

THE FAMILY OF ADAM BLAKEMAN

We learn from the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, series 3, volume 8, page 249, and Foster's "Alumni Oxonienses", 1500-1714, page 136, that ADAM BLAKEMAN aged 19, a plebeian of the County of Stafford, England, was matriculated at Christ Church College, Oxford, on May 23, 1617, and received the degree of B.A., February 12, following.

Cotton Mather in his "Magnalia" says:

"He was a useful preacher of the gospel, first in Leicestershire, then in Derbyshire: but coming to New England, from the storm that began to look black upon him, he was attended with a desirable company of the faithful, who said unto him, *Entreat us not to leave you, or to return from following after you: for whither you go, we will go; and your God shall be our God.*"

"New-England having received this holy man, who notwithstanding his name, was for his holiness, A Nazarite purer than snow, whiter than milk."¹

The first that we learn of Adam Blakeman in New England is in June 1640, when the General Court of Connecticut, then in session at Hartford,

"Ordered, that Mr. Ludlowe, Mr. Hopkins & Mr. Blakman shall survey & divyde and sett out the bownds betwixt the Plantations of Cuphege & Vncoway,² p^rvided if they cannot accord, Mr. Welles at his next coming to those p^rts shall issue yt."³

At a session of the Particular Court held

"Dec. the xith, 1644."

.....
"Robert Bedle is adiudged to restore double for the seuerall thefts acknowledged by him, and to be seuerly whipped and branded in the hand vppō Wensday next."⁴

¹ Mather's Magnalia, Hartford, Conn., 1820, vol. 1, p. 358.

² Stratford and Fairfield.

³ Colonial Records of Connecticut, vol. 1, pp. 50, 53.

⁴ Ibid., vol. 1, p. 115.

The record further shows that

"Bedle stole frō Mr. Blakman, of gunpowder, ij pownd; Frō wydowe Foote, of Rye, iiij bush; Frō Tho: Welles, 2 sacks; Frō Rich: Mylls, 1 blanket; Frō Tho: Tracy, 1 sacke."⁵

The vote in 1640, appointing Mr. Blakeman one of the committee to determine the bounds between Stratford and Fairfield, would seem to indicate that he was then a resident of Stratford, Connecticut.

His marriage to his wife JANE is supposed to have taken place in England, and she is also believed to have been the mother of all his children.

A clue to her identity may be found in his will wherein he appointed "brother Groues bro. Booth:." and "bro: Hawly" as overseers of his will. Moreover his son John, in his will executed in 1661, makes mention of "my Uncle Wheeler."

Some writers have suggested that Adam Blakeman, Philip Groves and Moses Wheeler, all of Stratford, married sisters of Joseph Hawley, the first of the name in this country, and likewise a resident of Stratford.

Adam Blakeman is supposed to have been the first minister of the town.

As there are no town records extant earlier than about 1650, we do not know on what terms he was to serve the town.

His salary does not seem to have been promptly paid, for among the records of the Colonial Legislature for May, 1649, we find this entry:

"Concerning Mr. Blakmans meintenance, Mr. Ludlowe is desired (both for what is behinde, as allso for the future,) to take care that it bee leuied, according to the seuerall seasons, as is provided by the order of the Country."⁶

February 6, 1651

"it was agreed by the towne at publick meeting that m^r Blackman shal haue () and pay part of his owne rate."⁷

⁵ Colonial Records of Connecticut, vol. 1, p. 115.

⁶ Ibid., vol. 1, pp. 185, 187.

⁷ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old p. 15, new p. 10.

The edge of the leaf on which this vote is recorded, is torn and the part stating the amount of the salary gone; but from page 97 of Orcutt's History of Stratford, we learn that it was £63.

On original page 5, new page 6 of the first volume of Stratford Land Records is

"A noate of euery mans fence in the ouldfeyld and what number and the seuerall rods."

