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1-6-95

*FARMINGTON TOWN CLERKS*

*AND THEIR TIMES*

Of this book there have been printed  
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Number *354*.

2  
off. discovery - In Righting of such agreements as were  
by the magistrates with the Indians of Lunenburg  
concerning the lands & such things in reference  
thereto as tend to settle peace in a way of truth  
& Righteousnes betwixt the English & them.

Item: premises taken for granted that the magistrates bought the  
whole Country to the moorlands Country of Squawson: the chief

Saction  
Item: that notwithstanding their Intreat by that means yet  
the magistrates did in a friendly manner Com to termes  
with the Lunenburg Indians: that some English might dwell  
amongst them: which termes were these: That the English  
should give up all the grounds that they had under impower  
at that time when the bargain was first made: & residue grounds  
in place together Composed: a half with a Creek & trees  
& now also to be staked out only in that piece the English  
were to have the use of the grass for their Cows & other  
aboard Contention the English are willing too: Let goe about  
the little Stige which is also to be staked out to prevent  
Contention.


Item: that what Grounds they delivred up to the English in the  
places that was in the first bargain: making boundary & improve  
of the Indians: & like proportion: if a place will best be  
bee brooke up for them: in that place which is appointed  
them: & the Indians to have that they have in present  
possession till that bee brooke up in that place.

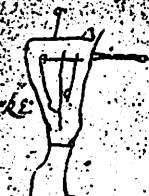
Item: that this being done: the Indians have no privilege  
in any other grounds any where: all within the bounds of the  
plantation: & yet they shall have liberty to sell wood for  
fuel or other necessary uses soe far as doe it not injure  
none: & as to the spoiling of goods or Cattle of the  
English: now shall they bee hindered of fishing & hunting  
soe it bee not done to the breach of any order: In the  
Country to hunt cattell except fishing: fowling & hunting  
being left equally to English & Indians.

Item: that it is cleare: that all the lands: the English have  
is little worth: still of wisdom & labour & that of the  
English: bee improved upon it by the magistrates: which  
they have lands in a place: give it away to the English  
to labour upon: & take nothing for it.

Item: that the peace & plenty that they have had & enjoyed  
by the presence of the English in regard of protection  
of them by trade with them much more to the advantage  
& comfort of the Indians though they never saw  
them ever they enjoyed before the coming of the  
English: when the land was in their own hands.

Although they are ignorant of the prices of  
 their commodities yet their corn & skins will give a good  
 price which will counterpoise much more then the price  
 of their land & therefore the Indians have reason  
 to give willingly among the English by whom their  
 needs are provided with their estates & comforts  
 as they are. So this were the chief reasons for the  
 giving of all former acknowledgements to us by our selves  
 to make use thereof about this matter.

Signed in the presence of *Jo. Frynes*  
*John Hart*  
*Thomas Gidd*  
*Thomas Thomson*  
*John Moore* *perhaps*  
*Thomas Stanton* *his mark* 

Roger Newton  
 April 9  
 1650 *Shams*   
*his mark*

Newton & names are for undivided  
 parts & shares, above transcribed  
 & original due to the Indians  
 & their posterity as is to wit  
*Roger Newton*  
*Thomas Gidd*

Recorded by me William Lewis Register  
 by J. Towns order. January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1667

# FARMINGTON TOWN CLERKS AND THEIR TIMES

(1645-1940)

BY MABEL S. HURLBURT

ograph of record dated 1650, of the agreement of distribution of land to the Tunxis Indians. The record was inspected by the Committee and bears their endorsement and their signatures.



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Farmington, Connecticut*

*Manufactured in the United States of America  
PRESS OF FINLAY BROTHERS, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT*

*DEDICATION*

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO MY SONS  
CHARLES WILLIAM AND WILSON SPENCER  
WITHOUT THEIR CONSTANT INSPIRATION  
AND PRACTICAL HELP IT COULD NOT  
HAVE BEEN WRITTEN

## FOREWORD

In reading and studying the records of the Town of Farmington for the 300 years of its existence, one is impressed with the loyal care and faithfulness with which the townspeople guarded their heritage.

This inheritance imposed its obligations, just as it brought its rewards.

If there were errors in judgment, if there was at times too much stress and strain over small things, after great things had been accomplished with seeming ease — it was their right — one of their freedoms, to experiment, to err, to learn. That the ultimate result, after 300 years, is as good as it is shows that the basic principles were sound.

I have endeavoured in the selection of the records used, to show the growth of the town, without the loss of fundamentals; to show an outward change about the town which has not affected its foundations.

Much of value and interest has already been written about Farmington. This has not been repeated unless it seemed vital to the thread of the story.

Farmington history is not startling. It is, however, a fair sample of what has made this country of ours what it is today.

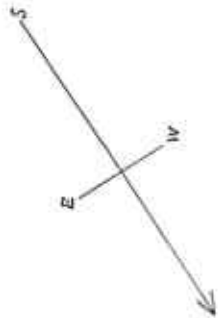
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Map showing Homes of Original Settlers from 1643 to approximately 1700

## KEY LIST OF ORIGINAL SETTLERS

*Italics indicate Original Resident Owners*

Map Number	Original Owners	Present Owners
West side of High Street		
1	<i>Robert Wilson 1655</i> <i>John Clark 1657</i> <i>John Norton, Jr.</i>	Dr. Bunnell's office Judatz property
2	<i>Thomas Bird 1690</i> <i>Joseph Bird (rear)</i>	Dr. Bunnell's house lot
3	<i>John and Samuel Steele</i>	Elizabeth T. and Mary McCarthy Theodate Pope Riddle Harry I. B. Rice part of Thomson property
4	Isaac Moore (woodlot)	Herbert C. House John Russell
5	John Stanley (woodlot) <i>John Stanley Jr. 1680</i>	Lydia B. Hewes A. I. Balch Carolyn W. & Francis D. Ellis Graham Jones St. James Mission (parsonage) Seymour Peck
East side of Main Street south to Mountain Road		
6	<i>Thomas Dymon</i> <i>William Smith</i>	Farmington Village Green and Library Association
7	<i>John North</i>	Helen M. Scarth Edward I. Taylor
8	<i>Samuel Steele</i>	Marguerite Chase Holcombe E. C. Joslin Helen Deming Est. of Teofil Balazy William A. Hitchcock part of Thomson property
9	<i>Matthew Woodruff</i>	G. M. Williams
10	John Andrews <i>William Adams</i> <i>Joseph Kellogg</i> Deacon Isaac Moore <i>Thomas Orton 1656</i>	Thomas Childs Thomas Childs
11		Thomas Childs
12		Rose Anne D. Keep
13		Porter School property
West side of Main Street south from the center		
14	<b>Thomas Welles</b> <i>Thomas Thomson</i> <i>John Steele Jr.</i>	Joseph Tofani Est. of Frank Sneath John H. Thompson
15	Thomas Steel's stillhouse <i>Thomas Judd</i> <i>John Judd 1669</i> <i>Philip Judd 1685 (rear)</i> <i>John Hooker 1688</i>	S. N. E. T. Co. Maxwell Moore Ruth Holmes Cady
17	Thomas Upson sold to John Warner who built a small house which he sold to Samuel Steele <i>John Steele</i> <i>William Judd 1680</i>	James D. Morrell Farmington Savings Bank

Number	Original Owners	Present Owners
18	John Andrews sold to Samuel Loomis of Windsor whose son Samuel lived in house and in 1659 sold to William Yudd	Florence Gay
19	Thomas Upson sold to John Andrews	Florence Gay
20	Thomas Webster sold in 1651 to John Stanley	Porter Road Porter School
21	William Heacox or Hitchcock to Robert Porter	Porter School
22	Thomas Newell to John Lee	Porter School
23	Thomas Upson sold to John Andrews sold to Joseph Kellogg who built a house but soon sold it to John Lee	Porter School
	Original Mill Lane	
24	Stephen Hart Thomas Hart Josiah Hart Mill in River	Annie Burr Lewis Robert Porter Keep Town of Farmington Winchell Smith Est.
	Present Mill Lane	
25	John Hart Burned in 1666	Waldo K. Chase Est. Anna Y. Barbour
26	Thomas Porter	Michael A. Connor Maiden Lane First Ecclesiastical Society parsonage May Deming Luscomb Edward H. Deming Jr. Porter School
27	John Hart	
28	John Wadsworth Moses Ventres Moses Ventres Jr. 1688 Jacob Barnes 1714	Saint Patrick Church Society Maple Street Robert Porter Keep Sara Crawford
29	Simeon Wrotham Jr. Samuel Hooker Jr.	
30	Samuel Hooker Jr. 1716	Mabel Mason Wells Pearl Street Kenneth Ruic Theodate Pope Riddle R. J. and Genevieve Bien
31	John Talcott	Harrison Smith
32	John Langdon	William S. Cowles William Sheffield Cowles
33	Rev. Roger Newton Rev. Samuel Hooker	
34	Edward Hopkins to Sarah Willson	Wilmarth Lewis
35	John Root John Warner William Higasen	Annie Burr Lewis Annie Burr Lewis
36	Samuel Willis Samuel Wadsworth 1719	C. S. Mason Tunxis Street and south to include brook and low ground

Number	Original Owners	Present Owners
37	Luke Hayes 1690	Agnes Curtin to north side of restaurant property
38	John Langdon Daniel Porter	To south line of old school house lot near Borough line Wollenberg
39	Edmund Scott	
40	Nathaniel Wadsworth 1697	
41	Daniel Warner J. Langdon	
42	Simon Newell	
43	Samuel Orvice to Samuel Wadsworth 1709	The Farmsteads
44	Roger Orvice Isaac Cowles 1722 James Cowles	Percy A. Cowles East side of Main Street
45	Roger Orvice	
46	Orvice	
47	Orvice	
48	Daniel Porter	Farmington Lodge Society
49	George Orvice 1677 Samuel Gridley	Farmington Lodge Society
50	John Warner	Amanda Judatz Frank E. Dorman S. L. Root A. Douglas Dodge Edward G. Stewart part of Coburn property part of Coburn property
51	Edward Hopkins	Harriet G. Porter Isabel V. Lyons Louise Lyons Moore Amy C. Vorce, Trustee Amy C. Vocre, Trustee
52	Rev. Roger Newton 1648 Rev. Samuel Hooker 1661	
53	Thomas Gridley	
54	Benjamin Barnes Samuel Brownson in rear or on lot 74	
55	Thomas Barnes	Stephen Lawrence Est.
56	Burying Ground	
57	Nathaniel Watson John Wadsworth 1660	Porter School MacDonald Adrian and William Wadsworth William Wadsworth Truman Sanford Anna Perkins Allen Mary Scott Crossman
58	John Wadsworth	
59		
60, 61	Thomas Dymon sold 1650 to Samuel Cowles, — to his sons 1671	Margaret Brady
59	Samuel	Sarah Beman
60	John	Rose Churchill
61	Nathaniel	Waldo K. Chase Est.
62	Meeting House	
63	Obadiah Richards sold to Daniel Andrus 1672	Porter School
64	William Ventres John Hart (Pasture)	Mountain Road Center School District Margaret Peters

Number	Original Owners	Present Owners
65	Deacon John Hart	Lawrence Howard
66	Abraham Andrus	Clara Preston Eyers
	John Hart Jr.	Laura C. Hanson
67	John Wadsworth	H. C. Freeman
		Jennie Rhodes
68	1671 Daniel Andrus	Klauser
69	John Hart	Porter School lot
		Adelaide Minikin
		Frank M. Hawley Est.
		Colton Street
70	Thomas Bull	Ellen H. Risley
	John Wiatt	Porter School
		Elsie Deming
71	Richard Jones	
72, 73	John Scoville	
	John Cole father	
71	John Cole 1712 son	Marie T. Bissel
	Thomas Porter 1726	
72	Nathaniel Cole	Marie T. Bissel
	1722 John Rew	
	Thomas Cowles	
73	Stephen Cole	Homer Hillyer
73	John Hart 1720	
	Stephen Hart pasture	
74	Richard Brownson	Adrian Wadsworth
		Kate B. Root
		May Isabel Root
		Elizabeth Leopard et al
		Virginia Leopard Holtz
		Clarence Spinnie
		Reuben and Lillian Darazio
		Caroline C. Warren
		Samuel Labadia
		Hatters Lane
76	Samuel Brownson	East part of Hatch property on south side of Hatters Lane
	Nathaniel Wadsworth 1699	
76a	John Brownson	Thomas Mason
	Roger Brownson 1701	
	1709 William Wadsworth	
76b	John Brownson (mill) 1660	Nellie Gleason
77	Daniel Porter's swamp	Hatch property
		East side of High Street
78	Robert Porters woodlot	Constance R. and H. H. Whaples
	Thomas Porter	W. Norton Smith
	William Porter 1718	
	Isaac Cowles 1690	
79	John Stanley 1665	D. Gordon Hunter
	Eben. Steel 1720	Farmington Village Green and Library Association (old Whitman house)
80	Stephen Hart	
	Isaac Lewis	Theodate Pope Riddle
	Stephen Andrus 1726	

Number	Original Owners	Present Owners
81	Samuel Judd	Theodate Pope Riddle (The Gundy)
	Benjamin Judd	
82		Theodate Pope Riddle
83	John Clark Jr.	Theodate Pope Riddle
		South side of Hartford Road
84	Joseph Bird 1666	Mary B. Carey
85	Anthony Hawkins 1666	
	James Judd 1678	Mary B. Carey
86	Jonathan Smith 1686	Theodate Pope Riddle
	James Gridley	Theodate Pope Riddle
87	William Judd	Theodate Pope Riddle
	Benjamin Judd 1698	Theodate Pope Riddle
	John Norton Jr. 1706	
88	Thomas North 1703	Theodate Pope Riddle (Farmhouse)
	Thomas Judd	
89	Thomas Judd	Theodate Pope Riddle
90	Joseph Smith 1713	Theodate Pope Riddle
91	William Judd's pasture	Theodate Pope Riddle
		North side of Hartford Road
92	David Carpenter 1650	D. N. Barney Est. Near Birdseye corner
	Joseph Bird	
93	Richard Welton	
	Thomas North 1666	Barney
94	Richard Jones	Barney
	William Corbe	
	Samuel North 1666	
95	Abraham Dibell	Barney at corner of Hartford road and Mt. Spring road
	Zachariah Seymour 1672	
	Mathew Woodruff 1716	
		West side of Mountain Spring Road
96	Thomas Thomson	C. W. Deeds
97	Joseph Hawley	Gertrude D. Thompson
		G. G. Williams
		T. Hewes
		James Soby
		Barney Home Property
		Robert M. Keeney
		Robert Parsons
		(old school lot)
99	Thomas Orton	R. E. Parsons
		Edith L. Beetham
100	Nathaniel Kellogg	F. F. Jones
	John Norton Sr.	Arthur Parker
		easterly part of Elm Tree Inn property
101	William Lewis 1665	Elm Tree Inn
102	Deacon Isaac Moore	Country Club property
	Andrew Warner 1648	
	William Lewis 1650	
103	Matthew Webster 1660	College Highway and part of Country club
	Joseph Woodford 1666	Mrs. Skinner
	Samuel Newell 1717	
	Thomas Newell 1646	
104	John Haynes	Harry J. Loomis Est. and west to river
105	John Andrews	Theodate Pope
	Stephen Hart 1714	Mrs. Riddle
74A	John Langdon	Mrs. C. Vorce

*FARMINGTON TOWN CLERKS  
AND THEIR TIMES*



*John Steele*

1646 - 1665

IN THE establishment of the new colony at Newtown (now Hartford) in 1635-1636, the small group of emigrants from Massachusetts Bay were not without authority, although leaving their legitimate and well-founded colony and entering virgin and ungoverned soil. They came under a governmental arrangement agreed upon for their benefit by the General Court of Massachusetts, whereby eight of their number constituted a Commission "that some present government may be observed for the space of one year." John Steele was a member of that Commission.

He had been an original settler in Cambridge, with a home there in 1635. He remained in Hartford as an original settler and built his homestead on the Main Street, only one lot removed from the first meeting house and adjacent to the home lots of his good friends, Thomas Hooker and William Goodwin. The site is now occupied by the southern portion of the Travelers Building.

It would seem, from what little is to be found now concerning him, that John Steele was a quiet, steady-going and accommodating gentleman, with more than the usual allotment of education. His name appeared frequently as witness on wills of the townspeople of those years, and one could easily believe that with his clerical duties in Hartford and later in Farmington, he was looked to for legal aid in the drawing of wills and other documents. He served on numerous committees of the Town, particularly where fairness and meticulous, painstaking care were the principal requirements — such as highway, boundary and proprietors committees.

From the year following his service on the Commission of Eight, he was secretary of the colony and afterward deputy to the General Court for twenty years. He was a member of the first General Court which sat at Newtown, later Hartford, on April 26, 1636, and his name appears as deputy many years afterward when he was a resident of Farmington.

The inhabitants of Hartford chose John Steele as Register in September, 1639, as recorded in *Hartford Town Votes*, Volume 1, pages 5 and 7. This preceded the authorization to do so by the General Court, as we find under date of October 10, 1639. "The Townes aforesaid (Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield) shall each of them p'vide a Ledger Book, with an Index or alphabet vnto the same: Also shall choose one who shall be a Towne Clerk or Register, who shall before the General Courte in April next, record every man's house and land already granted and measured out to him, with the bounds and quantity of the same . . ."

It was therefore necessary for the inhabitants of Hartford to confirm John Steele as Register under the act of the General Court, and on November 16, 1639: *Hartford Town Votes record*: "It is ordered that John Steele shall be Register or Towne Clarke to record all (lands) in the Register booke according to (the order of the General Court) . . ."

That Mr. Steele did this work is proved by a further entry in the Connecticut Colonial Records under date of April 11, 1640: "Mr. Steele is returned Recorder for the Towne of Hartford and hath brought into the Courte 114 coppys of the severall p'cells of land belonging to & concerning 114 persons."

It would seem, therefore, that Mr. Steele was not fully authorized to act as Town Clerk until Hartford as a Town had been empowered by the General Court to "choose their own officers." Consequently the first election of John Steele as Recorder was in September, 1639, with a re-election on November 16 of the same year, by the inhabitants of the town of Hartford, in conformity with the regulations of the General Court.

Dr. William DeLoss Love in his *The Colonial History of Hartford* believes that previous to the appointment of John Steele as Register, William Spencer, who had been town clerk

in Newtown, Massachusetts, made the first entries in Hartford's book of town votes. He says "Most of the early entries in this book (*Hartford Town Book*) are in his (Spencer's) well-known handwriting. He was one of the committee appointed by the General Court to review the laws and orders of the Colony in 1639, and was one of the signers of the Fundamental Orders. This would naturally suggest a similar service for the town . . . he began, in proper form, the record of their town meeting, December 23, 1639. He continued as townsman to keep the records during the following months, when the inhabitants were forming the body of proprietors. His valuable service was then ended by his death."

This bears out the conclusions reached by a study of the land and town meeting records of Farmington, in that it is apparent they were not always kept by the Register — the handwriting of the land records being always that of the Register or town clerk, but the minutes of the town meetings evidently made by the townsmen. It points to the larger authority of the townsmen of that day than of later years, when their duties became purely administrative. The townsmen had authority to keep the town minutes and make entries of grants of land — sometimes a choice bit to themselves.

Although Mr. Steele was much engaged with his pen and record books, underneath was the spirit and courage of an adventurer — a wanderer. It is generally conceded by historians through the years that John Steele was one of the group who "viewed" Tunxis Sepus from the top of the mountain in 1639. With him were probably William Lewis, Stephen Hart, Thomas Judd, John Bronson, John Warner, Nathaniel Kellogg, Thomas Barnes, Richard Seymour, Thomas Gridley, Thomas Scott. Whether they were hunting, or it was the desire which had brought them thus far, that of always traveling on to the west — looking over the top of the next hill — they must have thrilled at the sight of the new, green valley and hills, with its two rivers joining at the edge of the plain. Their ever practical minds soon grasped the value of the high hills and meadows, particularly as compared with the sand and marshes of the

Massachusetts bay, or the more rocky and scrubby land to the east of the Great River.

As early as 1643, Farmington records show that homes had been built here: "Stephen Harts house lot bounded on the north by land of Thomas Upson which he recorded in 1643."

John Steele came here probably in 1645 or soon after as he was "intreated for the present to be recorder there (Farmington) or until the Towne have one fitt among themselves" and continued at least until 1664.

On "December first, 1645, the Colonial Court sat at Hartford with Jo: Haynes, Esq. Gouv., Ed: Hopkins Esq. Dep. (Governor) Capten Mason, Mr. Woolcott, Mr. Webster, Mr. Whiting, Mr. Welles and as Deputys Mr. Trotte, Mr. Ollister, Ja: Boosey, Jo. Demon, Mr. Hull, Mr. Staughton, Mr. Steele, Mr. Talcott," and had the great distinction of passing the order making the plantation known as Tunxis Sepus, the town of Farmington. The articles of incorporation read thus:

"Its Ordered, that the Plantation cauled Tunxis shalbe cauled Farmington, and that the bounds thereof shalbe as followeth: The Easterne bounds shall meet with the westernne of these Plantations, wch are to be five myles on this side of the great Riuer, and the Northern bownds shall be five myles fro the hill in the great meadow towards Masseco, and the Southerne bownds from the said hill shalbe five myles, and they shall haue liberty to improue ten myles further than the said five, and to hinder others fro the like, vntill the Court see fitt otherwise to dispose of yt. And the said Plata, are to attend the general Orders formerly made by this Court, settled by the Committee to who the same was referred, and other occations, as the rest of the Plantations vppon the River doe. And Mr. Steele is intreated for the present to be recorder there, vntill the Towne haue one fitt among themselues. They also are to haue the like libertyes as the other Townes vppon the Riuer, for making Orders among themselues, pruided they alter not any fundamentall agreements settled by the said Committee, hitherto attended." Thus was the Town of Farmington incorporated, being the first and only offshoot from Rev.

Thomas Hooker's church, and ranking equally with Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield.

In Farmington the home of John Steele was on the Town Path, now Main Street, about where now stands the house formerly owned by Mrs. Gertrude Gay Kimball, sometimes known as the Richard Gay homestead. His son, John Steele, Jr., lived about where Miss Alice Sneath recently lived and on this land also stood "Father Steele still house." On the corner, where now stands the Thomson house, with its much photographed doorway and ell, stood the Farmington home of Governor Thomas Welles, conveyed on a parchment May 16, 1646, as a wedding gift to his daughter Anne "in consideration of a marriage lately held, betrothed and solemnized with Thomas Thomson." This deed, giving the town as Tunxis Sepus, was not recorded until January 23, 1713-14, when it was brought to be recorded by Joseph Hawley, grandson of Thomas Thomson. After passing through many hands, and the old house probably all gone, with the possible exception of parts of the ell, the present house, built by Daniel Curtis in 1783, was again in the Thomson family for many years.

For twelve years after the settlement of the town, the pioneers here had no organized church, but we well know that they were not without religious inspiration and comfort during that time. While the first houses were being built they must still have attended Rev. Thomas Hooker's church in Hartford.

All that Farmington has stood for in the three hundred years of its existence — its very foundations — its traditions of simplicity and culture, are so interwoven with the life of Thomas Hooker — his principals of government — his preaching and practice of the freedom of the individual — and his immediate family, it would seem much to the point to assemble here some of the outstanding features in the life of this leader of Hartford's Founders.

Thomas Hooker's birthplace seemed to have been well-established, beyond doubt, until recent new correspondence was uncovered and published. With no attempt to settle here a matter of such importance, particularly in view of the vast amount of research done in England by some of the authors to

be quoted herein, but with a desire to offer such information as is available, we journey to ancient England in Leicester county in the sixteenth century.

Centrally located in the county is the city of Leicester. About five miles west is the town of Markfield. Three miles north of Leicester is the small village of Birstall (sometimes spelled Bustall), "on the Soare, where is a pretty chapel in which be neither arms nor monuments," and eighteen miles eastward is the town and parish of Tilton. The parish comprises three other tithings, or towns, these being Marfield or Marefield, also variously spelled on the ancient records, Halsted and Whatborough. Marfield is in the Hundred of Goscote — Markfield five miles to the west, is in the Hundred of Sparkenhoe.

This should sufficiently clarify the distinction between the two towns; but they have been considered by some authorities as the same. Today Marfield in the parish of Tilton has five houses — in 1600 there were six. The place of worship for this parish was the fine old church of St. Peter, built in the twelfth century. It was of gray stone, with a tower containing a peal of four bells and a lofty spire. Set up on a hill, it commanded a wide view of the hills and green valleys of Midland England. It was here that Thomas Hooker was baptised and received his early religious training and inspiration. The head of the Hooker family was of sufficient importance in the village and parish to be designated as "Mr. Hooker, Gentleman." However favorably known in the village the family might have been, Thomas Hooker soon desired a more liberal education than that afforded him at home. He was admitted to the free school at Market Bosworth, some twenty-five miles to the west, where he prepared for Cambridge. Hooker was about eighteen years old when he entered the University where he was a student for seven years and a Fellow Resident some years more. Every man at that time was taking sides in the Puritan and anti-Puritan conflict, and Thomas Hooker was in the midst of this in his most impressionable years. That his reaction was toward non-conformist principles we gather from what Cotton Mather wrote, as he intimated that because of this, Hooker

did not receive his degree of Doctor of Divinity, for which he certainly was trained.

This did not, however, prevent him from receiving and accepting, in 1620, an invitation to preach at Esher in Surrey, where the living was donative, his patroness being the invalid and hypochondriac, Mrs. Joanna Drake. The living was a mere forty pounds a year. Here he met Susanna Garbrand, a relative and waiting woman of Mrs. Drake. They were married within the year. It is recorded in a small book, long since out of circulation, that the power of Mr. Hooker's preaching so impressed Mrs. Drake, that she recovered and lived out her life in a measure of happiness, having previously, however, worn out two other ministers. We see here, even in Hooker's early life, signs of the great power he was to exert over men in years to come.

Susanna Garbrand was born about 1593, a daughter of Richard and Ann Garbrand of Oxford, England. Her father was one of four sons of Garbrand Harkes, a Protestant who fled from persecution in Holland to England about 1538 and settled at Oxford. There he dealt in books, music and manuscripts and became rich. His four sons and four sons-in-law were all graduates of the University. He dropped the family name of Harkes, using the given name of Garbrand. Thomas Hooker and Susanna Garbrand were married April 3, 1621, at Amersham, Bucks, England. Sometime after the death of Thomas Hooker in Hartford, on what was probably the sixty-first anniversary of his birth, July 7, 1647, Susanna married Elder William Goodwin, who had been for many years a close and faithful friend of the family. She died in Farmington May 17, 1676, at the home of her son, the Rev. Samuel Hooker. There is no known record of the place of her burial.

The recent dissenting note in what has seemed conclusive proof that Hooker was born in Marfield, recently came to light in the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Vol. XLIV, page 2, setting forth a deposition of the man Mrs. Hooker had engaged to attest Hooker's citizenship and ship his clothing to Holland, where Hooker was then residing for safety.

The deposition reads: "John Tarleton of the parsh of St. Olaves in the borough of Southwark, brewer, aged 46, deposes December 30, 1631, that in July last he, at the entreaty of Susan Hooker, wife of Thomas Hooker of Walthem in the county of Essex, preacher of God's Word, now resident in Delph, in Holland, did lade aboard the Jacob of London, one small truncke of apparell contayninge, as he hath been informed by the said Hooker's wife, one stuffe gown, one stuffe cloake, one cloth cloake, three shirts twelle handkerchiefs, seven white capps, three ruffe bands, two falling bands, three payre ruffles, one payre stockings, one payre garters, one payre of shoes, and one or two sutes of apparell and two letters, which truncke of apparell this deponent, by direction of the sayd Mr. Hooker's wife, did consigne to be delivered to one Mr. Peters, a minister dwelling in Rotterdam, for the accompte of the said Thomas Hooker.

"And he also sayeth that the said Hooker was born at Bustall in the county of Leicester and is a natural subject of the King of England, and went into Holland in or about the month of June last and his wife and family still dwell within the parish of Waltham in Essex."

There is, of course, the possibility that Susan Hooker did not know where Thomas was born. We assume that she had some good reason for instructing the man to make affidavit as to Bustall. When Thomas Hooker's mother died in 1631 and his father in 1635 in Marfield, they had been residents there for many years. Thomas Hooker the elder owned land in Gaddesby and Frisbye, small towns about equally distant from both Bustall and Marfield. It is entirely possible that the Hookers lived in Bustall at the time of Thomas' birth. We can go as far back in Thomas' line as his father's father whose name was Kenelm (variously spelled, a frequent Digby family name), of Blaston. It is of further interest to find in *Bank's Topographical Dictionary of English Emigrants to New England 1620-1650*, that according to family records of the Hooker family, the English parish from which Hooker came to New England was Blaston. *The New England Genealogical Register* gives the Parish of Markfield as that from which he

came. This we see would be incorrect, and confused with Marfield. We find this constant confusion of Markfield with Marfield. Hooker's brother John died in Marfield and his estate was settled in the probate court there. His sister Frances married Mr. Tarleton of London; two other sisters were Mrs. Pymm and Mrs. Alcock and a fourth sister, Dorothy, married John Chester of Blaby in county Leicester. After the death of her husband she came to Hartford where she died, leaving a son John of Wethersfield.

The first child born to the Hookers was a daughter, named Joanna, probably for their friend and kinswoman, Mrs. Joanna Drake. Mary, John and Sarah Hooker were also born in England, and two children who died there. The birthplace of Samuel was probably in New England as he was graduated from Harvard College in 1653 and would not have been over twenty years old at that time. Sarah is given as the youngest of the children in the Hooker family record, but she had been for five years the wife of John Wilson, when her brother was graduated. This would bring the birth of Samuel at the time of the Hooker family immigration to New England. A younger child died of the smallpox while the family lived in Newtown. This recent child-bearing may explain why Mrs. Hooker was carried to Hartford in a litter, on that pioneer journey. She truly was a fitting mate for her courageous husband.

Whether Mrs. Hooker and her children came to New England with Mr. Hooker does not appear. Cotton Mather tells us in his *Magnalia* that his grandfather, John Cotton, and Thomas Hooker boarded the "Griffin" incognito in 1633, that after an eight-week trip they arrived at Mt. Wollaston to join Hooker's company, most of whom had arrived the year previous, the entire company then moving on to Newtown in the Bay colony. In the spring of 1636 the family was in Hartford, in the comfortable house prepared for them on present Sheldon Street.

Two stories concerning Thomas Hooker are of particular interest: "On returning home, after his course of preparation for the ministry, he found his friends and townspeople in a great state of excitement over what was considered to be a

haunted house. The house was a solitary one, standing on the outskirts of the town, and had been empty for several years, the owners being unable to rent or sell it, or even persuade a caretaker to live in it, rent free. Strange sounds were heard from the house at night, and lights were seen flashing from the windows, wierd shapes were seen by the terrified watchers passing to and fro within the house, and it was rumored that the Devil himself, in proper array, with horns, hoofs and tail, had been seen.

"This young clergyman, being of a bold nature, volunteered to sleep in the house and ascertain the truth of the stories. In spite of the entreaties of his friends he went to the house and to bed in a second story room, his pistols on a table by his side. The early part of the night passed quietly and he slept soundly, but by and by he was awakened by the certainty that some one was in the room with him. Sitting up he struck a light and there saw, glowering at him in the dim light the alarming figure of the Devil, standing motionless at the foot of the bed.

"Without an instant's hesitation our hero, seizing his pistols, sprang from the bed and threw himself at the intruder. The Devil turned and fled, the young clergyman after him. Down the stairs they went, through the house, until they reached the cellar stairs. Down went the Devil and his pursuer came tumbling after, reaching the ground just in time to see a square of light in the floor through which the Devil was disappearing. He grasped the edge of the trap door before it could be fastened and dropped into the subterranean passage, which opened out into a larger brightly lighted room. Here he found a number of men, engaged in making counterfeit money, and to his horror he recognized some of his friends and fellow townsmen, prominent in church and business. They all clustered about the breathless Devil and a hurried consultation was held as to what should be done with their unwelcome visitor.

"As soon as the latter had recovered his breath he said coolly: 'Gentlemen, it is publicly known that I slept in this house to-night, and if I do not appear in the morning, this house will be razed to the ground, and your secret will be discovered. If you will solemnly promise to cease this wicked work for ten

years from this night, I will on my side solemnly promise you not to mention for ten years what I have learned to-night.' This was agreed to and Thomas Hooker then returned to his bed where he spent the rest of the night in peace.

"The next morning he reported that there was nothing uncanny about the house and that he had found everything much to his taste. "The house was soon after rented and nothing more was heard of the ghost stories. Time passed and the young minister joined the Puritans and came to America. When nearly eleven years had passed Mr. Hooker received from over the sea a package which contained a magnificent silver tankard with the inscription 'Compliments of the Devil.' The tankard has been handed down for many generations as a treasured heirloom."

The silver tankard was not a part of Thomas Hooker's estate. A great many Hooker descendants would like to know what became of it.

The other account is of Thomas Hooker's almost uncanny ability to foresee the future. Cotton Mather relates it in his *Magnalia*.

"These passages I quote, that I may the more effectually describe the apprehensions with which this worthy man (Hooker) took his farewell of his native country. . . . 'Tis very likely that the scribe has all along wronged the sermon, but the words now referred to, are of this purport, "That it had been told him from God, that God will destroy England, and lay it waste; and that the people should be put unto the sword, and the temples burnt, and the houses laid in ashes." Long after this, when he lived at Hartford in New England, his friends that heard that sermon, having the news of the miseries upon England, by the civil wars, brought unto them, enquired of him "Whether this were not the time of God's destroying England whereof he had spoken?" He replied, "No, this is not the time; there will be a time of respite after these wars, and a time when God will further try England; . . . There will therefore a time come, when the Lord Jesus Christ will plead his own cause, and the cause of them who have suffered for their fidelity to her institutions: he will plead it in a more dreadful

way and break the nation of England in pieces, like a potter's vessel. Then a man shall be precious as the gold of Ophir; but a small remnant shall be left; and afterward God will raise up churches to himself, after his own heart, in his own time and way." God knows what there may be in this prediction."\*

Ernest Flagg in *The Founding of New England* wrote: "... Thomas Hooker was indeed if not in name the first Governor of Connecticut. . . He was one of the great men of his time and would have been a great man in any time . . . it is only within comparatively recent times that the full import of his work has been known . . . his fame will spread and he will receive his just place in the estimation of the people as one of the chief moulders of our institutions."

Mr. Hooker was nearing forty years of age when, after twenty years of teaching, lecturing and preaching as a lay preacher, by invitation, he was formally ordained as minister of the gospel and pastor of the church at Newton, later the First Church of Christ in Hartford. The company of faithful followers had planned and waited since 1629, in Chelmsford, England, for this day. From October 11, 1633, until July 7, 1647, the date of his death, Thomas Hooker led his people and his church in earthly and spiritual matters. He inspired the first courageous few who established the settlement at Hartford; he led his company through unchartered wilderness to his new home, and his ideals directly resulted in the Fundamental Orders and first Constitution of the Colony of Connecticut, now acknowledged the corner stone of American democracy.

As homes were completed and community life formed in Farmington, a leader for religious and educational activities was needed.

The logical man was at that time a member of the family of Thomas Hooker.

