

His wife Elizabeth Barnard, died Oct. 26, 1710; their children were Joseph Wadsworth, born 1682; Elizabeth; Jonathan, bpt. Feb. 20, 1687, died young; Ichabod; Hannah and a second Jonathan. His will, dated July 6, 1723, proved Mar. 22, 1730/31, mentions wife Mary, (his 3rd wife), sons Joseph and Jonathan, three grandchildren, the children of his deceased daughter Elizabeth Marsh, namely Jonathan, Joseph and Elizabeth Marsh; and daughter Hannah Cook. (Savage's Gen. Dict. New Eng., Vol. 4, p. 380; Manwaring's Prob. Rec. Hartford, Conn., III, p. 121; Descendants of John Marsh of Hartford, Conn., pp. 21, 189.)

- iv. Sarah Barnard, mar. James Steele, whose will was proved Jan. 5, 1712[1712/13], the inventory of the estate being taken Nov. 25, 1712. He names his wife Sarah Steele, sons James, Jonathan and Stephen, and daughters Sarah, Mary and Elizabeth.
The widow Sarah Steele was living Feb. 3, 1718/19, before which time her son James had died intestate and the heirs were his brothers Jonathan and Stephen Steele, and sisters, Sarah, wife of John Watson, Elizabeth, wife of Cyprian Watson, and Mary, wife of Joseph Ashley. (Savage's Gen. Dict. New Eng. 4-180; Manwaring's Early Prob. Rec. II, p. 305.)
- v. Hannah Barnard, unm. 1691.
- vi. Mary Barnard, named in her father's will, 1691, as Mary Bunce.

3. JOHN² BIRCHARD

John² Birchard, born about 1628, in England, only son, so far as known, of Thomas¹ and Mary (——) Birchard, came with his parents in the ship "Truelove," in 1635, to New England; he went with them to Hartford, Connecticut, and later, to Saybrook in the same Colony. He evidently did not remain in Saybrook very long, for on March 27, 1651, he was an owner of land at Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard, when his land at Meshacket is mentioned (Edgartown rec. 1-124). A division of common lands in Edgartown, was made May 8, 1653, among twenty proprietors, two of whom were Thomas and John Birchard.

In 1656, according to Banks' History of Martha's Vineyard, he was chosen town clerk of Edgartown, "probably in succession to his father, and his fine signature indicates excellent clerical ability and an education above the ordinary. It is to be regretted that the records kept by him are not extant, in place of the doubtful transcript made in the next century."

In a town court held June 24, 1656, he brought a suit against Edward Andrews, both then living at Edgartown.

On June 6, 1659, a tract of land, nine miles square, lying fourteen miles north of New London, Conn., was purchased of the Indians; many of the company had been at Hartford, and later, were proprietors of Saybrook, Conn.; the Birchards were very enterprising people and were among the first to share in the purchase of lands for new settlements. John Birchard, fol-

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lowing his father's example in this respect, as well as that of being a town clerk and surveyor, became one of the original proprietors of the new town, called at first Mohegan, and later, Norwich.

His home lot was one of the original ones, laid out in November 1659; it is described in the Book of Grants, as being bounded on the Town street, by the river (Yantic), west by Sergt. Caleb Abell's and east by John Post's. Caleb Abell had purchased the home lot of Robert Wade, and both Wade and Post had come from Saybrook.

Miss Caulkins, in her "History of Norwich, Conn." (1874), page 66, says, "Mr. Birchard's house is supposed to be the one still extant at the entrance of Hammer-brook lane, and taken as a whole, is without doubt, the most ancient house remaining in Norwich. It has had various owners and occupants, but no lean-tos, porches, additions or improvements of any kind have changed its original outward form.

"According to tradition, it was fortified in the time of King Philip's War, and a garrison kept in it, who made portholes under the roof, through which to fire if they should be attacked."

This house was demolished about 1873; a picture and some description is given in the "Connecticut Quarterly," Vol. 3, page 441.

On July 10, 1662, Thomas Birchard, acting as attorney for his son, sold John Birchard's land at Martha's Vineyard, to Thomas Jones (Edgartown records, 1-129).

In the record of lands belonging to Thomas Birchard at the Vineyard, was one piece of "two acres more or less I had of John Burchard that the town gave him, of which John Eadie hath one acre and one Remains Still in my Possession att this day."

John Birchard evidently removed to Norwich, Connecticut, as soon as possible after the laying out of the home lots and provision for shelter was made. In October, 1663, he was one of the ten inhabitants of Norwich who were accepted as freemen by the General Court of Connecticut (Col. Rec. Conn., 1-412).

