

**JAMES² AND HANNAH (BREWSTER) (STARR) MORGAN
OF NEW LONDON AND GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

With Notes on the Reverend William¹ Wetherell
of Scituate, Massachusetts

By David L. Greene, C.G., F.A.S.G.

On 8 May 1690, John Wheeler, a New London, Connecticut, merchant,¹ prepared a “Remonstrance of the present State of New London Towne and Countye Respecting The authoritye Therein,” which he presented to the General Assembly. His complaint was that “5 of The Chief members of The Countye are Related (viz) Capt Fitch, Capt: Mason, L^t Daniell Witherell, L^t Bruster And Richard Christophers” and that they had aggrandized to themselves “most (if nott all) the offices powers and Authoritye of moment In Town And County.” Wheeler then gave the relationship among these power brokers:

1st As To Relation Cap^t Masons Sister married to Cap^t Fitch, Cap^t Fitch his Brother married L^t Bruisters Daughter, L^t Bruisters Sister married To L^t Witherell, L^t Witherells Sister married To Capt: James Morgan, Cap^t Morgan’s Now wife aunt To Richard Christophers & Samuell fosdeck being own Sister To their wives Mothers.²

It is surprising that the relationships stated in this document have apparently never been analyzed even though it has been in print since 1924. As Wheeler complained, these were all families of status and position; hence they usually left good records and have been discussed in the secondary literature. From published sources, we can enlarge on the relationships of the individuals in Wheeler’s statement except for Captain James Morgan:

Cap^t Masons Sister married to Cap^t Fitch. James² Fitch, born Saybrook, Conn., 9 Aug. 1649,³ son of Rev. James¹ and Abigail (Whitfield) Fitch, married first Norwich, Conn., Jan.

¹ For information on John Wheeler’s business activities and, especially, his legal battle with Thomas Herreris of Hartford, see Gale Ion Harris, “Thomas Herreris, Merchant of New England: Reassembling a ‘Split Identity,’” *NGSQ* 80 (1992): 36–56, at 40–42, 53 (note 56).

² *The Wyllys Papers: Correspondence and Documents Chiefly of Descendants of Gov. George Wyllys of Connecticut, 1690–1796*, Conn. Hist. Soc. Coll., 21 (Hartford, 1924): 318–20; quotation from 319.

³ Saybrook, Conn., Deeds, 1:12 [photostat in Old Saybrook Town Clerk’s Office]; Elizebeth Bull Plimpton, ed., *Vital Records of Saybrook Colony, 1635–1860, including the Towns of Chester, Deep River, Essex, Old Saybrook and Westbrook, Connecticut* (Old Saybrook, 1985), 28.

1676/7, Elizabeth² Mason,⁴ born Aug. 1650,⁵ daughter of Major John¹ and Anne (Peck) Mason and sister of Major Samuel² Mason of Stonington.⁶

Cap¹ Fitch his Brother married L¹ Bruisters Daughter. Samuel² Fitch, born Saybrook “beginning” of March 1655,⁷ son of Rev. James¹ and Abigail (Whitfield) Fitch, married probably Norwich, 28 Nov. 1678, Mary⁴ Brewster, daughter of Benjamin³ Brewster (*Jonathan², William¹ of the Mayflower*) and his wife, Anne (Addis) (Darte).⁸

L¹ Bruisters Sister married To L¹ Witherell. Daniel² Witherell or Wetherell, born Maidstone, co. Kent, England, 29 Nov. 1630, son of Rev. William¹ and Mary (Fisher) Wetherell, married New London, 4 August 1659, Grace³ Brewster, daughter of Jonathan² Brewster (*William¹ of the Mayflower*) and his wife, Lucretia (Oldham).⁹

The problems center on the following statement about James² Morgan:¹⁰

L¹ Witherells Sister married To Capt: James Morgan, Cap¹ Morgan’s Now wife aunt To Richard Christophers & Samuell fosdeck being own Sister To their wives Mothers.

It is possible to read Wheeler’s description of Morgan’s wife or wives in two different ways:

⁴ *Vital Records of Norwich, 1659–1848*, 2 parts (Hartford, 1913), 1:6.

⁵ *Vital Records of Norwich* [*supra* note 4], 1:20.