The fourth name in this list is that of

	rods	foots	inches"
"m ^r Blackman	11	14	0

This list is supposed to have been made before May 1651, as William Burritt, whose name appears in the list, died before May 28, 1651, when an inventory of his estate was taken.⁸

May 11, 1660, Adam Blakeman sold to Thomas Sanford of Milford, seven acres of meadow "on the upper island on Paugusit River near the mill riuer which I bought of Jeremiah Judson."

The property was bounded north on land of "Brother Wheeler". The consideration mentioned in the deed was £12, paid to Robert Stewart of Milford "in Indian corne pease & wheat".⁹

In January following, he sold to John Pickett fourteen acres of land in the Great Neck.¹⁰

According to the college records at Oxford, Mr. Blakeman was born about 1598; consequently he was about 67 years of age in 1665, and evidently growing infirm, for the Stratford records show that April 1, of that year,

"at a lawfull meeting the towne did consider of giuing m^r chancie a call to help m^r blackman in the ministry for a yeare & they agreed so () by a vote the word giuen was to draw to the west of the meeting house & it was clearly manifest to be the maior part to giue him a call for a yeare"¹¹

⁸ Orcutt's History of Stratford, p. 102.

⁹ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old folio 77, new p. 130.

¹⁰ Ibid., vol. 1, old folio 110, new p. 196.

¹¹ Ibid., vol. 1, old p. 16, new p. 11.

This relief for Mr. Blakeman proved only temporary and the town was soon called upon to elect his successor.

Singularly enough the only minute of his death is found on the church records at Roxbury, Massachusetts, where Rev. Samuel Danforth made this entry:

"7.7.65." (September 7, 1665) "m^r Adam Blakeman Pastor to y^e church at Stratford rested from his labors."¹²

March 16, 1665, he made his will, which is entered on the Fairfield Probate Records, volume 1665-'75, pages 2 and 3, as follows:

"I Adam Blakeman of Stratford in the Collony of Conecticott though sum what Crasey in body yet of good vnderstand: haueing taught it to be a Christian duty to set our houses in order in due season 1 for the preuention and auoiding of many Inconueniencies which might arise in the famely 2 that the hart, may be at liberty for better things 3 because yf it be not done in season we are often cut short and disabled to doe it at all or through the violence of diseases we doe it in hast or without Judgment or not as Concearns soe waighty a busines though I haue not bine without a Will for diuers years yet things haue altered and I haue Seen Just cause to alter many things yet now once agayn I haue fully declared my mind:

"Imprimis I giue bequeath my Soul and body into the hand of my most mercifull Saueour and redemer by whose merriits and Satisfaction (though in my self a vile and missarable Creature) I hope for mercy and Saluaton renouncing all things in me & done by me as dross & dung "Item because many of Gods seruants haue bine falcly acused concerning ther Judgment of the king like power of Christe: though I haue cause to bewayle my great Ignorance and weaknes in acting yet I doe and hope I shall through the strength of Christe to my dying day adhear to that form of church dicepline agreed on by the reverent elders and bretheren in the year 49. now in print And to the truth of God concerning that point Left on record by that famous and Reuerent Seruant of God of blessed Memory M^r Thomas Hooker in his elaboret worke cald the Suruay of Church discipline to which most in all the churches of Christe then gathered in this Collony gaue their consent as apears in the Reuerent authors epistle soe at Milford New hauen Gilford and thos in the bay who could be come at in that stress of time And I being one who in the name of our Church Subscribed that Coppy could neuer (through the grace of Christe) see cause to receiue any other Judgment nor fall from those principles soe soundly backed with scripture and arguments which none could yet overturn

¹² Boston, Mass., Record Commissioners' Report, vol. 6, p. 203.

