

THE WOODMAN FAMILY

Reference: The History of the Nutter Family, Roger Hunt, 1998

The Woodman family originated from the village of Corsham, England, which is located in Wiltshire county about 15 miles east of the city of Bristol. The origin of the family surname is obvious; they were timber men who cut trees and harvested the timber. There were quite a number of people with the name Woodman who lived at Corsham. In an article about the family published in the July 1943 *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, historian G. Andrews Moriarty stated that "at the end of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth centuries the parish of Corsham was filled with Woodmans, whose number was so great as almost to constitute a tribe."

Corsham was one of the more populous parishes in Wiltshire county during the time to which Moriarty refers. The parish is situated on the Lower Avon River, and is very old. History tells us that during the reign of Ethelred the Unready (978-1016), the King stayed at his Manor House at Corsham during the hunting seasons. During the reign of Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII, in the late sixteenth century, the village became a main stop on the stagecoach line between Bath and London. The town's livelihood during this period was the raising of "sheepell" and "cattel" on the fertile plains north and east of the village and the output from the many local stone quarries scattered throughout the countryside.

The history of St. Bartholomew's Church, located only a short distance from the Manor House at Corsham, dates back to about the year 1000. However, churches were not required to maintain a record of baptisms, marriages or burials until 1538, and many did not begin the practice until some years later. Many of these survive only from the 1700s due to neglect and/or damage. Fortunately for us, the parish registers of St. Bartholomew's Church in Corsham survive from 1563.

The earliest Woodman ancestor of whom we have a record is **Thomas Woodman**, who was born about 1550 and lived at Corsham. The inability to distinguish between two Thomas Woodmans living in Corsham in the 1570s, one the son of Nicholas and the other the son of Richard, prevent us from being able to trace the family any farther back than Thomas. Thomas Woodman married **Elizabeth Pryor** on 24 April 1574 at Corsham, where he lived. It is not known how many children Thomas₁ and Elizabeth (Pryor) Woodman had, but they had at least the son (baptized at Corsham on the date shown):

+ 1. Edward Woodman₂ b. 9 Oct 1574 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England

Edward Woodman₂, baptized 9 October 1574 at St. Bartholomew's Church in Corsham, England, married **Collet Mallet** (or *Mallett*) on 30 June 1600 at Corsham. After bearing him three children, Collet died and was buried at Corsham on 5 July 1611. Edward₂ then married Edith, last name unknown, by whom he had another six children. Edward Woodman₂ probably died in 1654, when his will was proved at Corsham on 14 July 1654. He would have been about 90 years old. His will was a spoken will, given when he was near death, and stated by his family afterwards. His children, all baptized at St. Bartholomew's Church at Corsham, were (the first three by Collet and next six by Edith):

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| 1. Mary Woodman ₃ | b. 24 Jan 1602 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |
| 2. Elizabeth Woodman ₃ | b. 1 Jul 1604 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |
| + 3. Edward Woodman ₃ | b. 27 Dec 1606 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |
| | m. Abt 1630 Joanna Salway @ England |
| 4. Archelaus Woodman ₃ | b. 23 Jan 1614 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |
| | m. (1) Elizabeth ----- |
| | m. 13 Nov 1678 (2) Dorothy (Swan) Chapman |
| | d. 17 Oct 1702 |
| 5. Rebecca Woodman ₃ | b. 15 Dec 1616 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |
| 6. Walter Woodman ₃ | b. 25 Mar 1619 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |
| 7. Jonathan Woodman ₃ | b. 12 Aug 1621 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |
| 8. Anne Woodman ₃ | b. 23 Nov 1623 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |
| 9. David Woodman ₃ | b. 17 Aug 1628 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |
| | m. Martha ----- |
| | d. 7 Dec 1676 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |

Edward Woodman₃, our direct ancestor, married in England about 1630. His wife was Joanna, last name recorded *Salway* by most researchers, although the compiler has never seen the evidence for that claim. She was born in 1614, likely at another parish close to Corsham where the parish registers have not survived. The record of their marriage has not been found but they were probably married in Joanna's parish, which was the custom. Edward₃ and Joanna settled at Corsham for a couple of years, before they emigrated to the New World.

Edward Woodman₃, along with his wife Joanna and two young children, came to America about 1635. He settled at Newbury, Massachusetts. His younger half-brother, Archelaus Woodman₃, with his wife Elizabeth, arrived in Newbury the same year. Although it seems likely, it is not known if they arrived on the same ship. Archelaus was a passenger on the ship *James* which arrived in Boston on 3 June 1635, and then continued on to the new settlement at Newbury.

