THE

MEMORIAL HISTORY

OF

HARTFORD COUNTY

CONNECTICUT

1633–1884

EDITED

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WINDSOR.

GENERAL HISTORY.

BY THE REV. REUEL H. TUTTLE.

During the year 1631, Wahginnacut, an Indian sachem from the Connecticut River, visited the governors of Massachusetts and Plymouth colonies, in order to induce emigration to the Connecticut valley from both these colonies. He pleaded as an inducement the fruitfulness of the country, the opportunity for trade in such commodities as corn, and the skins of the beaver and otter; and he pledged an annual present of a full supply of corn and eighty beaver-skins to the Englishmen who would settle in the valley. Governor Winthrop courteously declined the proposition, but Governor Winslow, of Plymouth, consented to go and view the savage paradise. His visit must have been satisfactory, for he called himself the “discoverer” of the river and the valley;1 and his favorable account no doubt incited the ardor of other explorers who soon followed. The earnest solicitation of the Indian sachem may be accounted for in the fact that the river Indians were distressed and alarmed because Pekoath, the great sachem of the Pequots, had made war with them and was driving them from the country. The assistance of an English settlement was desired, therefore, as a protection and defence against their powerful enemies. The Plymouth people, notwithstanding the refusal of the Massachusetts colony to unite with them, determined to form a trading-company and to establish a trading-post. In September, 1633, John Oldham and three others from Dorchester made the journey to the Connecticut through the wilderness. The native chiefs showed him kindness and made him presents, and he carried back with him to Dorchester specimens of black lead and Indian hemp. William Holmes was selected by the governor of Plymouth to build a trading-house in Windsor. With this commission, in the latter part of October, in “a large new bark,” with a daring and adventurous crew, he set sail for

1 The first discovery of the Connecticut was in 1614, six years before the settlement at Plymouth. The foremost enterprising discoverers at that time were the three Dutch navigators, Hendrick Christiaensen, Adriaen Block, and Cornelis Jacobsen Mey. Block spent the winter of 1613-1614 on Manhattan Island, in building a yacht of sixteen tons, which he named “Onrust” (Restless), to take the place of his ship, the “Tiger,” which had accidentally been burned. In the spring he sailed eastward, passing through the rapids of Hell Gate in the East River, explored Long Island Sound from end to end, and discovered and entered the Quonochontaug, or Connecticut, River. He ascended this stream as high as 41° 45’, where he found an Indian village, or fort, belonging to the Nawaas, and named the stream Fresh River. The fort of the Nawaas was probably situated near what is now called Wilson Station, about midway between Windsor and Hartford. — Dr. O'Callaghan's History of New Netherland, vol. i. p. 78.
the mouth of the Connecticut. He took with him the frame of the trading-house all fitted, and all the materials which would be required to complete it. He had on board Nattawanut and other Indian sachems, who afterward sold the land to the Plymouth people. He passed up the river without opposition until he came to the Dutch fort at Hartford, where two pieces of ordnance were brought to bear upon him, and he was ordered by the garrison "to strike his colors, or they would fire upon him."

The threat was not carried into execution. Holmes said he had the commission of the governor of Plymouth to go up the river, and he should go. The Dutch suffered him to sail by, and after proceeding a few miles he erected his trading-house near the mouth of the Tunxis (or Farmington) River. "This," says Governor Wolcott, "was the first house erected in Connecticut." The point near where Holmes landed is now occupied by a fishing-hut, and is called by the boatmen on the river Old Point Comfort; and the meadow lying in the vicinity of where the house stood is still called Plymouth Meadow.

The Dutch governor at Fort Amsterdam, Wouter van Twiller, sent a reinforcement to Connecticut in order to drive Holmes from his position. Seventy men with banners spread were prepared to assault the Plymouth house; but, reluctant to shed blood, and finding that it could not be taken without, they came to a parley, and concluded to retreat. "We did the Dutch no wrong, for we took not a foot of any land they bought, but went above them and bought that tract of land which belonged to the Indians we carried with us, and our friends, with whom the Dutch had nothing to do." The Dutch made no further demonstrations against the Plymouth house. In 1633 the small-pox broke out among the Indians, and in consequence Hall and two others from Massachusetts, who visited Connecticut in November of that year to trade, were obliged to return the following January. The Indians about the trading-house fell victims to this disease, and Nattawanut, the chief sachem, died therefrom. But "not one of the English was so much as sick, or in the least measure tainted with this disease." 3

In June, 1635, the pioneers of the Dorchester company came to Connecticut and prepared to settle near the Plymouth trading-house, much to the surprise of Holmes and his party. After remaining here awhile they made explorations up the river, and on their return they found that other claimants had arrived. These were Mr. Francis Stiles and his twenty men, 4 who had been sent out in a vessel by Sir Richard

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1 Stiles's History of Windsor, p. 12, note; Barber's Historical Collections, p. 125.
3 Bradford's Journal.
4 The following is a full list of names of the Stiles party who settled near the Chief Justice Ellsworth place. Three of these were females, and tradition has it that Rachel, wife of John Stiles, was the first woman who stepped ashore in Windsor.

- Francis Stiles, aged 35 years.
- Thomas Bassett, " 37 "
- Thomas Stiles, " 20 "
- Thomas Barber, " 21 "
- Jo. Dyer, " 28 "
- Jo. Reeves, " 19 "
- Thos. Cooper, " 18 "
- Ed. Preston, " 13 "
- Joan Stiles, aged 35 years.
- Henry Stiles, " 3 "
- Geo. Chappel, " 20 "
- Ed. Patteson, " 33 "
- Jo. Stiles, " 35 "
- Henry Stiles, " 40 "
- John Stiles, " 9 months.
- Rachel Stiles, " 28 years.

The Stiles party shared with the Dorchester men in the first distribution of land in 1640, when all the land on the road from the Little or Tunxis River "to Wm. Hayden's lot" (Hayden
Saltonstall. In this conflict of claims Stiles was at length thwarted, and he removed his stores to a place near where the residence of the late Chief Justice Ellsworth was built. The Dorchester party and the Plymouth people now held the land in dispute. The latter claimed the prior right of purchase and occupation, and the former relied upon the tender mercies of God's providence. The Dorchester men therefore continued to prepare and improve this "Lord's waste" of Matianuck (Windsor) as the future abode of themselves and their children. The main body of the Dorchester people followed on the 15th of October, 1635. Their household goods and provisions were sent around by water, and sixty persons, among whom were women and little children, began the slow and wearisome journey through the wilderness to the distant settlement. They drove their cattle, horses, and swine before them, and the frosts and snows of winter were hard upon them ere they reached their destination. The river was frozen over by the 15th of November, and the vessel containing their goods had not arrived. The winter which followed was marked by great suffering. They had insufficient shelter for themselves and their animals, and they could get but part of the latter across the river. On the 26th of November thirteen of the number resolved to return to Massachusetts. One of them fell through the ice and was drowned; the rest reached Dorchester in ten days. Those who remained in Connecticut suffered extreme destitution, being obliged to live on acorns, malt, and grains. Winthrop tells us that they lost nearly £2,000 worth of cattle. Most of this first party returned to Dorchester in the small vessel "Rebecca," which had providentially appeared. But, nothing daunted, in the spring of 1636 they set out again with Mr. Warham, the junior pastor of the church, and a large part of its members. With those from Dorchester there came others from Cambridge and Watertown. Matianuck was first called Dorchester. In February, 1637, the name was changed to Windsor.1 Notwithstanding the efforts of the colonial government to discourage emigration, it did not cease until 1637.

For several years after the settlement of Windsor the people were harassed with wars. They enclosed themselves within their fortress or palisade, and at all times, night or day, whether laboring in the fields or wending their way to the sanctuary, were armed and prepared to encounter the secret foe. The original boundaries of the town were about forty-six miles in circumference, lying on both sides of the Connecticut River, and extending from Simsbury to the Ellington Hills. Ten distinct tribes were said to be within the limits of the town, and about the year 1670 it was estimated that there were nineteen Indians to one Englishman.2 This estimate is shown by Dr. Stiles to be much exaggerated. The whole number of Indians within the present limits

2 East Windsor was organized as a distinct town in 1768. Ellington was organized in 1786.
of Windsor probably did not exceed three hundred, and all within the original bounds \(^1\) did not exceed one thousand. But it is evident that they were sufficiently numerous to require constant vigilance on the part of the early settlers. About the year 1646 the Windsor Indians did the inhabitants much damage by burning up large quantities of their personal property; and three years before, when a general insurrection of the Indians against the English was apprehended, in every town the people were obliged to keep watch and ward every night, from sunset to sunrise. The Indians of Windsor were generally peaceable and friendly; for it had been their purpose at the outset, in asking the English to come among them, to insure their friendship and protection against the Pequots and the Mohawks, who held them in subjection. But a wise caution and vigilance became necessary. The first court, of which Roger Ludlow was a member, had ordered that the people should not sell arms and ammunition to the Indians. In subsequent regulations cider, beer, and strong liquors were prohibited from being sold, because it would be “to the hazard of the lives and peace both of the English and the Indians.” The greatest number of Indians were on the east side of the Connecticut River, and they were called Podunks; but all the different clans who lived on either bank of the Connecticut were called River Indians. In the wars which subsequently followed, Windsor bore her full share of the burden and the trial.