"Item concerning thos worldly goods the Lord hath made me owner of haueing giuen to my sons John James Samuell and to my Daughter Mary such Portions at Mariage as I was able & saw cause my debts and funerall expenses being discharged I Giue my house and lands with the appurtenances to my dear and beloued Wife with all my Goods and Cattels I shall be possessed of at death to maintayn her selfe and those belonging to her comfortably during her life and to dispose of at her death—

"only concerning my Books which I Intended for my son Benjamin seing his thoughts are after a nother courss of life yf his thoughts be not to attend the worke of Christe in the ministry my will is yf my sonn Atwater make his sonn Josua a Scholler and fit him for that worke I giue vnto him my Lattin bookes: yf not they shall be put into my state and disposed off as my Wife and my overseers shall think fit—

"And I Giue to Josua Atwater a horss And my English bookes I giue to my Children and their Children after my wife hath chosen thos that shee thinks most profitable for her owne vse

"I giue to my beloved Daughter Mary Atwater twenty pound to be payd in what goods my wife thinks good & can best spare and as shee can—

"I give to my sonn Johns children Ten pounds:

"Item I giue to my two daughters James and Samuels wife each of them a mare of yf they die [to] children/

"Item yf Deliuernance shall reaturn to his mother and carry himself dutefully to reward her and leue [] wayes and wicked company: I Giue him forty pounds [] else his mother shall se is good: yf not let him only haue [] shillings and for the deuission at white plain I giue him [the] vse that he might haue Imployment & sum what to liue on [] but yf he offer to sell it I giue no such liberty but I [giue it] to James and Samuell—

"Item for Benjamin I [leave it] to his mother to giue him more or less as he shall (be) dutifull and obedient—

"Item I giue to our two servants each a heifer or cowe at the end of their [].

"Item yf my wife dye without a will what house Lands [] and goods shall be left I giue to James Samuell and [] viz to Benjamin my house Barn and home lott (only Harr[ods] Lot and the hou[s]e in it is Joseph Blakman: to Samuell my Land in the Necke in the New feild and the Meadow at the wood end & the Common Meadowe: And to James & Benjamin I [] giue Clapboard Hill & the rest of my meadowe to be equilly deuided this in case my wife dye without Will yf she haue disposed it before: I doe confirm what shee hath done

"I giue to my daughter Blakeman yf shee marryed not John Thomas and shall take her freinds consent in the Mater or continnue a Widowe fife pound

"I make my dear Wife my sole Executor: I would Intreat brother Groues bro: Booth:: bro: Hawly to be the overseers of this my Will and helpfull to my wife as shee shall haue need to each of which I giue

an English Booke: I doe Joyn alsoe with them my three sons James
Samuell & Beniamin

Mo 1:16:1665

by me Adam Blakeman"

Immediately following the will on the Probate Records is
"The Inuentory of M^r Adam Blakeman Pastor of the Church of Christe
at Stratford taken by the Townsmen Septemb^r 22: 1665"

The property consisted of

"The House and Lot & orl his accomodations belonging to it"	£ 200 00 00
Harrods lot and house	30 00 00
Books	49 00 00
Wampum	01 00 00
Household goods, farming tools, cattle etc., making a total value of	568- 2- 0 ¹³

Nothing further concerning the estate is found on the Probate
Records.

"Jenuary 1 1665 it was agreed vpon at a lawfull meeting that the twons-
men shall Levie a rate for m^r Blackman p[ay] to the tyme he liued."¹⁴

On old folio 121, new page 218, of the first volume of
Stratford Land Records are entered:

"Lands of m^r Addam Blackman Diceast Recorded to m^rs Jane Black-
man widdow this 9th: Octob^r. 1667."

The first piece was a home-lot of four acres, bounded north,
east and west on the highway or street, south on her lot bought
of James Harwood and land of John Hurd, Senior.¹⁵ The second
piece was the Harwood lot of one and one-half acres and was
bounded north on the home-lot, east on the highway, south on
lands of Henry Wakelin and west on land of John Hurd, Senior.
Besides these there were thirty-three and three-quarter acres
on Clapboard Hill, seventeen acres in the New Division, twenty-
nine acres in the New Field, called Exchange, thirty-three and
three-quarter acres at White Plains, sixteen and three-quarter

¹³ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 1665-'75, p. 3.

