



In-Depth First Settler Profile:
Samuel Stocking (1650) /
Bethia (Hopkins) Stocking

Name: Samuel Stocking

Birth: About 1620, England; specific date & location **unknown.**

Emigration: From England in 1633 with his father on the ship *Griffin* to Cambridge, Mass.; to Hartford with Thomas Hooker party, 1636; to Middletown 1653.(FFS; *Stocking Ancestry*/Stocking, 1903)

Death: December 31, 1683, Middletown, Conn.(MVR)

Occupation & Public Service: Appointed to a committee for laying out lands, November 1653. "He held the offices of Townsman, rate maker, surveyor of highways, grand levy man, and fence viewer. He was a Deputy to the General Court for several sessions."(FFS)

Marriage: m.(1) Bethia Hopkins, May 27, 1652, Hartford, Conn. (Hartford Vital Records) (b. unknown date, perhaps in Hartford, Conn.; d. 1692, Hartford, Conn.). She was the daughter of John Hopkins and Jane (Strong) Hopkins of Braintree, Essex, England, and later Hartford, Conn. (*Stocking Ancestry*/Stocking, 1903)

Compiler's Note: According to an article in *The American Genealogist* by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, the long held belief that Bethia Hopkins married Samuel Stocking at age 11 was due to a misdated deposition in a probate proceeding. (TAG, Vol. 77, No. 1, January 2002).

Parents: George Stocking (1582-1683) & Anna (unknown surname) of Suffolk, England, Cambridge, Mass., & Hartford, Conn. (*Stocking Ancestry*/Stocking, 1903)

Children (MVR, Land Records, vol. 1, page 41; BCVR):

- (1) Hannah Stocking, b. October 30, 1654, Middletown, Conn.; d. before 1683.
- (2) Samuel Stocking, b. October 19, 1656, Middletown, Conn.; d. December 2, 1697, unmarried.
- (3) Bethia Stocking, b. October 10, 1658; d. November 6, 1732; m. Thomas Stow, October 16, 1675, Middletown, Conn. (?? children)
- (4) John Stocking, b. September 24, 1660, Middletown, Conn.; d. 1726, Middletown, Conn.; unmarried.
- (5) Lydia Stocking, b. June 20, 1662, Middletown, Conn.; d. March 9, 1726, L.I., N.Y.; m.(1) Joseph Howell, about 1685, L.I., N.Y. (5 children); m.(2) Edward Rayner, L. I., N.Y. (*Descendants of Edward Howell*/Emma Howell Ross, 1968)
- (6) George Stocking, b. February 20, 1664, Middletown, Conn.; d. February 17, 1714, Middletown, Conn.; m. Eliza-

beth (unknown surname), unrecorded, probably Middletown, Conn.; (6 children)

(7) Ebenezer Stocking, b. February 23, 1666, Middletown, Conn.; d. before 1697, unrecorded date & location.

(8) Stephen Stocking, b. March 23, 1673, Middletown, Conn.; d. before 1697, unrecorded date & location.

(9) Daniel Stocking, b. April 14, 1677, Middletown, Conn.; d. 1733, Middletown, Conn.; m. Jane Mould, August 27, 1700, Middletown, Conn. (7 children)

Residence/Property: "His homestead was on the bank of the Great river in the North Society, and he owned many acres elsewhere."(FFS)

Will: Vol. 1, p. 587 (MAN). (Estate inventory, March 4, 1697: 306-10-09, i.e. 306 pounds)

Burial Location: Unknown

Notes:

(CAF): "Samuel Stocking was from Hartford and a son of George Stocking." (Field, pg. 147)

(SAV): "SAMUEL, Hartford, s. of the first Geroge, b. prob. in Eng. m. 27 May 1652, Bethia, d. of John Hopkins of H., had Hannah, b. 30 Oct. 1654, wh. d., bef. her f.; Samuel, 19 or 29 Oct. 1656; Bethia, 10 Oct. 1658, wh. m. 16 Oct. 1675, Thomas Stowe; John, 24 Sept. 1660; Lydia, 20 Jan. 1663; George, 20 Feb. 1665; Ebenezer, 23 Feb. 1667; Stephen, 28 Mar. 1673; and Daniel, 14 Apr. 1677; liv. at Middletown, when freem. 1654, and was rep. 1665, 9, and 74, was deac. and perhaps serv. in Philip's war, for in [[vol. 4, p. 199]] 1677 he was made serg. and he d. 31 Dec. 1683. His wid. m. James Steele."

