

John Whipple was born in the town of Milford, Wales (Bocking, now called Barking, Essex County) in the year 1617. Milford was a small hamlet in the county of Pembroke, but has now been changed to a port town on the Milford Haven off the Bristol Channel. The records show that John left Milford in 1636 at the age of nineteen, and came to America. The name of the ship he came on is unknown (with Israel Stoughton in 1631 probably in the ship Mary & John) but they landed in the Boston Harbor in 1636.

John Whipple settled in the town of Dorchester, Massachusetts, which is 4 1/2 miles south of Boston near the town of Old Colony. In 1637 he received a land grant along Neponset Bay and built a house. This was one mile south of Dorchester, near the settlement of Neponset Village.

John Married Sarah Darling of Dorchester in 1639, united with the church in Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1641. She was born at Dorchester in 1624. This was only four years after the Pilgrims landed in this country—certainly making the Whipples one of the earliest settlers in this country.

John and Sarah lived on their land near Dorchester for the next 18 years. During that time they had eight children born to them, six sons and two daughters. These children were:

John	born 1640, baptized March 9, 1641
Sarah	baptized February 6, 1642
Samuel	baptized March 17, 1644
Eleazer	baptized March 8, 1646
Mary	baptized April 9, 1648
William	baptized May 16, 1652
Benjamin	baptized June 4, 1654
David	born September 28, 1656

These children were all born during the reign of King Charles I of England.

John was a carpenter by trade and owned a house and 50 acres of land near Neponset village. John sold his home in 1658 to a man by the name of James Minot, took his family to Rhode Island and settled in the little village of Providence. In the year 1660 John received another land grant from the British Government (in Louisquisset) at the town of Providence. Here Sarah and he had three more children:

Joseph	born 1662
Jonathan	born 1664
Abigail	born 1665

When the town of Providence was laid out, John was granted Lot 45 in the Division of Lands, this was on February 19, 1665. On May 31, 1666 John and his son John took the oath of allegiance to King Charles II, who had begun his reign in 1660. John was made a member of the town council in 1669, and was made Town Clerk in 1670, a position he held until 1683. He was also the Deputy of the General Assembly of Rhode Island from 1666 to 1677.

During King Philip's War in 1675 John Whipple and 24 other men voted at the town meeting to stay and try to protect the town of Providence. Most of the people left and went to Newport, where they had better protection. The Indians, who were stirred up by the Spanish, attacked the

town and nearly destroyed it, as they burnt most of the homes and did a great deal of damage. The military records of Rhode Island state that Captain John Whipple of Providence, Rhode Island served in King Philip's War under Captain Roger Williams. It is recorded that John Whipple, Roger Williams, and a few others were brave enough to remain in Providence during severe Indian troubles, after most of the people of the town had left. John was given credit as being one of the main defenders who saved the town of Providence from being completely destroyed by the Indians and Spanish.

From the annals of Providence, p. 664: On Aug. 14, 1676, John Whipple had a share in the disposition of the Indian captives whose services were sold for a number of years. In 1679, he was appointed by the Rhode Island Colonial Assembly to serve on a committee to give an account of the late war with the Indians and make returns to the Assembly. He was thereafter known as Capt. John Whipple.

On March 2, 1680 John was granted an Inn license and he was quoted as being one of the three most conspicuous inn holders of the century. From its staid and sober character, as well as its central location, the Whipple Inn became a favorite meeting place for the town council and the court of probate. In October of 1690, the session of the Rhode Island General Assembly met at the Whipple Inn.

Sarah died in 1666 leaving John with a family of several small children, the youngest being less than a year old. John was 50 years old at that time and his two oldest girls, Sarah and Mary, were 24 and 18 respectively, and helped their father raise the other children.

