



In-Depth First Settler Profile:

John Stow (1667) /

Mary (Wetmore) Stow

Name: John Stow

Birth: February 3, 1640/1, Braintree, Mass. (*Vital Records of Braintree, Massachusetts*)

Emigration: Born in Massachusetts Bay Colony; removed to Middletown, Conn. before his marriage. (HMC)

Death: October 18, 1688, Middletown, Conn. (BCVR)

Occupation & Public Service: Unknown

Marriage: m. Mary Wetmore, November 13, 1668, Middletown, Conn. (b. abt. 1649, Hartford, Conn.; d. unknown) She was the daughter of Thomas Wetmore and Sarah (Hall) Wetmore of Hartford and Middletown, Conn. (*SMFSD In-Depth First Settler Profile: Thomas Wetmore*)

[**Compiler's note:** On January 7, 1678, Thomas Wetmore Senior gave to "John Stow Son to Thomas Stow his Wife Now Liuing With him mary Stow Daughter to the sd Thomas Wetmore" (MLR vol. 1, p. 158); on February 22, 1721/2, Mary Stow referred to her honored father Thomas Wetmore, deceased (MLR vol. 2, p. 468).]

Parents: Thomas Stow (1615-1684) & Mary Griggs (abt. 1618-1680) m. December 4, 1639, Roxbury, Mass. (*Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700*); Thomas Stow moved to Concord, Mass. about 1648 and to Middletown, Conn. about 1669. (MUH)

Children: (BCVR; MLR vol. 1, p. 24)

(1) John Stow, b. October 10, 1669, Middletown, Conn.; d. April 10, 1671, Middletown, Conn. (died young "by drowning in a well").

(2) John Stow, b. March 3, 1671/2, Middletown, Conn.; d. 1722, Middletown, Conn.; m. Bathshabe How, May 1698, Middletown, Conn. (6 children) [**Compiler's note:** Inventory of his estate taken March 28, 1722 (MAN vol. 2, p. 439-440).]

(3) Lieutenant Thomas Stow, b. April 10, 1674, Middletown, Conn.; d. January 23, 1765, Middletown, Conn.; m.(1) Rebecka Bow, February 1700/01, Middletown, Conn. (4 children). [**Compiler's note:** On June 7, 1734, Lt. Thomas Stow quitclaimed land belonging to "father John Stow, and Mother Mary Stow" (MLR vol. 1, p. 187); "Thomas Stow Junr son of John Stow Senr of Midletown" (MLR vol. 1, p. 102); "Lieut Thomas Stow Died Janry 23d 1765. Aged 90 years Last April" (MLR vol. 1, p. 22); referred to as Thomas Stow Junior to distinguish him from his uncle Thomas Stow, son of Thomas Stow.]

(4) Sergeant Nathaniel Stow, b. February 22, 1675, Middletown, Conn.; d. May 5, 1727, Middletown, Conn.; m. Sarah Sumner, February 11, 1702/3, Middletown, Conn. (11

children) [**Compiler's note:** On February 9, 1702/3, Sgt. Nathaniel Stow conveyed part of his dwelling house to his nephew Nathaniel, son of John Stow, deceased (MLR vol. 2, p. 153); on June 14, 1720, Nathaniel Stow and Sarah his wife, daughter of William Sumner (MAN vol. 2, p. 393); "Nathaniel Stow died May 5, 1727 age 52 yrs" (*Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions*, Middletown, Conn.; McDonough Cemetery, no. 711-19, p. 636); inventory of his estate taken June 12, 1728 (MAN vol. 2, p. 585); Sgt. Nathaniel Stow was the nephew of Sgt. Nathaniel Stow.]

(5) Mary/Marcy Stow, b. June 7, 1678, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown, Middletown, Conn. [**Compiler's note:** BCVR gives birth date as June 27, but land records show June 7 (MLR vol. 1, p. 24); on February 5, 1718/9, "Mary who is deceased and left no Issue" (MLR vol. 4, p. 21).]