He soon occupied a prominent place in the new town; was appointed clerk of the County Court, in 1673, and was clerk for many years, as shown by his signature in the County Court Records.

At the General Court held in May, 1691, "Mr John Birchwood" was appointed commissioner for Norwich, and Mr. Benjamin Brewster for Norwich and Preston (this included that part of Norwich, east of the river, and adjoining Preston); Capt. James Fitch to administer the oath.

Oct. 8, 1691, he was one of the deputies to the General Court; and in May, 1692, he and Mr. Brewster were appointed and again in May 1693. (Col. Rec. Conn., 4-43, 55, 66, 92.)

His autograph as depicted in "History of Norwich, Conn.," page 166, shows rather a larger signature than he usually wrote.

Joshua, third son of Uncas, Sachem of the Mohegans, in his will, made a princely gift of land to a number of prominent persons, among them John Birchard. In May, 1678, the General Court of Connecticut, allowed and established this will, and granted the legatees liberty to possess all of Joshua's rights in this land, provided they complied with the stipulated terms.

This tract, at first called "Joshua's Tract," included the present town of Windham, and parts of the surrounding towns.

To fulfil the conditions of the bequest and to arrange "for settling a plantation upon the land given by Joshua, deceased," the legatees met in Norwich, on February 17, 1682, and signed an agreement. (See Larned's "History of Windham County, Conn.," 1-64.)

No further action was taken for three years, when the legatees again met in February, 1685, and agreed to settle in three places, for the convenience of lands and meadows. They also appointed a committee to lay out such highways as were needful, and John Birchard was one of the committee for laying out the land.

"The sites selected for the three villages were the Hither-place or South-east Quarter, now Old Windham; the Ponde-place, at Naubesatuck, now Mansfield Center; and the valley of the Willimantic, near the present Willimantic."

John Birchard did not move to the new plantation, but sold part of his lands to Jonathan Ginnings, and deeded part of it to his oldest sons, Samuel and James Birchard, as told in their record.

On Sept. 19, 1693, John Birchard, "of Norwich, New London County," Conn., sold land at Edgartown, on Martha's Vineyard, "which did to me descend from my father Thomas Birchard, deceased"; the sale was made to Thomas Pease, who was related to John Pease of Norwich (Duke's County, Mass., Land Rec. 1-122). This seems to have been the last of the proprietary holdings on the Vineyard, belonging to the Birchards.

Another new town had interested John Birchard; on September 6, 1692, Capt. Samuel Mason, Capt. Benjamin Brewster, Capt. John Stanton and Mr. John Birchard, purchased of Owaneco, son and successor to Uncas, a tract of land in what is now Lebanon, Connecticut, adjoining the original town of Norwich, on the west.

This was called the "Five-Mile Purchase," and was hotly contested but was finally settled and the decision of the General Court in May, 1705, was that the Court allowed the conveyance of the tract of land five miles square in Lebanon made by Owaneco, under date of September 6, 1692, to the four above named, and also the conveyance made by these four on January 4, 1699/1700, of the tract "to the present proprietors thereof (who are hereinafter named)"; the list begins "to the heirs

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of Samuel Mason, John Burchard sen^r, John Burchard Jr.,” and ends with Joseph Burchard. (Col. Rec. Conn., 4-513, 514; Hurd's History of New London County, Conn., Lebanon, page 499.)

In 1696 and 1698, he sold lands in Saybrook, Conn., which had belonged to his father (Saybrook Land Rec. 1-211, 217), but still had a proprietary right in that town, which was finally sold on December 11, 1725, by David Birchard, of Norwich, as land “which did belong to my honored grandfather John Birchard, late of Lebanon, deceased” (*Ibid.*, 3-423, 425).

Early in 1699, John Birchard was preparing to remove once more, and this proved to be the last time; on Feb. 27, 1698/9, “John Birchard Senr, of Norwich, New London County, Colony of Connecticut,” with “Jane my wife,” for £60 in silver, “with a dwelling house and a barn to be Built and Finished att the Town of Lebanon,” conveyed to John Elderkin of Norwich, all our home lott conteyning Seven acres more or less and is scittuate lying and being in the Town of Norwich aforesaid with the dwelling house, barn, orchard, well, fences, The said home lott is bounded Northerly by the Town Street and easterly by the land of John Post, westerly by land formerly belonging to Robert Wade and by the River southerly. Other parcels were also included. (Land Rec. Norwich, Conn., 2A-29.) As this was an original homelot, his wife Jane (Lee) (Hyde) Birchard and his oldest son, Samuel Birchard, also signed the deed.

