



In-Depth First Settler Profile:
Isaac Johnson (1670) /
Mary (Harris) Johnson

Name: Isaac Johnson

Birth: Baptized at First Church of Christ, Roxbury, Mass. on January 7, 1643/4 (Vital Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1849).

Emigration: Born in Massachusetts Bay Colony; moved from Roxbury, Mass. to Middletown, Conn.

Death: February 3, 1719/20, Middletown, Conn. (Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions, Middletown, Connecticut, 711-19, p. 646).

Occupation & Public Service: On September 4, 1690, Isack Johnson and John Blake appointed overseers to estate of William Lucas (MAN, vol. 1, p. 483); on March 5, 1690/1, David Sage and Isaac Johnson appointed overseers to estate of Thomas Andrews (MAN vol. 1, p. 400); on September 5, 1700, Isaac Johnson, Senior, stood surety for bond for the estate of Thomas Harris (MAN vol. 2, p. 74); on August 5, 1706, Bridget Hunnewell of Middletown, 15 years of age, daughter of Elizabeth (Harris) Hunnewell, made choice of her uncle Isaac Johnson to be her guardian (MAN vol. 2, p. 237).

Marriage: m. Mary Harris, October 26, 1669, Roxbury, Mass. (b. April 2, 1651, Rowley, Mass.; d. August 1, 1740, Middletown, Conn.) She was the daughter of Captain Daniel Harris and Mary (Weld) Harris possibly of Hatherup, Gloucestershire, England, Rowley, Mass., and Middletown, Conn. (In-Depth First Settler Profile: Daniel Harris.)

Parents: Captain Isaac Johnson (1615/6 - 1675) and Elizabeth Porter (1610/1 - 1683) m. January 20, 1636/7, Roxbury, Mass. (Vital Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1849).

Children: (MLR, vol. 1, page 45; BCVR; MAN)

(1) Isaac Johnson, b. December 19, 1670, Middletown, Conn.; d. March 23, 1744, Middletown, Conn.; m. Margaret Miller, September 12, 1695, Middletown, Conn. (12 children)

(2) Daniel Johnson, b. October 8, 1672, Middletown, Conn.; d. January 28, 1758, Middletown, Conn.; m. Abigail Leek, February 11, 1706/7, Middletown, Conn. (4 children)

(3) John Johnson, b. August 1, 1674, Middletown, Conn.; d. January 6, 1692/3, Middletown, Conn. (unmarried)

(4) Joseph Johnson, b. March 9, 1677, Middletown, Conn.; d. November 12, 1739, Middletown, Conn.; m.(1) Elizabeth Blake, daughter of John Blake and Sarah Hall, January 25, 1698/99, Middletown, Conn. (8 children) Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Johnson, died on May 24, 1720; m.(2) Elizabeth (Partridge) Hamlin, widow of John Hamlin, August 22, 1722, Middletown, Conn. (7 children)

(5) Nathaniel Johnson, b. January 17, 1678/9, Middletown, Conn.; d. February 18, 1704/5, Middletown, Conn.; m. Mary Blake, daughter of John Blake and Sarah Hall, abt. February 1699/1700, Middletown, Conn. (3 children) [Compiler's note: BCVR incorrectly states that he died in 1711; however, inventory of his estate was taken March 5, 1704/5 (MAN vol. 2, p. 85); the day of his death is listed as February 18, 1704 in the land records (MLR vol. 1, p. 32), while the probate records states that he died February 19, 1704/5 (MAN vol. 2, p. 85)]

(6) Elizabeth Johnson, b. February 19, 1680/1, Middletown, Conn.; d. August 13, 1768, Middletown, Conn. (unmarried) [Compiler's note: Elizabeth Johnson did not marry John Blake; that Elizabeth (Johnson) Blake was the daughter of Nathaniel Johnson of Woodstock, Conn. (MAN, vol. 3, p. 142)]

(7) William Johnson, b. March 14, 1682/3, Middletown, Conn.; d. March 25, 1682/3, Middletown, Conn. (died young)

(8) Mary Johnson, b. January 18, 1686/7, Middletown, Conn.; d. January 10, 1761, Middletown, Conn.; m. Jonathan Blake, son of John Blake and Sarah Hall, September 19, 1710, Middletown, Conn. (10 children)

