

**Excerpts From:**

**History of the Towns of New Milford  
and Bridgewater, Connecticut 1703-1882  
by Samuel Orcutt (Published 1882)**

**Compiled by Edward K. Hine, Jr. ("Ted")  
April 2018**

Following are pages from the above book which mention my ancestors John Noble, James Hine, and Noble Hine and/or their families. In some cases adjacent pages are included to provide context. I have underlined the names of my ancestors (and a few others) in red to make mentions of them easier to find. Within each name category (below) I have presented pages in the order in which they appear in the book. On some pages I have also underlined those with the surname Boardman whose descendants, while not my direct ancestors, have regularly been associated with my Hine and/or Kirtland ancestors in New Milford and New Haven, CT as well as the Connecticut Western Reserve (northeast Ohio).

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HISTORY  
OF THE TOWNS OF  
NEW MILFORD  
AND  
BRIDGEWATER,  
CONNECTICUT,  
1703-1882,

BY  
SAMUEL ORCUTT,  
AUTHOR OF THE HISTORIES OF TORRINGTON, WOLCOTT, AND DERRY, AND THE INDIANS OF THE  
HOUSATONIC AND NAUGATUCK VALLEYS, CONNECTICUT.

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PRESS OF THE CASE, LOCKWOOD AND BRAINARD COMPANY.  
1882.

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# HISTORY OF NEW MILFORD.

## CHAPTER I.

p 1

### THE PLANTATION.



A GIRL of only eight years of age, coming into the deep wilderness with her father, was the queen of the first household of white persons established in the territory, which, for one hundred and seventy-eight years, has been known by the name of New Milford. John Noble, Sen., was that father, who, being a resident of Westfield, Massachusetts, on the 22d day of June, 1706, purchased of Richard Bryan, of Milford, who stood number fifteen on the list of proprietors, his original "Right," or a one hundred and fourth part of the undivided territory then recently bought of the Indians and named as above, lying in the dense, sublime, primitive forests, nearly on the western border of Connecticut, where, unto that day, none but the wild Indian had made a habitation for the rest and security of man. On the same day his son John Noble, Jr., bought a "Right" of John Woodruff, it having been the right originally of James Fenn, who stood number seventy on the list of the original proprietors of the plantation.

In the next spring or summer, 1707, John Noble, Sen., called in his deed "planter," made his way through the wilderness in company with his little daughter Sarah, and took up his habitation among the Indians, in one of the most picturesque localities in the valley of the Housatonic River, known then for more than forty years, in the Indian language, as Weantinock. He at first built a "hut" at the foot of Fort Hill, a little to the north of the Indian burying-place, where the cellar or excavation is still to be seen, and where he dwelt with his daughter while

he built a commodious house at the south end of the "Town plat."

Concerning this first inhabitant, the Rev. Stanley Griswold, pastor of the first Congregational Church at this place, in a century sermon delivered in 1801, makes the following statement :

"The first white settler who came to this town was John Noble, from Westfield, Mass., who came here in the year 1707. He brought with him at first one of his daughters, then about eight years old. He first built a hut under what is called Fort Hill, but afterwards moved, and pitched here in the centre of the town. His house here was for some time the last house on this side of Albany, and General Nicholson once lodged in it during the reign of Queen Anne. It deserves to be mentioned to the credit of the natives, that Mr. Noble once left his little daughter, then eight years old, with them for the space of three or four weeks, while he was necessarily absent from the town, and on his return found she had been well treated and taken exceeding good care of. Another daughter of his, the late Mrs. Margaret Hine, who died here in the 93d year of her age, was then three years old, and the fact was fresh in her memory, as she had heard it while young, though she herself was not yet brought hither."

In the following February a record was made : "The second lot on the Plain, at the South end of the hill, on the east side of the street at New Milford is Thomas Smith's, seven acres and a half, bounded south with John Noble's, the town street west, undivided land east, and with the next lot north, being sixty rods in length and twenty in breadth. Feb. 21, 1707-8." Mr. Noble did not settle on this lot for he had already built a house on the opposite side of the street further south.

Tradition speaks of the hut where the daughter was cared for while her father was absent a short time, as an "Indian's hut"; but inasmuch as Indians seldom, if ever, build their huts in the side of a hill, certainly no others in New Milford, and since John Noble did this site now visible must be that of Mr. Noble's first house in the wilderness. It is a very gratifying fact that a copy of a letter written in 1796 by Sherman Boardman, son of the Rev. Daniel Boardman, is still preserved, for by it some dates and items of history are preserved which are nowhere else to be found. Some of this letter may be found in the Indian history



part of this work, and that which relates to the first settler here is as follows :

"An anecdote is related of John Noble the settler, who, when he first came to labor here, brought his little daughter Hannah, about eight or nine years old, to cook his victuals. He built a palisade<sup>1</sup> house at the foot of the hill where the Indian fort stood, where he lived with his little daughter some time, until some gentlemen came to him and requested him to pilot them through the woods to Albany, one hundred miles distant, when he left his little daughter in care of a squaw, fourteen miles from any white people, and was absent two or three weeks ; when he returned he found her kept very neat and clean. Such was his confidence in the care and friendship of the Indians. This I have often heard her relate, as she was my School Dame. After this Mr. Noble removed to this side of the river and built a log-house, secured as a fort a great many years for the white people ; as the Indians had a stockade fort on the west side. To either of these forts the people came for shelter in an alarm during Queen Anne's war. General Nicholson lodged in this house (which was the last house on this side of Albany) on his expedition to Wood Creek where he built Fort Ann."

This second house of John Noble, Sen., stood on the site of the present dwelling of Col. Charles D. Blinn, and apparently must have been erected in the autumn of 1707 or spring of 1708, for, in the petition of the inhabitants to the General Assembly in October, 1711, it is said, "since the time of our first settlement, which is about three years ;" and if this was true, then several of these twelve families took up their residence here in the spring or summer of 1708, and some of them erected their houses further north, or towards Albany, than was that of John Noble, Sen. In February, 1708, John Noble, Jr., was here and made a selection of his home lot. He did not come with his father at first, and hence, probably, did come with his mother and the family in the autumn of 1707 ; and if these conclusions are the truth, as they appear to be, then, also, the log-house of John Noble, Sen., was built in the autumn of 1707 or in the spring of 1708.

How Mr. Noble made his way through the wilderness with

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<sup>1</sup> A house secured as a fort.

his little daughter, at first, is unknown, but it is quite certain that it was with difficulty and persevering exertion. For sixty years there had been a path from Hartford to Farmington, and for twenty or more, from Farmington to Waterbury and Woodbury, and from the last place to New Milford there could have been only the uncertain and probably untraceable path of the Indian. There is something charming, however, in his bringing his little daughter with him into the deep wilderness. He left at home a family of nine children, if they were all still living, and one only a year old; but since, to a father in his absence from home, a daughter is a far better representative of home, although requiring more attention and care than a son, he brought with him his little daughter Sarah. What could she do, an eight-year-old child, in the great wilderness? Ah! she could make the wilderness seem like *home* to him, so that his heart would not fail him, while he should toil to build a habitation for those he had left behind. But it is said the little girl came "to cook his victuals." What, a woman at eight years of age! No wonder that she became the "School Dame" of Sherman Boardman, twenty years later;—and very probably, the first school dame, or teacher, in the township.

Romance has never painted a picture more perfectly true to the heart of a father, or to the charming bravery of a young daughter of only eight years, than is found in the history of the settlement of the first family in the beautiful township of New Milford.

The second family that settled here was that of John Bostwick, according to the papers of the late Judge David S. Boardman.

To secure the right of permanent homes, the early settlers of New England found two things important to be obtained, the authority of the state (in whatever form it might be) and the purchase of the right of the soil from the natives. These they generally attended to with great carefulness, and by repeated payments for the same territory, and these two items were completed for New Milford by a company of one hundred and nine persons from Milford. Situated on the shore of Long Island Sound, Milford (sometimes called "Old Milford" by way of distinction) had sent out several colonies to form plantations, or

## THE PLANTATION.

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civil organizations, into the wilderness parts of the country. First, a number of her families removed to Stratford; next, ten men, as a company, purchased a tract of land at Paugassett, afterwards named Derby, and made a settlement there; then another company established the plantation of Woodbury. Several families joined with a company from near Boston in the settlement of Setauket, Long Island; others became interested in and removed to a settlement in the state of Delaware in connection with the New Haven company, and finally the New Milford Company was organized, and the deed from the natives obtained.

Several efforts had been made, previous to 1700, to establish a plantation in this part of the colony. In May, 1670, the General Court granted liberty to "Capt. Nathan Gould, Mr. Jehu and John Burr, to purchase Weantenock and the lands adjacent, of the Indians, to make a plantation if it be capable for such a thing," and a committee was appointed by the same authority. Soon after this a purchase was made of the Indians under this grant, of over 26,000 acres of land lying on both sides of the river, here at Weantinock, but nothing further was accomplished. This was the purchase wherein Col. John Read became interested.

In 1675 the General Court sent a committee to see if the country here was large enough for two plantations, but no report of that committee has been seen.

In 1677, "Scantamaug of Wyantenuck having made complaint of Henry Tomlinson buying land of theirs in a private way to their prejudice &c.," the General Court sent the case for a hearing to the Fairfield Court, which case was decided in favor of Mr. Tomlinson.

Again, in 1678, the Court granted to "the Hon. Dept. Gov. Major Robert Treat with Mr. Bryan, Sen. or Junior, Capt. John Bird, Lt. Samuel Eells, liberty to view and buy convenient land for a plantation in those adjacent places about Potatuck, Weantenuck or thereabouts"; but this company made no purchase here.

The next movement of which we learn, was that of the Milford people to whom the General Court gave liberty in May, 1702, and under which they made the purchase and the following deed was obtained:



## THE TOWN-PLAT.

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In accordance with these rules the "Town-plat" as it was called, was laid out on Aspetuck Hill, consisting of a "Town street, and sixteen Home lots." These lots being twenty-one rods wide and sixty long, were to be taken up in regular order as the settlers came to reside here; and hence John Noble took number one on the east side of the street "at the south end of the hill," but which was not recorded to him until five years later. John Bostwick took the first lot on the west side of the street, he being the second settler here. The other lots were recorded to different individuals soon after they were laid out, but almost immediately changes began to be made. Mr. Griswold informs us in his sermon, that it was originally intended to lay the town-plat on the hill east of the present village, and for that reason that eminence was called Town Hill.

Such was the beginning of the plantation in the wilderness, which was to have a very large share in the history of the enterprising State of Connecticut. It seems now to have been so long ago, and the traces of its incipency are so thoroughly removed, that the representation, although taken directly from the records in the town books, can scarcely be believed. There is not a chimney or cellar-place left, to mark the site of any one of the dwellings originally built on the town-plat; nothing but the well of the Rev. Daniel Boardman has resisted the changes of one hundred and seventy years.

In speaking of the various "Divisions," the proprietors called the one of seven and a half acres (the home-lots), the *first division*, and the next one of ten acres, the *second division*; and hence they numbered fourteen divisions, amounting in the aggregate to each proprietor to the quantity of three hundred and fifty-seven and a half acres, all secured originally for the outlay of twenty-four shillings.

Col. Elisha Bostwick, as Town Clerk, wrote the following:

The several divisions of land granted to a right are as follows:—

December 6, 1707. Granted  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres, called a home-lot.

December 9, 1707. Granted 10 acres, for a pasture.

May 29, 1712. Granted 40 acres, and the same day 40 acres more.

March 12, 1723-4. Granted 20 acres, and the same day 10 acres more.

November 6, 1726. Granted 50 acres.

March 18, 1729-30. Granted 40 acres.

March 20, 1732-3. Granted 25 acres.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE FIRST TWELVE SETTLERS.

p. 20



ESIDES the work of clearing away the wilderness and building houses, the first twelve settlers "set up," as it was called, religious services at considerable cost and great personal effort. Having no authority as a town, they asked the General Assembly in October, 1711, to authorize a tax of seven shillings on each Right of land in the plantation, for the support of a minister, and building for him a dwelling-house. This request was so modest that the amount reached was only £36 8s., and they soon found it insufficient, and requested the Assembly, the next spring, to make the tax twelve shillings instead of seven, for four successive years, which secured £62 8s. a year, by which they were enabled to accomplish the proposed object, although the minister's house which was built for him was not fully paid for until about twenty years later.

The town was organized the next October (1712), by which they had authority to tax themselves as residents of the town, but no others, and they were also released from paying taxes to the State, but because of which they were not allowed representation in the Assembly.

Not long after the above privileges were granted, Mr. Daniel Boardman was secured to preach as a candidate, for the following record was made by himself in the Church book: "March 17, 1712, Daniel Bordman was called to preach ye gospel at New Milford." This apparently was a call to settle, after he had served some time as a candidate.

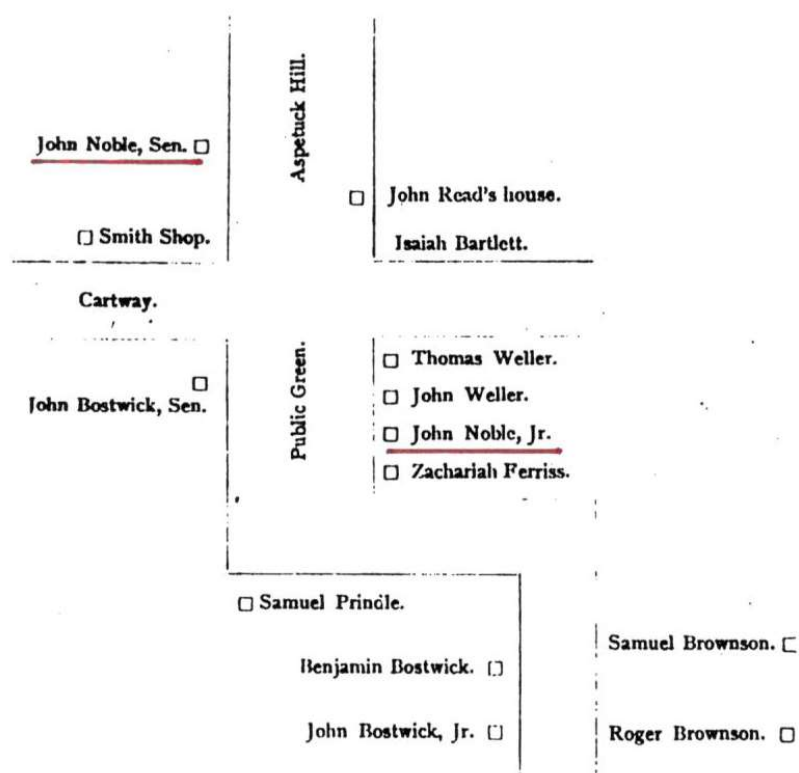
The plantation as now established was indeed a primitive settlement in the deep wilderness, with no outlook, unless it might have been toward the Indian Field on the west side of the river, and the city of Indian tents on the plateau of Fort Hill, a little back of the Indian burying-place. The location of these twelve



LOCATION OF THE FIRST TWELVE SETTLERS.

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families, as nearly as can be ascertained, was as represented in the accompanying plan. It is uncertain as to Isaiah Bartlett's residence, but since no land was laid out to him, and he disappeared before the next May, it is possible that he occupied the house built by Col. John Read, which was located in the highway as indicated; occupied but a few months, when he removed, before the signing of the second petition. It should be remembered that at this time there was no street or highway laid out by authority,



except the one on the top of Aspetuck hill, extending south only to the "brow of the hill," or the south end of the lot in which is now located Mr. John P. Treadwell's reservoir. The streets indicated were traveled roads, but were not laid out by surveyors. The cartway westward at this time was at what is now Bennitt street, and went down to the river's side and up the river about a mile to the rapids, which was then the common fording-place of the Housatonic.



Imagine the appearance of the settlement at this time. There were no fences whatever. At each dwelling a piece of land—an acre or two or three—was cleared of the timber—the brush were burned to be rid of them, and the stumps left standing. A cart-track running among the trees up the hill north, and one running down Main street on the west side among the stumps; since probably the trees, whatever there were of them, were cut away for a space of two rods wide; and this way turned down Grove street toward the Falls. Every house was a log-house, with the door in the side at the center; the big chimney at the end making its appearance on the outside as a part of the end of the house, and barns consisting largely of a kind of shed made of logs.

