

The English Ancestry of Anne¹ Needham of Boston, Massachusetts, Wife of Thomas¹ Hett

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Anne¹ Needham of Boston, Massachusetts, immigrated to New England with the Winthrop Fleet in 1630. She was admitted to the Boston church in the winter of 1630-1 and by 1637 had married Thomas¹ Hett.^[1] She was buried in Phipps Street Burial Ground in Charlestown, Massachusetts; her gravestone reads “Here Lyes Y^e Body Of Ann Hett Aged 75 Years Deceased Y^e 30 Of November 1688.”^[2] Anne’s year of birth as calculated from her gravestone is about 1613. Her English origin has remained unknown.^[3]

A search of English parish registers returned the baptismal record in Spalding, Lincolnshire, on 28 October 1613 of “Ann y^e Daughter of Ismaell Needham.”^[4] Further research of this family showed that Anne had a brother named Beeston who executed his will on 15 November 1637 in which he made a bequest to “my sister Anne sometime the wife of Thomas Heate in New England” (see below).

The above information is used in the following genealogical summaries of the ancestry of Anne (Needham) Hett.

Genealogical Summary: Needham

ISMAEL^A NEEDHAM was born about 1589 (marriage license with his first wife). He married first in Spalding, Lincolnshire, on 11 February 1612/3, **ANNE HOBSON** (see below)^[5] by license dated 28 January 1612/3 as “Ishmael Needham, of Spalding, mercer, aet. 23, & Alice [*sic*] Hobson, of same sp[*inste*]_r, aet. 19, dau. of Geo. Hobson, of same, butcher, dec[*ease*]_d.”^[6] She was buried on 2 March 1625/6 in Spalding as “Anne the wife of Ismaell Needham Mercer.”^[7] Ismael married second in Spalding on 20 November 1626 **LYDIA COLBORN**^[8] by license dated 17 November 1626.^[9] The inventory of “y^e goodes and chattles

¹ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Winthrop Fleet: Massachusetts Bay Company Immigrants to New England, 1629–1630* (Boston, 2012), 489–490 (sketch of Anne Needham).

² FindAGrave.com, memorial no. 35677100. An image of this appears on the cover of this issue.

³ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Directory: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1640*, 2nd ed. (Boston, 2025), 260.

⁴ Register of St. Mary & St. Nicholas, Spalding, Lincolnshire, 1538–1656 (images on FindMyPast.com) [hereafter *Spalding PRs*], image 86 of 202.

⁵ *Spalding PRs*, image 85: “Ismaell Nedam & Ann Hobson.”

⁶ A. Gibbons, ed., *Lincoln Marriage Licences, An Abstract of the Allegation Books Preserved in the Registry of the Bishop of Lincoln, 1598–1628* (London, 1888) [hereafter *Lincoln Marriage Licences*], 23.

⁷ *Spalding PRs*, image 107.

⁸ *Spalding PRs*, image 108: “Ismaell Needham and Lydya Coleborne.”

⁹ *Lincoln Marriage Licences*, 131: “Ismael Needham, of Spaldinge, mercer, & Lidea Colborne, of same, sp[*inste*]_r.”

of Ishmael Nedham of Melborne in Darbieshire deceased Decem: y^e 4th 1635” was taken on 7 December 1635.^[10] Administration “of the goods, which were of Ismael Needham, late of the parish of Melborne” was granted on 18 December 1635 to “Lydia Needham, relict of the said deceased.”^[11]

Children of Ismael^A and Anne (Hobson) Needham (bp. Spalding):^[12]

