

Early Settler Profile:
Nathaniel Bacon (1650) /
Ann (Miller) Bacon

Name: Nathaniel Bacon

Birth: c. 1630, possibly in Bramford, England.
(FFS & others)

(Compiler's Note: Nathaniel Bacon's birthplace of "Stretton, Rutland, England" commonly seen in print for many years began with a genealogical error by Nathaniel Almorán Bacon in his 1845 genealogy of Jabez Bacon of Woodbury, Conn. The error was later widely circulated in Royal Hinman's 1852 edition of his *Catalog of the Names of the First Puritan Settlers of the Colony of Connecticut*, pg. 99, and in later compilations by other editors. For a century the misjudgment has been addressed by notable genealogists, including Donald Lines Jacobus and F.F. Starr, yet the error continues to multiply on the Internet. An informative discussion of research on this topic in England is in this posting on the Bacon List at RootsWeb: <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/BACON/2001-06/0991689875>)

Emigration: From England to Hartford to join his uncle Andrew Bacon (1596-1699) c. 1648-1649 (CBRMC); to Middletown before April 1653.(FFS, CBRMC)

Death: January 27, 1705/6, Middletown, Conn.(MVR, BCVR)

Occupation & Public Service: Farmer; chosen town constable in 1654; later fence viewer, hay warden, pound keeper, rate maker, surveyor of highways, & townsman/selectman.(FFS)

Marriage: m.(1) Ann Miller; about 1652, Middletown, Conn. (b. 1636, England; d. July 6, 1680, Middletown, Conn.) She was the daughter of Thomas Miller & Isabel (unknown surname) Miller of England, Rowley, Mass., and Middletown, Conn.; m.(2) Elizabeth Pierpont, April 17, 1682, Middletown (b. 1661; d. before February 24, 1697/8).(MVR, BCVR)

Parents: Unknown (Possible father: Nathaniel Bacon, b. March 22, 1598-9, Bramford, England. See discussion below.)

Children (MVR, Land Records, vol. 1, page 7; BCVR; CBRMC, TAG):

Children with first wife Ann Miller:

(1) Nathaniel Bacon, b. 1653, Middletown, Conn.; d. April 8, 1655, Middletown, Conn.

(2) Hannah Bacon, b. April 14, 1655, Middletown, Conn.; d. after 1708; m. John Boarn, October 1677, Middletown, Conn. (6 children)

(3) Andrew Bacon, b. February 14, 1656/7, Middletown, Conn.; d. July 5, 1662, Middletown, Conn.

(4) Thomas (originally Nathaniel, name changed to Thomas) Bacon, b. July 20, 1659, Middletown, Conn.; removed to Simsbury, Conn. c. 1690; d. 1758, Simsbury, Conn.; m. Abigail Maskill, March 12, 1684/5, Middletown, Conn. (6 children)

(5) John Bacon, b. March 14, 1661/2, Middletown, Conn.; d. November 4, 1732, Middletown, Conn.; m. Sarah Wetmore, November 26, 168(?), Middletown, Conn. (7 children)

(6) Mary Bacon, b. April 7, 1664, Middletown, Conn.; d. May 24, 1709, Middletown, Conn.; m. Samuel Wetmore, December 13, 1687, Middletown, Conn. (8 children)

(7) Andrew Bacon, b. June 4, 1666, Middletown, Conn.; d. June 1, 1723, Middletown, Conn.; m. Mehitable Wetmore, February 12, 1691/2, Middletown, Conn. (10 children)

(8) Abigail Bacon, b. July 13, 1670, Middletown, Conn.; d. after 1699; m. ?. (Middletown Vital Records confuse Abigail and Mary Bacon.)

(9) Lydia Bacon, b. February 18, 1672/3, Middletown, Conn.; d. January 24, 1749/50, Middletown, Conn.; m. Joseph Wetmore, June 6, 1706, Middletown, Conn. (5 children)

(10) Nathaniel Bacon II, b. March 16, 1675/6, Middletown, Conn.; d. January 6, 1759, Middletown, Conn.; m. Hannah Wetmore, February 5, 1701/2, Middletown, Conn. (8 children); m.(2) Anne (Allen) Lane, widow, January 31, 1739/40, Middletown, Conn.; m.(3) Rebecca (Ranney) Doolittle, November 28, 1752, Middletown, Conn.

