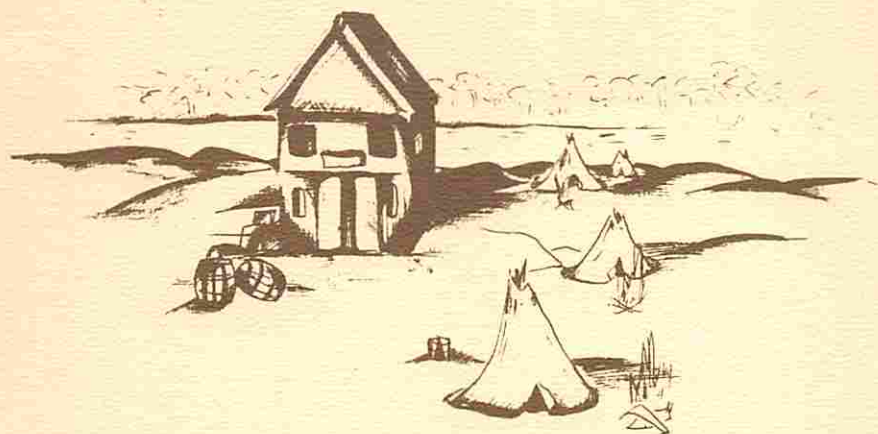


CN
MISC
1.6

The Settlement of Windsor, Connecticut



By the Windsor 350th
Anniversary Committee

00008

Front Cover

Drawn by: Julie Allard

Illustrations

by: Greg Williams

The Settlement of Windsor, Connecticut

By the Windsor 350th
Anniversary Committee

Written By
Kent C. L. Avery
and
Donna L. Siemiatkoski

• 1983 •

Printed by
Ætna Life and Casualty

Donated by Janet Bryant

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Exploration of the Connecticut River Valley | 5 |
| 2. Indians of the Connecticut River Valley | 7 |
| 3. First Settlers of Windsor-The Plymouth Group | 9 |
| 4. The Dorchester Emigration of 1635 | 10 |
| 5. The Lords and the Gentlemen | 13 |
| 6. Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford Form the Connecticut Colony | 14 |
| List of Windsor's Founders | 16 |
| Important Dates in Early Windsor History | 18 |
| Bibliography | 19 |

Chapter I Exploration of the Connecticut River Valley

The Connecticut River Valley was first explored in 1614 when the Dutch explorer Adriaen Block sailed up the river as far as the Hartford area. However, the Dutch at New Amsterdam did not take advantage of the river valley until 1633 when they built a fort at the present site of Hartford.

The valley was also explored by the English, both Pilgrims from the Plymouth Colony and Puritans from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In April of 1631 representatives of the Podunk Indians went to Boston and then to Plymouth to ask that each colony make settlements in the valley. Describing the valley as a fertile and abundant land, they offered corn and 80 beaver skins a year to whomever settled there.

Gov. Winslow of Plymouth was quite interested in the offer and soon made a journey to see for himself. He found the valley to be as lush and fertile as the Indians had described. In the next year another exploration of the Connecticut Valley



Early Settlements, in New England

was made by the Plymouth group before making a final decision on settlement. In July of 1633 Winslow went to Boston to propose a joint settlement of the valley, but the Massachusetts Bay Colony refused Winslow's offer. We now know that some of them were already considering plans to explore and possibly settle the valley themselves.

In 1633 groups from all three colonies explored and/or attempted to settle in the valley. During the early months of 1633, the Dutch were becoming apprehensive about the English colonies possibly settling on what they considered their land. In June of that year, Governor Van Twiller of New Amsterdam sent a party to erect a fort at the present site of Hartford. They mounted two cannons and named it "House of Hope."

The Plymouth Colony decided to go ahead with their explorations in the late summer of 1633. They sent a party under the command of Lt. William Holmes to sail up to the river and set up a trading post at Windsor. This party landed on September 26, 1633 at the junction of the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers and set up the trading post there.

In the late summer of 1633 the Massachusetts Bay Colony decided to reconsider the possibilities of settling in the Connecticut River Valley. A party led by John Oldham explored an overland route to Connecticut. They traveled westerly following the Old Connecticut Path, then known as the Great Trail, an ancient Indian trail, until they reached the valley. His positive report encouraged the Massachusetts Bay Colony to send their first party to settle the valley in 1634. These were the first settlers of Wethersfield. After this party of Puritans arrived in the valley, many more followed.

At this time the Massachusetts Bay Colony was ripe for a massive emigration. The colony was established in 1628 by Puritans from England, who were seeking to "purify" the community's civil, economic, and religious lifestyle in response to the abuses of church and state power in England. Led by Gov. John Winthrop, these Puritans felt called by God

to attempt to live personal and public lives pleasing to Him in the unspoiled wilderness, to form a model Christian society for the world to emulate. After a few years in the Massachusetts Bay, some of the colonists began to feel that Winthrop's version of the Puritan vision was too restrictive — he believed that God governed society through only a few select men. For these theological and political ideals, as well as for the practical concern of the desire to move from the overcrowded seacoast to the new land along the fertile river, Puritans from the towns of Watertown, Dorchester, and Newtown were eager to consider the possibilities opened up by Oldham's explorations in the valley.

As a result, an advance party from Dorchester under the leadership of Roger Ludlow explored the Windsor area in the late spring of 1635, followed by a permanent settlement of sixty men, women, and children in October. They probably moved just before winter to thwart the plans of yet another group of explorers, the "Lords and Gentlemen."