If now we take our stand at the corner of the streets near Doct. Charles Taylor's present residence, remembering that it is the middle of April, just after the Rev. Daniel Boardman has been engaged as minister-elect, and look up to the house of John Noble, Sen., we behold the real life of primitive settlers. In front of the house toward the cart-path is the wood-pile, at the north end of which is a blazing fire under an iron kettle which hangs upon a cross pole that rests upon the "crotches" of two stakes erected for the purpose. Mrs. Noble is making soap. At a little distance to the left is the tall leach-barrel, resting upon boards which lay upon two short logs, the front end of the boards lower than the rear, and from which is dripping slowly the lye with which the soap is to be made. Close by the side of Mrs. Noble stands the little daughter Mabel, six years of age, watching the mother at her work. David, the lad now seventeen years of age, is seated on a log near the wood-pile, and is engaged in pounding, or grinding with a pestle in a large wooden mortar, the corn which is to be baked into a "Jonny-cake" for dinner; for a large proportion of all the bread eaten in the plantation was ground in this way.

But look!—from the east is approaching a young woman with a bundle wrapt closely and folded tightly in her arms. She is Hannah, the wife of John Noble, Jr.—the first bride of the town—and she is now coming over to the old home for the first time with the baby Thomas, about three months old. Her husband is in the hollow northeast of his house, finishing his work at the "Sapworks," which was an enterprise in that locality so

important as to be mentioned in a deed of land. She has now reached the house, and all are taking a look at the baby.

But, look down the cart-way west. Who comes? A tall, athletic Indian, whose muscular frame bears on its shoulder a girl, as if she were but a fluttering bird. The girl is Sarah, who stayed with this same Indian's family while her father, John Noble, went to Albany five years before. This morning she went over the river with her father to the Indian Field, and, as this big Indian has done fifty times before, he again takes her upon his shoulder and carries her across the river and up home, as fond of her as if she were his own daughter;—nay, more;—it is said to have appeared as though he was never contented unless in sight of the child. And she too seemed delighted always to meet him, although he was such a giant-like Indian.

Again we look down into the woods south and we see coming another young woman. She is the bride of three months of John Bostwick, Jr. She was from Danbury, another new plantation, but about twenty years older than New Milford. She is coming up through the woods from her new home down Great Brook, to visit the old home of her husband at his father, John Bostwick, Sen's, and make a morning call. A bride! and how is she dressed? A sun-bonnet of her own make on her head, and from it shine her bright eyes and flushed cheeks with the very personification of health and joy of life. Her dress is a plain home-made woolen pressed cloth, with a belt of the same. Her shoes are of calf-skin, the most approved style of the day, but what stampers compared to those her descendants wear in the fifth generation, on the concrete walks of New Milford. But see, she is trying to cross the brook that this time of the year flows meanderingly among the bogs and roots and logs, down to Great Brook. Heigh, ho! she has slipped from a bog and one foot is submerged, above the top of the shoe in the chilly water. Mercy, isn't it too bad. Hear her laugh. Isn't she just the most sensible woman out of the woods this morning?

But listen again. There is a strange noise of voices up the Woodbury road to the southeast. It is the coming of new families of settlers from "down-east." We must go and welcome them and find a shelter for them until a house can be built. They are the families of Stephen Noble and Samuel Hitchcock,



—all on horseback, with packs of goods, and a dozen persons, like an ancient caravan from Egypt.

The plantation being now in working order, proceeded to establish rules and methods for proportioning the division of lands, and to adopt such regulations as would aid in an equitable settlement of the territory, but it was found afterward that the plans adopted worked much injury and dissatisfaction.

The rule to allow every settler or proprietor to locate his several divisions wherever he pleased, made a large amount of trouble years after, in settling disputed territory, and in re-surveying the same.

By the votes passed the Proprietors provided for a division of ten acres to be adjoining to each home-lot for a pasture, and a forty-acre division which they seem to have supposed would be taken up on low land along the rivers; and hence they ordered another forty-acre division of "upland" or land on the hills. The twenty acres "on a square to be left on Aspetuck Hill to set a meeting-house on" seems never to have been laid out for the purpose specified.

Two "Rights" were sequestered for the ministry or towns' use, one of which was appropriated, a few months after these persons petitioned for religious privileges, to Mr. Daniel Boardman. And in regard to it, we hear of no minority vote, and no division of the community as to candidates, although parish matters did not always go smoothly with even Mr. Boardman. The other Right was laid out in part some few years later, on Aspetuck Hill, on the north side of the present east and west highway, but in 1748 the second whole Right was sold, and the receipts divided among the several denominations in the town, in proportion to the amount of the tax list of each denomination; Presbyterians (so called then), Episcopalians, and Quakers.

#### *The First Twelve Settlers.*

Life in a new, unsettled country has many charms, although to the dwellers in the city it may seem quite to the contrary. But, aside from the idea of enjoyment, the settlers of a new country are driven, by the hope of securing necessary comforts for their dependent families, to put forth great, and sometimes hazardous efforts for the attainment of their object, and therefore the world

has seen, over and over, the head of the family going into a far country and building a hut, and afterwards a more commodious house, and others following him, until a village is built, and then a town and a state are settled; and finally cities rise in their grandeur,—all for the hope of securing the things which seem to be necessary for the fulfilling of the life-work given to men to do. Many, if they could have been consulted as to their being, would have decided not to be; but since they are, they accept their lot with heroic fortitude, and venture in the paths of life to the verge of imminent personal loss or ruin, for the one only hope of good to those who look to them with longing eyes for help, protection, and guidance in the present life, and the fulfilment of their destiny hereafter in harmony with the will of their divine Creator, whatever that may be. To every man, therefore, if he be a true man, the work set before him has charms, the joy of which he is eager to possess, whether it be in the forests wild or in the city full. Divine are the destinies of man in this life, just as much as they will be in the life to come; not in a fatalistic sense, but in that of approval and help, to the intent of securing success therein. We need not, therefore, spend our pity on those who dwelt in the wilderness that they might plant the standard of prosperity for those who should be their successors in the work of the earthly life. The persons who stand before us as represented by the names of the First Twelve Settlers of New Milford need not our commiseration, but congratulation that they held so high and noble stations in life, and fulfilled them so honorably and successfully. The catalogue of these names is not a long one, but they were the forerunners of a long succession of eventful characters that have, after nearly one hundred and eighty years, just begun to pass in review, and, in hope of animating the travelers in that succession, the record of these pages is made. The list of these twelve names was made one hundred and seventy years ago, in the following order:

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <u>JOHN NOBLE, SEN.</u> | 7. SAMUEL PRINDLE.    |
| 2. JOHN BOSTWICK, SEN.     | 8. JOHN BOSTWICK, JR. |
| 3. BENJAMIN BOSTWICK, SEN. | 9. ZACHARIAH FERRIS.  |
| 4. JOHN NOBLE, JR.         | 10. ROGER BROWNSON.   |
| 5. ISAIAH BARTLET.         | 11. JOHN WELLER.      |
| 6. SAMUEL BROWNSON.        | 12. THOMAS WELLER.    |



Not in the least did they or their families dream that their names, after one hundred and seventy years, would stand displayed on the pages of history as the twelve corner-stones of one of the most successful rural towns of the far-famed state of Connecticut. So little do the seed-sowers know what the harvest shall be. Long ages ago it was written: "There shall be a handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon." And it might have been said, shall be planted in all lands, for to such an extent, nearly, have been transplanted the men raised in New Milford; and it is literally true that a young lady raised in New Milford was the first American woman that sailed around the world. It was she that was Lucia, daughter of Samuel Ruggles, and is now the widow Lucia Tomlinson of New Milford, in her 89th year.

It is pleasant to take some particular notice of the first twelve settlers, since they all proved themselves worthy of the highest encomium and of the most lasting remembrance.

1. John Noble, Sen., came here when forty-five years of age, having a family of nine or ten children living, some of whom did not settle in this town. He was a brave, enterprising, noble-hearted man, or he would never have ventured into the wilderness to make a home for his family as he did. His dwelling-house stood on the site of the present dwelling of Col. Charles D. Blinn, or near it, which was a log-house, erected, probably, in the autumn of 1707. In 1714, he gave the north half of this home-lot to his son Stephen, who came at that time from Massachusetts, and upon this lot Stephen erected a house, a little north of his father's, and, after dwelling in it about a year, removed to that of his father's, and, after some years, sold his first one to his brother David.

Prosperity, for a few brief years, filled his hands with work, in many public offices, as well as private labors, and his home with comparative comforts; but the great destroyer Death was destined to make a beginning in this new plantation as well as in all others, and, as he "loves a shining mark," made choice of the brave yet kindly heart that first raised a white man's home in this dense forest; and therefore, on the 17th day of August, 1714, his life-work closed, and his home was clouded with mourning, and his place left vacant. He was the first Town Clerk

elected by vote of the town ; was a surveyor of lands, a member of the Woodbury Church, and the first adult person<sup>1</sup> to be carried to the beautiful cemetery that now adorns the village of which he was the first civilized ornament.

The land of his first home-lot remained in possession of his descendants until a very few years since.

2. *John Bostwick, Sen.*, came from Derby, and earlier from Stratford, and was the second settler in New Milford. He settled here probably in the autumn of 1707, since his first deed, dated Dec. 2, 1707, says he was "late of Derby." The first land laid to him was lot number one of the town plot, west side of the highway ; but he had previously settled on the lot, and built a house near the site of the present residence of Miss Mary C. Boardman. The northern part of this lot he afterwards gave to his son Daniel, who kept a tavern on it many years, and who was an influential and active man in the town.

He had a family of eight children, some of whom settled here some years later than he. He was an energetic citizen, and bore his full share of official work for the new plantation and town. The dates of the deaths of himself and two wives are unknown. His second wife was the daughter of Jeremiah Canfield, Sen., and sister to the first Samuel Canfield in this town, and his brothers.

3. *Benjamin Bostwick, Sen.*, nephew of John above, came from Stratford a young man, and married Zeruah, daughter of Moses Johnson of Woodbury, in 1711, and established his home on what is now Grove street, where he resided until his decease in June, 1739. He was a successful farmer, carpenter, and cabinet-maker,—the inventory of his property showing him to be equipped with tools for these trades, and also indicating that his home and farm were models for those days in their furnishings and comforts.

4. *John Noble, Jr.*, when 21 years of age, purchased a Right of land in New Milford, the same day with his father, June 22, 1706, and came with his father's family, in 1707, to New Milford. His house was on the east side of the green about where the Town Hall now stands. This house and lot he

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<sup>1</sup> Mary, daughter of Benjamin Bostwick, died before Mr. Noble.



sold in 1730, and soon after settled on the plains, in the first house below Gallows Hill, where he resided until his decease in 1773, at the age of 88 years. He was Captain of the Train Band in 1732, was a prominent man in the town for many years, and was one of a number of persons who petitioned for society privileges in 1743, from the south part of the town; which resulted in the parish and First Church of Newbury, and afterwards in the town of Brookfield.

5. *Isalah Bartlet*, was a signer of the petition in October, 1711, but in a similar one the next May his name does not appear. There was no land deeded to him, and the probability is that he soon removed. Two of his daughters, apparently, were afterwards married in this town.

6. *Dea. Samuel Brownson*, from Farmington, settled here, probably, in 1708. His house stood at the southeast corner of the sequestered square or green, southeast of Doct. Thomas Picketts, or directly south, and across the road from the present residence of Mr. Edward A. Thayer. He was elected Town Clerk in 1714, upon the death of John Noble, Sen., and held that office until his death in 1733. He was the first Justice of the Peace in the town, being also Judge in the New Haven County Court, and was in his day, probably, the most widely-known citizen of the town, unless the military man, Capt. Stephen Noble, should be excepted; and in every way he seems to have been a man of dignity, integrity, and responsibility, and much esteemed. He was the first deacon of the First Church in the town.

Lydia Brownson, his wife, was a woman of decided efficiency, as may be seen in the list of physicians in this book; she being a peculiar honor to the women of the community and the nation, for she was probably, for some years, the only person that made professional calls as a physician, in the town, except Doctor Pickett. She married, 2d, Mr. Jonathan Lumm, and they removed to Derby.

7. *Samuel Prindle*, from Milford, was in New Milford and signed the petition in 1711. John Noble, Sen., laid out Mr. Prindle's first forty acres, on Second hill, before 1714, on the Right of William Fowler; which was recorded in 1717, and described as "lying upon the westerly side of the Second hill at a place called Prindle's Pitch, 80 rods on the square, common land

on all sides." In 1721, William Fowler deeded his Right, including this land improved, and another piece at the south end of the village, to Samuel Prindle and Joseph Bostwick. Mr. Prindle had paid all charges against the Right for seven years, by which he secured one-half of the Right to himself. His dwelling stood at the south end of the village, a little east of the present site of Hon. A. B. Mygatt's residence. He died in 1750.

8. *Major John Bostwick, Jr.*, came here with his father in 1708, and married Mercy Bushnell of Danbury, Jan. 30, 1712, and made his home on what is now Grove street; and his descendant, Mr. John R. Bostwick, is still residing on the old homestead. He became one of the most prominent and active men in the town; was lieutenant of the Train band many years, and afterwards major in the regiment; was elected deacon of the First church in 1733, and he and Capt. Stephen Noble were the first representatives of New Milford in the legislature. He also, apparently, gave some attention to the study of law, for the following action was taken in town meeting: "Dec. 12, 1737. Voted, that Dea. John Bostwick shall be allowed ten shillings for the use of his law book for town meetings, and for the use of particular persons as they shall have occasion." He was fourteen years of age when he came to New Milford, twenty-six when he was married; died in 1741, aged fifty-two years, leaving five children, all sons, two of whom, like himself, were very prominent citizens of the town for many years.

9. *Zachariah Ferriss* from Stratford, settled here, probably in 1708, on a lot a little way south of the Town Hall, and extending south to the corner of Main street, and east across Great brook; and his first forty acres lay directly east and adjoining his home-lot. This was the same land, most probably, as that he ploughed in June, 1706, when there were no settlers here except Indians. When Mr. Ferriss had ploughed this land in 1706, the New Milford company prosecuted him for trespass, and Col. John Read plead his case in court. It must have been, therefore, that Mr. Ferriss laid claim to this land under the deed which was given by the Indians to Henry Tomlinson and others of Stratford, which, having been received under a permit from the General Court in 1670, under no restrictions or conditions, was as much a legal deed, and received as honestly as any



deed then existing in the colony. The deed had stood on the records, sanctioned by a court decision, more than thirty years, when the General Assembly gave the permit to the New Milford company, and their deed was received, upon the specific conditions that the plantation should interfere with no other titles. It is no wonder, then, that in fifteen trials in court before the governor and his assistants, a jury gave Col. Read the case, and his deed as valid; but it is surprising that on the sixteenth trial the land was given to the New Milford company without a penny's allowance to Col. Read. Is this called Christianity? And when the title to the land was secured in this way, against right and Christianity, by professed Christians as they were, it is no wonder that it took them twelve years thereafter to build a meeting-house, amidst great privations and almost extreme poverty; whereas, had they received Col. Read under a liberal consideration of the money he had placed in the enterprise, and treated him as a Christian brother, the plantation might have been settled at once, and the meeting-house built in a third of the time it was. Zachariah Ferriss was brother-in-law to Col. John Read, he having married, probably, the sister of Col. Read.

Mr. Ferriss was a very efficient business man, placed on committees of importance; he served in many official capacities; surveyed more land, apparently, than any other man in the town during the first one hundred years, unless Col. Elisha Bostwick should be excepted. He was town treasurer a number of years, when taxes were paid in various kinds of grains, which were stored, and sometimes accumulated on hand from year to year, until by some special town vote the accumulation was sold in a summary manner. He might have been styled, or would be at the present day, the President of the Bank of Town Deposits. Samuel Brownson sometimes was elected to this office, but after a number of years Roger Brownson more frequently bore the burdens of this office. Mr. Ferriss adhered to the First church through life, although his wife and several of his children became Quakers. No record of his decease has been found.

**10. Roger Brownson**, from Farmington, settled near his brother Samuel on what was then the Woodbury road, perhaps a little way south of the residence of the late A. S. Rogers.

When his brother died he became Town Clerk, and held the position fourteen years. He was also Justice of the Peace for a number of years.

There were no more reliable men in the town than he and his brother, for they were elected continually in the highest places of trust, and proved themselves worthy of the confidence imposed upon them; Roger being town treasurer many years. He died in 1758.

**11. John Weller, Sen.,** from Springfield, Mass., settled in New Milford before December, 1710, since at that time he was here, and entered into an agreement with Thomas Smith to work the land which had been laid to Smith—lot number two, east side of the street—and in 1722 he bought Thomas Smith's Right, and in 1723 was living on this home-lot, next north of John Noble, Jr's. He was a substantial farmer; bought several pieces of land besides the one Right; was not prominent in town offices or enterprises, but served his part well. He died in 1734, leaving a number of sons and their families, to each of whom he had given quite a farm. His son John was a prominent man, his farm being a little below the mouth of Rocky river, and which is now owned by Col. Wm. J. Starr.