¹⁴ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old p. 16, new p. 11.

¹⁵ According to the map on page 105 of Orcutt's History of Stratford,
this lot is now bounded on the north by South avenue, east by Elm
street and west by Main street.

acres in Great Meadow and eight and one-half acres in Great Meadow near Wood End.

Immediately following this record is an entry to the effect that excepting the home-lots, being the first two pieces, and the land at White Plains, one-quarter of the property was given by Adam Blakeman to his son John and his heirs.

December 20, 1670, widow Jane Blakeman gave a deed "unto my well beloved son: Benj:ⁿ Blackeman" of her house, home-lot and orchard; also one-half of her lands at Clapboard Hill; one-half the meadow at Neck Bridge, the meadow at Wood End and New Field, besides all other lands not broken up there. The deed stipulated that Benjamin was to have the use and improvement of the property until her grandson, Adam Blakeman, was twenty-one years old.¹⁶

"A Committee appointed by y^e Town thereunto"

made a

"Rate for y^e Discharge of y^e white hills purchase together [] her Expences both to English and Indians in ord^r to y^e [sale] of all Land wthin y^e Bownds of Stratford: made this instant sep[tember] one thousand six hundred seventy and one"¹⁷

The edge of the page containing this record is badly worn, so that the figures showing the amount of each person's tax are missing in some places.

Mrs. Blakeman's tax was

"00-1- "¹⁷

There is no record of the death of widow Jane Blakeman.

She made a will September 20, 1671, in which she describes herself as "being aged and weak of body but well in mind."

To her son Deliverance she gave £30; to her sons James and Benjamin all lands on Clapboard Hill and the meadow at Neck Bridge called the Great Meadow; to her son Benjamin and grandson Adam the lands in New Field on the west side of Neessinpaug Creek, to be divided equally when Adam was twenty-one years of age. Until then, Benjamin was to have the

¹⁶ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old folio 242, new p. 464.

¹⁷ Ibid., vol. 1, old p. 3, new p. 3.

improvement of the whole property and if Adam should die before arriving at the age of 21, Benjamin was to inherit the whole.

To her grandson Joseph Blakeman was given, at the age of 21, the house and home lot that her husband bought of James Harrod.

To her son James's wife, she gave some of her clothing and to each of his three daughters a ewe and lamb, and a like bequest to her grandson Adam, the child of her son Samuel, and to the latter's eldest daughter.

To her granddaughter Mary, the child of her son James, she gave clothing, and to her servant Sarah Nichols, household furniture and livestock.

To Mr. Israel Chauncey, her husband's successor in the ministry at Stratford, £5 and a like bequest to her servant Nathaniel at the end of his service.

To her son Benjamin she gave the house, home-lot and meadow at Wood End together with the balance of the personal estate and made him sole executor.

In May 1672, she made a codicil in which she directed that part of the bequest to her son Deliverance should be paid in bedding and other articles of household goods.

An inventory of her estate was taken January 23, 1673.

The property consisted of lands, household furniture, clothing, cattle, etc.

The real estate was valued at £ 337-10

This with the personal property made a total
value of

£ 1029-05-06.¹⁹

CHILDREN OF ADAM AND JANE () BLAKEMAN

JOHN²⁰ b. mar. about 1653, Dorothy Smith²¹ and lived
in Stratford and Fairfield, Conn.

¹⁹ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 1665-'75, pp. 73-74.

²⁰ Ibid., vol. 1665-'75, pp. 2-3, will of Adam Blakeman.

²¹ Goodwin's Genealogical Notes, p. 191; Hampshire County, Mass., Probate Records, vol. 3, p. 14, Will of widow Dorothy (Smith) Russell; Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 2, p. 76, and Hartford, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 7, p. 149, will of widow Dorothy Moore.