(9) Ebenezer Johnson, b. October 29, 1692, Middletown, Conn.; d. October 31, 1692, Middletown, Conn. (died young)

Residence/Property: Deed recorded on August 15, 1670 from Thomas Hubbard, "my homestead containing twentie Acres ... with one piece of Land in ye Round meadow containing three Acres ... delivered unto Leftnt Hariss on behalf of his son Isaack Johnson [of Roxbury, Massachusetts]" (MLR vol. 1, p. 73); [Compiler's note: Isaac Johnson sold this homelot in the Upper Houses to John Clark in 1677 (MLR vol. 3, p. 29)]; on August 4, 1673, land of Isacke Jonson recorded, "meadow in the Round meadow ... containing five Acres; land in the Northwest quarter by Exchang with his father in law Danill Haris containing two Hundered fifty & three Acres" (MLR vol. 1, p. 73); on September 20, 1678, Thomas Stow Junior granted to Isaac Johnson one hundred twenty eight acres on Haddam bounds (vol. 1, p. 150); on May 27, 1680, "upland on the East sid the Great River containing on[e] hundered fifty & four acres Lying in the Long Lotts" (MLR, vol. 1, p. 73); on January 24, 1678/9, Captn Danill Harris granted to his son-in-law Isaac Jonson two hundred thirty four acres of land "at a place commonly called the hope swompe" (vol. 1, p. 151); on February 3, 1691/2, Capt. Daniel Harris "for divers good causes & consideration" granted to Isaac Johnson ten acres lying at the east side of the said Capt Harris home lot (MLR vol. 1, p. 55)

Will: Isaac Johnson, (MAN, vol. 2, p. 406-407, dated January 13, 1719/20), "to my wife Mary ... 15 acres of land which came by her brother Thomas; to my son Isaac ... 120 acres of land lying out towards the Great Swamp; unto my son Nathaniel's heirs 55 acres of land in Haddam bounds, said land to be divided between the two sons, Nathaniel ... and Jonathan; to



Isaac Johnson (1670) / Mary (Harris) Johnson

Page 2-2-2

my sons Daniel and Joseph ... all my lands on the east side of the Great River; to my daughter Elizabeth my house barn and all my homestead; to my daughter Mary the west end of my lott towards the Great Swamp.” (Estate inventory, 915-09-06, i.e., 915 pounds); Mary Johnson, Senior, (MAN, vol. 3, p. 292-293, dated May 16, 1720), “to my three sons Isaac, Daniel and Joseph; to my grandson Nathaniel Johnson my oxen and yoke; to my daughter Elizabeth Johnson ... belmettle mortar, a great wheel and reel, fire shovel and tongs; to my daughter Mary Blake my Dutch wheel;” codicil dated February 21, 1739/40, “whereas my son Joseph Johnson is now deceased,” his portion “should be equally divided to and among the children my said son had by his first wife.” (Estate inventory taken August 18, 1740, 120-06-02, i.e., 120 pounds)

Burial Location: Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn.; called Old Burying Place when information was copied in 1861, “Here Lyeth the Body of Isaac Johnson, who Departed this Life February the 3rd, 1719, in the 77 year of his Age” (NEHGSR, vol. 15, April 1861, p. 165); called McDonough Cemetery when information was copied in 1935, “Isaac Johnson, died February 3, 1719/20, age 76 years” (Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions, Middletown, Connecticut; original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn., 711-19, p. 646). Old Farm Hill Cemetery, Middletown, Conn. “Here lies ye body of Mrs. Mary ye wife of Mr. Isaac Johnson died August ye 1st, 1740 in ye 89th year of her age” (Frank Farnsworth Starr files at the Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, Conn.; Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions, 711-7, p. 341)

Notes:

(CAF): “Isaac Johnson was from Roxbury and recommended from the church there to the church in Middletown.” (Note B, p. 146)

