eames, and by a town way laid out on the Sudbury town line. The way led from Jonathan’s house to the county road from Sudbury to Marlborough. Additional pieces were also set off to his widow and the remaining two-thirds were sold on 18 December 1794.^[117]

The probate papers tell a story of controversy as several of the children — Jonathan, Elisha, George [*sic*], Mary, Martha and Timothy Whitcomb, Sarah Estabrook, and Hepzibah Lyon — tried unsuccessfully to have Samuel Hunting removed as administrator of the estate on 8 October 1793. A third account, exhibited on 15 April 1795, shows that distribution was to all of those except George but including also Mary, a daughter of Lydia Brown, who was married to Levi Parmenter, and also Patience Russell.^[118]

Children of Jonathan and Martha (Bruce) Robinson, born in Framingham:

- i. MARTHA ROBINSON, d. 12 Dec. 1729.^[119]
- ii. MARTHA ROBINSON, b. 10 July 1730;^[120] m. Sudbury, Mass., 1 Jan. 1750/[1?], TIMOTHY WHITCOMB,^[121] b. Lancaster 1 July 1724, son of

¹⁰⁷ *Middlesex County MA: Probate Files* [note 11], File 19387.

¹⁰⁸ Robert Brand Hanson, *Vital Records of Needham, Massachusetts, 1711–1845* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1997), 143; *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988*, Needham Vital Records, 2, image 583.

¹⁰⁹ *Vital Records of Framingham, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1911), 35 (birth); Winifred Fahey Pelley et al., “Thomas Bruce of Sudbury and Marlborough, Massachusetts,” *Register* 136 (1982):301.

¹¹⁰ *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 462.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, 367; Hanson, *Vital Records of Needham* [note 108], 143; *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988*, Needham Vital Records, 12, image 593.

¹¹² *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 462.

¹¹³ Abigail is listed as Jonathan’s widow in his probate file.

¹¹⁴ *Vital Records of Marlborough, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, Mass.: Franklin P. Rice), 388, “in her 97th year.”

¹¹⁵ 1790 U.S. Census, Framingham, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, roll 4, p. 1 of 4.

¹¹⁶ Barry, *History of Framingham* [note 106], 384.

¹¹⁷ *Middlesex County, MA: Probate Files* [note 11], File 19387.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁹ *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 462.

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*, 174.

¹²¹ *Vital Records of Rutland, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, Mass.: Franklin P. Rice, 1905), 187; *Vital Records of Sudbury* [note 87], 262.

- Joseph and Elizabeth (Wheeler) Whitcomb, d. perhaps Marlborough after 1 June 1800.^[122]
- iii. SARAH ROBINSON, b. 24 Jan. 1732/3;^[123] d. after 23 March 1784;^[124] m. Holden, Mass., 19 Jan. 1762, SAMUEL ESTABROOK,^[125] b. Sherborn, Mass., 27 Nov. 1738, son of Elijah and Hannah (_____) Estabrook,^[126] d. Holden 25 Feb. 1784.^[127] A Samuel Estabrook of Holden marched to Hadley, Mass., for five days during the Revolution.^[128]
- iv. JONATHAN ROBINSON, b. 9 March 1734/5;^[129] m., intentions in Stow, Mass., 26 April 1756, EUNICE JEWELL,^[130] b. Stow 19 Feb. 1735/6, daughter of John and Eunice (_____) Jewell.^[131]
- v. ELIAKIM ROBINSON, b. 16 Aug. 1737;^[132] d. after 1793.^[133]
- vi. LYDIA ROBINSON, b. say 1740; m. _____ BROWN.^[134] On 15 April 1795, Oliver Prescott, judge of probate, ordered that £5-13-4 be paid to Mary, wife of Levi Parmenter and daughter of Lydia Brown, deceased, daughter of Jonathan Robinson.^[135] Levi and Mary Parmenter had children born in Sudbury 1792-1807.^[136] Levi Parmenter, b. Sudbury 8 May 1763, son of Micah and Rebecca (Clark), Parmenter,^[137] was of Sudbury when he made his will on 16 Jan. 1826, naming his wife Mary and children

¹²² Henry S. Nourse, *The Birth, Marriage, and Death Register, Church Records and Epitaphs of Lancaster, Massachusetts, 1643-1850* (Clinton, Mass.: W. J. Coulter, 1890), 57 (birth); Austin W. Spencer, "Joseph and Elizabeth (Wheeler) Whitcomb of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and Some of their Descendants" *Register* 169 (2015):249, which cites the 1800 census for Timothy.

