

Research Summary – Elisha Vibbert (last updated 11/24/2007)

Summary

Elisha Vibbert, apparently the second son of James and Dorcas (Dix) Vibert, was born around 1751, according to the information from his burial record, even though he wasn't baptized until 17 Jul 1763. Like his brothers David, Jesse and John, he served in the Revolutionary War although in his case, the service was more limited. He served as a Corporal in Col. J. Wells' Regiment of Connecticut Militia, Capt. Cone's Company. The service record indicates he was paid for 67 days service at New London between 23 Aug and 26 Oct 1779. Like his older brother James, he was apparently already married and a father by this time – his first child was baptized in January 1777 and his second in June 1779.

His birth and death dates are both established by his gravestone inscription preserved in a list of burials of Revolutionary War patriots in Brookhaven, Long Island, New York. He died 08 Aug 1798, age 47, and was buried in the Waverly Avenue Cemetery, Patchogue, Suffolk County (Long Island), New York. Apparently, the gravestone no longer exists.

Before his death he was a merchant of some sort in Hartford. He seems to have moved to Hartford sometime after the baptism of his son William in the church in East Hartford on 04 Jul 1784. He appears in Hartford in the 1790 census with a family of 4 males (1 over 15 – presumably Elisha himself) and 5 females. He engaged in several real estate transactions, all in Hartford, the earliest dated 21 Mar 1789 and the last 18 Jul 1797.

The name of his wife is problematic. Jacobus and others have stated that his wife was Hannah Northrup, a daughter of Aaron and Rebecca (Hyatt) Northrup but several records created after Elisha's death seem to point toward a woman named Mary (--?--) as his wife. Whatever her name, she and Elisha married sometime before 05 Jan 1777 and produced a family of at least ten children, six of whom survived to adulthood. Four infant children are reported (in Barbour, Families of Early Hartford, Hartford County, Connecticut) to have been buried in the Center Church Cemetery in Hartford during the late 1780s and 1790s although these graves no longer exist.

Census Data

1790 Census (Hartford CT)

1 male over 15, 3 males under 16, 6 females

male age >= 16 (born before 1874) – himself

son age < 16 (born from 1775-1790) – Elisha Jr. – b. bef. 9/23/1781

son age < 16 (born from 1775-1790) – William – b. bef. 7/4/1784

son age < 16 (born from 1775-1790) – Horace – b. abt. 1787

female 1 – Mary

dau 1 – Nancy – b. bef. 1/5/1777

dau 2 – Betsey – b. bef. 6/27/1779

dau 3 – poss. Julia (if b. bef. 1790)

dau 4 – one of the dead infants

dau 5 – one of the dead infants

1810 Census (Salisbury CT)

Widow Moore (see discussion below on the wife of Elisha)

Female age 10-15 (born from 1795-1800) – could be Julia
Female age 26-44 (born from 1766-1784) – could be any of the girls
Female age >= 45 (born before 1766) – Mary (--?--) Vibbert Moore

Elisha's Wife

It is widely reported that Elisha was married to Hannah Northrup (for example, by Jacobus in Genealogy of Connecticut Families), but I have not been able to pinpoint the source for this information. Hannah seems to have been born in 1744 which seems a little old for Elisha. Also, based on the children attributed to Elisha in Barbour:

Infant died 14 Apr 1786, buried Center Church (note – died before the 1790 census)
Infant died 18 Jan 1792, buried Center Church
Infant died 15 Jun 1793, buried Center Church
Infant died 20 Jun 1794, buried Center Church
Nancy of Windsor, married Nathaniel Howard
Betsy of Hartford, married (--?--) Jones
Elisha of New York
William of Salisbury, married Priscilla Moore
Horace of Salisbury
Julia of Salisbury

in comparison to the census record, it appears that at least one child must have been born after the 1790 census. This would be a bit late, although not impossible, for a woman born in 1744.

