



In-Depth First Settler Profile:
Thomas Ranney (1658) /
Mary (Hubbard) Ranney

Name: Thomas Ranney

Birth: abt. 1616 (estimated from gravestone inscription); location of birth uncertain; name is also spelled Raney, Rani, Ranie, Rane, Rheny, Ranny, or Rany in the records; possible origin in Scotland, Flanders (i.e., Belgium), or France. (MUH)

Emigration: Unknown

Death: June 21, 1713, Middletown Upper Houses, Conn., as recorded on his gravestone (MUH p. 143); June 25, 1713, Middletown, Conn., as recorded in the land records. (MLR vol. 1, p. 35)

Occupation & Public Service: Husbandman (MLR vol. 1, p. 96); “frequently elected to office by his townsmen” (FFS); on September 5, 1671, inventory of estate of Thomas Hubbard taken by Nathaniel Bacon, Richard Hall, Thomas Ranny (MAN, vol. 1, p. 210); “He served equally with others on various town committees and was an active member of the community” (MUH); on May 17, 1688, “Ensign Willm Ward Thomas Rany & John Hall senior all of Middletowne ... being impowered by the proprietors of all lands in middletowne.” (MLR vol. 1, p. 80)

Marriage: m. Mary Hubbard, May 1659, Middletown, Conn. (b. January 16, 1641, Hartford, Conn.; d. December 18, 1721, Middletown, Conn.) She was the daughter of George Hubbard and Elizabeth (Watts) Hubbard of Hartford, and later Middletown, Conn. (*In-Depth First Settler Profile: George Hubbard*) [**Compiler’s note:** This was probably a second marriage for Thomas Ranney; according to his gravestone, he was 43 years-old at the time. Mary Hubbard was 18.]

Parents: Unknown

Children: (MLR, vol. 1, page 35; BCVR; MAN; *Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870*; MUH):

(1) Thomas Ranney, b. March 1, 1660/1, Middletown, Conn.; d. February 6, 1726/7, Middletown, Conn.; m. Rebeckah Willet, March 29, 1691, Hartford, Conn. (8 children) [**Compiler’s note:** Widow Rebeckah Ranney married Jacob White on December 16, 1729]

(2) John Ranney, b. November 14, 1662, Middletown, Conn.; removed to East Middletown; date of death unknown; m. Hannah Turner, December 28, 1693, Middletown, Conn. (9 children) [**Compiler’s note:** Some writers state that he died on April 4, 1717, however, this is a misreading of information in MUH which shows that his father-in-law Edward Turner died on that date. John Ranney was alive in 1718. (MLR vol. 1, p. 93)]

(3) Joseph Ranney, b. September 1663, Middletown, Conn.; d. March 2, 1745, Middletown, Conn.; m. Mary Starr, January 1693, Middletown, Conn. (8 children)

(4) Mary Ranney, b. October 1665, Middletown, Conn.; d. August 19, 1734, Middletown, Conn.; m. John Savage Jr., May 30, 1682, Middletown, Conn. (11 children)

(5) Elizabeth Ranney, b. April 12, 1668, Middletown, Conn.; d. February 11, 1757, East Middletown, Conn.; m. Jonathan Warner, August 4, 1698, Middletown, Conn. (2 children)

(6) Ebenezer Ranney, b. abt 1670, Middletown, Conn.; d. May 8, 1754, Middletown, Conn.; m. Sarah Warner, August 4, 1698, Middletown, Conn. (5 children) [**Compiler’s note:** Year of birth is only an approximation; however, the other sons of Thomas Ranney did not marry until they were 30 years old. It fits the timeline better than the 1681 date in MUH.]

(7) Esther/Easter/Hester Ranney, bapt. June 22, 1673, Middletown, Conn.; d. April 1, 1750, East Middletown, Conn.; m. Nathaniel Savage, December 3, 1696, Middletown, Conn. (9 children) [**Compiler’s note:** Esther was baptized on 22.4.73, which is June in the old calendar and not April as stated in MUH.]

