JOHN GROUT

MIGRATIONS/RESIDENCES: John Grout was in New England by 1640, first in Watertown, where his son was born in August 1641, and then removed to Sudbury by 1645.1

PARENTAGE/FAMILY: Unknown. See COMMENTARY.

BIRTH/BAPTISM: Born presumably in England, about 1615-1616.2


MARRIED: (1) in New England, by 1640.4

BRIDE: MARY CAKEBREAD.

PARENTAGE/FAMILY: Daughter of THOMAS and SARAH (—) CAKEBREAD (GMB, I:301-03),5 who came to New England in 1633 with their only known daughter, Mary, age about 13, settled in Watertown, then removed to Sudbury in 1639. Thomas died in January 1642/3 and Sarah married, in November 1649, as his second wife, Philemon Whale, who had come to Sudbury in or before 1643.6

At a meeting of the selectmen of Watertown held 3 March 1670/1, “Ensign grant [sic] demandeing a farme in the behalf of Ensign Thomas Cakebread we returned him this answer that we hade with seriusnes considered of his demande and hade also sought the towne booke and by all that we could finde in the towne booke we doe not find any ground from the towne booke to answer his demand and therfor left him to his liberty.” On 22 March 1670/1 the constable of Watertown was directed to warn the selectmen of the town to answer the complaint of “Ens. John Grout of Sudbury in an action of the case for detaining a farm formerly granted unto his father in Law Thomas Cakebread sometime of Watertown and now deceased…”7 Early interpretations of these records, which omitted the word “Ens.” before John Grout’s name (which distinguishes him from his son), made two mistakes. In one, they assumed that it was John2 Grout who married a daughter of Thomas Cakebread. In the other, they assumed correctly that John1 Grout had married a Cakebread of some nature, but they assumed incorrectly that he had married the widow of Thomas Cakebread. Mary Lovering Holman showed in Dawes-Gates, however, that it was John1 Grout’s first wife, Mary, who was a daughter of Cakebread.8

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1 “Records of Births, Deaths and Marriages – First Book and Supplement,” Section Three in Watertown Records Comprising the First and Second Books of Town Proceedings... (Watertown: 1894) [hereinafter Watertown VR], 9; Alfred Sereno Hudson, The History of Sudbury, Massachusetts. 1638-1889. (Sudbury, Mass.: 1889) [hereinafter Sudbury Hist], 97; https://sudbury.ma.us/archives (Sudbury town record transcriptions) [hereinafter Sudbury Archives], #185


3 Middlesex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1648-1871. Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. NEHGS, 2014. (From records supplied by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives.) [hereinafter Middlesex PR], #9951 (date of death given in inventory); Vital Records of Sudbury, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850 (Boston: 1903) [hereinafter Sudbury VR], 308. 

4 Robert Charles Anderson, The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1995) [hereinafter GMB], I:303; Watertown VR, 9 (First child born August 1641 and since his wife, Mary, had immigrated to New England in 1633 as a child, their marriage would have had to have taken place on this side of the Atlantic).

5 Names in all capital letters followed by (GMB, GM2, PM, or WF) indicate individuals who are treated in The Great Migration series.


7 “Records of Town Proceedings – First and Second Books,” Section One in Watertown Records Comprising the First and Second Books of Town Proceedings... (Watertown: 1894) [hereinafter Watertown TR], 1:1:106; Middlesex Court Abst, 2:122; Roger Thompson, Divided We Stand, Watertown, Massachusetts, 1630-1680 (Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001) [hereinafter Divided We Stand], 158, 250.

8 Dawes-Gates, 1:663-64.
It has also been claimed that Anne, who married James Cutler, was a sister of John Grout’s wife, but “This claim appears only in the secondary literature, and seems unlikely, since the entire estate of Thomas Cakebread seems to have ended up in the hands of John Grout.”

