

Stephen Twining - Biographical Sketch

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~paxson/twining/Twining.index.html#William2>

Stephen Twining³ was born 6 February 1659 in Eastham, Massachusetts, and died 18 April 1720 in Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He married 13 January 1682/3 **Abigail YOUNG**, presumably in New England. Abigail was the daughter of John and Abigail Young. A John Yeonge was one of the men on the 1643 Able to Bear Arms List for Plymouth, but whether or not he was Stephen's father-in-law remains to be proved.

Stephen was named in his step-grandfather, Josiah COOKE's will, dated 22 September 1673, proved 29 October 1673. But I have not seen the document to know what he was bequeathed.

The couple accompanied Stephen's parents to Pennsylvania in 1695, where Stephen eventually became a large landowner. The first purchase for Stephen (identified as a husbandman from Newtown) in the Bucks County records was acknowledged on 10 Tenth Month (December) 1695 for 222 acres in Newtown and 26 acres constituting "one piece of meadow land lying by land of Thomas CONSTABLE." It was witnessed by Jonathan SCAIFE, William CROSDER [sic], and Enoch YARDLEY. Glimpses of the economic fabric of the settlement appear in these court records. There were no banks, so those engaged in financial transactions had to make their own arrangements. For example, Stephen's purchase in December 1695 of the two parcels totalling 248 acres cost £160 current money. However, Stephen didn't have that amount of cash. So on the 13 of Second Month (April) 1696 he bound himself to Job BUNTING for £60. "The condition of this obligation is that Stephen Furning [sic] to pay £30 of the money received from wheat taken to the mill of Samuel Carpenter before the 25th da, 2nd mo, 1697." An extension was needed so the same arrangements were made, taking the "good, clean wheat" to Daniel CARPENTER's mill by 25 First Month (March) 1698. Apparently Stephen was able to pay the debt, because Job, of Nottingham, Burlington County, New Jersey, "quit claim" Stephen of "all obligating debts", 16 Third Month 1698.

A few years later Stephen was able to buy 250 acres for £80 from Stephen WILSON of Burlington County. It was part of the original 500 acres granted to Thomas ROWLAND, who then had deeded it to his brother John. A third purchase came on 2 Third Month 1707 when Stephen (now upgraded to yeoman) paid £100 for 200 acres in Newtown "adjoining the line of Thomas REVELL's land".

Stephen was illiterate. He signed the legal papers mentioned above with his mark, that resembled a capital "E". Why he was taught that sign, as opposed to an "S" or a "T", I do not know.

The Twinings were among the original members of [Wrightstown Meeting](#), which frequently met in their home before a meeting house was built. Abigail served on three marriage clearness committees. It is said Stephen was appointed an Overseer May 7, 1713, and an Elder on April 12, 1715.

Abigail died 9 April 1715. Stephen died in Newtown, 8 April 1720, and was buried on the 11th. Stephen made his will when he was "indisposed of body, but of sound disclosing mind and memory" on 20 Twelfth Month (February) 1719/20. In it he left carefully described real estate to his sons, Stephen, Eleazer, Nathaniel, and John, with Stephen and Nathaniel as executors. Daughter Rachel who was unmarried at the time, received one complete bed and a large Bible, while both she and her married sister Mercy were to be paid £30 Pennsylvania currency. Each grandchild was to be given five shillings. The will was proved 7 June 1723.

Will:

I, STEPHEN TWINING, of Newtown in the County of Bucks in the province of Penssylvania. Being indisposed of body, but of sound disclosing mind and memory, prayed be God for the same, and calling to mind the uncertainty of this life, I do make and ordaine this my present Last Will and Testament in manner and forme following (viz) x x x x x

First, my will and mind is that all my just debts and funerall charges be payd and discharged.

Item: I give and bequeth unto my son John Twining the moiety or one-halfe of a tract of land lying in Newtown aforsd purchased from John Ward, the Southwest side thereof adjoining unto land that was formerly Michael Houghs; with all the priviledges and appurtenances their {nut?} belonging to hold to him his heirs and assignes forever; the other halfe of the said tract being before conveyd to my son Stephen Twining; and also I give unto my said John Twining all my lands or tenaments left to me in the government of New England with the appurtenances to him, his heirs and assignes forever.

Item: Whear as I have allready conveyd one hundred and fifty acres (part of the tract of land in Newtown aforsaid whear on I now dwell) unto my son Eleaser Twining to give and bequeth unto my son Nathaniel Twining two hundred and fifty acres of the tract of land I now live upon. He to have the Northeast part adjoining unto William Buckmans land and to extend Southward downe Newtown Creek untill it come to fifteen pole or perch on the Northside of the house whearin Joseph Lupton did formerly live and thence such a course or courses as will make two

hundred and thirty acres and the other twenty remaining of the two hundred and fifty acres I give unto the sd Nathaniel out of my low lands and meadow lying by {Neshansberry?} Creek which is now improved (comonly caled the lower meadows) with all the buldings orchards and improvments to hold the sd premises with the appurtanances to him and his heirs and assignes forever;

Item: I give unto my two sons Stephen Twining and John Twining one hundred acres of land out of the remaining part of the tract of land which I now live upon to be eaqualy divided betwinet them to hold to them their heirs and assignes forever.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my thre sons Stephen Twining Nathaniel Twining and John Twining all the remaining part of my land rights and priviledges which is not before bequeathed and given and conveyd to be eaqualy divided between them to hold to them, their heirs and assignes forever.

Item: I give unto daughter Rachell Twining one feather bed with bed cloathes and courtains and furniture and one larg Bible.

Item: I give unto my two daughters Mercy Lupton and Rachell Twining each of them thirty pounds current lawfull money of the province of Pensilvania to be payd by my executors hear after to be mentioned out of my parsonal estate.

Item: I give unto my grandchildren each of them five shilings to be payd by my executors out of my personal estate.

Item: All the rest and residue of my personal estate goods chattles rights and credets whatsoever, I give and bequeath unto my thre sons Stephen Twining Nathaniel Twining and John Twining to be enjoyd by them their heirs and assignes forever and to be eaqualy divided amongst thme.

And lastly I do hear by constitute nominate and appoynt my two sons Stephen Twining and Nathaniel Twining joynt executors of this my Last Will and Testament and I do hear by revoke disanull and make void all former Wills and Testaments by me hear tofore made;

In Witness whear of I the said Stephen Twining to this my Last Will and Testament above and within written having left my hand and seale the twentieth day of the twelth month anno domini one thousand seven hundred and ninteen or twenty 1719/20

Note it is interlined; (unto my son Eleazer Twining) bfor signed

Sealed signed published and
Declared by the sd Stephen Stephen Twining (L.S.)
Twining to be his Last Will
and Testament in presence of