

Simeon Snow
A Brief Biography
By Bill Poole

We can trace the family of **Simeon Snow**, born in **1752**, back four generations to **Richard Snow** his **Second Great grandfather** (Great, Great Grandfather}. Exactly when Richard came to The Massachusetts Bay Colony and his English origins have been the subjects of some debate without any tangible resolution. He was in Woburn by September 8, 1645 when he was taxed there.¹ It is believed that he was accompanied to Woburn by his wife Anis (maiden name uncertain, but perhaps Barritt) and two sons, John and James. He received land from the town at least as early as 1647-8, and on November 19, 1656 was able to purchase from George Farley, one of the town's original settlers, Farley's home and twenty acres of land. Along with the purchase came the right to a share in the distribution of common lands and timber.²

Richard died in Woburn on May 5, 1677. His will, written on August 30, 1676 was probated on June 9, 1677. His estate was valued at 188 pounds 16 shillings and 6 pence and he had accumulated 148 acres of land including a dwelling house, barn and orchard.³ His will mentioned his four surviving sons whom he charged with caring for their mother:

"I do require that my sons equally do pay to my beloved wife twenty bushels of corne (grain) yearly as followeth; five bushels of wheat and five of ry: and five bushels of barley; and five bushels of Indian corne: and the keeping of two cowes summer and winter yearly; and foure cords of wood yearly. . .)"⁴

Richard and Anis had five children all sons. 1. **John**, birth date unknown, but mentioned in his father's will and died in Woburn on November 15, 1706; 2. **James**, date of birth unknown, but mentioned in Richard's will; 3. **Daniel**, born in Woburn February 4, 1645, died July 18, 1646, aged six months four days; 4. **Samuel, the Great, Grandfather of Simeon**, born in Woburn, May 28, 1647; and 5. **Zachariah**, born March 29, 1649.⁵

Samuel Snow, Great Grandfather of Simeon

Samuel's marriage is not recorded, but probably took place about 1668. His wife is said to have been **Sarah Wilson**, born about 1653, location not recorded. She died in Woburn on June 15, 1686, whereupon he married on August 9, 1686, **Sarah Parker**, born January 6, 1660 in Cambridge Village (later Newton, MA), and died January 28, 1695 in Woburn aged 35.⁶

There are no records for Samuel except those of his birth and death, the date of his second marriage, the births of his children and the inventory of his estate taken on December 18, 1717. Samuel died on November 28, 1717. His estate was valued at 100 pounds, 2 shillings and 2 pence. He owned 4 acres of land, probably his homestead, valued at 16 pounds. He was owed in letters of credit 28 pounds, 15 shillings, 6 pence, and he owned 4 cows and a pair of oxen valued at 21 pounds and 5 shillings. The rest of his estate that included his clothing, his farm equipment and implements and tools were valued at 34 pounds 1 shilling and 16 pence.⁷

Samuel and Sarah Wilson Snow had 5 children, all born in Woburn. 1. **Samuel Jr.**, born February 8, 1670; 2. **Sarah**, born May 2, 1672; 3. **Daniel, the Grandfather of Simeon**, born July 9, 1674; 4. **Abigail**, born April 4, 1677; 5. **Richard**, born December 10, 1683 and 6. **Hannah**, born June 8, 1686. The death of Sarah Wilson Snow on June 15, 1686 was most likely due to complications of the birth of Hannah.⁸

Samuel and Sarah Parker Snow, his second wife, had three children, all born in Woburn: 1. **Deborah**, born October, 1687; 2. **Joanna**, born February 10, 1688; and 3. **Ebenezer**, born October 7, 1691.⁹

Daniel Snow, Grandfather of Simeon

Daniel married in Woburn on August 6, 1696, **Rachel Jones**, born in Salem, MA on April 17, 1679, daughter of Hugh and Mary Foster Jones. The couple had eight children, the first born in Woburn, the next four in Reading, MA and the last three back in Woburn. I have not found any records to explain the movements of the family.

Daniel died July 7, 1717, and an inventory of his estate was made on July 30, 1717. The total of the moveable portion of the estate including livestock, clothing, furniture, utensils, was £195 and 2 shillings. His land was valued at £501 including the dwelling house, barn and outbuildings, a sawmill and other lands including the homestead, uplands and meadow. The total value of £696 and 2 shillings, represented a considerable estate¹⁰

The image shows a handwritten inventory of an estate. At the top, it says 'Some total of y^e Moveables' followed by a large sum: '195 02 00'. Below this is a list of items with their respective values:

To the Bowings Dwelling house	100 00 00
To the Barne and some other oute houping	036 00 00
To the sawmill	065 00 00
To the Land both Whomestead and oute land upland and meadows All Together	300 00 00
To the Some Total of the Whool Estate the Moveables Bowings and Land	696 02 00