There are also several land records in Hartford between 1805 and 1809 which appear to deal with a single piece of land owned by Elisha. The first, in 1805, is for a life lease granted to a "Mary Vibbard, widow, of Hartford" by Samuel Kilbourn to land that was sold to him in 1796 by Elisha. It isn't clear why Samuel would do this for the sum of \$1 but it seems probable that the widow Mary Vibbert would be Elisha's widow. It does not seem likely that she is a second wife after Hannah Northrup since Hannah is reported to have had two other husbands after Elisha.

Another intriguing hint is that a Mrs. Mary Vibbert of NY was married to Samuel Moore in Salisbury CT on 28 Jun 1807. The three youngest children of Elisha and his wife are reported as living in Salisbury in the Hartford real estate transaction dated 17 Oct 1809. Also, Priscilla Moore, wife of William Vibbert, was from Salisbury and her grandfather's name was Samuel Moore. This Samuel Moore was widowed on 10 Oct 1805 and he himself died on 20 Feb 1810. So he could be the Samuel Moore who married Mrs. Mary Vibbert in 1807 and his death would account for her as "Widow Moore" in the 1810 census. If so, he would have been 70 at the time of the marriage and Mary perhaps 50-57.

If Elisha's widow was named Mary and married a man named Samuel Moore before 09 Nov 1808, that would also explain a transaction involving the Bull/Kilbourn property in Hartford between S. and M. Moore and Horace Vibbert (et al?) on that date. And it would explain why Elisha's children had control of the property that was life leased to Mary Vibbert in 1805.

My interpretation of the facts mentioned above is that it is likely that Elisha was not married to Hannah Northrup but to a woman named Mary who was born before 1766. If this is the case, then who was Mary? One possibility is that she was actually a Northrup and perhaps related to Hannah Northrup. That would account for a mixup over Hannah and also for possible Litchfield county ties since the Northrups settled heavily in western CT. Another possibility is that she was related to Samuel Kilbourn who seems to have been so kind to her and her children over the land in Hartford. Both will have to be explored as well as a search made for the origin of the Hannah Northrup theory.

The possibility of two wives for Elisha needs to be considered as well but even if that is the case, Hannah Northrup seems unlikely since she is supposed to have had several husbands after Elisha. Unfortunately, the information about the birth dates of the children after William is too loose to be able to find a gap that would point to a second wife.

His Children

The Infants

The graves of the four unnamed infants no longer exist.

The Three Daughters

Nancy

Both Nancy and Betsey are documented in the CSL Church Records index. Elisha Sr. owned the covenant on 29 Dec 1776 (his wife's named is, unfortunately, not mentioned) shortly before his daughter Nancy was baptized on 05 Jan 1777. This makes it likely that she was his first child.

There is a mention of Nancy in Stiles' Windsor history under the Howard family. It states that Nathaniel Howard, son of Nathaniel and Ann (Watson) Howard, married Nancy Vibbert of Hartford on 30 Nov 1800. Nathaniel, Jr. was born 23 Apr 1777. He and Nancy had 3 children: Ann Watson, born 7 Dec 1801, Mary, born (and died) 14 Oct 1805, and Nathaniel, born 7 Aug 1807 and died 17 Jan 1809. Nancy's husband Nathaniel, Jr., a sea captain, died 15 Feb 1809 at St. Lucia.

Nancy (Vibbert) Howard does not appear in the 1810 census although it is possible that she and her daughter are the two females enumerated with the Widow Moore in Salisbury, Connecticut. In April 1814, as reported in the Hartford newspaper American Mercury, she married, in New York City, Daniel Corning. Daniel was a widower, from Hartford, with six children by his first wife Mary (--?--). The Corning family was enumerated in New York City in the 1920 census but returned to Hartford a few years later when Daniel was appointed the first superintendent of the Retreat for the Insane. There is some evidence that Daniel and Nancy Corning had at least one child from their marriage. Daniel died on 15 Sep 1827 in Hartford. No record has been found of Nancy's death but she was enumerated in the 1850 Census in New York City with her daughter and son-in-law Ann Watson (Howard) and Ethan Campbell.

