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Samuel Newman, a forgotten Rhode Island Founder, and Richard¹ Bowen.

Nicholas S. Bowen
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Samuel Newman is clearly recognized as the founder of Rehoboth, Massachusetts but a serious study of Newman would include large portion of Rhode Island since in 1645 Rehoboth included land in the present day towns of Cumberland, Woonsocket, Pawtucket, North Attleboro, Attleboro, East Providence, Seekonk, Barrington, Warren, Swansea and Somerset.¹ The original meeting house in Rehoboth was located in the middle of Newman Avenue (Rumford, Rhode Island) facing the present day Newman Church.²

Very little has been written about Newman. The ODNB entry for Newman says that biographical information on Newman is “extremely scarce” and says “whether he married or had children does not appear to be recorded.”³ Patrick Conley wrote a brief synopsis of Newman in “Rhode Island Founders” and he points out that Newman did not receive as much acclaim as other Rhode Island founders because “his village at Rumford was outside the boundaries of Rhode Island until the state annexed East Providence in 1862.”⁴ Rhode Island Historical Society has a collection on the Newman Church records.⁵ Erhardt wrote a short summary of Newman’s life.⁶ The Newman Cemetery, also known as the Old Rehoboth Cemetery, has been surveyed at least twice and has 54 Bowen and 18 Newman grave stones.^{7,8}

Newman was the minister at Rehoboth for two decades (from the establishment of Seacunk in 1643 to his death in 1663) and he and his church are deeply connected

¹ “Early Rehoboth, Volume I,” by Richard LeBaron Bowen, Privately Printed, Rehoboth, Massachusetts, 1945, folded map between pp. 22 & 23.

² “Early Rehoboth, Volume IV,” by Richard LeBaron Bowen, Privately Printed, Rehoboth, Massachusetts, 1950, page 39. There is a detailed map showing the locations (he notes “for the first time”) of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd meeting in reference to the present day Church. A note to future archeologists: Newman Avenue paved over the first three locations. Hereafter, ER4.

³ <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/20024>

⁴ “Rhode Island’s Founders,” The History Press, 2010, pp. 47-49.

⁵ RIHS MSS 584 “Newman Congregational Church Records” is 3.5 linear feet. Box 1, folder 1 is Clerk’s book, 1693-1783. Minutes, vital records, etc. <http://www.rihs.org/mssinv/Mss584.htm> The Newman Baptism records appear in Arnold’s RIVR 9:493-527 which may have been sourced from “Baptisms, from Rehoboth Church Records,” transcribed by Elisha L. Turner, NEHGR, 15(1861):67-72.

⁶ “Rev. M^r Samuel Newman 1602-1663: Pastor & Teacher,” by Dr. John G. Erhardt, Seekonk, Mass, 1979. 60 pages. CS71.N565 1979x [available at RIHS Library].

⁷ “The Old Rehoboth Cemetery “The Ring of the Town” at East Providence, Rhode Island Near Newman’s Church,” Number IX, by Marion Pearce Carter, 1932 [available at RIHS Library]

⁸ “Gravestone Records of Old Rehoboth Massachusetts. Newman Cemetery (Now Rumford, R.I.), Compiled by Robert S. Trim, 1978/9 [available at RIHS].

to at least two well documented Baptist events: Obadiah Holmes departure to Newport and the carve-out of Swansea from Rehoboth after Newman's death. These stories are often rich in detail on events outside Rehoboth but often have scant details on Newman and the events within Rehoboth. A recent article on John Crandall, Holmes and others article mentions Newman's name only once and no events inside Rehoboth.⁹ A contemporary story by John Clark in 1652 that focused on persecution only mentioned Newman three times and those were in a letter he printed from Obadiah Holmes to the Governor of Massachusetts.¹⁰

In Richard LeBaron Bowen's (hereafter, "RLB" for clarity) last book in the Early Rehoboth series, published in 1950, the inside jacket lists four books in preparation including the "Life of Rev. Samuel Newman."¹¹ A letter he wrote to Allyn Forbes (at the Mass Historical Society) boasting about his book sheds some light on his plans:¹²

"I am writing a complete life of Rev. Samuel Newman and his children, carrying most of his sons down to the point the lines become extinct. I am working directly from source material.... Samuel Newman was a very important early New England divine, and while the lives of many of the really lesser men have been written, little has been about Newman, and practically nothing about his family - - and most of that is wrong, including Savage."

He goes on to mention several areas of focus for the book including the Winthrop family, Judge Samuel Sewall (related several different ways), Obadiah Holmes (who he reminds us was the leader of half of Newman's Rehoboth Church), and finally he plans to debunk the marvelous death as recited by people like Cotton Mather.