**12. Thomas Weller,** of Westfield, Mass., bought of John Noble one-half of a twenty-four shilling Right in 1707, and settled here probably before 1710; was here in 1712, but was residing in Woodbury in 1715, when he sold several pieces of land in New Milford.

Only one of the first twelve families came from Milford, unless Isaiah Bartlett was of that place, which would make only two, and therefore it could hardly be said that the place was settled at first from Milford. It was settled by Milford people as original proprietors, but they were very slow to come here themselves. Four of these families were from Northampton and Westfield, Mass., four were from Stratford, and two were from Farmington. They were all poor people, strictly speaking, being able most of them—not all—to buy a Right of land, and to have a little left with which to commence a farmer's life in the wilderness. The Bostwick families possessed more property than the others, and they have held their own comfortably well ever since. They are so steady and untiring in the same line of work, that they must

win if death does not rob them of their allotted time. Then, also, they had a good start, which fact, if attended to, is more than half the race, in the short life any one may live in this world.

These were the twelve pillars of the First Ecclesiastical Society, and of the town; but not of the church, for when the church was organized, some of them had removed from the town and others had come in.



## CHAPTER III.

## PRIVATIONS AND PROGRESS.

1712—1716.



COMMENCING a new plantation in the wilderness at a considerable distance from any settlement, with but a small capital to provide advantages for making improvements, the number of families being few,—the marks of progress and success must of necessity make their appearance slowly and at intervals, and yet New Milford made far greater progress, in the same time, than some other plantations which began earlier, and apparently under circumstances of much greater advantage. In a little over four years the families settled here numbered twelve, and all the souls seventy; and the conveniences for obtaining the necessary food and comforts of life were peculiarly favorable, while there was but one source of fear or threatening evil,—namely, the occasional reports of invasion by the Canada, or French Indians; the native Indians being not only friendly, but helpful in many little things. The location of a large proportion of the residences at that time was south of Aspetuck Hill, or the "Town plat," in close proximity to each other, for this was the regulation established by the proprietors at the start as a matter of safety. This "Town plat" began at the south end, on the brow of the hill or at the southern extremity of what was then called the "Plain" on that hill, and extended northward; and at first only eight lots were laid out on each side of the street, each lot being twenty-one rods wide, and about sixty long; the street being twenty rods wide. In 1714 this street was extended southward to what is now the south end of the public green.

It had been intended, as stated previously, to locate the village on the hill east, which would have been a misfortune; but

wisdom as to convenience prevailed over the idea of beauty in an elevated position, and it was located on the "Plain."<sup>1</sup>

It is evident, from the fact that Zachariah Ferriss "broke up," or in other words, ploughed a piece of land about where the Town Hall now stands in the spring of 1706, before John Noble came to the town; and from other considerations, that the land where the village now is and the Aspetuck hill, was in a large measure cleared from trees before any settlement by the English was made here.

The cleared land on the west side of the river, called the "Indian Field," extending from the north end, where the river runs in an almost easterly direction, southward to the mouth of the little brook that runs along the foot of Fort hill, was of the greatest advantage to the first settlers; as furnishing a field where each planter could at once sow his wheat, plant his corn and other grain without the delay of clearing away the forests. This field was soon divided into small pieces of three, four, and five acres, until it was all occupied, and the price of it per acre was greater than that of any other portion of the town. Also the plain on the top of Fort Hill was divided and occupied for raising grain; the Indians having removed from this plain soon after 1705, it having been many years the principal location of their huts or settlement, including the site of their old fort. Their residence here must have been continued many years, or after it began, their numbers must have been large, for, as concluded in the Indian History part of this work, the number of burials must have approached three hundred, which was a number scarcely reached by the burials of the white people in fifty years; although their census at the end of fifty years—in 1756—gives 1,137 persons in the town. The Indians soon removed, many of them doubtless to Scaticook,<sup>2</sup> some to the vicinity of the Great Falls, where, with their chief Waraunaug, they lingered many years.

It is quite certain that the Indians were granted the privilege of cultivating land some years if they did not own any at that place, for in 1723, when a new division of fence was made around the common field, it is recorded: "The Indian fence from the Great Falls northward to a stubbed elm," showing that the Indi-

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Mr. Bonar's Hist. Sermon, 1776, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> See Indian Hist., chap. vii, p. 104.



## GRASSY HILL.

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ans made and kept in repair a portion of that common fence, and if so they cultivated some of the territory inclosed by that fence.

Also a considerable portion of valley land on the west side of the river below the Indian Field and the Great Falls had been cleared of timber, in part by the Indians, or was easily cleared by the white people, for the Common Field, when first a fence around it was voted in October, 1714, extended to the Great Falls. This common field was devoted to grass and grain during the summer and opened for pasture late in the autumn.

There was another portion of the township that in its natural state favored the early settlers. In the survey of a division of land, the following description was given by John Noble, Sen. : "May 9, 1713. Laid out for John Bostwick, Jr., forty acres of land upon the second hill known by the name of Good Hill or Grassy Hill." In consequence of the grass then growing on that hill it was called Good Hill or Grassy Hill, indicating how important it was to have grass for the stock at that period without the delay of clearing away the timber. Some part of this hill had been burnt over by the Indians for hunting purposes, some years before ; the timber had disappeared to some considerable extent, and the grass had grown up, furnishing the greatly needed pasturage for the domestic animals, as well as the wild ones, and hence it was truly a "Good Hill." There appears to have been, also, some meadow land partially cleared at the mouth of the Aspetuck river that was soon, and with comparative ease, brought under cultivation very much to the comfort of the early planters.

Such were some of the circumstances and relations of the plantation and its inhabitants when the following record was made :

"October, 1712. This Assembly, upon petition of the inhabitants of New Milford, do grant the powers and privileges of a township unto the said inhabitants of New Milford, and do empower the town clerk to administer the oaths by law required to town officers." <sup>3</sup> Jonathan Law was the clerk of the plantation company appointed by the General Assembly, and held the

<sup>3</sup> Col. Rec., v. 356.

office until the town election, when he was the one to administer the oath to those who should be elected.

This enactment conferred the authority of conducting ecclesiastical matters, electing its own officers, laying taxes for its own expenses, and those imposed by the State, and for the regular support of a minister, and for schools to a limited extent, but they could impose no tax on persons residing out of the town limits.

The record of the first town meeting, having been written on the first page of the book prepared for this purpose, is gone, except a piece one inch wide and three inches long, by which may be seen that the record was made in the hand-writing of Jonathan Law of Milford, who served as town clerk for the first year, at the end of which John Noble, Sen., was elected to that office, and held it until his death.

Several town meetings were held during the first year, one as follows :

"November 30, 1713. Agreed that John Noble, Sen., and John Weller or Samuel Brownson should go to Milford to discourse with y<sup>e</sup> committee about y<sup>e</sup> settlement of a minister, and at y<sup>e</sup> same meeting Jacob Griswold and David Griswold were admitted as inhabitants into New Milford by vote."

In response to the "discourse" of the committee, they obtained notification of the following record of the proprietors made nearly two months earlier. '

At a meeting of the Proprietors of New Milford at Milford, October 6, 1713, Voted, "that they will and now do grant one of the twenty-four shilling lots (previously voted to be laid out by two-thirds of the number of the proprietors) to Mr. Daniel Boardman, a preacher of the gospel at the said place, to his heirs and assigns forever upon condition that he shall become their settled minister of the place, and continue so for the space of twenty years, or during his natural life and ability so to be ; and that the subscription of the necessary number of proprietors be endeavored to be procured, and that when it shall be so done, it shall by your clerk be put upon record. Voted in the affirmative, which having been done and returned to me accordingly, I have here put it on record. Test, Jonathan Law, Clerk.

"Voted that a dwelling-house forty feet in length and twenty-



## RECORD OF TOWN MEETING.

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one in breadth and two stories high, and fourteen feet between joints, be forthwith built upon the land at New Milford, proposed to be granted to Mr. Boardman. The committee chosen, to do, order, take care of and manage the whole affair are: Samuel Clark, merchant, Ephriam Burwell, Samuel Beard."

At the next town meeting held in December, 1713, a regular meeting for the choice of officers, further provision was made in behalf of the gospel work, and that having been the second meeting for the election of officers, and the first now on record, it is given in full, with also the record of the third election as showing the officers and town work of that day.

"December, 1713. At a town meeting to choose town officers, Samuel Brownson was chosen moderator.

At the same meeting John Noble was chosen town clerk, Zachariah Ferris, Samuel Brownson, and Samuel Hitchcock were chosen selectmen.

John Bostwick was chosen constable and sworn.

Zachariah Ferris, surveyor.

John Noble, Sen., and John Bostwick, Jr., were chosen collectors to join with Mr. Jonathan Law, to collect 12s. tax for the years 1712 and 1713.

Samuel Beebe and John Weller were chosen grand jury and sworn.

Benoni Stebbens and Stephen Noble were chosen hawards, or field-drivers.

William Gaylord, inspector and brander and sworn.

Benjamin Bostwick, Sen., was chosen gauger and sworn.

John Bostwick, Sen., was chosen collector.

At the same meeting it was voted that the inhabitants should pay £6. 15s. towards the minister's board, and Mr. Law will pay all the charges that we have been out to this day, and that we shall be out on the minister in the year ensuing.

Zachariah Ferris Innholder.

Samuel Brunson, town treasurer."

*Third Election of Town Officers.*

"December 23, 1714. John Bostwick was chosen moderator.

At the same meeting, there were chosen for selectmen, Zachariah Ferris, Roger Brownson, Stephen Noble.



There were chosen for constable, John Bostwick, Sen., for the year ensuing, and sworn.

For fence viewers, Samuel Beebe, and John Bostwick, Jr., and sworn.

For collector of the 12s. tax for the year ensuing, William Gaylord and Jacob Griswold.

For surveyor, John Weller, Sen., and sworn.

For grand-jury, Samuel Hitchcock and John Noble, and sworn.

For hawards, David Griswold and Robert Bostwick, and sworn.

For sealers of measures and weights, Benjamin Bostwick, and sworn.

For listers, David Griswold and Stephen Noble, and sworn.

For town treasurer, Zachariah Ferris.

For ordinary keeper, William Gaylord."

A number of families having recently settled in the place, it became necessary to lay out some roads for the extension of the settlement into the wilderness.

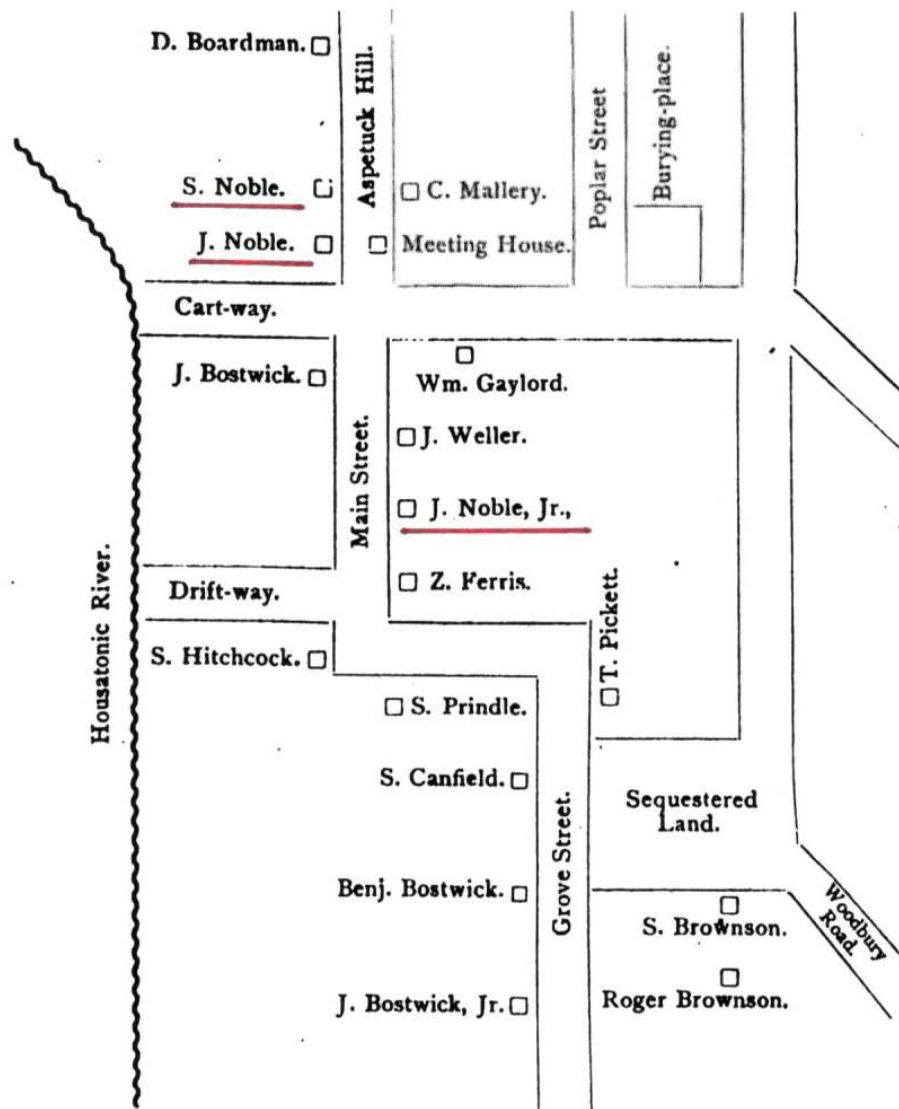
January 11, 1713-14. We therefore have agreed that the highway beginning at John Noble, Sen.'s house-lot should extend so far northward as shall be necessary for building-lots, and this highway to be twenty rods wide, as it is, to run up the hill against the front of Samuel Clark's home-lots and in no place less than fourteen or fifteen rods wide except where lots are already taken, and so by that means it cannot be, and this highway from John Noble's house-lot to extend southward from thence, winding as the lots are already laid out on the westwardly side till it comes to the south side of Samuel Hitchcock's house-lot, and this highway to be twenty rods wide where the circumstance of the place will allow of it. And from the south side of Thomas Picket's lot we order that there be a piece of land sequestered for common, that so there may be sufficient passage to those highways which are to run out further, and this common land is appointed to be from the hill east to the highway westward, and to extend so far south till it comes against Benjamin Bostwick's house by known marked trees, and from the southeast corner of this sequestered land, a highway running up the side of the hill called the Town Hill, of ten rods wide marked on the westerly side till it comes to the top of the hill, and a highway to run across from the highway against Samuel Brownson's and Roger Brownson's house-lots to the highway running up the town hill, of eight rods wide, marked on the north side:—and one cross highway between William Gaylord's house-lot and John Reed's house-lot, being six rods wide at the west end, and twelve rods wide at the brook, and this highway to run up to the hill; and another highway of six rods wide running from this cross-way south along by the foot of the hill till it comes to the sequestered land on the south side of Thomas Pickett's lot; and from this highway between William Gaylord's and Mr. John Reed's house-lots, we appoint another highway eight rods wide to run northward up to the Poplar Swamp, and from thence in the most convenient place, to run up to the Chestnut land. The above written

## TOWN STREETS.

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articles signed by us, Samuel Brownson, Samuel Hitchcock, Zachariah Ferris, Selectmen.

It was customary for many years to speak of any highway as the "town street," which was done for the purpose of distinguishing these roads from those laid out by order and somewhat at the expense of the county,—the latter being called "country roads."



"June 4, 1715. Laid out through Samuel Hitchcock's homelot, or twenty acre division, a drift-way from the front to the river, twenty-two rods, four rods wide; and from this place at the river to run twenty rods up the river, this also four rods wide."



## CHAPTER IV.

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## ADDITIONAL SETTLERS—1713-1720.



ETERMINATION, with patience, application, and length of years, conquers all obstacles and makes all the attributes of nature pay tribute unto man.

When the petition of the New Milford people was sent to the Assembly in November, 1711, they asked for a tax of seven shillings on each Right in the township, but it was soon found that that amount, £36 8s., would do but little towards building the minister's house after paying his salary, and they therefore petitioned the next May that the tax should be made twelve shillings instead of seven, which was granted. The names on this second petition were the same in number as on the first, and the same as the first except that Robert Bostwick was in the stead of Isaiah Bartlet.

