

The Robbins Family

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The Robbins Context

The Robbins family line date back into England about the time of the English Civil War and continue to New England until the marriage of Rhoda Robbins to Ebenezer Gould. We start with English History and then are primarily concerned with primarily American History, Geography and Religion. Descendants are listed at <http://www.retson.ca/robbinsdescendants.pdf>

1. Thomas Robbins 1615 – 1660 Elizabeth West 1625 – 1674 (Not Verified)

Thomas Robbins was born at Hedingworth, Leicestershire, England, United Kingdom. He died 27 Jun 1660 Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut, United States. He married Elizabeth West about 1635 in England.

He had at least one child

2. i George Robbins b. 03 Oct 1646 Chelmsford, Middlesex, MA,, d. 19 Feb 1689 Chelmsford, Middlesex, MA, m 3 woman. Alice Frye

Chelmsford, Massachusetts¹

Chelmsford is a town in Middlesex County, Massachusetts in the United States. It is located 24 miles (39 km) northwest of Boston and, bordering on the city of Lowell, is part of the Greater Lowell metropolitan area. Besides Lowell on its northeast, Chelmsford is surrounded by four towns: Tyngsborough to the north, Billerica to the southeast, Carlisle to the south, and Westford to the west. Chelmsford is bordered by two sizable rivers: the Merrimack River to the north, and the Concord River to the east.

Settlers from the adjacent communities of Woburn and Concord founded Chelmsford. An act of the Massachusetts General Court in the last week of May 1655 town incorporated Chelmsford, and it was named after Chelmsford, England. The nearby communities of Groton and Billerica were incorporated at the same time. Chelmsford originally contained the neighboring town of Westford, and parts of Carlisle, Tyngsborough, and a large part of Lowell (formerly known as East Chelmsford). When Chelmsford was incorporated, its local economy was fueled by lumber mills, limestone quarries and kilns. The farming community of East Chelmsford was incorporated as Lowell in the 1820s; over the next decades it would go on to become one of the first large-scale factory towns in the United States because of its early role in the country's Industrial Revolution.

2. George Robbins 1646 - 1689 Alice Frye

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Robbins-1429>

George Robbins Son of Thomas Robbins and [mother unknown] was born about 3 Oct 1640 in Chelmsford, Middlesex, Massachusetts^[1]

Husband of **Alice Frye** — married 1673 in Chelmsford, Middlesex, Massachusetts[?]

Husband of **Mary (Barrett) Robbins** — married about 21 Jan 1686 in Sherborn, Middlesex, Massachusetts

Father of [George Robbins II](#), [Samuel Robbins](#), [Eleazer Robbins](#), [Benjamin Robbins Sr.](#), [Jonathan Robbins](#) and [Thomas Robbins](#)

George was born about 1640, possibly a little earlier.^[1]

George owned both a farm and a mill at the southern part of Chelmsford (now North Carlisle), Massachusetts, near Great Brook.^[2] During King Philip's War, George's house was used as a garrison house.^[2]

George was married three times:

- (1) Mary (____) married by 1667, when their first child was born. She died September 24, 1672, possibly in childbirth.^[2]

Children, first two recorded at Chelmsford:^[2]

- i. Mary Robbins b 1667 mar Samuel Taylor
- ii. Phillip b 1670
- iii. John b about 1672

- (2) Alice (____) died at Chelmsford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts on November 25, 1686. She died six days after the birth of twins.^[2]

Children, recorded at Chelmsford, except for Alice, Sarah, and Eleazor, who are named in their father's Will:^[2]

- iv. George b 1675 mar 1)Elizabeth Wood 2)Hannah Hunt 3)Abigail (____)
- v. Sarah b 1677 mar Benoni Perham
- vi. Samuel b 1679 mar Dorothy Barrett
- vii. Eleazor b 1682 mar Ruth Wheeler

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelmsford,_Massachusetts

viii. Benjamin b 1684 mar 1) Hannah Hildreth 2) Ann (or Anas) Johnson

ix. Jonathan Twin b 1686 mar Margaret Lund

x. Joseph Twin b 1686 not named in father's Will

(3) [Mary Barrett](#), daughter of Thomas and Frances (Woolderson) Barrett, on January 21, 1686/7, at Sherborn, Middlesex, Massachusetts^[3]

