

Founders of Berlin



**Research by Cathy Nelson
Librarian Emeritus
Berlin-Peck Memorial Library**

**With additional research by
Sarah Caliandri
President
Berlin Historical Society**

2022

**Please send corrections & updates to BerlinHistorian@
gmail.com or Berlin-Peck Memorial Library
234 Kensington Road, Kensington, CT 06037**

Introduction

Who were the first settlers – the Founders of Berlin. The answer was more complicated than I realized.

The First Settler was Sgt Richard Beckley and his family who came to the area that became Berlin in 1659. It would be many years before other colonial settlers joined him.

Next came road building and a tavern – as Jonathan Gilbert and his son-in-law, Andrew Belcher, developed roads into and through Berlin. The Hartford-New Haven path began following a native trail, the Quinnipiac-Sukarog path, allowing travelers to cross land on their trip between the two capitals (New Haven and Hartford) of the Connecticut Colony. Andrew Belcher built the first tavern (just over the town line in Meriden) on the path and later the Belcher wall to protect travelers from Indians.

Finally, the first group of colonial settlers came to the area. In 1686, a group of Farmington settlers led by Captain Richard Seymour relocated to the “Great Swamp” to begin a new settlement. The area was the south-east corner of Farmington abutting Wethersfield and Middletown. Alfred Andrews in the first written history of New Britain states that the Farmington group had fourteen families and with eighty-one family members. There is no known list of these settlers.

There are four sections to this document:

The First Settler: 1659: Richard Beckley and family settled in the area that became Beckleyville, a section of Berlin.

Second, road building and a tavern: 1661: Jonathan Gilbert and Andrew Belcher – build roads and the Belcher wall.

Third, 1686: Great Swamp settlement: Captain Richard Seymour leads fourteen families from Farmington to begin settlement of the Great Swamp Society: A directory of the first group of colonial settlers.

Four: A timeline from 1659 to 1785

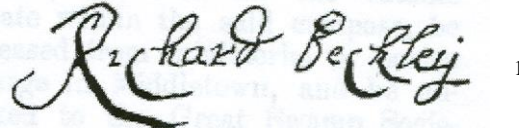
First - The First Settler – Sgt. Richard Beckley & Hannah

BECKLEY

1659: immigrant and first settler: Sgt. Richard Beckley

Sgt. Richard Beckley, first settler in Berlin.

The Descendants of Richard Beckley of Wethersfield, CT by Caroleen Beckley
Sheppard, c1948

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Beckley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. There is a small superscript "1" to the right of the signature.

Born 1618 Hampshire, England, son of John Beckley and Marie Mayfield of England
Immigrated about 1637 to Boston, by 1638 in New Haven, moved to Berlin about 1659-
1660

He is first heard of on American soil on Feb 5, 1639, in New Haven when he was
appointed to a committee of the New Haven colony.

Married about 1640 to Frances²

children: Sarah (1640-1691), John (1642-1696), Mary (1647-1690), Benjamin (1650-
1736), Nathaniel (1657-1697), Hannah (1656-1690)

On February 11, 1655/56, the seating chart for First Church of New Haven shows
Richard Beckley and his wife "Sister" Beckley.

In 1658 he was named Sgt. of the Artillery Company of New Haven.

His name appeared frequently in New Haven town and church records up to 1659.

In 1658, Sgt Beckley "*bought from Turramuggus, Sachem of Mattabesset tribe of
Indians, a tract of 300 acres in what is known as Beckley Quarter, in the northeast part
of Berlin.*"³

A simple, stylized mark consisting of a horizontal line with a small loop at the left end, resembling a stylized 'J' or a signature.

The mark of Turramuggus ⁴

By February 20, 1661, Richard Beckley and his wife were no longer on the seating chart
for the New Haven Church

In 1662, he sold his share in New Haven to Thomas Harrison.

His arrival in Wethersfield is marked by the New Haven voting him "inhabitation" on
Feb. 22, 1660. He voted in Wethersfield in 1662.

¹ Signature found in Memorial History of Hartford County, edited by J. Hammond Trumbull, c1886.
Berlin by Rev. W.W. Woodworth, page 13

² Mary Meskill, author of A Child's History of Berlin, c1938, and member of the Berlin Historical Society,
wrote that "no where but no where is there a record of his marrying an Indian – nor is there a certainty of a
second marriage. The first name of his wife is not mentioned in New Haven Church – called "Goodwife".
His widow's name is given as Frances. In 1860 Savage (James Savage: A Genealogical Dictionary of the
first settlers of New England) stated that the second wife of Richard Beckley was a daughter of John
Deming but other authorities, including the writer of the family genealogy disagree.

³ The Centennial History of Newington, 1971, compiled by Elizabeth Sweetser Baxter, c1971, page 13 and
the History of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut, Volume 2: Genealogies and Biographies by Sharman W.
Adams and Henry R. Stiles, Picton Press, c1996.

⁴ The Centennial History of Newington, 1971, compiled by Elizabeth Sweetser Baxter, c1971.

On October 8, 1668, the General Assembly met in Hartford and confirmed his land holdings: *“This court grants Sarjt Richd Beckly three hundred acres of land laying by Mattabesset River halfe a mile wide of both sides the river, and to runn up from New Haven path so farr till it doth contayne three hundred acres. Sarjt John Nott and Sarjt Hugh Welles are desired to lay out the land.”*⁵

It is interesting to look at the location of Sgt Beckley’s homestead: the extreme north area of New Haven Colony, and near the edges of several towns of the Connecticut Colony: the far south edge of Wethersfield, the northwest corner of Middletown, and beyond Farmington’s eastern edge. It was an area between colonies and towns. At first the treaty with the Indian chief was enough to secure his holdings, but later, Beckley thought it prudent to have the Connecticut Colony approval as well.

In 1669, Richard Beckley had Indian trouble. While the family was at church, Suggusha and Wawwott, two young Indians, entered the house, tapped and emptied his cider barrel, stole a small kettle, some farming tools, and a pair of compasses.⁶ He received funds to compensate for his losses.

Brandegree: Historical Papers, Berlin, Conn. c1928: *“Sgt Richard Beckley, the first settler of our town came from New Haven to Beckley Quarter, which was then a part of Wethersfield in 1660. (Beckley Quarter was named after him.) He purchased 300 acres from Chief Tarramuggus (of the Mattabassett Tribe). For many years, the Beckley family were the only white people living among the Indians in Beckley Quarter.”*

Richard Beckley died August 5, 1690, Wethersfield, CT – assumed in Beckley Cemetery – no gravestone.

Hannah Beckley died in 1696 – assumed in Beckley Cemetery – no gravestone.

His will was written May 15, 1689, and proved on September 4, 1690. His children and grandchildren continued to live on the homestead with at least three family homes built near to each other.

⁵ Colonial Records of Connecticut

⁶ New Britain Herald, October 31, 1968: Berlin’s First European Settler by Mary Meskill

Beckley Quarter

Beckleyville, also called Beckley Quarter, was once a part of Wethersfield and now is part of Berlin. Besides the oldest house in Berlin, there was a tavern, mill, and a cemetery.

The **oldest house** in Berlin is located at 979 Deming Road (formerly on Wethersfield Road until the road was reconfigured). A plaque says erected in 1668/9. It is called the John Beckley house. John was one of the sons of Sgt Richard Beckley and Frances.



THE BECKLEY TAVERN. (BUILT IN 1688)

The Beckley Tavern located near 714 Wethersfield Road, torn down. Today Residences at Stonebridge are located on the site.

The tavern was built about 1688. It stood on the Hartford-New Haven Path, now Wethersfield Road. Mary Meskill says: “For sixteen years the Beckley family was the only settlers in the area. Traffic along the Hartford-New Haven path increased and by 1688 Richard Beckley was

licensed to keep a tavern. It was the first inn, and for many years the only one, between Hartford and New Haven.”⁷

Joseph Beckley was a grandson of Richard Beckley and son of Nathaniel. In 1728, Joseph & Hepsibah Wilcox received “a grant to keep tavern in ye town where he belongs and to retail strong drinks to travelers and strangers provided bond be given as ye law directs.” As Mary Meskill tells us: “It was necessary for Lt. Joseph Beckley to build a larger public house.”⁸ The inn was kept in the family for 78 years. The inn was described as being under the hill from the cemetery surrounded by giant elms. It was built and used as a tavern more than 50 years prior to the American Revolution (circa 1725). In the northwest corner the windows overlooked the Mattabassett River, and the long stretch of valley westward to the Kensington hills. The tavern had eight rooms and a pantry: with four rooms downstairs and four upstairs. The front two large rooms downstairs known as the east room and the west room. The east room was the parlor.

Stories tell of General George Washington stopping there on his way to assume control of the Continental Army in Boston in June 1775. The Hartford Courant, July 3, 1775,

⁷ New Britain Herald, October 31, 1968: Berlin’s First European Settler by Mary Meskill

⁸ New Britain Herald, October 31, 1968: Berlin’s First European Settler by Mary Meskill

confirms that Washington was in Connecticut on Friday last. Another story tells of George Washington traveled with elm tree switches and planted two in front of the tavern. The trees stood for many years after the tavern was torn down.⁹

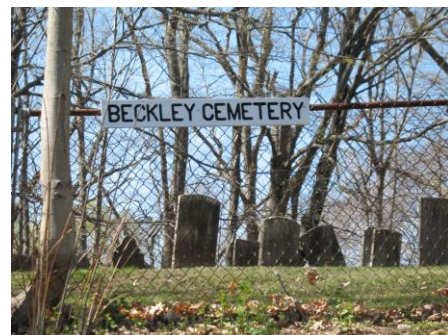
The inn was kept for 78 years by the family. The inn was no longer standing in the late 1800s. A letter from L.B. Beckley to Catharine North states “It was one of the last landmarks to perish in Berlin by neglect indifference and historic criminality.” Photo, 1870, from Catharine North: A History of Berlin, Connecticut, c1916

In 1697, a **mill** was built on a brook that flows into the Mattabesset River. It is said to be the second oldest mill in the colony. Benjamin Beckley deeded 1/5 part of gristmill on Beckley River to John Beckley. John died in 1776 and his sons sold the mill rights to Theodore Beckley. On November 13, 1806, the Berlin Selectmen purchased from Oliver & Luman Beckley, Joseph Crofoot and his wife for 3 pounds, 16 shillings the road leading to Beckley Mill to be a highway forever. Photo from Catharine North A History of Berlin, Connecticut, c1916.



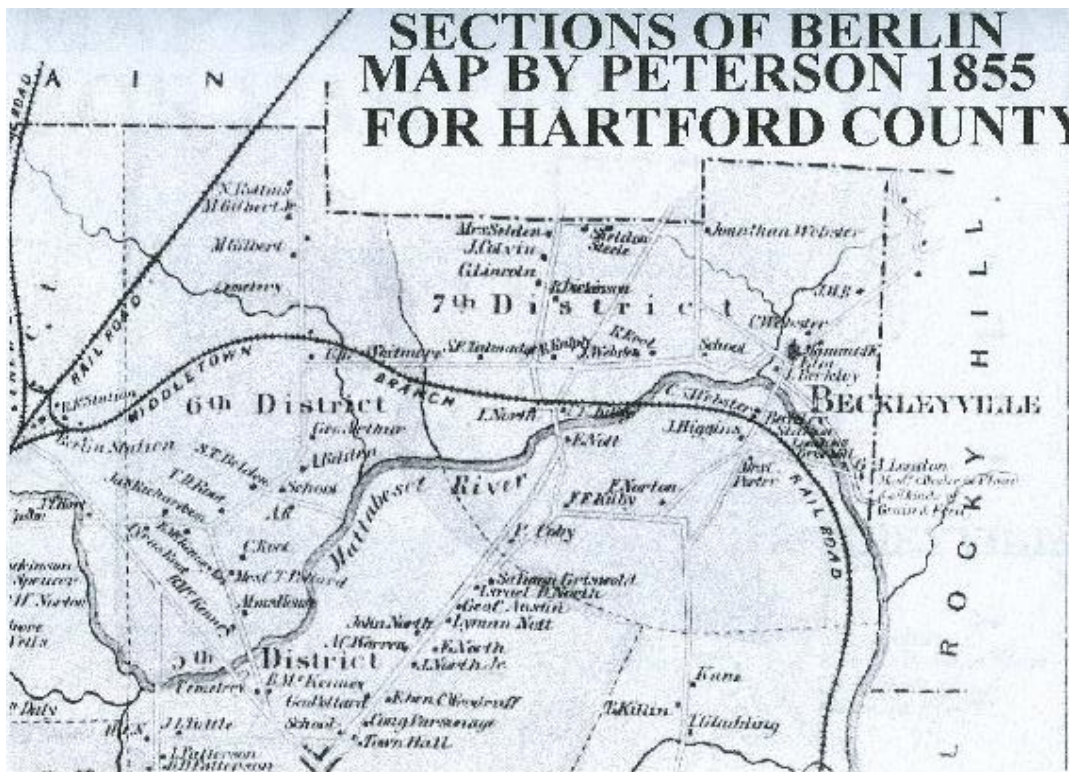
The Beckley **train depot and post office** was located across from 576 Wethersfield Road. Photo from about 1900. It was on the Middletown branch of the New Haven Railroad. It was torn down in 2000.

In 1760, the Beckley **Cemetery** was established (also called the Northeast Burying Ground) in 1760 although it is assumed that it had been a family cemetery for years before. There were 20 Beckleys, 16 Beldens, 6 Demings, 8 Dickensons, 10 Kelseys, 20 Porters, 8 Kilbys, 6 Nortons, and 18 other people. The first burial was Daniel Beckley who died in 1760. Located at 917 Deming Road (Route 160)



⁹ Catharine North, A History of Berlin, Connecticut, c1916, page 96

Beckley Quarter – Smith's map, 1855



Second: Development: Jonathan Gilbert and Andrew Belcher – building roads and the Belcher Wall. Two families who never actually lived in town but were instrumental in the development of the town.

Jonathan Gilbert

The Gilbert Family descendants of Thomas Gilbert of Mt Wollaston, Braintree, Windsor and Wethersfield, by Homer Worthington Brainard, c1953

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library Local History Room Historical Name index: Jonathon was an Innkeeper; ran a warehouse in Hartford; Marshall of the General Assembly; Collector of Customs; Deputy to General Court; Commissioner of the United Colonies; Member of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Boston. He was a member of Major John Masons' First Conn. Cavalry in 1658. A man of distinction. He came to America with his brothers Thomas, Josiah, and Obadiah

Jonathan Gilbert, an early settler of Hartford, ran a tavern and warehouse in Hartford. For his years of service to the General Court, he was granted 350 acres of his choosing, providing it was not already settled. Having traveled the route from Hartford to New Haven many times, he chose the land that is now Berlin. This included Christian Lane, south to the Meriden (today's) town line. In later years, the whole of the town of Berlin was called the "Great Swamp." He later purchased acreage from Daniel Clark, making his holdings nearly 1000 acres.

Genealogical Research

Born on June 8, 1617, in England, son of Thomas Gilbert and Lydia Bennett

The family immigrated about 1635/6 and by 1645 in were in Wethersfield.

Married on Jan 29, 1646, in Hartford to Mary White (1626-1650), daughter of John White and Mary Leavitt

Children: Jonathan (1648-1698), Mary (1649-)

Married 2nd in 1650 in Hartford to Mary Wells (1626-1700), daughter of Thomas Wells and Frances Albright.