I recently inherited all of Richard LeBaron Bowen (my grandfather) research papers. After several years of combing through the papers I was able to reconstruct a near final manuscript on the Life of Samuel Newman.¹³ Assembling the manuscript was an arduous task since short fragments were scattered through many folders and envelopes. A breakthrough came when I discovered a

⁹ "John Crandall (part two): Stepping Forward," by Judith Crandall Harbold and Cherry Fletcher Bamburg, RI Roots, Volume 44, No. 2, June 2018, pp.87-109.

¹⁰ "ILL NEWS FROM NEW ENGLAND," by John Clark, Printed by Henry Hills, London, 1652.

¹¹ "Early Rehoboth, Volume IV," by Richard LeBaron Bowen, Privately Printed, Rehoboth, Massachusetts, 1950.

¹² Letter in possession of the author, dated 28 Feb 1943.

¹³ The manuscript is approximately 450 pages and our intention is to publish this as a book. References will be: *Newman MSS, Chapter Name, page*. In addition to the manuscript there are 16 linear inches of files, Photostats & transcription of many Winthrop letters and two concordances.

handwritten note, dated 18 Sept 1955, with proposed chapter summarizes and page counts.

Since I have opened a 70 year old time capsule I wanted to test the veracity of the work against the most recent and rigorous genealogical work I could find. I decide to use the three volume study of the descendants of Richard¹ Bowen who was one of the founders of Rehoboth with Newman and had also been in Weymouth with him. This exercise cross references all names in the Newman manuscript that also appear in Saxbe's recent series on Richard¹ Bowen.^{14,15,16} against the Newman manuscript. This included approximately 30 names across the three volumes that covered 60 pages of text. Since the manuscript is not yet indexed we did not attempt to trace all Bowen's in the manuscript back to Saxbe.

The longest chapter in the manuscript covers **HANNAH² NEWMAN**, who married **JOSEPH² PECK** (1623-1705).¹⁷ 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." This clears up a detail that was missed as recently as 2011 when it was written:

Richard³ Bowen (*Richard², Richard¹*) married at Rehoboth 28 Feb 1690/1 **Patience Peck**, who was born at Rehoboth 11 Oct 1669 and died there 21 August 1746, daughter of Joseph and Hannah (____) Peck.¹⁸

This is a big deal for the Richard³ Bowen and Joseph² Peck line's who can now claim they descend from Samuel¹ Newman.

The chapter is rich in detail with 12 pages each on the documented events of Joseph¹ Peck (1587-1663) and Joseph² Peck (1623-1705) lives. The manuscript divulges some of his investigative techniques when he describes taking "Richard, Jr" in 1935 to the grave of Capt Samuel³ Peck (1762-1736) and "washed it with acid" to reveal the details (a complete transcription is in the manuscript).¹⁹

Richard & Patience Bowen's first son, Christopher, marries Rebecca Whitaker who was born 31 March 1699 and is assigned parents of Nathaniel & Mehitabel

¹⁴ "Richard Bowen (1594?-1675), of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and his descendants: Volume I – Generations 1-3," William B. Saxbe, Jr., Rhode Island Genealogical Society, 2011.

¹⁵ "Richard Bowen (1594?-1675), of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and his descendants: Volume II – Generation 4," William B. Saxbe, Jr., Rhode Island Genealogical Society, 2013.

¹⁶ "Richard Bowen (1594?-1675), of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and his descendants: Volume III – Generation 5," William B. Saxbe, Jr., Rhode Island Genealogical Society, 2015. *Hereafter, Saxbe Volume:Page.*

¹⁷ *Newman MSS, Hannah² Newman [Peck] Chapter*, 96 pages.

¹⁸ Saxbe, 1:286.

¹⁹ *Newman MSS, Hannah Peck*, 54 (note: This was 16 year old father with my grandfather).

(Peck) Whitaker.²⁰ Her parents are actually Nathaniel & Elizabeth (Squire) Whitaker. Nathaniel Whitaker & Elizabeth Squire married 14 May 1687 and recorded 8 births from the first on 1 March 1689 (Nathaniel, Jr), to Rebeka, their 6th child born 31 March 1699 to the last born 14 April 1703.²¹ The proof of the pudding is that Nathaniel Whitaker and Mehitabel Peck filed intentions 1696/7 ten years after Rebecca's oldest sibling was born.²²

Richard & Patience's seventh son, Richard, b. 19 June 1702, Saxbe has "d. young" and the manuscript has 11 July 1703.²³

Two of Richard & Patience's grandchild have death dates of 10 May 1736 (Zerviah Bowen) and 6 May 1736 (Amos Bowen) should both be June.²⁴

Anne⁴ Newman, daughter of David & Hannah (Kendrick) Newman.²⁵

Anne⁴ Newman married two Bowen cousins. She was born at Rehoboth 7 April 1705 and died at an unknown time after she co-signed a deed with her second husband at Killingly, Conn., 4 April 1769. We first lay out the pertinent details in Saxbe and then follow with the manuscript.