At the court, when the name Windsor was given to the Dorchester settlement, the boundaries were defined as follows in the Colonial Records:

At a Court held, February 21, 1637, “It is ordered y' the plantaçon called Dorchester shalbee called Windsor,” and at the same court “It is ordered that the plantaçon nowe called Newtowne shalbe called and named by the name of Hartford Towne.” A committee previously appointed reported that the bounds of Windsor “shall extend towards the Falls on the same side the plantation stands to a brooke called Kittle Brooke, and soe over the Greate River upon the same line that New Towne and Dorchester doth betwene them.” It was ordered by the court that “The boundes betweene Hartford & Windsor is agreed to be att the vpper end of the greate meadowe of the saide Hartford toward Windsor att the Pale that is nowe there sett vpp the saide Hartford w\(^{th}\) is abuttinge vppon the great River vppon a due east line & into the Countrey from the saide Pale vppon a due west line as parrell to the saide east line as far as they have now paled & afterward the boundes to goe into the Countrey vppon the same west line. But it is to be soe much shorter towards Windsor as the place where the Girte that comes along att th' end of the saide meadowe & falls into the saide greate River is shorter then their Pale & over the saide greate River the saide Plantaçon of Windsor is to come to the Riveretts mouth that falls into the saide greate River of Connecticott and there the saide Hartford is to rumn due east into the Countrey.”\(^2\)

The rivalry and dispute as to possession of the land at Matianuck terminated in the spring of 1637. Thomas Prince sold the land owned by the Plymouth company to the people of Windsor, and made a formal transfer as agent of the colony of New Plymouth. The following is a

\(^1\) Stiles’s History of Windsor, pp. 86–88.
copy of the deed on the town records, to which is appended a comment by the recorder, Matthew Grant: —

"An agreement made between Mr. Thomas Prince for and on behalf of New Plymouth in America, and ye inhabitants of Windsor on the River of Connecticut in ye said America ye 15 day of May 1637. In Primus on consideration £37: 10s: 0 to be payed about 3 months hence, ye said Mr. Prince doth sell unto ye inhabitants of Windsor all that land meadow and upland from a marked tree a quarter of a mile above Mr. Stiles, North, to ye great swamp next ye bounds of Hartford, South, for breadth, and in length into ye country toward Paquannack, so far as Zequasson and Nattawanet two sachems hath or had as their Propriety, all which hath been purchased of ye said Zequasson and Nattawanet for a valuable consideration, ye particulars whereof do appear in a Noate now produced by ye said Mr. Prince, allways excepted & reserved to ye house of ye said New Plymouth, 43 acres of meadow and 3 quarters, and in upland on ye other side of ye swamp, next their meado, 40 acres viz. 40 rod in breadth, and in length 160 rod into ye country for ye present, and after wards as other lots are layed out, they are to have their proportion, within their bounds aforesayd. There is likewise excepted 70 rod in breadth towards ye says bounds of ye said Hartford in an Indifferent place to be agreed upon, and to goe in length to ye end of ye bounds aforesayd. In witness whereof ye parties aforesayd have set their hands and seales ye day and yeare above written.\(^1\) . . . . .

"Signed, sealed and delivered. In presence of

Josias Winslow.  Roger Ludlow.
The mark of Wm. Butler.  John Witchfield."

"The above deed or instrument is a true copy of the original being compared therewith Apr. 7, 1673 per us

John Talcott
John Allyn, Sec'y  Asst."

Then follows the explanatory note by Matthew Grant: —

"This bargain as it is aboue exprest, and was written and assigned, I can certify do not mention or speak to every particular of ye bargayn as it was issued with Mr. Prince before it was put in writing. This should have been ye frame of it. Dorchester men that came from ye Mass. bay up here to Connecticut to settel in ye place now called Windsor, Plimouth men challenged propriety here by a purchase of ye land from ye Indians, whereupon in ye latter end of ye 35 year, some of our Principal men meeting with some of our Plimouth men in Dorchester, labored to drive a bargayn with them to bye out their, which they challenged by purchas, and came to termes and then May '37 as it is aboue exprest, then our company being generally together (that intended to settel here) Mr. Prince being come up here in ye behalf of ye Plimouth men, that were partners in their purchas issued ye bargayn with us. We were to pay them £37: 10s. for their whole purchas, which Mr. Prince presented to us in writing, only they reserved ye 16 part off for themselues & their 16 part of meado land came by measuring of ye meado to 43 acres 3 quarters, which was bounded out to Mr. Prince, he being present, by myself appointed by our company, in Plimouth meadow so called by that account; their 16 part in upland they took up neere ye bounds of Hartford, 70 rod in breadth by ye riuer and so to continew to ye end of ye bounds. They were also to have one acre to

\(^1\) Here ends the deed on the Windsor Records. The signatures are omitted, but are affixed to the copy of the deed in the Colony Records. Mr. Prince's signature is omitted from both records.
build on, upon y° hill against their meado. Also Mr. Prince sayed he had purchased y° land on y° East side of y° riuier that lies between Scantic and Namerick, and that we should have in leu of 40 rod in bredth of upland behind the swamp against their meado, and to run in length 160 rod from the swamp, to be forty acres, and afterward to have their proportion within their bounds, according to a 40 acre man, in the commons.

"This I witness,

Thus the Dorchester people were left in undisturbed possession of their location in Windsor, and made a permanent settlement on the west side of the Connecticut, their land on the east side being used for pasturage.

The first land owned by the English, purchased by the Plymouth company from Sequassen and Nattawanut in 1633, and transferred to the Dorchester people in 1637, was afterward, in 1670, repurchased by the town of Windsor from Arramamett and Repequam, the successors of Nattawanut. In the deed given at the latest date, "Nassahegan's propriety," which embraced the district of Poquonnock, is mentioned as already "sold to the inhabitants of Windsor." William Phelps, Sr., had bought it in 1635, and being unable to prove full payment, honestly repurchased the same in March, 1665.\(^1\) The next purchase before the Pequot War embraced the large tract of Windsor Locks, the northern third of Windsor, and the southern part of Suffield. In 1642, March 13, "Nassahegan of Paquanick" deeded to John Mason, of Windsor, all his "lands lying between Powquaniock and Massaquua" (Simsbury), only excepting a portion of the meadow occupied by the Indians, known as Indian Neck. April 21, 1659, we find George Griswold purchasing of certain Indians named, "nine acres more or less," and Sept. 11, 1662, Nassahegan, of Poquonnock, being indebted \(23\) 5s. to George Griswold and delaying to pay, gives for full payment all his land in Indian Neck. Again, in 1666 James Enno and John Moses, agents of the town of Windsor, purchased from Nassahegan a tract of 28,000 acres, on the south side of the Rivulet to the foot of Massaco Mountain, and on the north side to the "mountain that answers the foresaid mountain," and "eastward to a new way [or road], passing out of Pipe-stave Swamp going to Westfield," and southward from the Rivulet to the Mill Brook "as it runs

\(^1\) Stiles's History of Windsor, p. 105.
into the Wilderness and so to the Mountains.” All these purchases were honestly made, and in many cases repurchased, so that there was a grain of truth in the grim pleaantry of Sir Edmund Andros when he disputed the tenures by which the colonists held their lands; “An Indian deed is no better than the scratch of a bear’s paw.” But the result, so far as Windsor purchases were concerned, was satisfactory to all parties, and the present estimation of values is not to be taken into account. The first Indian deeds of sale at Windsor, Hartford, and Wethersfield were never preserved.\(^1\)

Windsor bore her burden in the war against the Pequots. The tribe boldly asserted: “We are the Pequots; and have killed Englishmen, and can kill them as mosquitoes, and we will go to Connecticut, and kill men, women, and children, and carry away the horses, cows, and hogs.” In the midst of the threatened calamities the General Court met at Hartford, May 1, 1637, and made a declaration, remarkable in its simplicity and force, of an offensive war:—

“It is ordered that there shall be an offensive war against the Pequot, and there shall be ninety men levied out of the three plantations of Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor.”

Windsor was to furnish thirty men, six suits of armor, and a supply of sixty bushels of corn, fifty pieces of pork, thirty pounds of rice, and four cheeses. The corn was to be ground, and one half made into biscuit. There was ordered “one hog’s head of good beer, for the captain, and minister, and sick men;” and, “if there be only three or four gallons of strong water, two gallons of sack.” On the 10th of May the army embarked at Hartford in “a pink, a pinnace, and a shallops,”\(^2\) an hundred and sixty men, ninety from the plantations, and seventy Mohegan Indians. The renowned John Mason, of Windsor, was appointed captain of the army, the Rev. Mr. Stone chaplain, and Dr. Thomas Pell, of Saybrook fort, surgeon. Mr. Pynchon was the owner of the shallops. After a night spent in prayer, and “encouraged by the Rev’d ministers,” the fleet, with many Indian canoes, set sail for the mouth of the river. The Windsor people at home erected a fortification called a palisado.\(^3\)

The names of the soldiers contributed by Windsor to the Pequot

\(^1\) Dr. Stiles’s recommendation (page 9 of Preface, and also page 338) concerning care in preserving the ancient records has been heeded. A new town-hall has been erected in the centre of the town, with fire-proof safe for probate records and fire-proof vault for town records. In the first eleven volumes there was no index of the grantees, but only of the grantees. This defect has been remedied by much painstaking labor on the part of Deacon John B. Woodford, the present town clerk, who has made a complete index according to the Burr method, containing over twenty thousand names.

\(^2\) Mason’s History of the Pequot War.

\(^3\) “This was a stockade, erected on the north bank of the Tunxis, the east, south, and west lines of which stood directly on the brow of the hill. The palisades were strengthened by a ditch on the outside, the earth of which was thrown up against them. The north line ran across on the north line of, and parallel to, the north line of the present Congregational parsonage. The whole enclosure was a little less than one quarter of a mile square. Into this palisade were gathered, for safety, all the families of the town, with their cattle and effects, while Captain Mason and his little army went down to fight the Pequots. A week after
expedition cannot all be given with certainty. Dr. Stiles mentions fifteen who are believed to have belonged to this town; namely, Captain John Mason, Sergeant Benedict Alvord, Thomas Barber; Thomas Buckland; George Chappel, John Dyer; James Eggleston, Nathan Gillet, Thomas Gridley, Thomas Stiles, Sergeant Thomas Stares, Richard Osborn, Thomas Parsons, Edward Pattison, William Thrall. A large grant of land was given to each soldier.

Windsor’s proportion of the war-tax of £620 levied by the Court Feb. 9, 1638, was £158 2s., to be paid either in money, in wampum four a penny, or in good and merchantable beaver at 9s. per pound. March 8th, “It is ordered that Captain Mason shall be a public military officer of the plantations of Connecticut, and shall train the military men thereof in each plantation, according to the days appointed, and shall have 40l. per annum to be paid out of the treasury quarterly.” All persons over sixteen years of age were required to bear arms, except church officers, commissioners, and such as were excused by the Court. Windsor’s magazine contained one barrel of powder and three hundred pounds of lead. Every soldier, under penalty of five shillings, was to “have continually in his house in a readiness, one half a pound of good powder, two pounds of bullets suitable to his piece; one pound of match if his piece be a match lock.”