Rachel died December 10, 1713 at just age 36, and she and Daniel had 8 Children: 1. **Rachel**, born November 25, 1697 in Woburn; 2. **Daniel Jr.**, born March 9, 1699/1700 in Reading; 3. **Jonathan**, born July 25, 1702 in Reading; 4. **Anis**, born May 8, 1705 in Reading; 5. **Mary**, born August 14, 1707 in Reading; 6. **Sarah**, born November 2, 1709 in Woburn; 7. **Richard, the Father of Simeon**, born March 6, 1712 in Woburn; 8. **David**, vital records state born March 30, 1714, but if Rachel died on December 10, 1713, then David's birth would have been March 30, 1713 in keeping with the double-dating practice.¹¹

Both Daniel and Rachel died at what we would consider very young ages. They were buried in Woburn's First Burial Ground.¹²



"Here Lyes the Body of Mr. Daniel Snow Aged 43 Years who Deceased July ye 7th 1717 That they may Rest from Their Labour And Their Works do Folow Them."



"Here Lyes ye Body of Rachel Snow, Wife to Daniel Snow, ages 36 Years & 8 M's, Died December ye 10th 1713. Blessed are ye Dead That Die in ye Lord."

Richard Snow, Father of Simeon

Richard was a housewright, and married in Woburn on May 31, 1739 **Abigail Coggin** born in Woburn Sept. 6, 1708, the tenth of the thirteen children of **Captain John and Elizabeth Richardson Coggin**, five of whom had died at birth. 1. **John**, born March 9, 1693, died March 9, 1693; 2. **Henry**, born March 17, 1694, died March 17, 1694; 3. **Elizabeth**, born January 5, 1695; 4. **Henry**, born August 21, 1697 died August 21, 1697; 5. **Joseph**, born September 22, 1698, died September 22, 1698; 6. **John**, born August 3, 1699; 7. **Henry**, born March 27, 1703 died March 29, 1703; 8. **Henry**, born July 1, 1704; 9. **Josiah**, born Aug 16, 1706; 10. **Abigail**, born Sept 6, 1708; 11. **Mary**, born November 1, 1710; 12. **Joseph**, born September 1, 1713; and 13. **Hannah**, born Feb. 22, 1714.¹³

When Captain John died on February 16, 1725, his four youngest children as minors had guardians appointed to supervise them during their minority. Jonathan Blanchard of Woburn was designated to look after Abigail and Mary, and John Russell of Woburn for Joseph and Hannah.¹⁴

Abigail was 30 when she married **Richard Snow** on May 31, 1739, which at the time was a late age for a woman's first marriage. Richard and Abigail had seven children: 1. **Amos**, born March 28, 1740; 2. **Ruth**, born May 31, 1741; 3. **Benoni**, born, born March 17, 1743, died July 27, 1743 age 4 months and 10 days; 4. **Seth**, born July 15, 1744; 5. **Mary**, born January 6, 1746; 6. **Esther**, born May 17, 1750; and 7. **Simeon, the subject of this biography**, born May 6, 1752.¹⁵

Richard died in Woburn on March 31, 1756 and Abigail died on March 31, 1767. Her will was probated on June 2, 1767 with her son, Seth, appointed as administrator.¹⁶ No grave markers have been found.

Simeon Snow

When his father, Richard died in 1756, Simeon was not quite four, and when his mother, Abigail, died in 1767 he was almost fifteen. I have not found any guardianship records. I do not know when Simeon moved to Lexington. His name does not appear on the 1775 Tax Roles, but his name is on the list of thirty-four individuals who took part in the skirmish on Lexington Common on April 19, 1775 and as residents of Lexington signed a combined deposition concerning the engagement.

I do not know what Simeon's occupation was. His father Richard was described as a housewright, one who builds or repairs houses. His grandfather, Daniel owned a sawmill and his great uncle Samuel Jr. was also a housewright who was the chief workman in the construction of the new meeting house in North Andover, MA in 1710.¹⁷

“ Voted, that the meeting-house be of the following D:mentions, viz: Fifty foot long, Forty-five foot wide, and Twenty-four foot be- tween Joyntes, and with a Roofe like Salem-village meeting-house ; . y® model of ye seats to be like Bradford meeting-house seats.”¹⁸

Simeon took part in the engagement on Lexington Common on the morning of April 19, 1775, and joined in a common deposition signed by thirty-four participants.