121. Ebenezer⁴ Bowen (*Richard³, Thomas², Richard¹*) was the sixth child and third child of Richard and Mercy (Titus) Bowen. He was born at Rehoboth 23 Aug 1699 and died there 5 September 1732. He married, 17 June 1724, Anne Newman.

Children of Ebenezer and Anne (Newman) Bowen:

- i. AMEY⁵BOWEN, b. 10 Sept. 1726; m. ELEAZER FITCH.
- ii. CALEB BOWEN, b. 7 Aug 1729; m. (1) THANKFUL ____, (2) LUCY KIRK.

104. **Richard⁴ Bowen** (*Richard³, Richard², Richard¹*) was the eighth child and sixth son of Richard and Patience (Peck) Bowen. He was born at Rehoboth 24 March 1703/4 and died, possibly at Killingly, Conn., after 6 Dec 1770. He married Anne Newman 8 March 1736/7. There was no estate record for Richard or Anne in Connecticut.

Children (possible) of Richard and Anne (Newman) (Bowen) Bowen.

- i. EBENEZER⁵BOWEN, b. about 1738; m. MARTHA YOUNG.

²⁰ Saxbe, 2:391.

²¹ Arnold's Rehoboth Vital Records, 395, 766. Hereafter, *Rehoboth VRs*.

²² *Rehoboth VRs*, 511.

²³ Saxbe, 1:289, 2:680 [errata].

²⁴ Saxbe, 2:401-2. This was detected by comparing the manuscript. *Rehoboth VRs*, 800 has the dates as June.

²⁵ Saxbe, 2:413-416 (104. Richard⁴); 2:551-552 (121. Ebenezer⁴).

- ii. SYLVIA BOWEN⁵, b. about 1750; m. OZIEL SAYLE.

The manuscript has **Anne⁴ Newman** (*David³, Samuel², Samuel¹*), b. 7 April 1705; m. (1) at Rehoboth, 17 June 1724, Ebenezer⁴ Bowen, b. at Rehoboth 23 Aug 1699, d. there 5 Sept 1732, age 33 years, 13 days (gravestone), son of Dr. Richard³ and Mercy (Titus) Bowen. Widow Anne Bowen m. (2) 8 March 1736/7 (Rev. John Greenwood officiating), Richard⁴ Bowen, Jr., b. at Rehoboth 24 Mar 1703/4, son of Richard³ and Patience (Peck) Bowen, her first husband's cousin, and was living in the Town of Providence, Rhode Island, as mentioned in her step-mother's will dated 14 April 1753.²⁶

Children by her first husband:

- i. AMICA⁵, b. 10 Sept 1726.
- ii. CALEB, b. 7 Aug 1729; perhaps the Caleb who married Lucy Kirk at Providence, R.I. 9 Nov 1760.
- iii. ELIJAH, b. 27 Sept 1731.

The differences between the manuscript and Saxbe:

- New: Anne (Newman) Bowen is in Providence 14 April 1753
- New: Addition third child of Elijah for the first marriage.
- Manuscript does not have any children for the second marriage (Saxbe says the children are “probable” – I assume the children are real, but the antecedent is probable).
- Nit: different spelling of first child (Amica versus Amey).
- Finally, Saxbe has an entry in the index for Sarah (Beverly) Newman but on page 415 there is no occurrence of the word “Beverly.” The next paragraph clarifies that Sarah Beverly was the third wife of Anne's father who is:²⁷

David³ Newman (*Samuel², Samuel¹*), born at Rehoboth 1 Nov 1664, died there 17 Feb 1747/8. He married, first, at Rehoboth 8 Oct 1696, Hannah Kendrick of Newtowne, Mass, probably born 5 Aug 1670, died at Rehoboth 8 April 1718, probably Hannah the daughter of Elijah² and Hannah (Jackson) Kendrick. He married, secondly, at Newtowne, 18 June 1719, Hannah (Cheney) Wiswall, died at Rehoboth, 3 Jan 1730/31, widow of Thomas³ Wiswall. He married thirdly, at Rehoboth, 3 Jan 1731/2, Sarah Beverly of Rehoboth, Rev. David Turner officiating.

²⁶ *Newman MSS, Samuel² Newman Chapter, 32.*

²⁷ *Newman MSS, Samuel² Newman Chapter, 30.*

Preserved Able²⁸, husband of **Sarah³ Bowen** (*Richard², Richard¹*) witnessed an agreement between the brothers Samuel and David Newman 1711.²⁹ There are only two brothers that would fit the bill, David³ Newman and his brother:

Deacon **Samuel³ Newman** (*Samuel², Samuel¹*), born in Rehoboth 21 Feb 1662/3, died there 25 June 1747. He married at Cambridge, 2 May 1689, Hannah Bunker, of Cambridge, born at Malden, Mass in Oct 1656; died at Rehoboth 20 Sept 1752, daughter of John² and Hannah³ (Mellows) Bunker.³⁰ The manuscript contains eight pages of details on his life, genealogy down to his grandchildren, his will, and gravestones. He was an important person in the affairs of Rehoboth and regionally (e.g., Judge Samuel Sewall arrived at his house on horseback “just before sunset” on 17 Sept 1720).

