

RICHARD¹ OF BRAINTREE
First Generation

No. 457

NAME: Richard¹ Chamberlain — Immigrant to New England before 1642

Father:

Mother:

Born: About 1618 (?), England

Died: About Mar 1673, Sudbury, Middlesex Co., MA

Buried:

Married: (1) —?—, about 1641 (?), perhaps MA

Other Marriages: (2) Sarah Bugbee, about 1650 (?), perhaps Middlesex Co., MA
(3) Mrs. Elizabeth Jacques, 30 Mar 1671/72, Sudbury, Middlesex Co., MA

No. 12006

SPOUSE (1): Miss

Father:

Mother:

Born: About 1620 (?), England

Died: Before 1650,

Buried:

Other Marriages:

CHILD
(By First Marriage)

M 458 Richard², b. 19 Dec 1642, Braintree, Suffolk Co., MA. Died there 25 Dec 1642.

No. 12007

SPOUSE (2): Sarah Bugbee

Father: Edward Bugbee

Mother: Rebecca

Born: About 1630, England

Died: Before 1671, probably Sudbury, Middlesex Co., MA

Buried:

Other Marriages:

CHILDREN
(By Second Marriage – Order Uncertain)

F 459 Mary², b. About 1651 (?), probably Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA. Married John Graves,
1 Dec 1671, Concord, MA. Died after 1681. +

CHILDREN
(By Second Marriage – Continued)

- M 460 Benjamin², b. About 1653 (?), probably Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA. Married Sarah Ball, 5 June 1677, Sudbury, MA. Died about 1736, Colchester, CT. +
- M 461 Joseph², b. About 1656 (?), probably Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA. Married Hannah Gilbert, 28 Aug 1682, Sudbury, MA. Died 8 Aug 1721, Oxford, MA. +
- F 462 Rebecca², b. About 1659 (?), probably Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA. Married Dr. Philip Shattuck, 11 Feb 1679/80, Watertown, MA. Died in 1728, probably Watertown, MA. +
- F 463 Anna², b. About 1662 (?), probably Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA. She was named in her father's will in 1673. Nothing further known.
- F 464 Mehitabel², b. About 1665, probably Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA. Baptized 28 Feb 1665/66, Roxbury, MA. She was named in her father's will in 1673. Nothing further known.

No. -1801

SPOUSE (3): Elizabeth

Father:

Mother:

Born: About 1624 (?), probably England

Died: After 1673, probably Middlesex Co., MA

Buried:

Other Marriages: (1) Mr. Jacques,

BIOGRAPHICAL

Richard Chamberlain first appeared in New England at Braintree, MA, when the birth of his son Richard was recorded in 1642. Unfortunately, this record makes no mention of the mother's name.

Richard Chamberlain's name does not again appear in the New England records for a period of some 23 years or so after the son's birth at Braintree. Viz., in 1665, he suddenly appears at Roxbury, MA, where he had six children baptized that year. A study of the early settlement of Roxbury suggests that Richard Chamberlain was an original (or early) settler of the Roxbury land grant, being mentioned in the record of landholders, which unfortunately, has no date attached. However, competent historians place the establishment of the Roxbury grant as having occurred about 1655. The record reads: "Richard Chamberlin, a house and one-half acre of land more or less adjoining to it, abutting east upon the highway and north and west upon Mr. John Eliot and upon Tobias Davis on the south side of it...."

Thus, if we are to assume that Richard was an early settler of Roxbury—say about 1655, we still are at a loss to explain the 13-year interval from 1642 at Braintree to 1655 at Roxbury. Of course this conclusion assumes that the Richard of Braintree in 1642 and he of Roxbury in 1665, are one and the same—which of course they may not be. Prentiss Glazier makes the interesting suggestion that possibly Richard had lived in or near Hingham (a short distance from Braintree) as there are four Chamberlain names recorded in that place whose identification is unknown. (In any case they are not definitely associated with Henry Chamberlin, blacksmith, who settled in Hingham, in 1638/39.) A Daniel, Sarah and Nathaniel were baptized in Hingham in 1639, 1641, and 1643 respectively, and an Ebenezer died there in 1646. The names Daniel, Nathaniel and Ebenezer do show up in the names of Richard's grandchildren but do not appear in any of the blacksmith's progeny until the fifth generation.

The John Eliot mentioned in the land description of Richard's property in Roxbury was none other than the great Christian apostle to the Indians and also founded the church at Roxbury to which Richard Chamberlain and his family belonged. The Roxbury land grant records further state: “Edward Bugbee has 16½ acres more or less lying in the nookes, exchanged with my son Richard Chamberlin, butting upon the land of James Bradish east and upon Richard Harris northwest.”