Roger Newton had arrived in New England about 1638. He was the son of Samuel Newton and of the same family as Sir Isaac Newton. Cotton Mather wrote of Roger Newton as one of those young men who came to this country to be further

\*Mather's *Magnalia*, Vol. 1, p. 341.

educated at John Harvard's college. While studying there, Roger Newton heard Thomas Hooker preach in Cambridge, and was so impressed that the friendship which followed led to his being invited to the Hooker home in Hartford to continue his studies there under the guidance of Hooker. In the household besides Mr. Hooker were his wife, Susanna, his three daughters, Johanna who married Rev. Thomas Shepard, Hooker's successor in Cambridge, Mary the eldest and Sarah, and his son Samuel. Two other daughters had died in childhood, and another son, John, had remained in England. One can well imagine that Roger Newton found a warm welcome and cordial home there, and that to the family he was another son and brother. Soon, in truth, he became a member of the family, choosing Mary Hooker, that resolute girl who had cared for her mother on the long journey to Hartford, now commemorated in marble over the front door of the State Capitol, and who had since been responsible for the household of the minister. They were married between 1643 and 1645 and their first child, Samuel Newton, was born and baptised there October 10, 1646. Governor Edward Hopkins in his will left 30 pounds to "the eldest child of Mrs. Mary Newton." Rev. Thomas Hooker died in 1647 and Roger Newton evidently brought his family to Farmington the following year, teaching here in 1648 and signing an agreement with the Indians in 1650.

One of the earliest land records made by John Steele shows a homestead in the name of Roger Newton, extending from the river on the west to the mountain (where now stand the homes of William Sheffield Cowles, Mrs. Harriet Porter, and Robert B. Coburn) and containing twelve acres, bounded on the south partly by Meadow Road and partly by the farm belonging to Governor Edward Hopkins, and the entire piece of land traversed by the Town Path. Here on the east side of the Town Path, with his young family lived Roger Newton, teaching a few children, leading the religious life of the community, conducting his farm and joining with other townsmen in treating with the Indians concerning their hunting and planting privileges in the town and their reservation for living quarters. There is no record of Roger Newton's interest in his homestead's

being conveyed to his brother-in-law, Reverend Samuel Hooker, but there Mr. Hooker lived during his thirty-six years as second pastor of the Congregational Church. The present home of Mrs. Harriet Porter is built on part of the foundation of the Newton-Hooker house.

During Hooker's lifetime, he conveyed land on the south side of his home lot to his son Nathaniel, who was married in 1698 to Mary Stanley. Two of Nathaniel's children were born in Farmington. He later removed to Hartford to live on a lot south of the present Center church, given to him by his father-in-law, Nathaniel Stanley. Nathaniel Hooker died 1711, leaving minor children and his father's estate still undistributed. By distribution of the estate of the Reverend Samuel Hooker, not completed until 1728, Sarah Hooker, daughter of Nathaniel, took all of the homestead where Samuel Hooker had lived and also Nathaniel's house and lot south of his father's home. In the distribution of Nathaniel's estate in 1713, "a begun house" stood on his land. This is part of the house now belonging to Robert E. Coburn.

Soon after receiving the property which had belonged to her father Nathaniel and her grandfather Samuel Hooker, Sarah married, in 1728, Daniel Edwards of New Haven. He was later Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. In 1733, Daniel and Sarah Edwards sold the ancestral property to Captain Isaac Cowles and it remained in the Cowles family for about one hundred and forty years.

Although religious services were undoubtedly held in various homes, it would seem logical that the organization of the church was held in Mr. Roger Newton's house, as we know of no church until 1666, and then only as described in the records of land belonging to John Cole or Cowles as it was variously spelled. His homestead is described in the records, under date of January 22, 1666, as follows: "Land in Farmington in ye Jurisdikston of Conecticut belonging to John Cowles & to his heighers fourever. One parcell for a hous loot with a mesuage or teniment standing thereon: with yards: orchards standing or being thereon which he bought of Thomas Dement, Containing by estimation five acres bee it more or less. Abutting

on the highway Leading to ye south end of ye towne west: & Comon land to ye east: & comon land & ye highway to ye mill South: & on the meting hous Loot & land North. Through which Loot John Hart John Wadsworth & John Lankton are to have a hyway from the mill (Brownson's mill) hyway on that side next John Wyats hous Loot to their Land on the east side of the fformer parsell for themselves their heighers or assigns forever."

Under later date Samuel Cowles, son of John, recorded this land as his own together with four acres additional which he had bought of Thomas Dement. The description was similar so far as reference to the "meting hous Loot" on the north, with land of Thomas Bull (now the Bull lot) and the road leading up the mountain on the south. This highway has long been discontinued, but ran east from present Colton street to the ledge of the mountain on the north side of the Bull lot. John Cowles married Mehitable, youngest daughter of Deacon Stephen Hart, and lived about on the present site of Hart House, home of Miss Rose Churchill.

October 13, 1652, the First Church of Christ in Farmington was formally organized with Reverend Roger Newton as its pastor, who with Deacon Stephen Hart, John Bronson, John Cowles, Thomas Thomson, Thomas Judd and Robert Porter constituted its seven pillars, or supporters. Stephen Hart and Thomas Judd were chosen deacons. One month later Mr. Steele was admitted to membership and chosen clerk. It was at this later meeting that Mrs. Mary Hooker Newton, daughter of Thomas Hooker and wife of the pastor, was admitted to the church, with Mehitable (Hart), wife of John Cowles, the wife of Stephen Hart and the wife of Thomas Judd, who was a daughter of John Steele. Anna (Welles) Thomson joined at this time also.

Roger Newton had, beside his eldest son Samuel, three other sons, Roger, Ezekeiell and John (baptised June 5, 1656) and four daughters, Susanna, named for her grandmother Susanna Hooker; Sarah, named for her mother's sister; Mary, named for her own mother, and Alice, who was born in 1665. The five eldest children were born in Hartford or Farmington. Mr.



Newton remained in Farmington as teacher and preacher until September, 1657, when at his own request he was dismissed. The following month, October, 1657, he was in Boston where he preached on several occasions, at least once for John Norton. Mr. Norton was teacher, 1656-63, in the First Church of Charlestown in Boston, under Reverend John Wilson, pastor 1630-67. Mr. Wilson was the first pastor of the church when it was organized in Charlestown in 1630 and moved with it and Governor Winthrop to Boston in 1632. The first teacher under Mr. Wilson was John Cotton, 1633-52. "The duties of the pastor were of private and public exhortation, and to administer the word of wisdom; those of teacher, were doctrinal and Scriptural explanation. In the present day they would be called colleagues." President Ezra Stiles of Yale said in his famous diary: "I consider the Rev. Peter Bulkeley of Concord, Mass., President Chauncey, Mr. Hooker, Mr. Norton and Mr. Davenport as the greatest divines among the first ministers of New England and equal to the first characters in theology in all christendom and in all ages."

In following, briefly, the life of Mr. Newton, we find an entry in the diary of John Hull, mint-master of Boston, he who coined the famous and rare pine tree shillings. He wrote: "Roger Newton went to Boston in October 1657 to embark for England. The Ship in which he had taken passage, with another for the same destination was detained several days by head winds, and he was invited by letter to town on a special service."

This leads us to wonder why Mr. Newton left his pastorate in Farmington. Two possible explanations come to mind. He had friends in the Massachusetts Bay Colony from his years at Harvard, his relationship and close association with Thomas Hooker and his marriage to Mary Hooker with the resulting connections.

One of Thomas Hooker's closest friends had been the Rev. John Wilson, who visited Mr. Hooker in Hartford and on several occasions the two friends had journeyed to Boston together, more than once traveling by way of Providence, rather than the equally circuitous Connecticut Path. Dr. Wilson was one of those Puritans who saw his duty clearly during the witch

horror in Boston, and interrogated children and grownups alike, carrying his sense of duty to the gibbet if he found it there. He and John Cotton saw eye-to-eye on the evil of witchcraft, but differed entirely on the wisdom of allowing Anne Hutchinson to preach. John Cotton said of her, "one well beloved and all the faithful embrace her conference and bless God for her fruitful discourses." Governor Winthrop and Rev. John Wilson were actively and vehemently opposed.

Mr. Wilson had a son, John, whom he had brought to Boston with him on his second trip from England. The son John was a member of the first class to be graduated from Harvard college in 1642. He with his father visited at the home of Thomas Hooker in Hartford. Sarah, the youngest of the Hooker daughters was the only one then unmarried, and in 1648 shortly after the death of her father, she and John Wilson, Jr., were married. Rev. Thomas Hooker had bequeathed Sarah one hundred pounds sterling. Their first child, John, was born 1649, dying in infancy. In 1651 John and Sarah Wilson moved to Medfield, Massachusetts, where he was ordained October 12, 1652, as first pastor of the first church there, serving as physician and schoolmaster as well as minister, until his death there in 1691. The date of his ordination was the day previous to the organization of the church in Farmington. Eight children were born to John and Sarah (Hooker) Wilson of whom John 3rd, born 1660, married his cousin Sarah Newton, daughter of Rev. Roger and Mary (Hooker) Newton.

Rev. John Wilson lived in Medfield on what is now the site of the Town Hall, as is engraved on the corner stone. During King Philip's War, Mr. Wilson wrote to the Colonial Court urging aid for Medfield, and although it was sent, it was too late to save many homes and lives. After the massacre, John and Sarah Wilson took into their home five wounded men whom they kept for twelve weeks and "most of the soldiery at several times, sometimes 3 score, 4 score" — the bill for which was ordered paid by the General Court of Massachusetts.

In the two and one half years from the date of his leaving Farmington and accepting the pastorate of the First Church in Milford, July 29, 1660, where he served until his death,

Roger Newton was not only with friends, but was in close touch with the foremost preachers and teachers in Boston. Rev. John Wilson, Sr., had a new church and parsonage there, his son John, married to Newton's sister-in-law was within an hour's journey in Medfield — Rev. John Norton was teacher in the First Church and Rev. Samuel Hooker had married Mary Willet, daughter of Captain Thomas Willet, at Plymouth September 22, 1658, where he was preaching.

If Mr. Newton had his large family with him, they could have been accommodated at the Wilson home in Medfield, or on the ancestral grant in Braintree — a huge house in what is now the business center of Quincy, with acreage extending from Nantasket Bay to the Dorchester town line.

Another close friend of Thomas Hooker's, whose life was intimately connected with the Newton and Wilson families, was Governor Edward Hopkins.

A favorite tradition in Farmington which seems to be substantiated, points to many of the early church gatherings being held in a house belonging to Sarah (Hooker) Wilson. Under a bequest in the will of Governor Hopkins, his farm in Farmington, consisting of a dwelling-house, barns, gardens, out-houses and ten acres of land, was given to Sarah Wilson. This farm was on the southwest corner of Meadow Road and Town Path now Main Street, where the homes of Wilmarth Lewis and Samuel Root now are. As Governor Hopkins died in London in March or April, 1657, this tenement or empty house, given to Mrs. Wilson at about the time of Mr. Newton's leaving Farmington, may have been the first church, the congregation having outgrown the average home and their pastor having left in September of that year. Sarah Hooker Wilson owned this farm until August 20, 1662, when she sold it to John Roote, whose descendants, without a break in the male line, owned it until December, 1941.

Governor Hopkins left under the terms of his will, in addition to the thirty pounds to the eldest child of Mrs. Mary Newton, "to Mrs. Susan Hooker relict of Thomas Hooker such debts as are due to her from me upon the account I left in New England, and to Sarah Hooker Wilson land in Farmington." Governor

Hopkin's generosity to the Hooker family and the fund for school purposes left to the town of Hartford showed his deep interest in the colony where he had been governor, after his return to positions of great influence and remuneration in London.

It would seem therefore entirely plausible that it was Roger Newton's intention to sail for England in connection with the settlement of Governor Hopkins' estate — the diary of John Hull showing that Mr. Newton had booked passage and was waiting for the next sailing. The ship, taking advantage of a favorable wind and departing without him, left him with friends and relatives until he accepted an invitation to the First Church in Milford in 1660. We may be sure that the two years intervening between the two pastorates were spent in further study and congenial companionship. His large library, the largest inventoried in the colony at the time of his death, attested his studious habits and his wide interests. Volumes in Greek and Latin, discourses on the books of the Bible, tales of travel, and treatises on domestic relations and home remedies made a list of over 200 volumes.

Roger Newton, in his will, left to his daughter Sarah, evidently a favorite in the family, his land in Farmington known as Bohemia, consisting of 150 acres situated in the vicinity of Bohemia Street in Plainville, also 50 acres of meadow and upland, 10 acres in Pequabuck meadow, another parcel of 18 acres in that meadow and an equal undivided interest in land between Plainville and Southington held with Captain John Stanley. A month after Mr. Newton's death on June 7, 1683, his daughter Sarah married her cousin John Wilson, son of Rev. John Wilson and Sarah (Hooker). They went to Braintree to live in the ancestral home which had been granted to the first Rev. John Wilson. Mary (Hooker) Newton, wife of Roger, died February 4, 1676.

John Steele as Town Clerk entered in Volumes 1 and 2 of the *Farmington Land Records*, according to the order of the General Court, a description of all land owned by Farmington inhabitants, whether received by deed, by grant, or as an original proprietor, and whether resident or non-resident.

This hard-won land was not held lightly by those who had bought and cleared it, as is shown by the careful scrutiny and rigid laws governing the admission of inhabitants and the sale of lands.

The township of Farmington had been formed by men and women of education, culture, intelligence and excellent family, having the necessary means for comfortable living, but who had found that "bread alone" was insufficient for their needs. They were congenial in their tastes and way of life, entirely agreed as to their religious beliefs and mode of expression, and as we see them now, most deeply motivated by the germ of democracy, brought to this country for cultivation and lived and preached by their leader and pastor Thomas Hooker, soon forever expressed in the *Fundamental Orders*. Farmington in those first years was only for those men and women who thought and lived likewise. Their object here was not that of personal riches nor the establishment of an empire for the gain of a few, but solely that of an opportunity to work out the system of government where "The Foundation of Authority is laid firstly in the free Consent of the People."

The word Democracy was not in their language as it is in ours today. But the Colony of Connecticut was working out an original system of government, as a separate unity, entirely free from attachment to any company or overseer proprietor.

When in 1645 the General Court at Hartford granted the charter to Farmington as a corporate town, many problems of government which had confronted the river towns at the expiration of their first year under Massachusetts authority, had been solved, and were already defined by the General Court. Laws for the actual management of town affairs were few, the town of Farmington "to have like liberties as the other towns upon the River for making orders among themselves provided they alter not any fundamental agreements settled by the said committee (Court)."

Under the orders of the General Court the only officer required by the town was the recorder or town clerk. The town had the privilege of choosing such other officers, with their number and term of office as they might decide among them-

selves. However, Mr. Steele as recorder was required by the laws of the Colonial Court to record each man's land and make a copy for the Secretary of State. The town clerk was also required to record vital statistics as they were brought to him. Alas, no law required ministers and physicians to make returns as today, and marriages, births and deaths occurring far from the convenient center of the town were seldom recorded, much to the distress of their descendants. Mr. Steele was also chosen clerk of the body of proprietors as the necessity arose to dispose of the great undivided lands in the Town.

It is interesting to inquire into the processes by which the first settlers established and maintained government.

The inhabitants, either original or admitted — as defined in the Constitution of 1638 — were the first settlers, who were householders with an active sense of the responsibility of establishing and maintaining government. They were, of necessity, the only ones at first qualified to choose their own town officers and vote at town meetings and had, therefore, a legal status. If a purchase price had been paid for the land the inhabitant had shared in this cost, or if no such price had been paid, he contributed through taxation to the cost of government. The legal inhabitant was the seed from which the organization of the town was grown, the very essence, in early colonial times, of democracy. He was not, necessarily, a proprietor or a freeman. An inhabitant who took the oath of fidelity had the right to vote for the deputies to the General Court.

In order to fill the office of deputy, or to vote for the magistrates and Colonial officers, he must take the freeman's oath, subject to the approval of the General Court. Only a freeman might enjoy the full franchise.

Many of the original inhabitants of Farmington had been made freemen before settling here.

To sum up: an inhabitant, original or admitted, took the oath of fidelity much as we today take the oath after examination for being made a voter. Deputies to the General Court were chosen by the inhabitants and were equivalent to our representatives. The deputies chose the Governor and the six Magistrates, who made up the General Court. After election,

the Court had the privilege of adding to their number as many as they might consider requisite.

The necessity of forming the body of proprietors was due to the fact that the inhabitants, original owners of all undistributed lands in their town, had under the Constitution of 1638 made over to the General Court their inherent right to dispose of these undistributed lands. On October 10, 1639, this privilege was restored to the inhabitants of the three towns then in existence upon the river (Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield), this right of course extending to Farmington upon its incorporation. The proprietors of the town were the direct result of this need of an organized body to make distribution of the vast area of woodland, meadow and mountain within the limits of the town. This distribution was eventually made by rating each man's property and making a proportionate distribution from each of the divisions in the township.

One can well understand that this took many years to accomplish, if a drive is taken around what were then the boundaries of the original town of Farmington. The realization of the difficulties of those years will make it easier to understand that the proprietors could at first plan only the divisions nearest home — and the wide highways, later a source of great revenue to the town. More will be given concerning the eighty-four proprietors and the several divisions of the town in a later chapter.

To get back to John Steele. He was baptised at Fairsled, Essex County, England, December 12, 1591, and was probably born there. He was in Dorchester in 1630 and in 1634 was made a freeman in Newtown in Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was a prominent member of the advance band which led the way to Hartford in 1635 to prepare the settlement for Rev. Thomas Hooker and his "flock" the following spring. He married Rachel Talcott, sister of the socially and politically prominent John Talcott. She died in Farmington in 1653. On November 25, 1655, John Steele married Mercy, who had been for one month the widow of Richard Seymour of Hartford. John Steele died November 25, 1665, it being the tenth anniversary of his marriage to Mercy. He left a grandson John, the son of his own son John

who had died in Farmington in 1653, the same year as his mother Rachel, a son Samuel and two daughters who married respectively William and Thomas Judd.

His will reads as follows, giving us a very clear picture of his taste in home and furnishings:

I, John Steele, of Farmington, being stricken in yeares and weakness, doe see necessary to set on smal occasions in ye world at a stay. I give to my wife Mercy Steele the house wherein I now dwell. I give to my son Samuel Steele a silver bowl, wch was mine own, Marked with three Silver Stamps and an S. all on the upper end of the bowle. Also, I give unto my son Samuel one half of all my Books, also my gold scales and weights belonging to ym, All which particulars I give to my son Samuel and his heirs forever. And to avoid other trouble of other conveyances of house and land to my son Samuel Steele of what I gave him at his marriage with Mary Boosy, I here express it that as then I did so here I doe give and bequeath unto my son Samuel Steele a parcel of land with a tenement standing on it wch parcel of Land contains by estimation two Acres, abutting on the highway east and River West, and William Judds Land south and John Steeles land North; As also a smal parcel of Land on wch his Stillhouse stands, Containing by estimation nine roods. I give and bequeath unto my two sons-in-law, William and Thomas Judd, my now dwelling house, and barn, Home lott, yards, Garden, orchyard thereto belonging, to be equally divided betwixt the aforesaid William and Thomas, to them and their heirs forever, to enter possession immediately after myne and my wives departure out of this natural life. Further, my Will is that a few things Should be disposed to my Wife Children and grand Children: To my Wife, two small Silver Spooones and some small matter of linnen; And to Mary Judd, one piece of gold; And to Sarah Judd, one piece of gold; and to John Steele, son of John Steele deceased, one Silver Spoon; and to Samuel, son of John ye said John deceased, one Silver Spoon; and to Benoni Steele, one Silver Spoon; and to Rachel, Daughter of Samuel Steele, one Silver Spoon; to be delivered to them at their marriage by my son Samuel Steele. But my wife and two daughters shall have theirs immediately after the departure of my natural life. My sons-in-law, William and Thomas Judd, Executors. Samuel and James Steele to be Overseers.

Witness: James Steele  
Samuel Steele

John Steele

The silver spoons and bowl, and the house and barns have long since disappeared and returned to the same dust as their owner. John Steele's last resting place has no monument — indeed, we cannot be sure as to his burial place. It may be in the old burying ground on Main Street, and it may be in the first burying place overlooking the river, where the Indians and some of the first settlers were buried. But his work is a much more fitting and worthwhile memorial than one of stone might have been. With no precedent to guide him, he kept legible and careful records of the business of church and state and town. His own personal record is one of justice and service in a new country when the future was as a ship in the wind of

fate — depending on men like him for a true course and a safe landing.

The family he founded in this country have proved in every generation to have the same qualities of courage and almost unconscious habits of loyalty to duty so constantly expressed by his life.

*William Lewis*

1665-1690

AFTER NEARLY fifty years of continuous usage, the "ould book" in which were recorded town votes, land grants, town committees and officers, was "worn out" and those things considered of importance were from time to time, as the occasion arose, transcribed out of the 'ould book' into the new one, all this according to the first entry in *Volume One of the Town Minutes*, dated December 27, 1682.

This is of particular interest and importance, as frequently townspeople and visitors who have read the tale of the burning of the John Hart family and homestead, together with the Town Records, are vaguely disappointed to learn that not all of that tale is true, that no records were lost or burned, but all are safely and completely reposing in the Town Vault. There is no known reason as to why the records should have been in the Hart homestead at that time, as Captain William Lewis was then town clerk and would be the logical as well as legal custodian of them.

The burning of the Hart homestead in December, 1666, together with the death of John Hart and all but one of his children, was one of the major tragedies of all time in Farmington. The family lived just south of the present Mill Lane. This John was the son of Deacon Stephen, the original settler, who lived on the site of the red house on the north corner of Mill Lane. The *Hart Genealogy* states that the only member of the unfortunate family who escaped was the son John, who was attending part of the farm stock in Nod. He was eleven years old at the time and may have been at Hart Farm, with a farmer. He was surely too young to have been there alone.

This Farm, known as Hart Farm, later as Old Hart Farm and now as Avon Old Farms, was a long way off in the year of 1666 for an eleven-year-old boy to be. But in that way he was saved, to become in later years the progenitor of a long and illustrious branch of the family, and the third town clerk of the town. We find however that *The Hart Genealogy* and the records of the town are at variance, as the records refer to the 'relick of John Hart inheriting the homestead where the house stood' — *The Hart Genealogy* stating that the wife and two children were burned to death. In his diary under date of February 11, 1666-7, the Rev. Samuel Danforth, pastor of the First Church at Roxbury, wrote: "Tiding came to vs from Connecticut, how that on the 15th of 10 m 66, Sergeant Heart ye son of Deacon Heart and his wife and six children, were all burnt in their House at Farmington, no man knowing how the fire was kindled, neither did any of ye neighbors see ye fire till it was past remedy. The church there had kept a Fast at this mans house 2 days before. One of his sons being at a farm, escaped this burning." The Rev. Simon Bradstreet of New London also kept a diary and in December 1666 wrote: "There was a house burnt at Farmington in Connecticut jurisdiction. The man, his wife (who was with child) and six children were burnt in it. The Lord is to be feared because of his judgments. 129 Psal. 120."

It is not difficult to imagine the distress and horror of that night — the light from the blazing house, the alarm, the helplessness of the father, Deacon Stephen Hart, and the brothers and sisters who all lived near-by, the consternation and sorrow of neighbors and friends, many of whom were related by marriage to the Hart family. John's brother Thomas lived in part of the Stephen Hart homestead, his other brother, Stephen, lived on Mountain Road, his sister Sarah, wife of Thomas Porter, lived next south of the burning house, his sister Mehitable, wife of John Cowles, lived across the street, and his sister Mary, wife of John Lee, lived next north of the Hart homestead. The family of John Wadsworth lived in what was probably a newly built homestead where now stands the home of Adrian R. Wadsworth, this farm having been in continuous operation in the Wadsworth family since 1650.

There were the Bronsons, too, who had practically all of the land now bounded by Colton Road, Hatter's Lane and Diamond Glen Road and had the first sawmill on the side of the mountain where the brook comes tumbling down, and a house there so well built that it still stands. There were the Judds and Steeles, the Nortons, Newells, Thomsons and Smiths at the north end of the street, all doing their full share of building the town and rearing large families. In the center was the family homestead of Robert Porter whose homestead land has never been out of the family of his descendants and for nearly one hundred years has been the seat of all that is highest and finest in education.

The fire at John Hart's was attributed to unfriendly Indians and although the Colonial Court made every effort to find a culprit, no one was directly blamed. But more later of this boy John Hart, so early and tragically left without father, brother or sister. He was later a town clerk with a most interesting and useful life and family.

Three steps were uniformly observed by the settlers as they founded a new colony; first, a grant to them of the land from the recognized authority, secured by a patent from its reigning head; second, purchase of the land from the natives, whose actual title might be questionable but who were given at least a nominal compensation; third, possession. In 1650 Mr. Roger Newton, William Wadsworth and William Lewis drew one of the outstanding documents still, fortunately, preserved for us in the records. These articles of Agreement were signed by Pethus and Ahamo but not recorded until January 18, 1667. Possibly the agreement had been all of those years in the keeping of Captain Lewis, who, upon his election as town clerk, immediately made a permanent record of it. The agreement was confirmed May 22, 1673, with William Lewis' name again appearing as Register and reproductions on the record of the signatures of Pethus, Ahamo and many of the braves and squaws. This famous agreement, affirmed by the Indians, plainly reminded them of the great advantages that were theirs, now that the English had come to live in their midst. Attention was drawn to the deplorable conditions in which they had

existed before the coming of the white man; and their future homes, hunting and fishing grounds were well defined — to all of which the Tunxis Indians agreed. Surely these forefathers of ours feared nothing but their God, and fearing Him, were unafraid of all else.

Many transcriptions were made from the "ould book", some as late as 1714. In that year town clerk John Hooker reported a large gap torn out of the top of one of the pages. About thirty-three extracts were made from this old book into the new one showing that it was in existence from 1648 to 1714. The transcriptions made were primarily of a pertinent or future nature. The election of officers was a past and gone event, with no relative importance. Consequently we have no record of the election of many of our earliest town officers.

By 1667 the town was well established. Lewis' father, William Sr., becoming aged, had recorded eleven acres and a homestead in Farmington in 1650, on or near the site of the present Elm Tree Inn, and had probably been here many of the following intervening years. We first learn of William Sr. in Cambridge in 1635. In that year, in order that he might more readily sell his holdings there, he recorded two houses on Crooked Street, an acre on "Cowyard Rowe," four acres in "Wigwame necke," together with many other pieces of land. He soon sold all of this land for the purpose of accompanying Hooker to Hartford. How truly a founder he was. No sooner was a new colony founded than he and his associates moved on, further into a new wilderness. Always a permanent town was founded and left in excellent formative state when these pioneers, surely urged by destiny, moved on. Such was the honorable heritage from William "the aged" to his son, Captain William.

Captain William Lewis was the only son of William Sr. and his wife, Felix. During the declining years of his father's life, Captain William also had, at least until 1670, his maternal grandmother, Mary Whitehead, living with him. He had eight sons and five daughters. William Sr. left none of his estate to his son. He had given him his Farmington lands and house during his lifetime as the Lewis homestead (now part of the

Inn) closely adjoined the father's home. William Sr. died August 2, 1683. In his will, he left his estate in Hadley, Massachusetts, where he had spent some of his later years, to his grandson, Ezekiel. His land and house in Hartford he left to his granddaughter Abigail Lewis, directing another grandson, Philip Lewis, who lived in the Hartford house, to pay all back rent, amounting to forty pounds, to Abigail. To his grandson Ebenezer, he left all of his smith's tools.

The house which Captain William Lewis built has been photographed, measured and reproduced so widely, that further description is uncalled for here. Isham and Brown, in their rare and detailed book *Early Connecticut Houses* give the date of the building as 1660. It was to this homestead that Captain William brought his second wife, Mary, daughter of Ezekiel Cheever, one of the most famous educators of the century. They were married in Boston November 22, 1671. Until his death in 1690, Captain William served his country, town and church with vigor and faithfulness. He was appointed deputy to the General Court many years, was chosen commissioner, was first appointed "Sergeant to call forth and train souldgers" and later made "Lieftennant to order the souldgers at Farmington." One of his other duties was aiding in laying out highways. January 18, 1665, the highway to Hartford was laid out, the first mile and half being ten rods wide and the rest of the road to the Hartford town line forty rods wide. This road was over what is now South Road, skirting the swamp, now West Hartford Center. Back Lane, now High Street, was laid out March 16, 1673-4. At this time the proprietors were deeply engrossed in laying out their all-important divisions, with a lot in each division for each proprietor, according to his original investment, or of his ratable estate. Captain William Lewis acted as clerk for the proprietors. His very peculiar writing in the *Proprietors records* gives the name, Division, lot number, and size of each of these original layouts. He was empowered by the townsmen "to record former grants of land in the townbook and the town requested and empowered Captain Lewis to call for the original coppies of the

Grand Divisions off Mr. Wadsworth that they may be recorded as aforesaid."

The original proprietors, or their heirs, together with the rate on which their share in each Division was determined, were recorded as follows:

Mr. Haynes	£263,00	John Welton	£50,00
Mr. Wylls	£168,00	Thomas Richardson	£34,00
Thomas Orton	£152,00	Widow Orvis	£61,00
John Norton	£157,00	Daniel Warner	£47,00
Left. Lewis	£187,00	John Root, Senior	£166,00
Joseph Woodford	£84,00	Mr. Samuel Hooker	£288,00
Thomas Newel	£167,00	John Carington	£44,00
Mr. Howkins	£158,00	John Brownson, Senior	£101,00
John Thomson	£73,00	John Cole	£75,00
John Steel's heirs	£65,00	John Scovel	£39,00
Samuel Steel, Junior	£21,00	Richard Brownson	£128,00
Ensign Steel's land	£21,00	John Brownson, Junior	£50,00
Thomas Thomson	£60,00	Thomas Bull	£71,00
Thomas Judd, Senior	£60,10	Samuel Cowles	£94,00
John Judd	£69,00	Abraham Brownson	£50,00
Philip Judd	£33,00	Obadiah Richards	£41,00
William Judd	£140,00	Daniel Andrus	£44,00
Thomas Judd, Jr.	£99,00	Abraham Andrus	£35,00
John Andrus	£93,00	John Stanley, Junior	£67,00
John Stanley, Senior	£131,00	Richard Seamor	£49,00
Robert Porter	£112,00	Stephen Hart, Junior	£106,00
John Lee	£97,00	Isaac More	£127,00
Stephen Hart, Senior	£132,00	Matthew Woodruff	£90,00
John Hart's Estate	£73,00	John Woodruff	£83,00
Thomas Hart	£104,00	Sarj. Samuel Steel	£96,00
Thomas Porter, Senior	£73,00	John North, Senior	£157,00
Thomas Porter, Junior	£50,00	Widow Smith	£68,00
John Wadsworth	£183,00	Jonathan Smith	£39,00
Moses Ventrus	£73,00	Jobamer Smith	£36,00
Jacob Brownson	£65,00	Benj. Judd	£63,00
Thomas Barnes	£120,00	James Bird	£59,00
John Langdon	£140,00	Joseph Bird	£53,00
John Root, Junior	£26,00	John Clark	£74,00
John Warner, Senior	£97,00	John North, Junior	£56,00
John Warner, Junior	£68,00	Samuel North	£56,00
Simon Wrothum on account of Thomas Osmer	£68,00	Zach. Seamor	£46,00
Daniel Porter	£118,00	Thomas Hancox	£63,00
Edmund Scott	£86,00	John Porter	£33,00
Isaac Brownson	£65,10	Thomas Gridley	£53,00
Samuel Hicox	£50,00	William Higgison	£41,00
Joseph Hicox	£37,00	Samuel Gridley	
David Carpenter	£32,00	Mr. Newton's land	£37,00

The Grand Divisions in which these proprietors participated were:

Southeast Division of 84 lots recorded 1714  
 Division next Hartford and Windsor, recorded 1717  
 Division next Hartford and Windsor, as laid out 1687 and recorded 1718. There were 21 lots in this latter division.  
 East Nod Division laid out and recorded 1719  
 First Division west of reserved land laid out and recorded 1721  
 Second Division west of reserved land laid out and recorded 1721  
 Third Division west of reserved land laid out and recorded 1721  
 Fourth Division west of reserved land laid out and recorded 1721  
 Fifth Division west of reserved land laid out and recorded 1721  
 Sixth Division west of reserved land laid out and recorded 1721  
 Southwest Division recorded, 1722  
 Division next Wethersfield, recorded 1723  
 Northwest Division recorded 1728  
 Long Lots Division recorded 1728  
 Blew Hills Division recorded 1728  
 Division south of Shuttlemeadow laid out 1730 and recorded 1731  
 Small Division north of Shuttlemeadow laid out 1730 recorded 1731  
 Little Plain or Small Division recorded 1732  
 Great Swamp Division laid out 1715, recorded 1735  
 Great Swamp Division — Upland Lots recorded 1735  
 Little Plain Division, recorded 1747  
 Northwest Division laid out for second time in 1762 and recorded 1792  
 Southwest Division, first laid out 1722, was laid out second time and recorded 1792  
 Division of lots east of Great Plain laid out 1769, recorded 1792

Of these Divisions, three, namely, the Division next Hartford and Wethersfield, and the First Division and Second Division west of the reserved land, had each twenty-one lots, with four proprietors having each an undivided one-quarter interest in each lot. In all of the other divisions each proprietor had a separate lot. These lots varied in width, according to the rating of each proprietor, each lot being the entire length of the Division, from one highway to the next, and each proprietor had a lot in each division.

The reserved land was a rectangular reservation where the homes, gardens, orchards and meadows had been established in what is now mostly the village of Farmington. It measured three miles to the north from Round Hill, two miles sixty-four rods to the east, five miles thirty-two rods to the south and two miles to the west. Such land in this reservation as was not already taken up was set aside for "town commons, home lots, pastures and pitches, convenient for the inhabitants," and a common field enclosing the meadows.

