

SHACKMAPLE – WILLSON – COLFAX CONUNDRUM by Scott Andrew Bartley

Introductory paragraphs stating the problem and any published material on the subject.

We are dealing with a series of complicated relationships over three generations due to short lives, lack of vital records, and lost church records. The facts of the case will be presented and a summary of the case will be discussed. This problem was uncovered while researching a client's *Mayflower* lineage.^[1]

Footnotes use square brackets while generational numbers stand alone

The key was likely held in the St. James Church, an Episcopal Church and spiritual home for many Englishmen living in New London at the time. John¹ Shackmaple was a founding member in 1725.^[2] He came to New London likely when he was hired as a collector, surveyor, and searcher for Connecticut in 1707.^[3] He was confirmed in this office in 1718 and became a leader for the Episcopal Society that met in his house. The "Shackmaple House" stood at the northeast corner of now Douglass and Bradley streets. John died before the group could build a church. He was succeeded in the collector's office by his son John².^[4] John² was named to the committee for the Episcopal Society to build a church in 1732.^[5]

... "Name-Bold" Style

2. **JOHN SHACKMAPLE**, son of John¹ and Sarah (Townley) Shackmaple, was born likely in New London say 1707 and died in New London on 3 January 1742/3^[6] aged "30 odd."^[7] John married **ELIZABETH CHRISTOPHERS** in New London on 31 August 1732.^[8] Elizabeth, daughter of Richard⁵ (*Lucretia⁴ Bradley, Elizabeth³ Brewster, Jonathan,² William¹*) and Elizabeth (Saltonstall) Christophers,^[9] was born in New London on 13 September 1714^[10] and probably died there on 5 August 1783.^[11] Elizabeth married second **THOMAS ALLEN** in New London on 29 October 1753.^[12] Thomas, son of Nathaniel and Dorcas (?Bowers) Allen,^[13] was born in London, Eng., on 19 September 1728^[14] and died

Always place then date

lineage to Mayflower passenger in italics with comma before generational numbers

"Normal" style First paragraph of sketch with all vital records info on all spouses.

1. Thanks to David Colfax Garre for offering this research for publication.
2. St. James Church, New London, records, vol. 1, Church meetings, 1725-1850 [FHL #5132.1], no pagination [Note: seemingly recopied in 1774].
3. Frances Manwaring Caulkins, *History of New London, Connecticut* (New London, Conn., 1860) [hereafter *New London Hist.*], 239.
4. Robert A. Hallam, *Annals of St. James's Church, New London, for hundred and fifty years* (1873) [hereafter *St. James's Church Hist.*], 20.
5. *New London Hist.*, 441.
6. *Barbour Collection*, 29: 385.
7. *Hampstead's Diary*, 403, "Sick not many days."
8. *Barbour Collection*, 29: 84, 385; Frederic W. Bailey, *Early Connecticut Marriages* (New Haven, Conn., 1896-1906), 2: 16.
9. MFIP Jonathan Brewster #237; *NYGBR*, 51: 215-219.
10. *Barbour Collection*, 29: 84.
11. *Y^e Antient Buriall Place of New London, Conn.* (New London, Conn., 1899) [hereafter *Ancient Cem.*], 14, in 68th yr., consort of Mr. Thomas Allen.
12. *NYGBR*, 51: 217; not in *Barbour Collection*, 29: 4-5, 385.
13. Worcester Co., Mass., Probate, 11: 229-231, Nathaniel of Shrewsbury, dated 8 Aug. 1770, proved 6 Nov. 1770, naming wife Dorcas and sons: Nathaniel, Jolly, Thomas, children of Samuel, William, Lewis, and Caleb.
14. *NYGBR*, 51: 217.

When source is first mentioned, use full citation and short cite after that.

in New London on 19 November 1793.^[15] Thomas married second **MARY (ADAMS) ALLEN** on 7 July 1784.^[16]

John was first recorded as buying land with his mother, called the Bradley lot on the beach from Daniel Tuthill on 28 August 1730.^[17] John, as Esq., sold to James Hodsall some land on 4 November 1733 that James had previously purchased from James and Mary Rogers.^[18] John bought the house where he was living on 14 November 1733 from James Headsall.^[19] John sold the mansion house and half an acre back to James Hodsall on 30 December 1735.^[20] ...

...
Capt. Thomas Allen's estate administration was granted to his son Thomas Allen of Fisher's Island, Suffolk Co., N.Y., and Jonathan Starr Jr. of New London on 13 July 1794. The accounts of £819.16.6 dated 9 August 1794 and administration accounts of £93.5.½ dated 10 November 1794 were not enough to cover the debts. The real and personal estate sold at public auction for £278.2.9 on 27 August 1794. The personal inventory was mostly furniture, kitchen and house wares, no bible, two animals, and one barn with land totaling £277.17.5½ [note: five sets of silverware with initials noted]. A list of sundry notes dating back to 1771 untotaled but near £100 was dated 13 Jan. 1794. Though there is no document stating this, the estate was insolvent.^[21]

→ Children of John² and Elizabeth (Christophers) Shackmaple b. New London.^[22]

- 3 i. SARAH SHACKMAPLE,³ b. Wednesday, 4 July 1733; m. THOMAS WILLSON.
- ii. ELIZABETH SHACKMAPLE, b. Thursday, 5 Dec. 1734; living on 30 June 1752.
- iii. LYDIA SHACKMAPLE, b. Wednesday, 2 July 1736; living on 30 June 1752.
- 4 iv. JOHN SHACKMAPLE, b. Thursday, 11 May 1738; m. PHEBE WESCOTE.
- v. RICHARD SHACKMAPLE, b. Friday, 17 July 1741, d. in 1786; brother-in-law Thomas Willson named administer and bonded on 11 July 1786 – no other probate papers in file.^[23] Richard obviously was heir to the Shackmaple land, but never recorded any claim.

