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BENJAMIN[1] ATWELL OF NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

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The venerable Miss Caulkins provided a brief sketch of the Atwells in her famous history of New London, first published in 1852.[1] A small genealogy by Charles B. Atwell, all of ten pages in length, was privately printed in 1896.[2] Most readily available in published form is the account of the Atwell family in the old history of Montville, but it mainly copies the 1896 booklet, including its errors.[3] The large "Parkhurst Manuscript" has a section on Atwell that is informative and partly documented.[4]

Benjamin Atwell arrived in New London by the 1660s and died there probably in 1683 (between October 1682 and November 1683; see below). Since he must have married by about 1666, he may have been born around 1640. It is possible that he had relatives in America, but his origin and his connections, if any, with other Atwells/Hatwells in New England remain undetermined.[5]

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[1] Frances Manwaring Caulkins, *History of New London, Connecticut, from the First Survey of the Coast in 1612, to 1860* (1860; repr. New London, 1895), 305. The 1860 edition is an expanded version of the original 1852 edition.

[2] Charles Beach Atwell, *The Genealogy of the Atwell Family, Formerly of New London, Conn.* (Evanston, Ill., 1896). The author acknowledged that he used secondary sources such as Caulkins, *History of New London* [*supra* note 1] and James Savage, *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, 4 vols. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1860–62), as well as family manuscripts; and in a letter of 28 June 1897 to Connecticut State Librarian Charles J. Hoadly (bound with the State Library's copy of the book) he said that Henry A. Baker (see next note) "incorporated my leaflet with my consent." Charles B. Atwell was a professor at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

[3] Henry A. Baker, *History of Montville, Connecticut, Formerly the North Parish of New London, from 1640 to 1896* (Hartford, 1896), 278–88.

[4] [Charles Dyer Parkhurst,] "Parkhurst Manuscript: Early Families of New London and Vicinity," 36 vols., 1:233–43 (photostatic copy 1938, at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, under call number F104N7.P37 1938; also widely available on microfilm). Parkhurst is not always accurate about details such as dates. Miscellaneous and anonymous manuscripts on Atwell at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford were also seen.

[5] A "Beniamin Hatwell" was an inhabitant of Scarborough and Falmouth Black (now in Maine) on 4 July 1663 (NEHGR 5 [1851]: 264), and a Benjamin Atwell—probably the same man—was killed by

He is not noticed in the New London vital records until 1670 (birth of his second son). Neither his marriage nor his first child's birth is recorded there. This is all the stranger in that the remaining seven children, called those of Benjamin Atwell and Mary his wife, were added in the hand of clerk Daniel Wetherell to preexisting annual lists and this must mean that Wetherell entered them retrospectively from information given him by the family.[6] Why did he not include the marriage and the birth of the first child, Benjamin Atwell, Jr., who after all was very much alive in New London in Wetherell's time? The omission could be accidental, or it might potentially reflect that these events did not take place in New London. It leaves open, too, the question whether this son was by the wife Mary. We will see that in 1671 Benjamin called her "Mary my now wife," but this was a conventional expression.

Mary was no doubt born in the 1640s, to a family so far unidentified. She died in New London on 29 January 1714/5,[7] having married second about 1684 Joseph**[1]** Ingham, Sr. (say 1630–1710), of Saybrook, Connecticut, but having separated from him in 1686. By Joseph she had a son John**[2]** Ingham—surely identical with the "Benony" born to Joseph and Mary Ingham in New London on 10 June 1686, his name later being changed to John. John Ingham left innumerable descendants.[8]

Indians at Casco (near Portland) on 11 Aug. 1676 (*History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 305). He was too young to be the father of Benjamin of New London, and any other relationship between them is unknown. There was a John Atwell in North Falmouth, Maine, a Joseph in Kittery, and perhaps others. (See Savage, *Genealogical Dictionary* [*supra* note 2], 1:77; Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700* [Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985], 25.) Nonetheless, *Atwell* was a relatively common generic name, and there can be no assurance that all families using it were related.

[6] The earliest New London vital records are bound reversed (i.e., upside down) at the back of vol. 4 of land records and originally had their own folio numbers, still visible on some of the sheets. I cite only the modern, stamped page numbers; it should be kept in mind that these are in reverse order. I used the original book in the town clerk's office, and sometimes the microfilm of it was consulted (FHL microfilm 5083); the latter is very difficult to read. A few of what appear to be contemporary vital records are preserved on land records 4:407–8, but most which follow on later pages were rearranged by year by some other clerk. Handwriting suggests this was done by Charles Hill, who was recorder from 1670 to 1684. Daniel Wetherell could have added the further entries during his tenures as town clerk in the period 1685–1700 and from 1707 to his death in 1719 (for the clerks, see *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 666–67). It should be noted that the New London vital records as they appear in the Barbour Collection at the Connecticut State Library and elsewhere on microfilm were compiled from a transcript made in the 1890s.

[7] *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), 42.

[8] "Benony" Ingham, son of Joseph and Mary Ingham, was born in New London on 10 June 1686 (New London Deeds, 4:303). See more details about the second marriage and child of Joseph Ingham in Norman W. Ingham, "Joseph**[1]** Ingham of Saybrook, Connecticut, Weaver," TAG 68 (1993): 129–38,

Just when did Benjamin[1] Atwell arrive in New London? His name appears on a list of proprietors in a patent issued by the Governor and Company of Connecticut on 14 October 1704, confirming to them and their heirs and successors collective ownership of the expanded territory of New London.[9] The grantors cited authority that they held under letters patent issued by King Charles II on 23 April 1663, and the little Atwell genealogy of 1896 and derivative compilations have misinterpreted this to mean that Atwell was given a grant in 1663.[10] The fact is that some men on the list were too young to receive land that early, and this is simply a listing of early proprietors of New London. By 1704 the share of Benjamin Atwell was, of course, in the hands of heirs and assigns.

Caulkins mentioned 1666 as the year that Atwell first appeared as an inhabitant of the town, but it is unclear what record she had in mind.[11] Benjamin was not on the New London list for the minister's rate (tax to support the ministry) for the year 1664; but he was on the next recorded list, dated 2 December 1667.[12] Hence 1667 is the earliest he is positively proved to have been a recognized inhabitant. With some probability we can push the time of his arrival back another three years. One or more suits brought by Edward Palmes against a Benjamin "Atwood" (residence not given) are mentioned in the New London County Court records for 30 April 1664 and 30 June 1664, the latter involving an appeal to be prosecuted by Palmes at court in Hartford in October 1664. The cases themselves were tried earlier than the County Court records begin.[13] There does not appear to have been a Benjamin Atwood in New England at that time. If the surname is an error for Atwell—as looks very possible—then this would be the earliest that Benjamin Atwell has yet been seen in New London County.

242–48, at 138 and 246–47; and in my forthcoming book on the Ingham family of Saybrook. John[2] Ingham's many known descendants are through his son Jonathan, on whom see also Norman W. Ingham, "Elizabeth[4] Chalker, Wife of Jonathan[3] Ingham of Saybrook and Farmington, Connecticut: A Fifth-Generation Mayflower Descendant," TAG 70 (1995): 49–53. Two more children of Jonathan and Elizabeth, named Elizabeth and Abraham, were subsequently identified.

[9] *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 259–62, at 260.

[10] *Genealogy of the Atwell Family* [*supra* note 2], 3.

[11] *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 146. If she was thinking of Samuel Chester's deed of Dec. 1666 (New London Deeds, 5:10) mentioned in a later conveyance to Atwell (ibid., 5:19), it does not prove Benjamin was an inhabitant at that time.

[12] New London Town Records, 1A:9, 25.

[13] New London Co. Court Records, Trials, 1661–1856, 35 vols., Connecticut State Archives, Hartford, 1:22, 37. Records of the Court of Assistants (where we would expect an appeal to be heard) barely begin by 1664, and no case involving Palmes and Atwood or Atwell as parties was found there, or in the records of the Particular Court or the General Court of Connecticut.

Together with Mary Condy, "Beniamin Atwell" witnessed a deed of 9 September 1668 by which Elizabeth Bradley, widow of Peter Bradley, conveyed to "my Brother in Law Danyell Wither[ell] all that parcell of Land his howseing now Standeth on."[14]

Benjamin's own first recorded deeds at New London date from 1668, by which time he already had a house and house lot in town; there seems to be no record of how he got them. The relationship of the existing deeds to one another is confusing due to apparent mistakes in dating. On 22 May [*sic*] 1668, John Packer of New London conveyed to Benjamin Attwell of the same, carpenter, a plot of land 67 feet in breadth along the "high way next the sea" until "you come fourty foot behind the now dwelling house of the aboues[ai]d Beniamin Atwell." The parcel bounded southwest on land of George Tongue; Atwell was required to maintain a sufficient fence between the plot and John Packer's house lot. The deed was witnessed by James Avery and Thomas Merritt and recorded on an unstated date by clerk William Douglas, but it was not notarized.[15]

The same "bill of sale" was recorded again on 29 March 1684 (after Benjamin Atwell's death), this time along with assignments endorsed on the original.[16] The new record of Packer's conveyance to Atwell gives the date as 22 "March" 1668 and omits the reference to a boundary with George Tongue's land (Tongue was likewise deceased by then) and states that the deed had been entered by William Douglas "in the 2^{d} booke of Records page 71" (apparently the same now numbered 3:138). There follows an assignment by Benjamin Attwell, carpenter, of the bill of sale and all his rights in the property, making them over to George Tongue on 30 [*sic*] April 166[8]. The date is inconsistent with that of the next item, and both are inconsistent with that of the deed from Packer if the latter ought to be 22 May.

On 13 April 1668, George Tongue added to the bill of sale a notation that he makes over all his right and title in the same "vnto my wife that now is & children." Since both assignments were witnessed by Samuel Rogers and Alexander Pygan, we may suspect that they were actually made on the same day. Remarkably, this was confirmed when the deed was recorded still a

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[14] New London Deeds, 5:3. The Mary Condy would appear to be Mary (Parker) Condy, wife of sea captain William Condy; if so, then she evidently cannot be the future wife of Benjamin Atwell (see *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 306, 353).

[15] New London Deeds, 3:138. Douglas must have recorded the bill of sale soon after it was executed, as he did not include the assignments written on it less than a month later. Sequence does not indicate the time of registration, since Douglas used a blank space among deeds of 1659.

[16] New London Deeds, 5:75 [or folio 74 verso]. In recording the deed on 29 March 1684, clerk Charles Hill noted of it: "Extracted out of the Originall Bill of Sale and the assignm[e]nt of Attwell to Tongue and the assignment of Tongue to his wife & children."

third time, with its two assignments, by clerk Edward Hallam on 16 April 1723. Hallam's copy of the original bill of sale very clearly gives the successive dates 22 May, 13 April, and 13 April, all in the year 1668.[17]

Evidently only Charles Hill copied the first month correctly, as March. If we assume that the original conveyance from Packer to Atwell should be dated 22 March 1668 (i.e., 1667/8) and that the two assignments were both made on 13 April 1668, then the sequence will be coherent and the latter date will coincide with that of other transactions to be mentioned below. (A carelessly written "March," with the letter *h* extending below the line, could be misread as "May"; and it would be possible to mistake "1 3 Of" for "30.")

On the suspicious date 13 April 1669 (clearly written), and again with the same two witnesses (Samuel Rogers and Alexander Pygan), George Tongue, innholder, with the "Consent of my now wife vpon security given her & accepted of by her," sold to Benjamin Atwell, carpenter, "my howse & howse lott that was Richard Pooles w[hi]ch was willed to him by mr Collins contayneing fowr Acres more or less w[hic]h is most of that Estate retourned to mee my wife & Children by Richard Poole in his Last will & Testament."[18] Probably the year ought to be 1668; the above assignment by Atwell to Tongue on the same date may well have been part of an exchange for Poole's house and lot.

Also on 13 April 1668, and recorded on the same record page as Tongue's conveyance to Atwell of Mr. Poole's house and lot, Samuel Chester of New London conveyed to Benjamin Atwell all his right and title in another piece of land that had come to the Tongues from Poole's estate. In a deed of 21 December 1666, likewise recorded here, George Tongue, with the consent of his now wife and upon security given and accepted by her, had sold to Samuel Chester, mariner, about seven acres of upland which was part of the estate "retourned to mee my wife and Children by old Poole in his Last will and Testament." The land had been purchased by old Poole from Richard Hartley, who bought it from George Chappell, to whom it was given by the town.[19]

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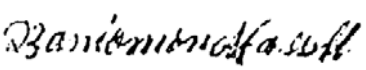
[17] New London Deeds, 8:147.

[18] New London Deeds, 5:10. In his will of 25 April 1662, Richard Poole left "vnto George Tong his now wife and Children my estate as it now appeares in the followinge perticulers proportionably." He listed first "my House and House Lott sixe Ackers more or less. The Lott I bought of Richard Hartley w[i]th my land left me by will by mr Collins." Poole made George and Margery Tonge executors. An inventory was taken by John Tinker, Obadiah Bruen, and John Smith on 26 April 1662. (New London Town Records, 1B:49–50.)

[19] New London Deeds, 5:10. In a deed of 26 Nov. 1669 from Samuell Chester to George Sharswood (but strangely shown in the record book to be signed only by Marcy Chester), Chester mentioned a bound of land "now in possession of Benjamin Attwell th[at he] bought of mee Originally George Tonges"

Evidently Atwell had two house lots and houses for a time. Then, on 17 November 1671, Benjamin "Atwill" of New London, carpenter, "with the consent of Mary my now wife," for good consideration deeded to John Stedman of Wethersfield, "cord-winder" [cordwainer], the house and lot which he said he bought of George Tongue and which was formerly Richard Poole's, willed to him by Mr. Collins, containing four acres more or less.[20] The deed was signed by both Benjamin Atawll [*sic* in record book] and Mary Atwill, she making her mark. John Stedman never moved to New London, but in October 1672 he wrote to his brother Thomas Stedman, who did live there, to help John's son arrange for renting out or selling the house the father had bought from Atwell.[21]

The strange spelling of Benjamin's surname on the deed to Stedman may be the way he habitually wrote it, as the genuine signature of "Baniemen Atawll" appears as that of a witness on a "bill" (promissory note) from Peter Kirtland to Samuel Raymond for £9 11*s*. 1*d*. and dated 28 May 1679:[22]



Perhaps hints of his wife Mary's independent character can be read in the marks she used over the years to sign deeds and probate records. Each was a different and inventive squiggle.

As we have seen, Atwell was a carpenter by occupation. He served as a constable of New London in 1675,[23] and apparently earlier, for on 6 January 1671/2 Gabriell Woodmansey was accused in court of selling liquor to Indians, the liquor having been taken from them by "Beniamine Attwell" and Charles Haynes.[24]

"Beniamin" Atwell was put on a list of "the proper Inhabitants of this Towne of N. London" at a town meeting of 11 April 1678.[25] On 26 December 1679, William Chappill of New London, for good consideration and with consent of his wife, conveyed to Benjamin Atwell of the same a parcel

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(5:[19?]). This deed with an apparent error of names was recorded by the same clerk Charles Hill who omitted data and seems to have carelessly miscopied a date in a key deed of 1668 [*supra* note 16].

[20] New London Deeds, 5:15.

[21] *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 342. Thomas Stedman and John Stedman, Jr., on behalf of John Stedman, Sr., of Wethersfield, cordwinder, on 6 Nov. 1672 sold the property to Thomas Wickham, cordwinder of Wethersfield, rehearsing the chain of title from Collins to Poole to Tongue to Atwell to Stedman (New London Deeds, 5:20). A recorder's note indicates a further transfer, to Tho: Dymond.

[22] New London Co. Court Records, Files, Record Group 3, file for 1692–1696 terms, in Connecticut State Archives.

[23] *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 305.

[24] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 3:39.

[25] New London Town Records, 1A:76, on microfilm L.H. 609/10 at Connecticut State Library.

by the Mill Brook, ten acres more or less, which he said that he bought of Robert Rogers and that had been given to Rogers by the town of New London.[26]

Benjamin was still living in August 1682, when his earmark was listed (as already in use): "a hole in each ear & a cropp on the off eare."[27] On 19 September 1682, he appeared at a county court held in New London to answer a complaint of Mr. Wetherell and others of the town for "contempt of authority for refuseing to desist working in the meetinghouse removing the old seates Cutting the Towns timber without their order," etc. On this occasion he was fined but allowed an appeal; Major Edward Palmes gave bond of £10 for Atwell's prosecution of the appeal.[28] The appeal was heard by a Court of Assistants at Hartford on 5 October 1682, and the court stated they "do not find that Said Atwell was disposed to any Contemptuous Carriage against Authority, but by Countenance of Som of the Townsmen of New London, did Continue in his worke after his Warrant Somtime." The court remitted his fine and admonished the people of New London to reach an agreement over seating in the meetinghouse, letting their old quarrels "be buryed in perpetual Oblivion and forgettfulness."[29]

Benjamin died sometime between this action of October 1682 and the admission of his estate to probate in November 1683, and probably closer to the latter date. On 20 November 1683, at a county court held at New London: "The Inuentory of the Estate of Benjamin Attwell deceased was Exhibited & the Court prooued & ordered to bee recorded and this Court grants power of Administration to Mary the Relict of the deceased Attwell and to make improoum[ent] [use] of the whole of her late husbands Estate for the bringing vp of the children vntill the Court shall see Cause to order otherwayes."[30] This was a somewhat unusual open-ended provision, though a few other New London widows were granted the same terms, including in a case on the same record page. Evidently Mary had a strong enough character to convince the court that by herself, without another administrator or

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[26] New London Deeds, 5:48 [or 47 verso]. William Chappell signed by mark; the book copy does not show that his wife signed. Witnesses to the deed were John Edgcumb and Adam Pickitt. It was acknowledged on 20 Jan. 1679/80 before Daniell Wetherell, Commissioner.

[27] New London Deeds, 4:404.

[28] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 4:31.

[29] Colonial New England records, 1643–1702, Court of Assistants, Hartford, p. 44, on microfilm L.H. 4419/20, Connecticut State Library.

[30] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 4:56. The later New London Probate file #125 covers the distribution of Benjamin Atwell's estate. Compare an abstract by Donald Lines Jacobus in TAG 9 (1932–33): 231.

an overseer for the eight minor children, she could bring up her family if she had the full use and benefit of Benjamin's property.

The widow Mary (—) Atwell remarried to Joseph[1] Ingham of Saybrook, Connecticut, about 1684, soon after they had both lost their spouses. She left Joseph permanently in 1686, stubbornly resisting all pressures to return to him in Saybrook. Probably the entreaties from her husband (an older man living miles away) and the court orders were ineffective because of the reality that Mary was responsible for property and minor children in New London.[31]

Joseph Ingham finally petitioned for divorce on 2 October 1695. The next day the court refused him the divorce but ordered that his wife and son be returned to him from New London.[32] Mary still did not go (or remain), but apparently Joseph did get custody of the son Benoni/John at that time and trained him as a weaver. In 1700 Joseph managed to deprive Mary of her right of dower in his estate so that he could distribute his property to his children in his lifetime.[33] John Ingham had a share, but a smaller one than the two surviving sons by Joseph's first marriage.[34] Joseph Ingham died in Saybrook on 28 December 1710.[35]

In New London, Mary Ingham kept at least one boarder. In the files of the New London County Court for the June 1699 term is found this account, labeled on the back, "Mary Inghams accout against Christo^{r}. Cocks":[36]

Christopher Cocks D^{tr}

	£	*s.*	*d.*
dew for diet & other thngs Which Ware accoumpted for ——	01	16	05
dew for 10 Weaks diet att: 5^{s}: p[er] Weak ———————	02	10	00
dew f 2 Weaks diet Moar ———————————	00	10	00
to 6 pound of tobacco: att 6^{d}: p[er] pound ———————	00	03	00
	04:	19:	00

[31] Presentments were made against Mary in the County Court in 1692 and 1695 (New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 7:88, 143), and the Court of Assistants in Hartford, acting as superior court, issued an order on 5 Oct. 1693 for her to return to her husband (Court of Assistants Records, 1687–1715, p. 20, original book in Record Group 1, Early General Records, vol. 52, Connecticut State Archives). All of this was to no apparent avail.

[32] Petition in Connecticut Archives, Crimes and Misdemeanors, First Series (1662–1789), 3:259. The court's decision is found in Court of Assistants Records, 1687–1715, p. 32, original book [*supra* note 31].

[33] Saybrook Deeds, 2:3. References to the first six volumes of Saybrook Deeds are to original books in the Connecticut State Archives; details and pagination sometimes differ in the ca. 1920 L'Hommedieu copy.

[34] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 2:280.

[35] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 2:548.

[36] New London Co. Court Records, Files [*supra* note 22], file for June 1699.

January y^e^ 18: 1698 Mary Ingham 2 07 00
appeared in Court ande [*sic*] oath to the Aboue Acompt 2 12 00
before me Daniell Wetherell Assistant

Another document is also marked "Mary Inghams accout against Christo^r^ Cocks":

Memarndum Rakened with M^rs^ hingam and due to her upon ballance one pound and nine shillings february 20 1695/6
Due from mr Christopher Cockes
[*Notation at bottom of slip:*] 2 – 12 – 00
1– 09
4: 01 – 00
[*On the back:*] Receved by me Mary ~~ingum~~ Inggum seuen and forty shillings upon the Acount of the in sid not

It is unlikely that Mary wrote this receipt herself, as she always used a mark in signing other documents.

The date of the first account must have been 18 January 1698[/9], for Cox was already deceased before December 1698, apparently not leaving a wife or family. Maybe he had continued Benjamin Atwell's carpentry business. An extant inventory of the estate of Christopher Cox of New London deceased, taken by John Hough and William Hough on 1 December 1698, includes mostly carpenter's tools, along with a few clothes.[37] The inventory was exhibited in court on 17 January 1698[/9] and recorded.

On 10 February 1698/9, Mary herself was sued:

Mary Truman Entring Complaint Against Goodwife Ingham for not paying her for Some Cloth which Shee s^d^ Mary Truman had woue for s^d^ Hingham: and being sumoned before me and the Acompts being Examined I found the afforesd Goodwife Hingham to be Indepted to Mary Truman for weauing Cloth the ballanc of Acompt to be sixteen shillings which the s^d^ Goodwife Hingham oblidged her selfe to pay one bushell of beanes forthwith at four shillings & one bushell Indian Corne at 2^s^ p bushell: and the Remainder being ten shillings to pay it at or before the Last Day of Aprill next or sooner if shee could: and what Damage s^d^ Goodwife Ingham had sustained by her the s^d^ Mary Truman not weauing her Cloth carefully or ffaithfully was Left to ffarther Consideration.[38]

It is ironic that Mary Ingham, whose estranged husband was a weaver, and who had a son and stepson who were weavers, had to hire someone else to weave cloth for her—and then was dissatisfied with the product.

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[37] New London Co. Court Records, Files [*supra* note 22], file for June 1699. The inventory was exhibited in court on 17 Jan. 1698[/9] and recorded.

[38] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 6:207.

Mary's management of her first husband's estate continued for nearly thirty years. Eventually, on 18 September 1707, her son Richard Atwell petitioned for a distribution of "the Legatarcys to the Esteat of my honored fathar Bengyman Attwell Late of newLondon Deceased."[39] As a result, on 30 September 1707, Mary "Hingham," relict of Benjamin Atwell late of New London deceased and administratrix on his estate, rendered an account. One item was, "By So much Rec[eive]d of Mr Christopher for worke done by my husband": £2 10*s*. She mentioned debts incurred in "bringing up the Children," of whom there were eight. The remainder was £108 18*s*. Distribution was ordered to the widow (her thirds), the eldest son (a double share), and the rest of the children, "being 7."

An agreement to make a division was signed by the heirs on 1 December 1711, the widow and children choosing Lt. Robert Lattimore and James Rogers, Jr., to make the division. Finally, "Mary Ingham Relict of Benjamin Atwell late of New London deceased," along with Benjamin Atwell, Thomas Atwell, John Atwell, Richard Atwell, Samuel Atwell, and Mary Comstock, "being all the surviving Children of the afors[ai]d Benjamin Atwell that are known of," agreed to the proposed division of the estate on 12 February 1711/2. Joseph Atwell had died by then; it may be that William had left town (possibly gone to sea?) and his fate was unknown. Thomas and John were to divide equally the lot near the millpond.[40] The "other Lott[,] in Towne[,]" was to be divided: two shares on the south side (the east end of which fronted on the street) to Benjamin, the remaining portions to Richard, Samuel, and Mary. Their mother was to have for her maintenance during her lifetime a piece the whole width of the house lot and running west far enough to take in eight rows of apple trees, Benjamin to maintain the house in good repair for her use during her life.

On the same day, 12 February 1711[/2], the heirs executed the following quitclaim deed for land in the North Parish (Montville):[41]

Where as our Brother Richard Atwell of New London in the Collony of Connecticut now stands seized of one hundred Acres of Land that was our brother Joseph Attwells Late of s^{d} New London Deceased which land Lyeth in sayd New London Westward of m^{r} Samuell Rogers of s^{d} New London his ffarme neare the Mohegans and was purchased by our s^{d} Brother Joseph f^{r}m said Samuell Rogers Butted and Bounded as by the Deed frome the s^{d}

[39] New London Dist. Probate, file #125.

[40] Presumably this was the ten-acre lot bought by their father from William Chappell in 1679 [*supra* note 26]. On 31 May 1712, John Atwell of Saybrook conveyed to [his brother] Thomas Atwell of New London all his right and title in the land of his "honored father Benjamin Atwell, Carpenter, late of New London, deceased" (New London Deeds, 6:305).

[41] New London Deeds, 6:340, not acknowledged until 30 June 1714.

Samuell Rogers to our said Brother Joseph vpon Record may appeare Now know that wee Benjamene Atwell Thomas Atwell Samuell Atwell and mary Cumstock all of [y^{e}] [*interlined*] s^{d} New London and John Atwell of Say brook in In [*sic*] said Collony for Diuers good Causes that vnto vs moued [*sic*] but Especially for that it was the minde and Intent of the s^{d} Joseph our Brother in his Life time that our sayd Brother Richard should haue the s^{d} Land vpon which Condition Consideration [*sic*] be it Knowne that we the s^{d} Benjamine Thomas Samuell and John Atwell and mary Cumstock Doe for vs our heires for euer quitt all our Claime vnto the premises vnto our Sayd brother Richard Atwell. . . .

Joshua Hempstead in his diary mentioned the death and funeral of "Goodee Ingrem alies Atwill," "Mary Ingrem," on 29 and 31 January 1714/5, respectively.[42] Hempstead had referred earlier to "Goodee Atwill," but that person was perhaps more likely one of Mary Ingham's daughters-in-law.[43]

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1 BENJAMIN[1] ATWELL was born say by 1640 and died in New London, New London County, Connecticut, probably in 1683 (between October 1682 and November 1683). Whether he had relatives in America is not determined. He married, probably about 1666 (assuming she was mother of the first child), MARY —, who was born no doubt in the 1640s. She died in New London on 29 January 1714/5. Mary married second about 1684 Joseph[1] Ingham, Sr. (say 1630–1710), of Saybrook, Connecticut, but separated from him in 1686. By Joseph she had a son, John[2] Ingham—surely identical with the "Benony" born to Joseph and Mary Ingham in New London on 10 June 1686, his name later being changed to John.[44]

Children of Benjamin[1] Atwell, at least the last seven with wife Mary (—) and b. New London:

2 i BENJAMIN[2] ATWELL, b. say 1668 (or somewhat earlier); m. MARY ROBERTS.
3 ii THOMAS ATWELL, b. 10 Aug. 1670;[45] m. (1) MARY LEWIS, (2) ANN MORGAN, (3) SARAH STRICKLAND.
4 iii MARY ATWELL, b. 19 Oct. 1672;[46] m. KINGSLAND COMSTOCK.
iv WILLIAM ATWELL, b. 17 April 1674,[47] liv. 1695/6 and 1707, deceased or disappeared by 1711/2. At Norwich, Conn., on 28 Feb. 1695[/6], William At-

[42] Diary of Joshua Hempstead [*supra* note 7], 42.
[43] Diary of Joshua Hempstead [*supra* note 7], 1, 2, 15, 16, 36.
[44] There is no evidence that Joseph Ingham moved to New London; probably his wife went there to be with her own family for the birth of the child. Benoni himself may have chosen the name John, in honor of his half-brother John Atwell rather than his half-brother John Ingham who died by 1689.
[45] New London Deeds, 4:322.
[46] New London Deeds, 4:320.
[47] New London Deeds, 4:318.

well, aged 22 years or thereabout, made a deposition in a court case involving Benjamin Palmer and Maj. James Fitch.[48] Apparently he was still around in Feb. 1707, when he was counted in the distribution ordered of his father's estate, but he had left town by 1711/2 when only six children were said to be all the surviving heirs who were "known of."

5 v JOHN ATWELL, b. 19 May 1675;[49] m. (1) MARGARET CROWFOOT, (2) DEBORAH (SHIPMAN) BUCKLEY.

vi JOSEPH ATWELL, b. 16 March 1677 [1676/7?],[50] d. bet. 1707 and 1711/2 unm.[51] In the late 1690s, Joseph's mark was recorded as "a hole in Each Eare & A hapeny vnder neere eare."[52] He was summoned on 25 July 1699 to answer a complaint that had he killed a horse belonging to John Steebens.[53] Perhaps it was in connection with this case that on 4 June 1700 constable George Stocking of Middletown was called into county court for failing to arrest Joseph Attwell upon suspicion of felony.[54]

In Sept. 1701, Samuel Rogers, Sr., won a court case against Joseph Atwell for debt; the original promissory note signed by "Josaph Atwill" and dated 28 Sept. 1698 ("Which was for land bought of the said Sam[l]: Rogers") is on file.[55] Caulkins states that Joseph and his brothers Richard and Samuel settled on "wild land" in the north of New London (now Montville) about 1710; but this date may be a few years late for Joseph.[56] On 30 Dec. 1703, it was recorded: "Richard Atwell hath taken vp his Brother Joseph Atwell his Marke. . . ."[57]

6 vii RICHARD ATWELL, b. 1 May 1679;[58] m. (1) ELIZABETH BAKER, (2) JOANNA (TUBBS) BODINGTON.

7 viii SAMUEL ATWELL, b. 23 April 1682;[59] m. (1) — BAKER, (2) RUTH COY.

2 BENJAMIN[2] ATWELL (*Benjamin*[1]) was born say 1668 (or a few years before) and died in New London (the part now Montville) in May or June 1725 (probably the night of 2–3 May; see discussion below).

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[48] New London Co. Court Records, Files [*supra* note 22], 1696.

[49] New London Deeds, 4:317.

[50] New London Deeds, 4:315.

[51] Arithmetic in the distribution of the father's estate, Sept. 1707 [*supra* note 39], confirms that eight children were still counted: the eldest son (to get a double portion of £16 2*s*. 8*d*.) and seven others (each £8 1*s*. 4*d*.). The children's shares add up to £72 12*s*., which together with the widow's thirds of £36 6*s*. makes £108 18*s*.—exactly the amount reported to be the total estate. Hence Joseph Atwell apparently was known or thought to be living in 1707, even though his brother had taken up his earmark in 1703.

[52] New London Deeds, 4:398.

[53] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 7:207.

[54] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 7:276.

[55] New London Co. Court Records, Files [*supra* note 22], file for Sept. term 1701.

[56] *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 305.

[57] New London Deeds, 4:396, the mark described as before.

[58] New London Deeds, 4:312. The day of the month is now illegible in the original and difficult to read on the microfilm; it is confirmed by the Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records, Connecticut State Library.

[59] New London Deeds, 4:307.

Benjamin's birth is unrecorded, and hence we cannot be absolutely certain that Mary was his mother. But his father's probate records show he was the eldest son; thus he must have been born not later than about 1668. He was old enough in 1687 to bring suit (successfully) against John Steebens for damages resulting from defendant's son having taken Atwell's horse and ridden it to death.[60] If born in 1668 or 1669 he would be only about 18 or 19 at the time of this court case.[61]

Benjamin married, say 1701, MARY ROBERTS, who died in New London on 23 March 1748/9,[62] daughter of William Roberts of Colchester, Connecticut. Mary Atwell, with the other Roberts heirs, quitclaimed land from her father's estate on 8 March 1731 [1730/1].[63] Benjamin Atwell is said to have settled in the North Parish (Montville) by 1705. He and his wife Mary owned the covenant of the New London church on 29 June 1712, the same day that Mary and three of their children were baptized.[64] Mary Atwell the wife of Benjamin "Atwel" was admitted to full communion in the church on 10 August 1718.[65]

At the County Court's session of June 1724, Benjamin Atwill of New London was granted license to keep a "House of publick Entertainment";[66] but he was deceased by 18 June 1725, when a special court gave "Mary Attwell of New=Lond^{o} Widdow" similar license for the year ensuing.[67] Joshua Hempstead recorded in his diary under 3 May 1725: "Benja Atwell, Samll Attwells wife died Last night."[68] Either Hempstead meant "at Benjamin Atwell's house" the sister-in-law died, or else both Benjamin and his sister-in-law died. It may have been something contagious, because on the next day, 4 May, Hempstead recorded: "Benjamin Attwell Junr died & old

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[60] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 6:163.

[61] An anonymous typescript page at the Connecticut Historical Society under "Atwell" states that Benjamin[2] Atwell deposed on 29 Sept. 1701 "aged about 26 years." The documentary source is not cited and has not come to light. It would be impossible for the eldest son of this family to be born about 1675; but if the age has been misread and should be 36, then it would place Benjamin's birth ca. 1665 and mean that he could have been over 21 when he himself brought a law suit in 1686.

[62] "The widow [not named] of Benja. Atwell Died" (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 516).

[63] Colchester Deeds, 3:176.

[64] New London First Church Records, 1:128, 3:114. The earliest church records, which begin in 1670, are in vol. 1; vol. 3 is a modern transcript. Both are available on FHL microfilm 5131. For items from vol. 1 that are illegible on the microfilm, the original book was examined in the Connecticut State Archives. The first records in it appear to be contemporary, but the list of baptisms by Rev. Eliphalet Adams beginning on p. 122 looks like a later copy.

[65] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:12; also *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 79 (without her first name).

[66] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 14:105.

[67] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 14:300.

[68] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 157.

Roberts died last night (Said to be 99 year old) at Ben Attwells house." In the context, Benjamin, Jr., would seem to be the son and "old Roberts" possibly the latter's great-grandfather.

At the October 1725 probate court, administration was allowed to Mary Atwell on the estate of Benjamin Atwell late of New London deceased. Mary posted bond of £1500 on 8 October 1725, with Samuel Atwell of New London and William Roberts of Colchester as sureties (Mary and William signed their names; Samuel made his mark, *SA*). The inventory, amounting to £734 3*s*. 8*d*., included "the farm in the North parish w[i]th the house barn buildings fences ourchard, the land Estimat[ed] one hundred acres" (£380) and the "Lott house ourchard & fences in the town of New London," about nine acres (£1[56?]).[69] Mary continued the business; she was chosen as a tavernkeeper in January 1726/7,[70] and she sued people for debt in 1728.[71] Mary Attwill of New London was a licensed tavernkeeper in 1728 and later years.[72]

A pastor of the Montville church made a long list of members when he came there in 1739; the last entry was: "*Wid^{o} Mary Atwell, Relict of Benjamin, of the Chh in Town, had [*illegible word*] Com^{n}. [Communion] till Distracted." The asterisk seems to mean "deceased."[73]

Children of Benjamin**[2]** and Mary (Roberts) Atwell, all b. New London:[74]

i MARY**[3]** ATWELL, b. 11 Oct. 1703, bp. New London 29 June 1712 with Benjamin and Joseph,[75] d. Montville 9 May 1762;[76] m. New London 2 April 1723 JASON ALLEN of New London,[77] son of Samuel and Lydia (Hastings) Allen. Jason m. (2) Montville 22 May 1766 widow Johanna (—) Hill.[78]

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[69] New London Dist. Probate, file #126.

[70] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 179.

[71] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 16:161.

[72] For 1728, New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 16: 464.

[73] Montville Church Records, on FHL microfilm 4863, vol. 3, page not numbered.

[74] New London Deeds, 4:278, recorded as children of Benjamin Atwell and Mary his wife.

[75] Recorded as children of Benjamin & Mary (New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:128, 3:114).

[76] Connecticut Church Records (Connecticut State Library), 73:5, citing Montville Church Records [*supra* note 73], 3:5.

[77] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:166. The inventory of Benjamin Atwell's estate in 1725 [*supra* note 69] mentioned property in the hands of "Jason allin." On 15 March 1739/40, Joseph Atwell, son of Benjamin Atwell late of New London, deceased, for brotherly love, etc., made a deed to Jason Allen and Mary his wife, "only Daughter of my Father afores[ai]d dec[ease]d" (New London Deeds, 12:347).

[78] Connecticut Church Records [*supra* note 76], 73:5, citing Montville Church Records [*supra* note 73], 3:5, give, in addition to Mary's death date, her husband's parentage and the facts of his second marriage.

ii BENJAMIN ATWELL (Jr.), b. 24 July 1707, bp. 29 June 1712, d. New London the night of 3–4 May 1725.[79]

iii JOSEPH ATWELL, b. 26 June 1710, bp. 29 June 1712, d. New London 1750 (probate); m. there (Montville) 27 March 1734 MARTHA COMSTOCK of New London,[80] b. ca. 1715, dau. of Samuel[3] (*Daniel*[2], *William*[1]) and Martha (Jones?) Comstock.[81] Martha m. (2) George Minard/Maynard, Jr. She was still living in 1806, when her son Benjamin Atwell 2d mentioned "my Mother's thirds" in his will (see below). In 1750 the widow Martha Atwell was administratrix on the estate of Joseph Atwell of New London; she made bond with Nathaniel Comstock as surety. On 29 Nov. 1750, she was still called widow Martha Atwell, but on 19 Jan. 1750/1 she receipted as Mrs. Martha Minard, wife of George Minard, Jr. Distribution was made on 26 April 1751, naming the children as follows.[82]

Children of Joseph[3] and Martha (Comstock) Atwell:

1 *Benjamin*[4] *Atwell* (2d), b. ca. 1735 (eldest son), d. Montville, Conn., 12 May 1806;[83] m. Mary Ann Lee, dau. of Benjamin Lee of Lyme.[84] Issue. Benjamin Atwell, Jr., and wife Mary Ann were admitted to the church sometime after 1739.[85] He was called "2d" and "Jr." probably because his older cousin of the name (son of Richard[2]) lived in Montville. In his will of 11 May 1806, Benjamin Atwell 2d of Montville named his wife Mary Ann Atwell, daughter Lucinda Latimer, son George Atwell, son Joseph Atwell (to get lands after his grandmother's and his mother's claims "are extinguished"), daughter Hannah Tenant, grandson George Benjamin Atwell, and grandson James Atwell.[86]

2 *Delight Atwell*, b. say 1737 (eldest dau.).

3 *Joseph Atwell*, b. ca. 1740 (2nd son), d. ca. 1800; m. his second cousin Lucretia[4] Atwell (*Samuel*[3], *Samuel*[2], *Benjamin*[1]).[87]

4 *Lydia Atwell* (2nd dau.).

5 *Molley Atwell* (youngest dau.).

3 THOMAS[2] ATWELL (*Benjamin*[1]) was born in New London on 10 August 1670 and died there on 9 October 1756.[88] He married first at New London

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[79] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 157.

[80] Montville Church Records [*supra* note 73], 1:38.

[81] *Genealogy of the Atwell Family* [*supra* note 2], 4; John Adams Comstock, *A History and Genealogy of the Comstock Family in America* (Los Angeles: Commonwealth Press, 1949), 7.

[82] New London Dist. Probate, file #129.

[83] *Genealogy of the Atwell Family* [*supra* note 2], 5.

[84] *Genealogy of the Atwell Family* [*supra* note 2], 5.

[85] Montville Church Records [*supra* note 73], 3:28.

[86] New London Dist. Probate, file #127.

[87] *Genealogy of the Atwell Family* [*supra* note 2], 5, incorrectly identifying her father Samuel[3] as the son of Richard[2]. Lucretia Atwell, widow of Joseph, lived to be nearly 102 years old (*History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 305).

[88] "[O]ld Thomas Attwell Died aged about 88"; funeral on 11 Oct. (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 675). The age is exaggerated by two years.

on 24 July 1704 MARY[3] LEWIS,[89] born in New London on 12 April 1679, died no later than 1714, daughter of John[2] (*John*[1]) and Elizabeth (Huntley) Lewis.[90] He married second on 7 September 1714 ANN[3] MORGAN, born in New London on 10 November 1678 and died there (probably 2 or 3) June 1715, daughter of Joseph[2] (*James*[1]) and Dorothy (Parke) Morgan.[91]

Thomas Atwell married third at New London on 20 October 1729 SARAH STRICKLAND of the same place.[92] She is assumed by some researchers to be the daughter of Peter Strickland of New London, but proof has not been seen. If this identification is correct, she would be at least 35 at first marriage.[93] By Sarah, Thomas finally had a son, born when he was 60 years old.

For a youthful indiscretion—"night walking" [prowling] Sabbath night 17 September 1693—John Chapel, Israel Richards, John Crocker, and Thomas Atwell were sentenced to sit two hours in the stocks and be fined 10*s*. each. They were accused of pulling up bridges and fences, cutting the manes and tails of horses, and setting up logs against people's doors.[94]

Thomas acquired his father's lot at the millpond.[95] On 29 May 1743, he offered a profession of faith, confessed, and was baptized.[96]

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[89] New London Deeds, 4:286, misstating the bride's name as "Sarah." Some compilations have called Thomas Atwell's first wife Sarah Lewis as a result. But her father John Lewis's probate records (New London Dist. Probate, file #3267) show distribution made on 12 April 1718 to "the Heirs of Mary Attwell Deceased"; and Thomas Attwel (signing by mark) receipted to the estate on that day. The same documents prove that Mary's sister Sarah Lewis married John Chapel.

[90] Mary's birth is in New London Deeds, 4:313. For her parents and descent, see the sketch in *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 295–96.

[91] Nathaniel H. Morgan, *Morgan Genealogy: A History of James Morgan, of New London, Conn., and His Descendants; from 1607 to 1869* (Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1869), 26–27. Ann Morgan's birth is recorded in New London Deeds, 4:314, under 1678 (not 1679, as sometimes reported); the month and day are illegible on the microfilm but are confirmed by the Barbour Collection [*supra* note 58]. Her death is mentioned by Joshua Hempstead in the first days of June 1715 (damaged page): "Tho Atwills wife died"; then on 4 June: "Attwills wife buried" (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 46).

[92] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:168.

[93] Dean Crawford Smith, *The Ancestry of Emily Jane Angell 1834–1910*, ed. Melinde Lutz Sanborn (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Soc., 1992), 508, expressly assumes without proof that Thomas Atwell married Sarah[2] Strickland, daughter of Peter[1] and Elizabeth (Comstock) Strickland of New London and granddaughter of Daniel[2] (*William*[1]) and Paltiah (Elderkin) Comstock. "Parkhurst Manuscript" [*supra* note 4], 1:233, agrees about Sarah's parentage and says she was baptized on 15 Oct. 1693 (no church record has been found). But Parkhurst also provides no proof of the identification. Hempstead, under 28 Sept. 1729, says simply: "Thos Atwell & Sarah Strickland published" (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 213). That he does not mention her marital status may, but need not indicate she was indeed a single woman rather than a widow.

[94] *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 253. John Edgecombe and Jonathan Hall were also suspected. The order for appearance in court of the six young men is in New London Co. Court Records, Files [*supra* note 22], 1693.

[95] New London Deeds, 6:305; see also preceding comments [s*upra* note 40].

[96] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:34.

Thomas Atwell of New London executed his will on 10 September 1745, signing by mark. It was witnessed by Samuel Green, 2nd, Abigail Green, and Mary Green, Jr. Thomas bequeathed to his well-beloved wife Sarah Atwell a decent maintenance as long as she continued his widow, or if she remarried, then her thirds for her natural life. He gave to "my only son Thomas Atwell all my Real Estate, namely all my Lands, my House where I now Live my orchard, Plough-Lands pasture Lands, and all others in New-London or that shall accrue"; to Thomas also all remaining real and personal estate after his mother's death. If he did not survive to age 21, then all estate was to be divided by the two daughters, Mary the wife of Jeremiah Richards and Elisabeth the wife of William Chapel (both expressly so called). The two daughters were also each bequeathed £25 (Old Tenor) and one silver spoon.[97]

Children of Thomas[2] and Mary (Lewis) Atwell:[98]

i MARY[3] ATWELL, living 1745; m. New London 27 May 1725 JEREMIAH RICHARDS, both of New London.[99]

ii ELIZABETH ATWELL, living 1745; m. New London 23 June 1726 WILLIAM CHAPEL.[100]

Child of Thomas and Sarah (Strickland) Atwell:

iii THOMAS ATWELL (Jr.), b. New London 21 June 1731,[101] bp. 29 May 1743, the same day as his father;[102] m. New London 16 May 1754 RHODA CHANDLER.[103]

4 MARY[2] ATWELL (*Benjamin*[1]), sole daughter of Benjamin and Mary (—) Atwell, was born in New London on 19 October 1672 and died there on 26 September 1755.[104] She married, no doubt in the 1690s, KINGSLAND[3] COMSTOCK, who was baptized in New London on 2 November 1673, son of

[97] New London Dist. Probate, file #134 (1756).

[98] *Ancestry of Emily Jane Angell* [*supra* note 93], 508, omits Thomas Atwell's first two marriages and mistakenly gives all three of his known children to the wife Sarah Strickland.

[99] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:166.

[100] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:167. *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 169, mentions their intentions on 8 May 1726.

[101] New London Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1710–1786, town clerk's office, 7.

[102] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:34; also *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 410.

[103] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 629: "toward night I rid up to Thomas Attwells & Married Thomas Attwell Junr and Rhoda Chandler."

[104] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 656.

Daniel[2] (*William*[1]) and Paltiah (Elderkin) Comstock.[105] Kingsland died before 17 April 1721, when his wife was called "widow" in a deed.[106] On 23 January 1734/5, Joshua Hempstead mentioned serving on a committee to measure out some land for the heirs of Kingsland Comstock deceased.[107]

Hempstead says in his diary of 26 September 1755: "the widow Mary Comstock aged about 83 Died. Widow of Kingsland Comstock who Died with the fall from a horse above 50 years ago." (Fifty years is evidently an exaggeration.) Then, under 27 September, Hempstead notes: "the Widow Comstock buryed. She Died very Sundenly [*sic*] yesterd[ay] morning. went to bed as well as Comon & in the morning they found her a dying & before they could get any neighbours in She Expired."[108] The inventory of her estate was made on 4 November 1755 and sworn to by Benjamin Comstock, executor.[109]

Children of Kingsland and Mary[2] (Atwell) Comstock, order uncertain:[110]

i KINGSLAND COMSTOCK, bp. New London 3 May 1719,[111] deceased by time of his mother's probate; m. New London 18 Sept. 1717 RACHEL CROCKER.[112]

ii MARY COMSTOCK, bp. New London 3 May 1719;[113] m. there 25 May 1721 PHILIP WANT.[114]

iii ANN COMSTOCK, living 1753; m. 15 Aug. 1722 PETER CHAPMAN.[115] Joshua Hempstead mentions Ann Chapman, widow of Peter Chapman and daughter of Kingsland Comstock, deceased, in Jan. 1753.[116]

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[105] *History and Genealogy of the Comstock Family* [*supra* note 81], 7; *History of Montville* [*supra* note 3], 104. See also *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 305–6.

[106] New London Deeds, 8:62. Mary was conveying to [her brother] Benjamin Atwell rights to part of his late father's home lot. Possibly her husband was deceased before 3 May 1719, when their son "Kinsley Comstock" was not called "Jr." in his baptismal record (New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:135), or in *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 88.

[107] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 284.

[108] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 656.

[109] New London Dist. Probate, file #1432.

[110] *History and Genealogy of the Comstock Family* [*supra* note 81], 7; *History of Montville* [*supra* note 3], 104. The surviving children of Kingsland Comstock, including the daughters and sons-in-law (Mary Want and Philip Want, Ann Chapman and Peter Chapman) are named in a quitclaim deed of 1 Sept. 1722 (New London Deeds, 8:120).

[111] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:135; also *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 88 (with misprint "Ringsland").

[112] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:164, 3:182.

[113] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:135; also *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 88 (with misprint "Ringsland").

[114] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:165, 3:187.

[115] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:165, 3:188.

[116] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 601.

iv DANIEL COMSTOCK, d. New London 4 Oct. 1753 "aged 50 odd";[117] m. New London 7 July 1736 MARY CHEAPEL.[118] The house belonging to his heirs burned down in 1754, and one William Preston perished in the fire.[119]

v BENJAMIN COMSTOCK.

vi JOSEPH COMSTOCK, bp. 17 Feb. 1723, d. 25 March 1725.[120]

5 JOHN[2] ATWELL (*Benjamin*[1]) was born in New London on 19 May 1675 and probably died in Saybrook (modern Westbrook), Connecticut, in the 1740s (by April 1748).[121] He married first at Saybrook on 7 April 1708 MARGARET[3] CROWFOOT,[122] who was born in Wethersfield, Connecticut, on 8 March 1689[/90][123] and died in Saybrook on 27 January 1715/6,[124] daughter of Joseph[2] (*Joseph*[1]) and Margaret (—) Crowfoot. He married second, probably in the early 1720s, DEBORAH[3] (SHIPMAN) BUCKLEY, born about 1694,[125] daughter of Edward[2] Shipman (*Edward*[1]) and widow of John Buckley of Saybrook. Deborah had children by her first husband, John Buckley, the last born on 23 February 1718/9.[126] Deborah, the wife of John Atwell, was baptized and admitted to communion in the Third Church of Saybrook (which became the First Church of Westbrook) in 1727.[127]

John Atwell's cattle mark was registered at Saybrook on 24 March 1706/7.[128] As early as 15 January 1699/1700, he bought land in that town by

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[117] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 616. The Comstock genealogy places Daniel as the sixth and youngest child, but he is named between Kingsland and Joseph among the sons in the quitclaim deed above [*supra* note 110].

[118] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 305 ("I maried Danll Comstock & Mary Cheapel at my house").

[119] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 640.

[120] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 155 ("Jo. Comstock Died").

[121] He made a deed 12 Dec. 1739 quitclaiming all title to commons in Pataconk (now Chester) in the right of [his father-in-law] Edward Shipman, deceased (Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 5:590). But on 19 April 1748 [his daughter] Deborah Atwell, Jr., quitclaimed to "my mother Deborah Atwell of said Saybrook" all right she might have in a one-acre plot at Stoney Brook (ibid., 6:439); and Deborah Atwell [Sr.] then sold the same, with mansion house standing on it, to Ephraim Bate for £70 on 21 April 1748 (ibid., 6:451).

[122] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 2:83.

[123] "Daughter of Joseph Crowfoott and of Margarett his wife" (Wethersfield Vital Records, 1:4, FHL microfilm 1315118). Her birth and descent are in Homer W. Brainard, "Crowfoot and Hilliard Families," TAG 16 (1939-40): 145-57, at 150-52.

[124] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 2:83.

[125] Deborah was aged 18 in Feb. 1712/3, according to an inventory in her father's estate (New London Dist. Probate, file #4804).

[126] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 2:187; also Jean Rumsey, *First Congregational Church of Westbrook, Connecticut: Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, Memberships, 1725–1899* (n.p., 1979), 7, citing Westbrook First Church Records, 1:36.

[127] *First Congregational Church of Westbrook* [*supra* note 126], 2, citing Westbrook First Church Records, 1:5, 36.

[128] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 1:252.

an indenture with Tom Indian, who, for "many kindnesses Received and Charges expended upon me in my late sickness" and for £7 16*s*. 4*d*., conveyed a tract of land lying eastward of Five Mile River [Pochauge River] and a little south of the wading place, bounded in part on land of Thomas Spencer, land which had been laid out to Tom Indian in consideration of ten acres given him by his master Captain Robert Chapman late deceased, by Lieutenant John Clarke, and by Mr. Abraham Chalker, all of Saybrook.[129] This deed was not received for registering until 10 January 1714[/5?], and the land seems to be the same in the West Parish, or part of the same, which Atwell exchanged with his half-brother John Ingham on 20 January 1714/5, nine days before their mother's death.[130] It was near the headwaters of the river. Atwell also had received land there by grant from the proprietors of the Oyster River Quarter.[131]

Lieutenant Abraham Chalker of Saybrook won a suit for slander and defamation against Margaret Atwell, wife of John Atwell, execution being given on 21 July 1715.[132] In August 1738, John was baptized as an adult and owned the covenant.[133]

Children of John[2] and Margaret (Crowfoot) Atwell, b. Saybrook:[134]

i JOHN[3] ATWELL, b. 15 Dec. 1708, bp. Wethersfield 22 May 1709.[135]

ii JOSEPH ATWELL, b. 21 March 1710/1, bp. Wethersfield 21 Oct. 1711;[136] m. Saybrook 9 Jan. 1731/2 ANNA(H) HULBURD.[137] Under an entry for the town's poor, we find that by a vote of Jan. 1734 Saybrook agreed to advance money to Joseph Atwell, his wife and children, for their support.[138]

Children of Joseph[3] and Annah (Hulburd) Atwell, b. Saybrook:[139]

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[129] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 2:432. On this same page is recorded a deed to John Atwell from Thomas Spencer of Saybrook for 4¼ acres on 16 Jan. 1712/3.

[130] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 2:281.

[131] A grant of 21 Dec. 1712 to Jared Spencer refers to a highway that lies "easterly of a swamp that was giuen to John attwells by the proprietors of oysteriuer quar[t]er the highway before mentioned Runs from pochaug [Westbrook village] To william bushnells grist Mill" (Saybrook Proprietors Records, Oyster River Quarter, 2 parts, 1666–1836, 1:89, original in Connecticut State Archives, under call number 974.62fSa9po). Bushnell's gristmill was on a millpond at the head of the Pochauge River.

[132] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 8:317.

[133] Westbrook First Church Records, originals seen at the church, 1:6, 42.

[134] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 2:83.

[135] *History of Ancient Wethersfield* [*supra* note 123], 2:38. The son John's baptism (stating that the mother was Gen. Crowfoot's daughter) is found in Church Records Index, Connecticut State Library, citing Wethersfield First Cong. Church Records, SM:36 and RW:25.

[136] *History of Ancient Wethersfield* [*supra* note 123], 2:38.

[137] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 2:313.

[138] Saybrook Town Acts, Connecticut State Archives, 2:23.

[139] Saybrook Deeds [*supra* note 33], 2:313.

1 *Hezekiah*[4] *Atwell*, b. 25 July 1735. In Dec. 1746, Hezekiah Atwell was one of the town's poor of Saybrook, being taken care of by John Clark.[140]

2 *Anna Atwell*, b. 15 Feb. 1735/6 [*sic*], prob. d. Saybrook 27 Nov. 1790 aged "above 50."[141] Annah Atwell was among the town poor in 1785.[142]

3 *Mary Atwell*, b. 14 Aug. 1740.

4 *Naomi Atwell*, b. 14 June 1743.

iii MARGARET ATWELL, b. 8 Sept. 1714; m. Saybrook, West Parish, 14 Aug. 1735 JOHN WADE (Jr.),[143] bp. New London 28 May 1710,[144] son of John and Mercy (Pember) Wade. Issue.[145]

Children of John[2] and Deborah (Shipman) (Buckley) Atwell, bp. Saybrook, West Parish:

iv DEBORAH ATWELL, bp. 1727,[146] living 1748.

v MARY ATWELL, b. 17 Oct. 1728.[147]

vi PRUDENCE ATWELL, bp. 25 Feb. 1732/3.[148]

6 RICHARD[2] ATWELL (*Benjamin*[1]) was born in New London on 1 May 1679[149] and died there on 12 November 1727.[150] He married first at New London on 11 March 1702/3 ELIZABETH[3] BAKER,[151] born there on 4 May 1676[152] and died the night of 10–11 November 1714,[153] a daughter of Joshua[2] (*Alexander*[1]) and Hannah (Tongue) (Minter) Baker.[154] Richard mar-

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[140] Saybrook Town Acts [*supra* note 138], 2:29.

[141] "Hannah," in *First Congregational Church of Westbrook* [*supra* note 126], 21, citing Westbrook First Church Records, 1:120.

[142] Saybrook Town Acts [*supra* note 138], 2:110.

[143] Westbrook First Church Records, 1:23.

[144] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:124, 3:108.

[145] See Celeste Pember Hazen, *The History of the Pember Family in America* (n.p., 1939), 14–16.

[146] Parents John & Deborah (Westbrook First Church Records, 1:36).

[147] Parents John & Deborah (Westbrook First Church Records, 3:219).

[148] Parents Jno. & Deborah (*First Congregational Church of Westbrook* [*supra* note 126], 2, citing Westbrook First Church Records, 1:38).

[149] Thus in the Barbour Collection [*supra* note 58] and in "Parkhurst Manuscript" [*supra* note 4]; the day of the month is now illegible in the original record (New London Deeds, 4:312).

[150] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 191 ("Richd Atwell a man about 47 died Sick 10 days"). New London Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1710–1786 [*supra* note 101], 7, gives the date as [*illegible*] Oct. 1727, and the Barbour Collection [*supra* note 58] copies the day as 15 Oct. But Richard cannot have died in Oct., as he signed his will on 8 Nov. Hempstead's contemporary notation must be correct.

[151] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:161; also New London Deeds, 4:287 (added by Daniel Wetherell, giving the year as 1703).

[152] New London Deeds, 4:316.

[153] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 39, under 11 Nov. 1714 ("Richd Atwills wife buried died last night").

[154] *History of Montville* [*supra* note 3], 154. For Joshua[2] Baker of New London, son of Alexander[1] of Boston, Mass., see *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 362–63; also Robert Charles Anderson, George F.

ried second, about 1715, JOANNA[3] (TUBBS) BODINGTON or BUDINGTON, born in New London say 1682, and died there on 25 December 1739,[155] daughter of Samuel[2] (*William*[1]) and Mary (Willey) Tubbs and relict of the Walter Bod(d)ington who died on 20 November 1713.[156]

At the June 1702 term of the New London County Court, a complaint was heard from Mary Tubbs of New London, dated 12 May 1702, that her daughter Johana was with child by carnal knowledge of John Fox of New London. At the end of the month, on 30 May 1702, several midwives who had been called in on the case testified that the baby was stillborn due to some injury in the womb and not to natural causes. When questioned about the death of her child, Johanna gave the excuse that she had been frightened by mice.[157]

She must have married Walter Bodington, Jr., about 1703.[158] In 1716 Richard Atwell was administrator of the estate of Walter Boddington, Jr., of Groton. Walter left sons Walter, aged eight in 1713/4, Edward, five, Eliphalet, two, and Oziah, about one year old.[159]

Some compilations erroneously give Richard Atwell a son Richard baptized in April 1702. This is a misunderstanding of the church record that shows Richard himself owning the covenant and being baptized in that month.[160] He and his [first] wife owned the covenant on 14 July 1706 and had their child Benjamin baptized the same day.[161]

Around 1710 Richard settled in the North Parish of New London, afterward called Montville, near Oxoboro Pond (now Oxoboro Lake). At a court in New London on 25 November 1712, John Rogers, Jr., of New London, son of John Rogers, brought an action against Richard Atwell, "Joyner," of New London, for trespass in that defendant on or about 17 September had

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Sanborn Jr., and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635*, Volume I, A–B (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Soc., 1999), 130–32.

[155] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 359 ("Last Wednesday the 26 Ms Joana Blyth alias Attwell alias Boddington alias Tubbs was buried Died the day before was Sick about a fortnight p[er]haps the plurisee").

[156] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 30. The Bod(d)ington/Bud(d)ington and Tubbs ancestries are treated in Richard Walter Nielson, *The Budington-Buddington Family* (Westport, Conn.: Nielson Publishing Co., 1989), 35–37.

[157] New London Co. Court Records, Files [*supra* note 22], file for June Term 1702.

[158] Their first child, Walter, was born on 12 Aug. 1704 (Groton Vital Records, 1:42, FHL microfilm 1306248, item 6).

[159] Inventory in Walter's file (New London Dist. Probate, file #536). Cf. *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 324. On 10 Aug. 1715, Richard Attwell, "Admins[trato]r In Right of his Wife Joanna Relict of Walter Boddington Junr. late . . . deceased," petitioned a probate court at New London for license to sell land (Connecticut Archives, Private Controversies, First Series, 6:487, at Connecticut State Library).

[160] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:112.

[161] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:119.

illegally impounded 26 of plaintiff's neat cattle. Atwell answered that he had a right as he was leasing the land, it being the southern half of land lately taken in execution for a fine of John Rogers, Sr. The jury found for Rogers but granted Atwell an appeal to the Superior Court.[162]

A joiner is a carpenter, or more especially a cabinetmaker, and thus Richard followed his father's trade. Joshua Hempstead, who possessed this same skill among many others, mentioned in September 1714 that Atwell helped him make a coffin for Richard Brewster.[163]

Richard Atwill of New London was brought in by warrant to the court session of November 1723 to answer a complaint of John Richards that Atwill that same month had stolen two sheep and altered the mark on them. He pled not guilty but was found guilty by the jury and sentenced to treble damages of 42*s*. and a 20*s*. fine or to be whipped five stripes on the naked body and pay costs of £2 3*s*. 5*d*. He appealed but was found guilty again by another jury in June 1724. On the same occasions, he lost a similar case to Richard Burch of New London.[164]

The will of Richard Atwell of New London, he being "sick and weak," was made on 8 November 1725. He left to his "loving Wife Joanna Atwell" all his personal estate forever and all his real estate during her widowhood, then after her decease or marriage the whole real estate to go equally to his sons Richard, William, John, and Benjamin, and his two daughters Joanna and Patience, but first reserving two legacies to his eldest [surviving] daughter Joanna: £6 to be paid in six years and £10 when she turned 18 or married. His wife Joanna was to be executrix, and each of the four sons an executor when he turned 21. The will was witnessed by David Richards, Timothy Green, and Walter Budington. They swore to the will in probate court on 12 December 1727.[165]

Joanna Atwell, relict of Richard, did not continue her widowhood very many years. In New London on 24 August 1733, she married third Culbert Blyth(e) or Bly, a stranger (i.e., nonresident).[166] Documents in Richard's probate file confirm that his widow Joanna had remarried to Culbert Blyth. A distribution dated 23 February 1739/40 shows that she was then deceased.

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[162] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 8:92.

[163] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 39.

[164] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 13:319, case #115; 14:39, cases #9 and 10.

[165] New London Dist. Probate, file #131.

[166] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:169. *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 262, mentions that "Culbutt Bly a Sailor was published [for marriage] to the widow Joanna Attwell" on 3 Aug. 1733.

Children of Richard[2] and Elizabeth (Baker) Atwell:

i BENJAMIN[3] ATWELL, b. New London 25 June 1705,[167] bp. New London, 14 July 1706,[168] d. there 3 May 1708.[169]

ii ELIZABETH ATWELL, b. New London 2[5?] March 1708,[170] bp. there 24 April 1709,[171] apparently d.y. (not mentioned in her father's will or in the distribution of 1739/40).

iii RICHARD ATWELL, b. 19 Oct. 1709 (birth certificate; see below), bp. New London 18 June 1710,[172] d. 1807 (probate below); m. ABIGAIL/NABBY —, living 1807. On 22 Oct. 1730, Abiel Marshall of New London complained to the County Court that his "Apprentice Richard Atwell Son to Richard Atwell Late of New London Deceased being his Indented [*sic*] Servant or Apprentice which is Bound to him by His Indenture Dated Decemr 6th in the 5th year of our Sovereign Lord King George & for a term Not yett Expired as may be Seen by Indentures under the Said apprentice and His fathers Hand Dated as above Said & that on munday Last the 19th Inst the Said apprentice Richard Atwell deserted his Service & Run away Contrary to his Indentures. . . ." Defendant produced a birth certificate showing "Richard the Son of Richard Attwell and Elizabeth his wife was born the 19th of Octobr 1709 Entered at his Mothers Request the 28th of March 1728."[173] A wet-nurse also testified to his birth date. The court found for the defendant: that Richard was 21 at the time he left his master and therefore legally freed of service.[174]

Richard Atwell of Montville made his last will on 23 July 1807, and it was recorded in Nov. 1807. He mentioned his wife Nabby, son Richard (to have the farm), son William, daughters Phebe, Lucy, Nancy, Nabby, and Cynthia. The will was witnessed by Ephraim Fellows, Atwell Chapel, and Joseph Fox.[175]

iv WILLIAM ATWELL, bp. New London 29 June 1712;[176] m. there 29 March 1744 PHEBE AMSBERRY/ALMSBURY, both of New London.[177] In Nov. 1741, Priscilla Mynard of New London sued a William Atwell of the same for be-

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[167] New London Deeds, 4:285.

[168] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:119.

[169] New London Deeds, 4:285.

[170] New London Deeds, 4:281.

[171] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:122, 3:106.

[172] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:124, 3:109.

[173] Richard's own mother was deceased long before 1728. Perhaps his stepmother is meant here, or else the date is not intended as that of the mother's request.

[174] New London Co. Court Records, Files [*supra* note 22], file for Nov. 1730, case #133.

[175] New London Dist. Probate, file #132.

[176] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:128, 3:114).

[177] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 3:216. Hempstead in noting their intentions on 15 Jan. 1743/4 called him William Attwell of Groton (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 420).

getting her with child.[178] William Atwell had a child baptized 7 April 1745, and a son William baptized 16 Aug. 1747.[179]

Children of Richard[2] and Joanna (Tubbs) (Budington) Atwell:

v JOANNA ATWELL (2d), b. 10 Aug. 1716,[180] bp. 7 Oct. 1716;[181] m. as his 2nd wife at New London 27 Nov. 1740 SAMUEL[4] BILL,[182] b. there ca. 1690, son of Samuel[3] (*Philip*[2], *James*[1]) and Mercy (Houghton) Bill.[183]

At a county court in New London on 13 June 1738, Joanna Atwell, daughter of Joanna Atwell of New London, complained of Ephraim Wheeler of the same for begetting her with child. Ephraim and his surety Sam[ll] Lee of New London posted bond of £100.[184] Johanna Atwell confessed and renewed her covenant with the church on 29 April 1739 and had her child Berac[h]iah or Beriah (the son born out of wedlock) baptized the same day.[185] She was admitted to the church on 20 May 1739.[186] Joanna had confessed to fornication "Some time Since."[187]

vi JOHN ATWELL, b. 19 Jan. 1718 [1717/8?],[188] bp. New London 30 March 1718,[189] d. Horton Township, N.S., before Feb. 1785; m. Lyme, Conn., 12 Dec. 1749, RUTH HOLTON.[190] On 10 Sept. 1746, John Atwell of New London, for £300 Old Tenor, sold to Ebenezer Bolles of the same a six-acre tract in New London that was "formerly the Homested of M[r] Richard Atwell late of New London Dec[d]."[191] John's last New London deed as grantor finds him selling land on 1 May 1759 with a mansion house, bounded among others on property of Mr. John Winthrop.[192] John Atwell

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[178] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], vol. 20, unpaginated, Nov. term 1741, case #607.

[179] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 440, 486.

[180] New London Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1710–1786 [*supra* note 101], 7.

[181] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:133.

[182] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:171, 3:213.

[183] Ledyard Bill, *History of the Bill Family* (New York: The Author, 1867), 122, as corrected by John L. Cobb and Vada Tuttle Larson, "The English Origin of the Bill Family of Massachusetts and Connecticut," TAG 60 (1984): 193-201.

[184] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], vol. 19 (June 1737 – Aug. 1740, unpaginated), cases #489, #490.

[185] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:159. It is unclear what surname he was given. Maybe Joanna had ambivalent feelings towards her illegitimate son, as Berachiah means "God has blessed" but Beriah is "evil."

[186] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:18.

[187] *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 349.

[188] New London Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1710–1786 [*supra* note 101], 7.

[189] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:134.

[190] Old Lyme First Congregational Church Records, 2:29 ("Married John Atwell of New London & Ruth Holt[a]n"). The fourth and fifth letters of her surname are partly blotted, but the name definitely cannot be the "Holthum" sometimes attributed to Ruth. The Barbour Collection [*supra* note 58] puts "Holton" with a question mark.

[191] New London Deeds, 14:132.

[192] New London Deeds, 17:232.

and other people from northern New London (Montville) removed to Nova Scotia in 1761. He received a 500-acre share in Horton, Kings Co., N.S., under a grant of 29 May 1761.[193]

vii BENJAMIN ATWELL (Jr.), b. 18 Oct. 1719, bp. New London 3 Nov. 1728 with his sister Patience;[194] m. there 15 Aug. 1751 MERCY FOX of New London.[195]

viii PATIENCE ATWELL, b. 16 April 1721,[196] bp. New London 3 Nov. 1728 with her brother Benjamin.[197] Patience m. there 9 June 1742 STEPHEN DOUGLAS ("Dowglass"), both of New London.[198]

ix SAMUEL ATWELL, b. 8 July 1723,[199] bp. New London 14 July 1723,[200] d. soon (not mentioned in his father's will of Nov. 1725 or in the distribution of Feb. 1739/40).

7 SAMUEL[2] ATWELL (*Benjamin*[1]), youngest son of Benjamin and Mary (—) Atwell, was born in New London on 23 April 1682.[201] He was living in 1750 and apparently still in 1752. On 10 September 1750, he made and acknowledged a deed quitclaiming to [his son] Samuel Atwell, Jr., of New London all title to common lands of New London which he might hold "in the Right of my Hon[ore]d father in Law Joshua Baker formerly of s[ai]d New London Dec[ease]d."[202]

Thus Samuel married first, say about 1707, — BAKER, a daughter of Joshua and Hannah (Tongue) (Minter) Baker and granddaughter of Alex-

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[193] Arthur W. H. Eaton, *The History of Kings County, Nova Scotia, Heart of the Acadian Land . . .* (Salem, Mass.: Salem Press, 1910), 72; also Douglas E. Eagles, "A History of Horton Township, Kings Co., Nova Scotia, Through Maps and Documents" (typescript, Sarnia, Ontario, 1975), 10. A census of 1770 showed that John Atwell of Horton had one man and one woman (himself and wife) in his household along with three boys and three girls (ibid., 19). On 1 Feb. 1785, administration on the estate of John Atwell, "Cabinet Maker late of Horton," was granted to [his widow] Ruth Atwell and [a son] "Holthum" Atwell, according to Allen B. Robertson, "Atwell Family of Horton Township, Kings County, Nova Scotia" (typescript, Halifax, N.S., 1986), 2, citing Kings Co. Probate Records. The Eagles and Robertson sources are both available on microfilm at the Provincial Archives of Nova Scotia; I thank descendant Belinda "Lynn" Atwell of St. Brieux, Saskatchewan, for providing copies of relevant pages.

[194] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:145.

[195] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:79.

[196] New London Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1710–1786 [*supra* note 101], 7.

[197] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:145. *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 204, mistakenly calls her "Mary," 5 or 6 years old.

[198] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:172, 3:215.

[199] New London Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1710–1786 [*supra* note 101], 7.

[200] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:140.

[201] New London Deeds, 4:307.

[202] New London Deeds, 15:220. Samuel Atwell, Jr., of New London sold rights there in Jan. 1752 (ibid., 15:237), the "Jr." implying that Samuel, Sr., was still around. Samuel Atwell, Jr., was also involved in a suit heard as case #187 at the June court 1752 (New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], vol. 21, unpaginated). Possibly the elder Samuel died after 1758, as Hempstead mentions him more than once, but not his death (Hempstead's diary ceases in Nov. 1758, and he died the next month).

ander and Elizabeth (—) Baker and of George[1] and Margery (—) Tongue.[203] This first wife was probably either Hannah or Sarah, one of the twin daughters born to Joshua and Hannah Baker in New London on 18 January 1682/3.[204] At least one genealogy calls the wife "Mary," but Joshua Baker seems not to have had a daughter of that name. Nor did Samuel Atwell ever give the name Mary to a child; rather, he and his first wife named daughters Hannah and Sarah.[205] Samuel Atwell's Baker wife, whatever her given name, died in New London in the night of 2–3 May 1725.[206]

He married second at New London on 19 June 1726 RUTH COY of the same town,[207] who was evidently buried there on 25 October 1752.[208] A Ruth Coy was admitted to the First Church of New London on 19 July 1719[209] and might be the same woman who married Samuel Atwell seven years later. She was probably the Ruth born in Mohegan (Norwich) on 7 October 1689, daughter of Matthew and Ann (Brewster) Coy.[210] Her mother was Ann[4] Brewster (*Benjamin*[3], *Jonathan*[2], *William*[1] of the *Mayflower*).[211]

Samuell Attwill of New London sued Stephen Gorton of the same for damages in the court session of June 1727. Samuell, in turn, was sued by Daniell Shaply and by Benjamin Starr in November 1727, and by John Williams of Norwich in February 1727/8.[212]

Children of Samuel[2] and — (Baker) Atwell, order conjectural:[213]

i SARAH[3] ATWELL; m. PHILIP GOFF.[214]

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[203] For the Baker ancestry, see *History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 362–63, and *The Great Migration* [*supra* note 154], 130–32.

[204] New London Deeds, 4:305. No particular rationale has been found for choosing between the two Baker daughters. Because they were twins, an argument based on age is not possible.

[205] *Genealogy of the Atwell Family* [*supra* note 2], 4, called Samuel Atwell's first wife "Mary." Charles Dyer Parkhurst, who was usually well informed and perceptive, did not know her name and left it blank ("Parkhurst Manuscript" [*supra* note 4], 1:243). A search of Samuel Atwell's deeds in the right period has not revealed his first wife's given name.

[206] "Samll Attwells wife died Last night" (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 157).

[207] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:167, 3:194.

[208] "[ ]ll attwells wife [unnamed]" (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 596).

[209] Church Records Index [*supra* note 135], citing New London First Church Records, 1:12, and the transcript on 3:19.

[210] "The Brewster Book," *The Mayflower Descendant* 1 (1899): 171.

[211] Emma C. Brewster Jones, *The Brewster Genealogy, 1566–1907*, 2 vols. (New York, 1908), 1:37.

[212] New London Co. Court Records, Trials [*supra* note 13], 16:61, 103, 113, 153.

[213] *Genealogy of the Atwell Family* [*supra* note 2], 4. The children by the first wife and their marriages are not well documented.

[214] He appears to be the Philip[4] Goff, b. Wethersfield, Conn., on 15 Oct. 1704 (Barbour Collection [*supra* note 58]), son of Philip[3] (*Philip*[2-1]) and Mary (Couch) Goff and brother to Nathaniel[4] Goff who evidently m. Sarah Atwell's sister Jerusha. See *History of Ancient Wethersfield* [*supra* note 123], 2:358–60. Stiles did not know the maiden name of either wife.

ii HANNAH ATWELL, d. New London May 1756;[215] m. there 12 Jan. 1742/3 EZEKIEL CHAPEL of New London.[216]

iii THANKFUL ATWELL; m. EBENEZER WILLIAMS.

iv ANNA ATWELL. Anna and Jerusha, daughters of Sam: Atwells, were bp. New London (Montville) 24 June 1733 "on their own account" (i.e., as adults).[217] Possibly she is the Anna Atwell who m. Samuel Johnston.[218]

v JERUSHA ATWELL, bp. New London (Montville) as adult 24 June 1733;[219] m. NATHANIEL GOFF.[220]

vi SAMUEL ATWELL (Jr.),[221] d. New London 1773;[222] m. New London 23 March 1748/9 SUSANNA LEACH, daughter of Samuel and Ann (Minor) Leach.[223] Resided in Montville. Issue.[224]

Children of Samuel[2] and Ruth (Coy) Atwell:

vii RUTH ATWELL, bp. New London (Montville) 16 July 1727, dau. of Samuel ("held up by Ruth, his wife").[225]

viii BENJAMIN ATWELL, bp. New London (Montville) 8 Nov. 1730.[226] In late 1773 a Mr. Benjamin Atwell was mentioned in the probate records of his half-brother Samuel Atwell of New London, though they had a cousin of that name.

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[215] On 12 May 1756: "Ez Cheapel's Wife Buryed. She was Samll Attwels Dater" (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 668).

[216] New London First Church Records [*supra* note 64], 1:172. *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 403, says they published [their intentions of marriage] on 2 Jan. 1742/3.

[217] Montville Church Records [*supra* note 73], 3:13, 1:21.

[218] Montville Church Records [*supra* note 73], 3:13, no date given.

[219] Montville Church Records [*supra* note 73], 1:21.

[220] He was probably Nathaniel[4] Goff, born about 1707, brother to Philip above [*supra* note 214].

[221] None of the genealogies consulted gives a son Samuel to Samuel[2]; yet the Samuel, Jr., clearly was his son, and this is why the father deeded inherited rights to him (see *supra* note 202). The other Samuel[3], son of Richard[2], died in infancy. Frances M. Caulkins obviously knew that Samuel, Jr., belonged where I have placed him, as she reported that two of the grandchildren of Samuel[2], namely Samuel[4] and his sister Lucretia, were still alive at the beginning of 1850 and she called their father "Samuel Atwell second" (*History of New London* [*supra* note 1], 305). Her indications were oblique enough that they have not guided genealogists.

[222] Inventory of his estate was taken on 28 Oct. 1773 (New London Dist. Probate, file #133).

[223] "I married Samuel Attwell & Susanna Leach in the Evening at her fathers house the Bellman" (*Diary of Joshua Hempstead* [*supra* note 7], 516). "Samuel Attwell of N. Parish [Montville] & Susana Leach Daughter of Samuel Leach publisht" for marriage on 12 March 1748/9 (ibid., 515). On 21 Jan. 1727/8, Samll Leach and Ann Minor of Lyme published for marriage (ibid., 193).

[224] See *Genealogy of the Atwell Family* [*supra* note 2], 5, mistakenly crediting the children to Samuel[3] the son of Richard[2] Atwell.

[225] Montville Church Records [*supra* note 73], 1:17.

[226] Montville Church Records [*supra* note 73], 1:19.