

Family Group Sheet for Susannah Briggs

Husband:	William Palmer Sr. ¹
Birth:	27 Jun 1638 in Duxbury, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA ^{1, 2, 3, 4}
Death:	Jun 1675 in Dartmouth, Bristol, MA
Marriage:	1663 ⁵
FREEMAN:	29 May 1670 in Dartmouth, Bristol, MA; "Listed as a freeman of Dartmouth" ⁶
Occupation:	24 Mar 1661 in Dartmouth, Bristol, MA; Cooper ⁷
OFFICE:	05 Jun 1666 in Dartmouth, Bristol, MA; CONSTABLE ⁶
Sex:	Male ¹
Father:	
Mother:	
Wife:	Susannah Briggs ^{1, 5, 8, 9}
Birth:	Abt. 1641 in Portsmouth, Newport, Rhode Island, United States; based on inscription "Her slate headstone reads::Susannah Northway decest in the 63rd year of her age, November ye 7th 1704" ^{8, 10}
Death:	07 Nov 1704 in Little Compton, RI ^{11, 12, 13}
Burial:	Aft. 07 Nov 1704 in Little Compton, RI ¹⁴
Sex:	Female ^{1, 8, 9}
Father:	John Briggs Sr
Mother:	Sarah Cornell(?)
Other Spouses:	John Northway (21 Sep 1677 in Portsmouth, Newport, Rhode Island, United States) ^[9]
Children:	
1 M	Name: William Palmer Jr. ^{1, 15} Birth: Apr 1663 in Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts, USA ⁹ Death: Nov 1746 in Little Compton, Newport, Rhode Island, USA ^{1, 9} Sex: Male ^{1, 9} Spouse: Mary Richmond
2 M	Name: John Palmer ⁹ Birth: 18 May 1665 in Little Compton, Newport, Rhode Island, United States ⁹ Death: 13 Oct 1753 in Little Compton, Newport, Rhode Island, United States ⁹ Burial: Aft. 13 Oct 1752 in Old Commons Cemetery, Little Compton, RI ¹⁶ Marriage: Abt. 1686 Sex: Male ⁹ Title: Capt, ¹⁶ Spouse: Elizabeth Richmond Other Spouses: Sarah Blood
3 M	Name: Joseph Palmer ⁹ Birth: 1667 in Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts, United States ⁹ Death: 14 May 1728 in Little Compton, Newport, Rhode Island, United States ⁹ Sex: Male ⁹ Spouse: Sarah _____

Notes:

William Palmer Sr.

Notes from Horace W Palmer.

born 26 June 1638 (i.e., after his father's death) probably at Duxbury, married SUSANNAH BRIGGS ca. 1663, killed in King Philip's War in June 1675. Susannah was born in 1641 in Portsmouth, R.I., daughter of John and Sarah (Cornell) Briggs. Susannah married (2) John Northway between 1680 and 1683. John died before 1697. Susannah died 7 Nov. 1704 and was buried alongside her son John in the Old Commons

Notes: (con't)

Cemetery, Little Compton, R.I. Her headstone reads:

Susannah Northway decess in the 63d year of her age, November ye 7th 1704.[49] [Carlton B. Palmer, "Sarah Briggs Palmer of Plymouth Colony and Little Compton, Rhode Island" (The Mayflower Quarterly, 1984), 50:188-190]

William was a creditor of the estate of William Bradford, Sr., as listed in the inventory dated 22 May 1657.[50][Horace W. Palmer, Palmer Families in America (1973), 3:11]

On 28 Apr. 1659 William Palmer of Plymouth, cooper, son of William of Duxbury, nayler, deceased, acknowledged he had received from the executors "in full of my portion left unto me by my father's last will" and released the executors from any further claims arising from said will. He had received £51 and a three-year-old mare (Fig. 7).[51]

William also received from his father the latter's receipt of land in a place called Acconquesse or Achushnet. This land had been distributed to William Palmer, nailer, and 57 other first settlers of Plymouth by the Plymouth General Court on 3 Mar. 1639/40. Son William selected land on the East side of the Acushnet River in Duxbury.