(SAV): ISAAC, Roxbury, eldest s. of John of the same, b. in Eng. freem. 4 Mar. 1635, m. 20 Jan. 1637, Elizabeth Porter, had Elizabeth b. 24 Dec. foll. John, 3 Nov. 1639, d. 18 Dec. 1661; Mary, bapt. 10 (tho. town rec. says b. 24) Apr. 1647; Isaac, bapt. 7 Jan. 1644; Joseph, 9 Nov. 1645, d. in few wks.; Nathaniel, b. says town rec. 1 May, bapt. says ch. rec. 2 May 1647, by name of Nehemiah, wh. I think is error. He was of ar. co. 1645, its capt. 1667, rep. 1671; was k. by the Ind. at the head of his comp. in the gr. Narraganset fight, 19 Dec. 1675. See Hutch. I. 299, or Mather, VII. 50. Elizabeth m. 20 Dec. 1658, Henry Bowen; and Mary m. 17 Dec. 1663, William Bartholomew. His will, of 8 Mar. 1673, pro. 10 Feb. 1676, provides for w. Elizabeth and the four surv. ch. of course double portion to eldest, Isaac. The wid. d. 13 Aug. 1683.

(SAV): ISAAC, Middletown, s. of the preced. m. at Roxbury 26 Dec. 1669, Mary Harris, had Isaac, b. 19 Dec. 1670; Daniel, 8 Oct. 1672; John, 1 Aug. 1674, d. young.; Joseph, 9 Mar. 1677;

Nathaniel, 17 Jan. 1679; Elizabeth 19 Feb. 1681; William, 11 Mar. 1683, d. soon; Mary, 18 Jan. 1687, and Ebenezer, 29 Oct. 1692. He d. 1720, in his will ment. w. Mary, s. Isaac, Daniel, Joseph, and the heirs of s. Nathaniel, dec. beside ds. Elizabeth and Mary, w. of Blake. He left good est. The wid. d. 1 Aug. 1740.

(NEGHSR): “Isaac Johnson m. Mary _____. Isaac, born 19 Dec. 1670, m. Margaret Miller, 1695; Daniel, b. 8 Oct. 1672, m. Abigail Leek, 1706-7; John, b. 1 Aug. 1674, d. Jan. 6, 1692-3; Joseph, b. 9 March 1677, m. Elizabeth Blake, 1698; Nathaniel, b. 17 Jan. 1678, m. Mary Blake, 1699; Elizabeth, b. 19 Feb. 1680-81; William, b. 14 March 1682-3, d. March 25, 1682-3; Mary, b. 18 Jan. 1686; Ebenezer, b. 29 Oct. 1692, d. Oct. 31, 1692. Mary, the widow of Isaac Johnson, died Aug. 1, 1740. Lands recorded to Isaac Johnson of Roxbury, Mass., Aug. 15, 1670, vol. 1, p. 73.” (vol. 14, p. 66)

(MUH): “[Thomas] Hubbard [sold] his homestead to Isaac Johnson, who had come from Roxbury ... Then Isaac Johnson deeded to Esther Wilcox, widow of John, ... seven acres, [retaining] twelve acres which he soon sold to John Clark, who had married Elizabeth White, dau. of Capt. Nathaniel.” (p. 742)

(HMC): The names of the proprietors of Middletown with their estats, taken March 22th 1670 included Isack Jonson with a value of £24. The list of the estate of the inhabitants of Midleton taken in 73 included Isack Jonson with a value of £44.

(Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776): On the April 7, 1676 meeting of the Council in Hartford, “Isack Johnson was permitted by the Council to goe to Roxbury to visit his afflicted friends there, to return again the very next opportunity.” vol. 2, p. 430 [**Compiler’s note:** King Philip’s War was still raging and travel was dangerous. Isaac’s father, Captain Isaac Johnson of Roxbury, Mass, had been killed on December 19, 1675, fighting the Narragansett Indians in the Great Swamp Fight near present-day Kingston, Rhode Island. (Coe-Ward Memorial and Immigrant Ancestor/Coe, p. 63)]