“We Nathaniel Mulliken, Philip Russell, Mos. Harrington, Sr., Thomas Harrington, Daniel Harrington, William Grimes, William Tidd, Isaac Hastings, Jonas Stone Jr., James Wyman, Thad. Harrington, John Chandler, Joshua Reed, Jr., Joseph Simonds, Phineas Smith, John Chandler, Jr., Reuben Locke, Joel Viles, Nathan Reed, Samuel Tidd, Benjamin Locke, Thomas Winship, Simeon Snow, John Smith, Mos. Harrington, 3d., Joshua Reed, Ebenezer Parker, John Harrington, Enoch Wellington, John Hosmer, Isaac Green, Phineas Stearns, Isaac Durant, Thos. Hadley, Jr. all inhabitants of Lexington in the County of Middlesex, and Colony of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, do testify and declare,

that on the nineteenth of April instant, about one or two o'clock in the morning, being informed that several officers of the Regulars had, the evening before, been riding up and down the road, and had detained and insulted the inhabitants passing the same; and also understanding that a body of Regulars were marching from Boston towards Concord, with intent (so it was supposed) to take the stores belonging to the Colony in that Town, we were alarmed; and having met at the place of our company's parade, were dismissed by our Captain, John Parker, for the present, with orders to be ready to attend at the beat of the drum. We further testify and declare, that about five o'clock in the morning, hearing the drum beat, we proceeded towards the parade, and soon found that a large body of troops were marching towards us. Some of our troops were coming up to the parade, and others had reached it; at which time the Company began to disperse. Whilst our backs were turned on the troops we were fired on by them, and a number of our men were instantly killed and wounded. Not a gun was fired by any person in our Company on the Regulars, to our knowledge, before they fired on us, and they continued firing until we had all made our escape."¹⁹

Simeon then served briefly as a member of detachments from the Lexington Militia. The following record is from *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*.

SNOW, SIMEON, Lexington. Private; pay roll of a detachment from Lexington militia company, commanded by Capt. John Parker; service 6 days; detachment reported on command at Cambridge from May 6 to May 10, 1775, by order of Committee of Safety; *also*, list of men who guarded the cannon at Lexington and thence to Cambridge; warrant for pay allowed in Council April 26, 1776.²⁰

Simeon married at age 25, on January 8, 1777 in Holden, MA, **Esther Smith**, born in Lexington April 1, 1751, daughter of **Benjamin Jr. and Anna Parker Smith**.²¹ Simeon and Esther were living in Lexington when their two children were born: 1. **Simeon Jr.**, born November 17, 1777, baptized September 6, 1778; and 2. **Esther**, born October 19, 1779, baptized October 24, 1779.²²

Esther Smith Snow died in Lexington on January 14, 1780, and is buried in Lexington's Old Burying Ground.



Here lies interred y^e
Body of Mrs.
ESTHER SNOW
(wife of Mr. Simeon
Snow) who died Jan
Y^e 14th AD. 1780 in y^e 27
Year of her Age²³

Simeon, was left with two young children, and married in Lexington on May 24, 1781, eighteen-year old **Rhoda Robinson**, born in Lexington on May 10, 1763, daughter of **James and Anna Margaret Robinson**.¹⁸ Shortly after the marriage, Simeon and Rhoda moved with Simeon Jr. and Esther to Holden, MA. There, Simeon experienced a series of tragedies. Simeon Jr. died on May 24, 1782 age 4 years and two months, and daughter Esther died the same year on June 2, 1782 age 2 years, 7 months and 14 days.²⁴

Rhoda gave birth to a son, **Simeon Jr.**, born in Holden on April 3, 1782 and then to a daughter, **Rhoda**, born sometime in 1784. Tragedy continued to pursue Simeon, when his wife Rhoda died in Holden on October 27, 1789 at age 27. His daughter Rhoda then died on February 20, 1791 at age 7. Simeon, left with eight year old Simeon Jr., took as his third wife in Holden on September 30, 1790, **Hannah Butler Elwell**.²⁵ She was supposedly born in Gloucester, MA in 1756, daughter of **William and Elizabeth Butler Elwell [not recorded]**²⁶

Simeon and Hannah moved frequently with their children born in Upton, MA, and Guilford, Dover, and Wilmington, VT. Upton to Guilford is about 93 miles; Guilford to Wilmington is about 22 miles and Wilmington to Dover is 8 miles. Later, they moved about 200 miles west to Augusta, Oneida County, New York where Simeon died on January 28, 1827 at the age of 74, He was buried in Knoxboro-Augusta Cemetery.