**BIRTH/BAPTISM:** Born presumably in England, say 1620.

**DEATH/BURIAL:** Died after 8 August 1641.

**MARRIED:** (2) probably at Watertown, about 1642-1643.

**BRIDE:** SARAH BUSBY.

**PARENTAGE/FAMILY:** Daughter of Nicholas and Bridget (Cocke) Busby of Norwich in Norfolk County, England, who came to New England in 1637 with four of their children: Nicholas, age 27, John, 20, Abraham, 19, and Sarah, 18. Also on the voyage were his daughter Anne and her husband William Nickerson and their family of four children, all of whom arrived in Boston, 20 June 1637.

The will of Nicholas Busby of Boston was dated 25 July 1657 and proved 10 September 1657. “I doe appointe my three sons that are here in New England, that is to say, my Sonne Abraham Busby, my Sonne William Nickerson & my Sonne John Grout to gather up all my debts mentioned in my debt books, to make them of a true acco’, & to deliver it as they shall receive it unto my Executrix.” “Unto Sarah Grout, my youngest daughter, Sixtie & five pounds…unto Sarah Grout, my grand child, tenn pounds…The Best Bible to Sarah Grout…”

On 14 May 1659, Bridgett Busby of Boston, widow, made a deed of gift to her children, including “my daughter Sarah Grout the other half deale [her sister Anna Nickerson received the first half] of all my smale Linnen cloathes and one Joinet chest, and one paire of sheetes and fower diaper napkins and two Coverd stooles and one wrought Cushen and two platters the one bigg and the other lesse and two silver spoones and one pillow beere and one feather bed which is in the chamber….Also I give unto the children of my daughter Sarah Grout the Summe of Twenty pounds to be divided amongst them….Also I give & Graunt unto my two sonnes in law William Nickerson and John Groutt to each of them a peece of Gold of twenty shillings to be delivered & paid…on the day of my funerall…..”

On 26 May 1659 Bridget Busby of Boston, widow, sold for £90 to John Grout of Sudbury “all the Homestead or lott given & granted unto my deceased husband Nicholas Busbey by the Select men of Water towne…,” in five lots: six acres in the homestead, four acres of meadow, fifty acres of upland in the first division, six acres of plow land and six acres of “remote meadow…the fifty & third lott, in that division….” On the same day, John Grout of Sudbury, yeoman, acknowledged receipt from “my mother in law Bridget Busbey of Boston…Executrix of the last Will and Testament of my father in law Nicholas Busbey of Boston…all that Legacie or summe of sixty and five pounds to my wife given and bequeathed by my deceased father in law Nicholas Busbey unto my wife…received…by the value thereof in lands and housing, liing in Water Town in New England…also…in the name and behalf of Sarah Grout my daughter acknowledge that I have received of my said mother in law Bridget Busbey…all that Legacy and summe of ten pounds to

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9 GMB, I:303; Dawes-Gates, 1:663-64.
10 GMB, I:303 (based on estimated marriage about 1640).
12 Elizabeth E. Boice Jones, comp., Captain John Grout of Watertown and Sudbury, Massachusetts, and Some of His Descendants... (Waterloo, IA; 1922) [hereinafter Grout], 17; Dawes-Gates, 1:663; Watertown VR, 11 (birth of child 11 December 1643).
14 Grout, 80-81; NEHGR, 8:278-79; Nicholas Busby, 8-9.
15 Nicholas Busby, 14-16; Suffolk Deeds, 3:383.
16 Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Deeds (familysearch.org) [hereinafter Middlesex Deeds], 2:175.
her my said daughter given and bequeathed by her deceased Grandfather the said Nicholas Busbye…by mee received by value thereof in lands lying at Water Towne.…”