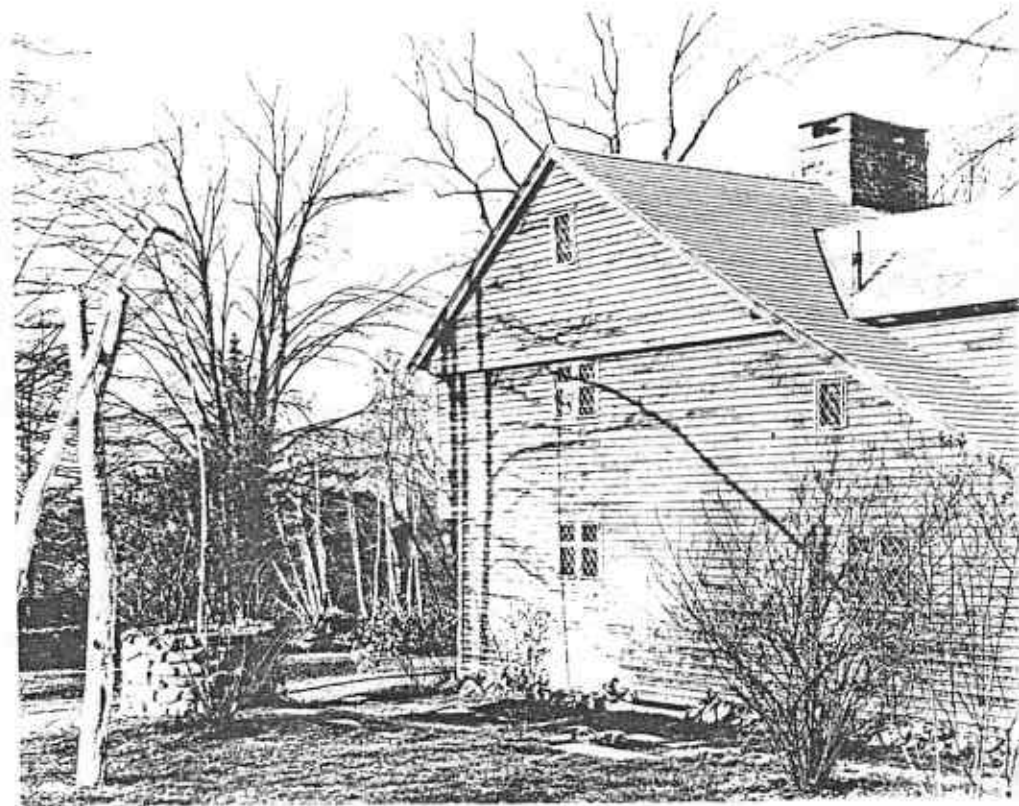


Round Hill was used as a landmark in many of the early deeds, both with the Indians, and as setting the bounds of the reserved land. It was later deeded to the town for the exclusive use of the inhabitants so long as it existed.

In the 1660's when Captain William was town clerk, building his new home, instructing the Indians, caring for his large family and taking an active interest and participation in affairs of the town, church, and Colony, others in the town were doing their share — and fortune was smiling broadly on them.

At the far south end of the Town Path (Main Street) beside the mountain brook, Governor George Wyllys had owned ten acres of land with a tenement thereon. In his will dated March 9, 1644, he gave this land in Tunxis to his son Samuel, who sold it to Thomas Orton in 1655. Isham and Brown have dated this house as 1660. In that event the house was built by Orton, who owned it until 1665 when he sold to John Wadsworth. It was in the Wadsworth family until 1847 when sold by the Estate of Sidney Wadsworth to Egbert Cowles. Originally it was much the type of the Whitman house, twice its present size, substantial and beautiful, with hand-finished panels and cupboards about its great chimney, a wide overhang and ornamental drops on four corners. It was divided in half while in the Wadsworth family, the chimney half now owned and occupied by Mrs. Harriet Mason and the rebuilt half owned and occupied by her brother, Clarence Mason.

Another old house of great age, with previous uncertain parentage, is the present home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Douglas Dodge. Exhaustive and patient research point to the likelihood that it was built about 1693 by Caleb Root. Caleb was son of John Root who owned that land at the time of his death in 1684, it being part of the Governor Hopkins farm willed to Sarah Hooker and sold by her as Sarah Wilson to John Root in 1662. Caleb Root married August 9, 1693, Elizabeth Salmon. He died in 1712, leaving a son Caleb and two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary. By several transfers, the land "with several sorts of buildings standing thereon" became in 1724 the property of Caleb's brother Joseph, who sold it to Captain Solomon Cowles in 1773.



*The Farmington Museum  
Known as the Stanley-Whitman House  
Built about 1665*

When Caleb lived there and after it became the property of his brother Joseph, the neighbor on the north was Nathaniel Hooker, who had a house on the site of the present Coburn home. This house was probably rebuilt by either Isaac or Solomon Cowles. When purchased in 1872 by Anson Porter, evidence was found of reconstruction from a house built along lines of seventeenth century architecture. Joseph Root lived next south of his brother Caleb.

John Stanley built the house which now so proudly bears his name, together with that of Whitman, his successor-owner. It has come now to the good age where it gathers under its roof-tree the treasures of the town and its people. Through the civic interest and generosity of the late Mrs. Laura Dunham Barney, the house has been restored to its original detail of construction and finish, and reinforced with fireproof addition, is maintained by endowment as the Farmington Museum.

The people who made the house what it is, were among the most active and prominent in the town.

John Stanley came to New England as a child, accompanying his father, sister and two uncles. On the way over, his father and a younger child died at sea. The father's brothers Timothy and Thomas took their brother's children, Thomas taking John, who was ten years old, and Timothy taking Ruth, and bringing them up as their own. Both Thomas and Timothy were men of worth and enterprise in the new land and taught young John the rigors and rewards of building his home in a new country. John was twenty-one years old when he married on December 5, 1645, Sarah, daughter of Thomas Scott of Hartford. Four sons and two daughters were born of this marriage. John, the eldest, later a doctor, became owner of the house. Sarah (Scott) Stanley died in 1661, and on April 20, 1663, John Stanley married for his second wife Sarah Fletcher of Milford, who survived him. One daughter, Abigail, was born of this marriage. She married John Hooker, son of the Rev. Samuel Hooker.

John Stanley's home with his first wife was on Main Street next north of Robert Porter, and would be about where the Francis Cowles house now stands. After his second marriage, he acquired the land on High Street, or Back Lane as it was

known, by exchange with Isaac Moore and here built his new house for his bride, about 1665.

After Stanley's death in 1706, his son Dr. John sold the place to Ebenezer Steel. He left the home of his daughter Mary, who soon married Thomas Smith. Here they lived from about 1724 until 1735 when they sold the house to Rev. Samuel Whitman as a home for his son Elnathan. The house remained by inheritance in the Whitman family until the marriage of William Whitman's daughter, Ann Sophia, to Henry Farnum of New Haven in 1837. Known thereafter as the Farnum house, it remained still in the family but by another name, until purchased by Mr. D. N. Barney in 1922, to become the home of precious Farmington mementos, now most ably cared for by the curator, Miss Mary McCarthy.

Clothed in the mystery of a house that has been moved from its original foundation, the so-called Gleason house is difficult to place on Main Street, but the oft-quoted Isham and Brown, by comparison with the Stanley-Whitman house, the Wyllys house and the Lewis house (Elm Tree Inn), place the date of construction at approximately 1660. In 1811 Isaac Gleason had title to this house. He had married Mary Smith on October 18, 1759, whose father William had given her the homestead and her brothers the land. The father of William was also William Smith who in 1669-70 bequeathed this house to his wife and children. Because of this association of the Smith and Gleason families, it would appear safe to assume that this house was built nearer the corner of Main Street and the road to Hartford, where William Smith lived in 1669. Farmington residents remember that it was moved to its present location and used as a barn. Now as a tenement back of the home of Mrs. Balazy, its present owner, there is a well-worn path to its door, worn by architects and antiquarians. Mr. Isham has selected this house as one of the outstanding examples of exquisite and painstaking early architecture.

The ancient red house, known as The Homestead on the Hartford Road at the corner of College Highway, now belonging to Mrs. Eleanor Bartlett Skinner, has been in her family since purchased by Pomroy Strong in 1803. It was built by ances-

tors of Mrs. Skinner and has been out of the family only for about twenty-five of its two hundred and eighty years of existence.

The rear part of the house is the original Joseph Woodford home built about 1666, or earlier. The front part of the house proved during recent renovation, to be an entirely separate house, framed and beamed for a one-story house. It was the original Thomas Newell house and was built just west of the Woodford house, probably about 1650 on land purchased of William Goodwin. Thomas Newell's daughter Rebekah (named for her mother, Rebekah Olmstead) married Joseph Woodford, thus joining the two properties. Their son Joseph removed to Northington and was the progenitor of the Woodford families there. Before the canal was built the Newell house was moved to its present location and joined onto the old Woodford house, the canal soon flooding the former Newell site. Later Pomroy Strong added the second story and a new roof. Here have lived four generations of the Newell family; William Porter bought the Woodford house in 1742 for his son David when he married Anne (Judd) Moody; and Dr. Timothy Hosmer, long physician in the town and with the army during the Revolutionary War, lived there from 1789 to 1793. For about ten years the house had several owners, obviously speculative, and in 1803 it came back into the family, through the purchase by Pomroy Strong, whose mother was Mercy, daughter of Isaac and Rachel (Pomroy) Newell.

The huge chimney is over nine feet square in the cellar; the windows in the back part are set close to the eaves; a wide cornice hangs over the side of the house and during the years has worn grooves in the great drip stones which terrace the house. One of the outstanding features of the house was uncovered this year when inside sheathing was found. In his pamphlet *Some Notes on Early Connecticut Architecture*, Mr. Elmer D. Keith says, of Seventeenth century houses: "Let us allude to two other clues — the wooden interior walls of featheredge or beaded sheathing or matched boards, and the habit the early builders had of facing an isolated house toward the south. This was not as universal here as in neighboring colonies; in fact it

was a rule never observed in settled communities like Guilford and Farmington."

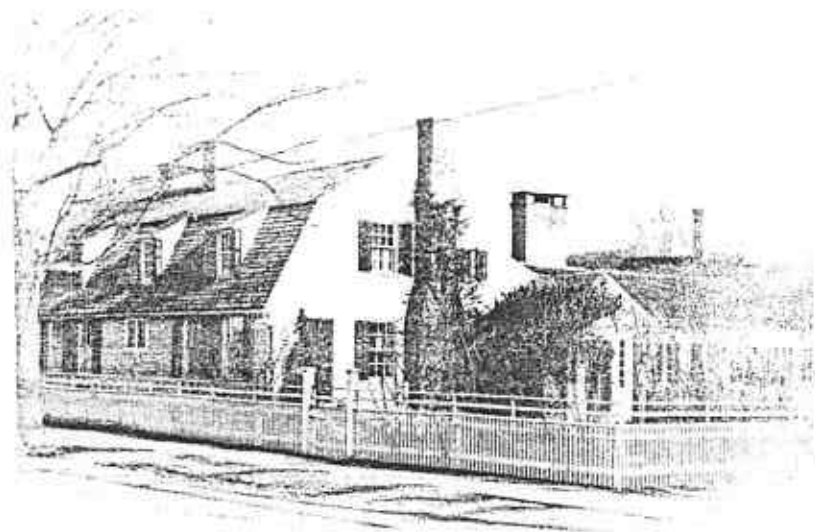
In these years the all-important center of the town was the First Church, often called the meeting house, for here were held the civil and political as well as religious meetings of the town. Here preached from 1661 to 1697 Rev. Samuel Hooker, son of Rev. Thomas Hooker, and brother-in-law of Rev. Roger Newton, the first pastor, who had since been called to the First Church in Milford.

This church, the first, was fortified in 1689 and in 1704 against possible surprise attacks by the Indians. Seven houses in the small village were also fortified by order of the townsmen. These were the homes of Thomas Orton who lived on the site of the white house at the curve of the Hartford Road next the Taft store; the William Lewis house, now the Elm Tree Inn; the Howkins Hart house on the site of Miss Florence Gay's home; the house of Ensign Samuel Wadsworth, who lived in the former Wyllys house; Lieutenant John Hart's house on the site of the red house across from the Congregational Church; the house of John Wadsworth who lived in the Wadsworth homestead on Main Street; and James Wadsworth's house which stood at the north corner of Mountain Road and Main Street.

It was during this period that Thomas Barnes, who lived about where the house of Mrs. Stephen Lawrence now stands, gave a rear portion of his land to the town for a burying ground, the first record we find dated 1661. In 1668 he gave another portion on the street for the same purpose, and in 1695 his son Joseph sold a third portion to the town.

The earliest burials there are unmarked. The oldest stones which can be deciphered are: 1685 — Nov. 8 — S. S. B.; 1688 — Ag. B26 — A. S.

In 1672 the General Court ordered copies of the laws of the Colony to be printed and that each family should purchase one. If the pay was in silver the cost would be twelve pence; in wheat one and one-half pecks for a book, or two shillings worth if in peas. The law book that was bound and covered was to be kept for the town's use. Only nine of these books are now known to exist. Collectors prize them highly.



*Home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Douglas Dodge. Built in 1693 by Caleb Root*



*The Homestead. Home of Captain and Mrs. William C. Skinner. The present home is made of two combined houses, the front half being the original Newell home and the rear half being the original Woodford home. Both probably built in the 1660's.*



## John Hart

1686-1702

ENSIGN JOHN HART, born in Farmington about 1655 and baptised in the church April 2, 1655, was the eldest son and only surviving child of John Hart and his wife, Sarah. He was eleven years old when fire took his home, *his father and brother and sister*. It seems probable that he and his mother made their home with Deacon Stephen Hart, grandfather of Ensign John, and took the place there of Deacon Stephen's son John. Deacon Stephen had given his son John, who lost his life in the fire, one-half of his farm, and his son, Ensign John, inherited his father's share, it being the homestead across from the church as well as the land where the burned homestead had stood. Ensign John married Mary, daughter of Deacon Isaac Moore. They had seven children, the eldest being also John and known as "Deacon." Ensign John and Mary had three other sons who married three sisters, all daughters of John Hooker and the three families all lived in Berlin where they were prominent.

Ensign John Hart carried on the traditions of his grandfather's family and established an example for future generations who have been continuously important through the centuries in all branches of service to church, state and industry.

His two uncles, Thomas and Stephen, were foremost in the affairs of the town and colony, and both left substantial estates.

Ensign John Hart was one of the appraisers of the estate of his Uncle Stephen, who lived on Mountain road, about opposite present High Street. It was on this site and possibly in part of the old house that Hubert Chauncey Hart was born in 1843. He moved to Unionville as a small boy and until his death in 1941 was always deeply interested in the affairs of the day and

long identified with the industry of the town. His father was Chauncey Hart and his mother was Sarah Jane Hooper, descendant of William Hooper, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Hart, the other son of Deacon Stephen and uncle to our Ensign John, had been given the north half of his father Stephen's homestead, which stood about on the site of the present town hall. We will hear more later of Ensign John's son, Deacon John, who was also a town clerk.

There has been a John Hart in every generation, and this small introduction is necessary to designate our particular John. He was known at first as Ensign John Hart, for having been confirmed by the General Court in 1695 as ensign of the train-band. His service was such that promotions followed, for in October, 1703, he was commissioned lieutenant and subsequently promoted to captain. According to the Colonial records he served Farmington as deputy to the General Court from 1702 to 1705 and in 1705 was appointed auditor of the colony.

In January, 1696, Ensign John Hart and John Hooker, leading men in the community and the Colony, were appointed by the townsmen to be "Town Clerks and Registers to record Town Acts and Votes." John Hart served until the appointment of Deacon Thomas Bull in 1702. "January 4, 1696 the town made choyce of Captain John Standly, Captain (formerly Ensign) John Hart and John Hooker to search ye Ould Towne Book and what acts they find in ye ould book of any publique concernment for the towns interest they shall transcribe-make record of them by transcribing into ye new book all such acts as are of publique concernment." Surely conclusive evidence that the Ould Book had not been burned, as some of the items of publique interest were recorded as far back as 1646.

John Hart had served at various earlier times, for we find his name as recording land grants. John Hooker and Thomas Bull were also making various records in the Town Meeting Book and from a comparison of the writing, evidently recording deeds of land conveyances, but not signing them.

The necessities of life were beginning to come easier to these people by 1672. They had their grist mill back of the Hart



homesteads. The mill lane ran down from the Town Path between the former home of Miss Elsie Deming (the Thomas Hart Hooker house inherited from Thomas Hart) and the south line of the Porter School land, the lane being still easily discernible. Farm land was yielding well as inventories of the early estates show a great wealth in farm, meadow and pasture land with flocks and herds for all needs. The settlers were realizing the advantage of retaining every acre of this large territory. They had town meetings where it was disclosed that the ownership of some of the land was in doubt and committees were appointed to search the records and ascertain the owners.

~~The body of the proprietors was formed in 1672 and the first Divisions of land mapped out.~~ The first maps drawn of the Divisions, with lots for each proprietor and intersecting highways were not always practical as might be expected when one realizes the difficulties of those years. Later in the eighteenth century volumes of the land records were devoted to the sale and exchange of this highway land in order to make the highways more passable (one of them, it was found, went over the side of a cliff into Cherry Brook below). Funds from the sale of this highway land also provided a welcome revenue for schools in the town.

There were brief journeys to Hartford, for trading and for matters to do with the Colonial Court, but for the most part they lived very much together. That they did so, with constant thought of common good, and with so little to break the monotony of hard work and few outside interests, is in itself an indication of their great moral stamina and genuine religious convictions. It may have been that because of this, the urge to move on to another wilderness came to them oftener than if there had been more relaxation and diversion in their life. For as early as 1680 families under Richard Seamor were moving on to Great Swamp where by 1705 the Christian Lane settlement had grown into a colony of log houses with a fort and church. William Burnham was their first minister and was given extensive lands as an inducement to go there. The well dug for these first families in 1680 is still in use on Christian

Lane, and has been credited in the past with unusual healing qualities.

~~The Charter from King Charles second to Connecticut in 1685 was the last proof needed to confirm in legal phrasing the lands granted to Farmington in 1645.~~

Captain John Hart died in Farmington November 11, 1714, aged 60 years. His eldest son John inherited the homestead, lived there and bequeathed it to his second son, John.

This old house, recently purchased and extensively restored by Mrs. Annie Burr Lewis, is approximately 240 years old, so it would seem extremely likely that our Ensign John Hart built it after inheriting the original house from his grandfather Deacon Stephen Hart. The first house would have been ancient and primitive by the time Ensign John married and had his family. Many architects have visited this house, famous for its divided stairway, enormous fireplaces, and particularly for its intricate doorway and ornamentation. One New York architect readily found an Indian tribal motif in the design over and around this beautiful front door. Indians were everywhere about these early settlers, and might have furnished a ready inspiration for their own decorations. Thus we find that the homestead with the original house built by Deacon Stephan was given by him to his son John, who lost his life in the burning of his own home. The homestead then went to John second who probably built a new house there — the present building — and he bequeathed it to his son John known as Deacon. His son John also inherited the homestead and after locating in Cornwall sold the homestead in 1765 to Amos and Solomon Cowles. Before 1800 John and Chauncey Deming had purchased the homestead, the Thomas Hart Hooker place next north, and the grist mill on the Farmington River. This property remained in the Deming family for about 125 years.

*Thomas Bull*

1690-1704

A FIGURE that captures one's fancy in the years 1660-1708 is that of Deacon Thomas Bull. His father was the famous Captain Thomas Bull of Hartford, equally fearless in the face of Indians on the war-path, or a would-be governor from England. For thirty years he was the strong right arm of the colonists in Hartford and at Saybrook. Much of the courage, both in war and peace, of Deacon Thomas was a direct heritage from his father.

Deacon Thomas lived in Farmington on land inherited from his father on the "ould road leading to the mill" now Colton Street, and the homestead lot is still known as the Bull lot. The site of his house may be found by diligent searching just beyond the new home of Miss Elsie Deming. His near neighbors were the Samuel Cowles family with their seven sons, who lived in the house now owned by Miss Margaret Brady. This house was built about 1697.

Deacon Thomas Bull was "chosen for Recorder of Lands as Towne Reggester" December 8, 1690. His writing is large, strong, with big round letters, just as one could visualize him. A strong, honest man.

Although we find that Deacon Thomas Bull served as town clerk and register at various times in the latter part of the seventeenth century, the record of his election is the first we find of the official election of such a town officer. He was first elected in 1690 and served, sometimes with Ensign John Hart and Mr. John Hooker, until 1704, when Hooker succeeded him.

At the town meeting which first elected Thomas Bull, other business of importance in proper management of the town was

"Their was chosen for Constabol John Norton Junr. and for townes men Stephen Rote, John Orton and John Lee and for fence vewers William Lows (Lewis) and Stephen Hart Samuel Wadsworth Thomas Barns and for survoires of hyways John Clark and Jacob Brumson for chimney vovors James Lowas Simon Wrotham and for hawards Matthew Woodruff and Samuel North.

At the same meeting there was chosen to the ofice or work of Towne measurer Capt. John Standly Ens. Thomas Hart.

Att the same meetinge there was chosen to be added to the Commyty of Souldior Lotts with Ens. Thomas Hart Sgt John Judd Sgt Thomas Porter Samuel Gridley.

Att the same meetinge there was chosen to keep good order amonge the boys in the gallery in the meetinge house Samuel Brumson.

Att the same meeting their was chosen Capt. John Standly to be added to the Commyty about the finishing the Schoolehouse.

Att the same meeting ther was chosen for the pound keeper Samuel Porter sun of Thomas."

"Att a Towne meeting held att ffarmington December 22, 1690 the town by voatt granted ten pounds as a town for the in-cordigment of a Schoole for half a year.

Att the same meeting their was chosen as a Commytye to hier a man to teach school half a year and to see what children shall be sent which Comitty are Capt. Standly Ens. Hart Sergt Judd Decon Bull.

Att the same meetinge ther was chosen for an ordinary keeper Samuel Newel."

Thomas Bull's life was full of adventure, happiness, work, anxiety and sorrow. True love started on its troublesome course with him and Esther Cowles March 4, 1669, when, with the announcement of their coming marriage, one Benjamin Waite petitioned the Colonial Court at Hartford before Governor Winthrop, Captain John Talcott, Leftenant John Allyn, Mr. Henry Wolcott and Mr. Anthony Hawkins, Assistants, that this marriage should not take place.

The record gives us an intimate picture: "Benjamin Waite having publicly protested against Thomas Bull, Jun., and

Esther Cowles, their proceedings in reference to marriage, and manifested his desires that authority would not marry, or any ways contract in order to marriage, then the said Thomas and Esther, the Court desired the said Waite that he would manifest his reasons to them and produce his proofs of any right or clayme that he hath to the said Esther Cowles, but he refused to attend to any such thing at this time; the Court did therefore declare to the said Benjamin Waite, that they did not judge it reasonable to restrain Thomas Bull and Esther Cowles from marriage till the next term of this Court in September next and therefore, if the said Waite doth not make good his clayme and prosecute it to effect between this and the 7th day of April next (to which day this Court will adjourn) they will no longer deny them the said Thomas and Esther marriage." That the claim was not further prosecuted is shown by Thomas and Esther being married April 29, 1669. They lived on the Bull homestead on Back Lane, now Colton Street.

Their children were John who died in 1705, leaving six sons, of whom Thomas Nehemiah and John were each given ten pounds by their grandfather's will, and Samuel, Jonathan and David; and daughters Sarah who married Josiah Hart 1713-14 and Susannah Porter. The two children who were namesakes of their parents died tragically. Thomas died August 15, 1689, aged 17 years and Esther died three days later aged 15 years. Their mother, Esther, died two years later on April 17, 1691 at the age of 42 years. The same year Deacon Thomas married Mary (Cheever) Lewis, widow of Captain William Lewis who had died the previous year. Deacon Thomas Bull died in 1708. His son David inherited the homestead and passed it on to his own son.

Deacon Bull had been one of the early settlers and in the fifty or more years here had seen the dream of the first-comers fulfilled in well-built houses and barns, well-governed community and the second church building and school house well established. The townspeople had expanded the original settlement and were settling and cultivating outlying territory. Courageously but cautiously they were continuing to enlarge their town for the coming generations.

Thomas Bull had done his full share in this effort. He had a prosperous farm and was by profession a gun and silver-smith, also working in iron as the occasion required.

His account book gives lists of iron work done for the church doors and public stocks. He made guns and swords for local and colonial trade and the pikes which guards carried in their sentry duties.

He found time to serve his church and town as deacon, constable, selectman, tax collector, assessor, town clerk and school committeeman. The record he left shows that he possessed personal courage, quiet dignity, and honor among his townsmen.



*John Hooker*

1704-1740

THREE OF the Rev. Thomas Hooker's children made their homes in Farmington in those first early years of the settlement of church and township. Mary Hooker, eldest child, who had cared for her mother, walking the many miles of the journey from Cambridge to Newtown through the wilderness, married Roger Newton, the young Harvard student who studied theology in her father's home in Hartford, and came to Farmington with him to found the first church here. Her sister Sarah was willed a farm by Governor Edward Hopkins who had been a lifelong friend of both Thomas and Susannah Hooker. Here were held some of the first church services, alternating with Roger and Mary Newton in holding the first services in their houses.

Soon after Roger and Mary Newton left Farmington for the pastorate in Milford where they lived and served the first church there until their deaths, Samuel Hooker came to Farmington as the second pastor of this church and lived in the home of his sister Mary Hooker Newton at the south end of the Town Path, about opposite "the lane leading to the Pequabuck Meadow." Samuel was the younger of two sons of Thomas Hooker, the other son John having remained in England. Consequently, all by the name of Hooker come from Samuel. He married Mary daughter of Captain Thomas Willett, prominent in the early history of Massachusetts and the first mayor of New York City. The Rev. Samuel Hooker died here November 6, 1697, at the age of sixty-four years and is buried in the Main Street Cemetery. He served Farmington as pastor for thirty-six years. He left a numerous family, numbering nine sons and two daughters. Of these sons John Hooker was des-

tined to serve this town with great honor for over fifty years. He was born February 20, 1664-5, and November 24, 1687, married Abagail Standley, daughter of John Standley. The union of these two foremost families was an important social event. The new home of John Standley on High Street was open even to the parlor for the occasion, with the bridegroom's father performing the ceremony and the Judds, Roots, Lees, Steeles, Wadsworths, Porters, Hookers, Moores, Lewises all invited and dancing and dining. The great Standley homestead and barns must have been taxed to capacity with guests and their servants and horses.

A year later John Hooker bought five acres of land with a dwelling-house, orchards, barns and gardens on Main Street from John and Philip Judd. This is the site of the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hyde Cady. They believe that the present house is part of the original house. The records show no new house on this land and the architectural details are similar to other houses in Farmington built at that time. John Hooker had a brother Roger, who died April 28, 1698, aged thirty years, "being very weak in body yet sound of mind." Roger gave his house and shop in Hartford to Mary Stanley daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (Boosey) Stanley to whom he was engaged to be married. All of his Farmington goods and chattels, consisting of merchandise ranging from bear skins and blankets to spoons and kettles he gave to his brother Nathaniel. On December 23, 1698, Nathaniel married Mary Stanley and in April of the next year they went to live in the new Hooker homestead on Main Street. Here two of his children were born. In the distribution of his estate Nathaniel received "the dwellinghouse which was his father's."

The children of John and Abagail Hooker were Roger, named for the brother who had died, and to whom his father John gave the homestead. In his will John Hooker spoke of his son Roger "with whom I now dwell who hath for some time been the staff of my age." Hezekiah, John Joseph where the other sons and the daughters were Abigail who married Nathaniel Hart, Mary who married Samuel Hart and Sarah who married Matthew Hart. The three sisters who married the three brothers later

lived in Berlin. The fourth daughter, Ruth, married Asahel Strong as her first husband, and as her second, Solomon Whitman.

John Hooker was elected Town Clerk of Farmington in 1704 and served without interruption until 1740. Previous to 1700 he had served eight years at various times, making a total of forty-four years, longest in point of service of any of the twenty-three town clerks in three hundred years.

The exquisite and letter-perfect handwriting of those forty-four years never varied in slant or shading. John Hooker must have been a man of great poise, perception and intelligence. He had the title of "Mr." prefixed always to his name and was held in great honor by the Rev. Samuel Whitman, who always waited church until Mr. John Hooker had arrived and been seated.

He had received a good education, no doubt being taught, with his brothers and sisters and other children in the town, by his father, Rev. Samuel Hooker. He was for many years the chief magistrate of the town, and was judge of the Superior Court of the colony from 1724 to 1732. He represented the town in the General Court, was clerk of the assembly two sessions, and speaker six sessions. In 1723 he was chosen assistant, and for eleven years was re-elected.

Meanwhile, with increasing ease in living conditions, but with still no outside diversions, the townspeople were beginning to be restless. The inevitable differences of opinion as to church and town government arose. Disputes as to the legality of town elections and strong factions in town politics kept properly elected officers from holding office. Their independence of pride and spirit followed them to church, where they vehemently disagreed as to matters of religious procedure and leadership, so that in May, 1702, the Colonial Court sitting in Hartford ordered:—

"The town of Farmington labouring under great difficulties in reference to the calling and settling of a minister among them and other ecclesiastical concerns, certain of the inhabitants made their addresses to this Assembly praying advice and relief; in answer whereunto this Assembly doth order and direct them

to seek council and help from the reverend elders hereafter named, viz: the Revered Mr. Abraham Pierson, Mr. James Noyes, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Noadiah Russell, Mr. Samuel Russell and Mr. Thomas Ruggles, or any five of them, whome this Assembly doth desire to be helpful to them and (unless the said inhabitants shall agree among themselves to call and settle a minister) to nominate and appoint a minister for them. And in case the minister so nominated and appointed by the said reverend elders will undertake the worke, this Assembly doth hereby order that the said inhabitants of Farmington shall entertain him for one year, and also pay to him such sallerie as hath been usuall and customary among them.

"This Assembly being informed that great differences are arisen in the town of Farmington about the choice of town officers, to put an issue to such differences and that the affairs of the town may not suffer, this Assembly doth order that Mr. John Hooker, Samuel Gridley, John Wadsworth, Samuel Cowells, and Daniel Andross, shall be townsmen for this present year, and the said townsmen and all other officers that are chosen and sworn shall continue in their places for the terme aforesaid and they are confirmed so to doe."

Despite the explicit orders of the General Assembly in 1702, only occasional visiting ministers occupied the pulpit, or a layman read the Psalms. Ezekiel Lewis, son of Captain William, preached occasionally. No minister was regularly appointed and received until Samuel Whitman accepted the invitation to this church in 1706. His salary was "100 pounds with house, firewood, parsonage in Pequabuck Meadow and forty acres of land."

It was during Mr. Whitman's pastorate here that the second meeting house was built, with a bell and later a clock. Here again a discussion centered over the manner of singing the psalms, also the adoption of the half-way covenant. This latter was adopted but discontinued after Mr. Whitman's death. The vote of the singing of the psalms showed how serious this matter was:

"April 7, 1724, It was proposed whether they should continue the present way of singing or would admit of

regular singing. May 9, 1724 voted, to take a year's time to consider whether regular singing should be tried or not.

March 1726-7. Voted, that we do declare our full satisfaction with the former way of singing psalms in this society, and do earnestly desire to continue therein."

Samuel Whitman lived in an old square house on the north-east corner of Mountain Road and Main Street, since torn down and now the site of "New House" of the Porter School. He led in civic as well as religious matters until his death in 1751, loved and honored by all.

Opposite the Skull and Bones fraternity house in New Haven stands Whitman Memorial Gate, erected in honor of Reverend Samuel Whitman, one of the first fellows of Yale.

During these years from 1702 to 1740, great strides were being made by the inhabitants in their efforts to cultivate and improve the town. Their lands were portioned out to them in the various outlying sections of the town, with promise of all manner of development, even to the possibility of ore in the hills to the south. Temporary homes in these outlying districts had proved so satisfactory and the land so fertile they had become permanent and churches and forts, schools, cemeteries and mills were rising in localities where now are Berlin, Bristol and Southington. These towns did not legally separate from the mother town until after the Revolutionary War, but farms and industries were growing.

Meanwhile, in Berlin, for the past fifty years, an energetic settlement had taken root and was showing signs of healthy growth. Sergeant Richard Beckley was there as a pioneer settler, in 1660. Jonathan Gilbert was granted three hundred fifty acres there in 1661 and kept a famous tavern, called "Half Way House." One of his daughters married Captain Andrew Belcher, a wealthy Boston merchant, who, with what he bought and what was granted him, soon had a thousand acres there. He developed this land as best he could, laying out highways, building walls and houses and inviting thereby newcomers from Farmington Village to the "Great Swamp" parish. It was on a

portion of one of these highways, soon known as Christian Lane, where the first log houses, church, and log fort were built. Here was dug by hand the well to supply the settlement. The well is still flowing, and at various times has been credited with magical healing qualities.

The town of Farmington voted Richard Seymour one pound in 1686-7 for his efforts in establishing this fort at Christian Lane. Soon other Farmington families living there were those of Captain Stephen Lee, Sergeant Benjamin Judd, Joseph Smith, Robert Booth, Anthony Judd, Isaac Lewis, with branches of the Root, Cowles, Lankton, Norton, Porter, Hooker, Stanley, Hart and Gridley families taking great tracts of land to the south and west. Their great houses are still standing, in Hart Quarter or Stanley Quarter or Beckley Quarter, and one can readily visualize the immense red barns which once surrounded them.

Soon the need of a local church was felt in the Great Swamp settlement, as the number of families increased and the inconvenience of traveling the long miles to Farmington seemed needless. The first application for a society in Great Swamp was refused by the Farmington church members, until at a town meeting held September 28, 1705, they were allowed the privilege of forming their own society there "provided that they shall, for their own proportion of labor in the highways, maintain the passages and highways they have occasion for as also that they shall, at no time, endeavor to surprise their neighbors, by endeavouring to obtain of the General Assembly other advantages, in which the town in general may be concerned, without first acquainting the town therewith, nor challenge any interest in the sequestered lands for the maintenance of the ministry there."

To the Right Honorable and Worshipful General Assembly sitting at New Haven the 11th day of October, 1705, they petitioned for a settlement and confirmation of a society at a place called "Great Swamp." "The principal and only moving cause of this our humble petition is the remoteness from any town, whereby we are under great disadvantage for our soul's good by the ministry of the word, and in that your humble petitioners may

be under better advantage to set up and maintain ye worship & ordinance of Jesus Christ, in that desolate corner of the wilderness, we humbly request that your honors will please annex into our bounds, for the only use of said society, all those lands that are between our bounds southward and Wallingford bounds northward, for the benefit of the taxes of said lands for ye support of ye public charge, of said society. . . ." The signers all bore names famous in the settlement of Farmington, doing as their fathers had done, hewing out, the hard way, their future homes. Camp says in his *History of New Britain* that "there can be little doubt that some of the most prominent men of the place already contemplated the organization of a distinct town on the principal road from Hartford and Wethersfield to New Haven."

Their petition was granted and the "Great Swamp" Society was organized. In 1722 the General Assembly passed a resolution changing the name of Great Swamp or Farmington Village to Kensington. Another inevitable division from this latest society was the swiftly growing settlement at New Britain, which was officially established as an ecclesiastical society in 1754. All of these divisions remained a part of Farmington township, no setting off occurring until after the War of the Revolution. During these years of prosperity and increasing expansion with its resultant ease and trend towards at least greater comforts in living, if not luxury, the townspeople might constantly divide from their parent town or parent family, but when national difficulties arose in later years, they were one close clan. All came back to the old home town and agreed without a dissenting vote as to action to be taken.

In these years, too, other of the original families who had vast tracts of land given to them in the Grand Division, were going toward the west and south.

