

The Increase³ Robinson Family of Taunton, Massachusetts

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Increase³ Robinson was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, about 1670 (assuming age 25 when first married). He was the son of Increase² Robinson (*William*¹) and Sarah Penniman, who were married in Dorchester 19 February 1663.^[1] Increase³ married in Taunton 11 February 1694/5, Mehitable Williams, born in Taunton 7 June 1676, daughter of Joseph² (*Richard*¹) and Elizabeth (Watson) Williams.^[2] Increase and Mehitable had fourteen children (all born in Taunton) and more than sixty-five grandchildren. The present article is the first compiled account of these descendants.

The original vital records of Taunton were destroyed by fire in 1838. The town tried to recreate them from church records, family bibles, and gravestones.^[3] And much can be found in Bristol County probate and deeds, as will be seen below. One secondary source provides the basic outline for the Increase³ Robinson family. That source is a manuscript in the NEHGS collection^[4]—a handwritten genealogy in a small notebook. Tim Salls, the manager of the NEHGS collection says that the notebook “was donated to NEHGS by Goodspeed’s Book Shop of Boston, Mass., on 21 August 1972. Unfortunately, a corporate donor like a bookdealer typically doesn’t provide provenance information (they often got the material via estate sales).”^[5] The notebook is signed Sarah G. Robinson 1891. Salls said that if he were to catalog the notebook, he would probably have the author as unidentified, because there is no evidence that Sarah G. Robinson who signed the book was the author.^[6]

¹ Edward Doubleday Harris, *William and Anne Robinson of Dorchester, Mass.* (Boston: Press of D. Clapp & son), 1890, 6; Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS 1995), 3:1426–1430 (James Penniman); Mary Walton Ferris, *Dawes–Gates Ancestral Lines . . .*, 2 vols. (Milwaukee, Wis.: Wisconsin Cuneo Press), 1943, 1:527–532 (William Robinson).

² *Vital Records of Taunton, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1928–1929), 1:462 (birth); 2:412 (marriage); Winifred Lovering Holman, “English Ancestry of Richard Williams and His Wife Frances (Deighton) Williams,” *The American Genealogist* 9 (1933):136–144, 212–222; 10 (1933):20–29, 118, at 29. Frances Deighton may be found in Douglas Richardson, *Royal Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families*, 5 vols. (Salt Lake City: the author, 2013), 2:412.

³ *Vital Records of Taunton* [note 2].

⁴ “Robinson Genealogy,” Mss A 4588 in the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Department of NEHGS.

⁵ Email from Tim Salls, Manager of Manuscripts Collections, to the author, dated 5 August 2019, Re: Manuscript information.

⁶ *Ibid.*

Genealogical Summary

1. INCREASE³ ROBINSON (*Increase², William¹*), son of Increase² and Sarah (Penniman) Robinson, was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, about 1670 (assuming age 25 at marriage). He died in Taunton in 1738/9.^[7] He married in Taunton 11 February 1694/5, **MEHITABLE WILLIAMS**, who was born in Taunton 7 June 1676, daughter of Joseph² (*Richard¹*) and Elizabeth (Watson) Williams.

On 5 July 1697, Increase Robinson Jr. (i.e., Increase³) bought a 7-acre parcel of land in a place called Little Wood (in Dorchester?). Little Wood had recently been divided among several people, and the 7-acre parcel was next to a 12-acre parcel that Increase Sr. received in the land division.^[8]

13 April 1699, Increase Robinson Jr. bought 10 acres of land near White Spring next to his father, Increase Robinson Sr., from Jonathan Briggs.^[9] Then on 14 May 1702, Jonathan Briggs sold Increase Robinson Jr. a quarter of a purchase right in the old township of Taunton.^[10] On 20 April 1711, Increase was granted 30 acres of land in Taunton as a part of a 64-acre division.^[11]

Between 1730 and 1736 Increase gave land to his three sons William, Josiah, and John.^[12]

On 20 March 1738/9, William Robinson was appointed administrator of his father Increase Robinson's estate.^[13] A series of documents found in the probate file and associated deeds from Bristol County land records paint an incomplete and confusing picture about the division of the estate:

- On 13 July 1739, William Robinson signed a deed. The deed transferred to William's brothers and sisters (Increase Robinson, Josiah Robinson, John Robinson, George Robinson, Ebenezer Cobb and his wife Mehitable [Robinson] Cobb, John Rowland and his wife Mary [Robinson] Rowland, Jedediah Wilbore and his wife Ann [Robinson] Wilbore, Stephen Macomber and his wife Abigail [Robinson] Macomber, and Elizabeth Robinson) two pieces of land that their father Increase Robinson had gifted to William during Increase's lifetime. William stated that he made this transfer "for and in consideration of ye compliance with an agreement made the 8th day of January 1738 under ye hand and seal of myself together with my brethren and sisters."^[14]
- On 13 October 1741, William signed an inventory of his father's estate valuing it at £1589/03/02. Several parcels of land were in the inventory,

⁷ Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686–1800, AmericanAncestors.org, File 21705. No death record has been found. On 20 March 1738/9 William Robinson was appointed administrator for the probate of Increase Robinson.

⁸ Bristol County Deeds, 2:132.

⁹ Bristol County Deeds, 3:52.

¹⁰ Bristol County Deeds, 3:371.

¹¹ Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988: Ancestry.com, Taunton Proprietor Records, 1702–1838, 139 image 88.