(6) Hannah Stow, b. August 25, 1680, Middletown, Conn.; d. 1755, Hartford, Conn.; m. John Benjamin, abt. 1707, Hartford, Conn. (4 children) [**Compiler's note:** Marriage date based on birth of first child on May 30, 1708 (Hartford Vital Records); on June 7, 1734, John Benjamin of Hartford with Hannah his wife quitclaimed to Lt. Thomas Stow all the "Rights of their Grandfather Mr. Stow, and father John Stow, and Mother Mary Stow" (MLR vol. 1, p. 187); will of Hannah Benjamin dated December 7, 1754 and proved June 3, 1755 (*Hale, House and Related Families*, by Donald Lines Jacobus, 2001, p. 9-10)]

(7) Sarah Stow, b. March 25, 1682/3, Middletown, Conn.; d. April 12, 1683, Middletown, Conn. (died young)

(8) Samuel Stow, b. April 30, 1684, Middletown, Conn.; d. April 12, 1690, Middletown, Conn. (died young)

(9) Thankful Stow, b. July 15, 1686, Middletown, Conn.; d. January 15, 1689, Middletown, Conn. (died young)

(10) Experience Stow, b. September 30, 1688, Middletown, Conn.; d. September 29, 1689, Middletown, Conn. (died young)

Residence/Property: On April 23, 1668, eight acres in the west field given him for a house lot bounded east on highway west on undivided swamp north on Thomas Allin and John Kirby and south on John Wetmore; on February 19, 1672, sixty one acres in the west quarter; one hundred acres bought of John Wilcox in the south west quarter [sold to Samuel Cornwell] (MLR vol. 1, p. 67); on January 7, 1678, Thomas Wetmore gave "one piece of wett meadow" to his son-in-law John Stow (MLR vol. 1, p. 158); on January 8, 1678, John Hall gave five acres in the west field to "John Stow With his Now wife mary Stow" (MLR vol. 1, p. 157); on February 7, 1678, Capt. Daniel Harris to John Stow Senior four acres of bogie meadow at a place commonly called Gooses Delight (MLR vol. 1, p. 155); on January 26, 1680/1, Thomas Stow bequeathed "to my son John Stow" one half of his great lot at Streits Hill [whole lot contained two hundred eighty acres] (MAN vol. 1, p. 369); on February 11, 1680/1, one hundred twelve acres on the east side of the Great River bounded west on the Great River east on undivided land north on John Ward and south on William Cornwell; on November 9, 1686, ninety three acres bought of



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Samuel Cornell lying in the bogie meadow quarter bounded east on Little River; on February 9, 1686/7, four acres of bogie meadow on east side of the West River (MLR vol. 1, p. 67).

Will: No will found in Manwaring; inventory listed in Middletown land records. (Inventory of lands taken on February 15, 1697/8 by Izrahiah Wetmore, John Hamlin and John Bacon: 131-18-00, i.e., 131 pounds, included house with eight acre homestead; seven acres in Sowheags field; six acres in boggy meadow; one acre of adjoining swamp; ninety three acres in the Newfield; thirty acres by Newfield bars; one hundred forty acres beyond the straits on the west side; one hundred ninety acres on the east side; half mile lot on the east side; legatees: John eldest son, Thomas, Nathaniel, Mary eldest daughter, and Hannah (MLR vol. 4, p. 119-121).

Burial Location: Unknown

Notes:

(SAV): “STOW, THOMAS, Braintree, eldest s. of the first John, b. in Eng. ar. co. 1638, m. 4 Dec. 1639, at Roxbury, Mary Gragg, or Griggs, had John, b. 3 Feb. 1641; and Mary, 6 Feb. 1643; by 1648, or earlier, rem. to Concord, there freem. 1653, thence a. 1654, to Middletown, had, also, Thankful, Elizabeth, Nathaniel, Samuel, and Thomas. His w. d. 21 Aug. 1680, and he d. prob. early in 1684, as inv. is of 23 Feb. in his will names only John, Nathaniel, and Thomas as his s. and Samuel Bidwell, h. of his dec. d. Elizabeth Perhaps his est. was too small to give any pt. to two other m. ds. or they may have had full shares on m. A d. says Hinman, 243, m. Samuel Bidwell; Mary m. Spaulding; and Thankful m. a Hill, perhaps John, the sec. of Guilford.”