⁶ Donald Lines Jacobus, *The Waterman Family*, 3 vols. (New Haven and Hartford, 1939–52), 1:649 [Fitch]; Haskell Venard, “The Family of Major James Fitch of Norwich and Canterbury, Conn.,” TAG 46 (1970): 36–46; Donald Lines Jacobus, “Israel (Mason) Bissell,” TAG 26 (1950): 84–94; Jacobus, “Israel (Mason) Bissell: Second Paper,” TAG 27 (1951): 100–2; Frances Manwaring Caulkins, *History of Norwich, Connecticut: from Its Possession by the Indians, to the Year 1866* (n.p., 1866), 140–48; Richard Anson Wheeler, *History of the Town of Stonington, County of New London, Connecticut, from Its First Settlement in 1649 to 1900, with a Genealogical Register of Stonington Families* (New London, 1900), 460–61.

⁷ Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 3], 1:12; *Vital Records of Saybrook Colony* [*supra* note 3], 28.

⁸ “The Brewster Book,” *The Mayflower Descendant* [MD] 1 (1899): 75 (“Samwell fitch sonn to Jemes fitch Se^l. marreed to mare Brewster Dafter to Benjamen Brewster: 28th day November In the yere of our Lord 1678”); Barbara Lambert Merrick, comp., *Mayflower Families in Progress: William Brewster of the Mayflower and His Descendants for Four Generations* (Plymouth, Mass., 1994), 39.

⁹ “The Brewster Book” [*supra* note 8], 71 (“Daniell Wetherell Married To Grace Brewster Agustt the 4th: 1.6.5.9”); *Ibid.*, 74 (“Daniell Weherell [*sic*] Borne at Maidstone in Kentt November the 29th: 1630[;] Daniel Wetherell son of William Wetherell Married with Grace Brewster Daughter to Johnathan Brewster Agustt the 4th 1659”); New London Deeds, 4 [reverse]:259, Family History Library, Salt Lake City (FHL) microfilm 1312157 (“Daniel Wetherell Esq^l. Dyed on the 14th Day of April 1719 i[n the] Morning at Sun about an hour high being in the 89th. year of his Age. He was born [N]ovem^{br} 29th 1630 at the free School house, in Maidston in the County of Kent in old England”); *Mayflower Families in Progress: Brewster* [*supra* note 8], 6–7, 22.

¹⁰ The standard genealogy of this family is still Nathaniel H. Morgan, *Morgan Genealogy: A History of James Morgan, of New London, Conn., and His Descendants; from 1607 to 1869* (Hartford, 1869). Like most genealogies of its period, it is very sparsely documented. The discussion of Capt. James² Morgan identifies his first wife correctly as Mary Vine and his second wife as Hannah (—) (p. 23).

1. Wheeler is describing two different wives of James² Morgan, one who was a sister of Lt. Daniel Wetherell and the other—Morgan’s “Now wife”—who was aunt to the wives of Richard Christophers and Samuel Fosdick.

2. Wheeler is describing only Morgan’s “Now wife,” who was a sister of Wetherell and an aunt of Christophers’ and Fosdick’s wives.

To understand Wheeler’s assertion, we need to state what is known about James² Morgan’s marriages. Morgan’s first marriage is recorded in the New London land records:

James Morgan the Sonn of James Morgan was marryed unto Mary Vine of old England some time in the month of November [1666].¹¹

The following children for this couple are recorded at New London:¹²

- i JAMES³ MORGAN, b. 6 Feb. 1667[/8?].
- ii WILLIAM MORGAN, b. 4 March 1669[/70?].
- iii MARY MORGAN, b. 20 March 1670[/1?].
- iv HANNA[H] MORGAN, b. 8 June 1674.
- v ELIZABETH MORGAN, b. 9 Sept. 1678.

Mary Morgan died in 1689, aged 48,¹³ and James² Morgan married as a second or later wife, Hannah —. In his will, dated 25 June 1708, “for the preventing of any Defaranc that Maye arise among my Children,” James Morgan of Groton, Connecticut, mentioned “Dere and Loveing Wife Hanna Morgan,” son James Morgan, son William Morgan, and four daughters Marey, Hanna, Elisabeth, and Jerusha. The will was proved on 23 January 1711/2.¹⁴ James Morgan died in Groton on 8 December 1711, aged 69,¹⁵ and Hannah Morgan died the same month, aged 71.¹⁶

The basic question involving the first interpretation above is whether Daniel² Wetherell could have had a blood sister—the question of a sister-in-law will be considered later—who married James Morgan.