Children: **Sarah (1651-1689)**, Lydia (1654-1738), Thomas (1655-1719), Nathaniel (1660-1682), Hester (1662-), Samuel (1664-1733), **Ebenezer (1666-1736)**, Rachel (1668-1754)

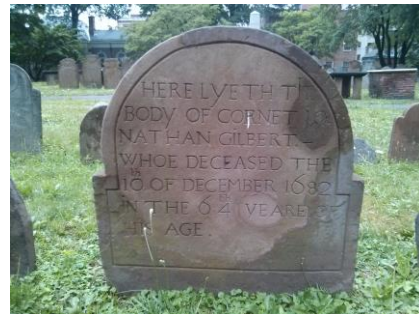
He died Dec 10, 1682, at age 64 – Hartford Ancient Burying Ground

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Here Lyeth the body of Cornet Jonathan Gilbert, who Deceased the 10th of December 1682 in the 64th year of his age.



His son wrote: Dec. 19, 1682: My father Gilbert departed this life about half an hour after sundown, being age 64 or thereabouts.



Mary Gilbert died July 3, 1700, age 74 – Hartford Ancient Burying Ground - Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Sarah Gilbert and Andrew Belcher

The Gilbert Family descendants of Thomas Gilbert of Mt Wollaston, Braintree, Windsor and Wethersfield, by Homer Worthington Brainard, c1953

Sarah Gilbert and Andrew Belcher never lived in Berlin.

Sarah was born on June 25, 1651, in Hartford, daughter of Jonathan Gilbert & Mary Wells

Married on July 1, 1670, in Hartford to Andrew Belcher (1647-1717), son of Andrew Belcher and Elizabeth Danforth. Andrew was christened on January 1, 1646/7, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Tradition says that Andrew, being on a journey through Connecticut stopped at the Gilbert Tavern in Hartford, saw the beautiful daughter of the innkeeper and fell in love.

Children: Sarah (1670-1684), Andrew (1672-1728), Deborah (1676-1689), Elizabeth (1678-1735), Mary (1680-1700), **Jonathan (1681-1757)**, Martha (1686-1747), Sarah died January 26, 1688, in Boston – unknown grave.



Jonathan Belcher

Born Jan. 8, 1681, in Cambridge, MA, son of Andrew Belcher and Sarah Gilbert.

Graduated Harvard in 1699

Married Jan. 4, 1706, in Portsmouth, NH to Mary Partridge

Children: Andrew (1706-1771), Sarah (1708-1768), Jonathan (1710-1776), William (1712-), Elizabeth (1713-), Thomas (1713-1714)

1730-1741 Governor of MA and NH

1747-death Governor of NJ

Died August 31, 1757, in Elizabeth, NJ

Andrew Belcher

Born November 6, 1706, in Boston, son of Jonathan Belcher and Mary Partridge

Graduated Harvard in 1724

Married in 1754 to Elizabeth Teale

Children: Andrew (1768-1841), Elizabeth

Member of the Masons

Died January 24, 1771, in Milton, MA



The Gilbert and Belcher Families
How Meriden and Belcher Brook got their names
By Sarah Caliandri, President, Berlin Historical Society, photos by John Nesklada

Two of the movers and shakers of early Berlin history never actually lived here, but they left their mark, nonetheless. They passed through town at a time when it was a pristine wilderness, unscathed by human contact, other than a few Indian trails through the woods. They must have seen the beauty of the landscape and the potential for commerce as they walked or rode down the principal path to New Haven and back to Hartford. Both men were shrewd businessmen and when given the opportunity, chose to invest in this area and began the shaping of a community.

Jonathan Gilbert was born in Yardley, Worcestershire, England in 1617. He was one of seven children. He presumably came to America with his father and the rest of his family around 1638, at a time when England was in turmoil. Dissent over religion and King Charles I's strict adherence to the concept of the divine right of kings eventually brought England into civil war. The Puritans sought a simpler faith, and for many, the easiest and safest way to avoid the king's wrath was to leave England. The Great Migration started around 1630 and brought wave after wave of settlers to New England. Ultimately, Charles I was beheaded in 1649 and England became a commonwealth, ruled by Oliver Cromwell, who was also a Puritan.

Like many others, the Gilbert family's first stop was the Boston area. They may have become acquainted with the Belcher Family, as both were in Braintree, MA for a time. The Gilberts were latecomers to Boston, so the choicest lands were already taken. Next, they moved to Wethersfield (now Glastonbury) and later Jonathan moved to Hartford. He may have had a gift for negotiation, or maybe he was just a good talker, for in 1646 he was appointed marshal, a post he held at least intermittently for some 29 years.¹⁰ This position empowered the officer to enforce decrees issued by the courts, and also involved dealings with the Indians. He often went to various parts of the colony, from Wethersfield to Farmington, from New Haven to Hartford.

In 1646 he married his first wife, Mary White. Mary, like many of the Hartford Colony group, was from Essex County in England which had followed Rev. Thomas Hooker across the ocean to Boston and then to Hartford. She bore him two children, Jonathan Jr. and Mary, in less than two years, and then died at age 23, shortly after young Mary's birth in 1649. It is probable that her death was childbirth related as infection and hemorrhage were the cause of an incredible number of maternal deaths in the seventeenth century. It was impossible for a man to care for two infants and provide for them at the same time. Likely, his mother and other women were close by and helped the little family to manage for a while, but it is not surprising that Jonathan soon began looking for another wife.

Sometime in 1650 the following year he married Mary Wells. Mary Wells proved to be more than just a dutiful wife. She married Jonathan at around age 22, took over as stepmother to two small children, and the following year began with her own brood of eight children. She and Jonathan were said to be well matched as both were shrewd in business, and politically savvy. They did not own a lot of land in Hartford, but they worked with what they had. The properties they bought were strategically situated to

¹⁰ CT Colonial Records, vol. 1, p.139

bring in a good income. One parcel was near to the center of Hartford and contained a mill, while another was near the present site of Trinity College. Gilbert opened a storehouse near the river landing and became active in trading. In 1663 he and Mary opened an inn near Central Row in Hartford, and undoubtedly profited from the commerce in the area. This also allowed them to keep abreast of current affairs and assured their visibility among the local leaders. It is said that at times the General Assembly met at their inn.¹¹ Jonathan continued to hold a variety of civil and military offices. He was a representative to the General Court, High Sheriff,¹² and captain of Hartford's trainband (the militia), as well as other offices.

In 1661 Gilbert received a grant of 350 acres which was "to be taken up where it didn't infringe on any other claim"¹³. He chose land around the Mattabesset River, at a place the natives called Pagonischaumischaug or the white oak place. This was around Christian Lane in present day Berlin and New Britain. It is possible that his trips between Hartford and New Haven had convinced him of their potential. The low fertile land and abundant water would have been ideal for farming, and its central location between Hartford and New Haven was ideal for commerce. Wildlife was also plentiful, so the fur trade would flourish. Later, he bought out Daniel Clark's land which was, another 300 acres nearby. Ultimately, he amassed approximately 1000 acres, stretching from southern New Britain to northern Meriden. Much of the land was loosely called Merideen which may have reminded him of a hamlet called Meriden in England, located about eight miles from his childhood home.¹⁴ In 1662 Jonathan Gilbert was given a license to operate a second tavern at Cold Spring, located in Meriden, just south of Silver Lake. At that time the lake was most likely a boggy area that the Dutch had named "Old Vlve," a Dutch word for swamp. For the next several years things went well, and the family prospered. Jonathan and Mary probably enjoyed being in the thick of things, and at some point, a young man named Andrew Belcher came along and stole the heart of their daughter Sarah.

Andrew Belcher Sr was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts about 1646/7 son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Danforth) Belcher. The elder Belcher was a tavern keeper in Cambridge, who had emigrated from Essex County in England. There may have been some family connections; as there was a case where an Elizabeth Belcher, daughter of Gregory, who married Josiah Gilbert.¹⁵ It is not known whether the two Belcher families are related. The Andrew Belcher Sr family was not part of the Boston elite as, Andrew Senior was from a family of weavers,¹⁶ but Elizabeth Danforth Belcher was the sister of the deputy governor. Not much is known about Andrew's early life. The son of a tavern keeper would be expected to be sociable, and he would have been exposed to all sorts of people, high and low, as he helped with the activities around the inn. His mother's family connections may have helped pave the way in certain ventures, but the young man had plenty of innate ambition. In modern terms, he had a lot of 'hustle'. He was a shrewd

¹¹ Catherine North: History of Berlin, CT. p. 1

¹² *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. (Online database: *NewEnglandAncestors.org*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2001-2009), (Orig. Pub. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, MA. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 162 vols., 1847-2009.) vol. 4 p.230

¹³ footnote - it is a quotation.

¹⁴ Walter Gilbert Website

¹⁵ NEGHR vol. 39, p.183

¹⁶ Michael C. Batinski, Jonathan Belcher, Colonial Governor. Lexington, KY: University Press of KY, 1996, p.4

businessman. Some people consider Captain Belcher to be a “speculator”.¹⁷ He became a merchant salesman. Early on, and during the course of his travels, he discovered the beauties of the Connecticut Valley and the forested wilderness.

He may have stopped to take in the majestic beauty of the Blue Hills (section of Kensington) as he came across from Wethersfield on his way to New Haven. At that time the 'Principal Path' from Hartford to New Haven followed an Indian trail that the Quinnipiacs and Sukiags traveled. It eventually became known as the Hartford-New Haven Path. From Hartford, travelers went south to Pyquag, now Wethersfield, came down New Britain Ave. in Rocky Hill, then went down Wethersfield Rd, to Worthington Ridge, to School St., then down Patterson Way to Lower Lane. The road then went south toward Orchard Rd, Toll Gate Road, and then joined the Colony Road (now U.S. Route 5) toward New Haven. He may have stopped at his future father-in-law's tavern at Cold Spring in Meriden, as it was a two-day journey between the two cities of New Haven and Hartford. He probably noted that half-way lay a place called “the Great Swamp.”

Between 1662 and 1665 the colonies of Connecticut and New Haven merged into a single entity, thanks to a charter granted by King Charles II shortly after his restoration to the throne. Before the merger, many people travelled back and forth along the path, and afterward, the legislature alternated between the two capital cities up until the late 1800s. At first, there were no settlements. Richard Beckley's farm in western Wethersfield was established in 1659, but the road was still pretty desolate. Wallingford would be established in 1667, but the land in between was a no-man's land, between the boundaries of the four major towns of Farmington, Wallingford, Middletown, and Wethersfield.

During his travels, Andrew Belcher frequently stayed at the Gilberts' tavern while in Hartford. He undoubtedly saw the advantages of an alliance with a powerful political family, and it is likely that he was involved in selling Gilbert's furs and timber from the Meriden Farm. Jonathan Gilbert's relationships with both Indians and settlers up and down the river and along Long Island Sound certainly helped paved the way toward his greater success.

Andrew Belcher and Sarah Gilbert were married July 1, 1670. They stayed in Hartford for the first years of their marriage, and had a son and three daughters there, before moving back to Boston in 1680, where they had another three children.

Andrew Belcher began a partnership with his brother-in-law, Thomas Gilbert, and became involved in trading grain during King Philip's War (1675-1678), becoming a major supplier to the hungry troops. He became frustrated by trade restrictions at times, but his political connections usually led officials to turn a blind eye to the letter of the law.¹⁸ His trading business continued to grow, spreading out to New York, Philadelphia, the Carolinas, the Caribbean and Europe. He ultimately moved back to Boston after the defeat of King Philip, where his fortunes continued to grow. Some might call him an opportunist as he traded in whatever would bring in good money. This included trading in slaves, tobacco, foodstuffs, and even pirates' booty. Like many other merchants of the time, he skirted the law when he could, in order to secure bigger profits. Sometimes this

¹⁷ Fowler, Herbert: History of New Britain

¹⁸ Michael C. Batinski, Jonathan Belcher, Colonial Governor. Lexington, KY: University Press of KY, 1996, p.4

paid off in a big way, but sometimes it meant confiscation of his ships. Business was a gamble.

By 1684 the British government was thoroughly sick of New England's merchants and their shady dealings that withheld taxes from the king's coffers. Charles II's death in 1685 brought his brother James to the throne of England. While Charles had been more or less tolerant of New England's independent ways, James was more autocratic in his ideas of governing. In 1686 King James II ordered the colonies' charters revoked and invalidated many land grants. Some of Massachusetts' oldest leaders lost power, but others were quick to replace them. Andrew Belcher used his connections to become assistant provost marshal. Ultimately all was to be consolidated into the Dominion of New England, but with the seat of power to be in New York, under the control of Sir Edmund Andros, the governor-general. Andros had great contempt for the New Englanders in general and was convinced they were all smugglers. The merchants feared that this change would hurt trade for the entire region. They saw their newfound power base slipping away. It was during this time that the Connecticut Colony hid its charter in an ancient oak tree in Hartford to save it from Sir Edmund's clutches. Meanwhile, back in Mother England, in 1688, the rebellion was again rearing its head. This time, it was called the Glorious Revolution, a nearly bloodless coup in which James II was deposed and escaped into exile, and William of Orange and his wife Mary (who was James' daughter) were invited to take the throne. The Dominion of New England faded into history, and the old charters were restored.

During the tumultuous decade from 1680-1690 much was happening here in New England. In 1682 Jonathan Gilbert died, leaving his land to his sons and monetary gifts to his daughters and grandchildren.¹⁹ His eldest son received a small bequest in comparison to his brothers; some land in Haddam and £20. He and Jonathan Jr. had not gotten along well for a while, and the latter had had a number of youthful indiscretions. The two had reconciled, but Papa's will had not been changed since it was written in 1674. Even lawsuits by the son didn't change it. Ebenezer Gilbert inherited a large piece around Christian Lane; "All that 300 acres of land I bought of Capt. Daniel Clarke in Farmington, also that purchase of land I bought of Massecup, commonly called & known by the name of Pagonchamischau." ²⁰ Nathaniel, another son, received the farm at Meriden, but he died without progeny before taking possession. Andrew Belcher, ever the opportunist, saw a chance to develop what he saw as a property that would only increase in value as time went on. The Meriden farm extended northward into southern Berlin (about the area of Orchard Road) and west (Dead man's curve near the Belcher Wall and west of Elton Road). Belcher must have seen the potential the area had for profit. Andrew Belcher bought out the remaining Gilbert heirs on Sept. 6, 1686²¹, and went about developing the land by laying out roads and he built cabins to encourage settlers to come. It is possible that this was part of the impetus for Captain Richard Seymour and his group to settle at the Great Swamp.

The threat of consolidation under Andros had influenced the Connecticut General Court to accelerate the granting of "undivided lands" to its citizens lest Andros or his henchmen grant them to others. In January 1687 the towns of Farmington, Middletown

¹⁹ Charles Manwaring: A Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records, vol. 1, p.307

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ C. Bancroft Gillespie, A Century of Meriden, p. 19

and Wethersfield received a grant to "make a village therein."²² A number of towns received similar grants, in an effort to secure a hold on the still vastly undeveloped areas of the colony. It is possible that Andrew Belcher had already begun recruiting settlers for his strip of land running through the basin of the Mattabesset River, and he may have had some assistance from his brother-in-law Ebenezer, for this was the site of the Christian Lane fort built around that time.

Jonathan Gilbert's legacy included a tavern near Silver Lake, part of a large farm that encompassed much of the southern area Of Berlin and the northern area of Meriden. The land was right on the Hartford-New Haven Path. This area had been an Indian hunting ground and was rich in all sorts of game. Some say that Andrew Belcher looked for gold or precious minerals in the blue hills, but never found it.