JAMES ²⁰	b.	mar. 1,	——— Stiles. ²³
		2,	Miriam Wheeler. ²⁴
MARY ²⁰	" about 1636; ²²	" 1,	May 6, 1651, Joshua Atwater ²⁵ of New Haven, Conn.
		2,	between Nov. 11, 1676, and Jan. 1676-7, Rev. John Higginson ²⁶ of Salem, Mass.
SAMUEL ²⁰	"	"	Nov., "latter end," 1660, Elizabeth Wheeler, ²⁷ and lived in Stratford, Conn.
DELIVERANCE ²⁰	"	"	before Mar. 24, 1694, Hannah ———, ²⁸ and lived in Stratford and Stoning- ton, Conn.
BENJAMIN ²⁰	"	"	Apr. 1, 1675, Rebecca Scottow. ²⁹ Grad- uate of Harvard College, 1663, Pastor of Cong. Church, Malden, Mass., later living at Scarborough and Saco, Maine.

JAMES BLAKEMAN, second son and second child of Rev. Adam Blakeman of Stratford, Connecticut, was probably born in England though no record of his birth or baptism has been discovered.

James's eldest child was born in April 1658³⁰, and in November 1659 James gave a deed of some lands at Stratford,³¹ show-

²² Her gravestone in the Charter Street burying ground, Salem, Mass., gives her age as 72 at her death, March 9, 1708-9. Essex Institute Collections, vol. 13, p. 74.

²³ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 1675-'89, pp. 93, 294, wills of Sarah Clark and James Blakeman.

²⁴ Ibid., vol. 1689-1701, p. 170, Probate Files "W", Moses Wheeler will and distribution, also Probate Records, vol. 4, folio 91, Miriam Groome will.

²⁵ New Haven, Conn., Births, Marriages and Deaths, original vol. 1, p. 3.

²⁶ Suffolk County, Mass., Deeds, vol. 9, p. 58, and Essex Institute Collections, vol. 15, p. 77.

²⁷ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old folio 252, new p. 484.

²⁸ History of the First Congregational Church, Stonington, Conn., by Richard A. Wheeler, 1875, p. 190.

²⁹ New Eng. Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 10, p. 240, Sibley's Harvard Graduates, vol. 2, pp. 140-144, 523, and gravestone in Copp's Hill cemetery, Boston, Mass. In the record at Malden, Mass., of his marriage, the name of his wife is given as Sarah Scottow, but the other authorities cited prove that her name must have been Rebecca Scottow.

³⁰ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old p. 33, new p. 54.

³¹ Ibid., vol. 1, old folio 109, new p. 194.

ing that he must have been then at least twenty-one years old, and he may have been more than that. It is suspected that he was older than his sister Mary, who was born about 1636.

It is not known when he was made a freeman, but his name appears in

"A list of the free men of stratford as they are Reputed amongost vs: 8th: 7^d., 69"

which was returned to the General Court, in compliance with an order made at the May session of that year.³²

There is no record of his first marriage nor is the given name of his wife known.

Widow Sarah Stiles of Stratford married Robert Clark also of that town, and made a will June 5, 1677, in which she gave legacies to her sons Samuel, Ephraim, Benjamin and Thomas Stiles; the children of her deceased daughters Hannah Hinman and Mary Washburn, and her grandchildren, Sarah, Mary and Hannah Blakeman.³³

On page 34 of volume 1 of Births, Marriages and Deaths of Windsor, Connecticut, is this entry:

"Ephraim Styles son of frances Styles was born Aug^t. 3^d. A D 1645."

This will and birth record prove that James Blakeman married a daughter of Francis and Sarah () Stiles of Windsor and Stratford, who was the mother of his three children, Sarah, Mary and Hannah, the latter born January 21, 1664.³⁴

The next child recorded to Blakeman was Jane, born October 26, 1668³⁴, indicating that between these two dates he had married a second time.

