

ANTECEDENTS OF EPHRAIM WHEELER  
AND HIS WIFE HEPSEBETH HAPGOOD  
WHOSE MARRIAGE INTENTIONS WERE  
PUBLISHED AT STOW, MASSACHUSETTS,  
23 DECEMBER 1768

---

Compiled by  
Mary C. Brown LaRocca

---

1984

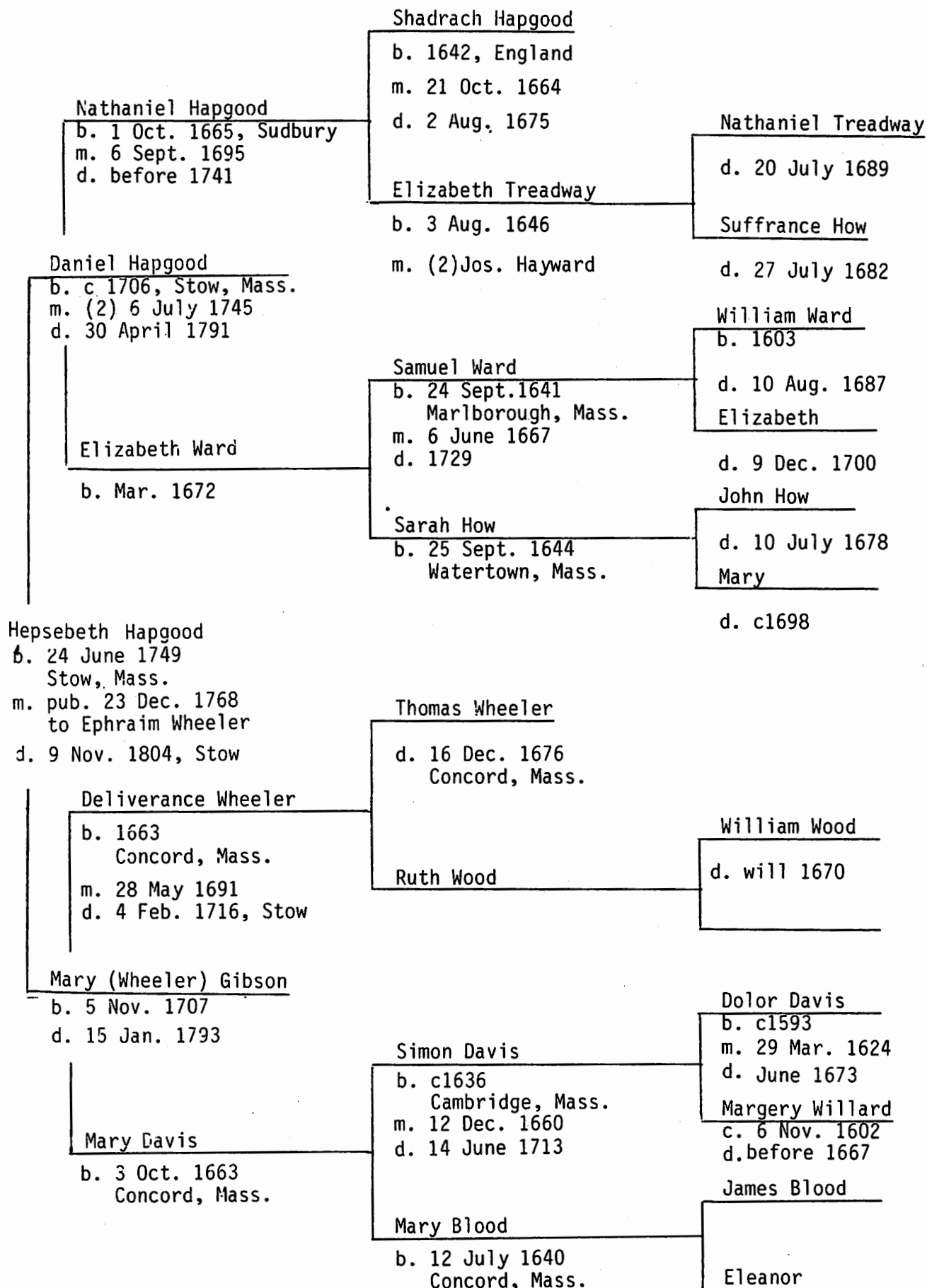
### Assumptions

As this paper was being researched and written, printed records and legal documents such as wills and deeds were accepted as true and valid primary data. Wherever possible such sources were used. Whenever it has been necessary to consult secondary sources, the assumption has been made that the data are probably at least as accurate as the records from which they were taken. Further, allowances were made for the fact that access to records and information today is considerably easier than it was in the past.

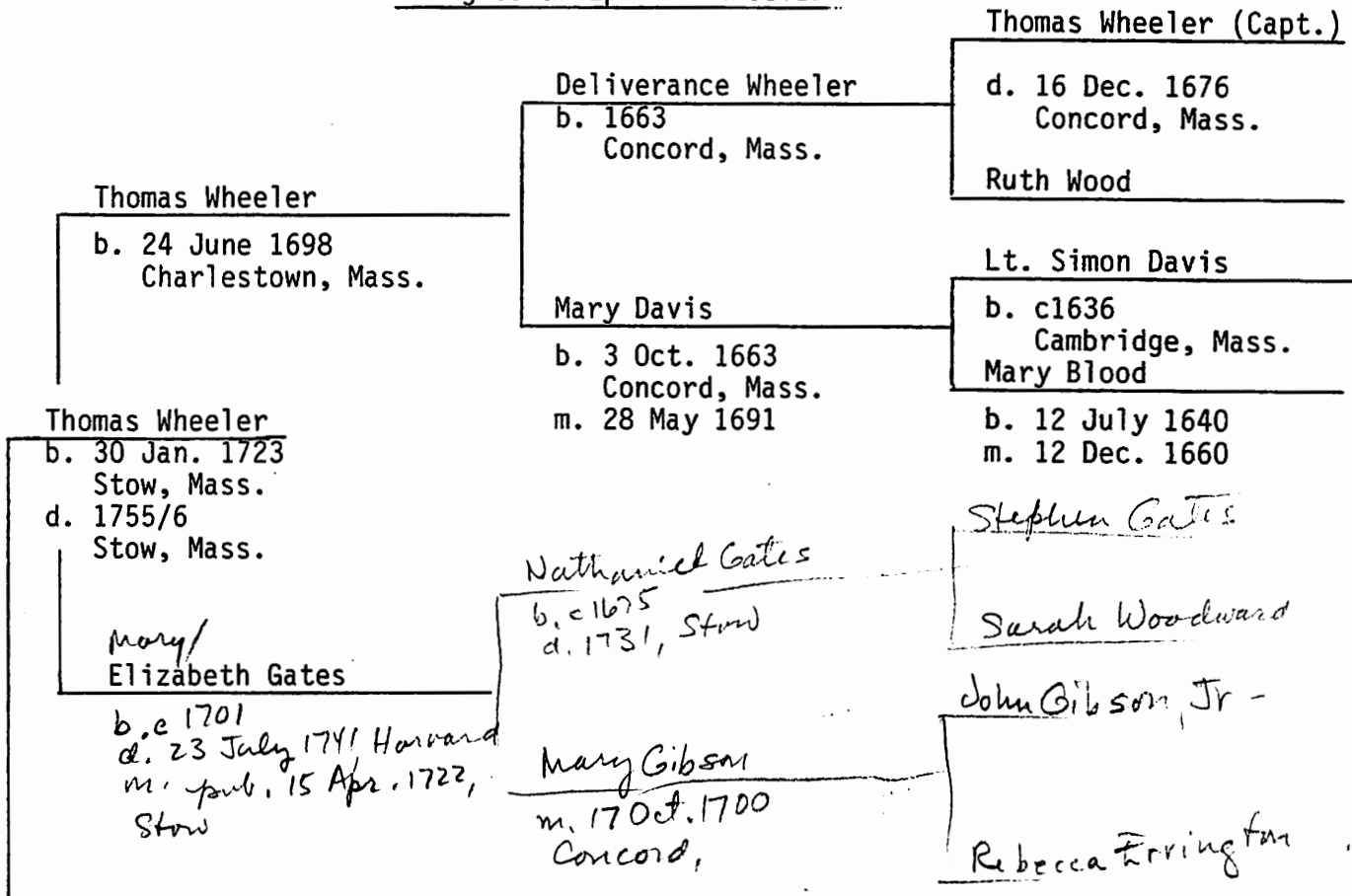
### Acknowledgments

The work of many genealogists contributed to the writing of this paper. Without their groundwork, it would not have been possible to proceed very far. Thanks go to Captain Keith Brown of San Diego, California, who compiled much of the material related to the Treadway/How/Haynes controversy described in the Appendix. Ruth Wheeler's book and George Tolman's 1908 manuscript were especially helpful. The work of Louise Brown Worcester and her family was useful in Brown family research.

