



In-Depth First Settler Profile:
William Sumner (1687) /
Hannah (Henchman) Sumner

Name: William Sumner (Deacon)

Birth: February 9, 1656, Boston, Mass. (SAV)

Emigration: Born in Massachusetts Bay Colony; moved from Boston, Mass. to Middletown, Conn. after the birth of his daughter Sarah.

Death: July 20, 1703, Middletown, Conn. (NEHGSR vol. 15, p. 167)

Occupation & Public Service: Blacksmith (SAV); deacon of the church; deputy to the General Court (CAF); on June 5, 1690, inventory of estate of Robert Warner taken by Nathaniel White, Francis Wetmore, William Sumner and John Hamlin (MAN vol. 1, p. 516); on June 30, 1690, inventory of estate of William Lucas taken by William Sumner, Isaac Johnson and Daniel Marcum (MAN vol. 1, p. 483); on September 2, 1690, inventory of estate of Francis Jones taken by Wm. Sumner and John Blake (MAN vol. 1, p. 473); on January 19, 1690/1, inventory of estate of John Blake taken by Richard Hall and William Sumner (MAN vol. 1 p. 410); on February 23, 1690/1, inventory of estate of George Durant taken by Samuel Collins and William Sumner (MAN vol. 1 p. 441); on December 6, 1694, inventory of estate of John Thompson taken by William Cheney, John Hall and William Sumner (MAN vol. 1, p. 512); on February 1, 1695/6, inventory of estate of Samuel Collins taken by Daniel Markham sen., Samuel Bidwell, and William Sumner; on March 5, 1695/6, Mr. John Hamlin, Daniel Marcum and William Sumner appointed overseers to his estate (MAN vol. 1, p. 429-430); on September 9, 1700, inventory of estate of Francis Whitmore taken by Nathaniel White, John Hall, Senior, and William Sumner (MAN vol. 2, p. 135); on December 19, 1701, inventory of estate of Capt. Daniel Harris taken by William Sumner, John Hamlin and Israhiah Wetmore (MAN vol. 2, p. 72); on February 23, 1702/3, inventory of estate of William Southmayd taken by John Hamlin, William Sumner and William Whiting (MAN vol. 2, p. 115).

Marriage: m.(1) Rachel Avery, May 22, 1677, Boston, Mass. (b. September 20, 1657, Dedham, Mass.; d. soon after marriage). She was the daughter of William Avery of Dedham, Mass. (*Genealogical Record of the Dedham Branch of the Avery Family in America*, by Jane G. Carter, 1893, p. 96); m.(2) Hannah Henchman, abt. 1678, Boston, Mass. (b. unknown; d. September 23, 1719, Middletown, Conn.) She was the daughter of Daniel Henchman of Boston, Mass. (*Connecticut Nutmegger*, vol. 21, p. 431-432). Hannah Sumner, widow of Deacon Sumner, married Captain John Hall, November 22, 1705, Middletown, Conn. (BCVR)

Parents: William Sumner, mariner, (d. February 1675) and Elizabeth Clement, m. abt. 1651, probably in Dorchester,

Mass. (SAV; *Dawes-Gates Ancestral Lines*, by Mary W. Ferris, 1943)

Children: (BCVR; SAV; *Connecticut Nutmegger*, vol. 21, p. 431-432)

Children by second wife:

(1) William Sumner, b. November 22, 1679, Boston, Mass. (died young). [**Compiler's note:** Year of birth given by Savage as 1675 is improbable since it predated both of his father's marriages; his father William was admitted to the Boston church in 1675 while William the son was baptized on November 30, 1679. (*Records of the Churches of Boston/Dunkle*, 2001)]

(2) Hannah Sumner, b. September 1681, Boston, Mass.; d. March 18, 1688/9, Middletown, Conn. (died young). [**Compiler's note:** Hannah was baptized on September 25, 1681 (*Records of the Churches of Boston/Dunkle*, 2001); "1689. Hannah Sumner, Aged 7 years. Dyed March the 18th." (NEHGSR vol. 15, p. 167)]

(3) Lieutenant Hezekiah Sumner, b. February 21, 1683, Boston, Mass.; d. May 7, 1749, Middletown, Conn., m. Abigail Bidwell, February 10, 1703/4, Middletown, Conn. (6 children) [**Compiler's note:** Will of Samuel Bidwell dated March 23, 1715, "to my daughter Abigail Sumner" (MAN vol. 2, p. 356); "Hezekiah Sumner (Lieut.) died May 7, 1749, age 65 yrs." (*Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions*, Middletown, Conn.; McDonough Cemetery, no. 711-19, p. 644); widow Abigail Sumner m. Samuel Frary, November 1, 1753 (*Hale, House and Related Families*, by Donald Lines Jacobus, 1952)]