On 24 Mar. 1661 William Palmer of Accushenah (Dartmouth, Mass.), cooper, sold to Mr. John Barnes, yeoman, of Plymouth "all that my home lott lying and being att Accushenah (25 acres of upland) with all the house, housing and fences thereon with three acres of meadow as yett unlayed out . . . except my right of commonage (Fig. 8).[52][Mrs. John E. Barclay, "Notes on the Palmer Family of Plymouth" (TAG, 1956), 32:44-45; Mayflower Descendant (1912), 14:13-14]

William Palmer was named Constable of Dartmouth 5 June 1666, surveyor of highways 6 June 1671 and again the following year. He was listed as a freeman of Dartmouth 29 May 1670 and was one of three selectmen (i.e., representatives) from Dartmouth to the General Court at Plymouth on 3 June 1674.[53][Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England: Court Orders, 1661-1668 (1855), 123 and Court Orders, 1668-1678 (1856), 5:58, 93, 144 & 279.]

On 5 June 1667 William Palmer and Thomas Roberts, both of Dartmouth, bought from Edward Gray of Plymouth his half share of upland which the latter had purchased from John Russell in Dartmouth.[54][Mrs. John E. Barclay, "Notes on the Palmer Family of Plymouth" (TAG, 1956), 32:44] Thomas was William's stepfather.

The region was devastated by the Indians in the summer of 1675 during King Philip's War. The inhabitants built garrisons for their safety. John Cooke had one east of the river, John Russell had one west of the river and there was one on Palmer's Island in the Acushnet River, probably erected by William Palmer. The settlement east of the river was burned early in June 1675 and most of the inhabitants fled to Cooke's garrison. William Palmer was on his way to this garrison when he was ambushed and killed by the Indians.[55][Horace W. Palmer, Palmer Families in America (1973), 3:11.]

William left no will. An inventory of his estate was dated 30 June 1675 and was presented to the Court at Plymouth on 3 June 1679 by Susannah Palmer (Fig. 9).[56][Plymouth Probate Records, vol. 4, part 1, page 32] The total of the estate was £122/12/6. Letters of Administration were granted to the widow, Susannah Palmer of Dartmouth, on 3 June 1679. The Court appointed John Russell and William Briggs as overseers to the widow to assist her in settling her deceased husband's estate. William Briggs was one of Susannah's five brothers.[57][Carlton A. Palmer, Jr., "Susannah (Briggs) Palmer of Plymouth Colony & Little Compton, Rhode Island" (The Mayflower Quarterly, 1984), 50:188; Horace W. Palmer, Palmer Families in America (1973), 3:11.]

After William's death and the 1679 settlement of his estate, Susannah and her children returned to her hometown of Portsmouth, R.I. Here she met and married John Northway, a friend of the Briggs family. After the marriage of their mother, her three sons by her first husband, William Palmer, removed to Little Compton, R.I. (Fig. 10).[Map of the Townships of Plymouth Colony]

After John Northway's death, Susannah removed to Little Compton and in 1697 was living near her three sons. On 2 Mar. 1702 Susannah Northway, widow, purchased property in Tiverton, R.I., from Edward Gray.

Notes: (con't)

This land was located next to her son Joseph Palmer (see ¶c. below).[58][Carlton A. Palmer, Jr., "Susannah (Briggs) Palmer of Plymouth Colony & Little Compton, Rhode Island" (The Mayflower Quarterly, 1984), 50:189]

The children of William and Susannah (Briggs) Palmer were all born in Dartmouth, Mass:[59][Carlton A. Palmer, Jr., "Susannah (Briggs) Palmer of Plymouth Colony & Little Compton, Rhode Island" (The Mayflower Quarterly, 1984), 50:188-190 and Benjamin F. Wilbour, Little Compton Families (1974), 444-447.]

Susannah Briggs

There is an excellent analysis of the documentation in regards Susanna, the wife of William Palmer of Dartmouth in the Fleming Family History which concludes that she was the daughter of John and Sarah Briggs. This connects **more** of the Briggs family with Dartmouth, since her father and two of her brothers (John and Thomas) were all Proprietors of the town. I will quote the full discussion.