This party of about twenty men under Mr. Francis Stiles was sent from England by Sir Richard Saltonstall. They claimed the right to settle the valley by a patent granted in 1631 to Saltonstall and other noblemen of England. The Stiles group arrived in Boston from England on June 16, 1635, and stayed in Boston for ten days before leaving for Windsor. They sailed up the Connecticut River and also arrived at what is now Windsor during the summer of 1635.

Thus, the many explorations of the Connecticut River Valley that took place between 1614 and 1635 proved to be very successful, opening up the valley to further growth.

Chapter II Indians of the Connecticut River Valley

When the first settlers of Windsor arrived in 1633, four major Indian tribes occupied the area: the Podunks on the east side of the river, and the Poquonocks, Sicaogs, and Tunxis Indians on the west side. These four tribes were commonly referred to as the River Indians. Virtually all the land within the present

borders of Windsor was legally purchased from these Indians.

However, the River Indians were not the only Indians in Connecticut. In the southeast corner of the present state of Connecticut lived the Pequot Indians. The Pequots were hostile toward the River Indians and especially hostile toward white men. The Pequot tribe was slowly taking over the entire Connecticut River valley. In addition the Mohawks to the northwest also had an interest in the area. Thus, the River Indians were continually threatened by hostile neighbors on either side.

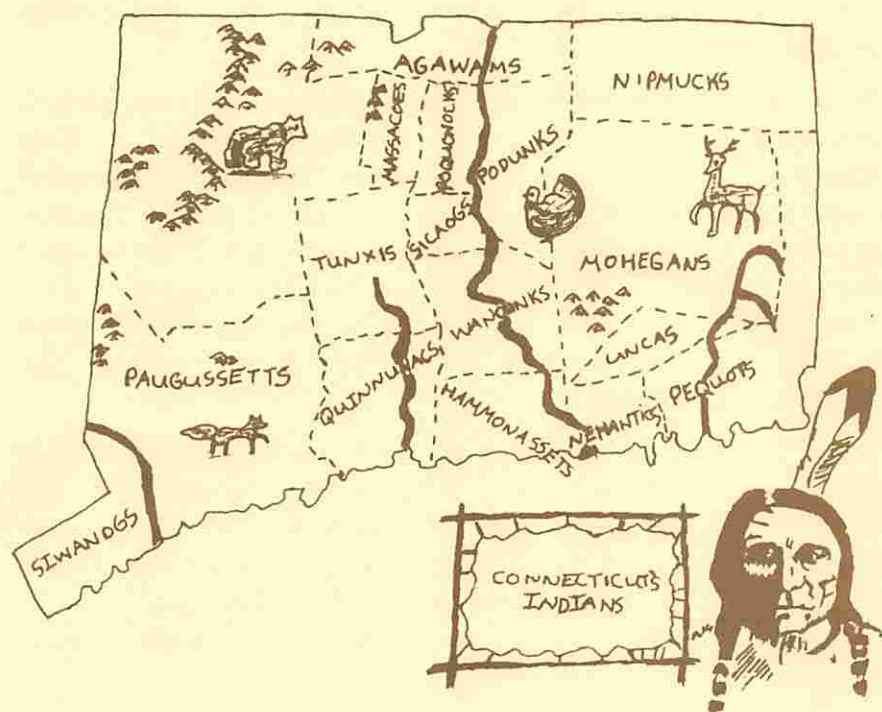
Because of the threat of the Mohawks in the northwest and especially the Pequots in the southeast, some of the leaders of the Podunk Indians had gone to Boston and Plymouth in 1631 to encourage the white men to settle in the valley to help maintain peace and prevent outside conquest.

Except for the Pequots, the Indians of Connecticut were very receptive to the white settlers. They offered their help to the colonists of Windsor, which was then called by the Indian name of "Matianuck," and often traded with them. However, disaster struck in the winter of 1633-34 when a smallpox epidemic spread through the River Indian tribes, killing most of them. Although they tended the sick and dying Indians, none of the white settlers contracted the disease. Possibly the disease was chicken pox rather than smallpox and the Englishmen, perhaps being immune to chicken pox, did not contract it, whereas it devastated the Indians who had no genetic resistance to it at all.

The Pequots continued to conquer most of the tribes in Connecticut until they were finally stopped in the Pequot War in 1637 when the men in the river settlements united to fight after the Wethersfield massacre on April 23. After the Pequots were defeated, the River Indians and the white men were able to maintain a peaceful coexistence.

The Indians of the Connecticut River Valley were a vital part of the survival of the founders of Windsor, having given invaluable knowledge to the settlers about farming, clothing,

and other necessities of life. Because of their contribution, the efforts of the Indians of the Connecticut River Valley should be considered an important factor in the founding of Windsor, as well as of Hartford and Wethersfield.



Chapter III The First Settlers of Windsor — The Plymouth Group

As stated above, the first white settlers landed on the shore of the Connecticut River in what is now Windsor on September 26, 1633. This party, sent from the Plymouth Colony under the command of Lt. William Holmes, sailed down from Plymouth, through Long Island Sound, and up the Connecticut River to Windsor.

Lt. Holmes purchased from the Sicaog and Tunxis Indians a tract of land just south of the junction of the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers. On this land the first trading post was erected. Having brought the frame of a trading house from

Plymouth, the group built and fortified the trading post to protect the settlers from hostile Indians as well as from the Dutch of New Amsterdam. After building the post, the ship and crew returned to Plymouth leaving Jonathan Brewster, son of Elder William Brewster of Plymouth, and a small group of men in charge of it.

Just one month after the trading post was completed, Governor Van Twiller, the Dutch governor at New Amsterdam, sent seventy men to evict the Plymouth settlers from their trading post. When the Dutch force reached Windsor, they found the Plymouth settlers so well entrenched that, after a few hostile demonstrations, they returned to New Amsterdam. After this one attempt to dislodge the Windsor settlers, the Dutch took no further action against the settlement at Windsor.