¹²³ *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 174.

¹²⁴ *Worcester County, MA: Probate Files* [note 39], File 19304. On 23 March 1784, widow Sarah Estabrook signed a document, witnessed by Samuel Estabrook, who as Samuel Estabrook, millwright, was one of the bondsmen. This Samuel Estabrook was evidently identical with Samuel Estabrook, Junior, who married in Holden 21 May 1772, Sarah Marshal (*Vital Records of Holden, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* [Worcester, Mass.: Franklin P. Rice, 1904], 127, as confirmed by the 1773 census of Holden, showing Samuel Estabrook with a household of four and Samuel Estabrook jr. with a household of three (Samuel Chenery Damon, *The History of Holden, Massachusetts, 1667-1841* [Worcester, Mass.: Wallace and Ripley, 1841], 142). See also William Booth Estabrook, *Genealogy of the Estabrook Family* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Andrus & Church, 1891), 34, which says Samuel Estabrook, Junior, died in 1816.

¹²⁵ *Vital Records of Holden* [note 124], 127.

¹²⁶ *Vital Records of Sherborn* [note 40], 35; Estabrook, *Genealogy of the Estabrook Family* [note 124], 28-29, 44-45, which, however, says he died in Enfield, Mass., before 1778.

¹²⁷ *Vital Records of Holden* [note 124], 209.

¹²⁸ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution* [note 74], 5:389.

¹²⁹ *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 174.

¹³⁰ *Vital Records of Stow, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1911), 193.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*, 53; Pliny Jewell, *The Jewell Register . . .* (Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood and Co., 1860), 30.

¹³² *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 174.

¹³³ In Eliakim's father's probate file, a list of what the children received during Jonathan's lifetime includes "Eliakim Robinson a Shoemaker trade valued at 16.0.0" (see note 117).

¹³⁴ *Middlesex County, MA: Probate Files* [note 11], File 19387, Jonathan Robinson. But an entry at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 131134825, says Mary, wife of Levi Parmenter, was the daughter of Samuel and Mary Brown.

¹³⁵ *Middlesex County MA: Probate Files* [note 11], File 19387.

¹³⁶ *Vital Records of Sudbury* [note 87], 108, Mary Brown Parmenter, born 14 October 1803.

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, 107; Glenn E. Wright, Gale Stroud, and Gerrie Jones Yates, eds., *Descendants of Deacon John Parmenter, Proprietor of Sudbury, Massachusetts, 1639* (La Habra, Calif: Pioneering Parmenters of America, 2009), 67, 124-125.

- recorded in Sudbury.^[138] He d. Sudbury 11 April 1749, aged 85 years, 11 months, and Mary d. there 7 July 1849, aged 80 years, 4 months, thus b. ca. March 1769.^[139]
- vii. ?GEORGE ROBINSON, b. say 1743. If he belongs in this family, he evidently d. between 8 Oct. 1793 and the distribution in 1795.^[140]
- viii. HEPZIBAH ROBINSON, b. 6 Oct. 1745;^[141] d. after 1795;^[142] m. (1) intentions in Princeton, Mass., 5 March 1774[/5], NEHEMIAH LYON of Hubbardston, Mass.,^[143] b. Roxbury, Mass., 21 Feb. 1750, son of Nathaniel and Mary (Lyon) Lyon.^[144] Hepzibah m. (2) Shutesbury, Mass., 1 Dec. 1793, BOICE KIMBALL, both of Shutesbury,^[145] b. Wenham, Mass., 18 June 1731, d. Shutesbury 13 May 1802, son of Ebenezer and Elizabeth (Carr) Kimball, and widower of Rebecca Haward.^[146]
- ix. MARY ROBINSON, b. 26 March 1748;^[147] d. after 1794.^[148]
- x. ELISHA ROBINSON, b. 27 Aug. 1751;^[149] d. 3 Aug. 1819 aged 72 [*sic*], bur. Riverside Cemetery, Sunderland, Mass.,^[150] or Elmwood Cemetery, Holyoke, Mass.;^[151] m. Sudbury 25 Nov. 1773, EUNICE RICE,^[152] b. Sudbury, Mass., 11 March 1751, daughter of John and Thankful (_____) Rice;^[153] d. 25 Jan. 1834 aged 87 (*sic*), bur. Riverside Cemetery,^[154] In 1790 an Elisha Robinson was enumerated in Granby, Hampshire Co., Mass., a male 16 or over, four males under 16, and three females.^[155] Since an item in one account in Jonathan's probate file refers to the administrator's trip to Granby, this Elisha was probably his son.^[156]

¹³⁸ *Middlesex County, MA: Probate Files* [note 11], File 39017.