(8) Hannah Ranney, bapt. May 23, 1675, Middletown, Conn.; d. before November 2, 1713, Middletown, Conn. (unmarried) [**Compiler’s note:** Hannah was baptized on 23.3.1675, which is May in the old calendar and not March as stated in MUH; on November 2, 1713, “Adms. granted unto Joseph Ranny, a brother of sd. decd” for “Hannah Ranny, single woman.” (MAN, vol. 2, p. 275)]

(9) Margaret Ranney, bapt. March 10, 1678, Middletown, Conn.; d. after 1727 (possibly unmarried) [**Compiler’s note:** Margaret was baptized on 10.1.1678, which is March in the old calendar and not January as stated in MUH; she signed her name Margaret Ranny in land deed dated October 12, 1727 (MLR vol. 6, p. 152). Some writers believe she married Stephen Clark about 1734. (MUH)]

(10) Abigail Ranney, b. abt. 1680, Middletown, Conn.; d. December 15, 1714, Middletown, Conn.; m. Walter Harris, January 21, 1713/4, Middletown, Conn. (1 child)

(11) Mercy Ranney, bapt. February 11, 1682/3, Middletown, Conn.; d. before March 6, 1711, Middletown, Conn. (unmarried). [**Compiler’s note:** Mercy was baptized on 11.12.1682, which is February 11 in the old calendar and not November 12 as stated in MUH; she was not mentioned in her father’s 1711 will.]

Residence/Property: His homelot is shown on the map titled “Plan of Middletown North of the Riveret” (MUH p. 6); it was a three-acre lot bordered on the west by what is now called Pleasant Street and on the east by the Connecticut River, between the lots of Samuel Stocking and John Warner. On January 10, 1658, “these perticuler parcels aboue written ...



Thomas Ranney (1658) / Mary (Hubbard) Ranney
Page 2-2-2

George Graue hath sold and made over unto Thomas Ranny” (MLR vol. 1, p. 29); on March 17, 1663, the land of Thomas Rany recorded, three acres for his homelot; meadow land lying in Long Meadow containing three acres; land at wongonke meadow containing three acres (MLR vol. 1, p. 33); on January 26, 1669, upland containing five acres; bogie meadow containing three acres (MLR vol. 1, p. 68); on October 1, 1672, meadow land lying in a place commonly called the Long Meadow containing five acres (MLR vol. 1, p. 90); on April 6, 1673, upland in the farther Necke containing seven acres; on April 7, 1673, land at wongonke containing thirty two acres; swamp land at pasen chage containing five acres; on March 13, 1674, meadow in the Round meadow containing six acres; upland at a place called Hubards Hill containing thirty two acres; land in the North West Quarter containing two hundred thirty acres; on May 27, 1680, land at the playns & Cold Spring containing three hundred fifteen acres; land on the East side the Great River in the Long Lotts containing three hundred twenty two acres; on December 27, 1680, bogie meadow swamp containing three acres (MLR vol. 1, p. 68); on December 12, 1692, land lying on the East side the way to Wethersfield containing about eight acres. (MLR vol. 1, p. 42)

Will: Vol. 2, p. 275-276 (MAN) Will dated March 6, 1711, “to my dear wife Mary ... to my four sons, Thomas, John, Joseph and Ebenezer ... to my Son and daughter John and Mary Savage ... to my son and daughter Jonathan and Elizabeth Warner ... to my son and daughter Nathaniell and Easter Savage ... my three daughters Hannah, Margaret and Abygail.” (MUH p. 144-148). Estate inventory, July 27, 1713; 758-19-10, i.e., 758 pounds; included “gun, sword, ammunition, powder horns, bullit mould, 3 pound of lead; 11 lb of sheeps wool, 3 bushels of mault, 14 lb of coars wool; cutting knife for hay; lathing hamer; chisels and a goudg and a punch; gimblits and awls; 2 spindels; stubbing hoak; parcel of tand leather; percell of nails; house and homestead and barn; upper lot in the long meadow; lower lot in the long meadow; boggy meadow lot and swamp; round meadow lot; 4 acres on the near neck; land on the further neck; dead swamp lot; five acres of land on which [son] Thomas’ house now stands; five acres of land on which [son] John’s house now stands; three acres of land on which [son] Joseph’s house now stands; 24 acres of land at Hubbard’s Hill; 315 acres at the plains or Cold Springs; Wangog meadow lot; 15 acres of upland near wangog bars; 5 acres and half of swamp land at the upper end of pason chog; long lot on the east side of the great river [containing 322 acres]; half mile lot on the east side of the great river; half of a half mile lot; his right of the undivided land in the towne.” (MUH p. 149-150)