(4) Sarah Sumner, b. December 29, 1685, Boston, Mass.; d. February 22, 1759, Middletown, Conn.; m.(1) Nathaniel Stow, February 11, 1702/3, Middletown, Conn. (11 children) Nathaniel Stow d. May 5, 1727; m.(2) William Ward, abt. 1730, Middletown, Conn. [**Compiler's note:** On February 1735/6 Sarah Ward, who was formerly wife of Nathaniel Stow, late decd., made choice of William Rockwell of Middletown to be guardian to her son James Stow, age 9 years." (MAN vol. 2, p. 585)]

(5) Daniel Sumner, b. September 26, 1688, Middletown, Conn.; d. before 1720, Middletown, Conn. (unmarried) [**Compiler's note:** On May 3, 1720, "Hezekiah Sumner requests this Court, in the settlement of the estate of Daniel Sumner, who had died, to allow him to buy and pay Sarah for the homestead." (MAN vol. 2, p. 125)]

(6) Ebenezer Sumner, b. September 28, 1691, Middletown, Conn.; d. March 17, 1698, Middletown, Conn. (died young) [**Compiler's note:** "Ebenezer Sumner died Mar. 17, 1698, age 6 yrs." (*Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions*, Middletown, Conn.; McDonough Cemetery, no. 711-19, p. 641)]

Residence/Property: On October 6, 1687, William Harris Senior of Middletown "in Consideration of a hous & land lying in bostowne in new England in the north End of the



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towne together with another percell of land” near Charlestown ferry conveyed the following land in Middletown lying on the west side of the Great River to Mr. William Sumner: one parcel of land “where his hous standeth ... with a percell of meadow adioyning to it being Estemed about nine or ten acres” bounded north on the highway west on George Phillips and south & east on Pamecheck River; two acres bounded north on the Great River south on Mr. Russells land west on Giles Hamlin and east on a highway. (MLR vol. 1, p. 138)

Will: William Sumner, Vol. 2, p. 124-125 (MAN). (Estate inventory taken August 18, 1703: 432-11-10, i.e., 432 pounds); the children Hezekiah, age 20 years; Daniel 15, Sarah 18; on July 5, 1714, “Mrs. Hannah Hall of Middletown, Adms. on the estate of Mr. William Sumner, late of Middletown;” on January 3, 1720/1, “Hezekiah Sumner now exhibited a settlement upon an award dated 17 June, 1720, of the remaining part of the estate of William Sumner, decd., not before distributed, and likewise of his brother Daniel Sumner, decd.” Hannah Hall, Vol. 2, p. 393 (MAN). (Estate inventory taken March 4, 1719/20: 35-07-11, i.e., 35 pounds); on February 29, 1710/20, adm. granted to Hezekiah Sumner, son of sd decd.; on June 14, 1720, “The estate of Mrs. Hannah Hall, arbitration; the estate of William Sumner: Hezekiah Sumner versus Nathaniel Stow and Sarah his wife, who was daughter of William Sumner, Hezekiah and Sarah, brother and sister, co-heirs in the estate of Daniel Sumner, decd., their brother, their mother Mrs. Hannah Hall also deceased.”

Burial Location: Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn. “Here Lyeth the Body of William Sumner, aged 47 years. Dyed July 20, 1703.” (NEHGSR vol. 15, p. 167)

Notes:

(CAF): William Sumner was deputy to the General Court in October 1701, May 1702, October 1702, and May 1703.

(GFHC): “William (2) Sumner, son of William (1) Sumner (q.v.), was born February 9, 1656, in Boston, died in Middletown, Connecticut, July 20, 1703. He was a freeman in May, 1678, a member of the artillery company, 1679. He married (first) May 22, 1677, in Dedham, Rachel, daughter of William Avery, of Dedham. She died soon, and he married (second) Hannah _____. About 1687 he moved to Middletown. He was deacon, lieutenant and deputy in 1701-02-03. Children: William, born November 22, 1679, Boston, died young; Hannah, September, 1681, Boston; Hezekiah, February 21, 1684, Boston, mentioned below; Sarah, December 29, 1685, Boston; Daniel, September 26, 1688, Middletown; Ebenezer, September 28, 1691, Middletown, died 1698.”

(SAV): “SUMNER, WILLIAM, Dorchester 1636, came prob. with w. Mary, and ch. William, Roger, George, Joan, and perhaps Abigail, wh. d. 19 Feb. 1658, was made freem. 17 May 1637 had Samuel, b. 18 May 1638; and Increase, 23 Feb. 1643;

very oft. selectman, and rep. many yrs. His w. d. 7 June 1676, it is report. and he perhaps d. Mar. 1692, aged a. 86. He is thot. to have been only ch. of Roger of Bicester in Co. Oxford, 12 ms. from the city of O. and could only be two yrs. old when his f. made nuncup. will 3 Dec. 1608, pro. 22 Mar. foll. as set out in Geneal. Reg. IX. 300.”