Betsey

The second child, Betsey, was baptized on 27 Jun 1779. Betsey, apparently married someone named Jones since she is named as Betsey Jones in the 1808 and 1809 deeds but that seems to be the end of the trail so far on her.

Julia

The youngest daughter Julia is documented only in Barbour (Families of Early Hartford, Hartford County, Connecticut) and in the 1808 and 1809 land records. Since Nancy, Betsey, William and Elisha were all baptized in East Hartford but neither she or Horace or any of the infants are recorded there, I have assumed she was one of the younger children who perhaps were baptized in Hartford and the records have not been preserved. I have also assumed that she and Horace were born before the 1790 census based on the fact that they were old enough to execute a legal quitclaim in 1809 but I need to check to see what was the minimum age for that type of transaction. It is possible that they were born after and some of the "infants" were counted in the census instead. The grouping in Barbour appears to be age-related and, if it is correct, she would be the youngest surviving child. However, the two people listed with "Widow Moore" don't seem to fit her unless she is the 10-15 year old and that would put her birth date between 1795 and about 1799 (assuming a posthumous birth).

The Sons

Elisha Jr.

Elisha Vibbert Jr., presumably the oldest son, was baptized on 23 Sep 1781. He appears only in the 1830 census, in Vernon, Sussex County, New Jersey. His family consists of 1 male age 40-49 (presumably himself), 1 male age 5-9, 2 males under 5, one female age 30-39 and 3 females age 5-9. If his age is stated correctly, he must have been born pretty close to his baptismal date. There is also a reference in a Paterson, Passaic County, New Jersey Cholera Death list for the period 05 Jul 1832 to 14 Aug 1832 to the death of two children of Elisha Vibbert – Benjamin age 3^{1/2} and Emily age 19 months. Benjamin would have been one of the under-5 males in 1830 but Emily was born after the census. Since Elisha Jr. does not appear in the 1840 census, there is a possibility he died between 1830-1840.

There is no record of his marriage but it was probably before 1820 – although just after 1820 would better explain why he was not on the 1820 census, it means they would have had to squeeze in 4 children before 1825 – tight but not impossible. There is also no record of his wife's name but there is an interesting entry in the 1850 census for Bath, Steuben County, New York for a 63-year-old woman named Ann Vibbert whose household includes Mary Vibbert, age 27 and John Crosby, age 13. She also appears in 1860, age 73 with a household of three domestics – Mima Wilson, age 54, "Mary Wilson", age 40 and Margaret Wilson, age 18. All these women are born in New Jersey. Ann Vibbert died 31 Jan 1863 and was buried in Bath (her DOB according to her gravestone is 17 Jul 1788). In 1870 "Mary Vibbard", age 50, appears in the household of Jemima Wilson, age 65 which also includes Maggie Wilson, age 28 and James Wilson, age 74. All are born in New Jersey. In 1880, Mima Wilson's household consists of Mary Vibbert, age 60, and Maggie Wilson, age 38. Mina is age 75.

The records of the Grove Cemetery in Bath, where Ann Vibbert lived show the following related entries:

Infant Son Vebbert - No dates s/of William & Joanna
David Courter d. 15 Sep 1854 Age 48y
Ann Vebbert 17 Jul 1788-31 Jan 1863
Mima Wilson d. 22 Aug 1881 Age 76y w/of William
Mary Vebbert 2 Feb 1820-24 Apr 1900
Margaret A. Wilson 1 Jun 1842-21 Oct 1902
William Crosby d. 11 Feb 1861 Age 62y1m9d
Elizabeth Crosby d. 21 Apr 1867 Age 58y2m16d w/of William
Nancy Crosby d. 17 May 1854 Age 23y1m10d d/of Wm. & Elizabeth
Sarah E. Crosby - No dates Age 14y9m8d d/of Wm. & Elizabeth.