Previous to the year 1638 the colonies had legislated by their courts, which were invested with all the legislative and judicial functions. The first court was held at Newtown (Hartford), on the 26th of April, 1636. Of the two magistrates from Windsor who were members of this court, Roger Ludlow stands clarum et venerabile nomen. Wise in counsel, ripe in judgment, a statesman of far-sighted policy and liberality of sentiment, he is accounted among the fathers of legislation who “builted better than they knew.” To him belongs the honor of first unfolding that representative system peculiar to our government. He probably drafted the constitution of Connecticut, which contains the germ of all constitutions since adopted by the different States and by the American Republic.

It is to be expected, then, that we shall find in the civil organization of the towns the same features which marked the general government. An orderly and decent government established, we must place ourselves on a level with their times, and imagine ourselves amid their surroundings, if we would estimate aright the necessity of such rules as they

their departure Mr. Ludlow writes, from within the palisade, to his friend Mr. Pyncheon, in Springfield, giving an Indian a new coat for carrying this letter: ‘I have received your letter wherein you express that you are well fortified, but few hands. For my part my spirit is ready to sink within me, when, upon alarms, which are daily, I think of your condition, that if the case be never so dangerous, we can neither help you, nor you us. But I must confess, both you and ourselves do stand merely in the power of our God. . . . Our plantations are so gleaned by that small fleet we sent out [he pleaded military necessity for taking Mr. Pyncheon’s boats without his leave; the boats were at or below Warehouse Point] that those that remain are not able to supply our watches, which are day and night; that our people are scarce able to stand upon their legs; and, for planting, we are in a like condition with you; what we plant is before our doors, — little anywhere else.’ The houses within the palisade were built around and facing an open square; around the rear of their house-lots, and next the palisade, was a two-rod road for public convenience. The present Palisade Green is much less than its original size; it was then as wide, or nearly so, at the north as at the south end. On the Green stood their meeting-house, and in the southwest corner was the ancient cemetery, containing the remains of Windsor’s early dead.” — JAMES H. HAYDEN’s CENTENNIAL ADDRESS, P. 25.
felt compelled to adopt. Of town regulations, as well as those of the State, it may with truth be said that “for one law that has been passed of a bigoted or intolerant character, a diligent explorer into the English court records or statute books, for evidences of bigotry and revolting cruelty, could find twenty in England.”

Their civil requirements were founded on virtue and religion. Hence a town resident, and one who could participate in town affairs, must have the vote of the town as to “good character, blameless life, and honest conversation.” Their civil and ecclesiastical regulations can scarcely be separated, for good citizenship was based upon Christian principles. In 1637 the General Court enacted that

“No young man that is neither married, nor hath any servant, and be noe publick officer, shall keep house by himself, without consent of the Town where he lives first had, under pain of 20 shillings per week.”

“No Master of a family shall give Habitation or entertainment to any young man to sojourn in his family, but by the allowance of the Inhabitants of the Said Town where he dwells, under the like Penalty of 20 shillings per Week.”

The town records of Windsor have several entries showing permission granted to certain persons to sojourn together or to entertain others.

“Dec. 1, 1651. John Moses had allowance to sojourn with Simon Miller in his house.”

Also, “Sept. 13, 1652. It is assented that Isaac Shelden and Samuel Rockwell shall keep house together in the house that is Isaac’s, so they carry themselves soberly and do not entertain idle persons, to the evil expense of time by night or day.”

Also, “that John Bennet should be entertained by William Hayden in his family.”

Also, 1656, “that no person or persons whatsoever shall be admitted inhabitant in this town of Windsor, without the approbation of the town, or townsmen, that are, or shall be, from year to year in being. Nor shall any man sett or sell any house or land so as to bring in any to be inhabitant into the town without the approbation of the townsmen, or giving in such security as may be accepted to save the town from damage.”

There were also strict regulations to insure morality and virtue in social relations. The town-meeting was established, and all were obliged to attend it: delinquents were fined, unless they could give sufficient excuse. The town officers were townsmen, constables, and surveyors. The townsmen, or selectmen as they are now called, had authority in educational matters; were to see that every child and apprentice was taught to read and write; and were to examine the children of the town in the Catechism. The constable was also an officer of superior dignity, and a town was considered incorporated when a constable was appointed therein by the Court. The first constable in Windsor was Mr. Henry Wolecott, appointed in 1636. John Porter was his successor in 1639. The town was afterward authorized to choose two constables, and the office appears to have been striven after, as in February, 1666, John Strong and Benedictus Alvord, “after much contending,” were

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1 Hollister’s History of Connecticut. 2 Stiles’s History of Windsor, pp. 54, 55.
chosen for the year ensuing. The office of town clerk was first created by the Court in 1639. Dr. Bray Rosseter was the first clerk of Windsor, and held that office until he removed to Guilford in 1652. The town surveyor was another important office. Matthew Grant, whose name is so conspicuous in the early history of the town, discharged the duties of this office. He was also the second town clerk, and continued "measuring of land and getting out of lots to men" for a period of forty years. Other town officers were appointed, and the name of the office will perhaps sufficiently indicate the duties to be discharged. These were "chimney-viewers," "fence-viewers," "pounders" of stray cattle, "way-wardens" or surveyors of highways, and "bound-goers or perambulators," who determined disputes as to boundary-lines. "Liquor for bound-goers" is a frequent item charged among the expenses of the town. There was also the town bailiff, or collector, who looked after those who refused or neglected to pay their rates. The "brander of horses" was another important dignitary established in each town by the General Court in 1665; he was not only to brand, but "shall make an entry of all horses so branded, with their natural and artificial marks, in a book kept by him for that purpose, who shall have 6d. for each horse so branded and entered," and a penalty of 20s. for every one who neglected to do so. The Windsor mark was the letter "I." "There is still in Windsor," says Dr. Stiles, "a book kept by Timothy Loomis, whom town clerk, containing all the marks, etc., of every man's horses, put down with a particularity which evidences the importance attached to it."

The "lister," or assessor, was another officer. At first the lands were classed in several grades, each class being put in the list at a certain price. So also with the live-stock. However, in 1675, when a tax was laid for the support of the Rivulet ferry, it was laid upon that class of property likely to receive the benefit. There were then five classes of tax-payers. Of the first class, styled "family, horse, and four oxen," there were twelve; of the second, "family, horse, and two oxen," there were fifty-four; of the third, "family and horse," there were forty-four; of the fourth, "only families," seventeen; of the fifth, "single men," thirty-eight, of whom fifteen owned horses. It will be observed that no tax is laid on vehicles because there were none.

Of the General and Particular Courts sufficient is said elsewhere. The Town courts, for the trial of small causes, were established by the General Court in 1639. The magistrates or assistants were judges of the Particular Courts. Many crimes beside murder were visited with capital punishment, and the sin of lying was punished with fines, stocks, or imprisonment. The records of the Particular Court show the severity with which slander, swearing, drunkenness, and contempt of civil or Divine authority were visited. In May, 1664, the Particular Court ordered that:

"H — D — or his wife should severely correct their daughter with a rod on the naked body in the presence of Mrs. Wolcott and Goode Bancroft this day, and in case it be not attended to this day, the constable is to see it done, the next opportunity, . . . for reproachful speeches which she hath spoken against the wife of John Bissell."
Sept. 5, 1639, Thomas Gridley, of Windsor, was ordered to be whipped at Hartford,—

"For refusing to watch, strong suspicion of drunkenness, contemptuous words against the orders of the court, quarreling and striking Mr. Stiles's man."

June 2, 1664. "Mr. Nicolas Stevens for his cursing at Windsor before the Train band last Monday, is to pay to the public treasury 10 shillings."

May 12, 1668. "Nicolas Wilton, for wounding the wife of John Brooks, and Mary Wilton, the wife of Nicholas Wilton, for contemptuous and reproachful terms by her put upon one of the Assistants, are adjudged, she to be whipt 6 stripes upon the naked body, next training day at Windsor; and the said Nicholas is hereby disfranchised of his privilege of freedom in this Corporation, and is to pay for the Horse and Man that came with him to the Court this day, and for what damage he hath done to the said Brooks his wife, and sit in the stocks the same day his wife is to receive her punishment. The Constables of Windsor to see this attended."

1668. "John Porter, having been accused by this court for defaming of some who have been in authority in this court, do order that he make full acknowledgement of the same, and manifest his repentance the next training day at Windsor, or else that he appear at the next county court to answer for his mis-carriage therein."

May 15, 1724, it is recorded: "Friend Shivee sat in the pillory and his right ear cut off for making plates for bills." Branding with the letter "B" for burglary, and whipping "at the cart's tail" for crimes against morality, were also methods of punishment. Tradition places the whipping-post upon Broad Street Green, where the sign-post now stands. It was used as late as 1714, and the remains of the old stocks were to be seen on the Green in 1806. The colony laws against "excess of apparel" seem strange to us in these days, and that against the use of tobacco is in striking contrast with the habits of the present inhabitants of Windsor, who encourage the growth of the plant almost under the eaves of the sanctuary. Equally in contrast is the conduct at the old town-meetings with that of the present day:—

1696–1697. "At a town meeting, January 19, it was voted that whosoever shall at any town meeting speak without leave from the Moderator of the meeting, he shall forfeit one shilling, and it [is] to be restrained by the constable for the use of the town."

The first highway in Connecticut was laid out between Hartford and Windsor, by order of the General Court, April 5, 1638.

Many interesting regulations cannot be inserted here in full. Five shillings were added by the town to the ten shillings paid by the country for every wolf that should be killed within the bounds of the town. Order was given concerning crossing by ferry at the rivulet on the Lord's Day; the magistrates and elders taking precedence, and "not above thirty-five persons at a time were to go in the great canoe, nor above six persons at a time in the little canoe," under penalty of five-pence. Particular orders were given concerning the ferry on ordinary occasions: "Jan. 1, 1650, an agreement was made with John Brooks to keep the ferry over the Rivulet for one year," the town to provide him a dwelling ten feet in breadth and fifteen in length; and subsequently there appear specific agreements with parties who are to provide passage over this Rivulet.
Dec. 13, 1658, Provision was “made upon the top of the meeting house, from the Lanthorne to the ridge of the house, to walk conveniently, to sound a trumpet or drum to give warning to meetings.”