(SAV): “SUMNER, WILLIAM, Dorchester, mariner, s. of the preced. b. in Eng. m. Elizabeth d. of Augustine Clement, had Elizabeth bapt. 27 June 1652; Mary, 6 May 1654; rem. to Boston and had William, b. 9 Feb. 1656; Hannah, 10 June 1659; Sarah, 14 Feb. 1662; Exerience, 22 Sept. 1664; Ebenezer, 30 Oct. 1666; Deliverance, 18 Mar. 1669; Clement, 6 Sept. 1671; two of wh. prob. were d. in Jan. foll. when gr.f. Clement, in his will, refers to seven; and Mercy, Jan. 1675; but the last eight were, no doubt, b. in B. where his busines drew him, and he d. soon aft. the latest b. Elizabeth m. Joshua Henshaw; Mary m. 19 Jan. 1672, Nicholas Howe. On 4 May 1687, divis. of his prop. among the ch. shows, that one d. had m. Thomas Gould, prob. ano. perhaps Hannah, m. John Goffe; and ano. m. Thomas Pratt. Yet in Geneal. Reg. VIII. 128 f. where this suppos. appears, the dilig. inq. says, that Elizabeth m. Joshua Henshaw; Mary m. 19 Jan. 1672, Nicholas Howe, and next, John Trew, prob. of Newport; Sarah m. a Turell, and aft. a Weeks; Experience m. Eleazer Carver of Taunton; and Deliverance m. May 1689, Ebenezer Weeks.”

(SAV): “SUMNER, WILLIAM, Middletown, blacksmith, s. of the preced. by w. Hannah had, b. at Boston, William, 22 Nov. 1675; Hezekiah, 21 Feb. 1683; but perhaps Hannah, wh. d. at Middletown 18 Mar. 1689, was also b. at B. aft. William, and bef. Hezekiah; and Sarah, 29 Dec. 1685; rem. a. 1687 from Boston to M. there had Daniel, 26 Sept. 1688; and Ebenezer, 28 Sept 1691, d. at seven yrs. Was deac. 1695, rep. 1701, 2, and d. 20 July 1703, when only Hezekiah, Daniel, and Sarah were liv. Descend. in Conn. perpet. the stock. Of this name Farmer found eleven gr. at Harv. four at Yale, and two at other N. E. coll.”

(SAV): “CLEMENT, CLEMENS, CLEMENTS, or CLEMENCE, AUSTIN or AUGUSTINE, Dorchester, a painter, came from Southampton in the James of London, Apr. 1635, but may have been on this side of the water in 1632; yet greater is the prob. that he went home in 1636, and came again in May 1637, by the Mary Ann of Yarmouth, tho. against either conject. strong suggest. arise. by w. Elizabeth he had Elizabeth prob. b. in Eng. certain. the eldest ch.; Samuel, b. 29 Sept. 1635; Joanna, 19 Nov. 1638, d. soon; John, 21 Oct. 1639, wh. prob. d. young; and was freem. 25 May 1636, rem. to Boston 1652, but after some yrs. went back to D. there d. 1 Oct. 1674. He had good est. and in his will of 30 Jan. 1672 ment. w. Elizabeth s. Samuel, and d. Elizabeth w. of the sec. William Sumner, with her seven ch.”

(GMB): Will of Augustine Clement dated January 31, 1671, to “the children of my daughter Sumner, namely Hannah, William, Sarah, Experience, Elinor, Deliverance & Clement,



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£10 apiece at the age of 21 ...” (p. 104)

(SAV): “AVERY, WILLIAM, Dedham, a physician, or apothecary, prob. both, ar. co. 1654, had William, b. a. 1646; Mary; Robert, a. 1649; Jonathan, 26 Mary 1653; Rachel; Hannah, 27 Sept. 1660; and Ebenezer; 24 Nov. 1663, wh. prob. d. young, as he is not nam. in the will of his f. 15 Oct. 1683. He was a lieut. 1673, of the town's comp. and freem. 1677; possib. the bookseller, ment. by Thomas, in his Hist. II. 411, certain. the rep. for Springfield 1669, and he d. at Boston 18 Mar. 1687, aged a. 65. His w. Margaret had d. 28 Sept. 1678. Of the ds. Mary m. 5 Nov. 1666, James Tisdale; Rachel m. 22 May 1676, William Sumner; and Hannah m. the same day, Benjamin Dyer.”

