

JOHN³ CARPENTER (*WILLIAM*²⁻¹) OF REHOBOTH,
MASSACHUSETTS, AND LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

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JOHN³ CARPENTER (*William*² of Rehoboth, *William*¹) was baptized at Shalbourne, Berkshire, England, on 8 October 1626 and died at Jamaica, Long Island, between 10 November 1694 (date of will) and 23 May 1695 (date of probate). He married at Rehoboth, Plymouth Colony, or on Long Island (Huntington?), by 1655, **HANNAH SMITH**, born say 1635 and living in 1704 (sold dower rights to son William), daughter of William¹ and Magdalen (_____) Smith of Weymouth, Massachusetts; Rehoboth; and Huntington and Jamaica, Long Island (TAG 25:70–71, 70:194, 203; QCoWills [abstr] 29–29B; JTR 1:86, 2:66; Colonial Fams 2:536, 545, 549–50; GM 6:408–12; Carpenter [1898] 44; Keeler–Wood 69–70; see also DEATH and MARRIAGE sections, below). [While the foregoing genealogical data is presented in *Register* style, the embedding, grouping, and severe abbreviating of source citations are conveniences that depart from it. 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.]

DEATH: Herbert Seversmith states that John³ Carpenter's will was proved the day after it was written, "showing that he had died quite suddenly." This, however, appears to represent momentary confusion with John's namesake son, John⁴, whom Seversmith describes as apparently having "met with some accident[,] for he died suddenly, 10 June 1732; his will was made the same day" (see Colonial Fams 2:536, 545).

MARRIAGE: That John Carpenter's marriage occurred by 1655 is inferred from the fact that his eldest son, John "Junior," was a freeholder (and thus an adult) by 1676 (see JTR 1:86).

On 2 February 1699/1700, Nehemiah Smith of Jamaica, Long Island, deeded land there to "my loving cousin John Carpenter of the same town" (GM 6:410, citing JTR 2:66–67). In part because *cousin* was often used to mean *nephew*, leading genealogists accept that the grantor was Hannah (Smith) Carpenter's brother and the grantee her eldest son (see GM 6:410). For the complete argument that Hannah (Mrs. John) Carpenter was the daughter of William¹ Smith, see Herbert F. Seversmith, *Colonial Families of Long Island, New York and Connecticut*, 5 vols. (Washington, D.C., 1939–1958), 2:549–50 [FHL film #525,304].

A pair of highly unreliable sources identify John's wife as the Hannah Smith said to have been baptized at Whitford, Shute Parish, co. Devon, England, on 14 May 1632 and her father as the William Smyth who married at neighboring Colyton on 11 August 1625, Marie Feavors/Fevord (see, both with extreme caution, IGI [patron submission]; William Smith, n.p.). The latter event is a matter of record (see IGI extraction), and for argument's sake, we may assume that the former is also. No evidence is found, however, that this William and Hannah Smith were father and daughter (could their names be more common?), let alone that they were John Carpenter's father-in-law and wife. For the most reliable information about William¹ Smith and his family, see GM 6:408–12; Seversmith Papers, William Smith File (with Carpenter connections) [FHL film #569,824]; and TAG 25(1949):70–89, 144.

A couple of sources have John marrying second, on 9 February 1680, Dorothy _____ (see Savage 1:336; Attleborough Settlers 48, 50). There is no record of such a marriage, however (if there were, it would almost certainly include the bride's surname), and the children these sources attribute to John³ belong to John⁴ (*William*³⁻¹) and Rebecca (Redway) Carpenter of Rehoboth and of Woodstock, Connecticut (RVR 1:35; Early Rehoboth 1:129, 136–37). Based on the will of John¹ Rhodes, which names son-in-law John Carpenter, Clarence Torrey tentatively identifies Dorothy as Rhodes's daughter (NYGBR 65:115; Torrey [CD]). That John Carpenter, however, was John³'s son, who married Rhodes's daughter Mary on Long Island about 1680 (see CHILDREN, below). John³, moreover, had long since migrated to Long Island, and his will, dated in 1694, names wife Hannah, who was still living in 1704 (see first paragraph, above; WILL/ESTATE, below).

IMMIGRATION: John was the 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); Rehoboth (1644); Long Island (mid-1650s [see below]).

John may have departed Rehoboth as early as 1653, for on 28 June of that year his name fails to appear among those of forty-one signatories, including his father and brother William Jr., who on that date authorized four others to settle a land-rights issue with a group of Plymouth men (Early Rehoboth 1:30–31). He is also omitted from a December 1657 rate list naming his brothers William Jr. and Joseph among fifty-five Rehoboth men and from a list of those, including William Jr., who drew meadow lots on Rehoboth's north side in June 1658 (TAG 70:197n27). Undated Rehoboth proprietors' records (ca. 1662) indicate that he had sold his land holdings there to James Redway, father-in-law of John's brothers Samuel and Abiah and of their brother William's son John (TAG 70:197n27).