Child with 2nd wife Elizabeth Pierpont:

(11) Beriah Bacon, b. August 17, 1682, Middletown, Conn.; d. May 15, 1730, Middletown, Conn.; m. Ann Odell, November 10, 1713, Middletown, Conn. (6 children). (Compiler's Note: One son of Beriah Bacon & Ann Odell was Pierpont Bacon (1724-1800), who became a

prosperous farmer in Colchester, Conn. Upon his death, Pierpont Bacon, who had no children, left his land and large fortune as an endowment for a school. Bacon Academy opened in 1803, and after over a century as a highly-regarded private school, it became Colchester's public high school.)

Residence/Property: "Resided on the west side of Main Street, a few rods south of Spring Street." (FFS)

Will: Vol. 2, p. 15 (MAN). (Estate evaluation, February 8, 1705-6: 221-01-10, i.e. 221 pounds.)

Burial Location: Unknown, but most likely Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn., just several hundred yards from his house lot. The existing gravestones of John Bacon (a son of Nathaniel) and family are in the section of the cemetery closest to the river. The earlier graves in this section may have been moved during periods of railroad right-of-way construction, and grave markers do not survive.

Notes:

(CAF): "Nathaniel Bacon probably came directly from England. He was nephew of Andrew Bacon of Hartford. The family were from Stretton in England, county of Rutland." (Field, pg. 144-145) **(Compiler's Note:** The Stretton origin is a long-standing error.)

(HMC): In 1679 he was the proprietor of the town bell.

(CBRMC): "Nathaniel Bacon, the progenitor of the family, ... first settled in Hartford, Conn., residing there with his uncle Andrew Bacon. In the fall of 1650, Nathaniel Bacon joined a company for the planting of Mattabessett (Middletown), and became one of the prominent men of the colony in later years. He was an influential citizen and large landowner. On the death of his uncle Andrew, he came by virtue of the will, into possession of no little property, which became still greater by the death, in 1679, of Elizabeth Bacon, his uncle's widow, who had a life interest in her husband's property."

(SAV): "BACON, NATHANIEL, Middletown 1653, is call. s. of William of the parish of Stretton, Co. Rutland, **(Compiler's Note:** Savage repeats Hinman's 1852 error in this 1860 publication.) by w. Ann, d. of Thomas Miller of the same, had Nathaniel, wh. d. 8 Apr. 1655; Hannah, b. 14 Apr. 1655; Andrew, 4 Feb. 1657, d. at 5 yrs.; Nathaniel,

20 July 1659, whose name was chang. for Thomas ; John, 14 Mar. 1661; Mary, 7 Apr. 1664; Andrew, again, 10 June 1666; Abigail, 13 July 1670; Lydia, 18 Feb. 1673; perhaps ano. Nathaniel, whose date may be lost. His w. d. 6 July 1680, and he m. 17 Apr. 1682, Elizabeth Pierpont, prob. wid. of one whose name is not seen, had Beriah, 17 Aug. of the same yr. unless we suppose an error in the rec. of m. or of b. He was neph. of Andrew, had part of his uncle's est. and d. 27 Jan. 1706, hav. made his will 1698, pro. twelve days after his d. in wh. are nam. s. Thomas, John, Andrew, Nathaniel, and Beriah, with ds. Hannah, Mary, Abigail, and Lydia. Evidence, giv. in 1661, by deac. John Fletcher of Milford (wh. d. the foll. yr.) relative to the ancestry of this Nathaniel, at wh. was present a party advers. interest. might, without violence, be constr. to refer equally to the Barnstable fam. tho. it is less prob."

(NEHGSR): (*The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, pub. By New England Historic Genealogical Society for the year 1860. Volume 14, page 63, "Record of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths of the First Proprietors of Lands in Middletown, Connecticut," (Copied from the Records of Middletown, Connecticut, Vol. 1. Communicated by Samuel H. Parsons, of Middletown, Connecticut.)

