

## Research Summary – John Vibbard (last updated 11/24/2007)

### Summary

John Vibbard, the elder son of John Vibert and Mary Neell, left few records. We know that he was born around 1706 because he was mentioned in a probate record as being eight years old at the time of his father's death in 1714. The next mention of him comes from the records of the Third Church of Hartford which was located on the east side of the Connecticut River and eventually became the First Church, East Hartford.

The church records show first that he was married to Mary Arnold, daughter of John Arnold and his wife Hannah Meakins, on 18 Feb 1729/30. Later that year on 05 Jun they apparently confessed to the sin of fornication (the name here is spelled "Jn°: Bitfbert & Mary his wife") and on 23 Aug, John owned the covenant. Often owning the covenant was a prelude to the baptism of a first child but if that was the case here, the record of the child was lost. Instead, the first mention we have of children for John and Mary is an IGI record (from a member submission) for the baptism of a daughter Mary Bibird or Vibbert on 15 Jun 1735 followed by two other daughters, Sarah and Eliza, in the late 1730s and Timothy in 1749. The church records at that time are unfortunately spotty due to the illness of the minister Samuel Woodbridge.

John also had a number of real estate transactions starting on 26 Aug 1731 and ending on 19 Jun 1759. These included transactions with the Arnold family as well as other individuals. These documents still need to be copied, transcribed and analyzed. Besides the land records, John is mentioned in at least two Hartford-area wills – one, that of Ebenezer Hills, Sr., where he was a witness on 19 May 1732 and the other, that of his father-in-law, John Arnold dated 14 Nov 1741, in which he is mentioned as a son-in-law.

So far no evidence has been uncovered about when either John or his wife Mary died. There is no evidence that they moved west into New York with Timothy but perhaps he moved west after they had passed away.

### The children of John Vibbard and Mary Arnold

At this point, the following candidates exist for children of John and Mary:

Mary    baptized 06 Jun 1735 (reported only in the IGI)  
Sarah    baptized 30 Oct 1737 (Private Records of Samuel Woodbridge) (d. of Jno.)  
Eliza    baptized 06 Jan 1739 (Private Records of Samuel Woodbridge) (d. of Jno.)  
Rebecca born 1743 (Barbour, Families of Early Hartford – article on the Bunce family)  
Timothy baptized 25 Jun 1749 (Rcds. 1<sup>st</sup> Church, EH) (s. of John)

Because of the marriage date in 1730, it is possible either that there were more children of this couple or that the baptisms shown above were delayed until well after the births. However, if there were more children, they do not appear in the records later on as you might expect. Of course, it is possible that there were more girls who do not show up so easily. Nothing further is known of the first three children mentioned above, however, it is pretty safe to assume they are all children of John and Mary since the only other possibility in the Hartford area was John's brother James who apparently did not marry until sometime after 1737 at the earliest.

The fourth child listed, Rebecca, is not mentioned in the church records at all but in the book Families of Early Hartford by Lucius Barnes Barbour. The reference comes in the section on the Bunce family which states that Gideon Bunce, son of Joseph and Amy (--?--) Bunce married Rebecca (Glast) Vibbard. This Rebecca's dates are given as 1743-03 Aug 1796 in the IGI but I have no sources for the information.

Because of this, we also cannot be as sure that she belongs to John, as opposed to his brother James. In fact, the last two children attributed to John above share this problem. Timewise, the end of John and Mary (Arnold) Vibbard's family (Mary would be only 36 when Timothy Vibbard was baptized in 1749) overlaps the beginning of that of James and Dorcas (Dix) Vibert in the early to mid-1740s.

So some assumptions must be made. I have assumed that the Timothy Vibbard, son of John, who was baptized on 25 Jun 1749 and the Timothy Vibbard of Saratoga County, New York, who claimed in his 1833 pension application to have been born on 20 Oct 1750 are either one and the same or at least are both sons of John and Mary (Arnold) Vibbard. I have assumed that James Vibbard "Jr." who owned the covenant with his wife Mary on 05 Oct 1766 (and was therefore likely born by 1746 or so) was in fact a son of James and Dorcas (Dix) Vibert. Putting that assumption together with the three other Vibbard children (Eleanor, Ruth and Dorcas) baptized in 1749 and explicitly attributed to James, leaves us with four likely children of James in the 1740s and only one or two (Timothys) likely children of John. For this reason, I have chosen to assume that Rebecca most likely belongs to John. A full timeline of the Vib vital record events recorded for the 1730s and 1740s is shown below:

Bibbet Jno	m.	1729	02	18	Mary Arnold	Woodbridge
Bibbert Jno	f.	1730	06	05	& wife Mary	Woodbridge
Bibbet Jno	o.	1730	08	23		Woodbridge
Bibird Mary	c.	1735	06	15		IGI
Vibbert Sarah	c.	1737	10	30	d. of Jno.	CSL - CRI
Vibert Eliza	c.	1739	01	06	d. of Jno.	CSL - CRI
Vibert James	c.	1744	02	10	adult baptism	CSL - CRI
Vibbard Mary	o.	1749	02	05		CSL - CRI
Vibbard Eleanor	c.	1749	04	03	d. of James	CSL - CRI
Vibbard Ruth	c.	1749	04	03	d. of James	CSL - CRI
Vibbard Timo[thy]	c.	1749	06	25	s. of John	CSL - CRI
Vibbard Dorcas	c.	1749	12	31	d. of James	CSL - CRI
Vibbard Timothy	b.	1750	10	20		Pension Appl.

### Early Hartford Land Records for John Vibbard

26 Aug 1731	Anthony More	Warr	Grantee
13 May 1732	Thomas Seymor	Warr	Grantee
17 May 1732	John Arnold	Warr	Grantor
1 May 1740	Samuel Woodbridge	Warr	Grantee
25 Feb 1743	Isaac Porter	Warr	Grantor
15 Feb 1750	Grammar School	Lease	Grantee
16 Feb 1750	Timothy Ripley	Lease	Grantor
17 Apr 1752	Thomas Wadsworth	Warr	Grantee
28 Mar 1753	Thomas Wadsworth	Warr	Grantor
2 May 1753	Thomas Wadsworth	Warr	Grantee
18 Feb 1754	(Hartford Proprietors)	Dist	Grantee
21 Feb 1755	Henry Arnold	Lease	Grantor
3 Jul 1755	Thomas Wadsworth	Mtg	Grantor
1 Aug 1755	Henry Arnold	Lease	Grantor
19 Jan 1757	Henry Arnold	Lease	Grantor
10 Apr 1759	Thomas Wadsworth	Warr	Grantor
19 Jun 1759	John Coleman	QC	Grantor

### Possible Research Ideas

1. Transcribe and analyze all of the deeds.
2. Are there more church records? Maybe I can examine them in the LDS microfilms.
3. Are there any other sources (like the William Watson journal) for that time period?
4. What happened to the land?