In the Great Plain, Poland, Bohemia and New Cambridge, first known as the Great Forest, now Bristol, sons of the original settlers were gone to see for themselves their inheritance. Daniel Brownson was the venturesome leader there, building a house near the westernmost line on now West Street, in 1727 where he had a large farm. In 1728 Ebenezer Barnes built his

home, used for many years as a tavern, and added to at one end for a married daughter and at the other end for a married son, near the Pequabuck River. The Barnes family lived 100 years in this house. It was later the homestead for the Pierce family and in the fall of 1939, after 210 years of being lived in and in the possession of only two families, with the exception of a few later years as the property of the Bristol Brass Company, the house was carefully removed by Mr. Fuller Barnes, a descendant of the first owner Ebenezer Barnes, and the fine old timbers are to form the structure of another Barnes homestead on Federal Hill in Bristol. An honorable end for the old home. The road to Bristol in those years lay to the north of the present Bristol Road, passing the Old North Cemetery to the road running up "the hill." Here many Lewis families built their homes and on the hill the first church was built. The Peck families lived off West Street where there was a schoolhouse; Joseph Benton, who gave the land for the church and the Federal Hill Green lived at what is now the junction of Maple, Bellevue and Center Streets, and there were other Barnes families at the corner of South and West Streets. Soon the need was felt there as in Berlin for the formation of their own society, and the Rev. Samuel Newell was soon installed as their first minister, not however without some opposing votes. Caleb Mathews, Stephen Brooks, John Hikox, Caleb Abernathy, Abner Mathews, Abel Royce, Daniel Roe and Simon Tuttle declared themselves of the Church of England and formed the first Episcopal society in New Cambridge. In 1746 the first Congregational meeting house was built in New Cambridge near the site of the present building, it being thirty feet by forty feet, and with small comforts. The support of the minister was a very great problem in those days of no hard cash, and the loss of even a few members of their community by the formation of another church, was a severe blow to their endeavor to form their own society.

And in the same years another daughter was being added to the growing Farmington family. As early as 1698 Samuel Woodruff, owning a great acreage in the South Division, built a house there and moved his family there, undoubtedly the

first settler. Within the following ten years the families of Woodruff, Root, Bronson, Newell, Scott, Barnes and Cowles were all established in their first homes in what was later Southington. The ground and climate were considered exceedingly poor and cultivation of crops discouraging. For many years, the comparison to the settlement, known as Panthorn, was "poor as Panthorn." In 1721 the inevitable result however was that the families found no further good reasons for the long walk to church at Farmington every Sunday and petitioned for a separate society. Again the Farmington church members protested — losing so many in the recent years was a severe loss to membership and to income, and the South Division applicants were refused. But in 1722 they hired their own preacher, and asked abatement of one-third of their tax toward the support of Mr. Whitman at the Farmington Church. Mr. John Hooker, Lieutenant Samuel Wadsworth and Ensign Samuel Newell were commissioned a committee to reply to the South Division settlers. The committee's opinion was that "considering the weakness and inability of ye said ffarmers at ye present time it is Nearest their duty to content themselves for ye way they are now in for another year or years." However the early Connecticut people were persistent and determined and in May 1724 they again petitioned, this request being granted in two weeks' time. With the satisfaction of their ecclesiastical needs, they continued as a contented part of the town until 1785.

*Dea. John Hart*

1741-1748

THE BEGINNING of the second hundred years of the founding of the Town of Farmington found Deacon John Hart in the office of Town Clerk. He had served the town in many capacities during the past twenty-five years and had been twenty-three times elected to the General Court from this town. He lived on the site of the homestead of his famous great-grandfather Stephen Hart, the original settler and founder of the Hart family in Farmington, and had inherited the farm, with the new house standing on that land.

Born in this Hart homestead in 1684, son of Captain John and Mary (Moore) Hart, he married Esther Gridley March 20, 1706, taking her to this ancestral home, and it was here that their seven children were born. Great barns stood around the old house, and down the Mill Lane was the very necessary mill, just where it stands today. Near the mill was a ford enabling the farmers to reach their land in the meadows and return with crops and cattle to the barns in the winter. In this house were kept the town records, and vital statistics of marriages, births and deaths were reported there.

Deacon John Hart was chosen deacon in the Farmington church November 19, 1718. His wife Esther died in 1743 and in the same year he married for his second wife, the widow Hannah Hull. He served as town clerk from December 14, 1741, to 1748, afterward moving to Kensington where he was also deacon in the church. He died there October 7, 1753, aged 69 years. In his will he gave his son John the choicest pieces of his farm, including the old homestead (which the son John sold in 1765 to Solomon and Amos Cowles), and also a three-and-

one-half-acre lot known as the Meeting House lot located east of the church — hence its name.

Deacon Hart's three daughters "married well." Esther married Nathaniel Newell who inherited the Newell homestead; Mary married (1) Timothy Root, (2) the Rev. Samuel Newell who later became, after some controversy, the first and beloved pastor of the first church in Bristol; and Sarah married first Stephen Root, and as her second husband Captain Eldad Lewis. Deacon Hart had three sons — Judah, John and Solomon.

No mention is made in town minutes of any notice taken of the passing of the first hundred years. It is almost inevitable that it was spoken of, and with some pardonable satisfaction. The passing generations had carried on with the traditions of their fathers. They kept their dignity, even in the face of differences of opinion in church and state, their courage in years of the most difficult hardships, and their faith in the good future of their town and state never wavered. Everything they had, had been carved by them out of the rough. If they thanked God for the completion of those first hundred years, they must have done so with full realization that God had worked hand in hand with them, and they were thankful without being jubilant.

An old fashioned election day ushered Deacon John Hart in office. Held in the church across the path from his house, it was an all-day affair, with an hour's adjournment twice in the day for refreshment and possibly some political planning. The dinner could have been no mean affair, with home-made breads, cakes, pies and all manner of meats from the farm and each housewife vying as to preserves and pickles. Cider was a foregone conclusion with all the farmers and with the ticket picked for the afternoon session, the election went on. An early start had to be made by some of the voters. They lived in Southington, Bristol, Burlington and Kensington and it was a long way to come with chores to be done first. It was an eventful day and one not to be missed.

A page from the record book of that year tells us of strange offices filled by famous names.

"A Town Meeting held in Farmington for ye Choys of officers December 14th A.D., 1741.

"Att the same meeting Deacon John Hart was chosen Moderator to lead the town in this theyer present meeting.

"Att the same meeting John Hart was chosen Town Clerk and Register.

"Att the same meeting Capt. William Wadsworth was chosen Moderator to lead ye town in this meeting.

"This meeting is adjourned for one hour — ye town met according to adjournment.

"At ye same meeting Capt. John Newil Capt. Josiah Hart Mr. Samuel Hooker Capt John Webster were Chosen Selectmen for ye year ensuing & Mr. Nathaniel Wadsworth.

"At ye Same Meeting Samuel Nash John Hooker & Daniel Woodruff were Chosen Constables. for ye year ensuing & Sd Saml Nash to make up accts with

"At ye Same meeting Ens Jonathan Bird & Roger Hooker Ens Jonathan Lee John Cowles Left Saml Woodruff & Howkins Hart were chosen grandjurors for ye year ensuing

"At ye same meeting were chosen for Surveyors of highways for ye year Ensuing Nathaniel Newil Daniel Gridley Thomas Root Josiah Lee Gideon Norton Saml Saymor & Joseph Hart his limit to Extend South to James Andrus northward both sides of ye highway to bound line — & John Bird his limits to Extend South to ye highway by Segwicks north and all Hartford Division to Simsbury line & for Southington John Root Abram Clark Isaac Newil Stephen Smith & Edward Gaylord his limits Extend only ye fouer westermost tear of lots in ye west division of Lands & Eliah Hart his limits from Kensington line to Ezra Warners & Nehemiah Manross his limits ye two first tears of lots — Gailors and Manross their limits to extend north as far as Jonathan Smiths.

"At ye same meeting Voated by ye town that their swin should roam at large ye year expiring this meeting

"This meeting adjourned until to morrow morning 9 of the clock — the town mett according to ajournment.

"Att ye same Meeting Thomas Standly Isaac Norton Jr.



Staphen Andrus of Southington were Chosen Collectors to colect ye town rate that shall be granted at this meeting.

"At ye Same meeting Serg Samuel Thomson is Chosen Grand-juror in ye Room of Jr. Jonathan who is hereby released.

"At ye Same Meeting Daniel Lewis Mr Timothy Porter Nathaniel Thomson Elisha Lewis Capt Saml Cowles Joseph Smith Jr Nathaniel Gridley Jeames Brownson Moses Lyman were chosen Listors for ye year ensuing.

"At ye Same Meeting Ebenezer Smith was Chosen Surveyor of highways his limits encloding to those persons annexed to Newington

"At ye Same Meeting Simon Newel Samuel Hart Isaac Hallibard Phinahas Judd Jonathan Hulabart John Upson were chosen tithingmen for ye year Ensuing.

"At ye Same Meeting Samuel Nash was Chosen for Sealor of weights for ye year Ensuing

"At ye Same Meeting Serg Will Porter was Chosen Sealor of Measurers for ye year Ensuing.

"At ye Same Meeting Jeames Gridly was Chosen Sealor of Leather for ye year Ensuing

"At ye Same Meeting there was Chosen for ratemaker for ye year ensuing ~~Mr Timo Porter~~ Mr Elisha Lewis Joseph Hooker John Hart

"Att ye Same Meeting Capt Will Wadsworth was Chosen town treasurer for ye year Ensuing

"Att ye Same Meeting Eben Buck Thomas Langton Nathaniel Cole Jr Daniel Cowles were Chosen fence viewers for ye year Ensuing

"Att ye Same Meeting ye town by a voate granted Liberty for fiering on ye Comons on ye Common on ye west side of ye River for to Secure ye Comon fence provided it be done by the twentieth day of April next.

"At ye Same Meeting it was voated by ye Town that they would be at ye charge of Setting up a gate Sufficient for Carts to pass and repass on ye Comon fence on ye Road leading to Litchfield & another on ye Road leading to New Hartford — ye sd gates to be set up by ye direction of ye Selecttmen.

"At ye Same Meeting the town granted a Rate of a half

penny on ye pound to be colected of ye inhabitants according to ye present list

"Att ye Same Meeting Joseph Judd Left Joyles Hooker Asahel Strong are fully impowered to comfirm their agreement with ~~Serg Will Porter~~ by giuving deeds of exchange in ye name of ye town

"At ye Same Meeting the town by their act do fully impour ye present Selectmen of ye first Society to be their Commt to defend the town right in any action or actions that shall be commenced against ye town of farmington ye year ensuing

"At ye Same Meeting ~~Deacon Willm Porter Jr~~ Saml Lewis are impowered to consider ye request of Saml Nash and to approve or disapprove ye same upon ye cost of sd Nash

"Att ye same Meeting Serg Asahel Strong was Chosen for one year & to joyne with ye Commt apointed to remove nusones on ye Highways (Vol. 1 page 237)"

During the ensuing years this manner of election went on without variation. The only special town meeting in this period was July 4, 1748, when the only business transacted was the "voat that from this day their swine & shoats run at larg on their commons until ye first day of January & being sufficiently Rung in nose."

~~Unusual recording appears in the land records during the first six months of 1741.~~ The deeds taken in by John Hooker were not recorded for the previous six months and the pages in the record book were carefully divided in half, the upper half being for the recording done by John Hart, the new town clerk and the lower half given to the deeds received and still to be recorded by John Hooker, his predecessor, until all had been recorded. John Hooker was by that time an old man and his writing was irregular and his work not done as quickly as in the early years.

The first mention in the town minutes of providing for those who could not provide for themselves was in 1748, when it was "Voated at ye Same Meeting that they would have a house built for to Entertain ye poor in & to be set in ye highway near against ~~Deacon Porters~~ & ye Selectmen of ye first society to take ye care & order in that affair."

Deacon Porter's farm was next the site of the house used for so many years recently as a town farm, and now part of the large dairy farm of T. E. Stephenson.

This was the last meeting for Deacon John Hart as Town Clerk. He retired to his farm in Kensington where he lived for five years before his death in 1753.

*Capt. Joseph Hooker.*

1748-1764

WHEN Joseph Hooker married Sarah Lewis' daughter of Nathaniel and Abigail (Ashley) Lewis in 1735, his father, John Hooker gave him one of the oldest and finest family homesteads in Farmington for their home. The John Stanley place had been located at the corner of Mountain Road and Back Lane, (now High Street) since at least 1672. John Stanley's daughter was Joseph Hooker's mother, consequently the place was a second home to him. John Stanley had lived in that house probably before building the new homestead on High Street—now the Farmington Museum—and after his death it went to his daughter Abigail and her husband John Hooker. Here Joseph Hooker lived all of his married life and here his six children were born. Across the street on the opposite corner lived William Porter in one of the old houses, very similar in construction to the Farmington Museum. On the opposite side of Mountain Road lived Stephen Hart in the little house close to the road inherited from his father. On the corner of Mountain Road and Town Street, now Main Street, lived the Rev. Samuel Whitman, and in the so-called Whitman house, now the Museum, lived Elnathan Whitman. They were all good friends, with closely related tastes, politics and religion and, we know, of one purpose, that of building and maintaining a solid municipal structure.

Joseph Hooker inherited some property and his wife had a large portion of the Lewis lands. Among their holdings was land at Burnt Hill, Bull's Way, Old Farms, Long Swamp, Indian Neck, second Mountain, the 17th lot in the third division west (now Bristol), a Pitch lot, and Dead Swamp, together



with such lots as were inherited from ancestors in all the various divisions surrounding the reserved land.

This homestead was kept in the Hooker family for another three generations, going by inheritance to Noadiah, son of Joseph, who became a famous soldier and Colonel in the War of the Revolution, then to Noadiah's son Edward of "Old Red College" fame, and to his son John Hooker. Edward Hooker demolished the old house and built a new one on the same location for his bride, Eliza Daggett of New Haven.

Joseph Hooker had six children — Abigail, born February 5, 1735-6, Noadiah, born August 29, 1737, Mercy, born January 19, 1741-2, Ruth, born February 21, 1743-4, Anna, born December 14, 1749 and Joseph, born March 30, 1751. *The Hooker Genealogy* has this to say of Joseph: "During his younger days Joseph Hooker was an enthusiastic military man and was captain of the local militia. In later years he became excessively corpulent, so much so that for several years he was unable to attend to any active business and on fine days a large chair was placed in the front yard of his home near the door and he sat there smoking his pipe and visiting with passers-by. When local militia paraded or when there was any military assemblage at Farmington it was customary for them to march around by Captain Hooker's house and salute him as he sat in his big chair by the door."

Joseph Hooker was elected Town Clerk in 1748 and served until December 12, 1764. He died December 19 of that same year. During his sixteen years in town office he was five times appointed justice of the peace by the General Assembly, as was the procedure at that time.

These years in the middle of the eighteenth century have been indistinct in Farmington history. Several short histories of Farmington have been written in pamphlet form, but only the cream has been taken — no thorough search of records has been made to bring out period by period. These years were more of the "growing years" of the town, when original homes became more secure, farms were yielding well and must be managed rather than started, and much of the early work remade, to fit changing conditions.

Trade was still extremely difficult and silver money rare.

Also there were wars all along the Atlantic seaboard with France attempting to seize desirable English interests, and men of Farmington were called to fight for England's colonies. Highways were one of the intense problems of the time. They had been laid out from five to forty rods in width, and for the next fifty years, specially appointed committees worked to dispose of much of the unneeded highway land. These were "committees to exchange highways" and they bought land of adjoining property owners, giving them in return land from highways, in that way laying highways of more practical width and in more desirable locations.

In 1750 many of the outlying districts had built their own churches and had been established as a society. In Bristol Parson Newell was in his new house on present Burlington Avenue. This was quite some distance from his church on Federal Hill, but distances meant less to those people than today, when the ministers live next door to their church. Joseph Benton owned most of the Federal Hill, selling some of the land to the church society, and later, part for a schoolhouse and the remainder for the town "green." Burlington was being settled in 1750 — Bristol had two schools, one at the far north side of the settlement near Lewis' Corner and one at the junction of South Road and the Pequabuck river. Substantial houses standing today after one hundred and ninety years were being built in Southington, Berlin and Nod, now Avon. Under a Connecticut Statute of 1750 providing for thirteen regiments of militia, the First Regiment included the First Society of Farmington.

A long gap in the records concerning schools and school masters leaves us with very meager knowledge of their schools. We do know that the buildings were small and placed in the best position as to settlements with such teachers as could be found and induced to try their hand (often very literally) with the farm boys. No complete records have been found until the establishment by the town in 1799, of the twelve existing districts.

In our local church the Great Event of 1750 was the final

outcome of the leading in singing of the psalms. Watts version grew in interest and demand, despite the protests, and even the withdrawal of one of the deacons. It was but a step from the Watts version of singing to the use of instruments in the church, and soon the bass viol, little viol, flute and clarinet were in use. Elijah Cowles and Fisher Gay "set the psalms" at this period.

In 1751 the long-beloved Rev. Samuel Whitman died. He is buried in the old cemetery on Main Street. During his pastorate the second church had been built. A bell was added in 1731, a town clock in 1738, and all had been harmonious for the years following the troublous times at the beginning of the century. The next year, 1752, the Rev. Timothy Pitkin accepted the pastorate of the church and introduced a new era of living. He brought his bride to Farmington in a fine new carriage—something not before seen here. He brought fine furniture, silver and clothing, and an influence toward a culture in living, which, though inherent in the families here, had, through necessity of the hard struggle for existence, lain dormant. While Timothy Pitkin was here the third and present church was built, of which more later.

The society of Kensington lost their minister, the Rev. William Burnham, in 1750, and the direct result of this was the division of that community, long threatened, and the incorporation of the society of New Britain. Camp, in his history of New Britain, says: "The first settlers of New Britain were farmers with such limited education as could be obtained at that day. Nearly all had some property, which by frugality and industry was increased after they occupied their new homes. At or about the time of the incorporation of the New Britain Society, in 1754, most of these farms were provided with comfortable frame houses and outbuildings."

In 1754 the townspeople voted to have the Town Clerk "alphebet" the town books.

Another town vote in that year gave residents of New Cambridge liberty to "have ten feet in the highway for Sabbath Day houses, also to set a school near the dwelling of Joseph Benton and to set a school on Cochepaniese Hill."

In 1758 a new officer was chosen in addition to others—

this was the keeper of the key to the pound. And John Hooker and John Gridley of Kensington were given liberty to build and improve a cider mill during the town's pleasure.

In 1759 Roger Hooker, a son of John Hooker, owned the mill and dam on the Farmington River "a littel west of the meeting house where for time out of mind there has peacably been kept up and maintained ye principal gristmill in said Farmington by virtue of an ancient grant, and the town approve the said Hooker repairing the dam and approve to Hooker his heirs and assigns full power and liberty to keep up and maintain forever said dam."

During these years attempt was being made toward a more stable currency, the trend being away from the barter and trade of the past hundred years when money had been scarce. This tended to tangle all trade relations. Deals in hard money had the advantage of offering a reduced scale where the equivalent in trade demanded more, but was not so well received. This scaling down to a hard money basis was not conducive to business.

This through the ages has led ultimately to war. The Colonial War of this period affected this comparatively small and remote town. Julius Gay says in his paper *Soldiers in Colonial Wars*:

"— Of Farmington soldiers in 1755 we can identify Ezekiel Lewis, sergeant; Ebenezer Orvis, ensign; and Privates Bela Lewis, Samuel Bird, and Noah Porter, father of the Dr. Noah Porter and grandfather of President Porter." These men also were in the campaign of 1756 against Crown Point, where Josiah Lee was captain of one of the companies. A campaign of 1757 at Fort William Henry saw Ezekiel Lewis, ensign, Privates Samuel Bird, Sylvanus Curtis, Gershom Orvis and Betheul Norton. The call for reinforcements further enlisted Captain William Wadsworth, Sergeant Judah Woodruff, Clerk James Wadsworth, Corporal Hezekiah Wadsworth, and Privates Amos Cowles, Phineas Cowles, Rezin Newell, Joseph Root, Timothy Woodruff, Solomon Woodruff and an Indian who was a large landowner, Elijah Weampey. Julius Gay gave the following list of Farmington soldiers in Colonial Wars in his paper by that title: David Andrews, Joseph Andrews, Ben-

jamin Barnes, Joseph Barnes, Thomas Barnes, Samuel Bird, John Bronson, Amos Cowles, Phineas Cowles, Eleazer Curtis, Sylvanus Curtis, Rezin Gridley, Elisha Hart, John Hart, Stephen Hart, Abraham Hills, Noadiah Hooker, Anthony Hawkins, John Judd, Samuel Judd, Ebenezer Lee, Josiah Lee, Bela Lewis, Ezekial Lewis, William Lewis, Elisha Lord, Elihu Newell, John Newell, Thomas Newell, James North, Nathaniel North, Ashbel Norton, Bethuel Norton, Matthew Norton, Thomas Norton, David Orvis, Ebenezer Orvis, Gershom Orvis, Roger Orvis, Daniel Owen, Daniel Porter, Noah Porter, Thomas Porter, Samuel Richards, Joseph Root, Timothy Root, John Scott, Ebenezer Smith, Jobanna Smith, Reuben Smith, John Stanley, Timothy Stanley, Hezekiah Wadsworth, James Wadsworth, William Wadsworth, John Warner, Elijah Wimpey, John Woodruff, Judah Woodruff, Matthew Woodruff, Solomon Woodruff, Timothy Woodruff, Simon Wrotham.

In 1740 Tabitha Norton, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth (Galpin) Norton, on the 10th day of July, was married to Isaac Lee. The wedding was the usual one of the daughter of a rich country merchant and a promising young man of good family. Isaac Norton and his wife were among the pioneers of Great Swamp, prosperous, pious and generally useful citizens. He was a signer of the petition dated October 11, 1705, to the General Court for permission to "set up in this desolate corner of the wilderness" a church in Great Swamp, which would be nearer their homes than the home church in Farmington.

Isaac Lee, who married one of the nine children of this pioneer and courageous couple, was himself from pioneer and courageous parents. His family was among the very first to venture to Farmington, having their first family home in 1643 on the site close to the main house of the present Porter School. They had continued to pioneer in soon going on to the wilderness of the Great Swamp. This trait of moral and physical courage was bred in Isaac Lee and stood him in good stead at the time of his marriage to Tabitha. In the hearty days of that century a rather jovial custom was observed at many weddings of stealing the bride. This could be done with a playful spirit and not too much inconvenience, or it could and did sometimes have

unhappy results, such as not returning the bride in good time. However, it was a custom for all wise brides to watch and ward against. That it was attempted at this wedding was apparently no exception. But how it was foiled was so aptly told one hundred years later by no less a writer than Emma Hart Willard, made of it an event in the history of the town. The poem was read at the two-hundredth anniversary of the settlement of the town, after the Historical Address delivered by Dr. Noah Porter.

Isaac Lee was commissioned Captain of the Thirteenth Company of Train Bands in the Sixth Regiment in this colony in May, 1767, and in the same year he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Fifteenth Regiment, and in March, 1775, Colonel of the same regiment. He and his wife lived in what is now the center of New Britain on Main Street, then designated as Farmington Road. The Meeting House was on present Stanley Road where it intersects the third road to Farmington, and Colonel Isaac Lee's mother, widow of Stephen Lee, lived at the corner of East Street and the Parade. Noah Porter Jr., in his *Historical Address* of 1840 says of Colonel Isaac Lee: "After the removal of the greater part of the tribe (Tunxis) to Oneida, they often visited their friends and sepulchres behind, and on such visits would hold dances, at the old burying place, and evening powwows, and give splendid exhibitions of their agility and strength. Colonel Isaac Lee of New Britain, who flourished the latter half of the last century, being once in Farmington village, encountered a gigantic Indian who had often broken the laws, but had never been punished, through fear. In three attempts at wrestling the Indian was thrown; after the first trial his eye glistened and he desired a second, but after the third he was satisfied. Colonel Lee then went about the street upon the business which had brought him to the village, and the Indian closely followed him. He was sharply questioned as to his object. He respectfully and humbly answered, testifying his reverence, and wished to know what had made his antagonist so strong."



*Cyberion Strong*

1764-1767

It was given to Ruth Hooker, to be daughter, sister, wife and mother of town clerks in Farmington. Her father John Hooker and her brother, Joseph Hooker, we have read of. She married Captain Asahel Strong January 8, 1729. He was the son of Asahel Strong of Northampton and his wife, Margaret, daughter of Thomas Hart of Farmington. Captain Strong was a lawyer and prominent in public and military affairs. Colonel John Strong was uncle, and Pomroy Strong, who bought the red house on Bridge street, cousin of Cyberion.

Captain Asahel and Ruth (Hooker) Strong had eight children and lived in the house given to them by his father, Asahel Strong Sr., which stood on the site of the home of Miss Florence Thomson Gay. It was built early in the settlement of the town, probably by Howkins Hart, where John Andrews had originally lived. Of the eight children, Cyberion, the seventh, was born May 26, 1743, was graduated at Yale in 1763 and at the death of his uncle, Joseph Hooker, in 1764 was elected town clerk, being then twenty-one years of age. He was reelected the following year but was interested in the ministry and in August 1767 removed to Chatham, Connecticut, where he spent the rest of his life as minister of the gospel in the Congregational church there. He married Sarah Bull of Farmington, daughter of Jonathan and Abigail Bull. Eight children were born of this marriage. Sarah Strong died suddenly at Chatham September 14, 1785 and the following March Cyberion married Abigail White, daughter of Ebenezer and Ruth (Wells) White of Hartford. Five children were born to them. In 1795 Abigail died and March 4, 1797, he married Mrs. Abigail (Riley) Hart,

widow of Jonathan Hart of Berlin who was killed at St. Clair's defeat in 1791. Cyberion Strong was present as one of the assisting clergymen at the ordination of Noah Porter in 1806, offering the prayer of consecration.

Cyberion Strong died at Chatham November 17, 1811.

Captain Asahel Strong, father of Cyberion, died March 30, 1751, and his widow Ruth (Hooker) Strong married Solomon Whitman, this being also a second marriage for Mr. Whitman. They lived in the Strong homestead on the site of the Gay place. The house was willed by Solomon Whitman to his three grandsons, Samuel, Solomon and Edward, Solomon Sr. having purchased the interest of the Strong children August 10, 1770. When Julius Gay purchased this property in 1872 he demolished this old house, similar in construction to the Farmington Museum, and built the present house.

Thus Ruth Hooker was in turn, daughter, sister, mother and wife of four town clerks of Farmington.

It so happened that little of permanent interest occurred during the tenure in office of Cyberion Strong, the business being the routine of elections, and taxes.

*Solomon Whitman Esq.*

1766-1790

Two epic events of lasting importance occurred during the term (which was almost a reign) of Solomon Whitman as Town Clerk. The building of the third and present church marked not only an event in the church growth, but stood too, for the coming period of a more cultured, comfortable and prosperous living in all things. Better homes, education, clothing and general ease in living were within reach of all. Another need supplied only by the new church, was that of a larger meeting place. Town meetings still called all inhabitants of the large town and this included the rapidly growing societies of Berlin, New Britain, Bristol, Southington, Northington and West Britain and the meetings lasted from one to three days, with often as many as a thousand men crowded into the new church.

With the additional complications of difficulties in foreign trade and mounting taxation, speeches were being made and resolutions passed in which all were deeply stirred — and the new large church provided the meeting place.

The first record we find of the desire for a new meeting house is dated February 2, 1767, and it was voted in 1769 to build. Solomon Whitman was directed to apply to the county court to fix the site for the new church. Judah Woodruff, architect and master builder, a direct descendant of Matthew Woodruff, one of the first settlers and eighty-four proprietors, who owned and lived on the present site of the Barney homestead, and Colonel Fisher Gay, one of the leading merchants of the town, made the long and difficult journey to the Maine woods to personally select the lumber of the new building. It was built southeast of the church it superseded; therefore, the previous

church, the second, was at the corner of Main Street and School Street, nearer the road. The new church was dedicated November 25, 1772. It cost (pounds) 1750-12-10½.

In 1825 the pews in the gallery were replaced by slips, and in 1836, pews in the body of the church likewise; the old pulpit with its hand carving and sounding board canopy by Judah Woodruff were taken away, the aisles carpeted, new windows made and covered with blinds, and after being the subject of both church and town meetings, horse sheds built. The meeting house green was leveled and fenced and the entire cost was \$4,463.39.

Almost immediately after the dedication in 1772, the building was ringing with resolutions of patriotism for the new order, as well as with lengthy sermons and church music.

Solomon Whitman was one of the chief figures in the political, social and religious life of the town. He and Colonel Noadiah Hooker, son of Joseph Hooker, were on every town committee, whether for social, civic, or religious matters.

Solomon Whitman, who was the son of the beloved Samuel Whitman, was born in Farmington April 20, 1710. He married Susannah Cole December 17, 1736. They had a son Samuel who died leaving three sons, Samuel, Solomon and Edward. Following the death of his first wife March 19, 1772, he married Mrs. Ruth Strong, widow of Captain Asahel Strong and daughter of John Hooker; and they went to live in her home, formerly the Howkins Hart house, at the north corner of present Porter Road and Main Street. Following the death of Ruth, Mr. Whitman married Mrs. Ruth Wadsworth July 30, 1778. He died in 1803. He had bought the interests of the Strong children in the homestead and left it to his three grandsons.

Solomon Whitman was first to administer the Oath of Fidelity to the new State of Connecticut, to the citizens, led by their respective pastors, Timothy Pitkin of Farmington and Samuel Newell of Bristol.

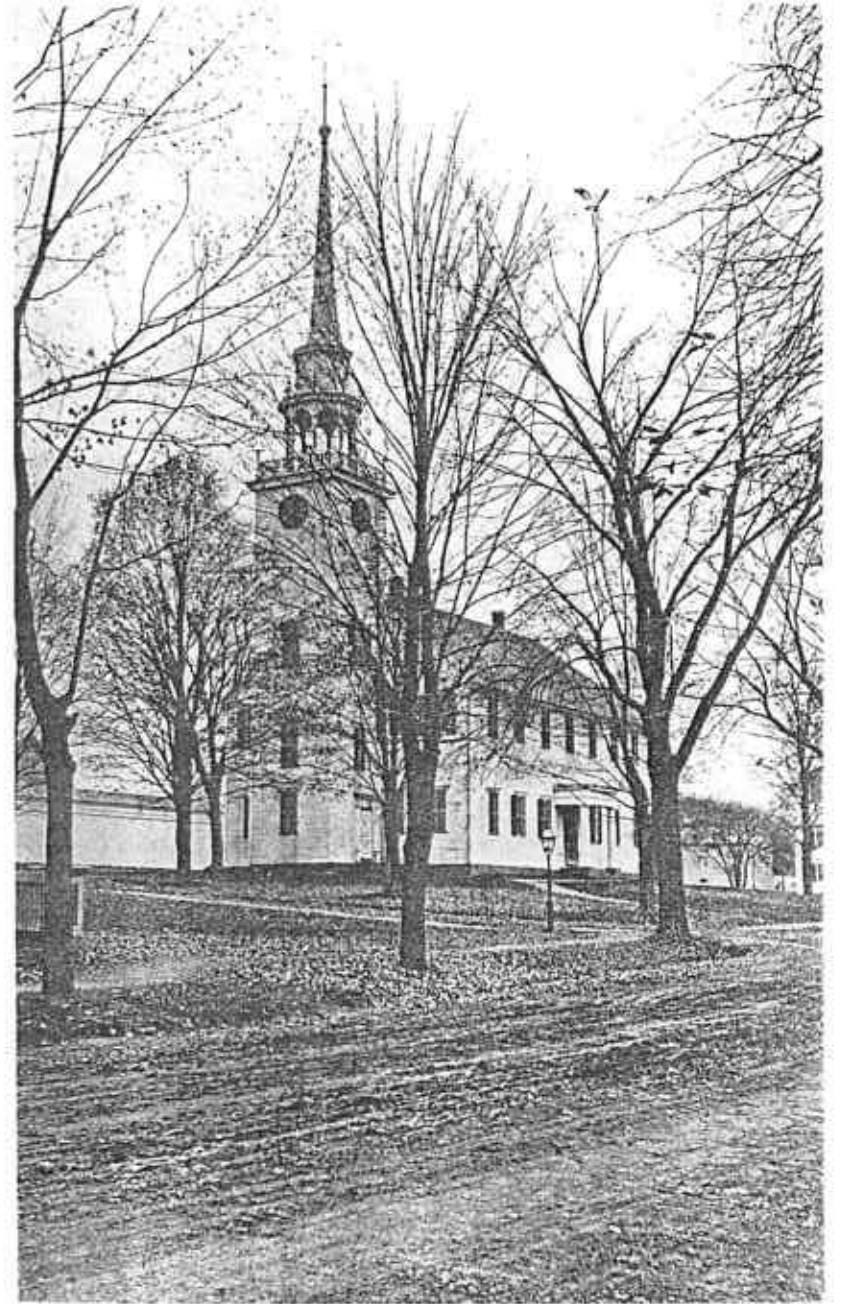
Farmington attained its full growth during these trying years. The previous one hundred and twenty years had been for the town similar to the adolescent period of a child, rather awkward, not too attractive, working very hard at getting

somewhere, having little or no resources and no definite future, but being possessed of excellent blood, breeding and background. The years from 1766 to 1790 saw full maturity of understanding, vigor of intellect and action, and a fine appreciation of the art of living when this privilege had been honestly earned.

For the past seventy years and until the turn of the next century, the great, wide highways of the town, as laid out in 1672, were a source of much anxiety and difficulty to the townsmen. In 1700 an acre had been given to Joseph North out of the forty-rod highway to Hartford for a house, he to build and maintain a "Mansion" within four years or forfeit the land. He built a house with two cellars and the house still stands, now the property of Miss Esther Colt. Many other similar grants were made to townspeople. Schoolhouses were "set in the highway," or an inhabitant was given "liberty to an acre in the highway during the pleasure of the town," for a shop, garden or apple orchard.

Unnecessarily wide highways were used for burying grounds. This evidently explains why no record can be found of the layout of the old burying ground in Southington, although we find the authorization for such a ground; or the erection of the picturesque stone schoolhouse in West District. In both of these regions the highways were forty rods wide and offered an obvious site for schoolhouse or burying ground. The townspeople were becoming increasingly conscious of the need of these and of planning for the future. The Scott's Swamp burying ground was within very recent years a part of the town highway to Bristol, until the road was modernized and so separated from the cemetery by a strip of turf.

Burying grounds set aside during these years of which we find record are the Old North Burying Ground in Bristol near Lewis' Corner, laid out in the thirty-rod highway. There most of Bristol's first families are buried, many of whom have American flags at their graves. Although this burial place was voted in Town Meeting in April 1772, burials were made there much earlier. The ancient part of Oak Hill Cemetery in Southington was voted in April 1772, Farmingbury, now Wolcott, in April 1772, New Britain's ancient burying ground in April 1772 was



*The Congregational Church. Built 1771*

part of the land of Colonel Isaac Lee, and Lovely Town burying ground in December 1773.

Schools too, were being built in these localities as families took up cultivation of their outlying farms and built large homesteads. The school buildings were set in the highway, much to the distress of the modern title searcher for the state highway department, when they modernize and "widen" an old highway which was originally from five to forty rods across, but has a traveled surface of fifty feet. Many a farmer who has built each new fence a few feet nearer the center of the highway has had a rude awakening at being shown his real lines, many feet back from the apparent highway boundary.

Just as frequently as permission was given "at the town's pleasure" so it was withdrawn and a house or shop was found to be a nuisance or encroachment in the highway and ordered removed. Only apple orchards were ordered left untouched and a heavy fine imposed for their destruction. Apples were a fine fruit and a necessary addition to each household's stores. The art of drying them for the winter has passed these many years. They were used for vinegar and every section of the town had, with the town's permission, its cider mill. Committees were appointed at each election to enforce the removal of carts, sleds and wood as well as other nuisances on the Main Street of Farmington.