The Plymouth party found the Indians very friendly and helpful, until all but about fifty of them perished in the terrible epidemic of the winter of 1633-34. The trading post stayed undisturbed for nearly two years after the Dutch conflict until, in 1635, several groups of settlers came from the Massachusetts Bay Colony to claim land in what is now Windsor.

Chapter IV The Dorchester Emigration of 1635

The Dorchester group who arrived in Windsor in 1635 was actually a Puritan congregation established by the Rev. John White in Plymouth, England in 1630. Seeking a creative solution to the problems of political and religious oppression in England, the Puritans decided to emigrate to the New World to perform an "errand in the wilderness," to develop a model society under God, free from the corruption of England. Rev. White encouraged 140 people to covenant with God and each other to live as a Christian community in the New World. Rev. John Warham and Rev. John Maverick were chosen as ministers. Others in the company included lawyers Roger Ludlow and Bray Rossiter; soldiers Captain John Mason,

Captain Richard Southcote, and Quartermaster John Smith; established gentlemen Henry Wolcott, George Dyer, Thomas Ford, William Rockwell, and William Phelps, and young, mostly single, men such as Israel Stoughton, Roger Clap, Nathaniel Duncan, and George Phelps. After a day of prayer, fasting, and preaching, they boarded the *Mary and John*, where they met together every day for worship and preaching during the ten weeks of their voyage. Landing in the New World, they established their new community in Dorchester under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, headed by Governor John Winthrop.

After a few years differences arose between Winthrop and some of the other ministers, including Rev. Thomas Hooker, as well as Warham and Maverick, concerning the basis of authority in the government. Winthrop favored a strict rein on government, by a very few people, whereas others saw that all the governed should have a voice in the government. Since these two ideas could not long coexist, the problems of overcrowding in the seaside colony and the inducement of a lucrative fur trade in the fertile inland valley helped the Dorchester group under Warham and the Newtown group under Hooker to decide to move west as church units to develop their vision of the Puritan community under God.

The Dorchester group started toward the Connecticut Valley following the "Old Connecticut Path." It is debated whether the group continued all the way to Windsor on the Old Connecticut Path or rather went through Agawam (now Springfield), Massachusetts, and traveled south along the Connecticut River until they reached Windsor. Most likely they took the Old Connecticut Path all the way since there were no known paths to Agawam large enough for a group of that size until the Bay Path was discovered in 1648.

After walking for fourteen days, the group reached Windsor at the end of October and settled on the west side of the Connecticut River across from the mouth of the Scantic River. For temporary shelter they dug into the sides of the low hills

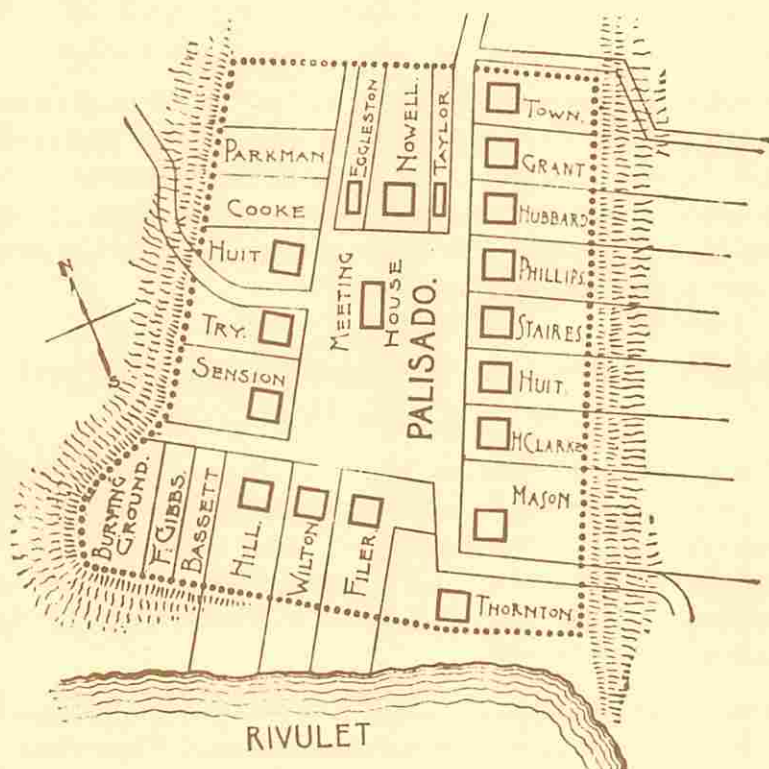
along the Connecticut River, making homes that were enclosed on three sides by dirt, in front by posts and on the roof by wood and thatch.

The unusually harsh winter came early that year, freezing the river over by mid-November and preventing the ship laden with their possessions and provisions from sailing upriver from Long Island Sound. Some settlers traveled downriver, freed a ship, and returned to the Bay Colony. Some returned to Dorchester overland through the snow. Still others decided to stay, subsisting through the winter on acorns, malt, and grain, possibly receiving some food from the Indians and other groups of settlers. Undeterred by the harshness of the first winter, the Dorchester community renewed their determination to settle permanently in the Connecticut Valley. By the end of April of 1636 virtually the entire congregation of the Dorchester church had removed to what is now Windsor, taking their church records with them, and leaving the few townsmen remaining to reorganize a new church under the ministry of the Rev. Richard Mather.