(SAV): “STOW, JOHN, Middletown, s. of Thomas, of the same, m. 13 Nov. 1668, Mary Wetmore, had John, b. 10 Oct. 1669, drown. at 2 yrs.; John, again, 3 Mar. 1672; Thomas, 10 Apr. 1674; Nathaniel, 22 Feb. 1676; Mary, June 1678; Hannah, 25 Aug. 1680; Sarah, 25 Mar. 1683; Samuel, 30 Apr. 1684; Thankful, 15 July 1686; and Experience, 30 Sept. 1688; of wh. Samuel, Sarah, and Thankful d. young; and the f. d. 18 Oct. 1688.”

(NEHGSR): “The Will of John Stowe of Cranbrooke, co. Kent, clothier, 28 Sept. 1643 ... To John Stowe, son of my brother Thomas Stowe, my share of land in Cranbrooke, Wittersam, and Lidd, given to me by my Uncle John Bigg, at his age of 21; meantime, Thomas Stowe, his father and my brother, to take the profits.” (vol. 93, p. 297)

(HMC): “April 3, 1667. John Stow senior admitted [an inhabitant to Middletown].” [**Compiler’s note:** He was referred to as John Stow Senior to distinguish him from his younger cousin John, the son of Samuel Stow. (MLR vol. 1, p. 155)]

(HMC): The names of the proprietors of Middletown with their estates, taken March 22th 1670 included John Stow with a value of £24. The list of the estate of the inhabitants of Middletown taken in 1673 included John Stow with a value of £32. “At a towne meeting November 18, 1679 ... it was voated be willing that a

belle which is purchased by parte of the inhabitance of the towne ... that if they be willing that the sayd belle shall be hanged up in the meeting house,” included John Stow Senior for the amount of eleven shillings.

(MLR): On January 8, 1678, John Hall Senior for consideration of love and affection to his kinswoman Mary Stow, daughter of Thomas Wetmore, (who was brought up with the said John Hall) gave to John Stow and his wife Mary five acres in the west field bounded east on Mr. Samuel Stow west on the West River north on Thomas Allyn and south on Thomas Stow Junior (vol. 1, p. 157); on February 7, 1678, Capt. Daniel Harris in consideration of about seventy acres of land lying southward from town conveyed to John Stow Senior about four acres of bogie meadow lying at a place commonly called Gooses Delight bounded west on the Little River south on Nathaniel Stow east on William Harris (vol. 1, p. 155); on December 4, 1685, John Stow Senior conveyed to Samuel Cornwell one hundred acres in the south quarter bounded north on town commons south on the desert west on highway and east on said Samuel Cornwell (vol. 6, p. 180).

(Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776): On October 8, 1685, “Propounded for Freemen ... John Stow Senr, John Whitmore, Nath. Stow, Isack Willcox, Richd Hubbard, John Clark, Wm Cornwell, of Midleton.” (vol. 3, p. 182)

(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870): On November 14, 1669, “Mr. Thomas Stow & Mary his wife all theirs being recommended to us by letter to us from the church of Christ at Concord desireing that by virtue of communion of churches they and theirs might have communion with us ... John Stow sone of the aforesaid Thomas & Mary his wife publicly manifesting repentance ... assenting to ye doctrine of faith did (with Mary his wife) solemnly owne and personally plight ye covenant and was soe accepted to a membership in this church” and both together presented their son John for baptism (p. 8); on April 20, 1672, John son of our brother John Stow baptized (p. 16); on April 12, 1674, Thomas son of John Stow and Mary his wife baptized (p. 20); on June 16, 1678, Mary Stow baptized (p. 27); on August 29, 1680, Hannah daughter of John Stow Senior baptized (p. 30); on April 1, 1683, Sarah daughter of John Stow Senior baptized (p. 34); on May 4, 1684, Samuel son of John Stow Senior baptized (p. 35); on December 16, 1688, Thankful and Experience children of widow Mary Stow wife of John Stow Senior deceased were baptized (p. 37); on March 12, 1712/3, John Stow Junior and Bathsheba his wife admitted to full communion (p. 76); on October 18, 1713, Sumner, son of Nathaniel and Sarah Stow baptized (p. 78).