Andrew had received a license for the tavern at the Meriden farm, and around 1678 had erected a log building with iron shutters, and a heavy, spike-laden door. This structure ultimately proved too small, and in 1690 he built a fortified stone building, known as the "Half-way House" Catherine North recalled a story she had heard about travelers staying there:

"The men, sometimes twenty teamsters at a time, would put their horses under shelter, but they never thought of going to bed themselves—there were only two beds in the house. They fiddled, sang, danced and drank until morning, every man with his gun within reach. One-half of the company staid outside, on guard, the first hours of the night, and then the others took their turn. Pickets were stationed all about, and over on the mountain, to watch against surprise from the Indians. To get their drink, they looked the wagons over until they found a cask of liquor, when they knocked up a hoop, bored a hole with a gimlet, drew what they wanted, and then plugged the hole, and drove the hoop back into place."²³.



Although relations had been fairly friendly with the local Indians, other parts of the colonies had experienced bloodshed and burnings. To be safer, the old tales say, a wall was built, to surround Belcher's "Merideen Manor".²⁵ This wall was made of dry-stacked stones, four feet high and four feet wide, and was about a mile in circumference built around the Belcher Farm. Stone walls were often built along roads, to keep livestock under control, or to serve as boundary markers. The endless supply of New England stone comes courtesy of the glaciers which covered the area until 10,000 years

²² J. Hammond Trumbull: The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, vol.3, 1678-1689, p.225

²³ Op. Cit. North, p. 8

²⁴ John Nesklada photo

²⁵ Gillespie, A century of Meriden, CT, page 22

ago. Portions of the wall are still intact in the southern part of town. The Belcher Wall formed the eastern boundary to the old road that “ran from Meriden to Kensington”²⁶



We do not know exactly when the wall was built, so we can only speculate on who helped to build it. Catherine North quoted Edward Augustus Kendall, who discussed the fort and wall in

1809: "When the road between New Haven and Hartford was originally made, a Mr. Belcher, received a stipend from the government, on condition of his residing here, and keeping an inn, or, as it is called, a tavern. The Indians were at this time troublesome, and mention is made of a wall, built by Mr. Belcher, as if for purposes of defense. In this way, however it could be of no use; for it was of more than a mile in circuit, and formed of uncemented stones, raised only four feet high, like the walls at present common in the country. This wall, however, had some extraordinary personages among its builders. It is current in tradition, that fourteen or fifteen settlers came into Mr. Belcher's neighborhood, from the town of Farmington, of whom the whole band possessed unusual strength and stature. Two were of the name of Hart. Of these, one, whose son at the age of seventy years is still alive (1809), is said to have had bones so

large, that an Indian, who, with others, was passing through the settlement, stopped and examined him with surprise. Mr. Hart and his fellow-giants were employed by Mr. Belcher on his wall. "²⁷

It was Edward Augustus Kendall in Travels in the Northern Parts of the United States in 1807-8 who mentioned that a son of one of the men was seventy at the time. The quotation suggests that the wall was created later, or Mr. Kendall had mistaken part of a story, for a man who was 70 years old in 1809 would have been born in 1739. This would put the wall's construction at the early eighteenth century (1702) at the earliest. Tradition says that the builders were from the Great Swamp and that they were extraordinarily large men. Catherine north wrote that two men were from the Hart family. Possible members of the Hart family include Hawkins Hart, son of Capt. Thomas Hart, who was born in 1677, lived somewhere in the sprawling giant town of Farmington until the early 1700s, when he moved to Wallingford. He had a posthumous son, Samuel, who was born in 1735 and died in 1805.²⁸ If the wall was built later, there are other candidates, but the earliest Hart settlers in town were John Hart, grandson of Deacon Stephen Hart, who was grandfather to Gen. Selah Hart, great-grandfather to Emma Hart Willard, and great-great-grandfather to James Gates Percival, and his cousins, Hezekiah and Thomas, sons of Capt. Thomas Hart. Most of them lived along the Hartford-New Haven Path, now known as Lower Lane. Other possible workers on the wall were

²⁶ North, page 9

²⁷ Op. Cit. North, p.9

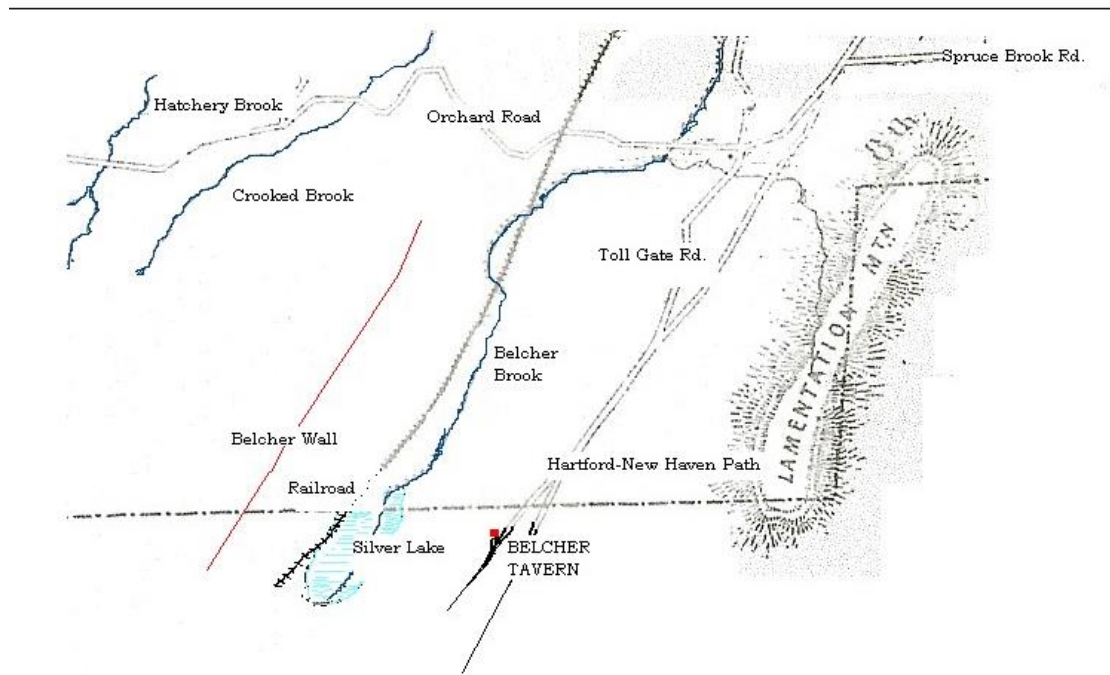
²⁸ Alfred Andrews: The Descendants of Stephen Hart, p. 366

members of the Root family, who have been described as large, powerful men. Timothy Root (1681-) and John Root (1685-) were sons of Stephen Root who built a farm near the junction of Christian Lane and Porter's Pass. Stephen Root was called the "Giant of Farmington", standing six feet, six inches tall, and was a noted foot-racer and wrestler.²⁹ The sons were noted for their great height and strength.

Belcher did not run the inn himself, but he employed tenants who did. Jonathan Gilbert had hired Edward Higby to run it; at the time of his death, Samuel Elmore was in charge. Later, by 1700, tenants on his land included Samuel Peck, progenitor of the Peck family in town, and Samuel Hubbard, husband of Samuel's sister Martha. Both had been residents of Middletown.

The inn itself was within the current bounds of Meriden, at the southern end of Silver Lake.

Figure 1. Belcher Tavern south of present Berlin boundary, marked in red



The northern portion of the land was in Berlin and was the piece that had been granted to Jonathan Gilbert by the Connecticut Colony in 1662. Both Peck and Hubbard's ties were to Hartford (and Middletown), rather than New Haven, so it is natural that they would maintain their ties closer to home. In addition, the Wallingford settlement was in its infancy. A community was established in 1670, but this was a distance away. The parish of Meriden would not be established until 1728. There was a discrepancy in the boundaries between Wallingford and Farmington which resulted in a no-man's land, called the Wallingford Purchase Lands. The area from Kensington Avenue in Meriden northward to around Norton Lane off Toll Gate Rd. was owned by neither Wallingford nor Farmington until 1728, although it was considered part of Hartford County. To make

²⁹ North, Catharine: The History of Berlin, CT, page 118

things even more confusing, the same lands had been sold by different Indians to different people at different times.³⁰ In order to solidify his title, the General Assembly in 1703 confirmed Andrew Belcher's right to the farm:

"Whereas Capt. Andrew Belcher of the town of Boston in the province of Massachusetts Bay in New England, merchant, hath by purchase gained to himself and his heirs forever all the estate, right, and title that the heirs and assigns have of the said Jonathan Gilbert had or might have in or to the said four hundred and seventie acres of land meadow and upland, and whatever right might accrue to them by the said purchase of the native right, and hath petitioned this Assembly for a patent to be granted out to him for a full confirmation of the same to him, his heirs and assigns forever: this Assembly considering that the said Andrew Belcher hath expended a considerable estate upon the said land in building tennantable houses settling tennants therein, and other improvements which are like to be a publick as well as private benefitt, the said tenements being conveniently situate for the relief of travailers in their journeying from place to place, for his encouragement to go forward with his improvements, doe see cause to grant his petition and doe now give and grant unto the said Andrew Belcher all the said four hundred and seventie acres of upland and meadow (as it is laid out and bounded, or described to be bounded in a plot or survey thereof exhibited in this assembly under the hand of Caleb Stanley, surveyor) to be to him the said Andrew Belcher, his heirs and assigns forever, according to the true intent or meaning thereof. Provided always nevertheless that there shall be a country road or highway through the said farme or part thereof as there shall be occasion."³¹

By October 1707, Belcher's interest in the area was waning. He was 60 years old and may have been tired of overseeing his extensive holdings, preferring to stay within the comforts of Boston and vicinity. He never actually lived on the farm but had a number of tenants. The land which had provided considerable riches in beaver pelts and other animal hides, but there was little mineral wealth to be found. Perhaps there was a little copper, but no gold or silver had been mined. He also needed to groom someone to take his place. He deeded to his only surviving son Jonathan "my mannor or farme of Meriden near to a place called Cold Spring now in tennance and occupation of Joseph Hopkins, Sam'l Peck and Samuel Hubbard, their under tenants or assigns"³²

Jonathan Belcher had all of the advantages that his father and grandfather didn't have. He graduated from Harvard in 1699, and took a tour of Europe, visiting Germany and England, and was received in the royal courts. When he returned home, he became a merchant, and served in the Massachusetts General Court. He was also well known in Connecticut, and in 1729 he was appointed a colonial agent in England. He was appointed Royal Governor of Massachusetts 1729-1739. He continued the family political and mercantile endeavors, as he was being well-versed in intrigue and negotiating behind closed doors. He carried on some correspondence with a number of people in central Connecticut, and actively pursued copper mining at the Belcher farm. In 1712 a small amount of copper was found. Like many others of the time, Belcher was hungry for gold and other precious metals. It is estimated that he spent around £15,000 from 1712 to 1735 in his search for gold.

He had ideas of turning the farm into a proper English manor, and in 1714 secured the rights from the town of Farmington to build a dam for a pond on the property. This marked the beginnings of Silver Lake. Though much smaller than the current lake, it would nonetheless have been more attractive as a pond than a swamp. At its northern edge it gave birth to a tributary that wends its way northward, across Orchard Road, paralleling the railroad tracks, and the old Hartford-New Haven Path, joining with Crooked Brook west of Willard School, then joining with Hatchery (Blue Hills) Brook

³⁰ C. Bancroft Gillespie: a Century of Meriden, p. 13

³¹ CT Colonial Records, vol.4, p. 450-451

³² Wallingford Land Records, Vol. * p.*

until it empties into the Mattabesset River. For roughly three hundred years, it has been called Belcher Brook, named for Andrew Belcher.

The Belcher Farm remained in the family until 1741. Jonathan deeded the property to his son Andrew in the hopes that he would be able to turn a profit, but that was not to be the case. In June 1741 the Belcher Farm was broken up. Andrew Belcher, son of Jonathan Belcher, sold the land to Jedidiah Norton and John Yale "all that tract of land containing by estimation 670 acres, being that part of the Meriden Farm, so called, lying west of the Country Road leading from Hartford to New Haven, "³³ for a price of £ 1950. The following March 1742, he sold 350 acres on the east side of the highway to Samuel Peck, Nathaniel Edwards, and Zebulon Peck (all men were from Middletown) bought "all that farm and called Meriden lying eastward if the Country Road and containing 350 acres, bounded easterly atop Lamentation Mountain, etc. for £1925.³⁴ While much of this farm started out in Wallingford, later a great deal of it became Berlin. From the beginning, the farm tenants came to worship at the church at Christian Lane and considered themselves part of the Great Swamp community.

The buyers, though paying taxes to Wallingford and Middletown, had strong ties to Kensington Parish. Jedidiah Norton and Samuel Peck were members of the Kensington Church, and Zebulon Peck was Samuel's son. They had married Kensington girls and would eventually be buried in Berlin.

Much of the land they purchased would stay in their families for generations to come. The land for much of that time would still be referred to as the Belcher Farm even into the early twentieth century. The Belcher wall is mentioned as the boundary in many a deed throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. Today the exact tract of the road is in part uncertain, but the southern part is still visible in the woods south of Orchard Road and down from Hicks Avenue in Meriden. Its terminus is not far from Mohawk Drive. There are many old wood roads that run through the southern part of Berlin, which still retains some of its original rural character.



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³³ Ibid., vol. 9, p. 18-19

³⁴ Ibid. p.30-31

³⁵ John Nesklada photo

Third: 1686: Great Swamp Settlement

Finally, the first group of settlers came to the area. In 1686, a group of Farmington settlers led by Captain Richard Seymour relocated to the “Great Swamp” to begin a new settlement. The area was the south-east corner of Farmington abutting Wethersfield and Middletown. The land was “too low”, hence its name The Great Swamp. Alfred Andrews in the first written history of New Britain states that the Farmington group had fourteen families and with eighty-one family members. There is no known list of these settlers. There are reports that Andrew Belcher laid out the first roads and built cabins to encourage settlement of the area around Great Swamp.

Nineteen years later, in 1705, the residents of Berlin petitioned the General Assembly to establish their own church. Up to then, the Great Swamp residents had to travel 8-10 miles back to Farmington for church services. The 1705 petition is the first list of residents. There are twenty-eight names on the petition. The church itself was known by various names including the 2nd church of Farmington at Kensington, the Great Swamp Society, the Christian Lane Church, and in 1722, Kensington.

On December 10, 1712, the Great Swamp Society formally dedicated the church building and installed Rev. Burnham as the settled minister. It was standard practice in the colonial days to establish a new church with seven pillars, or men, who were the elders of the church. There is a list of the seven pillars of the Great Swamp Society. However, despite the fact that all seven men were married, only three wives are included. Even Rev Burnham’s wife is not included! Many people assume that this list of ten members were the only members of the church. The 1705 petition proves that there were many other Berlin residents.

Five years later, in 1716/17 the seating plan of the Great Swamp Society was made giving the names of fifty-two men and three widows as member of the Church.

Then in 1867, 181 years after the First Settlement, Alfred Andrews wrote the first book on the history of the settlement. His list of the First Settlers includes twenty-four names and families and identifies only five of the seven pillars of the Church.

Even later, in 1909, the DAR erected a boulder at the entrance to the Christian Lane Cemetery with the last names of forty-two families that were early residents of the town.

The following section is a directory about the early residents of the Great Swamp Settlement.

First settlement: 1686: Great Swamp Settlement, led by Capt. Richard Seymour with fourteen families and eighty-one people from Farmington village settled the south-east corner of Farmington. There is no known list of these colonial settlers.