"Nathaniel Bacon's lands recorded June 9, 1654, vol. 1, p 10. The children of Nathaniel Bacon and Ann his wife were Hannah, born 14 April, 1635; Andrew, born 4 Feb. 1656, died 5 July, 1662; Nathaniel, born 20 July, 1659, died 8 April, 1653. The above written Nathaniel, son to Nathaniel Bacon and Ann his wife is now named Thomas. John, born 14 March, 1661-2, married Sarah Wetmore, and 2nd, Mary Cornwell, he died Nov. 4, 1732; Mary, born 7 April, 1664; Andrew, born 4 June, 1666, married Mehitable Wetmore, and died June 1, 1723; Abigail, born 13 July 1670; Lydia, born 18 Feb. 1672. Anne the wife of Nathaniel Bacon departed this life July 6, 1680. Nathaniel Bacon and Elizabeth Perpont were joined in marriage covenant 17 Day of April, 1682. Beriah, born Aug. 17, 1683, married Ann Odell of Stratfield, and died May 15, 1730. Nathaniel Bacon, senr. Died January 27, 1705-6."

(GFHC): "Nathaniel, son of William Bacon, was born in Stretton **(Compiler's Note:** Hinman's error repeated by Cutter in 1911.), about 1630. He came to New England about 1649, and settled first

with his uncle Andrew Bacon, of Hartford, Connecticut. In the fall of 1650 he joined the company who founded Mattabeseck (Middletown), Connecticut, and was afterwards a leading and influential man in that town and a large landholder. Upon the death of his uncle Andrew Bacon, he received by will a handsome legacy, and further bequests from the widow, Elizabeth. Nathaniel married (first) Ann, daughter of Thomas Miller, Sr., by his first wife (who was from Rowley, Massachusetts, subsequently of Middletown). She died July 6, 1680, and he married (second) Elizabeth Pierpont, April 16, 1682. His will was dated February 24, 1698, and he died January 27, 1705. It is believed that he was progenitor of all of the early Bacon families of Connecticut. Children of first wife: 1. Nathaniel, born at Middletown, 1653; died April 8, 1655. 2. Hannah, April 14, 1655; married, October, 1677, John Bourne, six children. 3. Andrew, February 14, 1657; died July 5, 1662. 4. Thomas, July 20, 1659; removed to Simsbury, Connecticut, about 1690; married and had a family. 5. John, March 14, 1662; mentioned below. 6. Mary, April 7, 1664; married, December 13, 1687, Samuel Wetmore, eight children. 7. Andrew, born July 4, 1666; married, February 12, 1692, Mehitable Wetmore, ten children. 8. Abigail, July 13, 1670. 9. Lydia, February 18, 1672; married, June 26, 1706, Joseph Wetmore; (second) June 30, 1723, Anna Lamb, widow, who died December 26, 1751; (third) November 28, 1752, Rebecca Doolittle; he died January 6, 1759; seven children. Child of second wife: Beriah, August 17, 1682; married, November 10, 1713, Ann Odell, of Stratford, Connecticut, six children; he died May 30, 1730."

(Hartford County Court Minutes 1663-1687, Vol. 4, pg. 46): "At a County Court held at Hartford by adjournment November 1, 1681: Nath Bacon for euill speaking is fined Tenn shillings."

(TAG): "Nathaniel Bacon Sr. was admitted to full communion at Middletown, 23 March 1690." (TAG, Vol 47, #3&4)

Compiler's Note: Nathaniel Bacon's birthplace of "Stretton, Rutland, England" and father identified as "William Bacon of Stretton, Rutland, England" commonly seen in print for many years are genealogical errors that originated with the publication of Royal Hinman's 1852 edition of his *Catalog of the Names of the First Puritan Settlers of the Colony of Connecticut*, pg. 99. The error has been addressed by such notable genealogists such as Donald Lines Jacobus and Frank Farnsworth Starr,

yet it continues to multiply on the Internet. Hinman may have based his conclusions on the 1845 publication of a genealogy by Nathaniel Almorán Bacon (b. 1798) entitled "A table, showing the date and place of birth, to whom and when married, number of sons and daughters, date of decease, age and place of burial, of Jabez Bacon, late of Woodbury, deceased, and of his descendants bearing the name of Bacon : also of his ancestors, so far as known, commencing with the latter." (New Haven : Hitchcock & Stafford, 1845)