"Because Arthur Hathaway, a close friend of the Palmer family, had assisted Susannah during her appearance at the General Court of Plymouth, 3 June 1679, in petitioning for Letters of Administration to settle her husband's estate, it has been mistakenly assumed by some researchers that she was Arthur's sister, Susannah Hathaway."985

"Other compilers have claimed that Susannah (____) Palmer was an unnamed daughter of John and Sarah (Warren) Cooke because of an 'unfound deed' which had indicated that a William Palmer was a son-in-law of John Cooke (Francis 1). This 'unfound deed' was first mentioned in the "Descendants of Matthew West", published in 1903, and repeated often by various compilers, as well as in the genealogical column of the Boston Evening Transcript. No evidence has been found to sustain this relationship." (From Carlton A. Palmer, Jr., "Susannah (Briggs) Palmer of Plymouth Colony and Little Compton, Rhode Island," Mayflower Quarterly, 50 (4), (November, 1984).)

*"Unnoticed by the researchers who worked with these probate records was the appointment by the court of William Briggs as overseer to the widow to assist her in settling her deceased husband's estate [General Court of Plymouth, 3 June 1679, Winslow Governor, 1:13; Shurtleff and Pulsifer, New Plymouth Colony Records 6:13]. An overseer is often a relative of the widow and this case is no exception. This William Briggs was known in Dartmouth as one of the five sons of John and Sarah (Cornell Briggs who also had a daughter, Susannah, born at Portsmouth, Rhode Island, in 1641. It was this Susannah Briggs who actually married William Palmer, Jr., of Plymouth sometime in 1663. They had a son named William Palmer in 1664, followed by John in 1665 and Joseph in 1667. After her husband's death and the 1679 court session, widow Susannah (Briggs) Palmer returned to her hometown of Portsmouth, Rhode Island with her children. While at Portsmouth, Susannah met John Northway, a friend of the Briggs family. John Northway and widow Susannah (Briggs) Palmer were married between 1680 and 1683 and had a son George Northway, born in 1684. Susannah's three sons by her first husband, William Palmer, moved to Little Compton, Rhode Island, after the marriage of their mother. In his will dated 19 April 1690, probated 9th mo. 17th, 1690, John Briggs, Senr., gave the bulk of his estate to his son, Enoch Briggs, and some farm animals to son Job Briggs. To his oldest son John, son Thomas and daughter Susanna Northway, he gave one shilling each because 'they having long since received their portions and are gone from me' (Council Book of Portsmouth, R.I., 2:278, 19 April 1690, as found in Sam Briggs, "Descendants of Walter Briggs of Westchester, N.Y., (1878) p. 14]. Susannah's second husband, John Northway, must have died by 1697 as records show that Susannah Northway was living in Little Compton with her sons, William, John and Joseph Palmer in that year. Susannah Northway, widow, purchased property in Tiverton, Rhode Island from Edward Gray which was located next to that of her son, Joseph Palmer, as recorded 2 Mar. 1702 [Bristol County North District Land Records 10:173]. Additional evidence that Susannah Northway's previous marriage was to William Palmer, Jr., is a notation found in a Richmond family document made by Edward Richmond, a brother-in-law of Susannah's two sons, William and John Palmer, in which Edward referred to his 'Aunt Northway, for a winding sheet.' William and John Palmer had married Mary and Elizabeth Richmond, respectively ['Account of Edward Richmond, Administrator, listing debts of the estate of Capt. Edward Richmond, Sr., 19 May 1697,' B.F. Wilbour, Little Compton Families, p. 513]. Susannah (Briggs) (Palmer) Northway was buried next to her son, Capt. John Palmer and his first wife, Elizabeth Richmond, in the Old Commons Cemetery of Little Compton [Benjamin Franklin Wilbour and Waldo Chamerslain Sprague, 'Inscriptions in Little Compton, R.I.,' New England Historical and Genealogical Register (Oct. 1961) 115:262]. Her slate headstone reads:
Susannah Northway decest in the 63rd year*

Notes: (con't)

of her age, November ye 7th 1704.

Land records at Taunton, Mass., show that , on the following day, 8 Nov. 1704, William and John Palmer transferred to their youngest brother, Joseph, land in Tiverton 'that our mother purchased from Edward Gray' [Bristol Co. North District Land Records 10:174]. Therefore, these various records prove that the wife of William Palmer, Jr., of Plymouth was not Susannah Cooke, granddaughter of Francis Cooke of the Mayflower, as has been claimed. She was instead the daughter of John Briggs, one of the early settlers of Rhode Island, a commissioner of Portsmouth and a deputy governor." (From Carlton A. Palmer, Jr., "Susannah (Briggs) Palmer of Plymouth Colony and Little Compton, Rhode Island," *Mayflower Quarterly*, 50 (4), (November, 1984).)

