

Nathaniel Covell (1640 - 1682)

Nathaniel, a saddler, arrived in Boston on 26th August 1653, from England. When he was yet a boy and his father lay dying, he agreed to serve Mr. Edward Winslow of Marshfield, Mass, until 7 years after his arrival in New England. For part of this period Mr. Winslow assigned him to his son-in-law, Peregrine White. For his service he was to receive 'his passage over, his support, and 10 pounds in goods and commodities, 13 bushels of Indian corn, and a good double aperel at the end of his time.' His employ over, he went to Yarmouth where he married Sarah Nickerson. Soon afterward they moved to Monomoit and lived on land given to Sarah by her father, near Alewife River and Ryder's Cove. He was designated constable in 1674.

The History of Chatham states: 'the exact year in which Nathaniel Covell died is not certain but it was not far from 1682, in which year Robert Eldridge, his brother-in-law [husband of Elizabeth] died. Both were in the prime of life and left large families.

That Sarah was an able administrator must be assumed from the fact that she engaged in several land transactions. She sold parcels of her own property, and her father arranged that, at his death, the management of his entire domain should fall to her; and, as agreed, in 1687 she conveyed one half of all the real estate, excepting her father's home farm, to her brother, William. In 1699 she had retained one third of her share of the properties and divided them among her four sons. She was widowed in 1682 and it is likely that she and her family went to live with her parents and that they took care of William and Anne before their deaths.

Where Nathaniel and Sarah lived

In 1856 Sarah's father, William Nickerson, purchased land from Mattaquason, the sachem of Monomoit Indians. Unfortunately such purchases had been banned unless consented to by the Plymouth Colony Court. It took until 1672 for Nickerson to get the situation resolved and to legally take possession of the land. In 1678 and 1682 he purchased two additional tracts of land from the Indians, bringing his total acquisitions to about 4,000 acres. His purchases are shown in the sketch below from William Smith's book *History of Chatham Massachusetts*.



