

Section 1: Introduction

Major claims made:

- Probably the greatest biblical scholar of all the early divines. Others wrote more books, only Sam Newman was one who wrote and published a concordance, not 1 but four (in 1643, 1650, 1658, 1662) used until 1737.
- Very little written about Sam Newman, and most of what is written is wrong.
- This manuscript documents interactions and views between Roger Williams, John Winthrop, Jr. and Samuel Newman.
- He was the first minister of a new plantation at Seekonk, later called Rehoboth. Rehoboth was the only town to be settled by men almost exclusively from the Mass Bay colony. Ergo, the history of Rehoboth can be told through the town records of the men from Weymouth, Braintree, Hingham from these towns were practically all the inhabitants who comprised the 1643 settlement at Seekonk.¹

Section 2: English Ancestry (1602-1635)

Samuel was baptized in 1602, went to college 1616 and received BA from Oxford in 1620. Samuel² was born at Banbury 6 July 1625 and that year the family moved 120 miles north to Eccesfield to become curate of the chapel at Midhope, also mentions churches at Sheffield & Midhope.

Chronology lists births of Antipas, Patience, Noah (all born at Midhope, parish of Ecclesfield, Co. York).

Section 3: Arrival at Dorchester (1636-1638)

Samuel arrives at Dorchester in 1637 during a period when the whole of New England was in upheaval - - a war with the Pequots and Boston and the surrounding Bay towns in more of a turmoil with the Anne Hutchinson religious dissensions that rocked the infant Bay Colony only 7 years old. Rogers Williams was tried in October 1635 and planned to be deported back to England - - he fled from Salem across the Pawtucket River (now Seekonk River) and founded the town of Providence which became a refuge for many other Mass Bay inhabitants with similar religious views.

Anne Hutchinson Antinomian and Familist beliefs were also causing troubles.

He goes into details on the founders of the Dorchester church ministers Wm Thompson, George Moxon (and wife) Samuel Newman (and wife) and enumerates the number of members from 1636 to 1639.

Section 4. Removal to Weymouth (1638-1643)

On 30 Jan 1638/9 a church was gathering at Weymouth and Mr. Samuel Newman was installed as pastor. This church has formed previously and “could not hold together nor could have any elders join or hold with them.

Then details troubles before Newman.... Covers a controversy of the attempted appointment of Mr Lenthall as minister because he had “drank some of Mrs Hutchinson’s opinions” with extensive details on the discussions and meetings. Mentions of Capt Stoughton, John Wilson, John Cotton, Zachariah Symmes,

¹ Seekonk Wikipedia has slightly different version: Three of the earliest English men to settle in the area now known as Seekonk and Providence were [William Blackstone](#), [Roger Williams](#) and [Samuel Newman](#). These men and their followers proved it was possible to provide a living away from the coastal areas.

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Rev Richard Mather and others (it is noted that many of these men were leaders in the church trial of Anne Hutchinson). He provides an analysis of how many times each man spoke (e.g., Cotton 27 times, Wilson 10, etc.) at the examination of Lenthall and contrasts how many times the same men spoke at Anne Hutchinson’s trial (page 19).

13 Mar 1638/9 Samuel Newman takes oath of freeman of Mass Bay Colony. Five others who would also migrate to Rehoboth took the oath that day (including Joseph Peck and William Palmer).

Provides an analysis of Samuel Newman’s 12 abutting neighbors in Weymouth, and notes that six went to Rehoboth with Newman and three of these were members of the first board of Townsmen to run the new plantation at Seekonk (Robert³ Martin, William² Smith and Richard¹ Bowen) – page 26.

2 Jan 1643/4 – Mr Thomas Thatcher was ordained as Newman’s successor.

Section 5: Life at Rehoboth (1644-1649)

Mr Newman drew his home lot in the first division, being 12 acres lying on the west side of the town (1643). On what is now Greenwood ave, Rumford, RI near the Phanael Bishop house.² He details the next three land divisions w.r.t. Newman and building allocations food rations (a bushel of corn). In 1643 he published his Concordance in London.

“The people of Rehoboth were a queer mix of people.” Newman had been the fourth minister for five years and the church was seething with discontent. He concludes that perhaps many of the “discordant elements” went with Newman to Rehoboth (p 29). Newman’s successor in Weymouth lasted 20 years. Mentions seven Newman letters all printing in this book.

4 June 1645 -- The court passed an act that “Seacunck be called Rehoboth” (page 30-h).

He profiles several people using letters between Samuel Newman, Roger Williams, John Winthrop and John Winthrop, jr. (page 31). One was William Cheesborough who was a member of Newman Church who illegally repaired firearms for Indians and assaulted an Indian. He was arrested in Rehoboth for “breach of imprisonment in flying to a foreign government and leaving this.” Major Nehemiah Bourne is also profiled in the same way with many details about his life in England and Massachusetts and many details about ships that he built and sailed.