¹¹ New London, Conn., Deeds, 4 [reverse]: 325.

¹² New London, Conn., Deeds, 4 [reverse]: [page numbers illegible on microfilm].

¹³ Hale Cemetery Inscriptions, Groton, Conn., Cemetery 11, p. 99 [only year is given], FHL microfilm 5083; see postscript to this article.

¹⁴ New London Probate District, No. 3730, FHL microfilm 1028037.

¹⁵ Hale Cemetery Inscriptions, Groton [*supra* note 13], 99; see postscript to this article. Sunday, 9 Dec. 1711: “Capt. Morgan of Groaton Died yesterday” (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead of New London, Connecticut, Covering a Period of Forty-Seven Years from September, 1711, to November, 1758 . . .*, Collections of the New London County Historical Society, 1 [New London, 1901], 5).

¹⁶ Hale Cemetery Inscriptions, Groton [*supra* note 13], 99 [day of month not given]; see postscript to this article. Her death does not appear in Joshua Hempstead’s diary [*supra* note 15].

Daniel² Wetherell was a son of the Reverend William¹ and Mary (Fisher) Wetherell or Witherell of Scituate, Massachusetts. A recent account of this family was published in 1993 by John Brooks Threlfall in his *Twenty-Six Great Migration Colonists to New England & Their Origins*. For our purposes, perhaps its most significant material is an elaborate study of Mary (Fisher) Wetherell's ancestry, contributed by John Anderson Brayton, which leaves no possibility that she had had children by a previous spouse.¹⁷

William¹ Wetherell married at St. Mildred's, Canterbury, co. Kent, by license dated 26 March 1627, Mary Fisher,¹⁸ who was baptized at Boughton-Monchelsea, co. Kent, on 17 June 1604, a daughter of Thomas^A and Joan (Lake) Fisher.¹⁹ "Wm Witherell of Maidstone [co. Kent] School Master & Mary his Wief" with their children, Samuel, Daniel, and Thomas, and a servant, Anne Richards, immigrated to New England in 1635 on the "good shipp called the Hercules of Sandwich."²⁰ There is no further record of Mary.

When Threlfall published his account, the parish registers of Maidstone were unavailable. Recently, I examined a microfilm of the Bishops' Transcripts at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, which include the baptisms of the first three children.

Children of William¹ Wetherell, i–iii baptized at Maidstone, co. Kent:

- i SAMUEL² WETHERELL, bp. 5 Dec. 1628, d. Scituate, Mass., before 4 March 1683/4, when the inventory of his estate was taken,²¹ m. ISABEL (—) HILAND/HYLAND, widow of Samuel² Hiland (Thomas¹) of Scituate.²² She is apparently the Isabell "Witherlee" who m. (3) Scituate 6 Oct. 1684 Josiah Torr[e]y.²³

Samuel² Hiland d. before 30 Oct. 1677, when his undated will was "at-tested." In it he named wife Isabel and his sister Bryant's children, and suggested that Isabel might "be now with child."²⁴ On 8 March 1677/8, widow "Isable" was appointed administratrix of his estate, with John Bryant of

¹⁷ John Brooks Threlfall, *Twenty-Six Great Migration Colonists to New England & Their Origins* (Madison, Wis., 1993), 311–38; some of Threlfall's account, as he acknowledges, comes from Peter Charles Witherell and Edwin Ralph Witherell, *History and Genealogy of the Witherell/Wetherell/Witherill Family of New England* (Baltimore, 1976).

¹⁸ Virginia Hall, "Rev. William Witherell, M.A., of Scituate, Mass.," *The Genealogical Advertiser* 1 (1898): 21, citing *Canterbury Marriage Licenses*, 2nd series, 1087.

¹⁹ Threlfall [*supra* note 17], 312.

²⁰ Eben Putnam, "Two Early Passenger Lists, 1635–1637," *NEHGR* 75 (1921): 217–26, at 218, 219.

²¹ Charles Henry Pope, ed., *The Plymouth Scrap Book* . . . (Boston, 1918), 40–41.

²² For the Hilands, see Elizabeth French, "Genealogical Research in England: Hyland," *NEHGR* 66 (1912): 61–67, at 67.

²³ *Vital Records of Scituate, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1909), 2:333.

²⁴ *Plymouth Colony Probates*, 3 pt. 2:109.