We have seen that the early settlers were from necessity accustomed to the use of arms. The town of Windsor was called upon and promptly responded in all the earlier and later military expeditions. We have already remarked upon their hardships and privations, their operations offensive and defensive, in the Pequot War. Scattered throughout the town records are frequent references to their military organizations. In 1643, when there was fear of a general insurrection of the Indians against the English, the people were obliged to keep watch and ward every night, from sunset to sunrise. There was another general alarm in 1658, consequent upon the hostilities between the Dutch and the English, when it was feared the Indians would be incited to a general insurrection. The United Colonies ordered that five hundred men should be raised out of the four colonies. Connecticut’s portion of these was sixty-six, of whom twelve were from the town of Windsor. The origin of “General Training-day” may be traced to the order of the Court on the 8th of September of this year:—

“The Court doth grant the soldiers of these four towns on the River [Hartford, Windsor, Wethersfield, and Middletown] and Farmington one day for a General Training together—and they have liberty to send to Captain Mason to desire his presence, and to give him a call to command in chief, and to appoint the day; provided that each town shall have power to reserve a guard at home, for the safety of the towns, as occasion shall serve.”

In 1637 Captain Mason had been appointed public military officer to train the military in each plantation.\(^1\) It was on training-day, when the people were assembled, that the town business was generally transacted. March 11, 1657–8, was first organized a troop of horse, under Major Mason. They were thirty-seven in number, and seventeen were from Windsor. For four years the troopers met at some place of general rendezvous; but in 1662 they were allowed to train in the towns to which they belonged, but were regarded as “one entire Troop, consisting of several parts, who are to unite and attend the General Training as one entire body of horse.” The General Assembly at Hartford, Oct. 10, 1667, decreed as follows:—

“The inhabitants of Windsor having improved themselves in building a fort, this Court, for their encouragement, doth release the Train soldiers of Windsor two days of their training this Michael Tide, and one day in the Spring.”

\(^{1}\) Colonial Records, vol. i. p. 15.
This is supposed to have been the Old Stone Fort, or Stoughton house, nearly opposite the residence of the late Lemuel Welch, which was pulled down about the year 1809. Of what constituted the military supplies in 1669–1670, the Windsor recorder certified at Court “that they had 300 lbs. of Powder and 700 lbs. of lead for their town stock.”

In 1675, at the breaking out of King Philip’s War, we find Windsor partaking of the general consternation lest the New England tribes should band together against the whites. To the prosecution of the war the town contributed her full proportion of troops, having sent at the different levies about one hundred and twenty-five. Captain Benjamin Newberry commanded the Hartford County troops sent to the defence of New London and Stonington. Again the Council ordered the night watch, and “that one fourth part of each town be in arms every day by turns. . . . It is also ordered, that, during these present commotions with the Indians, such persons as have occasion to work in the fields, shall work in companies; if they be half a mile from town, not less than six in a company, with their arms and ammunition well fixed and fitted for service.” Scouting-parties were sent out continually for the prevention of danger to travellers upon the roads between town and town. Sergeant Joseph Wadsworth, of Hartford, and John Grant, of Windsor, were ordered to proceed to Westfield and Springfield, each commanding twenty men. Of two hundred bushels of wheat to be ground and baked into biscuit, ordered on the 28th of September for the supply of the army, Windsor was to furnish fifty bushels.

At this period all the towns were ordered to be fortified, and the weak and remote settlements of the colony to be protected. The United Colonies decided to attack the Narragansetts, who had been persuaded by the arts of Philip, and raised an army of a thousand men to attack them in their principal fort in the winter. Connecticut sent as her quota three hundred Englishmen and one hundred and fifty Mohegan and Pequot Indians, in five companies, under charge of Captains Seeley, Gallup, Mason, Watts, and Marshall, of Windsor. In that bold stroke against the Narragansetts the Connecticut troops turned the tide of battle. Windsor had her names upon the roll of honor. Captain John Mason, a son of the hero of the Pequot War received a wound that proved to be mortal. He died within a year after. Captain Samuel Marshall was killed “as he ascended the tree before the log-house.”

Edward Chapman, Nathaniel Pond, Richard Saxton, and Ebenezer Dibble received wounds from which they died.

In February, 1675–6, the Indians were so troublesome and threatening on the east side of the river that the inhabitants were obliged either to establish garrisons into which were brought all their cattle and provisions, or to convey the same over to the west side. In the Canadian campaign, in 1709, Captain Matthew Allyn was in command of a company from Windsor; and we find him writing to his wife from the camp at Wood Creek, that he himself, “Tim Phelps, Obadiah Owen,
Nat. Taylor, and Bartlett are sick, Taylor the worst."\(^1\) In Timothy Loomis’s manuscripts occurs the following record:—

"The Training Day they had throughout the Colonies to press souls to go take Canada was the 6th of July, 1711. There went out of Col. Allyn’s company seven. The names are as follows: Joseph Holcomb, Thomas Gillett, Benjamin Howard, Benj. Barber, Benedict Alvord, Ebenezer Cook, Nathan Griswold. They set away from Windsor, July 10, 1711. They returned to Windsor again Oct. 12, 1711."

Captain Moses Dimond’s company in the same service had five Windsor men,—Lieutenant Samuel Bancroft, Nathaniel Griswold, Joseph Griswold, Sergeant Nathaniel Pinney, Isaac Pinney.

In the futile and disastrous war against the Spanish West Indies, three thousand four hundred men died in two days. Of the one thousand from New England there were scarcely a hundred survivors. Though few perished by the enemy, it is computed that from the first attack on Cartagena to the arrival of the fleet at Jamaica in 1741, twenty thousand of the English had died.

There were Windsor men in this calamitous expedition. In Captain Allyn’s company for Cuba volunteered Thomas Elgar, Alexander Alvord, Cyrus Jackson, Asahel Spencer, Aaron Cook. In the State archives are found the names of Return Strong, Nathaniel Hayden, and Roger Newberry.\(^2\)

\(^1\) Wolcott Manuscripts.

\(^2\) The town books contain this record of Roger Newberry:—

"Roger Newberry Esq. Capt. of one of His Majesty’s Companies belonging to Connecticut, and Listed in His Majestie’s Service in ye war against ye Spanish West Indies died (according to the best account that is yet given) May 6, 1741. In his Return from Cartagena to Jamaica about Three days before ye Transport arrived at Jamaica."

The following is an exact copy of an old obituary notice of this distinguished citizen of Windsor:—

"Windsor July 29, 1741. Last Monday we had the Melancholy news of the Death of the Worthy Capt. Roger Newberry who went from this Town on the Expedition. He was well descended. The Honorable Major Benjamin Newberry that had adventured his Life in his Country’s service in the Indian war, and sate several years att the Council board, was his Grandfather. Capt. Benjamin Newberry, who died of Sickness in the Expedition formed against Canada, 1700, was his father.

"This Gentleman had a Liberal Education Bestowed upon him which he was careful to Improve and was an accomplished mathematician and Good Historian. He always Carried about with him a Lively Sense of the Divine providence and of man’s accountableness to his Maker of all his thoughts, words and actions, and gave his Constant Attendance on the Worship of God in the Public and Private Exercises of it, was Just in his Dealings, a Sure friend and faithful Monitor.

"He had a very Quick and Clear apprehension of things, a solid Judgement & Tenacious memory; his Discourse and Conversation was affable and Instructive and so Peculiarly winning that most were his Real friends, as were acquainted with him. His mind was formed for Business, which he followed with an Indefatigable application by which he not only discharged to Good Acceptance the public Trusts that were put upon him, but also advanced his own Estate.

"In May 1740, he being then a member of the Generall Assembly was pitcht upon by the Governor and Council, yea, he had the suffrage of the Assembly to Invite him to Lead one company of the Troops from this Colony in this Expedition. He took it into Consideration
In the expedition against Crown Point and Niagara in 1755, Benjamin Allyn, Esq., of Windsor, was appointed captain of the fourth company in the third regiment, and eighty-five men enlisted under him, nearly all of whom were from this town. In the muster-roll of General Lyman's company, in camp at Montreal, Sept. 4, 1760, may be found many names from the Poquonnock district.

The assault upon Quebec began at two different points during a furious snow-storm on the evening of the 31st of December, 1775. One party was led by General Montgomery in person, and the other by Colonel Benedict Arnold. The commanding general was killed at the head of his division while entering the city, and Arnold was wounded while rapidly advancing under the fire from the ramparts. In the assault made by Arnold's division, and first to mount the barricade, were Captain Seth Hanchett, of Suffield, and Elijah Marshall, of Windsor. Hanchett's voice is said to have been heard above the din of battle animating his comrade in these words: "Walk up, Marshall; our mothers are at home praying for us, and the enemy can't hurt us." Theophilus Hide, of Windsor, was among the killed, and Elijah Marshall and Daniel Rice were taken prisoners.

Several Windsor men participated on the night of the memorable 4th of March, 1776, when the Heights of Dorchester were so secretly fortified, and when the works were "raised with an expedition equal to that of the genii belonging to Aladdin's wonderful lamp." As General Howe himself expressed it, "It must have been the employment of at least twelve thousand men. I know not what I shall do; the rebels have done more in one night than my whole army would have done in months." Sergeant Thomas Hayden was at Roxbury when the fortifications were thrown up, and, being an architect and builder, is said to have constructed some of them. There were also present Hezekiah Hayden, Lemuel Welch, Nathaniel

and after Sometime appeared Inclined to undertake it, whereupon Some of his Relations to Dissuade him from it Laid before him the Dangers of his own Life and the Great Loss his family would Sustain if he should miscarry. He answered

"I can Leave my Family with the Divine Providence, and as to my own Life since it is not Left with man to Determine the time or place of his Death I think it not best to be anxious about it. The Great thing is to Live and Dy in our Duty. I think the War is just and my Call is Clear. Somebody must venture and why not I, as well as another." So he took out his commission and Proceeded to fill up his Company, and there appeared such a Readiness to serve under him that he said he thought he could have made up his Company in [his] own Town.

"He was at the Taking of Boto Chico, from which fort two Days after he wrote a chearful Letter to his Wife Expressing his Great Hopes of Taking the Town of Carthagena and thereby finishing the Expedition and opening a way for his Return.

"Butt soon after this he was Taken Sick and Languished untill the fifth of May. When he had almost Completed the thirty fifth year of his age, he not far from Jamaica Departed this Life and wee shall see his face no more untill the Sea gives up the Dead that are in it.

