

---

## WHO WAS MARY EDDY, THE FIRST WIFE OF JOSEPH CULVER III OF GROTON, CONNECTICUT?

---

The identity of *Mary Eddy*, first wife of Joseph Culver III of Groton, Connecticut, has long remained uncertain in the published genealogies. In *The Eddy Family in America* (1930), Ruth Story Devereux Eddy placed her in an appendix<sup>1</sup> with other individuals of the surname whose family connections could not be determined. Frederic Lathrop Colver's *Colver-Culver Genealogy* (1910) and Valerie Dyer Giorgi's *Colver-Culver Family Genealogy* (1984) provide conflicting and incomplete accounts. Key unresolved issues include Mary Eddy's placement within the wider Eddy family, the basis for her marriage to Joseph Culver III, and the claim that Amy (Culver) Newton was her daughter, points that none of the genealogies adequately resolve.

This paper reexamines the records for **Joseph Culver III and his wife Mary (Eddy) Culver**, with the goal of clarifying her identity. It is organized into seven parts:

1. **Known Records of Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver:** a review of primary evidence concerning Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver, including vital, probate, land, and church records.
2. **Unresolved Questions in the Record:** an analysis of prior genealogical claims and identification of gaps in evidence.
3. **Eddy Relatives in Groton and Vicinity:** an examination of Eddy families living in or near Groton during the eighteenth century.
4. **Refining the Profile of Mary (Eddy) Culver:** the elimination of improbable candidates and reconstruction of a chronological and kinship framework.
5. **The Case for Mary Eddy, Daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy:** the argument for identifying Mary (Eddy) Culver as the daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy of Swansea, Massachusetts.
6. **Maternal Connections – The Harding Family of Providence:** an exploration of maternal ties to the Harding family of Providence, Rhode Island, and their links to Groton.
7. **Conclusion:** a summary of findings, the most probable identification of Mary (Eddy) Culver, and suggestions for future research.

By separating securely documented evidence from genealogical tradition and error, this paper advances a more credible reconstruction of Mary (Eddy) Culver's life and origins.

---

<sup>1</sup> The entry for her reads, "*Mary Eddy, lived in Groton, Conn.; m. Joseph Colver, b. Sept. 11, 1711; d. Oct. 12, 1776. Married either 1739 or 1741 (Colver Gen.).*"

---

## PART 1: KNOWN RECORDS OF JOSEPH III AND MARY (EDDY) CULVER

---

Joseph Culver III of Groton, Connecticut, was a great-grandson of Edward Culver, the immigrant ancestor of the Colver-Culver<sup>2</sup> family in America (Colver, 1910; Giorgi, 1984). He was born on 11 September 1711 (Barbour, Pre-1870), likely at the family homestead known as “*Chepadas*”<sup>3</sup> in Groton. This property had been successively inherited through the Culver line, from his great-grandfather to his grandfather, to his father, and ultimately to him. He was the son of Joseph Culver II and Mary (Stark) Culver (Barbour, Pre-1870).



©SmartMLS, Inc. 2020

*Figure 1: A recent photo of Chepadas, home to Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver. Source: Photo Smart MLS, Inc. 2020.*

---

<sup>2</sup> The surname appears in the records with various spellings, including Colver, Culver, and Collver, among others. For the sake of consistency, the form Culver will be employed throughout this paper, except when preserving the exact spelling found in direct quotations or when referring to a more recent individual whose surname was recorded differently, such as Frederic Lathrop Colver.

<sup>3</sup> The tract of land upon which Chepadas is situated was originally granted to Edward Culver by the Mohegan sachem, Uncas. A plaque affixed to the present house renders the name as *Chepados* rather than *Chepadas*; however, both spellings appear in historical and modern references. According to Dennis Collver, on his website *Descendants of Alfred B. Collver* (<http://www.collver.org/family/doc/gen1.html>), the term *Chepadas* is interpreted to mean “*Intersection of Trails*.” (Collver, 1998).

*Indian Place Names of New England* (Huden, 1962) lists Chepados Hill as:

“*Mohegan?* “principal hunting place”? Perhaps, “hill where the big nuts grow”. Another spelling, **Chepadas.**”

In Frederic Lathrop Colver's *Colver-Culver Genealogy* (Colver, 1910), page 77, the wife of Joseph Culver III (Joseph, Joseph, Edward) is recorded as unknown. The entry notes:

*30 JOSEPH<sup>4</sup> COLVER (Joseph<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Edward<sup>1</sup>), son of Joseph Colver and Mary Stark, was born 11 September 1711, and inherited the old "Chepadas" farm at Groton in 1729. His wife's name is not known.*

*Children:*

*52 i Amy, born in 1740.*

*53 ii Abigail, born about 6 February 1746; married Asa Button 29 May, 1770. (See Addenda).*

The *Addenda* to this genealogy includes material which Frederic Lathrop Colver explained "was obtained after the book was in type and had been made up into page proofs" (Colver, 1910) The new information for Joseph Culver on page 228 states:

*30 JOSEPH<sup>4</sup> COLVER (Joseph<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Edward<sup>1</sup>), married, first, Mary Eddy, probably in 1739, although 31 July, 1741, has been given as the date. He died 12 October, 1776, having married, second, 10 August, 1758, Eunice Wells.*

*Children (compare page 77):*

*52 i Amy, born in 1740.*

*ii Nathan, born 4 July, 1742.*

*iii Jonathan, born 8 October, 1744.*

*53 iv Abigail, born 6 February, 1746.*

*53a v. Joseph, born 18 December, 1749.*

*vi Mary, born 23 October, 1751.*

*vii Bethany, born 20 May, 1754.*

*viii Hannah, born 7 August, 1755.*

No citation is given for the name of Joseph Culver III's wife, the marriage date of 31 July 1741, or the birthdates of his children. This information likely derived from a family source provided to Frederic Lathrop Colver, such as a Bible record. Of the children, all except Amy (who was living in 1777) and Jonathan (who appears to have died young) are identified as heirs in both the will of Joseph Culver III and the subsequent administration of his estate<sup>4</sup> (CT. Probate Records, 1609-1999). Copies and transcriptions of these documents are included in Appendices 1 and 2 of this paper. In addition,

---

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Culver III's estate was probated 20 October 1800. The administration of his estate lists his children Lemuel Culver (his son with his second wife Eunice (Wells) Culver), Abigail Button, Joseph Culver, Nathan Culver, Bethany Stark, Mary Heath, and Hannah Stebbins [See Appendix 2]. No public records have been found with the surname and date and place of birth of Mary Eddy, or the date of Joseph Culver's marriage to her.

Abigail, Joseph, Mary, Hannah, Bethany, and Lemuel are specifically named in a series of 1777 land transactions concerning the estate of Joseph Culver III (Groton Land Records).

The accounts of the family of Joseph Culver III and Mary (Eddy) Culver, as presented in the two Colver-Culver genealogies, are both confusing and likely erroneous. In her *Colver-Culver Family Genealogy* (Giorgi, 1984), Valerie Dyer Giorgi repeated portions of Frederic Lathrop Colver's earlier work, identifying Mary Eddy as the first wife of Joseph Culver III and assigning their marriage year as 1739. In addition, Giorgi appears to have attributed to Joseph Culver III certain details that more properly pertain to his parents (indicated in red type). This entry, found on pages 45–46 of Giorgi's genealogy, records:

(46)

*JOSEPH CULVER (Joseph<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Edward<sup>1</sup>) born 11 September 1711; married (1) 1739, Mary Eddy (2) 10 August 1758, Eunice Wells.*

*Joseph inherited the "Chepadas" farm from his father and lived his entire life on the farm. Joseph and his wife Mary were instrumental in forming the First Baptist Church of Groton, Connecticut in 1704. In a deed dated 24 March 1718, they bought one-half acre from William Stark for a meeting house and burying place. The first pastor was Valentine Wightman.*

*Joseph and Mary Culver had the following children:*

- (98) *1. Amy Culver born 1736-7, Groton, Connecticut, died 1812; married Elijah Newton.*
- 2. Nathan Culver born 4 July 1742.*
- 3. Jonathan Culver born 8 October 1744.*
- (99) *4. Abigail Culver born 6 February 1746; married Asa Button.*
- (100) *5. Joseph Culver born 18 December 1749, New London, Connecticut; married (1) Tryphenia Newberry (2) Mrs. Mary (Noyes) Williams.*
- (101) *6. Mary Culver born 23 October 1751, died 1848; married William Heath.*
  - 7. Bethany Culver born 20 May 1754.*
  - 8. Hannah Culver born 7 August 1755.*

The material presented in red text, above, has been erroneously attributed to Joseph Culver III and his wife, Mary (Eddy) Culver. In fact, it properly pertains to his parents, Joseph Culver II and Mary (Stark) Culver. Chronological evidence confirms this correction: Joseph Culver III was born on 11 September 1711, seven years after the organization of the First Baptist Church of Groton in 1704, and he was but six years of age at the time of the land transaction dated 24 March 1718.

---

## PART II: UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS IN THE RECORD

---

### Question 1: What Is the source for the identification of Mary Eddy, the reported date of her marriage to Joseph Culver III, and the births of their children?

Several aspects of the accounts given in the two Colver-Culver genealogies regarding the family of Joseph Culver III and his wife, Mary (Eddy) Culver, present notable difficulties. Foremost among these is the absence of documentation for Mary herself. To date, no primary source has been identified that substantiates her maiden name, her parentage, her place of birth, or the dates of her birth and death. Neither Frederic Lathrop Colver nor Valerie Dyer Giorgi, in their respective genealogies, supplied this information, leaving the origins and identity of Mary (Eddy) Culver unresolved.

Frederic Lathrop Colver completed his *Genealogy of the Colver-Culver Family* in 1910. At the outset, his knowledge of the family of Joseph Culver III was limited, extending only to two daughters, Amy and Abigail. The *Groton Vital Records* identify Abigail as a daughter of Joseph Culver in the 1755 record of her marriage to Asa Button. Given that Joseph Culver II had died in 1746, the designation “daughter of Joseph Culver” in this record can refer only to Joseph Culver III. Amy Culver’s 1756 marriage to Elijah Newton also appears in the *Groton Vital Records*, though without mention of a father. Colver evidently inferred that Amy was likewise a daughter of Joseph Culver III, reasoning from the proximity of her marriage to Abigail’s in both time and location.

However, “after the book was in type and had been made up into page proofs”, Frederic Lathrop Colver obtained additional information concerning several branches of the Colver-Culver family. Among these was the line of descent from Joseph Culver II (Third Generation), grandson of the immigrant Edward Culver, extending through to the sixth Joseph Culver (Sixth Generation). Colver incorporated this newly received material in the *addenda* appended to the published genealogy.

The information newly supplied for Joseph Culver III was both detailed and specific. It identified his wife by her full maiden name, Mary Eddy<sup>5</sup>, and furnished an exact marriage date, including day, month, and year. In addition, the record listed six further children, each with a corresponding full date of birth.

Abigail Culver was enumerated among the children of Joseph Culver III, whereas Amy Culver was notably absent. The account may be summarized as follows: Joseph Culver married *Mary Eddy* on 31 July 1741. Their recorded children were Nathan, born 4 July 1742; Jonathan, born 8 October 1744; Abigail, born 6 February 1746; Joseph, born 18 December 1749; Mary, born 23 October 1751; Bethany, born 20 May 1754; and Hannah, born 7 August 1755.

---

<sup>5</sup> Evidence for Mary’s maiden name being Eddy comes from the naming of her descendants. Her youngest daughter, Hannah (Culver) Stebbins, gave the name “Edy” to her fourth child, a choice that likely commemorated her mother’s surname.

Frederic Lathrop Colver did not identify the source of this newly supplied information; however, it was in all likelihood obtained from Dr. Joseph E. Culver, to whom Colver referred to on page 234 of his genealogy:

*“Joseph Edwin, born 9 February, 1823; died 1 November, 1897. Dr. Joseph E. Culver was a well known physician, resident in Jersey city for many years. He was an energetic collector of family genealogy, and had gathered much interesting material on the Colver-Culver family history.”*

And on page 42:

*“+Dr. Joseph E. Culver, late of Jersey City, N. J., who was descended from Joseph, fourth son of Edward Colver the Puritan, speaks of his grandfather, Joseph Culver of Groton, Connecticut, great-great-grandson of Edward Colver the Puritan, as living on the farm at "Chepadas," and following his trade of millwright and wheelwright. There were about two hundred and fifty acres of land belonging to the farm at that time. on which were two gristmills and one sawmill in daily use. Dr. Culver remembers the kitchen at "Chepadas" quite well, and the ancient very heavy smooth bore flint-lock musket, used by Edward Colver in the Indian wars. which hung on brackets in the kitchen. He also owns the seal ring once owned and used by Edward.”*

Dr. Joseph E. Culver, cited as an authority for a Culver pedigree published in the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Volume LI, 1920, pages 90 – 92, was referenced as follows:

*“Bible Records of Dr. Joseph Edwin Culver who was b. in the Culver homestead in Groton, Conn., and who was 7th in descent from Edward<sup>1</sup> Culver and the 6th to bear the name of Joseph. He inherited the Groton homestead and lived there awhile and removed to Jersey City, N. J. , where he d. in 1897. He was a close student of Culver genealogy.”*

*“Affidavits of George M. Culver, M. D. , son of Dr. Joseph Edwin Culver  
Abel I. Culver  
Henry H. Culver  
Samuel H. Culver”*

Dr. Joseph E. Culver was born at the ancestral Culver homestead and stood but three generations removed from his great-grandfather, Joseph Culver III. He and his wife were the last members of the Colver-Culver family interred at Wightman Cemetery, the historic burying ground in which numerous family members rest, including the immigrant progenitor, Edward Culver, and his wife Ann. Given Dr. Culver’s intimate familiarity with, and close generational connection to, the Culver estate, and considering that he supplied Culver family Bible records as a source for the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, it is probable that he was the informant for the material communicated to Frederic Lathrop Colver concerning the family of Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver. Efforts are currently being undertaken to ascertain whether these Bible records have survived.

The existing public records concerning the families of Joseph Culver II and Joseph Culver III are sparse. The Culvers, however, were prominent among the original members of the First Baptist Church

of Groton during the ministry of Elder Valentine Wightman. Joseph Culver II and his wife, Mary (Stark) Culver, were instrumental in the congregation's establishment in 1704, with Joseph II serving as one of its first deacons. Together they purchased one-half acre from Mary's uncle, William Stark, as the site for the church meetinghouse and its associated burial ground, later known as the [Wightman Burying Ground](#). In June 1709, Joseph Culver II and Mary (Stark) Culver, along with others, were prosecuted for attending what was then considered an unlawful assembly of the First Baptist Church (Giorgi, 1984). Given the family's close involvement in the congregation, one might reasonably expect that the church records would have preserved evidence of their vital events, including births, marriages, and deaths. Unfortunately, the records prior to 1754 have not survived:

*“Unfortunately, no sketch of the early life and personal appearance of Mr. Wightman has come down to us: and what is more to be regretted, since the times were particularly fruitful of historic incident, all the records of the church for the entire period of his ministry have perished.”* (Denison, 1860).

Given the Culver family's close association with the First Baptist Church of Groton and with its minister, Elder Valentine Wightman, it is likely that Joseph Culver III and his wife, Mary (Eddy), were married under his officiation. Any record of that marriage, as well as a possible record of Mary's death, would have perished with the loss of the early church registers prior to 1754<sup>6</sup>.

## **Question 2: How can Amy Culver's reported birth occurring four to five years prior to the presumed marriage of her parents be explained, and what accounts for her omission from the will of Joseph Culver III and the administration of his estate?**

A further difficulty concerns the identification of Amy Culver as the eldest child of Joseph and Mary (Eddy) Culver. Amy married Elijah Newton on 4 April 1756 (Barbour, Groton Vital Records). Her death record (Hale, 1932-5) gives her age as 75 at the time of her death on 11 March 1812, indicating a birth year of 1736–1737. This predates by four to five years the marriage date of 31 July 1741

---

<sup>6</sup> The marriage of Joseph and Mary (Eddy) Culver's daughter, Mary Culver, to William Heath was officiated by Valentine Wightman's son, Timothy Wightman. This information and the specific date of William and Mary (Culver) Heath's marriage is found in Mary (Culver) Heath's pension application (NARA, 1836) for William Heath's Revolutionary War Service. Proof that Mary (Culver) Heath was the wife of William Heath was provided by the following statement by the judge, Stephen Haley:

*“And the said Court further declare that they have now before them the old original Book in which Elder Timothy Wightman Pastor of the first Baptist Church in Groton aforesaid kept a Record of marriages of the persons by him married of which the following is a true Copy "to wit"*

*August ye 2 1772*

*"Then was William Heath and Mary Collver married"--*

*And said Court further declare that on the examination of said ancient Book of Marriages they have no doubt what ever but that said Record was made at the time said marriage took place..."*

Although the 1772 date of this record is later than the 1754 date before which the records of the First Baptist Church of Groton were lost, Timothy Wightman's Book of Marriages does not appear to be available to the public and is not included with the existing records of the First Baptist Church of Groton.

attributed to Joseph and Mary (Eddy) Culver in Frederic Lathrop Colver's genealogy, and by two to three years the approximate marriage date suggested by both Colver and Valerie Dyer Giorgi. Such a discrepancy between the supposed marriage and the birth of the first child raises questions concerning Amy's parentage.

Equally problematic is Amy's absence from the records relating to her presumed father's estate. Although she survived Joseph Culver III by twelve years, she was not named in his will, in the probate administration of his estate, nor in the series of land transactions conducted in 1777 by his heirs. In contrast, all of Joseph Culver III's other surviving children are specifically mentioned in those records (CT. Probate Records, 1609-1999; Groton Land Records).

Neither of the published Colver-Culver genealogies offers direct evidence that Amy (Culver) Newton was a daughter of Joseph Culver III. Frederic Lathrop Colver originally listed Amy among his children prior to receiving the supplemental information concerning the family of Joseph and Mary (Eddy) Culver, which was incorporated only in the addendum to his genealogy. The following year, Meech and Meech, in their *Spicer Genealogy*, acknowledged the uncertainty by stating of Amy's parentage: "*The given name of her father has not been ascertained.*" (Meech & Meech, 1911)

**Question 3: Who was "Mary Whipple, widow," named in the will of Elijah Newton as the mother of Amy (Culver) Newton? If she was identical to Mary (Culver) Eddy, how is it that she was living in 1773, when Joseph Culver III remarried in 1758?**

Complicating the question of Amy (Culver) Newton's parentage is the will of her husband, Elijah Newton. Born 19 December 1732 (Barbour, Groton Vital Records), he was the son of Christopher and Deborah (Sholes) Newton of North Groton. Elijah died at the comparatively young age of thirty-six in early 1773.

The will of Elijah Newton dated 13 January 1773 and proved 26 March 1773 (CT. Probate Records, 1609-1999), identifies his wife Ama (Amy), his son Elijah, daughters Mabel, Mary, and Ama, together with his "*honored mother-in-law Mary Whipple, widow.*" The esteem in which Elijah held the widow Mary Whipple<sup>7</sup> is evident in the following provisions of his will (a scanned copy of which is reproduced in Appendix 3 of this paper):

*"... and furthermore I give unto my Beloved wife Ama Newton the whole improvement of my Real Estate ... for her maintaining decently my Honored mother-in-law Mary Whipple widow during her natural life according to the provision I shall make hereafter for her my mother-in-law, my said wife to the whole Improvement and Increase of my said Real Estate*

---

<sup>7</sup> In *The Spicer Genealogy*, Meech & Meech gave the name of the mother of Ama (Culver) Newton as "a widow 'Mary Wheeler'" in the genealogical listing of Elijah Newton, however their transcription of Elijah Newton's will, and the actual will (see Appendix 1) show her surname clearly as Whipple, not Wheeler. Susan Billings Meech corrected this in the Supplement to the Spicer Genealogy (Meech S. B., 1923)

*for her own use and Behoof in and for the consideration afores'd during said term and then after my said son Elijah Newton shall come of lawful age as afores'd."*

*"Item. I Give and Bequeath unto my honored Mother Mary Whipple Widow, a Dower of a Honourable maintenance suitable for a person of her age in sickness and in health during her natural life and a Decent Burial at Death if she shall continue to & Dwell in my now dwelling house. But if she shall Remove or Depart from s'd Premises to lose the right in said Dower, the Dower above given or Maintenance to be duly & full completed unto her my said Honored Mother by my well Beloved wife afores'd from the provision made in her right of Dower."* (Meech & Meech, 1911; CT. Probate Records, 1609-1999)

If “*Mary Whipple, widow*” named as mother-in-law in the 1773 will of Elijah Newton, was identical with Mary (Eddy) Culver, then a chronological conflict arises. Joseph Culver III is documented as marrying his second wife, Eunice Wells, on 10 August 1758. This would require that Mary (Eddy) Culver had died prior to that date. Most estimates of her death therefore place it between 7 August 1755, when her youngest child, Hannah Culver, was born, and 10 August 1758, when Joseph remarried. The apparent survival of a “*Mary Whipple, widow,*” in 1773 challenges the assumption that she and Mary (Eddy) Culver were the same individual and raises the question of Amy (Culver) Newton’s maternal identity.

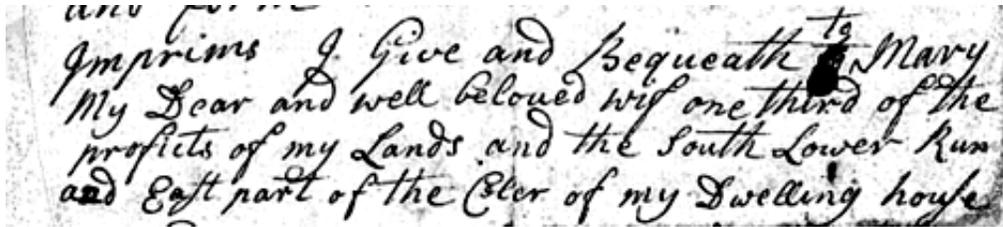
Although the use of the term in-law in colonial New England occasionally differed from modern usage, Elijah Newton’s intent in his 1773 will is unambiguous. In the phrase, “*my said Honored Mother by my well-beloved wife,*” he was plainly identifying the mother of his wife, Amy (Culver) Newton.



Figure 2: Elijah Newton house, built 1771, at Gales Ferry, Groton., Connecticut. Photo: Google Street View

## A possible identity of the Widow Mary Whipple

Subsequent research undertaken since the initial drafting of this paper suggests the strong possibility that the widow Mary Whipple was the second wife of Zachariah Whipple of Groton, Connecticut. Within the mid-eighteenth-century records of New London County, this appears to be the sole instance in which a man surnamed Whipple married a woman named Mary and predeceased her prior to 1773, the year in which Elijah Newton composed his will.



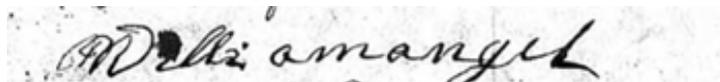
Imprimis I Give and Bequeath to Mary  
My Dear and well beloved wif one third of the  
profits of my Lands and the South Lower Run  
and East part of the Celer of my Dwelling house

Figure 3: Section of Zachariah Whipple's will naming his second wife, Mary. (CT. Probate Records, 1609-1999)

Zachariah Whipple was a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, who moved from Providence, Rhode Island, to Groton, Connecticut, about 1711. Further discussion of this family will be presented later in this paper. Zachariah Whipple's first marriage was to Elizabeth Rogers, daughter of John and Bathsheba (Smith) Rogers of New London. Elizabeth was a granddaughter of John Rogers, founder of the Rogerene sect. She died on 18 September 1751.

Between the death of his first wife, Elizabeth (Rogers) Whipple, on 18 September 1751, and the drafting of his will on 8 February 1758, Zachariah Whipple married a second time to a woman named Mary (—), whom he identified as his wife in that will. His will was proved on 4 February 1760 (see Appendix 3). Given the chronology of this marriage (post-1751) and Zachariah's death in 1759/60, it is highly probable that his widow was the "honored mother-in-law Mary Whipple, widow" named by Elijah Newton in his will of 13 January 1773, probated 26 March 1773. [See Appendix ]

William Angell was the first witness to Zachariah's will. This may provide additional evidence to the broader network of family connections. William Angell married, at Warwick, Rhode Island, on 31 August 1732, Almy Harding, daughter of Stephen and Jemima (Eddy) Harding. Soon thereafter, the Harding family, together with William and Almy (Harding) Angell, moved to New London, Connecticut. The appearance of William Angell in this context suggests a continuing association among the Eddy, Whipple, and Culver families, an interrelationship that merits closer analysis and will be considered further in this paper.



William Angell

Figure 4: William Angell's signature from the will of Zachariah Whipple. (CT. Probate Records, 1609-1999)

The conflicting evidence surrounding the parentage of Amy (Culver) Newton admits of several possible hypotheses. Each hypothesis represents a different interpretation of the limited records that survive, and each carries varying degrees of plausibility when weighed against the genealogical and historical context. What follows is a review of three principal hypotheses, set out and evaluated in turn.

## Hypothesis 1:

*Amy (Culver) Newton was wrongly attributed in the Colver-Culver genealogies and was not a daughter of Joseph Culver III and Mary (Eddy).* The will of her husband, Elijah Newton (13 Jan. 1773; proved 26 Mar. 1773, *Connecticut Probate Records, 1609–1999*), names his “honored mother-in-law Mary Whipple, widow,” establishing that Amy’s mother was living in 1773. This fact is inconsistent with Mary (Eddy) Culver, first wife of Joseph III, who must have died before his remarriage to Eunice Wells on 10 August 1758. Amy’s inferred birth year of 1736/7 (*Hale Collection, 1932–1935*) likewise predates the 31 July 1741 marriage date for Joseph and Mary (Eddy) Culver given by Frederic Lathrop Colver and conflicts with the approximate marriage date suggested by Valerie Dyer Giorgi. Amy’s exclusion from Joseph III’s will, probate proceedings, and the 1777 land transactions of his heirs further supports the conclusion that she was not his child (*Groton Land Records; Connecticut Probate Records, 1609–1999*).

The evidence instead suggests that Amy was the daughter of the widow Mary Whipple and an unidentified member of the Colver-Culver family. Her placement as a child of Joseph III in Frederic Lathrop Colver’s genealogy likely resulted from her designation as “of Groton” at the time of her marriage to Elijah Newton (4 Apr. 1756, *Barbour Collection, Groton Vital Records*) and the absence of a more appropriate Culver lineage in which to situate her.

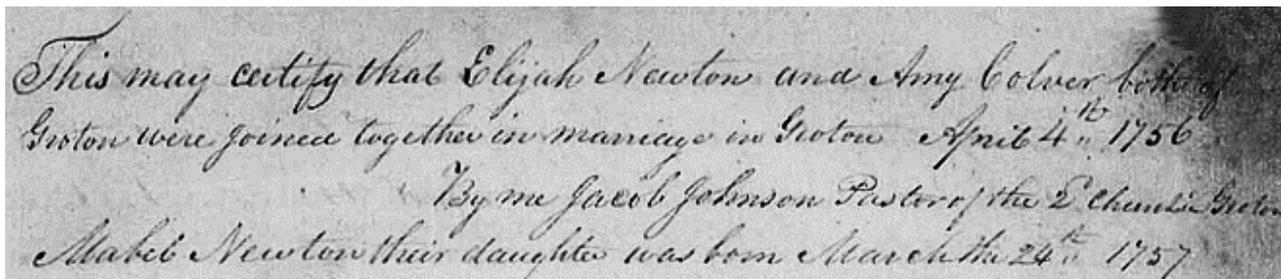


Figure 5: Copy of the marriage record of Elijah Newton and Amy Culver from Groton Vital Records.