The name "Edward Woodman" fails to appear on the passenger list of the *James* or that of any other extant passenger lists of that year. It is possible he could have been a passenger on the *Abigail* which arrived in Newbury several weeks after the *James*. It is also possible Edward Woodman₃ could have been on one of the two Dutch ships which arrived in Newbury that summer carrying "some passengers", but "mostly cattell". It seems most likely, however, that he would have been aboard the *James* with his half-brother, despite his omission from the passenger list. Many people who sailed to America aboard these ships were not listed because they were religious "dissenters". Had their names been included, they would have been prevented from leaving England. It is possible, therefore, that Edward₃ came to America seeking religious freedom for his family and to escape persecution in his homeland.

Edward Woodman₃ was on the list of the 91 original grantees at Newbury when the town was formed in the spring of 1635. He received one of the larger land grants, of 120 acres, in addition to a house lot and a "suitable quantity of salt and fresh meadow". Edward₃ was one of the 15 settlers at Newbury who was given the title of "Mr.", which signified wealth and education compared to the average settler. He was prominent in town affairs, serving as a selectman for some years. On 8 September 1636, Edward Woodman₃ was chosen Deputy to the General Court, which was located at Boston, forty miles away. The records of the Massachusetts Bay Colony show that Edward Woodman₃ was elected to that position from Newbury eight different years, the last being in 1670.

Edward³ was also a Lieutenant in the Newbury militia. He held numerous other positions at Newbury, including the ability "to see people marry". Of the last position, he said in 1681 that it was "*an unprofitable commission; I quickly laid aside the worke, which cost me many a bottle of sacke and liquor, where friends and acquaintance have been concerned.*" Edward Woodman was also a minister. For many years the church in Newbury had been divided, almost equally, between the original pastor, Reverend Thomas Parker, and Edward Woodman³. Of Woodman, noted historian Joshua Coffin wrote: "He was a man of influence, decision and energy, and opposed with great zeal the attempt made by the Rev. Thomas Parker to change the mode of Church government from Congregationalism to something like Presbyterianism."

This division of the town was not due to a great difference of theology, but of church government. As early as 1645, Parker and his faction maintained that the church should be governed by the pastor, his assistants, and a ruling elder. Edward Woodman³ and his party believed it was the right of the members of the church, and government should be by the congregation. In a letter to the church council, Edward Woodman³ stated, "*As for our controversy it is whether God hath placed the power in the elder, or in the whole church, to judge between truth and error, right and wrong, brother and brother, and all things of church concernment.*"

These ecclesiastical problems, which grew more violent and partisan each year, plagued the town for over 25 years and became known throughout New England as the "Parker-Woodman War". By 1669, the difference of opinion had reached such proportions that an appeal was made to the court to settle the matter. The court took over two years to decide, when on 29 May 1671, the court found in favor of Parker's faction. Edward Woodman³ and his faction were fined, the largest fine of 20 *nobles* [a noble was six shillings and eight pence] to Edward³ himself. Others fined in his faction were "John Emery, senior, John Emery, Junior" and "Thomas Browne", all our direct ancestors. However, the judgement of the court did not end the controversy, and the conflict continued for several years. Finally, a Baptist Church was formed in Newbury on 6 February 1681/2, with eight residents of the town joining, including "Mr. Edward Woodman and wife".

On 25 March 1681, Edward Woodman³ conveyed to his youngest son, Jonathan⁴, his "dwelling-house, barns and orchard and pasture, and all my plow land" in return for the usual agreement in which he and his wife would be supported for life. His wife Joanna died after 1687 and Edward³ about 1690. He is buried in the *1st Burying Ground of the First Settlers* located just off present-day Route 1A in Newbury. A marker for Edward Woodman³ stands at that location. Edward³ and Joanna (Salway) Woodman had the following children (the first three born in England, the others in Newbury, Massachusetts):