Here is the gist of Hinman's genealogical error: *The Colonial Records of New Haven* (vol. 2, pg. 427-428) indicate that on October 17, 1661, John Fletcher, Mary Fletcher, and John Ward appeared in court to give a deposition. They testified that they previously knew, in England, the brothers Henry and William Bacon of Stretton, Rutland, and that the two had no other brothers. Also established was that Henry Bacon had one son who went to Barbados, and that the oldest son of William Bacon was named Nathaniel, who was present at the testimony. However, today it is known and proven by numerous land and probate records (example: Hartford County Court Minutes, March 6, 1678-9) that Nathaniel Bacon of Middletown was the nephew of Andrew Bacon of Hartford, Conn. and later, Hadley, Mass. The New Haven testimony mentions no brother, Andrew. Finally, an affidavit on the same matter by John Mayo refers to the Nathaniel Bacon in question as living in Barnstable, Mass. It appears that Hinman made the genealogical assumption that because New Haven is relatively close to Middletown, that it must have been "Nathaniel of Middletown" who was in attendance there on October 17, 1661, and therefore the son of William of Stretton. In fact, William of Stretton was the father of "Nathaniel of Barnstable." Hinman's erroneous assumption was repeated by Cothren (*History of Ancient Woodbury*, 1854), Savage (1860), *Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County* (1903), Cutter (1911), and others, and more recent genealogy information posted online based on those publications has served to carry the error forward into the 21st century.

In the early 20th century, Middletown-based genealogist Frank Farnsworth Starr (1852-1939) set the record straight in his work on behalf of numerous Bacon family clients throughout the U.S. Prominent lawyer Selden Bacon financed research

in England, and Gen. William Plumb Bacon initiated research of his own. The paragon of modern genealogy himself, Donald Lines Jacobus, explored the issue in two articles for *The American Genealogist* (Vol. 22 & 47). Based on the study of birth records and probate records in England, the likely origin of Nathaniel Bacon of Middletown and his uncle Andrew Bacon of Hartford and Hadley, Mass. is Bramford, near Ipswich, England. Nathaniel's father may have been Nathaniel Bacon, b. March 22, 1598-9. For a more thorough discussion, see this posting on the Bacon List at RootsWeb: <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/BACON/2001-06/0991689875>.

For further reading:

The American Genealogist, Vol. 22, No. 3, January 1946, "The Two Nathaniel Bacons," by Donald Lines Jacobus.

The American Genealogist, Vol. 47, No. 3&4, July & October 1971, "The Bacon Family of Middletown and Simsbury, Conn.," by Donald Lines Jacobus.

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**Abbreviation code
for early settler profiles:**

(MVR) Middletown Vital Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(BCVR) *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* (original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; printed index available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.; digitized index available on CD-Rom as part of *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.)

(MLR) *Middletown Land Records* (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(MAN) *Digest of Connecticut Probate Records*, Hartford District (Manwaring, Charles William. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Originally published 1904-1906; reprinted 1995. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.)

(CBRMC) *Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, and Many of the Early Settled Families*. Chicago, Ill.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1903.

(MUH) *Middletown Upper Houses* (Adams, Charles C. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908.)

(FFS) Frank Farnsworth Starr ("The Settlers of Mattabesec 1650-1660," *Middletown Penny Press*, Oct. 11, 1900; also published in the *Middletown Tribune 250th Anniversary supplement*.)

(CAF) *Centennial Address of Rev. David Field*. (Field, David D. *Centennial Address: With Historical Sketches of*

Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle Haddam, Middletown, and its Parishes. Middletown, Conn.: W.B. Casey, 1853.)

(GMB) *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* (Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Vol. I-III*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996.)

(SAV) *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer's Register*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Co., 1860-1862.)

(GFHC) *Genealogical & Family History of the State of Connecticut* (Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation*. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.)

(HMC) *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, ed. *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884)

(RPCC) *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Adams, Arthur W., ed. *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928.)

(HCCM) *Hartford County Court Minutes, 1663-1687* (Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. *Hartford County, Conn., County Court Minutes, Vol. 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005.)

(NEHGSR) *NEHGS Register (New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-2012.) (Online database available at www.AmericanAncestors.org)

(TAG) *The American Genealogist* (articles by Donald Lines Jacobus, ed., 1922-1971) (*The American Genealogist*. New Haven, Conn.: D.L. Jacobus, 1922-1971)