Pedigree of Hephsebeth Hapgood



Pedigree of Ephraim Wheeler



Ephraim Wheeler

bapt. 4 Oct. 1747  
Harvard, Mass.  
d. 19 Sept. 1808  
Stow, Mass.  
m. publ 23 Dec. 1768  
to Hephsebeth Hapgood

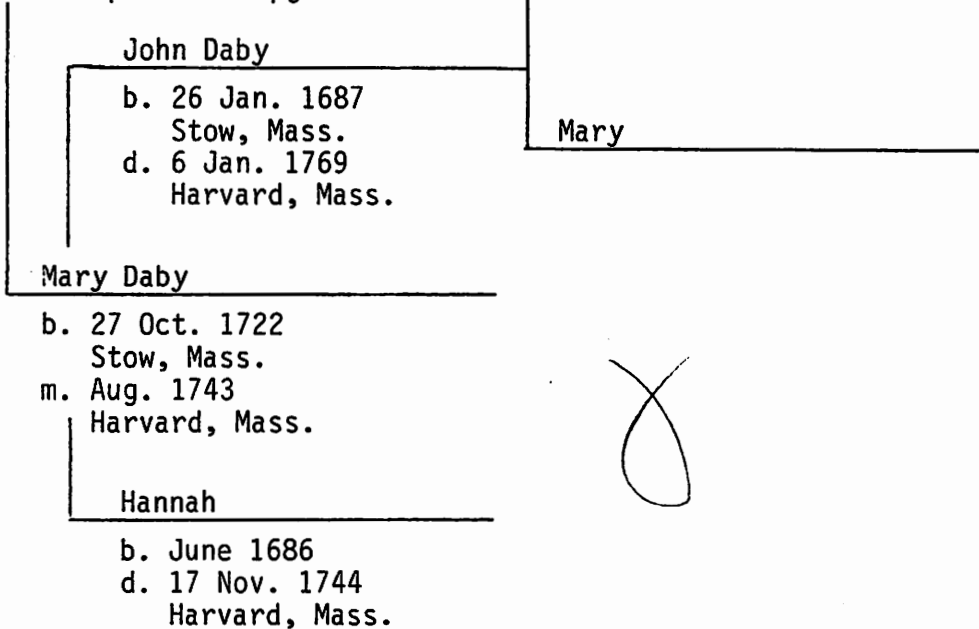


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter		
I	INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
	Researching the Problem . . . . .	1
	Difficulties Encountered . . . . .	4
	Sugestions for Further Study . . . . .	4
II	THE HAPGOOD FAMILY . . . . .	5
	Shadrach Hapgood and Elizabeth Treadway . . . . .	5
	The Death of Shadrach . . . . .	5
	Elizabeth Treadway . . . . .	6
	The Children of Nathaniel and Suffrance (How) Treadway . . . . .	7
	The Children of Shadrach and Elizabeth (Treadway) Hapgood . . . . .	7
	Nathaniel Hapgood and Elizabeth Ward . . . . .	7
	Nathaniel Hapgood . . . . .	7
	Elizabeth Ward . . . . .	7
	The Children of Samuel Ward and Sarah How . . . . .	9
	The Children of Deacon Nathaniel Hapgood and Elizabeth Ward . . . . .	9
	Daniel Hapgood and Mary Gibson . . . . .	9
	Daniel Hapgood . . . . .	9
	Mary (Wheeler) Gibson . . . . .	11
	The Children of Abraham Gibson and Mary Wheeler . . . . .	11
	The Children of Daniel Hapgood and Mary (Wheeler) Gobson . . . . .	12
	Hepsabeth Hapgood and Ephraim Wheeler . . . . .	12
	Hepsabeth Hapgood . . . . .	12
	The Children of Hepsabeth Hapgood and Ephraim Wheeler . . . . .	13
III	THE WHEELER FAMILY . . . . .	14
	Captain Thomas Wheeler and Ruth Wood . . . . .	14
	Captain Thomas Wheeler . . . . .	14
	Ruth Wood . . . . .	17

CONTENTS -- (Continued)

The Children of Captain Thomas Wheeler and Ruth Wood . . . . .	17
Deliverance Wheeler and Mary Davis . . . . .	18
The Children of Simon Davis and Mary Blood . . . . .	19
The Children of Deliverance Wheeler and Mary Davis . . . . .	20
Thomas Wheeler and Elizabeth Gates . . . . .	20
Elizabeth Gates . . . . .	20
The Children of Thomas Wheeler and Elizabeth Gates . . . . .	21
Thomas Wheeler, Jr., and Mary Daby . . . . .	21
Thomas Wheeler, Jr. . . . .	21
Mary Daby . . . . .	21
The Children of John and Hannah Daby . . . . .	22
The Children of Thomas Wheeler, Jr., and Mary Daby . . . . .	22
Ephraim Wheeler . . . . .	23
APPENDIX A . . . . .	24
APPENDIX B . . . . .	25
APPENDIX C . . . . .	26

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### Researching the Problem

Betsy Wheeler, my great-great grandmother, was born at Stow, Massachusetts, in October, 1770, to Ephraim and Hephsebeth (Hapgood) Wheeler. Vital records of Stow and Sudbury, Mass., provided most of the answers to the ancestry of Hephsebeth, which were confirmed in the genealogy, the Hapgood Family.

There was a missing link in the Hapgood line, however, although it was not apparent from the genealogy. The marriage of Mary Gibson to Daniel Hapgood in 1745 at Stow, Massachusetts, was given, but no attempt was made to identify her further.

The vital records of Newbury, Massachusetts showed the marriage of Abraham Gibson and Mary Wheeler in 1724. The birth of their daughter Mary occurred in Stow in 1725, as it appears in the vital records of the town. A marriage of Daniel Hapgood and Mary Gibson is also shown in the vital records of Stow.

From these data, the assumption was made that Daniel Hapgood had married Mary Gibson, the daughter, a young lady some 20 years younger than he. Since it appeared that there was a Gibson line in the family through Mary Gibson and her father, Abraham, the search for Gibson ancestors was continued.

Thanks to the very thorough work of Mehitable C.C. Wilson (Descendants of John Gibson of Cambridge, Massachusetts), not only the first marriage and family of Mary Gibson was found, but the clue to her identity as Mary Wheeler, daughter of Deliverance and Mary (Davis) Wheeler, born at Stow in 1707. In addition, Mrs. Wilson had come up with the most likely answer to the question of the identity of Jacob Gibson, named by Daniel Hapgood in his will as "my beloved grandson."

Furthermore, Mrs. Wilson included data on Dolor and Simon Davis (See Appendix B). Simon's daughter Mary married Deliverance Wheeler and it was their daughter Mary who married (1) Abraham Gibson and (2) Daniel Hapgood. Dolor was the father of Simon Davis.

Mary Wheeler's first husband, Abraham Gibson, was the brother of Timothy Gibson\* who married Rebecca Gates. Jacob Gibson, their grandson (son of Timothy Gibson, Jr./Persis Rice), was the grand-nephew of Mary (Wheeler) Gibson and undoubtedly the "beloved grandson" of Daniel Hapgood's will.

Research on the Wheelers was hampered by numerous contradictory explanations given by various authors. Also especially frustrating was our inability to obtain copies of unpublished manuscripts. The manuscript of George Tolman, "The Wheeler Families of Old Concord, Mass.," when at last available to me, suggested a possible line for Ephraim Wheeler. This line, with several corrections, proved to be the right one.

Tolman listed the line as follows: (1) Captain Thomas Wheeler/Ruth Wood of Concord, Mass.; (2) Deliverance Wheeler/Mary Davis of Concord, Charlestown, and Stow, Mass.; (3) Thomas Wheeler/Elizabeth Gates of Stow and Harvard, Mass.; (4) Thomas Wheeler/Mary Gates of Stow, Mass. This was as far as Mr. Tolman took the line, although he named the children of Thomas/Mary (Gates) Wheeler as Deliverance, Thomas, and Mary.