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| 1. Edward Woodman ⁴ | b. 1 Apr 1632 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England
m. 20 Dec 1653 Mary Goodridge @ Newbury, MA
d. 11 Sep 1694 @ Newbury, Essex, MA |
| 2. Jane Woodman ⁴ | b. 4 Jul 1633 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England
d. 4 Jul 1633 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England |
| + 3. John Woodman ⁴ | b. Abt 1634 @ Corsham, Wiltshire, England
m. 15 Jul 1656 (1) Mary Field @ Newbury, MA
m. 17 Oct 1700 (2) Sarah (Burnham) Huckins
d. 17 Sep 1706 @ Dover, Strafford, NH |
| 4. Joshua Woodman ⁴ | b. 1636 @ Newbury, Essex, MA |

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| 5. Mary Woodman ⁴ | m. 22 Jan 1666 Elizabeth Stevens @ Newbury, MA
d. 30 May 1703 @ Newbury, Essex, MA
b. Abt 1638-9 @ Newbury, Essex, MA
m. John Brown |
| 6. Sarah Woodman ⁴ | b. 12 Jan 1642 @ Newbury, Essex, MA
m. John Kent, Jr. |
| 7. Jonathan Woodman ⁴ | b. 8 Nov 1643 @ Newbury, Essex, MA
m. 2 Jul 1668 Hannah Hilton @ Newbury, MA
d. 21 Nov 1706 @ Newbury, Essex, MA |
| 8. Ruth Woodman ⁴ | b. 28 Mar 1646 @ Newbury, Essex, MA
m. Benjamin Lowell |

Edward Woodman⁴ (Jr.), who came to this country as a young boy, married Mary Goodridge, the daughter of William and Margaret Goodridge. Like Edward⁴, she had been born in England. They lived at Newbury, where he was known as a "planter" and a "yeoman". He died on 11 September 1694 and both are probably buried at Newbury.

Joshua Woodman⁴ was the first of the Woodman children to be born in America and supposedly the first boy born in Newbury. The first girl born there was Mary Brown, also our ancestor. Joshua⁴ married Elizabeth Stevens, who was born in 1645 to Capt. John and Elizabeth (Parker) Stevens of Andover, Massachusetts. Joshua⁴ died at Newbury on 30 May 1703 and is buried in the graveyard adjoining the Byfield Parish church, which was located "on the line" between Newbury and Rowley. A Newbury house built before 1700, the so-called Elijah Pearson house, was said to have been built by Joshua Woodman⁴.

Jonathan Woodman⁴ married Hannah Hilton on 2 July 1668 at Newbury. She was the daughter of William and Sarah (Greenleaf) Hilton. Jonathan⁴ and Hannah lived at Newbury, where he was in the business of building ships. His shipyard was near the mouth of the Merrimack River, at the foot of Woodman Lane (now Kent Street) in present-day Newburyport, Massachusetts. It was here that he built the ship *Salamander* in 1674 for some people in Boston, whom he had to sue the next year for non-payment. The owners protested the suit, claiming that the requirement that the vessel be inspected had not been complied with. The court found in favor of the ship owners and fined Jonathan Woodman⁴ 10 pounds.

The case was not over though. Jonathan⁴ then petitioned the court for release from payment of the fine, stating that the ship had been surveyed by a carpenter "as the custom is with us" before she was planked. He further asserted the aforesaid owners had forced him to take up the deck when partially laid and raise it four feet higher. Apparently accepting his explanation, on 16 October 1676, the court granted his request and remitted his fine.

Unfortunately, Jonathan Woodman⁴ would be involved in another court case of a much more sinister nature. In 1679, Newbury became entangled in the only witchcraft trial in the town's history. The accused was Elizabeth Morse, wife of William Morse, a shoemaker. Their home was on Market Street, in what is now Newburyport, and only a short distance from Woodman Lane where Jonathan Woodman⁴ had his shipyard. During the initial trial, more than twenty townspeople testified or gave depositions, including Jonathan Woodman, who declared Elizabeth Morse had shown incriminating wounds.

In his deposition Jonathan Woodman⁴ stated: "*I met with a white thing like a cat, which did play at my legs, and I did often kick at it, having no weapon in my hand; at last I struck it with my feet against the fence where I saw Webster's house, and there it stopped with a loud cry after the manner of a cat and I see it no more. I further testify, that William Morse of Newberry did owne that he did send for a doctor for his wife the same night and same time that I was troubled with that cat above mentioned, which was some grounds for suspicion.*" After several years of controversy, Elizabeth Morse was found innocent and released. Note that this trial occurred thirteen years before the famous Salem witchcraft trials (also in Essex County, Massachusetts) in which twenty people were found guilty and executed.