The land that the Dorchester settlers started building on was owned by the Plymouth group. This piece of land was from a second land purchase from the Indians, stretching from the Farmington River in the south to what is now Hayden Station in the north. The Dorchester settlers refused to acknowledge that the land belonged to the Plymouth group. The Plymouth group, who had not actually settled this second piece of land, was forced to stay in the Plymouth Meadow, at the junction of the two rivers and eventually ended up selling most of their land to the Dorchester settlers.

In 1637, because of the threat of a Pequot attack, the Dorchester settlers constructed a palisade, or a fence of wooden posts, on the higher ground north of the Farmington River. Here the settlers constructed more permanent homes. After the threat of Indian attack subsided and the homes of their families were completed, the settlers built their first meetinghouse for their church in 1639. The site of the

meetinghouse in the center of what is now Palisado Green is marked by a monument to the Dorchester people who came on the Mary and John.



PLAN OF THE PALISADO

Chapter V The Lords and Gentlemen

Just after the Dorchester group reached Windsor, another group arrived. This group was sent from England by Sir Richard Saltonstall under the leadership of Mr. Francis Stiles. Nicknamed "the Lords and Gentlemen," this group envisioned developing the Connecticut Valley into large manor-like estates upon which they would continue to enjoy the lifestyle to which they were accustomed in England, enjoying profits from trading. They claimed the right to settle by a patent granted to Saltonstall giving him the right to settle anywhere in Connecticut. This group included the Stiles brothers and

their families — Francis, Thomas, Joseph, and Henry — as well as Thomas Bassett, Thomas Barber, and Joseph Dwyer. They arrived at Boston on June 16, 1635, waited ten days, then left for the Connecticut Valley, arriving shortly after the advance party of Dorchester men under Roger Ludlow.

Although the Stiles party wanted to settle the highland around the area that is now the Palisado Green, the Dorchester settlers allowed them to settle only in the northernmost part of Plymouth's second land purchase, the land just south of what is now Hayden Station. The Stiles group stayed in the small area and began building houses there.

Chapter VI Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford Form the Connecticut Colony

In March 1636 the General Court of Massachusetts established a commission of eight members to govern the river towns, including Agawam, for one year. Windsor's representatives were William Phelps and Roger Ludlow, who was president of the Court, and was in that respect the first "governor" of Connecticut.

Early in the following year the town of Dorchester changed its name to Windsor, Newtown to Hartford, and Watertown to Wethersfield. The changes from Massachusetts names to wholly new names reflected the fact that the three towns were no longer under Massachusetts jurisdiction, but constituted the separate colony of Connecticut.

The three settlements in Windsor were merging into one identity, with most of the Plymouth group leaving, the Dorchester group continuing to be the most prominent in the town, controlling most of the major decisions concerning town affairs, and the Lords and Gentlemen occupying the northernmost part of town just south of what is now Hayden Station.

On May 1, 1637 the first Connecticut General Court was convened in Hartford to discuss the growing problem of the

Pequot Indians. The three river towns — Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford — joined together as the Colony of Connecticut to fight in the Pequot War. Once the power of the hostile Pequots was broken, colonists and Indians alike were free to live peaceably in the land.

By 1638 the colonists realized that a more comprehensive expression of governmental authority was needed. Growing out of the more democratic theological views of Hooker, these beliefs were actually put into words by Roger Ludlow, a brilliant legal mind trained at Oxford. Known as the "Fundamental Orders of 1639," this document expressed the belief that "the foundation of authority is laid in the free consent of the people." Thus, Roger Ludlow was a primary contributor to the first written constitution in the world which expressed the right of the people to govern themselves.

Meanwhile large-scale immigration into Windsor continued until the 1650's, when it became a trickle, reflecting both the exodus of Puritans from England and the end of that exodus when the Puritans finally secured political power there in 1640. In many cases people migrated first to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, then on to the Connecticut River Valley. One of these later groups which emigrated in 1638 from England to Massachusetts then to Windsor was led by the Rev. Ephraim Huit, who then assisted Warham in his work. That group of immigrants, which came over on the Susan and Ellen, included John Porter and Joseph Loomis, who had married the White sisters, and John Bissell.

Through time other immigrants of other creeds from other parts of the world have also come to call Windsor their home. Windsor has continued to grow and flourish for these 350 years based on the efforts of all these immigrants, the bravery and persistence of the first settlers, the wisdom and generosity of the Indians, and the blessings of the Providence whom they all worshipped.