Dated 7 December 1660, the deed by which he purchased a dwelling house, home lot, and eleven acres of meadow at then Dutch-controlled Hempstead, Long Island, calls him “John Carpendar of Hontinton [colony not stated]” (HTR.2:97). Amos B. Carpenter assumes (as, initially, does Herbert Seversmith) that this was the southwestern Connecticut town of Huntington (now Shelton) (Carpenter [1898] 43, 50; Colonial Fams 536, 544, 545, 1012); that town was not established until 1789, however (TAG 70:197n27). The Huntington to which the deed refers, although under Connecticut authority from 1660 to 1664, was separated from Hempstead only by the town of Oyster Bay, on Long Island; it was first settled in the early 1650s. Confirming that John Carpenter had been living at Huntington, Long Island, is his having witnessed on 25 September 1660 Ann Crocker’s sale of her Oyster Bay house and land to Richard Lattin of “*hunting Towne*” (OBTR 5).

On 14 February 1663/4, a meadow lot was laid out to him at Jamaica, Long Island (JTR 1:21). He was nevertheless living at Hempstead on 12 May 1664, and when on 8 November 1665 he bought a dwelling house and home lot at Jamaica, he was still “of Hempstead” (CCCR 1:425, 429; JTR 2:331–32). He clearly did not settle at Jamaica until after this purchase.

OCCUPATION: Carpenter and planter. John left “my carpenter shop tools” to his sons (QCoWills [abstr] 29–29A). He is said to have been an itinerant carpenter as a young man (Carpenter [1898] 43; Colonial Fams 2:544). The itinerancy, however, appears to be an assumption based on dubious claims of his presence in Connecticut in the mid-1640s and the mistaken notion that he had migrated there from Rehoboth in the mid-1650s (see RESIDENCES, par. 2, above; Carpenter [1898] 43–44).

FREEMAN: He was one of fifteen Hempstead men accepted as freemen by the Connecticut General Court on 12 May 1664 (CCCR 1:425, 429).

EDUCATION: He signed his will (and various other documents) and left “my books to be equally divided amongst all my children” (QCoWills [abstr] 29A–B).

OFFICES: Hempstead: selectman, 1663/4 (HTR 1:148–49). Jamaica: captain of fusilier company by 1670 (see COMMENTS, below); overseer of poor, 1670; committee to settle minister, 1676; delegate to choose county treasurer, 1683[4]; in delegation to meet with governor, 1685; commissioner, 1686; delegate to choose county representatives to Provincial Assembly, 1689/90 (JTR 44, 45–46, 65, 138, 143, 161; DHNY 3:64[4to ed.]/98–99[8vo ed.], 123/197; Colonial Fams 2:544).

A New York history names John Carpenter eleventh on a list of twelve Rutsdorp (Jamaica) magistrates for the period 1659–1673, suggesting that he held the office toward the end of that period (see NY Hist [online] 5:n.p.).

WILL/ESTATE: The will of John Carpenter, dated 10 November 1694 and proved 23 May 1695, names sons John (eldest), Hope (second), Samuel (third), and William (co-executor); daughter Ruth Ludlam; grandchildren Hannah and Abigail Rhodes and [John⁴'s son] Solomon Carpenter; wife Hannah (co-executor); and overseers Joseph and Nehemiah Smith. Real estate, in addition to parcels of specified size totaling 171 acres, includes several of unspecified area: home lot and adjoining pasture; "addition" of fresh meadow; and "lotted land within fence and without." Son John had previously received property "out of my stock and estate as a part of his portion." Household goods include items of pewter and brass (QCoWills [abstr] 29–29A). For additional bequests, see OCCUPATION and EDUCATION, above.

The probate clerk's copy of the will is filed in Queens County Deeds, A:98 [FHL film #1,414,477]. For a virtually complete transcription, see QCoWills [abstr], 29–29B.

CHILDREN: Herbert F. Seversmith, one of the most respected genealogists of his time, researched this family. Explicitly correcting the work of Amos Carpenter (see Carpenter [1898] 50), Seversmith presents the children of John³ and Hannah (Smith?) Carpenter as below (bracketed data added) (see Colonial Fams 2:536, 540, 543n, 545–49).

- i. CAPT. JOHN⁴ CARPENTER, b. [probably Huntington, L.I.] ca. 1655 (adult by 1676 [see MARRIAGE, above]), d. Jamaica, L.I., 10 June 1732; m. [probably Jamaica] ca. 1680 MARY RHODES, d. after 10 June 1732, dau. of John Rhodes.
- ii. DINAH CARPENTER, b. [probably Huntington] ca. 1657 [d. probably by 10 Nov. 1694 (see WILL/ESTATE, above)]; m. [probably Jamaica] ca. 1676 JOHN RHODES, son of John¹ Rhodes.
- iii. HOPE CARPENTER, b. probably Hempstead, L.I., ca. 1662, d. Jamaica ca. 1713; m. [probably Jamaica, by ca. 1685] MARY ASHMAN, dau. of Robert Ashman.
- iv. RUTH CARPENTER, b. Jamaica ca. 1664; m. [probably Jamaica] JOHN LUDLAM, son of William and Elizabeth (Smith) Ludlam.
- v. SAMUEL CARPENTER, b. Jamaica ca. 1666, d. there probably soon after 25 May 1720; wife's name not found. [Claims that he m. ca. 1691 Sarah _____ and afterward Patience _____ and Rebecca _____ are unsubstantiated.]
- vi. WILLIAM CARPENTER, b. Jamaica ca. 1668, d. Hempstead 21 Feb. 1748/9; m. (1?) ELIZABETH _____ (his wife in 1707) and (2?) SARAH _____ (his wife in 1715).
- vii. SOLOMON CARPENTER, b. Jamaica ca. 1671, d. "before his father, *unmarried, without issue*." [Seversmith fails to present evidence of this Solomon's existence.]