¹² Bristol County Deeds, 20:182; 27:171, 72.

¹³ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21705.

¹⁴ Bristol County Deeds, 32:287.

including 50 acres that William gave to John Robinson and 37 acres given to Josiah Robinson.^[15]

- Sometime in 1742 George Robinson sent a request to divide the estate to the court since “his Honoured Father Increase Robinson late of Taunton deceased hath been dead above four years and there has been no division of said estate.”^[16]
- 17 August 1742, the court ordered Zephinah Leonard, Samuel White, Samuel Pitts, Morgan Cobb 2nd, and Henry Hodges to divide the estate of Increase Robinson among the children.^[17]
- 27 February 1743/4, William Robinson acknowledged the deed he signed 13 July 1739.^[18]
- 13 March 1743/4, the recorder received and recorded the 1739 deed.^[19]
- 19 April 1743/4, William presented an accounting of the expenses of the estate. They totaled £180/9/2.^[20]
- 13 October 1746, William “for and in consideration of a valuable sum to me in hand paid by John Robinson of Raynham, Ebenezer Cobb, Joyner, John Rowland, blacksmith, Jedediah Wilbone, Stephen Macomber, Nathaniel Linkon Junr, all of Taunton, Josiah Robinson of Raynham and Increase Robinson of Plymton” declared that the named people bound themselves in an obligation dated 8 January 1738 to pay £360 and that obligation was now paid and all “proceedings thereon are finally at an end.” William ratified the divisions of his father’s estate made by the gentlemen appointed by the court.^[21]

Children of Increase³ and Mehitable (Williams) Robinson all born probably in Taunton:^[22]

- 2 i. MEHITABLE⁴ ROBINSON, b. 12 Jan. 1695/6;^[23] m. EBENEZER COBB.
- 3 ii. WILLIAM ROBINSON, b. say 1697;^[24] m. NAOMI DEAN.
- 4 iii. MARY ROBINSON, b. say 1699; m. JOHN ROWLAND.

¹⁵ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21705.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Bristol County Deeds, 32:287.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21705.

²¹ Bristol County Deeds, 34:510.

²² Birth dates of the children have been estimated usually as two years apart. The birth order is based primarily on the order of children in the “Robinson Genealogy” [note 4].

²³ *FindaGrave.com*, memorial no. 11265872 gives her birth date as 12 January 1694; J. Percy Crayon (Joseph Percy), *Rockaway Records of Morris County, N.J., Families* (Rockaway, N.J.: Rockaway Publishing Co., 1902), 278; gives her birth date as 12 January 1695. Given that *Vital Records of Taunton* [note 2] says her parents were married 11 February 1694/5, her exact birth date is unclear. If we assume that she was conceived after her parents were married, 12 January 1695/6 seems like the correct birth date.

²⁴ His father calls him “my eldest son William Robinson” in a deed gifting him two pieces of land (Bristol County Deeds, 20:182). In William’s will dated 14 December, 1772 he says that he is “arrived at more than 70 years of age” (Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21773).

- iv. ELIZABETH ROBINSON, b. say 1701; d. Taunton, say 1712.^[25]
- 5 v. JAMES ROBINSON, b. about 1704;^[26] m. MARY CHALLONER.
- 6 vi. JOSIAH ROBINSON, b. about 1705;^[27] m. BETHIA ROBINSON.
- 7 vii. ANNA ROBINSON, b. say 1706; m. JEDADIAH WILBORE.
- 8 viii. INCREASE ROBINSON, b. perhaps 1707;^[28] m. MARGARET BONNEY.
- 9 ix. ABIGAIL ROBINSON, b. say 1709; m. STEPHEN MACOMBER.
- 10 x. JOHN ROBINSON, b. say 1711; m. LYDIA BRYANT.
- 11 xi. GEORGE ROBINSON, b. say 1713; m. ELIZABETH COBB.
- 12 xii. LYDIA ROBINSON, b. perhaps 1715;^[29] m. JOSHUA HOSKINS.
- xiii. SARAH ROBINSON, b. say 1717.^[30]
- 13 xiv. ELIZABETH ROBINSON, b. say 1719;^[31] m. NATHANIEL LINCOLN.

2. **MEHITABLE ROBINSON** was born in Taunton 12 January 1695/6. She died in Hanover, Morris County, New Jersey, 12 July 1781.^[32] She married in Taunton 6 February 1717, **EBENEZER COBB**.^[33] He was born in Taunton 13 May 1694 or 1696, the son of Edward and Sarah (Hackett) Cobb.^[34] Ebenezer Cobb died probably in New Jersey in 1769.^[35]

Between 1718 and 1738 Mehitable and Ebenezer had nine children all born presumably in Taunton.^[36]

On 21 March 1726/7, Ebenezer Cobb bought a 10-acre property in Taunton from Jonathan Hoar for £100. It was described as “A tract of land . . . in Taunton which was once part of my Father Hoars homestead . . . Ten acres . . . Bounded by the highway that leads from Edward Cob’s dwelling house to Three Mill River westerly by land of Jonathan Paddleford northerly and on all other parts is bounded out with stakes and stones . . . with the dwelling house buildings and all the fences.”^[37]

²⁵ Robinson Genealogy” [note 4], 6, says she died young. A second daughter named Elizabeth was born about 1719.

²⁶ FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 21832070.