THE FOUNDERS OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

ANCESTRAL HEADS OF WINDSOR'S

FIRST FAMILIES

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|
| Alexander, George (D.) | 1644 | Ford, Thomas (D.)* | 1637 |
| Allen, Samuel (D.)* | 1640 | Foulkes, Henry (D.) | 1635 |
| Allyn, Matthew (C.) | 1638 | Fowler, Ambrose (D.) | 1646 |
| Alvord, Alexander (D.) | 1645 | Fyler, Walter (D.) | 1637 |
| Alvord, Benedictus (D.) | 1637 | Gaylord, William (Dea.) (D.)* | 1635 |
| Baker, Jeffry (D.) | 1642 | Gibbs, Francis (D.) | 1640 |
| Bancroft, John | 1647 | Gibbs, Giles (D.)* | 1640 |
| Barber, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 | Gilbert, Nicholas | 1644 |
| Bartlett, John (D.) | 1641 | Gilbert, Thomas (D.) | 1644 |
| Bascomb, Thomas (D.)* | 1639 | Gillett, Jonathan (D.)* | 1635 |
| Bassett, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 | Gillett, Nathan (D.)* | 1635 |
| Bennett, John (S.) | 1648 | Grant, Matthew (D.)* | 1635 |
| Birge, Richard (D.) | 1635 | Gridley, Thomas (D.) | 1637 |
| Bissell, John (H.) | 1639 | Griffin, John | 1647 |
| Branker, John (D.) | 1640 | Griswold, Edward (H.) | 1639 |
| Brewster, Jonathan (P.) | 1633 | Griswold, Matthew (H.) | 1639 |
| Brooks, John | 1650 | Gunn, Thomas (D.) | 1640 |
| Browton, John | 1650 | Hannum, William (D.)* | 1640 |
| Buckland, Thomas (D.) | 1637 | Harris, John (ST.) | 1635 |
| Buell, William (D.) | 1640 | Hatford, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 |
| Busket, James (ST.) | 1635 | Hawkes, John (D.) | 1640 |
| Carter, Joshua (D.) | 1637 | Hawkins, Anthony (D.) | 1640 |
| Chappel, George (ST.) | 1635 | Hayden, William (D.)* | 1640 |
| Clarke, Daniel (H.) | 1639 | Haynes, John | 1640 |
| Clarke, Henry (Dea.) (D.) | 1640 | Hayward, Robert (D.) | 1643 |
| Clarke, Joseph (C.) | 1637 | Heylei, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 |
| Collins, Mary | 1640 | Hill, William (D.) | 1640 |
| Cooke, Aaron (Capt.) (D.)* | 1636 | Hillier, John (D.) | 1640 |
| Cooke, Nathaniel | 1649 | Holcombe, Thomas (D.)* | 1635 |
| Cooper, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 | Hosford, William (Elder) (D.) | 1639 |
| Cribb, John (ST.) | 1635 | Hoskins, John (D.)* | 1640 |
| Curtis, Henry (D.) | 1645 | Hoyte, Simon (D.) | 1640 |
| Denslow, Nicholas (D.)* | 1640 | Hubbard, William (D.) | 1640 |
| Dewey, Thomas (D.) | 1637 | Huit, Ephraim (Rev.) (H.) | 1639 |
| Dibble, Thomas (D.) | 1637 | Hull, George (D.)* | 1637 |
| Dimbleton, John (D.) | 1640 | Humphrey, Micheal (D.) | 1647 |
| Dorchester, Anthony | 1649 | Hurd, John (D.) | 1640 |
| Drake, John Sr. (D.)* | 1639 | Hulbert, William | 1640 |
| Dwyer, John | 1635 | Hydes, Humphrey (D.) | 1640 |
| Dwyer, Joseph (ST.) | 1635 | Loomis, Joseph (H.) | 1639 |
| Eggleston, Bogat (D.)* | 1635 | Ludlow, Roger (D.)* | 1635 |
| Ellison, Lawrence (D.) | 1644 | Lyman, Richard (D.) | 1635 |
| Ellsworth, Josias (Sgt.) | 1646 | Marshall, James (D.) | 1642 |
| Eno (Enno), James (D.) | 1648 | Marshall, Samuel (Capt.) | 1637 |
| Filley, William (D.) | 1640 | Marshfield, Thomas (D.) | 1635 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| Mason, John (Capt.) (D.)* | 1635 | Saxton, Richard (D.) | 1646 |
| Merwin, Miles (D.) | 1640 | Sension (St. John), Matthew (D.) | 1640 |
| Messenger, Edward | 1650 | Sension, Nicholas (D.) | 1643 |
| Mills, Simon | 1650 | Sheldon, Isaac | 1640 |
| Moore, John (Dea.) (D.)* | 1635 | Soulfoot, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 |
| Moore, Thomas (D.)* | 1635 | Staires, Thomas (Sgt.) (H.) | 1639 |
| Morton, Thomas | 1646 | Stiles, Francis (ST.) | 1635 |
| Moses, John (D.) | 1641 | Stiles, Henry (ST.) | 1635 |
| Newberry, Thomas (D.) | 1636 | Stiles, John (ST.) | 1635 |
| Nowell, Thomas (D.) | 1641 | Stiles, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 |
| Oldage, Richard (D.) | 1639 | Stoughton, Thomas (Ens.) (D.)* | 1640 |
| Orton, Thomas (D.) | 1646 | Strong, John (Elder) (D.)* | 1645 |
| Osborn (Osbord), John (D.) | 1645 | Stuckey, George | 1640 |
| Osborn, Richard (D.) | 1637 | Taylor, John (D.) | 1640 |
| Owen, John (D.) | 1650 | Taylor, Stephen (D.) | 1642 |
| Palmer, Nicholas (Sgt.) (D.) | 1637 | Terry, Stephen (D.)* | 1637 |
| Parkman, Elias (D.) | 1637 | Thornton, Thomas (D.) | 1640 |
| Parsons, Thomas | 1641 | Thrall, William (D.) | 1637 |
| Phelps, George (D.)* | 1635 | Tilley, John (D.)* | 1636 |
| Phelps, William (D.)* | 1635 | Tilton, Peter (H.) | 1639 |
| Phillips, George (D.) | 1640 | Try, Micheal (D.) | 1640 |
| Pinney, Humphrey (D.)* | 1635 | Tudor, Owen (D.) | 1649 |
| Pomeroy, Eltwood (D.)* | 1635 | Voure, Richard (D.) | 1638 |
| Pond, Samuel (D.) | 1641 | Warham, John (Rev.) (D.)* | 1635 |
| Porter, John Sr. (H.) | 1639 | Watson, Robert (D.) | 1639 |
| Preston, Edward (ST.) | 1635 | Weller, Richard (D.) | 1640 |
| Randall, Abraham (D.) | 1635 | Whitehead, Richard (D.) | 1640 |
| Randall, Phillip (D.) | 1635 | Williams, Arthur (D.) | 1640 |
| Rawlins, Jasper (R.) | 1640 | Williams, John (D.) | 1644 |
| Reeves, John (ST.) | 1635 | Williams, Roger (D.)* | 1639 |
| Robinson, Robert (ST.) | 1635 | Wilson, Robert | 1647 |
| Rockwell, John (D.) | 1640 | Wilton, David (Lieut.) (D.) | 1640 |
| Rockwell, William (Dea.) (D.)* | 1640 | Winchell, Robert (D.) | 1637 |
| Rossiter, Bray (Dr.) (D.) | 1636 | Witchfield, John (Elder) (D.) | 1640 |
| St. Nicholas, John (D.) | 1639 | Wolcott, Henry Sr. (D.)* | 1635 |
| Saltonstall, Robert (W.) | 1642 | Wyatt, John (D.) | 1649 |
| Samos (Samways), Richard | 1640 | Youngs, John (D.) | 1641 |

