



In-Depth First Settler Profile:
Edward Turner (1665) /
Mary (Sanford) Turner

Name: Edward Turner

Birth: abt. 1633, birthplace unknown [Compiler's note: He died "in the 84 year of his age." (New York Genealogical and Biographical Record vol. 13, p. 124-130)]

Emigration: Boston, Mass. by 1656; to Milford, Conn. by 1658; to Middletown, Conn. (New York Genealogical and Biographical Record vol. 13, p. 124-130)

Death: April 4, 1717, Middletown, Conn. (BCVR)

Occupation & Public Service: Soap boiler (MLR vol. 1, p. 112)

Marriage: m. Mary Sanford, October 25, 1656, Boston, Mass. (b. abt. 1635, prob. England; d. before 1717, Middletown, Conn.); not mentioned in her husband's will. She was the daughter of Richard and Margery Sanford of Boston, Mass. [Compiler's note: "Edward Turner was married to Mary Sanford the Daughter of Richd Sanford 25:8:56 by Jno Endecott Govr." (NEHGS vol. 11, p. 203); "[John] Sanford left his schoolhouse to the Old South Church in Boston, and his remaining estate, after his wife's decease, to children of his brother Robert Sanford of Boston and of his brother-in-law Edward Turner of Middletown on the Connecticut River." (NEHGS vol. 154, p. 10)]

Parents: Unknown [Compiler's note: Richard Turner was admitted to Boston church as member #162 in the summer of 1633 (GMB); however, his connection to Edward Turner has not been proven.]

Children: (BCVR; MLR vol. 1, p. 19; *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, vol. 13, p. 124-130)

(1) Mercy/Marcy Turner, b. March 13, 1662, Milford, Conn.; d. before 1717, Middletown, Conn.; m. James Bennett, abt. 1685, Middletown, Conn. (2 children) [Compiler's note: On August 4, 1689, Mary daughter of Marcy Bennet (formerly Turner) baptized; on September 1, 1689, Ambrose son of James & Mar[c]y Bennet baptized (Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut p. 38); "my daughter Mercy deceased" mentioned in her father's 1717 will. (MAN vol. 2, p. 442)]

(2) Edward Turner, bapt. September 4, 1664, Milford, Conn.; d. 1698, Guilford, Conn.; m. Sarah (Hall) Blake, widow of John Blake, abt. 1692, Middletown, Conn. (2 children) [Compiler's note: On March 4, 1696/7, Edward Turner of Middletown, administrator to the estate of John Blake, in right of his wife. (MAN vol. 1, p. 512-513); on July 31, 1698, "Sarah ye wife of Edward Turner Junr deceased." (*Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut*, p. 51); "Gilford, November 28, 1698. An Inventory of all that

estate we can find in Gilford of Edward Turner, of Middletown, late deceased in Gilford," including joyners tools. (*New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, vol. 13, p. 124-130)]

(3) Mary Turner, b. November 5, 1665, Middletown, Conn.; d. April 25, 1747, Middletown, Conn.; m. Samuel Bow, May 9, 1683, Middletown, Conn. (9 children) [Compiler's note: She was baptized at Milford (SAV); marriage date in BCVR (1783) is incorrect; will of Edward Turner dated January 17, 1716/7, to Mary, my daughter, now the wife of Samuel Bow (MAN vol. 2, p. 441-442); on February 16, 1721/2, "which decends to the sd Samuel Bow & Mary his wife by their father Edward Turner decd." (MLR vol. 3, p. 425)]

(4) Elizabeth Turner, b. November 14, 1668, Middletown, Conn.; d. February 9, 1695, Middletown, Conn.; m. Thomas Miller, March 28, 1688, Middletown, Conn. (2 children) [Compiler's note: BCVR states she was born in November, although Savage says December; however, she was baptized on November 15, 1668. (*Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut*, p. 4)]

