

Children of the Patriarch: Nicholas⁴ Watson

This article is part of a larger family history, **The WATSON Family of West Greenwich, Rhode Island**, which can be found via [this link](#).

A branch of the Watson family of Rhode Island settled in West Greenwich and lived there for nearly one hundred years. The patriarch of this branch was Samuel, designated #7 in *The American Family of John Watson of the Narragansett Country, Rhode Island*. Samuel was the grandson of John Watson, and the son of Samuel² and 1st wife Mercy (Helme) Watson. His line of descent as a 3rd-generation Watson is rendered Samuel³ (Samuel², John¹).

Contents

Nicholas ⁴ Watson, son of the Patriarch.....	2
Sorting Out Nicholas Watson.....	2
Nicholas ⁴ Watson in Census Records	2
What <i>John Watson</i> says about Nicholas ⁴ Watson.....	3
The Children of Nicholas ⁴ and Martha (Moon) Watson.....	5
Braddock Watson, a Possibly Unidentified Son	5
Nicholas ⁴ Watson's Grandchild	7
Nicholas ⁴ Watson in West Greenwich, RI	8
Town Council Records.....	8
Location in West Greenwich.....	10
Nicholas ⁴ Watson Fades Out of the Records	10
Summary.....	11
Resources.....	11

Nicholas⁴ Watson, son of the Patriarch

Nicholas⁴ WATSON (Samuel³, Samuel², John¹) was born in Rhode Island, possibly in Exeter. His year of birth is a matter of speculation, and his year of death is known only as “before 13 June 1817.” Nicholas is designated #25 in *The American Family of John Watson of the Narragansett Country, Rhode Island* (hereafter referred to as “*John Watson*”).

Nicholas was mentioned in his brother Hazard⁴'s 1762 will, for a bequest of “Fifty Pounds old Tenor money” – the smallest sum bequeathed to Hazard's various siblings.

A man named Nicholas Watson served at the same time, in the same company, as Hazard Watson during the Siege of Havana (1762) in the Seven Years War. While we can't say with absolute certainty whether this was Hazard Watson's *brother* Nicholas, or his *uncle* Nicholas, it seems reasonable that two brothers might enter military service together. Perhaps Hazard promised a greater reward to Nicholas if they both returned home alive.

Per the *John Watson* book, Nicholas Watson married Martha MOON. We don't know when this marriage took place, but we'd guess that Nicholas and Martha wed in Rhode Island.

Sorting Out Nicholas Watson

There is a scarcity of information available for this son of the patriarch. Part of this problem is due to his *uncle* Nicholas³ Watson – his father's half-brother – living in the same general area as Nicholas⁴. For this reason, we laid out some of our best guesses as to which Nicholas was which in **The WATSON Family of West Greenwich, Rhode Island**. To read “Sorting out Nicholas Watson,” click [here](#).

Nicholas⁴ Watson in Census Records

Nicholas Watson was recorded in the Rhode Island census of 1774 in West Greenwich. He headed a household of five people – 1 male above the age of 16 (that would be Nicholas); 1 male under age 16; 1 female above 16; and 2 females under 16.

Info from the Rhode Island census of 1782 comes to us via a transcription, this one done by the late Katharine U. Waterman of North Scituate. For the town of West Greenwich, there is only one Nicholas Watson listed. His household included 1 female under the age of 16; 1 female between the ages of 16 and 22; and 1 male over 50. The relatively advanced age of this man, per this record, might suggest that he is the brother, not the son, of patriarch Samuel.

Is it possible that Ms. Waterman incorrectly transcribed the age of this Nicholas Watson? Yes. Can we reference the original manuscript which is held by the Rhode Island Historical Society

Library? Not at the moment. Even if the transcription proved to be correct, we are still left wondering if uncle and nephew moved in and out of West Greenwich with baffling regularity.

On the other hand, this 1782 transcript seems to indicate a widowed man with two fairly young daughters under his roof. We are inclined to believe that the Nicholas Watson listed in this 1782 census is the son of patriarch Samuel.