His old pastor, Rev. James Fitch, removed to Lebanon, as did also some other Norwich families. He died there November 17, 1702, two days before his pastor.

The only record so far found in connection with the settlement of his estate is that on Probate Records, New London, Conn., Journal 1, page 25. At a Court held at New London, June 25, 1703, An inventory of the estate of Mr. John Birchard Late of Lebanon, Deceased, was exhibited, accepted & ordered recorded; administration was granted to Jane Birchard Widow and Relict of sd John Birchard. The Court orders distribution as follows; To the widow one third of the real estate during her lifetime and one third of the moveables to be to her and her heirs forever. To the eldest son a double portion and to the rest of the children an Equal proportion. The inventory included “More than 200 acres in Lebanon; One quarter of a lot in Lebanon; land in Norwich.” Samuel¹ Birchard, as eldest son, must have received a double portion, according to the law; but John² Birchard, in his lifetime, gave land to all of his sons, Samuel and James receiving land in Windham, Thomas, John and Joseph, in Norwich, and Daniel, in Lebanon.

So John Birchard spent his busy life, acting as town clerk, county clerk, commissioner or justice of the peace, deputy to the General Court, dealer in real estate, a promoter of new planta-

tions, and an original proprietor of at least four: Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard, Norwich, Windham and Lebanon, Conn., and possibly also Saybrook, though he was rather young, being barely of full age.

The following record probably belongs to him, in his capacity of surveyor, for the term "Mr." was not applied except to a prominent man.

At a General Court held in Hartford, October 1700, it was voted that "Whereas the General Assembly hath formerly granted to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Buckingham, minister of the gospel in Hartford, two hundred acres of land and there is laid out for him by Mr. Burcher a tract of land bounded south upon a great pond . . . beginning at a grey oak at the southeast corner the line running north to Quinnabaug River* the Assembly approved the laying out, provided it was laid out according to a former grant." (Col. Rec. Conn., 4-340.)

John Birchard married first, July 22, 1653, Christian Andrews, the marriage and the births of fourteen children being recorded at Norwich, Connecticut (Vit. Rec. Norwich, 1-16). The whole entry, judging from the writing, the color of the ink, and the whole character of the record, was made at one time; in this oldest book of vital records of Norwich, the records of whole families were entered at one time, one family usually occupying the upper part of a page, though sometimes two families were entered on a page, all in the same handwriting, and ink. Then at a later date, the remaining space was filled, in various handwritings and shades of ink, by other family records.

Neither this marriage nor the births of the first four children occurred at Norwich, for Norwich was not purchased till June 1659, and the home lots were laid out in November of that year.

In 1656, John² Birchard was elected town clerk of Edgartown, on Martha's Vineyard, and lived there till his removal to Norwich, so the four children were in all probability born on Martha's Vineyard. His marriage may also have been solemnized there, but possibly elsewhere. The parentage of his wife has not yet been proved, but it is well to note that John² Birchard's father, Thomas¹ Birchard, had married as second wife, the Widow Katherine Andrews, who in 1659, had a son John Andrews, living in London, Eng.

John and Christian Birchard named their first child Thomas, that being his father's name; they named their second child, "Katherine," using the "K" instead of a "C," as did also Widow Katherine Andrews.

A Mary Andrews married January 1656, Thomas Post, who had lived at Saybrook, Conn., where the Birchards had also

* Quinebaug River is partly in the town of Norwich.

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resided a short time. Thomas Post, like John Birchard, was one of the original proprietors of Norwich, Connecticut, and his home lot was the third west of Birchard's; his marriage, January 1656, was also recorded at Norwich; Sarah, only child of Thomas and Mary (Andrews) Post, married Thomas Vincent, and the Vincent family had lived at Martha's Vineyard.

Records may yet be found proving that Christian and Mary Andrews were daughters of Katherine () (Andrews) Birchard. The date of Christian (Andrews) Birchard's death is not known, but she died when her children were small.

John² Birchard married second, Jane (Lee) Hyde, born Sept. 12, 1640, in Rusper, Sussex County, England, died Jan. 21, 1722/3 in Lebanon, Conn., daughter of Thomas and Phebe (Brown) Lee, of Lyme, Conn.; for her ancestry see *N. E. Hist. & Gen. Reg.*, Vol. 61, pp. 116-118; Vol. 62, pp. 199-200; Vol. 63, p. 100; *Diary of Joshua Hempstead*, page 265.