**BIRTH/BAPTISM:** Baptized at St. Peter Permountergate, Norwich, England, 12 December 1619. 18

**DEATH/BURIAL:** Died at Sudbury, 25 April 1699, “Sarah, wid.” 19

**LAND/PROPERTY:** In the first inventory of Watertown possessions made in 1642, John Grout’s lands are described: “1. An Homestall of Thirteen Acres & Three Rood bounded the South East & North with the highway the West with John Bernard & the Northwest with John Trane. 2. Six Acres of upland bounded the East & the West with the highway & the North with Nicholas Guy. 3. Five Acres of Meddow more or les lying beyond the Plaine bounded the East with his owne & the West with Ephraim Child. 4. Nine Acres of upland beyond the further Plaine & the 5 Lott. 5. Twelve Acres of upland beyond the further Plaine & the Lotts. 6. Fifty Acres of upland being a great Divident in the 4 Division & the 29 Lott. 7. Eight Acres of Meddow in the remote Meddowes & the 35 Lott. 8. A Farme of [blank].” 20

The second inventory of Watertown possessions taken in 1644 does not include a list of property under John Grout’s name, although he is listed as an abutter to several other properties. The inventory, however, does include property granted to Thomas Cakebred, who was dead, which matches much of Grout’s property in the first and third inventories: 1. An Homestall of four Acres by estimation bounded the South east wth Edmund Anger the Northwest wth the highway the Southeast wth George Phillips the Southwest wth the highway[,] granted to him [a footnote by the editors of the published records note that this item is crossed out in the original records]. 2. Six acres of upland by estimation bounded the East & West wth the highway the North wth Nicholas Guy[,] granted to him. 3. Five Acres of Meddow by estimation beyond the Plaine bounded the West wth Ephraim Child & the East wth his owne land[,] granted to him. 4. Nine Acres of upland by estimation beyond the further Plaine & the fift lott[,] granted to him. 5. Twelve Acres of upland by estimation beyond the further Plaine bounded wth Common land. 6. Fifty Acres of upland by estimation being a great Divident in the fourth Division & the twenty nine lott[,] granted to him. 7. Eight Acres of remote Meddow by estimation & the thirty five lott[,] granted to him. 8. Eight Acres of Plowland by estimation & the thirty five lott[,] granted to him. 21

In the third inventory of Watertown possessions taken before the end of 1646, John Grout is credited with: 1. An Homestall of Thirteen Acres & three Rood by estimation bounded the East North & South wth the highway the West wth John Bernard & the Northwest wth John Trane[,] in his Possession. 2. Five Acres of Meddow by estimation lying beyond the further Plaine bounded the East wth his owne upland & the West with Ephraim Child[,] in his Possession. 3. Nine Acres of Upland by estimation beyond the further Plaine & the fift lott[,] in his Possession. 4. Twelve Acres of upland by estimation beyond the further Plaine & the Lotts bounded wth Common land[,] in his Possession. 5. Fifty Acres of upland by estimation being a great Divident in the fourth Division & the twenty nine lott[,] in his Possession. 6. Eight Acres of remote Meddow by estimation & the thirty five lott[,] in his Possession. 22

Sudbury town records show that on 8 May 1643 “the cranbery swamp foremerly graunted to Antient Cakebread is further confirmed to John Grout…Allsoe granted to Sergt. John Grout the swamp lying by the new dwelling house of Philam. Whale to pen watter for the use of the Mill and the propriety of it to remaine for the use of the towne.” 23 In 1645 the records show that John Rutter had sold an acre and a half of upland to John Groute “and now is in the possession of the said John Groute.” 24 In 1649 John Grout drew Lot #42 in the new grant at Sudbury. 25

On 29 March 1668 John Grout of Sudbury, yeoman, sold for “a considerable sum of money” to John Livermore of Watertown, potter, four acres of land in Watertown “partly meadow, and partly Swampy

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18 *Nicholas Bushy*, 19; *TAG*, 85:252 (gives incorrect date).
19 *Sudbury VR*, 308.
20 *Watertown TR*, 1:2:42.
22 *Watertown TR*, 1:2:127.
24 *Sudbury Archives*, #12.
25 *Sudbury Archives*, #2270; *Sudbury Hist*, 180.
land…” Sarah Grout released her dower rights and the two acknowledged the deed on 29 March 1671.26 On 7 February 1684/5, John Grout of Sudbury, planter, sold for £10.10s. to Richard Shield of Watertown six acres in Watertown “part of that tract of land commonly called the little plaines…”27