1705 petition: the first list of residents of Berlin – twenty-eight names

Great Swamp Parish, Farmington, Hartford Co., CT - 1705-1717

Extracted from Memorial, Genealogy & Ecclesiastical History by Alfred Andrews, 1867.

“To the Right Honourable and Worshipfull General Assembly now sitting at New Haven

This 11 day of October A.D. Greeting. We the subscribers hereunto, do humbly request

this Hon. Assembly to grant unto your humble petitioners a Settlement and

confirmation of a Society at a place called the “Great Swamp” within Farmington

bounds, having obtained a liberty from said Farmington for that. Your Honours will

determine the bounds for said Society accordingly. The principal and only moving cause

of this humble petition, is the remoteness from any town, whereby we are under

great disadvantage for our souls good, by the Ministry of the word, and in that your

worship & ordinance of Jesus Christ, in that desolate corner of the wilderness, we

humbly request that your honors will please to annex into our bounds, for the only use

of said Society, all those lands that are between our bounds southward, and

Wallingford bounds Northward, for the benefit o f the Taxes of said land, for ye

Support, of ye public charge, of said Society, and our unanimous desire is that the

Worshipful Capt. Thomas Hart will prefer, and declare, this our humble petition and

The circumstance of the case in said court, all of which your Honor’s petitioners Humbly

Submit. Dated 16 Oct 1705” signed:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| • John HART, sen | • Stephen LEE |
| • Richard SEYMOUR | • Daniel DEWEY |
| • Stephen ROOT | • Samuel SEYMOUR |
| • John LEE | • Ebenezer SEYMOUR |
| • Daniel ANDRUS, jun | • Joseph LANKTON |
| • Thos NORTH | • Thomas HART |
| • Nehemiah PORTER | • Samuel NEWEL |
| • Jacob BRONSON jun | • Isaac NORTON |
| • Isaac COWLES | • Anthony JUDD |
| • Samuel SMITH | • Benjn JUDD |
| • John COLE | • Caleb COWLES |
| • Samuel COWLES | • John STANLEY |
| • Isaac LEWIS | • Thos GRIDLEY |
| • Joseph SMITH | |
| • Nathl COWLES | |

December 10, 1712 –Church dedicated, and Rev Burnham installed as pastor. The seven pillars or leaders of the church:

Minister: Rev. William Burnham

Stephen Lee and wife Elizabeth Royce,

Anthony Judd first deacon

Samuel Seamore and wife Hannah North,

Thomas North,

Thomas Hart and his wife

Caleb Cowles

10 members, seven pillars and only three of their wives are identified.

Church located at the corner of Christian Lane and Deming Road

marked by a DAR stone monument.

The Church was known by various names including 2nd church of Farmington at

Kensington, the Great Swamp Society, Kensington, and the Christian Lane Church



1716: seating chart of the Great Swamp Society

January 7, 1716-17 voted to seat the Inhabitants of said society in our meetinghouse as follows: (55 names)

1st Benjn Beckley, Steven Lee, Benjin Judd, Mr. Ebenezer Gilbard, Samuel Smith, Isaac Norton, Thos Hart

2nd pue: John Woodruff, John North, Thos North, Saml Seamer, Hez Hart

3rd pue: Samuel Bronson Cooper, Joseph Smith, Thos Curtice, Jonath Hurlburt, John Standley

The 1st seat in the square body: Thos Hancox sen, Nehemiah Porter, Nathl Winchell sen, Saml Bronson miller, Thos Moreton, Richard Beckley

2nd seat: Saml Peeke, Saml Hubbard, Daniel Andrus, Steven Cellsey (Kelsey), Jacob Deming, Caleb Couls (Cowles)

3d seat: Geo Hubbard, John Norton, John Cellsie (Kelsey), Thos Gridley, Saml Galpen, Ebeneazer Seamer

4th seat: Wm Bronson, Saml Couls, John Gridley, John Roote, John Andrus

5th seat: Daniel Beckley, Joseph Becly, Joseph Harris, Saml Gridley, Daniel Hancox

In ye pue at the North and East side: John Rue, Saml Hart, Wm Hancox, John Gilbird, Saml Bronson jun

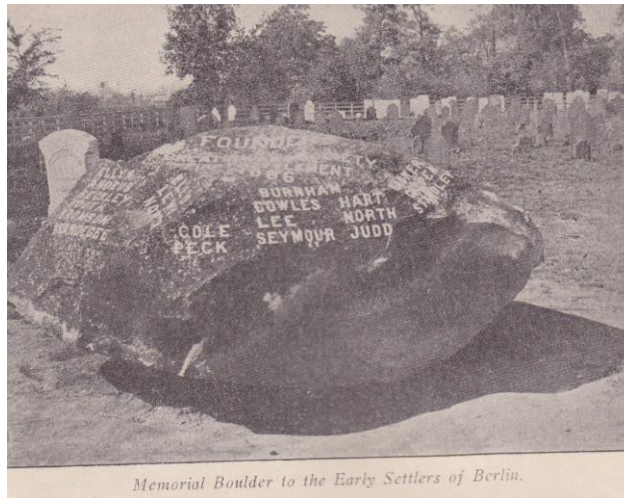
In the fore seat: Widow Becly, goodde Buck, and widow Duey

Dea Judd in the Deacons Seat & his wife in ye fore pue

1867: Memorial, Genealogy and Ecclesiastical History of First Church, New Britain by Alfred Andrews, c1867: Andrews identified that there were fourteen families of the First Settlement led by Captain Richard Seymour – and then gives twenty-four names and families! And only five of the seven pillars or leaders of the Church!

Richard Seymour - Captain and leader
Stephen Lee – one of the seven pillars
Benjamin Judd
Joseph Smith Sr
Isaac Lewis
Robert Boothe Sr
Deacon Anthony Judd – one of the seven pillars
John Woodruff
Daniel Dewey
Thomas North - one of the seven pillars
Gilberts
Dr Joseph Steel
Standleys
Rootes
Harts – Thomas Hart one of the seven pillars
Nortons
Cowles – Caleb Cowles one of the seven pillars
Coles
Nehemiah Porter
Gridley
Bronsons

1909 – DAR Founder's Rock



Memorial Boulder to the Early Settlers of Berlin.

Founders of Great Swamp Society
First Settlement
DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Cole | 22. Bronson (Brownson) |
| 2. Peck | 23. Brandegee |
| 3. Burnham | 24. Hart |
| 4. Cowles | 25. North |
| 5. Lee | 26. Judd |
| 6. Seymour | 27. Hooker |
| 7. Goodrich | 28. Galpen |
| 8. Winchell | 29. Standly (Stanley) |
| 9. Lankton | 30. Hubbard |
| 10. Gilbert | 31. Deming |
| 11. Curtice | 32. Porter |
| 12. Steele | 33. Smith |
| 13. Newel | 34. Kelsey |
| 14. Woodruff | 35. Dewey |
| 15. Hensdel (Hinsdale) | 36. Gridley |
| 16. Thompson | 37. Hurlburt |
| 17. Root | 38. Hollister |
| 18. Allyn | 39. Sage |
| 19. Andres (Andrews) | 40. Lewis |
| 20. Beckley | 41. Norton |
| 21. Bouth (Booth) | 42. Ellis (Allis) |

DIRECTORY OF THE FOUNDERS OF BERLIN

ALLIS /ELLIS

1909 Founder's Rock: Ellis

William Allis

Born on May 6, 1684, Hatfield, MA, son of John Allis and Mary Meekins

Married Dec. 1709 Wethersfield by Rev. Mr. Mix to Mary Griswold (1688 Wethersfield - 1726), daughter of Jacob Griswold and Mary Wright

Children: Mary (1711-1739), Lydia (Sept 1713 -?), Sarah (1715-1798 Berlin), Ann (1724-1797), **John** (1726-1756)

Ct Church Records – Dec 10, 1712 - William Allis, member Kensington Church

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library Local History Room Historic Name Index: Stiles cites Hinman as saying that he was "an aged man in 1756.

Probate 1761 – unmarked grave

ALLYN HC 1909 HC Sept 21, 1909, HC 1912
1909 Founder's Rock

Capt. John Allyn

lineage: John⁶, Benjamin⁵, Benjamin⁴, Thomas³, Thomas², Mathew¹
born 1740 in Windsor, son of Capt. Benjamin Allyn and Abigail Loomis
married on December 28, 1760, at the Kensington Congregational Church to Ruth
Burnham (1739 Berlin-1795 Berlin), daughter of William Burnham Jr. and Ruth
Norton, grandchild of Rev. William Burnham and Hannah Wolcott

By 1760 lived in Kensington

Captain John Allyn participated in the French and Indian War: 2nd Regiment, Capt
Nathaniel Whiting and Lt James Smedley in 1762.

1775-1779 - Capt. John Allyn served in the Revolutionary War in Gen. Harte's Regt.

Children: Captain John Allyn (1762-), Ruth (1764-1823), Anne (1766), Chloe (1769-
1859), Benjamin (1770), Henry (1772-1774), Henry (1775-1819 Ohio).

In 1775, John Allyn was the first clerk of the Worthington Church (later Berlin
Congregational Church) with his wife Ruth.

1790 census Berlin, 1800 census, 1810 census, 1820 census.

Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots

Ruth Burnham Allyn died September 28, 1795 - West Lane Cemetery

John Allyn died Dec 29, 1828, age 88 years. – West Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photos.



Capt. John Allyn



Revolutionary War



Ruth Burnham Allyn

ANDRUS/ANDREWS

1705 petition – Daniel Andrus jun

1716/17 seating – Daniel Andrus, John Andrus

1909 Founder's Rock

Daniel Andrus

Brother to John Andrus

Genealogical History of John and Mary Andrews who settled in Farmington 1640 by
Alfred Andrews, c1872.

born on March 9, 1673, in Farmington, eldest son of Daniel Andrus and Mary Peck
lineage: Daniel³, Daniel², John¹

brother is John Andrus

married on Oct 30, 1707, in part of Farmington constituted a parish called "Great
Swamp" to Mabel Goffe (1690-1768) daughter of Jacob Goffe and Margery
Ingersoll of Wethersfield. Mabel's sister Mary married Daniel's brother John.

children: Joseph (1711-1745), Abigail (1713-), Mabel (1716-1787), Eunice (1717),
Daniel (1720), Hannah (1723-1789), Jacob (1727-1798), Hezekiah (1731)

On October 13, 1715, The General Assembly approved that the southward part of the
Western Society of Wethersfield be annexed to the southeastern society in the
Township of Farmington as a great convenience to those families. This allowed
eight families in west Wethersfield and Beckley lands to worship at the Great
Swamp Society. One of the petitioners was Daniel Andrus. In 1718 he joined by
letter from Hartford to the Great Swamp Society

1720: He and brother John gave a bond or note of 50 pounds to Newington for liberty to
join the Great Swamp Society

Circa 1720: Daniel and John Root were a special committee to put in galleries to the
meeting house.

Daniel Andrus died on August 21, 1748 – Christian Lane Cemetery

Mabel Goffe died in 1768, age 77, in Farmington – unknown grave.

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Inscription: Here lies the Body of Mr. Daniel Andrus who died August ye 21st 1748 in the
78th year of his age



LT John Andrus

Brother to Daniel Andrus

Genealogical History of John and Mary Andrews who settled in Farmington 1640 by Alfred Andrews, c1872.

Lt John Andrews was active in military affairs and was sergeant in the Wethersfield militia.

1712: He served in Queen Anne's War and was at the capture of Port Royal in Nova Scotia. He was later promoted to LT.

He was one of the chief organizers of the Kensington Congregational Church

Born June 10, 1680, in Farmington, son of Daniel Andrus and Mary Peck

Married June 12, 1712, to Mary Goffe (1690-1768), daughter of Jacob Goffe and

Margery Ingersoll. Mary's sister Mabel married John's brother Daniel.

Lived in limits of Wethersfield but belonged to Kensington parish.

On October 13, 1715, The General Assembly approved that the southward part of the Western Society of Wethersfield be annexed to the southeastern society in the Township of Farmington as a great convenience to those families. This allowed eight families in west Wethersfield and Beckley lands to worship at the Great Swamp Society. One of the petitioners was John Andrus.

Children: David (1718-1798), Job (1720-), Moses (1722-1806), Mary (1728-1791), Abraham (1728-1807), Jerusha (1729-), Roger (1731-), Ester (1732-1758), Elisha (1733-), Miriam (1735-)

John died June 16, 1740, at age 60 Kensington – Christian Lane Cemetery – no gravestone

Mary Goffe died Sept 7, 1769, at her son Moses' home in New Britain– Fairview Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Inscription in the 76th year of her age

In memory of widow Mary wife of John Andrus

She died Sept 7, 1769, 76th year of her age.



Beckley

1659 – first settler: Richard Beckley – see section one

1716/17 seating: Benj Beckley, Richard Beckley, Daniel Beckley, Joseph Beckley,
widow Becly

1909 Founder's Rock: Beckley

Benjamin Beckley

The Descendants of Richard Beckley of Wethersfield, CT by Caroleen Beckley
Sheppard, c1948

Born Jan 27, 1650, New Haven, son of Sgt Richard Beckley and Hannah Deming

Married Oct 7, 1685, to Rebecca

Children: Martha (1692-1752), John (1695-1765), Benjamin (1698-1777)

Rebecca died between 1698-Nov 1702 – unknown grave.

Remarried 2nd on Nov 12, 1702, to Miriam Stevens (died before 1742)

Children: Miriam (1707-1750), Hannah (1710-),

Died Apr 27, 1763, Wethersfield – unknown grave.

On October 13, 1715, The General Assembly approved that the southward part of the Western Society of Wethersfield be annexed to the southeastern society in the Township of Farmington as a great convenience to those families. This allowed eight families in west Wethersfield and Beckley lands to worship at the Great Swamp Society. One of the petitioners was Benjamin Beckley.

Daniel Beckley

The Descendants of Richard Beckley of Wethersfield, CT by Caroleen Beckley
Sheppard, c1948

Born May 8, 1694, Wethersfield, son of Nathaniel Beckley and Comfort Deming

Grandson of Sgt Richard Beckley and Hannah Deming

Married Aug 6, 1719, to Martha North (1700-1791), daughter of Thomas North and
Martha Roys

Children: Martha (1720-1775), Daniel (1724-1760), Lois (1730-1793)

died July 3, 1760, at age 36 Wethersfield, buried Beckley Cemetery - first to be buried in
Beckley Cemetery



Find a grave (Internet) photos.

Inscription: Here lies the body of Mr.
Daniel Beckley, who departed this life July
3, 1760, in ye 66th year of his age

Martha North (right)
Died March 5, 1791,
aged 90 –
Beckley Cemetery



LT Joseph Beckley

The Descendants of Richard Beckley of Wethersfield, CT by Caroleen Beckley Sheppard, c1948

Born Sept 19, 1695, son of Nathaniel Beckley and Comfort Deming, grandson of Sgt Richard Beckley and Hannah Deming

Married Oct 23, 1723, to Mary Judd (1702 Farmington-1750 at age 48 Wethersfield), daughter of Benjamin Judd and Susannah North

Children: Josiah (1725-1757), Mary (1725-1725), Joseph (1727-1810), Thankful (1728-1804), Ruth (1730-1730), Eunice (1731-1817), Mary (1732-1734), Mary (1734-1807), Zebedee (1734-1776), Hephzibah (1735-1794), Silas (1736-1757), Abigail (1737-1765), Ruth (1739-1740), Comfort (1740-1741) David (1742-1798), Jonathan (1743-1743), Dorcas (1744-1745)

Married 2nd to Sibbel Ranney (1704-1783), buried Beckley Cemetery

Licensed to run a tavern in 1733, 1734, 1743.