Scituate supporting the bond.²⁵ Isabel's 2nd marriage is proven by the will of Thomas¹ "Heyland," Sr., of Scituate, dated 14 Feb. 1682[/?] (inventory taken 3 May 1683), which mentions "Issabell Witherell some time wife to my son Samuell and now to Samuell Witherell."²⁶

At the Plymouth Colony General Court session, 5 June 1684, "[i]n reference to the estate of Samuell Witherell, deceased, this Court hath ordered that forasmuch as the eldest son hath received of his grand father, M^f William Witherell, deceased, that which was due to him, viz, seven acres of upland att Hoopole Hill, the Court have ordered, that the youngest son have allowed unto him out of his fathers estate foure pound, and the daughter forty shillings, and that the remainder of the estate be allowed to the widow for the bringing up off the children, which are but smale." On the same date, Issabell Witherell was appointed executrix, with Abraham Sutliff supporting her bond.²⁷

Although Samuel² Wetherell must have been about 50 when he m. Isabel (—) Hiland, no previous marriage is known for him.

- ii DANIEL WETHERELL, b. 29 Nov. 1630, bp. 3 Dec. 1630, d. New London, Conn., 14 April 1719,²⁸ m. New London, Conn., 4 Aug. 1659 GRACE³ BREWSTER (*Jonathan*², *William*¹).²⁹
- iii THOMAS WETHERELL, bp. 28 Aug. 1633; no record found after immigration. The recent Witherell genealogy identifies him as the Thomas "Witherly" fined £10 by the Massachusetts Bay General Court at its 5 June 1639 session for contempt and for threatening the marshal; he had £5 of the fine remitted when he submitted to the court.³⁰ This record, however, could hardly refer to a five-year-old child.
- iv MARY WETHERELL, b. say 1635, d. Scituate 12 Dec. 1710,³¹ m. Scituate 20 Nov. 1656 THOMAS¹ OLDHAM.³²
- v ELIZABETH WETHERELL, b. say 1637, d. before April 1664, when her husband remarried,³³ m. Scituate 22 Dec. 1657, as 2nd wife, JOHN¹ BRYANT.³⁴ He m. (1) Scituate 14 Nov. 1643 Mary² Lewis,³⁵ and (3) Mary² Hiland (*Thomas*¹).³⁶

²⁵ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff and David Pulsifer, eds., *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England*, 12 vols. in 10 (Boston, 1855–61), 5:254–55.

²⁶ Plymouth Colony Probates, 4 pt. 2:33–34.

²⁷ Shurtleff and Pulsifer [*supra* note 25], 6:133.

²⁸ New London Deeds, 4 [reverse]: 259.

²⁹ *Mayflower Families in Progress: Brewster* [*supra* note 8], 22, citing Barbour Index: New London 317(1:5); "The Brewster Book" [*supra* note 8], 71, 74.

³⁰ *Witherell Family* [*supra* note 17], 108; Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*, 5 vols. in 6 (Boston, 1853–54), 1:261.

³¹ *Vital Records of Scituate* [*supra* note 23], 2:427.

³² *Vital Records of Scituate* [*supra* note 23], 2:322; *Witherell Family* [*supra* note 17], 113, and Threlfall [*supra* note 17], 216.

³³ *Vital Records of Scituate* [*supra* note 23], 2:38; *Witherell Family* [*supra* note 17], 109, and Threlfall [*supra* note 17], 313, state that she d. in Jan. 1661.

³⁴ *Vital Records of Scituate* [*supra* note 23], 2:322; Percy Bryant, "Descendants of John Briant, Sen., of Scituate, Mass.," NEHGR 48 (1894): 46–53, at 46–47; Selim Walker McArthur, *McArthur–Barnes Ancestral Lines* [ed. Donald Lines Jacobus] (Portland, Maine, 1964), 123.

- vi JOHN WETHERELL, b. say 1640, d. between 13 July 1690 and 17 March 1690/1, the dates that his will was executed and proved;³⁷ m. before 25 July 1675 (birth of a child)³⁸ HANNAH² (PINCON) YOUNG,³⁹ daughter of Thomas¹ Pincon⁴⁰ and widow of George Young. She m. (3) ca. 1693–94 Jonathan² Morey (Roger¹).⁴¹

The birth years for John and his brother Theophilus are very speculative. Our estimates are based on John being consistently named before Theophilus in their father's will and on the fact that their baptisms are not found in the records of the 2nd Church of Scituate, of which their father became minister in 1645. The dates of their marriages, however, might suggest later birth years.