In October 1680 the General Court granted the petition of John Grout, Sen’, of Sudbury allowing him to purchase from the Indians 80 acres of a tract between Sudbury, Watertown and William Jennings’ grant, “if it belongs to the inhabitants of Naticke.”28 On 16 March 1680/1 “Master Waban and John Magus both of Natick, Indian Natives” sold for a “valuable sume of money & Indian Corne” to John Grout sen’ of Sudbury 200 acres of land between the western line of Watertown and the south line of Sudbury that had been granted by the Court to William Jennings and was now in the possession of Mathew Rice.29 A dispute over the validity of this sale arose between the towns of Sudbury and Natick, but on 27 May 1685 the General Court upheld the purchase and ordered that “Ensign John Grout have liberty to lay out the eighty acres of land formerly by him purchased & possessed from the Indians of Natick on one side of the sª tract And that the Indians may make sale of the remainder of that tract of land of Four hundred acres as Majoº Genª Gookins & M’ Elyot shall advise & approve.” On 26 June Daniel Gookins attested that he had approved sale of 400 acres to Matthew Rice. “Rev. John Elyot,” the minister to the Indians, signed “for charity sake I can suffer this to be but act in it I cannot.”30

On 23 October 1695 John Grout, Sen., of Sudbury, husbandman, sold to John Livermore of Watertown for “a considerable sum of money,” a tract of land “between Dedham line, Watertown line and Sudbury line; and adjoineth partly to yª two hundred acres of land formerly granted by yª General Court to William Jennings of Watertowne…” Capt. John Groute acknowledged the deed in March 1695/6.31

COMMUNITY: The names of John Grout and John Groute appear on an undated list of those at Sudbury who had taken the oath of loyalty since of 9 July 1645.32 In February 1648/9, John Grout was one of four men appointed by Sudbury to “lay out a way from Watertown bounds to Mr. Dunstars farme”; also “John Groute is to pay five shillings sixpence for the old pounde the irons [excepted?]”.33 In May 1649 “John Groute and Thomas Kinge are apoynted surveyors of the high way for one yeare & they are to call men out to worke every man to the value of the pastors rate levied last March.”34 In September 1650 John Groute was one of four men given power to mend the bridge and, if necessary, hire carpenters.35 He was chosen a selectman of Sudbury in February 1650/1 and served for thirty years and was also town clerk seven years. In 1655 “Sergeant Groute” was chosen a commissioner to hear small causes (not exceeding 40 shillings), and in 1666 “Sergeant John Grout” and two other men called “our trusty friends” were appointed by the selectmen of Sudbury “to read, issue and determine all matters of difference ensuing about sufficiency of fence.”36

MILITARY: John was chosen sergeant at Sudbury on 27 May 1661, and on 18 June 1667 he was chosen ensign in place of Thomas Noyes, deceased. He was promoted to captain after defending Sudbury from the Indians on 20 April 1676, when the town was attacked by about 500 Indians and several houses were set on fire. Ensign Grout with his townsmen ‘made a brave stand’ of probably two or three hours duration, until the arrival of Capt. Mason from Watertown, when they drove the Indians over Concord River and saved the rest of the town. Grout “was courageous in repelling these assaults.” He presumably also treated casualties in his capacity as surgeon.37

In October 1676 a number of “impoverished Petitionº of Sudby” applied for a portion of a “large contribution sent out of Ireland by some pious & well affected p sons for yº relief of their brethren in New England….Beside yº uncovering yº Many houses & Barnes & some hundred of Acres of lands which are
unimproved for feare of ye Enemy to Our great loss & Damage.” In total, the petitioners claimed losses of £2707, of which John Grout junr applied for £60. John Grout and John Grout junr signed the petition.38

COURT: On 7 Jan. 1649[50] John Grout was made guardian of Richard Barnes whose mother and grandmother had died at sea.39 John served on two coroner’s juries: in August 1660 that determined Garret Matharek of Sudbury drowned, and in April 1666 that determined Richard Ward of Sudbury died “by the disposing hand of God perishing in ye water.”40