### Transcription:

“This may certify that Elijah Newton and Amy Colver both of Groton were joined in marriage in Groton April 4<sup>th</sup> 1756

By me Jacob Johnson<sup>8</sup> Paster of the L church in Groton

Mabel Newton their daughter was born March the 24<sup>th</sup> 1757”

In view of Amy (Culver) Newton’s estimated birth year, Joseph Culver III may have appeared to Frederic Lathrop Colver and later compilers as the most plausible candidate for her father. Moreover, the marriage of Amy’s mother to a man of Eddy descent, Zachariah Whipple, son of Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple and grandson of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy, may have further encouraged the assumption of a familial connection between Amy and Mary (Eddy) Culver.

---

<sup>8</sup> Rev. Jacob Johnson of Groton’s North (Second) Society was a Congregationalist, unlike Joseph Culver III’s Baptist family—a distinction possibly also relevant to Amy (Culver) Newton.

## Reviewing the Facts

Three primary facts show that Mary (Eddy) Culver was not the same person as the Widow Mary Whipple and could not have been the mother of Amy (Culver) Newton:

1. **Exclusion from Joseph Culver III's estate records.**

The will of Joseph Culver III and the subsequent administration of his estate make no mention of Amy (Culver) Newton, though she was living at the time. By contrast, these documents explicitly identify his children, Nathan Culver, Abigail (Culver) Button, Joseph Culver, Mary (Culver) Heath, Bethany (Culver) Stark, and Hannah (Culver) Stebbins, as heirs (*Connecticut Probate Records, 1609–1999*). Their status is further corroborated by a series of Groton land transactions in 1777 involving William Heath and wife Mary; Daniel Stark; Asa Button and wife Abigail; Joseph Culver; Bethany Culver; Hannah Culver; and Lemuel Culver, all recorded as heirs of Joseph Culver III of Groton.

2. **Chronological inconsistency between Amy's birth and Joseph and Mary (Eddy) Culver's marriage.**

Frederic Lathrop Colver acknowledged that details concerning Mary (Eddy) Culver's maiden name, her marriage to Joseph Culver III on 31 July 1741, and the precise birthdates of their children (with the exception of Amy) reached him only "*after the book was in type and had been made up into page proofs.*" The origin of this information is uncertain but may have derived from a family record, possibly a Bible. Amy (Culver) Newton's death record (*Hale Collection, 1932-1935*) gives her age as 75 at the time of her death on 11 March 1812, pointing to a birth in 1736-1737, four to five years prior to the specific 1741 marriage date supplied for Joseph and Mary (Eddy), and two to three years before the approximate 1739 date adopted in both Colver genealogies. Colver had originally attached Amy to this family before receiving the corrected data; afterward, constrained by the press deadlines and lacking a more suitable placement, he retained her in that position, despite the chronological contradiction. Valerie Dyer Giorgi appears to have perpetuated this misattribution, apparently in the absence of additional evidence.

3. **Biological and practical improbability of Mary (Eddy) Culver remarrying as Zachariah Whipple's wife.**

Mary (Eddy) Culver bore her youngest known child, Hannah, on 7 August 1755. Two and one-half years later, on 8 February 1758, Zachariah Whipple drafted his will, naming his second wife, Mary. It is highly improbable that a woman recently delivered of a child, with several other young children in her care, could have dissolved her marriage and remarried within so short a period, particularly in the absence of any record of divorce. The Hypothesis strains both biological likelihood and historical plausibility.

## Who Might Have Been the Father of Amy (Culver) Newton?

A review of Valerie Dyer Giorgi's *Colver-Culver Genealogy* makes clear that the documentary record for the earliest generations of the Colver-Culver family in Groton and New London is fragmentary and incomplete. As a result, several men of the family could plausibly be considered potential candidates for the paternity of Amy (Culver) Newton, though the absence of critical records prevents confirmation or elimination of these possibilities:

- **Ephraim Culver** (Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Edward<sup>1</sup>), born 16 May 1692 at Groton, Connecticut; quitclaimed his interest in his father's estate on 19 February 1720/1 (Giorgi, p. 35).
- **Simon Culver** (Ephraim<sup>2</sup>, Edward<sup>1</sup>), of Groton, Connecticut, sold his interest in the family estate on 21 April 1720 (Giorgi, p. 35).
- **James Culver** (John<sup>2</sup>, Edward<sup>1</sup>), born 13 June 1679 at New Haven, Connecticut, living after 1739; marriage unknown. His father John conveyed land in Stonington to him on 17 February 1702/3. Identifying himself as a "panel maker" of Groton, he sold land there on 20 January 1720; conveyed land to Robert Burrows on 6 June 1721, witnessed by David Culver; and on 12 October 1739 sold his Groton property, including his right in the undivided lands. Giorgi observes that no family has been ascertained for him and that he may have been the progenitor of some of the unidentified Culvers (Giorgi, p. 38).
- **Daniel Culver** (Joseph<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Edward<sup>1</sup>), born 2 October 1714 at Groton (Giorgi, p. 41).
- **Elisha Culver** (Ephraim<sup>3</sup>, Edward<sup>2</sup>, Edward<sup>1</sup>), born before 1721 (Giorgi, p. 44).
- **John Culver**, born 15 February 1719 at Lebanon, Connecticut (Giorgi, p. 45).

In the absence of further records—particularly marriage, birth, or probate documents—none of these candidates can presently be confirmed as Amy's father, but each remains a potential line of inquiry.

The available records suggest the following sequence of events: A woman named Mary (—) married an unidentified Culver about 1735, or earlier. Their daughter, Amy Culver, was born in 1736/7. This Culver husband likely died between 1736/7 and 1752. Meanwhile, Elizabeth (Rogers) Whipple, wife of Zachariah Whipple, died 18 September 1751. Thereafter, and prior to 8 February 1758, when Zachariah executed his will naming his wife Mary, he married the widow Mary (—) Culver. Zachariah died before 10 November 1759. In his own will, dated 13 January 1773, Elijah Newton identified his mother-in-law as "*my honored mother-in-law Mary Whipple widow,*" thereby naming the same woman—Mary (—) (Culver) Whipple—as the mother of his wife, Amy (Culver) Newton.

## Correlation of Marriage and Birth Records

From this reconstruction it follows that the marriage date of 31 July 1741, received by Frederic Lathrop Colver for inclusion in the addendum to his genealogy, is probably correct. That date accords precisely with the birth of Nathan Culver on 4 July 1742, who was very likely the firstborn child of Joseph<sup>3</sup> Culver and Mary (Eddy).

Thus, Joseph Culver III married Mary Eddy on 31 July 1741 and had the following seven children:

- i. **Nathan Culver**, born 4 July 1742 (Colver, 1910). No additional information has been found about Nathan Culver. He was named in his father's will, written on 5 April 1776 (CT. Probate Records, 1609-1999), but he wasn't included in a series of 1777 land transactions involving the heirs of Joseph Culver III; hence, he may have died after April 5, 1776, and before April 18, 1777.
- ii. **Jonathan Culver**, born 8 October 1744 (Colver, 1910), was not named in his father's will or the administration of his estate, so it is assumed he died before 5 April 1776. He may have died young.
- iii. **Abigail Culver**<sup>9</sup>, born 8 February 1746 (Colver, 1910), married 29 May 1770, **Asa Button** (Nye, 1971), born 13 May 1745, the son of Jedediah and Elizabeth (Newberry)<sup>10</sup> Button (Barbour, Groton Vital Records). Asa Button died 2 June 1826 (Nye, 1971). Abigail and Asa Button had eight children together, born 1771-1799 (Nye, 1971).
- iv. **Joseph Culver IV**, born 18 December 1749 (Colver, 1910), married 1) 23 March 1777, **Tryphenia Newberry**, born 20 June 1754 in Groton, the daughter of Tryal<sup>11</sup> and Anna (Davis) Newberry (Baker, 1896). Tryphenia (Newberry) Culver died 29 September 1778 (Hale, 1932-5); and 2) 17 November 1782, widow **Mary (Nye) Williams** (Colver, 1910); died 1 May 1829 in Groton (Wightman Cemetery Memorials; Hale, 1932-5). Joseph Culver IV had two daughters from his first marriage and four children - three daughters and a son from his second marriage. (Colver, 1910).
- v. **Mary Culver**, born 23 October 1751 (Colver, 1910), married **William Heath** 2 August 1772 in Groton, officiated by Elder Timothy Wightman (NARA, 1836); William Heath died March 1794 (NARA, 1836); Mary (Culver) Heath died about 1848<sup>12</sup>. Like the Groton Eddys, the Groton Heaths came from Swansea, Massachusetts.
- vi. **Bethany Culver**, born 20 May 1754 (Colver, 1910), married **Joseph Stark**, son of Judith (Fitch) Stark and adopted son of Daniel Stark (Stark, 1927).

---

<sup>9</sup> The Button genealogy by Nye, page 246, lists Amy (Culver) Newton's mother as "Mary (Clark) Culver". Nye was probably confusing Joseph Culver for his older brother, John Culver, who married Mary "Mercy" Clark.

<sup>10</sup> Elizabeth Newbury was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Stark) Newbury, and a granddaughter of Aaron Stark of Groton.

<sup>11</sup> Tryphenia Newbury was a first cousin of Abigail Culver's husband, Asa Button. Tryphenia's father, Tryal Newbury was the brother of Elizabeth Newbury (see Footnote 8), the son of John and Elizabeth (Stark) Newbury, and a grandson of Aaron Stark of Groton.

<sup>12</sup> She was not listed in the 1850 Federal Census; hence she must have died.

- vii. **Hannah Culver**, born 7 August 1755 (Colver, 1910), married 22 October 1789 at Wilbraham, Massachusetts, **Timothy Stebbins** (Massachusetts V.R.), son of Moses and Dorcas (Hale) Stebbins. He was born 17 April 1762 at Springfield, Massachusetts (Greenlee & Greenlee, 1904). Timothy and Hannah (Culver) Stebbins had five children. Their fourth child, born 8 June 1799, was named “Edy”, (Greenlee & Greenlee, 1904), probably after Hannah’s mother, Mary (Eddy) Culver.

It therefore may be concluded that Mary (Eddy) Culver died between 7 August 1755, when her daughter Hannah was born, and 10 August 1758, when her husband Joseph Culver III married Eunice Wells. This timeframe represents the most plausible reconstruction of events for the family of Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver.



*Figure 6: Well (left) on the grounds of Chepadas, where Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver raised their family. Photo: Photo Smart MLS, Inc. 2020.*

## Hypothesis 2

*Amy (Culver) Newton may have been the daughter of Joseph Culver III by an earlier marriage or relationship, but not of Mary (Eddy) Culver.* Elijah Newton's will (13 Jan. 1773; proved 26 Mar. 1773, Connecticut Probate Records, 1609–1999) names his “*honored mother-in-law Mary Whipple, widow,*” “*my said Honored Mother by my well-beloved wife.*” establishing Amy's maternal identity. This explains the conflict between Amy's inferred birth in 1736/7 (Hale Collection, 1932–1935) and the 31 July 1741 marriage date reported for Joseph Culver III and Mary Eddy. Under this interpretation, Joseph III and Mary (—) Culver must have separated before 1741, after which Mary married Zachariah Whipple between the death of his first wife, Elizabeth (Rogers) Whipple, on 18 Sept. 1751, and his will of 8 Feb. 1758 naming Mary as his wife.

Although it may appear improbable, marital separation prior to death was not without precedent in the Culver family. Joseph Culver I, the grandfather of Joseph Culver III, was divorced by his second wife after she successfully petitioned the New London County Court for relief on account of his mistreatment.<sup>13</sup> Even so, this remains the least plausible of the proposed explanations, as no court action or other contemporary record has yet been discovered to corroborate such a separation for Joseph Culver III. Further, this hypothesis fails to address the more difficult question of why Amy (Culver) Newton was omitted entirely from the will of Joseph Culver III and the administration of his estate.

---

<sup>13</sup> On 26 November 1717, Margaret (Gallup) Culver brought a complaint before the New London County Court regarding the conduct of her husband, Joseph Culver, Sr. She testified that shortly after their marriage Joseph refused to permit her to share his bed, compelling her instead to sleep either on the floor or upon the hearth. He further asserted that the house was his alone and instructed her to leave.

*“nothing withstanding the marage Covenant which we entered into the 20 of June 1716 about a fortnight after mardige my husband refused to let me lodg in the bed with him so that I was forced to lay upon the flore or harth which hardship occasioned sickness to come upon me....Sometime in October I got my own bed which I was forced to lay on the flor in a cold chamber tel sumtime in April afte this he tould me he would not live with me. He said the house was his and therefor would have me to go out of it...sometime in June last past....I left the house he refuses to let me go home to live with him as a wife but keeps the best of my clothing...also posted me in two towns and continues to vilifi and repoch me. I am under the infermities of age and not able to undergo such hardships....”*  
(Giorgi, 1984; The Petition of Margaret Culver, 1717)

It has been suggested that differences in religious belief may have been at the root of the couple's discord. In her petition, Margaret reported that Joseph withheld her best clothing, thereby preventing her from attending *the “public worship of God”* in a decent manner. While most members of the Culver family were affiliated with the First Baptist Church of Groton, Joseph's kinsman John Culver became a follower of the Rogerenes, a separatist sect that emerged in Groton with affinities to Quakerism. (Grosskopf Fall 2001)

### Hypothesis 3

*Amy (Culver) Newton was the daughter of Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver, and Mary (Eddy) was identical to the widow Mary Whipple.* As in hypothesis 2, such a conclusion presupposes that the marriage of Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver ended prior to 1758, when Joseph III married Eunice Wells, and that Mary herself remarried in the same period, becoming the wife of Zachariah Whipple before his will of 8 February 1758. No divorce record has been located to support this interpretation, and absent such documentation, the hypothesis would represent an extraordinary event for the mid-eighteenth century.

Moreover, this hypothesis requires that Mary (Eddy) Culver bore her youngest child, Hannah, on 7 August 1755, and then within two and one-half years separated from Joseph Culver III and remarried as Zachariah Whipple's wife, sufficiently established in that role to be named in his will. This sequence strains historical plausibility. Compounding these difficulties, Amy (Culver) Newton was not named in the will of Joseph Culver III, in the administration of his estate, or in any of the subsequent records of his heirs, while the chronological inconsistency between Amy's inferred birth in 1736/7 and Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver's reported marriage date of 31 July 1741 remains unresolved. Taken together, these contradictions render this hypothesis the least tenable explanation.

### Synthesis of the Three Hypotheses

The three hypotheses present distinct explanations for the identity of Amy (Culver) Newton and her relationship with Joseph Culver III and Mary (Eddy). The first, that Amy was wrongly attributed and not their daughter, is most consistent with the evidence: her omission from Joseph III's will and estate proceedings, the chronological inconsistency of her birth occurring years before his 1741 marriage, and the demonstrable transmission of error in the Colver-Culver genealogies all point to a mistaken attribution. The second hypothesis, which suggests that Amy was a daughter of Joseph III by an earlier, undocumented marriage, provides one way of explaining her 1736/7 birth and her mother's later identification as Mary Whipple. Yet the complete lack of supporting records, coupled with Amy's absence from Joseph's estate, makes this scenario unlikely. The third hypothesis, which identifies Amy as a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Eddy) and equates Mary with the later widow Mary Whipple, faces even greater difficulties. It requires a rapid sequence of separation, remarriage, and parallel unions that strain plausibility, while still failing to explain Amy's exclusion from Joseph's estate.

When weighed together, the evidence makes clear that Hypothesis 1 is the most probable. Amy (Culver) Newton was not the child of Joseph Culver III and Mary (Eddy) Culver but was mistakenly included among their children by later genealogists. Her appearance in the Colver-Culver genealogies reflects a transmission error rather than historical fact, and her true parentage must lie elsewhere.

In reconstructing her biography, Mary (Eddy) Culver likely was born ca. 1716 - 1721 and died after 7 August 1755, when her daughter Hannah was born, but prior to 10 August 1758, when Joseph III married Eunice Wells as his second wife.

The next task is to examine Eddy families residing in or near Groton during the early eighteenth century to determine whether Mary can be placed within one of these lines. Of particular note is a branch that unites the Eddy and Whipple families, and that also maintained documented ties to the Culver family through landholding and religious affiliation.



Figure 7: Eddy family locations in Groton, Connecticut, and vicinity. Map by S.R. Cox

*This map illustrates the geographic proximity of Eddy family members and their allied kin in and around Groton during the eighteenth century, underscoring the local network of relationships within which Mary (Eddy) Culver’s identity must be evaluated.*

---

### PART III: EDDY RELATIVES IN GROTON AND VICINITY

---

It is noteworthy that nearly all individuals bearing the Eddy surname in eighteenth-century Groton, Connecticut, trace their origins to the region of Swansea, Massachusetts, and nearby Providence, Rhode Island. Each of these families descended from **Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy** of Swansea<sup>14</sup>. This concentration of kinship ties significantly narrows the field of inquiry in identifying the parentage and ancestry of Mary (Eddy) Culver.

- **Elizabeth Eddy**, daughter of **Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy** of Swansea, married **Samuel Whipple Jr.** of Providence, Rhode Island, in 1680. By about 1711 they had relocated to Groton, where they remained and raised their children.
- **Constant Eddy**, son of **Obadiah and Abigail (Devotion) Eddy**, a nephew of **Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple** and grandson of **Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy**, purchased land in Groton from his cousin **Timothy Whipple** in September 1749. Several of Constant's children, Devotion, Silva, Tisdale, Mary, and Ruth, settled in Groton, and, like the children of Samuel and Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, intermarried with established local families.
- **Jemima Eddy**, daughter of **Zachariah and Mercy (Brown) Eddy**, niece of **Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple**, and likewise a granddaughter of **Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy**, married **Stephen Harding** of Providence in 1707. Stephen Harding was either a brother or first cousin of Sarah Harding of Providence, who married Ebenezer Eddy, another sibling of Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple. Stephen and Jemima (Eddy) Harding moved to New London, adjacent to Groton, in 1732.
- **Mary Eddy**, the subject of this paper, married **Joseph Culver III** on 29 July 1741. Their daughter, Mary Culver, married William Heath on 2 August 1772. William Heath was the grandson of **Joseph and Dorothy (—) Heath of Swansea**, who settled in Groton by 1713, where their second son, Joseph (William Heath's father), was born.

The examination of each of these families in the following pages situates them within the broader context of Groton's early settlement and evaluates their potential connections to Mary (Eddy) Culver, thereby establishing the kinship and community framework in which her identity must be considered.

---

<sup>14</sup> Two grandsons of **Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy**, sons of their son **Joshua Eddy**, also had connections to Stonington, Connecticut, immediately adjacent to Groton. **Zachariah Eddy** married **Marcy Burch**, daughter of **Jonathan and Mary (Rathbun) Burch** of Stonington, Connecticut on 9 May 1741. **James Eddy** married Marcy's sister, **Anne Burch** of Stonington, Connecticut, on 11 October 1748. Both couples settled in Salisbury, Connecticut and will not be included in the examination of families.

## Samuel and Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple of Swansea, Massachusetts and Groton, Connecticut

Elizabeth Eddy, born 3 August 1670 at Swansea, Massachusetts, was the daughter of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy. On 26 February 1680 she married Samuel Whipple Jr. of Providence, Rhode Island, son of Samuel and Mary (Harris) Whipple.

On April 11, 1707, Samuel Whipple Jr., late of Providence, Rhode Island, purchased land on the east side of the New London River, in Groton, partly in Norwich, consisting of 200 acres at the “*head of the Paucatannuck [Poquetanuck] Cove.*” from John Picket of New London, Connecticut (Groton Land Records).

By about 1711 Samuel and Elizabeth had removed to the portion of Groton that later became Preston, Connecticut, where Samuel acquired the remainder of a 1,000-acre tract near the present village of Poquetanuck. There he established an ironworks and sawmill on a local stream. (Williams & Bolles, 1904) Samuel furnished the iron for the first large vessel built in New London, the 300-ton *Starling*. A large number of people assembled to see its launch from the old shipyard in New London (Whipple Family History, 1892). Samuel and Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple had the following children, seven of whom survived to adulthood<sup>15</sup>:

- i. **Alice Whipple**, born 10 April 1693, twin.
- ii. **Samuel Whipple**, born 10 April 1693, twin, d. before 1695.
- iii. **Samuel Whipple**, born 8 November 1695. Samuel Whipple married Ruth Card in 1720 and had four sons born in Groton between 1722 and 1728.
- iv. **Daniel Whipple**, born 27 October 1698. He married **Anne Hough** in 1746 and had seven children born in Groton between 1746 and 1757. Daniel became a minister of a Baptist Church in North Groton and assisted **Elder Valentine Wightman** of the First Baptist Church of Groton. By 1679, Daniel and his second wife Mary had moved to Brattleboro, Vermont, and by 1770 he was living in Westminster, Vermont, which was then part of Cumberland County, New York. He was appointed sheriff of Cumberland County in April of 1770, a post he held until 1772. He died on 9 September 1774. His second wife, Mary, took out letters of administration on his estate in April 1775. Elder Daniel Whipple’s papers are held in the Henry Stevens, Sr. Collection at the Vermont State Archives. (Durfee & Sanford, 1989).
- v. **Hope Whipple**, born 12 August 1701. She married Walter Capron about 1721 and had seven children born in New London and Norwich between 1722 and 1732.
- vi. **Nathan Whipple**, born 5 April 1704, died 1 April 1725 (20 years).
- vii. **Zachariah Whipple**, born 2 February 1707. He married **Elizabeth Rogers** in 1728 and had 10 children born in Groton and Ledyard between 1729 and 1758. Elizabeth (Rogers) Whipple died on 18 September 1751 in Groton, and Zachariah married **Mary** (—), whom he named in his will,

---

<sup>15</sup> Alice Whipple is named in her father’s will, written 18 April 1728, and probated 7 May 1728; however no additional information has been found about her. Nathan Whipple died at the age of 20 in Preston, Connecticut and is buried at Brown Cemetery in Preston. Elizabeth, born February 1717/1718, also died in infancy in November 1718.

along with his children Zachariah Whipple, Elizabeth Williams, Bathsheba Turner, Hope Whipple, and Content Whipple. It is very likely that “**Mary Whipple widow**”, mother of **Amy (Culver) Newton**, was Mary, the second wife of Zachariah Whipple. Zachariah Whipple died ca. 1759; his will was written on 8 February 1758 and proved on 4 February 1760. [See Appendix 4] The marriage record for Zachariah Whipple and Mary (—) has not been found. This provides an additional connection between the Culver, Eddy, and Whipple families.

- viii. **Zephaniah Whipple**, born about 1709. He married **Keziah Parke** in 1741 and had four children born in North Groton (Poquetanuck) between 1743 and about 1750.
- ix. **Elizabeth Whipple**, born February 1717/1718, died November 1718.

Early records indicate that members of the Whipple family shared religious beliefs similar to those of the Culver family and likely attended the same Baptist congregations. Daniel Whipple, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, became pastor of a Baptist church “*in the upper part of Groton.*” On 7 September 1743, Elder Daniel Whipple accompanied Elder Valentine Wightman, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Groton, to Warwick, Rhode Island, where they participated in the ordination of Mr. Bounds as minister of the Second Baptist Church in Boston (Stow, 1843). Given the Culver family’s close association with Elder Wightman and the Baptist community in Connecticut, it is highly probable that the Culvers were acquainted with the Whipples through shared church affiliations.

Zachariah Whipple, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Rogers, founder of the Rogerene (Quaker-Baptist) movement. This union linked certain members of the Whipple family with the Culvers through shared religious affiliation.<sup>16</sup> While most of the Culver family belonged to the First Baptist Church of Groton, John Culver, elder brother of Joseph Culver III, became a leader among the Rogerenes. In 1732 he was one of a party of twenty-one Rogerenes who emigrated from New London, Connecticut, to settle temporarily on the west side of Schooley’s Mountain in Morris County, New Jersey. By 1735 John Culver, together with his two sons, Thomas and Robert, removed from Schooley’s Mountain. Thomas later settled permanently at Drakestown, New Jersey, where in 1749 he purchased one hundred acres of land. (Williams & Bolles, 1904; Colver, 1910)

Elizabeth (Rogers) Whipple died on 18 September 1751. As noted in Part II of this paper, sometime after Elizabeth’s death and prior to the drafting of his will on 8 February 1758, Zachariah Whipple married a second wife, Mary (—), whom he named in that instrument. His will was proved on 4 February 1760 (see Appendix 3). Given the chronology of this second marriage (post-1751) and Zachariah’s death in 1759/60, it is highly probable that his widow was the “*honored mother-in-law Mary Whipple, widow*” identified by Elijah Newton in his will of 13 January 1773, probated 26 March

---

<sup>16</sup> Of the Rogerenes, Giorgi wrote, “*This religious sect was very unpopular in New London because they denounced as unscriptural all interference by the civil authorities in the worship of God. They were the first body in the state of Connecticut to denounce the doctrine of taxation without representation; held that the Sabbath was no more sacred than any other days and had an aversion to paid ministers and established church buildings.*”

1773. As previously discussed, this widow Mary Whipple was the mother of Amy (Culver) Newton, thereby providing yet another point of intersection between the Whipple and Culver families.

The presence of William Angell as the first witness to Zachariah Whipple's will offers an additional clue to the broader network of kinship and association. On 31 August 1732, at Warwick, Rhode Island, Angell married Almy Harding, daughter of Stephen and Jemima (Eddy) Harding. Soon afterward, the Harding family, together with William and Almy (Harding) Angell, relocated to New London, Connecticut. Angell's appearance as a witness in this context points to the continuing interconnections among the Eddy, Harding, Whipple, and Culver families, an interrelationship that warrants further consideration and will be examined later in this study.

Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple died at Groton on 14 March 1718. Sometime thereafter her husband, Samuel Whipple Jr., married Deborah Card. He himself died 19 April 1728. Samuel's will, dated 18 April 1728 and proved 7 May following, names his second wife, Deborah, and children Daniel, Samuel, Zachariah, Zephaniah, Aly (Alice), and Hope Capron. In this instrument, he devised the ironworks and sawmill to his son, Elder Daniel Whipple, while his lands with buildings were divided among his sons Samuel, Zachariah, and Zephaniah. Samuel and his first wife, Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, are interred in Old Poquetanuck Cemetery No. 17, along with several of their children and grandchildren (Hale, 1932-5; Old Poquetanuck Cemetery No.17 Memorials).

Four of the children of Samuel and Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, their sons and their daughter Hope, remained in Groton, where they married into established New London County families and reared children of their own. In particular, Daniel, Zachariah, and Zephaniah Whipple established households and raised families during the same period in which Joseph and Mary (Eddy) Culver were likewise marrying and raising their family.

The Groton land transactions and meetings of Samuel and Elizabeth's sons provide a glimpse into their relationships with the Groton community, including with their Eddy cousins who had also moved to Groton from Swansea, Massachusetts:

- On April 17, 1731, the boundary line was determined between the land of **Daniel Whipple** and John Spicer, "*beginning at a heap of stones on the highway in the fence between **Zephaniah Whipple** and Isaac Geer's land...*" (Groton Land Records)
- On 1 September 1749, **Constant Eddy** of Groton bought for £ 250 from **Timothy Whipple**<sup>17</sup> of Norwich, Connecticut, 20 acres of land situated in Groton. Timothy Whipple signed the deed, which Christopher Avery and Mary Avery witnessed.<sup>18</sup> (Groton Land Records)

---

<sup>17</sup> Constant Eddy and Timothy Whipple were first cousins once removed. Timothy Whipple was Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple's grandson, son of her son, Samuel Whipple III. Constant Eddy was a nephew of Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple. His father was Elizabeth's brother, Obadiah Eddy.

<sup>18</sup> Family History Library (FHL) Microfilm # 0004296; Groton Connecticut Land Records, Volume 5, pages 89-90.