Children:^[2]

xi. Thomas b 1687 mar Sarah (___)

Last Will and Testament of George Robbins

February 19, 1688/9:

I give to my beloved wife Mary £20 in corn or cattle at country price as it goes between man & man this to be payd unto hir foure years after my death. To my three sons, Samuel, Eliazer, Benjamin, I give £10 to each of them: also to my son Jonathan I give £10: also to Tho: my son I give £5 these legacies to be payd them in corn or cattle when they come to be of age: also to my daughter Sarah I give my feather-bed with its furniture & also £10 ... and to my daughter Mary I give £10 half of it in household goods & the other half in corn or cattle: also to my son Phillip I give half of my medow which I bought of Georg Farly of Bilerica lying by Concord Road & twelve acres of upland lying by Sam Barret: item to my two sons John and Georg I give all the rest of my lands equally to be divided among themselves as they shall agree: finally I constitute and make my sons John and Georg to be the executors of this last will and testament ... ^{[2][4]}

George died 23 Aug 1689 in Chelmsford, Massachusetts.^[2]

Sources for George Robbins (copied from <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Robbins-1429>)

1. [↑] [1.0 1.1](#) Snow, Nora E., *The Snow-Estes ancestry* (Vol. 2, Pgs i-vii & 220) Hillburn, New York, 1939, accessed online 3/30/14
2. [↑] [2.0 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6 2.7 2.8 2.9](#) Sprague, Eleanor R. and Robbins, Andrew W., *Untangling the Evidence for Two Massachusetts Robbins Families. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-. NEHGR 151:387 (1997), (Online database: AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2001-2013.) no online access, but will send article as an attachment upon request.
3. [↑] [Massachusetts, Marriages, 1695-1910](#), index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FCSH-GQX> : accessed 07 Apr 2014), George Robbins and Mary Barret, 21 Jan 1686; citing reference p 139; FHL microfilm 892249.
4. [↑] [Middlesex County, MA: Index to Probate Records, 1648-1871](#). (Online database: AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Research Library Call No. F72/M7/M55, 2003), (Orig. pub. City of Cambridge, Mass. Index to the Probate records of the county of Middlesex, Massachusetts, 1912-14)

Additional sources of information, not footnoted:

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- *Massachusetts Town Marriage Records.*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, (Online publication - Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999.)
- US Sons of the American Revolution Membership App-102.jpg Format: jpg Title: U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970

- Robbins, Dana Watkins *History of the Robbins family of Walpole, Massachusetts, descendants of William and Priscilla Robbins*, published 1949. Reference page J
 - *George Robbins* Includes many references
 - Middlesex County, Massachusetts Probate Index, 1648-1870
 - [https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:George_Robbins_\(1\)](https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:George_Robbins_(1))
 - <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/93PX-V8J/george-robbins-1640-1689>
-

3. xii Samuel Robbins b. 02 Jan 1679 in Chelmsford, Middlesex, MA, d. 1764 Killingly, Windham, Conn. m.

3. Samuel Robbins 1679 – 1764 and Dorothy Barrett

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Robbins-2230>

Samuel Robins, son of George Robbins and Alice Frye was born January 2 1679 in **Chelmsford, Middlesex, Massachusetts Bay Colony**.

Brother of [George Robbins II](#), [Eleazer Robbins](#), [Benjamin Robbins Sr.](#), [Jonathan Robbins](#) and [Thomas Robbins](#) [half]

He married Dorothy Barrett) Robbins March 1701 in Chelmsford, Middlesex, Massachusetts Bay Colony.