There were several problems with Tolman's manuscript. First of all, he had omitted two of the children of Deliverance and Mary (Davis) Wheeler, namely Ephraim and Mary. The administration of the estate of Deliverance Wheeler who died intestate at Stow in 1716 showed the children to be Thomas and Deliverance (of age) and Ephraim and Mary (minors). Had Tolman picked up the birth of Mary Wheeler in 1707 to Deliverance and Mary Wheeler at Stow, he probably would have discovered her two marriages.

Secondly, there was no Mary Gates to be found in the vital records of Stow or neighboring towns of an age to be the wife of Thomas Wheeler, Jr. There was, however, a Mary Daby who

---

\*Persis Gibson, sister of Jacob, married Thomas Brown, son of Joseph and Grace (Fairbanks) Brown of Stow, grandparents of William Brown who married Betsy Wheeler. (See Appendix C).



was born at Harvard, Mass., in 1722 and married Thomas Wheeler at Stow in 1745. Also, an Ephraim Wheeler, son of Thomas and Mary, was baptized at Harvard, October 4, 1747. (Vital Records of Harvard, Mass., to 1850).

An examination of the vital records led to the probate court records, where an administration of estate and guardianship of the children of Thomas Wheeler was found. Thomas Wheeler, Jr., died intestate at Stow in 1756. Mr. Tolman was found to be in error in <sup>three</sup> two more instances. From the documents it was <sup>also</sup> learned that (1) <sup>(1)</sup> the wife of Thomas Wheeler, Jr., was Mary Daby, not Gates; (2) <sup>(2)</sup> there were four children of the <sup>later</sup> marriage, including Ephraim, as noted above. There is still an unresolved question about the ancestry of Elizabeth Gates who married Thomas Wheeler in 1722 at Stow. Since the Gates genealogy has not been made available to us and Elizabeth's birth has not been found in vital records, this will remain a mystery for the time being.

The first Thomas Wheeler shown on the line is referred to as Captain Thomas Wheeler and that convention was followed in this paper to distinguish him from all the other Thomas Wheelers.

Information concerning the origins of Captain Thomas Wheeler of Concord, Mass., is so contradictory that no attempt has been made here to take the line back another generation. It appears that Donald L. Jacobus (Old Families of Fairfield, Connecticut) is probably accurate as to Connecticut matters, since dates and records are cited. Since Jacobus did not study Concord records, however, Ruth R. Wheeler (Concord: Climate for Freedom) and George Tolman who did use Concord records are considered the better authorities in regard to the activities of Captain Thomas Wheeler of Concord, Mass.

Probably Mr. Jacobus followed Bodge (Soldiers in King Philip's War) when he referred to a Lieutenant Thomas Wheeler of Connecticut who returned to Concord, where he was sergeant in the foot company, Savage (Genealogical Dictionary of New England) also calls Captain Thomas Wheeler a sergeant in the foot company, but he calls another Thomas Wheeler, Lieutenant.

In fact, as Ruth Wheeler pointed out, Captain Thomas Wheeler was first a lieutenant in the horse company which he founded in 1669 at Concord and was commissioned a captain in 1671.

Savage and Jacobus both thought that Captain Thomas Wheeler had a second wife Hannah, who administered his estate in 1686, with his son Thomas. They might have meant Thomas Wheeler who married Hannah Harwood in Concord, although that Thomas died in 1691, not 1686. Capt. Thomas Wheeler had, in fact, died in 1676.

At any rate, Thomas Wheeler, son of Captain Thomas, died a few months after he was wounded at Quabaug, and the death record of Captain Thomas Wheeler, his father, plainly calls the Captain the husband of Ruth. The sons Thomas and Nathaniel who both died in January, 1676, are referred to in the death records as sons of Thomas Wheeler; their brother Ephraim who died in 1689 was called the son of the widow, Ruth, in the death record.

#### Difficulties Encountered

These are some of the difficulties encountered in researching the history of Captain Thomas Wheeler of Concord. It may be that he never left Concord, but it seems likely that he did spend several years in Connecticut, as chronicled by Jacobus. There is a 15-year gap between the first record at Concord (freeman, 1642) and the next one in 1657, when he and others bought permission from the Colony to trade with the Indians.

Jacobus, however, has him buying land in Derby, Connecticut, that same year (1657), which he did not sell until 1664. It may be that he owned that land in Derby, Connecticut, for those seven years without living on it and finally decided to sell it.

#### Suggestions for Further Study

George Tolman traces the Wheeler family to Cranefield, Bedfordshire, England, near the parish from which the Rev. Peter Bulkeley came to Concord. Baptism records there show sons of a Thomas Wheeler, Thomas and Joseph, as baptized there in 1603 and 1609. Two Thomas Wheelers appear on the tax rolls of 1627 and 1628. These and other coincidental data suggest an area for further study by Wheeler genealogists.

## CHAPTER II

### THE HAPGOOD FAMILY

#### Shadrach Hapgood and Elizabeth Treadway

##### I - Shadrach Hapgood

Shadrach Hapgood, like so many other immigrants to our shores, did not arrive with pedigree in hand. Since he was a lad of fourteen years when he embarked on the Speedwell at Gravesend, May 30, 1656 (Robert Locke, master) and bound for New England, he probably did not pay for his own passage. It has been proposed that Shadrach's uncle, Peter Noyes, an early planter at Sudbury, Massachusetts, and a person of wealth and stature in the Colony, may have paid to bring Shadrach here. Peter Noyes came from Penton, Mewsey, quite near the place where Hapgood genealogists believe that Shadrach was born, the probable son of Thomas Hapgood. (The name was originally spelled Habgood).

From Shadrach's age at embarkation, one can estimate the year of his birth as 1642 and thus Shadrach was 22 years old when he married Elizabeth Treadway at Sudbury, Massachusetts on October 21, 1664. The couple lived at Sudbury. It has not been determined whether they and their children actually lived at Stow, where Shadrach had apparently built his house prior to his death.

In 1668/9, Shadrach Hapgood and eleven others from Sudbury, Concord, and Chelmsford, Massachusetts, petitioned the General Court for land at Pomposetticut. They were allowed 50-acre grants in May, 1670, and were probably still settling their lots in May, 1675, when Philip's War overtook them. Despite all obstacles, however, the new town of Stow was incorporated, thanks to the efforts of these early settlers and others who followed. (The Hapgood Family).

##### The Death of Shadrach

Shadrach's lot was on the south side of the Assabet River, about one and one-half miles south of the site of the first meeting house, we are told, and he may have been still working on it, while his family remained in Sudbury, when he was called by Captains Hutchinson and Wheeler to join their small horse troop in a trip

to Brookfield to parley with the Nipmuck Indians. The Nipmucks, stirred up by the redoubtable, marauding Philip (so-called by the English), were talking peace with the English, but there was fear that they could not be trusted. The trip to Brookfield was made in an effort to secure their loyalty.

This tragic incident, since it involved another ancestor, Captain Thomas Wheeler, will be discussed at greater length later. Suffice it to say here, that the Nipmucks ambushed the small troop at Quabaug, outside of Brookfield, and killed eight, while wounding three. So, on August 2, 1675, the 33-year-old Shadrach lost his life in a swamp to an Indian's bullet.

The administration of Shadrach's estate was handled by his widow, Elizabeth. An estate which was evaluated at 145 pounds in September, 1675, was devalued to 106 pounds a month later, as the widow evidently hoped for a rebate of the difference. During that month's time, the Nipmucks had burned the village of Stow, including the house of Shadrach Hapgood.

#### Elizabeth Treadway

Elizabeth Treadway was born on February 3, 1646 to Nathaniel Treadway and his wife, Suffrance (How)\* Treadway. Suffrance was the daughter of Elder Edward How of Watertown, Massachusetts, and his wife, Margaret.

The will of Edward How (June 3, 1644) names Nathaniel Treadway, to whom he left several acres of land and other goods. The widow Margaret, Nathaniel Treadway, and John Stone, another son-in-law, were the executors.

Margaret (How) Bunker, who married George Bunker after the death of Edward How, in her will, proved Dec. 18, 1660, gave one-half of her estate to Nathaniel Treadway, while one-third went to John Stone. At the time of Margaret's death, Nathaniel Treadway occupied the house of Margaret (How) Bunker.

---

\*There is a difference of opinion as to the identity of Suffrance who married Nathaniel Treadway. Some descendants of Walter Haynes believe that she was a Haynes, daughter of Walter. For the pros and cons of the controversy, see Appendix A.