The 1790 census for West Greenwich counted a total of six people in the household of Nicholas Watson: two males under age 16; one male age 16 and older; and three females.

What *John Watson* says about Nicholas⁴ Watson

The American Family of John Watson of the Narragansett Country, Rhode Island comes up short in giving us a glimpse into the life of this man. We have identified four different problems with *John Watson's* account of Nicholas⁴ Watson as it appears on pages 29 and 30:

#25 NICHOLAS⁴ WATSON (Samuel³⁻², John¹), was one of the six sons of Samuel³ #7 Watson of North Kingstown. His birth date is not known, but, since he is listed as being over 50 in the 1782 census for Exeter, presumably he was born prior to 1732. His wife was MARTHA MOON.

Nicholas is listed in the 1790 census of West Greenwich with two males under 16, and three females; but he appears to have removed to Exeter as he appears with his wife of record there in 1793 (Ex 4:96) and 3 April 1802. (Ex 5:482)

Some time after 3 April 1802, his last date of record in Rhode Island, he removed to Columbus, Chenango County, New York, where he is listed in the 1810 census with a family consisting of one male under 10, one over 45, one female under 10, one between 10-16 and one 25-45.

His death occurred before 13 June 1817, the date when his son, Hazard, gave land in Exeter to Clarke Lillibridge. (Ex 8:24)

Issue:

- i HAZARD⁵ b ca 1760, probably in Exeter, RI; rem to Columbus, Chenango County, NY, where listed in 1810 census: one male over 45, one male under 10, one female under 10, one between 10-16; and one 25-45; living Columbus 13 June 1817 when he gave Clarke Lillibridge a deed for land in Exeter (Ex 8:24)
- ii NICHOLAS d before 13 June 1817 as stated in the deed to Clarke Lillibridge, supra (Ex 8:24)
- iii DAUGHTER, under 16 in 1790 census
- iv DAUGHTER, under 16 in 1790 census

The information contained in the green box involves a question we tackled at length in “Sorting Out Nicholas Watson.” If you haven’t read that yet, here’s a synopsis:

John Watson says that Nicholas Watson was “listed as being over 50 in the 1782 census for *Exeter*” (emphasis added). But we find Nicholas Watson in *West Greenwich* in the Rhode Island census of 1782. In that household there was only one male, who was in fact recorded as being over 50 years of age, i.e., born before 1732. This is why many people list Nicholas⁴ Watson *with a birth date that precedes his parents’ marriage* in 1735. Indeed, if Nicholas were born before 1732, Samuel and Hannah (Hazard) Watson would have been parents by age 16 or 17. While that is possible, we think it unlikely.

The data enclosed in the two red boxes shows redundant information that is actually pertinent to Nicholas’s son Hazard⁵ Watson. Nicholas Watson is *not* listed in the 1810 census in Columbus, Chenango county, New York, but Hazard Watson is. The composition of Hazard⁵’s household resembles the data given in both of those red boxes.

The data in the blue boxes may be another replication error. Not having a copy of the referenced deed to Clarke Lillibridge (Ex 8:24), we can’t say for sure if Nicholas⁴ had a son named for himself – who happened to have died before June 13, 1817, *just like his father*. For now, we’ll just say that the striking similarity of this data gives us pause.

Likewise, we are not filled with confidence by *John Watson* saying that Nicholas “appears to have removed to Exeter as he appears with his wife of record there in 1793 (Ex 4:96) and 3 April 1802 (Ex 5:482).” We found a Nicholas Watson living in Exeter in both the 1790 and 1800 censuses. In both cases, the household consisted of two people – one male and one female. This man could have been Nicholas⁴’s uncle – the patriarch’s younger half-brother Nicholas³.

The information contained in the golden-colored box – in reference to two unnamed daughters – is essentially incorrect. Why? Because the 1790 census counted females *without reference to their ages*. In 1790 there were three females living in the household of Nicholas⁴ Watson of West Greenwich. We have no way of knowing if this number reflects a mother and two young daughters, or some other constellation of female residents.

