

Abigail Doane

Abigail Doane was more than likely the first of the surname born in the Western Hemisphere. She was the daughter of John Done and his wife of unknown name. John Done had come to Plymouth Colony at about the year 1630. It is likely that he arrived at that place with his wife and a daughter Lydia Done.

Shortly after his arrival at Plymouth Colony, John Done was chosen as an assistant to the Governor and a Deacon of the church there. He would remain at Plymouth until the year 1644, when he, his family, and six other families would settle on Cape Cod at a place called Nauset, later named Eastham. He would live out the rest of his long life at that place. He died in the year 1685 at the age of about 95 years. He was the founder of the Doane Family in America.

Abigail Doane more than likely lived the first fifty four years of her life in the household of her father. It is not known when her mother died. Her father is supposed to have signed a deed in 1648 with wife Ann. It is not known if this Ann was the mother of Abigail, her sister Lydia, and her three brothers, John, Daniel, and Ephraim. John Done is also supposed to have signed a deed with wife Lydia in 1659. He mentions a wife in his will dated 18 May 1678, but not by name. In his will he bequeaths to his wife his dwelling house with the upland and meadow about the house. This wife dies before December 1681, when John Done conveys his dwelling house and fourteen acres to Abigail Doane "for that love and natural affection that I bear to my daughter".

Deacon John Done died at Eastham on 21 February 1685. He was doubtless buried at the Town Cove Burial Ground by the first meeting house, but there is no stone that marks his burial place. What happened in the life of Abigail Doane between the death of her father and 1690 is unknown. At some point during that time period she was introduced to Samuel Lothrop of Norwich, CT, for in 1690, at the age of about 59 years, she married him.

Why would the widower, Samuel Lothrop, aged about 67 years, marry a spinster from Eastham in far off Cape Cod? Surely there were women of his social station willing to marry a man of his means in eastern Connecticut. Samuel still had

brothers living in the Town of Barnstable, where his father settled as the minister and where he himself had married first in 1644. Certainly there was trade and communication between the towns of one colony and the towns of another colony. Perhaps there was a mutual friend that introduced the two. It is also possible that Abigail Doane and Samuel Lothrop had met long ago. Perhaps they had accompanied their respective fathers, Deacon John Done and the Rev. John Lothrop, at some meeting those two may have had in Plymouth, Barnstable, or Eastham. Of Course, all of this is just conjecture.

Samuel went with his new wife to his home in Norwich, CT. They were married for about ten years, when Samuel Lothrop died on the 29th of February 1700. On the occasion of her hundredth birthday a sermon was preached at her home, most likely the house her late husband had built in 1670. On the 23rd of January 1735 Abigail (Doane) Lothrop died at Norwich. She was in the 104th year of her age. The following day her remains were buried at the Norwich Burial Ground. Her life had spanned the period beginning with the earliest settlements in Massachusetts and had ended at a time when the revolutionary leaders who would give birth to a new nation were being born throughout the English colonies.

Samuel Lothrop and the Lothrop Family

Samuel Lothrop was the third son of the Rev. John Lothrop and Hannah House. He was born at Egerton in the County of Kent, England on 3 March 1623. His father was a leader in one of the early Congregational Churches in England.

John Lothrop was born at Etton in the County of Yorkshire, England in 1584. He matriculated at Queens College, Cambridge in 1601 and was awarded BA and MA degrees there in 1605 and in 1609 respectively. He was Curate at Egerton, 50 miles southeast of London, in the County of Kent from 1609 to about 1622. About the time of the birth of Samuel Lothrop, his father renounced his orders in the Church of England. In 1624 he was called by the congregants of the First Independent Church of London to replace their minister the Rev. Henry Jacob.

The Church of England was the only lawful church in England at this time, and those meeting outside the Church of England had to worship in secret. In May of 1632 the Rev. John Lothrop and scores of congregants of the Independent Church were arrested for meeting to worship at the private home of Humphrey Barnet, a brewers clerk. The Rev. John Lothrop remained in prison for two years. He was released to care for his dying wife and to care for his destitute children. In the summer of 1634 the Rev. John Lothrop, his children, and some of his congregants, sailed aboard the "Griffin", which arrived at Boston of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in September of that year.