Her first husband, Samuel² Hyde, who lived across the street from the Birchards, died in July 1677 (*Vit. Rec. Norwich*, 1-16). Chancellor Walworth in the Hyde Genealogy, page 4, says that John Birchard became guardian of her children who were all minors at the time. No authority is quoted for his statement and so far, the record has not been found. The will of Samuel Hyde, with an inventory of the estate, was exhibited at a County Court, September 21, 1677, proved and ordered recorded (*New London County Court Records*, 3-100).

For many years these County Court records of the earliest Courts were loosely fastened together in paper covers, or poor bindings, and had many loose and misplaced leaves; possibly a further record of Samuel Hyde's estate, and the appointment of a guardian, may have been on one of those loose leaves which are now missing.

Within a few years these valuable early records have been subjected to the Emery process, bound and paged (but not indexed).

Samuel Hyde's father was living and Jane had relatives, so the date of John Birchard's appointment as guardian for the Hyde children, might assist in determining the approximate date of this second marriage.

For reasons given under the records of Daniel³ Birchard and Lydia (Birchard) Raymond, the writer has concluded that the marriage took place before 1680, and that Daniel and Lydia were children of this second marriage, despite the fact that Daniel's birth was recorded with the other children; Lydia's birth is not recorded.

Jane survived her husband twenty years, dying Jan. 21, 1722/3, in Lebanon, where she was visited November 22, 1721, by her nephew Joshua Hempstead of New London, Conn. (*Hempstead's Diary*, p. 116). This Hempstead several times

called on "Cuz Daniel Birchard" (*Ibid.*, p. 595) and on "Cuz Lydia Raymond" (pp. 443, 585), also on "James Birchard" and "old James Birchard" (pp. 442, 423).

Children of John² and Christian (Andrews) Birchard:

- i. Thomas² Birchard, born Oct. 1654 "and died in 1658."
- ii. Katherine Birchard, b. Nov. 1656; died same year.
- iii. John Birchard, b. Jan. 1657 [1657/8]; died in 1658.
- iv. John Birchard, 2nd, b. Dec. 1659; died in 1662.
- v. Sarah Birchard, b. May 1661; died in 1664.
- 5+ vi. Samuel Birchard, b. July 16, 1663; mar. Ann Calkins.
- 6+ vii. James Birchard, b. July 16, 1665; mar. Elizabeth Beckwith.
- 7+ viii. Abigail Birchard, b. Nov. 1667; mar. John Calkins.
- 8+ ix. Thomas Birchard, b. Jan. 1669; mar. Sarah Webb.
- 9+ x. John Birchard, b. Feb. 3, 1671; mar. Hannah Loomis.
- 10+ xi. Joseph Birchard, b. Feb. 1673; mar. Elizabeth Lambert.
- xii. Benjamin Birchard, b. Dec. 1675; died same year.
- 11+ xiii. Mary Birchard, b. June 1677; mar. Jonathan Hartshorn.

By second wife, Jane (Lee) Hyde, presumably:

- 12+ xiv. Daniel Birchard, b. Nov. 1680; mar. Elizabeth Thomas.
- 13+ xv. Lydia Birchard, b. ; mar. Samuel Raymond.

Notes

The marriage of John Birchard to Christian Andrews, and the births of the first fourteen children, are recorded in Vital Records of Norwich, Conn., Vol. 1, pages 22 and 23.

In those days when early marriages were considered necessary for the welfare of the community, the delay of John² Birchard's sons was unusual: Samuel, born 1663, married about 1695, aged 32; James, born in 1665, married in 1695/6, at the age of 30 or 31; Thomas, born in 1669, married in 1708, at age of 39; John, born in 1671, married in 1708, aged 37; Joseph, born 1673, married in 1710, at age of 37, and Daniel, born in 1680, married about 1721, at the age of 41. Only a careful study of many land records, in connection with other records, proved the facts conclusively.

(continued on 17:35)

MARRIAGES IN SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

By the REV. ABNER BAYLEY

Contributed by OGLESBY PAUL, Esq., of Milton, Mass.

[Concluded from Vol. 16, p. 121.]

[Oct.] 31 [1765]	}	Isaac Ingals & Mary Chandler Abner Morrill & Hannah Hoyt Micah Rice & Phebe Page Joshua Hall & Lidea Webster David Merrill & Tabitha Morss Ebenezer Hall & Deborah Cross Jeremiah Hills & Hannah Dow
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