Using the date of David³ Newman’s death (25 June 1747), we can link him to three other Saxbe references:

1. Uriel⁴ Bowen (*Richard³, Richard², Richard¹*) witnessed the will of David³ Newman at Rehoboth 17 March 1747.³¹
2. James Clay appraised the estates of David³ Newman and John Newman in 1748. He was married to Lydia Walker who was a granddaughter of **Sarah³ Bowen** (*Richard², Richard¹*).³²
3. John Butterworth appraised the estate of David³ Newman in 1748.³³

Richard⁴ and Anne⁴ (Newman) Bowen sold 11 acres at Attleboro to Jonathan Day and Remember Ingraham, both of Attleboro, 30 Nov 1767 for £19/16, part of Ann’s legacy from the estate of her cousin Henry Newman.³⁴

Henry³ Newman is an interesting character in this story. He was the son of:

Noah² Newman was born at Midhope 10 Jan 1631/2 and died at Rehoboth 16 April 1678. He married at Braintree, 30 Dec 1669, Joanna Flint. Noah² was ordained the minister of the Church at Rehoboth in March 1668.³⁵ Noah was quite a busy minister, getting 46 pages in the manuscript, but not very good at furthering his genetic line. He had just three children:

²⁸ Saxbe, 1:281.

²⁹ Saxbe, 1:283.

³⁰ Newman MSS, Samuel² Newman Chapter, 22.

³¹ Saxbe: 2:420.

³² Saxbe, 2:346.

³³ Saxbe, 1:95.

³⁴ Saxbe, 2:416. References Bristol County Deeds 51:424.

³⁵ Newman MSS, Noah² Newman Chapter, 1P-2P.

Samuel (b. 22 Aug. 1672, buried [?] Oct 1677), Sibbell (b., 31 March 1675, d. 24 Sept 1675) and Henry.³⁶

There is a petition for Henry Newman at the Bristol Probate, dated at Rehoboth 5 July 1765, signed by Margaret (wife of Elisha Bliss), Ann (the wife of Richard Bowen), Noah Sabin as guardian for two of John Newman's descendants, Oliver Bucklin, and Sarah Bucklin as the kinsman of Henry Newman 'a kinsman of ours' who was born in Rehoboth and died in Old England unmarried."³⁷ The petition also states "And Noah had one son named Henry being his only child who went over to Old England and Lived there and was never married and died there about twenty years ago and left no heirs." On 23 Nov 1767 the estate consisting of 207 acres was laid out to the heirs of Samuel and David Newman, both deceased, as follows: to Samuel Newman, only son of David; to heirs of Noah Newman, deceased, eldest son of David; heirs of John Newman, deceased, one of the sons of David; Margaret Bliss, wife of Elisha, daughter of David; Ann Bowen, wife of ----- Bowen, daughter of David.³⁸

One final note on Henry. In the manuscript I found a typed version that says he was born 10 Nov 1670 and died in England "Probably after 1748" (this was based on the above probate record of 1765 that said he died about 20 years prior. It states he was a non-resident proprietor of Rehoboth who received a MA from Harvard 7 Feb 1689 and was the librarian of Harvard University from 1690-93. However, there is a handwritten note by RLB that states: "d. in March 1725 [New Haven Historical Society Papers, Vol VII, 1908, page 272]."³⁹ So the fact that Henry Newman owned land in Rehoboth, moved to England but his death of 1725 was not discovered until 1765, created some remarkably important probate records. It should be noted that Henry's death terminated the Noah² Newman (Samuel¹) line.

John⁴ Newman [1706-1748] (*David³, Samuel², Samuel¹*)

There are several records that might make you think there are four Johns because of their distance in time, but surprisingly they all relate to the same John:

³⁶ Ibid, loose page.

³⁷ These are three loose pages found in the research notes that will be inserted into the MSS.

³⁸ This is a loose page in the research notes, but does reference Bristol County Probate Records, Vol XX, pp. 95, 186, and 191. It would be good to learn why Ann (Newman) Bowen's husbands first name is "-----". Is the record damaged or not stated?

³⁹ This is inside the article "The Lost Dukedom, or the Story of the Pierrpont Claim," by James Kingsley Blake, pp. 253-287. "James Pierrepont ... first wrote to Henry Newman, Mr. Dummer's successor, January 20, 1725, stating his case, but Mr. Newman died in March 1725 and the letter never answered."