- vii THEOPHILUS WETHERELL, b. say 1642, d. between 2 and 6 Jan. 1702[3], the dates that he executed his will and that it was attested by the witnesses;⁴² m. Scituate 9 Nov. 1675 LYDIA² PARKER (William¹).⁴³ *Witherell Family* and Threlfall, *Twenty-Six Great Migration Colonists*, both state that this was Theophilus's 2nd marriage and that he m. (1) in 1675 Mary² Parker, eldest half-sister of Lydia.⁴⁴ This claimed 1st marriage, which would have made Theophilus's 2nd marriage incestuous, certainly did not occur, since Mary Parker m. Thomas Totman and died as his wife shortly before 10 April 1666.⁴⁵

At the Plymouth Colony General Court, 30 Oct. 1678, the court "agree[d] with and engage[d] unto Theophilus Witherell, in regard of his being disabled in the late warr, soe as he is likely to be a cripple all his dayes, the sum[m]e of three score pounds in silver money of New England. . . ."⁴⁶

³⁵ Shurtleff and Pulsifer [*supra* note 25], 8:17; Robert S. Wakefield, "George¹ and John¹ Lewis of Brenchley, Kent, England, and Scituate, Massachusetts," TAG 68 (1993): 24–28, at 25.

³⁶ French [*supra* note 22], 67.

³⁷ Mrs. John E. Barclay, "Mary Bartlett (Foster) Morey: Her husbands and Children," TAG 32 (1956): 193–96, at 195, citing Plymouth Co., Mass., Probates, 1:97.

³⁸ *Vital Records of Scituate* [*supra* note 23], 1:415.

³⁹ *Vital Records of Scituate* [*supra* note 23], 2:339.

⁴⁰ On 4 March 1681[?], Thomas Pinsin, Sr., of Scituate planter gave to loving daughter Hannah, wife of John Witherell of Scituate four lots of land in Scituate (Plymouth Co., Mass., Deeds, 1:271, abstracted in Ann Smith Lainhart, "Plymouth County Records of Deeds," MD 40 [1990]: 65–70, at 66).

⁴¹ For evidence of her identity and marriages, see Barclay [*supra* note 37], 194–95; see also Robert S. Wakefield, comp., *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, vol. 18, pt. 1: Richard Warren (Plymouth, Mass., 1999), 13–14. Threlfall [*supra* note 17], 313, gives her maiden name as *Pincer*.

⁴² Plymouth Co. Probates, #23,294; 2:8.

⁴³ *Vital Records of Scituate* [*supra* note 23], 2:332; Mrs. John E. Barclay, "William Parker of Scituate, Mass.," TAG 41 (1965): 102–8, at 105.

⁴⁴ *Witherell Family* [*supra* note 17], 113, and Threlfall [*supra* note 17], 313; the former gives only the year for this claimed 1st marriage, while the latter gives the same date—9 Nov. 1675—for both marriages (an obvious oversight). It is likely that the confusion began with Samuel Deane's *History of Scituate, Massachusetts, from Its First Settlement to 1831* (1831; repr. Scituate, 1899), 193, which states that Theophilus married Mary Parker, daughter of William Parker, in 1675, and then names as their children those born to Theophilus and Lydia.

⁴⁵ The full evidence appears in Barclay, "William Parker" [*supra* note 43], 103–4.

⁴⁶ Shurtleff and Pulsifer [*supra* note 25], 5:271.

- vii SARAH WETHERELL, b. Scituate, Mass., 10 Feb. 1644[/5?], bp. 2nd Church of Scituate 7 Sept. 1645,⁴⁷ d. before 14 July 1729, when her husband executed his will without mentioning her;⁴⁸ m. Hingham, Mass., 21 Dec. 1668 ISRAEL³ HOBART⁴⁹ (Rev. Peter², Edmund¹).
- ix HANNAH WETHERELL, b. Scituate, 20 Feb. 1646[/7?], bp. 2nd Church of Scituate 28 Feb. 1646[/7];⁵⁰ no further record found.

