

Before tracing my ancestor, Jonathan Abbe (Samuel, John), I must bring his Uncle John and Aunt Hannah into the scene.

John Abbe (John) sold his farm in Wenham, Massachusetts, 30 acres with buildings for £130, to Nathaniel Wainwright, October 19, 1696. John Abbe, Sr. "of Windham" was admitted freeman the same year. He and his wife were dismissed from the Wenham, Mass. church by a letter dated October 28, 1700.

Hannah and John Abbe, Sr., (John) were both original members of the First Church of Windham. They attended the organizational meeting on December 10th, 1700. Mary, widow of Samuel, Sr. and now wife of Abraham Mitchell, was dismissed from the Salem, Mass. Church and accepted in the Windham church on September 14, 1701.

Until 1699, Norwich shared their minister with Windham, first James Fitch, who had at the age of 16, migrated to Hartford with his two brothers. He spent seven years taking theological training from Rev. Thomas Hooker. He was ordained in the Saybrook church in 1646. In 1660, with "solemn prayer and long deliberation," James Fitch decided it was his duty to keep with the majority of his people, and this brought him to Norwich. Their next minister was Mr. John Woodward; he included Windham in his parish for several years. ("The History of Norwich" by Caulkins)

John Abbe, oldest son of the emigrant, "died suddenly." He was apparently with two men when he collapsed. The widow was appointed administrator, giving a bond of £50. The will as presented to the probate court: That his wife should enjoy the house and homestead and the meadows that are already laid out, with movables during her life and to dispose of it to them of her children as she shall see cause. And the rest of the unlaidd out land to be divided amongst his children and not to be sold away from my family, not any of the lands, and the thirty acres adjoining to Goodman Bingham's and Goodman Larabee's land to be at my wifes dispose and to give deed and to make sale according to law.

Witness our hands, Robert Hebard, senior, and John Reed, senior, both of same town, Windham, April 8th, 1702

The said Robert Hebard and John Reed gave oath that they were present when John Abbey that is deceased did give this direction to make his will as is above written, December 11, 1700.

An inventory of the estate, total £118, 13s, 3d

Indebted about £14, 3s, 2d

Sept. 4, 1701, Probate Hartford, Vol. 6, p.17 & Vol. 7, p.27

"Abbe-Abbey Genealogy"

The deceased John Abbe's children by his first marriage were married and settled by the time of his death. His widow, Hannah, divided the considerable property left to her, between her two sons, Richard and John, when they came of age. She probably made her home with Richard and his wife, Mary (Jennings).

Richard was a man of considerable property. He had the title of "Esquire" and held various civil offices. In 1727, he opened his stately mansion as an inn for public entertainment. He died in his 55th year. His will recognizes his siblings, including "ye half blood" siblings. "He enjoins his executors to take no unjust advantage of his debtors and to allow those against whom he held mortgages reasonable time to redeem them..." (Windham Probate Records, Vol. 2, page 192) He had no children. "To wife Mary one half his moneys, goods and chattels." Her inventory at the time of her death in 1759, listed four negro children: Samuel £45, Peter £40, Reuben £35, Tamer £28.

"To brother John of Windham, lands and tenements in Windham, wearing apparel and arms." John's inventory at the time of his death in January of 1770 amounted to £1067, with land valued at £949. (Windham Probate Recs. V.8, p41)

Now to my ancestor, JONATHAN ABBE, son of Samuel, grandson of John Abbe the, the emigrant. He and his brothers weren't wealthy, as were his cousins.

Jonathan and Mary (Johnson) were married about 1724, he was about twenty seven years of age. He had a good sized estate at the time of his death at age 61, 106 acres of land, with utensil and household goods to the amount of £381-5-4.

Records from Ashford Land books (Deed, B:133, E:119. K:272, 433) The Jonathan Abbe could be either father or son.

Jonathan Abbe, Sr. (Samuel, John) and Mary had two sons, Jonathan, Jr., and Samuel, born during the first three years of their marriage. Isaac was born in 1730; three years later Thomas was born in February and died in April. Mary, born the following year, April 11, 1734, died at age five and a half, Nov. 7, 1740. Anne was born in 1737 and lived to marry and raise a family.

Mary, Jonathan's wife, died January 19, 1742/43, probably at the birth of Jedutha, who died on September 12th, 1743. Two years later he married Rebekah Wedge.

"Abbe-Abbey Genealogy" by Cleveland Abbe and Josephine Genung Nichols, pub. 1916