- On 5 June 1758, **Abel Spicer** wrote in his diary, “*We met at Nathan Allyn's, and William Fanning and David Fanning and Joshua Gore and myself was sent after **David Whipple** and took him...*” (Groton Land Records)
- On 20 January 1769, **Devotion Eddy**<sup>19</sup> of Groton bought for £ 468 from **Daniel Whipple, Jr.** of Groton about 90 acres of land situated in Groton, containing a dwelling house and barn and bounded by the land of **Samuel Whipple, Elder Daniel Whipple**, Nathan Avery, **Daniel Whipple, Jr.**, John Spicer, Benjamin Geer, Captain Robert Geer, Humphry Avery, Samuel Geer, Robert Geer II, Samuel Capron, Old Wharf, and a cellar partly dug by Indian Sampson. The deed was signed by **Daniel Whipple** and **Mary Whipple**<sup>20</sup> and witnessed by Jeremiah Pollard and Elisha Pierce.<sup>21</sup> (Groton Land Records)
- On 20 January 1769, **Devotion Eddy** of Groton bought for £ 25 from **Daniel Whipple** of Groton, 6 acres of land situated in Groton and bounded by the land that **Daniel Whipple** gave his son, **Daniel Whipple, Jr.** (see previous deed), and the property of Nathan Avery. The deed was signed by **Daniel Whipple** and witnessed by Humphry Avery and **Daniel Whipple, Jr.**<sup>22</sup> (Groton Land Records)
- On 24 February 1769, **Devotion Eddy** of Groton sold for £ 468 to **Tisdale Eddy**<sup>23</sup> of “*Swansey in the County of Bristol and Provence of Masseursets Bay*”, about 94 acres of land situated in Groton, containing a dwelling house, half a barn, and fencings, and bounded by the property of **Elder Daniel Whipple**; Nathan Avery; John Spicer; Captain Geer; Humphry Avery; Samuel Geer; the heirs of Ebenezer Geer, Decd.; and “*also One Acre of Land Adjoining to the Cove where Indian Sampson partly Dugg a Cellar; and also One Quarter of all the sedge and Salt Meadow; on the said of Elder Whipple Homestead*”.<sup>24</sup> The deed was signed by **Devotion Eddy** and witnessed by Humphry Avery and Christopher Avery.<sup>25</sup> (Groton Land Records)
- In his will written 6 May 1769, John Spicer bequeathed “*the land I lately purchased of **Daniel Whipple***” to his sons John and Cyrus Spicer. (Groton Land Records)

---

<sup>19</sup> Devotion Eddy was the son of Constant Eddy. Daniel Whipple, Jr. was the son of Elder Daniel Whipple and his first wife Anne Hough. Constant Eddy and Elder Daniel Whipple were first cousins.

<sup>20</sup> Mary, second wife of Elder Daniel Whipple, would not be a candidate for the widow Mary Whipple because he died 9 September 1774, 19 months after Elijah Newton wrote his will, so she wouldn't have yet been a widow.

<sup>21</sup> FHL Microfilm # 0004296; Groton Connecticut Land Records, Volume 6, page 216.

<sup>22</sup> FHL Microfilm # 0004296; Groton Connecticut Land Records, Volume 6, pages 216-217.

<sup>23</sup> Tisdale Eddy was another son of Constant Eddy.

<sup>24</sup> This appears to be the same property that Devotion Eddy bought from Daniel Whipple and Daniel Whipple, Jr. in January of 1769.

<sup>25</sup> FHL Microfilm # 0004296; Groton Connecticut Land Records, Volume 6, pages 225.

**WHO WAS MARY EDDY, THE FIRST WIFE OF JOSEPH CULVER III?**

PAGE 24



*Figure 9 (left): Home built ca. 1740 by the heirs of Samuel and Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple on the original land Samuel Whipple purchased in the part of Groton that is now Preston. Source: The Preston Connecticut Historical Society*



*Figure 9 (right): a recent photo of the house, Source: Google Maps Street View 2024.*

## Constant, Devotion and Tisdale Eddy

Constant Eddy, born 1710, was the son of Obadiah and Abigail (Devotion) Eddy of Swansea, Massachusetts, a nephew of Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, and a grandson of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy. Constant married Mary Winslow in Swansea on 16 Dec 1733, and all nine of his children were born there between 1733 and 1759 (Eddy, 1930).

In September 1749 Constant Eddy purchased land in Groton from his cousin Timothy Whipple. At that time, Mary (Eddy) Culver was married to Joseph Culver III and expecting their fourth child. Although Constant is not believed to have established permanent residence in Groton until 1769, he must have spent some time there around the 1749 transaction, long enough for his daughter Silva Eddy to become acquainted with Jacob Avery. Silva married Avery at Swansea on 4 June 1753 (Avery & Avery, 1912), and the couple subsequently returned to Groton, where their son was born on 6 April 1757 (Barbour, Groton Vital Records).

Several of Constant Eddy's children, Devotion, Silva, Tisdale, Mary, and Ruth, eventually settled in Groton, and, like the children of Samuel and Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, most married into established local families:

- i. **Devotion Eddy**, born 8 September 1734 in Swansea, married **Mercie Sherman**. Devotion went to Groton from Swansea with his parents. He became interested in farming and later in shipping. He reportedly owned several privateers during the Revolutionary War with which he assisted the American cause. He appears in the Land Registry of Groton until about 1781, after which time he went to New York State and settled near Pittstown (Eddy, 1930).
- ii. **Silva (or Sylvia) Eddy**, born 27 February 1736 in Swansea married 4 June 1753 **Jacob Avery**, born 26 August 1721, the son of Christopher and Prudence (Payson) Avery of Groton (Avery & Avery, 1912). The wedding was officiated by Russel Mason, Elder of a Church of Christ in Swansea (Avery & Avery, 1912). They had 10 children, all born in Groton between about 1757 and 1779 (Avery & Avery, 1912; Eddy, 1930).
- iii. **Jemima Eddy**, born 13 October 1737 in Swansea; married 1) **Job Slade** of Swansea 10 April 1755 (Eddy, 1930) m. (2) **Joshua Chapman** 27 Jan 1783 at Swansea, Massachusetts (Barbour, Groton Vital Records, Pre-1870).<sup>26</sup>
- iv. **Abigail Eddy**, born 19 November 1739; married 26 August 1762, **Edward Thurber** of Swansea (V.R.). Although they remained in Swansea for the rest of their lives, their son **Darius Thurber** married his first cousin **Mary Spicer** of Groton, daughter of Abigail's sister Mary Eddy and her husband Cyrus Spicer (Avery & Avery, 1912; Eddy, 1930).
- v. **Obadiah Eddy**, born Mar. 21, 1742, married 1) **Lois Palmer**, 15 June 1769; she died 2 June 1770; 2) Rose Chase. Obadiah was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He lived in Swansea and

---

<sup>26</sup> Groton, Connecticut Vital Records, Volume 2, Page 2 from Family History Center Film #007730036, Image 1321 of 1455 provide a scan of the original marriage record of Joshua Chapman of Groton, Connecticut to Jemima (Eddy) Sleed [Slade] in Swansey [Swansea], Massachusetts on 27 January 1783 by Russell Mason, pastor of a Church of Christ. Joshua Chapman was the son of William and Mary "Mercy" (Stoddard) Chapman of Groton, Connecticut.

Somerset, Massachusetts. He and his second wife, **Rose**, joined his siblings in Pittstown, New York. According to History of Pittstown, New York, “*The second church established in the town apparently was that of the society of Friends, toward the close of the eighteenth century. The first meeting house was built about the time the society was founded and a second one was erected in 1819. It was repaired in 1874 and has served the society for many years. One of the earliest ministers was Mrs. Rose Eddy.*” (Anderson, 1897)

- vi. **Tisdale Eddy**, born 16 January 1743 (Eddy, 1930), his wife’s name is not known, however they had five children, all born in Groton. His sons were named Humphrey and Avery, so these names may provide a clue to the wife’s family. Around 1770, Tisdale was in Pittstown, New York: according to the Eddy Supplement 1980, an old paper was found stating that an Indian named John Philips delivered newspapers to Tisdale Eddy in Pittstown in 1770. Philips was paid in rum, cider and “night lodging for two” by Johannes Hayner, Jr., innkeeper of Brunswick, who charged these expenses to Tisdale’s account (Breck, 1980). Tisdale died July 1783. His brother Devotion was named administrator of his estate and his brother-in-law, Jacob Avery (Silva’s husband) was allowed a sum for the care of Tisdale’s minor son, Avery Eddy (Eddy, 1930). His father, Constant Eddy, named four of Tisdale’s children - Sybil, Humphrey, Hannah, and Nancy - in the codicil to his will, written 6 November 1784 and probated 22 November 1784 (Meech & Meech, 1911)
- vii. **Elizabeth Eddy**, born 25 October 1745 in Swansea married **Ebenezer Winslow** on 27 February 1766 at Swansea. She died in Swansea on 2 April 1797 (Eddy, 1930).
- viii. **Mary Eddy**, born 16 December 1750 married in North Groton 28 July 1771 **Cyrus Spicer**, son of John and Mercy (Chapman) Spicer of North Groton (Meech & Meech, 1911). Cyrus Spicer received the easterly half of his father's farm. 29 November 1782, he bought two hundred and forty acres for four hundred pounds from Tisdale Eddy. On 21 January 1788, Cyrus Spicer sold to Isaac Avery, all the farm or tract of land given him by his father John Spicer, (at that date improved by Simeon Button [Ruth Eddy’s husband]) situated in Groton, bounded by land owned by Devotion Eddy, Benjamin Geer, the heirs of George Geer, his brother John Spicer, and the heirs of the late Capt. Isaac Geer. Shortly thereafter, Cyrus and Mary (Eddy) Spicer moved to Pittstown, New York where Devotion Eddy had settled<sup>27</sup>. They had seven children between 1773 and 1792, the first 6 born in North Groton, now Ledyard, Connecticut. The youngest child was born in Pittstown. Their daughter, Mary Spicer, married her first cousin, Darius Thurber, son of Mary’s sister Abigail Eddy and her husband Edward Thurber. Cyrus died 1 February 1826 in Hoosick, New York. Mary died there 21 July 1828 (Meech & Meech, 1911)
- ix. **Ruth Eddy**, born 12 July 1759 (Nye, 1971) or 11 July 1765 (Eddy, 1930); married 27 June 1782, **Simeon Button**, born 5 April 1757 (Pittstown Historical Society, 2008). He was son of **Jedediah and Elizabeth (Newberry) Button** of Stonington, Connecticut (Taylor, 2008). Simeon was the

---

<sup>27</sup> According to the article, “Pittstowners Move West”, published in the Pittstown Historical Society Newsletter, “*In the late 1700s there were so many New Englanders moving into New York State that the migration was dubbed the “invasion of the Yankees”. Many of these New Englanders settled in Pittstown, arriving in groups of families and friends. Their motives for the move often included seeking more productive farmland and economic opportunities. The land in New England had become depleted from poor farming practices and the custom of primogeniture in which the eldest son inherited ownership of the farm, leaving younger siblings without a means of support.*” (Kheel, 2019)

younger brother of **Asa Button**, who married **Abigail Culver**, daughter of Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver, thereby further linking the Eddy and Culver families. **Constant Eddy** named Simeon Button executor of his will, dated 30 October 1784 and proved 22 November 1784 in Stonington (Meech & Meech, 1911). Simeon and Ruth later moved to Pittstown, New York (Nye, 1971; Pittstown Historical Society, 2008) where he was actively involved in local affairs (Pittstown Historical Society, 2008).

Several land transactions linked the family of Constant Eddy with that of his aunt Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple. Nearly twenty years after Constant's initial Groton purchase, his son Devotion Eddy acquired 96 acres in two deeds from Daniel Whipple and his son, Daniel Whipple Jr., the brother and nephew of Timothy Whipple. Within a month Devotion conveyed the same tract to his own son, Tisdale Eddy (Groton Land Records). Tisdale established his residence there and remained in Groton until his death in 1783, having lived on the property for approximately fourteen years.

Mary (Eddy) Culver would have been of similar age to her cousin Constant Eddy. Constant, in fact, had a sister named Mary Eddy, born 10 November 1716, but she was almost certainly not identical with Mary (Eddy) Culver. According to the Eddy Genealogy, this Mary Eddy married George Cornell on 16 March 1737 (Eddy, 1930) and she died in 1792 (Cornell Cemetery Records), several decades after the estimated death of Mary (Eddy) Culver between 1755 and 1758. Therefore, the evidence excludes Constant's sister Mary Eddy, wife of George Cornell, as a candidate for Mary (Eddy) Culver.

### Eddy Family Members in Preston, Connecticut

The Eddy family members who appear in Preston, Connecticut vital records appear to all be descendants of John Eddy of Taunton, Massachusetts through his two marriages. With the exception of Mary Eddy who married John Rude in 1687 (Barbour, Pre-1870), all of these Eddy family members were born later than would fit the profile for Mary (Eddy) Culver, born about 1716-1721, to be a plausible family member. A review of the families of these individuals in the Eddy genealogy also failed to produce a possible candidate. More information on these Eddy family members is provided in Appendix 10.

### Eddy Family Members Found in Records Elsewhere in Connecticut

The records show Eddy family members in other parts of Connecticut. None of these individuals fit the profile for Mary (Eddy) Culver. Charles Eddy, a grandson of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy through their son John Eddy, settled in Glastonbury, Connecticut and Joel Eddy, a grandson of Zachariah Eddy's brother Obadiah settled in Woodstock, Connecticut. Joel Eddy died there 1776 as a Revolutionary War soldier (Eddy, 1930). More information on these Eddy family members is provided in Appendix 10.

---

## PART IV: REFINING THE PROFILE OF MARY (EDDY) CULVER

---

### Who Mary (Eddy) Culver Was Not

On the basis of evidence from Culver, Eddy, and Whipple families in and near Groton, Connecticut, together with a review of certain claims found in online family trees, several conclusions may be drawn regarding identities that cannot be attributed to Mary (Eddy) Culver:

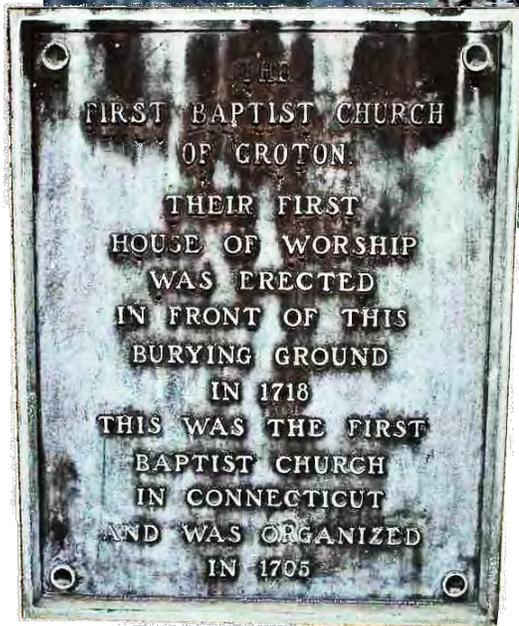
- As already demonstrated, Mary (Eddy) Culver was almost certainly not the mother of Amy (Culver) Newton. The 1773 will of Elijah Newton identifies Amy as the daughter of the widow Mary Whipple. While Amy's marriage record records her surname as Culver, no evidence substantiates her as a daughter of Joseph Culver III. Her omission from the will of Joseph Culver III and the administration of his estate further confirms this conclusion.
- Some online family trees identify Mary (Eddy) Culver as the daughter of Jabez and Mary (Rickard) Eddy of Plymouth, Massachusetts. This is incorrect. That Mary Eddy, born 24 January 1701/02 in Plymouth (Breck, 1968), married Giles Rickard in 1724 and bore twelve children between 1725 and 1746 (Breck, 1968). This chronology overlaps the years when Mary (Eddy) Culver was married to Joseph Culver III and producing children of her own in Groton, rendering the identification impossible.
- Nor was she Mary Eddy, daughter of Obadiah and Abigail (Devotion) Eddy and younger sister of Constant Eddy, born about 1716. This Mary Eddy married George Cornell (Eddy, 1930) and bore seven children between 1738 and 1760, overlapping precisely with the period (1742–1755) in which Mary (Eddy) Culver's children were born. Moreover, Mary (Eddy) Cornell died in 1792 (Cornell Cemetery Records), decades after the estimated death of Mary (Eddy) Culver between 1755 and 1758.

### Who Mary (Eddy) Culver Might Have Been

On the basis of the foregoing analysis, several working assumptions may be advanced regarding the identity of Mary (Eddy) Culver:

- She was in all likelihood a descendant of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy, as multiple members of that family, including Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, Constant Eddy, and Jemima (Eddy) Harding, were resident in or near Groton, Connecticut, during the years of her marriage to Joseph Culver III (1741–1755).
- She was probably affiliated with the First Baptist Church of Groton, perhaps even prior to her marriage, given that historical records demonstrate connections between the Culvers and Elder Valentine Wightman and suggest ongoing association between the Eddy and Culver families within that congregation.
- She was likely born between 1716 and 1721 and died after 7 August 1755 (the birth of her youngest known child) and before 10 August 1758 (when Joseph Culver III remarried).

Records of Groton, Connecticut, and Swansea, Massachusetts in the early to mid-eighteenth century are fragmentary, and records for women were especially prone to omission—wives were often unnamed in birth entries, land transactions, or church proceedings. The loss of the pre-1754 records of the First Baptist Church of Groton is particularly detrimental to reconstructing this family’s history. For these reasons, records specifically naming Mary Eddy, wife of Joseph Culver III, may not survive, leaving her identity only partially recoverable through indirect evidence.



*Figure 10: Top, the entrance to the Old Wightman Burying Ground, behind where the First Baptist Church of Groton originally stood; and left, the plaque on the right-hand gate column, noting the location. Photos: Find a Grave, credits J Geoghan and J Franco*

---

## PART V: THE CASE FOR MARY EDDY, DAUGHTER OF EBENEZER AND SARAH (HARDING) EDDY

---

One individual recorded in the *Eddy Genealogy* appears to fit the profile of Mary (Eddy) Culver and merits closer investigation. This Mary Eddy, daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy, was a first cousin of Constant Eddy and Jemima (Eddy) Harding, a niece of Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, and a granddaughter of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy. Through her mother, she was also likely a niece of Stephen Harding, husband of Jemima (Eddy) Harding, who settled in New London in 1732.

Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> Eddy (Zachariah<sup>2</sup>, Samuel<sup>1</sup>), born 5 February 1665 at Swansea, Massachusetts, was the son of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy and a brother of Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple. On 17 June 1701 he married Sarah Harding of Providence, Rhode Island. He was a blacksmith. Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy were the parents of the following children:

- i. **Lydia Eddy** was born on 5 March 1703 in Swansea (Carter, 1930). According to Eddy, she married Mr. Bullock<sup>28</sup> of Freetown. She sold some of her father's land in the South Purchase to Joshua Eddy of Middleboro (Eddy, 1930). There is also a marriage record of a Lydia Eddy who married Stephen Barrus on 27 September 1725 at Bristol, RI. (Arnold, 1911). She died in 1773.
- ii. **Ebenezer Eddy, Jr.**, was born on 28 October 1706 in Swansea (Carter, 1930). He was placed under the guardianship of his uncle Caleb Eddy in 1727 after his father's death (Eddy, 1930; NEHGS, 2017) [See Appendix 5]. Ruth Story Devereux Eddy suggests the following entry in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* may refer to Ebenezer Eddy, Jr.:  

*“The Penn. Gazette, July 31, 1735 advertises as follows ‘Ran away on the third instant from Thomas Crossdale of Burlingame, a servant man, named Ebenezer Edey, born in New England; a thin spare man of swarthy complexion, short brown hair, by trade a ship-carpenter, etc. ... and he has taken with him some ship carpenter tools’”* (Eddy, 1930)
- iii. **Nathan Eddy** was born 19 June 1709 in Swansea (Carter, 1930; Eddy, 1930). Eddy notes that he must have died young because no guardianship papers were taken out on him (Eddy, 1930)<sup>29</sup>.
- iv. **Phoebe Eddy** was born on 25 Dec 1712 in Swansea (Carter, 1930; Eddy, 1930). Being above the age of fourteen on 16 November 1731, she submitted a petition to the Bristol County Probate Court choosing Jonathan Hill as her guardian after her father's death (Eddy, 1930; NEHGS, 2017) [See Appendix 8]. She married William Sabin on 17 May 1733 in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. He was born on 14 Oct 1708 in Rehoboth. She died on 21 Jul 1738 in Rehoboth. William Sabin died after 1745.
- v. **Sarah Eddy** was above the age of 14 on 16 November 1731, so she was born before 16 November 1717, in Swansea. Based on Phoebe Eddy's 1712 birthdate, Sarah probably was born about 1714. She selected Jonathan Hill as her guardian after her father's death (Eddy, 1930;

---

<sup>28</sup> Rehoboth, Massachusetts, U.S., Vital Records, 1642-1896 has a record of Elkanah Bullock who married Sarah Eddy on 29 March 1717, however research shows this Sarah Eddy was the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Eastabrook) Eddy.

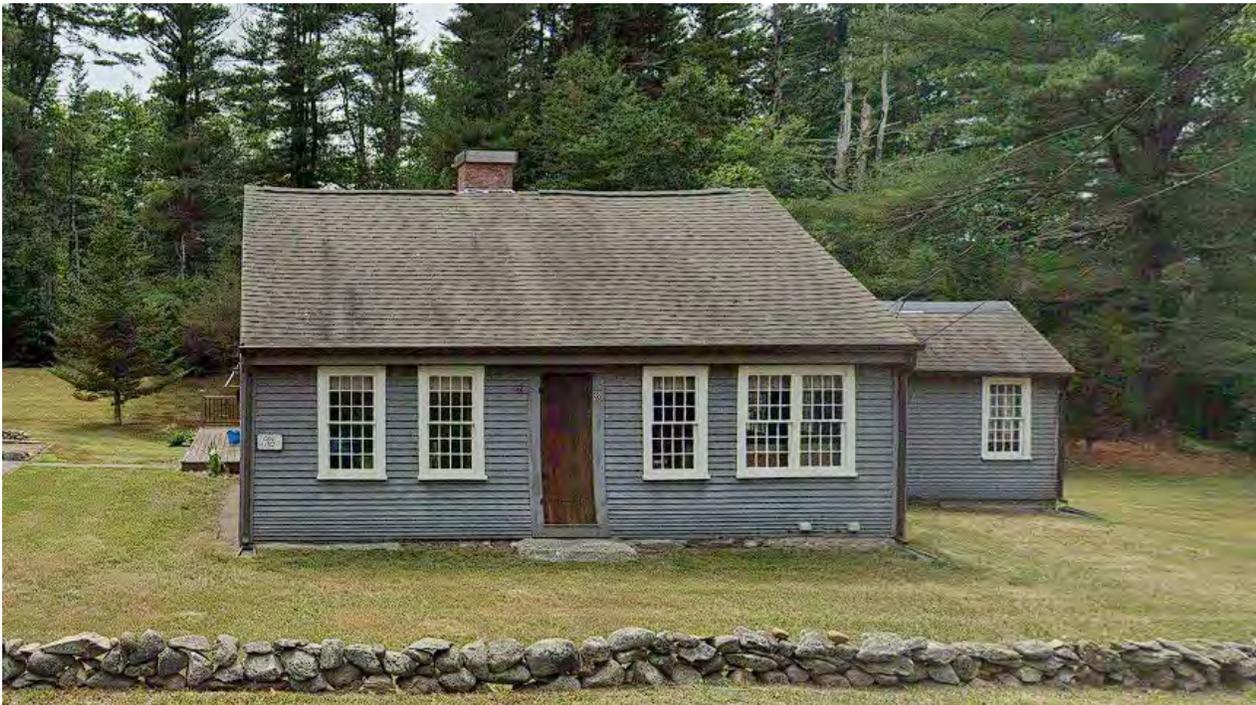
<sup>29</sup> If Mary Eddy, daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy is the same person as Mary (Eddy) Culver, it may be significant that Joseph III and Mary (Eddy) Culver named their first child Nathan.

NEHGS, 2017) [See Appendix 7]. She married David Wilson on 11 June 1741 in Bristol, Rhode Island. She died in 1786 in Swansea, and he also died there.

- vi. **Mary Eddy** was under the age of 14 on 8 August 1726, so she was born after 8 August 1712 (probably after 25 December 1712, given Phoebe's birth date) and before 8 August 1726 in Swansea. Based on Phoebe Eddy's 1712 birthdate, and Sarah Eddy's presumed 1714 birthdate, Mary may have been born about 1716. She was placed under the guardianship of her uncle Caleb Eddy after her father's death (Eddy, 1930; NEHGS, 2017) [See Appendix 5]. [Candidate for identification with Mary (Eddy) Culver of Groton; discussed further in text.]
- vii. **Benjamin Eddy** was under the age of 14 on 8 August 1726, so he was born after 8 August 1712 and before 8 August 1726 in Swansea. He was placed under the guardianship of his uncle Caleb Eddy after his father's death (Eddy, 1930; NEHGS, 2017) [See Appendix 5]. He died there in 1786. He married on 14 Feb 1744 in Freetown, Massachusetts, Mary Hill, daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Hale) Hill, born 13 May 1715 in Swansea (Luce, 1928). Her father, Jonathan Hill, became guardian of Phoebe, Sarah, and Stephen Eddy (NEHGS, 2012). Elder Joseph Mason of the Second Church of Swansea performed the marriage. They remained in Swansea where they had six children born between 1745 and 1757 (Eddy, 1930). The children were:
- a. Martha Eddy, born 11 December 1745; married Nathaniel Toogood of Swansea, 14 December 1766.
  - b. Mary Eddy, born 22 June 1748; married William Morse, 18 February 1768
  - c. Elizabeth Eddy, born 17 June 1749.
  - d. Hannah Eddy, born 17 August 1750; m. Daniel Sherman, 11 March 1773.
  - e. Israel Eddy, born 22 July 1755.
  - f. Caleb Eddy, born 9 September 1757.
- viii. **Stephen Eddy** was born in 1720 in Swansea (Eddy, 1930). He was placed under the guardianship of Jonathan Hill after his father's death (Eddy, 1930) [See Appendix 9]. If Sarah (Harding) Eddy was a close relative of Stephen Harding, who married Jemima Eddy in 1707 and moved to New London, Connecticut, in 1732, Stephen Eddy have been named after him. Stephen Eddy married Sarah Cummins on 4 March 1756 in Swansea. They settled in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, where Stephen served as a soldier during the French and Indian War. He enlisted on 26 February 1756 for the Crown Point expedition, appearing on a return made by Col. Thomas Bowen to Lt. Gov. Spencer Phips, mustered by Capt. Aaron Kingsley and delivered to Col. Jonathan Bagley. He received bounty, billeting, blanket, and other supplies in connection with this enlistment. Further rolls show his continuing service under Capt. Kingsley and Col. Bagley. He is listed at Fort Edward, 16 December 1756, as part of a company in His Majesty's service for the Crown Point campaign, and again at Boston, 16 April 1757, on a roll endorsed "*a list of men belonging to Capt. Aaron Kingsley's company.*" His length of service was approximately forty-one weeks, explicitly noted as "*In the Crown Point Expedition.*" Another record places Stephen on a Billeting Roll dated 1 April 1760, sworn at Taunton for Capt. Job Williams' Company, 1st Battalion, Col. Bagley's Regiment. This entry states that billeting commenced 1 May (probably 1759) and that he received the King's provisions on 10 May (probably 1759), with nine days of billeting allowed. This evidence reinforces that Stephen was in active service in 1759, shortly

before his death. Stephen died in military service during the summer of 1759 or early 1760, leaving no will. On 13 March 1760, his brother Benjamin Eddy petitioned the court, reporting that *“my brother Stephen Eddy died in camp last summer without any will, and has none left only his widow.”* The court summoned Sarah Eddy, his widow, and appointed her administratrix. An inventory submitted in April 1761 reported £8, 12s, 8d.2 in cash received for his soldier’s wages. No children are recorded for Stephen and Sarah (Cummins) Eddy, and none are mentioned in the probate proceedings. (Bristol County Probate Records, 1687-1926; Eddy, 1930)

The births of the eldest four children of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy are preserved in the Swansea vital records, but no records have been located for the younger four. Ruth Story Devereux Eddy observed that Ebenezer moved frequently during his lifetime, residing successively in Middleborough, Swansea, and Providence, before returning to Swansea, then removing to Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and finally settling again at Swansea. It is therefore possible that the births of the younger children were recorded in another jurisdiction or as sometimes occurred, were never entered into the town records. Thus, the absence of birth entries does not preclude their inclusion within this family group, as subsequent records, particularly the guardianship appointments of Ebenezer Jr. and Mary to their uncle Caleb Eddy [Appendix 5], of Phoebe and Sarah to Jonathan Hill [Appendices 7 and 8], and of Stephen to Jonathan Hill [Appendix 9], confirm their identities as children of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy.