OCCUPATION: Surgeon, planter, yeoman. On 7 October 1662, a petition to the court signed by citizens of Sudbury requested that John Grout be “allowed to practice the mystery of Chirurgery.” Another petition was submitted 5 April 1664. His inventory includes two acres of Indian corn, three cows, five sheep and five lambs and four swine.41

PERSONAL: On 14 May 1684 “John Grout of Sudbury aged about sixty eight yeares trestifies upon Oath that ye Depon’t was well acquainted with Governr Winthrop from the time he came into the Country till the time of his death, and knows that about two and forty yeares since [abt. 1642] Tacomus an Indian Sagamore or cheife man of the Indians at Chapnocunco coming to Boston with his Sons and receiving sundry gifts and favours from Govr’ Winthrop the sd. Tacomus expressed great obligation and desire to give some testimony of his thankfulness invited sd. m’t. Winthrop to goe or send up into his Country and to accept some Lands from him, and that the sd. m’t Winthrop upon sd. invitation employed Stephen Day of Cambridge, William Knap of Watertown and the depon’t to goe with a written deed to Chapnaconco to the sd. Tacomus and from him to receive possession of certain Lands, and that the sd. Tacomus in the deponents sight and presence very freely and with memorable ceremonys signed a deed of gift & delivd. the same to the sd. Stephen Day for the use of sd. m’t Winthrop wherein he conveyed to him and his heires for ever his Land lying all along and from end to end upon the westerly side of Chapnocongoe pond towards Connecticott and in the same length or breadth to run up into the Country towards Connecticott till the extent or quantity should be as large as Watertown town bounds and which according to the best of ye Depon’t Judgemt was not less than seven or eight miles square and at the same time possession was given of sd Land by earth and grass delivered sd. Stephen Day the sd. Tacomus at the same time speaking to the deponent who understood something of the Indian language to speake to m’t Winthrop to charge his children to give his Sons more fish hooks, The ceremony Tacomus used in Signing sd. Deed was Viz. he caused his eldest Son to lye or kneele down upon the ground and himselfe made his marke or signe on the Deed upon his Sons back and then he put himselfe in the same posture and caused his sd. Son to signe the same Deed upon his back and also caused his other Sons successively to do the like upon one another backs, the meaning whereof the deponent understood was that none of them might have any pretence of right by succession to disturb or molest sd. m’t Winthrop or his Children and further Saith not.”42

ESTATE: The will of John Grout, Senr, of the town of Sudbury was dated 24 July 1697. To “my eldest Son John Grout all the Upland Swampland and Medow ground lying in Sudbury which I bought of John Briggham & Sarah his wife, (Excepting Six acres of Medow which Lyeth in the Great River Meadow towards Concord) with all ye Towne Rights priviledges and appurtenances thereunto belonging and appertaining & allso…all that My upland and Medow which lyeth upon ye Brook which ledes from James Rossess to ye widow Knapp…and all my Land & Medow from ye gutter wch Comes out of Cranberry Lott to ye going over at Mary Knaps, Excepting ye Ridg at Beaver Dam of upland…and…half ye Commanage Belonging to ye sd medow, and ten acres of medow at West Medow…and half part of my forty acre Lott next to Ephraim [Child].”

To “my Son Jonathan Grout…all that part of My homestall which lyeth on ye North and ye West of ye Brooke which ledes from Roses Bridge to Widow Knaps…together with the Land and Medow ground on ye East side of ye Brooke against the Mill: from Whales Bridge to ye North end of the Ditch in Phebe Hole…and Ten acres of West Medow next to the Spring…also ye half part of my forty acre Lott at ye North end…”

To “my Son Joseph Grout of Watertown all My housing Lands & Medows & Rights which to me did belong and appertain in ye Town of Watertown, Excepting a farm which I have neer to Medup; only my

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38 Sudbury Hist, 256-57.
39 Middlesex Court Abst, 1:7-8, 13.
41 Middlesex Deeds, 4:189 (yeoman), 9:239 (planter); Middlesex Court Abst, 1:150, 2:6; Middlesex PR, #9951.
42 Suffolk Deeds, 13:344.
Son Joseph Grout shall pay unto my Son in Law Joseph Curtis ye sum of Twelve pounds in money within your space of three years after my Decease…if my Son Joseph Grout die without heirs, Male, then ye halfe of ye Said Land Shall return to ye Grouts the other half to his own Dafters…

To “my Son in Law John Livermore…all that my farm of Seventy acres wch lyeth by Medups in Watertown, he paying to my five Grand Children, wch My Dafter Elizabeth bore to Saml Allen as ye Children Shall come of age…ye Sum of forty shillings apiece…..”

To “My Dafter Susannah ye six acres of Medow wth I bought of John Brigham lying at the River Medow towards Concord and ye half part of my New Grant Lott….” To “my Dafter Abigail Curtis my six acres of medow lying at pantry & twelve pounds in Mony….”

To “my son Jonathan Grout one pair of oxen & his Choyce of my Books & my Chest & Rapier & part of my Wearing Clothes…..”

To “my Dear & Loving Wife Sarah Grout ten acres of Medow & six of upland at West Medow to be at her own Disposing….” Sarah was also to have all of the remainder of the estate, and she was made joint executor with Jonathan. Witnesses were Joseph Noyes, Peter King and Frances Fullam.

On 13 August 1697, widow Sarah Grout requested that the court make her son Jonathan sole executor, “I being aged & [weak?] not able to ride Far…. Jonathan presented the inventory on that date, which was appraised on [?] August 1697. It totaled £690.12., including: “To His eldest son John Grout ye Lands & Medows given to him by Will” (£250); “To his son Jonathan Grout ye Housing Lands Medows Mill & stream And Rights given to him by Will” (£130); “To his son Joseph Grout of Watertowne ye Housing Lands Medows & Rights & given to him By Will Lying in ye towne of Watertown” (£150); “To his son in Law John LiverMore ye farm given to him by Will Lying in Water Towne by Medups” (£20); “To his son in law Joseph Grout of Watertowne ye Housing Lands Medows & given to him By Will” (£24); “To his son in Law John Woodward ye Lands & Medow given to him by Will” (£24); and “To his loving Wife Sarah Grout ye Land & Medowe given her by Will” (£30).

CHILD of John and Mary (Cakebread) Grout:

i. JOHN2 GROUT, b. Watertown, 8 Aug. 1641; d. Sudbury bef. 4 March 1707/8; m. Sudbury, 15 April 1667, REBECCA TOLL, dau. John and Katherine (—) Toll, b. Sudbury, 5 May 1646; d. Sudbury, 10 Sept. 1721 “Rebekah, wid.”

CHILDREN of John and Sarah (Busby) Grout:

ii. SARAH GROUT, b. Sudbury, 11 Dec. 1643; living 25 July 1657; d. bef. 25 July 1697.

iii. HANNAH GROUT, b. Sudbury, 31 May 1646; d. bet. 8 July 1690 and prob. 25 July 1697; m. abt. 1668, JOHN LIVERMORE,56 son of JOHN and GRACE (SHERMAN) LIVERMORE (GM2, VI:297-302), b. abt. 1639-1640; d. Weston, 9 Feb. 1718/9, in 80th yr.

43 Middlesex PR, #9951 (the original is damaged and illegible in places). Both Grout, 19-21; Abner Morse, The Genealogy of the Descendants of Capt. John Grout (Boston: 1857) [hereinafter Grout by Morse], 6-7 incorrectly give the date of the will as 24 January instead of July.

44 Middlesex PR, #9951.

45 Grout, 22; Watertown VR, 9.

46 Middlesex PR, #9952 (inventory).

47 Sudbury VR, 208; NEHGR, 17:257.

48 Sudbury VR, 142.

49 Sudbury VR, 308.

50 Grout, 22 (with errors); Watertown VR, 11; Sudbury VR, 60-61.

51 Nicholas Busby, 9 (grandfather Busby’s will).

52 Middlesex PR, #9951 [Father’s will. She did not m. John Loker as claimed in Sudbury Hist, 54; he married Sarah Rice, see Andrew Henshaw Ward, A Genealogical History of the Rice Family… (Boston: 1858), 7, 32].