(HCCM): At a County Court held at Hartford on November 11, 1674, “Edward Higby & Thomas Wetmore plntf Isack Johnson in an action of the case for unjust molestation For pownding their cattell off their own grownd From under a keeper to the damages of Thirty nine shillings” (p. 186); at a County Court held at Hartford on April 21, 1675, “Daniel Harris, Thom Ranny & Isack Johnson plntfs Complaine against Deacon Samll Stocking Andrew Warner, Nath Bacon Selectment & David Sage & Isack Lane Fence Veivers Defnts for unwarrantable actions in their respective offices thereby being Cassuall to the Issueing forth of a distress upon the estate of the Complainers to the damage of 35 shillings; in this action the Court find for the defnts Cost of Court” (p. 193); at a County Court held at Hartford on September 6, 1677, “John Payn plntf contra Isack Johnson defnt, in an action of the case for your & your wives defameing of Mary Payne wife of John



Isaac Johnson (1670) / Mary (Harris) Johnson
Page 3-3-3

Payne to the damage of Ten pownd in this action the Jury find for the defnt cost of court” (p. 221); at a County Court held at Hartford on March 2, 1681/2, “James Bennitt plantife contra Isack Johnson defendant in an action of the Case for slandering and defaming sayd Bennit in Saying that he ran away from his master & stoale Tooles, & that Money was paid for him to save him from the whip or words to that purposo to the damage of fifty pownds In this action the Jury find for the plantife Twelve pownd & Cost of Court” (p. 308)

(Suffolk County (Mass.) Deeds, Volumes 1-14. Boston, Mass.: Rockwell and Churchill Printers, 1880-1906.): On October 4, 1683, “whereas Capt Isaac Johnson late of Roxbury ... by his last will did leave his whole estate in the hands of Elizabeth his wife ... did order that after her decease his household and land should bee divided among his four children, his son Isaac to have a double portion; now sd Elizabeth being deceased and estate being liable to division: Isaac Johnson, Nathaniel Johnson, and William Bartholomew in right of his wife Mary and Henry Bowen in right of his wife Elizabeth ... have agreed that Isaac Johnson and William Bartholomew have dwelling house barn yards and orchard adjoining and all the land specified in the inventory of sd estate on the east side of the highway lying between the house and the river, the sd Isaac to have two thirds and William Bartholomew one third.” (vol. 13, pt. 1, p. 33)

(MAN): Will of Daniel Harris, Senior, dated March 13, 1698/9, “to my daughter Mary Johnson one parcel of land in my farm, 65 acres. On April 8, 1712, “Whereas, Daniel Harris and Isaac Johnson of Middletown did summon and cite John Harris and Samuel Bidwell of said Middletown to appear before this Court of Probate, as executors to the last will of Capt. Daniel Harris, late of sd. Middletown decd., to answer the complaint of sd. Daniel Harris and Isaac Johnson, wherefore the said John Harris and Samuel Bidwell have not performed the trust committed to them, in neglecting to set out to them their legacies according to the said will of the decd.” (vol. 2, p. 73-74)

(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870 (available at Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown, Conn.): On August 22, 1669, “Mary Harris daughter of Lieut. Harris being shortly about to remove from us was called upon to and did publicly and solemnly own her fathers covenant” (p. 8) [**Compiler’s note:** Mary Harris and Isaac Johnson were married two months later]; on December 25, 1670, “Isaack Johnson, sone of Isaack Johnson and Mary our sister received ye initiatory seal of ye covenant baptisme” (p. 11); on January 26, 1672/3 “Isaack Johnson being recommended to us from ye Church of Christ of Roxbury ... was accepted as a member of this church in ye state of Innitiation” (p. 17); on February 9, 1672/3, “Mary Johnson was received to full Communion” (p. 17)