Section 6: Rehoboth Church Dissentions (1649-)

In June 1649 the first record of dissention in Mr. Newman’s church between he and Obadiah Holmes, leader of the Baptist faction which was about 50% of the church (page 44). Newman held things together through his life but later these people formed Swansea. Obadiah charged Newman with slander. Lots of court records. These troubles led to a 1650 law from general court voted “that whoever shall hereafter set up any churches or public meetings diverse from those already set up and approved without the consent and approbacon (sic) of the government...shall be suspended from having any voice in towne meeting and be presented to the next general court to receue (sic) such punishment as the court shall think to inflict” (page 51).

Roger Williams writes a letter to John Winthrop, Jr about the Baptist practice of “dipping” that it is happening in Seekonk, he supports it but wonders about the precise practice, and worries about potential prosecutions.

A court action is described showing the split: Obadiah Holmes, William Carpenter, Joseph Torry against: Mr Newman, Deacon Thomas Cooper, Steven Paine Sr, deputy & townsman, Robert Sharpe (son-in law to Richard Wright), surveyor of highways, Jonathan Bliss, Thomas Wilmarth and William Sabin (son in law

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to Richard Wright(, the miller, all of Congregational Christ Church of Rehoboth). Frame Holmes, these people lied for Newman (page 52).

A footnote contains the only times directly names Samuel Newman versus just naming Seekonk/Rehoboth. (page 52).

More court issues of Samuel Newman lying about Holmes. “All these Baptists left Rehoboth for Newport and Providence, except John Hazell (page 53).

Section 7: John Brown sues Samuel Newman

July 1651 Holmes sentenced to be whipping for having a meeting with Dr John Clarke.... Whipped in Sept at the whipping post in Boston common.

RLB had a chapter on “Ausauregins deed of Sowams” but it appears to be only two pages and immediately reverts to the John Brown drama.

29 March 1653 - transcription of long deed from Osamequin and Wamsetto to Thomas Prence, Thomas Willet, Myles Standish, and Josiah Winslow. Describes “several parcels and necks of upland swamps and meadows lyeing and being on south side of Sinkcunke Els (sic)....” (page 56).

Court records to compel residents to contribute money to Rehoboth ministries (pages 57-62).

Section 8: John Brown guarantees Rehoboth Rate

Lengthy discussion on John Browne’s decision to guarantee the payments of the smaller taxpayers not on the petition (a two page footnote goes into details...page 63).

Section 9: Antipas Newman’s Courtship and Marriage

Newman to Winthrop letters about courtship of John Winthrop, Jr.’s daughter Elizabeth to Newman’s son Antipas “Relationship on the rocks” (page 68). Newman buys land from Alice Bradford, widow of William Bradford, senir. @ sowamns and Mattapoissett (page 71).

Feb 1654 - Letter from Roger William to Winthrop transcribed: Mr. Richard Parker breaks leg passing from Prudence Island to Seekonk (page 79)....Roger Williams bought Prudence Island for 20 fathoms of wampum and 2 coats... lots of details on Parker (page 83).

William Paine dies and his son John causes big issues for RI - “a most unexpected and spectacular invasion of the rights of the colony of RI in 1672” (page 84). The council of Plymouth had granted many worthless grants overlaying others.... John Paine, with help from the Duke of York, becomes the Independent Governor of the Colony of Prudence Island”. Backfired and he was arrested and put in jail 6 Sept 1672. Indicted under law of 1658 for “attempting to bring in a foreign jurisdiction” and found guilty.

21 Oct 1661 letter from Newman to Winthrop, jr. who had gone to England to get the charter for Connecticut. The letter discusses Mrs Winthrop’s visit to his house (page 88).

Newman makes his will 18 Nov 1661.

Section 10: Death of Samuel Newman

Samuel Newman dies 5 July 1663 (pp. 91-92).

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There is a review of writings about Newman (page 94). The first one was six years after Newman’s death. Then Cotton Mather wrote one 39 years later pp 95-103. Contentious. Savage, only 6 lines of truth.

Chronology resumes with town records Sept 1663 (page 104) – Newman estate items, many items related to Newman’s death, marriage of Hopestill² Newman, and John Myles admitted to town and allowed to preach. Noah Newman gets house and takes on ministry (14 May 1669). 1671-1673 – bills for John Miller sweeping the meeting house. Discussion of Robert Fullers wife who was killed by Indians and proof that they did not burn down her house.

Final town record of 2 May 1689 of Samuel² Newman getting married for second time (page 118); final record being Samuel² Newman purchased between 3 and 4 acres of land west of John Suttons.

