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I am seeking all genealogical and biographical details for the family documented below including their ancestors, children, and grandchildren and the spouses thereof, including the full names of those spouses' parents. All additions and corrections within this scope, however speculative, will be greatly appreciated.

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### William Billings of Stonington, Connecticut

An article from *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* by the Reverend Creighton Spencer-Mounsey entitled "The Billings Family of Connecticut" (81[1927]) served as the initial source for information on the Billing family. During a visit to The New England Historic Genealogical Society in August 1991 your compiler had the pleasure of speaking with the Society's Director, Mr. Gary Boyd Roberts. He informed me that the noble and royal line of descent for William Billing from Sir Thomas and Katherine (Giffard) Billing referred to in the *NEHGR* article was probably by Somerby. Unfortunately, I had devoted a great deal of time to researching Katherine (Giffard) Billing's ancestry. Mr. Boyd doubted that the Somerby's ancestral line for William was accurate beyond his father William or grandfather Richard.

In 1999, Paul C. Reed published "The Fraudulent Ancestry of Roger<sup>1</sup> and William<sup>1</sup> Billing(s) of Dorchester, Massachusetts," *The American Genealogist* (74[1999]:28-30). It was not until 2017, that an article in *The Register* by Rachelle Child and Helen Schatvet Ullman revealed the true origin of William Billings and his siblings: "English Origin of Roger, Ann and William Billings of Dorchester, Massachusetts."

1. RICHARD<sup>A</sup> BILLINGS, born say 1592 or earlier (if age 25 at marriage); buried "Rd." [Rainford Chapel], Prescot, Lancashire, England 16 December 1640; married say 1617 or earlier (first known child buried 3 May 1618) ELIZABETH \_\_, born say 1596 or earlier (if age 21 at marriage), buried "Rd." [Rainford Chapel] "Eliz: us. [uxor] Richardi Billindge" 27 September 1633. Both burials are recorded in *The Register of Prescot Parish Church Part II: 1632-1666*.

Other insights from Child and Ullman include the following excerpts:

Other Dorchester [Massachusetts] residents came from the same area [of Prescot, as siblings Roger, Ann and William Billings]... The curate of St. Helen's chapel in Prescot from 1628 to 1637 was George Moxon, who came to New England in 1637 and first settled in Dorchester... St. Helen's and Rainford were adjacent chapels in the parish of Prescot, and it seems likely that the Billings siblings sailed for New England with Moxon in 1637.

Children, most baptized at Rainford/Rainforth/Raynforth Chapel in the northern part of Prescot, Lancashire, England (*The Parish Register of Prescot, 1573-1631*):

- i. MARGARETA, b. before 3 May 1618, bur. "fa. Rici Billings," Rainforth 3 May 1618 (p. 192).

- ii. ROGER<sup>1</sup>, "fs. [*filus* (son of)] Richardi Billindge, bapt. Raynforth 25 July 1620 (p. 72); died Dorchester, Massachusetts 15 November 1683; bur. Hancock Cemetery, (now) Quincy, Massachusetts. Roger "Billindge" was admitted to the Dorchester, Massachusetts church on 9 June 1640.
- iii. ANN<sup>1</sup>, "Anna fa. [*filia* (daughter of)] Rici Billindge," bapt. Rainforth 6 November 1627 (p. 77); made her will 16 July 1683; m. JOHN GILL of Milton, Massachusetts.
- iv. JOHANNES, "fs. Richardi Billing," bapt. Raynforth 6 November 1627 (p. 90).
- v. WILLUS, "fs. Richi: Bellinge," bapt. Rainforth 24 April 1631 (p. 100).
- vi. MARGARETA "fa. Richardi Billinge," bapt. Prescot 22 September 1633 (*The Register of Prescot Parish Church Part II: 1632-1666*).

2. WILLIAM<sup>1</sup> BILLINGS (*Richard*<sup>A</sup>) was baptized as "Willus fs. [*filius* (son of)] Richi: Bellinge" at Rainsforth Chapel in the northern part of Prescot, Lancashire, England and died in Stonington, New London County, Connecticut on 16 March 1712/13, having made a will on 3 October 1712 that was proved on 14 April 1713. He was married in Dorchester, Massachusetts "12. 12. 57" [12 January 1657/8] to MARY \_\_\_, who died between 1713 and 1718. She was not the daughter of Humphrey Atherton as some have indicated, William and Mary were married by Major Atherton. They are both buried in North Stonington Cemetery: "1713 Here lies the body of William Billing who died in the 85th year of his age;" there is only a simple footstone for Mary, "M.B."

William moved from Dorchester, Massachusetts to Stonington, Connecticut and acquired a large estate there; his house was located on Cosatuc Hill. In 1675, he served in King Philip's War and was admitted to the Stonington Church 29 April 1677.

Children (see articles from *The Register* cited above for more information on his grandchildren):

- i. MARGARET<sup>2</sup>, b. probably about 1659; m. 13 Aug 1678 EDMUND<sup>2</sup> FANNING, b. in 1651, d. in 1715.
- ii. WILLIAM, b. in 1660, bapt. at New London 1 Sept 1672; bur. 8 June 1738; m. HANNAH STERRY., b. 18 Aug 1672, daughter of Roger and Hannah (Palmer) (Hewitt) Sterry, m. (1) Thomas<sup>1</sup> Hewitt; Hannah (Palmer) (Hewitt) Sterry was a dau. of Walter<sup>1</sup> Palmer.
- iii. EBENEZER, b. about 1661; d. 16 Sep 1727; m. 1 March 1680/1 ANNA COMSTOCK, baptized at New London 9 April 1661, died after 5 Oct 1727, daughter of Daniel<sup>2</sup> and Palthia (Elderkin) Comstock.
- iv. JOSEPH, bapt. at New London 1 Sept 1672; d. young.
- v. MARY, bapt. at New London; presumably the Mary Billing who married 24 Dec 1688 JOHN<sup>2</sup> WHITING of Wrentham, MA, b. 19 July 1665.
- \* vi. LYDIA, bapt. at New London 1 Sept 1672; d. in Aug 1747; m. (1) WILLIAM<sup>2</sup> BROMLEY (*Luke*<sup>1</sup>), b. about 1668, d. about 1700, son of Luke<sup>1</sup> and Hannah (Stafford) Bromley; m. (2) SAMUEL COYE of Preston. See *Luke Bromley of Stonington, Connecticut* for more information.
- vii. MERCY, b. at Stonington 27 Oct 1674 and bapt. at New London 14 March 1674/5.
- viii. ABIGAIL, bapt. at Stonington 1 July 1677; probably died there in 1705; m. at Stonington in 1695 JOHN<sup>2</sup> RANDALL, b. in 1666.
- ix. DOROTHY, bapt. at Stonington 1 July 1677; m. DANIEL MACKAY.

- x. ELIZABETH, bapt. at Stonington 28 Dec 1679; dismissed 6 April 1701 to the church at Wrentham, MA; presumably to live with her sister, Mary (Billing) Whiting.
- xi. PATIENCE, bapt. at Stonington 9 April 1682.
- xii. PRUDENCE, bapt. 4 March 1683. (Somerby is the sole authority for this daughter and her baptism.)

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This is a complete every-name index for the entire document; each woman is indexed under her maiden name and her married name(s). A question mark, (?), indicates an unknown maiden name.

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