This is the earliest record to give the relationship of Sarah, Richards presumed second wife. Sarah was later admitted to membership in the Roxbury church on 28 May 1665. The next month, on June 4th, all their children were baptized at this same church. Unfortunately, their ages were not given in this record—merely their names: Benjamin, Joseph Mary, Rebecca, and Anna. There remains some question as to whether these children were all by Richard's wife, Sarah Bugbee. Daniel's *History of Oxford* states that their son Benjamin was 70 years old in 1713—which gives 1643 as his year of birth. If so, he could not have been a child of Sarah who was only some 13 years old at the time. However, we do not find corroboration for Daniel's statement. Based on Benjamin's date of marriage (1677) and birthdates of his children, it seems more likely that Benjamin was born in the early 1650s and was known to be the elder son. Thus, it is my opinion that Sarah Bugbee was the mother of all the children baptized at Roxbury in 1665.

Sarah Bugbee came from England with her parents in 1634. They sailed on the ship *Francis* which embarked from Ipswich, England, on 30 Apr 1634. The ship's passenger list gave her age as four years, her father Edward Bugbee, aged 40, and mother Rebecca Bugbee, aged 38 years. There was no mention made of the place in England from whence they came. Edward Bugbee (or Bugby), “an honored citizen and church member, aged above eighty,” died 27 Jan 1668/69. He made his will on 26 Nov 1668, recorded at Suffolk County. In his will, Edward Bugbee made his daughter Sarah, heir to over...of his property which included 23½ acres of land, “household stuff, cattle and money.” Out of this, she was to pay his son-in-law Chamberlin, 18 pounds for his daughters, the testator's granddaughters Mary and Rebecca Chamberlin; “Richard Chamberlin, husband of my daughter,” was appointed Executor of his will. No record has been found of any deeds made by Sarah or Richard regarding her inheritance which may indicate that she died not long after this and did not actually take possession of any of the property. Of course, the deeds may have never been recorded.

On 23 Jan 1667/68, Richard and his wife Sarah sold ¾ of an acre of land in Roxbury to Robert Harris who lived just of the the line in Boston. On the same day, they sold 1½ acres of land, again to Robert Harris and another neighbor Mary Griffin.

On 27 Jan 1667/68, Robert Harris reported finding a “smale horse Coult about one yeare & a halfe ould, a browne Colour....,” ye marke of Richard (R) Chamberlayne.” Recorded in the “Booke of Reccorde for the County of Suffolk for straves this 9th day of March 1667/68....” (*Suffolk Deeds*, Vols. I, II, V).

On 26 Nov 1668, Richard Chamberlain, of Roxbury, bought 60 acres of land with buildings in Sudbury from William Ward. Probably soon after this, he moved to this place with his family. William Ward was of Marlboro and this property was actually situated within the present village of Wayland, MA. On 28 Jan 1670, he sold part of this land: “Three acres in the greate river meadow....”

Evidence seems to indicate that his third wife was a widow with daughters by a former marriage. In addition to his children by Sarah Bugbee, Richard Chamberlain, in his will of 1673, named as daughters, Mary Smith and Elizabeth Daniells (or Daniel). Here, Daniel's *History of Oxford* and Bullard's *Allied Families* erred in stating that he had a son Daniel—interpreting the mention of daughter Elizabeth Daniels as daughter Elizabeth and son Daniel.

In any case, it seems fairly certain that Mary Smith and Elizabeth Daniels were not his natural children. He already had a daughter Mary who married John Graves. As they could not be granddaughters, we must infer them to be of another relation—most likely step-daughters. Another point is that he bequeathed the sum of £18 to each of his natural daughters (except Mary Graves), but only 40 shillings each to Mary Smith and Elizabeth Daniels. His daughter Mary Graves was already married and had probably received gifts earlier as he left her the sum of only 1 shilling and her son John Graves, 40 shillings.

Richard Chamberlain made his will 12 Feb 1672/73; proved 18 Jun 1673. His inventory was taken 15 Apr 1673. His will, as recorded and on file in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, reads as follows:

February 12th, 1672/73. In the name of God Amen: I, Richard Chamberline, of Sudbury in the County of Middlesex in New England, being weake in body yit in perfect memory, blessed be the Lord, revoking all other wills do make this my last will and testament. I do commit my soul into the hands of God that gave it and do dispose of my worldly wealth as followeth:

Imprimus: I doe give to Benjamine, my eldest sonne, my housing and lands that are in my possession, with all my stock of cattell that are properly my owne to have the benefit of all, he paying all my debts and engagements and allowing my beloved wife her maintainance and dwelling in the house during the three years time or if my wife shall see meet to leave the house, he the said Benjamin shall allow her forty shillings a yeare, only my will is that my wife shall have out of the stock, one Cowe in possession for her owne after my decease called the starr Cowe, during the terme of three yeares to be maintained by the said Benjamin with the increase of her propper use and my will is that if the Cowe do live and prosper that my wife after decease shall return a Cowe again which shall be for the use of my daughter Mehitable, but in case the said Cowe shall die and not bring profit to my wife, she shall not be liable to make return of any Cowe againe; also my will is at the end of three yeares above expressed, my wife shall enjoy my house and halfe my barne with halfe my lands both uplands and meadows pasture lands during her naturall life without molestation of the said Benjamin of any of mine.

Also my will is my wife after my decease shall enjoy all that she brought with her at marriage to owne propper use; also my will is that my wife shall enjoy during her naturall life, one iron pot, one warming pan, one brass kettle, one frying pan, the tables in the house, Clayes, formes and all wooden vessells in the house and after her decease to be returned to those of my children as I have disposed them. Also whereas there is a stock of sheep that I have taken to halves, it is my will my son Benjamine shall keep the said sheep during the three yeares time at his cost, he allowing my wife halfe the profit that arises and make return of the stock at the end of the time; also my will is that my wife shall have two piges at the end of three yeares about a yeare old to her owne use; Also my will is that my wife shall have the benefit of a horse to ride to meeting or upon her necessary occasions during her life or abode in my house.

Richard¹ Chamberlain (No. 457) – Continued

Also the said Benjamine is to take care to carry and bring home her grist from the mill during her life or her abode there. Also my will is that my son Benjamine, after the decease of my beloved wife, shall enjoy all my housing lands with all rights and privileges thereto belonging, he the said Benjamine paying all legacies given and bequeathed by me, viz. To my daughter Rebecca, £18; to my son Joseph £20; to my daughter Anne £18; to my daughter Mehitable £18, to be paid £5 a yeare beginning the first payment to the eldest and —?— the next in aged, £5 until the whole be paid. Also I do give to my daughter Elizabeth Daniell [or Daniels?], 40 shillings. Also to my daughter Mary Smith, 40 shillings.

Also I do give to my grandchild John Graves, 40 shillings; also to my daughter Mary Graves, I give one shilling —?—, all these last legacies last expressed to paid within four yeares after my decease and also my will is that my sonne Benjamine shall be sole executor of this my last will and testament.

Richard his
 R Chamberline
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Signed and sealed in the presence of

John Stone

Daniel Marscroft

Sworn to in Court by ye witnesses, subscribed June 18th, 1673.

An Inventory of ye Goods & Estate of Richard Chamberlaine, of Sudbury in ye County of Middlesex, late deceased, taken by Lieut. Edmund Goodenow & Ensigne John Grout of ye said Sudbury, ye 15th day of Aprill 1673....

Inventory of Richard Chamberlain		£ S D
Imprimus:	His houses & lands	102:00:00
Item:	His waring clothes & linnens	005:00:00
Item:	Plow, cart & Tackling thereto	003:10:00
Item:	Wedges & bettle-rings	000:08:00
Item:	Five Howes	000:08:00
Item:	One iron pot, two pair of pot hooks, one trammel, tongs, & Fire Pan & mustard bowles	001:00:06
Item:	Armes & Ammunition	001:10:00
Item:	Two coves & two calves	009:00:00
Item:	One poore horse & half a colt	003:00:00
Item:	An old sythe	000:02:00
Item:	Brasse, & Pewter & one Latin tonnill	001:10:00
Item:	Seven years of Lynnen cloth	000:14:00
Item:	Two pair of old sheetes & an old sadle	001:00:00
Item:	One table, one forme, & three chests	001:08:00
Item:	One spinning wheele, & a paire of cards	000:06:00
Item:	A barrell, one churn, and other lumber in ye seller	001:00:00
Item:	Three chayers, Earthen potts, & other lumber	002:00:00
Item:	Corne in ye house	001:05:00
Item:	Corne in ye ground	002:10:00
Item:	Meate in ye house	001:00:00
Item:	Swine	001:00:00
		139:15:06

Sworn to 8 July 1673: Edmund Goodenow
John Grout

A list of the debts of the testator was added, amounting to £38:13:09. An item of £9 due Rebecca was met by her legacy. Sums due John Graves and John Smith were also covered by bequests.

PREPARATION OF THIS RECORD

This record was prepared by the late David C. Chamberlin Sr., using data obtained from various sources as listed. Comments and additional information are welcome and should be sent to the World Chamberlain Genealogical Society. < www.chamberlain-society.org >
Email: CorrSec@chamberlain-society.org

Chamberlain Association of America, Mss Gen., New England Historic Genealogical Society, SG/CHA/49-14, RC322-1, 3

Suffolk County, MA, Deeds, Liber V, P. 480-81

Middlesex County, MA, Deeds, Liber VI, P. 157

Middlesex County, MA, Probate Records, will of Richard Chamberlin, Vol. IV, P. 154

Vital Records, Braintree, MA [RC 133]

Vital Records, Sudbury, MA [RC 256]

Rev. John Eliot's Records [not seen]

Book of Possessions, Roxbury, MA

Report of the Commissioners of Boston, P. 44

Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, by James Savage, Vol. I, P. 289

Wright-Chamberlin Genealogy, by E.M. Barber, 1914, pp. 1-4 [RC 86]

Bullard and Allied Families, E.J. Bullard, 1930, [RC 395]

History of Oxford, MA, by G.F. Daniels [RC 392]

Probate Records, will of Edward Bugbee, Suffolk Co., MA

Chamberlain Families, Vol. II, "Descendants of Richard¹ Chamberlain of Braintree, MA," by Prentiss Glazier, P. 111

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