

ZEPHANIAH BABBITT (1735-abt. 1777)  
 ABIGAIL HAMLIN (1738- )

Zephaniah Babbitt was born Jan. 5, 1735 in Berkley, Mass. He was the third child of his father's second wife, his parents being Elkanah and Mehitable (Crane) Babbitt. He enlisted as a private in Capt. Joseph Tinklam's Co., Col Bradford's Regt. Roll. Was sworn at Middleboro, Mass. in 1757. Middleboro is a town to the east of Taunton a distance of but ten miles. William Bradford Browne states that, "He is thought to have received military land grants in Western, Conn., where he removed. Supposed to have died in Rev. War in Arnold's expedition against Canada." 1

In his removal to western Conn., he met and married Abigail Hamlin whose parents, Cornelius and Mary (Mudge) Hamlin (7-38), were living at Sharon, Conn. The Hamlins had moved to Sharon from Abigail's birthplace in Colchester, Conn. (map #7) in about 1740. She was born Oct. 8, 1738 which tells us she was still very young when she left Colchester with her family. Sharon became the home of her youth and the place where she had lived prior to her marriage (see map #14).

The above author goes on to state that "Abigail is thought to have been of Mayflower descent though this fact has never been proved." 2 The research of this study found that her immigrant ancestor, James Hamlin (1) came to America with a second group of Pilgrims in the same ship or group of ships that brought the famous preacher, Mr. Lothrop. They came in 1634. Abigail's grandfather sold the Barnstable homestead that had been in the family for three generations and migrated west to be one of the original proprietors of Sharon, Conn. and was settled there in 1742 or 43 (see 7-35 to 7-38).

Zephaniah and Abigail resided in several area towns of Western Connecticut, as shown by the birthplaces of their children, namely Newtown, Norfolk, Brookfield, and back to Norfolk (map #14). Like her mother, Abigail had six children but differing somewhat as Abigail's were five boys and one girl and her mother had five girls and one boy.

Zephaniah and Abigail's children, as listed on a family group sheet submitted to the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City by Karen Scoville, are:

1. Lemuel Babbitt, b. Apr. 19, 1759 at Newtown, Conn. md. Lucy Dunning; died Jan. 16, 1842
2. Samuel Babbitt, b. abt. 1763 at Norfolk, Conn., md. Lucy Glover
3. William Babbitt, b. Aug. 20, 1766 at Brookfield, Conn. md. Lydia Bishop, dau. of David and Sarah (Austin) Bishop (7-58). Died Mar. 19, 1814 (7-5)
4. Isaac Babbitt, b. Apr. 19, 1769 at Brookfield, Conn. md. Mary or Clara Dunning. Died March 29, 1832
5. Asa Babbitt, b. 1772, Brookfield, Conn. md. Mendana Toby
6. Abigail Babbitt, b. Dec. 19, 1774 at Norfolk, Conn. md. Tobey Miles. 3

Zephaniah's death came about 1777 but no record has been found giving the date of Abigail's passing. Their third son, William, married Lydia Bishop and they became the parents of our Lorin Whiting Babbitt who, with his wife, Almira Castle, joined the Mormon pioneers and lived at Painsville, Lake, Ohio, on the shore of Lake Erie near Kirkland and Cleveland, Ohio (see 7-5 and 7-6). (map #18)

Zephaniah's participation in the Revolutionary War, 1777, as was mentioned earlier, would have been when his oldest child was 13 and his youngest was 3, and

he, himself, was 42. Abigail, his wife, was left a widow before her children were all raised. She was living at Norfolk which was about twenty-five miles distance from her home town of Sharon, Conn. where, at the time, her father, at 72 years of age, was still living and where others of her Hamlin relatives resided (7-38).

1. #38 p. 81
2. ibid
3. #170 p. (7-3)