

A Family Knot—Very much Tied

SPOKEN extempore after the Marriage Supper at Ridgmont, in the year 1760 (of my father and mother, E.S. *i.e.*, Edward Stickney). By William Cowlam, of Hull.

“ Behold here sit by this good fireside
Four Bridegrooms near with everyone his Bride.¹
Behold, likewise, a lovely sprightly Boy,²
The present hope of still succeeding Joy.
The Great Grandsire shall first of all be reconed,
The Great Grandmamma like him be second,³
Next Two Grandfathers & Grandmothers Two,⁴
Four Husbands & Four Wives you also view,⁵
Three Sons Three Daughters,⁶ & observe the other
Are Fathers Three, Three Mothers one step Mother.⁷
Next Two Great Uncles & Great Aunts we find,⁸
Uncles and Aunts⁹ two Brothers & two sisters¹⁰ kind
Great Grandson,¹¹ Grandson¹¹ Nephew¹¹ & Sons three,¹²
Yea more, but pray tell how can all this be ?
How is the Knot (declare it among friends)
That ties so many & with so few Ends—Nine.”¹³

¹ Nicholas Turner and Elizabeth,
Ambrose Stickney I., and Mary,
John Stickney and Elizabeth.
Ambrose Stickney II., and Rachel.

² Ambrose Stickney III., son of John and Elizabeth.

³ Nicholas and Elizabeth Turner.

⁴ Nicholas and Elizabeth Turner, and Ambrose I. and Mary Stickney.

⁵ The same as 1.

⁶ Nicholas and Elizabeth Turner,
Ambrose I., and Mary Stickney,
John and Elizabeth Stickney.

⁷ Mary Stickney (step-mother).

⁸ John and Elizabeth Stickney
(great uncle and aunt to their own son).
Ambrose II., and Rachel Stickney.

⁹ There were several uncles and aunts in the party: Elizabeth Stickney was aunt to her husband; (could her husband be uncle to himself ?!). Ambrose Stickney I. and Mary were uncle and aunt to their grandson, Ambrose III.

¹⁰ John and Elizabeth Stickney and Ambrose II. and Rachel Stickney.

¹¹ Ambrose Stickney III.

¹² Ambrose Stickney I. and II., and John Stickney—father and two sons—all sons-in-law to Nicholas Turner.

¹³ The nine were: Nicholas and Elizabeth Turner, Ambrose I. and Mary Stickney, John and Elizabeth Stickney, Ambrose II. and Rachel Stickney, and Ambrose III.