D. - Dorchester, Mass. S. - Salem, Mass.

C. - Cambridge, Mass. ST. - Saltonstall Party of

P. - Plymouth Colony.

1635.

R. - Roxbury, Mass.

H. - Huit Party from

W. - Watertown, Mass.

England, Arrived in

Massachusetts on the

Susan and Ellen, in

1638.

* - Arrived at Dorches-
ter on the Mary and
John in 1630.

Compiled by Kent C.L. Avery and Stephen E. Simon in June, 1983.

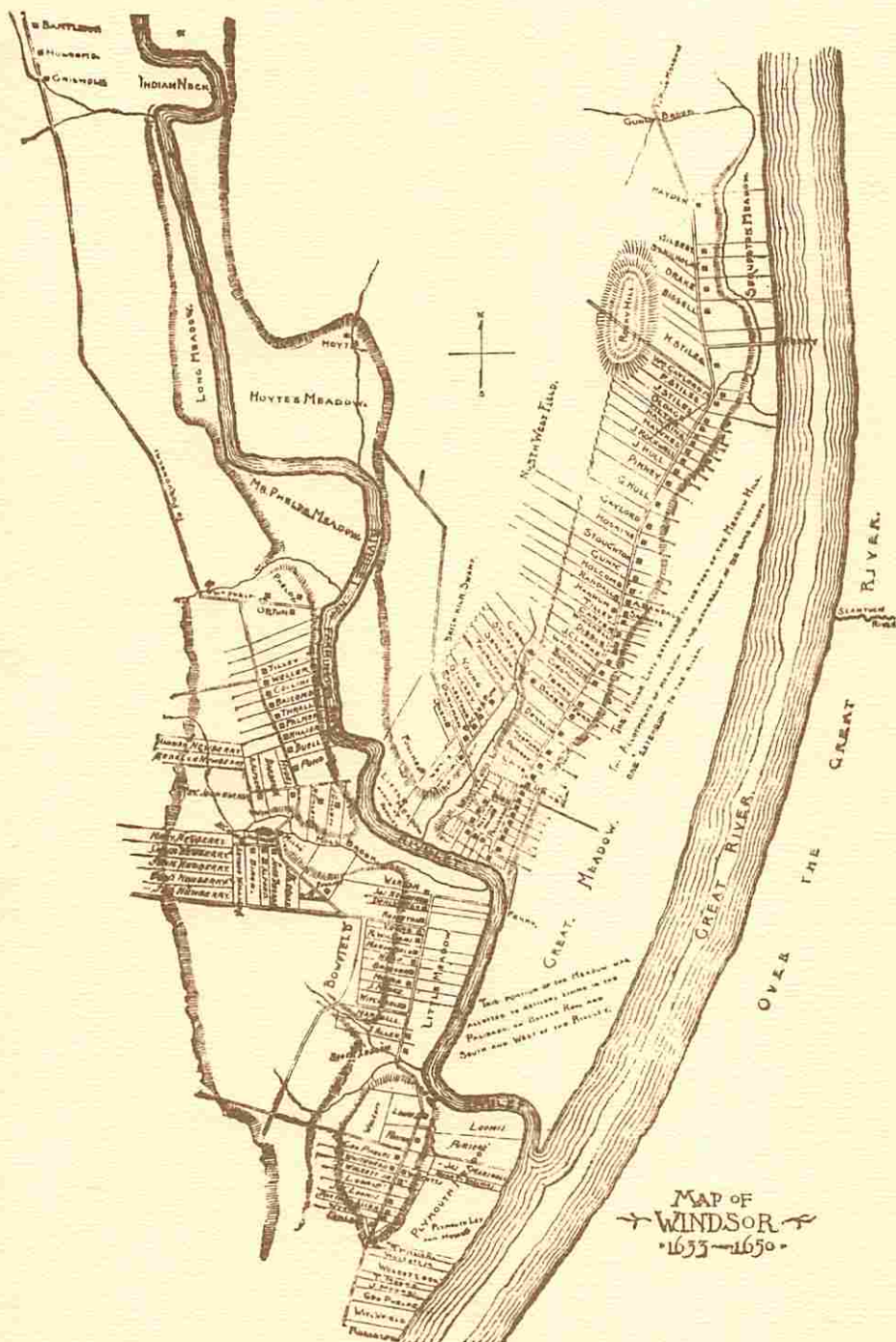
Names and dates found and confirmed in The History of Ancient Windsor by Henry Stiles, Connecticut Vital Statistics of Windsor, Connecticut, A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England by James Savage, and "Mary and John" Story of the Founding of Dorchester, Mass. by Maude Kuhns.