The Children of Nathaniel and Suffrance (How) Treadway

1. Jonathan, b. 11 Nov. 1640, Sudbury; m. 1 Mar. 1666, Judith Thurston.
2. Mary, b. 1 Aug. 1642, Sudbury; m. (1) John Fisher, 12 Sept. 1665;  
(2) Timothy Hawkins, Jr., 21 July 1675.
3. James, b. c1644, Sudbury (named in his father's will).
4. ELIZABETH, b. 3 Feb. 1646; m. SHADRACH HAPGOOD, 21 Oct. 1664;  
(2) Joseph Hayward.
4. Lydia, m. 2 Oct. 1667, Josiah Jones.
5. Josiah, m. (1) Sarah Sweetman, 9 Jan. 1673/4; (2) Dorothy.  
(Bond, Nathaniel. Genealogies of the Families and Descendants of the  
Early Settlers of Watertown, Mass.)

The Children of Shadrach and Elizabeth (Treadway) Hapgood

- II- 1. NATHANIEL, b. 21 Oct. 1665; m. ELIZABETH WARD of Marlborough.  
2. Mary, b. 2 Nov. 1667; m. John Whitney, 10 April 1688, Watertown.  
3. Thomas, b. 1 Oct. 1669; m. Judith Barker, 1690/1; d. 15 Aug. 1757.  
4. Sarah, b. 1672; m. 1691, Jonathan Whitney.  
5. Elizabeth, b. 1674; d. 20 July 1689.

These were the five surviving children of Shadrach Hapgood, as listed when the estate was settled. Their mother, Elizabeth, m. (2) Joseph Hayward of Concord, Mass. Ebenezer, James, Simon, and Abiell Hayward were born at Concord between 1679 and 1691.

During those years at Concord, Elizabeth also lost her parents. Suffrance (How) Treadway died at Watertown in 1682 and Nathaniel Treadway died there in 1689. Both grandparents left legacies to the children of Elizabeth Hayward by her husband, Shadrach Hapgood.

Nathaniel Hapgood and Elizabeth Ward

Nathaniel Hapgood

Nathaniel Hapgood was born on Oct. 21, 1665, at Sudbury, Mass., to Shadrach and Elizabeth (Treadway) Hapgood. His marriage to Elizabeth Ward was published Aug. 14, 1695, at Marlborough, Mass. (Hapgood Family)

Nathaniel's land holdings covered some 700 acres, all told, including 80 acres adjoining the home lot, which he purchased in 1697

from Major Simon Willard for 32 pounds, 10s., plus several lots which came to Nathaniel "in the right of his father, Shadrach." Nathaniel bought and sold land in Lancaster, Worcester (now in Holden), and in Grafton, Mass. In 1725 he conveyed land to his son Shadrach; this was land originally located in both Lancaster and Stow, which went over to the town of Harvard, Mass.

From the records of the town of Stow, it appears that Deacon Nathaniel Hapgood was active in town affairs, holding office as selectman, grand juror, and town treasurer, at various times. Evidently his estate was settled in his lifetime and he probably died intestate. There is no record of an administration of estate and his name does not appear in the records after 1732. Since his wife was a widow by 1741, it would seem that Nathaniel Hapgood died between 1732-1741.

#### Elizabeth Ward

Elizabeth Ward, wife of Nathaniel Hapgood, was born at Marlboro, Mass., in March, 1672, to Samuel Ward and Sarah (How) Ward, daughter of John How of Marlboro. Samuel Ward was the son of William Ward and his wife (name unknown) and was born on Sept. 24, 1641. (Ward Family).

Sarah How, mother of Elizabeth Ward, was married to Samuel Ward on June 6, 1667; she died Aug. 11, 1707. Her husband died in 1729. Her father, John How, was freeman at Watertown in May, 1640, having gone there from Sudbury. He removed to Marlboro in 1656 and died there in 1678. His wife was Mary.

Samuel Ward was 84 when he died in 1729 and he left most of his estate to his son Samuel. Other heirs protested the will in Probate Court in Dec. 1729, stating that Samuel Ward was not competent when he wrote the will. Eventually the dispute was settled out of court.

Samuel Ward was the ninth child (of 14) of William Ward, who settled in Sudbury, Mass., in 1639. William had two wives, perhaps both named Elizabeth, and it is not clear which one was the mother of Samuel. The genealogy offers some rather murky evidence that the first wife was mother only to the first three children.

If this is the case, Elizabeth, the second wife, was mother to Samuel, who died in 1729. That she was a woman of courage and stamina is evident from the fact that she was over 74 years old when she made several horseback journeys into Boston (over 30 miles) to effect a settlement of her husband's will from the intractable and tyrannical Governor Andros. Elizabeth Ward, widow of William, died in Marlboro Dec. 9, 1700, aged 87 years.

#### The Children of Samuel Ward and Sarah How

1. Sarah, b. 22 Apr. 1668, unm.
2. Joseph, b. 1670; m. Abiah Woodcock
3. ELIZABETH, b. March, 1672; m. NATHANIEL HAPGOOD, 6 Sept. 1695
4. Mary, b. 1676; m. Caleb Rice
5. Samuel, b. March, 1678; m. Mary
6. Bethiah, b. 25 May 1681; d. unm. 1757 (a lace maker)
7. Daniel, b. 1687; d. 13 April 1700

Elizabeth (Ward) Hapgood died Nov. 5, 1748. She left an estate of over 625 pounds, which was divided among her children and grandchildren. Daniel Hapgood, her son, received ten pounds.

#### The Children of Deacon Nathaniel Hapgood and Elizabeth Ward

1. Nathaniel, b. c 1696; m. (1) ? ; (2) Mary Heald of Stow
2. Hezekiah, b. 1699; m. 1723, Sarah Whitney, b. 1703, Stow.
3. Shadrach, b. 6 Nov. 1704 at Stow; m. Elizabeth Wetherbee, b. 1714; d. 30 Nov. 1808.
- III-4. DANIEL, b. c1706; m (1) Hesebeth (1715-1738); (2) MARY GIBSON, 6 July 1745.
5. Elizabeth, b. c1708; m. Phineas Gates
6. Sarah, b. c1710; m. Phineas Gates, widower of her sister, Elizabeth.

#### Daniel Hapgood and Mary Gibson

##### Daniel Hapgood

Daniel Hapgood was born at Stow about 1706, the fourth child of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Ward) Hapgood. His first wife was Hesebeth (1715-1738), who apparently left no children. Mary Gibson, his second wife, was the daughter of Deliverance and Mary (Davis) Wheeler of Stow, the widow of Abraham Gibson of Stow, who died in 1740.

Daniel Hapgood and Mary (Wheeler) Gibson were married at Stow on July 6, 1745.

Daniel inherited the family homestead in Stow and the east half of the original 700-acre plantation, as well as the deaconship of his father, Nathaniel. It appears that Daniel had deeded his real estate to his children before he wrote his will of August 13, 1785. (Middlesex Probate Court record #10292).

Daniel's will is a rarity as it expresses feeling seldom seen among similar documents of the era. Written in a firm hand, it is legible. The terms of the will indicate that this was a dignified, but warm and generous man.

After the customary disposing of his soul to the hands of God and the consignment of the body "to be buried in decent Christian burial," Daniel then bequeaths to his heirs as follows: First, to his dearly beloved wife, Mary Hapgood, two cows of her choosing. His executor (hereafter named) is further charged to provide the widow "in sickness and in health, during her natural life, with all things suitable, necessary, and convenient for a person of her age and quality and, at her decease, shall have a decent Christian burial at the discretion of my executor."

The remainder of the livestock was to be divided equally among his sons, Daniel and Samuel, and his daughter, Hesebeth Wheeler, "except my black mare, which is known and distinguished by the name of my riding mare, which mare I give and bequeath to my well-beloved sons, Daniel and Samuel Hapgood, to be kept on the farm on which I have already settled them."

Daniel left to his daughter, Hesebeth Wheeler, the improvements of a farm in Stow, with dwelling house and barn standing on it, "it being the one in which her husband Ephraim Wheeler now lives, lying between the farms of the Rev. Mr. Newhall and Francis Eveleth." In addition, the improvement of 20 acres of woodland in Stow, "with the buildings thereon, now in the possession of Col. Hapgood," was given to Hesebeth Wheeler for use during her lifetime and was to be divided equally among her surviving Wheeler children after her death. She also was given 20 shillings in money, to be paid at Daniel's decease.



Daniel next bequeathed his land in Waterford, (then) Cumberland County, Maine, to his "beloved grandson, Jacob Gibson of Stow," plus a bed with bedding. The land consisted of two lots, covering "300-400 acres."

Sons Daniel and Samuel Hapgood were named executors of the will, which was witnessed by Samuel and Oliver Patch and a Walcutt.