Discussion of the issue of whether she was the daughter of John Cooke, son of Francis Cook of the Mayflower, to be entered.645

Tombstone visited and photographed by Barbara Fleming, August, 2001. Photos on

file. Tombstone read:

"Here Lyeth Bvryed

ye Body of Svsanna

Northway who Decst

In the 63rd year

of her age

Novembr ye 7th

1704" Footstone

reads: "Susanna

Northway

1704"

William Palmer Jr.

Notes from *Palmer Families in America*, by Horace W Palmer.

William and Mary lived in the east part of Little Compton around Pottersville and Quicksand Pond. On 3 Jan. 1683 William Palmer "of Saronet, alias Little Compton," bought land in Little Compton from John Partridge of Duxbury. He was called "planter" in a deed dated 5 Mar. 1699 by which he sold land to Thomas Brownell in Little Compton. On 27 June 1701 he was deeded land at a place called "quicksand pond" in Little Compton by Samuel Bradford. In a deed dated 10 Jan. 1704/5 and subsequent deeds he was called "yeoman" of Little Compton.

William's will was dated 13 Jan. 1745/6 and was probated 4 Nov. 1746. "...To son William 5 shillings. To son Joseph one half tract of land I formerly gave to my son William and since bought of him; bounded east on the pond, south and west on land of Charles Brownell, north on land I bought and gave my son Joseph, northerly half of said land all that part of homestead farm which I have already given my son Joseph. To son John 5 shillings. To son Thomas all that part of my homestead farm I have given my son Thomas. To son Sylvester all that part of my homestead farm that I have already given him. To my sons Thomas and Sylvester, the south half of land I formerly gave to my son William by deed, which since I rebought, bounded east by the pond, south and west by land of Charles Brownell, north on land which I have given my son Joseph. To daughters Elizabeth Head and Abigail Shaw 5 shillings each, and to grandson Gamaliel Richmond, son of daughter Patience Richmond 5 shillings. To daughter Susannah Southworth 20 shillings. My son Joseph to be sole executor ..."[61]

William and Mary had 12 children, all born in Little Compton.

John Palmer

Notes from Horace W Palmer

Capt. JOHN PALMER, born 18 May 1665, married (1) ELIZABETH RICHMOND ca. 1686, married (2) SARAH BLOOD 28 Aug. 1718, died 13 Oct. 1752 in Little Compton. Elizabeth was born 6 Dec. 1666 in Little Compton, died there 9 Feb. 1717. She was a sister of Mary (see ¶a. above). Sarah was born ca. 1682, died in Little Compton 25 July 1766. She was a daughter of Gideon Blood. John and his two wives were buried in Old Commons Cemetery, Little Compton. John was a veteran of the Colonial Wars.[62][Benjamin F. Wilbour & Waldo C. Sprague, "Cemetery Inscriptions in Little Compton, Rhode

Notes: (con't)

Island" (NEH&GR, 1961), 115:262]

John first appeared in the records under date of 25 Dec. 1688 when he deeded land in Little Compton with his wife Elizabeth. He was a "carpenter" of Little Compton. On 12 Feb. 1693/4 John Palmer of Little Compton deeded to Joseph Allen land in Dartmouth, formerly of William Palmer of Dartmouth, deceased. In several deeds he was called "carpenter" and in later deeds he was called "Gentleman."^[63][Horace W. Palmer, *Palmer Families in America* (1973), 3:14.]

He was a deputy to the General Court in 1702.

John's will was written 10 Apr. 1745 and proved 27 Nov. 1752. "...To wife Sarah two Negroes and all household goods. To son John two 18 acre lots that he now lives on. To sons Edward, Job, Aaron, William, Henry, 10 pounds each old tenor. To son Moses 40 acres of my homestead farm lying on north side near Carr's land on the west side of highway. To son Simeon my executor, my now dwelling house and all land on the west side of the highway excepting 40 acres to son Moses, and two ten acre lots east of highway east from my house that I now live in. To daughters Sarah Wilbor and Elizabeth Southworth 10 pounds each..."