²⁷ FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 70796084 which states “Inscriptions from Burial Grounds in Ancient Taunton by Edgar H Reed, in the Taunton History Society Museum. Recorded 1870–1880.” The inscription reads, “In memory of Mr. Josiah Robinson who died May 23 1785 in his 80th year.” The birth year is calculated from his age at death.

²⁸ Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988, Records of the Town of Taunton 1642–1816, Ancestry.com, 139 image 88. The county tax rate list dated 1 December 1729 lists Increase Robinson for 3 shillings 1 penny and Increase Robinson 2d for 9 pence. If we assume that Increase 2d had to be 21 to be on the list, then he must have been born by 1 December 1708.

²⁹ Lydia’s daughter, Mary was born in 1737 (FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 11997425). If Lydia was 22 when Mary was born, then Lydia was born probably in 1715.

³⁰ “Robinson Genealogy” [note 4], 6. No other records of Sarah Robinson have been found.

³¹ If this is the correct date, then she was 24 when she married and 39 when her last child was born.

³² FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 11265872.

³³ Crayon, *Rockaway Records* [note 23], 278.

³⁴ Ibid., 277, 278, says he was born May 6 (277) or May 13 (278) in 1696; Beverly J. Francis Hovanec, “Some Descendants of Jabez Hackett of Lynn and Taunton, MA: First Generation in America,” *The Essex Genealogist* 18 (1998), 81, says he was born in 1694.

³⁵ FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 11265841.

³⁶ Crayon, *Rockaway Records* [note 23], 278; Jemima, Sarah, Ebenezer, John, Abiel, Mehetible, Edward, Mary, and Anne.

³⁷ Bristol County Deeds, 17:341.

Ebenezer and Mehitable sold that same property on 23 June 1731 to Jonathan Paddleford Jr. The deed was witnessed by Zachariah Paddleford and Ichabod Dean, who was the son of Ebenezer's sister Mary (Cobb) Dean.^[38]

On 22 February 1733, Ebenezer's father, Edward, gave 15 acres (half his homestead) to Ebenezer. In addition Edward divided several other properties between Ebenezer and Edward's grandson Ichabod Dean. On 14 December 1734, Ebenezer released all his rights to his father's estate; the release was not recorded until 23 February 1740.^[39]

When Mehitable's father Increase Robinson died, her brother William was appointed executor on 20 March 1738/9. As has been described in the above discussion of Increase Robinson's probate, Mehitable and Ebenezer were among the listed heirs in several documents relating to the seven-year probate process.

On 24 October 1748, Ebenezer was listed as of Taunton when he sold "a piece of swamp in north Purchase."^[40] Sometime between the signing of that deed in 1748 and a deed signed 5 May 1750,^[41] Mehitable and Ebenezer moved to Hanover, Morris County, New Jersey. The second deed says "I Ebenezer Cobb of Hannover in the county of Morris in the province of New Jersey, Joyner for myself and by and with power of attorney from my wife Mehetable Cobb from under her hand and seal dated at Hannover the 5th day of May 1750." The accompanying power of attorney says "I Mehetibel Cobb of Hannover, Morris County New Jersey do constitute my loving husband Ebenezer Cobb of Hannover, joyner my attorney to sell land held by heirship from my father Increase Robinson deceased."

3. WILLIAM ROBINSON was born in Taunton say 1697. He died in Taunton 13 January 1778.^[42] He married probably in Taunton about 1735, **NAOMI DEAN**.^[43] Naomi (Dean) Robinson died probably in Taunton after 15 May 1793.^[44] William and Naomi had five children born in Taunton.^[45]

On 1 December 1729, William is listed on the Taunton tax list. His tax rate was 9 pence.^[46]

³⁸ Bristol County Deeds, 22:35.

³⁹ Bristol County Deeds, 28:440.

⁴⁰ Bristol County Deeds, 53:1.

⁴¹ Bristol County Deeds, 37:308.

⁴² *Vital Records of Taunton* [note 2], 177.

⁴³ "Robinson Genealogy" [note 4], 6. The marriage date is an estimate. There is a marriage record for a William Robartson who married a Martha Born in Swansea 26 May 1721 (*Vital Records of the Town of Swansea, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston, NEHGS, 1928), 2:4. Some online trees assume this is a marriage for William Robinson of Taunton but William Robinson has no connections with Swansea and there is a probate record for William Robartson in Swansea in 1783 (Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21639). Therefore, William Robartson of Swansea must be a separate person from William Robinson of Taunton.

⁴⁴ Massachusetts Land Records, 1686–1795, Bristol County, images, on Family Search.org, 72:29. On 15 May 1793, Naomi Robinson was identified as the executrix of her deceased husband, William Robinson's, estate in a suit to recover money from the estate.

⁴⁵ "Robinson Genealogy" [note 4], 15; Ruth, William, Samuel, Mehitable, and Increase.

⁴⁶ "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988; Taunton, Ancestry.com, image 93 Taunton tax list.

In a deed signed 15 May 1730, Increase Robinson gave “for and in consideration of the Love good will and natural affection that I have and do bear unto my eldest son William Robinson of Taunton . . . Me therewith at this time moving have and do by these presents give grant . . . ” 2 parcels of land.^[47]

On 20 March 1738/9, William was appointed executor of his father, Increase Robinson’s estate.^[48] The related documents between 1739 and 1746 that document the processing of the estate have been described above.