There is no evidence to support the attribution to this couple of either a daughter Abigail or Temperance (as found occasionally online).

COMMENTS: On 29 July 1673, Capt. John Carpenter and his company of fusiliers (light infantry) were ordered to Fort James, in Lower Manhattan, which was under attack by the Dutch fleet (DHNY 3:64/98–99). It was not he, however, but his nephew John⁴ Carpenter of Rehoboth (*William*³⁻¹) who in late 1675 participated (as did the latter's brother-in-law John² Redway) in the Narragansett Expedition of King Philip's War (Rehoboth Hist 117).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: See, for example, David Yehling Allen, *Long Island History on the World Wide Web* (2001; updated, revised 2004), online at www.sunysb.edu/libmap/liweb.htm#notes; Peter Ross, *A History of Long Island: From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*, vol. 1 of 3 (New York, 1902).

KEY TO SOURCE NOTES:

Attleborough Settlers	David Jillson (b. 1824), “Genealogy of Some of the First Settlers in Attleborough” (n.p., n.d., manuscript [C 4961] at New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston)
Carpenter [1898]	Amos B. Carpenter, <i>A Genealogical History of the Rehoboth Branch of the Carpenter Family in America</i> [informal title: <i>Carpenter Memorial</i>] (Amherst, Mass., 1898)
CCCR	<i>The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut</i> , 15 vols. (Hartford, 1850–1890)
Colonial Fams	Herbert F. Seversmith, <i>Colonial Families of Long Island, New York and Connecticut</i> , 5 vols. (Washington, D.C., 1939–1958)
DHNY	Edmund Bailey O’Callaghan, ed., <i>The Documentary History of the State of New-York</i> , 4 vols. (Albany, 1849–1851; quarto and octavo editions)
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)
FHL	Family History Library, Salt Lake City
GM	Robert Charles Anderson, <i>The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635</i> , Volume VI R–S (Boston, 2009)
HTR	<i>Records of the Towns of North and South Hempstead, Long Island, New York [1654–1880]</i> , ed. Benjamin D. Hicks, 8 vols. (Jamaica, N.Y., 1896–1904)
IGI	International Genealogical Index, online at www.familysearch.org

- JTR *Records of the Town of Jamaica, Long Island, New York, 1656–1751*, ed. Josephine C. Frost, 3 vols. (Brooklyn, N.Y., 1914)
- Keeler–Wood Josephine C. Frost, *Ancestors of Evelyn Wood Keeler, Wife of Willard Underhill Taylor* (Brooklyn, 1939)
- NYGBR *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, vol. 1 (1869) through present
- NY Hist [online] James Sullivan, et al., eds., *History of New York State, 1523–1927*, 6 vols. (New York, 1927), online version of vol. 5, ch. 12, note 38, at www.courts.state.ny.us/history/elecbook/sullivan/pg3.htm
- OBTR *Oyster Bay Town Records, Volume I—1653–1690* (New York, 1916)
- QCoWills [abstr] “Abstracts of Early Wills of Queens County, New York, Recorded in Libers A and C of Deeds, Now in the Register’s Office at Jamaica, New York” (Jamaica, N.Y., 1938; typescript [929.3NY24Q] in Long Island Collection, Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica, N.Y.); also available on FHL film #17,872, item 1
- Rehoboth Hist Leonard Bliss Jr., *The History of Rehoboth, Bristol County, Massachusetts* (Boston, 1836)
- RVR Rehoboth, Massachusetts, Vital Records (orig.) [FHL film #562,559 (restricted), item 3]
- Savage James Savage, *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, 4 vols. (Boston, 1860–1862)
- TAG *The American Genealogist*, vol. 9 (1932) through present
- Torrey [CD] Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700* [CD-ROM] (Boston, c2001); source notes included
- William Smith Leslie Budd Carpenter, “The Descendants of William Smith of Jamaica, New York, 1598–1668” (1965; typescript at New York Public Library; also in Long Island Collection, Queens Borough Public Library), not pag-

inated; almost identical is Raymond George Carpenter, “The Ancestry and Descendants of Magistrate William Smith 1598–1668 of Jamaica, Queens County, Long Island, New York” (1965; typescript at Idaho State Historical Society and Archives, Boise), not paginated

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