**13. Robert Bostwick**, was the son of John Bostwick, Sen., second settler in New Milford, and was at this time (1712) just past 21 years of age, and therefore could sign such a petition which he could not do the previous October, although he was here in the place. He built a house on the site of the one that now stands next below the dwelling of Mr. Charles Randall, on Grove street, but in a short time after he removed to Bedford, Westchester county, N. Y., where he married, lived, and died, so far as is known. This land he sold to Samuel Canfield, with the dwelling-house, in 1723, after he had been in Bedford some years.

Before this church was organized the New Milford people journeyed to Woodbury to meeting some of the time, and they may have gone to Derby some, for John Noble's wife united with the church at Derby. The following record is in Woodbury.

"Admitted to Membership.—1710, Jan. 29, John Noble of New Milford. 1714, Jan. 3, Samuel Hitchcock of New Milford. 1716, Nov. 11, Roger Brownson of New Milford."

As soon as religious privileges were secured, the settlement be-

of Samuel Sanford of Milford, for which two Rights the town a few years afterwards paid.

"Jan. 14, 1725-6. Voted that the town shall pay for the two rights that Mr. Daniel Boardman hath by purchase." He afterwards purchased another half right, and never sold any land of account.

In the same year, (Dec. 7, 1726,) the town "Voted that the selectmen send to the committee for building Mr. Boardman's house to know whether they will finish the same or not."

Up to this period the town had given him, instead of what was usually denominated a "settlement," three Rights of land (whole Rights, sometimes called), which amounted, with meadow lands, to eleven hundred acres of land, built him a house and well, and a part of his barn.

Eight divisions of land were made before his decease and these for the three Rights, with meadow, amounted to 850 acres, making him as large a landholder, with a few exceptions, possibly, as there was in the town, at his decease.

Also the following must be added to his land possessions :

"Daniel Boardman, Jacob Griswold, David Griswold, Thomas Picket, and Benoni Stebbins, bought of John Noble, Sen., John Bostwick, Sen., Zachariah Ferriss, Samuel Brownson, Roger Brownson, William Gaylord, Samuel Prindle, John Weller, Benjamin Bostwick, Thomas Weller, John Bostwick, Jr., Samuel Hitchcock, John Noble, Jr., Stephen Noble, Robert Bostwick, the fourth part of a certain parcel of land containing about 130 acres, bounded east with the Great River, northerly with the said river to an elm tree on the river bank, then by a southwest line taking in Fort Hill with the graves, and then upon the top of the bank by the meadow to the Great River upon the South side of a brook that falls into the said river. . . . Although Daniel Boardman is above mentioned as a purchaser, yet it is to be understood that his right is more of the nature of a gift; we, with the rest of the proprietors of the said [land] grant it to him on the condition that he become a settled minister here, at New Milford. . . . Subscribed May 5, 1714."

This arrangement made the owners of that field to number twenty, each having about six and a half acres. This deed al-



James Hine of Milford came to New Milford a single man, probably in the autumn of 1723, and became, and continued some years, an influential and successful citizen; a man whose judgment was often called into requisition on town committees and the like, as often as any one in his day. He came to the town upon agreement with a number of citizens, as seen by the following :

"Dec. 16, 1723. That we in consideration that James Hine do become our smith, and do faithfully endeavor to do our work with reasonable satisfaction for the full term of four years next ensuing, do give him the several parcels of land hereafter named.

Ebenezer Baldwin,	$\frac{1}{2}$ acre.	John Welch,	1 acre.
Henry Garlick,	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	John Noble,	1 "
Theophilus Baldwin,	1 "	<u>Zachariah Ferriss,</u>	1 "
Samuel Adkins,	1 "	Benoni Stebbins,	1 "
Gamaliel Terrill,	1 "	James Prime,	1 "
Samuel Camp,	1 "	Enoch Buck,	1 "
Abraham Bostwick,	1 "	Thomas Pickett,	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
John Bostwick,	1 "	William Gaylord,	1 "
Samuel Hitchcock,	1 "	Samuel Brownson,	1 "
David Noble,	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	Thomas Brownson,	1 "
Paul Welch,	1 "	—	—
			19 acres.

Afterwards the following were added :

" Jan. 15, 1723-4			
John Bostwick, Sen.,	1 acre.	Benjamin Bostwick,	1 acre.
Samuel Prindle, Sen.,	1 "	Nathaniel Bostwick,	1 "
Mr. Daniel Boardman,	1 "	—	—
			24 acres.

Twelve acres of this land was surveyed to him, Jan. 28, 1724-5, "near Town Hill brook on the northeast side of said brook," and the next year he bought ten acres adjoining these twelve; and from that time he continued to buy small pieces of two, four, and ten acres, and finally as high as one-fourth of a Right, until he became a large land-holder, and a very influential citizen. He was appointed to office in the military company and soon rose to be a lieutenant, and was always known as Lieutenant Hine. He came here with but little if any money, like many

## CHAPTER VI.

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## A MEETING-HOUSE AND THE NORTH PURCHASE.

1716—1731.



ENTERING upon the building of a meeting-house was a much easier matter for the few families in New Milford than the completing of the work; but to them such a work was right,—a religious duty, and must be done.

The house in which their meetings were first held, called Mr. Read's house, was probably built of logs, one story high, and had but one window, and was not very commodious nor an ornamental place of worship. It was in this house, most likely, that Mr. Daniel Boardman was ordained pastor of all the inhabitants of the town, who numbered about 125 persons.

It stood in the highway a little north of the site of the old Town house at the north end of the present public green.

The following is the second petition presented to the General Assembly by the New Milford people, and in it is the first mention made as to the building of a meeting-house.

The first movement towards providing funds for building a meeting-house is indicated in the following petition:

To ye Honor<sup>ble</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly now convened att Hartford this instant May, 1712.

The humble petition of ye Inhabitants of New Milford sheweth: That whereas, wee formerly made our application to this Honor<sup>ed</sup> Court for advise and help in order to ye setting up the worship of God publickly amongst us: the w<sup>h</sup> ye s<sup>d</sup> Court was pleased readily to grant—for ye w<sup>h</sup> favor we humbly acknowledge with great thankfulness; And upon those experiences of y<sup>r</sup> right readiness to grant o<sup>r</sup> request, wee are againe encouraged at this time further to make o<sup>r</sup> request:—

1. That wee may have libberty to Levy a Rate at any time when ye Mony is due, altho' ye yeare bee not expired.—

2. That wee may increase ye Rate (upon ye Land) as afore granted y<sup>t</sup> it may bee, to twelve shillings upon each share—especially considering y<sup>t</sup> wee are now very like speedily to bee employed in building an house for ye Ministr, and probably in prepa-



## THE FIRST MEETING-HOUSE.

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ration for a Meeting-house—We pray y<sup>t</sup> all o<sup>r</sup> necessary charge in building a Minister house and meeting house may bee rayzed upon ye Land; Wee apprehend it hath bin granted to other new beging places w<sup>th</sup> great acceptance: Wee Finde y<sup>t</sup> ye seven shillings is too little therefore Request as above s<sup>d</sup>:

To all w<sup>h</sup> wee humbly subscribe and shall allways pray as in duty bound.

New Millford  
May 15<sup>th</sup> 1712.

John Bostwick	beniamin bostwick
<u>John Noble, Sen<sup>r</sup></u>	tho weller
Zacrey faris	<u>John Noble Jun<sup>r</sup></u>
Sam <sup>l</sup> brunson	John Boswick Jun <sup>r</sup>
roger brunson	Sam <sup>l</sup> Prindle
John weller	Roberd Bostwick

Mr. John Read resided in the place but a short time, leaving before 1712. His house, or the house he left, was repaired in 1717; the vote says that there should be "glass provided to furnish the window in the house we meet in upon the Sabbath," and in it they continued to worship until the first meeting-house was so far completed as to meet in it. The first vote to build a meeting-house was passed in 1716, but the work was not actually commenced until in 1719.

The plan and particulars of this house were decided in town-meeting as follows :

"Feb. 23, 1719. At a town meeting legally warned the inhabitants being convened, it was voted in the affirmative, that there should be a meeting-house built of forty feet in length, and thirty in breadth, and twenty in height between joints, with other suitable proportions.

"Voted that the meeting-house shall be set in the highway in the most convenient place between the house that is called Mr. John Read's, and that which is called Caleb Mallery's house.

"It was agreed that there should be ten thousand of eighteen-inch shingles, being three-quarters of an inch thick at the lower end, and otherwise suitably proportioned and of such a breadth as may run five inches one with another; and after that there shall be two thousand and five hundred of good clapboards of white oak, four feet and four inches in length, and six inches in breadth, and not less than half an inch thick well and even dressed, gotten for the use aforesaid, that is in order to rearing a meeting-house.

"Agreed that these clapboards and shingles shall be got and brought to the place by the middle of June next, and that every man shall forfeit twelve pence a hundred for their neglect, and after that, six pence a month upon every hundred that they shall be negligent in performing of their work.

"Agreed that these clapboards and shingles shall be gotten upon the present list by every man according to his list.

"There shall be allowed two pound ten shillings a thousand for clapboards gotten and brought to the place, and then fitted to be laid, and twenty-five shillings a thousand for shingles got and brought to the place and fitted to be laid.

"There was chosen for a Committee to cull the clapboards and shingles, John Bostwick and Samuel Brownson, 'who are faithfully to do it.'

"There was chosen for a committee to make a rate upon this work above mentioned, by the present list, and to warn every man to do his work; Roger Brownson, David Griswold, John Welch.

"Agreed that Jonathan Buck shall be excused from this rate towards the meeting-house, which is to be made upon the present list."

The strictness observed in culling the clapboards and shingles by a committee charged "faithfully to do it," directs the mind to the ancient method of selecting sacrifices upon the rule that there should be not a spot or blemish to mar the perfectness of the offering. The resolution to make progress in the work, by imposing fines upon those failing to fulfill their parts, was commendable; but the hindrances in a new wilderness plantation were more than anticipated, for it was the middle of the next December before further steps could be taken in the work. At which time, "Dec. 17, 1719, Zachariah Ferris, Roger Brownson, and William Gaylord, were chosen to agree with a carpenter to get the timber for the meeting-house, and this committee shall see that the timber shall be drawn to the place agreed upon for setting it up."

The next work was to pay for this timber. The clapboards and shingles were to be setured the year previous by a tax on the town list to be paid in those articles; but it seems they could not pay for the timber with shingles, and therefore something else must be had. "Jan. 8, 1720. Agreed that there shall be a rate raised of five and twenty pounds, between this and the middle of February next, for defraying the charge of getting and drawing the meeting-house timber; and Stephen Noble was chosen collector of this rate.

The following petition reveals most clearly the circumstances and condition of the town at the time:

"To the Honourable, the Govenour and Company of His Majesties Colony of Connecticut, In New England, In Generall court assembled, In Hartford: May: 14: 1719:

The Humble Petition, of the Inhabitants of ye Town of New Milford, within ye s<sup>d</sup> Colony humbly sheweth—

That this Honourable corporation did Grant a Petition In May 1716: to the Inhabitants of ye s<sup>d</sup> Town of New Milford, that a tax of ten shillings should be Leavied on each proprietor of New Milford not Settled theire, which tax ware to continue three years from that time, for the support of the Ministry for N. Milford. 3 shil., of ye 10 was appoint'd to be Improved for ye building of a meeting-house. These three years being now expired: And we having allready attended ye direction, that your



## THE FIRST MEETING-HOUSE.

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Honours Gave us In the Returne of that Petition: which was that we for the future should agree with them, and if not, then it should be as this Court should further order, as was expressed In the Returne of the former petition.

This Honourable court may be Informed, that we have taken dew care and used Indeavours to agree with them, having twice written and lastly sent a man to them, and have been Insuccessfull in those means, in that we can't come to any meet agreement with them, for the future.

Whereupon youre Honoures Humble Petitioners pray that according to your former Incouragement: and your wonted zeale for Justice and piety that you would be moved to pittie our Needy condition:

upon these three considerations: namely: that there are but twenty-three families here settled at N. Milford: and the most of those low in the world. 2ly that it will amount to something considerable above ten pence upon ye pound upon our rateable estate, to defray the charge of our minister who is settled and hath a family.

3. that Necessity puts us to build a meeting-house, which we have begun this Spring.

Considering that we are so slow in groath, and the Great burden that is upon us: and moreover that its troublesome to this Assembly, to have a multitude of these prayers and also chargeable to us.

Hereupon we humbly pray that each proprietor not settled at s<sup>d</sup> N. Milford, may be obliged, to pay at least Seaven shillings annually for each Right not settled untill theire be the Number of fifty five families settled at s<sup>d</sup> N. Milford, all of which for ye support and maintenance of ye minister theire, (theire being an hundred and four Rights in ye whole) this is our most humble prayer, or that your Honours will any other way provid for ye support of ye worship of God among us, all tenders of agreement proving Ineffectual your Honoures humble petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

N. Milford, May 4th, 1719.

Samuell Brownson, }  
Stephen Noble, } Selectmen."  
John Bostwick. }

The twenty-three families were those of the following persons :

Capt. Stephen Nobl	Paul Welch,
<u>John Noble, Jr.,</u>	Thomas Pickett,
John Bostwick, Sen.,	William Gaylord,
John Bostwick, Jr.,	John Welch,
Benjamin Bostwick,	Samuel Camp,
Zechariah Ferriss,	James Prime,
Samuel Brownson,	Samuel Adkins,
Roger Brownson,	Jonathan Buck,
Samuel Prindle,	Enoch Buck,
Samuel Hitchcock,	Theophilus Baldwin,
Benoni Stebbins,	Jonathan Buck.
Benjamin Bunnell,	

A number of families besides these had settled in the town, but had died or removed.

Eleven months later another stage of progress was entered upon, which must have given a more visible assurance that a meeting-house would be realized in a future day.

## EXTRACTS FROM RECORDS.

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In 1737, Wheat,	12s.	Oats, per bush., 3s.
Rye,	8s.	Flax, per lb., 12d.
Corn,	5s.	
In 1744, Wheat,	12s.	Oats, per bush., 4s.
Rye,	8s.	Flax, per lb., 2s.
Corn,	7s.	

Before 1760, wheat reached the high mark of twenty-two shillings per bushel.

*Ear Marks.*

"Marks for cattle and swine.

John Weller, a hole in the right year (ear).

William Gaylor, a hole in the Left year.

John Noble, Sen., a hole in the Left eare and a cut in the bottom of the right ear.

Dan<sup>l</sup>. Boardman—his mark is a half-penny on the fore side of the neare eare.

All entered Jan. 29, 1713-14.

Mar. 31, 1719. John Griswold's ear mark for neat cattle, sheep, swine, and horses is a half-penny on the fore side of each ear."

"Elnathan Botchford's ear mark for neat cattle, sheep, and swine, is a half-penny on the under or hinder side of each ear one. Recorde May 21, 1728.

"John Prindle's ear mark for neat cattle, sheep, swine, and horses, is a half-penny upon each side of the off or right ear. Recorded Jan. 20, 1728-9.

"John Weller, Senr's. mark for geese is the hind toe of the off or right foot cut off. Recorded Dec. 14, 1728.

"Joseph Waller's ear mark for neat cattle, sheep, and swine is a w or two swallow tails upon the top of the off or right ear. Recorded Sept. 30, 1730.

"Nathan Terrill's ear mark for neat cattle, sheep, and swine, is a crop in the near or left ear, and two slits right down in the crop. Recorded Dec. 24, 1724."



## CHAPTER XXV.

## NEW MILFORD VILLAGE.

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THE village of New Milford has become the business centre not only for the town, but for several adjoining towns; and in some mercantile respects it has become the centre for the whole county, and as such it merits particular consideration as to the causes of its growth and prosperity.

In the spring of 1706, Zachariah Ferriss came to this place and ploughed a piece of land in the vicinity of the Town Hall,—probably just south of it, which was the first work done by a white man, north of the Great Falls, so far as has been ascertained. Sixty years before this, in 1644 or 5, Mr. Stephen Goodyear had built a trading house on Goodyear's Island at the Cove below Falls Mountain, where for some time he traded with the Indians, specially to obtain furs. Some work had been done at, or below Gallows Hill, by some settlers of Col. John Read, before Mr. Ferriss did his ploughing in 1706.

Henry Tomlinson and others had obtained by purchase, an Indian deed of land in this vicinity in 1671, as heretofore noticed, and Col. John Read purchased a claim, apparently all the claim under this deed, and by it supposed he held the right of the soil. Zachariah Ferriss was brother-in-law to Col. Read, and hence, probably, to try the title of his land, Mr. Ferriss came here and ploughed the land three years after the New Milford company had made their purchase of the Indians. Upon this the New Milford company began a suit in law against Mr. Ferriss for trespass, and Col. Read then a lawyer, defended Mr. Ferriss' claim or right, before the court at Hartford, and gained his case apparently, on Mr. Read's title.