On 21 June 1753 and on 12 February 1761, William sold land in Taunton.^[49] William signed his will on 14 December 1772. In the will he says, “Having reached more than 70 years of age.” The will was recorded 27 June 1778.^[50]

4. MARY ROBINSON was born in Taunton say 1699. She died between 7 January 1768, when she signed that she did not consider she had any right of dower to land being sold to pay a debt of her husband John Rowland^[51] and 2 May 1769, when John sold another piece of land and Mary was not mentioned.^[52] Mary married in Raynham 29 August 1736, **JOHN ROWLAND**.^[53] He died after 2 May 1769, when he completed the land transaction above.^[54]

Mary and John had one son.^[55]

As has been described in the Increase Robinson section earlier in this article, John and Mary received land as part of the distribution of her father, Increase Robinson’s estate. On 3 April 1747, they sold “a cedar swamp in Easton . . . Said three acres was set off to Mary as part and portion in her father Robinsons estate.”^[56]

5. JAMES ROBINSON was born in Taunton about 1704. He died 29 November 1745, and is buried in the Common Burying Ground in Newport, Rhode Island.^[57] James married in Newport 16 October 1740, as her first husband, **MARY CHALLONER**,^[58] the daughter of Ninyon and Mary

⁴⁷ Bristol County Deeds, 20:182.

⁴⁸ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21705.

⁴⁹ Bristol County Deeds, 40:137; 44:528.

⁵⁰ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21773.

⁵¹ Bristol County Deeds, 51:67.

⁵² Bristol County Deeds, 52:117. “Robinson Genealogy” [note 4]:10, says “Mary died during year 1768 J.H.D.”

⁵³ Margaret Harris Stover, *Vital Records of Raynham, Massachusetts* (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1997), 13, 149; Raynham, Massachusetts, records, 1700–1835 (Mss A 4602) R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Department of NEHGS, Manuscript 15.

⁵⁴ Bristol County Deeds, 52:117.

⁵⁵ “Robinson Genealogy” [note 4], 10, John.

⁵⁶ Bristol County Deeds, 35:397.

⁵⁷ *FindaGrave.com*, Memorial no. 21832070, age 42.

⁵⁸ *Rhode Island: Vital Records, 1636–1850*, online database on AmericanAncestors.org, 4:2–59; originally published as James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island . . .*, 21 vols. (Providence, R.I.: Narragansett Historical Publishing Co., 1891–1912).

(Bristow) Challoner.^[59] Mary was born about 1719 and died 2 December 1790 in Newport.^[60]

Although James is not listed as a son of Increase and Mehitable Robinson in the Robinson Genealogy,^[61] Increase's probate file includes a power of Attorney signed by James. On 4 March 1742, James Robinson, a practitioner in Physick of Newport, Rhode Island, gave power of attorney to Stephen Paine of Bristol County.^[62]

James and Mary had three children, all born in Newport.^[63]

6. JOSIAH ROBINSON was born in Taunton about 1705. He died 25 May 1785 and is buried in Hall and Dean Cemetery, Raynham, Massachusetts.^[64] Josiah married in Raynham 11 June 1740, **BETHIA ROBINSON**, the daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Williams) Robinson.^[65] Bethia was Josiah's first cousin. Her Father, Ebenezer Robinson, and Increase² Robinson were brothers. Bethia was born in Raynham, Bristol County, Massachusetts, in 1711 and died in Raynham 9 September 1806.^[66]

Josiah and Bethia had six children, all born presumably in Raynham.^[67]

Josiah is listed in the distribution of his father's estate and in the related land transactions as described above.

On 2 December 1748, Bethiah's father, Ebenezer Robinson, paid Bethiah and Josiah and some of her siblings £1,500 for their portion of his estate. In return they quitclaimed 30 acres to Bethiah's brother Josiah Robinson. The land had belonged to their mother Mary Robinson.^[68]

⁵⁹ *FindaGrave.com*, memorial no. 23688071 (Mary Chaloner Channing). Although there is no definitive proof of this parentage for Mary Challoner, I am proposing that Ninyon Challoner/Ninian Chaloner had two wives and that Mary was the daughter of his first wife. He married first in Saint Mary, Reading, Berkshire, in 1709 Mary Bristow (*England Marriages, 1538–1973*, database on FamilySearch.org). Ninian/Ninyon married second in Newport 17 March 1724/5, Ann Brown (*Rhode Island Vital Records* [note 59], 10:439, 441; *FindaGrave.com*, memorial no. 122881021 [Ann Tyrrell Brown Chaloner]).

⁶⁰ *Rhode Island Vital Records* [note 59], 12:82. Mary Channing widow of John. Mary's marriage to John Channing was on 5 January 1746 in Newport (*ibid.*, 8:474).

⁶¹ "Robinson Genealogy" [note 4], 6.

⁶² Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21705.

⁶³ *Rhode Island Vital Records* [note 59], 8:451; 4:2–112; Mary, John Tyrrell, and Sarah Ann. There is a baptism for Mary Ann Robinson, daughter of James and Mary Robinson, but given that the baptism is one day after the birth of Sarah Ann, this must be the baptism of Sarah Ann (unless a date is wrong).

⁶⁴ *FindaGrave.com*, memorial no. 70796084.

⁶⁵ See note 54.

⁶⁶ Her birth year is based on her age at death in 1806 being recorded as 95.