- i. ANNE¹ NEEDHAM, bp. 28 Oct. 1613; d. Charlestown, Mass., 30 Nov. 1688;^[13] m. by 1637 THOMAS¹ HETT, bp. Folkingham, Lincolnshire, 27 Dec. 1611, son of Thomas^A and Anne (Shearson) Hett;^[14] d. Charlestown, 6 June 1668.^[15] Their later history and children are documented elsewhere.^[16]
- ii. BEESTON NEEDHAM, bp. 26 Feb. 1614/5; bur. Boston, Lincolnshire, 18 Nov. 1637.^[17] The will of “Beetson [*sic*] Needham of Boston in the County of Lincoln Mercer,” dated 15 Nov. 1637 and proved 15 Dec. 1637, gave to “my brother George Needham of Boston... Twenty pounds... my sister Anne sometime the wife of Thomas Heate in New England... Ten pounds... my sister Elizabeth Needham late of Melborne in the county of Leic[ester] [*sic*]... Ten pounds... my master m^r John Marshall... Twenty pounds... my said master m^r John Marshall[’s] foure Children... Twenty pounds to be equallie devided amongst... them... my foure fellow servants Will[ia]m Kirkby John Wilkinson Margaret Wright and Mercy Southerne to each of them Fifty shillings... M^{rs} Ellen Coulson... Five pounds... All the Residue... to my said Master M^r John Marshall whom I do make the Executor.” Signed “Beeston Nedham.”^[18]
- iii. GEORGE NEEDHAM, bp. 9 June 1617; living 15 Nov. 1637 (his brother Beeston’s will).
- iv. ROBERT NEEDHAM, bp. 24 June 1619; bur. Spalding, 22 Jan. 1619/20.^[19]
- v. JOHN NEEDHAM, bp. 4 Jan. 1620/1; bur. Spalding, 9 Nov. 1621.^[20]
- vi. ELIZABETH NEEDHAM, bp. 8 Oct. 1622; living 15 Nov. 1637 (her brother Beeston’s will).

¹⁰ Consistory Court of Lichfield and Coventry, original probate documents, N–O, 1634–1639 (FSL DGS 7620942 images 75–76) [hereafter *Ismael Needham Inventory*].

¹¹ *Ismael Needham Inventory*, image 76 (translated from Latin by Simon Neal of London).

¹² *Spalding PRs*, images 86 (Anne), 88 (“Beeston y^e sonne of Ismaell Needham”), 92 (“George the sonne of Ismaell Nedeham”), 95 (“Robert the sonne of Ismaell Needham”), 97 (“John the sonne of Ismaell Needham”), and 100 (“Elizabeth the daught[e]r of Ismaell Needham”).

¹³ Roger D. Joslyn, ed., *Vital Records of Charlestown, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. in 3 (Boston, 1984–1995) [hereafter *Charlestown VRs*], 1:140: “Widow Ann Het, aged woman.”

¹⁴ Leslie Mahler, “The English Origin of Thomas Hett of Massachusetts Bay,” *Register* 155 (2001):357–358.

¹⁵ *Charlestown VRs*, 1:57: “Thomas Hett Senior of Charlstown, cooper.”

¹⁶ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston, 1995), 2:915–918 (sketch of Thomas Hett).

¹⁷ *The Parish Registers of Boston in the County of Lincoln, Volume II, 1599–1638*, Publications of the Lincoln Record Society, vol. 3 (Horncastle, 1915), 197. St. Botolph, Boston, Lincolnshire, parish register, 1598–1638 (images on FindMyPast.com), image 96 of 103: “Beeston Needham.”

¹⁸ Consistory Court of Lincoln, registered wills, 1637 (vol. 134), fol. 20r–v (FSL DGS 8052494 images 42–43). The parish of Melbourne is in the county of Derby and on the border with the county of Leicester.

¹⁹ *Spalding PRs*, image 96: “Robert the sonne of Ismaell Needham.”

²⁰ *Spalding PRs*, image 99: “John the sonne of Ismaell Needham.”

Children of Ishmael^A and Lydia (Colborn) Needham (bp. Spalding):^[21]

vii. LYDIA NEEDHAM, bp. 23 Sept. 1627, bur. Spalding, 2 Oct. 1627^[22]

viii. JOHN NEEDHAM (again), bp. 21 April 1629, bur. Spalding, 16 June 1629.^[23]

Genealogical Summary: Hobson

1. **WILLIAM^C HOBSON** was born say 1520 (assuming age 25 at birth of eldest known child). His wife's name was **ELLEN** _____. He was buried in Spalding, Lincolnshire, 3 March 1560/70, as "willm Hobson Butcher."^[24] The will of "willm Hobson of Spalding in Holland in the countie of Lincoln," dated 27 February 1569[70] and proved 21 November 1571, gave to "John Hobson my sonne my howse that I nowe dwell in w[i]th my howse in westlaine... my wief shall have the said howse that I dwell in duringe her lief naturall yf she do not marrie... if she shall marrie... she shall have the same but for the space of x yeres... unto my said wief my best bed two of my best coverletts two of the best fetherbed w[i]th bolsters and pillowes to the same the best mattis... Alice Hobson my daughter one paire bedstocks one mattis one fetherbed one coveringe one bolster ij pillowes... vj paire shetes... two table clothes vj napkynes on towell one table w[i]th a frame one forme one litle forme two puter platters foure puter dishes two sawcers one candelsticke and one salte... Elizabeth Hobson my daughter one paire bedstocks one mattis one fetherbed one coveringe one bolster ij pillowes... vj paire shetes... two table clothes vj napkyns one towell one table and forme one litle forme two puter platters iiij puter dishes two sawcers one candelsticke and one salte... Julyan Hobson my daughter one paire bedstocks one mattis one fetherbed one coveringe one bolster ij pillowes... vj paire shets... two table clothes vj napkyns one towell one table one forme w[i]th one litle forme two puter platters iiij puter dishes two sawcers one candelsticke and one salte... unto everie of my said iij daughters x woll shepe and ij plancks... George Hobson my sonne tene pounds... when he shall come to lawfull age... unto the same George my sonne one round table w[i]th a carpit clothe to the same... all my painted clothes... be equallie devided betwene my said wief and my thre daughters... to ev[er]y my said daughters one brasse pote... to Alice my daughter one great cheste... to Elizabeth my daughter one chest... to Julyan my daughter one cheste... Katherine Spencer my s[er]vaunte one mattis ij paire shetes... one bolster one pillowe... one puter platter two puter dishes and one sawcer The residue of all my howshold stuffe...unto Helene my said wief... unto John Hobson my sonne whome I make my sole executor... I... constitute willm wilsby and Edmund Boytie sup[er]visors."^[25]

²¹ *Spalding PRs*, images 109 ("Lydda y^e daughter of Ismaell Needham mercer") and 112 ("John the sonne of Ismaell Nedham Mercer").

²² *Spalding PRs*, image 110: "Lydia the daughter of Ismaell Nedham."

²³ *Spalding PRs*, image 113: "John the sonne of Ismaell Nedham mercer."

²⁴ *Spalding PRs*, image 35.

²⁵ Consistory Court of Lincoln, registered wills, 1571, pt. 2 (vol. 46), fol. 32v–33v (FSL DGS 8052544 images 283–284).

His widow married second in Spalding on 20 June 1570 ROBERT SIMPSON.^[26] He was buried there on 31 December 1615.^[27] The will of “Rob[er]te Simpson of Spaldinge in the dioces of Lincoln yeoma[n],” dated 22 October 1577 and proved 15 April 1578, included “to Helline my wiffe... to John Hobson... ev[er]y one of John Hobson children... to george Hobson... to Julyan Hobson my wiffes daughter... to alice youle my wiffes daughter... to Thomas Robson & george Hobson whom I... make my full executors.”^[28] His widow was buried in Spalding on 20 June 1585 as “Elen Sympson widdowe.”^[29]

Children of William^c and Helen (____) Hobson (bp. Spalding):^[30]

- i. JOHN HOBSON, bp. 6 Dec. 1545; m. Spalding, 15 May 1569, KATHERINE WHITACRE.^[31] The will of “John Hobson of Spaldinge in the Countye of Lincoln yeoman,” dated 1 Nov. 1611 and proved 5 Feb. 1611/2, gave to, among others, “willm Hobson the sonne of the said willm my sonne,” “Morrys Hobson the sonne of the said willm Hobson my sonne,” “John Hobson the sonne of the saide willm my sonne,” “to [blank] Hobson the daughter of Edmund Hobson my sonne,” “Elizabeth Hobson the daughter of John Hobson my sonne,” “Mary Williams my daughter the wife of willm williams Clarke,” “Alice Dymocke my syster,” “George Hobson the sonne of my Brother George Hobson deceased,” “willm Hobson the sonne of the said George Hobson my brother,” “Thomas Hobson the eldest sonne of the said George my brother deceased” and “Anne Hobson the daughter of the said George my Brother.”^[32]
- ii. (poss.) JOAN HOBSON, bp. 23 Dec. 1547; no further record found.
- iii. ALICE HOBSON, bp. 31 Jan. 1548/9; bur. St. Nicholas, King’s Lynn, Norfolk, 22 Oct. 1623;^[33] m. (1) St. Margaret, King’s Lynn, 4 Aug. 1577, RICHARD YOULE/YOWLE;^[34] m. (2) St. Margaret, King’s Lynn, 21 Dec. 1592, FRANCIS DIMOCK,^[35] bur. there 13 April 1617.^[36]
- iv. (poss.) LAWRENCE HOBSON, bp. 20 Nov. 1553.
- v. ELIZABETH HOBSON, b. say 1554; living 27 Feb. 1569/[70] (her father’s will).
- 2 vi. GEORGE^b HOBSON, b. say 1556.

²⁶ *Spalding PRs*, image 35: “Rob[er]t Sympson & Ellyn Hobson.”

²⁷ *Spalding PRs*, image 43: “Rob[er]t Symson.”

²⁸ Consistory Court of Lincoln, registered wills, 1578 (vol. 58), fol. 115r–116r (FSL DGS 7905030 images 103–104).

²⁹ *Spalding PRs*, image 51.

³⁰ *Spalding PRs*, images 9 (“John Hobson”), 11 (“Jone Hobson”), 13 (“Alyce Hobson”), 19 (“Laurence Hobson”), 20 (“Katheren Hobson daughter of will[i]am”), and 23 (“Julyan Hobson daught[er] of will[i]am”).

³¹ *Spalding PRs*, image 34: “John Hobson & Katteren Whitacre.”

³² Prerogative Court of Canterbury 14 Fenner (PROB 11/119 folios 112–114).

³³ Archdeacon’s transcripts for St. Nicholas, King’s Lynn, Norfolk, 1600–1696 (images on FindMyPast.com), image 14 of 85: “Alice Dimocke widow.”

³⁴ Register of St. Margaret, King’s Lynn, Norfolk, 1559–1678 (images on FindMyPast.com) [hereafter *St. Margaret King’s Lynn PRs, 1559–1678*], image 185 of 259: “Richard Yowle w[i]th Alice Hobson.”

³⁵ *St. Margaret King’s Lynn PRs, 1559–1678*, image 198 of 259: “Frauncys Damett w[i]th Alice yowle.”

³⁶ Register of St. Margaret, King’s Lynn, Norfolk, 1562–1653 (images on FindMyPast.com), image 144 of 215]: “Franncs Damett.”

- vii. KATHERINE HOBSON, bp. 19 Sept. 1557; bur. Spalding, 28 Sept. 1557.^[37]
- viii. JULIAN HOBSON, bp. 11 Feb. 1559/60; living 22 Oct. 1577 (her stepfather Robert Simpson's will).

2. **GEORGE^B HOBSON** (*William^C*) was born say 1556 (assuming age 25 at marriage). He married in Spalding, Lincolnshire, 3 July 1581, **AGNES** (_____) **BRINSTONE**.^[38] George was buried in Surfleet, Lincolnshire, 16 December 1599.^[39] The will of "George Hobson of Surflett in the County of Lincoln yeoman." dated 11 December, 42 Eliz. I [1599], and proved 2 April 1601, gave "to Thomas my sonne... at the full age of xxj yeares... to William my sonne... And I will that William Hobson my brothers sonne shall have the custody and bringing upp of the said William my sonne... to Georg my sonne... And I will that John Hobson my brothers sonne shall have the custody and bringing upp of the said George my sonne... to Anne my daughter... to be payd in and uppon the daye of hir marriage... my house and the ground under yt w[i]th the Appurtenancs in Spalding shalbe sould... my executrix shall deliv[er] to my brother John Hobson... one great lease of twenty acres land and pasture... granted from the Queenes Ma[jes]tie to be recieved in the name of Georg my sonne... All the Residewe... to agnes my wyfe whome I make my sole executrix... I make John Hobson my brother and William Hobson his sonne sup[er]visors."^[40]