(5) John Turner, b. August 8, 1669, Middletown, Conn.; d. December 1755, Hartford, Conn.; m. Susannah Merrill, abt. 1694, Hartford, Conn. (14 children) [Compiler's note: John Turner was born on either "5 or 8 Aug. 1669." (SAV) "John Turner and Susanna his wife rec'd 2nd Ch [Hartford] Aug 23, 1696." (*Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, by Lucius Barnes Barbour, p. 609); "An agreement, made among the heirs of John Merrells, late of Hartford, decd., 1 December, 1712 ... John Turner in right of his wife." (MAN vol. 2, p. 258-260)]

(6) Stephen Turner, b. November 27, 1671, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown [Compiler's note: He was mentioned in his father's 1717 will; "no further trace" (New York Genealogical and Biographical Record vol. 13, p. 124-130)]

(7) Abigail Turner, b. September 10, 1673, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown [Compiler's note: The Abigail Turner mentioned in Edward Turner's 1717 will was his granddaughter, the daughter of his deceased son Edward.]

(8) Hannah Turner, b. June 20, 1675, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown; m. John Ranney, December 28, 1693, Middletown, Conn. (9 children) [Compiler's note: John Ranney and his wife removed from the Upper Houses to East Middletown in 1717 (MUH); on November 18, 1743, "John Ranny and Hannah his wife," heirs of Edward Turner (MLR vol. 10, p. 531-532); dates of their death are not known (MUH).]

(9) Richard Turner, b. March 4, 1678/9, Middletown, Conn.; d. February 1769, Middletown, Conn.; m.(1) Hannah Bidwell, July 18, 1717, Middletown, Conn. (3 children); m.(2) Sarah Hubbard, July 2, 1735, Middletown, Conn. [Compiler's note: BCVR gives incorrect year of birth (1677/8); see land records (MLR vol. 1, p. 19); on February 27, 1769, "Funeral of Richd Turner aged 89, of infirmities of age." (*First Church*,



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Middletown, Marriages/Deaths from 1762-1869, p.80); “His will, dated 21 Feb. 1767, proved 3 July 1769, mentions his ‘late wife,’ and granddaughter Hannah Turner, only child of his son Sanford Turner dec’d.” (*Hale, House and Related Families*, by Donald Lines Jacobus, 1952, p. 471)]

Residence/Property: On July 13, 1666, land of Edward Turner recorded, five acre homelot which he bought of Thomas Miller bounded north on the highway south on Pamechak River east on William Harris and west on Thomas Miller; on March 3, 1670/1, nine acres of meadow on the east side of the Great River; two acres of meadow bought of William Ward; on December 9, 1671, “one peice of Land at the Landing place by William Harises ... being fourty foote on the banke as the hill Runeth & thirty foote from the Edg of the hill on the high ways;” on August 1, 1673, one hundred ten acres in the South quarter; one hundred thirty seven acres westward from town; on May 27, 1680, one hundred eighty nine acres on the east side of the Great River being two and half miles long; on February 15, 1700/1, ten acres southward from the town. (MLR vol. 1, p. 48)

Will: Vol. 2, p. 441-442 (MAN). Will dated January 17, 1716/7, to my son Richard Turner, “all my lands and buildings already conveyed by deed, and also all my right, title and interst in all undivided lands and commonages within the bounds of the Township of Middletown and also every part and particular of my moveable estate;” to my son John Turner, “twenty shillings in pay;” to my son Stephen Turner, five shillings; to my grandson Stephen Turner, five acres of land and to his sister Abigail, forty shillings, “these two (Stephen and Abigail) being the children of my son Edward Turner deceased;” to “Mary, now the wife of Ebenezer Eglestone, daughter and only heir of my daughter Mercy deceased, five shillings;” to Thomas and Abigail Miller, the children and only heirs of my daughter Elizabeth deceased, five shillings to each; to Mary, my daughter, now the wife of Samuel Bow, five shillings; to my daughter Hannah, now the wife of John Ranny, five shillings. (Estate inventory, in lands of 137 acres, taken February 28, 1722/3: 68-10-00, i.e., 68 pounds, was only a partial inventory of his estate.)