"I have left his antient mother to Lament the Death of this her only Son. His own Widdow with seven small Children, one att her Breast, a Family to mourne under this heavy Bereavement and Combat with the Difficulties of an unquiet World." 1

1 Stiles's History of Windsor, p. 331.
Lamberton, and Increase Mather. When mustered on the 21st of April, 1775, there were twenty-three Windsor men under Captain Nathaniel Hayden's command who began their march to Boston; and afterward there were many Windsor men among the ten thousand soldiers of Connecticut who were called to service in New York in August, 1776.

"Hezekiah Hayden enlisted into the army about the 1st of January, 1776, and served as a private soldier. He was taken prisoner on the 27th of August, 1776, at the battle of Long Island, and died of starvation on board the prison-ship, after having disposed of everything in his possession, even to his sleeve-buttons, to purchase of his keeper food enough to sustain life. He was a native of Windsor, and much respected and esteemed by his neighbors . . .

"Nathaniel Lamberton died on board the prison-ship November 9. William Parsons died November 9, in captivity, at New York. Elihu Denslow died September 9, in camp, at New York. Captain Ebenezer Fitch Bissell, Sr., was one of those who endured the horrible cruelties of the imprisonment in the Jersey prison-ship. He was accustomed to relate with much feeling the sufferings which he witnessed and experienced at that time. He sent home to his family for money. Silver was extremely scarce, and by dint of hard scraping, borrowing, and pledging, they succeeded in sending him some. But it never reached him, having probably found its way to the pocket of some greedy British official. His wife (whose maiden name was Esther Hayden) was vigilant in her endeavors to send articles for his comfort and relief, and once succeeded in visiting him in his captivity."

"Samuel Wing and his son Moses were present at the retreat from New York, as was also Jabez Haskell, who was then acting as nurse to the sick soldiers. Having through some neglect received no orders to retreat, they were left behind, and finally escaped in the very face of the advancing British. . . . Daniel Gillet, Jeriah Barber, Oradiah Fuller, Elisha Moore, Watson Loomis, were drafted, and served in New York and Westchester in August and September."

Joseph Marsh died August 15, at Meriden, coming from camp at New York. "The great number of the drafts had seriously interfered with the agricultural interests of the town, and the crops were scanty and insufficient for the winter's supply. Nearly all the able-bodied men of Windsor were absent in the army, and labor was so scarce that the harvests of 1776 were literally gathered by the women and children." The leaden weights of every clock in town were melted down and run into bullets.

In the year 1777, when enlistments for three years or during the war were asked for, bounties were paid by the town and voluntary subscriptions made for those who would enlist, and their families were supplied with necessaries in their absence by a committee appointed for that purpose. Though heavily burdened with taxation, both old and young entered into the spirit of the time. When in April the reported attack of the British on Danbury reached Windsor, many were ready to respond to the call. Mr. Daniel Phelps, a man of more than threescore years and ten (grandfather of the late Deacon Roger Phelps), and the late Deacon Daniel Gillet, a few years his junior, started for the scene of action."

1 The sword of this gallant officer was owned by the late Mrs. Fanny L. Bissell.
2 Stiles's History of Windsor, pp. 394–396.
3 "Each was mounted, and carrying a musket, hastened forward only to meet the returning volunteers, who told of the burning of Danbury and the retreat of the British. The old
In October a detachment of eleven men of Ensign David Barber's company, of Windsor, in Lieutenent-Colonel Willey's regiment, was ordered to Peekskill. Their names were Ensign David Barber, Sergeant Martin Pinney, Sergeant Alexander Griswold, Corporal Zephaniah Webster, Drummer Joseph Holcomb, Timothy Cook, Gideon Case, Abel Griswold, Elisha Marshall, Oliver Phelps, and Benjamin Moore.

Roger Enos, of Windsor, was colonel of one of the regiments raised in 1777-1778, and was stationed in the southwest part of the State; and in the year following, Elijah Hill, Judah Pinney, and Joseph Holcomb, of Captain Barber's company, were in garrison at West Point.

During the massacre at Wyoming, Mrs. Azuba (Griswold) Perkins, a daughter of Windsor, barely escaped with her two children from the savages who had murdered her husband. She afterward lived and died in Poquonook. Dr. Elisha N. Sill was also one of the survivors of this massacre.\(^1\) Within the recollection of those now living, in nearly half the houses north of the Farmington there lived some old man who had been a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and the pension-rolls contained more than fifty Windsor pensioners. A carefully compiled list of the soldiers in the Revolutionary army who were natives of or enlisted from the town of Windsor was made by Dr. Stiles from State archives, official returns, and private letters. The list contains three hundred and thirty-four names. One of these, Mr. Daniel Bissell, Jr., accepted the perilous duty to which he was appointed by General Washington, as spy within the British lines. In furtherance of this purpose he allowed himself to be entered and published in the official returns as a deserter from the American army. He had served with credit at White Plains, at Trenton, and at Monmouth, being slightly wounded at the latter place. The duty for which he was selected in the summer of 1781 was to man sighed that he could not get 'one shot at the Red Coats.' But turning back he reached a ferry where numbers of impatient riders were waiting their turn, who with one consent declared that their rule should not apply to the old man, and the old man's plea took his companion with him. Late that night they reached the house of a friend, where the weary old man, in utter exhaustion, laid him down and died, and the younger volunteer returned to his home alone.” — Stiles's History of Windsor, p. 398.

\(^1\) Stiles’s History of Windsor, pp. 380-400.
furnish General Washington information as to the enemy's force and plans in New York City and on Long Island. We have the account of his enterprise in his own affidavit, sworn to on the 7th of January, 1818, at Richmond, Ontario Co., New York,¹ and copies of original documents in the War Department at Washington, attested by the secretary, John C. Calhoun, Dec. 5, 1820. He received the Honorary Badge of merit, given only to the author of any singularly meritorious action, —

"to wear on his facing over the left breast the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding," and a certificate, of which the following is a copy: —

"I, George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the American Army, &c., &c., &c.

"To all persons to whom these presents shall come sendeth Greeting:

"Whereas, it hath ever been an established maxim in the American service, that the Road to Glory was open to all, that Honorary Rewards and Distinctions, were the greatest Stimuli to virtuous actions, and whereas Sergeant Daniel Bissell of the Second Connecticut Regiment, has performed some important service, within the immediate knowledge of the Commander-in-Chief, in which his fidelity, perseverance and good sense, were not only conspicuously manifested, but his general line of conduct throughout a long course of service, having been not only unspotted but highly deserving of commendation.

"Now, therefore, Know Ye, that the aforesaid Sergeant Bissell, hath fully and truly deserved, and hath been properly invested with, the Honorary Badge of Military Merit, and is entitled to pass and repass all Guards and Military Posts, as freely and as amply as any Commissioned Officer whatever; and is further Recommended to that Notice which a Brave and Faithful Soldier deserves from his Countrymen.

"Given under my hand and seal, in the Highlands of New York, this Ninth day of May, A.D. 1783.

[Signature]

(Signed) GEORGE WASHINGTON.

(Registered) JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Secretary."

Of those who belonged to the order of Cincinnati, organized at the close of the Revolution, and somewhat similar in its purpose to the Grand Army of the Republic, were the following belonging to this town: Major Abner Prior, Lieutenant Martin Denslow, Sergeant Timothy Mather, Lieutenant Cornelius Russell, and Lieutenant Samuel Gibbs.

In the War of 1812 Windsor was agitated sufficiently to organize a volunteer company, which was called into service at New London. It numbered about sixty-five men, under Captain Blanchard.

During the war for the preservation of the Union the sum appropriated and paid out by the town amounted to about twenty-five thousand dollars. The number of soldiers enlisted who claimed Windsor as their residence was one hundred and eighty-eight. Of these, ten died during the war, eight were discharged for disability, three died of wounds, seven were wounded and survived, two were killed in battle, and one was reported missing in action; four deserted after being mustered in, and thirteen deserted during the recruiting service. Twenty-five Union soldiers now lie buried in the old cemetery, and ten in the cemetery at Poquonnock. Many who enlisted from this town were in

¹ Preserved by Dr. D. Bissell, his son. See Stiles’s History of Windsor, pp. 403-415.
the Twenty-second Regiment, which was stationed at Minor's Hill, near Washington, and were not engaged in any of the battles of the war. Prominent among the monuments in the cemetery is that of General William S. Pierson, whose patriotism, zeal, and enthusiastic devotion to the Union will be long and lovingly remembered by Windsor's sons.

Mr. John Brancker was the first schoolmaster of Windsor who is named in the records. In 1656–1657, the town voted that five pounds should be paid him "towards his maintenance of a school." Four years later Mr. Cornish was voted £4 10s. for discharging the same duty. The first mention of a school-house is in 1666–1667, so that previously a school must have been taught at some private house. In 1672 the town must have contained a hundred families; for in April of that year Windsor was fined five pounds for not maintaining a grammar school, and the fine was paid over to the Hartford grammar school. In 1674 Mr. Cornish was to receive £36 per year, and the children were required to pay five shillings per quarter. When John Fitch went to fight the Indians at the time of King Philip's War, in 1673, he made his will, giving all his property, after his debts were paid, "for the promoting of a school here in Windsor." His property was inventoried at about forty pounds, and his debts little more than a quarter of that sum. In 1679 Captain Clarke kept school for a year, six months on each side of the rivulet, receiving £40 for this service combined with attending to other town business. Ten years later there were two school-teachers, Mr. Cornish and Mr. John Loomis, the former receiving thirty shillings and the latter fifty shillings.

In 1698 school was maintained three months on the east side of the Connecticut and nine months on the west side, this latter period being divided equally to the north and south side of the Farmington. Lieutenant Hayden and Lieutenant Matthew Allyn were the committee who "agreed with Mr. Samuel Wolcott to keep a reading, and writing, and cyphering, and grammar school for one full year, to take none but such as are entered in spelling, for thirty-five pounds in country pay, or two-thirds of so much in money."

April 14, 1707, liberty was granted to the inhabitants on the north side of the Rivulet to set up a school-house on the meeting-house green upon their own charges, and the same liberty was granted to the inhabitants on the south side. The first schoolmistress was Miss Sarah Stiles in the year 1717. In 1723 Windsor was divided into two school districts, one embracing the north and the other the south side of the Rivulet, in 1784 into three districts, and in 1787 into four districts.

