



Our Chapin Ancestors

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Chapin Context

The Chaplin were some of our English ancestors who originated in Devonshire, England. A relationship chart showing the relationship between the earliest Chapin found to date, Roger Chapin, is located at the end of this history. Deacon Samuel Chaplin emigrated to America about 1635 with wife and all but two children. The line of direct ancestors bearing this name came to an end when Hannah Chaplin married John Hitchcock on 27 Sep 1666 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Descendants of this individual included US Presidents Grover Cleveland and William Howard Taft, Canadian Prime Minister Richard Bedford Bennet and T..S. Eliot

1. Roger Chapin (Chapyn) 1534- 1588

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Chapin-21>

Roger Chapin (Chapyn) was born about 1540 in Totnes, County Devon, England.^[1](This birth year is based on the fact that he had a daughter baptized at Totnes in 1560.) Some say that her name was Margery but this can't be confirmed. Roger Chapin died 09 Dec 1590 in Constantine, Falmouth, Cornwall, England.

2. John Chapin, b. 25 Sep 1566 Totnes, Devon, England, d. 1 Jun 1600 Paignton, Devon, England, m. Phillipa Easton¹⁴

2. John Chapin 1566 - 1600 Phillipa Easton 1569

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Chapin-17>

- i. Joane Chapin bp 26 Jun 1591m James Narracott 9 Jul 1611
- ii. Thomas Chapin
- 3. iii. Samuel Chapin b. 1598, d. 03 Jun 1600 Paignton, Devon
- iv. Margaret Chapin bp 16 Nov 1600

3. Deacon Samuel Chapin 1598 – 1675 Cicely Penny - 08 Feb 1682/83

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Chapin-671>

Deacon Samuel Chapin, son of John Chapin and Phillipe Easton was born October 8 1598 in Paignton, Devonshire, England. He was baptized in St John the Baptist Church in Paignton England on October 8, 1598. . He married Cicely (Sicely on her will) Penny, daughter of Henry and Jane (Dabinott) Penny of Paignton, England on February 9, 1623/24 at the Church of St John the Baptist at Paignton,. She was baptized on February 21, 1601 in Paignton England. Devonshire, England. She died 08 Feb 1682/83 in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

He sailed to America in 1635 to escape religious persecution. and settled in Roxbury Massachusetts¹ becoming a full member of Rev. John Eliot's First Church of Roxbury, Suffolk Co., MA, congregation. He became a landholder there between 1636 and 1640. He took the freeman's oath in 1641. The family stayed in Roxbury until the close of 1642 with son Japhet baptised there on 15 October 1642.

He then moved his family and help find a site they called Agawam. Four years later, Agawam was renamed Springfield, and Deacon Chapin became one of the leading men in the government of the town. He was admitted freeman on Jun. 2, Constable in 1645 and Selectman² from 1644 to November 1652 when he took the oath of a Commissioner and could no longer serve as selectmen.

They had the following children:

- i. David Chapin, 04 Jan 1624 (bp. 04 Jan 1624/25) in Paignton, Devon, England, m. Lydia Crump 09 Jun 1654 Springfield, Massachusetts, d. 16 Aug 1672 Boston, , Suffolk, Massachusetts
- ii. Catherine Chapin b. 06 Apr 1627 in Berry Pomeroy, Devon, England, m. Nathaniel Bliss 20 Sep 1646 Springfield, Massachusetts, m2 Thomas GILBERT , m3 Samuel MARSHFIELD d. 04 Feb 1712, Springfield
- iii. Sarah Chapin b. 1628 Berry Pomeroy, Devon, England, m. Rowland Thomas 14 Apr 1647, Springfield, d. 05 Aug 1684 in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts
- iv. Captain Henry Chapin b. 25 Jan 1630/31 Paignton, Torbay Unitary Authority, Devon, England, Bp. Jan 1630/31 at Berry Pomeroy m. Bethia Cooley 25 Dec 1664 Springfield, Massachusetts, d. 15 Aug 1718, Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts
- v. John Chapin bp. at Totnes, Jan 16, 1632/33 d. 1638 in England

¹ Colonial Families of the United States Volume IV Page 75,

² See Selectmen in Appendices

- vi. Josiah Chapin b. 29 Oct 1637 in Pomeroy, Devon, Shire, England, lived in Braintree, then Mendon, m. Mary King 30 Nov 1658, Weymouth, Norfolk, Massachusetts, d. 10 Sep 1726 in Mendon, Worcester, Massachusetts,
- vii. Japhet Chapin b. 15 Oct 1642 in Roxbury, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA, m. Abilenah Cooley 1664, d. 20 Feb 1712 Springfield Hampden County, MA, USA,
- viii. Samuel Chapin, bp Jan 1630/31 at Berry Pomeroy, Devon, England d. 10 Jul 1634 at Berry Pomeroy, Devon, England
- ix. Honor Chapin bp. 8 May 1636 at Berry Pomeroy, Devon, England d. 1637
- 4. x. Hannah Chapin b. 02 Dec 1644 Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, USA m. John Hitchcock 27 Sep 1666 d. 21 May 1719 Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts

He died 11 Nov 1675 Springfield, Massachusetts. Deacon Samuel Chapin and members of his family were buried in the Old Burying Ground in the cemetery that Deacon Samuel was instrumental in establishing in 1645. Many years of flooding swept many of the original pioneers into the Connecticut River. Some 173 years later in late 1848 some of the remains and headstones were relocated to Springfield Cemetery. Only 517 headstones confirmed actual relocations and the Chapins were not among the 517.

During his life, he became a symbol of the new country's religious founders. In 1881, Chester W. Chapin, a railroad tycoon, congressman and Chapin descendant, commissioned master sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens to produce a bronze 8 foot 7 1/2 inch sculpture, called "The Puritan", memorializing his ancestor. Created to emphasize the piety, and perhaps moral rigidity, of the country's religious founders. The figure may be as a representation of the Puritan dogma rather than an individual replica of the man himself. The statue is an imposing figure of a man with his eyes focused downward, striding with his knotty walking stick across the pine-strewn New England wilderness and a Bible tucked under his arm.



It is located in Springfield's Merrick Park. Smaller variants of the work can be found in various museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts, at City Hall Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Louvre, Paris, France. Samuel is an ancestor of President Grover Cleveland, and President William Taft. A book was written about the life of Deacon Chapin, titled "Life of Deacon Samuel Chapin of Springfield".

4. Hannah Chapin 1644 – 1719 John Hitchcock 1642 – 1711/712

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Chapin-16>

b. 02 Dec 1644 Springfield, Hampden County, MA, USA d. 21 May 1719 Springfield, Hampden County, MA, USA m. 27 Sep 1666 in Springfield, Hampden County, MA, USA

Hannah Chapin, daughter of Samuel Chapin and Cicely Penny, was born b. 02 Dec 1644 in Springfield, Hampden County, MA, USA. She died 21 May 1719 in Springfield, Hampden County, MA, USA. She married John Hitchcock on 27 Sep 1666 in Springfield Hampden County, MA. in Springfield, Hampden County, MA, USA. John Hitchcock born 27 Sep 1642 New Haven, Connecticut. He died 09 Feb 1711/12 Springfield, Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British America. They had the following children:

- i. Daughter Hitchcock b 4 Sep 1667 and died 4 Sep 1667.
- ii. Hannah Hitchcock b. 10 Sep 1668 m. Samuel Parsons d. 17 Jul 1748

4. iii. John Hitchcock b. 13 Apr 1670 in Springfield, Massachusetts, Married Mary Ball 24 Sep 1691 Springfield died 4 Jul 1751 (see Below)
- iv. Samuel Hitchcock b 21 Aug 1672, married Sarah Weller d. 1727.
- v. Luke Hitchcock b. 23 Mar 1674/75 m. Elizabeth Walker d 6 Apr 1752
- vi. Nathaniel Hitchcock 28 Aug 1677 married Abigail Lombard, d. 27 Apr 1761
- vii. David Hitchcock b. 7 Feb 1678/79 married Elizabeth Ball d. 28 Apr 1762
- viii. Johnathan Hitchcock b. 26 Nov 1682 d. 26 Nov 1682
- ix. Sarah Hitchcock b. 11 Jan 1686/87, d. 17 Apr 1690.

Appendices

Abbreviations

Abt About aft after b. born bp. Baptised m. married d. died

Roxbury Massachusetts³

Roxbury was one of the first towns founded in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630, and became a city in 1846 until annexed to Boston on January 5, 1868. The Massachusetts Bay Colony founded a group of six towns, including Boston, Cambridge, and Roxbury. When it was a separate municipality, Roxbury was part of Norfolk County; it is now part of Suffolk County. For more than 200 years, Roxbury also encompassed West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain. The village of Roxbury was originally called "Rocksberry" for the rocks in its soil that made early farming a challenge. It is noted for its hilly geography and many large outcroppings of Roxbury Puddingstone, which was quarried for many years and used in the foundations of a large number of houses in the area.

The settlers of Roxbury originally comprised the congregation of the First Church in Roxbury, established in 1632. During this time, the church served as a place of worship and as a meeting place for town government. The congregation had no time to raise a meeting house the first winter and so met with the neighboring congregation in Dorchester.