Burial Location: Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn. “Here lieth the body of Mr. Edward Turner Senr, who died April the 4, 1717, in the 84th year of his age.” [**Compiler’s note:** His gravestone was preserved until about 1871. (*New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, vol. 13, p. 124-130)]

Notes:

(SAV): TURNER, EDWARD, Milford 1651, sw. as freem. 1667, but not found in the town’s list, having rem. to Middletown 1665, and d. 4 Apr. 1717. He had bapt. at Milford, Mercy in 1662; a s. prob. Edward, 1664; and Mary 1666, tho. b. at Middletown, 5 Nov. 1665; Elizabeth b. 14 Dec. 1667, prob.

tho. rec. says 14 Dec. 1668, wh. must be wrong; John, 5 or 8 Aug. 1669; Stephen, 27 Nov. 1671; Abigail, 10 Sept. 1673; Hannah, 20 June 1675 or 6, the last fig. being indist. and Richard, 4 Mar. 1679. His w. was Mary. The s. Edward had ch. at Middletown 1694 and aft. EDWARD, Boston, wh. may be the same as the preced. m. 25 Oct. 1656, Mary, d. of Richard Sanford. [**Compiler’s note:** Elizabeth was born on November 14, 1668; Hannah was baptized on August 1, 1675.]

(HMC): “Edward Turner was from Milford, and had two or three children baptized there. His wife was recommended to the church in Middletown, from the church in that place.”

(SAV): “SANFORD RICHARD, Boston 1640, laborer, whose w. Margary d. that yr. was adm. of the ch. 30 Jan. 1641, and freem. 2 June foll. had possib. s. John and Robert, and certain. d. Mary, wh. m. 25 Oct. 1656, Edward Turner.”

(SAV): “SANFORD JOHN, Boston, the sch.master, wh. I rejoice to say, taught writ.; m. 19 Feb. 1657, Sarah, wid. of Robert Potter, was perhaps, the freem. of 11 Oct. 1670, and d. 10 Feb. 1677. His will, of 19 Jan. preced. pro. 24 Apr. foll. ment. no ch. but gives all est. to w. Sarah for life, and aft. devise to the third ch. his sch.ho. and ld. adj. one half of other est. to childr. of his br. Robert, they to pay aft. entry upon d. of the wid. £20. to Hannah Potter, if she liv. with her until 18 yrs. old, and other half to childr. of Edward Turner of Middletown, they to pay, as soon as they rec. and enter upon it L10 ... I hazard the conject. that he was br. of Turner’s w.”

(*Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776*): On May 9, 1667, “Those that are marked wth ye letter S are sworne to their respectiue places. These were sworne: ... Edw. Higby, Jno Ward, Anthony Martin, Edw: Turner, David Sage ...” (vol. 2, p. 58)

(HMC): The names of the proprietors of Middletown with their estates, taken March 22th 1670 included Edward Turner with a value of £44. The list of the estates of the inhabitants of Middletown taken in 1673 included Edward Turner with a value of £54. “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 Edward Turner for the amount of fifteen shillings.”

(*New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, vol. 13, no. 3 (July 1882), p. 124-130): “Edward Turner seems to have been the first of this branch of the Turner family to come to America. His antecedents are as yet unknown. According to Savage, he married, October 25, 1656, O. S., Mary, daughter of Richard Sanford, of Boston, whose house lot was on the square lying north of the present Cambridge Street, and contained about one acre. He went to Milford, Conn., where his first three children were baptized. He was an elder of the church, and his wife was admitted to church-membership February 16, 1662. From the records of the General Court at Milford, we gather the following: Sept. 15, 1658. ‘Item. Goodmnn Turner hath the grant of land near his shop for to



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build on, and make a garden, so much as may be spared and not annoy the cart ways and the Court appointed John Lane and Thomas Samford to judge of the same.' Sepr 9, 1659. 'Edward Turner hath one acre of land given to him, in the mill neck upon condition that he watcheth for it, and that it be laid out in order so that it doth not hinder any other lots.' Feb. 7, 1660. 'Edward Turner hath liberty granted him to take up the remainder of that poynt of woodland that is in the Northeast end of Ensigns lott, on the other side Calves pond meadow.' From Milford Edward Turner went to Middletown, where he was an inhabitant in 1666, and remained there until his death."