The old academy building, built mostly by subscription in 1798, stood on the green at the north end of Broad Street. It was here that some who have become prominent men in the country received their early education. Janitors in those days were not known. The scholars "took turn" in building the fire and sweeping the school-room. In 1802 it was "voted, that the committee be empowered to exclude any scholar that shall not carry his share of wood for use of the said school."

The present academy building, or Union school-house, was built in 1868. At that time Mr. Henry Halsey (committee) solicited subscriptions from those early associated with this school, and the following
names of those who responded will show the prominent positions of its graduates: The Hon. E. D. Morgan, of New York; General F. E. Mather, of New York; H. B. Loomis, Esq., of New York; the Hon. James Hooker, of Poughkeepsie, New York; the sons of the late Levi Hayden, of Charleston, S. C., and New York; the Hon. James C. Loomis, of Bridgeport, Conn.; General William S. Pierson, then of Sandusky, Ohio; R. G. & F. A. Drake, of Hartford, and Columbia, S. C.

The present Union school fund amounts to $2,080, derived in part from a legacy of John Fitch in 1675, and from Abraham Phelps in 1728, but chiefly from the gift of Captain Benoni Bissell in 1761, whose monument bears the inscription: "Erected by the First Society of Windsor in Grateful Remembrance of his generous Gift for the support of their School."

There are at this time one high school and ten school districts in the town, and fourteen school departments. There are 695 children enumerated between the ages of four and sixteen years. The annual appropriation from town treasury in 1884 was $5,000; from school fund and State appropriations, $1,568.75; from town deposit fund, $199.90; from Union school fund, $124.80,—making a total of $6,888.45. The total receipts from all sources, including district taxes, were $10,261.61, and the total expenditures, $9,949.72.

The Young Ladies' Institute is a private enterprise established in 1867 by the Hon. H. Sidney Hayden. It consists of two buildings,—a large house on Broad Street for the boarding pupils and teachers, and also a building on Maple Avenue containing the school-room proper and the Seminary Hall. It has been conducted from its first establishment by Miss Julia S. Williams as principal, and Miss Elizabeth Francis as assistant, with an efficient corps of teachers. The average number of scholars is about sixty.

In 1874 James C. Loomis, Hezekiah B. Loomis, Osbert B. Loomis, H. Sidney Hayden and his wife, and John Mason Loomis were constituted a corporate body by the name of the Loomis Institute. This Institute is designed for the gratuitous education of persons of the age of twelve years and upwards, and is to be located on the original homestead of Joseph Loomis on the Island, near the place of the original settlement of Windsor.

This homestead is situated on elevated ground on the west bank of the Connecticut River, and commands an uncommonly fine view of the river and valley. Since the death of Joseph Loomis this site has always been in the possession of some one of his lineal descendants to the present time. It is the design of the corporators to do what they can to endow this institution; and in this they look for the co-operation of all the Loomis family, that the institution may become a lasting monument to the memory of Joseph Loomis.

The subject of a ferry across the Connecticut was agitated in 1641; but the first positive action appears in the contract made by the General Court in January, 1648–9, when "John Bissell undertakes to keep and carefully to attend the Ferry" over the Great River at Windsor for the full term of seven years," after which the lease was renewed by himself

and his successors of the Bissell family down to 1677. The ferry soon after that reverted to the town. The Rivulet ferry so frequently mentioned in the town records was continued until 1749, when the first bridge (made free) was built across the Tunxis. In 1762, when it became necessary to rebuild the Rivulet bridge, it was done by a lottery of £250 authorized by the Assembly. This bridge was half destroyed by a freshet in 1767, and entirely carried away in 1782. A bridge and causeway were erected in 1794, and another bridge in 1833, which was destroyed by the freshet of 1854. Then the present bridge was erected.

Near by, on the Palisado Green, was the centre of trade in Windsor’s early days, and the merchants of that time carried on extensive trade with English ports and the West Indies. Before the bridge was built across the Connecticut at Hartford, the Farmington Rivulet here was alive with shipping; half a dozen coasting-vessels at a time and an occasional English or West India ship were seen. The principal merchants were Henry and Josiah Wolcott, Michael Humphrey, Captain Newberry, George Griswold, Matthew Grant, and in later days the widely known firm of Hooker & Chaffee, and that of Captain Nathaniel Howard and Major William Howard. In the north part of the town, near Hayden Station, was Matson’s store, doing a large business. Half a mile below was Master John Hayden’s ship-yard, and there was another ship-yard at the Rivulet ferry.

The village inn was a noted institution of the olden time, when the old stage-coach rolled along between Hartford and Boston. There was the old Loomis Tavern, on the west side of Broad Street, and the Hayden Tavern, kept by Sergeant Samuel Hayden at the house now occupied by the family of the late Levi Hayden. At the latter place still stands an ancient oak, under the shade of whose spreading branches Chief Justice Ellsworth is said to have whiled away his leisure hours with the men of his time. Near the chief justice’s house itself there stood a few years ago an old cedar-tree, said to have been one of the original forest trees, noted as the huntsmen’s rallying-place. This tree was blown down in November, 1877, and many much-prized mementos have been manufactured from its fragrant wood.

Pickett’s Tavern, also near Hayden station, and the oak known as the Old Smoking-Tree, cut down by some vandal hand, are associated with the cheer of ancient time. The stately elms on Broad Street Green were set out in 1755.¹

The Old Mill, owned by the late Colonel James Loomis, on the site where Mr. Charles F. Lewis’s mill now stands, was one of the oldest institutions, and is said to have been the first grist-mill in Connecticut. People resorted to it from all the towns about, even as far as from Middletown. It is called sometimes the Old Warham Mill, as Mr. Warham was undoubtedly its first owner.

The population of Windsor, according to the last census, is 3,056. In the whole town, embracing Poquonnock and Rainbow, there are two

¹ These were set out by one who afterward fell from his respectable position in society, and was twice publicly whipped at two of his own trees, which he afterward cut down. When intoxicated he often threatened to destroy the rest, but was always “bought off by old Squire Allyn with a cord of wood and some cider.” The date of erection, inscribed on a small iron plate, is placed on one of the trees opposite the residence of the Hon. H. Sidney Hayden.
town-halls, two grist-mills and saw-mills, three blacksmith's shops, ten stores, seven churches, twelve school buildings, and two hotels. In the Centre are the Best Manufacturing Company, making cigars and tobacco, and the Spencer Arms Company. The latter, in a building two hundred feet long by fifty feet wide, makes the noted Spencer gun. Windsor continues to be mostly an agricultural community, though there are several residents who do business in Hartford. Within a comparatively recent period streets and avenues have been laid out, and about thirty new buildings erected. The Hon. Judge H. Sidney Hayden has succeeded in the enterprise of supplying the village with the purest of water from the Crystal Springs, which are on a high elevation west of the centre, and have a running capacity of fifteen thousand gallons a day. They have never failed during the severest drought. He has also laid separate pipes from the large factory pond, which is abundant for manufacturing purposes, and furnishes an unfailing supply in case of conflagration. This individual enterprise resulting successfully in so great a public benefit, and paying but a low rate of interest to the projector, is duly appreciated. Ice-houses have been erected near the pond, and individuals who formerly stored their own ice now prefer the convenient supply furnished by the ice-men. Windsor is but twelve minutes' ride by railroad from Hartford, and there are fourteen or sixteen trains stopping here each day.

The portion of the town of Windsor now known as Poquonnock was probably settled about the year 1649, as at that date we find that Thomas Holcomb, John Bartlett, Edward, Francis, and George Griswold had all removed to that locality, and the Court, "taking into consideration the many dangers that their families are in and exposed unto by reason of their remote living from neighbors, and nearness to the Indians, in case they should all leave their families together without any guard," exempted "one soldier of the forementioned families from training upon every training-day, each family aforesaid to share herein according to the number of soldiers that are in them, provided that man which tarries at home stands about the aforesaid houses upon his sentinel posture."

The Second Society of Windsor, usually called Poquonnock, is an important manufacturing village situated on the Farmington River, which in early times was navigable up to this point. The graceful bend of this river has been named Rainbow, and at that place the Rainbow Mills are situated. Here we touch an incident in the life of the

1 Stiles, p. 52.
2 "On the list of the names of the settlers of Windsor appear those of Edward Griswold, Humphrey Pinney, and Thomas Holcomb, who probably were among those who accompanied Mr. Warham from Exeter to Nantasket in 1630. They were the ancestors of the Griswold, Pinney, and Holcomb families who afterwards removed from Windsor to Simsbury, and whose descendants are still living in that and the adjacent towns. The Edward Griswold whose name appears on the town records of Windsor in 1640 may have been a son of Bishop Griswold's ancestor from England, Matthew Griswold; and if so, it becomes even probable that this ancestor was one of the company who came over from Exeter with Mr. Warham in 1630." — Dr. Stone's Life of Bishop Griswold, p. 18.
3 "The Indian name Poquonnock, variously spelled, denotes 'cleared land,' that is, a tract from which the trees or bushes had been cleared, to fit it for cultivation. See J. H. Trumbull's 'Indian Names in Connecticut' (1881), p. 54. In 1882 Mr. C. B. Tourtellot, postmaster of Poquonnock, made a list of forty different ways of spelling the name on letters received at his office in the past twelve months." — Hartford Daily Times, Feb. 20, 1882.
eminent Bishop Griswold,\textsuperscript{1} who suffered pecuniary embarrassments
growing out of the operations of his brother Roger, who about the year
1803 conceived the scheme of building at the bend of the Farmington
River what he termed the Rainbow Mills. This scheme, which seems
to have been a family enterprise, was advised against by the Bishop, but
at last his consent was obtained. Roger was a man of much mechanica-
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 ingenuity, and was sanguine as to the result. "The dam was con-
structed; the mills were built, and operations were commenced. But a
great freshet on the river occurred soon after, which did much damage
to the works, swept away the embankment, carried off a large quantity
of kiln-dried grain, and thus put Mr. Griswold to serious loss."\textsuperscript{2} This
water-power has since been improved, to the advantage of manufac-
turers. Here are the two paper-mills of Messrs. Hodge & Co.

Here is the property which has for years been called the Congress
Mills. The main buildings are two stories high and forty-five feet by
two hundred feet upon the ground. These were first erected in 1838,
and rebuilt in 1866. The business firm name is the Springfield
Paper Company, of which William L. Bidwell is treasurer. The cap-
tal stock is $50,000. It manufactures white and colored printing-
papers, and special goods of that description, having a working capacity
of three thousand pounds per day. The weight of materials handled
each year is about two thousand tons.