James Blakeman in his will, dated July 18, 1689, makes provision for a wife Miriam and refers to his brothers Samuel Wheeler, Moses Wheeler and Ephraim Stiles.³⁵

It will be shown later in this sketch that his widow Miriam married Edward Groome.

In her will made October 4, 1693, she speaks of her brother Moses Wheeler and mentions Jane as her daughter and gives

³² "Civil Officers", vol. 1, document 15, Conn. State Library.

³³ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 1679-'89, p. 93.

³⁴ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old p. 33, new p. 54.

³⁵ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 3, 1675-'89, folio 294.

legacies to the younger Blakeman children, but does not give anything to the three children born prior to Jane.³⁶

These facts show that between January 21, 1664, and October 26, 1668, James Blakeman married for his second wife MIRIAM WHEELER, and the Stratford Land Records, volume 1, old page 21, new page 42, show that she was the daughter of Moses Wheeler of that town and was born March 28, 1647.

"feburay 12:60"

"it was agreed & Voted at a lawfull meeting that James Blackman shall haue liberty to take 3 or four akars on the east side of the milne to buyld on if the townesmen see cause vpon the view of it he giueing so much on the west side of the milne for it."³⁷

It is suspected that James Blakeman owned the mill referred to in the foregoing vote. This idea is strengthened by the fact that on May 15, 1662, he sold to his brother Samuel Blakeman one-half of his interest in the mill and other real estate in Stratford.³⁸

March 4, 1668-'69, he made an agreement with Elizabeth Blakeman, widow of his brother Samuel, regarding the use of the mill.³⁹

John Blakeman, brother of James, made his will "11-19-[16]61", (January 19, 1661-'62) and in it he appointed the latter one of the overseers.⁴⁰

January 26, 1666, James Blakeman sold to Edward Hinman, a tract of land at Clapboard Hill. The acreage and consideration were not stated in the deed.⁴¹

October 23, 1667, he made an exchange with "Mr Sherman" by which he became the owner of an eight-acre home-lot, bounded north and west on the street, east on the meadow and south on lands of Mr. Welles; also of ten acres of salt meadow, nine acres of upland at Intact, five acres southwest of the town and four and a half acres in the Old Field.⁴²

³⁶ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 4, 1689-1701, folio 91.

³⁷ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old folio 48, new p. 73.

³⁸ Ibid., vol. 1, old folio 138, new p. 254, and vol. 2, folio 507.

³⁹ Ibid., vol. 1, old folio 240, new p. 461.

⁴⁰ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 1, 1648-'56, p. 77.

⁴¹ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old folio 256, new p. 491.

⁴² Ibid., vol. 1, old folio 131, new p. 240.

The following year, there were recorded to him, as having been bought of Nicholas Smith, a two-acre home-lot with a house thereon at Oronoke, and three acres of meadow adjoining, the latter being bounded north and east on the "Great River". He also purchased several other pieces of land from various parties.⁴³

By the will of his mother, made September 20, 1671, he and his brother Benjamin received lands on Clapboard Hill and in the Great Meadow at Neck Bridge.⁴⁴

February 11, 1684, he made an agreement with a committee of the town, whereby he agreed to build a corn mill at the mouth of Near Mill River, and to grind all the corn brought by the inhabitants on the following terms: wheat and rye for 1/16 part, Indian for 1/12 part, all malt for 1/30 part if brought in quantities of at least five bushels; if less than five bushels, then 1/16 part, and

"to make y^e dam sufficiently Broad fitt for a Country Road for Carts & all things and Creatures to pass & goe ouer without damage & soe to be approued from time to time by y^e survayor's Chosen by y^e town."

The mill was to be finished by January 1 next. He also agreed to bring the waters of Black Brook into Near Mill River, if it could be done at an expense of £3; the tributary to remain as a feeder to Near Mill River.