Among those having shops were Captain Ephraim Treadwell, father of John Treadwell, who prayed the town "for two rods of land between ye Great Rock opposite to his house and ye Brook called Poke Brook for ye purpose of setting up a shop." Captain Ephraim Treadwell lived in a small red house which stood near the great rock on the Barney estate. Here lived and grew to manhood John Treadwell. He was born in this house November 23, 1745, was graduated at Yale College in 1767, and in 1776 was chosen a representative of the town to the General Assembly of which he was a member until 1785. He was elected Lieutenant Governor and was appointed Governor in 1809, at the death of the second Governor Jonathan Trumbull. He was Judge of Probate twenty years, Judge of the County Court three years, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Errors



twenty years, and for nineteen years a member of the corporation of Yale College. He had an early interest in negotiating the sale of the New Connecticut lands in present Ohio and in having the proceeds of that sale set aside for school funds. He drew the bill for the application of the fund to school purposes and is considered more than any other, the father of the common school system of Connecticut. He was one of the original trustees of the Missionary Society of Connecticut and first president of the American Board of Foreign Missions which was organized in the home of President Noah Porter, in the Porter home, which is still standing on Main Street.

John Hooker wrote in his *Reminiscences* published in 1899, "Among the old men whom I remember seeing in my boyhood, no one was more notable than Gov. Treadwell. He lived in a red house close by the large rock in the front part of the Norton (now Barney) place. I remember once calling at his house with a line from my father (Edward Hooker) when I saw him at dinner, which he left for a few minutes to attend to me and my message. I could not have been over ten years old. I think he died very soon after."

One of the oftenest quoted passages from the pen of Governor Treadwell, is his word of warning concerning the trend from work and frugality, toward extravagance and ease. He wrote, in what was intended to be a history of Farmington: "The young ladies are changing their spinning-wheels for forte-pianos, and forming their manners at the dancing school rather than in the school of industry. Of course the people are laying aside their plain apparel manufactured in their houses, and clothing themselves with European and India fabrics. Labor is growing into disrepute, and the time when the independent farmer and reputable citizen could whistle at the tail of his plough with as much serenity as the cobbler over his last, is fast drawing to a close. The present time marks a revolution of taste and of manners of immense importance to society, but while others glory in this as a great advancement in refinement, we cannot help dropping a tear at the close of the golden age of our ancestors, while with a pensive pleasure we reflect on the

past, and with suspense and apprehension anticipate the future."

Some of Governor Treadwell's favorite subjects of conversation were on the common origin of mankind, the sudden growth of Farmington opulence, foreign missions or Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*. When his daughter Dorothy married, he wrote her words of warning also, especially of the hazards of travel between Farmington and Hartford.

That Farmington was untouched by actual disaster in the War of the Revolution did not detract one whit from its fervent and active participation. Rousing declarations and votes were voiced in the newly completed church, large donations of clothing, food and money were sent to Boston and elsewhere, as well as good care taken of those left alone at home, and Farmington men served and died for their new country and its cause.

One of the earliest rumblings presaging the coming revolution was a resolution of the inhabitants assembled in an adjourned town meeting September 3, 1770. Colonel John Strong was chosen moderator and following the usual procedure of choosing, with several adjournments of an hour or more, their town officers for the coming year, they resolved:

"Colony of Connecticut ss

"Att a Meeting of Inhabitants of ye Town of Farmington in Hartford County held on ye 30th day of August A.D., 1770

"At ye same Meeting ye Inhabitants of sd Town, Taking into Consideration ye Unhappy Circumstances of ye British Colonies in America, while groaning under the Arbitrary and Unconstitutional Exactions of the Parliment of Great Britain, In passing duties upon Tea Etc., and in particular the Request of the Committee of Merchants Desiring a Meeting of ye Mercantile and Landed Interests of ye Several Towns in this Colony, to be Convened at New Haven by the Agents Chosen for that purpose on ye 13th day of Sept Next, They Proceeded to and made Choice of Mr. Jonathan Root, & Fisher Gay, Esq. to represent the Mercantile and Landed Interests of the sd Town, At ye Time & Place aforesd, being Informed and Instructed into the Sentiment of their Constituants as followeth:

"First it is our Ernest wish & desire that ye Gentlemen above



Appointed use their best Indeavour to Preserve Inviolate the non-Importation Agreement Entered into by ye Merchants of the Several Colonies in America.

"2nd. that they Strive to persuade Every Inhabitant of this Colony to withdraw all Connections and Commerce from the Importters of this or any Other Colony, and from all & Singular ye Inhabitants of ye City of New York in particular, and that they be Treated as Enimies to their Countrys Cause, Untill they return to a Sence & Practice of their Duty and Also Countermand their Orders upon the British Marchants for Goods.

"3d that they Encourage and promote to the Utmost of their power the Hope of American Manufacturers in General and of this Colony in Particular.

"4thly that they Labour to Convince Every Inhabitant of this Colony of ye Inexpediency and Danger in purchasing Goods of any Hawker, Pedlar or Petty Chapman, or any other person or persons, that are imported Contrary to Agreement untill ye Revenue Acts imposing duties on ye Americas be fully, Compleatly & Absolutely Repealed

"5th That they Use their Indeavours that Every Inhabitant of this Colony who shall Purchase & bring into ye Same any Goods Wares or Marchandise whatsoever that are Imported Contrary to ye Articles of Agreement be Esteemed & Treated as Betrayers of their Country

"6 it was Resolved by the Inhabitants of sd Town that they would watchfully Inspect Apprehand & Convict if possible all Pedlars, Hawkers & Petty Chapman that offer any Kind of Goods for sale without being previously Lycenced therefor."

At an adjournment of this meeting, held September 3, the inhabitants voted further:

"At ye Same Meeting Messrs William Judd, Noadiah Hooker, Asahel Wadsworth, Joseph Hills, Nathaniel Hart, Asahel Cowles, Stephen Cole Jr. Daniel Lankton, Samll Curtis, Aron Day, Nathan Lewis Jr. Medad Lewis, Asa Upson, James Lee, Dan Hills, William Woodford, Joseph Miller, Ichabod Norton, Noah Stanley, Adonijah Lewis, Gad Stanley and John Lankton & Noahdiah Wadsworth and Simeon Strong were

appointed a Commttee to Inspect all ye Goods that should be brought into sd Town of Farmington and to prosecute all Pedlars, Hawkers and Petty Chapman that should offer any kind of Goods to sale without Licence."

In the three years subsequent to this vote the colonists suffered increasingly from the steadily tightening grip of a needy British ruler. At the time in the life of the colonists when all taxes which could be raised from their own land were needed for the promotion of their local interests, schools, roads and general betterment, not only was the British crown taxing them, but was, in addition, restricting their trade to such an extent that both their pride and their pocketbooks were sorely pinched. The colonists had for one hundred and forty years asked only that they might have the inalienable right to observe their religious beliefs as seemed to them right and best, granting to others the same privilege, to govern among themselves as they might agree and to exchange goods in trade as was fair and equitable. They would not give the products of their hands and brains for the enrichment of any crown or government, having through the years learned that a good life could be gained through their own frugality.

To the British the new colony seemed a source of great revenue for which they need not work, only demand. Consequently they decreed that the colonial commerce should be restricted to British ports. Charters were annulled, the right to elect some of their principal officers was withdrawn and they were continuously asked to explain the innermost secrets of their manufactures. It is presumed that the answers were often shrewd in their honesty.

The port of Boston was particularly hard hit in these years as the trading constantly dwindled. The story of Boston and its climactical Tea Party reached Farmington by speedy messenger. The Boston Port Bill went into effect June 1, 1774. On the 15th day of June, 1774, it being, incidently, the 134th anniversary of the recorded date of the settlement of the plantation of "ffarmington," and just previous to the date on which the bill became effective, a handbill was found posted at various conspicuous places in the Town which read:

"To pass through the fire at six o'clock this evening, in honor to the Immortal Goddess of Liberty, the late infamous act of the British Parliament for farther distressing the American Colonies. The place of execution will be the public parade, where all Sons of Liberty are desired to attend."

It is said that "accordingly a very numerous and respectable body were assembled, of near one thousand people, when a huge pole, just forty-five feet high, was erected, and consecrated to the shrine of Liberty; after which the act of Parliament for blocking the Boston harbor was read aloud, sentenced to the flames, and executed by the hands of the common hangman."

The Rev. Samuel Peters, of Hebron, whose history of Connecticut, written in London just after the War of the Revolution and read today more for amusement than for serious study, vented some of his general disapproval of Connecticut in a special blast at Farmington when he said:

"Farmington burnt the act of Parliament in great contempt by their common hangman, when a thousand of her best inhabitants were convened for that glorious purpose of committing treason against the king; for which vile conduct they have not been styled a pest to Connecticut, and enemies to common sense, either by his Honor or any king's attorney, or in any town meeting. We sincerely wish and hope a day will be set apart by his Honor very soon for fasting and prayer throughout this colony, that the sins of these haughty people may not be laid to our charge."

The Rev. Mr. Peters, who called himself "A Gentleman of the Provence" and included his own so-called "Blue Laws" in his *A General History of Connecticut* was seeing the windows of his church in Hebron broken and having his clothing rent at about this time, which may account for his taking his notes of Connecticut history and his opinions of the moment to London for safer keeping until they could be set to paper.

The Farmington inhabitants were very busy. At their meeting June 15, Solomon Whitman recorded the following minutes:

"Att a very full Meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Farmington Legally warned & held in sd Farmington ye 15th day of June 1774 Colonel John Strong Moderator

"Voted that ye act of Parliament for blocking up ye Port of Boston is an invasion of ye Rights & Privileges of every American & as such we are Determined to oppose the Same with all other such arbitrary and tyranicall acts; in every suitable Way & Manner, that may be Adopted in General Congress: to ye Intent we may be instrumental of Securing, and Transmitting our Rights, and privileges Inviolate, to the Latest Posterity.

"That ye fate of American Freedom, greatly dependant on the Conduct of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston in ye Present Alarming Crisis of Publick Affairs; We Therefore entreat them by every thing that is Dear & Sacred to Preserve with unremitted Vigilance & Resolution till their Labour shall be Crowned with the desired Success.

"That as Many of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, must in a short time be reduced to the utmost Distress, in Consequence of their Port Bill; We deem it our Indispensable Duty by every proper & effectual Method to Assist in affording them speedy Relief—

"In pursuance of which Fisher Gay, Selah Heart, Stephen Hotchkiss Esqs and Messrs Saml Smith, Noadiah Hooker, Amos Wadsworth, Simeon Strong, Jeames Persivall, Elijah Hooker, Matthew Cole, Jona Root, Josiah Cowles, Daniel Lankton, Jona Andrus, Jona Woodruff, Aaron Day, Timothy Clark, Josiah Lewis, Hezk Gridley Jr., Asa Upson, Amos Barnes, Stephen Barns Jr., Ichabod Norton, Joseph Miller, William Woodford, Jedediah Norton Jr., Gad Stanley, John Lankton, Elnathan Smith, Thom Upson, Elisha Booth, Saml North Jr., Thom Hart & Rezen Gridley be a Committee with all convenient Speed, to Take in Subscriptions Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn & other provisions, of ye Inhabitants of this Town; & to collect and Transport ye same to the Town of Boston; there to be Delivered to the Selectmen of the Town of Boston, to be by them Distributed at their Discretion to those who are incapacitated, to procure a Necessary Sustinance in Consequence of the late apprehensive Measures of Administration.

"That Wm Judd, Fisher Gay, Selah Heart, & Stephen Hotchkiss Esqs Messrs John Treadwell, Asahel Wadsworth,

Jona Root, Saml Smith, Ichabod Norton, Noahdiah Hooker, & Gad Stanley be and they are Hereby Appointed a Committee to Keep up a Correspondence, with the Towns of this and the Neighbouring Colonys; and that they forthwith Transmit a Copy of the Votes of this Meeting, to the Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Boston, and also Cause the same to be Made Publick —”

At a meeting of the inhabitants the third Tuesday of September the Selectmen were instructed to “purchase thirty-six barralls of Powder with what is already Provided to be added to the Town Stock for ye use of ye Town.” Also “the Selectmen be directed to Procure Ten Thousand French Flints to be added to the Town Stock for the use of the Town.”

They also voted “that the several constables should have a large staff provided for each of them with the King’s Arms upon them.” The authority of the king was still supreme.

At the regular town meeting held December 12, 1774, Col. John Strong moderator, in addition to choosing the town officers for the year and giving their attention to whether hogs should run at large, who should be tything men and branders of horses, when the meadows should be burned over in the spring, whether crops should be grown in the highways, a committee to remove nuisances from the highways (with the exception of a cyder mill, which might remain for two years), establishing a boundary line between this town and Wallingford, taking proper action in the case of the Town vs. Widow Sarah Chester, receiving the report of the Committee on Correspondence and the report of the Committee on Subscriptions for the Town of Boston, the inhabitants also voted to approve and adopt the Doings of the Continental Congress held in Philadelphia September 5 last. But two of the inhabitants “utterly refused to Vote for the same and do therefore consider them — Matthias Leaming and Nehemiah Royce — enemies to their Country & as such we will according to the Resolution of ye Congress from this day forward withdraw all Connection from them untill they shall make publick Retraction of their Principals & Sentiments in ye matters aforesaid.”

Matthias Leaming was prosecuted for his refusal to accept

the way of his countrymen. His lands were confiscated and his family was in want. In later years efforts were made by Rev. Timothy Pitkin, pastor of the Church, Col. Noahdiah Hooker and other prominent men of the town to have the General Assembly assist him in his old age. The treasury of the state at the close of the war was in no condition to assist its appellant; rather, was it expected that the people of the state would assist the treasury, and Matthias Leaming died unaided. He was buried in the Main Street Cemetery. His marker is faced toward the east rather than with the other markers to the west, this mark of disapproval still lingering after the war, and his stone is inscribed “In Memory of Mr. Matthias Leaming Who has got Beyond the reach of Parcecushion. The Life of man is Vanity.” Julius Gay says, “It is not so much the memorial of an individual as of a lost cause. Its position, facing in opposition to all the other stones, is itself a protest. Matthias Leaming was a Tory, or, as he preferred to be called, a Loyalist.”

In his “A History of Bristol, Conn.,” Epaphroditis Peck devotes an entire chapter to another Tory or Loyalist as he also preferred to be called. Moses Dunbar of Bristol gave his life in his efforts in behalf of the ruling country, but of more interest to us now, is the saner viewpoint which comes with the passing years.

Mr. Peck says: “Connecticut takes a just pride in her honorable history, but no name ranks so high on her hero roll as that of Nathan Hale. The universal admiration for his character and career seems to grow with the years, and his immortal words on the scaffold ‘I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country’ have come to be not only a state but a national bugle call of inspiration.

“It may be presumptuous to try to set any name beside his; but it may at least increase our state pride to know that Connecticut gave a young man to the other side of the revolutionary struggle whose career in many ways paralleled Hale’s. Each of them was a Connecticut farmer’s boy; each reached the rank of captain, Hale in the Colonial army and Dunbar in the King’s army; each accepted a dangerous assignment to secret



service within the enemy's territory; and each was captured and punished by death on the gallows."

Dunbar was brought before Solomon Whitman as justice of the peace in the Town of Farmington, with the incriminating evidence against him and remanded to the Superior Court at Hartford. He was convicted and sentenced to be hanged for high treason against the State of Connecticut. He was executed March 19, 1777, on a gallows erected at Gallows Hill near the present site of Trinity College.

A scholarly and judicial analysis of the laws on which Dunbar was convicted, as well as a careful and painstaking history of the Dunbar family, to be expected of Mr. Peck, closes thus: "As we think of this young man of thirty, leaving three children to be fatherless, motherless and exposed to hatred and persecution for their father's sake, a wife married but a few months and a child yet unborn, and meeting death for the faith which he had deliberately adopted and the King to whom he believed his loyalty was due, we can take pride that Connecticut youth exhibited heroic devotion and calmly accepted martyrdom on the loyalist as well as on the patriotic side."

This, no doubt, motivated the Farmington men who sought to aid Matthias Leaming.

The Committee of Inspection of fifty-two men, with additions from time to time as appointed in town meeting, immediately went about their duties as laid out in the Eleventh Article of the Association of the Continental Congress. The list of members of the committee was a representative one, bearing names that had long been carved on the Farmington roll of honor. The committee kept a record of its meetings, a part of which was found in the possession of the Rev. Edward A. Smith late of Farmington. It is called *Register of ye Votes and Proceedings of ye Committee of Inspections for the Town of Farmington*. It opens with a copy of the town vote authorizing the committee.

"At a meeting of Town of Farmington in annual Town Meeting on ye 12th day of Dec., 1774, upon a motion made, Voted, (only two dissentient) that this Town do approve of ye Association of ye Continental Congress as ye wisest Expedient for

restoring and securing ye violated Rights of British America — and pursuant to ye 11th article of said Association, unanimously Voted — 2nd, That Messrs. William Judd, John Treadwell, Noadiah Hooker, Peter Curtiss, Asahel Wadsworth, Timothy Root, Stephen Dorchester, Matthew Cole, Stephen Norton, Joseph Wells, Elijah Hooker, John Allen, John Lee, Jonathan Root, Eldad Lewis, Timothy Clark, Daniel Lankton, Josiah Cowles, Asa Bray, Eliakim Peck, Asa Upson, Amos Barnes, Hezekiah Gridley, Dan Hill, Joseph Byington, Timothy Thompson, Ichabod Norton, Joseph Miller, Noah Hart, Gad Stanley, Ladwick Hotchkiss, John Lankton, Noah Stanley, Stephen Barnes, Thomas Upson, Aaron Harrison, Joseph Beecher, Simeon Hart, Titus Bunnell, Simeon Strong, Seth Wiard, William Wheeler, Royce Lewis, Asahel Barnes, Ebenezer Hamlin, Hezekiah Wadsworth, Thomas Lewis, Resin Gridley, Timothy Hosmer, Martin Bull, Joseph — Jonathan—, be a Committee of Inspection to transact all those matters that belong to them, according to ye true sense and design of ye Congress in sd Article expressed.

"Whereupon sd Committee met ye same day at ye house of Mr. Amos Cowles, Inholder of sd Town, when they unanimously Voted that Mr. William Judd should be Moderator, and Mr. John Treadwell Clerk of said Committee.

"Voted, that Messrs. William Judd, John Treadwell, Noadiah Hooker, Asahel Wadsworth, Gad Stanley, and Jonathan Root, be a committee to prepare a general Plan of Agreement, as well for Explanation of sd Association as for forming our Conduct thereon, and to make their Report at ye next Meeting of the Committee.

"Dec. 26th (1774) the Committee being met according to Adjournment they came into ye following Resolution, 4th, That ye Plan agreed on by ye Committee appointed to draw up a Plan to be presented to this Committee, and by them reported be adopted as a suitable Plan of Agreement to be subscribed all ye Members.

"Voted 5th, That this Committee is foreclosed from presenting Mr. Nehemiah Royce, a Person politically excommunicated from schooling his Children as usual by Vote of ye Town.

"Voted, That Messrs. Jonathan Root, Timothy Hosmer, Ladwick Hotchkiss, Gad Stanley, Matthew Cole, Hezekiah Wadsworth, John Treadwell, and Noadiah Hooker, be a Committee to repair to New Cambridge and there to answer with Persons suspected to be unsound in their political sentiments, or such of them as shall see cause to attend on sd Committee to reclaim in a pacific way to a sense of their duty as far as lies in their Power.

"Voted, 7th, That this Committee be adjourned to Monday ye 9th day of January next, then to meet at ye House of Mr. Asahel Wadsworth of this Town at one o'clock in ye afternoon."

January 9th (1775). The Committee being met according to Adjournment voted as follows:

"That no Person shall be proceeded against by this Committee, or be liable to Punishment for any supposed breach of ye Association of Congress until he shall have a Notification from this Committee setting ye Charges laid against him, and desiring him to appear if he sees Cause before this Committee or any select Committee by this Committee appointed to vindicate himself against ye Allegations laid against him.

"That Mr. Jonathan Root, Capt. Noadiah Hooker, and Mr. William Judd, be appointed as Delegates to attend ye County Meeting of ye several Inspecting Committees therein on ye 25th day of Instant January.

"That this Committee have Authority delegated from ye Town to take up ye Matter of Matthias Leaming and Nehemiah Royce, Persons excommunicated by vote of ye Town in same Manner to all Intents and Purposes as ye Town had not proceeded against them.

"Jan. 16, (1775) ye Committee met according to Adjournment.

"Voted, That Messrs. Stephen Norton, Simeon Hart, Daniel Lankton, Joseph Byington, Staphen Barnes, Noah Stanley, Ichabod Norton, have Power whenever it shall appear to ye Major Part of ye Members of this Body belonging to each Society respectively upon Examination of Witnesses or otherwise, that any Person within said Societies has violated ye Association of ye Continental Congress, to make out a Citation to said Person, requiring him if he sees Cause to attend upon

ye Committee at ye Time and Place mentioned in said Citation to answer to ye Charge exhibited against him before sd Committee.

"Messrs. Matthias Leaming and Nehemiah Royce being regularly cited before this Committee to answer to ye Complaints exhibited against them were called to appear before ye Committee and upon non-appearance, Voted, that ye Consideration of ye whole Matter respecting these Persons should be deferred till ye Meeting next after ye Meeting of ye several Committees of ye County.

"That those who go into ye Pastime of Horseracing, gaming, Cock-fighting, Exhibition of Shows, &c., as expressed in ye 8th Article of ye Association of ye Congress, are guilty of a violation of sd Association.

"January 30, 1775, The Committee being met according to Adjournment Voted that Mr. James Persaville, Merchant of this Town, having bought and sold Goods higher than usual by his own Confession has been guilty of a violation of ye Association.

"That this Committee do upon a Confession made, and promise of Amendment by said Percival for his fault in purchasing and selling sundry articles of English Goods at higher prices than is consistant with ye true sense of ye Association, and upon his promising as far as he can to deposit ye surplussage of ye money over and above what they would have amounted to if sold at his usual Prices into ye Hands of such Person or Persons as shall by this Committee be appointed to receive ye same to be appropriated to ye Use of ye Poor of ye Town of Boston, and upon such Confession and Retraction being made public restore to sd Percival full and compleat Charity.

"That if it has already or in time to come may happen that any Person or Persons, Inhabitants of any of ye neighboring Towns have refused or shall refuse to accede to or in any Way or Manner violate ye doings of ye Continental Congress, it shall be ye duty of ye Inhabitants of this Town to withdraw all kinds of Connexion from such Person or Persons, and as Members of this Committee we will use our best Endeavors

that ye Inhabitants punctually adhere to this vote and practice accordingly.

"That it is highly important that all Venders of Goods and Merchandise within this town be desired as soon as may be to make out and to render to this Committee an Inventory of all and singular ye articles of Goods or Merchandize they have either disposed of since ye 1st day of December 1773, or have now on hand, with their Number or other marks whereby said articles or any of them have been usually rank'd or distinguished, together with ye Prices they have sold them at for ready Pay and their Usual Advances for Credit since said 1st day of December 1773, or do now sell them, and also ye Names of ye Persons any of such Goods or Merchandise have been purchased of since ye first day of December 1773, to ye Intent they may be in the most effectual Manner prevented selling such Goods or Merchandize hereafter at higher prices than they have been accustomed to since above mentioned 1st day of December 1773 contrary to ye Association of ye Continental Congress, or if they should that they may be detected and brought to condign Punishment.

"That all Venders of Goods or Merchandize within this Town shall hereafter each for himself render a particular Account to three or more of this Committee being present to take such Account of every article of such Goods or Merchandize as shall be purchased by them and brought into this Town with their numbers or other Marks of Distinction, and likewise of ye Place where and ye Persons of whom said Goods or Merchandise were purchased before any of ye Packages thereof are broken, and it is expected ye Purchaser upon ye Receipt of any such Goods or Merchandize will notify three or more as aforesaid of this Committee to be present to take such account to ye true Intent and Meaning of this Vote."

March 15, 1775, Voted, "That Mr. Timothy Root be appointed to exhibit a Complaint against Capt. Solomon Cowles and Martha his wife for making use of Tea contrary to ye Association.

"That Messrs. Stephen Dorchester, Asahel Wadsworth, Timothy Root, Peter Curtiss, Noadiah Hooker, Timothy

Hosmer, John Treadwell, Martin Bull, John Lee, Stephen Norton, John Allen, Jonathan Root, Daniel Lankton, Timothy Clark, Thomas Upson, Amos Barns, Hezekiah Gridley, Ichabod Norton, Joseph Miller, Noah Hart, Noah Stanley, Gad Stanley, Ladwick Hotchkiss, Simeon Hart, Joseph Stone, Titus Bunnell, Stephen Barnes, Thomas Upson, and Joseph Beacher be appointed to give Licenses for the use of Tea to such persons within their respective Societies, as shall appear to ye whole to each Society belonging that are here particularly named to be under absolute necessity for ye same.

"That Matthias Leaming be advertised in the Public Gazette for a contumacious violation of ye whole Association of ye Continental Congress, and that Messrs. John Treadwell, Peter Curtiss, Noadiah Hooker, and William Judd to do ye same accordingly."

March 23, 1775, "That ye Confession exhibited and subscribed by Capt. Solomon Cowles and Martha his wife for ye offence of using Tea contrary to the Association is satisfactory provided ye same be made public.

"That ye Evidence exhibited against Nehemiah Royce for refusing to accede to ye Association of Congress is not sufficient to justify ye Committee in advertising sd Royce in ye Gazette.

"That ye Committee appointed to advertise Matthias Leaming defer ye execution of that Business until the next adjournment &c."

August 12, 1775, "Upon a Motion whether this Committee are obligated to examine unto ye Conduct of those who labored on ye Continental Fast, and to proceed against them according to the demerit of their offence as Violators of sd Association — Voted in ye Affirmative.

"September 11, 1775, ye Committee of Inspection being met according to adjournment took into Consideration ye Case of Job Whitcomb, Ezekiel Carrington, Barzillai Lewis, John Lowry and Charles Ledyard who being accused of labouring on ye Continental Fast voluntarily appeared before ye Committee and acknowledged ye Charge and upon their subscribing a Confession offered him by sd Committee, and consented

that it should be made public — Voted that ye same be esteemed satisfactory.

“Voted that we will take up ye matter of Mr. Samuel Scott for suffering people to work upon the Continental Fast it being in ye opinion of this Committee worthy their attention, at which Meeting it was ye unanimous opinion of ye Committee at ye next Freeman Meeting to request a Dismission from ye office it being too burthensome to be executed by them for a longer time, and that another Committee be appointed in their room.”

Here pages of the record are missing, but a new committee was appointed and acted on cases appearing before it. We find next that a traveler who had stayed at Captain Solomon Cowles’ tavern and had accepted tea there, had been summoned before the Inspection Committee.

The page reads: “— he not in the least apprehending what was served up before him was Indian Tea, and that as soon as he had discovered ye deception he immediately abstained from it — which Plea being duly weighed by ye Committee was voted to be satisfactory.”

“Voted, That Dea. Seth Lee and Dea. Noah Porter be appointed in ye room of Lieut. Elijah Porter to present all such persons within their Limits as shall appear to have violated ye Association agreeable to ye 12th Resolve of ye former Committee.

“Jan. 29, 1776. Ye Committee met according to adjournment when a complaint was exhibited against Jesse Fuller for laboring on ye Continental Fast, who neglecting to appear ye Committee proceeded to ye Examination of Evidence in ye Case, but as but one witness testyified in Point ye further consideration of ye matter was deferred to a further opportunity.

“At ye same time a complaint was exhibited against Samuel Warren, Lydia Orvis, Hannah Andrus, and Prudence Buck, all of Farmington, for making use of India Tea contrary to ye Continental Association — when ye said Samuel Warren and Prudence Buck appeared in Compliance with the Citation and acknowledging the fact charged against them, they subscribed the following Confession, viz: we ye subscribers freely acknowl-

edge we have violated ye Association of the Continental Congress by making Use of India Tea; sensible of ye ill consequences of such a Practice we do freely express our sorrow for ye same, and do give the strongest assurance of our Determination hereafter strictly to adhere in every Regard to ye Continental Association.

*Signed* Samuel Warren Prudence Buck.

“But as ye above said Lydia Orvis and Hannah Andrus did not see Cause to make their Appearance ye Committee proceeded to examine Witnesses in ye Case and found that they are guilty according to ye Complaint, but being willing to exercise Lenity towards them thought proper that they should have another day to appear, if they should see cause before ye Committee to answer for themselves.

“At ye same time Lieut. Ebenezer Orvis in a contemptuous manner intruded upon the Committee and unimpeached declared that he had drank India Tea contrary to ye Association and that he did it with a View that he might have it to tell of. Whereupon the Committee Voted that said Orvis is guilty of a flagrant violation of ye Association; accordingly a Confession was drawn up for him to subscribe and publish, which he refusing to comply with, ye further Consideration of ye matter was deferred till ye next adjournment.”

At a later meeting “ye Authority and Selectmen of ye Town” were called in to advise with the Committee.

March 11, 1776, the Committee “Voted that Lieut. Ebenezer Orvis be Advertised in ye Gazette as an Enemy to his Country. Voted that Mrs. Lydia Orvis and Hannah Andrus be advertised in ye Public Gazette as Enemies to their Country, ye publication to be deferred until after ye County Meeting hereafter to be held at Hartford.”

Monday April 22, 1776. “Lieut. Ebenezer Orvis who had been Advertised in Pursuance of ye vote of ye Committee appeared before ye Committee and presented a Confession for publication which was voted Satisfactory.”

A cup of tea at that time was the sum and symbol of all their wrongs, their taxes, and their war. That no heads fell in some



of those hot moments enables us to smile now at their anxieties, even as we appreciate their sacrifices and principles.

William Judd was by training and inheritance, as much as by inclination, eminently fitted for the chairmanship of the Committee of Correspondence. Since the first settler arrived in Farmington, the family of Thomas Judd, immigrant, had been conspicuous in the civic and religious interests of the town. Major William Judd was descended from Thomas's eldest son William and his wife, Mary, daughter of John Steele. He was born July 20, 1743 and his father was William. In 1765 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Ebenezer and Anna (Goodwin) Mix of West Hartford. Their son John Mix was to be the next town clerk. Major Judd was admitted to the bar in the year of his marriage and during the rest of his life was a prominent and leading man in the affairs of the town and colony. He was commissioned Major of the 24th Regiment of militia of the colony in 1775. John Mix was ensign in Captain Judd's company, Colonel Wyllys' regiment in 1777.

In addition to being chairman of the Committee of Correspondence he was chairman of the powerful Committee of Inspection. In September 1774 he drew an agreement, signed by seventy Farmington men, to march to the defense of Boston with thirty hundred weight of lead, 10,000 French flints and thirty-six barrells of powder. The following spring when word came by exhausted and foam-flecked courier (who in four days of riding had spread the alarm through Connecticut) immediately one hundred men marched under the command of Fisher Gay.

Frederick Lodge, No. 14, of the Free and Accepted Masons, with several of the fraternity residing in Farmington, was organized September 18, 1787, receiving its charter from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts nearly two years before the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was formed. Major William Judd was a delegate to the convention which organized the Grand Lodge of the State and was made chairman.

In October 1794 Daniel Curtiss and his son Eleazer sold their new house, built by them 1783, to Major William Judd and his son, William Samuel Judd. The house still stands on

the northwest corner of Main Street, near the old store. Gone now, however are the barns, store and other buildings, and gone too the sadler's shop which the Curtis' reserved from the sale, to remove to their new location.

At the State constitutional convention in New Haven, called in 1804 and attended by delegates from ninety-seven towns, Major Judd presided over the session, which was held behind closed doors and ended with an address by him to the people, followed by a "pamphlet war" in which some of the Federalists sided with the anti-Federalists. Once again Major Judd participated in the doings of the anti-Federalist or Democrat-Republican party, as it was called, when in August 1804 he presided at a convention called by Pierpont Edwards, which met in Middletown August 29. Of the resolutions adopted, 101,000 copies were sent over the State. "After defeat of that party in the fall, the Federals thought to discipline five justices of the peace who had attended the convention, which had attacked the Constitution they were sworn to uphold. Professor Edward Daggett of New Haven represented the Federals; Edwards defended the justices of the peace — whose commissions were revoked."

Meantime, Major Judd had sold his interest in the Main Street house to his son, William Samuel, who immediately mortgaged it to the State of Connecticut for \$1,250.00. When Major Judd died at Farmington November 11, 1804, he left little estate — so little that commissioners were appointed to adjust his obligations. He left, however, the best estate of all — a good name.

The first Farmington Company was complete and began its march to Boston on May 18, 1775, being the sixth company of General Joseph Spencer's regiment. The officers were Noadiah Hooker, captain; Peter Curtis and Joseph Byington, lieutenants; Amos Wadsworth, ensign; and Roger Hooker, order-sergeant. Julius Gay, in his paper on *Farmington in the Revolution*, gives us the benefit of not only his extensive and thoughtful studies, but of many letters to which he had access, and without which so much detail of the war, as well as the names of many who fought, might be utterly lost. Most of the

soldiers were first of all farmers and they went to service for a few weeks or months, returning to their farms for planting or harvesting, and then going on again to the front. It was sometimes a casual and none too well organized system with no other record of many of the skirmishes and journeys than come to light in just such old letters and diaries. They had no uniforms and their arms were slowly and carefully made only by private armorors. The bounty of (£) ten voted by the town for each man who enlisted was a very real aid in preparing him for the wars and, with the town aid for soldiers' families, something to insure food and warm clothing for a short time. It was in no wise intended as a reward for enlistment, rather as an aid to those who were to need clothing and shelter, food and seed.

Dr. Timothy Hosmer, who lived in the red house at the corner of Hartford Road and College Highway, long the village doctor, was assigned the duty of examining Andre's pulse and declaring him dead.

Deacon Richards, afterward Farmington's first postmaster and a future town clerk, kept a diary from which we quote, regarding the battle of Bunker Hill: "The almost constant fire of the enemy produced one effect probably not contemplated by them. It hardened our soldiers rapidly to stand and bear fire. One night a ball passed through my apartment in the barracks, a few feet over me, as I lay in my berth. Such things, having become common, we thought little of them."

The Farmington men made their preparations to leave as soon as they heard of the necessity there. They were kept in Roxbury during the siege of Boston and the inactivity, irksome and disappointing, led to various pranks, minor in nature, but disturbing to military discipline and greatly annoyed General Washington. We are indebted to journals and letters left by Amos and Fenn Wadsworth and Roger Hooker and to Colonel Fisher Gay for about the only information we have of Farmington men in the Revolution.

Fisher Gay lived in a large white house which stood on the present site of the Country Club. He was a member of most of the town and church committees, being one of those towns-

men who could be depended upon to take a journey or a task and see it through, whether it took him to the Maine woods for timber for the new church, or to the legislature to protest against an unwelcome suit in which the town was involved. He was ordered by George Washington to purchase powder for the army, a task which brought the general's commendation. He died at the battle of Long Island and is supposed to be buried in Trinity church yard in New York. Many of his descendants are living in Farmington—among them being Mrs. Ernest Hyde Cady and her children and Miss Florence Gay.