Boston was previously connected to mainland Massachusetts by a narrow isthmus called Boston Neck or Roxbury Neck and this was home to a number of early leaders of the colony, including original Massachusetts Bay Colony treasurer William Pynchon. Pynchon left Roxbury in 1636 with nearly one third its men to found Springfield, Massachusetts on far less rocky and more arable soil.

Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts⁴

Springfield was founded in 1636 by English Puritan William Pynchon as "Agawam Plantation" under the administration of the Connecticut Colony. In 1641 it was renamed after Springfield, Essex, England, following incidents that precipitated the settlement joining the Massachusetts Bay Colony. During its early existence, it flourished as both an agricultural settlement and trading post, although its prosperity waned dramatically during and after King Philip's War in 1675, when natives laid siege to it and burned it to the ground as part of the ongoing campaign. It is the seat of Hampden County, in the state of Massachusetts, It sits on the eastern bank of the Connecticut River near its confluence with three rivers: the western Westfield River, the eastern Chicopee River, and the eastern Mill River. As of the 2010 Census, the city's population was 153,060. Metropolitan Springfield, as one of two metropolitan areas in Massachusetts (the other being Greater Boston), had a

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roxbury,_Boston

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Springfield,_Massachusetts, www.springfieldma.gov

population of 692,942 as of 2010. It is the largest city in western New England, and the urban, economic, and cultural capital of Massachusetts' Connecticut River Valley. It is the third-largest city in Massachusetts and fourth-largest in New England after Boston, Worcester, and Providence. Hartford, the capital of Connecticut, lies 24 miles (39 km) south of Springfield, on the western bank of the Connecticut River.

Chicopee, Massachusetts⁵

Website www.chicopeema.gov

Chicopee is a city located on the Connecticut River in Hampden County, Massachusetts, United States of America. It is part of the Springfield, Massachusetts Metropolitan Statistical Area. As of the 2010 census, the city had a population of 55,298, making it the second largest city in Western Massachusetts after Springfield. The city is named after the Chicopee River, whose mouth empties into the Connecticut River on in its boundaries. "Chicopee" is a Nipmuc word, probably from chekee ("violent") and pe ("waters") in most Algonquian dialects, with reference to rapids. The Nipmucs were the indigenous people of the lands that today make up the City of Chicopee, prior to the arrival of European colonists.

Chicopee Falls

In 1636, William Pynchon purchased land from the Agawam Indians on the east side of the Connecticut River and moved from Roxbury to Springfield to find the first settlement in the area that comprises the territory of today's Chicopee Center (Cabotville). In 1641, William Pynchon expanded his 1636 holdings by buying the land from the Chicopee River north to the Willimansett (Nipmuc for "good berries place" or "place of red earth") Brook. Land sales in Chicopee were recorded in 1659, but apparently no homes were built immediately.

The villages of Cabotville, Chicopee Falls, Willimansett, and Fairview (and the lands that would become Aldenville) remained a part of Springfield, Massachusetts, from 1636 until 1848, when they were partitioned to form the Town of Chicopee. In 1848, Chicopee, which for over two centuries had been a part of Springfield, was partitioned off into its own town. Political factions in Springfield wanted Springfield to remain a town, rather than become a city and take on a mayoral form of government. By partitioning off Chicopee, those political factions prevented Springfield from becoming a city until 1852; however, Springfield lost 2/5 of its land area and nearly half of its population when Chicopee was created. Springfield became a city only four years after the partition of Chicopee. Both cities continued to flourish for over a century after the partition.

A sawmill was the first river industry. The mill was built at Skenunگونuck (Nipmuc for "green fields") Falls (now Chicopee Falls) in 1678 by Japhet Chapin, John Hitchcock and Nathaniel Foote. The mill was the first industrial site in Chicopee Falls.

Winthrop McKinstry writes that the sons of Deacon Samuel Chapin appear to be the first home builders. Henry Chapin is believed to have constructed his at Exchange and West streets (lower Chicopee) in 1664, and Japhet Chapin north of what is now known as James Ferry Road (upper Chicopee) in 1673. It is apparent from McKinstry's book that the Chapin family dominated the area north of the Chicopee River for the settlement's first 70 years. Chicopee Street was part of the First Parish in Springfield.

By the 1750s, Quabbin Road (now McKinstry Avenue) allowed the farmers to access the meadows and fields on the plains at the top of the hill. The Chapins used the land in common for grazing livestock and built ice houses near several large ponds. The ponds were drained by several brooks which flowed into the Connecticut River.

The city is bordered by Holyoke to the northwest, West Springfield to the southwest, Springfield to the south, Ludlow to the east, Granby to the northeast and South Hadley to the north. Chicopee is located 29 miles (47

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicopee,_Massachusetts, www.chicopeema.gov

km) away from Hartford, 89 miles (143 km) away from Boston, 90 miles (140 km) from Albany and 140 miles (230 km) from New York City.