The earlier section of Nicholas⁴’s entry in *John Watson* stated it correctly: “Nicholas is listed in the 1790 census of West Greenwich with two males under 16, and three females....” Whoever compiled Nicholas⁴ Watson’s data for this book may have confused the 1790 federal census data with that from the Rhode Island census of 1774, in which the household of Nicholas Watson did, indeed, include two females under the age of 16.

Perhaps the one thing we can say with confidence about Nicholas⁴ Watson is that he must have led a quiet and law-abiding life, to have left behind such limited documentary evidence.

The Children of Nicholas⁴ and Martha (Moon) Watson

Nicholas and Martha (Moon) Watson had perhaps four children, possibly more. *John Watson* names two sons – Hazard⁵ and Nicholas.

John Watson says that son Hazard⁵ removed to Columbus, Chenango county, New York. Hazard⁵ Watson is, indeed, listed in the 1810 census for that place. His household consisted of what appears to be a set of parents, one young son (under 10 years of age) and two daughters. In the 1820 census, Hazard⁵'s household appears to be a set of parents living with two daughters. By 1830, this Watson household was simply that of an older couple. We have found no name for Hazard⁵'s wife, no date for their marriage, no record of their children's names. We don't find Hazard⁵ Watson in census records after 1830.

If Nicholas⁴ Watson had a namesake son, next to nothing is known about him.

Nicholas⁴ and Martha Watson's daughters remain nameless in *John Watson*. There may have been more daughters born to this family than just two.

Braddock Watson, a Possibly Unidentified Son

In 1782 there were three Watson households in West Greenwich, those of patriarch Samuel and his sons Nicholas and Samuel Jr. By the 1790 census, that number had expanded to five: Patriarch Samuel Watson, his sons Robert, Nicholas, and Samuel Jr. – and **Braddock Watson**. Yet there is no mention of Braddock Watson in *John Watson*.

We think Braddock is an unidentified grandson of the patriarch and quite possibly the son of Nicholas⁴ Watson.

The name Braddock is associated with the French and Indian War. General Edward Braddock led British forces against the French in the Ohio River Valley near present-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Gen. Braddock died in July 1755, three days after the Battle of Monongahela, from wounds received in that battle.

Nicholas⁴ Watson may have served in the Seven Years War alongside his brother Hazard⁴. Nicholas also would have been familiar with his father's military service: Patriarch Samuel³ Watson served in the Old French and Indian War (the North American portion of the Seven Years War) in 1759 and 1760.

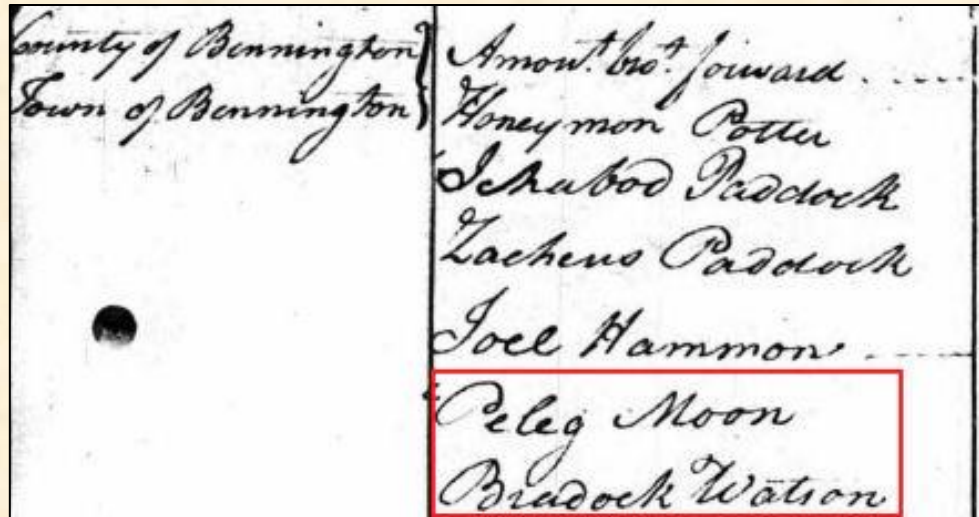
Someone in the Watson family likely named a son after General Edward Braddock. Given the dearth of information on the names and numbers of Nicholas⁴ Watson's children, we find it possible – even probable – that Braddock was one of them.