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library Local History Room Historical Name index: Joseph and his first wife Mary Judd were members of the Christian Lane Church.

He may have been the first innkeeper between Hartford and New Haven.

Licensed as a taverner in 1733, 1734, 1743.

Died Jan 30, 1772, age 76 - Beckley Cemetery



Find a grave (Internet) photos.

Wethersfield Inscriptions: In memory of Mr. Joseph Beckley who died Jan 30th, 1772, aged 76 years.

Mary Judd Beckley –
Christian Lane Cemetery
(right)
Wife of Lt Joseph
Beckley in the 75th year
of her age



Richard Beckley

The Descendants of Richard Beckley of Wethersfield, CT by Caroleen Beckley
Sheppard, c1948

Born 1673 Wethersfield, son of John Beckley and Hannah Deming

Grandson of Sgt Richard Beckley and Hannah Deming

Married on Nov 23, 1699, to Elizabeth Deming (1764-1765), daughter of Jonathan
Deming and Elizabeth Gilbert

Children: Nathaniel (1700-1760), Abraham (1702-1784), Elizabeth (1703-1776)

Died on Sept 27, 1741, in Wethersfield – unknown grave.

Elizabeth died Nov 23, 1765 – unknown grave.

Buried in Beckley Cemetery – no gravestones.

On October 13, 1715, The General Assembly approved that the southward part of the Western Society of Wethersfield be annexed to the southeastern society in the Township of Farmington as a great convenience to those families. This allowed eight families in west Wethersfield and Beckley lands to worship at the Great Swamp Society. One of the petitioners was Richard Beckley.

BOOTH

1867: First Settlement: Alfred Andrews: Robert Booth sen

1909 Founder's Rock: Bouth (Booth)

Robert Booth

born 1685 in Stratford, son of Joseph Booth and Hannah Wilcoxson

lineage: Robert 3, Joseph 2, Richard 1

married on Nov 27, 1712, in Stratford to Ann Hollister (1690 Wethersfield-1732 at age 42), daughter of Stephen Hollister and Abigail Treat

children: all born in Kensington: Hannah (1716-1777), Anna (1718-1798), Nathan (1721-1802), James (1723-), Robert (1730-), Elisha (1732-1800)

grandsons in the Revolution: David (son of Robert) and Thomas (son of Elisha)

member Kensington Church in 1716

Robert Booth died Dec 17, 1750 - buried in Christian Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Inscription: in the 61 year of his age

Ann Hollister Booth remarried to Dr. James Hurlbut.



BRANDEGEE

1909 Founder's Rock

Jacob Brandegee

born on April 3, 1728, in NY, son of John Brandegee and Hannah Brock

married on October 11, 1753, to Abigail Dunham (-1825), daughter of Hezekiah Dunham and Jane Pease

children: Elishama (1754-1781), Rhoda (1754-1781), Jacob (1765-1786 died at sea near Cape Francois at age 21), Persis (1758-1848), Abigail (1760-1820), Mary (1763-1764)

he was a weaver by trade, owned a store, engaged in the West Indies trade, ran vessels from Rocky Hill

died March 1785 at age 36, at sea, returning from Guadalupe.

Abigail remarried to Rev. Edward Eels and had one child: Sarah

Abigail died March 7, 1838, in Berlin

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library Local History Room Historical Name Index: bought land in Kensington. The progenitor of all the Brandegee family in Conn., he came to Newington at age 9 or 13 (conflict in Brandegee and North.) Family bible records that he was 22, his wife 16 when married. He owned the covenant in New Britain on July 27, 1755. The name in early records is spelled variously as "Brandigat" and "Brandigee." He was a weaver by trade and sent out vessels from Rocky Hill to the West Indies. In 1762 he bought land on Christian Lane and set up a store. A stone was erected in his memory and some of his children are buried there. Ironically, his son, Jacob, also died at sea at age 21. North records that the original Brandegee burial site was on Christian Lane where there is still a cemetery, but that the stones were removed to a family yard in Berlin St. [i.e., Worthington Ridge] and that his grandson, Jacob, placed a family monument there when it was incorporated into South [now Maple] Cemetery. North. History of Berlin, p. 192, 201 Brandegee, p. 34



Both are buried in Maple Cemetery - Find a grave (Internet) photos.

Inscription: This monument erected in the memory of Jacob Brandegee April 1729 died at sea from Guadalupe to Connecticut March 25, 1765, at age 36

BRONSON/ BROWNSON

1705 petition: Jacob Bronson jun

1716/17 seating: Samuel Bronson cooper, Samuel Bronson miller, Wm Bronson, Sam Bronson jun

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First Settlers: Bronsons

1909 Founder's Rock: Bronson

Jacob Brownson

born in 1640 Hartford, son of John Brownson and Frances Hills

married 1674 in Farmington to Mary Andrews (1638-1712), daughter of Robert Andrews and Elizabeth Millburn

By 1687 in Kensington

children: **Samuel (1684-1741)**, Jacob (1687-) in Kensington, Hannah (1688-), Roger (1692-), Isaac (1694-), Elizabeth (1697-)

died 1707 Kensington – unknown grave.

Samuel Bronson, cooper

Born 1684, son of Jacob Bronson and Mary Andrews.

Died January 15, 1741/42 – Wilcox Cemetery - unknown grave.

The data on Samuel Bronson – father and son – have been mixed together. So which man did which deed is difficult to determine. Both were millers.

Samuel Brownson

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library Local History Room Historical Name Index: owned one of the older sawmills located on Mill River, 1/2 mile south of [the railroad] station, 10 Main St., Kensington (site of the Jonathan T. Hart Co, and then about Paper Goods factory, now condos), furnished sawed timber for the first Meeting House constructed on Christian Lane, in 1720 he furnished the materials to build galleries in meeting house, and the second meeting house built 1733-34 at intersection of Farmington Avenue and Porter's Pass. The mill was later the Jonathan T. Hart Co, and then in 1893 the American Paper Goods Factory

As an honor the church gave him a seat in the 1st pew

Owned the Barret Place on the "Betsis", i.e., Mattabassett, River.

Born 1661 in Farmington, son of Richard Bronson and Abigail Wilbourne

Married on May 4, 1687, in Farmington to Sarah Gibbs (1668-1767), daughter of Jacob Gibbs and Elizabeth Andrus

Children: Elizabeth (1688-1767), **Samuel (1682-1752)**, Sarah (1694-1728), Benjamin (1697-1753), Hezekiah (1699-1752), Timothy (1701-1780), Daniel (1703-1780), Nathaniel (1705-1712), Micah (1707-1779), Anna (1709-), Aaron (1712-1774)

Recorded in Berlin records as joining the Kensington Congregational Church with his wife in Feb. 1718/19.

Served on a committee in the church on August 25, 1720.

In 1720 furnished materials to build galleries in meeting houses (both first and second buildings.)

At his death he left an estate of 6874 pounds, 8 shillings.

Died Jan 18, 1741/2, in Kensington – Christian Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Inscription: Here lies intern the body of Mr. Samuel Brownson who departed this life January 23, 1741, aged 76 years



Sarah Gibbs died 1767 – Christian Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Inscription: Here lies the body of Mrs. Sarah Brownson the wife of Mr. Samuel Brownson who died October the 25th 1741 in the 76th year of her age



Samuel Brownson jun

Born December 30, 1692, in Hartford, son of Samuel Brownson and Sarah Gibbs
CT Church Records Abstracts – member Kensington Church – December 10, 1712
Married in 1714 to Abigail Ventres (1695-1779), daughter of Moses Ventres and Mary
Children: Mercy (1715-1793), Elisha (1718-1784), Charles (1723-1779), Job (1732-1791), Ozias (1734-1810)

He joined the Kensington Congregational Church with his wife in February 1718/19
from the Farmington Church.

Not sure if it was his father or Junior or both who provided the wood for the first meeting
house, galleys and second meeting house.

He was a slave owner. In his will at his death on Oct 31, 1752, he left an estate of 6874
pounds, 8 shillings. Included in the Inventory of Samuel Bronson

One Negro man, Lot, £ 400

One Negro wench, Hannah, £ 500

Eldest son, Saul, £ 200

Youngest son, Pharoh, £ 130

Bequeathed to Sarah, his granddaughter, all his sheep, and an *unborn*
child of Hannah, the wench.

Died April 22, 1752 – unknown grave.

BUCK

1716/17 seating: goode Buck

Ezekiel Buck

Born 1675 in Wethersfield, son of Ezekiel Buck and Rachel Andrews.

His sister Mary Buck married John Kelsey, another early resident of Berlin.

Married in 1698 in Farmington to Sarah Benson

Died 1715 - grave unknown.

BURNHAM - William 1st Minister of the church

1712 Seven pillars

1909 Founder's Rock: Burnham



Home at 136 Porter's Pass, moved in mid 1800s to Seymour Road (later Masserio Drive), torn down in 1913.

Genealogical Records of Thomas Burnham

Born July 17, 1684, Wethersfield, son of William Burnham and Elizabeth Loomis
1702 Graduated Harvard College

First minister of Great Swamp Society, later named Kensington Congregational Church
Married on May 8, 1704, in Kensington to Hannah Wolcott (1684-1748), daughter of Samuel Wolcott and Judith Appleton. He was age 20.

Children: William (1705-1749), Samuel (1707-1708), Hannah (1708-1772), Josiah (1710-1800), Lucy (1712-1797), Abigail (1713-1794), Sarah (1719-1726), Mary (1722-1801), Appleton (1724-1779)

In 1705 permission was granted for the Great Swamp Settlement to establish its own church. Rev. Burnham moved to Kensington in 1705 as pastor.

On December 23, 1707, the community voted to give him 50 acres of land.

On December 20, 1712, the church building was dedicated, and he was formally ordained.

In 1721 the Great Swamp Settlement was renamed to the Kensington Society.

His only published work was an election sermon titled: God's {Providence on placing men in the respective stations and conditions, asserted and shewed which was preached before the General Assembly on May 10, 1722.

After his wife's death in 1747, he married "widow Buckingham" (Anne Foster 1681-1765)

Died September 23, 1750, Kensington

Buried Christian Lane Cemetery - Find a grave (Internet) photos.



Inscription: Here lies interred Rev. Mr Burnham who having served his generation according to the will of God fell asleep in the 66th year of his age. He was a "faithful preacher and a sound pastor" serving the church until his death in the 38th year of his ministry.

Will: he divided his estate equally between his three sons. He was a slave owner. He freed a slave, Peter Tusco. In his will his inventory included: a Spanish Indian woman named Maria & a mulatto boy James.



COLE

1705 petition: John Cole

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Coles

1909 Founder's Rock: Cole

John Cole

Born on Jan 28, 1664, in Farmington, son of John Cole and Rachel Hart

Brother to Nathaniel Cole

Married in June 1691 to Mehitable Loomis (1676-1729), daughter of Thomas Loomis and Mary Judd

children: Sarah (1693-), John (1696-1783), Stephen (1698-1777), Mary (1700-1794), Matthew (1703-1761), Ruth (1706-), Mehitable (1708-1769)

CT Church Records Abstract – member Kensington Church December 10, 1712

Died March 8, 1707, Farmington - unknown grave.

Nathaniel Cole

Born 1678 in Farmington, son of John Cole and Rachel Hart

Brother to John Cole

Married on June 11, 1707, to Elizabeth Woodford (1682-1749), daughter of Joseph Woodford and Rebecca Newell

Children: Lydia (1709-1776), Nathan (1711-1763), Rachel (1712-1782), Job (1714-1779), Nathaniel (1716-1778), Elisha (1718-1778), Eunice (1722-)

Died June 20, 1743, in Kensington. Christian Lane Cemetery.

Find a grave (Internet) photo.



Stephen Cole

born Oct 3, 1698, Kensington, son of John Cole and Mehitable Loomis

CT Church Records Abstracts: member Christian Lane Church Dec 10, 1712

married on June 11, 1729, to Abigail Hart (1702-1736), daughter of Stephen Hart and Sarah Cowles

children: Sarah (1730-1800), Mary (1732-1763), Abigail (1734-1816)

married 2nd time to Lydia Benton (1705-1783)

children: Stephen (1745-1801), Lydia (1747-)

He is the 3rd great-grandfather of composer Cole Porter (1891-1964), wrote Kiss me Kate, a Broadway musical.

died Jan 11, 1777, Berlin – South Burying Ground /Blue Hills Cemetery – no gravestone.

COWLES

1705 petition: Isaac Cowles, Samuel Cowles, Caleb Cowles, Nathl Cowles (see Nathaniel Cole)

1712: seven pillars of church: Caleb Cowles

1716/17 seating: Caleb Couls, Saml Couls

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Cowles

1909 Founder's Rock: Cowles

Deacon Samuel Cowles

Genealogy of the Cowles Families in America

Born in 1639 in Hartford, the son of John Coles and Hannah

Married June 14, 1660, in Farmington to Abigail Stanley (1639-1736), daughter of Timothy Stanley and Elizabeth Morris

Children: **Samuel (1661/2-)**, Abigail (1664-1718), Hannah (1664-1701), Timothy (1666-1736), Sarah (1668-), John (1670/71-1748), Nathaniel (1672/3-1729), **Isaac (1675-1756)**, Joseph (1677-1760), Elizabeth (1679/80-1727), **Caleb (1682-1725)**

In 1672 given a land grant on June 18, 1670, of 19 acres of land in the Great Swamp

Died April 17, 1691 – unknown grave.

Caleb Cowles

Brother Issac and Samuel, Father Samuel

Colonel Calvin Duvall Cowles, Genealogy of the Cowles Families in America, c1929

Born June 20, 1682, Farmington, son of Samuel Cowles and Abigail Stanley

lineage Caleb3, Samuel2, John1

brothers Isaac, Nathaniel and Samuel

married Aug 8, 1710, to Abigail Woodford (1685-1736), daughter of Joseph Woodford and Rebecca Newell in Farmington.

The family settled in Kensington.

Caleb was one of the seven pillars of the "Great Swamp" Society church on Dec 10, 1712.

Children: Hezekiah (1711-1736), Abigail (1713-1736) unmarried, Ziba (1715-), Esther (1715/16-1794), Daniel (1717-1798), Caleb (1719-1753) unmarried, Susannah (1721-1755), Hannah (1723-1768), Mercy (1724/5-1809)

Son Daniel Cowles donated the land for the present meeting house of the Kensington Congregational Church, dedicated December 1774.

Died Nov 25, 1725, Kensington – South Burying Ground/Blue Hills Cemetery – unknown grave.

Abigail died in 1736 at age 50 –South Burying Ground/Blue Hills Cemetery – unknown grave

Captain Isaac Cowles

Colonel Calvin Duvall Cowles, Genealogy of the Cowles Families in America, c1929

Born March 28, 1675, Farmington, son of Samuel Cowles and Abigail Stanley

Brothers Caleb and Samuel, and Father Samuel

Married Jan 2, 1694, to Mary Andrews (1674-1708), daughter of Daniel Andrews and Mary Peck

Children: Mary (1697-), Abigail (1699-), Isaac (1702-), Elizabeth (1705-), Jemina (1707-)

Married 2nd on Nov 1, 1709, to Sarah Andrews (1676-1715), daughter of Nathan Andrews and Phebe Gibbard of New Haven

Children: Jedediah (1713-1713)

Married 3rd Dec 27, 1716, to Elizabeth Smith (1689/90 Farmington-1767), daughter of Joseph Smith and Lydia Hewitt

Children: Judah (1718-died in infancy), Solomon (1719-), Ezekiel (1721-),

James (1723-), Elijah (1726/7-), Amos (1730-)
appointed Ensign May 1717, Lt May 1723, Captain May 1731

He was a town constable.

