

EDWARD LARKIN
OF
RHODE ISLAND

The First Six Generations



The Abel Larkin House in Charlestown, Rhode Island,
the home of Abel Larkin [no. 159] (1818 – 1911)
as it appeared about 1900.

*A typical example of an early Rhode Island house, with its gambrel
roof, addition at the side, front entrance to the small cellar, and a split
rail fence to keep out animals.*

— Photo from the author's collection

EDWARD LARKIN
OF
RHODE ISLAND

Freeman of Newport 1655 and
of Westerly 1664

THE FIRST SIX GENERATIONS

Elizabeth Brock Larkin

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We have posted a selection of front-matter and page 1, introducing Edward Larkin. The selection includes title page, purchase instructions (but please use the new instructions on this page), table of contents, listing of selected sources (sufficient to give a good idea of the genealogical scholarship behind the work), and a list of graphics. You can read this material as a pdf file:

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The complete searchable index of names (by surname, then personal name) cited in the text is available as a pdf file or as a Word document:

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First Generation

1. **EDWARD¹ LARKIN**, the immigrant, first appeared in Newport, Rhode Island, on the Freeman's List of 1655.^[1] His place of origin and the time of his arrival in Rhode Island are unknown. Circumstantial evidence indicates that he may have come from East Anglia, probably Suffolk, and that he was in Virginia before his arrival in Newport. He was certainly in Rhode Island before 1655. A quitclaim deed dated 13 June 1679 from Carew Clarke, administrator of the estate of his brother Dr. John Clarke, refers to land sold by Clarke to Edward Larkin. Although the date of the original purchase is not given, it would have been before 1650/1, when Dr. John Clarke left for England to obtain a new charter for Rhode Island.

According to a deposition he made 5 June 1671 in the case *Reynolds v. Armstrong*, Edward Larkin was born about 1616/7. He was of Squamocutt (Misquamicut in western Rhode Island), when he testified on that date before Thomas Stanton, Commissioner of Stonington, Connecticut, that he was aged 55.^[2] The date of his death is unknown, but it must have been after 26 June 1687, when Edward Larkin, with other members of the Westerly Town Council, made the division of the estate of John Babcock, and before 30 May 1689 when his son Edward, no longer called "Jr.", was admitted freeman of Westerly.^[3]

Edward appears to have had a first wife about whom nothing is known. His three known daughters, Sarah, Mehitable and Hannah, assuming that they were about twenty when they married, must have been children of the unknown wife. No record of the death of a first wife or the birth of any of his children has been found.

His wife of record is **LYDIA**, whose surname has not been learned.^[4] She too testified before Thomas Stanton in the case of *Reynolds v. Armstrong*

¹ Records of the Colony of Rhode Island, at Rhode Island Archives, 1 [1636-1663], 301.

² Private Controversies, at Connecticut State Archives, 1: 92: *Reynolds v. Armstrong*.

³ Westerly, R.I. Town Records, 1 [1616-1706/7], 65, 13. It is odd that no record of Edward Larkin's death appears in Westerly records since he had taken an active part in the government of the town. This was the period when Andros was governor but the lack of a record raises the possibility that his death took place elsewhere. No probate records were found in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, or Connecticut.

⁴ Although purely speculative, there is the possibility that Lydia might be a Wilcox. The association of a much older man, Edward Larkin, with Stephen Wilcox, b. 1634, and