It is also relevant that Julia (Vibbert) Longwell (see below) and her family are also located in Bath in 1880 and there is a William Vibbert in Wayne, Steuben County who gives his birthplace as New Jersey.

A possible explanation of these entries is that Ann Vibbert (b. 17 Jul 1788) is the widow of Elisha Jr. (bp. 23 Sep 1781) and Mary Vibbert (b. 2 Feb 1820) is a daughter. From the proximity of the gravestones, it is possible that both Jemima Wilson (b. abt. 1805) and Elizabeth Crosby (b. abt. 1809) are related but we can't be sure how.

The children of Elisha Jr. are not well documented. Fortunately, there are not many Vibbert families in New Jersey and, so far, most of them have been related to Elisha Sr.. Elisha Jr.'s two brothers and their children are pretty well-documented so it is possible to assume for research purposes that any other NJ natives in the right age groups belong to Elisha Jr..

William

His family is the best-documented branch, even though he died relatively young, thanks to a long article in Cutter's New England Families. He was baptized 04 July 1784, the last of Elisha's children to be baptized in East Hartford. He was a sea captain and married Priscilla Moore of Salisbury, Connecticut in 1808. He died 19 Dec 1818 leaving his widow with 3 known children, Mary (married William Brown), Julia, born 02 Aug 1811 (married William Wheeler Holmes on 15 Jul 1829), and William Elisha, born 26 Jun 1814 (married Mary Esther Cooke on 11 Nov 1835). William Elisha's sons were William H. (2 adult sons, no issue), George A. (large family raised in the Danbury, CT area) and Howard Cooke (no surviving issue). At least one of the accounts of William's death (in a storm off Sandy Hook, New Jersey) mentions that he left a wife and four children. It also says that his funeral was held at the house of his brother-in-law, Mr. Daniel Corning (see above under Nancy).

William's widow, Priscilla (Moore) Vibbert, married Judah Lee on 21 Aug 1823 in New York City. Judah Lee appears in the New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York census in 1830 and the oldest female in his household is age 40-50 (Priscilla would be about 42). The only other female is age 30-40 which doesn't seem to fit either of her daughters. But 16 year old William Elisha would certainly fit among the 11 young males in the household. Priscilla Moore died in 1839 and is buried in the Trinity Churchyard in New Rochelle along with her daughter, Julia (Vibbert) Holmes. She is not, however, buried as Priscilla Lee but as Priscilla, wife of Capt. William Vibbert. Judah Lee does not appear to be buried in the same cemetery.

1830 Census – New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York

Males of 5 and under 10 - unknown

Males of 10 and under 15 – poss. Edward Vibbert, aged 12 (born 1818)

Males of 10 and under 15 - unknown

Males of 15 and under 20 – poss. William Elisha Vibbert, aged 16 (born 1814)

Males of 15 and under 20 – 4 unknowns

Males of 20 and under 30 – 3 unknowns

Males of 40 and under 50 – Judah Lee, aged 40-50 (born 1780-1790)

Females of 30 and under 40 - unknown

Females of 40 and under 50 – poss. Priscilla (Moore) (Vibbert) Lee, aged 42 (born 1788)

Horace

We don't have a date of birth or baptism for Horace but I have assumed he was born before 1790 for the reasons cited above for his sister Julia. He married Deborah Sharpe on 30 Sep 1817 in Sussex County, New Jersey. Her father, Joseph Sharpe died in 1845 and his will was filed for probate on 14 Oct 1845. At that time his daughter Deborah was deceased but his son-in-law Horace Vibbert is a co-executor and Horace and Deborah's four children Priscilla, Julia, Joseph S. and William Vibbert are mentioned. Horace ("Esq., of Deckertown, N. J.") later married Mrs. Mary A. (Brown) Tryon of New Haven on 8 Jan 1846 but they had no children. She died 21 Mar 1891 and is buried in Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven. Horace probably died between the 1860 and 1870 censuses.

Horace is listed in at least 4 censuses – 1830, 1840 and 1850 (all in Wantage, Sussex County, New Jersey), and 1860 (in Pine Plains, Dutchess County, New York). He is mentioned in several New Jersey local histories as "Dr. Horace Vibbert" but no information is given on whether this is a medical or clerical (or other) title. He is listed as "merchant" in the 1860 census and as a grocer in 1811. Both sons are living with him in 1860. William is unmarried, Joseph Sharpe is married to Emma Loomis Deming (married 30 Sep 1856) with two small children, Mary and Julia (ages 2

and 1), both born in Wisconsin. Their third child and only son Horace D. is born in 1862 and eventually marries and has children in Connecticut.

Horace and Deborah's two daughters also married. Priscilla married John Goble on 20 Nov 1845 and Julia married a physician, Dr. Alexander Linn in 1845, both in Sussex County, New Jersey. Julia and Alexander remained in New Jersey but John and Priscilla moved to New York then, around 1850, to Wisconsin where they remained.

The younger son William was born in about 1830 (he is listed on the 1860 census as age 30). He may be the William B. Vibbert, age 39, enumerated in 1870 with the Hamm family in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York (this family consists of the head, Frederick, Susanna, age 54, Sarahad, age 29, Newton, age 13 and a servant Phoebe Verplank, age 13). If so, he is also the W. B. Vibbert, age 38, born in New Jersey, listed as son-in-law in the household of Susanna Ham in Greene County, Georgia in 1880 along with his son Frank L., age 7. The rest of this family includes the son Newton and his wife and the servant Phoebe so apparently William married the daughter Sarahad who died before the census date. This William B. appears to have remained in Georgia where he remarried a woman named Eugenia Temperance Cox and had two more sons James Horace and Robert Jesse Vibbert before dying on 29 Dec 1892.

The Candidates for children of Elisha Jr.

Based on the fact that there aren't too many Vibberts with New Jersey roots, any stray Vibberts reporting New Jersey birth place or father born in New Jersey need to be considered as possible descendants of Elisha Jr. or possibly of his brother Horace through Horace's son William. So far, we have the following possibilities:

1. Horace B. Vibbert in Louisiana in the 1860 and 1870 censuses, born between 1816-1832 in either New York or New Jersey (the two censuses vary) with wife Eliza Phillips in 1870 and possibly also in 1860 (the enumerator used initials in 1860 and her initial is hard to read).
2. The William Vibbert in Wayne, Steuben County, New York in the 1880 census with wife Joanna. He is age 53 (born in 1827) and born in New Jersey, father in Connecticut.
3. The unknown husband of the widow Elizabeth Vibbert in the 1880 and 1900 census in Chatham, Morris County, New Jersey. Her children's father's birthplace is New Jersey. The youngest child is only 2 in 1880 so I tried looking for them in Chatham in 1870 but was unable to locate them.
4. Mary Vibbert, the "daughter" of Mima Wilson in Bath, Steuben County, New York in 1880, born around 1820.
5. Julia (Vibbert) Longwell, listed in the 1880 census in Bath, Steuben County, New York, born about 1823.
6. The Edward Vibbert buried in Wooster Cemetery, Danbury, Fairfield County, Connecticut, born 21 Jan 1818 in New Jersey, died 14 Jan 1899.

These six (4 males and two females) presumably belong to Elisha Jr. along with the two dead children. The family in 1830 consisted of 3 male and 3 female children so it appears that there is one daughter missing (assuming that the Emily who died in 1832 was born after the 1830 census) and an extra son. It would be easy enough for another female to be missing by marriage or death but the extra males in the candidate group is a little more difficult. Even if we assume that Horace B.'s correct birth date is 1832, so that he would have missed the census, there is still another extra. Perhaps Elizabeth's husband was also born after 1830.

It does not appear that Edward is in the 1830 group at all if his DOB of 1818 is correct. Presumably he is either out of the house already (perhaps apprenticed) or not Elisha's at all. Taking him out of the picture and assuming one other son was born after 1830 seems to fit everyone in as shown below.