*Figure 11: Zachariah Eddy Homestead, Middleborough, Massachusetts. Plymouth Colony records of 1665 note a land grant to Zachariah Eddy “near the brook from his house below the path to Nemasket,” suggesting he built the original dwelling. In 1702 he conveyed the homestead to his son, the blacksmith Ebenezer Eddy (Mary Eddy’s father); a hall beam inscribed “E. Eddy yr 1702” likely commemorates renovations at that time. In 1707, Ebenezer sold the property to Thomas Palmer, son of the Reverend Thomas Palmer, second minister of the First Church of Christ in Middleborough. (Lopes, 2009) Photo: Google Maps Street View*

Ebenezer Eddy died intestate at Swansea about 1726, leaving six minor children who were subsequently placed under guardianship (NEHGS, 2017; Eddy, 1930). In colonial New England, a fatherless child was legally regarded as an orphan, irrespective of whether the mother survived. When a father died intestate, as Ebenezer did, his children inherited his personal property in equal shares, subject to the widow's one-third portion. The appointed guardian's principal duty was to manage and preserve the child's inherited estate until the ward reached majority and could assume control of it. Guardianship, however, did not entail physical custody. Courts generally presumed that children would remain in the care of their mother if she were living and able to support them; if she were deceased or otherwise incapable, the children were usually taken in by relatives or family associates willing to provide for them (Baird, 2010; Blackstone, 1871).

Caleb Eddy was appointed guardian to manage the inherited property of three of the Eddy children—Mary, and her brothers Ebenezer Jr. and Benjamin. Caleb was the brother of Ebenezer Eddy, Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, and Obadiah Eddy (father of Constant Eddy) [see Appendix 5]. This guardianship was likely established shortly after Ebenezer's death in about 1726. In the guardianship contract, Mary was described as being "*less than fourteen,*" placing her birth after 8 August 1712 and before 8 August 1726 (NEHGS, 2017).

This Mary Eddy corresponds well to the estimated age profile of Mary (Eddy) Culver. Ordinarily, establishing a connection between Swansea, Massachusetts, and Groton, Connecticut, would present difficulties. In this case, however, the link is strengthened by the fact that close relatives of this Mary Eddy, members of the Eddy family documented in the Eddy genealogy (Eddy, 1930), migrated from Swansea to Groton and became fully integrated into that community. Moreover, no existing birth record has been found to identify the birthplace of Mary (Eddy) Culver, leaving open the possibility that she was this daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy. Taken together, the guardianship evidence, chronological fit, and patterns of family migration provide the strongest available case for identifying this Mary Eddy as the woman who became Mary (Eddy) Culver of Groton.<sup>30</sup>

On 16 November 1731, Phoebe Eddy, one month shy of her nineteenth birthday, and her sister Sarah Eddy, then over the age of fourteen, selected Jonathan Hill Jr. to serve as guardian of their inherited property [see Appendices 7 and 8]. On the same date, Hill was also appointed guardian of Stephen Eddy, then about eleven years of age [see Appendix 9]. The later timing of these guardianships, several years after those of Ebenezer Jr., Mary, and Benjamin, can be explained by the language of Jonathan Hill Jr.'s contract to serve as Stephen Eddy's guardian, which authorized him to "*Recover Receive and Take into your Custody all and Singular Such part and portion of Estate as accrues to him in Right as his father Jonathan Hill Late of Swansey deceased.*" This wording suggests that Jonathan Hill Sr. had

---

<sup>30</sup> Mary Eddy, daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy was not the Mary Eddy who married Barnabus Chase on 6 October 1745 in Swansea, Massachusetts. This Mary Eddy was the daughter of Seth (John, Zachariah, Samuel, William) and Patience (Millard) Eddy. She was also probably not Mary Eddy who married Zebulon Spinney on 11 May 1745 in Newport, Rhode Island. Zebulon Spinney was from Kittery, Maine. No information has been found on this Mary Eddy, aside from her birth date of 1724, which would probably place her outside the birth range of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy's children. Although the birth range of the children is 1712-1726 because Ebenezer died before 8 August 1726, Stephen Eddy, born in 1720, is believed to be the youngest child.

originally been appointed guardian of Sarah, Phoebe, and Stephen Eddy. Following Hill Sr.'s death on 5 September 1731, the guardianship responsibilities were formally transferred to his son, Jonathan Hill Jr., in November of that year. Thus, the probate records demonstrate continuity of guardianship within the Hill family and confirm that all six surviving minor children of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy were legally provided for.



*Figure 12: The Hill House at 1 Main Street, Swansea, MA. Jonathan Hill purchased a seventy-acre farm with buildings in 1720 from Ebenezer Eddy, where Hill subsequently built this house. Source: Swansea Historical Society. See more about this house at: <http://www.swanseahistoricalsociety.org/townhistory/villagedistrict/1Main.pdf>*

Mary Eddy's guardian, her uncle Caleb Eddy married Bethiah Smith on 11 January 1703 and they had eight children, born in Swansea between 1703 and 1720. Mary Eddy and her brothers Ebenezer and Benjamin were age-cohorts of their cousins. The children of Caleb and Bethiah (Smith) Eddy were:

- i. **Edward Eddy**, born 7 October 1703 in Swansea, married **Elisabeth Cummins** on 12 Oct 1726 in Swansea. Elizabeth was born 29 August 1706 in Chelmsford, Middlesex, Massachusetts and died in 1775. Edward died 27 January 1750 in Swansea.
- ii. **Anne Eddy**, born 8 September 1705 in Swansea, married **John Kennecott, Jr.**, born 23 June 1700 in Swansea. Anne died 18 September 1735 in Swansea and John died there 3 March 1783.
- iii. **Abigail Eddy**, born on 11 October 1708 in Swansea and died there 7 March 1794.
- iv. **Elisha Eddy**, born 2 May 1711 in Swansea, married **Hannah** (—).
- v. **Amy Eddy**, born 27 March 1713 in Swansea, married **John Harding** on 24 December 1730 in Swansea. Amy died in 1783. John Harding was likely Mary Eddy's cousin through her mother, Sarah (Harding) Eddy. He was born about 1708 in Swansea, the son of Richard and Mary (Thurber) Harding. His father, Richard Harding, was probably a first cousin of Sarah (Harding)

- Eddy. John Harding's cousin on his mother's side, Darius Thurber, married Mary Spicer of Groton, Connecticut (Meech & Meech, 1911).
- vi. **Michael Eddy**, born 25 Jul 1715 in Swansea, married **Jael Chase** on 1 Jan 1740 in Swansea. She was born in 1724. Michael died 23 May 1801 in Swansea and Jael died 19 May 1814 in Cheshire, Berkshire, Massachusetts.
- vii. **Elizabeth Eddy**, born 8 January 1718 in Swansea, on 24 Feb 1733 married **Daniel Hill** in Swansea. He was born in 1710. Elizabeth was a member of the Friends Meeting and was under discipline for marrying out of the Meeting and was disowned 7 October 1741. Daniel Hill was a shipwright. He purchased land from his father-in-law Caleb Eddy in 1734, and he witnessed a deed of **Constant Eddy** on 16 September 1737 (Eddy, 1930). Elizabeth died 25 Oct 1764 in Swansea. Daniel moved with his children to Plainfield, Connecticut, north of Groton, where he died in February 1792. Several of Daniel and Elizabeth (Eddy) Hill's children settled in Plainfield and Voluntown, Connecticut. In the will of her father, Elizabeth is spoken of as wife of Daniel Hill. Their daughter, **Sarah Hill**, married **John Eddy**, son of **Peter Eddy** (Eddy, 1930) .
- viii. **Bethiah Eddy**, born 21 Feb 1720 in Swansea, married **Job Anthony** on 23 Feb 1740 in Swansea. He was born on 10 Apr 1714 in Portsmouth, Newport County, Rhode Island. Bethiah died 2 July 1743 in Swansea and Job died there in 1806 (Eddy, 1930).

As noted earlier, guardianship in colonial New England concerned the management of inherited property rather than the physical custody of children. Nevertheless, the family of **Caleb Eddy of Swansea** demonstrates noteworthy regional ties, particularly to **southeastern Connecticut**. Although Caleb himself appears to have remained in the Swansea area throughout his life, several of his children established or reinforced connections with Connecticut families. His daughter **Amy (Almy) Eddy** married **John Harding**, who was likely a kinsman of **Sarah (Harding) Eddy**, wife of Ebenezer Eddy. John Harding's maternal line descended from the **Thurber family**, who intermarried with the **Spicer family of Groton, Connecticut** (Meech & Meech, 1911), thereby extending the Eddy family's network into New London County.

Another daughter, **Elizabeth Eddy**, married **Daniel Hill**, whose family settled in **Sterling and Voluntown, Connecticut**, north of Groton. Daniel Hill died in February 1792 and was buried at the **Parker–Hill Cemetery, Sterling, Connecticut**. The Hill family further intertwined with the Eddys: **Mary Eddy**, daughter of Caleb, married **Benjamin Eddy** of Swansea, and Mary's husband was a first cousin of Daniel Hill. Mary's father, **Jonathan Hill**, served as the **legal guardian** of the children of **Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy**, namely Phoebe, Sarah, and Stephen Eddy, illustrating once again how guardianship roles centered on property management within extended kinship networks..

Caleb Eddy died 21 November 1747/8. His will, probated 5 January 1748, mentions his wife, Bethiah; sons, Elisha, Edward, and Michael; daughter Ann Kinnicutt (Kennecott), deceased, and her five children, Elizabeth, John, Abigail, Ann, Daniel; daughters Abigail Child, wife of John Child; Almy (or Amy) Harding, wife of John Harding; Elizabeth Hill, wife of Daniel Hill; Bethiah Anthony, late wife of Job Anthony and her two children, Eunice, and Job. Son Michael was the sole executor. (NEHGS, 2017).

---

## PART VI: MATERNAL CONNECTIONS - THE HARDING FAMILY OF PROVIDENCE

---

### Mary Eddy's Mother, Sarah (Harding) Eddy

Sarah (Harding) Eddy was alive when Ebenezer Eddy died, and as was the practice for fatherless children, her children were assigned guardians to manage their inherited property until they came of age to manage it themselves. Beginning on 8 August 1726, guardianship papers were taken out on Ebenezer Eddy, Jr, “*a Minor above y<sup>e</sup> age of fourteen years*”, and Mary and Benjamin Eddy, children of Ebenezer Eddy “*under the age of fourteen years*” who were placed into the guardianship of their uncle, Caleb Eddy (Eddy, 1930; NEHGS, 2017)

### Guardianship versus custody of the children of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy

As previously discussed, if the father died intestate as Ebenezer did, his “orphans” inherited his personal property equally and a guardian was assigned to the child; the guardian’s primary role being to manage the inherited property until the child reached majority and could manage it themselves. The courts awarded custody of the children to the mother if she was alive and able to raise the orphaned children. However, if the mother was deceased or otherwise incapable of caring for her children, then “orphans” went to live with relations or friends who would take them in. A review of Bristol County Probate Records provides more information on the case of Sarah (Harding) Eddy and her “orphaned” children. On 9 January 1727/28, the following entry was made in the Bristol County Court of General Sessions of the Peace:

*“Upon the petition of Obadiah Eaddy<sup>31</sup> of Swansey shewing that Sarah Edey Widdow of Ebenezer Eady late of Swansey Deceased is fallen into Distraction and has not left her Estate wherewith Wholely to Support her – ordred that the Selectmen of Swansey do provide for an support the said Sarah Eddy....”* (NEHGS, 2012)

On 27 November 1727/8, Sarah Eddy, widow of Ebenezer Eddy was declared “*non compos mentis*” (of unsound mind)<sup>32</sup> by the Bristol County Judge of Probate of Wills, and an account of her estate was ordered [see Appendix 6]. It’s likely that the Eddy children were placed in the care of family and friends who were not necessarily the guardians of the children. Since several relatives settled in Groton, Connecticut, before and shortly after 1727/8, it’s possible that some of the children went to live with family members there. ***This circumstance provides one plausible pathway by which Mary Eddy, later the wife of Joseph Culver III, may have entered the Groton community.***

---

<sup>31</sup> This was most certainly Obadiah Eddy, brother of Ebenezer Eddy and father of Constant Eddy.

<sup>32</sup> Non compos mentis is a Latin legal phrase that translates to “of unsound mind” (Oxford English Dictionary, 2016)

## Sarah (Harding) Eddy's Family

In *The Eddy Family in America*, Ruth Story Devereux Eddy states about Ebenezer Eddy's wife, "his wife, Sarah Harding, was a Providence woman, and her relatives were there..." (Eddy, 1930).

However, no record has been found to connect her with a Providence family positively. *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* provides one family of the surname Harding in Providence: the family of Stephen and Bridget Harding (Austin, 1887). According to this source, and the *Hardings in America*, Stephen and Bridget Harding had seven children, three of whom were sons; one, Stephen, died without issue (Harding W. J., 1925). This leaves two possibilities for the father of Sarah Harding: John Harding, whose wife was unknown and had two known sons, Israel and Richard; and Abraham Harding who married Deborah (—)<sup>33</sup> and had seven known children. Sarah Harding is not listed as a daughter in either family.

Providence probate records show that Abraham and Deborah (—) Harding had several children (Providence Town Council, 1692-1714); however the names of the individual children are not listed. Abraham Harding died intestate on 23 November 1694. On 18 December 1694, his widow, Deborah, went before the Providence Town Council to seek administration of her late husband's estate. She presented the Town Council with an inventory of Abraham's estate, requesting letters of administration; however, she could not secure bond. It took ten meetings of the Providence Town Council over a span of three and one-half years before Deborah and her second husband, Moses Bartlett (whom she married in 1695) were able to secure bond, take administration over her late husband's estate, and "the Children of ye sd Abraham Hardin Comitted to their Care." A transcription of the ten town council meetings is provided in Appendix 11 of this paper.

*The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* lists the names of seven of the children, and *Hardings in America* assigns birthdates to several of them (with additional research added):

- i. **John Harding**, born in 1677; died in 1732 (Austin, 1887; Harding W. J., 1925).
- ii. **Mercy Harding**, born in 1679; married Samuel Winsor. She died in 1749 (Austin, 1887) (Harding W. J., 1925).
- iii. **Israel Harding**, born in 1680 and died in 1700 in Newport, Rhode Island (Austin, 1887) (Harding W. J., 1925).
- iv. **Stephen Harding**, born in 1681 in Providence, Rhode Island (Austin, 1887; Harding W. J., 1925). He married on 21 April 1707 in Swansea, **Jemima Eddy**, born on 5 August 1688 in Swansea, daughter of Zachariah Eddy and Mercy Baker (Eddy, 1930). She died after 1737 in Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. (She was named as Jemima Harding in her father Zachariah Eddy's will dated 25 February 1736/37 and proved 4 June 1737 (Eddy, 1930), so she was still alive then). He died 3 May 1750 in Waterford, New London, Connecticut (Harding W. J., 1925). Jemimah (Eddy) Harding was a first cousin of Mary Eddy, daughter of Sarah (Harding) Eddy.

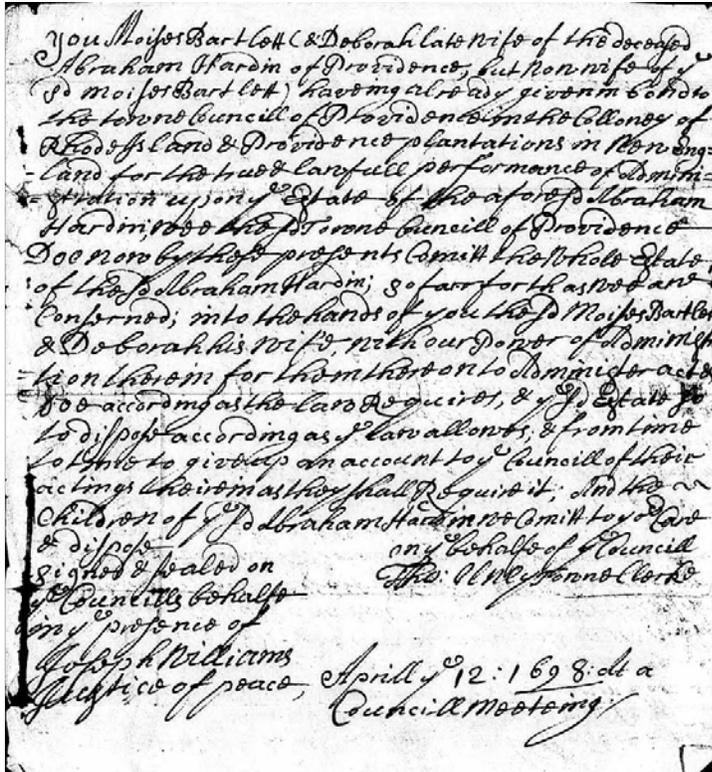
---

<sup>33</sup> Some online family trees give her maiden name as Gardner, however no source for this has been found.

- v. **Lydia Harding**, born 23 August 1690 in Providence, Rhode Island. She married **Job Whipple**, son of **Eleazer Whipple and Alice Angell**, on 2 December 1713 in Providence (Austin, 1887; Harding W. J., 1925). He was born on 8 March 1685 in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Job Whipple was a first cousin of **Samuel Whipple, Jr.**, husband of **Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple**. Lydia (Harding) Whipple died 6 October 1767 and Job Whipple died 19 April 1750 in Providence.
- vi. **Deborah Harding**, born in 1692 in Providence. She died on 27 July 1780 in Smithfield, Rhode Island.
- vii. **Thomas Harding**, born in 1694 in Providence; married **Alice Smith** 22 April 1721. He died 9 December 1780 in Providence.

Although Sarah Harding is not listed among Abraham and Deborah’s children, she fits comfortably within this family group. The seven-year gap between the births of Stephen (1681) and Lydia (1690) provides chronological space for her birth. More significantly, those two siblings, Stephen and Lydia, married into the Eddy and Whipple families, strengthening kinship ties between the three families. Furthermore, Sarah and Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> Eddy named two of their children Stephen and Lydia, and their son Benjamin named a son Israel, names echoing those of Sarah’s probable siblings.

Taken together, the circumstantial evidence suggests that Sarah (Harding) Eddy was almost certainly a daughter of Abraham and Deborah Harding of Providence, thereby placing her in the same extended kinship network that repeatedly linked the Harding, Eddy, and Whipple families in southeastern New England.



**Transcription**

You Maj's Bartlet & Deborah late wife of Abraham Hardin of Providence, set your selvs & yo' Maj's Bartlet having att a deed given it into the Towne Council of Providence that belongs to Abraham Hardin & Deborah one plantation in Wanasquatucket in the Towne of Providence formerly belonging unto John Throckmorton, The Towne Council of Providence Doe now sett & present & grant that the late sale of the sd Abraham Hardin so far forth as was then Conferred into the hands of ye sd Maj's Bartlet & Deborah his wife, with our order of a Towne Confirmation for them that are his immediate heires, one hundred acres more as the land lyeth in the Towne bounds to dispose according as law alloweth, & for the future to give no account for the Towne Councell divers times their matters shall be quiet, and his owne children of the sd Abraham Hardin now confirmed to dispose.

Signed & sealed on the behalfe of the Council, by us present.

Joseph Williams  
Clerke of peace

April 12: 1698: at a Councell Meeting

Figure 13: Providence Town Council record dated 12 April 1698, written after the death of Abraham Harding of Providence, affirming both Deborah Harding’s rights and the children’s rights to the Harding lands in Providence.

## Steven Harding, Sarah (Harding) Eddy's relative who went to New London County, Connecticut

Stephen Harding, mentioned above, was born in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1681, and he has been identified as a son of Abraham and Deborah Harding. In the Harding genealogy, Wilber J. Harding states about Stephen Harding,

*“In his early life he was a tanner and currier, but it is probable that before removing from Rhode Island he had built and sailed his own vessel. In middle life he appears to have been a man of considerable wealth, as soon after his removal to Warwick he purchased from Col. Livingston of New London, a son-in-law of Gov. John Winthrop, a highly improved farm of 400 acres on which was located a saw mill, which was a part of the original Mohegan tract, near Uncasville. Capt. Harding settled upon this farm in company with his brother Israel, and engaged in commerce, sailing from New London, but sustaining heavy losses at sea he again resumed his early occupation and ended his days upon the farm, which was afterwards included in Waterford, and which remained for many years the geographical center of the family;”* (Harding, 1925)

The location of Stephen Harding's farm was about five miles as the crow flies from North Groton (now Ledyard) across the Thames River. He moved there with his family in 1732 and remained there until his death in 1750 (Harding W. J., 1925; Harding C. M., 2014). This establishes yet another maternal connection to Groton, Connecticut, for Mary (Eddy) Culver. By the mid-eighteenth century, her Whipple, Eddy, and Harding kin had all established themselves in or near Groton—precisely during the years when Mary (Eddy) Culver married and raised her family with Joseph Culver III (1741–1756).

Considering what is known about Sarah (Harding) Eddy's family in Providence, she could have been the daughter of either of two brothers who were the sons of Stephen and Bridget (Estance) Harding: John Harding or Abraham Harding. Stephen Harding was Abraham Harding's son, so Sarah Harding was either his sister or first cousin. It may be significant that Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy named their youngest son, Stephen, echoing the name of Sarah's probable brother or close kinsman.

Stephen Harding married Mary Eddy's first cousin, Jemima Eddy on 21 April 1707, (Massachusetts, Marriages, 1633-1850). Jemima was the daughter of Zachariah and Mercy (Baker) Eddy. Zachariah Eddy was the sibling of Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, Ebenezer Eddy, Caleb Eddy, and Obadiah Eddy (father of Constant Eddy). Hence, Jemimah (Eddy) Harding was a first cousin of Mary Eddy, Constant Eddy and Elder Daniel Whipple. Jemima (Eddy) Harding must have accompanied Stephen and his sons to New London in 1732 because she was named as Jemima Harding in her father Zachariah Eddy's will dated 25 February 1736/37 and proved 4 June 1737 (Eddy, 1930).<sup>34</sup> Stephen and Jemima (Eddy)

---

<sup>34</sup> Considerable confusion surrounds the question of a supposed second wife for Stephen Harding. Several online family trees identify her as Elizabeth, or Sarah Elizabeth, Knight, daughter of John and Sarah (Kemble) Knight. This attribution, however, appears doubtful. First, Stephen's wife Jemima (Eddy) Harding—mother of his six known children—was demonstrably still living during this period. Second, the wife of Colonel John Livingston, from whom Stephen Harding

Harding had six known children, one daughter and five sons, born between 1711 and 1733, probably all born in Warwick, Rhode Island except the youngest son, Israel, however his birthplace has also been given as Warwick as well (Harding C. M., 2014).

Several sources report that Stephen Harding and his family settled in Waterford, Connecticut, in 1732 (Harding W. J., 1925). With the exception of the two eldest, his sons married Connecticut women and established families locally. Three of the children—Almy, Stephen, and Thomas—named daughters Jemima, likely in honor of their mother, Jemima (Eddy) Harding. All of the sons served in the Revolutionary War, though the youngest, Israel, remained a Loyalist, a stance that caused lasting division within the family (Harding C. M., 2014). The children are:

- i. **Almy (or Amy) Harding** was born about 1711 in Warwick, Rhode Island. She married **William Angell**, son of **James and Mary (Brown) Angell** of Warwick, on 31 August 1731/32. Their marriage is recorded in the vital records of both Warwick, Rhode Island, and New London, Connecticut, the latter explicitly naming her as the daughter of Stephen Harding of Warwick (see p. 51 of this paper). The marriage coincided with the Harding family's relocation to New London, where Almy and William also settled. Their six known children were born there, including a firstborn daughter named Jemima, almost certainly in honor of her maternal grandmother, Jemima (Eddy) Harding. Almy (Harding) Angell died in New London on 17 August 1750 at age 39, suggesting a birth year of about 1711..
- ii. **John Harding**, born about 1717 in Warwick, Rhode Island, was approximately fifteen years old when his family relocated to Waterford. According to some descendants, he removed about 1741–42 to Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey, where he married **Sarah Moss** (Wulfeck, 1965), though no marriage record has been located. The couple reportedly had nine children between 1743 and 1762. John Harding later migrated with his family to Redstone, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and subsequently to Green County, Kentucky (Wulfeck, 1965). In Kentucky, he adopted the spelling “Hardin” and became the progenitor of the large Hardin clan (Harding W. J., 1925). Sarah

---

purchased the Mohegan farm, was Elizabeth, daughter and only child of Mrs. Sarah Knight. In *History of New London County*, Hurd notes the following concerning Col. Livingston:

*“In 1710 he was one of the four purchasers of all Mohegan, the reservation of the Indians excepted. He held a farm on Saw-mill Brook (now Uncasville), of four hundred acres, which he cultivated as a homestead. Here he had his mills and dwelling-house, the latter standing on the west side of the road to Norwich. It was here that his first wife, Mrs. Mary Livingston, the only child of Governor Fitz-John Winthrop, died, Jan. 8, 1712-13. She was not interred till the 16th; the weather being very inclement and the snow deep, she could not be brought into town till that time. Col. Livingston's second wife was Elizabeth, daughter and only child of Mrs. Sarah Knight. The marriage has not been found registered. To Mrs. Knight, Livingston first mortgaged and then sold the Mohegan farm. The title therefore accrued to Mrs. Livingston from her mother, and not her husband. She sold it to Capt. Stephen Harding, of Warwick.”* (Hurd, 1882)

Find-a-Grave incorrectly identifies Stephen Harding's wife as “Sarah Elizabeth Knight,” but no such record appears in the Hale Cemetery Collection or Connecticut vital records. His wife was most certainly Jemima (Eddy), as indicated by their marriage record (Massachusetts Marriages) and by three of their children naming daughters Jemima. Elizabeth (Knight) Livingston, widow of John Livingston, died by 1736 (CT. Probate Records), eliminating her as a possible second wife.