On 7 Oct 1747 John Newman of Rehoboth was appointed guardian of Martha, daughter of Ephraim Walker, a minor over 14.⁴⁰

James Clay appraised the estates of John Newman in 1748.⁴¹

William Brown served as commissioner for the estate of John Newman of Rehoboth in 1761.⁴²

Nathaniel Bliss, married his third wife, Abigail (Perrin) (Newman) Sabin, at Rehoboth 26 Jan 1775. She was the widow of both John Newman and Noah Sabin.⁴³

The manuscript has **John⁴ Newman** (*David³, Samuel², Samuel¹*), of Rehoboth and Attleborough, born at Rehoboth 8 Dec 1706, died there intestate 9 July 1748. He married, first (intentions at Rehoboth 19 Dec 1729), **Sarah Wiswell**, of Norton, Massachusetts died at Rehoboth 14 June 1731. He married, secondly, at Rehoboth, 28 Dec 1732 (Rev John Greenwood officiating), **Abigail⁴ Perrin**, born at Rehoboth 14 Sept 1707, daughter of Daniel³ and Abigail⁵ (Carpenter) Perrin. Widow Newman married, secondly, at Rehoboth 8 Dec 1757, as his second wife, Noah³ Saben⁴⁴, born at Rehoboth 24 Feb 1691/2, son of James² Saben.⁴⁵

This is followed by 38 years of probate records and marriages⁴⁶:

9 July 1748: John Newman dies.

4 Aug 1748: Inventory taken (personal property and a little land)

6 Sept 1748: Inventory presented and Abigail appointed administratrix

4 Aug 1752: Abigail presents accounting to court, including “allowances for charges in Lying in with a posthumous child born about three months after the fathers decease” and mentions “my mother in-law Sarah Newman.”

8 Dec 1757: Abigail marries Noah Sabin.

3 April 1759: Noah Sabin appointed guardian of Lidea Newman, dau. John Newman. He was also appointed guardian of John Newman and Sarah Newman.

7 April 1761: Additional accounting and division of the estate.

26 Jan 1775: Abigail marries Nathaniel Bliss,

⁴⁰ Saxbe, 2:354.

⁴¹ Saxbe, 2:346.

⁴² Saxbe, 1:244.

⁴³ Saxbe, 1:249.

⁴⁴ I've retained RLB's spelling of Saben, versus Saxbe's Sabin.

⁴⁵ Newman MSS, Samuel² Newman Chapter, 38.

⁴⁶ Newman MSS, Samuel² Newman Chapter, 28b- 29b.

2 Aug 1796: Final division of the estate that mentions Lydia w/o Capt Nathaniel Ide, and Sarah Bucklin w/o Oliver Bucklin.

A few mysterious Samuel Newmans:

There are three records in Saxbe for which we have two candidates. The first candidate is **Samuel³ Newman** [1662-1747] (*Samuel², Samuel¹*) and the second was **Samuel⁴ Newman** [1699-1774] (*David³, Samuel², Samuel¹*). Our guesses are included in *italic*.

On 28 Jan 1743/4, **John Bowen⁴** (*John³, Richard², Richard¹*) witnessed a deed by which his cousin David Bowen sold land at Rehoboth to **Samuel Newman, Jr.**⁴⁷ *The use of the "Junior" indicates this was Samuel³ Newman.*

David⁴ Bowen (*Richard³, Richard², Richard¹*) sold five ½ acres to **Samuel Newman** 28 Jan 1743/3 for £13/6/3, and five ½ acres on 4 Feb 1754 for £19/5.⁴⁸ *If these are to the same Samuel, then we pick Samuel⁴ Newman since the other one was dead for the second transaction.*

Samuel Newman was made guardian of Oliver Walker, minor over 14, on 21 Dec. 1742. He was a grandson of Mary³ Bowen (*Richard², Richard¹*).⁴⁹ *We pick Samuel⁴ Newman for this one since Samuel³ was 80 years old and not a great candidate for a guardian.*

Some Sarah Newmans's:

Benjamin Bucklin, son of Oliver and Sarah (Newman) Bucklin, married Rachel Humphrey in November 1790.⁵⁰ Rachel was a great-granddaughter of Sarah³ (Bowen) Abell (*Richard², Richard¹*).⁵¹

This was **Sarah⁵ Newman** (*John⁴, David³, Samuel², Samuel¹*), born 9 April 1741, married Oliver Bucklin 1 Oct 1761.⁵² This paper previously profiled her father John⁴ Newman.

Jonathan⁵ Bowen (*Stephen⁴, Thomas³, Obadiah², Richard¹*) married at Warren 7 Nov 1759 Elizabeth Munro. He had published intentions at Rehoboth 5 August 1758 with Sarah Newman but there was no subsequent marriage record for the

⁴⁷ Saxbe, 2:490-491.

⁴⁸ Saxbe, 2:424.

⁴⁹ Saxbe, 2:451-452.

⁵⁰ Saxbe, 2:357.