One possible alternative explanation for Edward is that he is a son of William and Priscilla (Moore) Vibbert. They were reported in William's obituary to have four children, only three of whom have been documented. Edward was born before William's death in 1919 and he easily fits into the household of Judah Lee in 1830. This might also explain why he moved to CT where William Elisha was also located.

1830 Census – Vernon, Sussex County, New Jersey

Males under 5 years of age – Benjamin, aged 1 (1829)

Males under 5 years of age – poss. William, aged 3 (1827)

Males of 5 and under 10 – Horace B., aged 5 (1825)

Males of 40 and under 50 – Elisha Jr., aged about 49

Females of 5 and under 10 – (--?--), b. 1821-1825, poss. married or dead by 1850

Females of 5 and under 10 – Julia, aged 7 (1823)

Females of 5 and under 10– poss. Mary, aged 9 (1821)

Females of 30 and under 40 – wife of Elisha Jr. (poss. Ann, aged 42)

Born after 1830

Emily, born about 1/1831

(Joseph), husband of Elizabeth, born say 1832 (based on Ann's age of 44)

A Timeline

abt 1751	Elisha born (based on age at death of 47 years)
7/17/1763	Elisha baptized at the church in East Hartford
?	Elisha marries Mary (--?--)
12/29/1776	Elisha owns the covenant at the church in East Hartford
1/5/1777	Elisha's daughter Nancy is baptized at the church in East Hartford
6/27/1779	Elisha's daughter Betsey is baptized at the church in East Hartford
9/23/1781	Elisha's son Elisha, Jr. is baptized at the church in East Hartford
7/4/1784	Elisha's son William is baptized at the church in East Hartford
3/21/1789	Elisha buys property in Hartford from "Caleb Bull and others" (probably Caleb and Michael Bull) who then take back a mortgage
8/2/1790-3/1/1792	Elisha is listed in the 1790 census of Hartford
10/17/1796	The mortgage on the Bull property is paid off (need to verify)
10/31/1796	Elisha leases property to E. Sweetland
12/30/1796	Elisha sells part of the property to Samuel Kilbourn
12/30/1796	Elisha sells part of the property to Michael Bull
7/18/1797	Elisha sells part of the property to Michael Bull
8/8/1798	Elisha dies on Long Island
2/15/1805	Widow Mary Vibbard is granted a life lease for \$1 by Samuel Kilbourn on the property Elisha sold to him in 1796 Note: this deed refers to it as "property lately conveyed to me by Elisha Vibbard, late of Hartford, deceased"
6/28/1807	Mary Vibbert marries Samuel Moore in Salisbury, Litchfield County, CT
11/9/1808	S. and M. Moore (Samuel and Mary?) quitclaim the Bull/Kilbourn property Note: the index says to Horace but this is probably Horace and the other children mentioned in the two transactions below
10/17/1809	The surviving children of Elisha (see below) sell the Bull/Kilbourn property to William Brown
11/4/1809	Samuel Kilbourn quitclaims the property previously leased to Mary to Elisha's surviving children Note: the children listed in the deed are Elisha, William, Horace and Julia Vibbert, Nancy Howard and Betsey Jones
2/20/1810	Samuel Moore dies in Salisbury
8/6/1810-6/6/1811	Widow Moore (age > 45) listed in 1810 census of Salisbury

Possible Research Ideas

1. See if there is any probate file in New York (most likely in Suffolk County or one of the other Long Island counties) for Elisha Sr.
2. Try to locate death certificates for some (or all) of the candidates as children of Elisha, Jr. and Ann – Edward and Horace B. look like the best bets.
3. Look for probate records for Ann Vibbert in Steuben County.
4. Find Elizabeth's family in the 1870 census.
5. Locate the probate (and perhaps related land records) for William Vibbert and more information about the NJ legislature bill for the relief of the heirs of William Vibbert.
6. Get copies of the rest of the Hartford deeds.
7. Check in Salisbury for probate and land records for Samuel and Mary (--?--) (Vibbert) Moore.