⁶⁷ "Robinson Genealogy" [note 4], 17; Phebe, Sarah, Luther, Asher, Seth, and Bethiah.

⁶⁸ Bristol County Deeds, 41:30: "Ebenezer Robinson Jnr, Josiah Robinson and Bethiah his wife, Stephen Dean and Hannah his wife all of Raynham Stephen Richmond and Silence his wife and Amos Keith and Sarah his wife in Bridgewater in ye county of Plymouth in consideration of fifteen hundred pounds paid by our honored Father Ebenezer Robinson of Raynham towards our portion of his estate quitclaim unto our brother Josiah Robinson Jr. of Raynham all our right to 30 acres of land Taunton Proprietors measure which was our honored Mother Mary Robinsons deceased. signed 2 December 1748."

On 18 December 1749 Bethiah's father, Ebenezer gave Bethiah 50 acres of land in Raynham provided that she quitclaimed to her brother Josiah the homestead that came to Ebenezer by his deceased wife Mary Robinson.^[69]

Josiah's will signed 28 April 1783, filed 16 June 1785 and proved July 5 1785, named his wife Bethia, his three daughters Phebe, Sarah, and Bethia (wife of Samuel Dean); and his sons Luther and Seth.^[70]

7. ANNA ROBINSON was born in Taunton perhaps 1706. She died in Taunton 16 or 17 June 1781.^[71] She married in Taunton 9 August 1738, **JEDEDIAH WILBORE**,^[72] the son of Joseph and Mehitabel (Deane) Wilbore.^[73] Jedediah Wilbore died in Taunton 11 June 1781.^[74]

Anna and Jedediah had one child, born in Taunton.^[75]

"Jedediah Wilbore and Ann" are listed in the distribution of her Father's estate and in the related land transactions as described above. On 27 March 1773, Anna and Jedediah sold some of the land she received from her father.^[76]

8. INCREASE ROBINSON was born in Taunton perhaps 1707. He died in Pembroke, Plymouth County, 1 December 1767.^[77] He married in Plympton, Plymouth County, 9 January 1737/8, **MARGARET BONNEY**,^[78] the daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Phillips) Bonney.^[79] Margaret was born in Pembroke 14 December 1716.^[80] She died in Pembroke 3 January 1759.^[81]

⁶⁹ Bristol County Deeds, 44:160: "I Ebenezer Robinson of Raynham for and in consideration of ye love and good will that I have and bare unto my daughter Bethiah Robinson ye wife of Josiah Robinson of Raynham provided also that she ye said Bethiah and Josiah sign and deliver a legal quit claim unto their brother Josiah Robinson my own son my homestead which came to me by my wife Mary Robinson deceased. I give to my daughter Bethiah 50 acres in Raynham bounded by land I have given my daughter Hannah Dean signed 18 Dec 1749."

⁷⁰ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21726:9-11.

⁷¹ *Vital Records of Taunton* [note 2], 3:219. "Wilbore, Ann, wid. Jedediah, June 16 or 17, 1781."

⁷² *Ibid.*, 2:411: "Ann and ----- [illegible], both of T. Aug --, 1737 or 8 [worn]d[worn] [Jedediah written in later hand over original] Wilbore, both of T., Aug 9,---- [faded, 1738 written in later hand]"

⁷³ Bristol County Deeds, 18:293: "Whereas Joseph Wilbore late of Taunton deceased did in his last will and testament appoint his wife Mehetabel Wilbore to be his executrix and in sd will did impower her to sell 100 acres of land in Norton or Taunton North Purchase together with Joseph Wilbore, Jedediah Wilbore, Josiah Wilbore and Mehetable Wilbore the second, children of the said Joseph Wilbore deceased all of Taunton; 43:368 Joseph Wilbore yeoman, Mehetable Wilbore spinster, Jedediah Wilbore yeoman all of Taunton lawful heirs to their mother Mehetabel Wibore wife of Mr Joseph Wilbore deceased. Land was estate of Mrs Sarah Dean their grandmother deceased of Taunton and now descends to the grantors from Mehitabel their late mother."

⁷⁴ *Vital Records of Taunton* [note 2], 3:320. Bristol County Probate Files [note 7], File 28189.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.* Jedediah Jr. was named executor of his father Jedediah's estate.

⁷⁶ Bristol County Deeds, 55:218.

⁷⁷ Barbara L. Merrick, "The Original Church Records of Gad Hitchcock, D.D., 1748-1803 Deaths," *Register* 136 (1982), 31-42.

⁷⁸ *Vital Records of Plympton, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1923), 1:378.

⁷⁹ Lee D. Van Antwerp and Ruth Wilder Sherman, *Vital Records of Plymouth, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1993), 1:89.

⁸⁰ *Vital Records of Pembroke, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston; NEHGS, 1911), 1:44.

⁸¹ Merrick, "Gad Hitchcock Records" [note 78], 34; *FindaGrave.com*, memorial no. 40037983.