Joseph Palmer

From Horace W Palmer

JOSEPH PALMER, born 1667, married SARAH [-?-], died May 1728 in Little Compton.

On 13 May 1693 Joseph Palmer of Little Compton deeded to Joseph Allen land in Dartmouth, formerly of William Palmer of Dartmouth, deceased. On 27 Jan. 1695/6 Joseph Palmer of Tiverton, Mass., was deeded land in Tiverton by William Manchester of Tiverton. (Tiverton was in Bristol Co., Mass. until 28 May 1746, when part was allotted to Rhode Island.) On 8 Nov. 1704 Joseph's brothers, William and John, transferred to Joseph land in Tiverton, R.I. "that our mother purchased from Edward Gray."^[64][Bristol Co., Mass., North District Land Records, 10:174.]

It is believed that Joseph lived in Tiverton from 1696 until 1724 or 1725. He then moved back to Little Compton. In later deeds he was called "yeoman" and "husbandmen."^[65][Horace W. Palmer, *Palmer Families in America* (1973), 3:15-16]

Sources:

- 1 Ancestry.com, Public Member Trees (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006), www.ancestry.com, Database online.
- 2 BarbPretz, FLEMING FAMILY HISTORY, Ancestry.com
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~barbpretz>, citation for birtdate and place: "Robert Charles Anderson, "The Value of Freeman's Lists," Great Migration Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 3, July - September, 1990".
- 3 BarbPretz, FLEMING FAMILY HISTORY, Ancestry.com
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~barbpretz>, Citation for birth facts: Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins*, (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995), Vol. III (P-W).
- 4 BarbPretz, FLEMING FAMILY HISTORY, Ancestry.com
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~barbpretz>, Birth facts citation: "Mrs. John E. (Florence Harlow) Barclay, "Notes on the Palmer Family of Plymouth," *The American Genealogist*, Vol. 32, No. 1, (January, 1956)."
- 5 BarbPretz, FLEMING FAMILY HISTORY, Ancestry.com
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~barbpretz>, citation for her birth "Carlton A. Palmer, Jr., "Susannah (Briggs) Palmer of Plymouth Colony and Little Compton, Rhode Island," *Mayflower Quarterly*, 50 (4), (November, 1984)."
- 6 TAG, 32:1:45. Cites Plymouth Colony Records.
- 7 TAG, 32:1:55. Deed cited: " William Palmer, of Acushnah (Dartmouth), cooper, sold to John Barnes. . .".
- 8 Database online.
- 9 Ancestry.com, Public Member Trees (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006), www.ancestry.com, Database online.

10 Payne-Joyce Gen, Ancestry.com, <http://www.Ancestry.com>. Sources: (con't)

- 11 BarbPretz, FLEMING FAMILY HISTORY, Ancestry.com
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~barbpretz>, Citation for Death: "Carlton A. Palmer, Jr., "Susannah (Briggs) Palmer of Plymouth Colony and Little Compton, Rhode Island," Mayflower Quarterly, 50 (4), (November, 1984).".
- 12 BarbPretz, FLEMING FAMILY HISTORY, Ancestry.com
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~barbpretz>, Citation for death: " Tombstone visited and photographed by Barbara Fleming, August, 2001.".
- 13 BarbPretz, FLEMING FAMILY HISTORY, Ancestry.com
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~barbpretz>, Citation for death & burial: "Benjamin Franklin Wilbour & Waldo Chamberlain Sprague, "Cemetery Inscriptions in Little Compton, R.I.," New England Historical & Genealogical Register, Vol. 115, No. 4, October, 1961.".
- 14 BarbPretz, FLEMING FAMILY HISTORY, Ancestry.com
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~barbpretz>, "Old Common Burial Ground" cited from "Carlton A. Palmer, Jr., "Susannah (Briggs) Palmer of Plymouth Colony and Little Compton, Rhode Island," Mayflower Quarterly, 50 (4), (November, 1984).".
- 15 Ancestry.com, Public Member Trees (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006), www.ancestry.com, Database online.
- 16 NEHGR, 115:262. Article 1961 "Cemetery Inscriptions in Little Compton, Rhode Island" John was a veteran of the Colonial Wars.
Email: sir_ice_man@hotmail.com
-

Prepared By:

Preparer: Robert E Harding
Phone:

Address: