



In-Depth First Settler Profile:
Thomas Miller (1650) /
Isabel (unknown surname) Miller

Name: Thomas Miller

Birth: November 7, 1609, England, perhaps in Birmingham, England (*Coe-Ward Memorial/Coe*, 1897), or Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (*Joseph Miller of Newton, Mass./Miller*, 1942). Another alternative is a birth date of October 1609, Ashford, Kent, England (F.F. Starr Research, MCHS).

Emigration: To Rowley, Mass. by 1643; to Middletown about 1651. (Rowley, Mass. Town Records)

Death: August 14, 1680, Middletown, Conn.(MVR, BCVR)

Occupation & Public Service: Carpenter, grist mill operator. "At the annual town meeting of that year (1652) he was appointed Surveyor of Highways and later Townsman."(FFS)

Marriage: m.(1) Isabel (unknown surname) Miller, about 1633, England (perhaps Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire) (b. about 1607, England; d. before May 9, 1666, Middletown, Conn.; m.(2) Sarah Nettleton, June 6, 1666, Middletown, Conn. (b. about 1644, Branford, Conn.; d. March 20, 1727, Middletown, Conn.)(MVR, BCVR)

Parents: Unknown with certainty. Possibly John Miller & Mary Pylston.

Children (MVR, Land Records, vol. 1, page 17; BCVR) (Further details from *Ten Generations of Millers* by Francis P. Lamphear, New York: Yankee Press, 1923):

Child with 1st wife Isabel:

(1) Ann Miller, b. 1633, Bishops, Stortford, Hertfordshire, England; d. July 6, 1680, Middletown, Conn.; m. Nathaniel Bacon, 1653, Middletown, Conn. (10 children)

Children with 2nd wife Mary Nettleton:

(1) Thomas Miller, b. May 6, 1666, Middletown, Conn.; d. September 24, 1727, Middletown, Conn.; m.(1) Elizabeth Turner (2 children); m.(2) Mary Rowell (7 children)

(2) Samuel Miller, b. April 1, 1668, Middletown, Conn.; d. April 11, 1738, Middletown, Conn.; m. Mary Eggleston, July 26, 1702, Middletown, Conn. (5 children)

(3) Joseph Miller, b. August 21, 1670, Middletown, Conn.; d. December 1717, Middletown, Conn.; m. Rebecca Johnson, November 28, 1701, Middletown, Conn. (7 children)

(4) Benjamin Miller, b. July 20, 1672, Middletown, Conn.; d. November 22, 1747, Middlefield, Conn.; m.(1) Mary Johnson, September 18, 1695, Woodstock, Conn. (8 children); m.(2) Mercy Bassett, December 17, 1710, Middletown, Conn. (7 children)

(5) John Miller, b. March 10, 1673/4, Middletown, Conn.; d. May 3, 1745, Middletown, Conn.; m. Mercy Bevin, December 25, 1700, Middletown, Conn. (8 children)

(6) Margaret Miller, b. September 1, 1676, Middletown, Conn.; d. December 31, 1764, Middletown, Conn.; m. Isaac Johnson, September 12, 1695, Middletown, Conn. (12 children)

(7) Sarah Miller, b. January 7, 1678/9, Middletown, Conn.; d. May 21, 1766, Woodstock, Conn.; m. Smith Johnson, September 10, 1695, Middletown, Conn. (13 children)

(8) Mehitable Miller, b. March 28, 1680/1, Middletown, Conn.; d. April 17, 1753, Middletown, Conn.; m. George Hubbard, December 22, 1703, Middletown, Conn. (7 children)

Residence/Property: "He built the first grist mill in that town, which stood on Miller's Brook, where one of the factories of the Russell Manufacturing Company now stands at the 'Farms.'" (CBRMC)

Will: Vol. 1, p. 334 (MAN). (Estate inventory, September, 1680: 486-04-00; i.e. 486 pounds)

Burial Location: Unknown

Notes:

(CAF): "Thomas Miller was recommended to the church in Middletown from the church in Rowley." (Field, pg. 147)

(FFS): "In 1655, the town authorities made an agreement with him regarding the building of a grist mill, which he was to have charge of when completed, and, in 1671, the town released him from paying taxes so long as he owned and ran the mill."

(SAV): "THOMAS, Middletown, an early sett. from Rowley, by w. Isabel, wh. d. 1666, had Ann, that m. a. 1653, Nathaniel Bacon; and when above 56 yrs. old, took, 6 June, 1666, sec. w. Sarah, d. of Samuel Nettleton, of Branford, a girl prob. not older than his d. Ann; had Thomas, b. 6 May, 1666, w. date proves that some interfer. of a judicial kind had been invok. or was aft.; Samuel, 1 Apr. 1668; Joseph, 21 Aug. 1670; Benjamin, 10 or 20 July, 1672; John, 10 Mar. 1674, Margaret, 1 Sept. 1676; Sarah, 7 Jan. 1679; and Mehitable, posthum. 28 Mar. 1681. He d. 14 Aug. 1680, and in his will, three days bef. calls hims. above 70. In the rec. Sept. foll. these ch. on the div. of est. are nam. Thomas, aged 14; Samuel, 12; Joseph, 10; Benjamin, 8; Margaret, 4; and Sarah, 1. His wid. m. a Harris, perhaps Thomas; and Sarah m. Smith Johnson of Woodstock."

(CBRMC): "The Miller family is traced to Thomas Miller, of Birmingham, England, who came to Rowley, Mass., was made a freeman in 1639, and was a carpenter there in 1651, according to the records. Thence he removed to Middletown, Conn., where lands were recorded in his name in 1654, when he was admitted to the church through letter from Rowley.



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He built the first grist mill in that town, which stood on Miller's Brook, where one of the factories of the Russell Manufacturing Company now stands at the 'Farms.' By his first wife, Isabel, he was the father of one child, Ann, who was married in 1653 to Nathaniel Bacon. His second marriage, at the age of fifty-six years was to Sarah Nettleton, daughter of Samuel Nettleton of Branford. To this union eight children were born. ... Thomas Miller died August 14, 1680, and his widow March 20, 1727."

(GFHC): "Thomas Miller was the owner of a house lot of one and a half acres in Rowley, Massachusetts, in 1643, and was licensed to draw wine in 1647. He and his first wife were residents of Rowley in 1651, where he was by trade a carpenter, but they soon removed to Middletown, Connecticut. They were resident in Middletown, March 10, 1654, according to a vote passed at a town meeting, and the earliest records of his lands in that town is June 9, 1654. The town was soon in need of a mill and a miller, and in January, 1655, the 'townsmen (selectmen) and Thomas Miller signed an agreement whereby (the town granting certain aid) Miller engaged to build a sufficient mill to grind the town's corn, to have it fit to grind with, by the tenth of December next ensuing.' He was admitted to full communion in the First Church in Middletown, December 6, 1674, by a letter from the church at Rowley, and two weeks later his five sons were baptized. He made his will August 11, 1680, giving his age as 'something above seventy years,' and died three days later, leaving an estate of three hundred and seventy-six pounds

ten shillings, of which one hundred and fifteen pounds was in landed property. He married (first) Isabel, the date of whose death is not known. He married (second), June 6, 1666, Sarah Nettleton, who died March 20, 1727-28, at the age of eighty-six years; after the death of her first husband she married ___ Harris. Only child of the first marriage of Mr. Miller: Ann. Children of the second marriage: Thomas; Samuel, born April 1, 1668; Joseph, August 21, 1670; Benjamin, July 10, 1672; John, March 10, 1674; Margaret, September 1, 1676; Sarah, January 7, 1678; Mehetable, March 28, 1681."