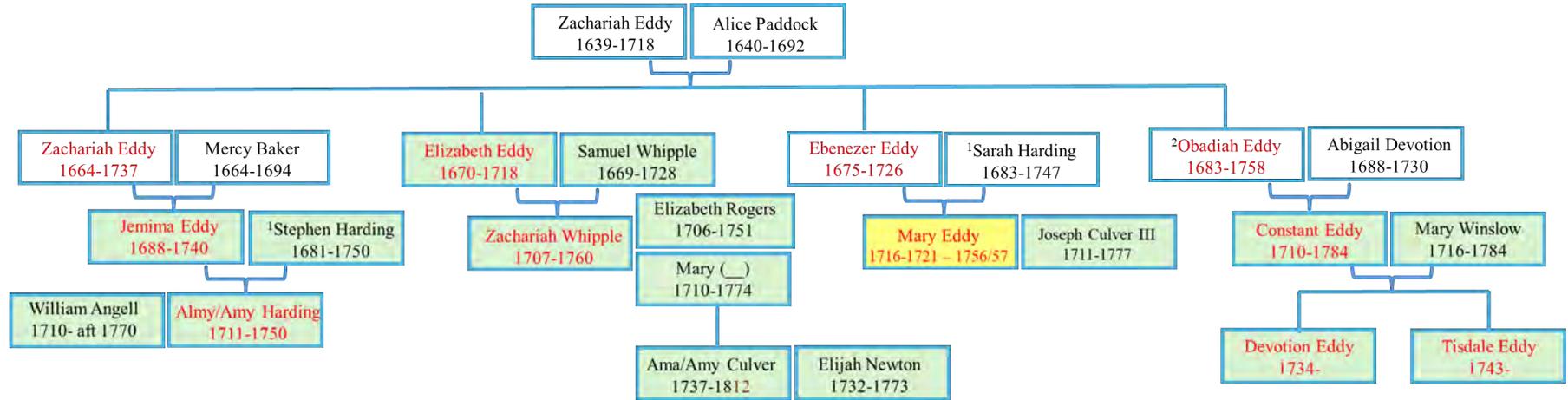
- (Moss) Harding died in 1758, and John Harding in February 1783, both in Henry County, Kentucky. They are buried in the Dutch Tract Cemetery, Pleasureville, Kentucky (Dutch Tract Cemetery Memorials).
- iii. **Abraham Harding**, born on 14 June 1720 in Warwick, Rhode Island, was about 12 when his family moved to Waterford. He married 1) **Mercy Vibber** of Montville, New London, Connecticut in 1741, daughter of John and Joanna (Williams) Vibber (Connecticut Church Records, 1630-1920). She was born on 9 Jan 1715 in New London, Connecticut, and died on 19 January 1754 (Blair, 1924). With her, he had three known children: a daughter and two sons. His daughter Mercy married Timothy Bishop, and they went to Nova Scotia, where they are buried at the Old Burying Ground in Wolfville (Old Burying Ground Memorials). In 1761, Abraham went to Minisink, Orange County, New York. At some point, he married 2) **Anna Dolson** (Harding W. J., 1925). He served in the Revolutionary War under Col. William Allison as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Major, and was commissioned Captain on 1 December 1775 (Babcock, 1922). He later moved to Clifford, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania where he died in 1806 (Harding W. J., 1925).
- iv. **Stephen Harding**, born 11 March 1722 in Warwick, Rhode Island, was about 10 when his family moved to Waterford. He married **Amy Gardner**, daughter of **Stephen and Frances (Congdon) Gardner**. Amy was from Colchester, about 17 miles to the northeast of Stephen's father's farm. Stephen and Amy settled at Colchester, where they had 10 children born between 1747 and 1767. They named their oldest daughter Jemima, probably after Stephen's mother, Jemima (Eddy) Harding. Stephen traveled to Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley in 1769 with his brother-in-law John Jenkins and then settled there with his family in 1774, becoming a proprietor of Exeter Township with his son (Harding W. J., 1925). Amy (Gardner) Harding died in 1803 in Exeter, Pennsylvania and Stephen Harding died there in 11 Oct 1789. They are buried at the Jenkins-Harding Cemetery at West Pittston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (Jenkins-Harding Cemetery Memorials).
- v. **Thomas Harding**, born 16 May 1727 in Warwick, Rhode Island, was about five when his family moved to Waterford. He married **Mary Richards**, daughter of **Jeremiah and Mary (Atwell) Richards** of New London, Connecticut on 29 March 1745. They also named one of their daughters, Jemima, probably for Thomas' mother, Jemima (Eddy) Harding. Thomas and Mary (Richards) Harding remained in New London, where they had 8 known children, born between 1747 and 1768. He may have inherited his father's farm, because his will written 26 January 1804 divides his land and "*all the Lumber of Every Description*" between his three sons, Thomas, Jeremiah and James. He also mentions his daughters Amy Cobb and Jemima Richards (CT. Probate Records, 1609-1999). He died 20 February 1804 (Hale, 1932-5).
- i. **Israel Harding**, born in 1733 probably in Waterford, Connecticut, although some sources give Warwick, Rhode Island as his birthplace (Harding C. M., 2014). In 1755, Israel Harding enlisted as a soldier in the French and Indian War, serving in Captain Stephen Hosmer's Company out of New Salem, Connecticut in 1755. He went to nearby Colchester, Connecticut, and in 1759, married **Sarah Harris**, daughter of **Lebbeus and Alice (Ransom) Harris** of Colchester. She was born on 18 December 1739 (Barbour, Pre-1870). In 1760, Israel and Sarah Harding moved to Horton, Kings

County, Nova Scotia, with Sarah's parents and other family members, where planters were invited to come to farm free land. Here, Israel and Sarah had seven children. By April 1771, Israel and Sarah returned to Connecticut, where they lived in Colchester, Lebanon, and Saybrook. Israel supported the British during the Revolutionary War, in opposition to his brothers. He was forced to take refuge behind British military protection on Long Island. In 1783, he returned to Nova Scotia where he was granted a 950-acre farm in Horton Township. He died there before 18 July 1794, when his estate was administered. Sarah (Harris) Harding died 26 March 1839 at their daughter's home in Hillgrove, Nova Scotia (Harding C. M., 2014).

The evidence reviewed strongly suggests that Sarah (Harding) Eddy was a member of the Providence Harding family, most plausibly a daughter of Abraham and Deborah (—) Harding. Her probable placement within this family is supported by the chronological gap between the births of Abraham's known children, the recurrence of distinctive Harding given names in her own offspring, and the close intermarriages between the Hardings, Eddys, and Whipples. The relocation of Stephen Harding and Jemima (Eddy) Harding to New London County in 1732 further situates Sarah's kin within the same geographic and social milieu in which Mary (Eddy) Culver later lived. Taken together, these circumstances strengthen the argument that Mary (Eddy) Culver was not only of Eddy descent but also maternally connected to the Harding family of Providence, thereby embedding her more securely within the interrelated kinship networks of southeastern New England.

The chart on the next page illustrates the relationships among the descendants of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy, several of whom left Swansea, Massachusetts, and surrounding Rhode Island communities to settle in or near Groton, Connecticut, during the eighteenth century. Their presence in Groton, most notably through the families of Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, Constant Eddy, and Jemima (Eddy) Harding, established a strong Eddy kinship network in the region. These connections, reinforced by land transactions, church affiliations, and intermarriages with established Groton families, provide the essential kinship context within which the identity of Mary (Eddy) Culver must be considered. By placing Mary within this broader family framework, the chart underscores the likelihood that she belonged to this branch of the Eddy family and highlights the genealogical problem addressed in the pages that follow.

DESCENDENTS OF ZACHARIAH AND ALICE (PADDOCK) EDDY AND THEIR SPOUSES  
WHO LIVED AT OR NEAR 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY GROTON, CONNECTICUT



- Green Shading: Lived at/near Groton, Connecticut
- Yellow Shading: The subject of this paper; lived at Groton

**Red Text:** Descendant of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy

- 1 Stephen Harding and Sarah (Harding) Eddy were either siblings or first cousins
- 2 Obadiah Eddy, father of Constant Eddy, petitioned the Bristol County Court of General Sessions of the Peace regarding the mental health issues of Sarah (Harding) Eddy (widow of Ebenezer Eddy and mother of Mary Eddy) following Ebenezer's death.

---

## PART VII: CONCLUSION

---

The identity of **Mary (Eddy) Culver**, first wife of **Joseph Culver III of Groton, Connecticut**, has long been obscured by genealogical error and incomplete records. Earlier accounts, particularly those of Colver (1910) and Giorgi (1984), introduced contradictions regarding her marriage date, her children, and her supposed connection to Amy (Culver) Newton. By reexamining probate records, land transactions, church affiliations, and family networks, this paper has clarified several points.

First, the weight of evidence demonstrates that **Amy (Culver) Newton was not a child of Joseph Culver III and Mary (Eddy)**. Her absence from Joseph III's will and estate proceedings, together with the chronological inconsistency of her 1736/7 birth predating Joseph and Mary's 1741 marriage, confirms that her placement in the Colver-Culver genealogies was a mistake.

Second, the analysis of the Eddy, Whipple, and Harding families situates Mary (Eddy) within the **Swansea-Providence kinship network** that extended into Groton by the mid-eighteenth century. Among the various candidates, the most consistent with the available evidence is **Mary, daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy of Swansea, Massachusetts**. This identification accounts for her estimated birth between 1716 and 1721, her probable migration into the Groton community through established family networks from Swansea, her marriage to Joseph Culver III on 31 July 1741, and her death between the birth of her youngest child in 1755 and Joseph III's remarriage in 1758.

Finally, this paper underscores the importance of distinguishing **securely documented facts from genealogical tradition**. The loss of Groton Baptist Church records prior to 1754, and the fragmentary survival of early Connecticut vital records, means that Mary (Eddy) Culver's life can only be reconstructed through indirect and correlating evidence. Even so, the convergence of probate, land, and kinship records allows for a credible reconstruction of her identity.

**The balance of evidence strongly supports identifying Mary (Eddy) Culver as the daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Harding) Eddy of Swansea.** Though absolute proof has not been established, this conclusion best resolves the conflicting genealogical accounts and situates her within the kinship networks that bound the Eddy, Whipple, Harding, and Culver families of southeastern New England.

Future research may yet uncover additional sources, such as Bible records once held by Dr. Joseph E. Culver or further probate files in New London County, that could strengthen or refine this identification. Until then, the reconstruction offered here provides the most probable and historically consistent account of Mary (Eddy) Culver's life and origins.

## APPENDIX 1: THE WILL OF JOSEPH CULVER III

Source: Connecticut County, District and Probate Courts. Connecticut, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1609 1999 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com

The last Will and Testament of Joseph Culver late of Gorton Deu<sup>d</sup> is Exhibited in this Court, being proved is approved & Ordered to be Recorded

In the Name of God, Amen. I Joseph Culver of Gorton in the County of New-London and Colony of Connecticut, being Infirm in Body, but of a sound Mind and Memory, And calling to mind the Mortality of my Body, and knowing it is appointed for all Men once to Die, do make & Ordain this my last Will & Testament, and as Touching such Estate, as it hath pleased God, to bestow upon me in this Life, I dispose of in the following manner & Form. —

Imprimis. After my just Debts are first paid out of my Estate, together with my Funerall Charges. I Give & Bequeath to my True & Loving Wife Eunice Culver, the Use & Improvement of part of my Homestead Farm, my Dwelling House, and other Buildings & Appurtenances thereon standing, or to the same belonging, situate in Gorton aforesd. to be Used & Improved, as she shall think proper, during the whole Term of her Natural Life, and is Bounded as followeth. Beginning at the east end of my sd Farm, at the northeast corner, at a heap of Stones by Crambony Meadow, which is a southeast corner of Daniel Marks Land, from thence westerly in the line of my sd Farm to a Crops fence, Thence southerly with sd Fence, which is part Nailes & part Stonewall, to Moses Culver's Land including the Orchard, Thence Easterly in the South line of my sd Farm to a Birch Tree, standing on a ledge of Rocks, marked, Thence still Easterly to a heap of Stones on a Rock in the Edge of the Brook, Thence northeasterly with said Brook

and

Continued on next page

## The Will of Joseph Culver III, continued

and Meadows to the Bound first mentioned. <sup>45</sup> Also I further give to my said Wife the whole of my  
 Moveable Estate, to be at her dispose forever; And my Will is, and I hereby Order, my Execu-  
 -tix herein after named, to sell so much of my Real Estate, as to pay & discharge all my  
 Just Debts & Funeral Charges, exclusive of the east part of my Farm that I have given the  
 Use and Improvement to my s<sup>d</sup> Wife during the Term of her natural Life as above written;  
 Item, I Give & Bequeath to my Seven Children Namely, Nathan Culver, Joseph Culver,  
 Lemuel Culver, Abigail Culver, Mary Culver, Bethany Culver, Hannah Culver, and to  
 their Heirs and Assigns forever, all my Real Estate that I shall Die possessor of at the time of  
 my Death, only so much Excepted, as will pay and Discharge, all my Just Debts & Funeral  
 Charges, when sold by my Executix, as above written to be equally Divided Between  
 them, for Quantity & Quality, also Excepting, the Use and improvement of the East End of  
 my Farm, Buildings and Appurtenances, as the same is Bounded and Described in  
 the foregoing Will, which I have given to my s<sup>d</sup> Wife, during the Term of her Natural  
 Life; And lastly I do hereby Nominate and Appoint my Wife, Eunice Culver, my  
 Sole Executix, to this my last Will & Testament, And do hereby Revoke & Disallow  
 all other former Wills by me made, and allow this & this only, to be my last Will &  
 Testament; In Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal, in Groton  
 April the 5<sup>th</sup> day, in the Sixteenth Year of his Majesties Reign Anno Domini 1776.  
 Signed Sealed Published and pronounced  
 by the s<sup>d</sup> Joseph Culver, to be his last Will &  
 Testament. In Presence of us  
 Luke Perkins, Wemizer Stack, Abiah Park. his  
Joseph Culver Seal  
marks.  
 London, Jan<sup>y</sup> the 10<sup>th</sup> AD 1777. Personally appeared Ebenezer Park, and Abiah Park,  
 both of Groton afores<sup>d</sup>. Two of the Witnesses to the within written & foregoing Will, this day  
 made solemn Oath, that they see Joseph Culver late of s<sup>d</sup> Groton Dec<sup>d</sup>. The above named  
 Testator Sign & Seal the within and above written Instrument, and heard him publish  
 and Declare the same to be his last Will & Testament, and according to the best of the  
 Deponents Judgment, the s<sup>d</sup> Testator was then of a sound mind and memory, and  
 that they the Deponents, did then together with Luke Perkins Esq<sup>r</sup> June Dec<sup>d</sup>. One of  
 the Witnesses to s<sup>d</sup> Will, set their hands thereunto as Witnesses in the presence of s<sup>d</sup> Tes-  
 tator & each other. Sworn before me Wm. Williams Justice of Peace.

Continued on next page

### Transcription of the Will of Joseph Culver III\*

The last Will and Testament of Joseph Culver late of Groton Dec<sup>d</sup>  
Exhibited in this Court, being proved is approved & ordered to be Recorded ~

In the name of God, Amen. I **Joseph Culver** of Groton in the County of New London and Colony of Connecticut, being Infirm and Body, but of a sound Mind and Memory, And calling to mind the Mortality of my Body and knowing it is appointed for all Men once to Die, do make & Ordain this my last Will & Testament, and as Touching such Estate, as it hath pleased God to bless me with this Life, I dispose of in the following manner & form.

Imprimis. After my Just Debts are first paid out of my Estate, together with my Funeral Charges, I Give and Bequeath to my True & Loving wife **Eunice Culver**, the Un Improvement of part of my Homestead Farm, my Dwelling House, and other Buildings & Appurtenances thereon standing, or to the same belonging, Situate in Groton afores<sup>d</sup> to be Used & Improved, as She shall think proper, during the whole Term of her Natural Life, and is Bounded as followeth. Beginning at the East End of my s<sup>d</sup> Farm, at the northeast Corner, at a heap of Stones by Cranberry Meadow, which is a which is a Southeast corner of Daniel Starks land, from thence westerly and the line of my s<sup>d</sup> farm to Cross fence, Thence Southernly with s<sup>d</sup> Fence, which is part Rails & part Stonewall to Moses Culver's Land Including the Orchard. Thence Easterly in the South line of my s<sup>d</sup> Farm to a Birch Tree standing on a Ledge of Rocks marked. Thence till Easterly To a heap of Stones on a Rock in the Edge of the Brook. Thence northeasterly with said Brook and Meadow to the Bound first mentioned. Also I further give to my said Wife the whole of my Movable Estate to be at her disposal forever; And my Will is, and I hereby order my Executrix herein after named, to sell so much of my Real Estate as to pay & discharge all my Just Debts & Funeral Charges, exclusive of the east part of my Farm that I have given the Use and Improvement to my s<sup>d</sup> Wife during the Term of her natural Life above written;

Item. I give and bequeath to my Seven Children Namely **Nathan Culver, Joseph Culver, Lemuel Culver, Abigail Culver, Mary Culver, Bethany Culver, Hannah Culver**, and to their Heirs and Assigns forever, all my Real Estate that I shall Dispose of at the time of my Death, only so much Excepted, as will pay and Discharge, all my Just Debts & funeral Charges, when sold by my Executrix as above written to be equally Divided Between them for Quantity & Quality, also Excepting, the use and improvement of the East End of my Farm Buildings and Appurtenances, as the same is Bounded and Described in the foregoing Will, which I have given to my s<sup>d</sup> Wife, during the Term of her Natural Life; And lastly I do hereby Nominate and Appoint my Wife, Eunice Culver, my Sole Executrix, to this my last Will & Testament, And do hereby Revoke & Disallow all other former Wills by me made and allowed this & this only to be my last Will & Testament. In Witness whereof. I have hereunto Set my Hand and Seal, in Groton April the 5th day, in the Sixteenth Year of his Master his Majesties Reign Anno Domini 1776.

Signed Sealed Pronounced

by the s<sup>d</sup> Joseph Culver to be his last Will & Testament. In presence of us  
Luke Perkins Ebenezer Stark Abiah Park

Joseph Culver his mark Seal Groton in the County of New London

Jan<sup>y</sup> the 10<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1777. Personally appeared Ebenezer Stark and Abiah Park both of Groton  
afores<sup>d</sup>. Two of the Witnesses to the within written & foregoing Will. this day made solemn oath,  
that they see Joseph Culver late of Groton Dec<sup>d</sup>. The above named Testator Sign & Seal the  
within and above written Instrument, and heard him publish and Declare the same to be his last  
Will & Testament, and according to the best of the Deponents Judgments the s<sup>d</sup> Testator was  
then of a sound mind and memory, and that they the Deponents, did then together with Luke  
Perkins Esq<sup>r</sup> since Dec<sup>d</sup> One of the Witnesses to s<sup>d</sup> Will, Set their hands thereunto as Witnesses  
in the Presence of S<sup>d</sup> Testator & each other.

Sworn before me William Williams Justice of y<sup>e</sup> Peace.

*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

## APPENDIX 2: ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF JOSEPH CULVER III

Connecticut County, District and Probate Courts. Connecticut, U.S., Wills and Probate Records,  
1609 1999 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com

We the Subscribers being appointed by the Honorable Court of Probate for the District of Stratford to make Distribution of the Real Estate of Mr Joseph Colver late of Groton Deceased amongst the several Heirs Agreeable to said appointment we have proceeded and divided  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  Estate in the following manner that is to say — We have set out to Lemuel Colver heir to  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  Deceased twelve acres and twenty rods beginning at a black oak Staddle with stones about it being a Northwest corner of  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  land and adjoining  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  Lemuel Colvers land thence  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  19  $\text{E}$  fifteen rods and thirteen links to a meastone thence  $\text{N}^{\text{r}}$  86  $\text{E}$  134 rods to the middle of the brook at the mill pond thence Northwesterly with the brook adjoining Abiel Larb's land fourteen rods and thirteen links to said Lemuel's land thence  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  86  $\text{W}$  about 134 rods adjoining  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  Lemuel's land to the first mentioned bound Also have set out to Lemuel a small piece of land at the East End of the house beginning at the Northeast corner of said house thence East two rods to a heap of stones thence Southwesterly two rods and four links to a heap of stones on a flat rock thence two rods and four links westerly and to continue four feet south of the south side of  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  house to the middle of the south door of  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  house and have set of to said Lemuel the East Chamber in  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  house with the privilege to pass and repass the Entry on the lower floor to the Cellar and Chamber stairs and Chamber Entry to  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  East Chamber and East garret in  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  house and a privilege to pass and repass to and from the well and to get water out of  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  well for all necessary uses and also a privilege to pass thro and repass the gate South East of  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  house to the common pass way and from thence Northwesterly thro all the heirs shares to his own right set out to him as his full share —

Also have set out to Abigail Button heir to the Estate of said Deceased Eighteen acres beginning at a meastone it being the Southwest corner of a lot this Day set out to Lemuel Colver thence  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  19  $\text{E}$  twenty rods to a meastone thence  $\text{N}^{\text{r}}$  86  $\text{E}$  to a heap of stones in the line of Joseph Colvers land thence  $\text{N}^{\text{r}}$  47  $\text{E}$  to the brook in the mill Pond thence Northwesterly with the middle of the brook to Lemuel Colvers land thence  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  86  $\text{W}$  with Lemuel Colvers land 134 rods to the first mentioned bound as her full share — Also have set out to Joseph Colver Nathan Colver Bethany Stark Mary Heath and Hannah Stevens all heirs to the Estate of  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  Deceased sixty six acres and forty rods beginning at a meastone it being the Southwest corner of a lot this Day set out to Abigail Button thence  $\text{N}^{\text{r}}$  86  $\text{E}$  to a heap of stones in the line of  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  Joseph Colvers land thence  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  47  $\text{W}$  about 166 rods bounding on  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  Colvers land and Daniel Cheeseborough's land to a birch tree by the ledge in the line of Frederick Danifons land thence  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  69  $\text{W}$  eleven rods bounding with  $\text{S}^{\text{r}}$  Danifons land to a meastone it being a Northeast corner of lands belonging to the heirs of William Nash Deceased thence west 46 rods to a heap of stones in the line of lands belonging to the heirs of —

Continued on next page

Administration of the Estate of Joseph Culver III, continued

Makes Colver late of Groton Deced. thence North 60 Rods bounding with  
 D. Heirs land to a white oak stump thence N 80° E twenty two Rods to a rock  
 with stones about it thence N 86° E twenty four Rods to the wall west of the  
 house thence S 74° E two Rods and Nineteen links to the corner of the wall thence  
 S 88° E five Rods to a rock before the south door of D. house thence N 81° W  
 4 1/2 Rods to the North side of D. house thence N 64° E sixteen Rods and fourteen links  
 to the corner North of the Barn thence N 77° W six Rods to a turn in the fence  
 thence N to W about twenty Rods to the first mentioned bound —  
 and also the East room and kitchen on the lower floor in D. house and North  
 East half of the Cellar dividing from the North west corner to the South East  
 corner (with the Incumbrance of the privileges granted to Samuel Colver  
 as described in setting off his share) and also the East half of the Barn  
 or their full share in the Estate of D. Deced. —  
 NB the reason of those five shares being set out in one piece the  
 aforesaid Joseph Colver having purchased the other four heirs shares —  
 all which is humbly submitted by us —  
 Dated Groton October 20<sup>th</sup> 1800 —  
 Isaac Gallup & Freeholders  
 & others (various) Under oath  
 Daniel Cheffrough

Return of Assets  
 Estate of  
 Joseph Culver  
 accepted & recorded  
 7<sup>th</sup> April 1801



Continued on next page

**Transcription of the Administration of Joseph Culver III's Estate\***

We the Subscribers being appointed by the Honorable Court of Probate for the District of Stonington to make Distribution of the Real Estate of Mr. Joseph Colver late of Groton Deceas<sup>d</sup> amongst the several Heirs -- Agreeable to said appointment we have proceeded and Divided s<sup>d</sup> Estate in the following manner that is to say -- we have set out to **Lemuel Colver** heir to s<sup>d</sup> Deceas<sup>d</sup> twelve acres and twenty rods Beginning at a black oak Staddle with stones about it being a Northwest Corner of s<sup>d</sup> land and adjoining s<sup>d</sup> Lemuel Culver land thence 319° E fourteen rods and thirteen links to a mearstone thence N 86° E 134 Rods to the middle of the brook at the millpond then Northerly with the brook adjoining Abiel Lambs land fourteen Rods and thirteen links to said Lemuels land thence 86 W about 134 rods adjoining s<sup>d</sup> Lemuels land to the first mentioned Bound Also have set out to Lemuel a small piece of land at the East End of the house begining at the Northeast Corner of said house thence East two rods to a heap of stones thence southernly two rods and four links to a heap of stones on a flat rack thence two rods and four links westerly and to continue four feet South of the South side of s<sup>d</sup> house to the middle of the South Door of s<sup>d</sup> house and have set of to s<sup>d</sup> Lemuel the East Chamber in s<sup>d</sup> house with the priviledge to pass and repass the Entry on the lower floor to the Celar and Chamber stairs and Chamber Entry to s<sup>d</sup> East Chamber and East garrett in s<sup>d</sup> house and a priviledge to pass and repass to and from the well and to get water out of s<sup>d</sup> well for all Necessary uses and also a priviledge to pass thro and repass the Gate South East of s<sup>d</sup> house to the Common passway and from thence Northerly thro all the heirs shares to his own right set out to him as his full share ---

We have set out to **Abigail Button** heir to the Estate of said Deceas<sup>d</sup> Eighteen acres Beginning at a mearstone it being the southwest corner of a lot this Day set out to Lemuel Colver thence 319° E twenty rods to a mearstone thence N 86° E to a heap of stones and the line of **Joseph Colvers** land thence N 47 E to the brook in the mill Pond thence Northerly with the middle of the brook to Lemuel Colvers land thence 186° W with Lemuel Culvers land 134 rods to the first mentioned Bound as her full share

Also have set out to **Joseph Colver Nathan Colver Bethany Stark Mary Heath and Hannah Stebins** all heirs to the Estate of said deceased sixty six acres and forty rods begining at a mearstone it being the southwest corner of a lot this day Set out to Abigail Button thence N 86° E to a heap of stones and the line of s<sup>d</sup> **Joseph Colvers** land thence 147° W about 166 rods bounding on s<sup>d</sup> Colver's land and **Daniel Cheeseboroughs** land to a birch tree by the ledge in the line of **Frederick Denisons** land thence 69° W Eleven rods bounding with s<sup>d</sup> Denison's land to a mearstone it being al NorthEast corner of lands belonging to the heirs of **William Stark** deceas<sup>d</sup> thence west 46 rods to a heap of stones and the line of lands belonging to the heirs of Moses Colver late of Groton deceas<sup>d</sup> then North 60 Rods bounding with s<sup>d</sup> Heirs land to a white oak stump thence N 80° E twenty two rods to a rock with stones about it thence N 86° E 124 rods to the wall west of the house thence 14° E two rods and Nineteen links to the corner of the wall

**WHO WAS MARY EDDY, THE FIRST WIFE OF JOSEPH CULVER III?**

PAGE 52

thence S 88° E five rods to a rock before the south door of s<sup>d</sup> house thence N 8° W 4 ½ rods to the North Side of s<sup>d</sup> house thence N 4° E sixteen rods and fourteen links to the Corner North of the Barn thence N 77 W six rods to a turn in the fence thence N 10° W about twenty Rods to the first mentioned Bound -- and also the East room and kitchen on the lower floor in s<sup>d</sup> house and North East half of the Cellar Dividing from the Northwest Corner to the South East Corner (with the encumbrance of the priviledges granted to Lemuel Colver as Described in setting it off his share) and also the East half of the Barn as their full share in the Estate of s<sup>d</sup> deceas<sup>d</sup> ---

NB the reason of those five shares being set out in one piece the aforesaid Joseph Colver having purchased the other four heirs shares -- All of which is humbly submitted by us ---

Dated Groton October 20<sup>th</sup> 1800

Isaac Gallop                    [ineligible] orders  
Nathan Crary                 Under oath  
Daniel Chesebrough

*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

## APPENDIX 3: THE WILL OF ELIJAH NEWTON

Source: Connecticut County, District and Probate Courts. Connecticut, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1609 1999 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com

In the Name of God Amen; I Elijah Newton of Groton in the County of New London and in the Colony of Connecticut Jr. New England Being Sick in Body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be to god their for; calling to mind the mortality of my Body, believing it is appointed for all men once to Die; therefore make this my last Will and Testament, and first of all I Recommend my Soul unto god that Gave and my Body unto the Earth, to be Buried in a Decent Christian manner at the Discretion of my Executor, Believing at the general Resurrection I shall Receive it a Gain; and as touching my worldly Affairs that God has Blessed me with in this Life, I Give Devise and Bequeath in the following Manner (viz)

I Give and Bequeath unto my Well Beloved Wife Anna Newton my now residing <sup>to be</sup> first taken out of my moveable Estate before any Devotion made there of; and also one third part of the Remainder of my moveable Estate; after my Debts and funeral Charges being first paid out of them, and also what I shall here after Give to my Son Elijah Newton to her and her heirs for ever; and further more I Give unto my Beloved wife Anna Newton the hole Improvement of my Rayab Estate untill my Son Elijah Newton shall come of Lawfull age (viz years of twenty one) for the bringing up Decently my children and for her to maintain Decently my honored mother in Law Mary Whipple widow During her Natural Life according to the provision I shall make here after for her; my D. mother in Law; the hole Improvement and Income of my said Rayab Estate for her own use and behoof in and for the consideration of her said <sup>my said wife to have</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~then~~ <sup>then</sup> after my D. Son Elijah Newton shall come of Lawfull age as a fore D. then my said wife to have the one third part of my Rayab Estate During her Natural Life to her own use and profit