Our ancestor, **John Woodman⁴**, was born about 1634 in England. He came to America as an infant and lived in Newbury, Massachusetts with his parents. At Newbury on 15 July 1656, he married **Mary Field¹¹**, the daughter of Darby¹⁰ and Agnes Field of the Oyster River section of Dover, New Hampshire. John⁴ and Mary¹¹ soon moved to Oyster River (today this location would be Durham, New Hampshire), where he was listed as an inhabitant on 17 June 1657. He received a grant of 100 acres on 10 November 1658, another grant on 10 January 1659, and a grant of 20 acres on 30 September 1660.

It was on this last grant of 20 acres "at ye west side of W^m Beard's Creek" where John Woodman⁴ built his garrison house. It was built on a hill with a commanding view of the river and the surrounding area, allowing it to be easily defended. The unsuccessful Indian attack on his garrison in 1694 was proof of his wisdom. That year, the settlement at Oyster River was attacked by Indians of the Penobscot and Norredgewog tribes, under the leadership of Villieu, a French missionary. The settlement had twelve garrison houses for the protection of its inhabitants. Of the twelve, five were destroyed, while seven were successfully defended, including the Woodman Garrison. The house, with bullets still in its logs, was still standing in 1896, when it accidentally burned. The hearthstone from this garrison is at the front of the Oyster River Middle School in Durham, with a plaque reading: "Hearthstone of Woodman Garrison, 1659-1896".

John Woodman⁴ took the Freeman's Oath on 22 May 1666. He attained the rank of Captain of the militia at Oyster River and "*remained in active service till he was three score and ten years of age, vigorous and alert.*" Captain John Woodman⁴ was one of the outstanding men of the Province. He served as selectman of the town for several years, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for five years, and Deputy to the Provincial Assembly from Dover for eight or nine different years.

When his wife, the former Mary Field¹¹, died on 6 July 1698 at Oyster River, John Woodman⁴ then married Sarah Huckins on 17 October 1700 at Dover. Sarah was the daughter of Robert and Frances Burnham and the widow of Lieut. James Huckins. Huckins was a miller who had purchased his land from William Furber¹. He and seventeen other men from his garrison were killed by the Indians while they worked in their fields on 28 August 1689. His garrison was burned and all of its inhabitants were either killed or captured. Sarah Huckins was carried away by the Indians but was returned, over a year later, on 15 September 1690 at Fort Androskoggin. In 1692, her son Robert's wife was accused of secretly burying a dead child, but was not indicted.

Captain John Woodman⁴ must have outlived his second wife, since his will of 20 December 1705 mentions his three living children but not her. John⁴ died 17 September 1706 and is buried at Oyster River (now Durham), New Hampshire. His children, by the former Mary Field, were:

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| 1. John Woodman ⁵ | b. @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
d. 7 Jun 1705 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH |
| 2. Mary Woodman ⁵ | b. @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
m. Edward Small |
| 3. Sarah Woodman ⁵ | b. @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
m. John Thompson |
| + 4. Jonathan Woodman ⁵ | b. Abt 1665 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
m. Abt 1698 Elizabeth Downing
d. 1750 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH |

John Woodman⁵ (Jr.) apparently never married, and definitely never married Mary Raines as has been erroneously reported many times. He died "the Sabbath before" 10 June 1705.

Mary Woodman⁵ married Edward Small, who was granted land at Oyster River early in 1694. Soon after, he and Mary⁵ moved to Manomoisett, and afterwards, to Chatham, both on Cape Cod in southeastern Massachusetts. Edward Small died on the "last day of April" 1702, and Mary stayed in Massachusetts until at least 1707. By 24 October 1721, she was back in Oyster River, where she received 20 acres in compensation for the care of Archibald Smith. She was still alive in 1742 when she conveyed this land to her grandsons.

Sarah Woodman⁵ married John Thompson, the son of William Thompson of Kittery, Maine. A number of court records of John's father can be found in which he was charged for rebellion against his father-in-law, drinking, absence from church, idleness and not providing for his family. John Thompson settled at Oyster River, where Sarah⁵ still lived when her husband's estate was administered on 24 July 1734.