### Mary (Wheeler) Gibson

Mary Wheeler was born at Stow on Nov. 5, 1707, to Deliverance and Mary (Davis) Wheeler. Mary Davis, her mother, was the daughter of Lt. Simon and Mary (Blood) Davis. Her grandfather was the immigrant ancestor, Dolor Davis of Concord, Mass.

Mary Wheeler married (1) Abraham Gibson, son of Timothy Gibson/Rebecca Gates, at Newbury, Mass., Sept. 29, 1724. Abraham Gibson, born on Sept. 30, 1701 at Stow, died there on Nov. 8, 1740. About five years later (July, 1745) the widow married Daniel Hapgood.

At the time of her marriage to Daniel Hapgood, Mary Gibson had already borne seven children and was 38 years old. (Daniel was 39). There were four children still at home: Rebecca, 17; Sarah, 13; Abraham, 10; Ephraim, five. (M.C.C. Wilson)

On April 11, 1746, Mary Hapgood applied to the Judge of the Probate Court, Middlesex County, to appoint her father-in-law, Timothy Gibson, as guardian to Sarah and her brother-in-law, Stephen Gibson, as guardian to Abraham and Ephraim. This did not ensue, as on April 14, 1746, Stephen Gibson gave bond as guardian of Sarah and Ephraim; Daniel Hapgood gave bond for Rebecca, who was of age to choose her guardian. Stephen Gibson and Daniel Hapgood co-signed each other's bonds. It is not clear who retained guardianship of the 11-year-old Abraham.

### The Children of Abraham Gibson and Mary Wheeler

1. Mary, b. 20 Aug. 1725; m. Ezekiel Davis of Acton, 28 Feb. 1743/4.
2. Rebecca, b. 27 Jan. 1728; m. Ens. Ephraim Hapgood, 19 Jan. 1746/7.
3. Abraham, b. 26 Aug. 1730.
4. Sarah, b. 26 Aug. 1732; m. Peter Conant, 18 Nov. 1749.
5. Abraham, b. 25 June 1735; m. Esther Fox, 13 Jan. 1760.
6. Ephraim, b. 23 Oct. 1737.
7. Ephraim, b. 21 June 1740; m. Lucy Wyman, 23 April 1761.

The daughter Mary Gibson became the mother of Captain Isaac Davis of Acton, said to be the first man killed at the "North Bridge fight," Concord, Mass., 19 April 1775. Her sister Rebecca Gibson married the nephew of her stepfather, Ensign Ephraim Hapgood of Stow, son of Capt. Hezekiah Hapgood and Sarah Whitney Hapgood.

The Children of Daniel Hapgood and Mary (Wheeler Gibson) Hapgood

1. Daniel, b. 16 Nov. 1747 at Stow; m. Esther Gardner; d. 5 May 1833.
- IV- 2. HEPSEBETH, b. 24 June 1749; m. EPHRAIM WHEELER, pub. 23 Dec. 1768.
3. Samuel, b. 17 Oct. 1751; m. Elizabeth Maxwell; d. April, 1821.

It appears that Daniel and Mary Hapgood also may have raised her nephew, Jacob Gibson, the youngest son of Timothy Gibson and his wife, Persis Rice. Timothy Gibson, Sr., was a brother of Mary's first husband, Abraham Gibson, and thus Jacob was the grand-nephew of Abraham and Mary. Jacob was born in Stow after 1750 and probably did not move with his family to Henniker, NH. He married Hannah Hardy of Westminster, Mass., on Oct. 7, 1789.

According to Mrs. Wilson (John Gibson of Cambridge), Jacob Gibson was the "beloved grandson" to whom Daniel Hapgood left his lands in Waterford, Maine, where Jacob later removed. The Gibson family was large and Jacob was the youngest, who may have gone to live with the Hapgoods.

Daniel Hapgood died April 30, 1791; Mary died Jan. 15, 1793.

Hepsebeth Hapgood and Ephraim Wheeler

Hepsebeth Hapgood

The only daughter of Daniel Hapgood and Mary Gibson was born at Stow on 24 June 1747. She was obviously named for the young bride of Daniel Gibson, who had died at 23. The last name of Hepsebeth has not been given and is probably not to be found. The fondness which Daniel felt for her namesake, his daughter, is shown by the terms of his will, in which Hepsebeth is treated about as generously as are her brothers. This was unusual for the times.

The marriage intention of Hepsebeth Hapgood and Ephraim Wheeler was published at Stow, Dec. 23, 1768. The birth record of one child and the baptismal records of three others are found in the records of Stow. Since there is a 7-year gap between

the birth of Betsy and the baptism of John, it is likely that there were other children who died or whose records were lost.

The Children of Hephsebeth Hapgood and Ephraim Wheeler

- V-1. BETSY WHEELER, b. 5 Oct. 1770. ("Little Hephsebeth"? m. WILLIAM<sup>6</sup> BROWN (Jabez<sup>5</sup>, Joseph<sup>4</sup>, Jabez<sup>3</sup>, Jabez<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>) on May 6, 1792 at Stow. She d. 16 Mar. 1845 at Waterford, Maine; William Brown d. there, Feb. 1836. (Gravestone, Elm Vale Cem., Waterford)).
2. John, bapt. 9 Feb. 1777
  3. Mary, bapt. 9 Mar. 1783
  4. Sarah, bapt. 2 Dec. 1786

Stow Vital Records show the death of "Huldeth" Wheeler, 9 Nov. 1804. This was undoubtedly our Hephsebeth.

The ancestry of Ephraim Wheeler, which has been a long-time mystery will be followed in Chapter II.

## CHAPTER II

### THE WHEELER FAMILY

#### Captain Thomas Wheeler and Ruth Wood

##### I Captain Thomas Wheeler

George Tolman ("Wheeler Families"), as previously stated, found the baptismal records of Thomas Wheeler (20 Nov. 1603) and his brother, Joseph Wheeler (28 Feb. 1608/9), sons of Thomas Wheeler, at Cranefield in Bedfordshire. Children shown on the baptismal records there, born to Thomas Wheeler:

Thomas, 20 Nov. 1603

John, 22 Oct. 1608; bur. 27 Dec. 1611

Joseph, 28 Feb. 1609/10

Elizabeth, 27 Feb. 1610/11

The Thomas shown might be the father of Captain Thomas Wheeler of Concord, Mass. If so, he would have been about 40 when he took the freeman's oath at Concord in 1642. Possibly the little daughter Alice who died in 1641 may have been his. If he came to Concord early, tarried a while there, and then went to Fairfield, Connecticut, where Thomas, Jr., grew up, learned to be an Indian fighter and negotiator, and earned a commission as an officer in some sort of horse regiment, then Thomas (b. 1603) could very likely have been the father of Capt. Thomas Wheeler of Fairfield, Conn., and Concord, Mass. This is all conjecture, of course.

Thomas Wheeler, father or son, took the freeman's oath at Concord, 18 May 1642 (Concord: Climate for Freedom). As stated in the Introduction, there is then a 15-year gap in Concord records for Thomas Wheeler, which is interpreted to mean that Thomas, Sr., went to Fairfield with his family, died there, leaving his land in Concord to his son, Thomas, who moved there. The written material available is so contradictory that it would be folly to state positively what is true and what is not.

In any case, Thomas Wheeler of Concord, Mass., did marry Ruth Wood, as her father's will attests. He mentions his daughter

Ruth and her husband Thomas Wheeler in his will. Ruth was the daughter of William Wood of Concord.

The births of the children of Thomas and Ruth Wheeler are not found on the vital records of Concord. The children could have been born in Connecticut, or the records might have been lost at Concord.

On July 1, 1657, Thomas Wheeler and three others bought for 25 pounds from the Colony the permission to trade with the Indians. (Concord: Climate for Freedom). He traded on the Merrimack River and was headquartered at a place now called Nashua, NH, where he owned a farm with his son, Lt. Joseph Wheeler. Joseph married Mary Powers (1 March 1681) and moved first to Stow, Mass., and then to Stratford, Connecticut. Joseph conveyed his land in Concord, which had been the property of his uncle, Timothy Wheeler, in 1695 to Rebecca Minot. (Tolman).

On Jan. 12, 1669, Thomas Wheeler leased for a 21-year period 260 acres of land west of Nashoba Brook. This land was a new Acton grant which the town of Concord chose to lease, rather than to divide it. In addition to building a house on the land, Thomas was required to pasture the cattle of townspeople, a condition which was apparently not without its problems. (Ruth Wheeler).