In the autumn of 1707, the New Milford company laid out



their town plot on Aspetuck Hill, and then Col. John Read sued them for trespass, and this was the case which was tried and decided fifteen times in favor of Col. Read, but the sixteenth time it was decided against him and he gave up trying to hold the land.

Thus the work of civilization began in this place, and in making some definite record of the beginning and growth of the village, it is proposed to give some account of the occupancy by different individuals of the various portions of the place during the one hundred and seventy-six years since Mr. Ferriss first ploughed the soil here.

But a few months before the location of this plot, John Noble, sen., the first permanent settler, had located his house lot some distance south of the plot on the west side of the street, or road. Several of the first twelve settlers located further south than John Noble, sen., and hence it soon became common to call the settlement, all of what is now Main street and the green, the town plot.

The growth of the village was very slow, or rather there was no attention given to it as a village until after forty years, and then but little for forty years more. William Sherman's store in 1750, in a separate store-building, appears to have been the first of the kind in the village, and he died in 1756, and his store goods were sold and the building occupied by Roger Sherman as a shoe-shop. During the Revolution it served as a store-house for provisions for the army. It is also said that it was used as a manufactory to produce shoes for the army, through a contract secured to some of the citizens here, by the recommendation of Roger Sherman. But the shoemakers at that time, and for twenty years afterwards, were more numerous at the "North End," now Park Lane, than in the village. Soon after the war Elijah Boardman established his store on the west side of Main street, which was not kept in a separate store-building until some time after the year 1800. There was one or more taverns in the place from the commencement, and it was customary in those days to keep a little tea, indigo, and other imported articles in connection with a tavern.

Not until about 1800 did the village begin to become the centre of trade for the town, and did not then fully succeed until

## Pages Mentioning James Hine

### MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CHURCH.

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#### *A Church Established.*

The "First Church of Christ" was organized by the council on the day of the ordination of Mr. Boardman, and gave the call to the minister, which he accepted, and the ordination followed. The record Mr. Boardman made of the organization of the church is thus rendered :

"New Milford, Nov. 21, 1716. An account of the Brethren of the church at the first settlement of the ministry.

"Some records imperfect for the want of a book.

#### *Recommended ye Planters.*

Daniel Boardman,  
John Bostwick,  
Samuel Brownson,  
Zachariah Ferris,  
Samuel Beebe,  
Samuel Hitchcock,  
John Weller,  
Roger Brownson,

#### *Female Members.*

Mary Noble, widow,  
Sarah Hitchcock, recommended from  
Springfield; ye wife of Samuel Hitch-  
cock,  
Hannah Beebe, ye wife of Samuel Beebe,  
recommended from Danbury,  
Lydia Brownson, ye wife of Samuel  
Brownson,  
Dorcas Brownson, ye wife of Roger  
Brownson.

"Quickly was added to the church, by admission, and recommendation to Church Communion.

"Jonathan Buck, James Prime, Ann Prime, ye wife of James Prime, recommended from Milford. Oct. 19, 1718, William Gaylor, Johannah Gaylor, ye wife of William Gaylor, recommended from Woodbury.

"Elizabeth Harris, ye wife of William Harris, recommended from Wethersfield.

"Mercy Bostwick, ye wife of John Bostwick, recommended from the church of Danbury.

"Rebecca Weller, ye wife of John Weller, admitted Oct. 19, 1718."

#### *Church Members.*

1719.

Benoni Stebbins (Northampton),  
Mary Gould, wife of Wm.,

1720.

Samuel Prindle,  
Dorothy Prindle, wife of Samuel,  
John Noble,  
John Welch,  
Abigail Noble, wife of John,  
Deborah Welch, wife of John,  
Abigail Noble, wife of Stephen,  
Mabel Griswold, widow,  
Mary Buck, wife of Enoch,  
— Camp, wife of Samuel (Milford),  
Miriam Pickett, wife of Thomas,  
Hannah Noble,

Lydia Noble, wife of David,  
Mary Stebbins, wife of Benoni,

1721.

Benjamin Bunnell,  
Ebenezer Bostwick,  
Rebecca Bostwick, wife of Ebenezer,  
Patience Bunnell, wife of Benjamin (Mil-  
ford),

1722.

Ebenezer Baldwin,  
Mary Baldwin, wife of Ebenezer,

1725.

Phebe Hoose.

1726.

Paul Welch,  
Obadiah Weller,  
John Prindle,



Jerusha Baldwin, wife of Theophilus,  
 Patience Washburn, wife of Ebenezer,  
 Sarah Prindle,  
 Nathan Tallcott,  
 James Lake,  
 Thomas Weller,  
 Nathan Terrill,  
 David Ferriss,  
 Benjamin Ferriss,  
 Samuel Prindle, Jr.,  
 Abraham Brownson,  
 Zephaniah Hoose,  
 Ruth Terrill,  
 Anna Jackson,  
 Phebe Beecher,  
 Sarah Ferriss,  
 Dorothy Prindle,  
 Mary Hoose,  
 Samuel Canfield,  
 Eleazer Beecher,  
 Hannah Bordman, wife of Daniel (Con-  
 cord),  
 Jerusha Bordman, wife of Daniel (Strat-  
 field),  
 Sarah Brownson, wife of Thomas,  
 Elizabeth Prindle,  
 Abigail Canfield, wife of Samuel,  
 Hannah Bunnell,  
 Hannah Ferriss,

1727.

Thomas Brownson,  
 Ruth Brownson,  
 Esther Hitchcock,  
 Deborah Hitchcock,  
 Capt. Stephen Noble,  
 Samuel Hitchcock,  
 Rebecca Hitchcock, wife of Samuel,  
 Jonathan Hitchcock,  
 Mary Hitchcock, wife of Jonathan,  
 Miriam Mallery,  
 Elizabeth Terrill, wife of Gamaliel (from  
 Waterbury),  
 Theophilus Baldwin,  
 John Weller, Jr.,  
 Gamaliel Terrill,  
 Roger Brownson, Jr.,  
 Lemuel Bostwick,  
 Nathan Gaylord,  
 Hannah Bostwick,  
 Sarah Buck and Lydia Buck (from Litch-  
 field),

Ezekiel Buck, from Litchfield,  
James Hine,  
Margaret Hine, wife of James,  
 William Gould,  
 Daniel Prindle,  
 Stephen Noble, Jr.,  
 Joseph Weller,

1731.

Deborah Hitchcock, wife of Samuel,

1733.

James Camp,  
 Aaron Gaylord,  
 Phebe Gaylord, wife of Aaron,

1734.

Joseph Murry,  
 Hannah Murry, wife of Joseph (from  
 Newtown),  
 John Weller, Sen., restored,  
 James Lake, restored,  
 Jonathan Buck, Jr.,  
 Jacob Brownson,  
 David Camp,  
 Thankful Weller,  
 Catharine Hoose, wife of Zephaniah,  
 Ruth Delpesh, (?)  
 Ezra Terrill, and Margaret Terrill, wife  
 of Ezra (from Woodbury),

1735.

Ann Buck, wife of Joseph,  
 Betty Buck, wife of Jonathan, Jr.,  
 Joseph Hubbard, and his wife, from  
 Ridgefield,  
 Thomas Oviat, Sen.,  
 Joseph Ruggles, and Rachel Ruggles, wife  
 of Joseph, from New Haven,  
 Sarah Hawley, wife of Hiell,  
 Job Terrill, and his wife, from Milford,  
 Jonathan Buck, Sen., restored,

1736.

Thomas Hudson, of Lyme,  
 Job Gould,  
 John Bostwick 3d,  
 Jemima Bostwick, wife of John,  
 Benjamin Hoose,  
 Josiah Brownson,  
 Hannah Lumm, wife of Samuel, from  
 Derby,  
 Mary Baldwin, wife of Ebenezer, from  
 Newtown,  
 Joseph Weller, renewed his standing,



## NEW SETTLERS.

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James Hine of Milford came to New Milford a single man, probably in the autumn of 1723, and became, and continued some years, an influential and successful citizen; a man whose judgment was often called into requisition on town committees and the like, as often as any one in his day. He came to the town upon agreement with a number of citizens, as seen by the following :

"Dec. 16, 1723. That we in consideration that James Hine do become our smith, and do faithfully endeavor to do our work with reasonable satisfaction for the full term of four years next ensuing, do give him the several parcels of land hereafter named.

Ebenezer Baldwin,	$\frac{1}{2}$ acre.	John Welch,	1 acre.
Henry Garlick,	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	John Noble,	1 "
Theophilus Baldwin,	1 "	Zachariah Ferriss,	1 "
Samuel Adkins,	1 "	Benoni Stebbins,	1 "
Gamaliel Terrill,	1 "	James Prime,	1 "
Samuel Camp,	1 "	Enoch Buck,	1 "
Abraham Bostwick,	1 "	Thomas Pickett,	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
John Bostwick,	1 "	William Gaylord,	1 "
Samuel Hitchcock,	1 "	Samuel Brownson,	1 "
David Noble,	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	Thomas Brownson,	1 "
Paul Welch,	1 "		—
			19 acres.

Afterwards the following were added :

"Jan. 15, 1723-4

John Bostwick, Sen.,	1 acre.	Benjamin Bostwick,	1 acre.
Samuel Prindle, Sen.,	1 "	Nathaniel Bostwick,	1 "
Mr. Daniel Boardman,	1 "		—
			24 acres.

Twelve acres of this land was surveyed to him, Jan. 28, 1724-5, "near Town Hill brook on the northeast side of said brook," and the next year he bought ten acres adjoining these twelve; and from that time he continued to buy small pieces of two, four, and ten acres, and finally as high as one-fourth of a Right, until he became a large land-holder, and a very influential citizen. He was appointed to office in the military company and soon rose to be a lieutenant, and was always known as Lieutenant Hine. He came here with but little if any money, like many

others in those times, but by indefatigable perseverance and care, he soon became an independent man, and his descendants stood among the first-class citizens for many years. He it was that won the heart of Miss Margaret Noble, daughter of the first settler, and married her in 1726, when she was twenty-two years of age; who lived to the age of 92 years, dying Sept. 2, 1796, and to whom the Rev. Stanley Griswold was so much indebted for much of the information given in his historical sermon. Two lives compassed the whole history of New Milford up to 1876, having twenty years cotemporary, within a short distance of each other's residence. Miss Sally Northrop, who died in 1876, over 100 years of age, was twenty years of age when Mrs. Margaret Hine died, and hence, since both of these persons retained great intellectual activity, the traditional stories and legends, as well as important history of New Milford, have been kept in very reliable forms. Such a transmission by personal knowledge and memory to so great an extent of time, may rarely occur; and the town that gathers such laurels or wins such golden harvests of years and self-knowledge may well boast of its honors. Lieut. James Hine the blacksmith, the much-honored lieutenant, was brother to the first Daniel Hine, and died Apr. 1, 1774, æ 77, at his residence which stood where Mr. Egbert Marsh now resides.

*William Conn* was in the town a resident as early as 1720, but no land was laid to him, although he or his descendants were in the town some years.

*Nathan Terrill*, of Milford, had a home-lot and ten acres laid to him in 1720, at what is now Park Lane, and was of New Milford when he married Ruth Buck of this town, June 7, 1721. In 1717 his father, John Terrill of Milford, gave him "for love and good-will" his Right of land in New Milford, which he, the father, had purchased of the heirs of Amos Northrop, and on this Right was laid his first forty acres "at the foot of Great Bare Hill," and his second forty acres were laid "southward of Great Mount Tom," March 22, 1722. He was one of the proprietors in the north purchase, and therefore had already made his residence here, and he became an influential, successful farmer.

*Gamaliel Terrill* and Josiah Terrill purchased a Right of land in New Milford of Enos Camp, son of Samuel Camp, Feb.



except temporary seats of boards, or something of the kind, as indicated by the following record:

"July 11, 1729. It was agreed to leave the form of placing the pulpit and the seats in the lower part of the meeting house to the committee that shall be chosen, and to the workman which shall be improved to do the work.

"Capt. Stephen Noble, Samuel Canfield, Sergt. Benjamin Bunnell, Joseph Ferriss, and Sergt. John Welch were chosen a committee for the above said work and what further instructions shall be given to said committee.

"The town did empower the above committee to hire a workman to erect the pulpit and the seats in the meeting house and also to raise a rate to defray that part of the charge that shall be wanting when the money raised by the country rate which was ordered to the use aforesaid shall be laid out."

This work they hoped would be soon completed, to the great joy of the people, for in view of the occupancy of the seats by the older people and their separation from the young people, according to the custom of that day, they passed at this same time the following vote:

"July 11, 1729. Ebenezer Baldwin and Thomas Oviatt, sen. were chosen tithing men from this time till the town meeting in December to oversee the youth in the meeting house in the time of exercise, that is the males. At the same meeting James Hine was chosen to oversee the female sex in the time of exercise."

Still there was delay as though this house could never be finished, for in the next December they voted that "there should be seats made on both sides of the broad alley in the meeting-house," and also that there should be timber provided for making the gallery and the stairs at the doors, and the stairs to be made as soon as may be; and Mr. Zachariah Ferris, Benjamin Bostwick, and Dea. James Prime were chosen for gathering the timber for said work, and to raise a rate for defraying the charge of the above said work."

At the same meeting "it was voted that there should be a committee chosen to seat the meeting-house, who shall seat persons according to age, dignity, and estate; that all persons above the age of fifty-five years shall be seated according to their age, dignity and list of estate, and Capt. Stephen Noble, Sergt. The-



Leavenworth of Waterbury, Mr. Trumbull of Westbury, Mr. Judson of Newtown, Mr. Lewis of New Fairfield, Mr. Humphrey of Derby, Mr. Woodbridge of Amity, shall be desired to come to preach here, with the consent of the Rev. Mr. Boardman."

Mr. Boardman's disease was of the lungs, and his health failed rapidly (as is often the case when active work ceases), and provision was made for the unusual expenses, with a special vote to excuse the members of the Church of England from any part in these costs, but not from bearing their legal part in the salary of the minister; and a Mr. Newton was obtained to preach for a few Sabbaths.

As Mr. Boardman's health continued to fail, the prospect of calling another pastor awakened the two elements of church order in the community, and the spirit of the parties took stronger form on the 20th of August, 1744, when a vote was taken to submit the nomination of candidates to the New Haven County Association, which body was strongly pledged against the New Lights, and in favor of the Saybrook Platform. At this time, however, there was a majority in favor of a nomination by the town, and to this they held for months, but finally yielded the point to the association. On the same day it was voted to give Mr. Newton a call to preach on probation, and if he would not accept such a call, to hire him for a time to supply the pulpit. This was on the 20th of August, and five days later Mr. Boardman departed this life to his future reward, leaving the flock without a shepherd.

On the 18th of the next September the town voted to send a committee to the meeting of the association, to make known to them "the broken state of the church and people in New Milford, and entreat their advice, direction, and assistance under their difficult circumstances." This committee consisted of Mr. Samuel Canfield, Capt. Nathaniel Bostwick, Lt. James Hine, Lt. Paul Welch, and Mr. Ebenezer Fisk; and the town made the nomination at this time, of Mr. Jonathan Lyman, Mr. Dorr, Mr. Rowland, and Mr. Barker to come and preach, provided, "it be agreeable to the association." But that dignified body did not see fit, under such dictation, to render any assistance, and on the 8th of the next October, the town voted again to hold their right

## THE GREAT BRIDGE.

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"May 4, 1736. Dea. John Bostwick, Capt. Stephen Noble, and Samuel Canfield were chosen a committee to order all the prudentials in building a Bridge over the Great River at New Milford in the place that Mr. Edmond Lewis hath pitched upon, that is to agree with workmen to build the bridge, to receive the money that shall be gathered for that use, and to pay out to the workmen.

"At the same meeting Thomas Pickett, William Drinkwater, David Noble and Joseph Collins were chosen to carry a brief [a subscription] under the direction of the committee to try what they can get for the building of the Bridge.

"May 15, 1736. Voted that there shall be a memorial sent to the General Assembly now sitting at Hartford for liberty to gather money by a brief for the building of a bridge over the Great River at New Milford." In answer to which the Legislature granted liberty to raise contributions to the amount of £200.