Children of Thomas and Elizabeth (Christophers) (Shackmaple) Allen b. New London:^[24]

- 5 vi. THOMAS ALLEN, b. 10 Sept. 1755; m. AMELIA TABER.

- 15. Lucius B. Barbour, "New London, Connecticut Genealogical Data from Connecticut Cemeteries" (typ. 1933), Cedar Grove, 2-3 [hereafter *New London Cem.*], in Pardon Tabor Lot, he in 63^d yr.; *New London Hist.*, 579; *NYGBR*, 51: 217, age 65y. 2m. (buried in Second Burying Ground moved to Cedar Grove Cem. on 4 Apr. 1853).
- 16. *NYGBR*, 51: 218, Mary called sister of Jonathan Adams of Shrewsbury and widow of Thomas's brother Lewis Allen.
- 17. New London, Conn., Deeds, 9: 166a, they paid £135, Tuthill of Southold, N.Y.
- 18. New London, Conn., Deeds, 11: 44a-b for 40s, Jodsall of New London.
- 19. New London, Conn., Deeds, 10: 105b, for £300, Headsall of New London, land Headsall purchased from Stephen Harris and James Rogers.
- 20. New London, Conn., Deeds, 11: 99b-100a, for £20, Hodsall had previously purchased this from Stephen Stacey of New London and now Saybrook.
- 21. New London District, Conn., Probate #61, bonded for £700.
- 22. Frances M. Stoddard, *Genealogical History of the Allen Family and of some of their Connections* (Boston, 1891) [hereafter *Allen Fam.*], 31, is the earliest known source for these often repeated exact birth dates that seemingly come from a family record; all the children were living on 30 June 1752 when their grandmother made her will [New London District, Conn., Probate #4755].
- 23. New London District, Conn., probate #4754.
- 24. *Allen Fam.*, 31.

Text Indent Style is used for all other paragraphs. The material here is usually presented in chronological order and commonly ends with the estate of the last surviving spouse.

"Kids Intro" Style
"Kids" Style

Use tabs and never the "space" key

"Name Kids" Style
or "Kids Name"

Never abbreviate words in sketch except for titles (eg. Esq.) and names of states (unless no town name is given).

Abbreviation is common in kids section, especially if there is more biographical text.

...
[if only following the male lines – though in this journal the emphasis is to trace all lines of descent – daughter Sarah’s entry might look like this]

3 i. SARAH SHACKMAPLE,³ b. Wednesday, 4 July 1733, d. New London, 12 Sept. 1795;^[25] m. THOMAS WILLSON bet. 30 June 1752^[26] and 1759;^[27] Thomas b. ca. 1735, d. New London just before 26 Mar. 1817, age 82.^[28]

[Other text ...] No probate for Thomas Willson was found in New London.

Children of Thomas and Sarah³ (Shackmaple) Willson likely b. New London:^[29]

- a. Sarah Willson, b. say 1759; m. Robert Colfax.
- b. Elizabeth Willson, b. say 1761; m.(1) Jonathan Colfax; m.(2) Robert Colfax.
- c. Thomas Willson, m. Sarah Durfee.

"Grandkids" Style {

"Kids More Text" Style }

"Grandkids Intro" Style }

... "tab" ↗

└─ "Grandkids Name" ─┘

UNPLACED PERSON

Elizabeth Shackmaple of New London was bound to Jabez Beebe of New London for a term of seven years, nine months, seventeen, until age 18, to learn the trade of housewifery, dated 7 Dec. 1767.^[30] This means she was born circa 24 Sept. 1757. She can only be the illegitimate child of Sarah,² Elizabeth,² or Lydia,² though maybe even John.²

If your research has identified people of the same time and place that you cannot determine how they fit, place them at the end.

Brief bio of author {

Scott Andrew Bartley is the editor of this journal and of Vermont Genealogy. He is a professional genealogist, librarian, and archivist, that works part-time in the Mass. Society of Mayflower Descendants' office as their Librarian/Archivist.

[NOTE: This sample was created from an actual article published in the *Mayflower Descendant*. Parts of this sample were modified to show various forms and situations possible. By doing so, some data may be incorrect or cited to a fictitious source. To see the full article, see MD, 56 [2007]: 97-112.]

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- 25. St. James Church, New London, Parish Register B, 1792 [FHL #5132.2], unpaginated; not in *Ancient Cem.*
 - 26. New London District Probate #4755 (Sarah Shackmaple), grandmother's will named her as Sarah Shackmaple.
 - 27. Estimated birth of her daughter Sarah.
 - 28. *Connecticut Gazette*, death notice in issue 26 Mar. 1817, p. [3], Capt. Thomas Willson died "In this City;" The Ken Stevens Papers (Mss 678) at the New England Historic Genealogical Society does not further identify this Willson.
 - 29. *Allen Fam.*, 31, for all data on children and spouses.
 - 30. Kathy A. Ritter, *Apprentices of Connecticut, 1637-1900* (Salt Lake City, 1986), 119.