(MLR): On March 13, 1674, Edward Turner of Middletown, "sope boyleer," indebted to Mr. Richard Bryan of Milford, merchant, for the sum of one hundred eighteen pounds do mortgage five acres of land "whar on my dwelling house now stands" together with his ash house and soap house and promised to balance all accounts between them by delivering "good merchantable sope full weight at seuentene shillings pr ferkine ..." On November 22, 1678, "the contents aboute written being answered according to the tener the aboute Sayd Remayns Voyd & of noe Efect." (vol. 1, p. 112)

(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870): On November 15, 1668, Elizabeth Turner (by virtue of communion of churches) was baptized (p. 4); on March 18, 1669, wife of Edward Turner admitted to full communion (p. 6); on August 8, 1669, John Turner, son of our sister Turner, baptized (p. 7); on August 4, 1689, Marcy Bennet (formerly Turner) publicly owning the covenant had a child baptized, Mary Bennett; on September 1, 1689, Ambrose son of James & Mary Bennet baptized (p. 38); on May 10, 1691, Edward Turner Junior admitted to full communion (p. 40); on June 24, 1694, Mary wife of Samuel Bow admitted to full communion (p. 44); on October 14, 1694, Abigail, daughter of Edward Turner Junior, baptized; on November 25, 1694, John Turner presented his acknowledgment of his sin of fornication; on March 17, 1694/5, Edward Turner Senior admitted to full communion (p. 45); on June 9, 1695, John Ranny & Hannah Ranny his wife were admitted to full communion; on July 21, 1695, John Turner owning ye covent had his daughter Mary baptized (p. 46); on June 28, 1696, John Turner dismission to second church of Christ at Hartford (p. 49); on August 29, 1697, Stephen son of Edward Turner Junior baptized (p. 50); on July 31, 1698, Sarah, wife of Edward Turner Junior deceased admitted to full communion and baptized (p. 51); on June 2, 1717, Richard Turner admitted to full communion (p. 82); on December 6, 1719, Sanford, son of Richard Turner, baptized (p. 85).

(HCCM): On September 5, 1678, "A negroe of Mr. Giles Hamline Named Jack being Complayned of by Edward Turner for attempting a rape upon Elizabeth the daughter of the Sayd Turner of about Ten years of age, & Haueing confessed before

the Commissioners at Midleton that he would have forced the Sayd Girle but that he fownd her to Smale." (p. 241)

(HCCM): On March 19, 1684/5, "Mary Williams personally appeared before us & she accused James Benitt of committing Folly with her ... he Answered he did not know of any thing that might make her to acuse him. The marshall was order to take James Bennit into his custody & comit him to prison unless he did giue him forty pownds Bond for his appearance to Answer the complaint ... Wm Williams Senr acknowledged himself Bownd in a recognizance of Six pownd for his daughter Mary Williams for her appearance at the court." (p. 393); at a County Court held in Hartford on September 3, 1685, "Edward Turner was Three times Called in Court to bring in James Berit to the court or els he would forfeit his recognizance he appeared & declared he could not bring in james Berit the Court declared he had forfeited his Bond of forty pownds. Wm Williams hath forfeited his recognizance of Six pownds for not bringing in his daughter Mary to Court according to his Bond March 19, 1684/5." (p. 405)

(MLR): "The Record of births of The Children of Edward Turner Junr & ye widdo of John BI[ake] Deceased: - Is as followeth: - Abigail Turner Dafter to ye Abouesd Edward & Sarah was born: octobr ye: 11th 1694; Stephen Son to the aboute Said Edward & Sarah Turner was born: August ye: 26 :169[]; Sarah the Widow of Edward Turner formerly of Jno Blake departed this life Decembr 16th 1726." (vol. 1, p. 23)