They had the following children,

- i. Jane Robbins b.11 Sep 1703 in Chelmsford, Middlesex, Massachusetts
- ii. Mary Robbins b. 27 Dec 1705 in Chelmsford, Middlesex, Massachusetts
- iii. Abigail Robins b. 19 Jul 1708 in Chelmsford, Middlesex, Massachusetts
- iv. Samuel Robbins b. 9 Sep 1711 in Killingly, Windham, Connecticut
- v. Dorothy Robbins b. after 1712
4. vi. John Robbins b. 16 May 1716 in Killingly, Windham, Conn. d. 10 Oct 1758 in Killingly, Windham, Connecticut, m. Abigail Whitney
- vii. Sarah Robbins b. 31 May 1719
- viii. Alice Robbins b. 28 Jul 1723 in Killingly, Windham, Connecticut Colony, m. Matthias Whitney

Samuel Robbins died September 4 1764 at age 85 in Killingly, Windham, Connecticut Colony.

4. John Robbins 1716 -1758 Abigail Whitney

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Robbins-3178>

John Robbins, son of Samuel Robbins and Dorothy Barrett, was born in Killingly in the Colony of Connecticut on 16 May 1716. He died 10 Oct 1758 in Killingly. He was baptized 16 May 1716, Killingly, CT, and died in 1758, Killingly, CT.

He married Abigail Whitney. April 25 1739 in Killingly (Putnam) Connecticut. She was born 9 Dec 1717, Groton, MA, and died after 1758².

Children of John and Abigail4 (Whitney) Robbins:

- i. Abigail Robbins, b. 18 Aug ---- [say 1738], Killingly, CT; d. after 1758. Called "eldest daughter" in her father's probate.
- ii. Josiah Robbins, b. 3 Feb 1739/40, Killingly, CT; m.(1) Elizabeth -----; m.(2) Lydia Robins.

² [http://wiki.whitneygen.org/wrg/index.php/Family:Whitney,_Abigail_\(1717-a1758\)](http://wiki.whitneygen.org/wrg/index.php/Family:Whitney,_Abigail_(1717-a1758))

- iii. Mary Robbins, b. 17 Feb 1741/2, Killingly, CT; d. 15 May 1742, Killingly, CT (as "Marcy").
 - iv. Millicent Robbins, b. 3 Feb 1743/4, Killingly, CT; "Molle" in father's probate, 1758; "Molly" m. 11 Aug 1766, Douglas, MA, Nathaniel Cummings. No children found.
 - v. Mary Robbins, b. 3 Oct 1745, Killingly, CT; m. Jonathan Utley.
 - vi. Samuel Robbins, b. 9 May 1747, Killingly, CT; d. after 1763.
 - vii. Rhoda Robbins, b. 1 Jun 1749, Killingly, CT; d. 9 Apr 1752, Killingly, CT
 - viii. Sarah Robbins, b. 18 Mar 1750/1, Killingly, CT; d. before 1758.
 - ix. Zerviah Robbins, b. 23 May 1753, Killingly, CT; d. after 1758.
5. ix Rhoda Robbins b 30 Mar 1755 in Killingly, Windham, Colony of Connecticut, d. 06 Mar 1832 in West Walworth Cemetery, Wayne, NY, m. Capt Ebenezer Gould, in 1774 in Killingly, Windham, Connecticut.

5. Rhoda Robbins 1774 – 1832 Capt. Ebenezer Gould 1755 – 1809

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Robbins-8252>

Rhoda Robbins, daughter of John Robbins and Abigail Whitney was born in 30 Mar 1755 in Killingly, Windham, in the Colony of Connecticut. She died 06 Mar 1832 in West Walworth Cemetery, Wayne, NY. She married Capt Ebenezer Gould, son of Samuel Gould and Martha Stearns in 1774 in Killingly, Windham, Connecticut.

Appendices

Research

Sprague, Eleanor R. and Robbins, Andrew W., *Untangling the Evidence for Two Massachusetts Robbins Families*. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register. Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-. NEHGR 151:387 (1997), (Online database: AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2001-2013.)

Abbreviations

b. born bp. Baptized bur buried d. died m. married

Selectmen and Board of Selectman

In most New England towns, the adult voting population gathered annually in a town meeting to act as the local legislature, approving budgets and laws. Day-to-day operations were originally left to individual oversight, but when towns became too large for individuals to handle such work loads, they would elect an executive board of, literally, select(ed) men to run things for them.