Selectmen and Board of Selectman

In most New England towns, the adult voting population gathered annually in a town meeting to act as the local legislature, approving budgets and laws. Day-to-day operations were originally left to individual oversight, but when towns became too large for individuals to handle such work loads, they would elect an executive board of, literally, select(ed) men to run things for them.

The board typically consists of three or five members, with or without staggered terms. Three is the most common number, historically. In some places, a first selectman is appointed to head the board, often by election.

These men had charge of the day-to-day operations; selectmen were important in legislating policies central to a community's police force, highway supervisors, pound keepers, field drivers, and other officials. However, the larger towns grew, the more power would be distributed among other elected boards, such as fire wardens and police departments. For example, population increases led to the need for actual police departments, of which selectmen typically became the commissioners.

Calendar Old Style-New Style, Julian & Georgian

The old calendar used up to about 1752 in Protestant countries was the Julian Calendar based on 365.25 days. In 1582 Great Britain and empire switched to the Julian Calendar and since the actual year is 365.2422 days long the switch over caused a 11 day out of synch problem. To solve this problem, it was proclaimed that September 2 would be followed by September 14. As well the old style calendar the calendar year began on Lady Day 25th of March i.e. the year ran from 25 March to 24 March. Hence January 24, 1712 old style would be January 24, 1713 new style. The correct way to describe a date in the “overlap” period from January 1 to March 24 is to state the Old/New Style as 1712 /1713 which means

“January 24, 1712 old style is what we call January 24, 1713”

List of Freeman⁶

The status of freeman was primarily of political importance, for it gave one the right to vote for colony officers. In some colonies, though, freeman was tied to church membership, and so the meaning was somewhat different. Massachusetts Bay and New Haven, the most Puritan of the Puritan colonies, made church membership a prerequisite for foremanship, while the rest of the New England colonies did not.

List of freemen may be used for a number of purposes beyond proving biographical information about an immigrant. Like tax lists later, a list of freeman provides basic information about the presence or absence of a person on a given date. And, as noted above, freemanship in Massachusetts Bay and New Haven supplies information about church membership, from which we can learn not just whether this individual was a church member at a given time; we can also reconstruct some of the history of churches whose records have been lost by studying the lists over a period of years.

⁶ Anderson, Robert Charles, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England 1634-1635*, Volume VII, T-Y Boston, MA: New England Historical and Genealogical Society, 2011

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<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7153097/samuel-chapin>

<https://brblog-myotherblog.blogspot.com/2016/12/the-chapin-family-colonial-americans.html>

11th great grandfather

	Roger Chapyn b: 1535 Tolnes, Devon, England d: 09 Dec 1590 Constantine, Falmouth, Cornwall,
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10th great grandfather

	John Chapin b: 25 Sep 1566 Totnes, Devon, England d: 03 Jun 1600 Paignton, Devon, England
---	--

9th great grandfather

	Samuel Chapin b: 08 Oct 1598 Paignton, Devonshire, England d: 11 Nov 1675 Springfield, Hampden, Massachu
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8th great grandmother

	Hannah Chapin b: 02 Dec 1644 Springfield, Hampden County, MA d: 21 May 1719 Springfield, Hampden County, MA
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7th great grandfather

	John Hitchcock Jr b: 13 Apr 1670 Springfield, Hampden, MA, USA d: 04 Jul 1751 Springfield, Hampden, MA, USA
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6th great grandfather

	John Hitchcock b: 14 Dec 1692 Springfield, Hampden County, MA d: 25 Aug 1777 Springfield, Hampden County, MA
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5th great grandmother

	Abigail Hitchcock b: 01 Jun 1718 Springfield, Hampden, MA, USA d: 19 Nov 1793 Onslow, Colchester, Nova Scotia,
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4th great grandfather

	Solomon Hoar b: 24 Sep 1748 Brimfield, Hampden, Massachuse d: 09 Apr 1828 Onslow, Colchester, Nova Scotia,
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3rd great grandfather

	David Gould Hoar b: 28 Sep 1783 Onslow Township, Colchester Co d: 1861 East Mountain, Colchester Count
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2nd great grandmother

	Agnes Hoar b: 27 Jul 1812 Onslow Township, Colchester Co d: 13 Feb 1896 East Mountain, Colchester Count
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Great grandmother

	Rebecca Nelson b: 04 Apr 1841 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S d: 18 Mar 1924 Salmon River, Colchester County,
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Paternal grandmother

	Beatrice Mary Clifford b: 16 Feb 1887 Brookside, Colchester County, N. d: 16 Sep 1958 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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Father

	George Clifford Retson b: 19 Dec 1912 Bible Hill, Colchester, Nova Scoti d: 17 Feb 1997 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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James C. Retson