Braddock Watson was born in Rhode Island circa 1762, per a record of his death.

In the 1790 census in West Greenwich, Braddock Watson's household consisted of six people – two males under age 16; one male over age 16; and three females.

In the 1800 census, Braddock Watson was enumerated in Bennington, Bennington county, Vermont. His household had expanded to ten people – four males under age 10; 1 male aged 10-15; one male aged 26-44; one female under 10; two females 10-15; and one female 26-44. This constellation reflects a set of parents with eight children under their roof.

The page on which this Watson family is listed in the 1800 census reveals one more interesting detail: The name written above that of "Braddock Watson" is Peleg Moon – the husband of Mary Watson, daughter of the patriarch.



Braddock Watson died on August 17, 1818, in Manhattan, New York county, NY, in state

prison (probably Newgate Prison). The record of Braddock's death gave his age as 56; his marital status as "unknown"; and his birthplace as Rhode Island. Braddock Watson was buried in Potter's Field in New York City, then located at the site of present-day Washington Square in Greenwich Village.

We don't know what Braddock Watson did to get himself locked up, nor how long he spent in prison before he died there. Based on the absence of Braddock's name from Ancestry.com's database "New York, Prisoners Received at Newgate State Prison, 1797-1810," we are guessing that he was incarcerated after 1810.

We found the names of two men who might have been sons of Braddock Watson.

On July 23, 1812, in Burlington, Vermont, 1st Lieutenant Valentine R. Goodrich of the 11th Regiment, US Infantry, recruited **Braddock Watson Jr.** for an enlistment term of five years. Braddock Jr. was 18 years old, a "farmer," born in Rhode Island.

The record of Braddock Jr.'s enlistment contains a notation: "See **Robert Watson** same regt." Braddock Jr. and Robert signed up on the same day. Regrettably, no additional information was provided for Robert.

Nicholas⁴ Watson's Grandchild

In the 1790 census, Nicholas Watson of West Greenwich headed a household of six – the people under his roof seem to have doubled since the 1782 census. We have information from WG town council records (book 3) that helps to explain part of this expansion.

An entry for September 8, 1787, noted that “Nicholas Watson have an order on the Town Treasurer for 3 pounds lawful money towards his keeping his daughter's child laid to Zebulon Tanner.” This means that Nicholas Watson's daughter had a child with Zebulon Tanner without benefit of marriage.

Illegitimacy was surprisingly common in those days; some women had multiple children out of wedlock. Nicholas Watson's daughter and ‘bastard’ grandchild continued to live under his roof, as all of them effectively got pulled into the local poor relief system.

Part of the poor relief system in Rhode Island was to obtain the names of the men who fathered children out of wedlock. Sometimes women were reluctant to admit who had gotten them pregnant. In those cases, the midwife would wait until a woman was in the most painful part of her labor before demanding the name of the father – a practice that usually succeeded. In the language of the town council records, an illegitimate child would be “laid to” that man.

Thus, a town often was able to hold these men accountable for the financial support of their illegitimate offspring. The town would collect the money and then administer it over time to the mothers themselves or to other people caring for the mother and child.

Nicholas Watson would go on to make four more requests for the disbursement of money for the maintenance of his illegitimate grandchild. His last such request was recorded in West Greenwich town council minutes for January 31, 1791.