54 Watertown VR, 63 (birth of child) and Middlesex PR, #9951 (father’s will which only names his son-in-law John Livermore, without mentioning Hannah).

55 Watertown VR, 31 (child born 21 March 1668/9?).

56 NEHGR, 109:153 (The wording of John Grout’s will led researchers to conclude that his daughter Elizabeth married both Samuel Allen and John Livermore, but in 1955 Bertha W. Clark showed that Elizabeth died as the wife of Allen and that John Livermore’s wife was her sister Hannah.]


58 Weston VR, 6, 335, 383.
iv. **JOSEPH GROUT**, b. 24 July 1649; d. bet. 1 Sept. 1720 and 4 Nov. 172059; m. abt. 1680,60 **SUSANNAH HAGAR**, dau. William and Mary (Bemis) Hagar61; d. aft. 1 Sept. 1702.62


vi. **JONATHAN GROUT**, b. Sudbury, 1 Aug. 1658; d. Sudbury, 19 April 173067; m. Sudbury, 10 Dec. 1701,68 **ABIGAIL DIX**, dau. of John and Elizabeth (Barnard) Dix69; d. Sudbury, 29 Nov. 1753.70

vii. **MARY GROUT**, b. Sudbury, 1 Aug. 1661; d. aft. 25 July 1697; m. Sudbury, 19 Sept. 1688,71 **THOMAS KNAP/KNAPP**, d. “beyond the sea,” bef. 28 May 1697.73

viii. **ELIZABETH GROUT**, b. say 166374; d. Watertown, 28 Aug. 169475; m. Sudbury, 22 Dec. 1683,76 **SAMUEL ALLEN** of Watertown, perhaps son of Daniel and Mary (Sherman) Allen, b. Lancaster, 17 April 166477; Samuel m. (2) **Lydia Hastings**.78

ix. **SUSANNA GROUT**, b. Sudbury, 22 Sept. 1664; d. bef. 2 Oct. 1736; m. abt. 1693,80 **JOHN WOODWARD**, son of John and Abigail (—) (Stubbs) Woodward, b. Sudbury, 12 Dec. 166181; d. bet. 2 Oct. 1736 and 10 Jan. 1736/7.82

**COMMENTARY:** The work of Abner Morse, a prolific genealogical author of the mid-nineteenth century, is rife with the typical errors of the time when genealogists tended to round up all instances of the same name and string them together into one individual. In his 1857 work, *The Genealogy of the Descendants of Capt. John Grout*, Morse has jumbled together a number of disparate records and made many great leaps of fancy, but he does tell a couple of family stories, replete with claimed provenance of how they were handed down through the generations, that are intriguing.83

The first is the family tradition that “has descended in the line of John’s descendants, with a copy of his will, through Jonathan his executor and an uninterrupted succession of five Jonathans, all men of intelligence and respectability, that a father by the name of Grout, with two sons, fled to this country from Wales, [or the borders of Wales, i.e. Cornwall], on the breaking out of the plague, and died soon afterwards, leaving his sons in their minority, with claims to an estate in England which were never prosecuted.”