Jonathan Woodman⁵, our direct ancestor, was born about 1665 in the Oyster River part of Dover, New Hampshire, where he also lived his entire life. He received all of his father's land and "*the whole part of the mill att oyster river*", since his older brother John⁵ never married and died a year before their father. He was active in the militia and probably still commanded his own garrison, since he was called "Lieut. Jonathan Woodman". A historical marker at the junction of Bennett Road and Route 108 in Durham reads:

These scenic falls, 1.6 miles west of here on the Lamprey River, once provided waterpower and industry for the early settlers. A deed dated Apr. 11, 1694, shows that Capt. Packer, Jonathan Woodman, James Davis, Joseph Meder, and James Thomas were granted "the hole streame of Lamprele River for erecting a saw mill or mills."

About 1698, Jonathan Woodman⁵ married **Elizabeth Downing**, the daughter of Joshua and Patience (Hatch) Downing of Kittery, Maine. Elizabeth died on 17 April 1729 at Oyster River, while he died there in 1750 at the age of 85. Both are buried in the Woodman Cemetery, at the end of Woodman Road, in present-day Durham, New Hampshire. Jonathan⁵ and Elizabeth (Downing) Woodman had the following children:

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| 1. Mary Woodman ⁶ | b. 1 Sep 1699 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
d. 15 Jul 1777 |
| + 2. John Woodman ⁶ | b. 6 Mar 1701 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
m. 11 Sep 1732 Mary Fabyan @ Newington
d. 15 Jul 1777 @ Durham, Strafford, NH |
| 3. Jonathan Woodman ⁶ | b. 23 Apr 1702 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
m. Elizabeth Smith
d. 28 Mar 1776 @ Durham, Strafford, NH |
| 4. Joshua Woodman ⁶ | b. 25 Oct 1703 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
m. (1st) Elizabeth Doe
m. (2nd) Mrs. Rachel Taylor |
| 5. Edward Woodman ⁶ | b. 22 May 1705 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
m. (1st) Martha Doe
m. (2nd) Mary (Titcomb) Tibbetts |
| 6. Downing Woodman ⁶ | b. 5 Dec 1706 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
m. Elizabeth Hill |
| 7. Archelaus Woodman ⁶ | b. 23 Jun 1708 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH
d. 20 Sep 1786 @ Durham, Strafford, NH |
| 8. Alice Woodman ⁶ | b. 12 Feb 1710 @ Oyster River, Strafford, NH |

Very little other than what appears in the list of children above is known about them. **Mary Woodman⁶** never married, and nothing else is known of her. Likewise, **Alice Woodman⁶** apparently never married either, and probably died young.

Our ancestor, **John Woodman⁶**, married **Mary Fabyan³** at Newington on 11 September 1732. She was the daughter of John² and Mary³ (Pickering) Fabyan, described earlier. John⁶ inherited his father's homestead and lived in the garrison house at Oyster River, which while he lived there became known as Durham, a name it retains today. John Woodman⁶ was repeatedly moderator of town meetings and a selectman many times. He also served as a "lot layer" and surveyor of timber.

In several deeds, his occupation is referred to as simply "trader". Mary³ (Fabyan) Woodman died at their home in Durham, New Hampshire on 7 August 1775, only a few months after the American Revolution erupted. John Woodman⁶ died two years later, on 15 July 1777, at the age of 76. They are both buried in the Woodman Cemetery in Durham. John⁶ and Mary³ (Fabyan) Woodman had the following children, all born at Durham:

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| + 1. Mary Woodman ⁷ | b. 15 Feb 1735 @ Durham, Strafford, NH
m. 13 May 1755 John Coleman
d. 9 Sep 1819 |
| 2. John Woodman ⁷ | b. 4 May 1740 @ Durham, Strafford, NH |
| 3. Jonathan Woodman ⁷ | b. 5 Jan 1743 @ Durham, Strafford, NH
m. (1st) Martha Davis
m. (2nd) Mary (Jewett) Smith |
| 4. Elizabeth Woodman ⁷ | b. 30 Jan 1745 @ Durham, Strafford, NH
m. Abednego Leathers
d. 11 Nov 1809 |
| 5. Ebenezer Woodman ⁷ | b. 17 Sep 1750 @ Durham, Strafford, NH |

Of the five children, two probably died young. **John Woodman⁷** and **Ebenezer Woodman⁷** were listed in the town records as having been baptized but there is not further record of either.

Ebenezer⁷ was listed in the records as having been baptized "in private" and that he was "sick". Of **Jonathan Woodman**⁷ and **Elizabeth Woodman**⁷, all that is known is listed above.

Our direct ancestor, **Mary Woodman**⁷, was probably the oldest of the children and was named for her mother. She married John Coleman, whose family will be introduced next.