"Oct. 11, 1736. Capt. Stephen Noble, Dea. John Bostwick, Samuel Canfield, Sergt. Nathaniel Bostwick and Joseph Ferriss were chosen a committee to order all the prudentials in building a bridge over the Great River in said New Milford at the place the town hath agreed upon and the aforesaid committee are hereby empowered to receive all the money that is contributed by any person or persons by consignment or any other way and to lay it out for the building of said bridge, and the aforesaid committee are hereby obliged to render a true account of all their proceedings to a committee that the town shall appoint; and Roger Brownson, sen., and Nathan Talcott were chosen that committee.

"William Drinkwater and Thomas Pickett were chosen collectors to gather what money they can in Fairfield county by contribution for the building of this bridge.

"Sergt. David Noble and Nathan Collins were chosen collectors to gather what money they can in New Haven county by contribution for the bridge.

"Nathan Gaylord was chosen collector to gather what money he can by contribution in New Milford for the building of the bridge."

• Dec. 13, 1736. Committees were continued for building the bridge and for collecting money.

"Dec. 12, 1737. Nathan Gaylord, Daniel Bostwick and Azariah Canfield were chosen a committee to take care of the bridge and they shall have power to employ men on the town's cost to secure the bridge."

This was not a toll-bridge, but free, and resisted the floods about three years, when a part of it was carried away by a flood, and the town voted to repair the breach, but to petition the General Assembly to grant the liberty of a toll-bridge, and if this should be secured the toll should be distributed among those who paid tax to repair the bridge. The privilege for taking toll was granted, but it was so little that they petitioned the next spring for an increase of toll.

At the same time, they granted Rev. Daniel Boardman the privileges of the bridge free of cost; and to several families the same privileges, on paying ten shillings the first year; after that they were taxed as all others. By this arrangement it has been



ascertained when quite a number of families first came into the town.

At the same time, after appointing Mr. Samuel Canfield, Mr. Nathaniel Bostwick, and Mr. James Hine a committee to take care of and order the affairs of the bridge for a year, they ordered that "Gideon Benedict and Robert Bostwick shall pass and repass over the said bridge toll-free, they paying to the said committee, each of them, ten shillings old tenour currency, and also pay their part in repairing the said bridge according to their said list of estate; also Charles Duncombe shall pass toll-free over said bridge, he paying ten shillings; and also John Nearing on the same conditions." And, being in a bridge-building mood as well as in need of bridges, they ordered at this time that there should be a bridge built over the Aspetuck near its mouth, and that the surveyors should have "liberty of calling out the inhabitants from Mr. Stephens' house, taking the east lane so far northward as including Giles Oviatt's house and extending southward as far as the Great Brook, including Mr. Nathaniel Bostwick and Mr. Fisk and their families for one day, and all within said limits shall be allowed one day for the said work, and also Nathan Gaylord, Capt. Stephen Noble, and Joseph Welch are chosen a committee for ordering the affair of building said bridge."

Another vote for the freedom of the toll-bridge is found in March, 1743, in favor of Mr. George Mecune, Mr. Partridge Thatcher, Mr. Justus Miles, and John Comstock, provided they should pay ten shillings; receive no benefit from the toll-money, and afterward sustain their proportion of the cost of repairs on the bridge.

In December, 1743, a dividend was made of the receipts from the toll-bridge to the proprietors upon the list of 1740.

"Dec. 1743. All persons that shall pass or repass on the Sabbath or Lord's Day, between sun-rising and sun-set, in order to attend the public worship of God in a lawful congregation in New Milford, shall pass free from paying toll over the great bridge in said town for the ensuing year.

"Feb. 6, 1743-4. Voted that Mr. Roger Sherman shall pass and repass over the bridge and his family; he paying ten shillings.

"Dec. 1743. Voted that all Indian natives shall pass and repass over the bridge toll-free."

In 1750, the Assembly fixed the toll of the bridge in "Pro-



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clamation money" (quite different from old tenor) at "two pence farthing for each man, horse, and load, one penny for each single person, and one penny per head for each horse and neat kine, and an half for each sheep or swine, for five years."

In 1755, this bridge was carried away, most of it, and a new bridge built by the tax-payers of the town; and the Assembly granted, in February, 1756, the privilege of taking toll of all persons except the tax-payers of the town; but this bridge stood a little over one year when "a great part" of it went away in a flood. The town became discouraged at this calamity, and made a public offer, on certain conditions, to any company that would build a bridge and sustain it as a toll-bridge; and "Paul Welch, James Hine, Roger Sherman and others," are named as proprietors of the bridge. It is thought that it was at this time that the location of the bridge was changed from the foot of Bennitt street to where it is now standing.

In 1766, the bridge, or a considerable part of it, was carried away, and rebuilt; and, three years after, a part of it went off again; when, being repaired, it remained not a year, and was nearly all of it carried away, and they voted, in January, 1770, "that the town will relinquish all their right to any of their part in or to the remaining part of the Great Bridge, to the proprietors who shall rebuild the same in any place between the Little Falls and Wannupe Island."

It was after this manner that the people spent their money and labor to secure a good crossing to this river.

In 1802, after stages began to run for carrying the mail, the bridge was carried away, and the stage-coach company sued the town for damages in failing to make a crossing, and the town employed Homer Boardman to build a boat to be run across by a long rope, to meet the emergency, and the next spring they applied to the Assembly for the privilege of a toll-bridge.

Hence the following records, made by himself:

"Sept. 12, 1750. At a Church meeting legally warned to consider of several things:

"It was proposed whether the Church don't look upon it, that every one who has acknowledged the covenant and been received under the watch and care of the church are as liable to be dealt with for any misdemeanor as those who have been partakers at the Lord's Table? Voted in affirmative, no one contradicting. [It was simply arbitrary assumption to make persons subject to discipline who had never consented to anything of the kind; but something must be done.]

"Also, proposed what methods we should take with those persons who were in full communion with us and also with those who had withdrawn from us upon the Sabbath? Voted, that an enquiring committee should be appointed to go and enquire into the particular reasons of each one, and make their report to the church. Accordingly, Dea. Samuel Canfield, Dea. Eleazer Beecher, and Leut. James Hine were appointed.

NATHANIEL TAYLOR, moderator.

"Some time after, Eleazer Beecher absented himself from us, and Dea. Canfield and Leut. Hine enquired into things, and made report to the Church, and a Church-meeting was warned February following. Eleazer Beecher and his wife, Jonathan Buck and his wife, Ann the wife of Joseph Buck, David Beardsley and his wife, Jonathan Botsford, Lemuel Bostwick and his wife, Ebenezer Hotchkiss and Ellen Mackeny [twelve] were all cited to appear and give in their reasons for their separations. Accordingly, they appeared and mentioned some things why, and among the rest they fully denied the Say-Brook Platform.

"But they urged that they had not had sufficient time for consideration and desired further opportunity. Accordingly, it was granted them; the meeting adjourned till the 26th of March; these our brethren promising that they would appear without putting us to any further trouble, and give in the reasons for their conduct in writing, and their articles. Accordingly the Church met upon the 26th of March, 1751, but those people brought nothing in writing, neither would they give their reasons, and cast very hard reflections upon the Civil and Ecclesiastical authority; but at length agreed to meet a committee at my house upon the last Tuesday in April; Dea. Canfield, Capt. Bostwick, Leut. Hine, Dea. Bostwick and Roger Sherman were appointed the committee. It was adjourned till the first Tuesday in May, and then appeared Jonathan Buck, Jonathan Botsford, Eleazer Beecher, Ebenezer Hotchkiss and Anna Bostwick, and afterwards Eleanor Mackeny and Frances Beecher, and signed some reasons offered in writing which the Church judged to be no reasons at all, and returned them an answer in writing together with an admonition to return to us.

"June 5th, at a Church meeting, voted that Lemuel Bostwick, David Beardsley and his wife, Jonathan Buck's wife, and Joseph Buck's wife should be admonished to return to us as those who refused to give any reasons; accordingly it was done.

"Joseph Ruggles also having offended in the same form as the aforementioned persons, but he removing to New Haven, could not with conveniency be attended upon with the same steps as the others could, therefore was neglected some time longer, till at length, some time in the winter, in the year 1752, he sought to be recommended to the church at New Haven, under the pastoral charge of Mr. Samuel Bird; but it was not granted by the Church, and some time in February, he, the said Ruggles, appeared personally and desired a dismissal, and gave in these following reasons, viz.: 'Inasmuch as I have absented myself from your communion, supposing you to be upon an anti-Christian power with respect to government and discipline, and further I apprehend that the doctrines of grace which I hold to, viz.:



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the Calvinist Doctrines, you are not strict enough in, and therefore I desire you would dismiss me from your watch and care, as witness my hand, JOSEPH RUGGLES.' But before he personally appeared, there was a Church meeting warned, when it was concluded to send Mr. Ruggles a letter informing him that the Church could not recommend him, giving these reasons: because they judged his conduct had not been according to the gospel: he had absented himself from the Communion of the Church and neglected the public worship of God upon the Lord's Day, attending upon lay preaching, countenancing an unlawful and unchristian separation and casting hard reflections upon the Church of Christ and the standing minister; and also he was desired in the letter at the same time to come and make suitable satisfaction. Accordingly, he came as above mentioned, and refused to make any satisfaction at all, but insisted to be either recommended or dismissed, leaving the above-mentioned reasons; upon which another Church meeting was warned, and what he offered were esteemed to be no sufficient reasons, because he never tried to get any of the difficulties removed before he drew off in the manner above related. Besides, the platform which he urged he was upon was right in the face of the reasons which he offered with respect to discipline, viz.: that the difference of government in the Cambridge and Saybrook Platforms should not break Communion: therefore it was concluded to give him another opportunity to return and make satisfaction; upon which a letter was sent to the said Ruggles informing him that his reasons were not esteemed sufficient, admonishing and desiring him in a Christian, brotherly manner to return and make satisfaction, otherwise the Church must proceed to deal with him according to the nature of the crime, according to the direction of our Platform, page 105. Upon which Mr. Ruggles sent us a letter and denies doing anything to make up the difficulty, and has declared publicly to the members of the Church that he will not. Upon which another Church meeting was warned for April 20th, 1752; at which time it was voted that we had taken due pains with Mr. Ruggles to retain him. Also voted that we should proceed according to the afore-mentioned page of the Platform as soon as should be convenient; which was done the 6th day of May following.

NATHANIEL TAYLOR, Pastor."

"Some time after, Ann, the wife of Joseph Buck, and David Beardsley returned and made satisfaction and were accepted by the Church. Some time after, David Beardsley's wife returned and was accepted.

N. TAYLOR, Pastor."

Notwithstanding all these efforts, the Separate Congregational Church was organized in May, 1753, and the spirit of rivalry took full possession of the Congregational people, as to themselves, as well as in regard to the other two churches in the community. The forlorn consolation drawn from these facts is that sometimes rivalry saves a community from stagnation. What is more pitiable, this church was now acting against doctrines and principles under which, twenty years later, they were most anxious to place themselves, as will be seen hereafter.

*A New Meeting-house.*

Mr. Taylor was ordained in the old meeting-house, which stood above Elm street on Aspetuck hill, just in the rear of the



present barn of Mr. Levi S. Knapp, and which house began to need repairing. Consequently in December, 1748, the town voted "to raise the sum of twelve pound money to repair the meeting-house, upon the Presbyterian order." With the repairs, whatever they were, the old meeting-house continued to be used six or seven years longer.

In a town meeting in January, 1751, an adjournment was made to the meeting-house, where they voted that "all those persons of said Church of England and the Friends shall be freed from paying any dues towards the building of or repairing any meeting-house."

"At the same meeting, voted that they would build a new meeting-house in said New Milford."

In the next February another town meeting was held, and a very considerate and sensible vote was passed, that: "Whereas there was a vote by said society taken on y<sup>e</sup> 14th of January last, for erecting a new meeting-house for the public worship of God, and there are some branches of said town may be likely to be set off into societies by themselves so as not to be benefited by the meeting-house now to be erected for said town; it is voted by said town that the inhabitants of such part or parts of said town as shall obtain liberty of y<sup>e</sup> Hon<sup>bl</sup> General Assembly of this Colony to be a society or societies by themselves, or to gather with any of y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants of other towns at or before the expiration of four years next ensuing, that then they shall have paid to them by said town towards the building of a meeting-house or meeting-houses within their society or societies, so much money as was paid on their list towards the meeting house now to be built for said town. Voted in the affirmative by a clear majority."

Upon this another vote was taken whether the meeting-house should be built, the result being fifty-two in the affirmative, and twenty-four in the negative, and the following building committee was appointed: Capt. Joseph Bostwick, Azariah Canfield, Joseph Canfield, Lieut. John Warner, and Ens. John Hitchcock.

"Voted, that said meeting-house shall be built in New Milford, fifty-six feet in length, and forty-four feet in width. Thirty votes in the affirmative, and two in the negative.

"Voted that there shall be a rate raised of twelve pence on

the pound upon the present list, to be laid out in preparation to build the aforesaid meeting-house.

"Voted that there shall be a memorial preferred to the General Assembly to pray for a land tax upon the non-resident proprietors of New Milford, of two pence per acre proclamation money, to continue four years."

The vote to return money upon the formation of other societies was occasioned by a petition from the South Farms (now in Brookfield), in 1743, for society privileges, to which New Milford had consented, and although it had not been granted was likely to be, in a few years; and another movement of the kind which had already been started at what is now New Preston.

But it required much more than votes to build a meeting-house in a town so sadly divided in religious sentiments and principles of church government, and therefore the matter passed until April 27, 1752, when another vote was taken to build the house: fifty-eight votes in the affirmative, and eighteen in the negative; and a committee was appointed to call on the County Court for a committee "to affix a place to build a meeting-house upon." Thus the question rested until the 21st of November, 1752, when they put the matter in a shape to have something done.

"It was voted in said meeting that there shall be a meeting-house for the public worship of God built in and for said town, sixty feet long, and forty-four feet wide, and twenty-seven feet the height of the posts."

"Voted, that Nathaniel Bostwick, Esq., Capt. John Warner, Paul Welch, Esqr., Sergt. Daniel Bostwick, Ens. Joseph Canfield, Lieut. James Hine, and Mr. Amos Northrop shall be a committee to go forward with the building of said meeting-house." These men were not to be stopped by trifles, being the generally-admitted leaders in the town, and all having wealth of their own.

Roger Sherman was appointed treasurer to raise the money, by a tax of two shillings, old tenor, on the pound, and pay out the same upon the order of the committee. Also, at the same time, they "Voted, that the shingles for covering the roof of said meeting-house, shall be eighteen inches long, five inches wide one with another, and three-quarters of an inch thick.



larly that he should make twenty-four tons of iron from two forges yearly, or twelve tons if only one forge should be furnished to him. He was to make "shire moulds, cranks, gudgeons, the like such as are wont to be made in Iron Works."

In October, 1734, the proprietors voted to sequester land for a burying-place at Gallows Hill, as may be seen on page 137, and soon after the following:

"Dec. 9, 1734. Voted, that our Southward farms on the west side of the great river are to keep a school for six months beginning on the first day of April next, and to be freed from paying to the town school for said six months, or so long as they shall keep a school in said six months."

"Dec. 9, 1734. Voted, that there shall be a pound erected at our South Farms on the town charge, and set on the highway west of Joseph Waller's house, and Joseph Waller, Ezekiel Buck and John Warner are chosen to see that the said pound at said farms is completed."

The school at the South Farms was continued in a private house, probably, during the summer, the older children coming to the village or center in the winter,—until the following order was made:

"Dec. 13, 1742. Voted, that there shall be a school set up at the South Farms in said town under the direction of the civil authority and the selectmen, and also that the said South Farms shall have their equal proportion of the money that is given to the schools according to their list of estate, so long as they shall keep the school."

"Mar. 17, 1743. Voted, that there shall be a school-house built at the South Farms on the west side of the Great River twelve feet wide, and fourteen feet long, upon the town's cost, and that Mr. Nathaniel Bostwick, Mr. Paul Welch, and Mr. Thomas Pickett shall be a committee to appoint the place where the said school-house shall be erected."

Before this school-house, which was erected near Capt. John Warner's house, was finished, trouble arose about its location, it being too far away to accommodate the families at the Iron Works and some who dwelt east of that place, and hence the following:

"Dec., 1743. Voted, that the school-house that is already built

at the South Farms in New Milford shall stand where it is now built and shall be deemed a school-house for said Farms.

"Voted, that the South Farms shall be paid out of the town treasury the sum of twenty-six pounds and nine shillings, old tenor, for the building a school-house at the South Farms."

At the same time, John Warner, Ezekiel Buck, Joseph Waller, Daniel Waller, and Thomas Noble did promise to pay to Mr. Joseph Ruggles and his neighbors near the Iron Works, the sum of eight pounds and sixteen shillings, old tenor value, provided the said Ruggles and the neighbors shall build a school-house within the space of two years next coming.