William¹ Wetherell died in Scituate on 9 April 1684,⁵¹ testate:

In the name of [*sic*] Amen The twenty ninth day of March one thousand six hundred eightie & fower I William Wetherell of Sittuate in the Jurisdiction of New Plymouth in America: being weak of [*in: interlined*] body but of sound mind & memory for which I doe humbly thank ~~god~~ Almighty God doe make & declare this my last will & testament, First & most principally I doe Com[m]end my soule into the hands of Almighty God my Creator in & through the meritts of Jesus Christ my onely saviour my body I do Com[m]itt to decent & seemly buriall (at the descretion of my Executrix hereafter named with the Advice of my sonns John & Theophilus Wetherell) & for my outward estate I doe will & dispose thereof as followeth. In p^mis I doe give & bequeath unto my Grandchild Samuell Wetherell son of my Eldest son Samuell Wetherell late deceased all my housing orchard ten acres of upland & eight acres of marsh land lying adjoining & appertaining to my now dwelling house in scituate afore said & also all my upland purchased of George sutton & all my swamp land adjoining to the same, to him his heirs for ever, provided that the said Samuell doe lett his Brother Joshuah Wetherell have & Injoy the seven acres of upland at hoop pole hill given to his father Samuell Wetherell decesed by the Com[m]jitty ~~of~~ in sittuate, Item I give unto, Item I give unto [*sic*] Joshua Wetherell my Grandchild son of my said son samuell Wetherell Ten acres of upland granted to me by the said Committee lying at the said hoop pole hill, & also two acres of marsh land which I bought of George Sutton aforesaid lying next to the [marsh?] of Israell Hubbert to him the said Joshuah to be Injoyed at the age of Twenty & one yeares and to remaine to him & his heires for ever It I doe give & bequeath to my grandchild Han[n]jah Wetherell the daughter of my son Samuell Wetherell deceased Two Cowes & the bed whereon I doe ly with all the Furniture thereunto belonging, Item I do give & bequeath unto my two sons John Wetherell & Theophilus Wetherell all my wearing Clothes to be equally devided amongst [*interlined: between*] them, And as for my son Daniell Wetherell & my daughter Sarah hubbert they have had their portions all ready Item my mind is & I doe hereby give & bequeath To my daughter in law Isabell Wetherell the Widdow of my said son Samuell Wetherell deceased the use And Improvement th[a]t my said housing orchard upland

⁴⁷ *Vital Records of Scituate* [*supra* note 23], 1:406, 415; George C. Turner, "Records of the Second Church of Scituate, Now the First Unitarian Church of Norwell, Mass.," NEHGR 57 (1903): 82–86, at 82.

⁴⁸ Plymouth Co. Probates, #10,193; 6:111. *Witherell Family* [*supra* note 17], 109, and Threlfall [*supra* note 17], 313, state that she d. 1731, which may ultimately derive from the fact that her husband's will was proved on 24 May 1731.

⁴⁹ C. Edward Egan, Jr., "The Hobart Journal," NEHGR 121 (1967): 3–25, 102–27, 191–216, 269–94, at 122.

⁵⁰ *Vital Records of Scituate* [*supra* note 23], 1:414; "Records of the Second Church of Scituate" [*supra* note 47], 83.

⁵¹ *Vital Records of Scituate* [*supra* note 23], 2:467 ("our late pastor"); "Hobart Journal" [*supra* note 49], 214 (On 9 April 1684, "M^r william witherell Pastor to a Church in Situate Deceased").

& marsh land above mentioned given & bequeathed unto my said Grand child Samuell Witherell: untill such time as my said Grandchild samuell shall come to the age of twenty & one years And also I doe give & bequeath unto my said daughter Isabell the use & Improvement of of [*sic*] the two acres of marsh before mentioned given & bequeathed unto my said Grand child Joshua Witherell until such time as the s[ai]d Joshua shall come to the age of Twenty & one years. And also all the rest of my estate my debts & legasies be[*blot*] charges of my funerall defrayed, I give & bequeath to my said daughter in law Isabell Wetherell To & for the bringing up of the said Children. Item I doe constitute & appoint my said daughter in law Isabell wetherell the sole Executrix of this my last will & Testament. In witness where of I have hereunto set my hand & seale the day & year first above written.