Burial Location: Old Burying Ground, Cromwell, Conn. “One of the first inhabitants of this place tradition says the first to find a resting place in this cemetery was Thomas

Ranney. His monument, a brownstone slab, has evidently crumbled away considerably. It is only about eighteen inches high. The following inscription is deciphered with difficulty: Here L[ie]s the Body of Thomas Ranny, Senr. Lived 97 years. Died June 21st, 1713.” (HMC)

Notes:

(MUH): “The first known of our Thomas Rany is in the land records of Middletown, a house lot having been granted to him in 1658. His marriage is recorded as in May, 1659, to Mary Hubbard. At this date George Grave returned to Hartford and his grants were transferred to Thomas Rany, the record being dated in 1663. In 1698 Alexander Rollo, a Scotchman, and an attorney ... wrote and witnessed a will wherein “Thomas Rheny” gave to his son Ebenezer a parcel of land. This spelling does not occur in a deed dated a day later wherein the father gave adjoining land to a brother of Ebenezer. The conclusion is that Alexander Rollo is responsible for the form in which he wrote the name. In Scottish records Rheny is a familiar name. The conclusion is that Thomas Rany came from Scotland. [Compiler’s note: This circular reasoning is not conclusive proof of Ranney’s origin; it merely shows that Alexander Rollo, who was from Scotland, used a familiar spelling for a stranger’s surname.] On his tombstone the name is (spelled) Ranny, and about this date, 1713, his sons wrote their name as Rany and soon after as Ranny ... While the public records give the birth of only five children, and the church records give the baptism of Marcy, the will gives the names of the ten children who survived him. While the public record says he died June 25, 1713, the gravestone says he died June 21, 1713. He is supposed to have been the first one buried here, as it was only in January preceding it was voted to set apart land for a cemetery ... He was not a member of the church. He served equally with others on various town committees and was an active member of the community. In the census of 1670 when the inhabitants were rated he was rated at £105, the ninth in a list of 52 proprietors ... Mary Hubbard, his wife, was born in Hartford, Jan. 16, 1641/2, the eldest child of George Hubbard and Elizabeth Watts. She d. Dec. 18, 1721, and is without a gravestone. In his will dated May 2, 1681, George Hubbard, aged 80, said, I give to my daughter Mary Ranny ... the on[e] halfe of my halfe Mille Lott on the East side [of] the Great River by the List of 1673.” (p. 143-144)

(FFS): “At a town meeting held February 8, 1658, Thomas Ranney was admitted as an inhabitant and granted a home lot next to that of Thomas Hopewell who lived on the corner of Main and Church streets. In May 1659 he married Mary, daughter of George Hubbard and in 1663 had located in the North Society. Ranney was frequently elected to office by his townsmen. He died in June 1713 and his widow Mary in 1721. They had eleven children.”

(CAF): “A part of the early inhabitants settled in Upper Houses, and almost all these erected their dwellings in the



Thomas Ranney (1658) / Mary (Hubbard) Ranney
Page 3-3-3

lower part of the village, on the street, midway between Middlesex Turnpike and the river. These were: Nathaniel White, Samuel Stocking, George Graves, Robert Webster, Joseph Smith, Daniel Harris, John Martin, John Savage, Thomas Ranney, David Sage, and John Kirby. Between the upper and lower settlements intercourse was maintained by a ferry across Little River.” (p. 40) “Thomas Ranney is said to have been from Scotland. He was married to Mary Hubbard, the oldest child of George Hubbard of Middletown, in 1659, and had five children, Thomas, John, Joseph, Mary and Elizabeth. He died Jan. 25th, 1713, and was the first person buried in the oldest grave yard in the Upper Houses.” (p. 147)

(SAV): “THOMAS, Middletown, from Scotland, says Field, 33, m. May 1659, Mary Hubbard, d. of George, and d. 2 June 1713, leav. good est. and four s. Thomas, b. 1 Mar. 1660; John, 14 Nov. 1662; Joseph, Sept. 1663, and Ebenezer, beside ds. Mary, b. Feb. 1665, m. 30 May 1682, John Savage; Elizabeth 12 Apr. 1660, w. of Jonathan Warner, m. 4 Aug. 1698; and Esther, wh. m. 3 Nov. 1696, Nathan Savage. His wid. d. 18 Dec. 1721.”

