

In an account of the Smiton family, Austin's Dictionary of Rhode Island says: "Captain Samuel Bonham deposed that Benjamin Smiton departed from Barbadoes for Rhode Island 1722, June 8, on the brigantine, Greyhound, and that he was the eldest son of Benjamin Smiton, deceased, late of the Parish of St. Dunstan's, Stepheny, county of Middlesex".

The father of Capt. Samuel Bonham was the brother of the wife of Benjamin Smiton, Sr. The genealogy shows that Benjamin Smiton was b. in Wapping, Eng., married Dec. 7, 1695, Elizabeth Bonham.

One interesting fact is that a sister of Mary Ball of Va. who was to become the wife of George Washington, was Elizabeth Bonham. She is named in the will of Mary Washington, that is, the widow, Mary Hewes, of St. Stephen's parish, in Northumberland Co., Va. (widow of Richard Hewes) as being "my daughter Elizabeth Bonham". That was in 1720, who was Elizabeth's husband and their relation to the M.J. family does not appear.

Three of the children of Nicholas Bonham and his w. Hannah Fuller, are recorded in the Barnstable records. About 1669-70, he moved to M.J. and became a neighbor to the Pittz-Randolph family. He originally received a grant of 122 acres, which became the Bonham homestead. He received a warrant in 1676 for a tract of land in Woodbridge, probably never lived there. His formal grant of land was received Sept. 10, 1678, in which he is called Nicholas Bonham of New Piscataway. In a list of residents of Piscataway who took the oath of allegiance to the Dutch government in 1672 is the name of Nicholas Bonham. One authority states that in a list of freeholders in 1682-3 he is recorded as the owner of lands by allotment, which shows he was an original settler.

He is the founder of Bonhamton (Bonhamtown) in Hartam Township, which is the oldest and most continuous settlement in Middlesex Co. He built the first house there, which was torn down in recent years. In a deed of 1676 he conveys land to Benjamin Hill, one of the noted settlers of Piscataway, and in several deeds, 1685 and later, is the name of "N. Nicholas Bonham". "Bonham's lot" is frequently referred to and "Bonham's Creeke" is mentioned in the will of Benjamin Dunham dated 1679-80.

Whitehead credits Eliz. Bonham with having received a grant for 100 acres at Piscataway before 1690, giving as his authority Elizabethtown bill of chancery.