Signed sealed	Whereas my daughter mary Oldam	The mark of \$
published by the afores[ai]d	is left out of this my will I do hereby	William Wetherell &a [<i>seal</i>]
William Wetherell	give & bequeath unto her the said mary	
in the sight & presence	Oldam fower pounds of that money	
of us	which the widdow stockbridge doth owe	
Thomas Kinge senr	me this I have done before signeing	
as witnes for Thomas Clapp	& sealing my said will	
John Cushing senr		

This will was proved at the Court held at plimouth
the 4th of June 1684 on the oath of Thomas Kinge & m^r John Cushen:⁵²

William¹ Wetherell had a daughter Hannah whose later history is unknown, but his will mentions the children who had already received their portions, including Mary Oldham whose bequest of £4 was essentially a token, since she would receive it only if she were able to obtain it from the widow Stockbridge. The will makes it unlikely that Daniel Wetherell had a sister who married James² Morgan.

This leaves us with the hypothesis that a wife of James Morgan was in some way a sister-in-law of Daniel² Wetherell, whose wife was Grace³ Brewster. We shall return to this after considering the second part of Wheeler's statement about Morgan's wife or wives: "Cap^t Morgan's Now wife aunt To Richard Christophers & Samuell fosdeck being own Sister To their wives Mothers." The marriages of Christophers and Fosdick appear in secondary sources:

Richard² Christophers, born Cherston–Ferrers, co. Devon, England, 13 July 1662, son of Christopher¹ and Mary (Berry) Christophers, married New London, 26 Jan. 1681,⁵³ Lucretia²

⁵² Plymouth Colony Probates, 4 pt. 2:132.

⁵³ Barbour Transcript of Connecticut Vital Records (Connecticut State Library, Hartford), citing New London VRI:16 (marriage).

Bradley, born New London, 16 Aug. 1661, daughter of Peter¹ and Elizabeth (Brewster) Bradley.⁵⁴

Samuel Fosdick, born Charlestown, Mass., 15 Dec. 1655, son of John and Ann (Shapley) (Branson) Fosdick,⁵⁵ married New London, 1 Nov. 1682, Mercy² Pickett, born New London, 16 Jan. 1660/[1], daughter of John¹ and Ruth (Brewster) Pickett.⁵⁶

As Wheeler pointed out, Christophers' and Fosdick's mothers-in-law were sisters: Elizabeth (Brewster) Bradley and Ruth (Brewster) Pickett were daughters of Jonathan² Brewster (*William*¹) and Lucretia (Oldham).⁵⁷ Thus, Captain James² Morgan's "Now wife" in 1690 must have been another daughter of this couple. Jonathan² and Lucretia (Oldham) Brewster had five daughters, all born in Plymouth or Duxbury, Massachusetts: Mary (born 16 April 1627), Ruth (born 3 October 1631), Elizabeth (born 1 May 1637), Grace (born 1 November 1639), and Hannah (born 3 November 1641).⁵⁸ Wheeler's statement excludes Ruth and Elizabeth as possible wives of James Morgan, since Wheeler identifies Morgan's wife as their sister. Mary Brewster married John Turner of Plymouth and Scituate and was still his wife when he wrote his will on 4 March 1695[6?], and Grace Brewster married Daniel Wetherell and died as his wife in New London on 22 April 1684.⁵⁹

This leaves only Hannah Brewster as James² Morgan's wife. A century ago in the first volume of *The Mayflower Descendant*, Lucy Hall Greenlaw provided full evidence that Hannah married Samuel Starr in New London on 23 December 1664, and not John Thompson of Brookhaven, Long Island.⁶⁰ Samuel Starr died before 2 February 1687/8, when Hannah executed a deed.⁶¹ According to Greenlaw, Hannah was still listed in full communion

⁵⁴ "The Brewster Book" [*supra* note 8], 72 ("Lucretia Bradley the Daftre of peter Bradle Borne at New London August the 16 . 1661"); *Mayflower Families in Progress: Brewster* [*supra* note 8], 20–21, 74–75.

⁵⁵ Roger D. Joslyn, ed., *Vital Records of Charlestown, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. in 3 (Boston, 1984–95), 1:59.

⁵⁶ Barbour Transcript [*supra* note 53], citing New London VR1:3 (birth), VR1:16 (marriage); *Mayflower Families in Progress: Brewster* [*supra* note 8], 17–18, 60–61.

⁵⁷ *Mayflower Families in Progress: Brewster* [*supra* note 8], 6–8.

⁵⁸ *Mayflower Families in Progress: Brewster* [*supra* note 8], 7.