(MUH): "Samuel Stocking, b. in England about 1620, removed 1650-1, with others, from Hartford to Middletown Upper Houses. His adjoining neighbor was George Grave, whose father had witnessed his own father's will. His homelot is shown on the map of 1675. He was one of the three signers in 1673 of the Indian deed. When the church on the 'south side' was organized in 1668, he was one of the original members. He represented the town in the General Assembly for seven years, and held local offices and served on many committees. He was a sergeant in King Philip's war. He and each of the four others who located on the same side of the street was given two acres on the west side. The four others returned to Hartford and Wethersfield and he had his west side two acres increased to eight and then to eleven and he built his barn on the west side. The well is still in use. He m. Bethia Hopkins, dau of John and Jane Hopkins, and, granddaughter of Samuel Hopkins, one of the signers of the Mayflower Compact, in 1620. (Compiler's note: This appears to be inconclusive.) He d. Dec. 30, 1683, and the widow m. James Steel, of Hartford, who had to sue for his wife to get what her first husband had given her by his will. It will be



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seen that he remembered his pastor in his will, which was witnessed by Nathaniel White and John Savidge, Sr., while his codicil was witnessed by his pastor and by Nathaniel White, who, with pastor Collins, had laid hands on him to ordain him one of the first deacons in 1670. The anxiety to have his children brought up in the ‘Nurture and Admonition of the Lord’ is made known therein.”

(CBRMC): “George Stocking, the emigrant, came to America in 1633, and died at a great age May 25, 1683. He was twice married. His first wife, Anna, he wedded in England, and his second, Agnes, was of Hartford, Conn. He settled in Cambridge, Mass., where he was admitted a freeman in 1635, and the next year removed to Hartford, where settlements were just forming. He had a lot of twenty acres of land in the first distribution. ... (Middletown) In 1654 and again in 1662 he was surveyor of highways; and in 1659, chimney viewer. He was excused from military duty in 1660. In May, 1670, he ‘separated’ to the Second Church in Hartford. He left no will, and his property, consisting of over 257 pounds, was divided among his children. (Deacon Samuel Stocking was born in England, came with his father to Massachusetts, and removed with him to Hartford. ... He removed with the first settlers to Middletown about 1650, and was one of the three signers of the Indian deed of that settlement. His home was in Upper Middletown, which is now called Cromwell ...)”

(**Stocking Ancestry/Stocking, 1903**): “Deacon Samuel was b. England, emigrated with his father in 1633, and in 1650 removed from Hartford to Middletown, Conn., where he became one of its founders, and was one of the three signers of the Indian deed of Middletown. He was the first deacon in the Middletown church, organized in 1668, and was representative in the state assembly in 1658, 1659, 1665, 1669, 1674, 1677, and 1681. His house stood in Upper Middletown, now the town of Cromwell. Deacon Samuel d. December 3, 1683, and his widow m. 2nd James Steele of Hartford. Samuel was a sergeant in King Philip’s War. He was an extensive shipbuilder and owner. His estate, inventoried at 648-08-08, was divided among all his children then living, the land on the east side of the Connecticut River being left to his sons George and Ebenezer, and three pounds in cash to his pastor, Rev. Nathaniel Collins.”

For further reading:

The Stocking Ancestry: comprising the descendants of George Stocking, by Charles H. W. Stocking (Vincennes, Indiana: C. H. W. Stocking, 1903).

“Bethia Hopkins Did Not Marry at Age Eleven,” by Robert Charles Anderson, *The American Genealogist*, Vol. 77, No. 1 (Jan. 2002), pp. 25-27. (Anderson argues that the evidence that Bethia Hopkins married Samuel Stocking at age 11 was based on only two documents stating her age: a deposition in a probate proceeding and an entry in Winthrop’s medical journal, and that the deposition was misdated by a decade.)

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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)