We found a reference in an old Tanner genealogy (see “[Resources](#)”) that alludes to the question of Zebulon Tanner's obligation to support his child. This reference appears in the larger context of tracing a certain line of Tanners back to the town of West Greenwich. We quote one line, below, with bold type added for emphasis:

“This is confirmed by the fact that in 1786 **Zebulon Tanner in West Greenwich** and Samuel Potter of Batesman Precinct, Dutchess County, N. Y., **request of the Town Council of West Greenwich support for a child.**”

This wording suggests that Zebulon Tanner was *asking* the WG town council for child support money, not the other way around. The author may have misinterpreted the “request of the Town Council,” or just worded it poorly in his text, or perhaps didn't want to cast somebody's ancestor in a bad light. We think the reference is, in fact, evidence of the WG town council's efforts to assess Zebulon Tanner for the financial support of his child with Daughter Watson.

Zebulon Tanner appears to have left Rhode Island around the time of the birth of this child. If it's true that Mr. Tanner removed to Dutchess county, New York, it may have been difficult (if not impossible) for the town of West Greenwich to continue collecting child support from him.

Was it a boy or a girl that Zebulon Tanner fathered with Nicholas Watson's daughter? The records don't say. When mentioned in town council records, the given names of "bastard" children were almost never provided. Illegitimate children took their surnames from their mothers, not their fathers. Thus, Nicholas Watson's daughter's out-of-wedlock child would have been given the Watson surname.

If Daughter Watson's child by Zebulon Tanner was a boy; and if that boy gave rise to an unbroken line of male descendants – the stage would be set for a genetic genealogy "non-paternity event." Zebulon Tanner's Y chromosome would be passed down to a modern-day Watson male who would expect to find DNA matches with other Watson men. Imagine his confusion when he discovers Y chromosome matches with men surnamed Tanner.

Nicholas⁴ Watson in West Greenwich, RI

While Nicholas⁴ Watson may have spent some portion of his life in Exeter, we get our best glimpses of him in the town of West Greenwich. Between May 1770 and November 1793, Nicholas's name appears sixteen times in West Greenwich town council minutes.

Town Council Records

WG town council records (book # 2) for the "last Saturday of May 1770" noted that on May 28, 1770, patriarch Samuel Watson and Nicholas Watson and their families were granted certificates to the town council of Exeter. As explained more fully in our main article, this means that the Watsons were heading back to Exeter to live – with assurances that if the Watsons fell on hard times, Exeter could expect West Greenwich to provide any necessary poor relief.

Items from West Greenwich Town Council book # 3 –

Last Saturday in May 1772: A description of a "highway maintenance" crew in the district of Benjamin Tillinghast includes the names of Samuel Watson; Samuel Watson Jr.; and Nicholas Watson.

Last Saturday of July 1773: A listing of Elisha Greene's highway crew seems to include Nicholas Watson's name. The surname was faint and ran off the edge of the page, but it looked like *Watsc* – i.e., the left half of the letter O following W-A-T-S.

July 8, 1787: The maintenance crew for the highway district of Thomas Willcox includes Samuel Watson Jr. and Nicholas Watson.

September 8, 1787: “Nicholas Watson have an order on the Town Treasurer for 3 pounds lawful money towards his keeping his daughter’s child laid to Zebulon Tanner.”

March 30, 1789: Nicholas Watson requested two pounds, eight shillings from the Town Treasurer for “maintaining his daughter’s child laid to Zebulon Tanner.”

June 29, 1789: Nicholas’s request of the Town Treasurer was written as “2:8,” leading us to think that this might be a notation for an amount identical to his request from three months earlier, i.e. two pounds, eight shillings. The purpose of this request for funding was, again, for his supporting a grandchild, “one of the poor of the town.”

Items from West Greenwich Town Council book # 4 –

26 July 1790: Nichols [*sic*] Watson “have an order on the Town Treasurer for [illegible] paper currency towards the support of his daughter’s child.”