I Give and Bequeath unto my Well beloved Son Elijah Newton the hole of my Rayab Estate when he shall come of Lawfull age except the Improvement of one third Given to my beloved wife as above said, to him my said Son Elijah Newton and his heirs for ever; further and upon his paying out such a Legacy as I shall here after ordain him to pay to my Daughters; and also my artillery to him my said Son Elijah Newton to him and his heirs for ever

I Give and Bequeath unto my Well beloved Daughters; Specially - mable Newton, Mary Newton & Anna Newton the hole of the Remainder of my moveable Estate after my Debts and funeral Charges being first

Continued on next page

## The Will of Elijah Newton, continued

first paid out and what I have Given to my beloved wife to be first  
 first taken out and what I have Given to my Son Elijah, to be Equally  
 Equally Devided between my Said Daughters (viz) Mable, Mary &  
 Ama Newton, to them my Said Daughters, their heirs ~~and~~ for  
 Ever; and further more I Give and Bequeath unto my said  
 beloved Daughters (viz) unto Mable Newton Eight pounds Law-  
 full money to be paid unto her, by my Son Elijah Newton when he  
 shall arrive to Lawfull age; and unto Mary Newton Eight  
 pounds Lawfull money to be paid unto her, by my S. Son Elijah  
 Newton when he shall arrive to the age of twenty three years  
 of age; and unto ~~my~~ Ama Newton, Eight pounds Law-  
 full money, to be paid unto her, by my Son Elijah Newton  
 when he shall arrive to ~~the~~ twenty five years of age, to them  
 my Said (viz) Daughters (viz) Mable, Mary & Ama Newtons  
 to them and their heirs for Ever

Item I Give and bequeath unto my Honor. mother Mary Whipple  
 Widow: a dower of honorable maintenance suitable for a person  
 of her age in sickness and in health during her Natural Life  
 and a Decent Burial at Death if she shall continue to and dwell  
 in my Now Dwelling house, but she shall Remove or Depart  
 from S. premises to Lose the Right in S. Dower, the Dower  
 above Given or maintenance to be, Duly and fully completed  
 unto her my S. honor. mother, by my well beloved wife  
 above S. from the provision made in her Right of Dower &  
 further more I Do hereby Appoint, Ordain and Constitute  
 to this my Last Will and Testament: my Sole Executrix my  
 well beloved wife Ama Newton; and I Do hereby utterly Disolve  
 Revoke and Disannul all other former testaments, wills Legacies  
 Executrix by me in any ways before Named or bequeath  
 Ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and  
 Testament In Witness where of I have <sup>here</sup> unto Set my hand and Seal the  
 19<sup>th</sup> Day of January and in the year of our Lord 1773

Signed Sealed published  
 pronounced and Declared by the  
 Said Elijah Newton as his Last  
 will and Testament in the presence  
 of us the Subscribers

Abel Sholes  
 Richard Arthur  
 Park Allyn

Elijah Newton

Continued on next page

Transcription from  
**The Spicer Genealogy**, pages 450-453  
(Meech & Meech, 1911)

### WILL OF ELIJAH NEWTON.

In the Name of God Amen. I Elijah Newton of Groton in the County of New London and in the Colony of Connecticut in New England Being sick in Body but of perfect mind and Memory. . . . Therefore make this my last Will & Testament . . . (viz) Imprimis. I give and bequeath unto my well Beloved wife Ama Newton my now riding jade to be first taken out of my moveable Estate, before any Division made thereof and also one third part of the remainder of my moveable Estate, after my debts and funeral charges being first paid out of them and what I shall hereafter give to my son Elijah being first taken out, which I give unto my Beloved wife Ama Newton to her and her heirs forever, and furthermore I give unto my Beloved wife Ama Newton the whole improvement of my Real Estate until my son Elijah Newton shall come of lawful age (or years of twenty one) for the bringing up Decently my children and for her maintaining decently my Honored mother-in-law Mary Whipple widow during her natural life according to the provision I shall make hereafter for her my mother-in-law, my said wife to the whole Improvement and Increase of my said Real Estate for her own use and Behoof in and for the consideration afores'd during said term and then after my said son Elijah Newton shall come of lawful age as afores'd. Then my said wife to have the Improvement of one third part of my Real Estate during her natural life to her own use and Profit.

Item. I Give and Bequeath unto my well Beloved son Elijah Newton the whole of my Real Estate when he shall come of lawful age Except the Improvement of one third given to my Beloved wife as afores'd and upon his paying such Legacy as I shall hereafter order him to pay to my daughters and also my artillery to him my said son Elijah Newton, to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I Give and Bequeath unto my well Beloved Daughters namely Mabel Newton, Mary Newton and Ama Newton the whole remainder of my moveable Estate after my debts and Funeral Charges being first paid out and what I have given to my Beloved wife to be first taken out and what I have given to my son Elijah to be equally divided between my said Daughters and their heirs forever and furthermore I Give & Bequeath unto my said Beloved daughters (Viz) unto Mabel Newton Eight pounds lawful money to be paid unto her, by my son Elijah Newton when he shall arrive unto lawful age, and unto Mary Newton Eight pounds lawful money to be paid unto her by my son Elijah Newton when he shall arrive unto the age of twenty three years of age and unto Ama Newton Eight pounds lawful money to be paid unto her by my son s'd Elijah Newton when he shall arrive to twenty five years of age to them my said daughters Viz Mabel Mary and Ama Newton to them & their Heirs forever.

Item. I Give and Bequeath unto my honored Mother Mary Whipple Widow, a Dower of a Honourable maintenance suitable for a person of her age in sickness and in health during her natural life and a Decent Burial at Death if she shall continue to & Dwell in my now dwelling house. But if she shall Remove or Depart from s'd Premises to lose the right in said Dower, the Dower above given or Maintenance to be duly & full completed unto her my said Honored Mother by my well Beloved wife afores'd from the provision made in her right of Dower. Furthermore I do hereby appoint and Ordain and Constitute to this my last Will and Testament my sole Executrix my well Beloved wife Ama Newton and do hereby utterly disallow Revoke & Disanul all other former Testaments Wills Legacies Executrix by me in anyways before named or Bequest Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last Will & Testament in witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal the 13th day of January and in the year of our Lord A.D. 1773.

ELIJAH NEWTON.

Signed, Sealed, Published and Declared by the said Elijah Newton  
his last Will and Testament in the presence of us the subscribers.

Abel Sholes  
Richard Allyn  
Park Allyn } Witnesses.

## APPENDIX 4: THE WILL OF ZACHARIAH WHIPPLE

Connecticut County, District and Probate Courts. Connecticut, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1609 1999 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com

In the Name of ~~the~~ men the 8<sup>th</sup> Day of  
 February A.D. 1758 I Zachariah Whipple of  
 New London in the County of New London and Colony  
 of Connecticut Being very Sick and Weak in Body  
 out of perfect mind and Memory Thanks be Given  
 unto God Therefore Calling to mind the Mortality  
 of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for  
 all men once to Dye do make and ordain this my  
 Last will and Testament that is to say principally  
 and first of all I Give and Recommend my Soul  
 into the hands of God that Gave it and my Body  
 to the Earth to be Buried in Decent Christian  
 Burial at the Discretion of my Executors  
 Nothing Doubting but at the General Resur-  
 rection I Shall receive the same again by the  
 Mighty power of God And as touching such  
 worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God  
 to Bless me in this Life I Give Demise and  
 Dispose of the same in the following manner  
 and form  
 Imprimis I Give and Bequeath <sup>to</sup> Mary  
 My Dear and well beloved wif one third of the  
 profits of my Lands and the South Lower Run  
 and East part of the Clee of my Dwelling house  
 in sd New London as Long as She Shall  
 Remain my widows and the profits of one  
 Cow to be kept by the means of sd thirds sd term  
 and Bed and Bedfords and furniture for y<sup>e</sup> same  
 Item I Give to my Son Lechariah all my Land  
 and Buildings to him and his Heirs and assigns  
 forever after he arrives to the age of 21 years  
 Item I Give to my Daughter Elizabeth Williams  
 a Small Iron pot and Kettle having Given her  
 her portion already  
 Item I Give to my Daughter Bethsheba Turner  
 five Shillings <sup>in Cash</sup> having Given her her portion  
 already  
 Item I Give to my two youngest Daughters  
 viz. Hope and Content all my other Estate  
 and Household Goods to be Equally Divided  
 Betwixt them Excepting one Cow I Give to  
 my sd Daughter Hope which Shall be Deliv-  
 ered to them when they Come of age or if marrie  
 before at the Discretion of my Executor here  
 after Named after paying all my Just  
 Debts and funaril Charges out of  
 My Movable Estate above Mentioned

Continued on next page

The Will of Zachariah Whipple, continued

Item I appoint make and ordain James  
 Omsloch of N<sup>o</sup> New London my Sole  
 Executor of this my Last will and Testamen  
 by him Soly to Execut and I Do hereby  
 utterly Disallow revoke Disannull all  
 and every other and former Testaments  
 Wills Legacies and Bequests and Executors  
 by me In any ways before Named  
 Willed and Bequeathed Ratifying and  
 Confirming this and no other to be my  
 Last will and Testament in witness whereof  
 I have hereunto set my hand and Seal  
 the Day and year above written  
 Signed Sealed published  
 pronounced and Declared  
 by the Said Zachariah - a cripple  
 Whipple as his Last will  
 and Testament in the  
 presence of us the subscribers

Wills arranged

Jonathan Weekes  
 Margret <sup>her</sup> X Weekes  
 mark

The Last Will & Testament  
 of Zachariah Whipple De  
 Vol: 13 No: 1759

New London County N<sup>o</sup> New London Nov: 6<sup>th</sup> 1759 Personally appeared  
 William Angel and Margaret Weekes Two of the Witnesses to the  
 foregoing Will of Zachariah Whipple late of New London De: and  
 made Solemn Oath, that they saw the said Zachariah Whipple sign  
 Seal and Declare the foregoing Instrument to be his Last Will and  
 Testament, and that at the same time he was of a sound & disposing  
 mind and memory and that they together with Jonathan  
 Weekes set to their hands as Witnesses in his presence  
 before me John Richards Jus. Pac.

Recorded  
 Recorded  
 Book 9  
 Page 44

New London Nov: 13. 1759  
 Accepted J<sup>o</sup> S. Richards Jus. Pac.

Continued on next page

### Transcription of the Will of Zachariah Whipple\*

In the Name of God Amen the 8<sup>th</sup> Day of February AD 1758 I Zachariah Whipple of New London in the County of New London and Colony of Connecticut Being very Sick and Weak in body but a perfect mind and Memory Thanks be Given unto God Therefore Calling to mind the Mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to Dye do make and ordain this my Last will and Testament that is to say principally and first of all I Give and Recommend my Soul into the hands of God that Gave it and my body to the Earth to be buried in Decent Christian bureal at the Discretion of my Executors Nothing Doubting but at the General Resurrection I Shall Receive the same again by the mighty power of God And as touching such worldly Estate Wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this Life I Give Demise and Dispose of the Same in the following manner and form ---

Imprimus I Give and Bequeath to **Mary** My dear and well beloved wife one third of the proficts of my Lands and the South Lower Run and East part of the celer of my Dwelling house in s<sup>d</sup> New London as Long as She Shall Remain my widow and the proficts of one cow to be kept by the incois of s<sup>d</sup> thirds s<sup>d</sup> term and bed and bedstead and furniture for y<sup>e</sup> same

Item I Give to my son **Zechariah** all my Land and Buildings to him and his Heirs and assigns forever after he rights to the after he arrives to the age of 21 years

Item I Give to my daughter **Elizabeth Williams** a small iron pot and kettle haveing given her her portion allready

Item I Give to my daughter **Bethsheba Turner** five shillings cash having given her her portion allready

Item I Give to my two youngest daughters **Hope** and **Content** all my other Estate and Household Goods to be Equally Devided between them Excepting one Cow I give to my s<sup>d</sup> Daughter Hope Which Shall Be Delivered to them when they Come of age or if married before at the Discretion of my Executor hereafter Named after paying all my Just Debts and funeral Charges out of My Movable Estate about Mentioned

Item I appoint make and ordain **James Comstock** of s<sup>d</sup> New London my Sole Executor of this my Last will and Testament by him soly to Execute and I do hereby utterly Disallow revoke Disannull all and every other and former Testaments Wills Legacies and Bequests and Executors By me in any ways before Named Willed and Bequeathed Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my Last will and Testament in Witness Whereof I have hereunto set hand and seal the Day and year above written

Signed Sealed published  
pronounced and Declared  
by the said Zachariah  
Whipple as his last will  
and Testament in the

Zac Whipple

presence of us the subscribers

William Angel

Jonathan Weeks

her

Margaret X Weeks

mark

The last will and testament Zachariah Whipple Dec  
Exh<sup>d</sup> 10 November 1759

New London County New London Nov<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1759 Personally Appeared William Angel and Margaret Weeks Two of the Witnesses to the forgoing Will of Zachariah Whipple late of New London Dec<sup>d</sup> and under a Solemn oath that they Saw the s<sup>d</sup> Sign Seal and Declare the foregoing Instrument to be his last will and Testament and that at the [illegible] Testator was of a sound and Disposing mind and memory and that they together with Jonathan weeks set to his hands as well [illegible]in his person

Before me John Richards Jus<sup>tc</sup> Peac<sup>e</sup>

Recorded Book 9 Page 44

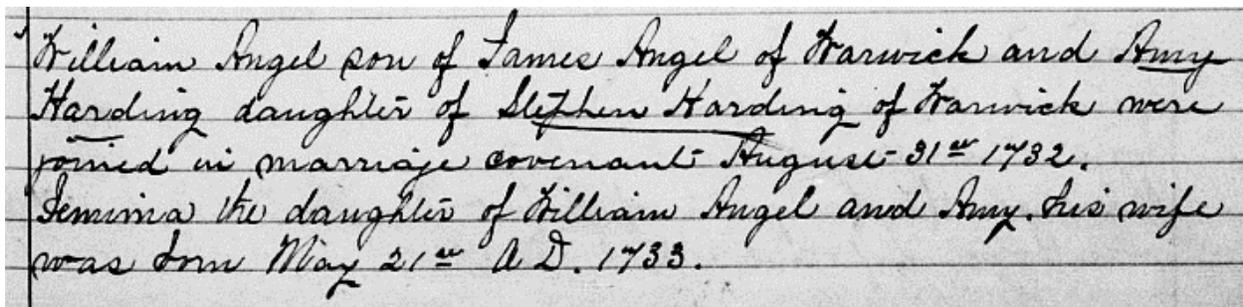
*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

*Continued on next page*

**Notes:**

William Angell, the first witness of Zachariah Whipple's will, married Amy (or Almy) Harding (Angell, 1872) on 1 September 1731 at Warwick, Rhode Island (Arnold, 1911; Barbour, Pre-1870). The New London, Connecticut record identifies her as the daughter of Stephen Harding of Warwick. She was the daughter of Stephen and Jemima (Eddy) Harding<sup>35</sup>. Stephen and Jemima (Eddy) Harding married 21 August 1707 and went to New London, Connecticut (Eddy, 1930) around 1732, perhaps just after William and Amy (Harding) Angell married. See more on pages 28 -31. The fact that William and Amy (Harding) Angell named their first child Jemima probably validates this relationship.

**Source:** New London, New London County, Connecticut Births, Marriages, Deaths, Volume 2, page 97. Family History Library Film 007730349, Image 548 of 726.



William Angel son of James Angel of Warwick and Amy Harding daughter of Stephen Harding of Warwick were joined in marriage covenant August 31<sup>st</sup> 1732.  
Jemima the daughter of William Angel and Amy his wife was born May 21<sup>st</sup> A.D. 1733.

**Transcription:**

William Angel son of James Angel of Warwick and Amy Harding daughter of Stephen Harding were joined in marriage covenant August 31<sup>st</sup> 1732.

Jemima the daughter of William Angel and Amy his wife was born May 21<sup>st</sup> A.D.1733.

*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

---

<sup>35</sup> Volume 23, Part II of the Mayflower Genealogy (Lainhart & Fiske, 2010) lists her parents as Stephen and Mary (Winsor) Harding of Warwick, however this is incorrect. Stephen Harding who married Mary Winsor died without issue (Austin, 1887; Blair, 1924). His nephew, Stephen Harding who married Jemima, son of his brother Abraham, was the father of Amy/Almy Harding.

APPENDIX 5: GUARDIANSHIP OF EBENEZER, JR., MARY, AND BENJAMIN EDDY

Source: Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880.

Page: 4148:4 Volume Bristol 8000-9999

Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2017.

**K**NOW All Men by these Presents,  
 That We Caleb Eddy of Swaney Hamlet  
*man Jacob Howland Blacksmith Obidiah  
 Papillion Shipwright both of Bristol  
 in the County of Bristol*  
 Are holden and stand firmly Bound and Obliged unto  
 Nath: Blagrove of his Successors or Assigns, in the  
 full Sum of *Three hundred* Pounds: To be paid  
 unto the said *N. Blagrove* his Successors or Assigns,  
 in the Office of Judge of the Probate of Wills, and for Granting  
 Letters of Administration on the Estates of Persons Deceased,  
 in the said County of *Bristol* To the true Payment  
 whereof, We joyntly and severally bind Our Selves, and Our  
 severall and respective Heirs, Executors and Administrators,  
 firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals: Dated the  
*Eight* Day of *August* Anno Domini, 172*6*  
*In the twelfth year of his majesties reign*

**T**HE Condition of this Obligation is such, That if the  
 above-bounden *Caleb Eddy who is* - Nominated and Allowed to be  
 Guardian unto *Ebenezer Eddy* a Minor *above the age of fourteen*  
*years in any County* *Eddy* under the age of *fourteen*  
*years* late of *Swaney* in the County of *Bristol* Deceased, shall  
 and do well and truly Perform and Discharge the Trust and Office of Guardian  
 unto the said Minor, and that in and by all things according to Law; And  
 shall render a plain and true Account of *your* said Guardianship upon Oath,  
 and all and singular such Estate as shall come to *your* hands and possession by  
 virtue thereof, and of the Profits and Improvements of the same, so far as the  
 Law will charge *you* there-with (when *you* shall be thereunto Law-  
 fully required) and shall Pay and Deliver what and so much of the said Estate  
 as shall be found remaining upon *your* Account, (the same being first Ex-  
 amined and Allowed of by the Judge or Judges, for the time being, of the Probate  
 of Wills, &c. within the County of *Bristol* aforesaid) unto the said Minor  
 when *they* shall arrive at full Age; or otherwise as the said Judge or Judges  
 by his or their Decree or Sentence pursuant to Law shall Limit and Appoint:  
 Then this Obligation to be Void, otherwise to remain in full force.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered  
 in Presence of us

*Stephen Paine*  
*Massey Lindley*

*Caleb Eddy*

*Jacob Howland*

*Obidiah Papillion*

**Transcription of the Guardianship of Ebenezer, Jr., Mary, and Benjamin Eddy, August 8, 1726\***

Know all men by these presents,

That We Caleb Eddy of Swansea husbandman Jabish (Jabez) Howland Blacksmith Obadiah Papillion Shipwright Both of Bristoll in the County of Bristoll --- in the province of Massachusetts Bay in New England

Are holden and stand firmly Bound and Obligated unto Nathaniel Blagrove Esq<sup>r</sup> his successors and assigns and the full sum of 3 £100 to be paid unto the said and Blagrove Esquire his successors or assigns and the office of judge of the probate of wills and for granting letters of administration on the estates of persons deceased and the said county of Bristol to the true payment were of we jointly and severally bind ourselves and our several and respective heirs executors and administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seals dated the 8th day of August anno domini 1726 and the 12th year of his majesty's reign

The condition of this obligation is such that if the above bounding Caleb Eddy who was nominated and allowed to be guardian unto Ebenezer Eddie a miner above the age of 14 years Mary Eddie Mary and Benjamin Eddie under the age of 14 years children of Ebenezer Eddie late of Swansea and the county of Bristol deceased shall and do well and truly perform and discharge the truth and off the trust and office of guardian unto the said miners and that in and by all things according to law and shall render a plain and true account of your said guardianship upon oath and all singular such estate as shall come to you hands and possession by virtue thereof and of the prophets and improvements of the same so far as the law will charge you therewith when you shall be thereunto lawfully required and shall pay and deliver what and so much of the set estate as shall be found remaining upon some your account the fame being something examined and allowed by the judge or judges for the same being of the probate of wills and sea within the county of Bristol aforesaid unto the said miners when they shall arrive at full age or otherwise as the said judge or judges by his and their decree or sentence pursuant to the law shall limit and appoint than this obligation to be void otherwise to remain in full force signed by Caleb Eddy signed sealed and delivered in the presence of Stephen Paine Thomas Lindley Jabez Howland

**Signed, Sealed and Delivered  
In Presence of us**

Stephen Paine

Thomas Lindley

Caleb Eddy

Jabez Howland

Obadiah Papillion

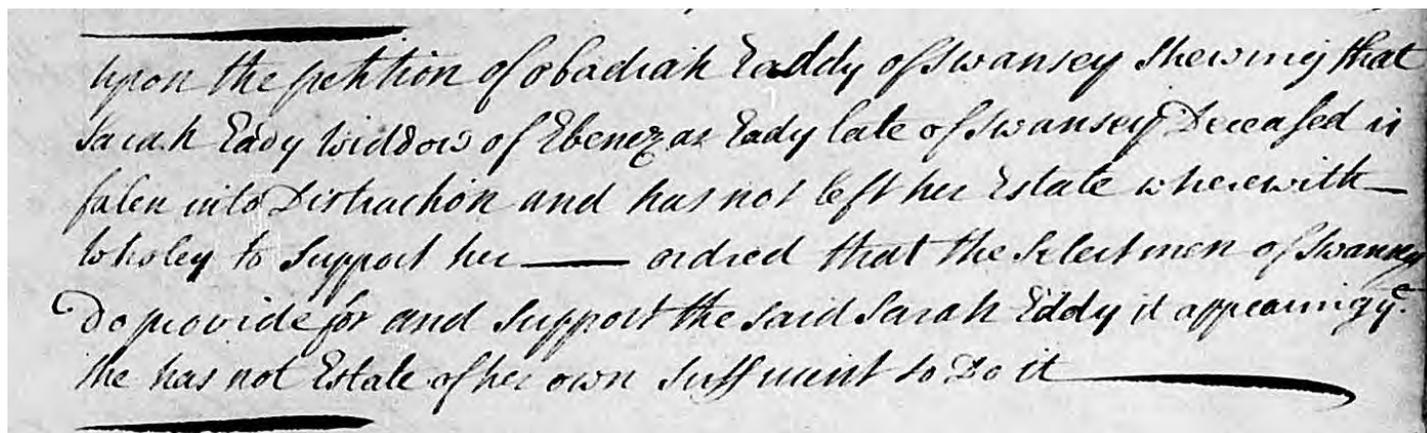
*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

---

APPENDIX 6: DECLARATION OF NON COMPOS MENTIS OF SARAH EDDY

---

**Source:** Bristol County, MA: Bristol County Court of General Sessions of the Peace, 1714-1738.  
Family History Library Film 007842351, Image 21 of 205. 9 January 1727/28



Upon the petition of Obadiah Eddy of Swansey shewing that Sarah Eddy Widdow of Ebenezer Eady late of Swansey Deceased is fallen into Distraktion and has not left her Estate wherewith wholly to Support her — ordred that the Selectmen of Swansey do provide for and Support the said Sarah Eddy it appearinge she has not Estate of her own sufficient to do it

**Transcription by XXX:**

Upon the petition of Obadiah Eddy<sup>36</sup> of Swansey Shewing that Sarah Edey Widdow of Ebenezer Eady late of Swansey Deceased is fallen into Distraktion and has not left her Estate wherewith Wholely to Support her – ordred that the Selectmen of Swansey do provide for and support the said Sarah Eddy it appearinge ye she has not Estate of her own sufficient to do it.

*Continued on next page*

---

<sup>36</sup> This was most probably Obadiah Eddy, brother of Ebenezer Eddy and father of Constant Eddy.

Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880.

Page(s):9217:3 Volume: Bristol 8000-9999

Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2017.

Bristol  
 Nathaniel Blagrove Esq Judge of the  
 Probate of wills &c: Within the County of Bristol  
 To m<sup>r</sup> Samuel Lee & William Anthony  
 of Swansey -  
 Whereas Complaint being made to me by  
 Hieriah Luther & Esck Brown of Swan  
 sey, That Sarah Eddy Widdow of  
 Eddy Late of Swansey Deceased is non  
 Compus Mentis  
 Therefore I do Nominate and Appoin  
 te you the said Sam<sup>l</sup> Lee & Will<sup>m</sup> Anthony  
 to make Enquiry into the State of y<sup>e</sup>  
 said Sarah Eddy as Touching her being  
 non Compus mentis and make Return  
 hereunto to my self at the Registers Office  
 in Bristol hereof fail not given Under my hand  
 the Twenty seventh Day of November  
 Anno Domini 1727  
 N: Blagrove

Continued on next page

**Transcription of previous page:\***

Bristol <sup>sc</sup>

Nathaniel Blagrove Esq<sup>r</sup> Judge of the Probate of wills &c within the County of Bristol

To Mr. Samuel Lee & William Anthony of Swansea -

Whereas Complaint being made to me by Hezekiah Luther & Esek Brown of Swansea, That Sarah Eddy Widdow of Eddy Late of Swansea deceased is non Compus mentis

Therefore I do Nominate and Appoint You the Said Sam<sup>l</sup> Lee & William Anthony to make Enquiry into the Estate of y<sup>e</sup> said Sarah Eddy as Touching her being non Compus mentis and make Return here within to my Self at the Register Office in Bristol hereof failes not given Under my hand the Twenty Seventh Day of November Anno Domini 1927

N: Blagrove

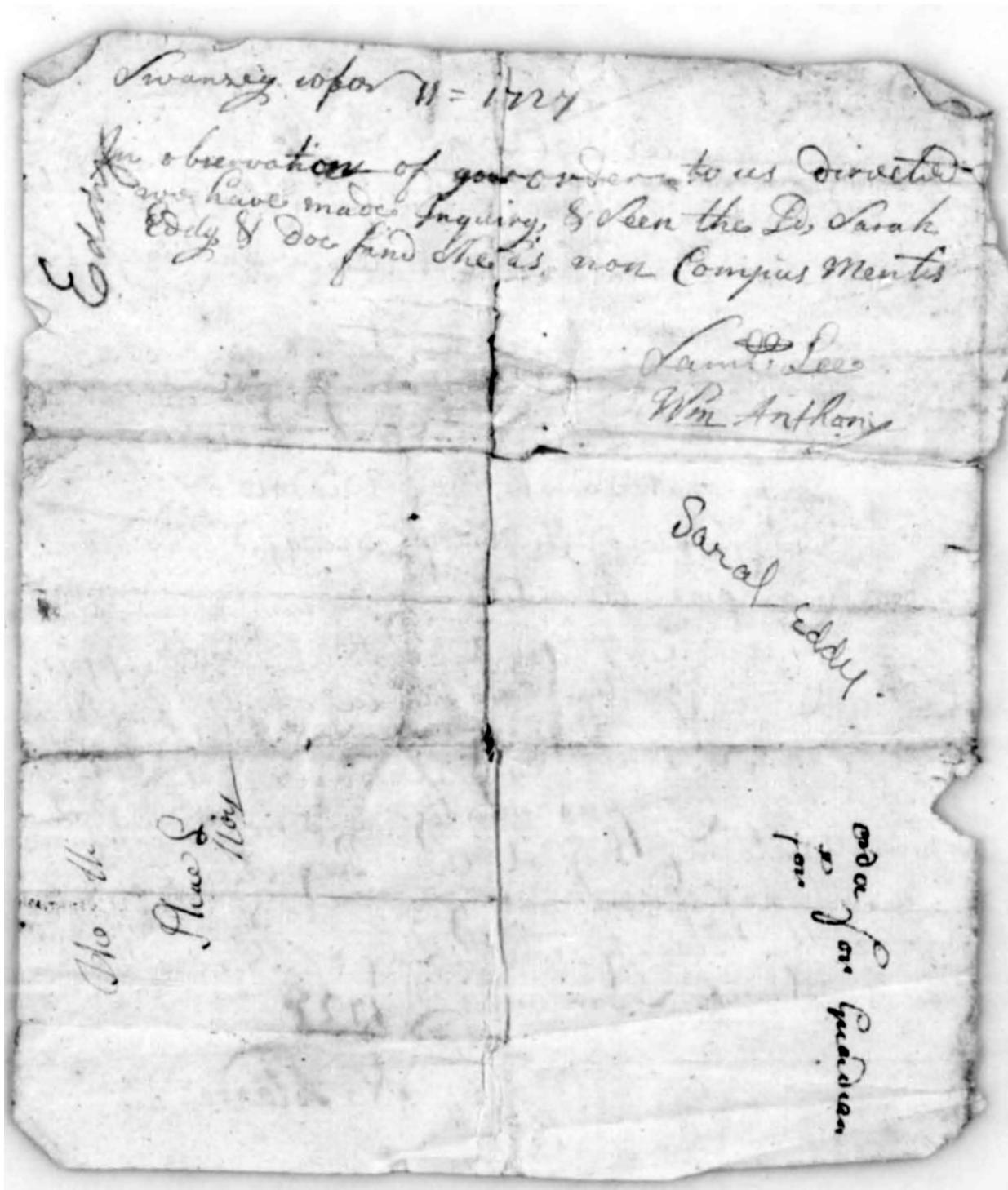
*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

*Continued on next page*

Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880.