Rainbow has one church of the Baptist denomination, a neat Gothic
structure built of wood, with slate roof.

A fine town-hall has recently been constructed at Poquonnock at a
cost of about ten thousand dollars.

The mills of the Hartford Paper Company are at Rainbow and
Poquonnock. The capital stock is $150,000. The hands employed
number forty-eight men and thirty-five women; total, eighty-three.
They manufacture paper of various kinds. The capacity of the mills
is nine thousand pounds of these papers per day; and if confined to
book-papers, it would be eleven thousand pounds per day. The Rain-
bow mill was erected about thirty years ago, and the Poquonnock mill
in 1870–1871. The property has cost the company $180,000.

In 1873 Austin Dunham & Sons, of Hartford, started the business of
manufacturing worsted yarn in the old stone mill called the Tunxis Mill,
at Poquonnock. It is a building seventy-five feet by forty feet, with four
stories. In the summer of 1875 they found it necessary to erect a brick
building one hundred and fifty feet by thirty-five feet, and four stories
high. This sufficed until the year 1880, when their business had in-
creased to such an extent that they found it necessary to take in the
Poquonnock mill. The latter had been used up to this time as a
woollen mill, and was erected in 1865,—the main mill one hundred
feet long by forty-one wide, and four stories, with an eii eighty-four feet
long by thirty-two wide, and five stories.

The Tunxis Worsted Company, which comprises these interests
to-day, was formed July 1, 1880, with a capital of $162,000. Its object
is to manufacture all kinds of worsted yarns, and prepare and sell

\textsuperscript{1} "Edward and Matthew Griswold (brothers) came to Windsor with the Rev. Mr. Huit,
1639. Edward removed to Hammonasset (Killingworth), but left sons at Poquonnock.
Matthew settled at Lyme." — JABEZ H. HAYDEN.

\textsuperscript{2} Dr. Stone's Memoir of Bishop Griswold, pp. 95, 96.
combed wool, for worsted-spinners. Their production last year (1881) was: worsted yarns made, 291,295 pounds; combed wools sold, 148,749 pounds. The company employs about two hundred and sixty hands.

The raising of fish has become a work of great public importance, and the works of the Fenton Trout Breeding Company and State Fish Hatcheries are located at Poquonnock. Henry J. Fenton is superintendent. Mr. Fenton made his first efforts at fish-breeding in 1872, and, though baffled by many difficulties and losses, succeeded at last, by following the Seth Green principle of hatching, in placing his business upon a secure and lucrative basis. In June, 1879, by order of the fish commissioners of the State of Connecticut, there were hatched and distributed at this place various kinds of fish, and in the fall of that year salmon-eggs were received, which were hatched very successfully and distributed. At the request of Professor Thacher, of Yale College, Mr. Fenton tried the experiment of hatching lamprey eels. For two years his labor was unsuccessful; but in the spring of 1880, the third year, he succeeded in this hitherto doubtful experiment. The company in 1881 hatched six hundred thousand salmon for the State, and furnished two hundred and seventy-seven thousand brook-trout fry. It has now three hatching-houses, with a capacity of two million eggs.

Roger Wolcott, Governor of Connecticut, was born in Windsor, Jan. 4, 1679. He was one of the most noted men of his time. At the age of twenty-one he established himself on the east side of the Connecticut River, and biographical notices of the Wolcott family will be found under the head of East Windsor.

Henry Wolcott, the emigrant, came to Windsor with Mr. Warham's company in 1635, and his name stands first on the list of the early inhabitants. He was elected a magistrate or assistant in 1643, and thenceforward during life was annually re-elected to that office. In 1640 he made a visit to England. His life was one of great usefulness and honor. He died May 30, 1655. In the cemetery at Windsor his monument may still be seen. It is of brown stone, arched, and was made by his son-in-law, Matthew Griswold. The inscriptions concerning himself and wife are on opposite sides, as follows:—

"Here vnder lyeth the body of Henry Wolcot sometimes a Maiestate of this Ivrisdiction who dyed y* 30th day of May

Anno \( \begin{align*} & \text{salvts 1655.} \\ & \text{etatis 77.} \end{align*} \)

"Here vnder lyeth the body of Elizabeth Wolcot who dyed y* 7th day of Ivly

Anno \( \begin{align*} & \text{salvts 1655.} \\ & \text{etatis 73.} \end{align*} \)

Roger Ludlow was one of the principal men of Connecticut, and his name often occurs in our early history. He has been honorably styled the "Father of Connecticut Jurisprudence." He was a lawyer by profession, of a good family, who resided in Dorchester, England.
He was a brother-in-law of Endicott, whom he is said to have rivalled in ardor of temperament. He was remarkable for his talent, and also for his ambition and impetuosity. At the last General Court of the company in England, Feb. 10, 1630, he was chosen as assistant in the place of Samuel Sharp, who had the year before come to Salem. He was one of the founders of Dorchester, and was selected as most suitable to join that colony, that his counsel and judgment might aid in preserving order, and founding the social structure upon the surest basis. He embarked with Mr. Warham and his company at Plymouth on the 20th of March, 1630, and after his arrival in America entered upon his duties as a member of the Court of Assistants. This office he held for four years following. One trait of his character becomes prominent in the following incident, which occurred at a meeting of the governor and assistants in Boston, May 1, 1632:—

"After dinner, the governour told them that he had heard, that the people intended, at the next General Court, to desire that the assistants might be chosen anew every year, and that the governour might be chosen by the whole court, and not by the assistants only. Upon this, Mr. Ludlow grew into a passion, and said, that then we should have no government, but there would be an interim, wherein every man might do what he pleased, etc. This was answered and cleared in the judgment of the rest of the assistants, but he continued still in his opinion, and protested he would then return back into England."  

The governor and assistants were chosen anew, however, at the next meeting of the General Court, and Mr. Ludlow was re-elected among the rest; he was chosen again the next year. In 1634 he was elected deputy-governor, and also made overseer of the fortifications on Castle Island, and one of the auditors to adjust the accounts of Governor Winthrop’s administration. By natural rotation he should have been chosen governor in 1635. But his complaints had injured him in popular estimation. He protested that the election of Governor Haynes was void, because the election was arranged and managed by the deputies, who had previously to the meeting agreed upon the candidate. This caucus arrangement he regarded as nullifying a free election. His views, however, were not entertained, and he received the rebuke of being left out of the magistracy altogether. A few weeks after this event he joined the company through the wilderness to Windsor, and for nineteen years thereafter Connecticut had the benefit of his talent, activity, and usefulness. Massachusetts still continued to value his merits; for, six months after his departure, he was named in the commission for Connecticut, and placed at the head of the magistracy constituted by that instrument. He was almost always present at the meetings of the commissioners, and took important part in the proceedings. Necessity compelled him to be at home when the expedition started against the Pequots; yet afterward we find him in the pursuit, when they were routed, through Menunketuck and Quinnipiac to Sasco, or the Pequot Swamp. He was elected magistrate when the government was reorganized in May, 1637, and re-elected in 1638. A principal framer of the constitution of 1639, he was the first who was elected deputy-governor under that instrument. He was also

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1 Savage’s Winthrop, vol. i. p. 28, note 2.  
2 Ibid., p. 74.
deputy-governor in 1642 and in 1648; and during the intervening years he was annually chosen magistrate. In the years 1648-1651, and 1653, he was one of the commissioners from Connecticut to the United Colonies. In April, 1646, he was desired by the General Court “to take some paynes in drawing forth a body of Lawes for the government of this Common welth, & present them to the next General Court.” This important work was not completed before 1650, when, at the May Court, “the country orders”—since called “Mr. Ludlow’s code” or “the code of 1650”—were “concluded and established.”

He resided in Windsor about five years, and afterward removed to Fairfield. There he remained until the spring of 1654, when he removed with his family to Virginia. He was led to take this step because the colony of New Haven having refused to furnish troops for the defence of Stamford and Fairfield, these towns raised troops for their own defence, and appointed Roger Ludlow commander-in-chief. Their conduct was regarded as reprehensible and seditious. Robert Basset and John Chapman were charged with “fomenting insurrections,” and were treated as leaders of the enterprise. Ludlow regarded these accusations as aimed against him, for he was the principal man in that region. Rather than make concessions, he preferred to leave the colony whose displeasure he had incurred. The citizens of Fairfield had no seditious intent, and their arming themselves was simply an act of self-preservation; and the proud and sensitive spirit of Ludlow could not endure the public censure. On the 26th of April, 1654, he embarked at New Haven, with his family and effects, for Virginia, where he may have passed the remainder of his days in obscurity, or fulfilled the intention, hastily expressed on a former occasion, of “returning back to England.”

John Mason, the renowned conqueror of the Pequots, major of the forces of the Connecticut colony, was the most celebrated military man of his time. He was born in England in the year 1600. Bred to arms in the Netherlands under Sir Thomas Fairfax, he had attracted the favorable notice of that general by his abilities and courage during his service as a volunteer. He was of the original company who came over with Mr. Warham to Dorchester in 1630, and among the first who removed to Connecticut in 1635 and aided in founding the town of Windsor. After the Pequot War he removed to Saybrook, at the request of its settlers, for the defence of the colony, and thence he removed to Norwich in 1659. For more than thirty years he was major of the colonial forces, and between 1660 and 1670 he was deputy-governor of Connecticut. He was also a magistrate from 1642 to 1668. His account of the Pequot War, prepared at the request of the General Court of Connecticut, was published by Increase Mather in 1677, and more accurately, with an introduction and notes, by the Rev. Thomas Prince, Boston, 1736. In person he was tall and large in form, “full of martial bravery and vigor,” of a stern, energetic, but not headlong disposition, of a moral and religious character. “His life and conversation were of the Puritan stamp, without ostentation, and above reproach.” He died in Norwich in 1672.