Amos and Fenn Wadsworth owned and operated a shop on the site of the present William Sheffield Cowles homestead at the outbreak of the war. Here they sold drugs, groceries, hardware and household necessities. The letters of Amos Wadsworth afford much detail of the life and varied activities of the Farmington men at camp. Under date of June 12, 1775 he wrote:

"A week ago last Friday about one hundred of our men went to one of the islands to assist some of the Whigs in getting off their families and effects. They brought off about 500 sheep, some cattle and horses, and took a boat belonging to one of the transport ships with three men as they were fishing near the shore. . . . She is now launched in a large pond about 100 yards from us, very convenient for us to fish and sail in." He also tells in detail of the midnight expedition to Long Island. There were forty-five whale boats in the party and they brought back cattle, hogs, horses and sheep and prisoners of war.

Amos Wadsworth was the recipient of one letter from Dr. Timothy Hosmer in which the Doctor described in detail the lack of sympathy of the Rev. John Smalley of New Britain, with the observance of the Continental Fast and the resulting breach between him and his friends. Dr. Hosmer wrote in part: "We look upon it as implicitly denying all authority of Congress. It hath awakened his best friends against him. Even Lieut Porter, Mr. Bull, and John Treadwell say they cannot see any excuse for him, and I verily believe the committee will take up the matter and call him to answer for his conduct. There hath happened a terrible rumpus at Water-

bury with the Tories there. . . . They had near 100 Tories collected upon the occasion and were together until ten o'clock. They dispersed and there was nothing done to humble them, but I apprehend the next opportunity I have to write I shall be able to inform you that Smalley and they, too, will be handled."

Rev. John Smalley was pastor of the New Britain church, and at that time had not determined which cause to espouse. Not so with the Rev. Timothy Pitkin. His pulpit, the town meetings and his letters to parishoners in camp rang with fervor and exhortation. To the first company of soldiers marching from Simsbury he preached a farewell sermon from the verse "Play the man for your country; and for the cities of your God; and the Lord do that which seemeth Him good."

Amos Wadsworth died October 29, 1775, shortly after his decision not to accompany Arnold and his expedition against Quebec. His funeral was military in detail, with crossed swords on the draped coffin and his regiment under arms. A guard of twenty men with reversed muskets and the musicians playing "Funeral Thoughts" with the funeral beat of the drum acted as escort. His mother and brother accompanied the body to its final resting place in Brookline Cemetery, where a monument stands in his memory. His brother Fenn inherited the shop and house adjacent thereto, which a few years later became the property of the Cowles family, who have made it their homestead since that time. Fenn kept up the drug and general store business until the death of his brother, when he too joined the army. For several years he was one of the Committee of the Pay Table in Hartford. He died just after the close of the war, leaving his estate to his mother.

From Boston, Farmington soldiers marched by way of Providence to New London, where they took ship for New York, in response to the earnest request for two thousand men to guard the borders of Connecticut until Washington could reach there with his army. They were wrecked on a rock in Hell Gate, but finally reached New York in safety. Deacon Elijah Porter, who, it is said, for want of a better uniform wore his wedding suit to the war, wrote of the Farmington men who were concerned

in the first occupancy of West Point: "When General Putnam was ready to go over on the ice he called me to come to him. He then loaded me with tools for building huts, and took a heavy load himself, and bade me follow him. When we got about half a mile on the ice, he went on some shelly ice, began to slip about, and down he went with his load of tools and made the ice crack so that I thought he would go down, but the ice held him up, and I sprang round and picked up his tools and loaded him up again. We went on and arrived safe at the point."

During the occupation of New York by the British, the corporation of Yale college sent the freshman class to Farmington under their tutor, the Rev. John Lewis. The legislators of the State passed a bill in 1781 whereby they proposed to meet in Farmington and were offered the large house, with the upper hall unpartitioned and suitable for their meeting place, belonging to Asahel Wadsworth, ancestor of Mr. Adrian R. Wadsworth. Members of the legislative body set forth that they found it exceedingly difficult to find lodging for themselves and forage for their horses in Hartford, so depleted were they in the last years of the war.

Washington's journeys through Farmington are extensively recorded and repeated. If he stopped here at all, as he might well have done for refreshment, it could have been at the inn of Solomon and Martha Cowles at the corner of Meadow road and Main street, it being the first one he would have found in the village on his way from Litchfield; or if he had come to the center he would have seen, and been urgently invited into, Amos Cowles's inn next the new church. If he succeeded in passing this inn, that of Seth Lee, standing where now the main house of the Porter School stands, would have attracted him, as his inn was famous. On the Main Street were also an ancient inn of the Root family, where the family had lived since their purchase in 1662. Also there was the new addition to the Wadsworth homestead—in the family since the settlement of Farmington. Mr. Phineas Lewis entertained guests in the inn where his family had lived for many generations and where the Elm Tree Inn now offers famous hospitality. And if General Washington had succeeded in passing all of these offers of rest

and refreshment, there was one more to beckon him, for as he rode up to the cut in the mountain, and stopped to look back at the spire of the new church and the hills in the west, there was still the inn of Samuel North Jr., now the farm house on the estate of Hillstead, home of Mrs. John Wallace Riddle.

In those years of war no enemy, except those within the gates, marched through the town streets. The army of Rochambeau did pass through the town and encamped on their way on the plain near the South Schoolhouse. Officers were well entertained here with dinners at the homes of the residents and the evenings made comfortable and pleasant for them. Old letters tell of dances arranged and the best in food, such as was to be had, served on the finest of china — an opportunity eagerly seized upon by the good housewives who were as starved for social life as for luxuries in living.

October 13, 1926, when the Jeremiah Wadsworth chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution marked the fact of the encampment in Farmington, it was decided that the boulder should be placed where it could be seen, rather than on the field where the encampment had actually been; consequently, it is on the green in the center of the town opposite the Elm Tree Inn. A parade with dedicatory exercises at the Farmington church preceded the unveiling of the tablet. John Mix Deming, elder son of Judge and Mrs. Edward Hooker Deming, did the unveiling. He was six years old at the time and a descendant of John Mix, a Revolutionary War soldier and long associated with public life in the town — of whom more later.

The march of Rochambeau and his men from Providence to the Hudson River and on to Yorktown and victory, and their return have been so thoroughly told in history and story, it should not be attempted here, except as it concerns the Town. On the first journey of the French army Claude Blanchard, the commissary general of the army, was sent ahead to prepare the camp and arrange for the necessities for the men. He left Providence on the 14th of June and says in his diary: "... I did not leave Hartford until early on the 22nd. M. de Rochambeau arrived on that day with our first division and he desired me to precede them. I dined and remained at Farmington, ten or

twelve miles from Hartford. Farmington is in a pleasant valley. I continued my journey and lay at Barons (Barnes) Tavern (which is intended for Barnes in Southington) which is situated between two steep mountains."

An ancient map, now in the Library of Congress, shows these marches of the French across the state from Providence to Yorktown, with the flanking army of General Greene on the south, accompanied by the French cavalry under Lauzun. The main army from Providence through Willton, Glastonbury, present East Hartford, Hartford, Farmington, Southington, over Breackneck to Southbury, Newtown and Danbury to Bedford, was guarded on the south by Generals Greene and Lauzun from Lebanon through Wallingford and Stratford in almost a straight line to Bedford.

According to a letter dated June 22, 1781, from Rochambeau to General Washington, the first regiment under Rochambeau arrived on that day in Hartford, informing his commander-in-chief that the four divisions would follow at intervals of one day, the "corps" of Lauzun who started from his headquarters at Lebanon to march as far advanced "as my first division through Middletown, Wallingford, North Haven, Ripton and North Stratford, in which place it will be on the 28th" — Consequently the northern regiments were nearly a week in Farmington, their seventh camp from Providence, which was at the south end of the village; thence going on to Southington where the next camp was made at the tavern of Ebenezer Barnes.

As the rain was very heavy, the divisions were obliged to halt there for several days. One encampment according to some of the old inhabitants of Southington, was on the hillside from the home of the late Martin W. Frisbie to opposite the home of the late Rodney Langdon. Other divisions encamped on French Hill, in the southwest part of the town, called locally Marion village. Marks of the camp pits were easily found until recently and in fields nearby have been found French coins, buttons and other indications of the visit of foreign soldiers in this Connecticut village. Allan Forbes wrote in his *France and New England* under the chapter "The Marches and Camp

Sites of the French Army in New England": "The people of Southington and the nearby towns were enthusiastic in receiving their allies. Some of the officers had rooms at an inn on Queen Street while others put up at a hostelry near the North Center School House. It is related that some of the most aristocratic houses in Southington were whitewashed, which very much puzzled the French, who believed them to be the remains of a military encampment such as they had seen in other parts of the world. Washington and Lafayette passed through the town, but an historian said that Southington was one of the few places he had heard of "in which these two had not slept." Dr. Edward Robinson used to relate that his father entertained several of the French officers one afternoon at tea. A ball was also given for the visitors at the nearby tavern of landlord Barnes and many of the girls used to boast that they had danced the cotillion with a French officer. So many of the officers patronized this tavern that its proprietor, it is said, was able to retire from business soon afterward. Dr. Frisbie states that the roads were almost impassable and that a large part of the army passed by the way of Clark's Mills and took the road leading directly west.

"This camp site at French Hill in Marion is on the right of the Meriden road going west and an excellent concrete monument, with a bronze plaque of Rochambeau, has been placed a few hundred yards down a small road that leads off the Meriden turnpike, the inscription on the front reading:

"Rochambeau Lieutenant General Commanding the Auxiliary French Armies under Washington July 10, 1780 — January 11, 1783

Done by Kelly 1912.'"

We find no account of a celebration in Farmington at the end of the war. If church bells were rung, or a victory parade was arranged, there is no word of it. Having followed Farmington folk through the first hundred and fifty years and being fairly well acquainted with her men and women now, we may be sure they greeted those who returned with sober dignity and carefully repressed joy, going all to their churches and

thanking God quietly, then on to the business of managing their homes and town again.

Although the treaty of peace with Great Britain was signed at Versailles January 20, 1783, word of the ending of the war did not reach Hartford and Farmington until March 27 when a letter received by Colonel Wadsworth conveyed the news. The Hartford Courant stated: "As the express came solely to bring the news, and we had no doubt of its being true, the inhabitants of this town manifested their extreme joy by the firing of cannon, ringing of bells, and in the evening fireworks and illuminations."

Immediately after the war the country hit its low spot in currency and credit. Banks were practically without cash, farmers were without credit and merchants without goods. But wise men were working in town, state and country and before another ten years had elapsed Farmington was the foremost town in this section of the State, with a population far ahead of Hartford, merchants who had vessels on all the seas, and shops and stores in the town to fill any need. In those years the fine homes were built in the village, and the factories and power plants established in Unionville, which still stand and still contribute to the livelihood of the town.

Apropos of the post war period, Colonel Charles W. Burpee says in *The Story of Connecticut* "The obvious defects of the Federation and its Congress paved the way for the real Statehood at the only possible time, and its management by the members who did not think or show jealousy was little short of genius. Efforts to stabilize the currency were made difficult by the condition of the farmers and the depreciation of paper currency which had necessitated resort to mortgages. Instinctively there was desire for more unsupported paper money and the debtor group had assumed large proportions. . . . That actually was a protest against hard times — a demand for remedy in the form of more currency, not dissimilar to demands of sundry politicians in these later years."

That Farmington saw defects in the Congressional Acts was plainly manifested in their protest as it affected states' rights.

Their directions to their representatives bear a striking similarity to those expressed by Hartford votes.

Sometime during the year of 1778, but undated,

"The Inhabitants of the Town of Farmington in legall Town Meeting Convened — To Isaac Lee Jr and John Treadwell Esqrs Representatives for sd Town in the General Assembly of this State, Gentlemen — having in Pursuance of the recommendation of the Governor of this State Taken into Serious consideration Articles of Confederation and perpetuall Union proposed by the Honorable Congress of the United States to the Consideration and approbation of sd States we are of the opinion that there is much wisdom Conspicuous in many of sd Articles which in Many Respects are hapily calculated to promote the welfare and amoluments of the United States and promise the most extensive Blessings to us and Posterity. It is therefore, with the utmost pain that we find there is Discernable in some of sd Articles which bear an unfavourable aspect to the New England States and to this in particular, the Simularity of Costoms Manners & Sentiments of the nine western States & their opposition to the New England States in those Respects, especially on the Power of Transacting the most important business is vested in nine States gives us great apprehension that evil consequences may follow to the prejudices of the New England States — the Method of appointing Courts for the deciding Controversies between two or more states will as the Case may be entirely exclude every person that may be nominated in the New England States, the rule of stating the Quotas of men for the Continental service in war & mode of apportioning of the Publick Expense we are constrained to say are in our opinion very objectionable although we are unwilling to believe that they were designed for the prejudice of this & the other New England States. You are therefore Directed to use your Influence in the General Assembly of this State by proper ways & means that the articles of Confederation may be amended and altered in the Several Particulars above mentioned by Congress if such amendments can be made without manifestly Endangering the Independence and Liberties of the United States — The Emoluments however of the

United States is to govern you in all your Deliberations upon the Interesting and Important Subject.

"Voted that the Articles of the Confederation are approved with the Exception above taken in these Instructions.

"*Test Solomon Whitman Town Clerk.*"

The sport of the day was to either attack or defend the Articles of Federation, the whole bringing forth the "Federalist Papers" read with profit then or now.

After the war, as the thoughts of the townspeople were turned to themselves and their local government again, it speedily grew upon them, that, as the country's independence had freed them from the parent country, they had attained their growth and might be free of their immediate mother town. Before 1700, families from the village had gone on to the Great Swamp and in October 1705, there was a grant of a distinct Society called the Great Swamp Society. This had been growing in great prosperous farms and large families, independent in mind and resources, with their churches and schools, and manufacturing and social life well established. In 1779 Berlin became an incorporated town, the first to leave the original township. Today its town seal commemorates one of its earliest industries, that of the manufacture of tinware, and its resultant tin peddler, the forerunner of the Yankee peddler who was known throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Bristol and Southington soon followed the first child from the Farmington brood. In 1785 both towns became incorporated as separate from the home town. Both had established large and prosperous settlements, with their own churches, schools and industries. Each had its own committee for the laying out of highways and enforcement of the law. In 1750 the people in Nod both sides of the river were constituted a distinct ecclesiastical society and parish by the name of Northington Parish, building in 1754 their meeting house on the east side of the river. This burned in 1817, leaving only, as in a similar case in Berlin, a lonely graveyard to mark the site of the church. In the Northington cemetery lie the remains of the Rev. Booge, the first pastor there, as in Berlin's lonely

cemetery the first pastor, the Rev. William Burnham, lies close to the site of his church.

West Woods in 1774 became the society of West Britain, and in 1806 was set apart from Bristol to become the town of Burlington. But at least these daughter-towns did not leave Farmington far-distant, as did those families who were again feeling the urge to go on to the west and north, to establish and develop new towns. John Mix wrote in his manuscript which he prepared for John Treadwell's history of the town: "There have emigrated from this town into other states between August 1783 and March 1802 inclusive, 147 families, which, allowing five to a family, will make the whole number 735, besides a number of unmarried persons of both sexes not belonging to those families, which I believe may be fairly estimated at 40 more. They are principally gone into the states of Vermont and New York, though some few to different parts of the Northwest Territory."

In 1905 *Lippincott's Gazetteer* listed thirty-two Farmingtons throughout the United States and, judging by the inquiries coming to the town clerk's offices in these later years, all of these Farmingtons were settled by Farmington emigrants. All are anxious to know more of early family life here, and ask of the condition of the records and the likelihood of finding information.

Julius Gay gives a vitally interesting list of many of those who succumbed to the urge to go on into another wilderness. He says: "One of the first companies followed the west bank of the Connecticut River as the easiest route. They sent in advance three pioneers in a boat to spy out the land, Captain Steel Smith, Joab Hoisington and Benjamin Bishop. Landing in a meadow just north of the present village of Windsor, Vermont, they cut down a tree and claimed the place by possession. They were soon followed by General Zebina Smith, Major Elisha Hawley, Captain Israel Curtiss, Deacon Hezekiah Thomson, Asahel Hoisington, and Elihu Newell, and later on by the Rev. John Richards. They did not carry their titles into the wilderness but acquired them there. A little west of Windsor Ira Langdon and Aaron North settled, farther west in Ludlow,

Deacon Lee, and a little to the north, in Dummerstown, Samuel Orvis. A large number journeyed northward on the west side of the Green Mountain range, Benjamin Lewis, John Ford and Ambrose Collins stopped in West Stockbridge. Colonel Orsamus C. Merrill, successively printer, lawyer and member of Congress, went on to Bennington, Vermont, Oliver Woodruff and Thomas Porter to Tinmouth. In Castleton Nathaniel Hart taught a grammar school, Selah Gridley practiced medicine and wrote poetry, Chauncey Langdon became a judge of probate and Ebenezer Langdon owned a grist mill, Cyrus Porter went to Middlebury, where William G. Hooker was a physician before he removed to New Haven, Connecticut.

"In Poultney lived and died Colonel James Hooker. In Burlington on Lake Champlain resided George Wadsworth and Farmington's ancient tanner and shoemaker, Gabriel Curtis. In Montpelier lived Timothy Merrill, lawyer and Colonel James H. Langdon, a wealthy merchant, who was previously one of the Farmington colony at Windsor. Along the New York state line and partly in Vermont are numerous descendants of the Farmington Hookers the names and virtues of whose ancestors are recorded in all the cemeteries around. Rev. Asabel Norton became pastor of the first church in Clinton and Seth Norton Professor of Languages in Hamilton College in the same place, which previously had been in charge of the Rev. Robert Porter, another native of Farmington and all three graduates of Yale." One might go on giving long lists of Farmington emigrants to the settlement of the wilderness.

One of the great stories of that West, though an oft-told tale, is that of the Connecticut men in the Wyoming Valley where for two hundred miles the Susquehanna River rises and falls with the seasons over one of the most beautiful and fertile valleys in the country, lined with rolling hills, and deep with the rich coal deposits. With a truly royal gesture Charles II in 1662 gave to the Governor and Company of Connecticut all the land of a corresponding width with the state, extending to the Pacific Ocean. And in 1681, knowing little and caring less about the geographical layout of the vast country, he gave to William Penn the land now known as the State of Pennsyl-



vania. In 1760 Connecticut men and their families started settling the Wyoming Valley and some of the most stirring epics of American history have come from this comparatively narrow region.

Settlers were allowed forty acres each there. The Indians were on the side of the British and constantly harrassed the Connecticut people. Later the Pennaites warred on the Connecticut men in their effort to drive them out and each group of settlers constantly appealed to their own Assembly for aid. During the Revolutionary War an urgent appeal to Washington was made, but delayed by lack of available soldiers until too late to prevent the massacre of July 3, 1778. Family tales are still told of those years. Among them is the locally famous one of Katherine Cole Gaylord, wife of Joseph Gaylord of Bristol who somehow escaped from the savages after learning of the killing of her husband, and walked the long distance through the forests, with her three children, to her father's home in Bristol. Her children and children's children have told of the strange wild beasts encountered and of the strange men met on the way, but altho foot sore and threadbare, this courageous woman brought her family through. She lived to be ninety-five years of age and see twenty-five descendants. She is buried in Burlington where a stone marks her grave. Her memory is also honored by the Bristol chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and fully preserved in the prize-winning story of her life written by Mrs. Adrian Muzzy of Bristol. Among other sufferers, Mervin Clark of East Farms district lost a valuable farm and house, barely escaping with the clothes he wore. The family of Deacon John Hurlburt, on their way to their Forty-Fort home, missed the massacre by two days, having been delayed on the way by the death of one of their children. Deacon Hurlburt, an ancestor of Frederick F. Hurlburt of Farmington, bought eight hundred acres running from the banks of the Susquehanna river up into the hills where his family lived for three generations. He was buried in his own orchard there, but now the only vestige of the great farm is the green house-lot in front of great piles of coal slag rising hundreds of feet above the spot where the orchard stood. The Revo-

lutionary Red Inn, famous for a hundred years, is gone and the peaceful cemetery in Hanover with its Revolutionary meeting-house is all that is left to look out over the Wyoming Valley, active now with its great coal-mining industry, continuing in its own way, the busy hum started nearly two hundred years ago.

Any account of the life of the town during these vital years is closely paralleled by an equally necessary story of the life of the church. The "Discourses" by Noah Porter, both father and son, at various intervals in the nineteenth century, are too well known and complete, to require any further word. The "meeting-house" had proved its name in those last stirring years. Now with a new atmosphere of peace, its dignity unruffled, its skirts immaculate, it was equally prepared for the era of prosperity which followed the years of adjustment.

Sure now of the freedom of the seas, and the promise of the wealth of the great and untapped West, Farmington was on a direct path from that West to the seven seas, with all it meant to be in touch with such resources. The homes built after the war, as well as those old ones with their ancient equipment, soon were filled with china, silks, silver, rugs and treasures from around the world, as merchants and farmers here at last learned how to dispose of their great surplus, and trade both east and west.

The war had interrupted for a few years the building and plans of Farmington citizens, but out of it all came a new Being, a new manner of living, a better way of life, and it is to be doubted that even Governor Treadwell, who dropped a tear at the passing of the old way of life, would have had it otherwise.

reduced to writing; rule 11 restrained any other business after a motion was made and seconded, except to amend, commit or postpone; and rule 12 dealt with such members as were out of order, giving the moderator power to decide the case or call on the meeting to do so, but without debate.

December 18, 1837, the townspeople were wroth against the Canal Company and directed the selectmen to insist that the canal embankments and bridges be properly protected with railings. One bridge took the road over the canal at the foot of present Garden Street. There were two sharp turns on the present Waterville Road, one bridge taking the road west of the canal for about the distance of the present golf course, with another sharp turn carrying the road east of the canal. Another bridge near the Deeds gate kept the canal east of the road until the last one carried the road over again, as the canal turned toward the aqueduct and over the Farmington River.

The selectmen were also directed to put the engine house in as good condition as it was before it was moved.

In that year, for the first time in the recorded meetings, we find anxiety concerning the use of intoxicating liquor. As was characteristic with the town fathers, they discussed the matter, and voted.

"Whereas the moral, social, civil and pecuniary interests of the people of this town have suffered and are continuing to suffer serious injury from the habitual and intemperate use of intoxicating liquors among a portion of the community; and whereas it is the duty of the informing, judicial and executive officers to employ all the necessary powers, which the constitution and the laws have entrusted to them for protecting the people against the evil consequences of prevalent vice and crime, so in a special manner, it is their duty to employ these powers in protecting them from the evils of intemperance in particular; inasmuch as this vice is the fruitful source of a vast amount of crime and misery; and is in aggravated forms continually appearing and re-appearing among us; disturbing and destroying the peace of families and neighborhoods, and desperately resisting all the ordinary influences of a mild and moral character which are employed to suppress it; therefore;

"Resolved: That as a town in legal meeting assembled, we pledge ourselves faithfully and firmly to stand by, and support those officers who are, or may be appointed, for the ensuing year, so far as they will faithfully endeavor to support the laws, and especially, so far as they will with integrity and wisdom, enforce the laws against drunkenness, and the irregular sale of intoxicating liquors.

"Yeas 67, Nays 00."

February, 1839, evidently saw great floods, for the selectmen and Sidney Wadsworth were directed to examine the new bridge at Youngs' Mills and report soon on the best method, and cost of repairing the same. It was decided to repair the bridge, "if they can arrange with adjoining proprietors to risk their own property," otherwise to report on the expense of removing the bridge. March 18, 1839, the bridge at Unionville was to be "raised three feet, with the embankments adapted accordingly, to restore it to its former condition, before the late freshet."

January 13, 1840, a license fee of \$100 was voted as required from such persons as sold spiritous liquors, "this vote is offered for the purpose of having the persons who may be licensed pay a fair portion of the extra poverty."

November 23, 1840, the town clerk was directed to record a notice of the "Centennial Celebration" of the settlement of the town, held November 4, 1840.

The Committee for the celebration was representative of Farmington and her daughter towns: for Farmington, Rev. Noah Porter, D.D., Horace Cowles, Esq., Edward Hooker, Esq., Dr. Asahel Thomson, Simeon Hart, Esq.; Avon, Amasa Woodford, Esq., Zerah Woodford, Esq.; West Hartford, John Belden; New Britain, Dr. John R. Lee; Worthington, Dr. Horatio Gridley; Kensington, Roswell Moore; Southington, Stephen Walkley, Esq.; Bristol, Tracy Peck, Esq.; Burlington, William Marks, Esq.

By vote of the town, the program and brief minutes were made a part of the Town Minutes. They were not recorded until 1841 by Deacon Simeon Hart who had been appointed town clerk following the death of Horace Cowles three months



by E. H. Deming, First Selectman, and the entries during that year in the record books are in his fine and delicate handwriting. May 4, 1895, and selectmen were directed to contract with the Berlin Iron Bridge Company for the building of a bridge across the river near Richards Mill. The Berlin Iron Bridge Company's bid, lowest of those received, were "\$4875.00 for one kind of bridge and \$4970.00 for another." Judge Deming, who was first selectman at that time, used to tell the story afterward of the bridge being six inches short at each end. "We had some anxious moments" he would say, "but we finally built the abutments up to the bridge."

Mr. Porter's last election as town clerk was October 7, 1895. At the annual business meeting in April, 1896, the selectmen were instructed to remove the stationary seats in the Unionville town hall, "and if necessary, lay a new floor suitable for Hall purposes and procure portable seats for the use of the Hall."

The usual sum of one hundred dollars was ordered paid to the Quartermaster of Burnside Post to defer expenses of "Memorial Day."

A tax of 12 mills on the dollar was laid.

The last entry was a letter from ~~Sophia C. Porter~~ as administratrix of the estate of Alpheus G. Porter setting forth that the bounty of \$10.00 per month promised by the town in 1863 to all soldiers who reenlisted for three years, or during the war, had never been received. This was referred to the Selectmen.

Thomas Lewis Porter was born in Farmington about 1820 and was baptised in 1822. He was the son of Selah and Sophia Cook Porter. His father lived in the ancient Samuel Cowles house, the second on the left on Colton Road. He was a direct descendant of Thomas Porter, tailor, who had lived on Main Street just opposite the intersection of Colton Road and Main Street, and who had married Sarah Hart. Selah and Sophia Cook Porter had two other sons, John Cook Porter who married Mary Root and had a son Thomas, and Timothy Porter, who lived in the old Porter homestead, later burned in the fire of 1864. Selah Porter died in 1847 or 1848. His widow, Sophia, died May 3, 1865, leaving one half of her estate to Thomas L.

Porter, and one half to her daughter-in-law, Mary, for the use of her grandson Thomas "who live with me."

Mr. Porter married Mrs. Emeline Woodford Deming, widow of Franklin Deming, December 19, 1859. He gave his age as 39 and she gave her age as 47. Mr. Deming had died March 16, 1856. He had built the house on the Unionville Road, known to later generations as the Montieth place. Mrs. Deming brought some wealth to her husband, from her own family and also from her first marriage. She was of the Woodford family of Avon. Her brother Franklin built the house on the corner of High Street and Mountain Road where H. H. Whaples now lives.

Mrs. Porter bought a home on Main Street, now occupied by Mrs. Balazy. Dr. Chauncey Brown had owned and occupied this house for years, having his office in the basement, now hidden by the verandah wall. During the Civil War the Porters adopted a daughter, not only to fill the vacancy of no children of their own, but in order that her father might enlist to fill the quota from East Hartford. Mr. Porter's affairs did not go well and Miss Sarah Porter took over his home. He moved into the Riley house, as it was then known, now in front of the Parsons garage. Miss Porter bought several houses on the corner of Main Street and Hartford Avenue, all old and unsavory in character, and presented the land to the Village Improvement Society for a village park. One of the houses was purchased by Alexander Lawrence who moved it to Waterville Road. His sister used it for her "hat shop" for many years. It is now the property of Charles Henderson. These were the days when Farmington was becoming conscious of its possibilities and defects. Through the leadership of Miss Sarah Porter, The Village Improvement Society enlisted the aid of the men and women of the town, who put on a campaign for better sidewalks, electric street lighting, a sprinkling system for the dusty roads and removal of unsightly saloons and even old houses. The street railway was not allowed on Main Street, and the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company could not use the right-of-way of the old canal for their railroad through the village. They therefore laid as straight a road as possible, making it necessary to use a stage or other vehicle for transportation as the depot was

built about two miles from the village. As most of the students at Miss Porter's School came by train, it was a fairly costly matter, but one which the townspeople heartily agreed with.

The ancient stage, slung on leather straps, with the driver high in front, rumbled and swayed across the meadows from the railroad station to the village meeting every train, until the era of the motor car was well established. It was one of the last stages in existence hereabout and was considered one of Farmington's features, to the travelers who were landed from the train many miles from the village. The stage which had made its daily trips to Hartford, had ceased to exist after the advent of the trolley. In earlier years the arrival of the stage-coach from Hartford or New Haven brought the mail, at first weekly, then as roads improved, oftener, until there was daily service.

The arrival of the stage never ceased to be an exciting event. There was the change of horses, the thirsty driver, the mail pouches with their unknown contents, and above all, the either expected or unknown passengers, with their stylish clothes.

The fare to Hartford was expensive, being one dollar each way, and some of the townspeople walked. One farmer walked in one day as far as the Hartford Railroad Station where he was stopped by a long freight train which was switched from one track to another until the farmer's patience was exhausted. Remembering his waiting farm stock, he left his shopping undone and turning about, walked back to Farmington, to start another day, earlier the next time, for his suit of clothes.

Mrs. Emeline Woodford Porter died August 7, 1898, and is buried in Riverside Cemetery. Mr. Porter, who was Quartermaster Sergeant, 25th Company, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, served in the Civil War from October 20, 1862, to August 26, 1863. He died at Fitch's Home for the Soldiers, Noroton Heights, Connecticut, April 1, 1903, and is buried in Riverside.

*L. Brandegee*

1896-1925

MR. BRANDEGEE was fifty-two years old when he was first elected Town Clerk October 5, 1896. He and Henry N. Whittlesey, former assistant town clerk, were elected auditors at the same election. At the National and State election November 5, the same year, the town had shown a preference by two to one, for Republican candidates. Erastus Gay was elected State Senator, Adrian R. Wadsworth was re-elected Representative, and Edward H. Deming was elected Judge of Probate by 583 votes over his opponent, Marshall P. Ryder of Plainville, who received 100 votes. This was the beginning of a long and popular career as Judge of the Probate Court for Mr. Deming who served with very few interruptions until the age of retirement in 1927.

Under the gentle, but insistent guidance of Mrs. D. Newton Barney, Miss Sarah Porter and Miss Florence T. Gay, the Village was being improved. Miss Gay was responsible for the streets being sprinkled — Mrs. Barney showed her interest by being a member of the Village Improvement Society, and Miss Porter either removed, or remodeled some of the old houses, kept the railroad company from building its tracks along the former Canal bank, also prevented the Hartford and West Hartford Horse Railroad Company from using the Main Street, and was instrumental in bringing the matter of lighting the streets with electricity, before town meetings.

June 12, 1897, it was voted eleven to eight, that the selectmen be authorized to contract with the Hartford and West Hartford Horse Railroad Company to light the streets of Farmington and Unionville for a term of five years at a cost not to exceed

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

## Original Settlers

**WILLIAM ADAMS** was an original proprietor and one of the earliest settlers in Farmington. He lived on the Town Path, (Main street), about opposite the home of Miss Florence T. Gay, the record of ownership being dated 1653.

Little is known of him. He died in Farmington, July 18, 1655 and his widow Elizabeth died two weeks later, on August 3, 1655.

**JOHN ANDREWS** an original proprietor and settler lived about where the Farmington Savings Bank and the home of Miss Florence Gay now stand. He had purchased the land from Thomas Upson, the original owner. The record of ownership was made January 1665, giving land on the south as belonging to Thomas Webster, despite another record showing that Thomas Webster had sold that land in 1651 to John Standly. This demonstrates the difficulty of reconciling ownership and boundary lines, as property was so often held for many years before the deed was shown to the town clerk, from which he made his record. John Steele's home is given on the north although between the time of purchase and record John Andrews had sold the intervening house and lot to Lomas of Windsor who had in turn sold to William Judd.

Benjamin Andrews, son of John, inherited the homestead, under the will of his father, and John's "daughter Marie Barnes was given a black heiffer". This daughter Marie or Mary was Thomas Barnes' second wife, the first wife, Mary, probably executed following her conviction for witchcraft in 1663.

John Andrews was made a freeman of the colony May 20, 1658. He and his son purchased farm land near Nod, and the family have since lived there, keeping the farm in continuous operation by the same family since about 1655. The present homestead is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H.

Andrews and their son Harold. A brother, George Andrews, sold his interest in the farm and retired to live in Farmington Village.

**JOHN BLACKLEACH'S** main claim to fame so far as Farmington goes is that he married Susannah, widow of William Hooker and lived on the property now Oldgate, the Cowles homestead. The town gave him liberty to take up four acres where he could find it without prejudice to former grants. On February 29, 1695-6 John Blackleach sold to Samuel Brownson, son of Richard, eight acres of land on the 'west side of ye east mountayne'.

**JAMES BIRD** lived on the meadow, since known as Bird Hill, now adjacent to the entrance to the home of Philip C. Barney. He married Ledia Steel March 3, 1657. He was made a freeman of the colony May, 1657.

**JOSEPH BIRD** lived in 1666 on the east side of Hartford Road at the end of High street, where the large yellow house belonging to Mrs. Mary Barney Carey now stands. He was made a freeman on the same day as his brother James in 1657. He sold the land on the opposite corner to Thomas Orton. Joseph Bird died 1695.

**THOMAS BARNES** was an original proprietor and settler of Farmington, coming here from Hartford where he had settled and received land by the town's courtesy. He served in the Pequot War and after his removal to Farmington was sergeant of the train band in 1651. He joined the Farmington church January 1652-3, three months after its organization. He lived on the Town Path south of the Old Burying Ground, owning both sides of the road as far as the river on the west. In 1661 he gave land to the town for a burying ground, adding more land on the street in 1687, which was used

until no further ground remained and Riverside cemetery was opened.

Thomas Barnes first wife, Mary, was one of the unfortunate victims of the witchcraft fear. She was tried and convicted January 1663, and probably executed, as the keeper of the Hartford jail, Daniel Garret, was allowed 21s., to be paid for her keep by Goodman Barnes. This represented about three weeks' lodging.

March 23, 1663, less than two months after the probable execution of his first wife, Thomas Barnes and John Andrews drew a pre-nuptial agreement concerning the coming marriage of Mary, daughter of John Andrews, to Thomas Barnes. Mary was about twenty years of age. The agreement read:

March 23, 1662-3

it having pleased the lord in the dispensation of his providans too me and myne soo to order it that thar is lykely to be an afynity betwixt Thomas Barnes of Farmington Towne and John Androos of the same towne by the maryje of the aforesaid Barnes with the daughter of the aforesaid John Androus, the covine and agreement consarning the premysys ar as foullouth:

First that the aforesaid Barnes dos give to his tandar wife his now dwelling hous and orchard and howse lot that is now inclosed, with all the apurtynanses belonging too it, to be at her own dispose deuring the tyme of her naturall lyfe;

2) the aforesaid Barnes dooth covinant too and with the aforesaid John Androus too left to his tandar wife, in case that he shall dye before his wife: I say, to lefe too hur a nice and confortaball myntyanse for her self, acording too the istate that the lord hath or shall bless is with all; and also I doo bynd myself too lefe with my loving wif so much istate as is met and comfortabill for the bringing up of such childrun as the lord shall be pleased to give us, to bring them up according to the Rulls of the gospull.