This offer of Mr. Warner and his neighbors was a very considerate and neighborly act, and shows the equitable disposition of those times. The distance from Gallows Hill to the Iron Works was about two miles. In the summer of 1745, a committee was appointed to select a site for such a school-house, but they do not seem to have acted, and hence the following :

"Nov. 12, 1745. Mr. Ebenezer Fisk and Mr. Samuel Canfield were chosen a committee to appoint a place to set up a school-house at the south farms, called the Iron Works."

"Nov. 12, 1745. Upon the request of Joseph Ruggles and the rest of his neighbourhood, made unto us the subscribers, praying for the liberty to set up a regular school at our farms, and upon good reason, assigned, we allow and order a lawful and regular school shall be erected at a place appointed by said town.

EBENEZER FISK,	} <i>Selectmen."</i>
<u>JAMES HINE,</u>	
DANIEL BOSTWICK,	
SAMUEL BALDWIN,	

ROGER BROWNSON,	} <i>Justices</i>
SAMUEL CANFIELD,	
NATHANIEL BOSTWICK,	

*of the Peace.*

This act established the school as one of the legal school districts of the town, and hence the school could be kept winter and summer, according to the law, without any further permit from the town.

In the annual town meeting December 9, 1745, they voted to remove the school-house from near Gallows Hill further south, and on the next day the committee to fix the location reported :



"We do affix the place to erect said school-house on the highway upon the top of the first rise of the hill, against Samuel Canfield's house-lot, where we have affixed a stake with stones about it, which is to be enclosed within said house." But this did not settle the matter, and two days later another committee fixed the place "near to Mr. Joseph Ruggles's house, northward of his house, near about the middle of the highway," and this was probably the site of the first school-house at the Iron Works."

The first bridge at that place was ordered to be built at the expense of the town by the following action :

"Aug. 20, 1745. Voted, that there shall be a rate raised to build the bridge at the Iron Works to be paid in money or in labor to the acceptance of the committee that shall be appointed to do the work; also voted, the abovesaid rate shall be one penny half-penny on the pound," and the committee were Ens. John Warner, Mr. Joseph Ruggles, Capt. Nathaniel Bostwick, and Lt. James Hine.

In 1748, Abel Barnum had a grist-mill a little way north of the Iron Works, for at that time a highway was laid out to the southeast corner of the mill, and hence, probably, it was then just erected.

In 1742, John Bradshaw had settled on Punkin Hill, or what was afterwards for many years called Bradshaw's Hill, on the east road to Newtown, from New Milford.

*Newbury Society.*

The enterprise which finally resulted in the organization of the town of Brookfield, began by a petition to the General Assembly :

"To the Honorable General Assembly to be Holden at Hartford May, second Thursday A. D. 1743 :

The memorial of us the subscribers, Inhabitants belonging—some to y<sup>e</sup> town of Danbury, viz. : being at the North End of the Township of s<sup>d</sup> Danbury, and others living in the township of Newtown att the North part of s<sup>d</sup> township and others living att the south part of the township of New Milford, Humbly sheweth the providence of God hath so ordered that your memorilers Habitation being thus att y<sup>e</sup> extream parts of Each township your memorilers are put to Great Difficulties for to attend the publick worship In the respective towns to which we belong

hurry in selling the land, and remarked, "these lands will eventually make our grand-children independently rich." "Yes," replied Mr. Boardman, "but we shall all be in heaven long before that." "Yes," said Mr. Canfield, "and that's the devil of it!"

Judge David S. Boardman was very much given to the enjoyment of pleasant and witty sayings, to which he had an inexhaustible store of illustration. Being of a very even temper, and possessing a memory that never forgot anything, he had a story about every family and almost every person in the town, and every public man in the nation.

When the professors of religion became very much elated in view of the assurance of a final happy place of rest, the judge would tell the story of a little girl whom he knew very well, and who dreamed that she died and went to heaven; and who very innocently remarked, that "it was a very beautiful place; that she saw a great many very beautiful, and very happy people there; and that she saw *some* people there that she had seen in church here."

One of the richest and most prominent men, whose name stood second on the tax-list for twenty years from 1800, was Abel Hine, or Squire Hine as he was always called, who owned and occupied a dwelling which stood partly on the site of the present Town Hall. He was son of Lt. James Hine, the first of the name in New Milford. He was merchant, farmer, justice of the peace, represensative; a leader in the enterprises of that city; a man of sterling integrity and honesty, and was known in all this region for his habits of system, order, and punctuality, and for two generations his name was a proverb for all of these qualities. No greater praise would be given than to have it said that such an one was as punctual or systematic as Squire Hine; and when a descendant of the fifth generation appeared to have the same peculiarities strongly marked at a very early age, the grandparents said, "She is a chip of the old block; Squire Hine over again." His shrewdness and good judgment made him the counselor of all who needed advice or help, and though the "Well, well, well," with which he greeted any unusual statement may have seemed a little harsh, he was kind-hearted, generous, and ready to assist others with his matured wisdom.

His house, like others of that day, was plainly furnished only



with chairs, tables, and beds ; and, as in all good houses, the inevitable "chest of drawers." There was no carpet on the floor, but those of the parlors were kept neatly sanded. It is said there was not a carpet in all New Milford until the next generation. There was an unevenness in the floor of the room where the family table was always set, and for more than twenty years before his death, the same chip was used under one leg of the table to make it stand even.

A gentleman still living tells the story of his going into Mrs. Hine's when he was a small boy, and seeing the floor of the room scrubbed so clean and white that he was afraid to step on it ; that he remembered it very definitely, for Aunty Hine gave him a large piece of bread, spread with the rich butter for which she was celebrated in the making, and this covered with honey, just the most perfect morsel to suit his taste, and on taking it, being exceedingly careful to conduct himself as he should, by some mysterious mishap he dropped the piece, which fell—of course—honey-side down on the shining floor. This so frightened him that he fled with all the force his legs could muster to his home, and did not go near Aunty Hine's again for many weeks ; but when he did she was just as nice and kind as ever.

Esquire Abel Hine died in 1820 in his ninetieth year.

His son Beebe Hine was also a very influential man in the town for many years, and possessed the same qualities as his father. He was so honest that he did not suspect others' dishonesty, which fact proved his financial ruin.

#### *Breaking the Sabbath.*

A peculiar case of Sabbath-breaking was brought before one of the justices of the peace in New Milford, soon after the Housatonic railroad was put in running order, about thirty-five years ago. The rails used at first on the road consisted of flat bars of iron spiked to long pieces of timber. A man, who is still living, was walking from Gaylordsville on the railroad on Sunday morning, and seeing the end of one of these iron rails bent upward, and supposing it endangered the safety of the train, bent the rail to its proper place with stones, and anything he could obtain, to accomplish the object, and then proceeded quietly on his way home. On Monday morning he was arrest-

## CHAPTER XIX.

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## THE NORTH END.



REGARDING military matters, as did the ancients, as among the most important interests that could engage the attention of the people, the early settlers arranged their town matters, largely, to harmonize with these interests, and hence in 1743 the town of New Milford was divided into two military companies, by a line extending across its territory from east to west at the meeting-house, which was the first one and stood in the street, on the side of the hill, in the rear of the present residence of Mr. Levi S. Knapp. The town north of this line was called the North End, and that south of it, the South End; but one hundred years later these two military localities, still retaining their military relations, were known by the names of the Up Town and Down Town Companies.

When the new company was organized in 1743, to be constituted on the south side of this line, Nathaniel Bostwick was made Captain of it and James Hine Lieutenant.

When Rev. Daniel Boardman died there were only three dwellings on Aspetuck Hill, on the street directly north from the green in the village, Mr. Boardman's, Benoni Stebbins', and Samuel Adkins', at the North End of the Street. South of Mr. Boardman's, just before reaching Bennitt street, stood the houses of David Noble and Captain Stephen Noble, and in the street, opposite Stephen Noble's, stood the first meeting-house.

What is now called Park Lane was more thickly inhabited at that time—from 1730 to 1750—than any other part of the town. The land on each side of the road that leads from the Cemetery to Park Lane school-house was laid in lots about twenty-one rods wide, successively going north; the home-lot, so called, on the west side of the road, and the ten-acre division, on the east side of the road. There may have been some pieces left between



## CHAPTER XXVII.

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## NEW MILFORD VILLAGE.—(CONTINUED.)



THE first enterprise for public convenience in New Milford village was Capt. Stephen Noble's blacksmith shop on what is now Bennitt street; the second was the blacksmith shop of Lt. James Hine, where Mr. Egbert Marsh now resides; and afterwards there was a shop of the same kind conducted by John Dart, near the site of what was afterwards the Town House at the north end of the green, and another kept by Daniel Burritt near the site of the present Congregational parsonage, and yet another, some little time before 1800, near the corner of the green where Mr. Andrew B. Mygatt now resides.

*Stores and Dwellings around the Green.*

The first store-building was erected by William Sherman near the site of the present Town Hall, about 1752, but he soon died and the store ceased, unless it was continued by Abel Hine after 1760, but the building was used as a storehouse during the Revolution. Roger Sherman sold this property in 1760 to Abel Hine, containing "a parcel of land with a dwelling-house, shop and warehouses standing thereon."

*Daniel Bostwick* kept a tavern many years on the site of the residence of Mrs. Judge Sanford, in which it is quite probable he kept for sale articles of importation and home manufacture as a store, as was the case at several other taverns in the town.

*Elijah Boardman* established a store in the autumn of 1781, in the long house recently torn down, on the site of the present residence of Mrs. Frederick Boardman, and Miss Mary C. Boardman, and the next year his brother Daniel joined with him, and the partnership continued until 1793, after which

## Pages Mentioning Noble Hine

### THE REVOLUTION.

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The committee of Inspection and Correspondence appointed in December, 1776, were:

Mr. Samuel Comstock,	William Cogswell, Esqr.,
Mr. Israel Baldwin,	Abel Hine, Esqr.,
Capt. Abram Camp,	Mr. Amos Northrop,
Daniel Everitt, Esqr.,	Capt. Sherman Boardman,
Capt. James Terrill,	Mr. Reuben Booth,
Mr. John Comstock,	Mr. Asahel Noble,
Mr. George Smith,	Dea. Benjamin Gaylord,
Doct. Jonah Todd,	Mr. Oliver Warner,
Joseph Ruggles, Esqr.,	Mr. Caleb Bennett,
Col. Bushnell Bostwick,	Mr. Samuel Warner,
Samuel Bostwick, Esqr.,	Dea. Ebenezer Hotchkiss.
Col. Samuel Canfield,	

All the above titles are given the same as in the records of the town, and reveal the standing of these men, and hence the dignity and commanding influence of the cause they were to represent, in the estimation of the people of this town.

The battle at Concord, Mass., on the 19th of April, 1775, was the opening of the war, and troops were called from all parts of the country, but hostilities were not pressed by the British during that summer.

*Capt. Isaac Bostwick* was sent with a company of soldiers from New Milford to Boston in the autumn or winter of 1775, and remained there during January and February. A book containing the weekly report of his company for six or eight weeks is still preserved in the possession of Mr. John R. Bostwick, which informs that the company belonged to Col. Webb's Regiment, and were at "Winter Hill," near Boston, during January (1776), and in Roxbury during the next February. The names of the men are not on this book, very much to our regret, but the number of officers and men was sixty-five, several of them being without arms. Isaac Bostwick was Captain of the militia company of the "South End;" that is, south of an east and west line crossing the town at the Congregational meeting-house.

Captain Bostwick's Company had not returned home when another company was ordered to New York; this is called "Captain Couch's Company, in Col. Andrew Ward's Regiment;" most of the officers and men being of New Milford. The book of accounts kept by Benjamin Bostwick, Jr., as Clerk in this



company, is still preserved, and is in the keeping of Col. Wm. J. Starr. The company was in the service two months and twenty-three days,—from Feb. 1, 1776.

*Names of officers and privates.*

<i>Lt. Ebenezer Couch,</i>	<i>Israel Camp,</i>
<i>Lt. Elizur Warner,</i>	<i>Samuel Copley,</i>
<i>Ens. Noble Hine,</i>	<i>Ezra Dunning,</i>
<i>Benjamin Bostwick, Fr., Clerk,</i>	<i>Fedediah Durkee,</i>
<i>Sergt. David Whittlesey,</i>	<i>Caswell Dean,</i>
<i>Sergt. Benjamin Weller,</i>	<i>Thomas Drinkwater,</i>
<i>Sergt. Matthew Brownson,</i>	<i>Stephen Evitts,</i>
<i>Sergt. Oliver Bostwick,</i>	<i>Asa Farrand,</i>
<i>Corpl. Gideon Morgan,</i>	<i>William Foot,</i>
<i>Corpl. Uri Jackson,</i>	<i>Jonathan Gray,</i>
<i>Corpl. Nathaniel Cole,</i>	<i>Epenetus Gunn,</i>
<i>Corpl. William Nichols,</i>	<i>Elnathan Gregory,</i>
<i>Corpl. Lemuel Thayer,</i>	<i>Liverius Hawley,</i>
<i>Drumr., Eleazer Hendrix,</i>	<i>Asahel Hotchkiss,</i>
<i>Fifer, David Ruggles,</i>	<i>Richard Johnson,</i>
<i>Fifer, John Couch,</i>	<i>John Keeler,</i>
<i>Nathaniel Averill,</i>	<i>David Keeler,</i>
<i>Benjamin Adams,</i>	<i>Nathan Keeler,</i>
<i>Salmon Bostwick,</i>	<i>Jonathan Lum,</i>
<i>John Baldwin,</i>	<i>Joseph Mygatt,</i>
<i>John Beach,</i>	<i>Lyman Noble,</i>
<i>Israel Bostwick,</i>	<i>Ephraim Minor,</i>
<i>David Buel,</i>	<i>David Porter,</i>
<i>Fared Baldwin,</i>	<i>Samuel Prince,</i>
<i>David Bosworth,</i>	<i>Amos Prime,</i>
<i>Caleb Barns,</i>	<i>Reuben Phillips,</i>
<i>Matthias Beeman,</i>	<i>William Peet,</i>
<i>Stiles Bardsley,</i>	<i>John Rood,</i>
<i>Foel Bostwick,</i>	<i>Isaac M. Ruggles,</i>
<i>John Canfield,</i>	<i>Aziah Robards,</i>
<i>Fesse Camp,</i>	<i>Nathan Rowley,</i>
<i>Jonathan Critenden,</i>	<i>Lisse Sanford,</i>
<i>Elijah Cary,</i>	<i>Asa Starkweather,</i>
<i>Jonah Todd,</i>	<i>John Turrill,</i>

## MILITARY OFFICERS.

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Peter Walker, marked P. W., and delivered unto Daniel Manvell, has this significant notice :

"N. B. That night the fight was at Ticonderoga, the above-mentioned belt and bayonet was left, and never been found since, which was appraised 6s. by the appraisers aforesaid.

DANIEL MANVELL."

This careful preservation of all his papers by Capt. Joseph Canfield, indicates his correct business habits, and the preservation of these papers 120 years by his descendants, signifies the perpetuation of the same:

*The Militia of the Town.*

The historical sermon of the Rev. Stanley Griswold, delivered in 1800, gives the following account of military matters :

"There have been eight military field officers in this town as follows, viz.:

Major John Bostwick,	Col. Elisha Bostwick,
Col. Bushnell Bostwick,	Maj. Daniel Boardman,
Col. Samuel Canfield,	Maj. Reuben Warner,
Col. Josiah Starr (in ye army),	Maj. William Taylor.

"For several years, viz.: till the year 1744, there was but one military company in the town,—which was formed and organized somewhere between the years 1715 and 1720. The officers were as follows :

Capt. Stephen Noble (served 20 years),	Capt. Theophilus Baldwin,
Lieut. John Bostwick,	Lieut. Joseph Bostwick,
Ens. William Gaylord,	Ens. Samuel Canfield.

[The second set above were appointed in October, 1738, and hence if Stephen Noble served twenty years, as is probable, then the company was first organized in 1718.]

"The aforesaid company was divided, and two companies were established and organized in the year 1744; since which there have been thirteen captains in each of the companies as follows, viz.:<sup>1</sup>

First Company.	Second Company.
Joseph Bostwick,	Nathaniel Bostwick,
Nathan Botsford,	John Warner,
Theophilus Baldwin,	John Hitchcock,
Sherman Boardman,	Jehiel Hawley,
Epenetus Platt,	Samuel Canfield,
Benjamin Stone,	Isaac Bostwick,
William Gaylord,	Elizur Warner,
Daniel Camp,	<u>Noble Hine,</u>
Abel Gunn,	Elisha Bostwick,
Abner Gunn,	John Merwin,
Eli Todd,	Amasa Ferris,
Benjamin R. Bostwick,	Reuben Warner,
Beebe Hine.	Elizur Warner, Jr.

<sup>1</sup> This list is a little erroneous compared with the Colonial Records.



said Sherman shall on receiving this certificate emancipate and set free said Negro Slave, Nehemiah, he the said Sherman Boardman, his heirs, executors and administrators shall be and hereby are forever discharged from any and all charges or cost which may be occasioned by maintaining and supporting the said Negro Slave Nehemiah, after his being so made free as above-said. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hand this 19th day of September, A. D. 1780, and in the fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

THOMAS THAYRE,	} <i>Majority of the Selectmen of the town of New Milford, for the year 1780."</i>
ETHIEL STONE,	
MARTIN WARNER,	
ELISHA BOSTWICK,	
<u>NOBLE HINE,</u>	

"New Milford, Sept. 19, 1780. These may certify all concerned that I have and do hereby emancipate and set free my Negro servant Nehemiah, agreeable to the liberty granted by the Selectmen of the town of New Milford as above written, as witness my hand in presence of

Thomas Hayes,

Noble Hine.

SHERMAN BOARDMAN."

John Treat of New Milford, liberated his "Negroman named Mingo by virtue of the laws of this State," July 3, 1781, and the act was duly accepted by the Selectmen, on the 23d of July, 1781, and recorded.

*A Narrative Written by Davis Baldwin.*

Davis Baldwin was born in New Milford Aug. 8, 1777, where he resided until a short time before his marriage, the home of his father, Isaac Baldwin, being in the vicinity of Northville. His father was in the battle of Danbury in the Revolution; was a carpenter and farmer.

Davis Baldwin married Ann Richards, of Tyringham, Mass., Dec. 3, 1809, where he resided until May, 1831, when he removed to Great Barrington, Mass., where he died Mar. 7, 1842, in the village of Van Dusenille. He educated one of his sons at Williams College, which shows his value of education.

The narration is remarkable for the exhibition of memory and the faculty of observation, since there is but little doubt of the

a call to settle in said society, upon which question there appeared sixty-six in the affirmative, and four in the negative."

"Voted, that this society will give Mr. Stanley Griswold, as his salary, the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money annually, during the time he shall continue to be our minister."

At the same time, they voted to give him two hundred pounds lawful money as a settlement; and that Mr. Griswold should continue to preach for them until his decision in the matter should be reached.

In the next October, Mr. Taylor left the matter of an allowance to him in case another minister should be settled with the society, upon which the society voted to give him eighty pounds a year in money or certificates, with interest or lands (for which variety in form of payment he must have been very thankful, since it is not so much of a difficult task to buy land when one has the money in hand).

In November, 1788, a vote was passed by the society to take out the slips in the meeting-house, and make new pews for a part or the whole of the house; but in the following December, they voted to postpone the matter, perhaps, although it is not certain, in view of the idea of first securing an assistant in the pastoral office; for in the next July they proceeded in this matter as above to secure such assistance.

On the 21st of December, 1789, Messrs. Reuben Booth, Benjamin Buckingham, and Noble Hine were chosen society's committee, to whom were added "Dea. Sherman Boardman, Abel Hine, Abel Hine, Esqr., and Col. Josiah Starr," who completed the agreement with Mr. Griswold and reported to the society; and the whole matter was settled by the votes of the society on the 25th (Christmas) day of December, 1789, his salary to commence on the day of installation, "to be paid in gold or silver, or such produce as he shall accept."

Of Mr. Griswold's ordination, Rev. Mr. Taylor wrote in the church book: "January 20, 1790, Mr. Stanly Griswold was ordained by the Consociation of Litchfield county, colleague pastor with myself, of the First Church and congregation in New Milford; by appointment I gave the charge, and the Rev. Mr. Merwin of Washington the right hand of fellowship.

NATHANIEL TAYLOR."



in a hot summer day, which fact has been suggested, may have something to do in giving character to the paper the "year round," if we add the words, "and spicy."

*The Circulating Library.*

The Union Library of New Milford was established February 18, 1796. The first meeting of the proprietors was held at the dwelling-house of William Clark, and the following are the names of the original subscribers :

Sherman Boardman,	Stanley Griswold,
Elijah Boardman,	Ebenezer Gaylord,
David S. Boardman,	William Gaylord,
Mathew Brownson,	Daniel Gaylord,
Nathan B. Buckingham,	Nathan Gaylord,
Samuel B. Buck,	Abner Gunn,
Clark Blackney,	Epenetus Gunn,
Benjamin Bostwick,	Abel Hine,
Elijah Bostwick,	<u>Noble Hine,</u>
Samuel Bostwick,	Beebe Hine,
Reuben Booth,	Solomon Hill,
Gerardus Booth,	Abraham Hayes,
Asa Brownson,	C. Lowrey,
Daniel Camp,	J. Lockwood,
William Camp,	Daniel Lines,
Samuel Bostwick,	Truman Marsh,
Ithamar Canfield,	N. S. Masters,
Herman Canfield,	Stephen Miles,
William Clark,	John Miles,
Stephen Chittenden, Jr.,	Stephen Merwin,
William Doan,	Noahdiah Mygatt,
Daniel A. Pickett,	David Noble,
Joseph Ruggles,	Jeremiah Platt,
John Roberts,	Isaac Stone,
Philo Ruggles,	Eli Starr,
John Speary,	Nathaniel Taylor,
Benoni S. Sanford,	Nathaniel Taylor, Jr.,
William Taylor,	Gideon Treat,
Thomas Wells,	Philip Wells.
Daniel Everitt,	

*St. Peter's Lodge, No. 21, F. and A. M.*

The first Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the New England Colonies was opened in Boston in 1733, and after the Revolutionary War Grand Lodges were organized in all the States.

## Appendix – New Milford Representatives to the Connecticut General Assembly

*JAMES/NOBIE/ABLE/BEERS HINE*

### APPENDIX.

*P 814*

A list of the names of those persons who represented the town of New Milford in the General Assembly. From 1712 to 1724 the town sent no representatives to the Legislature, for the reason that they paid no taxes to the general government. From 1728 to 1731, four years, they were again released from paying taxes to the general government that the same might be used in finishing their meeting-house, and for public schools; but they were allowed to send representatives during this time provided the town would pay them for their services, yet this it did not do, preferring to use all money they could spare in finishing their meeting-house and in their schools.

1725, Oct.	John Bostwick. Stephen Noble.	1736, Oct.	John Bostwick. Theophilus Baldwin.
1726, May.	Stephen Noble. John Bostwick.	1737, May.	Stephen Noble. John Bostwick.
1726, Oct.	Samuel Brownson. John Bostwick.	1737, Oct.	Stephen Noble. John Bostwick.
1727, May.	No representation.	1738, May.	Nathaniel Bostwick. Stephen Noble.
1727, Oct.	John Welch. Stephen Noble.	1738, Oct.	John Bostwick. Stephen Noble.
1728, May.	No representation until 1732.	1739, May.	John Bostwick. Stephen Noble.
1732, May.	Stephen Noble. John Bostwick.	1739, Oct.	John Bostwick. Theophilus Baldwin.
1732, Oct.	Stephen Noble. John Bostwick.	1740, May.	John Bostwick. Paul Welch.
1733, May.	Stephen Noble. John Bostwick.	1740, Oct.	John Bostwick. Paul Welch.
1733, Oct.	Stephen Noble. William Gaylord.	1741, May.	Nathaniel Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.
1734, May.	Stephen Noble. John Bostwick.	1741, Oct.	Theophilus Baldwin. Samuel Canfield.
1734, Oct.	Stephen Noble. John Bostwick.	1742, May.	Samuel Canfield. Nathaniel Bostwick.
1735, May.	Stephen Noble. John Bostwick.	1742, Oct.	Samuel Canfield. Nathaniel Bostwick.
1735, Oct.	Theophilus Baldwin. Samuel Canfield.	1743, May.	Samuel Canfield. Paul Welch.
1736, May.	John Bostwick. Theophilus Baldwin.		



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1743, Oct.	Samuel Canfield. Paul Welch.	1756, May.	Jehiel Hawley. Amos Northrop.
1744, May.	Paul Welch. John Warner.	1756, Oct.	Amos Northrop. John Warner.
1744, Oct.	Paul Welch. John Warner.	1757, May.	Amos Northrop. John Hitchcock.
1745, May.	Paul Welch. Ebenezer Fisk.	1757, Oct.	Benjamin Ruggles. John Hitchcock.
1745, Oct.	David Noble. Paul Welch.	1758, May.	John Hitchcock. Roger Sherman.
1746, May.	David Noble. Samuel Canfield.	1758, Oct.	Roger Sherman. Jehiel Hawley.
1746, Oct.	Samuel Canfield. David Noble.	1759, May.	Roger Sherman. Bushnell Bostwick.
1747, May.	David Noble. Samuel Canfield.	1759, Oct.	Roger Sherman. Partridge Thatcher.
1747, Oct.	Samuel Canfield. Paul Welch.	1760, May.	Roger Sherman. Benjamin Gaylord.
1748, May.	Samuel Canfield. Paul Welch.	1760, Oct.	Roger Sherman. Bushnell Bostwick.
1748, Oct.	<u>James Hine.</u> Paul Welch.	1761, May.	Roger Sherman. Jehiel Hawley.
1749, May.	Paul Welch. John Warner.	1761, Oct.	Daniel Bostwick. Bushnell Bostwick.
1749, Oct.	John Hitchcock. John Warner.	1762, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. Amos Northrop.
1750, May.	John Warner. Bushnell Bostwick.	1762, Oct.	Nathan Gaylord. Bushnell Bostwick.
1750, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Thomas Noble.	1763, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Bostwick.
1751, May.	John Hitchcock. Samuel Canfield.	1763, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Nathan Gaylord.
1751, Oct.	Riverius Carrington. Bushnell Bostwick.	1764, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. Nathan Gaylord.
1752, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. John Hitchcock.	1764, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Nathan Gaylord.
1752, Oct.	Nathan Bostwick. Bushnell Bostwick.	1765, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.
1753, May.	Daniel Bostwick. Bushnell Bostwick.	1765, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Partridge Thatcher.
1753, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Jehiel Hawley.	1766, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.
1754, May.	John Hitchcock. Samuel Canfield.	1766, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.
1754, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Daniel Bostwick.	1767, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.
1755, May.	Enos Camp. Roger Sherman.	1767, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.
1755, Oct.	Roger Sherman. Daniel Bostwick.	1768, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.

1768, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.	1781, Oct.	<u>Abel Hine.</u>
1769, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.	1782, May.	<u>Abel Hine.</u> Elizur Warner.
1769, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. <u>Abel Hine.</u>	1782, Oct.	<u>Abel Hine.</u> Elizur Warner.
1770, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.	1783, May.	Daniel Everitt. Elizur Warner.
1770, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.	1783, Oct.	Samuel Canfield. Daniel Everitt.
1771, May.	Thomas Noble. Sherman Boardman.	1784, May.	Samuel Canfield. <u>Abel Hine.</u>
1771, Oct.	Sherman Boardman. Samuel Comstock.	1784, Oct.	Samuel Canfield. <u>Abel Hine.</u>
1772, May.	Thomas Noble. Sherman Boardman.	1785, May.	Timothy Ruggles. Reuben Bostwick.
1772, Oct.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.	1785, Oct.	Samuel Canfield. Sherman Boardman.
1773, May.	Bushnell Bostwick. Samuel Canfield.	1786, May.	Sherman Boardman. David Northrop.
1773, Oct.	Sherman Boardman. Samuel Canfield.	1786, Oct.	Reuben Booth. Sherman Boardman.
1774, May.	Thomas Noble. Josiah Starr.	1787, May.	<u>Abel Hine.</u> Samuel Canfield.
1774, Oct.	No representation.	1787, Oct.	Sherman Boardman. Samuel Canfield.
1775, May.	Samuel Canfield. Sherman Boardman.	1788, May.	Samuel Canfield. Sherman Boardman.
1775, Oct.	Samuel Canfield. Sherman Boardman.	1788, Oct.	Sherman Boardman. Josiah Starr.
1776, May.	Samuel Canfield. Sherman Boardman.	1789, May.	Sherman Boardman. Josiah Starr.
1776, Oct.	Sherman Boardman. <u>Abel Hine.</u>	1789, Oct.	Samuel Canfield. Josiah Starr.
1777, May.	Samuel Comstock. Oliver Warner.	1790, May.	Josiah Starr. Daniel Boardman.
1777, Oct.	Samuel Comstock. Samuel Canfield.	1790, Oct.	Sherman Boardman. Josiah Starr.
1778, May.	Samuel Comstock. Reuben Booth.	1791, May.	Josiah Starr. Elisha Bostwick.
1778, Oct.	Samuel Comstock. Jonah Todd.	1791, Oct.	Sherman Boardman. Elisha Bostwick.
1779, May.	Sherman Boardman. <u>Abel Hine.</u>	1792, May.	Elisha Bostwick. Nicholas S. Masters.
1779, Oct.	Sherman Boardman. Abel Hine.	1792, Oct.	Daniel Boardman. Elisha Bostwick.
1780, May.	Samuel Comstock. <u>Noble Hine.</u>	1793, May.	Josiah Starr. <u>Noble Hine.</u>
1780, Oct.	<u>Noble Hine.</u> Daniel Everitt.	1793, Oct.	Elisha Bostwick. Angus Nickelson.
1781, May.	<u>Noble Hine.</u> Daniel Everitt.		



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1794, May.	Nicholas S. Masters. <u>Noble Hine.</u>	1806, Oct.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Abel Merwin.
1794, Oct.	Josiah Starr. Noble Hine.	1807, May.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Abel Merwin.
1795, May.	Josiah Starr. <u>Noble Hine.</u>	1807, Oct.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Andrew Minor
1795, Oct.	Josiah Starr. Elisha Bostwick.	1808, May.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Elisha Bostwick.
1796, May.	Josiah Starr. Samuel Bostwick.	1808, Oct.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Riverius Camp.
1796, Oct.	Philo Ruggles. William Taylor.	1809, May.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Jared Lane.
1797, May.	Philo Ruggles. Josiah Starr.	1809, Oct.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Ebenezer Smith.
1797, Oct.	Josiah Starr. Elisha Bostwick.	1810, May.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Jared Lane.
1798, May.	Sherman Boardman. Josiah Starr.	1810, Oct.	William Taylor. Reuben Warner.
1798, Oct.	Elisha Postwick. Abel Hine.	1811, May.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Jared Lane.
1799, May.	Elisha Bostwick. Philo Ruggles.	1811, Oct.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Jared Lane.
1799, Oct.	Elisha Bostwick. Abner Gunn.	1812, May.	<u>Beebe Hine.</u> Jared Lane.
1800, May.	Elisha Bostwick. Abner Gunn.	1812, Oct.	David S. Boardman. Reuben Warner.
1800, Oct.	Elisha Bostwick. Sherman Boardman.	1813, May.	David S. Boardman. Reuben Warner.
1801, May.	Elisha Bostwick. Josiah Starr.	1813, Oct.	David S. Boardman. William Taylor.
1801, Oct.	Josiah Starr. Philo Ruggles.	1814, May.	William Taylor. Reuben Warner.
1802, May.	Josiah Starr. Philo Ruggles.	1814, Oct.	David S. Boardman. thamer Canfield.
1802, Oct.	Josiah Starr. Philo Ruggles.	1815, May.	Elisha Bostwick. David S. Boardman.
1803, May.	Elijah Boardman. Samuel Comstock.	1815, Oct.	Gerardus Booth. Jehiel Williams.
1803, Oct.	Elijah Boardman. Elizur Warner, Jr.	1816, May.	Elijah Boardman. Ithamer Canfield.
1804, May.	Elijah Boardman. Elizur Warner, Jr.	1816, Oct.	Orange Merwin. William Taylor.
1804, Oct.	Elizur Warner, Jr. Samuel Lockwood.	1817, May.	Orange Merwin. Joel Sanford.
1805, May.	Elijah Boardman. Samuel Lockwood.	1817, Oct.	Orange Merwin. Joel Sanford.
1805, Oct.	Homer Boardman. Eli Todd.	1818, May.	Orange Merwin. Homer Boardman.
1806, May.	Elijah Boardman. Samuel Comstock.	1818, Oct.	Homer Boardman. Orange Merwin.

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