(*Genealogical Record of the Dedham Branch of the Avery Family in America*, by Jane G. Carter, 1893): Will of William Avery of Dedham, Mass. dated October 15, 1683, “to my two sons-in-law, William Sumner and Benjamin Dyer, twenty pounds apiece, accounting that which each of them hath received already as a part of this legacy to them.” (p. 96)

(NEHGSR): On May 8, 1678, list of freemen included Wm. Sumer of Boston, Mass. (vol. 3, p. 244)

(Suffolk County, Massachusetts, Deeds): On March 29, 1679, Elizabeth Clements of Boston, widow and relict of Augustine Clements late of Dorchester in New England decd., to my daughter Elizabeth Sumner of Boston, widow, as witnessed by Thomas Kemble, Thomas Varney and William Sumner; on April 5, 1679, deed of gift on the other side to lie in the hands

of Daniel Turill Senior, Francis Hudson and Aaron Way, as witnessed by Thomas Varney, Hannah Sumner, and Mary Trow. (vol. 11, p. 152-154)

(Suffolk County, Massachusetts, Deeds): On March 28, 1681, John and Mary Davis conveyed to William Sumner of Boston, blacksmith, land at the north end of Boston bounded north on the street leading down to the ferry southwest on Capt. Daniel Henchman southeast on Lt. Daniel Turell; on February 24, 1681/2, William Sumner of Boston, blacksmith and Hannah his wife mortgaged the land to Hezekiah Usher and John Walley, trustees of the Fund; on June 18, 1684, William Sumner balanced his accounts as a depositor in the Fund and the deed of sale was made void, acknowledged by Daniel Henchman, director. (vol. 12, p. 150-151)

(NEHGSR): “The late J. Hammond Trumbull identified the Rev. John Woodbridge as the projector of the "Fund" of 1681. From mortgages in the Suffolk and Middlesex Registries we learn that William Sumner, Thomas Hunt, John Brooking, William Clough, John Starkie and Daniel Henchman were Acceptors of Credit in that company. The latter was also Director of the Fund, and through a discharge of one of the mortgages by transfers of credit in the Fund, we learn that Timothy Thornton, not a mortgagor, was an Acceptor of Credit. In addition, we have also the names of Hezekiah Usher, John Walley and Adam Winthrop, Trustees of the Fund.” (vol. 57, p. 274)

(*Records of the Churches of Boston*, by Robert J. Dunkle and Ann S. Lainhart, 2001): William Sumner admitted to the Second Church on August 8, 1675; Hannah Sumner admitted July 15, 1683; William Sumner baptized November 30, 1679;

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.)

(FLS) 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)



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Hannah Sumner baptized September 25, 1681; Hezekiah Sumner baptized February 24, 1683. (p. 188)

(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870): On November 11, 1688, Daniel son of William Sumner, by communion of churches, Father & Mother being both members of the north church in Boston, was baptized (p. 36-37); on November 3, 1689, "Mr. Willm Sumner & his wife were admitted into full commun being thereunto recommended by letter of dismissal from ye north church in Boston" (p. 38); on October 4, 1691, Ebenezer son of Willm Sumner baptized (p. 41); "At church fast Mr. Sumner, Mr. Southmayd & Obadiah Allyn were propounded for choice of Deacons" (p. 46); on August 11, 1695, "After the sacramt Mr. Southmayds reply (which he had given in writing) ye churches choice of him to ye office of a Deacon was read to the church which contained a plain refusal and declining the work, whereupon Mr. Willm Sumner was by a free vote of ye church chosen to the office of a Deacon among them." (p. 46); on January 14, 1704/5, Hezekiah Sumner owning ye covenant

had his son William baptized (p. 62); on April 12, 1719, Hezekiah Sumner admitted to full communion (p. 84).

(Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776): On October 12, 1699, "This Court confirms Captn Nathanll White of Midltown to be Captn of the Company at the north end of the said town and Lieut Francis Whitmore to be their Lieutenant and William Sumner to be their Ensign." (vol. 4, p. 303); on October 10, 1700, "Ensign William Sumner is appointed Lieutenant and Serjt John Savage Ensign of the north trainband in Midletown, and to be comissionated accordingly." (vol. 4, p. 340)

(MLR): On July 6, 1711, Hezekiah Sumner of Middletown with his sister Sarah and her husband Nathaniel Stow conveyed to Samuel Ward two acres bounded north on the Great River east on the highway west on William Hamlin and south on Samuel Ward, "the land having been sett out to Daniel Sumner brother to the foresaids." (vol. 3, p. 3)

For further reading:

Record of the Descendants of William Sumner, of Dorchester, Mass., 1636, by William Sumner Appleton, (Boston, Mass.: D. Clapp & Son, 1879.)

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