The board typically consists of three or five members, with or without staggered terms. Three is the most common number, historically. In some places, a first selectman is appointed to head the board, often by election.

These men had charge of the day-to-day operations; selectmen were important in legislating policies central to a community's police force, highway supervisors, poundkeepers, field drivers, and other officials. However, the larger towns grew, the more power would be distributed among other elected boards, such as fire wardens and police departments. For example, population increases led to the need for actual police departments, of which selectmen typically became the commissioners.

Calendar Old Style-New Style, Julian & Georgian

The old calendar used up to about 1752 in Protestant countries was the Julian Calendar based on 365.25 days. In 1752 Great Britain and empire switched to the Julian Calendar and since the actual year is 365.2422 days long the switch over caused a 11 day out of synch problem. To solve this problem, it was proclaimed that September 2 would be followed by September 14. As well the old style calendar the calendar year began on Lady Day 25th of March i.e. the year ran from 25 March to 24 March. Hence January 24, 1712 old style would be January 24, 1713 new style. The correct way to describe a date in the “overlap” period from January 1 to March 24 is to state the Old/New Style as 1712 /1713 which means

“January 24, 1712 old style is what we call January 24, 1713”

List of Freeman³

The status of freeman was primarily of political importance, for it gave one the right to vote for colony officers. In some colonies, though, freeman was tied to church membership, and so the meaning was somewhat different. Massachusetts Bay and New Haven, the most Puritan of the Puritan colonies, made church membership a prerequisite for freemanship, while the rest of the New England colonies did not.

List of freemen may be used for a number of purposes beyond proving biographical information about an immigrant. Like tax lists later, a list of freeman provides basic information about the presence or absence of a person on a given date. And, as noted above, freemanship in Massachusetts Bay and New Haven supplies information about church membership, from which we can learn not just whether this individual was a church member at a given time; we can also reconstruct some of the history of churches whose records have been lost by studying the lists over a period of years.

Sources

Killingly, Windham County, Connecticut History (<https://connecticutgenealogy.com/windham/killingly.htm>)

³ Anderson, Robert Charles, The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England 1634-1635, Volume VII, T-Y Boston, MA: New England Historical and Genealogical Society, 2011

Relationship to Author

8th great grandfather



George Robbins

b: 03 Oct 1646
Oxford, Oxfordshire, England
d: 19 Feb 1689
Chelmsford, Middlesex, MA

7th great grandfather



Samuel Robbins

b: 02 Jan 1679
Chelmsford, Middlesex, MA
d: 1764
Killingly, Windham, Connecticut,

6th great grandfather



John Robbins

b: Abt. 16 May 1716
Killingly, Windham, Conn.
d: 10 Oct 1758
Killingly, Windham, Connecticut,

5th great grandmother



Rhoda Robbins

b: 30 Mar 1755
Killingly, Windham, Conn.
d: 06 Mar 1832
West Walworth Cemetery, Wayne,

4th great grandmother



Abigail Gould

b: 08 Sep 1775
Granville, Washington, New York,
d: 07 May 1860
Augusta Twp, Grenville Co, Ontar

3rd great grandfather



Orrin Gould Perrin

b: 16 Aug 1806
Maynard, Augusta, Grenville, Ont
d: 01 Mar 1888
Maynard, Augusta Township, Gre

2nd great grandmother



Elizabeth Jane Perrin

b: 28 Sep 1840
Merrickville, Grenville County, On
d: 08 Apr 1915
Maynard, Grenville, Ontario, Can

Great grandmother



Abigail Almeda Spicer

b: 13 Sep 1860
Prescott, Ontario, Canada
d: 10 Jul 1940
Merrickville, Ontario, Canada

Maternal grandfather



Edward Elbert Atkinson

b: 26 Feb 1887
Merrickville, Merrickville-Wolford,
d: 14 Jan 1957
Vancouver, British Columbia

Mother



Grace Elizabeth Atkinson

b: Abt. 1917
Waskada, Man.
d: 04 Jun 2008
Truro, Colchester County, Nova S

Self



James Clifford Retson

b: 28 Jul 1948
Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
d: