



***In-Depth First Settler Profile:***  
***John Elton (1671) /***  
***Jane (Hall) Elton***

**Name:** John Elton (also spelled Helton and Hilton)

**Birth:** Unknown

**Emigration:** Unknown

**Death:** Abt. 1686, Middletown, Conn. [**Compiler's note:** Inventory of his estate taken on January 17, 1686/7 (MAN vol. 1, p. 322).]

**Occupation & Public Service:** Weaver [**Compiler's note:** Probate records listed "flax in the stalk" and a loom as part of his estate (Probate Files Collection, Hartford District; John Hilton, no. 2732).]

**Marriage:** m. Jane Hall, abt. 1671, Middletown, Conn. (b. March 1652/3, Middletown, Conn.; d. abt. 1724) She was the daughter of Richard and Mary Hall of Hartford and Middletown, Conn. (*SMFSD In-Depth First Settler Profile: Richard Hall*); widow Jane Elton later married Thomas Stevens. [**Compiler's note:** On February 23, 1699/1700, referred to as Jane Stephens, formerly Jane Hilton, widow (MLR vol. 2, p. 53); on May 24, 1708, Thomas Stevens and his wife Jane, daughter of Richard Hall deceased, conveyed to "John and Richard and Ebenezer Elton sons of the said Jane by her former husband" (MLR vol. 3, p. 237); on December 5, 1724, "John and Richard Elton sons of our Mother Jane Stephens Deceased" (MLR vol. 4, p. 186).]

**Parents:** unknown

**Children:** (BCVR; MLR vol. 1, p. 19)

(1) Mary Elton, b. July 26, 1672, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown; m. John Cornwell Jr., March 23, 1698/9, Middletown, Conn. (6 children) [**Compiler's note:** BCVR lists her name Mary Hilton, although land record dated December 5, 1724 (MLR vol. 4, p. 186) showed that Mary the wife of John Cornwell was the sister of John & Richard Elton and the daughter of Jane (Hall) (Elton) Stephens; on February 12, 1727/8, John Cornwell the second with Mary my wife quitclaimed right "descending to the named Mary in right of her mother Jane dafter unto our Honrd Grandfather Richard Hall Decd" (MLR vol. 2, p. 460); she was mentioned in her husband's will, dated February 26, 1738/9, "unto Mary, my wife" (MAN vol. 3, p. 395).]

(2) Richard Elton, b. February 11, 1673/4, Middletown, Conn.; d. August 1678, Middletown, Conn. (died young) [**Compiler's note:** BCVR shows different date of birth; correct date given in land records (MLR vol. 1, p. 19).]

(3) John Elton, b. November 16, 1676, Middletown, Conn.; d. February 20, 1752, Middletown, Conn.; m. Elizabeth Cornwell, May 3, 1711, Middletown, Conn. (3 children) [**Compiler's note:** On April 9, 1722, Samuel Cornwell Senior

"unto my Loveing son in Law John Elton & to my Daughter Elesebeth his wife" (MLR vol. 4, p. 130); "John Elton died Feb 20, 1752 age 77 years; Elizabeth Elton (stone broken);" John Elton, aged 47 years, who died September 5, 1765 was the son of John and Elizabeth Elton (*Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions*, Middletown, Connecticut, Washington Street Cemetery, 711-12, p. 611).]

(4) Richard Elton, b. April 1679, Middletown, Conn.; d. November 1758, Middletown, Conn.; m. Elizabeth Wetmore, July 6, 1708, Middletown, Conn. (2 children) [**Compiler's note:** On June 1, 1710, distribution of the estate of John Wetmore included "Richard Elton, in right of his wife Elizabeth" (MAN vol. 1, p. 595); inventory of estate of Richard Elton taken on November 10, 1758; distribution of his estate on May 6, 1760 to Mrs. Elizabeth Elton and their four grandchildren (Probate Files Collection, Middletown District; Richard Elton, no. 1303).]

(5) Anna Elton, b. September 9, 1681, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown [**Compiler's note:** Not listed in her father's probate records (MAN vol. 1, p. 322).]

(6) Ebenezer Elton, b. May 11, 1686, Middletown, Conn.; d. abt. 1719, lost at sea; m. Patience Bradley, abt. 1711, Guilford, Conn. (2 children) [**Compiler's note:** Ebenezer Elton died about 1719 "lost at sea on way to Eng;" son Ebenezer was born in Branford, Conn. in October 1712; Patience Elton later married Daniel Crittenden. (*Capt. John Hall of Middletown, Conn. and Some of his Descendants*, by Raeola F. Cooke, 1987) Hopestill Elton, son of Patience Elton, widow, was born on September 7, 1719 in Guilford, Conn. (Guilford Vital Records). The Ebenezer Elton who married Anna Ward on June 19, 1735 in Middletown was probably the son of Ebenezer and Patience Elton, since he named a daughter Patience and a son Bradley (BCVR).]

**Residence/Property:** On December 24, 1677, Nathaniel Collins in consideration of a cow and a bay mare colt and fifty shillings "in the hand of Deacon John Hall made ouer to the foresayd mr Collins" conveyed to John Elton two acres and three quarters lying at the west end of Mr. Collins' land bounded west on the highway east on Mr. Collins south on Nathaniel Bacon and north on Obadiah Allyn (MLR vol. 1, p. 140); on December 24, 1677, Nathaniel Collins sold two acres and three quarters in consideration of a fence that John Elton agreed to make and maintain between them, the land lying "on the West Sid of this fence Which I am to make and is part of the pay for that Land ... that the Land Shall stand Bound for Euer Vnto Mr Nathanill Collins his heirs & Assignes for Euer for the making and maintaining the Sayd fence and in Failler of the same or any part of it they may seas on the Sayd Land" (MLR vol. 1, p. 139); on December 20, 1683, John Elton in consideration of twelve pounds conveyed to Nathaniel Collins "one piece or percell of upland in midletown which hee formerly bought of the said Collins for Aboue mentioned Some Lying at the West End of the land of the Said Collins which hee improueth for pastuer containing Two acres and three quarters" (MLR vol. 1, p. 30); four acres of land (Probate



**John Elton (1671) / Jane (Hall) Elton**

**Page 2-2-2**

Files Collection, Hartford District; John Hilton, no. 2732).  
[**Compiler's note:** His land holdings are confusing.]

**Will:** Vol. 1, p. 322 (MAN). On March 3, 1686/7, "Richard Hall & John Hall Jr. appointed to assist the Adms." for estate of John Hilton of Middletown deceased. (Estate inventory taken January 17, 1686/7 by Richard Hall and John Hurlbut: 39-00-00, i.e. 39 pounds, included four acres of land; flax in the stalk; "Mr Joseph Whiting Jr to the estat for a loom;" the children John aged eleven years, Richard aged seven years, Ebenezer aged eight months, Mary Hilton aged fourteen years. (Probate Files Collection, Hartford District; John Hilton, no. 2732)

**Burial Location:** Unknown

**Notes:**

(SAV): "ELTON, JOHN, Middletown, by w. Jane had Mary, b. 26 July 1672; Richard, 11 Feb. 1674, d. at 4 yrs.; John, 16 Nov. 1676; Richard, again, 20 Apr. 1679; Ann, 9 Sept. 1681; and Ebenezer, 11 May 1686. A Mr. Elton of Southold, L. I. 1662, was am. to be freem. of Conn. that yr. and may have been f. of the preced."

(SAV): "HILTON, JOHN, Dover 1655, prob. s. of Edward, had gr. of ld. 1660, at Exeter, and he may have rem. to Middletown, where one of this name d. Dec. 1686, or Jan. 87, leav. ch. Mary, aged 14; John, 11; Richard, 7, and Ebenezer, 8 mos. Yet it may be better to inq. for ano. John, as their f. a John H. d. 1705, says Farmer, in Boston; but I doubt he was only a transient resid. for no admin. is found by me for twenty yrs." [**Compiler's note:** John Hilton of Dover did not remove to Middletown, Conn.; land granted to him in 1656 was conveyed by his relatives in 1721. (NEHGSR vol. 31, p. 183)]

(GFHC): "John Elton, progenitor of the Connecticut family, came from Bristol, England, and settled finally in Middletown, Connecticut. He married Jane \_\_\_\_\_. Children, born in Middletown : Mary, July 26, 1672, Richard, February 11, 1674, died young; John, November 16, 1676, was living in Middletown in 1730 and 1738 when he witnessed wills of Thomas Ward and Samuel Cotton; Richard, April 20, 1679; married Elizabeth, daughter of John Wetmore; Ann, September 9, 1681; Ebenezer, mentioned below. Ebenezer, son of John Elton, was born at Middletown, Connecticut, May 11, 1686. He was lost at sea when a young man. His home was at Branford, Connecticut."

(*Elton and Steele Family Histories, by Patricia Elton Runnells*): "John Elton born about 1648, Bristol, Somersetshire, England, son of Colonel Richard Elton, died December 1686 or 1687 Middletown, Middlesex, Connecticut, married Jane Hall. John Elton of Middletown, Connecticut is 'The Immigrant Ancestor.' Myrtle M. Morris, in her book *Joseph and Philena Elton Fellows*, states that a Mr. J.P. Elton of Waterbury, Connecticut wrote to her in 1932, 'I find a letter written to my grandfather by Professor Romeo Elton, that he established to his own

satisfaction that one Richard Elton of Bristol, England, a member of a branch of the present family of Clevedon Court [purchased by Abraham Elton in 1709], near Bristol, was our ancestor and the father of the first John Elton who came to this country.' The colonial records of John Elton are very meager. John died probably in December or January 1686 at Middletown, Middlesex, Connecticut. The inventory of his estate was taken 17 January 1686/87. Three children with their ages are named in the court record." (p. 30) [**Compiler's note:** The father of John Elton has not been verified. Although John and Jane Elton named their oldest son Richard (supporting the theory that John's father's name was Richard), it is also possible the boy was named for his maternal grandfather Richard Hall.]

(*Elton and Steele Family Histories, by Patricia Elton Runnells*): "Jane Hall was born March 1652 or 1653, in Middletown, Middlesex, Connecticut, daughter of Richard Hall and Mary Anthony, died about 1724, married about 1671, (1) John Elton, (2) Thomas Stevens. Jane Hall was mentioned in her father and grandfather John Hall's will. John Hall died in 1673. He was the immigrant ancestor of the Hall family. Jane was bequeathed [30] acres in the "Bogie" meadow lot. She was left a small estate from her husband John Elton. Jane married a second time, and was left a widow again in 1714." (p. 31) [**Compiler's note:** The name of Jane Hall's mother has not been verified.]

(HCCM): At a county court held at Hartford on March 3, 1686/7, "An Inventory of the estate of John Hilton was exhibited in court ... the estate is so small this Court leaues it with the widdow to enable her to bring up the children & Richard Hall & John Hall Junr are appointed to Assist in the administration on the estate." (p. 429)

(MAN): Will of Richard Hall, age 71 years, dated January 11, 1690, "to my daughter Jane thirty acres of Land in the bogie meadow quarter." (vol. 1, p. 458-459)

(MLR): On February 23, 1699/1700, Jane Stephens, formerly Jane Hilton, widow, purchased land from Lt. Francis Whitmore "when I bore that name of Jane Hilton Widdow ... which deed now is not to be found and I having for a valuable consideration sold the same to the said Whitmore againe while I was a widow & my deed againe nott to be found do by these present declare that I do resigne up to ye said ffrancis Whitmore all the right title intrest that I the said Jane Ever had ... by virtue of the said deed yt is now lost." (vol. 2, p. 53)

(*Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870*): On March 31, 1706, "John Cornwel Junr & Mary his wife were admitted full communion, at ye same ye sd Mary received ye seal of baptism" (p. 64); on April 24, 1709, "Recompence ye son of Eliza Elton ye wife of Richard Elton" was baptized (p. 68); on January 14, 1710/1, "Mary the daughter of Richard & Eliz: Elton" was baptized (p. 72); on March 18, 1711, "Desire ye daughter of John and Mary Cornwel was baptized" (p. 73); on August 17, 1712, "Thomas Stevens Senior & his wife ... were admitted to full communion & Jain ye wife Thos Stevens was baptised" (p. 75);





**John Elton (1671) / Jane (Hall) Elton**

**Page 3-3-3**

on April 26, 1713, “Dinah ye daughter of John & Eliza: Elton” was baptized (p. 76); on April 26, 1713, “Elizabeth ye wife of Richard Elton” was admitted to full communion (p. 77); on June 1, 1718, “John the son of John Elton” was baptized (p. 83); on March 13, 1720, “Elizabeth the daughter of John Elton” was baptized (p. 85); on October 3, 1725, “Elizabeth wife of John Elton” was admitted to full communion (p. 93); on February 5, 1735/6, Ebenezer Elton admitted to full communion (p. 113); on March 7, 1735/6, Recompense the son of Ebenezer Elton baptized (p. 113); on April 11, 1742, Bradley the son of Ebenezer Elton baptized (p. 129).

**(MLR):** On May 24, 1708, “Mr. Thomas Steevens of Midletown ... for as much as by the Last Will of Richard Hall of sd Midletown deceased did will unto his daughter Jane now wife of sd Mr. Stevens thirty acres of land being part of his lott in the boggy meadow quarter; And seeing that John and Richard and Ebenezer Elton sons of the said Jane by her former husband are desirous to have that thirty acres of land secured to them ... the said Mr Thomas Steevens doth Reserve the Liberty use and Improvement of ffive acres of the said land during his and his said wifs natural life and after their decease to Return to the said John and Richard and Ebenezer Elton which five acres is to be layed out at the east end of the thirty acres.” (vol. 3, p. 237)

**(MAN):** Will of Thomas Stephens of Middletown, dated August 30, 1714, “I give unto my wife Jane the use of my now

dwelling house with a convenient garden spot and a choice of one cow, to use and improve during the whole time of her widowhood. And the whole of that estate that she brought to me with her, I freely resign up to her again.” (vol. 2, p. 308)

**(MLR):** On December 5, 1724, “John Cornwell of Midletown with my wife Mary do for our selves & our heirs acquit and Discharg our bretheren John & Richard Elton sons of our Mother Jane Stephens Deceased of all our Right ... In any Estate Either Reall or personall that was our mothers aboue Named Deceased; Excepting only our Right in Alotment of Land or a part of a Lotment of Land yt was our Granfathers, lying on the east side of the Grate Riuer Near to Mr. Giles Halls sawmil that was our said Mother” (vol. 4, p. 186); on August 7, 1739, Lieut. Samuel Hall of Middletown sold to John Elton four acres lying in the Newfield Quarter bounded south on a highway north and west on his own land and east on the said Elton's own land “which I bestowed on him as may appear by Deed of Gift” (vol. 8, p. 500). [**Compiler’s note:** Samuel Hall was the brother of Jane (Hall) (Elton) Stephens and uncle to her son John.]

**(Town and City of Waterbury, Connecticut, by Joseph Anderson, 1896):** “In the ‘History of Litchfield County’ Dr. Elton’s line of descent is given as follows: (1) John Elton, who came early to this country from Bristol, England, and settled in Middletown. (2) His son Ebenezer, who settled in Branford. The time of his death is unknown; he was lost at sea. (3) Ebenezer, junior, who was born in 1712, settled first at Middletown, and afterward removed to Harwinton.” (vol. II, p. 328a)

***VERIFY - VERIFY - VERIFY***

***Abbreviation code used in SMFSD biographical sketches and in-depth profiles:***

**(MVR)** Middletown Vital Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

**(BCVR)** *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* (original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; printed index available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.; digitized index available on CD-Rom as part of *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.)

**(MLR)** *Middletown Land Records* (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

**(MAN)** *Digest of Connecticut Probate Records*, Hartford District (Manwaring, Charles William. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Originally published 1904-1906; reprinted 1995. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.)

**(CBRMC)** *Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, and Many of the Early Settled Families*. Chicago, Ill.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1903.

**(MUH)** *Middletown Upper Houses* (Adams, Charles C. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908.)

**(FIS)** Frank Farnsworth Starr (“The Settlers of Mattabesec 1650-1660,” *Middletown Penny Press*, Oct. 11, 1900; also published in the *Middletown Tribune* 250th Anniversary supplement.)

**(CAF)** *Centennial Address of Rev. David Field*. (Field, David D. *Centennial Address: With Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle Haddam, Middletown, and its Parishes*. Middletown, Conn.: W.B. Casey, 1853.)

**(GMB)** *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* (Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Vol. I-III*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996.)

**(SAV)** *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer's Register*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Co., 1860-1862.)

**(GFHC)** *Genealogical & Family History of the State of Connecticut* (Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation*. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.)

**(HMC)** *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, ed. *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884)

**(RPCC)** *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Adams, Arthur W., ed. *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928.)

**(HCCM)** *Hartford County Court Minutes, 1663-1687* (Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. *Hartford County, Conn., County Court Minutes, Vol. 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005.)

**(NEHGSR)** *NEHGS Register (New England Historical and Genealogical Register)*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-2007.) (Online database available at [NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://NewEnglandAncestors.org))

**(TAG)** *The American Genealogist* (articles by Donald Lines Jacobus, ed., 1922-1971) (*The American Genealogist*. New Haven, Conn.: D.L. Jacobus, 1922-1971)