Important Dates in Early Windsor History

- 1614 Adriaen Block sails up the Connecticut River.
- 1620 Plymouth Colony established by Pilgrims.
- 1628 Massachusetts Bay Colony established by Puritans.
- 1630 The Mary and John lands in Boston with the Dorchester congregation.
- 1631 Representatives of the Podunk Indians go to Boston and Plymouth to attract white settlement to the valley.
- 1633 The Dutch erect a fort (House of Hope) at Hartford. Gov. Winslow, of Plymouth, goes to Boston to propose joint occupation of the valley. John Oldham, of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, explores an overland route to Connecticut. The Plymouth Colony sends a party, under Lt. William Holmes to set up a trading post at Windsor. A smallpox epidemic spreads through the River Indians. Gov. Van Twiller, of New Amsterdam, sends 70 men to evict the Plymouth settlers from their trading post.
- 1634 The Massachusetts Bay Colony sends their first group of settlers to Wethersfield, Conn.
- 1635 A party from the Massachusetts Bay Colony under Roger Ludlow explores the Windsor area. Dorchester emigration of 1635, under Rev. John Warham, comes overland to Windsor. The Lords and the Gentlemen arrive in Windsor.
- 1636 Massachusetts General Court forms an eight member commission to govern the River Towns.
- 1637 The first Connecticut General Court convenes in Hartford. Town name officially changed from Dorchester to Windsor. A palisado built to protect settlers from hostile Indians. Pequot War waged between the Pequot Indians and the River Indians and white men.
- 1639 The "Fundamental Orders," written by Roger Ludlow, approved by the Connecticut General Court. A party led by Rev. Ephraim Huit arrives in Windsor on the Susan and Ellen.

Selected Bibliography

- Ayres, Harral. *The Great Trail of New England*, New York: Exposition Press, 1953.
- DeForest, John W. *History of the Indians of Connecticut*, 1850.
- Fowles, Lloyd W. *Fowles History of Windsor, Connecticut*, The Loomis Institute.
- Howard, Daniel. *The New History of Old Windsor, Windsor Locks, Conn.*: The Journal Press, 1935.
- Hoyt, Joseph B. *The Connecticut Story*, New Haven, Conn.: Readers Press, 1961.
- Mills, Lewis S. *The Story of Connecticut*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1932.
- Stiles, Henry R. *The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor: 1635-1891*, Hartford, Conn.: Lockwood and Brainard Company, 1893.
- Van Dusen, Albert E. *Connecticut*, New York: Random House, 1961.
- Winthrop, John. *Winthrop's Journal*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908.