On condition that Blakeman should carry out his part of the agreement, the town gave him the waters of Near Mill River and six acres of land near the mill to build on.⁴⁵

December 24, 1686, he transferred to Ambrose Thompson all his interest in this mill privilege with the mill and ten and a half acres of land, receiving therefor a house and lands in Wood Bay.⁴⁶

August 27, 1686, he sold to Samuel Wheeler a one-half interest in his saw mill on Far Mill River at Oronoke. Each of the owners was to use the mill one month in turn; Wheeler's turn to begin October 1.⁴⁷

⁴³ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old folio 131, new p. 239, and old folio 168, new p. 317.

⁴⁴ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 2, 1665-'75, p. 73.

⁴⁵ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 2, folio 503.

⁴⁶ Ibid., vol. 2, folio 507.

⁴⁷ Ibid., vol. 2, p. 223.

The date of the death of James Blakeman does not appear on the town records, nor is the place of his burial known.

He made his will at "Orinoge July 18th 1689", which, with the inventory of his estate taken November 4 following, was presented to the Probate Court on the 6th of that month.

By the terms of the will his wife Miriam was given the life use of one-third of the real estate and the use of all the property, until the sons should be twenty-one years old; at which time, if she saw cause, she was to deliver to each of the three sons one-third of the lands. After her death the buildings were to become the property of her eldest son, Zachariah.

To his two daughters, "yet to be disposed of", Elizabeth and Martha, he gave £10 each, to be paid by his three sons when the latter should receive their lands.

To his son Zachariah, he gave his long gun and cutlass, and his other gun to his son Adam. He states that he had given all that he was able to his five daughters "that are disposed of", Sarah Cunny, Mary Serls, Hannah Gilbert, Meriam Northrop and Janet Russell.

His wife, Miriam, was appointed executrix and his brothers, Samuel Wheeler, Moses Wheeler and Ephraim Stiles with his son-in-law, Joseph Northrop, were appointed overseers.⁴⁸

The inventory shows that the real estate consisted of

House and home-lot of 5 3/4 acres	£ 50.
34 acres on the hill, west of the home-lot	40.
1/2 interest in the saw mill	30.
73 acres on north side of Four Mile River	30.
5 acres on south side of Four Mile River	3.
10 acres by Joseph's Brook	4.
16 acres of meadow	50.
12 1/2 acres of upland at Oronoke	40.

The personal property comprised

Household goods, farming tools, cattle, etc.

The footing of the inventory gives the value of

the estate as £ 482-18-0.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 3, 1675-'89, folio 294.

At some date between November 6, 1689, and May 12, 1691, Miriam (Wheeler) Blakeman, widow of James Blakeman, married for her second husband, Edward Groome of Oronoke.

By a deed dated May 12, 1691, and acknowledged September 21 following, she as executrix of Blakeman's will, with her husband, Edward Groome, sold to Alexander Bryan of Milford, Connecticut, Blakeman's one-half interest in the saw mill at Oronoke for £25.⁵⁰

Miriam Groome, widow of James Blakeman, made her will at Milford, October 4, 1693.

She made bequests to her eldest son, Zachariah, and the other sons, Adam and James Blakeman; to her daughter Jane and to Miriam Northrop, wife of Joseph Northrop, to Martha Blakeman and to Mary Groome.

To her son-in-law, Joseph Northrop, she gave some live stock and "a debt due from my brother Moses Wheeler."

She appointed as executors, her son-in-law Joseph Northrop and Samuel Wheeler, Moses Wheeler and Ephraim Stiles, who were the overseers of the estate of her former husband James Blakeman.⁵¹

Two inventories of her estate, which comprised personal property only, were taken, both on November 6, 1693, one at Milford and the other at Stratford. In them she is described as "widow" Groome.⁵¹

A final distribution of the estate of Moses Wheeler of Stratford was made April 14, 1719.