(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870 (available at Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown, Conn.): On February 11, 1682/83, “Isaack Jonson not only neglecting to hear ye ch[urch] but opprobriously charge ye ch[urch] in their procedure ... was judged excommunicable” (p. 33); on February 18, 1682/83, he owned to his offenses; the congregation “restored him to his former standing in ye church” (p. 33); on January 14, 1701/2, “The church met at Mr. Hamlin’s house to hear & consider of the complaint of Isaac Johnson senior wherein he charged Capt White & Robert Hubbard ... with ye breach of ye ninth commandment ... the church having heard both parties ... did unanimously conclude ye charge to be false and groundless and that sd Johnson ought to make due acknowledgement of his sin” (p. 57); on March 22, 1702, “Isaack Johnson senior ... was publicly called upon for his acknowledgement but he ... neither owning his fault nor submitting to ye judgment of ye church, ye church gave him to ye next Sabbath to prepare to speak to ye church by way of confession or to expect ye ch[urch] to speak to him by way of admonition” (p. 57); on April 5, 1702, “Isaack Johnson senior was again called upon for his confession but he ... objecting (as he had done before) that he knew not w[ha]t was his offense or who was his accusers ... and having in such manner objected he went hastily out of ye assembly ... appointed ye Deacons to go to him & in ye name to cite him to appear ye next Sabbath and make humble and publick confession of his former offense together with his later obstinate and contemptuous carriage” (p. 57-58); on April 12, 1702, “Isaack Johnson senior making publick confession of ye several forementioned offenses desiring forgiveness of ye church ... & promising by God’s help to walk more circumspectly hereafter; it was accepted.” (p. 58)

(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870 (available at Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown, Conn.): On March 3, 1700, Nathaniel Johnson and Mary Blake alias Mary Johnson his wife made “publick confession of their sin of fornication which gave ye church such satisfaction as to suspend admonition & wait for fruits of Repentance,” (p. 53-54); on June 24, 1711, “Jonathan Blake and Mary Blake (alias Johnson) his wife made confession of ye sin of fornication” (p. 73); on March 31, 1723, Joseph Johnson and his wife Elizabeth offered their confession for the sin of fornication (p. 89) [**Compiler’s note:** This was Joseph’s second wife]

(MLR): In a series of deeds dated January 24, 1714/5, Isaac Johnson granted “for love, favor, and affection:” to my grandchildren, heirs of my son Nathaniel Johnson deceased, 48 acres of land (vol. 3, p. 179); to my son Isaac Johnson, 81 acres (vol. 3, p. 196); to my son Joseph Johnson, 49 acres (vol. 3, p. 197); to my son Daniel Johnson, 34.5 acres (vol. 3, p. 247); on April 3, 1722, “Isaac Johnson Daniel Johnson and Joseph Johnson all of Midletown ... Brethren & Sons of Isaac



Isaac Johnson (1670) / Mary (Harris) Johnson
Page 4-4-4

Johnson Late of Midletown decd and Executors to the Last Will and Testament of their aforesaid ffather” (vol. 4, p. 123); on February 18, 1761, “Elizabeth Johnson of Middletown ... in consideration of the love that I have for Nathaniel, Lois, and Mary Johnson the children of Samuel Johnson Junr ... part of the homelot that did belong to my Honrd father Mr. Isaac Johnson decd” (vol. 14, p. 416)

(Probate Files Collection, Early to 1880; Hartford District probate packets; original records at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; also available on microfilm.): On April 1, 1720, inventory of estate of Isaac Johnson Senr late of Middletown deceased, included one large bible, twelve divinity books, ten bushels of wheat, twenty bushels of oats, one bushel of flax seed, thirty bushels of Indian corn, beehive, cheese press, brass mortar and pestle, great wheel with iron spindle and a clock reel, iron candlestick, cider press, one

hogshead of cider, five pounds of tallow, two cheeks of bacon, two cowhides and a calfskin at the tanners, grey horse, bay mare, twenty seven sheep, ten lambs, ten pigs, dwelling house and barn and orchard containing twenty one acres, fifteen acres (which descended from Thomas Harris deceased), seventy three acres at a place called the plain, fifty five acres within Haddam bounds conveyed to heirs of son Nathaniel, one hundred twenty acres in the northwest quarter conveyed to Isaac Johnson, one hundred and five acres conveyed to Jonathan and Mary Blake, ninety nine acres on east side of great river, half mile lot on east side of great river.

For further reading:

Genealogy of Captain John Johnson of Roxbury, Massachusetts, Generations I to XIV, by Paul F. Johnson, Los Angeles, Calif., privately printed for author, 1951.

Coe-Ward Memorial and Immigrant Ancestor, by Levi Elmore Coe, Meriden, Conn., Converse Publishing Co., 1897.

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.)

(FFS) 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)

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