(NEHGSR): “Thomas Rany (or Ranney) m. Mary Hubbard, May, 1659. Thomas, born March 1, 1660, m. Rebecca Willett, 1690; John, b. Nov. 14, 1662, m. Hannah Turner, 1693; Joseph, b. Sept. 1663, m. Mary Starr, 1693. He d. 1745, March 2; Mary, b. Oct 1665; Elizabeth, b. April 12, 1668. Thomas, senr. d. June 25, 1713. Mary (his wife) d. Dec. 18, 1721. Lands recorded March 17, 1663, vol. 1, p. 33.

(Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776): On May 9, 1667, “These were presented to stand for freemen: - Mr. Nath: Collins, Mr. Samll Collins, Henry Cole, Samll Cornewal, Georg Durant, ... James Topping, Jaspar Clemens, Tho: Rañey.” (vol. 2, p. 60); on May 9, 1717, at a General Assembly held at Hartford, “Upon the petition of Thomas Ranny, praying liberty to sell a parcel of unimproved land lying on the east side of Connecticut river in Midletown, that was given to his mother by her father Hubbard: This Assembly gives liberty to said Thomas Ranny, with his two brethren, John Ranny and Joseph Ranny, to sell the said parcel of land; and do order the produce of the same be improved for the maintenance of their mother, the widow of Thomas Ranny, deceased.” (vol. 6, p. 11)

(HMC): “Among the families who settled on the north side of Little River, were the following, many of whom are represented by lineal descendants, at the present day: John Kirby, Anthony Martin, Thomas Ranney, David Sage, John Savage, Samuel Stocking, Samuel White, Thomas Wilcox, and John Wilcox. Martin, Savage, Stocking, White, and Wilcox came from Hartford; Ranney from Scotland; Sage from Wales.” The names of the proprietors of Middletown

with their estates, taken March 22th 1670 included Thomas Rany with a value of £105. The list of the estates of the inhabitants of Middletown taken in 1673 included Thomas Rany with a value of £92.

(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870 (available at Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown, Conn.): On December 30, 1668, “the wife of Goodman Ranny” was admitted as a member of the church in full communion (p. 4); on January 10, 1668/9, “the child of our sister Ranny by name Elizabeth, received ye iniatory seale” (p. 5); on June 22, 1673, “Esther Ranny daughter of our sister Ranny” was baptized (p. 18); on May 23, 1675, “Hannah daughter of Sister Mary Ranny baptized” (p. 22); on March 10, 1677/8, “Margaret daughter of Sister Ranny baptized” (p. 26); on February 11, 1682/3, “Mercy (ye daughter of Thomas senior & our sister) Ranny” baptized (p. 33); on November 23, 1690, “Mary wife of John Savage admitted to full communion” (p. 40); on March 29, 1691, Thomas Ranny Junr & his wife Rebecah admitted to full communion (p. 40); on June 9, 1695, John Ranny & Hannah Ranny his wife were admitted to full communion (p. 46); on July 28, 1695, Elizabeth Ranny admitted to full communion (p. 46); on September 15, 1695, Joseph Ranny and Mary his wife were admitted to full communion (p. 47); on September 12, 1697, “Jeremiah son of Thos Ranny Junr & Rebeckah” baptized (p. 51); on April 29, 1711, “Hannah ye daughter of John & Hannah Ranny” baptized (p. 73). [**Compiler’s note:** Thomas Ranney Senior was not a member of the Congregational Church since his children were baptized in their mother’s right only.]