Military matters soon took precedence. Thomas Wheeler was appointed Lieutenant of the horse band which he had formed, October 12, 1669 and was promoted to Captain in 1671. This was the troop which he recruited from the train bands, selecting those who had horses, gear, and equipment. These were to prove useful indeed, when Philip's War broke out in 1675. Only the large landowners had the horses and gear necessary to join the troop.

Thomas Wheeler and others signed a set of instructions to the selectmen of Concord for the year 1672. (Ruth Wheeler). We are told that Captain Thomas Wheeler had his first house on Bay Road, between the lots of Moses and Joseph Wheat. (This home was sold by his heirs to Peter Harwood.) This same Capt. Thomas Wheeler was the brother of Timothy, who had bought three-fourths of the Rev. Peter Bulkeley's property in Concord from his widow in 1660. The other one-quarter was sold to George Wheeler, uncle to Thomas and Timothy (Ruth Wheeler).

A concise explanation of conditions leading up to the rampages of Philip in 1675 is given by Ruth Wheeler (pp 46-7) and she has reviewed the sequence of tragic events (pp 48-62), in which 12 towns were destroyed, 600 settlers killed and 600 houses burned. Only the massacre at Quabaug concerns us here.

Captain Edward Hutchinson (son of William and Anne Hutchinson) was commissioned to treat with the sachems of the Nipmucks, who were being persuaded by the warring Philip to break their treaties with the English settlers. Accordingly, he was joined by the small horse troop of Captain Thomas Wheeler of Concord to seek out the Indians at Brookfield and to secure their peaceful intentions.

After spending the night at Sudbury, where they obviously were joined by others, the troop visited several Indians camps (all deserted) and reached Brookfield three days later. The troop was warmly received by the settlers at Brookfield and the few Nipmucks found there promised to meet the troop next day near Quabaug.

The Indians were not there when the troop reached Quabaug, so they began to move toward Wickabaug when they were ambushed by a large group of Nipmucks. The small size of the horse band (20) may be understated and the size of the Indian group may have been less than the 200 - 400 estimated. At any rate, the Indians had the advantage of surprise and they killed eight of the troop and wounded three.

Shadrach Hapgood was among those slain, as already noted. Capt. Edward Hutchinson also died and Capt. Thomas Wheeler, who was in command, was wounded as was his 13-year-old son, Thomas. Thomas saved his father's life, according to the narrative later given by Capt. Thomas Wheeler.

Lt. Simon Davis took command when Capt. Wheeler fell. Davis must have been desperate, but on the third try did get a messenger through (Ephraim Curtis of Sudbury). Curtis reached Marlboro, where Major Simon Willard with 46 soldiers and five Indian guides soon came to the rescue, but not before the Indians had burned Brookfield and mutilated and paraded the bodies of those killed.

Major Willard was the uncle of Lt. Simon Davis. Davis was the father of Mary, who married Deliverance Wheeler, son of Captain Thomas Wheeler and Ruth (Wood) Wheeler.

So, the massacre at Quabaug had turned into a family affair, as it happened. Captain Thomas Wheeler returned to Concord to "tell and re-tell his story." His young son Thomas was dead six months later, perhaps not fully recovered from his wounds. Captain Thomas Wheeler died on Dec. 16, 1676, "the husband of Ruth," probably as a result of the wounds he received on Aug. 2, 1675.

### Ruth Wood

Little is known about the lady who married Captain Thomas Wheeler. A list of proprietors in Concord in 1666 includes the names of William Wood, Thomas Wheeler of Virginia Road, Lt. Simon Davis, James Blood I & II, among others. No birth, marriage or death record has been found for Ruth, however.

William Wood's will leaves two brown cows to his daughter, Ruth. The cows were "now in the possession of Thomas Wheeler," according to the will. (Ruth Wheeler).

### The Children of Captain Thomas Wheeler and Ruth Wood

1. Nathaniel, d. 9 Jan. 1676/7
2. Thomas, d. 17 Jan. 1676/7.
3. Ephraim, d. 19 Feb. 1689
4. Joseph, marr. Mary Powers and settled at Stow, Mass.
- II-5. DELIVERANCE, b. 1663; m. MARY DAVIS, 28 May 1691; d. 4 Feb. 1716, at Stow.

Joseph Wheeler administered the small estates of his brothers, Thomas and Nathaniel. The boy who had saved his father's life at Quabaug left only a horse, pistols, a gun and a cutlass. Nathaniel left a pair of oxen.

There is very little to add to this sad story. Ruth's son Ephraim died in 1689. Joseph and Deliverance were apparently the only surviving children and they married and moved away. Alice has not been added to the list as the age gap between her and the others seems too great. James Wheeler, who also moved to Stow, has been omitted because it seems that Timothy Wheeler would have included James when he mentioned the other children of Thomas Wheeler in his will, had James been another son.

Deliverance Wheeler and Mary Davis

Deliverance Wheeler

The birth of Deliverance Wheeler occurred at Concord about 1663, as deduced from the age stated at his death, Feb. 4, 1715/16. He was married 28 May 1691 at Concord, Mass., to Mary Davis, daughter of Lt. Simon Davis and Mary Blood. Deliverance sold his Concord property in 1692 and moved to Charlestown, where his Uncle Timothy Wheeler had property. The second son of Deliverance and Mary Wheeler was born there. Deliverance bought land at Stow on Jan. 24, 1701, where he died intestate at the age of 53 years. (Tolman; vital records of Stow).

Mary Davis

Mary Davis was born at Concord, Mass., on Oct. 3, 1663 (vital records of Concord), the daughter of Lt. Simon Davis (he of the Quabaug massacre, Aug. 2, 1675) and Mary Blood, daughter of James and Elenor Blood of Concord. James Blood's name appears on the early proprietors' list of Concord, along with those of Lt. Simon Davis and Thomas Wheeler.

Dolor Davis, grandfather of Mary and father of Simon, was born about 1593 in England, probably Kent (Davis and 50 Allied Colonial Families of N.E.), and married there Margery Willard, sister of Major Simon Willard, who came to the rescue of the horse troop at Quabaug. Margery Willard was born on Nov. 6, 1602, at Horsmonden, Kent, the daughter of Richard and Margery Willard. Dolor Davis and Margery Willard were married Mar. 29, 1624, and came to Cambridge, Mass., in 1634 with three children. Their son Simon was born about 1636, probably at Cambridge. (See Appendix B for Simon's will.)

The Children of Dolor and Margery (Willard) Davis

- (3) John, Mary, and Elizabeth, b. England before 1634.
4. SIMON, b. Cambridge, c1636; m. MARY BLOOD 12 Dec.1660; d. 14 June 1713. (Mary Blood was born 12 July 1640 at Concord).
5. Samuel
6. Ruth, bapt. 24 Mar. 1645, Barnstable, Mass.



The Children of Simon Davis and Mary Blood

1. Dr. Simon, b. 12 Oct. 1661, Concord, Mass.
2. MARY, b. 3 Oct. 1663; m. 28 May 1691, DELIVERANCE WHEELER
3. Sarah, b. 1666; m. Thomas Wheeler
4. James, b. 1668
5. Eleanor, b. 1672; m. a Hunt
6. Ebenezer, b. 1676
7. Hannah, b. 1679; m. a Blood

Document No. 24252, Middlesex Probate Court, shows that Mary (Davis) Wheeler, having presented an inventory of the estate of her late husband, Deliverance Wheeler, who died Feb. 4, 1716 at Stow, intestate, was given permission to administer the estate. (dated - May 14, 1716).

The same document, dated April 19, 1720, lists a committee of men, named by Mary Wheeler, who were charged by the probate court to make an inventory of property and arrive at an equitable distribution of it. Those named were Captain Jacob Stevens, Deacon Nathaniel Hapgood and Ebenezer Graves of Stow, and Phinehas Rice of Sudbury, and Jonas Houghton of Lancaster, Mass.

The same document, dated Nov. 23, 1721, states that Thomas and Deliverance Wheeler were to pay Francis Foxcroft, Esq. (Judge of the Probate Court) a sum of 30 pounds. Thomas Wheeler was to pay his sister Mary fifteen pounds out of the estate.

Document No. 24253, Middlesex Probate Court, is dated Concord, April 19, 1720, and reads: "Then came before me the subject of Ephraim Wheeler, son of Deliverance Wheeler of Stow, deceased, and made a show of his mother, Mary Wheeler, for his guardian. James Minott, Justice."