Page(s): 9217:2 Volume: Bristol 8000-9999.

Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2017.



Continued on next page

**Transcription of previous page:\***

Swanzy [illegible] 11 = 1727

In observation of your order to us directed we have made Inquiry & Seen the Sd Sarah Eddy & doe find She is non Compus Mentis

Saml Lee

Wm Anthony

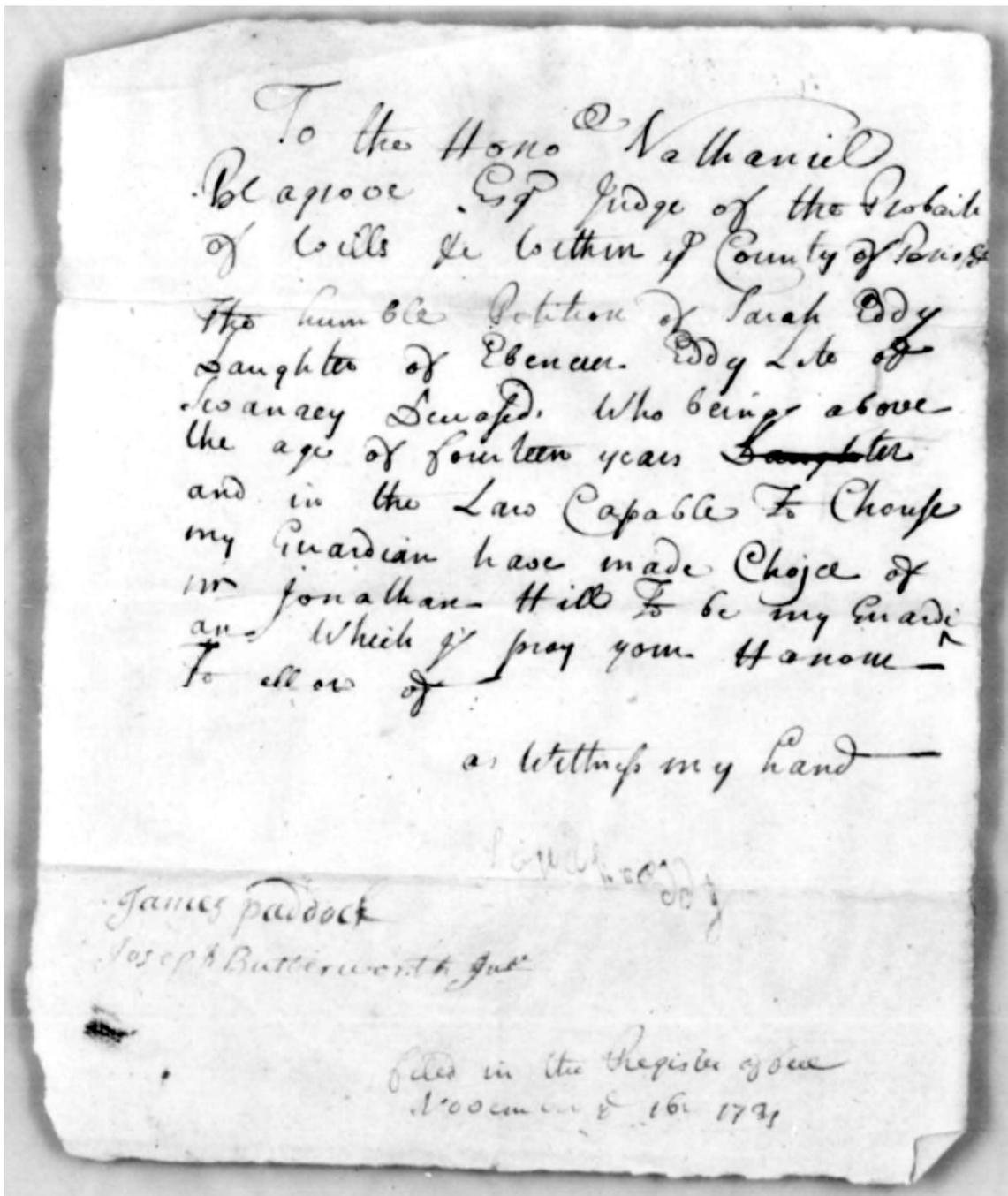
*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

APPENDIX 7: GUARDIANSHIP OF SARAH EDDY

Sarah Eddy, daughter of Ebenezer, choice of Jonathan Hill as her guardian

Source: Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880.

Page(s) :9218:3 Volume: Bristol 8000-9999.



Continued on next page

**Transcription of Sarah Eddy, daughter of Ebenezer, choice of Jonathan Hill as her guardian\***

To the Hono<sup>o</sup> Nathaniel Blagrove Esq<sup>r</sup> Judge of the Probate of Wills &c within y<sup>e</sup> County of Bristol

The humble Petition of Sarah Eddy daughter of Ebenezer Eddy late of Swansea Deceased. Who being above the age of fourteen years and in the Law Capable To Choose my Guardian have made Choice of Mr. Jonathan Hill to be my Guardian Which I pray your Honour To allow of

as Witness my hand  
Sarah Eddy

James Paddock  
Joseph Butterworth Jun<sup>r</sup>

Filed in the register of [illegible]  
November 16: 1731

*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

*Continued on next page*

Contract with Jonathan Hill for the guardianship of Sarah Eddy

Source: Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880.

Page(s) :9218:5 Volume Bristol 8000-9999

Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2017.

**K** **N** **O** **W** all Men by these presents,  
**T** **H** **A** **T** **W** *Jonathan Hill Esq*  
*Brown* *Homen* *Esq* *Esq*  
*Carpenter* *all* *of* *Swanney* *in* *the* *County*  
*of* *Bristol* *in* *the* *Province* *of* *New* *England*  
*are* *bound* *and* *stand* *firmly* *Bound* *and* *Obliged* *unto*  
*Nathaniel* *Blagrove* *his* *Successors* *or* *Assigns*, *in* *the*  
*full* *Sum* *of* *Two* *hundred* *—* *Pounds*: *To* *be* *paid*  
*unto* *the* *said* *Nath* *Blagrove* *his* *Successors* *or* *Assigns*,  
*in* *the* *Office* *of* *Judge* *of* *the* *Probate* *of* *Wills*, *and* *for* *Granting*  
*Letters* *of* *Administration* *on* *the* *Estates* *of* *Persons* *Deceased*,  
*in* *the* *said* *County* *of* *Bristol* *To* *the* *true* *Payment*  
*whereof*, *We* *joyn* *tly* *and* *severally* *bind* *our* *Selves*, *and* *our* *se-*  
*veral* *and* *respective* *Heirs*, *Executors* *and* *Administrators*, *firmly*  
*by* *these* *Presents*. *Sealed* *with* *our* *Seals* : *Dated* *the* *14* *th* *of* *Novemb*  
*Day* *of* *Novemb* *Anno* *Domini*, *17* *97*

**T** **H** **E** **C** **O** **N** **D** **I** **T** **I** **O** **N** **O** **F** **T** **H** **I** **S** **O** **B** **L** **I** **G** **A** **T** **I** **O** **N** **I** **S** **S** **U** **C** **H**, **T** **H** **A** **T** **I** **F** **T** **H** **E**  
*Jonathan Hill* *is* *whom* *Nominated* *and* *Allowed* *to* *be*  
*Sarah* *Eddy* *a* *Minor* *above* *the* *age*  
*of* *seven* *years* *Daughter* *of* *Ebenezer* *Eddy*  
*late* *of* *Swanney* *in* *the* *County* *of* *Bristol* *Deceased*, *shall*  
*and* *do* *well* *and* *truly* *Perform* *and* *Discharge* *the* *Trust* *and* *Office* *of* *Guardian*  
*unto* *the* *said* *Minor*, *and* *that* *in* *and* *by* *all* *things* *according* *to* *Law* ; *And*  
*shall* *render* *a* *plain* *and* *true* *Accompt* *of* *you* *said* *Guardianship* *upon* *Oath*,  
*and* *all* *and* *singular* *such* *Estate* *as* *shall* *come* *to* *you* *hands* *and* *possession* *by*  
*virtue* *thereof*, *and* *of* *the* *Profits* *and* *Improvements* *of* *the* *same*, *so* *far* *as* *the*  
*Law* *will* *charge* *you* *there-with* ( *when* *you* *shall* *be* *thereunto* *Law-*  
*fully* *required* ) *and* *shall* *pay* *and* *Deliver* *what* *and* *so* *much* *of* *the* *said* *Estate*  
*as* *shall* *be* *found* *remaining* *upon* *you* *Accompt*, ( *the* *same* *being* *first* *Ex-*  
*amined* *and* *Allowed* *of* *by* *the* *Judge* *or* *Judges*, *for* *the* *time* *being*, *of* *the* *Probate*  
*of* *Wills*, *&c.* *within* *the* *County* *of* *Bristol* *aforsaid* ) *unto* *the* *said* *Minor*  
*when* *he* *shall* *arrive* *at* *full* *Age* ; *or* *otherwise* *as* *the* *said* *Judge* *or* *Judges*  
*by* *his* *or* *their* *Decree* *or* *Sentence* *purfuant* *to* *Law* *shall* *Limit* *and* *Appoint* :  
*Then* *this* *Obligation* *to* *be* *Void*, *otherwise* *to* *remain* *in* *full* *Force*.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of us,

Stephen Parne  
James D. Hild

Jonathan Hill

Esch Brown

Ralph Cole

**Transcription of Contract with Jonathan Hill for the guardianship of Sarah Eddy\***

Know all men by these presents

That We Jonathan Hill & Esek Brown Yeoman and Hugh Cole of house Carpentry all of Swansey in the County of Bristol in the Province of ye Massachusetts Bay

Are holden and stand firmly Bound and Obliged unto Nathaniel Blagrove his Successors or Assigns in the full Sum of Two hundred --- Pounds: To be paid unto the said Nath<sup>l</sup> Blagrove his Successors or Assigns, in the Office of Judge of the Probate of Wills and for Granting Letters of Administration on the Estates of Persons Deceased, and the said County of Bristol To the true Payment whereof, We joyntly and severally bind ourselves and our several and respective heirs executors administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our Selves, and our several and respective Heirs, Executors and Administrators, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals: Dated the Sixteenth day of November Anno Domini 1731

The Condition of this Obligation is such, That if the above-bounden Jonathan Hill who is Nominated and Allowed to be Guardian unto Sarah Eddy a Minor above the age of 14 years Daughter of Ebenezer Eddy late of Swansey in the County of Bristol Deceased, shall and do well and truly Perform and Discharge the Trust and Office of Guardianship upon Oath, unto the said Minor, and that in and by all things according to Law; And shall render a plain and true Accompt of your said Guardianship upon Oath, and all in singular such Estate as shall come to your hands and possession by virtue thereof, and of the Profits and Improvements of the same, so far as the Law will charge you there-with (when you shall be thereunto Lawfully required) and shall pay and Deliver what and so much of the said Estate as shall be found remaining upon your Accompt, (the fame being first Examined and Allowed by the Judge or Judges, for the time being, of the Probate of Wills, &c. within the County of Bristol aforesaid) unto the said Minor when she shall arrive at full Age or otherwise as a said Judge or Judges by his or their Decree or Sentence pursuant to Law shall Limit and Appoint: Then this Obligation to be Void, otherwise to remain in full Force.

Signed Sealed and Delivered

in presence of us,

Steven Paine

Bernard Haile

Jonathan Hill

Esek Brown

Hugh Cole

*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

---

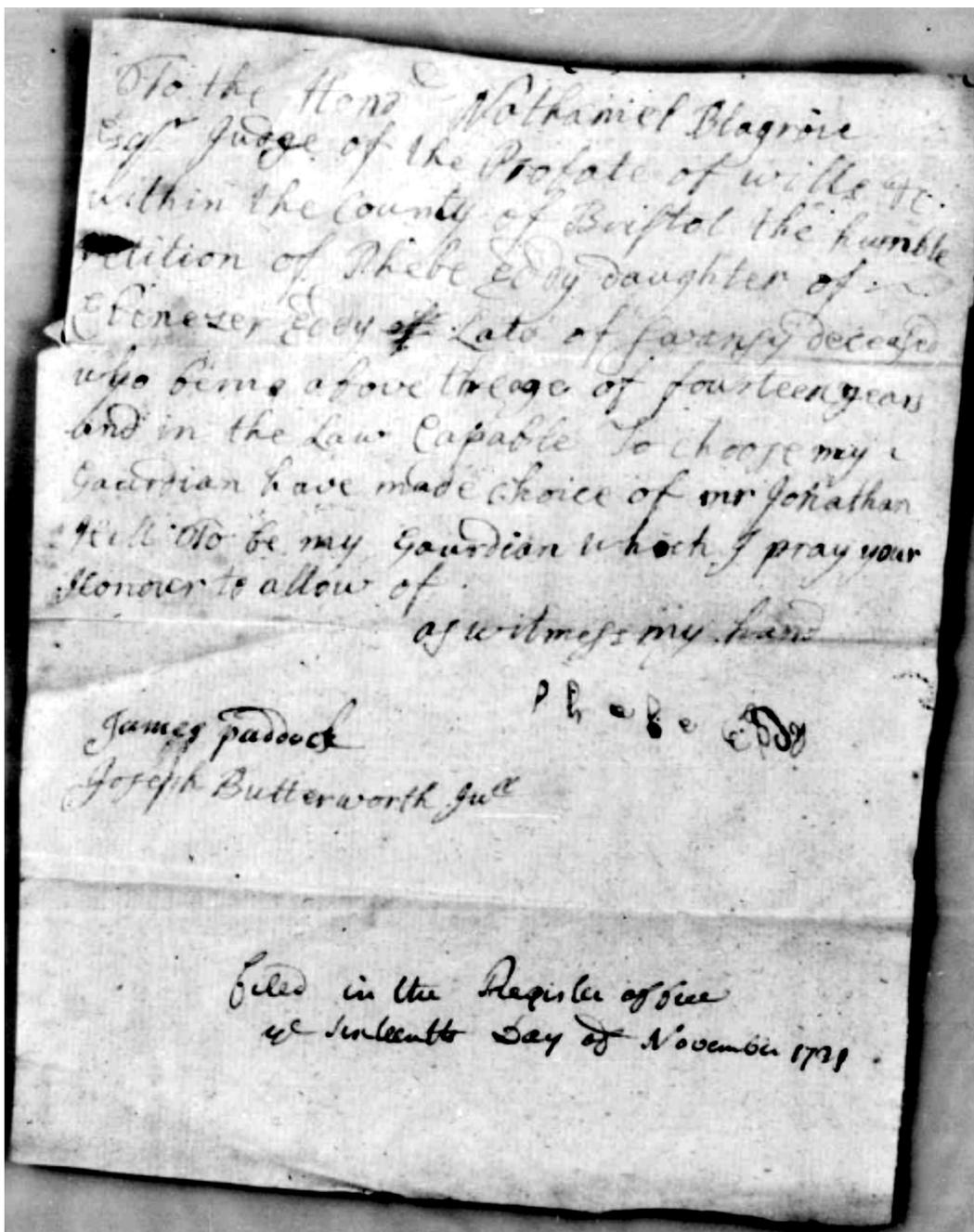
APPENDIX 8: GUARDIANSHIP OF PHEBE EDDY

**Phoebe Eddy, daughter of Ebenezer, choice of Jonathan Hill as her guardian**

Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880.

Page(s) :9208:3 Volume: Bristol 8000-9999.

Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2017.



Continued on next page

**Transcription of Phebe Eddy, daughter of Ebenezer, choice of Jonathan Hill as her guardian\***

To the Hon<sup>l</sup> Nathaniel Blagrove Esq<sup>r</sup> Judge of the Probate of wills &c within the County of Bristol the humble petition of Phebe Eddy daughter of ~ Ebenezer Eddy Late of Swansey deceased who being above the age of fourteen years and in the Law Capable To choose my guardian have made choice of Mr. Jonathan Hill To be my Guardian which I pray your Honour to allow of

as witness my hand

Phebe Eddy

James Paddock

Joseph Butterworth Ju<sup>r</sup>

*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

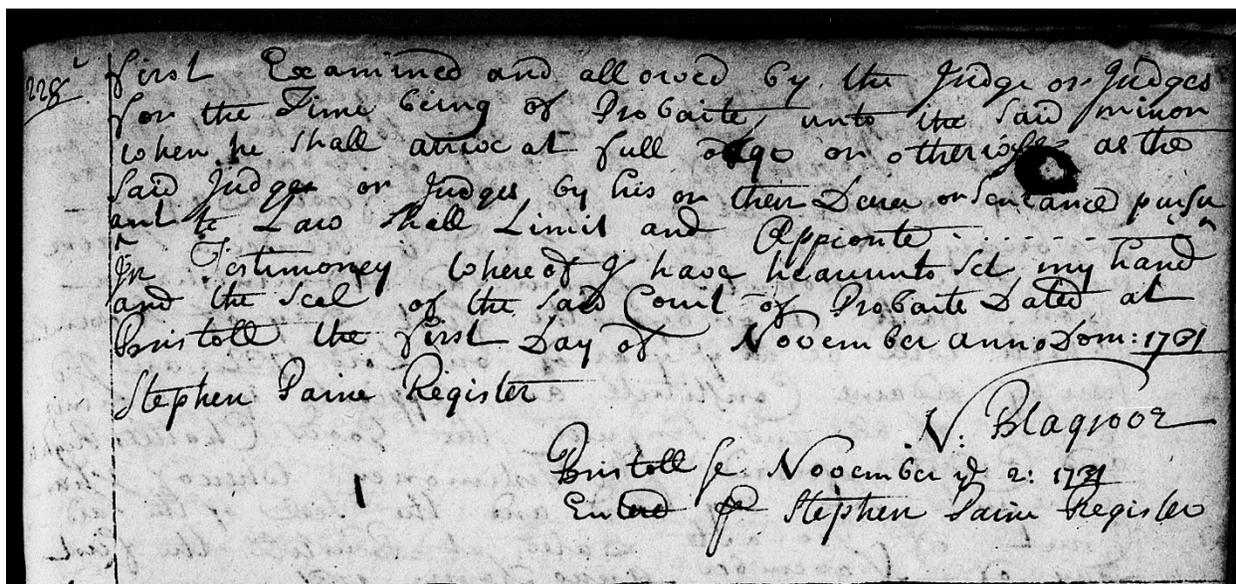
*Continued on next page*

## APPENDIX 9: GUARDIANSHIP OF STEPHEN EDDY

Source: Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880. Volume 7 page 287  
Family History Library Film 007703531, Image 574 of 764.

v  
 I do hereby Nathaniel Blagrove Esq. July Appointed &  
 Commissioned by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> William Dummer Esq. Late  
 Governor and Commander in Chief in and over his Majesty  
 Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England by  
 with the advice and Consent of the Council to be  
 Judge of The Probate of Wills for and within the  
 County of Bristol in the Province aforesaid —  
 To Jonathan Hill of Swaney in the County of Bristol  
 Greeting  
 Trusting in your Care and Fidelity & so by these presents  
 Pursuant to the Power and Authority to me granted  
 and by an act of the Generall Assembly of the said  
 Province nominate and appointe you to be Guardian unto  
 Stephen Eddy a minor under the age of fourteen years  
 son of Euseb Eddy Late of Swaney deceased: with  
 full Power and Authority to ask Demand sue for  
 recover receive and take into your Custody all and  
 singular such part and portion of Estate as accords  
 him in right of his father Jonathan Hill Late  
 of Swaney deceased: or which by any other way or means  
 he hath or shall be entitled to or which by any other way or means  
 he shall be entitled to manage employ and improve the same for his  
 best profit and Advantage: and to render a Plain  
 and true account of your said Guardianship Upon oath  
 so far as the Law will charge you therewith  
 you shall be lawfully required, and pay and deliver  
 such and so much of the said Estate as shall be  
 remaining upon your account the same being

Continued on next page



**Transcription of guardianship of Stephen Eddy:\***

Bristol Se. Nathaniel Blagrove Esq<sup>r</sup> Duly Appointed & Commissioned by the Hon<sup>le</sup> William Dummer E S Lei<sup>t</sup>, Govner and Commander in Chiefe in and over his maj<sup>ty</sup>s Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England and by & with the advice and Consent of the Council to be Judge of the Probate of Wills for and within the County of Bristol and the Province of aforesaid

To Jonathan Hill of Swansey in the Bounty of Bristol yeoman Greeting

Trusting in your Care and fidelity & Do by these Presents Pursuent to the Power and Authority to me Granted and by an act of the General Assembly of the of the land of the said -- Nominate and appoint you to be Guardian unto Steven Eddy a minor under the age of fourteen years Son of Ebenezer Eddy late of Swansey Deceased: With full Power and Authority to [illegible] and sue for -- Recover Receive and Take into your Custody all and Singular Such part and portion of Estate as accrues to him in Right as his father Jonathan Hill Late of Swansey deceased or which by any other way or whatever Doth or Right Appertained or belonged to him and to manage Imploy and Improve the same for the Best profit and Advantage and to Render a [illegible] and True act of you of your [illegible] Guardianship Upon oath So far as the Law will Charge you therewith to [illegible] you shall be Lawfully be lawfully Required and say and deliver such and So much of the Said Estate as shall be Remaining upon your account the same being first Examined and all owed by the Judge or Judges for the Time being of Probate unto the said Minor when he shall arrive at full age or otherwise as the said Judge or Judges by his or their Desire or Sentence pursue and to Law shall Limit and Appoint.....

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and the seal of the said Court of Probate

Dated at Bristol the first day of November anno dom: 1731

Stephen Paine Register

N. Blagrove

Bristol ye November the 2: 1731

Entered for Stephen Paine Register

*\*Transcribed by Sally Russell Cox*

---

## APPENDIX 10: EDDY FAMILY MEMBERS IN PRESTON AND ELSEWHERE IN CONNECTICUT

---

### Eddy Family Members in Preston, Connecticut

The Eddy family members who appear in Preston, Connecticut vital records appear to all be descendants of John Eddy of Taunton, Massachusetts through his two marriages. With the exception of Mary Eddy who married John Rude in 1687 (Barbour), all of these Eddy family members were born later than would fit the profile for Mary (Eddy) Culver, born about 1716-1721, to be a plausible family member. A review of the families of these individuals in the Eddy genealogy also failed to produce a possible candidate.

**Asa Eddy** who married Elizabeth Gore of Norwich 2 August 1761 (Barbour, Pre-1870) was a grandson of John Eddy of Taunton through his marriage to his second wife, Deliverance Owen (Eddy, 1930). Asa Eddy was the son of Jonathan and Deborah (Farley) Eddy who settled in Preston, Connecticut where Jonathan died 10 July 1745 (Eddy, 1930). Asa Eddy was documented as being a minor over 14 years of age on 5 March 1754. Ruth Story Devereux Eddy suggests Asa was born in Preston before 1739. Three of Asa and Elizabeth (Gore) Eddy's children appear in Preston Vital Records: Asa, born 1 April 1764; Betsy, born 1 December 1766; and Mary, born 25 April 1762 (Barbour).

**John Eddy** who married Mary Wyborn (Wiborn) on 29 December 1725 (Barbour) was also a grandson of John Eddy of Taunton through his marriage to Deliverance Owen. He was born about 1701, the son of Eleazer and Elizabeth (Randall) Eddy (Eddy, 1930). Five of John and Mary's children are recorded in Preston Vital Records, including Elizabeth, born 27, July 1729; James, born 15 February 1732/3; John, born 20 February 1726/7; Mary, born 15 September 1734; and Zephaniah, born 11 February 1730/1 (Barbour).

**John Eddy**, born 1727, died 1820, appears in the Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions (Hale, 1932-5). The Find a Grave website has a memorial for him at the Young Street Cemetery in East Hampton, Connecticut (see <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47824837/john-eddy>). He married Elizabeth Brainerd and had a daughter, Charity, who married Lemuel Higgins. He is identified in *The Eddy Family in America* as the great-grandson of John Eddy of Taunton. He was the son of John and Mary (Wiborn) Eddy of Preston, Connecticut (Eddy, 1930).

**Eleazer Eddy** whose son Elisha was born in Preston on 24 August 1736 (Barbour) was the son of Eleazer and Elizabeth (Randall) Eddy. Eleazer Eddy was the son of John Eddy of Taunton (Eddy, 1930).

**Mary Eddy**, who married John Rude on 24 June 1687 (Barbour), was a daughter of John Eddy of Taunton through his marriage to Susannah Paddock (Eddy, 1930).

## Eddy Family Members Found in Records Elsewhere in Connecticut

**Charles Eddy**, born 14 November 1703 married Susannah, son Thomas Hill Eddy, appears in the Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions (Hale, 1932-5). The Find a Grave website has a memorial for him (see <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/199574476/charles-eddy>). According to the memorial, he was the son of John and Hopedill (Butterworth) Eddy of Swansea, Massachusetts and the husband of Mary (Meakins) Eddy, listed below. John Eddy was another son of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy and therefore a sibling of Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, and Caleb, Ebenezer, and Obadiah Eddy (Eddy, 1930). Thomas Hill Eddy, husband of Bethiah (Fox) Eddy, listed below, was his son. They settled in Glastonbury, Connecticut near Hartford.

The marriage record of **Patience Eddy** who married **John Stone** on 24 September 1769, at New London, Connecticut appears in the *Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* (Barbour, Pre-1870). Eddy listed her in the Appendix of Unknowns, page 1231, in *The Eddy Family of America* and stated,”

*PATIENCE EDDY, m. JOHN STONE, Sept. 24, 1769, at New London, Conn. This may be the Patience who was dau. of Samuel and Deborah (Lewis) Eddy as mentioned in the preceding account, for no proof of either has been found.* (Eddy, 1930)

If she was a daughter of Samuel and Deborah (Lewis) Eddy, she was also a granddaughter of John and Hopedill (Butterworth) Eddy. John Eddy was a son of Zachariah and Alice (Paddock) Eddy and therefore a sibling of Elizabeth (Eddy) Whipple, and Caleb, Ebenezer and Obadiah Eddy. Patience and John Stone appear to have remained in New London for the remainder of their lives.

**Rachel (Vose) Eddy**, born 1729, died 29 July 1788, married Joel Eddy, of Woodstock, Connecticut. He was a son of Benjamin Eddy of Swansea (Benjamin, Obadiah, Samuel, William) (Eddy, 1930).