59 Middlesex PR, #9960 (will and probate).
60 Bond’s Watertown, 263 (child born March 1681).
62 Middlesex PR, #9960 (husband’s will).
63 NEHGR, 61:258.
64 NEHGR, 61:258; Sudbury VR, 208.
65 NEHGR, 61:258.
66 NEHGR, 61:258.
67 Sudbury VR, 308.
68 Sudbury VR, 208.
69 Bond’s Watertown, 198.
70 Sudbury VR, 308.
71 Middlesex PR, #9951 (father’s will).
72 Sudbury VR, 208.
73 Bond’s Watertown, 328; Middlesex PR, #13406 (administration).
74 If she was 20 at her marriage in 1683.
75 NEHGR, 109:154
76 Sudbury VR, 208; NEHGR, 18:47 (She did not m. second John Livermore. He married her sister, Hannah.)
78 NEHGR, 109:154.
79 Bond’s Watertown, 658 (not in husband’s will).
80 Bond’s Watertown, 658.
81 Bond’s Watertown, 658; NEHGR, 153:215; Sudbury VR, 157.
82 Middlesex PR, #25590 (dates of will and order for heirs to appear before judge); Bond’s Watertown, 658; NEHGR, 153:216.
83 Grout by Morse, 1-5.
Morse calculated this meant that the Grouts had come to New England in 1634, but Robert Charles Anderson’s *Great Migration* series includes no evidence of Grouts here through 1640. Morse also proposes that young John, still in his minority in 1634, “was either taken into the family of Gov. Winthrop or resided with his neighbor, where he attracted the attention and secured the confidence of the Governor and family,” basing his assumption on the deposition Grout made in 1684 that he had known Gov. Winthrop “from the time he came into the Country till his death.” It is not clearly stated whether John meant he knew Winthrop since Winthrop came to New England, or since he, Grout, came, but we infer it is most likely the latter, as there is certainly no evidence of John Grout coming with the Winthrop Fleet in 1630.

Morse argues that no matter when or how John Grout arrived in New England, he clearly was associated with Gov. Winthrop, who entrusted him as one of three men sent to negotiate a deed with the Indians – something that did not just happen to any odd fellow who stepped off the boat. It can be inferred from Grout’s rise in the militia and his noted service in defending Sudbury that he had military experience above the ordinary. Finally, his training as a surgeon implies education. All of which, Morse argues, is appropriate for a grandson of a knight.

Morse identifies the knight in question from a coat of arms passed down, as he claims, in the Grout family along with “the gun that was brought over” by John Grout. Morse lists the provenance of how the gun and arms had gone from John1 Grout to his son Jonathan2 Grout to his son John3 and then were separated when the gun was left to John’s son Hilkiah4, “and the arms to another.” At some point Col. Jonathan Grout of Petersham recovered the arms (or at least a copy of same), which were still in the possession of a descendant at the time Morse was writing, and which he reproduced in the frontispiece of his book. According to Morse, the information handed down with these arms claimed they had been confirmed to Richard Grouet, Esq., of Walton, in Derby, on 28 May 1587. As far as Morse was able to determine, the arms had never been published, which meant, he believed, that it would have been impossible for someone along the trail of provenance to have copied them from a book, and, therefore, they had to be real.

Morse, having accepted the story of two brothers, then had to explain what happened to the other brother, and fancifully and without any substantiation (although with the confession that this was “inferred from circumstances”) tacked on a William Grout who Morse says appeared in Charlestown in 1665 (25 years after John’s documented existence in New England), and disappeared from records there “soon after the acquisition of New York and New Jersey by the English” to which he moved and adopted the DeGroot surname!

There may be a kernel of truth somewhere in these tales, but lacking any documentation, John Grout’s origins remain unknown.

84 It seems more than likely that John’s training in medicine took place in New England since he was not propounded as a surgeon until about 20 years after his arrival. If he was, indeed, a close associate of the Winthrop family, JOHN WINTHROP the Younger (EF), who practiced medicine, himself, may have been his teacher. See Winthrop’s sketch in the Early New England Families Study Project on americanancestors.org and in Alicia Crane Williams, *Early New England Families 1641-1700*, Volume 1 (Boston: NEHGS, 2015, 2nd printing), 330-40.

85 These arms are not recorded in Sir Bernard Burke’s authoritative, *The General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales comprising A Registry of Armorial Bearings from the Earliest to the Present Time* (London: 1884), which has two entries, one under a George Grote and the other under a Joseph Grout, neither of which remotely match the arms published by Morse.

86 Wyman’s *Charlestown* has no information about anyone named Groute in that town.