¹³⁹ Massachusetts Vital Records from 1841, 40:272. Levi's parents named but Mary only said to be widow of Levi Parmenter.

¹⁴⁰ *Middlesex County, MA: Probate Files* [note 11], File 19387.

¹⁴¹ *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 174.

¹⁴² On 8 October 1793 she was listed as Hephzabah Lyon in her father's probate, but in October 1794 and on 15 April 1795 she was listed as Hephzabah Kimbal/Kimble (*Middlesex County, MA: Probate Files* [note 11], 19387).

¹⁴³ *Vital Records of Princeton, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, Mass.: Franklin P. Rice, 1902), 115.

¹⁴⁴ A. B. Lyon and G.W.A. Lyon, eds., *Lyon Memorial . . .* (Detroit, Mich.: Wm. Graham Printing Co., 1905), 333–334.

¹⁴⁵ *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988*, Shutesbury Vital Records, 16, image 138.

¹⁴⁶ Leonard Allison Morrison and Stephen Pascall Sharples, *The History of the Kimball Family in America* (Kittery, Maine: J. A. Kimball 1988), 75–76, 125–126.

¹⁴⁷ *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 174.

¹⁴⁸ Mary was listed as Mary Robinson in her father's probate.

¹⁴⁹ *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 174.

¹⁵⁰ Unsourced annotation online at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 129811728.

¹⁵¹ Unsourced annotation online at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 135540948, which erroneously places the cemetery in West Springfield; *West Springfield, Massachusetts, Vital Records to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1944–1945), 2:279.

¹⁵² *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 367; *Vital Records of Sudbury* [note 87], 262.

¹⁵³ *Vital Records of Sudbury* [note 87], 120 (birth); Andrew Henshaw Ward, *A Genealogical History of the Rice Family: Descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice . . .* (Boston: C. B. Richardson, 1858), 67, 122.

¹⁵⁴ Photograph of the gravestone online at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 126650448.

¹⁵⁵ 1790 U.S. Census, Granby, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, roll 4, p. 235.

¹⁵⁶ Ward, *History of the Rice Family* [note 153], 122, says Elisha “removed to Granby previous to 1778.

Children of Jonathan and Patience (Hunting) Robinson born in Framingham:

- xi. PATIENCE ROBINSON, b. 7 May 1754;^[157] d. after 28 Feb. 1797;^[158] m. Marlborough 1 May 1794, as his second wife, NATHANIEL PRENTICE RUSSELL,^[159] b. Bolton, Mass., 27 July 1751, son of Eliezer and Tabitha (Prentice) Russell,^[160] d. Marlborough 17 March 1812.^[161] She (as Patience Robinson) and her father Jonathan's third wife Abigail signed the request to appoint Samuel Hunting administrator of her father's estate on 12 March 1793.
- xii. EUNICE ROBINSON, bp. 7 Sept. 1760;^[162] d. probably before Aug. 1790.^[163]

Marion Vermazen worked in the computer industry in Silicon Valley for thirty years. She is now retired and lives in Reno, Nevada. Her father, Donald Robinson, is a male-line descendant of Jonathan and Eunice (Jewell) Robinson. Marion may be contacted at marion.vermazen@gmail.com.



¹⁵⁷ *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 174.

¹⁵⁸ *Vital Records of Marlborough* [note 114], 163 (birth of daughter Patience).

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 305. See also Frances (Davis) McTeer and Frederick C. Warner, "The Willis Family of Sudbury, Mass.," *Register* 114 (1960):199, for the marriage of a child and Nathaniel's full middle name.

¹⁶⁰ *Vital Records of Bolton, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, Mass.: Franklin P. Rice, 1910), 72 (birth as "Nathaniel Prentis Rucel"); *Lexington, Mass., Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths to January 1, 1898* (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1898), 145 (parents' marriage).

¹⁶¹ *Vital Records of Marlborough* [note 114], 388.

¹⁶² *Vital Records of Framingham* [note 109], 174.

¹⁶³ Eunice is not listed in her father's probate. Since her sister Patience was living and unmarried, Eunice is probably not one of the two females in the 1790 census (see note 115).