The heirs of Miriam Groome, a daughter of the deceased, were given a single share of the property, twenty-one and a third acres of land and one and one-third sheep.⁵²

November 27, 1727, Benjamin Stebbins and wife Martha of Springfield, Massachusetts, conveyed to Zachariah Blakeman of Stratford, all their interest in lands at White Hills, called the "Grandchildren's Lands". December 11 of the same year, John Smith and his wife Miriam of Milford gave a deed to Zachariah Blakeman of their interests in the same lands. In the deed

⁵⁰ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 2, folios 475-6.

⁵¹ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 4, 1689-1701, folio 91.

⁵² Fairfield, Conn., Probate Files, "W", Moses Wheeler estate.

Blakeman is called their brother and it further states that the property was left by Moses Wheeler of Stratford to his grandchildren, of whom said Miriam was one.⁵³

CHILDREN OF JAMES AND (STILES) BLAKEMAN

SARAH	b. Apr. 25, 1658; ⁵⁴	mar. 1, Aug. 20, 1677, John Todd of New Haven, Conn. ⁵⁵	
		2,	Cunny. ⁵⁶
MARY	" Apr. 25, 1661; ⁵⁴	" 1,	George Searles. ⁵⁷
		2,	Samuel Pitman. ⁵⁸
HANNAH	" Jan. 21, 1664; ⁵⁴	"	Gilbert. ⁵⁶

CHILDREN OF JAMES AND MIRIAM (WHEELER) BLAKEMAN

JANE	b. Oct. 26, 1668; ⁵⁴	mar. 1, June 12, 1687, Joseph Russell of New Haven, Conn. ⁶³	
		2,	Clark. ⁶⁴
MIRIAM	" Feb. 8, 1670; ⁵⁹	" 1,	Joseph Northrop. ⁶⁵
		2,	John Smith. ⁶⁶
ELIZABETH	"	died before Sept. 17, 1691. ⁶⁷	unm.
MARTHA	" about 1677; ⁶⁰	mar. 1, after Sept. 30, 1699, Francis Ball. ⁶⁸	
		2, May 8, 1701, Benjamin Stebbins. ⁶⁹	
ZACHARIAH	" May 26, 1678; ⁶¹	living in Stratford, Apr. 6, 1713. ⁷⁰	
ADAM	" Jan. 1, 1683; ⁶²	living in Stratford, Apr. 6, 1713. ⁷⁰	
JAMES	" Dec. 4, 1686; ⁶²	died Oct. 29, 1709, unm. ⁷¹	

⁵³ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 4, folios 92, 93.

⁵⁴ Ibid., vol. 1, old p. 33, new p. 54.

⁵⁵ New Haven, Conn., Births, Marriages and Deaths, original vol. 1, p. 65.

⁵⁶ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 1675-'89, p. 294, will of James Blakeman.

⁵⁷ Ibid., vol. 1675-'89, p. 294, will of James Blakeman; vol. 1689-1701, folio 56, Elizabeth Blakeman estate and folio 111, will of Robert Clark.

⁵⁸ Ibid., vol. 1716-'35, old p. 5, new p. 7, estate of Samuel Pitman.

⁵⁹ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old p. 28, new p. 49.

⁶⁰ Her gravestone in the old burying ground on the corner of Union and Church Streets, West Springfield, Mass., shows that she died Aug. 18, 1746, in her 70th year.

⁶¹ Stratford, Conn., Land Records, vol. 1, old folio 44, new p. 65.

⁶² Ibid., vol. 2, folio 483.

⁶³ New Haven, Conn., Births, Marriages and Deaths, original vol. 1, p. 96, and New Haven County Court Records, vol. 1, p. 168.

⁶⁴ Fairfield, Conn., Probate Records, vol. 1702-'50, folio 165, James Blakeman estate.

⁶⁵ Ibid., vol. 1675-'89, folio 294, will of James Blakeman, and vol. 1689-1701, folio 91, will of Miriam Groome.