Section 11: Will and Inventory of Samuel Newman

This has a 5 page will and inventory. The inventory is deemed important because it gives a clearer summary of Newman’s social status than any other document in existence.

It ends with a handwritten note on the 6 children stating this are covered in subsequent chapters.

2. i. Samuel²
3. ii. Noah
4. iii. Antipas
5. iv. Patience [Spearhawk]
6. v. Hannah [Peck]
7. vi. Hopestill [Shove]

Section 12: Samuel² Newman [46 pages].

This section has 46 pages and contains 95 documented Town entries that cover the first 19 pages. The documented areas also cover the intersection of the lives of Samuel¹ and Samuel² - - the first Town entry is from 6 Dec 1659, five years before Samuel¹ died. He was very involved in the affairs of Rehoboth:

- Elected constable of Rehoboth 6 May 1664
- Elected Grand Juryman 1 May 1667
- Laid out North Purchase lands 1 Mar 1668/9.
- “Deacon Samuel Newman was Representative from Town of Swanzey (1692).

He had many documented interactions with Samuel Sewall (The Judge from Salem) visited Samuel Newman Sept 1705 (page 8b). Sewall dines with Sam Newman in Bristol (page 9b/19). Samuel Sewall records the death of Samuel Newman 14 Dec 1710 “Mr Samuel Newman of Rehoboth dies; he sat in one court as a Justice of the peace; was a very good man: he dined with us at Smith’s ship/Tavern as we were coming home.”

The children are now mentioned in genealogical format on Page 20. However, in the remainder of this section there are many people who get extensive coverage of documented events:

- Deacon Samuel³ Newman (1662/3 – 1747) was “important man to the affairs of Rehoboth” (page 22-25).
- Sarah Newman married Joseph Avery who became teacher at Rehoboth (page 27-31).
- Sam⁴ Newman and John⁴ Newman one full page each.

I estimate there are about 30 pages of documented events related to Rehoboth and about 15 pages on genealogy. Given the size of this project I would not recommend cutting these 15 pages in the spirit of eliminating genealogy information.

Section 13: Noah² Newman [49 pages].

This chapter covers **NOAH² NEWMAN** (1631-1678) who married **JOANNA FLINT** (daughter of Rev. Henry Flint who was first teacher of the Church of Braintree in 1639).

Noah² Newman was ordained the minister of the church at Rehoboth March 1668 and held that position to his death 16 April 1678. This chapter is very important to the story of Samuel¹ Newman of Rehoboth - - after Samuel's death about half the church broke off and founded Swansea and the First Baptist Church, while Noah² remained behind and led the Rehoboth for another decade. The chapter is rich in documented events, transcriptions of many letters (Peter Hunt, Nathaniel Thomas, Rev. John Cotton, etc. (over 20 pages of letters with lots of details of troubles with Indians), and his will and inventory.

The genealogical section is barely half a page since he had only one child who lived to adulthood, Henry, who was a librarian at Harvard and then moved to London. This chapter found an obscure reference to determine that Henry never returned to America and died in London.³ Henry had no children so there are no descendants from this line.

Section 14: Antipas² Newman [35 pages].

This chapter covers **ANTIPAS² NEWMAN** (1627-1672) who married **ELIZABETH WINTHROP** (daughter of John Winthrop, Jr., Governor of Connecticut) and contains 35 pages of double spaced text.

First 17 pages are documented events on Antipas (41 documented town entries on 10 pages, 4 pages on his estate inventory and issues, and GS inscriptions). Antipas would become the second minister of the church at Wenham mass. His father-in-law John Winthrop, Jr. had a role in placing Antipas in that role. There is also a family theme of “holding churches together” which is what Samuel¹ did in Rehoboth for two decades and what the church in Wenham needed. References to Judge Sewall and a story of Thomas² Bowen and Antipas going to visit Gov Winthrop in Connecticut. I have been in touch with the Wenham Church historian who gave me a privately printed book that has chapters on: “Enter Antipas Newman,” and “Second Generation II: John Newman.”⁴

There are a vast number of documented events around the line of “John” Newmans: Doctor John³ Newman [5 pages], John⁴ (1686-1755) [3 pages doc events], and finally John⁵ Newman died at Edgartown 1 Dec 1763 in his 43rd year and “with his death the male Antipas² Newman line became extinct (p. 30).”

This chapter covers **PATIENCE² NEWMAN** (1629-1690) who married **NATHANIEL SPARHAWK**. My current copy has 30 pages marked 7c-35c. Page 7c starts with the first three children [2. i. Samuel; 3. ii Antipas; iii. Patience] of Samuel¹ Newman and then goes into detail on “iii. Patience.” Pages 1c-6c are the will in Section 11.

Section 15: Patience² Newman Sparhawk [30 pages].

PATIENCE² NEWMAN (1629-1690) married Nathaniel Sparhawk 3 Oct 1649. He was the son of Deacon Nathaniel¹ Sparhawk of Cambridge and a Deacon at their Church (he was a significant land owner in Cambridge: five houses and 500 acres of land.). Nathaniel² would be Deacon of the same Church.

³ “The Lost Dukedom, or the story of Pierrepoint Claim,” by James Kingsley Blake, Published in the Papers of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, Volume 7, 1908.

⁴ “Pillars of Perseverance: The Fiskes and the Newmans: Building a Church , Building a Town,” by Edward Brown. Beverly, Mass., 2007.

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Although Patience had moved to Cambridge, there are many linkages in her story back to Rhode Island (e.g., her son Rev. John Sparhawk become the minister in Bristol that is described in 6 pages of documented events including journal entries of Samuel Sewall.

There is an important theme emerging that is directly related to Samuel¹ Newman: his personal and family connections to churches across New England: Noah² remaining minister in Rehoboth, Patience² in Cambridge, and Antipas² in Wenham, and his frequent contacts with Samuel Sewall and John Winthrop, Jr. For that reason I would retain this chapter since it will make the book more valuable to people who want to study New England religion in the 1600’s.

Section 16: Hannah² Newman Peck [96 pages].

This chapter covers **HANNAH² NEWMAN**, who married **JOSEPH² PECK** (1623-1705) The boldest claim in this chapter is that “until now” (circa 1945) “the maiden name of Hannah Peck was not known nor was it known that she was the daughter of Rev. Samuel Newman.”

It begins with a 12 page summary of his father **JOESPH¹ PECK [ROBERT, ROBERT]** (1587-1663) covering all documented events from Rehoboth and other town records and estate inventory.

This chapter is rich in historical events as told through the characters, examples include:

- **JATHNIEL³ PECK** (1660-1742) married **SARAH SMITH² NEWMAN**. This has lots of details on church history – he donated land for a meeting house at Palmer River, one mile from fathers farm on what is now Lake Street in Rehoboth. There is a claim that this donation ultimately led to a split in East /West Rehoboth in 1812. Contains details of location and transcription of GS. This section covers details of their 14 children and will expand upon one grandson, **JOHN⁵ PECK**.
- **CAPT SAMUEL³ PECK** (1672-1736) married **RACHEL** ----. This section provides more details on the Palmer River house being torn down in 1773 and the “yellow meeting house” being built in Rehoboth Village center on common land called Redway Plains (this was torn down and current village church built in 1839). There are 6 pages of life details. He tells a story of finding his grave stone in 1935 and took his son “Richard, jr.” (16 years old) and they washed the stone with acid to reveal the details - - it was carved by “G. Allen, sculptor” and the paper contains the complete transcription of the GS.
- **HANNAH⁴ PECK** (1697-1730) was the great-grand-daughter of Rev. Samuel Newman. She married her cousin **NICHOLAS PECK**, who was part of the RI counterfeiting ring and in 1716 he arrested and jailed in Newport, Rhode Island. 4 pages describe the counterfeiting (this may have gone into his later book on the subject) and 2 pages on documented events.

Section 17: Hopesstill² Newman Shove [37 pages].

HOPESTILL² NEWMAN (1641-1673/4) married Rev. George Shove. Family tradition says that he was at Rehoboth as a theology student of Rev Samuel Newman and worked on Newman’s concordance. Shove became the third minister of Church of Taunton 16 Nov 1665. A description of a letter from John Cotton to Increase Mather referring to Mr Shove’s criticism of William Hubbard’s History of King Phillips Ware printed in London, 1677. Judge Samuel Sewall records Shove’s death in his diary. Description of his will.

Although this daughter moved to Taunton, reasons to include this chapter include the religious connections to Samuel Newman and some Rhode Island topics:

- It is thought that George Shove came to Rehoboth as a theology student of Rev Samuel Newman and worked on Newman’s concordance.
- **SETH³** (1667-1735). There are eight pages of details on Seth, many of them revolve around his close relationship with Judge Samuel Sewall. Three years after the death of his mother, nine year

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old Seth Newman was taken to live with Sewall where he lived for 11 years until after his graduation from Harvard in 1687. Henry³ Newman, son of Noah², also lived with Sewall. He later became the first settled minister at Danbury, Conn, in 1696, and served for 30 years. There is a description of probate records and inscription of his gravestone in Danbury. It briefly describes his 6 children (with 2 wives) and 8 grandchildren.

- EDWARD³ (1680-1746). Lengthy (6 pages) on his life: attorney, Representative from Dighton, involved with peace negotiations with Indians in 1725 by Gov. Dummer, in 1730 was on a commission to settle to RI/Mass boundary line, 1731 worked on border of NH/Mass. Includes inventory of his estate.