Shortly after his arrival in Boston, some of the settlers of the Town of Scituate in Plymouth Colony called for him as their minister. The Rev. John Lothrop was chosen as the pastor at Scituate and preached there through 1638. It appears that there was a disagreement with some of the Scituate church congregants on the matter of baptism that led to the minister removing, with his family and a number of the congregants from Scituate, to found the settlement of Barnstable on Cape Cod in 1639. He ministered to the congregation at Barnstable until his death there on 3 November 1653.

Samuel Lothrop would have been a witness to some of his families travails in England, would have been a participant in the crossing to the New World, and the settlements in Scituate and in Barnstable. In Barnstable he married Elizabeth Scudder on 28 November 1644. Samuel was a builder by trade. He had met his wife in Boston, while there practicing his trade. Their first son John was born in Boston in 1645.

In 1648 Samuel Lothrop took his family to the new English settlement at Pequot, which became New London, Connecticut. He was chosen as one of three judges of a local court given power to sit in trial of all causes between inhabitants. He was one of those sent to relieve Uncas, Sachem of the Mohegans, from a siege by the hostile Narragansetts in 1657. Seven of his eight children were born at New London.

In 1668 he removed from New London, up the Thames River to Norwich, Connecticut. He built a house near Town Street in 1670. A contract was recorded

in 1679 for Samuel Lothrop to build the Second Church in New London. Over the course of the remainder of his life, Samuel purchased tracts of land in Norwich totaling some 400 acres.

It is not recorded when his wife, Elizabeth Scudder dies, but in 1690, at the age of 67 years, he marries Abigail Doane of Eastham, in Barnstable County, of Plymouth Colony. Samuel Lothrop dies at Norwich on 29 February 1700, just a few days shy of his 77th year. It is most likely that he is buried at the first burial ground in Norwich, often called the Post and Gager Cemetery, and not with his wife at the Old Norwich Burial Ground. Abigail (Doane) Lothrop survived her husband by 35 years.

Children of Samuel Lothrop and Elizabeth Scudder:

John Lothrop (1645-1688) –married Ruth Royce, he settled in Wallingford, CT.

Elizabeth Lothrop (1648-ca 1690) –married Isaac Royce, settled in Wallingford, CT.

Samuel Lothrop, Jr. (1650-1732) –married Hannah Adgate, lived in Norwich, CT

Daughter Elizabeth married John Waterman in 1701 and their daughter Hannah Waterman was the mother of Benedict Arnold, Jr. the infamous traitor of the American Revolution

Sarah Lothrop (1655-1706) –married Nathaniel Royce, settled in Wallingford, CT.

Martha Lothrop (1657-1719) –married John Moss, settled in Wallingford, CT.

Israel Lothrop (1659-1733) –married Rebecca Bliss, lived in Norwich, CT.

Joseph Lothrop (1661-1740) –married Mary Scudder, lived in Norwich, CT.

Abigail Lothrop (1665-1745) –married John Huntington, lived in Norwich, CT

Daughter Martha married Noah Grant in Tolland, CT. They were ancestors of President Ulysses S. Grant

Anne Lothrop (1667-1745) –married William Hough, lived in Norwich, CT.

Obadiah Wheeler

The headstone and footstone of Abigail (Doane) Lothrop, located at the Old Norwich Burial Ground, has been identified as the work of Obadiah Wheeler. He has been called by some as one of the best stone carvers of the interior of eastern Connecticut. The majority of the gravestones that he carved are located in the eastern Connecticut towns of Lebanon, Windham, and Norwich.

Obadiah Wheeler was born at Concord, MA in 1673. He married Hannah Fletcher at Concord, MA in 1702. In 1718 he appears in Lebanon, CT. John Hartshorn was a gravestone carver originally from Essex County, MA, but late in life he moved to West Farms, CT. It is believed that Hartshorn was an influence and possibly a mentor to Obadiah Wheeler.

The gravestones carved by Wheeler in eastern Connecticut range in date from 1726 through 1749. There are five types of Wheeler gravestone carvings that have been identified with different characteristics from the different years that he carved. The Abigail Lothrop stone has been identified as a Type V stone. A Type V stone may be considered a simpler version of the Type IV stone. Wheeler may have used this style carving when a lower price was involved or when he needed to complete the carving in a shorter period of time.

Obadiah Wheeler footstones are usually distinctive. The most elaborate footstones have been found with Wheeler Type IV and Type V headstones. The Abigail Lothrop footstone is an example of the large elliptical stone that is distinctively Obadiah Wheeler.

James Thomas Doane

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