⁵¹ Saxbe, 2:340.

⁵² *Newman MSS, Samuel² Newman Chapter, 39.*

couple.⁵³ These bad intentions could have been with **Sarah⁵ Newman** the wife of Oliver Bucklin (m. 1761) or **Sarah⁵ Newman** (*Samuel⁴, David³, Samuel², Samuel¹*) who married Jonathan Bauldwin 14 Dec 1758.^{54,55}

Jonathan Fuller & Mary Shove.

Jonathan Fuller marries at Rehoboth 15 Feb 1687 Mary Shove, and Saxbe writes “probably the daughter of the Rev. George and Hopestill (Newman) Shove.”⁵⁶

The manuscript asserts that George and Hopestill’s seventh child was Mary Shove, born 11 Aug 1676 and died “probably unmarried at Taunton before 16 May 1706.”⁵⁷ This Mary would have been only 11 years old at the marriage to Fuller. George Shove’s uncle, John, the fourth son of Rev. Edward Shove, Sr. settled in Rehoboth between 1660 and 1665.⁵⁸ Therefore Mary Fuller was not the daughter of George Shove. It is more likely Mary was a descendant of George’s uncle John Shove.

Two Marriages of Noah⁴ Newman’s children to Ichabod⁴ Bowen’s.⁵⁹

Eleazer⁵ Bowen (b. 11 Nov 1722, d. 28 Oct 1744) and Simeon⁵ Bowen (b. 2 Jan 1730, d. 4 Dec 1809) were the first and third children of Ichabod and Martha (Walker) Bowen (*Richard³, Richard², Richard¹*).⁶⁰ The two marriages:

264. Eleazer⁵ Bowen married, 21 February 1734/4, Dorothy Newman. She was the daughter of Noah and Dorothea (Kent) Newman. They had one child: Silence Bowen (b. 29 Aug 1744) who married at Rehoboth 28 Feb 1762 Samuel Bullock.

265. Simeon⁵ Bowen married (1), 18 Oct 1750, Mary Newman. She was the daughter of Noah and Dorothea (Kent) Newman. They had nine children and Simeon would have a single child with his second wife (aptly named Mary, after his first wife). We can assume that **Mary Newman** had a strong influence on the

⁵³ Saxbe, 3:299.

⁵⁴ *Rehoboth VRs*, 267.

⁵⁵ *Newman MSS, Samuel² Newman Chapter*, 25b.

⁵⁶ Saxbe, 1:143. His reference is *Rehoboth VRs*: 143.

⁵⁷ *Newman MSS, Hopestill² Newman Chapter*, 2x.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 36c. This footnote mentions the marriage of the Mary Shove to Jonathan Fuller, simply in the light of limited Shove records in Rehoboth.

⁵⁹ Saxbe, 3:388-9 (264. Eleazer⁵ Bowen); 3:389-393 (265. Simeon⁵ Bowen)

⁶⁰ Saxbe, 2:394-397.

children's names since Simeon was not allowed a namesake until the fourth child. First child is Samuel (though distant as her grandfather's grandfather, but nonetheless Samuel¹ Newman), second was Eleazer (Simeon's brother who died before his 22nd birthday), and third was Noah (second minister of Rehoboth). They even went so far as to name one child "Newman Bowen." The information in the manuscript is consistent with Saxbe but we can add a few details to Noah⁶ Bowen: he died 26 Feb 1832 and the manuscript adds a great reference for the curious: "details of Noah's family can be found in the Bowen-Wade Bible Records" (NEGHS, Register, Vol. LXXXVII, p. 349).

Mary and Dorothea's father was **Noah⁴ Newman** (*David³, Samuel², Samuel¹*), of Rehoboth, born there 1 Sept. 1697, died at Rehoboth 8 Dec 1762 in his 66th year. He married at Rehoboth 1 Mar 1721/2 Dorothea Kent, of Rehoboth, who died there 28 Feb 1784.⁶¹

We also have a marriage of John Cole to Hannah Newman who was "probably" the daughter of Noah and Dorothea (Kent) Newman.⁶² The deed that proves this relationship is:⁶³

On 11 Sept 1765 John Cole, yeoman, and Hannah Newman, his wife, of Voluntown, Windam Co, Conn., and Samuel Bullock, yeoman, and his wife, Silence [Bowen], of Rehoboth, quitclaimed to Simeon Bowen [married Mary Newman] of Rehoboth, all title "to all the real or personal estate (intestate) whereof Noah Newman, our honored father, late of Rehoboth, died seized of."

The astute reader should notice a possible double error with respect to Noah⁴ Newman offspring: Hannah Newman was never recorded as a child of Noah⁴ and Silence was his granddaughter and both named Noah⁴ "our honored father." We can surmise that Hannah was Noah⁴ Newman's first child and not recorded at Rehoboth. Although Noah⁴ Newman was not formally appointed guardian of Silence Bowen until 1 April 1760⁶⁴, he likely raised her from age two, when her widowed mother, Dorothea, died 13 May 1747 (her father Eleazer died 28 Oct 1744, just two months after she was born).