**Mary Eddy**, born 1715, died 1 August 1743, wife of Charles Eddy appears in the Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions (Hale, 1932-5). The Find a Grave website has a memorial for her at the Green Cemetery in Glastonbury, Connecticut (see <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16322565/mary-eddy>). According to the memorial, she was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Meakins and she married Charles Eddy on 12 August 1739. This is verified by information in *The Eddy Family in America* (Eddy, 1930).

**Bethiah Eddy**, born 1724, died 17 July 1789 appears in the Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions. The Find a Grave website has a memorial for her at the Portland Burying Ground in Middlesex County, Connecticut (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9016670/bethiah-eddy>). This memorial states that her maiden name was Fox and she married Thomas Hill Eddy on 16 March 1749 in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Thomas Hill Eddy was the son of Charles Eddy (discussed above) and his first wife, Susannah Hill (Eddy, 1930).

---

APPENDIX 11: TRANSCRIPTION OF DEBORAH HARDING'S APPEAL TO PROVIDENCE  
TOWN COUNCIL

---

**Transcription of Deborah Harding's efforts to administer the estate of her deceased husband, Abraham Harding**

**From the Early Records of the Town of Providence, Volume X, No. 1 1692 to 1714,**  
(Providence Town Council, 1692-1714)

**18 December 1694**

*[page 13 of original record]*

At a meeteing of ye Councill December ye 18th: 1694 Deborah Hardin widdow of the deceased Abraham Hardin hath this day p'sented an Inventarey of her said deceased Husband his Estate unto ye Councill;

Tho: Harris & Jonathan Sprague have this day upon Engagemt: Attested to ye truth of ye sd Inventarey,

Deborah Hardin widdow hath Also attested to ye truth of sd Invent[ ] upon her Engagemt: and if more Estate doe appeare, that then it shall be brought forth & Invejtariad

Whereas Abraham Hardin of this Towne deceased ye 23 of November last & dyeing intested Deborah his Widdow desireing Administra[ ] of his Estate, but cannot obtaine bondsmen to secure ye Councill

*[page 14 of original record]*

the Councill doe therefore Referr the said Deborah Hardin unto ye time of their next meeteing to procure bondsmen; & in the meane while, one the Councills behalfe to take care of her sd deceased husbands Estate to secure the same, & so to Cary matters on in the affairs of sd Estate y<sup>t</sup> it may not be damnified but (if it may be) advantaged, to make up accounts with Creadit<sup>rs</sup> & debt<sup>rs</sup>, to Receive in what is due to ye Estate, & to balance accounts, & discharge what is due upon ballance, & to give up a true account unto y<sup>e</sup> Councill at their next meeting in order there unto the Councill doe invest the sd Deborah Hardin with power from them so to doe:

[...] The Councill doe Continue Administration on ye Estate of the deceased Abraham Hardin unto Deborah his Widdow untill the day of their meeting in May next & then to give up account of her actings to ye Councill.

**14 May 1695**

*[page 18 of original record]*

Whereas Deborah Hardin Widdow to the deceased Abraham Hardin should by order of the Councill have this day appeared before the Councill to have given up her account unto the Councill of her acting upon & in her said deceased husbands Estate, but shee hath not this day appeared at the place of the Councills meeteing. /

The aforesd persons of the Council) have waited until about 4 of The Clock in the afternoone & none I others I appeared ; so were put upon it to dissapate; with out action./

### **11 June 1695**

*[page 18 of original record]*

At a meeteing of the Councill June the 11th: 1695; Ordred that the I next I Tuesday before the full moone in Each month shall be the day for the Councill to meete; & to continue in that order untill the first munday in june Next. /

The Councill doe still Continue Administration of the Estate of the deceased Abraham Hardin unto Deborah Hardin his widdow untill the day of the Councills meeting in december next, & then to give up an account to the Councill of her Administration & acting upon the sd Estate so £arr as shee hath acted; and that Jonathan Sprague is desired by the Councill to be assistant to the sd Deborah in lookeing after makeing up & perfecting of accounts, & setting & fitting accounts to give in to the Councill

### **3 March 1695/6**

*[page 23 of original record]*

Whereas there was power of administration Granted for a time unto Deborah Hardin widdow of y• deceased Abraham Hardin upon the Estate of y• sd Abrahardin & to give up her account of administration to the Councill according to their order;

And whereas the said Deborah Hardin hath lately changed her Condition by marriage with Moises Bartlett who have this day both appeared before ye Councill & doe desire the whole administration on ye sd Estate, who will Endeavor to Pro/cu[ ] | bonds men ag|ain|st the next Councill meeting, the Councill doe therefore Comitt the power of Administration unto the said Mo|j|ses Bartlett & Deborah his wife jointly, untill the day of their Next meeting & then to appear before the Councill & give up their account and to give in bond to the Councill, for further Administration

**31 March 1696**

*[page 24 of original record]*

At a meeting of ye Councill march the 31 : 1696 Moises Bartlett & Deborah his wife have this day given in an account of their Administration upon y<sup>o</sup> Estate of ye deceased Abraham Hardin what debts they have received & of what they have payd , & the account which they have given in , is , that which they have Received in , of what was due to y Estate of sd Abraham Hardin is 11<sup>lb</sup> – 28<sup>s</sup> – 11<sup>d</sup> , & what they have payd out of ye sd Estate to discharge its debts is 14 - 15 -06 .

The Council doe continue administration of Abraham Hardins Estate unto Moises Bartlett & Deborah his wife until our next Councill meeteing;

the meeteing is desolved./

**27 October 1696**

*[page 25 of original record]*

Whereas Abraham Hardin of this Towne of Providence dyed intested & his Widdow hath not yet procured bond nor yet given in any to ye Council & hath of late Changed her Condition by Marriage & should long since both shee & het now husband have appeared before the Councill; but have not:

It is therefore Ordred by ye Councill that both shee & Moises Bartlet her now husband be sumoned in before the Councill, the nex day of their meeteing to appeare;

**22 December 1696**

*[page 26 of original record]*

At a meeteing of ye Councill December ye 22nd : 1696

Whereas Deborah ye late wife of Abraham Hardin hath with her now husband Moises Bartlet this day appeared before ye Councill in order to give in bond as Concerning the deceased Abraham Hardin his Estate, but their bondsman not appeareing according to his promise the matter is Referred unto the Councill meeting in ffebruary next./

the meeting is desolved

**22 June 1697**

*[page 27 of original record]*

Administration of y<sup>e</sup> Estate of y<sup>e</sup> Deceased Abraham Hardin is yet Continued to Moises Bartlett & to Deborah his wife untill our Councill Meeting day in November Next

the meeting is desolved

**16 November 1697**

*[page 28 of original record]*

Whereas at or Councill meeting ye 22nd of June last Administration upon ye Estate of ye deceased Abraham Hardin was Continued unto Moises Bartlet & to Deborah his wife until this day, & whereas they yet Cannot procure bondsmen;

The Councill doe yet Continue Administration upon ye sd Estate unto ye said Moises Bartlett & Deborah his wife until the Councills meeting in Aprill next

The meeting is desolved.

**12 April 1698**

*[page 29 of original record]*

Moises Bartlett & Deborah his wife haveing already given in bond to the Councill for the true performance of Administration on ye Estate of ye deceased Abraham Hardin:

The Administration thereof unto them is granted; & the Children of ye sd Abraham Hardin Comitted to their Care.

---

## WORKS CITED

---

- Anderson, G. B. (1897). History of Pittstown, New York. *Landmarks of Rensselaer County*.
- Angell, A. F. (1872). *Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Angell Who Settled in Providence, 1636*. Providence: A. Crawford Greene, Printer to th State.
- Arnold, J. N. (1911). *Vital Record of Rhode Island 1636-1850*. Providence: Narrangansett Historical Publishing Company.
- Austin, J. O. (1887). *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island Comprising Three Generations of Settlers who Came Before 1690 (With Many Families Carried to the Fourth Generation)*. Albany: Joel Munsells Sons.
- Avery, E. M., & Avery, C. T. (1912). *The Groton Avery Clan, Volume I*. Cleveland, Ohio.
- Babcock, A. E. (1922). The City of Tryon and Vicinity. In R. H. Society, *Publications of the Rochester Historical Society* (p. 322). Rochester: Rochester Historical Society.
- Baker, H. A. (1896). *History of Montville, Connecticut : formerly the north parish of New London from 1640 to 1896*. Hartford, Connecticut: Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co.
- Barbour, L. B. (Pre-1870). Groton Vital Records. In L. C. White (Ed.), *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records. Vol. 1-55*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.
- Barbour, L. B. (Pre-1870). Preston Vital Records. In L. C. White (Ed.), *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records. Vol. 1-55*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.
- Barbour, L. B. (Pre-1870). Stonington Vital Records. In L. C. White (Ed.), *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records. Vol. 1-55*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.
- Barbour, L. B. (Pre-1870). *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company.
- Blair, W. T. (1924). *The Michael Schoemaker Book (Schumaker)*. Scranton, Pennsylvania: International Textbook Press.
- Breck, R. A. (1968). *The Eddy Family in America, Supplement 1968*. Middleboro, Massachusetts: The Eddy Family Association.
- Breck, R. A. (1980). *The Eddy Family in America, Supplement 1980*. Middleboro, Massachusetts: The Eddy Family Association, Inc.
- Carter, M. P. (1930). *A Copy of the Index of Swansea, Mass. Vital Records 1702 to 1800*. Attleboro, Mass.

- Collver, D. (1998, November 17). *Colver Culver Collver*. Retrieved June 6, 2021, from Descendants of Alfred B. Collver: <http://www.collver.org/family/doc/gen1.html>
- Colver, F. L. (1910). *Colver-Culver Genealogy*. New York: Frank Allaben Genealogical Company.
- Connecticut Church Records. (1630-1920). *Connecticut Church Records Abstracts, 1630-1920*. Hartford: Connecticut State Library.
- Cornell Cemetery Records*. (n.d.). Guilford, Chenango County, New York, 13780 USA: Blower Road, Guilford, Chenango County, New York, 13780 USA.
- CT. Probate Records. (1609-1999). Probate Files Collection, Early to 1880. (Ancestry.com, Ed.) *Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999*.
- Cutter, W. R. (1915). *New England Families Genealogical and Menorial*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company.
- Denison, F. (1860). The Wightmans. (W. B. Sprague, Ed.) *Annals of the American Pulpit: Baptist. 1860*, pp. 26-31.
- Dodd, Jordan, & Liahona Research. (2005). *Massachusetts, Marriages, 1633-1850*. Provo.
- Dodd, Jordan, & Research, L. (Eds.). (2005). *Massachusetts Marriages, 1633-1850. Massachusetts, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1633-1850*.
- Durfee, E. D., & Sanford, D. G. (1989). *A guide to the Henry Stevens, Sr. Collection at the Vermont State Archives*. United States: Vermont State archives.
- Dutch Tract Cemetery Memorials. (n.d.). *Capt. John Writght Harding and Sarah Mary Moss Harding*. Retrieved June 4, 2021, from Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/91263981/john-wright-harding>
- Eddy, R. (1930). *The Eddy Family in America*. Boston, Massachusetts: Sheridan Books, under the direction of The Eddy Family Association, Inc.
- Giorgi, V. D. (1984). *Colver-Culver family genealogy: as descended from Edward Colver of Groton, Connecticut, to the thirteen generations in America*. Santa Maria, CA: Valerie Dyer Giorgi.
- Greenlee, R. S., & Greenlee, R. L. (1904). *The Stebbins Genealogy*. Chicago, Illinois: Privately Published.
- Grosskopf, J. S. (Fall 2001). Family, Religion, and Disorder: The Rogerenes of New London, 1676–1726. *Connecticut History Review, Vol. 40, No. 2, Special Issue: Genealogical Studies of Southeastern Connecticut*, 203-224.

- Groton Land Records* (Vols. Family History Library Microfilm #4293 (V. 1A-1B, 1705-1723), #4294 (V.2, 1792-1731; V.4, 1735-1762); #4295 (V.3, 1730-1740); #4296 (V.5-6, 1743-1775); #4297 (V.7-8, 1765-1781); #4298 (V. 9-11, 1774-1791); 4299 (V. 12, 1791-1808; V.15, 1806-1814); 4300 (V). (n.d.). Genealogical Society of Utah, 1947, 1984, 1987.
- Hale, C. R. (1932-5). *Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629-1934*. Hartford, Connecticut: Connecticut State Library.
- Harding, C. M. (2014). *Lieutenant Israel Harding 1733-1794 Planter and British Loyalist to Horton, Nova Scotia his life his family and their times*. Privately published.
- Harding, W. J. (1925). *The Hardings in America. A Genealogical Register of the Descendants of John Harding, of England Born A.D. 1567*. Keystone, Iowa: The Harding Printing Co.
- Huden, J. C. (1962). *Indian Place Names of New England*. New York: Museum of the American Indian Heye Foundation.
- Hurd, D. H. (1882). *History of New London County, Connecticut, with Biographical Sketches of many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men*. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & co.
- Jenkins-Harding Cemetery Memorials. (n.d.). *Capt Stephen Harding*. Retrieved June 4, 2021, from Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25771472/stephen-harding>
- Jillson, D. (1989). Descendants of Capt. John Whipple, of Providence, R.I. (G. B. Roberts, Ed.) *Genealogies of Rhode Island Families From the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Volume II Niles - Wilson*, pp. 310-316.
- Kheel, C. (2019, Spring). Pittstowners Move West. *Pittstown Historical Society Newsletter*(XXXV), pp. 6-9.
- Lainhart, A. S., & Fiske, J. F. (2010). *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* (Vol. 23). General society of Mayflower Descendants.
- Legacy Tree Genealogists. (2004). "Was My Ancestor an Orphan?" *Understanding Guardianship in Genealogy*. Retrieved from Legacy Tree Genealogists: <https://www.legacytrees.com/blog/guardianship-genealogy>
- Luce, M. H. (1928). *From Generation to Generation : Tales of By-Gone Days*. Cambridge: Cosmos Press.
- Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988*. (2011). Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc.
- McPherson, N. (1929). *McPherson and allied families : genealogical and biographical*. New York: American Historical Society.
- Meech, S. B. (1923). *A supplement to the Descendants of Peter Spicer Containing Additions and Corrections*. Groton, Connecticut: Stanhope Press.

- Meech, S. S., & Meech, S. B. (1911). *The Spicer Genealogy: History of the Descendants of Peter Spicer A Landholder in New London, Connecticut, As early as 1666, And Others of the Name*. Boston, Massachusetts: Stanhope Press.
- NARA. (1836). 1836 Pension Application of Mary Heath of Groton. *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
- NEHGS. (2012). *Bristol County, MA: Extracts from Court of General Sessions of the Peace, 1697-1801*. (C. F. Helen S. Ullmann, Ed.) New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). doi:www.americanancestors.org
- NEHGS. (2017). *Bristol County, MA.: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880*. (N. E. (NEHGS), Ed.) Retrieved 6 13, 2021, from AmericanAncestors.org: AmericanAncestors.org
- Nye, R. G. (1971). *Button Families of America*. (K. W. Nye, Ed.)
- Old Burying Ground Memorials. (n.d.). *Mercy Bishop and Timothy Bishop*. Retrieved June 4, 2021, from Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133665189/mercy-bishop>
- Old Poquetanuck Cemetery No.17 Memorials. (n.d.). *Old Poquetanuck Cemetery No.17 Memorials*. Retrieved June 6, 2021, from Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2209478/memorial-search?page=1#sr-35090177>
- Oxford English Dictionary*. (2016). Oxford University Press.
- Pittstown Historical Society. (2008, Fall). The Buttons of Raymertown. *Pittstown Historical Society Newsletter*(XIV).
- Providence Town Council. (1692-1714). *The Early Records of the Town of Providence Volume X Being the Book called Town Council No.1 1692 to 1714 and Containing the Records of the Providence Town Council*. Providence: Snow & Farnham City Printers.
- Rand, F. O. (1898, Jan.-Dec.). The Identity of Symonds Whipple. (P. a. Eben Putnam, Ed.) *Putnam's Historical Magazine*, VI, pp. 125-126.
- Stark, C. R. (1927). *The Aaron Stark Family, Seven Generations of the Descendants of Aaron Stark of Groton, Connecticut*. Boston, Massachusetts: Wright and Potter.
- Stow, B. (1843). *Discourse Delivered at the One Hundreth Anniversary of the Organization of the Baldwin Place Baptist Church, July 27, 1843*. Boston, Massachusetts:  
Stow, B. (1843). *Discourse Delivered at the One Hundreth Anniversary of the Organization of the Baldwin Gould, Kendall and Lincoln*.
- The Petition of Margaret Culver, November 1716-November 1717, Box 160, November 1717 (New London County, Connecticut November 26, 1717).

- Whipple Family History. (1892, March 2). *The New London Day*, p. 8.
- Whipple, H. B. (1969). *A Partial List of the Descendants of Matthew Whipple, The Elder, of Bocking, Essex County, England* (Vol. II). High Point, North Carolina.
- Wightman Cemetery Memorials. (n.d.). *Joseph Culver*. Retrieved from Find A Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82977955/joseph-culver>
- Williams , A. B., & Bolles, J. R. (1904). *The Rogerenes: Some Hitherto Unpublished Annals Belonging to the Colonial History of Connecticut*. United States: Stanhope Press, F. H. Gilson Company, .
- Wulfeck, D. F. (1965). *Hardin and Harding of Virginia and Kentucky*. Naugatuck, Connecticut: Privately published by Dorothy Ford Wulfeck.
- Anderson, G. B. (1897). History of Pittstown, New York. *Landmarks of Rensselaer County*.
- Angell, A. F. (1872). *Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Angell Who Settled in Providence, 1636*. Providence: A. Crawford Greene, Printer to th State.
- Arnold, J. N. (1911). *Vital Record of Rhode Island 1636-1850*. Providence: Narrangansett Historical Publishing Company.
- Austin, J. O. (1887). *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island Comprising Three Generations of Settlers who Came Before 1690 (With Many Families Carried to the Fourth Generation)*. Albany: Joel Munsells Sons.
- Avery, E. M., & Avery, C. T. (1912). *The Groton Avery Clan, Volume I*. Cleveland, Ohio.
- Babcock, A. E. (1922). The City of Tryon and Vicinity. In R. H. Society, *Publications of the Rochester Historical Society* (p. 322). Rochester: Rochester Historical Society.
- Baird, R. (2010). *Orphans & Guardians*. Retrieved from Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet: <https://genfiles.com/articles/orphans-guardians/>
- Baker, H. A. (1896). *History of Montville, Connecticut : formerly the north parish of New London from 1640 to 1896*. Hartford, Connecticut: Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co.
- Barbour, L. B. (Pre-1870). Groton Vital Records. In L. C. White (Ed.), *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records. Vol. 1-55*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.
- Barbour, L. B. (Pre-1870). Preston Vital Records. In L. C. White (Ed.), *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records. Vol. 1-55*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.

- Barbour, L. B. (Pre-1870). Stonington Vital Records. In L. C. White (Ed.), *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records. Vol. 1-55*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.
- Barbour, L. B. (Pre-1870). *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company.
- Blackstone, W. (1871). Of Guardian and Ward. In W. Blackstone, *Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England*.
- Blair, W. T. (1924). *The Michael Schoemaker Book (Schumaker)*. Scranton, Pennsylvania: International Textbook Press.
- Breck, R. A. (1968). *The Eddy Family in America, Supplement 1968*. Middleboro, Massachusetts: The Eddy Family Association.
- Breck, R. A. (1980). *The Eddy Family in America, Supplement 1980*. Middleboro, Massachusetts: The Eddy Family Association, Inc.
- Carter, M. P. (1930). *A Copy of the Index of Swansea, Mass. Vital Records 1702 to 1800*. Attleboro, Mass.
- Collver, D. (1998, November 17). *Colver Culver Collver*. Retrieved June 6, 2021, from Descendants of Alfred B. Collver: <http://www.collver.org/family/doc/gen1.html>
- Colver, F. L. (1910). *Colver-Culver Genealogy*. New York: Frank Allaben Genealogical Company.
- Connecticut Church Records. (1630-1920). *Connecticut Church Records Abstracts, 1630-1920*. Hartford: Connecticut State Library.
- Cornell Cemetery Records*. (n.d.). Guilford, Chenango County, New York, 13780 USA: Blower Road, Guilford, Chenango County, New York, 13780 USA.
- CT. Probate Records. (1609-1999). Probate Files Collection, Early to 1880. (Ancestry.com, Ed.) *Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999*.
- Cutter, W. R. (1915). *New England Families Genealogical and Menorial*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company.
- Denison, F. (1860). The Wightmans. (W. B. Sprague, Ed.) *Annals of the American Pulpit: Baptist. 1860*, pp. 26-31.
- Dodd, Jordan, & Liahona Research. (2005). *Massachusetts, Marriages, 1633-1850*. Provo.
- Dodd, Jordan, & Research, L. (Eds.). (2005). *Massachusetts Marriages, 1633-1850. Massachusetts, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1633-1850*.

- Durfee, E. D., & Sanford, D. G. (1989). *A guide to the Henry Stevens, Sr. Collection at the Vermont State Archives*. United States: Vermont State archives.
- Dutch Tract Cemetery Memorials. (n.d.). *Capt. John Writght Harding and Sarah Mary Moss Harding*. Retrieved June 4, 2021, from Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/91263981/john-wright-harding>
- Eddy, R. (1930). *The Eddy Family in America*. Boston, Massachusetts: Sheridan Books, under the direction of The Eddy Family Association, Inc.
- Giorgi, V. D. (1984). *Colver-Culver family genealogy: as descended from Edward Colver of Groton, Connecticut, to the thirteen generations in America*. Santa Maria, CA: Valerie Dyer Giorgi.
- Greenlee, R. S., & Greenlee, R. L. (1904). *The Stebbins Genealogy*. Chicago, Illinois: Privately Published.
- Grosskopf, J. S. (Fall 2001). Family, Religion, and Disorder: The Rogerenes of New London, 1676–1726. *Connecticut History Review, Vol. 40, No. 2, Special Issue: Genealogical Studies of Southeastern Connecticut*, 203-224.
- Groton Land Records* (Vols. Family History Library Microfilm #4293 (V. 1A-1B, 1705-1723), #4294 (V.2, 1792-1731; V.4, 1735-1762); #4295 (V.3, 1730-1740); #4296 (V.5-6, 1743-1775); #4297 (V.7-8, 1765-1781); #4298 (V. 9-11, 1774-1791); 4299 (V. 12, 1791-1808; V.15, 1806-1814); 4300 (V). (n.d.). Genealogical Society of Utah, 1947, 1984, 1987.
- Hale, C. R. (1932-5). *Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629-1934*. Hartford, Connecticut: Connecticut State Library.
- Harding, C. M. (2014). *Lieutenant Israel Harding 1733-1794 Planter and British Loyalist to Horton, Nova Scotia his life his family and their times*. Privately published.
- Harding, W. J. (1925). *The Hardings in America. A Genealogal Register of the Descendants of John Harding, of England Born A.D. 1567*. Keystone, Iowa: The Harding Printing Co.
- Huden, J. C. (1962). *Indian Place Names of New England*. New York: Museum of the American Indian Heye Foundation.
- Hurd, D. H. (1882). *History of New London County, Connecticut, with Biographical Sketches of many of its Pioneers and Prominant Men*. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & co.
- Jenkins-Harding Cemetery Memorials. (n.d.). *Capt Stephen Harding*. Retrieved June 4, 2021, from Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25771472/stephen-harding>
- Jillson, D. (1989). Descendants of Capt. John Whipple, of Providence, R.I. (G. B. Roberts, Ed.) *Genealogies of Rhode Island Families From the New England Histroical and Genealogical Register, Volume II Niles - Wilson*, pp. 310-316.

- Kheel, C. (2019, Spring). Pittstowners Move West. *Pittstown Historical Society Newsletter*(XXXV), pp. 6-9.
- Lainhart, A. S., & Fiske, J. F. (2010). *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* (Vol. 23). General society of Mayflower Descendents.
- Legacy Tree Genealogists. (2004). "Was My Ancestor an Orphan?" *Understanding Guardianship in Genealogy*. Retrieved from Legacy Tree Genealogists: <https://www.legacytrees.com/blog/guardianship-genealogy>
- Lopes, J. (2009). One family's most ancient homestead . *SouthCoastTODAY*.
- Luce, M. H. (1928). *From Generation to Generation : Tales of By-Gone Days*. Cambridge: Cosmos Press.
- Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988*. (2011). Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc.
- McPherson, N. (1929). *McPherson and allied families : genealogical and biographical*. New York: American Historical Society.
- Meech, S. B. (1923). *A supplement to the Descendants of Peter Spicer Containing Additions and Corrections*. Groton, Connecticut: Stanhope Press.
- Meech, S. S., & Meech, S. B. (1911). *The Spicer Genealogy: History of the Descendants of Peter Spicer A Landholder in New London, Connecticut, As early as 1666, And Others of the Name*. Boston, Massachusetts: Stanhope Press.
- NARA. (1836). 1836 Pension Application of Mary Heath of Groton. *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
- NEHGS. (2012). *Bristol County, MA: Extracts from Court of General Sessions of the Peace, 1697-1801*. (C. F. Helen S. Ullmann, Ed.) New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). doi:[www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org)
- NEHGS. (2017). *Bristol County, MA.: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880*. (N. E. (NEHGS), Ed.) Retrieved 6 13, 2021, from AmericanAncestors.org: AmericanAncestors.org
- Nye, R. G. (1971). *Button Families of America*. (K. W. Nye, Ed.)
- Old Burying Ground Memorials. (n.d.). *Mercy Bishop and Timothy Bishop*. Retrieved June 4, 2021, from Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133665189/mercy-bishop>
- Old Poquetanuck Cemetery No.17 Memorials. (n.d.). *Old Poquetanuck Cemetery No.17 Memorials*. Retrieved June 6, 2021, from Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2209478/memorial-search?page=1#sr-35090177>

Owens, T. (2012, August 24). *18th Century Marriage*. Retrieved August 24, 2024, from Hammond-Harwood House: <https://hammondharwoodhouse.org/18th-century-marriage/>

*Oxford English Dictionary*. (2016). Oxford University Press.

Pittstown Historical Society. (2008, Fall). The Buttons of Raymertown. *Pittstown Historical Society Newsletter*(XIV).

Providence Town Council. (1692-1714). *The Early Records of the Town of Providence Volume X Being the Book called Town Council No.1 1692 to 1714 and Containing the Records of the Providence Town Council*. Providence: Snow & Farnham City Printers.

Rand, F. O. (1898, Jan.-Dec.). The Identity of Symonds Whipple. (P. a. Eben Putnam, Ed.) *Putnam's Historical Magazine*, VI, pp. 125-126.

Stark, C. R. (1927). *The Aaron Stark Family, Seven Generations of the Descendants of Aaron Stark of Groton, Connecticut*. Boston, Massachusetts: Wright and Potter.

Stow, B. (1843). *Discourse Delivered at the One Hundreth Anniversary of the Organization of the Baldwin Place Baptist Church, July 27, 1843*. Boston, Massachusetts:

Stow, B. (1843). *Discourse Delivered at the One Hundreth Anniversary of the Organization of the Baldwin Gould, Kendall and Lincoln*.

The Petition of Margaret Culver, November 1716-November 1717, Box 160, November 1717 (New London County, Connecticut November 26, 1717).

Whipple Family History. (1892, March 2). *The New London Day*, p. 8.

Whipple, H. B. (1969). *A Partial List of the Descendants of Matthew Whipple, The Elder, of Bocking, Essex County, England* (Vol. II). High Point, North Carolina.

Wightman Cemetery Memorials. (n.d.). *Joseph Culver*. Retrieved from Find A Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82977955/joseph-culver>

Williams, A. B., & Bolles, J. R. (1904). *The Rogerenes: Some Hitherto Unpublished Annals Belonging to the Colonial History of Connecticut*. United States: Stanhope Press, F. H. Gilson Company, .

Wulfeck, D. F. (1965). *Hardin and Harding of Virginia and Kentucky*. Naugatuck, Connecticut: Privately published by Dorothy Ford Wulfeck.