On the following page (dated April 19, 1720), Mary Wheeler was obliged to pay said Foxcroft 100 pounds. "The condition of the above written obligation is such whereas the above named Mary Wheeler hath taken upon herself the guardianship of Ephraim Wheeler in his seventeenth year and Mary in her twelfth year of age, the children of the late Deliverance Wheeler late of Stow in the County aforesaid, dec'd. intestate... ." Witnessed by Jonas Houghton, Jr., and Francis Foxcroft. Signed by Deliverance Wheeler and Mary Wheeler.

From these documents it can be seen that Deliverance and Mary (Davis) Wheeler clearly had four children at the time of their father's death. (Tolman refers to the documents cited, but fails to name either Ephraim or Mary.) Young Ephraim died in 1723, but Mary (b. 1707) was to become the wife of Abraham Gibson and, later, of Daniel Hapgood.

It would seem that Mary Wheeler had difficulty in making an equitable distribution of the estate, since four years later she and her son Deliverance named a committee of distinguished neighbors to do it for them. It also appears that five years after the death of her father, young Mary had not been adequately provided for. Furthermore, the sums paid to Foxcroft are mentioned to show what a profitable business this type of thing was for the justices of the probate courts.

The Children of Deliverance Wheeler and Mary Davis

1. Deliverance, b. 5 June 1692 at Concord, Mass.
- III-2. THOMAS, b. 24 June, 1697 at Charlestown, Mass.; m. ELIZABETH GATES at Stow, pub. 15 April 1722.
3. Ephraim, b. 1702/3; d. 9 Oct. 1723 at Stow.
4. MARY, b. 5 Nov. 1707 at Stow; m. (1) Abraham Gibson at Newbury, Mass., 29 Sept. 1724 and (2) DANIEL HAPGOOD at Stow, 6 July 1745.

(No death record has been found for Mary (Davis) Wheeler).

*Mary or*  
Thomas Wheeler and Elizabeth Gates

Thomas Wheeler

*No & too much*  
Very little is known about this Thomas Wheeler. He was born at Charlestown on June 5, 1692 to Deliverance and Mary (Davis) Wheeler, married at Stow (pub. April 15, 1722) Elizabeth Gates. According to George Tolman, this Thomas was living at Harvard in 1740. No death record has been found for him there, however.

*Mary or*  
Elizabeth Gates

~~Even less is known about Thomas Wheeler's wife, Elizabeth Gates, born c1701, possibly at Stow. Her gravestone record at Harvard, Mass., dated 17 July 1741, says she was 40, a mother who~~

left young children when she died. No second marriage is found in the vital records of Stow or Harvard for Thomas Wheeler, Sr., her husband. We do not know her parents, although she may have been related to the John Gates who administered (with the widow and Simon Daby) the estate of her son, Thomas, Jr.

The Children of Thomas Wheeler and Elizabeth Gates

- IV-1. THOMAS, b. 30 Jan. 1723 at Stow; m. 2 Aug. 1743, MARY DABY at Harvard, Mass.
2. Elizabeth, b. 15 Feb. 1727; m. 16 Dec. 1755, Samuel Harper
  3. Mary, b. 19 Sept. 1730 at Harvard,
  4. Sarah, b. 23 August 1733 at Harvard.
  5. Deliverance, b. 9 July 1737 at Harvard; d. 6 Sept. 1739.

The births of Thomas and Mary are shown in the vital records of Stow, while all five births are shown in Harvard vital records. Probably the move from Stow to Harvard occurred after 1730.

Thomas Wheeler, Jr., and Mary Daby

Thomas Wheeler, Jr.

Like his grandfather, Deliverance Wheeler, Thomas Wheeler, Jr., was destined to die young and intestate. Nothing is learned from documents examined about the size of his estate, but it was probably not inconsiderable, since he was the only surviving son of his parents.

He married Mary Daby of Harvard in Aug. 1743, when he was 21 years old. The administration of his estate (No. 24358) is dated 23 Jan. 1756, so he died in December of 1755 or early January of 1756, probably. No death record has been found.

George Tolman's manuscript is in error on this Thomas Wheeler, as Tolman gives him a wife, Mary Gates. As has been stated, Tolman also omitted to list one of the children, Ephraim, who grew up to marry Hephsebeth Hapgood.

Mary Daby

Mary Daby was born at Stow on 27 Oct. 1722, the daughter of John and Hannah Daby. John Daby, her father, was born at Stow on 26 Jan. 1687, the son of Thomas and Mary Daby. It is not known who

Hannah was, nor is the surname of Mary known. Vital records of Harvard show the marriage of Mary Daby to Thomas Wheeler on 2 Aug. 1743. From these records, it appears that John and Hannah Daby were early at Concord, lived several years at Stow and then moved to Harvard.

The Family of John and Hannah Daby

1. Nahum, b. 23 Feb. 1712 at Concord, Mass.; m. 1 April 1742 Mary D. Sheldon at Harvard, Mass.; d. Harvard, 12 Mar. 1779.
2. Simon, b. 27 Feb. 1714 at Stow; m. Marcey; d. 18 Dec. 1802, Harvard.
3. Joseph, b. 15 Dec. 1716 at Stow; m. 8 June 1738 Elizabeth Nurse at Harvard.
4. Hannah, b. 9 Jan. 1720 at Stow; m. 6 April 1744 William Whitcom at Harvard.
5. MARY, b. 27 Oct. 1722 at Stow; m. 2 Aug. 1743 THOMAS WHEELER, JR., at Harvard.
6. Capt. John m. Elizabeth; d. 4 Mar. 1781; Elizabeth d. 9 Sept. 1767.

From the vital records of Harvard: Hannah Daby, wife of John, d. 17 Nov. 1744, a. 58 y. 5 m. G.R.I.; John Daby d. 6 Jan. 1769, a. 80 y. 11 m. G.R.I. No death record has been found for Mary (Daby) Wheeler.

The administration of estate of Thomas Wheeler, Jr., (No. 24358) who died intestate, is dated 23 Jan. 1756. Mary Wheeler, widow, John Gates, yeoman, both of Stow, Middlesex County, and Simon Daby of Harvard, Worcester County, were bound to administer and Mary Wheeler was given a letter of administration. She was charged to deliver an inventory of the estate within a year. The document was signed by Mary Wheeler, John Gates, and Simon Daby and witnessed by Lucy Harthorn (her mark) and John Whitman.

The guardianship of the children (No. 24359) is dated 13 April 1756. Mary Wheeler and Simon Daby of Harvard posted bond of 300 pounds and Mary was made guardian of four minor children, viz: Ephraim, Deliverance, Thomas, and Mary. Mary Wheeler and Simon Daby signed in the presence of Andrew Boardman and Reuben Prentice.

The Children of Thomas Wheeler, Jr., and Mary Daby

1. Child, stillborn, 26 Mar. 1744, Harvard, Mass.
2. Deliverance, b. 9 July 1745; d. 7 Oct. 1748 at Harvard.
- V-3. EPHRAIM, bapt. 4 Oct. 1747; m. HEPSEBETH HAPGOOD pub. 23 Dec. 1768; d. 19 Sept. 1808 at Stow.
4. Deliverance, b. 22 Dec. 1749 at Harvard.
5. Thomas, b. 1 Feb. 1752 at Harvard.
6. Mary, b. 4 July 1754.

Ephraim Wheeler

Ephraim Wheeler married Hephsebeth Hapgood of Stow, as has been stated. What worldly goods he may have brought to the marriage is not known, although he was the oldest son and his mother had posted a large bond when she applied for guardianship of her four children in 1756. Still, her children were then very young; Ephraim, the oldest, was only eight years and Mary, the youngest, was two years old. Therefore, it is very likely that the widow re-married.\*

In any case, the will of Daniel Hapgood shows that he had provided generously for Hephsebeth and her husband, Ephraim Wheeler, apparently providing the home that they lived in, among other things. When the Revolutionary War broke out, Ephraim Wheeler answered the call to duty.

"Ephraim Wheeler, Stow. Sergeant, Lieut. Nathaniel Sartell's co., Col. William Prescott's regt; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; engaged April 24, 1775; service, 98 days; also, Capt. Ephraim Corey's co., Col. Prescott's regt.; company return dated Cambridge, Oct. 7, 1775, and endorsed "The late Capt Parkers" co; also, order for bounty coat dated Camp at Cambridge, Oct. 31, 1775." (Mass. Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War; Boston: Wright and Potter, 1902. Vol. XIV, p. 967).

Ephraim Wheeler died at Stow on Sept. 19, 1808, 61 years old, having outlived "Huldeth" (Hephsebeth) by four years.