So we can adjust the children of Noah⁴ and Dorothea (Kent) Newman:

⁶¹ Newman MSS, Samuel² Newman Chapter, 23b.

⁶² Saxbe, 2:402-403. Saxbe's guess is based upon their use of the names Noah and Dorothy. We are happy to provide a new deed to prove he was spot on!

⁶³ Newman MSS, Samuel² Newman Chapter, 23b. There is a footnote in the Newman manuscript: "This was evidently another child that was not mentioned in Rehoboth VR's."

⁶⁴ Saxbe, 3:388. There obviously was not an urgency for going to court. Eleazer died in 1744, was named as a deceased son in his father's Ichabod's will that was written 5 Jan 1760 and proved 1 April 1760 (the same day that Noah⁴ Newman, the only surviving grandfather was named guardian of Silence Bowen).

- i. HANNAH⁵, b. after parents married 1 March 1721/2, m. John Cole.
- ii. DOROTHEA, b. 22 Sept 1726, m. Ebenezer Bowen.
- iii. MARY, b. 4 0 Sept 1726, m. Simeon Bowen.
- iv. BATHSHEBA, b. 21 April 1729, d. 14 May 1735.
- v. NOAH, b. 22 April 1731, d. 18 June 1740.⁶⁵
- vi. LYDIA, 13 May 1733, d. 14 June 1740.
- vii. BATHSHEBA, b. 22 Nov 1736, d. 13 June 1740.

Richard Whitaker bought eight acres in Rehoboth, 18 July 1764, from John and Hannah Cole of Voluntown, who we can identify as John and Hannah⁵ [Newman] Cole.^{66,67}

John⁵ Cole was the son of Mary⁵ Bowen (*Richard³, Richard², Richard¹*) hence Simeon's first cousin and since he was the husband of Hannah Newman, he was also Simeon's brother in law.⁶⁸

Caleb⁴ Bowen testified, on 6 July 1750, in a court case involving Noah Newman's ownership of a four year old cow since he had lived with Newman when the cow was born in 1746 and for two years after that.⁶⁹ This likely was Noah⁴ Bowen (1667-1762) who married Dorothea Kent.

The Rev. Samuel Newman, Rehoboth and Church

There are a few additional linkages between the book and the manuscript that are worth pointing out.

The Saxbe index has 3 references to "Rev. Samuel Newman." The manuscript references a town record on 6 May 1664 with an emphatic footnote stating: "This is the first and only time in the original Rehoboth Records that Samuel¹ Newman is called "Reverend" - - always referred to as "Mr" or as "Teacher." That record is:

"The town granted Mr Newman the use of the Pastor's and Teacher's meadow for this year if it be not made use of. At the same meeting John

⁶⁵ Footnote in the Manuscript: "There must have been an epidemic in Rehoboth at this time as there were many deaths, including five Newman's.

⁶⁶ Saxbe: 3:407,

⁶⁷ A clue in RLB Sr's personal copy of *Rehoboth VR* he added the generation for Hannah⁵ Newman's marriage record (*Rehoboth VR*, 267) as he did for 100's of entries in his copy. Hannah's birth is not in the VR, but we observe that there is a 20 year gap of Newman births in RVR from Dec 1706 (last entry on 1:88) and Sept 1726 (first entry on 2:37). *Rehoboth VR*, 690.

⁶⁸ Saxbe, 3:390, Footnote 3620.

⁶⁹ Saxbe, 3:572-573. He references ER 2:132.

Butterworth was authorized by his uncle Samuel Butterworth to protest against the “Revering+ Samuel Newman’s recording of his uncle Samuel Butterworth’s fifty [£] estate of commonage, etc.”⁷⁰

There has been a long standing controversy over whether Newman gets full credit for the naming of Rehoboth and we have:

“Samuel Newman, an Oxford graduate, also named Rehoboth, which means “broad places” in Hebrew. Before then it was known by its Indian name, Seekonk (the name Seekonk returned to use in 1812 when the western part of Rehoboth was set off as separate town).”⁷¹

RLB was a stickler for evidence and could certainly spend time on a hamster wheel. He devoted an entire chapter in *Early Rehoboth* on this topic.⁷² He points out that Bliss did not cite any sources and that “extensive research [between Bliss’s book in 1836 and 1946] has failed to bring to light any serious source record revealing who it was that selected the name Rehoboth, or the particular significance of the name as applied to the Seekonk settlement.” He does an extensive analysis of biblical references and proposes a theory based on biblical uses of the location to be on rivers (“Rehoboth by the River” is still [in 1946] attached to two spots on the Euphrates River). He also found seven towns in American that are located on Rivers and four are located within U-bends of Rivers - - the exact characteristic of the initial Rehoboth settlement with the Ring of Green and the Ten Mile River (in present day Rumford, RI). Knowing his ego, I can attest that if he had discovered even a shred of evidence it would have been breaking news. He concludes that the town should be referred to as:

“Seacunck, established in 1643; re-named Rehoboth 4 June 1645”

Saxbe writes “Some of Newman’s congregation followed Baptist doctrines and the contentions got worse in 1665 after Newman’s death and before Noah took the pulpit, when Rev. John Myles and his group of Welsh Baptists settled in Rehoboth. Only when Swansea was created from Rehoboth 5 March 1667/8 did the tension subside.”⁷³ A significant amount of the manuscript covers the discourse in the church that was actually driven by events over two decades as opposed to a suddenly revolt led by Myles in 1665. RLB may have created some of this confusion himself when he wrote in his 1947 book that when Newman died in 1663 “the church was split apart by dissension, with Baptists in

⁷⁰ Newman MSS, Noah² Newman Chapter, 1, and Rehoboth Town Meeting Book I < page 153.

⁷¹ Saxbe, 1:7. His reference is “The History of Rehoboth,” Bliss, page 21.

⁷² ER, 2:25-38 [1946].

⁷³ Saxbe, 1:5.

Control.”⁷⁴ He devoted a very detailed chapter in Early Rehoboth to the events and people involved in the split, and perhaps his thinking evolved as he discovered more documented events for the Newman manuscript. The first record of discourse when a lawsuit, 6 June 1649, involving Samuel Newman, Oliver Holmes and others began and led to many court records over time.⁷⁵ Some additional snippets from the manuscript:

4 June 1652: There was a judgment of £100 against Newman for defamation by John Browne.⁷⁶

5 July 1663: Mr Samuel Newman died.⁷⁷

Sept 1663: Mr Zachariah Symes should have “£40 for this year and his dyet at Mrs Newmans besides.”⁷⁸

23 March 1665/6 Mr Myles is “received as an inhabitant among us, to buy or hire for his money.”⁷⁹

18 April 1666: Mr Myles voted to be lowed viz to preach one day a fortnight on ye week day & one on ye Sabbath day.”⁸⁰

30 Oct 1667 Pastor John Myles and Capt Thomas Willet petition to create Swansea.⁸¹

---March 1668: Noah² Newman ordained minister of the church at Rehoboth.⁸²

This exercise has proven successful in that we linked all Newman references in Saxbe to the manuscript.⁸³ This alone enriches Saxbe’s work by providing more detailed genealogical information on the Newman side. Saxbe used extensive land records that often lack genealogical references, and an unexpected surprise was that we were able to identify specific people in the Newman family. The Newman manuscript is best summarized by handwritten notes found in RLB’s papers, dated, 18 Sept 1955, that propose a set of chapters for the book.⁸⁴ After the introduction the next five are chronological: English Ancestry (1602-1635), Arrival at Dorchester (1636-1638), Removal to Weymouth (1638-1643), Life at Rehoboth (1644-1649) and Rehoboth Church Dissentions (1649 ---). The next five chapters are topical: John Brown sues Newman, Osamequin’s deed of

⁷⁴ Saxbe, 1:28, Early Rehoboth, 3:49. Also ER I:25-46 “The Town of Swansea”

⁷⁵ Newman Manuscript, Prelude, 45.

⁷⁶ Ibid, 55.

⁷⁷ Ibid., 92.

⁷⁸ Newman MSS, Noah² Newman Chapter, 1P.

⁷⁹ Ibid.,107.

⁸⁰ Ibid.,107.

⁸¹ <http://www.town.swansea.ma.us/about-swansea>

⁸² Newman MSS, Noah² Newman Chapter, 2p.

⁸³ The only exception is one reference in Volume 4:10-11 (“Unassigned names”): Eliza Ann Newman of Seekonk married, as his first wife, Benjamin⁷ Bowen (Joel⁶, Simeno⁵, Ichabod⁴, Richard³⁻¹) (1796-1843) in 1819 (Rehoboth VR, 48).

⁸⁴ In possession of the author.

Swansea, John Brown guarantees Rehoboth Rates, Antipas Newman courtship and marriage, and The Concordances. The next five chapters are genealogies of his children that are rich in documented events, marriages, deeds, gravestones and include chapters on: Samuel² Newman, Noah² Newman, Antipas² Newman, Patience² (Newman) Sparkhawk, Hannah² (Newman) Peck, and Hopestill² (Newman) Shove. The final chapter is entitled “History of the Rehoboth Churches.”

We hope this paper will solicit comments that we can incorporate into the publication of The Life of Samuel Newman.

Illustration. The following photograph of the Newman monument with the Newman Church in the background was taken by Richard LeBaron Bowen, Sr in 1931.