Oliver Ellsworth, LL.D., son of William and Mary Ellsworth, an eminent statesman and jurist, was born in Windsor, March 24, 1746-7. He graduated at the College of New Jersey in 1766. He was admitted to the bar in 1771, and soon became one of the most eminent legal practitioners of the colony. In 1777 he was chosen a delegate to the Continental Congress, and he was a member of the council of his native State from 1780 to 1784, when he was appointed a judge of the Superior Court. In 1787 he was elected to the convention which framed the Federal Constitution, and was afterward a member of the State convention which ratified that Constitution. Chosen one of the first senators of the United States from Connecticut, he continued in the Senate from 1789 to 1796, when he was nominated by Washington chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, as the successor of Jay. Having a peculiar style of condensed statement, logical and argumentative in his mode of illustration, and following a most lucid train of analytical reasoning, he presided over that court with great distinction. His opinions, given in clear and felicitous language, were marked by sound legal and ethical principles. In 1799 he was appointed by President Adams envoy extraordinary to Paris; and with his associates, Davie and
HON. OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

GOV. WILLIAM W. ELLSWORTH.

(FROM A PORTRAIT IN "THE MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN HISTORY," BY PERMISSION.)

THE ELLSWORTH HOMESTEAD.
Murray, he successfully negotiated a treaty with France. Having accomplished this, his health being seriously impaired, he visited England, where he sought to avail himself of the benefit of its mineral waters. In 1800, while in England, he resigned the office of chief justice. After returning home to his native State, he was once more elected a member of the council. In 1807 he was chosen chief justice of the State, but on account of his health was obliged to decline the office. He continued to be a member of the council, however, until the close of his life. He died in Windsor, Nov. 26, 1807, aged sixty-five years, "greatly regretted, as in his life he had been admired for his extraordinary endowments, his accomplishments as an advocate, his integrity as a judge, his patriotism as a legislator and ambassador; and his exemplariness as a Christian."

John Milton Niles, an editor, author, politician, and statesman of eminent ability and long and varied public service, was born on the 20th of August, 1787, in that part of Windsor called Poquonnock. Though not enjoying the privilege of collegiate advantages, he pursued a course of systematic and laborious study, so that few men of his time were more conversant with history, better understood the science of government, or had more deeply investigated the political and civil institutions of our own and other countries. In 1817 he established the "Hartford Times," and for several years was the exclusive editor of that journal. In 1821 he was appointed an associate judge of the county court, which office he held for eight years. In 1826 he represented Hartford in the General Assembly. Appointed postmaster at Hartford in 1829, he resigned on receiving from Governor Edwards the executive appointment of senator in Congress, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Nathan Smith; and the appointment being afterward confirmed by the legislature, he was United States senator from Connecticut until March, 1839. He was the Democratic candidate for governor in 1839, and again in 1840. In the latter year he was appointed postmaster-general by Mr. Van Buren, and retired with that President in 1841. In 1842 he was re-elected to the Senate of the United States, and held the office until 1849, when he relinquished official life. At the age of sixty-eight he projected the establishment of a new daily paper and the organization of a distinct Republican party, and established the "Hartford Press" in February, 1856. He died on the 31st of the following May, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. He spent the years 1851-1852 abroad, in visiting the various countries of Europe. He acquired by industry and economy a handsome estate, and besides numerous legacies to individuals, he bequeathed $20,000 in trust to the city of Hartford as a charity fund, one half the income of which was to be devoted to the purchase of fuel for poor people, the other half to be added to the principal until it should amount to $40,000, and then the entire income to be devoted to the purchase of fuel as aforesaid. The fund amounts to $40,000, and is held in trust by the city of Hartford.

William Wolcott Ellsworth, for many years judge of the Supreme Court of the State of Connecticut, was the third son of Oliver Ellsworth, second chief justice of the United States. He was born Nov. 10, 1791.

1 See the Hon. Gideon Welles's Communication to Stiles's History, pp. 725-727.
at Windsor, where he received his early education. In 1806 he entered Yale College, and graduated in 1810. Having chosen the law as his profession, he began his legal studies at the celebrated law school at Litchfield, under the guidance of Judges Reeve and Gould, and continued them in Hartford, in the office of his brother-in-law, the late Chief Justice Williams. He was admitted to the bar in 1813, and the same year he married Emily, eldest daughter of Noah Webster, the great lexicographer. Establishing himself in Hartford, he proceeded to master his profession with great painstaking. It was his custom to write on blank pages of interleaved copies of elementary works all the new decisions in the American and English courts, and thus he kept himself informed of the exact state of the law on every point that might arise. He had a large and widely extended practice. In 1827 he was sent to Congress, where he continued five years, and then resigned in order to pursue his profession. During his whole career in Congress he was on the judiciary committee, and took an active part in preparing measures to carry into effect Jackson's proclamation against the nullification of South Carolina. He was one of the congressional committee to investigate the affairs of the United States Bank at Philadelphia,—a famous investigation in its day. He was a firm advocate of a moderate protective policy, and to him more than to any one else is due the just extension of the law of the copyright. His ablest speeches in the House were upon the judiciary, the tariff, the pension laws, and the removal of the Cherokee Indians. Returning to his home in 1834, he resumed the practice of his profession. In 1838 he was elected governor of the State, and held this office four successive years. Twice during his governorship he was offered an election to the United States Senate, but refused to be a candidate. He continued at the bar until 1847, when the legislature elected him a judge of the Superior Court and Supreme Court of Errors. He remained on the bench until his office expired by limitation of law when he reached the age of seventy years. Returning to the well-earned rest of private life, his interest in public affairs was unabated, and during the progress of the war the cause of the Union had no more earnest and determined supporter. An early professor of Christ, a member of the old Centre Church of Hartford, and from 1821 until his death a deacon, he took an active part in charitable, religious, and missionary enterprises. Rufus Choate, in a speech, alluded to him as a man of "hereditary capacity, purity, learning, and love of the law;" and added: "If the land of the Shermans and Griswolds and Daggetts and Williamses, rich as she is in learning and virtue, has a sounder lawyer, a more upright magistrate, or an honester man in her public service, I know not his name." He died at his residence in the city of Hartford, on the 15th of January, 1868, in the seventy-seventh year of his age.1

General William Seward Pierson was the eldest son of Dr. William Seward Pierson, and the fifth in direct descent from the Rev. Abraham Pierson, the first President of Yale College, whose father (also the Rev. Abraham Pierson) came to New England in 1640, and was pastor of the church at Southampton, Long Island, and afterward at Newark, New Jersey. General Pierson was born March 28, 1815, in Durham, where his father was resident physician. The death of Dr. Chaffee,

Windsor’s old physician, occasioned the removal of Dr. Pierson in 1818 to this town (then esteemed one of the best fields of medical practice in the State). General Pierson received his early education and training for college in the schools of the town and the academies of Ellington and Guilford, and entered Yale College with the class of 1836, graduating with his class in regular course. After teaching a few months, he read law during 1837 and 1838 with Governor Ellsworth and at the Yale Law School, and in November of the latter year was admitted to the Hartford bar. In the following year he entered upon the practice of law at the New York bar, in partnership with Frederick E. Mather, Esq. A complete break-down of health, after a short period of service, compelled his retirement from active professional labors, for which he seemed eminently fitted by possession of a clear head, good powers of application, and a remarkable gift of persuasive speech; and he never resumed them. The revival of business and rapid development of the Western and Southwestern States a few years later, brought him into connection with various railroad and other business enterprises in that region; and for convenience in attending to these interests he established his residence in the city of Sandusky, Ohio. He was chosen mayor of the city in April, 1861, and in that capacity, as also by his personal influence, contributed largely to the support of the Government in its struggle with rebellion. When the Government selected Johnson’s Island, in Sandusky Bay, as a post for Confederate officers prisoners of war, a special corps, known as the Hoffman Battalion, was organized of citizens of Sandusky to guard the post, and General Pierson was appointed its commander, with the rank of Major of Volunteers. He continued in command of the post until January, 1864. He was made lieutenant-colonel in 1863, and at the close of the war was breveted brigadier-general in recognition of his services. Shortly after his resignation of his command he returned to the family homestead in Windsor, which had come into his possession on the death of his mother in the preceding year; and the rest of his life was passed here in uneventful but very active attention to a wide range of business, both personal and in positions of trust as president, director, or adviser in various banking, manufacturing, insurance, and similar corporations. He died suddenly on the 18th of April, 1879, at Keene, New Hampshire, whither he had been called by the death of a relative.

General Pierson was identified with the history of Windsor, not more in his own person than as the representative of his father, Dr. Pierson, whose professional life here of more than forty years ranks him second to none for skill and success as a physician. And in these two lives Windsor adds to the record of names that adorn her history, another name fit to stand on the roll with the best of her sons born on the soil.

Nathaniel Hayden, son of Levi Hayden, was born in Windsor, at “Hayden’s,” Nov. 28, 1805. He was of the seventh generation from William Hayden the “first settler.” He was the third child and oldest son of a family of eleven children. His boyhood was spent on
the farm. At the age of sixteen he entered a country store, and at nineteen he entered the service of James Eyland & Co., of Charleston, South Carolina. Here his fidelity and ability secured him the confidence of his employers, and at Mr. Eyland’s death he became the sole surviving partner, and continued the business until 1843, when he retired, leaving two of his brothers to succeed him. After remaining two or three years at the homestead he entered business again, this time in New York City. Then in 1858 he was made president of the Chatham Bank, and held the position fifteen years, when he retired to his native place, where he died, Feb 23, 1875. He was well read in the political history of his country, and actively opposed nullification when it was proposed in South Carolina, and prophesied ill from the compromise legislation of the time. As a banker in New York during the war he urged the fullest response to the Government’s call for funds.

James Chaffee Loomis, the oldest son of James and Abigail Chaffee Loomis, was born in Windsor, April 19, 1807, and died Sept. 16, 1877. He graduated at Yale College in 1828. He married Eliza C. Mitchell of New Haven, in 1833. She died in March, 1840, and in 1844 he married Mary B. Sherman, who now survives him. He resided in Bridgeport, where he was a lawyer of large practice, and president of the bar of Fairfield County. He was State senator in 1837, and at the time of his death was a member of the State Board of Education. He was an earnest and impressive debater, taking active part in the cause of good government and just administration of the law. Of three
Nathaniel Hayden
children, two died in childhood. His second son, James Sherman Loomis, died in October, 1867, in the twenty-first year of his age. He was a member of the Senior class at Yale College, and was a young man of rare promise, beloved by all who knew him, and lamented by a large circle of friends.

R. H. Tuttle

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ON MAIN STREET.
BUILT IN 1794.