John Whipple died May 16, 1685 at the age of 68, and was buried in a garden plot by the side of his wife near the family home. After several years, John, Sarah, and other members of the family were reinterred in the North Burying Place in Providence. The graves are located in the Whipple Burial Yard on Eastern Avenue. The Whipple plot is found by going out Eastern Avenue until the Temple monument is reached on the left. The plot is about fifty feet northwest of this monument and the graves of Capt. John Whipple and his wife Sarah are located on Dahlia Path. The stones are well preserved. The inscriptions from John and Sarah's tombstones read:

In Memory of
CAPT. JOHN WHIPPLE
Who was born in England, and died in Providencetown,
the 16th of May, A.D. 1685.
About 68 years of age

In Memory of
MRS. SARAH WHIPPLE
Wife of Capt. John Whipple
She was born in Dorchester, in New England,
and Died in Providence A.D. 1666.
Aged about 42 years

In the Rhode Island Historical Society Records there is a good deal of history about Captain John

Whipple and his children. The history states that the old Whipple house, the oldest building in town, stands at 369 North Main Street in Providence. When the Indians burned the town in 1676 they spared John Whipple's home, as they knew it was used as a worshipping place for the community.

The Will of Capt. John Whipple, Sen.:

Be it known to all persons to whom this may come, that I, John Whipple, of the town of Providence, in the Colony of R.I., and Providence Plantations, in New England (Sen.), being in good measure of health and in perfect memory, upon consideration of mortality, not knowing the day of my death, and having many children, and to prevent difference that otherwise may hereafter arise among them concerning my worldly estate, do see cause to make my will: and do hereby dispose of all my estate in this world, and do make my last Will and Testament.

I having formerly given unto three of my sons, all of my lands and meadows in Louisquisset, namely:—Samuel, Eleazer, and William, equally to be divided among them three only; excepting thirty acres, which I gave unto my son John, at the North West End.

I give unto my three aforesaid sons, namely: Samuel, Eleazer, and William, each of them, a quarter part of one right of Common, for pasturing, cutting of timber, and fire-wood.

I give unto my son Benjamin, a right of land in the late division which is already made out unto him.

I give unto my son David, a right of land in the late division which is already made out unto him.

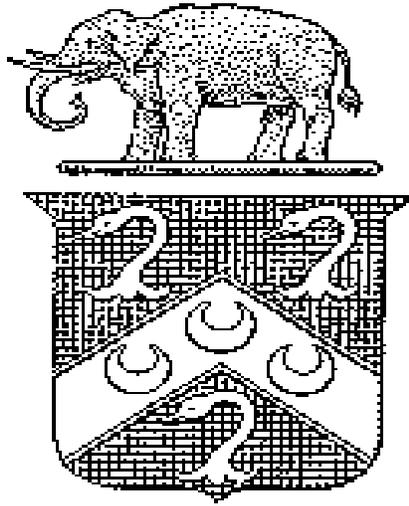
I give unto my son Jonathan, twenty-five acres, on which he now dwelleth. Also, I give unto my son Jonathan, one division of land which is ordered by the town to be laid out between the "seven-mile line" and the "four-mile line," and papers already drawn for.

I give unto my son Joseph, my dwelling-house, and my three house-lots, and the garden next; also a six-acre lot lying on the southern side of the neck whereupon the town of Providence standeth; also twenty acres near Thomas Clemons, his dwelling; also I give unto my son Joseph my share of meadow near Solitary Hill, and two six-acre lots, lying on each side of said hill; also a six-acre lot, near William Wickenden formerly; also one division lying on the "seven-mile line" which is already ordered by the town and papers drawn for; also I give unto my son Joseph, all other divisions which shall hereafter belong unto two rights throughout.

I give unto my sons, namely: John, Samuel, Eleazer, William, Benjamin, David, and Jonathan, these seven, twelve pence every one of them.

I give unto my three daughters, namely: Sarah, Mary, and Abigail, unto every one of them, ten shillings. I give unto my son Joseph, all my right of land in the Narragansett country. I give unto my son Joseph, all my movable goods, of what sort soever, and all my cattle, and all my tools; also I do make my son Joseph my executor; also my will is that my son Joseph do see that I be decently buried; this being the real absolute Will and Testament of the John Whipple, Sen., as

aforesaid, I do hereunto set my hand and seal, this eighth day of May, in the year one thousand six-hundred and eighty-two.



WHIPPLE CREST AND COAT OF ARMS

Sable on a Chevron between Three Swan's Heads erased argent, as many crescents of the field.

Crest, an elephant passant ermine.

Burke's General Armory, 1878