(MLR): On April 22, 1717, "We whose names are hereunto subscribed being legatees of Edward Turner Late of Midletown deseased being well acquainted with his circumstances for many years last past; that he hath been wholly in a maner taken of from doing any thing towards his subsistence, and the whole burthen and charg hath layne on his son Richard & more especially the Indefaticable pains and trouble as well as great charg that he hath been att since he hath ben attended with a cancer in his mouth of which att last he died which expence besides his one time for his ffathers subsistence had he not provided for him. Since he fell into these decays with ye keeping up building and fences & rates woold have been exhausted and spent & all com to nothing before this day; therefore upon these considerations we declare ourselves well sattisfied wth the sayd Edward Turners dispose of what little estate he had to his son Richard Turner and think if it was more it wood be but a sutable recompence for his grate paines care and charg he hath ben at with his father." Signed Samuel Bow, John Ranny, Steven Turner, Abigail Turner, Ebenezer Egelston, Thomas Miller, Abigail Miller. (vol. 2, p. 400)

(MLR): On December 5, 1717, Sarah Turner of Middletown granted to her sons Jonathan Blake and Stephen Turner land lying against Paper Rock that had belonged to her father Richard Hall; on December 5, 1717, Sarah Turner of Middletown give "to my Son Stephen Turner of Sd Middletown" and to "my daughter Abegail Leming." (vol. 4, p. 202)



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(MLR): On March 1, 1721/2, John Ranney and Hannah his wife “Daughter unto Edward Turner Sumtime of aforesd Middletown deceased” to Stephen Turner in consideration of thirteen pounds conveyed one equal eight part of a tract of land in the westernmost range of lots, the whole lot containing 137 acres bounded east on a highway west on Wallingford bounds north on Benjamin Crowell and south on heirs of Obadiah Allen (vol. 4, p. 207); on October 15, 1723, Richard Turner conveyed “One Eighth Part of a Certain tract or Lottment of Land ... which Lott was originally my honrd father Edward Turners Late of of Sd Midletown Decd which contains by Estimation one Hundred thirty Seven Acres” (vol. 4, p. 207); on February 4, 1724/5, Jeremiah Leming and Stephen Turner “do hold a certaine parcell or lott of Land Lying in sd Middletown being bounded Northward by Benjamin Croells Land South by Allyns Lott, Eastwardly by a highway, westwardly by Wallingford bounds, which land the sd Turner & Leming Hold in part as they are coheirs to their Grandfather Edward Turner late of sd Middltown Deceasd, and the remainder of sd lott the sd Leming & Turner hold by purchas from the other coheirs of the ssd deseasd.” (vol. 5, p. 53-54)

(MAN): On February 5, 1722/3, “Jeremiah Learning [Leaming], who married Abigail Turner, and John Turner, heirs of Edward Turner, informing this Court that the sd. Edward Turner made a will which was proven 4 January, 1717, and disposed of part of his estate and died partly intestate, particularly of one piece of land (about 137 acres) lying in Middletown, this Court do therefore grant letters of Adms. unto Jeremiah Learning Cum Testimento annexo.” (vol. 2, p. 442)

(Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College): “Jeremiah Leaming, the eldest of nine children of Jeremiah and Abigail Leaming (who were married on July 4, 1716) ... His mother was a daughter of Edward and Sarah (Hall, Blake) Turner of Middletown.” (vol. 2, p. 39)

(MLR): On November 18, 1743, “Richard Turner, Stephen Turner, Ebenezer Hale and Abigail [Miller] his wife, Jeremiah Lemon [Leaming] and Abigail his wife, John Ranny and Hannah his wife, Ebenezer Egelston and Mary his wife, and Mary Bow Single Woman, all of Middletown ... heirs and legal representatives of Edward Turner, formerly of Middletown aforesaid, Now Deceased.” (vol. 10, p. 531-532)

For further reading:

“Turner Family in America – Edward Turner and his Descendants.” by Frank F. Starr and John V. L. Pruyn, Jr., *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Vol. 13, No. 3 (July 1882), p. 124-130.

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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)