Grave of Simeon Snow Knoxboro-August Cemetery, Augusta, NY

The inscription is not completely legible, but someone has placed the following text beside the image on the Find a Grave Site Website. "Rev War Vet. Three times married, father of 13 children."²⁷

Hannah is said to have died on 18 April 1855, in Deansboro, Marshall, Oneida, New York, at the age of 99.²⁸ She and Simeon are said to have had nine children: 1. **Isaiah Parker**, born September 18, 1786, location unknown; married Sally Forbes in Eaton, New York, died February 25, 1855, Clay, Onondaga, New York²⁹ 2. **Polly**, born September 23, 1781 in Upton, MA;³⁰ 3. **Betty**, born September 13, 1793 in Upton;³¹ 4. **Rhoda Robertson**, born October 31, 1793 in Upton;³² 5. **Esther Smith**, born January 24, 1799 in Guilford, VT;³³ 6. **Samuel Stillman**, born November 24, 1800, in Guilford;³⁴ 7. **Hannah Butler**, born September 24, 1802 in Wilmington, VT;³⁵ 8. **Jesse Edison**, born December 4, 1804 in Vermont;³⁶ and 9. **Sarah (Sally)**, born January 8, 1807 in Dover, VT.³⁷

These nine plus the two children born to Simeon and Esther Smith Snow in Lexington, and the two children born to Simeon and Rhoda Robinson Snow in Holden would give the total of thirteen in accord with the text accompanying his gravestone.

Footnotes

- ¹<http://miller-aanderson.blogspot.com/2011/06/richard-snow-1608-1677.html>; ²*Ibid.*
- ³ Middlesex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1648-1871 Middlesex Cases 20000-21999, pages 20826:1-20826:3
- ⁴*Ibid.*;
- ⁵Vital Records of Woburn, MA to the End of the Year 1873, at <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Middlesex/Woburn/>; ⁶*Ibid.*
- ⁷ Middlesex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1648-1871 Middlesex Cases 20000-21999, pages 20835:3.
- ⁸Vital Records of Woburn, MA, *op. cit.*; ⁹*Ibid.*
- ¹⁰Middlesex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1648-1871 Middlesex Cases 20000-21999, page 20800:3
- ¹¹Vital Records of Woburn, MA, *op. cit.*; Vital records of Reading Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849 at <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Middlesex/Reading/>
- ¹²<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7849458/daniel-snow>;
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7849508/rachel-snow>
- ¹³Vital Records of Woburn, *op. cit.*
- ¹⁴Middlesex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1648-1871, Middlesex Cases 4000-5999, pages 4751:1-4751.6 and 4752:1-4752:6.
- ¹⁵Vital Records of Woburn, *op. cit.*
- ¹⁶Middlesex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1648-1871, Middlesex Cases 20000-21999, pages 20796:1-20796:3
- ¹⁷Personal communication from Curator and Archivist, North Andover Historical Society,
- ¹⁸Bailey, Sarah Loring, *Historical Sketches of Andover, Comprising the Current Towns of North Andover and Andover, Massachusetts*, and Company, Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1880 p. 430.
- ¹⁹Kehoe Vincent J.R., *We Were There April 19, 1775 The American Rebels*, Self-Published, January 1, 1975, p. 87.
- ²⁰Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, A compilation from the Archives Prepared and Published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth in Accordance with Chapter 100, Resolves of 1891, Boston, Wright & Potter, 1896-1908, Volume 14, p. 624.
- ²¹Vital Records of Lexington, MA to the 1897 End of the Year 1897 at <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Middlesex/Lexington/>; Vital Records of Holden, MA to the End of the Year 1849 at <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Worcester/Holden/>
- ²²Vital Records of Lexington, MA, *op. cit.*
- ²³Brown, Francis H., M.D., *A Copy of Old Epitaphs in The Old Burying-Grounds of Lexington, Massachusetts*, Lexington, MA, The Lexington Historical Society, 1905, p. 142.
- ²⁴Vital Records of Holden, MA, *op. cit.*; ²⁵*Ibid.*
- ²⁶<https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LCV6-4KN/hannah-butler-elwell-1756-1855>
- ²⁷<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/34011086/simeon-snow>
- ²⁸<https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LCV6-4KN/hannah-butler-elwell-1756-1855>
- ²⁹Isaiah Parker Snow, https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/vermont-births-marriages-and-deaths-1700-2008/image?rid=259221680&volumeId=14174&pageName=13280&filterQuery=https://beacon.krx.net/usermatch.gif?partner=ttd&partner_uid=2c3e3eb4-1392-4d9d-b71f-779bd2dc4651
- ³⁰Polly Snow, Vital Records of Upton, MA to the End of the Year 1849. <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Worcester/Upton/>; ³¹Betty Snow, *Ibid.*; ³²Rhoda Robertson Snow, *Ibid.*;
- ³³Esther Smith Snow, <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/KP3J-N8K/esther-smith-snow-1799>
- ³⁴Samuel Stillman Snow, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-TB3G-XC?i=3098&cc=1784223>
- ³⁵Hannah Butler Snow, <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LCV6-4KN/hannah-butler-elwell-1756-1855>
- ³⁶Jesse Edson Snow, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/pt/RequestTreeAccess.aspx?tid=17311061&pid=492171301>
- ³⁷Sarah (Sally) Snow, <https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/vermont-births-marriages-and-deaths-1700-2008/image?rid=259456562&volumeId=14191&pageName=12791&filterQuery=>