31 January 1791: “Nicholas Watson have an order on the town for \$6 towards the support of his daughter’s child.”

The January 1791 entry for Nicholas Watson’s grandchild is his final clearly-stated request for child support. The last five or six mentions are for poor relief for Nicholas himself. In conjunction with this shift in focus, the name Benjamin Tillinghast appears repeatedly. Likely Mr. Tillinghast was the town’s Overseer of the Poor at that time.

29 August 1791: “Nicholas Watson have an order on the town for 6 shillings in his support.” (This may be for himself or for his grandchild; it’s not clear which.)

26 March 1792: Nicholas Watson’s name shows up in an item whereby Benjamin Tillinghast received compensation for providing supplies to him and others.

29 October 1792: An item directs Benjamin Tillinghast to ... “procure some wood for Nicholas Watson and make such repairs to the house where he lives as he shall think necessary and lay his account therefor before this Council on a future day.”

28 January 1793: Benjamin Tillinghast requested of the Town Treasurer ... “10 pounds, 19 shillings, and four pence half penny” for supplies for “Nicholas Watson, one of the poor of the town.”

28 October 1793: “Benjamin Tillinghast have an order on the town for 7:6:1 [*sic*] for necessaries for Nicholas Watson up to this Date.” The amount written in this entry *may* be shorthand for 7 pounds, 6 shillings, 1 penny.

25 November 1793: “... necessaries for Nicholas Watson.”

In 1792 and 1793, Nicholas Watson was described as *one of the poor* of the town of West Greenwich. The emphasis shifted from Nicholas himself requesting child support money for his daughter's out-of-wedlock child, to his being the object of assistance given by the town. No family member is named in town records as being involved in Nicholas's care.

Location in West Greenwich

On November 28, 1791, Nicholas Watson was mentioned in an entry from Town Council book # 4 that focused on something his brother Samuel Jr. was doing:

“Whereas there is complaint made to this Council that Samuel Watson Junr is about to Erect a Small House in the highway [*sic*] in this town and near Nicholas Watsons [*sic*], whereupon Resolved as the Sense of this Council that the s^d Samuel forthwith Remove Said Nucence [*nuisance*] as he will thereby avoid the penalty of the Law in such Cases made and provided ——“

This strange item (what on earth was Samuel Jr. *thinking?*) suggests that Nicholas Watson may have lived near Samuel Jr.

Since we have already deduced that Samuel Jr. lived near Robert Watson; and that Robert lived at the southern end of present-day Escoheag Hill Road in West Greenwich – it might be reasonable to assume that these three Watson brothers all lived near each other in that part of town.

The index for land evidence at West Greenwich town hall does not indicate any real estate transactions made by Nicholas⁴ Watson. The name Nicholas Watson appears only once in this index, for the time that his *uncle* Nicholas³ Watson sold land to Robert Campbell in 1764.

We have wondered if patriarch Samuel³ Watson made some of his land available to sons Nicholas and Samuel Jr., who obviously lived for decades in West Greenwich. The lack of documentation for how Nicholas and Samuel Jr. obtained their West Greenwich properties in the first place suggests, once again, that there are gaps and holes in the record.

Nicholas⁴ Watson Fades Out of the Records

After that entry for November 25, 1793, Nicholas Watson vanishes from town council records for West Greenwich. There is no mention of providing a certificate for him to live in a different town; there are no entries relative to end-of-life items like the digging of a grave, or doctor expenses in a last illness.

Perhaps, as *John Watson* suggests, Nicholas went to live with his son Hazard⁵ in Columbus, Chenango county, New York. It's one of the simplest explanations for Nicholas's quiet disappearance. If Nicholas died in West Greenwich or in Exeter, there is no record of his death or burial in either town.

Summary

Nicholas⁴ Watson, son of Samuel³ Watson and Hannah Hazard, is on record in Rhode Island mostly in West Greenwich. He may have been the same Nicholas Watson who served in Lt. Col. Christopher Hargill's company – with Hazard⁴ Watson – at the Siege of Havana (1762) during the Seven Years War.

Nicholas married Martha MOON. They had at least one son and probably two daughters. One of their daughters had a child out of wedlock.