Increase and Margaret had seven children.^[82]

Increase was on the tax list in Taunton on 1 December 1729.^[83] By the time of his marriage in January of 1737/8, he had moved to Plympton, where his first three children were born. On 25 August 1743, Increase sold his portion of his inheritance from his father in Taunton and Raynham to William Bryant.^[84] On the same day Increase purchased from the same William Bryant 60 acres in Pembroke.^[85] In both of those transactions Increase is identified as a “bloomer.” A bloomer is a person who produces iron from ore.^[86]

In 1745 and 1749 Increase bought land in Duxborough, Plymouth County, from the Chandler family and then sold it back to them.^[87] In 1752 Increase bought two and a half acres in Pembroke.^[88] When Increase and Margaret's son Asa died, Increase inherited Asa's part of the land that Asa and his brother Increase had purchased together. On 20 October 1765, Increase sold the land to his son Increase.^[89]

In his will, written 19 November 1767, Increase left his wearing apparel to his son Increase, his real estate to his son Zebulon, and his household goods to his daughters Lidia, Margaret, and Abigail. He also gave money bequests to Lidia and Abigail with the provision that Abigail was to receive hers when she reached the age of 18. His brother-in-law Nathaniel Bonney was named executor.^[90]

9. ABIGAIL ROBINSON was born in Taunton say 1709. She died in Taunton by July 1787.^[91] She married in Taunton 4 December 1738, **STEPHEN MACOMBER**,^[92] the son of Thomas and Mary (_____) Macomber.^[93] Stephen Macomber died in Taunton about October 1797.^[94]

Abigail and Stephen had five children, all born in Taunton.^[95]

10. JOHN ROBINSON was born in Taunton say 1711. He died in Raynham 26 April 1787.^[96] He married, first, in Raynham, 9 March 1742/3, **LYDIA**

⁸² *Vital Records of Plympton* [note 79], 1:173, Increase, Asa [Asey], Joseph; *Vital Records of Pembroke* [note 81], 1:178, Lydia, Zebulon, Abigail; “Robinson Genealogy” [note 4], 19, Margaret.

⁸³ Taunton tax rate list [note 28].

⁸⁴ Bristol County Deeds, 32:298.

⁸⁵ Plymouth County Deeds, 36:45.

⁸⁶ <http://www.tomcamp.org/misc%20docs/colonial%20occupation.html>.

⁸⁷ Plymouth County Deeds, 37:193, 41:144.

⁸⁸ Plymouth County Deeds, 51:220.

⁸⁹ Plymouth County Deeds, 51:222.

⁹⁰ Plymouth County Probate Records, 1633–1967; Family Search.org, 20:10.

⁹¹ Bristol County Probate Files [note 7], File 16686, (Abigail is not mentioned in her husband's will dated 6 July 1787); Bristol County Deeds, 70:501: on 21 March 1792, Abigail's husband Stephen Macomber and her daughter Phebe Macomber sold land and referred to Abigail as deceased.

⁹² *Vital Records of Taunton* [note 2], 2:328.

⁹³ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 16686. The probate papers on AmericanAncestors.org include a paragraph that is not in the transcription on Ancestry.com. But the will on AmericanAncestors.org is missing a page. The will lists each of Stephen and Abigail's children.

⁹⁴ Ibid. George Macomber was named executor of the estate in Nov 1797.

⁹⁵ Ibid. Stephen Macomber's will lists all the children: Abigail, Stephen, George, Jonathan, and Phebe.

⁹⁶ “Robinson Genealogy” [note 4], 6.

BRYANT,^[97] who was born perhaps in 1720, the daughter of William and Ruth (Stetson) Bryant.^[98] Lydia died by 1780 when John married, second, in Raynham, where intentions were recorded 15 May 1780, as her second husband **ELIZABETH (ATHERTON) ROBINSON**.^[99] Elizabeth's first husband, Ebenezer Robinson, died in Raynham 30 December 1776.^[100] Ebenezer Robinson and John Robinson were cousins.^[101]

John and Lydia had nine children, all born in Raynham.^[102]

John's father, Increase Robinson, gave John land in Raynham on 5 March 1735/6.^[103] On 29 August 1768, John gave 10 acres to his son John Robinson Jr. and then on 26 August 1786, eight months before his death, John gave the rest of the farm to John Jr. with the provision that John Jr. "[pay] my just debts and my several legacies in my last will and testament." John Sr. refers to the earlier 10-acre gift in the deed.^[104]

11. GEORGE ROBINSON was born in Taunton say 1713. He died after 1752 when his son Nathaniel was born.^[105] George married about 1745, **ELIZABETH COBB**, the daughter of Captain Thomas and Lydia (Leonard) Cobb.^[106] Elizabeth died by September 1778 when she is listed as deceased in her father's will.^[107]

⁹⁷ See note 54.

⁹⁸ D. Alden Smith, "The Descendants of Stephen Bryant of Plymouth, and of his Son-in-Law Lt. John Bryant of Plympton," *Register* 154 (2000):228. I am proposing that Lydia is an unrecorded daughter of William and Ruth (Stetson) Bryant. On 2 August 1743, soon after Lydia and John were married, "William Bryant of Middleborough paid Increase Robinson of Plymouth (John's brother) £100 for all of Robinson's father's land in Taunton and Raynham" (Bristol County Deeds, 32:298). Lydia is a common name in this Bryant family and there is a gap between about 1718 and 1737 when there are no recorded children born to William and Ruth Bryant.

⁹⁹ *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988*, Raynham Vital Records, Image 8 and 390 online at Ancestry.com. Image 9 calls her Widow Elizabeth Robinson and image 390 calls her Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson.

¹⁰⁰ "Robinson Genealogy" [note 4], 11; Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21672.

¹⁰¹ Ebenezer's father Ebenezer and John's father Increase were brothers.