---

\*Stow Vital Records, Marriages: Wheeler, Mary, wid., and Silos Gates, int. July 25, 1756.

## APPENDIX A

### The Treadway/How/Haynes Debate

As previously noted, there is a difference of opinion as to the identity of Suffrance who married Nathaniel Treadway. Some descendants of Walter Haynes say that she was the daughter of Walter Haynes and his wife Elizabeth Noyes, basing their claim on the will of Walter Haynes (4 March 1663) and the 1929 Haynes genealogy, edited by Frances Haynes.

In the genealogy, it is alleged that all sources which report that Nathaniel Treadway married Suffrance How and that Josiah Treadway married Suffrance Haynes are in error. Their contention is that there are no records of Josiah Haynes, other than the mention of him in numerous genealogies and town histories, such as Bond's Watertown Genealogies, Barry's History of Framingham, Hudson's History of Sudbury and John Haynes' Blue Book, c 1772.

They are perhaps wise to be skeptical of some of these works, as there is a tendency to simply pick up erroneous information from other sources, lacking records.

It is another matter when Haynes' descendants choose to ignore the wills of Edward How and Margaret (How) Bunker, who made large behests to both Nathaniel Treadway and their other son-in-law, John Stone, and Nathaniel's presence in Margaret's home.

Obviously this interpretation would leave Suffrance How up the creek without a paddle, but the dissenters have an explanation for what happened to Suffrance How (if Nathaniel Treadway married Suffrance Haynes). The answer to that riddle is simple: there was no Suffrance How and no Ann Stone, as Edward and Margaret How had no children! And if you care to dispute this logic, just try to find vital records that show the children of Edward and Margaret How.

There is no point in arguing with those who do not want to be confused with facts when their minds are made up. However, those of us who descend from Shadrach Hapgood have nothing to gain either way. We could be happy with Edward How or Walter Haynes; in fact, we might prefer Walter as so much is known about him. Unfortunately, the facts argue against the latter possibility.

APPENDIX B

Essence of the Will of Simon Davis

I Simon Davis Senior of Concord in the County of Middlesex in New England and about seventy-four years doe make my last will and testament. First and principally, I commend my soul to Almighty God, and my body to ye earth to be buried at ye discretion of friends. My outward estate is disposed of as follows. My executor is to pay all my debts and funeral charges, a confirmation of the lands I formerly gave to him, and ye which are in his actual possession, his home lot of about thirteen acres, also a parcell of land adjoining Spenser's brook, thirty-five acres by estimation, four acres of meadows and fifty acres and eleven acres and three-quarters adjoining to my son James. I do confirm it all and the conveyance thereof.

I give unto my eldest daughter Mary Wheeler twenty pounds in good passable money to be paid three years after my wife's decease. also to my second daughter Sarah Wheeler twenty pounds to be paid four years after my wife's decease. To my daughter Elenor Hunt five pounds to be paid five years after the death of my wife and to Samuel Hunt my grandson ten pounds to be paid five years after my wife's death. To Hannah Blood, my daughter, five pounds.

To Mary my wife the westerly room of the dwelling house where I now live and half the use of the cellar, 8 bushels of grain, one of wheat and four of rye, to be delivered on the 25th day of March each year for the rest of her life, also a milch cow for her use as long as she is my widow. The household furniture is to be divided among my four daughters after my wife's death if it is not worn out, except for a bed and coverlid which belong to Ebenezer. Ebenezer is my sole executor, as long as he pays his sisters their money and his mother 20 shillings yearly. If Samuel Hunt dies before his money is due, it is to be divided among the other heirs. I request that my loving friends Thomas Brown and Thomas Bateman oversee the administration of my will. 24 June 1710.

Witnessed by Jona. Hanes, Sr., Thomas Brown, Sr., and Jane Dudley (her mark).

Will proved 6 July 1713.

## APPENDIX C

### The Family of Persis Gibson and Thomas Brown

Persis Gibson, daughter of Timothy Gibson and Persis Rice and sister to Jacob Gibson (Daniel Hapgood's adopted grandson) was born in 1741 at Stow, Mass., and married Thomas<sup>5</sup>Brown (Joseph<sup>4</sup>, Jabez<sup>3</sup>, Jabez<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>) of Stow (pub. Oct. 1, 1763). Thomas Brown, who was not named in his father's will, was the son of Joseph and Grace (Fairbanks) Brown of Stow, where he was born on Aug. 1, 1740. Thomas died at Henniker, NH, Mar. 13, 1790.

### The Children of Thomas Brown and Persis Gibson, born at Stow

1. Betty, b. Mar. 13, 1766; m. Josiah Morse.
2. Rebecca, b. June 29, 1768; m. Daniel Dow.
3. Persis, b. July 1, 1770.
4. Nahum, b. April 26, 1772; m. Abiel Eastman. (Nahum was a deaf mute, as was his son Thomas, the first president of the New England Gallaudet Ass'n.)
5. Susanna, b. Feb. 25, 1794; m. Charles Rice.
6. Sarah, b. Feb. 29, 1778; m. Thomas Steele.
7. Jerusha, b. Oct. 29, 1779; m. Joseph Amsden.
8. Abigail, b. April 28, 1784; d. Henniker, NH, 1794.

This family is typical of what was happening by the fourth or fifth generations of descendants of those who came to Massachusetts in the 1630's. There was plenty of land around the first settlements to accomodate the large families of the first two or three generations. As the population grew, however, it was necessary to expand into other areas. The Gibson family was in New Hampshire and Maine by the mid-1700's, seeking land of their own which could later be left to their children.

From the early wills, we see that the sons were given the lands of their fathers, with the rule of primogeniture still applying. The daughters were given money, where there was enough, but they were expected to marry and to be provided the necessities of life by their husbands. Later generations were unable to leave much to their sons or daughters, who had to scratch for themselves, as most still do today.



SOURCES CONSULTED

(Hapgood/Wheeler)

- Baldwin, Thomas. Vital Records of Harvard, Mass., to the Year 1850. (1917).
- Bond, Henry. Genealogies of the Families and Descendants of the Early Settlers of Watertown, Massachusetts. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1855.
- Hapgood, Warren. The Hapgood Family: Descendants of Shadrach, 1656-1898. Boston: American Printing & Engraving Co., 1898.
- Haynes, Frances, ed. Walter Haynes of Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire, England, and Sudbury, Massachusetts, and His Descendants, 1583-1928. (1929).
- Jacobus, Donald L., comp./ed. History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield, Connecticut. (1930).
- Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Boston: Wright & Potter, 1902. XVI: 967.
- Middlesex County, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Probate Court:
- |                      |      |        |       |
|----------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Davis, Simon         | 1710 | Will   | 6086  |
| Hapgood, Daniel      | 1785 | Will   | 10292 |
| Wheeler, Deliverance | 1716 | Admin. | 24252 |
| Wheeler, Deliverance | 1720 | Guard. | 24253 |
| Wheeler, Thomas      | 1756 | Admin. | 24358 |
| Wheeler, Thomas      | 1756 | Guard. | 24359 |
- Tolman, George, comp. "The Wheeler Families of Old Concord, Mass." Concord Free Public Library, 1908.
- Vital Records of Marlborough, Mass., to the End of the Year, 1849. (1908).
- Vital Records of Stow, Mass., to 1850. (1911).
- Vital Records of Sudbury, Mass., to 1850. (1903).
- Ward, Andrew H. Ward Family. Descendants of William Ward Who Settled in Sudbury in 1639. Boston: Samuel G. Drake, 1851.
- Wheeler, Albert G. History of the Wheeler Family in America. Boston: American College of Genealogy, 1914.
- Wheeler, Ruth R. Concord: Climate for Freedom. Concord: The Concord Antiquarian Society, 1967.
- Wilson, Mehitable C.C. John Gibson of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Some of His Descendants. Washington: McGill & Wallace, 1900.

(Brown)

Massachusetts Archives. Vol. 68: 104; Vol. 39:861-2.

Middlesex County, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Probate Court:

Jabez Brown	1692	Admin.	3042
Jabez Brown	1747	Will	3043
Sarah Brown	1760	Will	3198
Hannah Brown	1765	Admin.	3026
Joseph Brown	1768	Will	3104
Joseph Brown, Jr.	1769	Guard.	3105

Nourse, Henry S. Early Records of Lancaster, Massachusetts, 1643-1725.

Vital Records of Concord, Harvard, Sudbury, Stow, Mass., and Waterford, Maine.

Weiss, Frederick L. "Early Generations of the Browne Family of Sudbury, Massachusetts." Lancaster, 1931.