Virtually nothing is known about when Nicholas and Martha (Moon) Watson died or where they were buried. References to Nicholas Watson in the town council records of West Greenwich indicate that he required assistance in his later years; Nicholas was described as “one of the poor of the town.”

Resources

Davis, George C., and Jean Adams Bradley. *The American Family of John Watson of the Narragansett Country, Rhode Island*. Kingston, R.I.: Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, 1983. At FamilySearch: <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/112023-the-american-family-of-john-watson-of-the-narragansett-country-rhode-island>

John Watson contains a number of errors, mostly where it (mis)assigns vital and other records to individuals sharing first names with relatives. All Watson researchers should endeavor to confirm this book's statements against actual records as available.

Town Clerk's office, West Greenwich Town Hall, 280 Victory Highway, West Greenwich, RI; Town Council records, books 2, 3, and 4.

Ancestry.com <https://www.ancestry.com/>:

Rhode Island Colonial War Servicemen, 1740-62

Flint, James, ed.. *Rhode Island Colonial War Servicemen, 1740-62* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999. Original data: Chapin, Howard. *Rhode Island in the Colonial Wars*. Providence, RI, USA: The Society, 1920.

U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914

[database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: Register of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M233, 81 rolls); Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Tanner, Rev. George Clinton. *The Tanners of Rhode Island: William Tanner, Sr. of South Kingstown, Rhode Island and His Descendants*. Fairbault, MN, 1910.

A selection of pages from this Tanner genealogy was accessed online in January 2020 through “Herbert Clarence Burleigh fonds – family files series – Tanner – Martin,” a digitized set of family history research documents (<https://archive.org/details/hcبتannermartin2/page/44>). Our focus was on pages 23-24 of the Tanner book, in a chapter entitled “Benjamin Tanner, Sr., of West Greenwich, R. I.,” where we found specific references to Zebulon Tanner. The excerpts shown below are from page 23 (top) and page 24 (bottom).

JAMES, BENJAMIN, WILLIAM, son of Benjamin (2) and Joanna (Lewis) Tanner; b. April 5, 1733, in South Kingstown, R. I.; m. Dec. 24, 1753, Mary (Mercy) Wilcox, dau. of George Wilcox of Stonington; m. by Newman Perkins, Justice.

Children—(Order of birth not known).

- 31 JAMES, (as supposed).
- 32 AMOS.
- 33 ZEBULON.
- 34 WILLIAM, b. Feb. 5, 1761.
- 35 BENJAMIN, b. 1771.
- 36 ELISHA.
- 37 BRISTON, killed in the battle of Brandywine.

It appears from the Town Records of West Greenwich, that a colony from Rhode Island settled in Dutchess County. In 1763, Edward Thorne of Dutchess County desires letters to said county from West Greenwich, as was the custom in removing from one town to another. Charles and Francis Berry ask advice from the Select Men of West Greenwich regarding the care of a child, asking for help. In 1770 a Certificate is asked of the council of West Greenwich, R. I., for the children of Daniel Case, which is refused, then sojourning in the town of Dover, Province of New York.

James Tanner would therefore be considered a citizen of West Greenwich and enrolled accordingly until he had by certificate, or property, become a citizen of Dutchess County. William Tanner of Exeter had already emigrated to Rensselaer County, and Thomas Tanner of Rhode Island had settled in Litchfield County, Conn., which adjoined that part of New York. It is not unlikely therefore that James Tanner of Dutchess County was a son of James Tanner of West Greenwich.

This is confirmed by the fact that in 1786 Zebulon Tanner in West Greenwich and Samuel Potter of Batesman Precinct, Dutchess County, N. Y., request of the Town Council of West Greenwich support for a child.

www.familysearch.org: Record of Braddock Watson’s death in “New York, New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949.” Database. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 14 June 2016. New York Municipal Archives, New York. Reference ID: Bk 3; GS Film Number 447544. Accessed 18 January 2020 <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FD1F-NTR>