

# “Mollie Barnes is my name ...”: a New England Daughter Identified

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## *Appendix B: Possible Origins of the Barnes Family of Concord, Mass.*

We found three stories about the origins of Joseph Barnes of Concord and his, or his ancestor's migration from England, two originating with the descendants of son Amos and a third with those of son John.

1. The Amos Barnes Family Journal says that it was Joseph himself who was born in 1694 in Manchester, England, that he came to America (or to Concord itself) at the age of 18 and had two wives, Phebe Ames and Sarah Melvin.
2. A newspaper clipping about Amos' grandson Albert gives a variation on the above, saying that Joseph came from England in 1725.<sup>1</sup>
3. The Stiles article<sup>2</sup> and others based obviously upon it<sup>3</sup> state that the immigrant's name was John, that he was born in England in 1708 and came to Boston in 1730 where he married, in the same year, a member of the Hesselton family.

The confusions resulting from the passage of time have already been noted with regard to these family legends. Our research has turned up some interesting possible variations that we would like to throw into the ring.

Our first contact with the idea that our Joseph Barnes himself was the immigrant from England came actually with story No. 3. The specifics of the story, including the immigrant's name, were instantly suspect since so many other details from this source were obviously incorrect (see main article, pp. 8-9). We did, however, discover a connection with the “Hesselton” family and also interestingly enough, with a town called “Hazledine” in Lancashire. On Feb. 27, 1699/1700 a John Barnes of this town went aboard the (Yorkshire) Lawrell of Liverpool bound for Newfoundland. He was 15 years old and was indentured as a servant to Capt. Edward Tarleton for a term of seven years.<sup>4</sup> Whether or not this man ever made his way south to New England is unknown. This town, known more commonly as Haslingden<sup>5</sup>, just happens to be a short distance north of Manchester which story No. 1 says was the birthplace of our Joseph Barnes.

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<sup>1</sup> This article was also scanned by Helen Barnes and posted along with the Journal on the Public Member Trees at Ancestry.com.

<sup>2</sup> FAW, pp. 46-48

<sup>3</sup> BFYB, p. 6, for example

<sup>4</sup> “Emigrants to America from Liverpool”, *NEHGR*, Vol. 64, p. 259

<sup>5</sup> Haslingden is simply a variant spelling, derived from the Old Norse *hesli*, of the name Hazledine which derives from the Old English *hoesal*. In modern English the word is “hazel”. [www.surnamedb.com] The map of Lancashire includes no other location called “Hazeldine” or any other variant.

In the main article on p. 8 where we mentioned the Hazelton/Hesselton, etc. connection we also spoke of the birth of a Joseph Barnes in Bradford, Mass. in 1713. It was his sister Sarah, b. in 1714, who married Richard "Heaseltine".<sup>6</sup> Their father's name was also Joseph Barnes. Our theory is that it was this Joseph, (let's call him "Joseph I"), who was the immigrant to America and that the Joseph born in 1713 in Bradford, (let's call him "Joseph II"), was "our" Joseph of Concord.

Here is our suggested scenario with our reasoning for each point:

"Joseph Barnes I" was born in England, probably in the Manchester area of Lancashire, in about 1676. He came to America at the age of 18 in 1694.<sup>7</sup> He possibly married firstly Phebe Ames.<sup>8</sup> He settled in Bradford where he married, possibly as his second wife, Hannah Boynton on Dec. 8, 1712.<sup>9</sup> His two children, "Joseph II" and Sarah, were born in Bradford in 1713 and 1714 respectively.<sup>10</sup> After this date "Joseph I" and his wife Hannah disappear from the records.

Was John Barnes, the 1699/1700 indentured servant, a relative, perhaps even a brother? If John was 15 in this year he would have been born in 1685, a very possible year for a younger brother of "Joseph I".

"Joseph II" probably settled in Concord sometime prior to his marriage there to Sarah Melvin on Mar. 18, 1735/6.<sup>11</sup> Story No. 2 has him coming from England in 1725 but we think it possible that this was the mis-remembered year of his arrival in Concord itself and that the year was actually later than that. He would have been only 12 years old in 1725 and there is no evidence at all that his parents ever went to Concord.<sup>12</sup> Nor does he appear as an adult in the town records of Concord prior to 1735.

This scenario is currently only a theory. We look forward to further discoveries.

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<sup>6</sup> BVR. Bradford was an offshoot of the town of Rowley. By 1670 Bradford had a large enough population to be able to sustain its own meeting house. [*Bradford: the End of an Era* by Patricia Trainor O'Malley]. Many of Bradford's original settlers had come from Yorkshire, the English Bradford being one of the Midlands' largest cities located within a stone's throw of the Lancashire border. [*Haunted Pubs of New England: Raising Spirits of the Past* by Roxie J. Zwicker]

<sup>7</sup> Joseph's birthplace is suggested by ABJ, p. 5. His year of birth is arrived at by subtracting 18, his reported age at emigration, from 1694, the reported year of his birth which we believe may have actually been his year of emigration. Had he been born in 1694 his wife Hannah would have been 12 years older than him. This is not really a problem but it is unusual. If he was born in 1676 he would have been 6 years older than her which is much more the norm.

<sup>8</sup> ABJ, p. 3 suggests this marriage, almost certainly incorrectly, for "Joseph II".

<sup>9</sup> BVR

<sup>10</sup> BVR

<sup>11</sup> CVR

<sup>12</sup> Joseph's sister Sarah's marriage in Bradford in 1730 when she was only 16 would seem to provide compelling evidence *against* her parents' having moved away from there by that time.