

= Susanna Cole =

Susanna Cole (née Hutchinson ; 1633 ? c . 1713) was the lone survivor of an Indian attack in which many of her siblings and her famed mother , Anne Hutchinson , were killed . Following the attack , she was taken captive , and held for several years before her release .

Born in Alford , Lincolnshire , England , Hutchinson was less than a year old when her family sailed from England to New England in 1634 . She was less than five when her family settled on Aquidneck Island (later Rhode Island) in the Narragansett Bay following her mother 's banishment from Massachusetts during the Antinomian Controversy . Shortly after her father 's death , when she was about eight years old , she , her mother and six of her siblings left Rhode Island to live in New Netherland . They settled in an area that became the far northeastern section of The Bronx in New York City , near the Westchester County line . Caught in the middle of severe tensions between the local natives and the Dutch , the family , except for Susanna , was massacred in August 1643 . She was taken captive , and raised by the Indians , later to be traded back to the English .

Hutchinson was taken to Boston where her oldest brother and an older sister lived , was re @-@ introduced into English society , and at the age of 18 married John Cole , the son of Boston innkeeper Samuel Cole . They lived in Boston for a few years , but by 1663 had moved to the Narragansett country of Rhode Island (later North Kingstown) to look after the lands of her oldest brother , Edward Hutchinson . Here the couple remained and raised a large family . Susanna Cole was still alive in 1707 when given administration of her husband 's estate , but was deceased by December 1713 when her son William took receipts concerning his parents ' estate .

= = Early life = =

Baptized in Alford , Lincolnshire on 15 November 1633 , Susanna Hutchinson was the youngest child of William and Anne Hutchinson to accompany her parents on the voyage from England to New England in 1634 . She was the 14th child of her parents , of which 11 survived to make the trip to the New World ; a 15th child was born in New England . The family settled in Boston , and lived across the street from magistrate John Winthrop , who was a judge during the civil trial in 1637 that led to her mother 's banishment from the Massachusetts colony . While Hutchinson was still very young , her mother hosted popular religious discussions at their home . Her mother 's religious views , at odds with the rigid orthodoxy of the Puritan ministers , helped to create a major division in the Boston church and an untenable situation for the colony 's leaders . Forced to leave Massachusetts , the family settled with many of her mother 's supporters on Aquidneck Island in the Narragansett Bay , establishing the settlement of Portsmouth , which soon became a part of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations . Hutchinson was less than five years old when the family left Boston , and was about eight when her father died in Portsmouth .

Frightened at the prospect of Massachusetts gaining influence or control over Rhode Island , Hutchinson 's widowed mother took her six youngest children , an older son , a son @-@ in @-@ law , and some servants and moved to the part of New Netherland that later became The Bronx in New York City . The Dutch and native Siwanoy were engaged in Kieft 's War during the family 's tenure there . In August 1643 Siwanoy attacked the emigrant household , and killed all members of the family , except for nine @-@ year @-@ old Hutchinson . According to one story , Susanna 's red hair spared her from the slaughter , while another account claimed that the girl was out picking blueberries some distance from the house and hid in the crevice of Split Rock . In any event , the attackers took Susanna Hutchinson captive , and held her for several years .

In his journal , Massachusetts governor John Winthrop provided an account of Susanna under the date of July 1646 :

A daughter of Mrs. Hutchinson was carried away by the Indians near the Dutch , when her mother and others were killed by them ; and upon the peace concluded between the Dutch and the same Indians , she was returned to the Dutch governor , who restored her to her friends here . She was about eight years old , when she was taken , and continued with them about four years , and she had forgot her own language , and all her friends , and was loath to have come from the Indians .

While Winthrop said that Hutchinson was captive about four years , his journal makes clear that her captivity lasted less than three years . When she returned to Boston , her known living siblings at the time were her oldest brother , Edward Hutchinson , another brother , Samuel , and her two oldest living sisters , Faith (the wife of Thomas Savage) , and Bridget (the wife of John Sanford) . Of these siblings , Faith lived in Mount Wollaston , about ten miles south of Boston ; Bridget lived in Portsmouth , Rhode Island ; and Samuel 's residence is unknown . Only her brother Edward is known to have lived in Boston proper , and it is likely that Hutchinson came to live with him and his family . On 30 December 1651 she married , in Boston , John Cole , the son of Boston innkeeper , Samuel Cole , who had established Boston 's first tavern in 1634 .

= = Adult life = =

Susanna and John Cole began raising a family in Boston , but by 1663 they had gone to look after her brother 's land in the Narragansett country , which was then in disputed territory , but later became North Kingstown , Rhode Island . Here the Coles lived for the remainder of their lives , rearing many children . The will of John Cole 's father , Samuel Cole , dated 21 December 1666 , left a property at Bendall 's Dock in Boston to Susanna and her children to satisfy an agreement with Susanna 'a brother Edward Hutchinson and uncle Samuel Hutchinson . This property was leased out in 1676 , and sold in 1698 for £ 160 .

In April 1667 , John Cole deeded their house in Boston to Susanna 's brother Edward and uncle Samuel , signifying that they intended to remain in Narragansett . They lived in the vicinity of Wickford , an area claimed by both Connecticut and Rhode Island . Many of the Wickford inhabitants preferred to be under the jurisdiction of Connecticut , and in the late 1660s John Cole became a magistrate and commissioner for the area under the auspices of the Connecticut government . Eventually , following many years of dispute and tension , Rhode Island was given control over the Narragansett lands , and in 1682 John Cole was made a conservator of the peace under the Rhode Island government . By 1707 John had died , and Susanna and her son William were given administration of his estate during that year . Susanna had died by 14 December 1713 when her son , William , " took receipts from heirs for their full proportion of estate of deceased father and mother ... "

= = Family and Legacy = =

Susanna and John Cole had 11 children : Susanna , Samuel , Mary , John , Ann , a second John , Hannah , William , Francis , Elizabeth , and Elisha ; at least 9 of them grew to maturity . Their oldest daughter , Susanna , married Thomas Eldred , but the fate of their oldest son , Samuel is not known . Mary lived into her 60s , never marrying , and John , Jr. died as a youngster . Ann married Henry Bull , the son of Jireh Bull , and grandson of Rhode Island colonial governor Henry Bull . A second John grew to maturity , Hannah married Thomas Place , and William married Ann Pinder . Francis grew to maturity , Elizabeth married Robert Potter , and Elisha married Elizabeth Dexter and was for many years a Deputy or Assistant in the Rhode Island colony . Among her well known descendants are two aspirants to the United States Presidency : Stephen Arnold Douglas , who lost to Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 election , and Willard Mitt Romney , who lost to incumbent Barack Obama in 2012 . Her grandson , John Cole , the son of Elisha Cole , was a chief justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court .

There have been numerous books and articles written about Susanna Cole 's famous mother , Anne Hutchinson , most of which mention Susanna . One book has been written about Cole , Trouble 's Daughter by Katherine Kirkpatrick , which presents a fictionalized account about her life with the Native Americans who captured her , but also presents some of the limited historical information that is available about her .

A bronze statue in front of the Massachusetts State House in Boston , dedicated in 1922 , displays an assumed likeness of Cole as a youngster , and her mother , Anne Hutchinson .

= = Ancestry = =

Some of Susanna 's ancestry on her father 's side was published by John D. Champlin in 1913 , and he published much of her ancestry on her mother 's side the following year .