3) the aforesaid Thomas Barnes doos covinant and agre too and with the aforesaid John Andros that he will lefe his wife hallf the moofabills

in the house, or houseould goods, for his wif to make use of them for hure one comfort deuring the tim of her natarall lif:: and at the end thur of, what shall be remaying of them too returne, too gather with the hous and hom lot and orchard, with the apurtynansis belonging too thum, too be dispose of acording too the last wish and testyment of the aforesaid Thomas Barnes.

4) The aforesaid Thomas Barnes doos covinant, too and with the aforesaid John Andros, too give to his tandar wif a joyntar, that shall be to hur on dispose to give and bequeath to hom she ples after the desces of hur husbun:: it being hur one peculiar rit, which Joyntur contayns a passell of land, by istymashun six achers or les, lying in a passall of land cald the allabow a buting the revire north and on the revur south and on the land of Moses vantras east and west.

5) the aforesaid Thomas Barnes dooth covinant, too and with the afore said John Androus, to put out all his children, exsupting his sun bunjyman barns only; and if thut the aforesaid barns, together with the desire of his wif, shall se it comfurbull and poure to cep his dauter hany barns at home with to be surfuisabil to him untill that she depart her natarall lif or till god shall dispoos of hur in maridg.

This aforesaid wif of Thomas barns hath poure now to give the joyntar abof spusified, or when she ples; but the agre, or agre of it not, too injoy it tull after the deses of the aforesaid barns.

In witness too the promisses I hafe too my hand and synd and delivurd this in the presans of Witness Samm Stell

The Mark \* of Thomas barns  
Two sons and two daughters were born of this marriage. Thomas Barnes died 1681, leaving his homestead on Town Path to his son Joseph who sold it in 1710 to Samuel Hooker, Jr.

The earliest land record we find for Thomas Barnes is in 1650, when he had 10 acres on which his dwelling house with out houses barns yards and garden stood, on Town Path, "through



which a highway lyeth, with the river on the west, Richard Brownson's land on the east, John Tayllcots land south and Moses Ventrus land north." In 1650 Barnes sold "5 acres of land in Pequabuck meadow to Mr. Rodger Nuton". In 1653 Barnes mortgaged his lands and herds in Farmington to Mr. Tayllcott for the payment of 25 pounds.

When Joseph Barnes sold the family homestead to Samuel Hooker, Jr. in 1710 it was bounded on the north by the burying ground, showing that Thomas Barnes lived on the east side of the street, about where Mrs. Stephen Lawrence now lives.

Mary (Andrews) Barnes married for her second husband, Jacob Brownson, son of John Brownson of Farmington.

FRANCIS BROWNE was an original proprietor and settler having his land recorded in February 1655. It was approximately between the present Farmington Country Club and the corner of Waterville Road — William Lewis on the east and Joseph Woodford on the west. There was six acres of wood land adjoining the home lot. Francis Browne soon died or moved away.

JOHN BROWNSON was an original proprietor and settler of Hartford before coming to Farmington in 1641. He was a soldier in the Pequot War and one of the founders of the First Church in Farmington in 1652. With his brother Richard he owned a large part of the land in the triangle formed by Hatters Land and Colton Street and land on the south side of the mountain road now called Diamond Glen Road. At the top of this mountain road the brothers built a mill which was in operation for sawing lumber until 1650 when sold to Stephen Hart, Sr. The remains of the mill can still be seen on the banks of the brook. The last house on the right side of the road is very ancient and was probably one of the mill houses. It was converted into a dwelling house by Mr. H. H. Mason, most of the paneling being remade from the old church pews, discarded 1836 when the interior of the

First Church was rebuilt. The pews were stored 75 years in horsesheds. The pine, dark with age, is flawless, free from knots and 30 inches wide.

In 1650 John Brownson lived on the south side of the Ould Mill road near the present junction of Colton and Diamond Glen Roads with Hatters Lane. A road was attempted thru the swamp known as Porters swamp, which was to be a continuation of Meadow Lane. The road thru the swamp was soon found impractical, and Hatters Lane, also known as the road to the ould mill, used instead. However, occasionally we find a reference to a highway which means none other than the first attempt to travel directly from the fork at Meadow Lane to Brownson's mill, thru the swamp. Streets were not named in those early years except as they acquired a descriptive name from their use or location. Until 1700 there were two roads leading to ye ould mill — the present Colton Street and Hatters Lane.

John Brownson had a daughter, Dorcas, who married Stephen, son of John Hopkins.

RICHARD BROWNSON removed from Hartford to Farmington about 1653, joining the church 1654. He died in Farmington 1687. His first wife was a sister of Margaret, wife of William Pantry, by whom he had at least two children. His widow when he died was Elizabeth widow of George Orvis. He lived on the south side of the mill road about opposite the junction of the present Hatters Lane and Colton Street next west of his brother John. His son John inherited most of his lands.

They built the first mill in Farmington. Remains of the dam, and one of their houses, may be seen at the right of Diamond Glen Road.

DAVID CARPENTER was an original proprietor and settler of Farmington. He died 1650. He sold a house lot to Samuel Gridley, about where the Farmington Lodge now stands. More land in that vicinity was sold to Gridley by Carpenter's widow, Elizabeth who married as her second hus-

band, George Orvis and sold Orvis land there to Gridley also.

David Carpenter's home when he died, and where his children were living 1666 was a "cellar and house lot" on the north side of Hartford Road at the bend called the Willows.

Samuel North owned a parcel of five acres with a house standing thereon, just next west.

JOHN CLARK was living 1667 on the site now occupied by the home of B. O. Judatz, which he probably bought of Robert Willson or his heirs in 1655. Clark died 'at a great age' November 22, 1712.

John Clark served as a juryman before the General Court 1641, but we do not know whether it was the same John Clark who was later a resident of Farmington. There were several of the name in the 17th century, to the great botheration of geneologists.

John Clark had a son John Jr., who in 1705 lived in a house very similar in construction to the Farmington Museum. It was the first house on the left on High Street, from Hartford Road. It was probably built about 1670. The road used as High Street was officially laid out 1672. The house became in bad repair and was razed in 1880.

WILLIAM CORBE bought land on Hartford Path from Richard Jones. It was the large field just east of the Barney Red Cottage and barn. In 1660 Corbe sold his lot and dwelling house to Samuel North, who lived there for many years. Before buying the Hartford Path lot, Corbe owned land on Mill highway, "Colton Street" which he sold to Richard Jones.

Corbe removed to Haddam in 1660.

JOHN COWLES was one of the principal proprietors and settlers of Farmington, removing later to Hadley, Massachusetts where he died. His will was dated December 11, 1676. His land recorded in Farmington 1650 and January 22, 1666 he bought of Thomas Dement or Dimon, with a dwelling house, barns, gardens, and orchards. It was at the junction of "the highway

to ould mill and highway leading to south end of town" and to the north was "the meting house loot and land". This is of particular interest as it is the first reference we have of a meeting house in existence as early as 1666, and giving the added valuable information as to its location on the present meeting house green.

John Cowles was one of the seven men who organized the First Church. He married Mehitable, youngest daughter of Deacon Stephen Hart and his son Samuel inherited much of his property including the homestead. Over one hundred years later the land was still in the family, Amos Cowles having a tavern on the land between the present Churchill and Holcombe houses.

John Cowles had a daughter, Esther, whose romahce with Deacon Thomas Bull became a matter for the General Court before it came to a happy end. More will be seen of that in the chapter on Deacon Bull.

The will of John Cowles's widow gives her name as Hannah. She mentions sons John and Samuel and daughters Hannah Standly, Ester Bull, Elizabeth Lyman, Mary Dickinson and Sarah Goodwin.

She died March 16, 1683.

SAMUEL COWLES was son of John Cowles and Mehitable (Hart) Cowles. He lived on the north side of 'the highway to the ould mill' now Colton Street, in the house now belonging to Miss Margaret Brady. He was married June 17, 1660 to Abigail daughter Timothy and Elizabeth (—) Standly. Seven sons were born to them and grew to manhood. They were: Samuel the eldest, Timothy, John, Nathaniel, Isaac, Joseph and Caleb.

Samuel Cowles inherited the homestead of his father John Cowles and here again we find in the boundary the "meting house loot and land" on the north. This record was made in 1671. It was not to become his however, until after the death of his mother Mehitable.

ABRAHAM DIBBELL was the first owner of the corner lot where the Barney Red Cottage now stands on Mountain Spring Road and Hartford

Road. He and his wife joined the Farmington Church April 20, 1663. He sold his homestead in 1672 to Zachary Seymour and removed to Haddam. Matthew Woodruff later bought this triangular lot with the pasture back of it known as Dirty Hole lot and probably built the present house about 1716.

**THOMAS DEMON (DIMON or DEMENT)** was one of the original proprietors and settlers of the Town. His first recorded home was at the east corner of Main Street and Hartford Road, now the Park, which he sold to William Smith. He then lived on a road, now discontinued and disappeared, which ran along the north side of the Bull lot from Colton Street to the top of the Mountain. Demon later sold this homestead to Samuel Cowles and removed to East Hampton. This road to the mountain was used at that time, not only for the homes there (John Wyat also lived on this road) but John Hart, John Wadsworth and John Lankton had right of way over this road to their land on the mountain. Thomas Demon recorded his house lot on the road to the mountain, with its right of way on January 22, 1666.

**SAMUEL GRIDLEY**, second son of Thomas and Mary (Semmor or Seymour) Gridley and brother of Thomas Gridley, lived at the south end of Main Street on land purchased from George Orvis. ~~Daniel Porter's~~ land was on the south. The Gridley lot extended from the east side of Main Street to the mountain. The Farmington Lodge is now about on the site of the Gridley house. Samuel died 1712 aged 54 years, leaving a widow Mary to whom one-third of the homestead was given, Joseph the fourth son received one-third, Thomas one-ninth, Nathan the 6th son was given one-ninth and Hezekiah the seventh son one-ninth.

**THOMAS GRIDLEY** was the elder son of Thomas and Mary (Semmor or Seymour) Gridley who were married in Hartford September 29, 1644. Mary was probably the sister of Richard Seymour the emigrant, of Hartford.

Thomas Gridley Sr. died in Hartford June 12, 1655, leaving his widow and three children, Thomas aged 8, Samuel aged 5 and Mary aged 3, with the request that his friend Deacon John Langdon pay his debts and care for his children. Deacon Langdon married Mary Gridley as his second wife and they lived in the Langdon home now the north part of the W. S. Cowles homestead.

Thomas Gridley Jr. married Elizabeth Clark on December 25, 1679. Their home was on the north corner of Hatters Lane and Main Street and recorded about 1680 as having been given to Thomas Gridley by his 'Father-in-law John Langton (his mother's second husband) and was one acre on the north side of the highway leading to ye ould mill'.

The vital records give a pathetic story of the children born to Thomas and Elizabeth:

"1st child of Thomas Gridley born and died June 1681.

2nd child of Thomas born and died Sept. 1682.

3rd child of Thomas born and died June 1683.

Samuel born March 1686-7.

Mary born January 1688-9.

Thomas last child of Thomas Sr. born Mar. 1696.

Thomas his wife Elizabeth died April 1686."

**ELDER WILLIAM GOODWIN** an original proprietor and settler in Hartford was also an original proprietor of Farmington. The only record we find of land recorded in his name in Farmington was that east of the Farmington river on highway leading to North Meadow Gate, sold 1645 to Thomas Newell, and land in the great meadow on the road to Crane Hall. Goodwin was one of the committee appointed to purchase Farmington, and was one of the trustees of the school fund left to the colony under the will of Governor Edward Hopkins. He was a close friend of Thomas Hooker's and after Hooker's death, removed in 1659 to Hadley with Governor Webster and others of the first church who differed as to the doctrines to be practiced. He was rul-

ing elder of the Hadley church for ten years, thereafter making his home in Farmington. He died in Farmington March 11, 1673 and his widow Susanna, widow of Thomas Hooker, died in Farmington May 17, 1676. There is no record in Farmington of any other land than these two pieces owned in 1645 by Goodwin. He and Susanna made their home with Rev. Samuel Hooker, son of Susanna, who had been pastor of the First Church here since 1661.

William Goodwin's only child, by his first wife, was Elizabeth, who married John Crow of Hartford and Hadley. They had eleven children, all of whom were prominent in the colony. Samuel Crow, the tenth child married May 17, 1671, Hannah, daughter of Captain William Lewis of Farmington, and was slain at Fall's Fight May 18, 1676. Hannah married as her second husband, Daniel, son of John Marsh of Hartford.

**CAPTAIN JOSEPH HAWLEY** lived on the west side of Mountain Spring Road, midway between John Woodruff on the corner and the ~~Thomas Thomson~~ land on the top of the hill.

January 6, 1708-9 he sold an acre of land with a mansion to ~~Thomas Porter~~ son of ~~Robert~~, which he had bought July 12, 1701 of Thomas North. It was on the corner of Mountain Spring Road and Hartford Path.

It was he who presented for record in 1713, the ancient parchment deed given by ~~Governor Welles~~ to his daughter ~~Ann~~ on her marriage to ~~Thomas Thomson~~ in 1646. Captain Hawley was the son of ~~Samuel Hawley~~ and Mary, daughter of Thomas and ~~Ann (Welles) Thomson~~ and was born in Farmington June 6, 1675. He died November 20, 1752.

Captain Hawley was active and courageous in war or in peace. He was a leader of church music and captain of the train band, a position which ranked in importance next that of the minister.

**THOMAS HOSMER** was entitled to land as an original proprietor, but apparently did not take it as in 1672 it was given by the town to Mr. Simon

Wrothum. Hosmer lived in Hartford where he had come in 1636. His home was at the south end of Governor Street. He was prominent in town affairs and his children married into the Bushnell family in Hartford, the Willard family in Wethersfield and the Rev. Thomas Buckingham family in Saybrook.

**DEACON STEPHEN HART** was an original proprietor and settler of Farmington, following like proprietary position in Hartford and Cambridge. He was in Cambridge in 1632 and made a freeman there in 1634. He was one of the founders and one of the first deacons of the First Church of Christ in Farmington, being elected deacon October 13, 1652 the date of the organization of the church. He was deputy from Farmington 1647 to 1655 and again in 1660. He was one of the eighty-four proprietors of the town at their organization in 1672 and was one of the largest land owners in the town. He had a fifteen acre home lot on Town Path his house being across the Main Street from the present church. His land extended to the river where he maintained the first grist mill on the site of the present mill, if indeed, the present mill is not a part of the original mill. His land was bounded in 1643 on the north by the home lot of Thomas Upson, soon sold to John Lee and on the south by land of ~~Thomas Porter~~, son-in-law to Stephen, and as the Hart children married he built houses for them on each side of his own home.

In 1650 he owned "the psell belonging to ye ould mill on the mountain with the swamp out of which came the mill water, given to John Brownson by the country".

Stephen Hart was the great patriarch of Farmington. His land extended from the river to the foot of the mountain, with the exception of that reserved for church and school. He owned farm land in mountain and meadow, and the saw mill on the mountain as well as the grist mill on the river.

The name of his first wife is unknown. He married (2) Margaret widow of Joseph Nash and before him of Arthur Smith. He died March 16



1682-3 aged 77 years. Of his children his son John was the eldest of three sons. He married Sarah — and lived next south of his father. He and two of his children lost their lives in the fire which destroyed their home December 1666. Stephen the second son lived on Mountain Road east of the church. The name of his wife is unknown. He died 1689 leaving seven children. Thomas the youngest child born 1643, perhaps in Farmington, married Ruth, daughter of the wealthy and prominent Mr. Anthony Hawkins. He was given his father's homestead on February 24, 1668, where he lived in the north half of the house. Sarah the eldest child, married Thomas Porter and lived in the second house south of her father. Mary the second child, married John Lee and as her second husband, Jedidiah Strong. She lived next north of her father on what is now property of the Porter School. Mehitable married John Cowles and lived across the street from her father, at the corner of present Colton Road. Thus Deacon Stephen kept his children near him with their families, most of whom he remembered in his will.

THOMAS HANCOX had land in Farmington in 1680 consisting of one hundred acres on the Matabesick River which he had bought of Thomas Bell of Stonington. Bell had inherited the land from Samuel Stone who married Susannah daughter of Rev. Roger Newton.

Hancox had children born in Farmington. His son John, to whom he later gave his land, was born in Farmington August 1, 1688, Thomas born March 13, 1685-6, William born March 2, 1690-1, Daniel born January 1, 1694-5 and daughter Rachel born February 7, 1692-3.

His land as recorded, all lay in the section of the town toward Kensington and Wethersfield.

JOHN HART son of Deacon Stephen Hart was an original proprietor and settler of Farmington. He lived just next south of his father's house on the west side of Main Street, about where the Barbour and Creamer houses now

stand, with his brother-in-law and sister, Thomas and Sarah Porter, next south. His house burned December 1666, and according to the Hart Genealogy, he and his wife and two children lost their lives in this fire, and it is also stated that the town records were burned.

We know that the town records were not burned, as they are still in existence in the town clerk's office. No one has disputed the death of John Hart's wife, but it would appear that she did not die in the fire, having the homestead land recorded to her as the "Relict of John Hart," on February 21, 1668 — "One parcell on which ye dwelling-house did stand & barns & orchards & gardens containing by estimation four acres given him by his father Hart east on highway north part on father Harts orchard & pt on Thomas Harts field & south on Thomas Porters land".

At the time of the organization of the body of Proprietors in 1672 the "Estate of John Hart" was one of that body. Only one child survived the tragedy. The son John, born 1655, being at the Hart Farm in Nod on that awful night, was thus spared. We can picture too well, the horror of the burning house on the cold December night, with Mrs. Hart being rescued, but John Hart and two of his children perishing. The father, Stephen lived next door to the north, where the red (Hart) house now stands, a sister Mehitable married to John Cole (Cowles) lived just across the street, another sister Sarah married to Thomas Porter lived next house south, another sister Mary married to John Lee, lived two houses north of the father, a brother Thomas lived about where the town hall stands. There was one more brother Stephen, who lived on the south side of mountain road about where High Street intersects.

The young son John married Mary, daughter of Isaac and Ruth (Standley) Moore and became prominent in town affairs. There is more of him as he was later town clerk.

JOHN HAYNES, first governor of the Colony of Connecticut, born in Eng-

land, came to New England in the "Griffin," arriving September 3, 1633, with Rev. Thomas Hooker. He was an original proprietor of Hartford, also of Farmington, but did not live in Farmington. His land as recorded in the book of records was "a parcell for a house lot on which a barn and other out houses standeth with yards, containing 5 acres bounded by a highway leading to the Great Meadow Gate on the south, and the highway into the littel meadow on the west and on Thomas Newells land on the east and littel meadow on the north".

The land is that just east of the Farmington River bridge, on the north side of the Hartford Road and extends about as far as Garden Street. The "littel meadow" is now the Farmington Golf Club links and the highway to the west can still be distinguished beside the river, although not used since the present Waterville road was opened for use.

John Haynes also owned land in Great Meadow beyond the river, and in little meadow. He does not rank as a settler of Farmington.

SAMUEL HAYES was one of the early owners of land, ranking as a proprietor but not appearing as a settler. He married Elizabeth daughter of Isaac and Ruth (Stanley) Moore. He owned two acres of land in Indian Neck, given him by his 'father Moore' as appeared by a deed of gift bearing date May 12, 1695.

It is interesting to speculate as to whether Mr. Luke Hayes, second school-teacher in Farmington, so far as we know, was son of Samuel and Elizabeth Hayes. He was of the right age and sufficiently well thought of to be teacher here for several years.

REV. SAMUEL HOOKER was one of two sons of Rev. Thomas Hooker, his brother John remaining in England. All by the name of Hooker in this country are probably descended from Thomas through Samuel.

He was graduated from Harvard College in 1653, and preached for a short time in Plymouth, Mass. He married there September 22, 1658, Mary,

daughter of Captain Thomas Willet, afterward first mayor of New York. Samuel Hooker was ordained at Farmington 1661 and was the second pastor of the Congregational Church, following Rev. Roger Newton, his brother-in-law. He was appointed one of a committee of four persons to arrange a union of the colonies of New Haven and Hartford in 1662. He died at Farmington November 5-6, 1697 after a brilliant and successful pastorate of thirty-six years.

His widow married Rev. Thomas Buckingham of Saybrook.

There is no record of Samuel Hooker acquiring the homestead where he lived for thirty-six years, except that in 1662 when John and Sarah Wilson sold the former Governor Edward Hopkins farm to John Root, the north boundary was given as land of Rev. Samuel Hooker, where formerly the boundary had been that of Rev. Roger Newton's land.

Rev. Samuel Hooker's land at his decease was described as bounded west on Town Street east by land of heirs of Dr. Daniel Porter north by highway (Hatters Lane) and south by land of Nathaniel Hooker, and was not to be divided until after the death of Mrs. Hooker.

In the partial distribution of his estate April 18, 1698 there was set out to Susannah Hooker, daughter of William Hooker deceased, and granddaughter of Samuel "all those housing & lands which had been in the custody of her father William Hooker deceased" — Susannah, wife of Nathan Silleck of Stamford "received one parcel of land in Town of Farmington being a homestead whereon standeth a dwellinghouse well finished near ye house where her grandfather lived and dyed. Sd lott containeth 6 or 7 acres more or less and is bounded easterly by the town street & in part by land of John Langdon, west by the river, north with land of Langdon & southerly with the lands leading into the Pequabuck Meadow."

Ann, widow of William Phillips, left a bequest of 10 pounds to Rev. Samuel Hooker, and an equal sum to Sara

Hooker Wilson and also the same amount to John Hooker in England, if he would come to New England to live. This he did not do.

EDWARD HOPKINS was the second elected governor of Connecticut and served alternately with John Haynes, no man being allowed to serve continuously, this being too much like the royal right of kings from which the colonists were determined to escape. Mr. Hopkins was one of the original purchasers of the town of Farmington but did not live here. He was an original proprietor and settler in Hartford. His land in Farmington was recorded in his name as an original proprietor. It was located on Town Path, now Main Street where the Root homestead and the Wilmarth Lewis home now stand, and had a farm house, fruit trees and gardens. It was left by Hopkins in his will at his death in 1657 to Sarah (Hooker) Wilson, daughter of Rev. Thomas Hooker. According to tradition it was used as a meeting place for the members of the First Church after the resignation of their pastor, Rev. Roger Newton in 1657. Sarah Hooker Wilson never lived there, having settled in Medfield, Massachusetts in 1651 when her husband, Rev. John Wilson was ordained as the first pastor of the first church there, where he served forty years, until his death in 1691. In 1662 Sarah and John Wilson sold the Hopkins farm to John Roote, and it remained in the Root family until December 1941.

In the record of ownership recorded to Governor Edward Hopkins we find: "Jan. 1653. In the Jurisdiction of Coneckkiott Land in Farmington belonging to Edw. Hopkins and his heirs lawfully begotten of his body forever. Viz. One psell of land on which a mesuarg or teniment now standeth with other out houses yarges or gardins therein being containing by estimation tenn acres be it more or less abutting on John Warners land on the south and on Mr. Newtons land on the North."

Governor Hopkins returned to England and to lucretive positions there. He died in London 1657, and left be-

quests for education of children in Hartford. Hopkins Street and the Hopkins High School in Hartford are named in his honor. He was also generous with the surviving members of the Hooker family. Beside the farm to Sarah, he left cash bequests to Samuel, the eldest child of Roger and Mary Newton and such debts as were due from Mrs. Susannah Hooker to him. Genealogists have tried to find a family connection which would explain the close friendship between the Hooker family and Governor Hopkins, but there seems to be none.

ANTHONY HAWKINS lived in 1666 on the east side of Hartford road, about opposite the former red schoolhouse, on land now owned by Mrs. Mary Barney Carey. His daughter Ruth by a first marriage, born in Windsor, October 24, 1649, married Thomas Hart 3rd son and youngest child of Deacon Stephen Hart. Mr. Hawkins only son died childless. He married (2) before May 6, 1656 Ann (Welles) Thomson, daughter of Governor Thomas Welles and widow of Thomas Thomson, who died April 25, 1655. Anthony and Ann Hawkins had a daughter Sary, baptised in Farmington 1657. Ann Hawkins died 1680. Mr. Hawkins died 1673.

Mr. Hawkins was a distinguished resident of the town. He was named as one of the nineteen "truly & well beloved petitioners" to whom his majesty Charles second granted the charter of Connecticut. Much of his life was spent in public service. He was on the jury at Hartford frequently from 1645 to 1649 — from 1657 to 1665 a Deputy to the General Court and from 1666 to 1673 an assistant. Following the formation of Hartford County in 1666 he was a commissioner for Farmington, empowered thereby to relieve the county court of small cases. He was given 400 acres of land as compensation for his public service, he to take the land where it would not prejudice any other owner. He served in King Philip's War, being ordered to raise a company of soldiers at Farmington for the defense of Hadley May, 1676.

WILLIAM HITCHCOCK or Hicock, with many various spellings, was an original proprietor and settler, but died soon. His land was sold before 1665 to Robert Porter, being recorded March 1665 in Porter's name. It was a parcel on which a dwelling house stood with barns, gardens and orchards containing five acres divided by the town highway running from the north to the south end of the town. John Lee lived just south and John Standly lived next north. This land has remained in the Porter family since that time. It is the part of the Porter School now occupied by the brick school store and apartments.

RICHARD JONES and William Corbe exchanged house lots about 1660, Richard Jones taking Corbe's house lot on 'the mill highway' (Colton Street), and Corbe taking Jones former house lot on the Hartford Road. Jones first home lot, on Hartford Road was of five acres, on the north side of Hartford Road, with land of Abrahan Dibbel on the west where later Zachariah Seymour and Nathaniel Woodruff lived, and on the east was land of Richard Walton, later the home of Thomas North. It is now the large field just east of the Barney Red cottage and barn. When sold to Corbe there was no building on the land. Jones took Corbe's land, of three acres, with a 'tenement' standing on it, on the north side of Mill highway, about where the Bull lot now is. Richard Jones removed to Haddam. A Mary Jones married Thomas Barnes, in 1690, probably both were children of the original settlers.

THOMAS JUDD was one of the first settlers and an original proprietor of the town of Farmington. He was one of the seven organizers of the Church of Christ, October 13, 1652. He married Sarah, a daughter of John Steele Sr., and lived next to Mr. Steele. His home was about where now stands the former home of John H. Thompson. John Steele Sr. lived next south and John Steele Jr. lived next north of Thomas Judd. Judd later removed with his family to Northampton.

WILLIAM JUDD married Mary daughter of John Steele. He owned as pasture the hilltop now the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace Riddle, with a right-of-way west of his dwelling house, shared later with Benjamin Judd. His house stood west of the present Riddle farmhouse. Judd later sold to John Norton Jr.

BENJAMIN JUDD married Susanna North January 18, 1693-4. He and Samuel lived in High Street where Mrs. Riddle's house 'The Gundy' now stands and the house, formerly two separate houses were probably both built by the Judds who owned the land from High Street to the mountain.

THOMAS JUDD owned the large pasture and barn yards now part of the Riddle farm. He lived at the bend of the Hartford Road in the house formerly occupied by Mr. Anthony Hawkins.

NATHANIEL KELLOGG was an original proprietor and one of the earliest settlers in Farmington, coming here from Hartford where he was also a proprietor. He and his wife Elizabeth joined the church in Farmington January 20, 1653. Kellogg lived on the Hartford road just east of William Lewis Jr., (now Elm Tree Inn) in the house later owned and occupied by John Norton Sr. Kellogg also owned other large tracts on land in pasture and meadow and mountain, and several acres between the Main Street and High Street.

He died 1657. His will mentions his wife Elizabeth, brother John, sister Jane Hallison and sister Rachel Cave, all dwelling in old England, his adopted daughters Susan Newton and Rebecca Merval. Rev. Roger Newton had a daughter Susanna who would have been about eight or ten years old at this time and we wonder if Nathaniel Kellogg, childless, chose to call this child his 'daughter'. We find no record of adoption, and must remember that terms of relationship in those years were used with more affection than actual truth. Kellogg also remembered in his will his 'cousin Joseph

Kellogg's three children', who are the ancestors of many distinguished men of that name today.

**DEACON JOHN LANKTON** was not an original proprietor of Farmington, but was an early settler and one of the substantial and leading citizens of the town. His first recorded land was "land bought from Rev. Roger Newton, Thomas Barnes and Richard Brownson through which the highway runs north and south, bounded south by Samuel Hooker and highway running to old millplace, north part on Thomas Barnes and Richard Brownson and west on river and Newtons land." This record was made in 1665 and states that the land was bought in 1650. This is valuable in that it shows us that in 1650 Rev. Roger Newton lived on the east side of the street midway between the present Hatters Lane and the old right of way into the swamp, — it also tells us that in 1665 when the record was made, Newton had sold or given his land to his brother-in-law, Rev. Samuel Hooker, who had been pastor of the church since 1661 and who lived in the former Newton house.

John Lankton had also bought land formerly belonging to John Talcott, later of Thomas Barnes and land of Richard Brownson, to make up his holdings there. He gave one acre on the opposite corner, now the corner of Hatters Lane and Main Street, to his 'son-in-law' Thomas Gridley for a house lot. When the elder Thomas Gridley was dying he asked his friend John Lankton, to administer his estate, pay the bills and care for his three children, — Thomas aged eight, Samuel aged five and Mary aged three years. Thomas Gridley Jr. married Elizabeth Clark December 25, 1679 and in 1680 John Langton gave him a house lot with a dwelling house on it. John Lankton married Mary (Semmor or Seymour) Gridley, widow of Thomas Sr.

John Lankton lived in this house on land now facing Hatters Lane. He also owned land further south on the Main street about where John Curtin now lives. Here his son Joseph baptised March 18, 1659, probably lived as he married Susannah Root of Farmington

October, 1683. And here also John Lankton's daughter Elizabeth lived, in a leanto with half the cellar, orchards and half the barn. Deacon Lankton died 1689 leaving a grandson John, son of his own son John deceased; heirs of his son Samuel, his son Joseph and daughter Elizabeth. The grandson John, left to his aunt Elizabeth's care, died November 1690 aged eight years and his share of his grandfather's estate went to Elizabeth, who on or before December 7, 1692 married Luke Hayes, the second schoolmaster in Farmington. Elizabeth Langton Hayes died 1703 and Hayes later married Maudlin Daniels who had previously been married to Samuel Street of Wallingford, second to Frank Freeman of Farmington a negro who held elective offices in the town. After the death of Luke Hayes in 1712 Maudlin married Dennis Hoogins of Ireland and the records show that she was Maudlin Hoogins a woman of property in the town. In his will, Luke Hayes did not leave any of his property to Maudlin, leaving all that he had inherited from his first wife Elizabeth, to her brother Joseph Lankton, and all other property to Lieutenant John Stanly and Lieutenant Samuel Wadsworth. Maudlin objected and retained as attorney John Hart. Both she and Hart were ordered by the court to produce property of the estate of Luke Hayes which they were believed to be withholding, but it profited Maudlin little, as she received none of the Hayes and Lankton estates. Hayes had property of his own in pasture, farm land and orchard as well as a small library of Latin and other school books.

John Lankton's son Joseph was named executor of his father's will and given the homestead (now part of the W. S. Cowles place). Joseph and his wife Susannah (Root) had a son Joseph born 1688, married December 24, 1713 to Rachel Cowles. On December 25, 1713 Joseph Sr. gave his son as wedding and Christmas present three acres of land with a new house next to his own, about where the former Barbour house now stands. One acre had been his own and two acres he bought January 1713 from Thomas Barnes. At his death

Joseph Lankton Sr., willed to his son Ebenezer "on whom he depended in his last years" his ancestral homestead. The new William Hooker house stood just next south, between Lankton's and Meadow road.

Ebenezer Lankton was born July 17, 1701 and on November 30, 1727 married Jemima Cowles.

**JOHN LOMAS (LOOMIS)** sold his dwellinghouse with its barns, out-houses, orchards and gardens in 1655 to Samuel Lomas. This had been purchased from John Andrews. In 1659 Samuel Lomas or Loomis as it is now spelled, sold to William Judd and both John and Samuel removed to Windsor. The property so transferred had land of both Samuel and John Steele on the north and the homestead of John Andrews on the south and stood about where the E. H. Cady house now stands.

**JOHN LEE SR.**, lived on the west side of the Main street, known as Town Path, on land he bought of Thomas Newell and Nathaniel Kellogg recorded in his own name January 10, 1653, thus becoming a proprietor and early settler. He married 1658 Mary, second daughter of Deacon Stephen Hart and lived about where the Main House of the Porter School now stands, having seven acres of land, extending to the river with orchards and gardens. He had other large tracts of land in Nod (Avon), the Division against Wethersfield, common land given him by the town, and pasturage in first mountain and in the second meadow.

His daughter Mary assisted her father in teaching Indian children and keeping the older Indians obedient to the rules laid down by the colonists for their conduct in the town.

John Lee's first child, John was born 1659. John Lee joined the Farmington church 1660. He died 1690. His widow married (2) Jedediah Strong of Northampton, Mass. January 5, 1692 as his third wife. Her daughter, Tabitha Lee married Jedediah's son, Preserved Strong October 23rd, 1701.

Mary (Hart) Lee Strong met her death in this wise, according to the

published record "John Lee of Farmington": "Jedediah Strong and wife set out early in the morning to visit their children in Coventry, Ct., but at the Falls in South Hadley the horse's feet slipped up and he fell flat on the off side, and by the fall killed the woman who died next day October 10, 1710. She is probably buried in Northampton cemetery."

**WILLIAM LEWIS** was the second town clerk of Farmington and a chapter is devoted to him. He lived where the Elm Tree Inn now stands, part of the house now being a part of the Inn and furnished with Colonial primitives. It was built about 1666 according to Isham and Brown, that date coinciding with the record of purchase.

**RENOLD MARVIN** was an original proprietor and settler of Hartford. He lived in Farmington on the site of the house now occupied by W. W. Hoppin, Jr., owned by Mrs. Anne Burr Lewis. In 1653 he sold his land and dwelling house to John Warner and removed to Saybrook.

**MATTHEW MARVIN** came to New England in 1634 in the "Increase" with his wife and five children. He was an original proprietor and settler of Hartford where he died in 1687. He was an original proprietor in Farmington, his land being ten acres of meadow sold before 1655 to Nathaniel Kellogg.

**NICHOLAS MASON** was an original proprietor of the town having ten acres in the Little Meadow (now Farmington Golf Club links) which he sold to John North January 1653.

**ISAAC MOORE** was living in Farmington as a proprietor and settler about 1645. He was entered for passage on the "Increase" in 1635 'aged 13' on the same voyage with John Warner, Mathew Marvin and others who were his life long friends in the new country. He lived on Hartford road on the site where the Farmington Country Club now stands. He married Ruth Standly December 5, 1645. She was the sister of John Standly, builder of the old house



on High Street now the Farmington Museum, who on the same day, married Sarah Scott daughter of Thomas Scott.

