

## **Research Summary – James Vibbert, Jr. (last updated 1/25/2008)**

### Some Facts

1. James Vibbard Jr. and wife Mary owned the covenant at the East Hartford church on 05 Oct 1766.
2. George Vibbard, “son of James Jr. and Mary”, was baptized in the same church on 12 Oct 1766.
3. Hannah Vibbard, daughter of James Jr. was baptized in the First Church, East Hartford on 31 Jan 1768.
4. Anne Vibert, daughter of James Jr. was baptized in the First Church, East Hartford on 15 Sep 1771.
5. James Vibert, son of James Jr. was baptized in the First Church, East Hartford on 12 Apr 1772.
6. James Vibert is listed as one of the signatories of the 1772 petition to establish a separate ecclesiastical society (as Orford Parish) in the eastern part of East Hartford. This later became the First Church of Christ, Manchester.
7. Epaphras Vibert, son of James Jr. was baptized in the First Church, East Hartford on 15 May 1774.
8. Hannah Vibbard, daughter of James Jr. was baptized in the First Church, East Hartford on 25 Aug 1776.
9. James Vibbert jun. is included on a list of delinquent taxpayers published in the Hartford Courant on 07 Aug 1786 whose land could be sold at an auction to be held in Orford Parish to pay their taxes.
10. James Vibbert is listed in the 1790 East Hartford census next door but one to David Vibbert but a couple of pages after James Sr., Jesse and John. He has 3 males 16 or older, 3 more under 16 and 4 females in his household.
11. James is listed in the 1800 East Hartford census, again on a different page from James, Eligah, Jesse and John. David has died but the Russell Simons family is on the same page as James Jr. though not as close by as David was. James has 1 male age 10-15, 1 male 16-25, 1 male 45 or over, 4 females under 10, 1 female 16-25 and one female 45 or over.
12. The records of the Manchester church mention that Thomas Vibbart, age 18, died on 03 Feb 1803.
13. James is listed in the 1810 East Hartford census with 1 male 45 or over, 1 female under 10, 1 female 16-25, 1 female 26-44 and 1 female 45 or over.
14. James is listed in the 1820 East Hartford census with one male under 10, one male 45 or over, 1 female 16-25 and 1 female 26-44.
15. The records of the Manchester church mention that James Vibbert, age 70-80 died in 1820.

## Issues

### 1. James Jr.'s parents

James and Mary were married sometime before 05 Oct 1766 and owning the covenant on that date probably marks the birth of their first child, George. So, James could be born as late as, say, 1745. This makes him an excellent fit for the oldest child of James and Dorcas (Dix) Vibert. James Sr. was baptized as an adult on 10 Feb 1743/44 and that could mark an important occasion such as his marriage or the birth of a child.

However, it is also possible that he is a son of John Vibbard, James Sr.'s older brother. There is no mention in the records of James Jr.'s birth or parentage. John and Mary (Arnold) Vibbard had other children in the 1740s and it is also possible that James Jr. was born earlier than that. The title of Jr. does not necessarily imply a father-son relationship; it is often used to merely distinguish the younger of two men with the same name in the same area.

### 2. James' wife or wives

James' wife in 1766 was certainly a woman named Mary. We don't know either her name or age except that she was probably born by about 1746 since she had a child in 1766. The pattern for the first six children seems pretty regular so the most likely scenario is that Mary was the mother of all of them. We don't have a date of death for her either but she could have continued to have children until as late as, say, 1790. But, assuming that Ruth, Thomas and Russell were all James' children and that he had no other children, there is a gap of about 8 years between Hannah (born in 1776) and Ruth (born about 1784). This could indicate that Mary died and James remarried and had three children with his second wife.

Another option I have considered to explain this gap is that those are the years of the Revolutionary War and it is possible that James, as well as his brothers, fought in the war. However, I don't think this is likely for several reasons. First, 8 years is a long time to serve without coming home. Both Timothy and Elisha managed to have children during that period despite serving in the war. And if he did serve for the whole war, it is surprising that no service record or prisoner record at all has turned up for him. Finally, if he did serve it is very surprising that he did not apply for a pension or become eligible for a land grant. He was in reduced enough circumstances in 1786 to be on a list of people whose land was in danger of being auctioned for nonpayment of taxes.

### 3. The younger children

In addition to the six known children of James Jr. (and, presumably, his wife Mary), I have added three others who seem to fit this family. To begin with, a Thomas Vibbard, age 18, died on 03 Feb 1803. This information is in the records of the First Church, Manchester which seems to be the church (Orford Parish) that James Jr. was associated with. Thomas would have been born about 1785 and only Timothy (already in NY), Elisha, David and Jesse had children that early. The 1790 censuses for Elisha, David and Jesse do not indicate a child in this age range but James' does accommodate him.

Second, Russell Vibbert and Sarah Penhallow were married on 14 Sep 1808, also in the Orford Parish church. Russell and Sarah are living next door to James Jr. in the 1810 census. I have found an unsourced IGI record showing Russell's DOB as 26 Nov 1788 which would be consistent with an 1808 marriage and with Sarah Penhallow's DOB in 1791. Finally, a Ruth Vibbard married John Panhollow (aka

John P. Harlow), a brother of Sarah Penhallow, on 18 Aug 1806 in the Orford Parish church.

These three children do not seem to be a part of any other Vib family in the area and they all have ties to James and each other so I have tentatively added them to James' children. Also, (see below), they seem to fit well into the 1790 census picture for James' family but not for any of the other candidate families. At this point there is nothing to indicate whether they had the same mother as the older children but the 8 year gap between Hannah and Ruth does raise the question.

#### 4. The census data

##### a. 1790 Census – East Hartford

This census seems to fit the family as described above perfectly. James Jr. (age, say, 45), George (age about 24) and James III (age about 18) are in the 16 and over group. Epaphras (age about 15), Thomas (age about 5) and Russell (age about 2) are the three under 16 males. The females are Mary (or another wife of James), Anne (age about 19), Hannah (age about 14) and Ruth (age about 6).

##### b. 1800 Census – East Hartford

Things are a little less clear in this census. The two younger boys, Russell (age about 12) and Thomas (age about 16), fit into the 10-15 and 16-25 age groups respectively and James Jr., age about 55, is in the 45 and over group. His wife is also in the 45 and over group and Ruth, age 16-17, is in the 16-25 group.

However, there are four female children in the under 10 age group who don't seem to belong to James. Furthermore, all of the older children seem to be missing. If George is the George who shows up in Kentucky in the 1810, then he is already there and married. But James III and Epaphras also don't show up until the 1810 yet they don't seem to be with James. Either or both of them could be married but living with their spouses' families (and there are some indications that James III might have had a pre-1800 marriage before marrying Rebekah Abbe in 1802). Marriage could also explain the absence of the two older girls, Anne and Hannah.

##### c. 1810 Census – East Hartford

This census has only one male, James himself, now aged about 65. The female aged 45 and over is probably his wife. There are three other females, all unknown. One is aged under 10, another is 16-25 and the third 26-44. George (the KY one), James III, Epaphras, Russell and Ruth are all enumerated with their families and Thomas died in 1803. The oldest unknown could be either Anne or Hannah, widowed, and one of the four females under 10 in 1800 could be the 16-25 year old and the under 10 could be a child of the widow but its only speculation.

##### d. 1820 Census – East Hartford

This census is the last one for James. He must have died soon after the enumeration and seems to be aged 75-80. Since 1800 he has acquired an unidentified male under 10. It looks like he has also lost his wife since the oldest female is in the 26-45 age group. This could either be Hannah, age 44, or the 16-25 year old in the 1810 census. It is probably not Anne who would be around 49. Likewise, the female in the 16-26 range could be one of the under 10 year olds in 1800. Another alternative might be that he remarried a younger woman (age 16-44) who already had a son and daughter. Again, there is no way of knowing who these people are.

## Conclusions

1. Based on the evidence, I think that James was probably the father of all nine of the children I've attributed to him but I think that most likely his first wife Mary was not the mother of Ruth, Thomas or Russell.
2. I think it is an even bet whether James Jr. belongs to James Sr. or John but I'm leaving him with James Sr. for the time being.

## Summary

James Vibbert Jr. was probably born around 1744 although it could have been earlier. My working hypothesis is that he was the oldest son of James and Dorcas (Dix) Vibert. However, there is some room for the theory that he was the son of James Sr.'s brother John Vibbard and his wife Mary Arnold. James Jr. apparently married around 1765 and his first son, George was baptized in East Hartford on 12 October 1766.

James' wife Mary has not yet been identified but the couple had at least six children between 1766 and 1776. These children were all christened at the First Church, East Hartford. Then starting about 1784, three additional children were probably born to James, although it is not clear if their mother was also Mary or if she had died and James remarried. There are no birth or christening records for these three children but they seem to fit better into James' 1790 family than those of the other Vibbs in the area.

Based on the census records and on the fact that he was a signer of a 1772 petition to create a new church for that area of what was then all Hartford, James probably lived in the Orford Parish section of East Hartford (later Manchester). Perhaps that explains the lack of records – the early Manchester church records are not very complete and sometime muddled.

James appears in the 1790-1820 censuses and apparently died in 1820 just after that census was taken. The note in the First Church, Manchester records does not provide a month or day. There is no record of his wife's date of death but she seems to have died between 1810 and 1820.

## Research Ideas

1. One area for further research is land records. That probably means searching Hartford, East Hartford and Manchester since it is possible there are records in any of the three – although Hartford and East Hartford (incorporated 1783) seem more likely than Manchester which was not incorporated until 1823.
2. A related idea is to start collecting associates – people he lived near, etc. so I can keep an eye out for his wives. One slightly odd thing is the New London connection with two of his apparent children marrying Penhallows and one of Russell's children marrying Dudley Snow. How did they get to know each other?
3. Also, I need to see if there are any tax records available – again from Hartford, East Hartford and maybe Manchester.