¹⁰² "Robinson Genealogy" [note 4], 20, John, Jonathan, Anne, Prudence, Eliab, Lydia, Molly, Perez, Matilda.

¹⁰³ Bristol County Deeds, 27:172.

¹⁰⁴ Bristol County Deeds, 53:423; 66:23.

¹⁰⁵ *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900*. The pension file for Nathaniel and Hannah Robinson, file 26016, Ancestry.com, affidavit, image 747. Nathaniel states he was born in Taunton 12 May 1752. George may have still been alive in September of 1778 when his father-in-law Captain Thomas Cob wrote his will and did not refer to George as deceased. The will says "I give to the Heirs of my daughter Elisabeth Robinson deceased wife to George Robinson; Nathaniel Robinson, Lydia the wife of Elkhanah Bishop and Mary Robinson, six hundred pounds lawful money . . . to be equally divided among them." Bristol County Probate Files [note 7], File 6190:3. It is also possible that he is the George Robinson listed in the 1790 census in Stockbridge, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, where his daughter Lydia (Robinson) Bishop lived (1790 U.S. Federal Census, West Stockbridge, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, roll 4, p. 699).

¹⁰⁶ In his will (see note 106), Thomas Cobb mentions his wife Hannah. She was his second wife; his first wife had died. *Vital Records of Taunton* [note 2], 51; The memoir of their son General David Cobb identifies his parents as Colonel Thomas, and Lydia (Leonard) Cobb of Attleboro, Massachusetts. Joseph Whitcomb Porter, *Memoir of Gen. David Cobb and Family of Gouldsborough, Maine, and Taunton, Mass* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University, 1888), 2.

¹⁰⁷ Thomas Cobb will [note 107].

George and Elizabeth had three children, all born probably in Taunton.^[108]

George is one of the children who participated in the distribution of his father Increase Robinson's estate as described in the Increase Robinson section earlier. As a part of that process, in about 1742, George petitioned the court to have his father's estate divided since "It has been upwards of 4 years since my father's decease."^[109]

On 6 September 1743, George, wig maker, and his sister Abigail's husband, Stephen Macomber, yeoman, both of Taunton, purchased 4 acres from their aunts Bethiah (and her husband Peter Pitts), Abigail (and her husband Daniel Hudson), and Hannah Williams, widow. The land was their portion of their father's estate.^[110]

On 16 October 1744, George sold land to Stephen Macomber,^[111] and on 15 April 1749, George sold his part of his father's estate.^[112]

12. LYDIA ROBINSON was born perhaps 1715. She died after 9 April 1787, when her son Lemuel Hoskins sold all rights he might have to the estates of his father, Joshua Hoskins, deceased, to the estate of his brother, Joshua, deceased, and to the dower rights of his mother, "Lydia Hoskins," now living.^[113] It is possible that Lydia is the unnamed Hoskins widow in the Taunton death records who died 31 January 1789.^[114] Lydia married by 1736,^[115] **JOSHUA HOSKINS**. He was born say 1709,^[116] the son of Samuel and Mercy (Cobb) Hoskins/Haskins.^[117] Joshua died in Taunton 2 April 1785.^[118]

Lydia and Joshua had ten children, all born in Taunton.^[119]

In 1731 Joshua Hoskins's father, Samuel, sold two parcels of land to Joshua.^[120] On 3 January 1733, Joshua and his brother Nehemiah bought land in Taunton.^[121] Nehemiah sold to Joshua, on 16 August 1742, his half of the land that they purchased together in 1733.^[122] The purchases and the sale were recorded on 19 August 1742. In 1739 Lydia Hoskins sold her rights to her father Increase Robinson's estate.^[123]

¹⁰⁸ Ibid. Elizabeth (Cobb) Robinson's father, Thomas Cobb, left £600 to Mary, Lydia, and Nathaniel, the children of his daughter Elizabeth, deceased.

¹⁰⁹ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 21705.

¹¹⁰ Bristol County Deeds, 32:166.

¹¹¹ Bristol County Deeds, 33:102.

¹¹² Bristol County Deeds, 35:400.

¹¹³ Bristol County Deeds, 66:145.

¹¹⁴ *Vital Records of Taunton* [note 2], 3:101.

¹¹⁵ Her first child, Mary was born 24 March 1737; *FindaGrave.com*, memorial no. 11997425.

¹¹⁶ Bristol County Deeds, 19:606. If Joshua was 21 when he made his first land transaction, then he was born in 1709.

¹¹⁷ Mrs. John E. (Florence Harlow) Barclay, "Haskins of Taunton: Samuel², Samuel³, and Their Families" *The American Genealogist* 28 (1952):252–256; 30 (1954):173–174.

¹¹⁸ *Vital Records of Taunton* [note 2], 3:100.

¹¹⁹ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 12137;10–11; Mary, Lydia, Prudence, Rebecca, Abijah, Joshua, Lemuel, Hannah, Samuel, and Ann.

¹²⁰ Bristol County Deeds, 34:291; 19:297.

¹²¹ Bristol County Deeds, 31:81.

¹²² Bristol County Deeds, 31:81.

¹²³ Bristol County Deeds, 45:20.