CONNECTICUT

CT

ok
Barn

JAN - - 1996

4/96

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Does Not Circulate

THE FOUNDERS OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

ANCESTRAL HEADS OF WINDSOR'S FIRST FAMILIES

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|
| Alexander, George (D.) | 1644 | Ford, Thomas (D.)* | 1637 |
| Allen, Samuel (D.)* | 1640 | Foulkes, Henry (D.) | 1635 |
| Allyn, Matthew (C.) | 1638 | Fowler, Ambrose (D.) | 1646 |
| Alvord, Alexander (D.) | 1645 | Fyler, Walter (D.) | 1637 |
| Alvord, Benedictus (D.) | 1637 | Gaylord, William (Dea.) (D.)* | 1635 |
| Baker, Jeffry (D.) | 1642 | Gibbs, Francis (D.) | 1640 |
| Bancroft, John | 1647 | Gibbs, Giles (D.)* | 1640 |
| Barber, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 | Gilbert, Nicholas | 1644 |
| Bartlett, John (D.) | 1641 | Gilbert, Thomas (D.) | 1644 |
| Bascoml, Thomas (D.)* | 1639 | Gillett, Jonathan (D.)* | 1635 |
| Bassett, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 | Gillett, Nathan (D.)* | 1635 |
| Bennett, John (S.) | 1648 | Grant, Matthew (D.)* | 1635 |
| Birge, Richard (D.) | 1635 | Gridley, Thomas (D.) | 1637 |
| Bissell, John (H.) | 1639 | Griffin, John | 1647 |
| Branker, John (D.) | 1640 | Griswold, Edward (H.) | 1639 |
| Brewster, Jonathan (P.) | 1633 | Griswold, Matthew (H.) | 1639 |
| Brooks, John | 1650 | Gunn, Thomas (D.) | 1640 |
| Browton, John | 1650 | Hannum, William (D.)* | 1640 |
| Buckland, Thomas (D.) | 1637 | Harris, John (ST.) | 1635 |
| Buell, William (D.) | 1640 | Hatford, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 |
| Busket, James (ST.) | 1635 | Hawkes, John (D.) | 1640 |
| Carter, Joshua (D.) | 1637 | Hawkins, Anthony (D.) | 1640 |
| Chappel, George (ST.) | 1635 | Hayden, William (D.)* | 1640 |
| Clarke, Daniel (H.) | 1639 | Haynes, John | 1640 |
| Clarke, Henry (Dea.) (D.) | 1640 | Hayward, Robert (D.) | 1643 |
| Clarke, Joseph (C.) | 1637 | Heylei, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 |
| Collins, Mary | 1640 | Hill, William (D.) | 1640 |
| Cooke, Aaron (Capt.) (D.)* | 1636 | Hillier, John (D.) | 1640 |
| Cooke, Nathaniel | 1649 | Holcombe, Thomas (D.)* | 1635 |
| Cooper, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 | Hosford, William (Elder) (D.) | 1639 |
| Cribb, John (ST.) | 1635 | Haskins, John (D.)* | 1640 |
| Curtis, Henry (D.) | 1645 | Hoyte, Simon (D.) | 1640 |
| Denslow, Nicholas (D.)* | 1640 | Hubbard, William (D.) | 1640 |
| Dewey, Thomas (D.) | 1637 | Hull, Ephraim (Rev.) (H.) | 1639 |
| Dibble, Thomas (D.) | 1637 | Hull, George (D.)* | 1637 |
| Dimbleton, John (D.) | 1640 | Humphrey, Michael (D.) | 1647 |
| Dorchester, Anthony | 1649 | Hurd, John (D.) | 1640 |
| Drake, John Sr. (D.)* | 1639 | Hubert, William | 1640 |
| Dwyer, John | 1635 | Hydes, Humphrey (D.) | 1640 |
| Dwyer, Joseph (ST.) | 1635 | Loomis, Joseph (H.) | 1639 |
| Eggleston, Bogat (D.)* | 1635 | Ladlow, Roger (D.)* | 1635 |
| Ellison, Lawrence (D.) | 1644 | Lyman, Richard (D.) | 1635 |
| Ellsworth, Josias (Sgt.) | 1646 | Marshall, James (D.) | 1642 |
| Eno (Enna), James (D.) | 1648 | Marshall, Samuel (Capt.) | 1637 |
| Filley, William (D.) | 1640 | Marshfield, Thomas (D.) | 1635 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| Mason, John (Capt.) (D.)* | 1635 | Saxton, Richard (D.) | 1646 |
| Merwin, Miles (D.) | 1640 | Sension (St. John), Matthew (D.) | 1640 |
| Messenger, Edward | 1650 | Sension, Nicholas (D.) | 1643 |
| Mills, Simon | 1650 | Sheldon, Isaac | 1640 |
| Moore, John (Dea.) (D.)* | 1635 | Soulfoot, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 |
| Moore, Thomas (D.)* | 1635 | Staires, Thomas (Sgt.) (H.) | 1639 |
| Morton, Thomas | 1646 | Stiles, Francis (ST.) | 1635 |
| Moses, John (D.) | 1641 | Stiles, Henry (ST.) | 1635 |
| Newberry, Thomas (D.) | 1636 | Stiles, John (ST.) | 1635 |
| Nowell, Thomas (D.) | 1641 | Stiles, Thomas (ST.) | 1635 |
| Oldage, Richard (D.) | 1639 | Stoughton, Thomas (Ens.) (D.)* | 1640 |
| Orton, Thomas (D.) | 1646 | Strong, John (Elder) (D.)* | 1645 |
| Osborn (Osbord), John (D.) | 1645 | Stuckey, George | 1640 |
| Osborn, Richard (D.) | 1637 | Taylor, John (D.) | 1640 |
| Owen, John (D.) | 1650 | Taylor, Stephen (D.) | 1642 |
| Palmer, Nicholas (Sgt.) (D.) | 1637 | Terry, Stephen (D.)* | 1637 |
| Parkman, Elias (D.) | 1637 | Thornton, Thomas (D.) | 1640 |
| Parsons, Thomas | 1641 | Thrall, William (D.) | 1637 |
| Phelps, George (D.)* | 1635 | Tilley, John (D.)* | 1636 |
| Phelps, William (D.)* | 1635 | Tilton, Peter (H.) | 1639 |
| Phillips, George (D.) | 1640 | Try, Michael (D.) | 1640 |
| Pinney, Humphrey (D.)* | 1635 | Tudor, Owen (D.) | 1649 |
| Pomeroy, Eltwood (D.)* | 1635 | Voure, Richard (D.) | 1638 |
| Pond, Samuel (D.) | 1641 | Warham, John (Rev.) (D.)* | 1635 |
| Porter, John Sr. (H.) | 1639 | Watson, Robert (D.) | 1639 |
| Preston, Edward (ST.) | 1635 | Weller, Richard (D.) | 1640 |
| Randall, Abraham (D.) | 1635 | Whitehead, Richard (D.) | 1640 |
| Randall, Phillip (D.) | 1635 | Williams, Arthur (D.) | 1640 |
| Rawlins, Jasper (R.) | 1640 | Williams, John (D.) | 1644 |
| Reeves, John (ST.) | 1635 | Williams, Roger (D.)* | 1639 |
| Robinson, Robert (ST.) | 1635 | Wilson, Robert | 1647 |
| Rockwell, John (D.) | 1640 | Wilton, David (Lieut.) (D.) | 1640 |
| Rockwell, William (Dea.) (D.)* | 1640 | Winchell, Robert (D.) | 1637 |
| Rossiter, Bray (Dr.) (D.) | 1636 | Witchfield, John (Elder) (D.) | 1640 |
| St. Nicholas, John (D.) | 1639 | Wolcott, Henry Sr. (D.)* | 1635 |
| Saltonstall, Robert (W.) | 1642 | Wyatt, John (D.) | 1649 |
| Samos (Samways), Richard | 1640 | Youngs, John (D.) | 1641 |

D. - Dorchester, Mass. S. - Salem, Mass. * - Arrived at Dorchester on the Mary and John in 1630.
 C. - Cambridge, Mass. ST. - Saltonstall Party of
 P. - Plymouth Colony. 1635.
 R. - Roxbury, Mass. H. - Huit Party from
 W. - Watertown, Mass. England, Arrived in
 Massachusetts on the
 Susan and Ellen, in
 1638.

Compiled by Kent C.L. Avery and Stephen E. Simon in June, 1983.

Names and dates found and confirmed in The History of Ancient Windsor by Henry Stiles, Connecticut Vital Statistics of Windsor, Connecticut, A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England by James Savage, and "Mary and John" Story of the Founding of Dorchester, Mass. by Maude Kuhns.