(Records of the Particular Court of the Colony of Connecticut, 1687-1688): On March 7, 1688/9, “The Last will & testamt of John Stow of Midleton Deceased was Exhibited in Court & proved by oath and accepted and Nath Stow and Israhiah Wettmore and ye Releit apeared before ye Court and Excepted of being Executors. Allso an Inventory of ye Estate was prsented & oath made by ye Releit that she made a true presentmt of ye Estate of her deceased Husband to ye apprizrs so far at present is known,



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and if more Come to knowledge, she will Cause it to be added to ye Inventory.” (p. 31) [**Compiler’s note:** Edmond Andros was governor during the short-lived Dominion of New England; because the probate records of John Stow were sent to New York, the documents could not be abstracted by Manwaring.]

(MLR): On March 24, 1695/6, “Thomas Stow Junr son of John Stow Senr of Midletown Deceased” sold eight acres in the “bogie meadow quarter ... Layed out to ye said John Stow deceasd” bounded north on the lot now in the hands of the abovesaid Thomas Stow and his brother Nathaniel (vol. 1, p. 102); on February 15, 1697/8, estate of John Stow Senior, deceased, divided: to John the eldest son, house and homestead, two acres of cleared boggie meadow, one acre of swamp adjoining it; to Thomas, one half of land in Newfield quarter, one acre of boggie meadow, one acre in Sowheags field; to Nathaniel, the other half of land in Newfield quarter, one acre of cleared meadow, one acre in Sowheags field; to eldest daughter Mary, two acres in Sowheags field, one acre of cleared meadow, one hundred forty acres beyond the straits, half the half mile lot; to youngest sister Hannah, two acres in Sowheags field, one acre of meadow, one hundred ninety acres on east side of Great River, half the half mile lot (vol. 4, p. 119-121).

(MAN): On March 6, 1699/1700, “We whose names are here under written, the proper Children now living and representatives of such as are deceased, of Thomas Whetmore senior of Middletown, decd, have unanimously Consented and agreed that the Estate of Benjamin Whetmore, decd, our Brother, both Personal and Real, shall be divided and distributed in manner following,” included the signature of Mary Stow. (vol. 1, p. 384)

(MLR): On April 5, 1704, record of land laid out to Thomas and Nathaniel Stow, twenty two acres of upland lying westward

from town at or near Saddle Hill “In Lew of thirty acres of there land that desends to them from there father joining to the new field lots which they do upon the receipt of this above said pece of land throw out to the commons.” (vol. 2, p. 128)

(MLR): On February 5, 1718/9, John Stow, Thomas Stow and Nathaniel Stow all of Middletown, brethren and sons of John Stow deceased, quitclaim to John Benjamin certain parcel of land known as half mile lot containing sixteen acres which was originally John Stow’s decd and was distributed to his two daughters, Mary (who is deceased and left no issue) and Hannah, now wife of John Benjamin (vol. 4, p. 21); on February 22, 1721/2, Mary Stow for the love, good will and affection for my son Nathaniel Stow “and as a part of a requital to him of his kindness shewed unto me in my old age” assigned her rights to one thirteenth part of one hundred thirty three acres of land drawn for her honored father Thomas Wetmore, deceased, lying on the east side of the Great River within the last three miles granted to the town of Middletown (vol. 2, p. 468).

(MLR): On February 5, 1738/9, Nathaniel Stow conveyed to his brother Thomas Stow his right in forty nine acres in the three miles division on the east side of the Great River laid out to their father Sgt. Nathaniel Stow; to six acres that was laid out their grandfather; to two acres laid out to their great grandfather (vol. 1, p. 343) [**Compiler’s note:** Sgt. Nathaniel Stow, their father, was the son of John Stow and the grandson of Thomas Stow.]

For further reading:

John Stow/Stowe of Massachusetts and His Descendants of Middletown, Conn., by Raeola Ford Cooke (Twin Falls, Idaho: R.F. Cooke, 1986.)

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)