Joshua's will dated 1 January 1772 names his children but not his wife Lydia.^[124] His 1785 probate file includes a request, dated 18 January 1776, to appoint a guardian for him because he was "a person non compos mentis." The request was signed by Abram Linkon, Oliver Danforth, and Abijah Leonard. Abram Linkon is probably Joshua's son-in-law, the husband of his daughter Lydia.^[125] On 11 March 1776, the selectmen who had been appointed to look into the request recommended against it, saying "finding his wife and almost all the children appertaining to that family so averse to such an appointment we are humble of the opinion that a suspension of a guardian over the said Joshua for the present will be the most advisable."^[126] As a part of the probate process, an order was issued on 6 September 1785, to appraise the estate and set off a third to the widow and divide the rest among the children according to the will.^[127]

Starting in April of 1787 a series of deeds identify all the children of Joshua Hoskins and the then spouses of the daughters. Samuel Leonard bought the rights to their father's estate from each of the living children. Finally in 1794 Leonard bought the portion of the estate owned by Joshua's grandson, Abijah, the son of Abijah.^[128]

13. ELIZABETH ROBINSON was born say 1719. She died after 9 May 1774 when she and her husband sold land in New Braintree, Worcester County, Massachusetts.^[129] It is possible that she is the widow Elizabeth Lincoln in the 1800 census in Taunton.^[130] Elizabeth married 11 October 1743, **NATHANIEL LINCOLN**.^[131] He was born probably in Taunton, the eldest son of Nathaniel and Alice (Andrews) Linkon.^[132] Nathaniel died probably in Attleboro about 1799.^[133]

Elizabeth and Nathaniel had six children.^[134]

¹²⁴ See note 120.

¹²⁵ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7] File 12137:16.

¹²⁶ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 12137:23.

¹²⁷ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 12137:7.

¹²⁸ Bristol County Deeds, Marcy and James Andrews 67:261, Lydia and Abraham Lincoln 68:223, Prudence and Lemual Hathaway 67:267, Rebecca and Nathan Hack 67:263, Lemuel Hoskins 66:145, Hannah Hoskins 67:262, Samuel Hoskins 67:268, Anne and Lovid Eddy 67:267, Aaron Pratt as guardian for Abijah Hoskins, 73:26.

¹²⁹ Worcester County Deeds, 74:225.

¹³⁰ 1800 U. S. Census, Taunton, roll 19, p. 567.

¹³¹ *Vital Records of Taunton* [note 2], 2:309.

¹³² *FindaGrave.com*, memorial no. 79822035.

¹³³ "Robinson Genealogy" [note 4], 7. "[He] removed to Attleboro where he died over eighty years of age" (this is an extract from a paper prepared by John E. Morris, Assistant Secretary of The Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, and sent by Benj. N. Goodale of Saco, Maine, to Josiah H. Drummond, Portland Maine, July 21 1891).

¹³⁴ "Robinson Genealogy" [note 4], 7–8; Nathaniel, Zerviah, Rachel, Stephen, Lemuel, and Loved. In addition to the six children of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Robinson) Lincoln listed here, the Robinson manuscript also includes three more children (Abby, Olive, and Thomas), citing letters received in November 1890 from George Lincoln of Hingham, Massachusetts. Based on James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, (space) 1642–1896* (Providence, R.I.: Narragansett Historical Publishing Company, 1897, 1:666), these three were not children of Nathaniel and Elizabeth.

On 21 January 1744, Elizabeth and Nathaniel Linkon Jr of Taunton sold Elizabeth's portion of her father's estate.^[135] On 4 January 1748 Nathaniel Linkon Jr. of Taunton son of Nathaniel Linkon of Taunton bought a house and land in Rehoboth from Elisha Bosworth.^[136] Elizabeth and Nathaniel lived there until they sold the property on 9 August 1762. Elizabeth and Nathaniel both signed the deed.^[137] They then moved to New Braintree, Worcester County, where "Nathaniel Lincoln of Rehoboth" bought land and a house.^[138] They lived in New Braintree until they sold their property to their son Nathaniel on 9 May 1774.^[139] According to the "Robinson Genealogy,"^[140] Nathaniel "afterwards lived with his son Stephen on Boyle Hill, Oakham, Mass, then removed to Attleboro" where he died over 80 years of age.^[141] There is a *Vita Brevis* blog post with a picture of the house that Stephen Lincoln built, where presumably his parents lived before moving to Attleboro.^[142]

Nathaniel's father, in his original will dated 17 October 1757, left Nathaniel £15, his cedar swamp in Taunton, and half his interest in Andrews Grist Mill. On 23 May 1760, Nathaniel's father modified the will to only give him 10 pounds and then on 6 March 1761, he changed the will again so that everything given to Nathaniel would now be given to his brother Ichabod. Less than a week after Nathaniel's father died, Nathaniel formally objected to the will in a letter to the court.^[143]

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¹³⁵ Bristol County Deeds, 33:242.

¹³⁶ Bristol County Deeds, 35:357.

¹³⁷ Bristol County Deeds, 46:44.

¹³⁸ Worcester County Deeds, 49:171.

¹³⁹ Worcester County Deeds, 74:225.

¹⁴⁰ "Robinson Genealogy" [note 4].

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 7.

¹⁴² Sheilagh Doerfler, "Beginning at a stake and stones," *Vita Brevis*, 14 July 2014 (<https://vitabrevis.americanancestors.org/2014/07/beginning-stake-stones/>).

¹⁴³ Bristol County Probate File Papers [note 7], File 161121:7, 15–17.