⁵⁹ *Mayflower Families in Progress: Brewster* [*supra* note 8], 16–17, 22–23.

⁶⁰ Lucy Hall Greenlaw, "Hannah (Brewster) Starr," MD 1 (1899): 225–27; the original 1664 record reads: "Samuell Starr married Hannah the daughter of Jonaⁿ. Brewster 23th of Decemb^r" (New London Deeds, 4 [reverse]:326).

⁶¹ New London Deeds, 5:111 ("Hannah Starr widow late Wife to Samuell Starr of New London Deceased," transfers to Richard Rose Morgan of New London on 22 Feb. 1687/8, a grant of land, 4 acres more or less, that was made to her late husband on 22 June 1687). The grant itself should be checked to see whether it indicates that Samuel Starr was living in June 1687.

with the New London church on 25 November 1691; her later history has been unknown. (The New London church records include “Mrs. Starr” among the “Members in full communion” on 25 November 1691, but she is not called “widow” as are several other women in the list.⁶² If this refers to Hannah (Brewster) Starr, we have an instance of a recorder referring to a woman by the name by which she was commonly known even though she had remarried.)⁶³

The evidence presented in this article shows that she must have married James² Morgan before Wheeler’s statement of 8 May 1690 and that she died in Groton, Connecticut, in December 1711, aged, according to her gravestone, 71, an exaggeration of one year.

This brings us back to the first part of Wheeler’s statement about James² Morgan: “L¹ Witherells Sister married To Capt: James Morgan.” We have shown that Morgan could not have married a blood sister of Wetherell. Daniel² Wetherell’s wife was Grace³ Brewster, a sister of Hannah (Brewster) (Starr) Morgan. Thus it is clear that Wheeler was referring only to Morgan’s “Now wife” in his full statement and that by “L¹ Witherells sister,” he meant sister-in-law.

POSTSCRIPT

After the above was written, Norman W. Ingham, C.G., checked the gravestones for this family at the Morgan–Avery Cemetery, Groton, Connecticut, on 8–9 July 1999. He reports that “at about the brow of the hill are four very similar stones in a row, rounded at the top, with the same crude block letters.” They are, reading from left to right:

HERE LIES | y^e · BODY · OF | MR^S MARY MO | RGAN y^e WIFE OF | EN^S MORGAⁿ |
DESES^d 1689 [AGED?] [*remainder of inscription buried in ground*]

HERE LIES | y^e · BODY OF CAP | JAMES MORGAN | DIED DECEMB^R 8th | 1711 AGED
69 YE [*remainder chipped away*]

HERE LIES | y^e BODY OF MRS | HANNAH MORG | AN y^e WIFE OF CA | PT · JAMES
MORGAN | WHO DYED DECEM^R | 1711 AGED 71 YERS

⁶² New London Church Records [original], 1:5, Conn. State Library, Hartford.

⁶³ It may also be that she was so listed because that was the name under which she was admitted to full communion. Norman W. Ingham, C.G., points out to me that “Cap¹ James Morgan” was admitted on 14 March 1696/7, without mention of his wife, possibly an indication that she was already in full communion.

HERE LIES | y^e BODY OF SR. [sic] THOMAS STAR | WHO DIED JA | NVARY 30TH
1711 IN | 43^d YEAR OF AG[E].⁶⁴

Professor Ingham reports that “the inscriptions face west and are very well preserved. The four footstones remain, but they have no visible inscriptions on them.” He suggests from their similar style that they were erected and cut at the same time.

These stones provide good evidence of the importance of noting which burials are adjacent to each other. Thomas Starr was born in New London on 27 September 1668, son of Samuel and Hannah (Brewster) Starr.⁶⁵ The fact that he was buried next to Hannah, wife of Captain James Morgan, completes the evidence that Hannah (Brewster) Starr married secondly Captain James² Morgan of New London and Groton, Connecticut. Thomas Starr married probably in New London on 1 January 1694/5, his stepsister, Mary Morgan, daughter of James and Mary (Vine) Morgan.⁶⁶

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⁶⁴ Thursday, 31 Jan. 1711/2: “yesterday Thomas Starr Died” (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 15], 7).

⁶⁵ New London Deeds, 4 [reverse]:326.

⁶⁶ *Mayflower Families in Progress: Brewster* [*supra* note 8], 79, citing Barbour Index, Groton 142(1:106).