Agnes (_____) (Brinstone) Hobson married third in Spalding on 4 July 1603 **MATHEW BEESTON**.^[41] He was buried there on 3 October 1615.^[42] The will of "Mathew Beiston of Spalding in the county of Lincoln yeoma[n]," dated 22 September 1615 and proved 23 November 1615, gave to "Agnes my wief... Beiston Needham the sonne of Ismaell Needham of Spalding two messuages lease being in wicke & 24 acres belonging to the said lease... w[hi]ch I boughte of Thomas Hobson my wieves sonne... will[ia]m Hobson my wieves sonne..." He named Beiston Needham the executor.^[43] Agnes was buried in Spalding on 17 October 1633.^[44]

Children of George^B and Agnes (_____) (Brinstone) Hobson (bp. Spalding):^[45]

- i. **THOMAS HOBSON**, bp. 10 Dec. 1582; living 1 Nov. 1611 (will of his uncle John Hobson).
- ii. **ANNE^A HOBSON**, bp. 8 March 1587/8; m. **ISMAEL^A NEEDHAM** (see above).

³⁷ *Spalding PRs*, image 21: "Katteren Hobson daughter of will[ia]m."

³⁸ *Spalding PRs*, image 47: "George Hobson & Agnes Brynstone vidua."

³⁹ Bishop's transcripts for Surfleet, Lincolnshire (FSL DGS 7905523 image 30): "georgius Hobsone."

⁴⁰ Consistory Court of Lincoln, registered wills, 1601, pt. 1 (vol. 89), fol. 125v–127r (FSL DGS 8052525 images 137–138).

⁴¹ *Spalding PRs*, image 72: "mathew Beeston & Anise Hobson."

⁴² *Spalding PRs*, image 90: "Mathew Beeston yeoman."

⁴³ Consistory Court of Lincoln, registered wills, 1615 (vol. 107), fol. 84r–85v (FSL DGS 8040482 images 111–113).

⁴⁴ *Spalding PRs*, image 121: "Agnes Beeston widdowe."

⁴⁵ *Spalding PRs*, images 48 ("Thomas Hobson y^e sonn of George"), 53 ("Ann y^e daughter of George Hobson"), 55 ("John the sonn of George Hobson," 1589/90), 57 ("will[ia]m the sonne of George Hobson"), 61 ("George y^e sonn of Georg[e] Hobson"), and 100 ("John y^e sonne of George Hobson," 1599).

- iii. JOHN HOBSON, bp. 1 March 1589/90; bur. Spalding 2 Sept. 1590.^[46]
- iv. WILLIAM HOBSON, bp. 22 Aug. 1591; living 24 May 1630 (administrator of his brother George's estate).
- v. GEORGE HOBSON, bp. 1 Jan. 1594/5. On 24 May 1630 "administration of the goods, etc., of George Hobson, deceased, late, while he was alive, the natural and lawful son of George Hobson, late of Surflet, woolman, deceased, to William Hobson of Spalding, the natural and lawful brother of the said George the son, deceased... With Anne Beeston *alias* Hobson, widow, the mother of the said George the son, renouncing..."^[47]
- vi. JOHN HOBSON (again), bp. 22 April 1599; d. by 11 Dec. 1599 (not mentioned in his father's will).

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⁴⁶ *Spalding PRs*, image 57: "John the sonn of George Hobson."

⁴⁷ Consistory Court of Lincoln, act books, vol. 10, fol. 32r (FSL DGS 8228740 image 45), translated from Latin by Simon Neal of London.