Isaac Moore was granted twenty acres with a spring on it, by the town in 1656, this land about equally divided by a path, later called High Street, half of which he later exchanged with John Standly. Isaac Moore took part of Standley's land on the west side of High Street about opposite the present Museum, and conveyed his land, on the east side of High Street where the Museum now stands, to Standly, who about 1666 or 1668, built the house which still stands. After the death of Captain John Standly his son sold the house and 5 acres to Ebenezer Steele, retaining land back of the house for a wood lot. The Riddle property now embraces this wood lot and spring.

In 1649 Isaac and Ruth Moore removed to Norwalk, their house being occupied successively by Andrew Warner and later by William Lewis. Isaac and Ruth Moore returned to Farmington again in 1660. Their daughter Elizabeth married Samuel Hayes, daughter Ruth married John Norton Jr., and daughter Mary married Captain John Hart, only child to survive in the family of John Hart who lost their lives in the fire which destroyed their home.

JOHN NORTON Sr. lived in the house, probably still standing, now second east from the Elm Tree Inn, which in 1670 was the home of William Lewis.

April 22, 1697 he gave his son Thomas, his dwelling house with lot of twelve acres, barns, outhouses, gardens and orchards, except the cornfield given to his son John. The homestead so given had land of the heirs of John Orton on the east, west land of the heirs of Captain William Lewis and south on the highway leading to Hartford, north on land of William Lewis.

John Norton Jr. lived across the street from his father, where B. O. Judatz now lives. Jonathan Smith lived west of him (now the Park). High Street was east and land belonging to

Benjamin and William Judd south. On March 26, 1708 this homestead was given to his son John Norton 3rd, and John Norton Jr., lived on the south side of Hartford road near Poke Brook.

John Norton Sr. had a daughter Sarah, who married Samuel Newell October 8, 1710, a son Samuel who died August 20, 1659. He left a widow Elizabeth who died November 5, 1702.

THOMAS NEWELL was one of the original proprietors and was also a first settler. He bought a house lot with a dwelling house, barns, and gardens, orchards and all the edifices together with boards and palles (paling) for building, from William Goodwin and John Crow in 1645. January 7, 1686 his son Samuel Newell recorded this homestead as his own, as having been given him by his father. It was 'bounded south on the highway leading to the North Meadow Gate, north by Captain William Lewis, west on Mister Hains and east on Joseph Woodfords land.'

Thomas Newell was the founder of the Newell family, famous for its leadership and attainments in every generation.

Thomas' son Samuel married Mary, eldest daughter of Captain Thomas and Ruth (Hawkins) Hart, December 20, 1683. Mary (Hart) Newell died April 28, 1752, aged 86 years. Samuel died February 15, 1753 aged 92 years. They had seven children. Their eldest son Samuel, born February 19, 1686 married Sarah daughter of John and Ruth (Moore) Norton March 1, 1710 and lived at Newell Corners Southington. They were the parents of Samuel who married Mrs. Mary (Hart) Root, widow of Timothy Root, and who was the first pastor of the Congregational Church in Bristol.

Thomas Newell gave his son Samuel a fifteen acre parcel of land for plowing and planting north of his homestead with "a convenient way for carts and carriages". This was probably the beginning of the present Avon Road now known as College Highway.

JOHN NORTH was an original proprietor and early settler in Farmington. In January 1653 he recorded three

roads of land on Main street Town Path which he bought of Samuel Steell. This home site was the second from Hartford Road and extended halfway eastward toward High Street, not then laid out.

DEACON THOMAS ORTON settled first in Windsor being there in 1649. His land in Farmington in 1656 was on the east side of Main Street, just north of Robert Porter's land as it extended across the street from his home, making the Orton homestead about where Robert Porter Keep now lives. Thomas Orton also recorded in 1656 five acres with a tenement thereon bought of Joseph Bird. He later built a house there which stood until demolished in 1915 by F. P. Swanston, who built a new house on the site of the old one. This Orton house was lined with brick, probably brought from England as ballast and in 1704 was one of the seven houses ordered fortified against the Indians. Other houses to be so fortified were those of William Lewis, Hawkins Hart, John Wadsworth, James Wadsworth, John Hart and Samuel Wadsworth.

GEORGE ORVIS was an original proprietor and settler of Farmington. He died here 1664 and his widow Elizabeth married Richard Brownson as his second wife, it being her third marriage. She was first the wife of David Carpenter. In 1677 Orvis's land and homestead were sold by his widow Elizabeth as executrix of his estate, to Elizabeth (Upson) Scott, as executrix of the estate of Thomas Upson. The Orvis homestead so sold was on the east side of Main Street about opposite present Tunxis Street.

ROBERT PORTER, an original proprietor and settler in Farmington was one of the seven men who organized the Church of Christ in Farmington October 13, 1652. He lived on land where now stands the brick store and apartments of the Porter School. He married Mary, daughter of Thomas Scott November 7, 1644 and was probably one of the first to settle in Farmington. He did not have his land recorded until 1665.

The birth of Mary, daughter of Robert Porter, born February 24, 1646, is one of the first recorded births in Farmington.

His son Thomas, born 1650 was a professional tailor and continued the business of his brother John who died at the age of twenty-three.

Thomas married Abigail daughter of Samuel and Abigail (Stanley) Cowles. He inherited his father's property. He had a son William who married Mary daughter of Joseph Smith June 14, 1711, and his father Thomas gave him the wood lot at the corner of High Street and Mountain Road. There was no mention in the deed of a house. William probably built the old house so similar in construction to the Farmington Museum, which stood on that location. It was moved to the east by a later owner and burned January 15, 1886. William had two sons. Captain Joseph inherited the homestead and kept a famous tavern there. David married Anna Judd.

Miss Sarah Porter wrote in "Noah Porter A Memorial by Friends"—'Robert Porter, one of the eighty-four proprietors who settled Farmington in 1640, himself the son of a Puritan minister in England, who, on account of his non-Conformity, had been ejected from the Established Church. Four successive generations were born in the Farmington homestead of Robert Porter, and three of its owners died there, all having lived to an advanced age. They were farmers of moderate means, God-fearing, upright, respected men.' The Rev. Noah Porter, for sixty years pastor of the First Church here, was of the fifth generation from Robert Porter.

THOMAS PORTER an original proprietor and settler here, married November 20, 1644, Sarah, daughter of Deacon Stephen Hart. They joined the church in Farmington August 19, 1653. They lived on the southernmost part of the homelot of Deacon Stephen Hart, about where the home of the late Judge Edward H. Deming stands, opposite Colton Street. The Porter house stood there until the great fire in 1866. Thomas Porter was supposed



to be a brother of Robert Porter also an original settler here in 1650. Thomas died in Farmington 1697. His son Thomas, known as Deacon was a weaver and tailor. He lived in half of his father's homestead.

Other children of Thomas Sr., were Samuel, Dorothy, Sarah and Johanna.

Dr. DANIEL PORTER was one of the earliest settlers in Farmington and an original proprietor. He lived just north of the old south school on the John Curtin property. The Porter swamp between lower Main Street and the mountain has served the good purpose of providing a boundary for much of the property in that section. Evidences are still visible of the efforts to make a road across the swamp from Meadow Lane to the Brownson mill on the mountain before Hatters Lane was laid out. Dr. Porter was the first of five generations of Daniel Porters who were physicians. His compensation was small indeed. By order of the General Court he was paid a salary for year 1656 of six pounds and "six shillings for each journey to each Town on the River to exercise his arts of Chirurgerie." This salary was later increased to twelve pounds. He removed to Waterbury and died 1690.

In 1655 he recorded his dwelling-house, with yards and gardens on land bought of Thomas Upson, about six acres.

JOHN PRATT or 'Prat' as sometimes appears, was an original proprietor and settler of Hartford and an original proprietor of Farmington. Pratt Street in Hartford is named for him as his home stood on land where that street was cut through. His land in Farmington was on the north side of the highway to Hartford at about the driveway entrance to Philip Barney's house. There was a house and barn on the premises in 1655. William Lewis Jr., lived there. This land was sold to William Lewis Sr., all of which he gave to his son William.

WILLIAM PANTRY was an original proprietor and settler of Hartford where he was one of the wealthiest and most prominent members of the settle-

ment. He was an original proprietor of Farmington, but did not live here. His wife Margaret survived him. Her sister was the wife of Richard Brunson of Farmington. William Pantry's land consisted of one hundred twenty acres in Lower Meadow which in 1650 was recorded as sold to Stephen Hart.

THOMAS RICHARDSON sold his land to Simon Rotham Jr. (Wrothum). It was a five acre parcel at the junction of Eighty Acre Road and Main Street, just south of land owned by John Lankton, probably where the Willard House now stands, which Lankton built. While living in Farmington a son John was born April 15, 1672, a daughter Mary on December 25, 1667, and a daughter Sarah on March 25, 1669. Thomas Richardson removed to Waterbury.

OBADIAH RICHARDS sold his land with a dwellinghouse to Daniel Andrews in 1672 and removed to Waterbury (Mattatuck). The land embraced two acres on Town Street between the 'meting house yard and Mountain Road'.

He was son of Thomas Richards of Hartford, an early settler of Farmington; freeman, May, 1669; married Hannah, daughter of John Andrews of Farmington (2) Esther—, died November 11, 1702 in Waterbury.

JOHN ROOT was one of the early settlers in Farmington and a member of the body of proprietors in 1672. He died 1684.

His land was purchased from John Wilson, husband of Sarah (Hooker) Wilson, 1662.

In those early years a woman with a husband living could not dispose of her own property. Thus it was necessary for John Wilson to record as his own, having received it from Sarah, the farm left to Sarah Hooker by Governor Edward Hopkins in his will 1657.

As has been explained in descriptions of other homesteads, abutting property owners are not always clear in the earliest records as deeds were not always submitted to the town clerk for

recording until many years had elapsed, unless a transfer of property was being made. But we find that the Hopkins farm with meadow or tenement, orchards, gardens was bounded on the north by land of Rev. Roger Newton. Just where that line was we cannot know now, as a lane from the Pequabuck River to the Porter Swamp divided the Newton land and eventually became a boundary. When John and Sarah Wilson sold this farm to John Root the north boundary was land of Rev. Samuel Hooker who had lived on the Newton land since 1661. There is no other record of the land being acquired by Rev. Samuel Hooker.

It may have been that in the tenement, or farm house, on the Hopkins-Wilson land, the meetings of the church members were held following the removal of their first pastor Rev. Roger Newton, as Julius Gay says there is a carefully preserved tradition that meetings were held in the house belonging to Sarah (Hooker) Wilson. A house not otherwise occupied would have been more convenient for the growing parish than the average home with its family life. John and Sarah Wilson did not live there as they had lived in Medfield, Massachusetts since 1651, when Rev. John Wilson accepted the pastorate of the first church there serving for forty years as its first pastor.

The Root homestead has been in the family since that time until November 1941, when it was purchased by Mrs. Anne Burr Lewis, owner of the house on the corner of the original property, also owner of the old Hart-Deming house on Main Street across from the Congregational Church, and the house next south of the Root homestead, on the site of the John Warner dwelling-house.

RICHARD SEYMOUR son of Richard Seymour of Hartford and brother of Zachary, and John, was born about 1648. He married Hannah, daughter of Matthew Woodruff of Farmington. He was made a freeman 1669 and was one of the body of proprietors of Farmington in 1672. He led the Great Swamp Settlement in 1686 and was captain of

the fort there. In 1710 he was killed by the fall of a tree.

His mother Mercy Seymour married John Steel November 25, 1655, as his second wife, bringing her three minor sons to Farmington with her. Her husband's will dated July 29, 1655 was proved October 25, 1655.

John Seymour married Mary Watson and settled in Hartford.

ZACHARY SEYMOUR son of Richard Seymour of Hartford lived on the highway leading to Hartford on land bought of Abraham Dibell. Mountain Spring Road bordered his land on the west and his neighbor on the east in 1672 was Samuel North. The record gives 'William Corby' on the east illustrating again the difficulty of keeping boundaries in chronological order, as we know that Corbe sold this land to North in 1666. At least six years elapsed between the date of transaction and the recording of the land.

Seymour was made a freeman 1669. Records of law suits in the County Court show that he was engaged in trade in the Barbadoes. He removed to Wethersfield and married there February 9, 1688, Mary, daughter of widow Mary Gritt. He died there August 1702, aged 60 years.

JOHN SCOVILL or SCOBIL married Sarah Barnes March 29, 1666. His land in Farmington recorded 1674 was between that of John Cowles and the 'meting house' which would make it about between the present Churchill and Holcombe houses. Scovill removed to Haddam, selling his house lot and dwelling to John Cowles.

EDWARD STEBBINS an original proprietor and settler in Hartford and Farmington had a daughter Elizabeth who married (1) Robert Willson who died 1655 and (2) Thomas Cadwell of Hartford, in 1658.

Stebbins sold his home in Farmington in 1659 to Isaac Moore. It was a one acre piece with a spring on it and was about opposite the home of Miss Florence Gay.

Stebbins of Hartford was on various committees for the public good,



concerning building a house of correction, conserving corn, and was appointed by the Commissioners to collect a yearly contribution for the maintenance of 'scolars at Cambridge'.

He was appointed in 1662 as administrator of the estate of Mrs. Dorothy (Hooker) Chester widow of John Chester and sister of Rev. Thomas Hooker. In the will of Edward Stebbins and of his wife Frances, reference was made to "son, Mr. John Chester now living in or near London" who had married their eldest daughter.

Stebbins was one of the prominent and more wealthy men of the colony. He was constable, (an important office in those years when the constable was the nearest representative of the law and crown), deputy at various times, leather sealer and named on the Committee to consider Endicott's 'defacing the colors' May 1635.

Edward Stebbins was the original owner of the site of the present Farmington Museum. In 1653 he sold land consisting of five acres to Isaac Moore who later acquired other land on present High Street, exchanging a five acre piece with John Standley, his brother-in-law. Here Standley built his home about 1665.

EDMUND SCOTT was one of the earliest settlers in Farmington, his homestead of thirteen acres with dwellinghouse, orchards and gardens being recorded February 1650. This was bought of George Orvis and was just south of the home of Dr. Daniel Porter. Dr. Porter lived next north of the old red school house now owned by George Keller, and Edmund Scott lived next south, his house being where John Wollenberg now lives. Mrs. Otilie Dickinson Mason, a direct descendant of Edmund Scott, remembers the old house which she says was very similar in construction to the Farmington Museum, with slantback roof, overhanging second story and with pendants. The house remained in a bad state of disrepair and was used as a storage house and was a gathering place for boys until it was razed. The house now occupied by Gustave Wollenberg was built by Captain Elisha

Scott in 1785 whose son Erastus Scott was Mrs. Mason's grandfather.

Edmund Scott married Elizabeth, widow of Thomas Upson, and the George Orvis homestead which stood about where the Farmington Lodge now stands (later Gridley property), was sold by Elizabeth, widow of George Orvis, to Elizabeth (Upson) Scott, with the following agreement, not dated: "The which house and land by an agreement between Edmund Scott and Elizabeth his wife, shall belong to those children that the said Elizabeth had before she was married to the said Edmund and to those born that are the said Edmunds and Elizabeths together to be divided equally at the end of the natural life of the said Edmund Scott and Elizabeth his wife".

Elizabeth Scott bought the property and evidently intended that children of Edmund Scott by previous marriage should not inherit.

SAMUEL STEELE who removed to Wethersfield in 1685 was the only living son of John Steele at the time of his father's death in 1665, another son John having died 1653. Under the terms of his father's will, Samuel Steel had confirmed to him the house and tenement given him at the time of his marriage to Mary Boosey. Samuel was also given a silver bowl with three stamps on it and an S, one half of his father's books, his gold scales and weights. He lived on the east side of the (Main street) Town Path about where E. I. Taylor now lives and with his father owned a larger tract of land back of his home extending toward High street and fronting an most of the northern half of that street.

THOMAS SCOTT made a freeman in Massachusetts March 4, 1634/5 removed to Hartford with the first settlers and was an original proprietor there. He was one of the committee appointed by the General Court January 16, 1639 "to view those parts of Tunxis Sepus (Farmington) which may be suitable for a plantation". His daughter Mary married November 7, 1644 Robert Porter and his daughter Sarah married December 15, 1645 John

Standly. His land in the Lower meadow, without a house, he gave to John Standly. He died in Hartford November 6, 1643. This is one of the earliest records of the transfer of land in Farmington.

JOHN STANDLY arrived in New England 1634 aged ten. His father John "died in the way to New England" and we hear nothing of his mother, who probably died in England before his departure. The father, John was baptized December 28, 1603, son of John and Susan (Lanckock) Stanley of Ashford, Kent, England. He had a sister Ruth and a younger brother who died within the year. The father, John, had sailed with his two brothers, Timothy and Thomas and they each took one of the orphaned children to bring them up as their own. Timothy Standly took his niece Ruth and Thomas took young John. Captain John as he was soon known born 1624, married December 5, 1645 Sarah daughter of Thomas Scott. She died June 26, 1661 and he married (2nd) Sarah daughter of John Fletcher of Milford. John Standly had an exciting and illustrious career. He was deputy to the General Court 1659-1696 and a soldier in the Indian War 1676. His first recorded purchase of land in Farmington was meadow or farm land. The record is dated 1645 and the land was purchased from William Goodwin. His son John who became a doctor was born November, 1647, his son Isaac was born September 22, 1660, and Timothy was born 1653. Captain John Standly lived 1651 on the Town Path or Main Street just next north of Robert Porter (whose wife Mary was sister to Sarah Standly), about in the corner of Porter Road and Main Street. Later his home was on Mountain Road halfway between Main and High Streets and his land embraced nearly one-third of High Street with equal depth. Half of this land was exchanged with Isaac Moore, who had married Ruth Standly, John's sister. The record of this land belonging to John Standly is dated 1677, but the exchange had been made some years previous. In this exchange Standly had taken land on the east side of High

Street in exchange for a large piece of his own land on the west side of High Street which he gave to Isaac Moore.

John Standly took land on the east side of High Street extending to the edge of the mountain. Here, after his marriage to Sarah Fletcher, he built the house which is now the Farmington Museum. Captain Standly died 1706. He willed the one-half of the homestead to his widow Sarah for her use during her lifetime, with half of the beds, cattle, barns and one-half to his son Isaac stipulating that Isaac should have the "south end or rooms of my dwelling house by Isaac Cowles home lot". Isaac Cowles lived where Norton Smith now lives.

In 1711, Isaac sold all of his interest in the homestead to his brother Dr. John Standly who sold six acres and house to Ebenezer Steel in 1720. Mr. Steel willed the house to his daughter Mary (Steel) Smith wife of Thomas Smith 1722 and February 24, 1735/6 Mary and Thomas Smith sold the house and six acres to the Rev. Samuel Whitman who had been pastor of the Farmington church since 1706. January 12, 1708/9 his son Elnathan was born and two months later, on March 9, 1708/9 he married Mrs. Sarah Stoddard. Their son Solomon was born April 20, 1710 and when Solomon married Susannah Cole December 17, 1736 his father gave him the Standly house on Mountain Road.

Rev. Samuel Whitman died July 31, 1751. The Stanley house on High Street remained in the Whitman family, sometimes in a bad state of repair, until appreciated and repaired and used for a country home within the last fifty years. On December 1, 1839 Ann Sophia Whitman married Henry Farnum, thus bringing the property into the Farnum family. In 1922 the house was purchased by Mr. D. Newton Barney who, after completely restoring it and making the structure fireproof, founded and endowed the Farmington Museum. Only articles of authentic Farmington value are accepted. A small charge for admission is made. The Museum since its organization has been in the care of Miss Mary McCarthy as curator. Mrs.



Austin Dunham Barney is now chairman of the Museum committee.

WILLIAM SMITH an early settler of Farmington, on or before 1655 bought the homestead of Thomas Dymon at the corner of present Main Street and Hartford Road where the Memorial Park now is, Dymon going to the mountain back of Colton Street, or 'ould road to Mill' to live.

William Smith died 1669. He probably came from Wethersfield. In December 1644 Will: Smith was on the jury before the Particular Court and July 9th, 1645 he was chosen 'Clarke of the band for that town (Wethersfield) and to vewe the Arms'.

He left a large family and a widow. One of his sons, Jobama, was killed in the engagement known as the "Falls Fight" at Turner's Falls above Greenfield on May 19th, 1677. Another son Samuel a weaver, married March 24, 1687, Ruth Porter. They had a son Thomas who married January 14, 1724/5 Mary daughter Ebenezer Steele, and who were owners for a few years of the house now the Museum.

It is considered extremely likely that the Gleason house, so-called, now back of Mrs. Balazy's house on Main Street, is the original Smith house. Isham and Brown have dated it as an excellent example of the 17th century overhang and estimated that it was built about 1660. The house has been moved from its original site and at one time was used as a barn, later remodeled into a house. Mary Smith, a descendant of William, married Isaac Gleason. She inherited the land and her brothers, Samuel and Thomas the house, from the estate of their brother William. Samuel purchased the land, built a new house now occupied by William A. Hitchcock and converted the old Gleason or Smith house into a barn. This new house he gave to his daughter, Mary Ann Steele Smith who married Horace Cowles. Their son, Samuel Smith Cowles inherited the property. For a few years his sister Mary Ann Cowles Hardy lived there. The house next south was built by Thomas Smith and was near the street until moved back and enlarged. It is now owned

and occupied by George M. Williams.

The first record we find of THOMAS THOMSON is in 1646 when he received as a wedding gift the land at the corner of Main Street and Bridge Street with a dwelling house standing thereon, on the occasion of his marriage April 14, 1646 to Ann Welles, daughter of Governor Thomas Welles. Governor Welles had this land recorded as his own, and in the deed of gift, one-half was to his son Thomas and one-half to Thomas Thomson. Thomas Thomson was one of the seven men who organized the Church of Christ October 13, 1652. He died April 25, 1655 and before May 6, 1656 his widow Ann had married Mr. Anthony Hawkins, a wealthy and prominent resident who lived on the south side of Hartford road on what is now the Carey property.

JOHN TALCOTT, an original proprietor and settler of Hartford and an original proprietor of Farmington, but did not live here. No house was recorded in the description of his land, which was among the earliest. He was son of Governor Talcott and brother of John Steel's first wife. His land was in the Pequabuck meadow and "the elbow" and was sold in 1665 to Moses Ventrus. He also owned a five acre piece bounded north on the Pequabuck river and south and east by his friends Samuel Wyllys and Rev. Roger Newton which he sold to Richard Brownson.

In 1650 John 'Tallycotte' had land on Town Street just north of that of John Lankton, making it approximately between Oldgate and Smith Street.

THOMAS UPSON was one of the earliest settlers and proprietors in Farmington. He married in Hartford on January 23, 1646/7, Elizabeth Fuller who was his second wife. He died July 19, 1655 and his widow married Edmund Scott, the first of a long line of the Scott family in Farmington. Thomas Upson's home lot and dwelling house was on the west side of Main Street extending to the Farmington river, and it embraced most of the portion of the Porter school just south

of the Main Building. The north half of the Upson home lot was sold to Thomas Newell — later John Lee purchased the entire homestead when he married Mary, daughter of Deacon Stephen Hart.

Thomas Upson was the founder of a large family of descendants, who have formed themselves into an Upson Family Association. A monument in the old burying ground on Main Street was erected and dedicated to the memory of Thomas Upson by the Upson Family Association, August 17, 1935.

MOSES VENTRUS lived where now stands St. Patrick's church on Main Street. He bought the land partly of Nathaniel Watson, John North and Matthew Woodruff with land 'formerly of Nicholas Mason, later of Thomas Barnes' on the south. Moses Ventrus' son Moses lived there also. Moses Sr. died in Farmington 1697. He was made a freeman of the colony May 1651.

WILLIAM VENTRUS lived where now stand the Noah Wallace school and the two corner houses belonging to the school district. He had three children: Mare, born 1665, William, born 1655 and John born 1657. He later removed to Haddam. He was made a freeman of the colony May, 1654.

MR. SIMON WROTHUM (Rothum) lived on Main Street about where the H. H. Mason house, now the home of John Crawford, stands. He had a twenty acre tract of land given him by the town November 18, 1673 and on October 19, 1674 the town gave him "the east side of the mountayne near the east side of his Loot. A true coppi out of ye ould booke by me William Lewis Register April 18, 1685". On January 5, 1673 the town "then granted unto Mr. Simon Wrothum the land that was due to Thomas Hosmer according to ye grand Leavey in ye year 72 provided he settle in ye towne".

Just why Simon Wrothum bore the unusual title of "Mr." is not clear. That was usually reserved for ministers or men of outstanding achievement.

Simon Wrothum was made a freeman of the colony May 1654.

In 1676 he served as a soldier in the Indian War and some of the land granted him by the town may have been in the nature of a soldier lot. After difficulties with the church and council he appealed to the General Court to have the church and council summoned before him. This the General Court refused to do, advising him to a serious reconsideration of his ways. The church excommunicated him. He died 1689. His wife died November 30, 1684. His daughter Elizabeth married Thomas Newell November 5, 1679 and November 25, 1679 his daughter Susana married Samuel Hough.

JOHN WEBSTER, governor of Connecticut Colony 1656, prominent in the affairs in the Colony was an original proprietor and settler in Hartford and an original proprietor of Farmington. He left Hartford in 1659 following the dissension in the church after the death of Thomas Hooker and settled in Hadley where he died 1661. His land in Farmington was twenty acres of meadow which he gave to his son Mathew Webster February 1650. It was just north of "Indian Land".

THOMAS WEBSTER, third son of Governor John Webster, was of Northfield Massachusetts and had land on Town Path which he sold in 1651 to John Standley. It was located about halfway between present Mountain Road and Porter Road on the west side of the street.

He died in Northfield 1686.

MATHEW WEBSTER, eldest son of Governor John Webster had land in Farmington as an original proprietor, on Bridge Street or the road to North Meadow Gate, about on the site of the Dr. Chauncey Brown house, now the property of Mrs. Eleanor Bartlett Skinner. Webster sold this house lot before 1666 to Joseph Woodford. Webster was made a freeman in 1645. He also had ninety-six acres in Great Meadow and twenty acres north of 'Indian Land'.

In 1665 Webster conveyed his land



in Great Meadow to Mathew Woodruff and as a consideration Mathew Woodruff was to 'maintain' Webster's son John, an impotent child, and it was stipulated that the deed should not be recorded. However the deed was recorded in the Farmington Land Records on page 11 of volume I. The Woodford Genealogy has this item as pertaining to that family.

JOSEPH WOODFORD had land on the Hartford Road next that of his father-in-law, Thomas Newell which he had bought of Matthew Webster in 1666. His dwelling house stood on 'the highway leading into the meadow' now the corner of Hartford road and College highway.

Thomas Newell lived next west, the two houses probably being rather close together. Joseph Woodford married Rebekah, daughter of Thomas and Rebekah (Olmstead) Newell. In 1706 he sold his Farmington home to Samuel Newell, his brother-in-law and removed to Avon where he founded the Woodford farm and family in that town. In his will he appointed his 'brother' Samuel Newell as one of the overseers of his estate. He had eight daughters and one son Joseph. The son inherited the farm.

Samuel Newell married 1683 Mary, daughter of Stephen Hart. Samuel had already received by deed of gift, the homestead of his father Thomas, thereby giving him the entire lot of ten acres with the two houses.

Joseph Woodford died 1710. His will was dated 1701.

**THOMAS WELLES**, governor of Connecticut in 1655 and 1658 was an original proprietor of Farmington being among the first to have a house lot recorded. It was the first lot on the north end of the Town Path and extended from the road to the Farmington river. His land, with a dwelling house on it was given as a wedding present to his daughter Anne when she married **Thomas Thomson** April 14, 1646. She married (2) Anthony Howkins of Farmington as his second wife.

The deed for the conveyance of the house was executed on parchment, but

was not recorded until 1713, when it was brought by **Captain Joseph Hawley**, Welles great grandson to be recorded. The house stood until 1783 when it was replaced by the present one built by Daniel Curtiss.

**SAMUEL WYLLYS, OR WILLIS**, son of Governor George Wyllys was born 1632, graduated from Harvard College 1653, married 1654 to Ruth, daughter of Governor John Haynes. He died 1709. His land in Farmington was on Town Path, now Main Street, just north of Diamond Glen Brook, on the northwest corner of Main and Tunxis Streets. The house is now owned and occupied by the family of the late Charles Stanley Mason. Date of erection of the house is given by Isham and Brown as 1660. Samuel Wyllys inherited the land from his father in 1644/5, selling to Thomas Orton in 1655. In the event that the house was built in 1660, it was built by Thomas Orton as he was owner of the land at that time. The record reads: "One psell on which his dwelling house with other houses standeth containing by estimation tenn acres butting to ye east on the highway (Main Street) on ye west on the Little River (Pequabuck) to ye north on John Warners house lot and to ye south on John Lanktons land." Orton sold the ten acres with house and buildings in 1665 to John Wadsworth.

The house was divided by a later owner, probably while in the Wadsworth family, and the north half moved to the north. It was remodeled by C. S. Mason and is now a modern colonial house, made from the ancient one. The chimney half has inside paneling, a huge chimney and the overhanging second story with drop pendants.

The house was in the Wadsworth family for 182 years until sold by the estate of Sidney Wadsworth to Egbert Cowles in 1847.

**ANDREW WARNER** was prominent in Cambridge where he was made a freeman in 1633, and was a deacon in the First Church there in 1634. He was in Hadley with Elder William Goodwin in 1659 and died there 1684. He was an original proprietor of Farmington

but did not live here. His land was at the south end of Town Path, (Main Street) and was sold to Dr. Daniel Porter.

He also owned twelve acres on the Mountain near the Brownson mill which he sold before Feb. 12, 1670 to Stephen Hart senior.

**DANIEL WARNER** an original proprietor of Farmington lived at the south end of the Town Path where William Willard now lives. He sold his land and buildings to John Langton.

**JOHN WARNER** was twenty years of age when he arrived in New England on the "Increase" in April 1635. He was a soldier and served in the Pequot War. He was an original proprietor and settler in Farmington and joined the First church here in March 15, 1656/7, was made a freeman 1664 and in 1673 went to view Mattatuck, (Waterbury) with the intention of settling there. However, he died in Farmington 1679. His home in Farmington was next south of the John Roote place and is now owned by Anne Burr Lewis and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Hoppin, Jr. John Warner's first wife is unknown, his second marriage was to Ann, daughter of Thomas Norton of Guilford, and at his death he left a widow, Margaret. His children named in his will were Daniel, John, Thomas, and Sarah who married William Higginson and remained on the ancestral estate. His homestead as recorded January 1674 was part of Mr. Samuel Willis' home lot, indicating that Willis had lived there before removing to Mattabeset (Middletown).

**NATHANIEL WATSON** was an original proprietor and probably a settler here. As early as 1650 he had sold land on Main Street to Moses Ventrus. This was on the west side of the street with land of Thomas Barnes on the south. On March 4th, 1665 Moses Ventrus gave Watson by deed of gift, one acre of land on the east side of Main Street bounded on the east and north by land of John Wadsworth and by Ventrus' own land on the south. This acre was about where the Wadsworth home-

stead now stands, and was probably made to establish title, as it was in 1665 that John Wadsworth recorded this land as his own.

**JOHN WILCOCK** or **WILCOX** was an original proprietor in Farmington. His son married Sarah, daughter of William Wadsworth. He lived in Hartford about where Bushnell Park is now located and died there 1651.

**ELDER JOHN WHITE** (Whight) owned one hundred acres in Great Meadow which he sold to Nehemiah Olmsted in 1646.

**ROBERT WILLSON** an original proprietor and settler of Farmington, lived on the south side of the Hartford Road about where B. O. Judatz now lives. Willson married Elizabeth, daughter of Deacon Edward Stebbins, of Hartford, also a proprietor of Farmington. They had a son Samuel, born there June 24, 1653, and a son John born in Hartford about 1650. Robert Willson died 1655 and his widow married (2) Thomas Cadwell of Hartford. The Willson house was later owned by John Clark Sr., and afterward by John Norton Jr.

**MATTHEW WOODRUFF** lived on Main Street, or Town Path, opposite the home of William Judd, which would place the house about where the George M. Williams house now stands. Woodruff owned three acres with the usual barns and orchards. He bought part of the land from John Warner Sr. and part from Thomas Upson. In 1665 when this land was recorded John Steel Sr., and Samuel Steele owned land back of Woodruff, William Adams owned the next house lot south and Samuel Steele lived next north on land bought from Thomas Judd.

With no date of record but probably about 1670 Matthew Woodruff Jr., had recorded five acres of land with a dwelling house at the junction of the Hartford road and road leading to the Dirty Hole lot (now Mountain Spring Road). Samuel North lived next east. Probably the very old Red Cottage at the corner of Mountain Spring Road is not the



original house of 1670 as the Woodruff house had belonged to Thomas Hart and must have been one of the earliest.

JOHN WIATT lived on the road to Brownsons Mill, now Colton Street, probably about where the Bissell house now stands, but approached by a road, now disappeared, which ran up the mountain beside the north line of the Bull lot. Thomas Demon also lived there. John Wiatt had a daughter Sary baptised March 20, 1658.

Wiatt was made a freeman of the colony May 20, 1658.

JOHN WADSWORTH, was the son of William the emigrant, who came to New England in the "Lion" in 1632, bringing with him four children by a first marriage. July 2, 1644 William Wadsworth married (2) Elizabeth Stone, probably a sister of Rev. Samuel Stone of Hartford. John Wadsworth married Sarah, daughter of Thomas Stanley in 1662; he was deputy, 1672-1677; assistant 1679-1689, one of Standing Council during King Philips War, had seven sons. John was a brother of Captain Joseph Wadsworth of Connecticut charter fame.

Mr. John Wadsworth acquired about 1660 all the land from the point of present Colton Street and Main Street, west to the river, and he lived on the west side of Main Street in what is now an empty lot. ~~Thomas Porter~~ lived next north of him. This land, according to the records, was given him by his father William Wadsworth. Nathaniel Watson owned one acre where the homestead of the Wadsworth family now stands on the east side of Main Street, Watsons land being bounded on the south by the burying yard. There is no record of a transfer from Watson to Wadsworth, but in 1665 John

Wadsworth recorded as his own several pieces of land bounded by highway north (Colton Street) highway south (Hatters Lane) and Main Street, with a dwelling house on the west side of the highway running to the south end of the town and Moses Ventrus on the south and Thomas Porter on the north.

It is probable that following the purchase of the land on the east side of Main Street in 1665, John Wadsworth built the house, part of which was destroyed by fire in 1927. John Wadsworth died 1689 leaving the largest estate inventoried previous to 1700.

JOHN WELTON sold his land which was a twenty-seven acre parcel in Great Swamp, to Samuel Cowles before 1666 and removed to Waterbury.

JOHN WOODRUFF lived on the corner of Mountain Spring Road and Hartford Road owning all of the land from Thomas Orton's (recently Swanston's) along Hartford Road and Mountain Spring Road so far as to include the home of James T. Soby, (formerly William Hooker).

This land was given him by the town with the provision that he and his successors build and maintain a mansion house there perpetually or otherwise it shall be returned to the town. At his death John Woodroffe (Woodruff) left this homestead to his eldest son John "with convenient room in my house and part of my barn and homelot so long as she shall bear the name of Woodroffe" to his widow. His son John was 23, Joseph 13, Mary 25, Hannah 21, Phebe 16, Margaret 10 and Abigail 8 at the time of John Woodruff's death, on April 18, 1692.

The date he received the land from the town does not appear, but his homelot and mansion house were recorded February 1681.

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