(HCCM): A County Court held at Hartford, April 21, 1675, “Daniel Harris, Thom: Ranny & Isack Johnson plntfs Complaine against Deacon Samll: Stocking Andrew Warner, Nath: Bacon Selectmen & dauid Sage & Isack Lane Fence Veivers Defnts for unwarrantable actions in their respectiue offices thereby being Cassuall to the Issueing forth of a distress upon the estate of the Complainants to the damage of 35s; in this action the Court find for the defnts Cost of Court.” (p. 193)

(MAN): On May 2, 1681, “George Hubbard of Middletown ... to my Daughter Mary Rany ... halfe of my halfe Mille Lott on the East sid[e] [of] the Great River” (vol. 1, p. 325); on August 6, 1683, “Thomas Watts of Hartford ... to the other six of my sister Hubbard’s Children, to Joseph, to Daniel, to Nathaniel, to Richard, to Mary Rannie, to Elizabeth Hubbard, I give to them £100” (vol. 1, p. 378); on March 19, 1700, distribution of estate of John Warner included “to Ebenezer Ranny in right of his wife” (vol. 2, p. 131); on March 6, 1711, “Thomas Ranney of Middletown ... to my wife Mary ... land that her Father Hubbard gave her” (vol. 2, p. 276); on January 17, 1716/7, “Edward Turner of Middletown ... to my daughter Hannah, now the wife of John Ranny” (vol. 2, p. 441)



Thomas Ranney (1658) / Mary (Hubbard) Ranney
Page 4-4-4

(Hartford, Connecticut Land Records 1639-1688 and Births, Marriages and Deaths 1644-1730 edited by Albert C. Bates): “Land in Hartford on conecticut belonging to Thomas Ranny & Thomas wetmore & their heirs & afsignes foreuer. One parcell lying in the Sowth meadow which they receiued of Samuel Steell & Samuel Hubard for a legacy due to them by Captain Tho: watts his laft will & Testament containing foure acres ... as appears by his deed dated August 9, 1687.” (p. 529)

(MLR): On March 3, 1686/7, “Thomas Raney senior to John Savedg and Mary his wife daughter to sd Thomas Raney ... part of the portion which he giveth to sd daughter as now married John Savedg” (vol. 2, p. 379); on September 5, 1703, “Thomas Ranny Sen ... for love & affection to my daughter Elizabeth and my son in law Jonathan Warner her present husband” (vol. 2, p. 118); on October 9, 1703, “Thomas Ranny senior ... for love and affection for Nathaniel Savage and his wife Hester Savage daughter of sd Thomas Ranny” (vol. 3, p. 79); on March 15, 1715/6, “Lands belonging to Thomas John Joseph & Ebenezer Ranny sons of Thomas Ranny late of Middletown deceased” (vol. 3, p. 275-278); on June 19, 1718, “Whereas, Georg Hubbard formerly of Midletown decd in his [last] will did Convey therein unto his daughter Mary the wife of Thomas Ranny & his son Samll Hubbard a half mile lott on the east side the great River ... ye sons of sd Mary Ranny Thomas John & Joseph: ... being Impowered by ye Genll Court to make sale of sd lands for their mothers Sopot:” (vol. 1, p. 93); on October 12, 1727, “Margret Ranny Ebenezer Ranny Jonathan Warner and

Elizabeth his wife, Nathaniel Savage and Esther his wife Mary Savage widow of Captn John Savage ... Margaret Ranny descend to her in last will and testament of her Hon. Father Thos. Ranney decd and whole remainder descends to the above in right of their sister Abigail decd sister to the sd Ebenezer Mary Elizabeth Margaret and Esther.” (vol. 6, p. 152)

(MUH): “The record book of the North Society contains in the handwriting of Capt. John Warner this 'grand levie for the north society in Middletown 1714 As followeth: Margaret Ranney, Ebenezer Ranney, Joseph Ranney, John Ranney, Thomas Ranney, Widow Ranney ... Capt. John Savage” (p. 30); “John Ranney and his wife were adm. to full communion in the Middletown ch. June 2, 1695; were original members of the North Society ch. organized Jan. 5, 1714-15. His homestead was next north of that of his brother Thomas. In 1717 he sold out and rem. to East Middletown where he and his wife were original members of the Third Society ch. organized 1721. The dates of their death are unknown.” (p. 154)

For further reading:

Adams, Charles C. “Descendants of Thomas Ranney, “ in *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.)

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)