(From *Early Settlers of Rowley, Massachusetts: A Genealogical Record of the Families Who Settled in Rowley Before 1700 with Several Generations of Their Descendants*, compiled by George Brainard Blodgett, A. M.; revised, edited, & published by Amos Everett Jewett, Rowley, Mass., 1933, p. 242): "Thomas Miller had an acre and half house lot, 1643; was licensed to draw wine, 1647, paying fifteen shillings annually. In Rowley, he had his wife Isabel. He was a carpenter. They moved to Middletown, Conn., about 1651, where he died 14 Aug., 1680, and in his will, made three days before, calls himself 70 years old (Savage). His letter of dismissal from the church in Rowley to the church in Middletown was not given until 6 Sept., 1674. Lechford, in his *Notebook*, 24 Aug., 1640, mentions Thomas Miller and his wife Isabel. In 1666, although living in Middletown, he was placed on trial before the church in Rowley, wherein he still retained membership, for an offense committed in Middletown. The church adjudged him guilty and ordered him excommunicated, which order was publically read, 6 October, 1667. 'Afterward prayer was made that God would ratify the sentence & let loose Satan on Him.' (Rowley church record)"

**Abbreviation code used in SMFSD
biographical sketches and in-depth 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, 1847-2007. (Online database available at NewEnglandAncestors.org)

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



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(Hartford County Court Minutes, March 1, 1665-6, p. 47):
“This Court doth adiuge Thomas Miller for his notorious wickedness in committing uncleanes with Sarah Nettleton his servant who saith (to which he ascenteth) she is with child by him. To be kept in safe Custody in the Goale until the next Lecture day at Hartford and then to be brought forth and to suffer Corporall punishment by whipping upon his naked body to ye number of twenty stripes at least. And further the said Miller is either to pay five pounds as a fine to ye Publ. Treasury or to suffer corporall punishment by whipping on the naked body three months hence. And he is disenfranchised according to law. Sarah Nettleton for he actual vncleanes with Thomas Miller is sentenced by this Court to suffer corporal punishment by whipping on her naked body after she is deliuered of her Child or she to pay a fine of 10 pounds to ye publ. Treasury.”

(Hartford County Court Minutes, March 1, 1665-6, p. 49):
“Upon ye request of some of ye inhabitants of MiddleTown to ye end that ye wife of Thomas Miller and Sarah Nettleton may be provided for This Court doth order the Constable and Nathl Bacon of MiddleTown to secure Millers estate until further order be taken by this Court.”

(Hartford County Court Minutes, May 9, 1666, p. 51): “This Court considering the Estate of Thomas Miller, Inventoried, and the desire of his wife, lately deceased, in reference to the

wrongs done to her by his notorious uncleanes, that ye Court would state some considerable part of ye estate of the said Miller upon her Child the wife of Nathaniel Bacon, doe therefore see iust cause to allow to Nathaniel Bacon, husband to Anna Bacon daughter to the said Thomas & Isabel Miller All ye wearing Apparel linnen and Woolen with those other small things mentioned in the Inuentory amounting to 5 pounds, five shillings. Also the Cow and Calf in Bacons Custody also ye warmeing Pan and great Bible five pounds five shillings. To Anna Bacon Junr. ye old trunk. And out of ye Estate Thirty pounds more to be paid vnto ye said Nathaniel Bacon by the 25th of March next ensueinge in Currant Corne Beef or Porke or otherwise to Nathaniel Bacons content. This being discharged by Thomas Miller, it is to be a finall issue of all demands that Nathaniel Bacon may make for charge in Keeping Isabel Miller or for her Buriall or vpon any Any Account for things past. The Land of Thomas Miller stands as security for payment of ye said summ.” (The previous paragraph also appears in the *Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records* (Hartford District), Charles W. Manwaring, Hartford, 1902, Vol. 1, p. 220.)

For further reading:

Coe-Ward Memorial and Immigrant Ancestors, by Levi Elmore Coe, (Meriden, Conn.: Converse Publishing Co., 1897)

Thomas Miller, 1609-1680. of Rowley, Mass. and Middletown, Conn. Through Five Generations, by Leigh Hanscom (Laconia, N.H.: L.E. Hanscom, 1999)

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