Representative to General Assembly in 1726

A man of great energy and enterprise and became an extensive landholder. He was a tailor by trade.

Died Feb 7, 1756, at 80 years - buried in Farmington Memento Mori Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.



Samuel Cowles, son of Samuel Cowles and Abigail Stanley

Genealogy of the Cowles Families in America

He was a man of small size, rather spare, eyes brown, hair of light cast, legs small and trim, with a turn peculiar to the Cowles family, reserved in conversation, steady in mind and mild disposition and not easily provoked to a passion.

Born March 17, 1662, in Farmington, 2nd son of Samuel Cowles and Abigail Stanley

Brother to Caleb and Isaac, Father Samuel

In 1672 he was a proprietor in Farmington

Married on May 12, 1685, in Farmington to Rachel Porter (1658-1743), daughter of Thomas Porter and Sarah Hart

Children: Thomas (1685/6-1750), Ruth (1688-1761), Rachel (1690-1750), Samuel (1692-1777), John (1694-1761), Esther (1697-1776)

He and his wife joined the Farmington Church on May 25, 1690.

Samuel appointed May 1702 by the General Assembly as townsman for 1 year.

By 1716 he moved to Kensington

Rachel died in 1743 – Christian Lane Cemetery – unmarked grave.

Died Oct 14, 1748, in Kensington at his son's house – Christian Lane Cemetery – unmarked grave.

CURTISS

1716/17 seating: Thos Curtice

1909: Founder's Rock: Curtice

Thomas Curtiss

born on Dec 24, 1680, in Wethersfield, the son of Joseph Curtis and Mercy Deming.

Married on Dec 30, 1703, to Mary Goodrich (1682-1730), daughter of John Goodrich and Rebecca Allen.

Children: Mary (1705-1759), Rebecca (1705-1781), Mercy (1707-1757), Sibyl (1708-1794), Zebulon (1710-1798), Patience (1710-1770), Elnathan (1712-1781), Thomas (1715-1715), Rachel (1715-1803), James (1718-1790), Prudence (1718-1759), Waitstill (1723-1792), Lois (1725-1804),

A tinsmith

By 1716/17 resident of Kensington

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library Local History Room Historical Name Index: In 1736: On December 1, 1736, a committee was formed with Captain Thomas Curtiss, to consider the price to be paid for the land upon which a new meeting house was to be built and to agree about a fence around the Meeting House

Died Jan 20, 1752 – Wethersfield Village Cemetery – unmarked grave.

DEMING

1716/17 seating: Jacob Deming

1909 Founder's Rock: Deming

Jacob Deming

Genealogy of the descendants of John Deming of Wethersfield, Connecticut by Judson Keith Deming, c1904

He was a large landowner in Wethersfield. He lived in or near the town line of



Farmington but was often referred to as a resident of Kensington. Home built in 1717 at the intersection of Christian Lane and Deming Road. Torn down.

He was given "the second seat in the square body on Jan 17, 1716.

In Dec 1730 he is recorded as a member of the Prudential Committee of the Kensington Church.

He also owned property in Rocky Hill and Newington.

Born: December 20, 1689, in Wethersfield, the son of Jonathan Deming and Elizabeth Gilbert.

Married on Nov 3, 1709, in Wethersfield to Dinah Churchill, daughter of Joseph Churchill and Mary Catlin.

Children: first two born in Wethersfield, rest in Farmington (Kensington): Dinah (1710-1710), Lt Joseph (1722-1774), Jacob (1713-1791), Anna (1716-1793), Lucia (1718-1719), Moses (1720-1795)

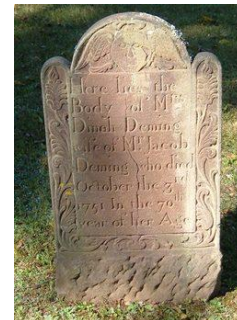
The family were early residents of Kensington.

Dinah died on October 5, 1751, age 70 years – Christian Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Here lies the body of Mrs Dinah Deming wife of Mr Jacob Deming who died October the 3rd 1751 in her 70th year of her age.

Find a grave (Internet) photo.



On March 29, 1752, in Meriden Jacob remarried Abigail Rich (1687-1771), widow of Timothy Jerome.



Jacob died on April 2, 1771, in Farmington (Kensington) – Unknown grave.

Abigail died on Nov 18, 1771, and is buried in the Old South Cemetery in Bristol: In memory of Mrs Abigail Deming wife of Mr. Jacob Deming she died 1771 in 83rd year of her age. Former wife of Mr. Timothy Jerome. Find a grave (Internet) photo.

DEWEY

1705 petition: Daniel Dewey

1716/17 seating: widow Duey

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Dewey

1909 Founder's Rock: Dewey

Daniel Dewey

The Descendants of Richard Beckley of Wethersfield, CT by Caroleen Beckley

Sheppard, c1948

Born March 9, 1679, in Westfield, MA, son of Jedediah Dewey and Sarah Orton

Married on Sept 27, 1706, to Catherine Beckley (1684-1768), daughter of John Beckley

and Hannah Deming and granddaughter of Sgt Richard Beckley and Hannah

Deming

Children: Daniel (1707-1786), Sarah (1712-1782)

Died Jan 1717 in Farmington – unknown grave.

Catherine remarried to John Deming on Aug 12, 1731.

Catherine died Dec 24, 1768, in Newington – unknown grave.

GALPEN

1716/17 seating: Saml Galpen

1909 Founder's Rock: Galpen

Ensign Samuel Galpin

Born 1689 in Stratford, CT, son of Samuel Galpin and Elizabeth St. John

Married on Dec 1, 1714, in Middletown to Anne Knight (1688-1743), daughter of George Knight and Sarah Church.

By 1716/17 the family lived in the Worthington Ridge area

Children: Ann (1715-1780), Samuel (1718-1763), Abigail (1720-1775), Joseph (1725-1743), Mary (1727-1742), Mercy (1727-1742)

Married 2nd to Mary Osgood (1669-1758).

Married 3rd to Mary Allen (1669-1762)

Anne Knight died in 1743, buried Christian Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo (right).

Wife of Mr Samuel Galpin in the 56th year of her age.



Mary Osgood died in 1758 in her 59th year. Buried Maple Cemetery – no gravestone.

Mary Allen died in 1762.
Find a grave (Internet) photo (left).



Samuel died Dec 23, 1771, in Berlin at age 82. He was buried in Maple Cemetery.

Find a grave (Internet) photo: Samuel Galpin – Maple Cemetery (right)



GILBERT

1661 – building roads, tavern (south of Silver Lake on the Meriden/Berlin line), Belcher Wall – see Section Two

1716/17 seating: Mr. Ebenezer Gilbard, John Gilbird

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Gilbert

1909 Founder's Rock: Gilbert

Ebenezer Gilbert

The Gilbert Family descendants of Thomas Gilbert of Mt Wollaston, Braintree, Windsor and Wethersfield, by Homer Worthington Brainard, c1953

Ebenezer was left by his father in his will “all that 300 acres of land I bought of Captain Daniel Clark of Farmington, also the land I bought of Masecup, commonly called and known by the name Pagonchamischau (the place where hazelnuts grow, or the white oak place; later known as Christian Lane)

born on Aug 11, 1666, in Hartford, son of Jonathan Gilbert and Mary Welles married on October 27, 1692, to Esther Allyn (1676-1750), daughter of Thomas Allyn and Abigail

children: Esther (1694-1711), Lemuel (1698-died young), Thomas (1699-), Sarah (1702-1744), Moses (1707-1803), Ebenezer (1711-1750), Jonathan (1709-)

1718 transferred from Hartford Church to Christian Lane Church by letter.

Aug 28, 1719, charged with breach of the 5th commandment: honor thy father and mother.

November 17, 1717, Mr. Ebenezer Gilbert and others were chosen to be a committee to order the prudentials of a school in this Society and offer their advice about it at the next meeting. On December 1,

1718 the committee reported that the people were too scattered and the roads too bad to permit a general school and that the Society be divided into five parts or “squadrons” for the convenience of schooling of children. From The Gilbert Family by Homer Worthington Brainard, c1953 page 81

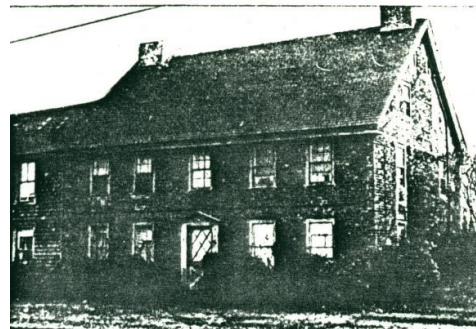
In 1724 asked why he was absent from Church.

In 1729 he was admonished for contempt.

See Captain Richard Beckley about an early fort in town.

Died Aug 11, 1736, in Kensington – unknown grave.

Gilbert home on Christian Lane 1707-early 2000s – torn down.



John Gilbert

Baptized March 31, 1689, in Middletown, son of Josiah Gilbert and Mary Harris

Ct Church Records Abstract: member Kensington Church Dec 10, 1712

In 1718 inhabitants of Middletown's N.W. quarter petitioned to be excused from supporting the Middletown Central Church, so that they might join Great Swamp Society. They were refused.

Married on May 2, 1723, in Middletown to Eunice Goff (1696-1738), daughter of Jacob Goff and Margery Ingersoll

Children: Josiah (1724-1770), Margery (1726-1745), Mary (1730-1741), Eunice (1734-1822), Lois (1738-1801)

Died Nov 7, 1769, Berlin at age 81 – Maple Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Here lies the body of Mr John Gilbert who departed this life Nov 7, 1769, in the 81st year of his age.



GOODRICH

1909: Founder's Rock: Goodrich

Allen Goodrich

born 1690 Wethersfield, son of John Goodrich and Rebecca Allen

married 1st on Dec 29, 1709, to Elizabeth Goodrich (1691 Wethersfield- 1726 Farmington), daughter of David Goodrich and Hannah Wright

children: Elizabeth (1710-), Elisha (1712-), Abigail (1714-1803), Jedediah (1717-1803), Samuel (1720-1789), John (1722-1727), Allen (1726-)

married 2nd on Dec 10, 1729, to Hannah Seymour (1707 Farmington -1736 Farmington), daughter of Samuel Seymour and Hannah North

children: John (1734-1816), Asahel (1736-)

On Dec 6, 1738, at a church meeting, he and William Ellis were granted 7s, 6d for framing a bier to carry the dead.

Allyn was known as the blacksmith of the Great Swamp – North p20.

died: April 8, 1764, Farmington – unknown grave.

S.R. Durand: A descendant of John Goodrich also named "John Goodrich was born March 26, 1734, so was twenty-three years old at the time of his marriage. This was at a time of Indian troubles. They lived a little way in front and north of the fort in Berlin, Connecticut. The outside doors of their home were double and were fastened at the top and again at the bottom. A loaded gun always hung on the wall near the doors. The logs for the great fireplace were attached to a chain and pulley arrangement and dragged into the house by oxen.

The old Goodrich home had been built in the early 1700's by John Goodrich's father, Allyn Goodrich. The house was set well back from the road and had only one window in front, with great lilac bushes on each side of the front door."

GRIDLEY

1705 petition: Thos Gridley

1716/17 seating: Thos Gridley, John Gridley, Saml Gridley

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Gridley

1909 Founder's Rock: Gridley

John Gridley

born on January 26, 1681, Farmington, baptized Jan 29, 1681, in Farmington, son of Samuel Gridley and Esther Thompson

lineage: John³, Samuel², Thomas¹

married on May 3, 1716, in Farmington to Dorothy Benton (1688 Hartford-about 1755 Farmington), daughter Andrew Benton and Martha Spencer

Connecticut Church Record Abstracts – 1712 member of Christian Lane Church

Children: Elizabeth (1716-1741), Mary (1717-1807), Martha (1718-1807), Mercy (1719-1807), John (1721-1784), Andrew (1723-), Dr Amos Gridley (1726-1797)

died 1739 Kensington – unknown grave.

Thomas Gridley

Baptized June 17, 1683, in Farmington, son of Thomas Gridley and Elizabeth Clark
Brother Samuel Gridley

Married on August 3, 1710, to Elizabeth Brownson (1688-1767), daughter of Samuel Brownson and Sarah Gibbs

Children: Ebenezer (1712-1779), Elizabeth (1715-1761), Matthew (1720-), Elnathan (1727-1781), Thomas (1727-1804)

Died Jan 22, 1754, Kensington – unknown grave.

Samuel Gridley

Born March 21, 1686, in Farmington, son of Thomas Gridley and Elizabeth Clark
Brother Thomas Gridley

Married Aug 21, 1723, to Abigail Hough (1689-1725)

Married 2nd on Dec 12, 1727, in Lebanon to Rebecca Chamberlain (1705-Dec 1772 Kensington)

Children: Abigail (1730-), Clement (1732-1822), Abraham (1742-1827), Job (1746-1800), Noah (1748-1838)

Died Apr 28, 1772 – unknown grave.

HANCOX/ HANCOCK

1716/17 seating: Thos Hancox sen, Wm Hancox, Daniel Hancox

Thomas Hancox

Born 1647 in Farmington, son of Nathaniel Hancox and Joanna Wright

Married March 17, 1684, in Springfield, MA to Rachel Leonard (1665-1734), daughter of John Leonard and Sarah Heald

Children: Thomas (1685-1721), Mehitable (1685-1698), Elizabeth (1686-), Solomon (1687-1710), Mary (1687-1688), John (1688-1775), **William (1690-1721)**, Rachel (1691-), Abel (1691-1776), **Daniel (1693-1761)**, Jonathan (1695-1775), Mabel (1697-1780), Mehitable (1698-1752)

Died July 11, 1734, in Farmington – unknown grave.

William Hancox

Born March 1, 1690, in Farmington, son of Thomas Hancox and Rachel Leonard

Brother Daniel Hancox

Married about 1718

Children: John (1720-)

Died Aug 17, 1721 – unknown grave.

Daniel Hancox

Born Jan 1, 1695, Farmington, son of Thomas Hancox and Rachel Leonard

Brother William Hancox

Married June 4, 1724, to Rachel Porter (1703-1801), daughter of Nehemiah Porter and Hannah Lum. The Porters and Hancox families were neighbors.

Children: Amy (1724-1754), Ann (1725-), Perle (1727-), Pede (1727-1776), Jonathan (1730-1757), Mary (1732-1757), Tabitha (1741-1763)

Died April 8, 1761, in Caanan, CT – Mountain View Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photos.

Here lies the body of Mr. Daniel Hancox, who died April ye 8th, 1761 in the 76th year of his age: Here we must lie beneath the Tomb till Jesus Christ in Glory comes.



Rachel died in 1801 in Canaan, CT
Find a grave (Internet) photo.

In memory of Mrs Rachel wife of Mr Daniel Hancox who died April 1801 in the 100th year of her age: The Hoary head is a crown of glory if it be found in the way of righteousness.



HARRIS

1716/17 seating: Joseph Harris

Joseph Harris

Born on March 1, 1690, in Middletown, son of Daniel Harris and Abigail Barnes

In 1718 inhabitants of Middletown N.W. quarter petitioned to be excused from supporting the Middletown Central Church so that they might join the Great Swamp Society. They were refused.

Member of Christian Lane Church

In Dec 1720, he was appointed Town tax collector.

Married 1721 to Mary Hopkin (baptized March 10, 1699, in Waterbury-1759 West Hartford), the daughter of Joseph Hopkins and Hannah Peck

Children: Abigail (1722-1754)

Find a grave (Internet) photo – “In the month of August 1721, Mr. Joseph Harris (One of the first settlers of Litchfield, from Middletown), a respectable inhabitant, was at work plowing the fields along, and being attacked by a party of Indians, attempted to make his escape. The Indians pursued him; and finding that they could not overtake him, they shot him dead and scalped him. As Mr. Harris did not return, the inhabitants were alarmed, and some search was made for him; but the darkness of the night checked their exertions. The next morning, they found his body, near the Almshouse, and gave it a decent burial. Mr. Harris was killed near the north end of the Plain where the road turns to Milton, a little east of a schoolhouse now standing; and for a long time after, this Plain was called Harris’ Plain. The place of his internment remained unmarked for more than a century. but rested in the memory of the older inhabitants. He was buried in the West Burial Ground, near the village of Litchfield. In 1830, a suitable monument, with the appropriate inscription, was erected at his grave by voluntary contributions.

Died August 1721 in Litchfield, CT. Find a grave (Internet) photo.



Inscription: In memory of Joseph Harris who was murdered by the Indians in the year 1721 while plowing in his field in the vicinity of the Alms House he was shot by the Indians concealed in ambush. He was found dead sitting on the ground, his head and body reclining against the trunk of a tree. To record the first death among the original settlers of this town & to perpetuate the memory of a worthy but unfortunate citizen this monument is erected 1830 by the voluntary benefactions of individual subscribers.

Mary remarried Stephen Sedgewick and had several children. Mary died on Feb 3, 1759, and is buried in West Hartford – Center Cemetery.

HART

1705 petition: John Hart, sen, Thomas Hart
1712: Seven pillars: Thos Hart and his wife
1716/17 seating: Thos Hart, Hez Hart, Saml Hart
1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Harts
1909 Founder's Rock: Hart

Deacon Thomas Hart

Genealogical History of Deacon Stephen Hart and his descendants by Alfred Andrews, c1875

born April 1, 1680, in Farmington, son of Captain Thomas Hart and Ruth Hawkins brother Hezekiah.

Dec 10, 1712: One of the seven pillars of the church

Married on Dec 17, 1702, to 1st Mary Thompson (1682-1763), daughter of John Thompson and Mary Steele

Children: Mary (1702-1782), Ebenezer (1705-1773), Elijah (1707-1711), Hannah (1709-1794), Elijah (1711-1772), Ruth (1713-1779), Mercy (1724-1726)

Daughter Mercy's grave was the oldest stone in Christian Lane Cemetery

Deacon 1718/19 until January 29, 1773

In 1732, the inhabitants of Kensington having fallen into dispute about where to locate their second meeting house, application was made to the Legislature, who, at their May session, 1732, directed it to be built on Deacon Thomas Hart's home lot.

1739-1747 represented town for six sessions to the General Assembly

Mary died in 1763 at age 83, buried in Christian Lane Cemetery – unknown grave.

Married 2nd on Jan 11, 1764, in Kensington to Elizabeth Galpin (1685-1771), widow of Ensign Isaac Norton. She died and was buried by her 1st husband in Maple Cemetery. Isaac Norton is also one of the Founders.

Home at corner Farmington Avenue and Burnham (Now Walgreens Pharmacy)

1771 Selectman

Justice of the Peace, a farmer, made weaver's reeds for home looms.

He was one of the most influential men in Kensington Society. Esquire was often used by his name.

died Jan 29, 1773, at age 93 – Christian Lane Cemetery – unknown grave.

Mary Thompson died Oct 1763 at age 83 – Christian Lane Cemetery



Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Inscription: In memory of Mrs Mary Hart the amiable consort of Deacon Thomas Heart Esq'r who departed this life October A.D. 1763 in the 83rd year of her age



Hezekiah Hart

Genealogical History of Deacon Stephen Hart and his descendants by Alfred Andrews, c1875

born Nov 23, 1684, in Farmington, son of Thomas Hart and Ruth Hawkins

brother Deacon Thomas Hart

lineage: Hezekiah3, Thomas2, Stephen1

married in 1705 to Martha Beckley (1692-1752), daughter of Benjamin Beckley and Rebecca, granddaughter of Sgt Richard Beckley, the first settler and Hannah Deming

Children: Rebecca (1711-1781), Hezekiah (1714-1730), Martha (1717-1748), Lucy (1720-1748), David (1724-1786), Ruth (1726-1773), Zerviah (1728-1786), Hepzibah (1732-1792), Zachariah (1733-1811)

In 1721 he was given all of his father's property in the Great Swamp

He lived on Lower Lane, probably south of Norton Road

died Sept 29, 1752 - South (Maple Cemetery), Berlin

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Martha Beckley died Sept 7, 1752 – South (Maple Cemetery)

Find a grave (internet) photo.

Inscription: Here lies interr'd the body of Mrs. Martha Hart, wife of Mr. Hezekiah Hart who died Septr ye 7th 1752 in the 61st year of her age



Hezekiah Hart died September 29, 1752, age 67 years – South (Maple Cemetery) – unknown grave.

John Hart

Genealogical History of Deacon Stephen Hart and his descendants by Alfred Andrews, c1875

Born April 4, 1665, in Farmington, son of John Hart and Sarah Hathorne

In 1666, his father's house burned, and all the family died. He was away visiting.

Married in 1682 in Farmington to Martha Moore (1664-1738) daughter of Isaac Moore and Ruth Stanley

Children: Mary (1685-1740), Deacon John (1686-1753), Deacon-Sgt. Isaac (1686-1777), Sarah (1687-1751), Matthew (1690-1736), **Samuel (1692-1751)**, Nathaniel (1695-1758)

Ensign in Farmington 1695, Lt in 1703, Captain in 1707

Elected to General Assembly 1702-1714

Son John Hart was a deacon first in Farmington, then in Kensington.

Died January 11, 1714, at age 74 – unknown grave.

Lt. Samuel Hart

Genealogical History of Deacon Stephen Hart and his descendants by Alfred Andrews, c1875

born 1690 Farmington, son of Capt. John Hart and Martha Moore

married on Dec 25, 1723, to Mary Hooker (1700-1780), daughter of John Hooker and Abigail Stanley. Samuel was one of five sons of John Hart of Farmington. and was one of three brothers to marry a daughter of John Hooker. The Hookers and Harts were neighbors.

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library Local History Room Historical Name Index: resident of Great Swamp in 1723. Carried 2 bushels of wheat, valued at 11 shillings to the Rev. Burnham as his tax support of Christian Lane Church. He was an LT in the War of King George in 1740. Died at age 59 years. Sources: Beers, North, Children: Annie (1724-1800), Asahel (1726-1736), Mary (1730-1792), Huldah (1731-), Samuel (1738-1813)

A farmer – the family lived on Hart Street (now named Lower Lane), north of Norton Road.

Grandfather of Emma Hart Willard.

Died Sept 30, 1751, Berlin – Maple Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.



Inscription: Here lies interr'd the body of Samuel Hart who departed this life Septemr 30th AD 1751 in 60th year of his age

HENSIEL

1909 Founder's Rock: Hensdel (Hinsdale)

Captain John Hinsdale

Hinsdale Genealogy: descendants of Robert Hinsdale of Dedham, edited Alfred Hinsdale Andrews

Born Aug 13, 1706, in Hartford, son of Barnabas Hinsdale and Martha Smith

Lineage: Barnabas, Barnabas, Robert

Married Nov 8, 1733, to Elizabeth Cole (1711-1784), daughter of Nathaniel Cole of Hartford and Elizabeth Knight.

Children: John (1734-1743), Elizabeth (1736-1772), Theodore (1738-1818), Lucy (1741-1790), Elijah (1744-), Lydia (1747-), John (1749-)

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library Local History Room Historical Name Index: Captain John settled in Berlin, CYT where he owned a farm.

Member Kensington Church soon after marriage.

May 1749 he was appointed Ensign of the 15th Company in the 6th Regiment, May 1752 made LT, and May 1759 made Captain.

In 1766 he was one on the standing committee of the Kensington Church.

In 1775 he was a founding member and moderator of the 2nd Church.

About 1780 he moved to New Britain and united with the New Britain Society.
a blacksmith.

He was a man of rare military and literary ability.

He was the grandfather of Emma Hart Willard.

Find a grave (Internet) photos.

Died Dec 2, 1793 – Maple Cemetery

Elizabeth died July 5, 1784 – Maple Cemetery



HOLLISTER

1909: Founder's Rock: Hollister

Gershom Hollister

born April 2, 1692, in Wethersfield, son of Stephen Hollister and Abigail Treat

lineage: Gershom3, Stephen2, John1

married Sarah Gilbert (1702-1744), daughter of Ebenezer Gilbert and Esther Allyn

children: Abel (1724-1748), Thomas (1726-1748), Stephen (1729-1798), Gideon (1730-1790), Esther (1733-1776)

died August 15, 1750, in Kensington – unknown grave.

HOOKER

1909 Founder's Rock: Hooker

Samuel Hooker

The Descendants of Rev. Thomas Hooker, Hartford, Connecticut by Edward Hooker, c1909

born April 6, 1688, in Farmington, son of Samuel Hooker and Mehitabel Hamlin

lineage: Samuel⁴, Samuel³, Samuel², Rev Thomas¹

married on Jan 9, 1710, to Mary Leete (1688-1750), daughter of Andrew Leete and Elizabeth Jordan of Guilford

children: Andrew (1713-1769), Elizabeth (1714-1784), Mercy (1719-1800), Mehitabel (1722-), Sybil (1724-1817), Samuel (1726-1807), Ann (1728-), Esther (1731-1757), Thomas (1734-died young)

married 2nd about 1753 to Mary Elliot, widow of Abraham Pierson (1688-1771), daughter of Rev Joseph Wyllys and Mary. She was buried in Christian Lane Cemetery.



Mercy/Mary died Feb 4, 1751, at age 62 – Christian Lane Cemetery – unknown grave.

Samuel Hooker died March 1, 1787, at age 98 in Kensington - Christian Lane Cemetery

On hearing of the death of his brother Giles, age 97, Samuel fell back in his chair and expired.

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

John Hooker

The Descendants of Rev. Thomas Hooker, Hartford, Connecticut by Edward Hooker, c1909

born March 6, 1695, in Farmington, son of John Hooker and Abigail Stanley

lineage: John⁴, John³, Samuel², Rev Thomas¹

Married on July 4, 1728, to Mercy/Mary Hart (1703-1782), daughter of Deacon Thomas Hart and Mary Thompson

children: John (1729-1777), Seth (1731-1758), Ashbel (1737-1764), Elijah (1746-1823)

Justice of the Peace

Prominent and active man in the business of the town

died Aug 3, 1766, Kensington - Christian Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Here lies the body of John Hooker



HUBBARD

1716/17 seating: Saml Hubbard, Geo Hubbard

1909 Founder's Rock: Hubbard

Samuel Hubbard

One thousand years of Hubbard History 866-1865 by Edward Warren Day, c1895

Born March 27, 1678, in Middletown, son of Samuel Hubbard and Sarah Kirby

lineage: Samuel3, Samuel2, George1

married on May 1, 1700, to Martha Peck (1679-1752), daughter of Paul Peck and Elizabeth Baysey

children: Samuel (1704-11777), Timothy (1707-1804), Ruth (1710-1735), Watts (1714-1802)

1718: inhabitants of Middletown's N.W. Quarter petitioned to be excused from supporting the Middletown Central Church, so that they might join the "Great Swamp Society".



Samuel died in 1745 in Kensington age 67 – unknown grave.

Martha Hubbard died in 1752 – Maple Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Here lies the body of Mrs Martha Hubbard widow of Mr Samuel Hubbard who died Oct the 19th 1750 in the 75th year of her age.

George Hubbard

One thousand years of Hubbard history 866–1865 by Edward Warren Day, c1895

There were four George Hubbards born in Middletown, close in age. Identifying parents, wives, and children can be difficult.

Born Dec 29, 1680, son of Samuel Hubbard and Sarah Kirby

Married Feb 1711 to Mercy/Mary Seymour (1683-1731), daughter of Richard Seymour and Hannah Woodruff

Children: Mercy (1715-), Gideon (1717-1717), George (1717-1717), Richard (1718-1795), Thankful (1719-1764)

Married 2nd on November 20, 1735, to Sarah Cole (1680-1779)

Children: Sarah (1737-1821)

1718: inhabitants of Middletown's N.W. Quarter petitioned to be excused from supporting the Middletown Central Church, so that they might join the "Great Swamp Society".

In 1775, he and his wife were members of the Berlin Congregational Church.

Died Sept 19, 1751, at age 58 – Maple Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.



Sarah Cole remarried on December 15, 1757, to Jonathan Notts

HURLBURT

1716/17 seating: Jonath Hurlburt

Jonathan Hurlburt

Born on March 2, 1677, Wethersfield, son of Samuel Hurlburt and Mary Good

Married on July 27, 1699, to Sarah Webb (1680-1702), daughter of Joseph Webb and Elizabeth Scofield

children: Stephen (1700-1735), Jonathan (1702-)

married 2nd in July 1702 to Abiah Gillette (1680-1730), daughter of Jeremiah Gillett and Rachel Kelsey of Wethersfield

children with Abiah: Josiah (1704-1777), Abiah (1707-), Sarah (1710-), Mary (1713-1713), Isaac (1715-1794) in Kensington, Dr James (1717-1794) in Kensington, Martha (1719-)

On October 13, 1715, The General Assembly approved that the southward part of the Western Society of Wethersfield be annexed to the southeastern society in the Township of Farmington as a great convenience to those families. This allowed eight families in west Wethersfield and Beckley lands to worship at the Great Swamp Society. One of the petitioners was Jonathan Hurlburt.

died April 17, 1730, Kensington – unknown grave.

JUDD

1705 petition: Anthony Judd, Benj Judd

1712: seven pillar and first deacon: Anthony Judd

1716/17 seating: Jenin Judd, Dea Judd and his wife

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Benjamin Judd and Deacon Anthony Judd

1909 Founder's Rock: Judd

Anthony Judd - 1st Deacon

NEHGR Vol 72, July 1918 p 220

Thomas Judd and his descendants by Sylvester Judd, c1856

Born 1674 in Farmington, 3rd son of John Judd and Mary Hawkins

married on June 28, 1707, to Susannah Woodford (1683-1726), daughter of Joseph Woodford and Rebecca Newell

children: Amos (1708-1762), Ithiel (1710-1762), Lydia (1713-1762), Phineas (1715-1790), John (1718-1781), David (1719-1733), Gideon (1722-1724), Susannah (1726- 1812)

married 2nd to Mary Seymour (1708-)

December 10, 1712 – one of the pillars and first Deacon of Great Swamp Society
farmer

man of influence

represented Farmington at the General Court many times 1717-1739

left estate of 5360 pounds

died Nov 8, 1751 – unknown grave.

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library Local History Room Historical Name index: At a meeting of the [Great Swamp, later Kensington CT] Church 10 March 1712-13 Anthony Judd was chosen to do the work of a Deacon and to stand as a probationer for the Deacons office.

Lord's day afternoon 28 Nov 1714 *Anthony Judd* having been chosen as beforementioned and stood as a probationer for the Deacons office, at the desire of the Church, he was confirmed in, and Ordained to the said office according to the rule of the Gospel, with the following charge. "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I ordain thee, *Anthony* a Deacon of this Church; and I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge both the quick and the dead at his appearing and kingdom, that thou be faithful to the trust that is committed unto thee, thou art made a steward of the external good things of this Church, and it is required of stewards that they be found faithful, see that thou art grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre, hold the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience, Rule well thine own house, and if thou shalt use the office of a Deacon well, thou shalt purchase to thyself a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." "

--- Alfred Andrews, *Memorial [of New Britain CT], Chicago, 1867, p20-21

Sgt Benjamin Judd

Thomas Judd and his descendants by Sylvester Judd, c1856
born 1671 Farmington son of Benjamin Judd and Mary Lewis

lineage: Benjamin², Thomas¹

married on Jan 18, 1693/4, to Susannah North (1676-1764), daughter of John North and
Susanna Francis

children: Benjamin (1697-1774), Susannah (1699-1802), Mary (1702-1750), Abigail
(1703-), Kesia (1705-1791), Bathsheba (1707-1772), Joannah (1709-), Catherine
(1711-), Uriah (1713-1774), James (1717-1783), Nathan (1719-1764), Hezekiah
(1722-)

lived on East Street in New Britain (then part of
Kensington)

He joined the Great Swamp Society on March 2, 1712/13,
with his wife Susannah.

He was one of the patriarchs of the Great Swamp Society.

He was a large landowner.

In 1757 he joined the New Britain Church

died on March 9, 1764, New Britain – Fairview Cemetery
– unknown grave.



Susannah died on April 23, 1764, in her 88th year.

Find a grave (Internet) photo: Fairview Cemetery, New Britain

KELSEY

1716/17 seating: John Cellsie, Steve Cellsey

1909 Founder's Rock: Kelsey

John Kelsey

Born Jan 20, 1678, in Suffield, son of Stephen Kelsey and Hannah Ingersoll

Married on Nov 23, 1704, in Wethersfield to Mary Buck (1687-1786), daughter of Ezekiel Buck and Rachel Andrews. Mary Buck's brother Ezekiel Buck was also an early resident.

Children: Mary (1705-), John (1706-), Hannah (1708-), Charles (1711-1785), Rachel (1714-), Comfort (1716-), Enoch (1717-1788), Ezekiel (1723-), Esther (1725-), Ruth (1727-1794),

John lived in Wethersfield and Berlin. John was a farmer, his land lying to the west of Wethersfield between Farmington and Berlin.

On October 13, 1715, The General Assembly approved that the southward part of the Western Society of Wethersfield be annexed to the southeastern society in the Township of Farmington as a great convenience to those families. This allowed eight families in west Wethersfield and Beckley lands to worship at the Great Swamp Society. One of the petitioners was John Kelsey.

Died Jan 3, 1767 – Beckley Cemetery – unknown grave.

Stephen Kelsey

Born Sept 20, 1677, son of Stephen Kelsey and Hannah Ingersoll

Married Jan 11, 1699, to Dorothy Bronson (1675-1750)

Children: Stephen (1700-17771), Jonathan (1702-1792), Dorothy (1703-), Ebenezer (1706-1758), Esther (1707-), Daniel (1709-1732), Sarah (1711-1756), Eunice (1712-1758), Abigail (1714-1745), Timothy (1716-1745), Samuel (1718-1758)

On October 13, 1715, The General Assembly approved that the southward part of the Western Society of Wethersfield be annexed to the southeastern society in the Township of Farmington as a great convenience to those families. This allowed eight families in west Wethersfield and Beckley lands to worship at the Great Swamp Society. One of the petitioners was Stephen Kelsey.

Died April 2, 1745, in New Hartford – no gravestone.

Dorothy Bronson Kelsey died in 1750 in Wethersfield.

LANKTON/ LANGTON

1705 petition: Joseph Lankton

1909 Founder's Rock: Lankton

Deacon Joseph Langdon

born March 16, 1659, Farmington, son of John Lankton and Mary Seymour

married October 1683 in Farmington to
Susannah Root (1650–1712),
daughter of John Root and Mary
Kilbourne

children: Joseph (1688-1749), Sarah
(1689-1751), John (1691-1756),
Samuel (1694-1778), Susannah
(1696-1775), Ebenezer (1701-
1746)

house located at 460 New Britain Road,
circa 1690

married 2nd on October 15, 1714, in Farmington to Mary Porter (1677-1759), daughter
of Nathaniel Porter and Elizabeth Baldwin

children: Thomas (1720-), Mercy (1729-1786)



died March 29, 1736, Farmington at age 75.

Find a grave (Internet) photo – Memento Mori Cemetery,
Farmington

LT Samuel Langdon/Langton

born December 1694 in Farmington

married on December 28, 1721, to Elizabeth Lee (1694-1777), daughter of Stephen Lee
and Elizabeth Royce

children: Samuel (1723-1794), Jonathan (1725-1803), Sarah (1730-1801), Elizabeth
(1732-1809), Susannah (1737-1821)

1734: Ensign

Elizabeth Lee died on October 11, 1750, age 50 – Christian
Lane Cemetery



Find a grave (Internet) photo (left).

Wife of Lt Samuel Lankton

In the 51st year of her age

Find a grave (Internet) photo (right).

Samuel died September 13, 1778, in his

83rd year - Ledge Cemetery

Here lies interred the body of Samuel.



LEE

1705: petition: John Lee, Stephen Lee
1712: seven pillar Stephen Lee and wife Elizabeth Royce
1716/17 seating: Steven Lee
1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Stephen Lee
1909 Founder's Rock: Lee

Dr Stephen Lee

John Lee Farmington, Hartford County and his descendants by Sarah Marsh Lee, c1878
lineage: Stephen2, John1
born 1668 in Farmington, son of John Lee and Mary Hart
in 1689 received a grant from the town of five rods of land, west side of highway,
provided it doth not hinder former grants and watering places.
home on East Street, New Britain
married on October 1, 1690, to Elizabeth Royce (1669 Wethersfield –1710 New Britain),
daughter of Isaac Royce and Elizabeth Lathrop
children: Isaac (1691-1780), Stephen (1693-1693), Elizabeth (1694-1750), Sarah (1696-
1756), Stephen (1700-1718), Martha (1701-), Mary (1704-1782), Ebenezer
(1706-1725), Hannah (1708-), Josiah (1711-1797)

Physician, a farmer

Wife Mary was a midwife.

one of first settlers of New Britain

joined Kensington church on Oct. 5, 1709

Dec 10, 1712: pillar of Kensington church

1713 on committee to see to erecting a pulpit and seats.

On committee to set minister's pay

1721 Stephen was on a committee to watch over youth.

Church moderator

He was a slave owner.

died June 7, 1753, at age 87 years by the discharge of a gun - Kensington - Christian



Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Inscription: This is in memory of Captain Stephen Lee.
One of ye first settlers of ye Society and Church of Christ
Kensington, who having served his generation by ye will
of God, fell asleep in ye 87th year of his age June 7th, 1753.
In his will he left the service of his negro Richard, as long
as she remains his widow and bears his name, during her
life, after which his youngest son,
Josiah, shall have liberty to purchase
said negro at his appraised value.
Elizabeth died in 1710 New Britain –
Fairview Cemetery



Find a grave (Internet) photo right. Here lies the body of Mrs.
Elizabeth Lee, the relct of Capt. Stephen Lee deceased, who served
in the office of midwife 40 years until she was 90 years old.

Jonathan Lee

John Lee Farmington, Hartford County and his descendants by Sarah Marsh Lee, c1878
born March 20, 1685, in Farmington, son of John Lee and Elizabeth Loomis

lineage: Jonathan3, John2, John1

CT Church Records Abstract: December 10, 1712 – member Kensington Church
married June 4, 1713, in Farmington to Mary Root (1690-1764 Farmington), daughter of
Joseph Root and Elizabeth Warner

children: Mary (1714-1792), Elizabeth (1716-1746), Lucy (1720-), Ruth (1722-1811),
John (1725-1796), Eunice (1732-)

a church deacon

died January 16, 1758 – Christian Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.



Here lies interr'd the body of Deacon Jonathan Lee who
having served his generation by the will of God fell asleep
January the 16th in ye 72nd year of his age.

John Lee

John Lee of Farmington, Hartford County, Conn and his descendants by Sarah Marsh Lee, c1878

Genealogical History of Deacon Stephen Hart and his descendants by Alfred Andrews
Born August 6, 1620, in England, son of Henry Lee and Marah Adkins

Immigrated in 1634 to Boston

married in 1658 in Farmington to Mary Hart (1630-1710)

children: John (1659-1723), Mary (1664-1715), Stephen (1666-1753), Thomas (1671-1740), Tabitha (1677-1752)

owned property in Great Swamp – lived in Blue Hills section of town, possibly on Southington Road

died August 8, 1690 - buried Memento Mori Cemetery in Farmington



Find a grave (Internet) photos.

Left – original stone.

Right – William Lee erected a new monument in 1876.



Mary Hart remarried in 1692 to Jedediah Strong. She died in 1710 from a fall from a horse as she and her husband were riding to visit her children in Coventry – Farmington - unknown grave.

LEWIS

1705 petition: Isaac Lewis

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Isaac Lewis

1909 Founder's Rock: Lewis

William Lewis

Born 1656 in Farmington, son of William Lewis and Mary Hopkins

Married 1678 to Sarah Moore (1662-1725), daughter of Isaac Moore and Ruth Stanley

Children: Ruth (1679-1734), Sarah (1682-1742), **Isaac (1685-1761)**, Daniel (1691-1751), Jonathan (1697-1788)

Died January 1737 in Farmington – unknown grave.

Isaac Lewis

Born April 26, 1685, in Farmington, son of William Lewis and Sarah Moore

Married May 4, 1710, in Farmington to Abigail Curtis (16781-1727)

Children: Eldad (1714-1769), Medad (1712-1784), William (1716-1780), Phebe (1715-1719), Isaac (1719-1784), Gideon (1721-1751), John (1722-1741), Abigail (1823-1727), Charles (1724-)

1729 named Ensign in Southington

Died April 1, 1761, Southington – South End Burying Ground – unknown grave.

MORETON

1716/17 seating: Thos Moreton

On October 13, 1715, The General Assembly approved that the southward part of the Western Society of Wethersfield be annexed to the southeastern society in the Township of Farmington as a great convenience to those families. This allowed eight families in west Wethersfield and Beckley lands to worship at the Great Swamp Society. One of the petitioners was Thomas Moreton.

No genealogical information

NEWELL

1705 petition: Samuel Newel

1909 Founder's Rock: Newell

Ensign Samuel Newell

Born December 5, 1660, Farmington, son of Thomas Newell and Rebecca Olmstead

Married on December 20, 1683, in Farmington to Mary Hart ((1666-1752), daughter of Thomas Hart and Ruth Hawkins

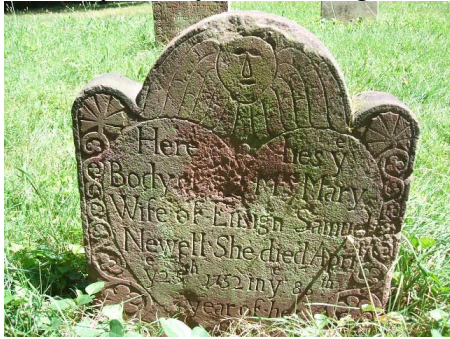
Children: Samuel (1686-1751), Thomas (1689-1755), John (1692-1777), Mary (1697-1779), Nathaniel (1703-1753), Sarah (1707-1796)

Thomas died February 15, 1752, at age 91 in Farmington – unmarked grave.

Mary died April 25, 1752 – Farmington- Memento Mori Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Here ... body of Mrs Mary wife of Ensign Samuel Newell. She died April ye 25th 1752 in ye 86th year of her age.



NORTH

1705 petition: Thos North,

1712: seven pillars of the church

1716/17 seating: Thos North, John North,

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Thomas North

1909 Founder's Rock: North

Thomas North

born 1673 in Farmington, 2nd son of Thomas North and Hannah Newell

married on December 1, 1698, to Martha Roys, daughter of Isaac Roys and Elizabeth Lathrop

children: Martha (1700-1791), Deacon Isaac (1703-1788), Thomas (1705-), James (1709-1758), Sarah (1711-1777), Samuel (1715-1725), Joseph (1720-1737), Hannah (1722-1811)

Martha died in 1763.

Pioneer settler of Christian Lane Church

1709 sold 2 parcels of land to Rev. Burnham

December 10, 1712, a pillar of the Great Swamp Society

he died March 2, 1724/5, in Kensington was buried in Christian Lane Cemetery – unknown grave.

Martha remarried in 1730 to Matthew Woodruff. She died in April 1763 in Farmington.

John North

Born April 20, 1669, in Farmington, son of Samuel North and Hannah Norton

Married on May 16, 1692, in Farmington to Mary Warner (1662-1694/5), daughter of John Warner and Anne Norton

Children: Hannah (1693-1745), Mary (1694-1734)

Married September 25, 1700, to Mary Seymour (1670-1732/3), daughter of John Seymour and Mary Watson. Mary died in Berlin.

Children: Margaret (1700-), Ruth (1702-1736), Jonathan (1704-), Josiah (1705-1777), Samuel (1708-1796), Eunice (1710-)

A weaver

Died April 20, 1745, at age 76 in Farmington – unknown grave.

NORTON

1705 petition: Isaac Norton

1716/17 seating: Isaac Norton, John Norton

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Nortons

1909 Founder's Rock: Norton

John Norton

Born May 24, 1650, in Branford, son of John Norton

Married 1674 to Ruth Moore (1657-1740), daughter of Isaac Moore and Ruth Stanley

Children: Ruth (1675-1710), **Isaac (1680-1763)**, Elizabeth (1682-1724), John (1684-1752), Sarah (1689-1775), Dorcas (1694-1750), Ebenezer (1697-1750), Thomas (1697-1760)

Owned land on east side of the Blue Hills and lived on Grove Hill Road.

Joined the Great Swamp Society on March 2, 1712/13

Died April 25, 1725, Kensington – unknown grave.

Isaac Norton

born 1680 in Farmington, son of John Norton and Ruth Moore

married on May 6, 1707, in Farmington to Elizabeth Galpin (1684-1771), daughter of Samuel Galpin and Elizabeth St John

children: Elizabeth (1708-1761), Charles (1710-), Ruth (1711-1786), Isaac (1713-1751), Abigail (1716-), Tabitha (1718-1770), Achsah (1721-1805), Josiah (1726-1726), Elnathan (1729-1801)

early member of Christian Lane Church

March 2, 1712/3, joined from another church with his wife.

Nov 12, 1717, appointed to School Committee

1731 on committee to warn and lead Society meetings.

1733 on committee to settle account for new church building.

1740 - Lived at 31 Hudson Street

On January 10, 1763, he died at age 83 –
Maple Hill Cemetery



Find a grave
(Internet) photo.
In 84th year

On January 11,
1764, Elizabeth
remarried Thomas Hart (1680-1773). Thomas was previously
married to Mary Thompson

Elizabeth died March 1771 – Maple Cemetery –
Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Wife of Lt Isaac Norton wife of Deacon Thomas Heart Esq, in her 86th year



PECK

1716/17 seating: Saml Peeke

1909 Founder's Rock: Peck

Samuel Peck

Born October 11, 1672, in Hartford, son of Paul Peck and Elizabeth Baisey

Married March 16, 1700, in Hartford to Abigail Collier (1682-1742), daughter of Joseph Collier and Elizabeth Sandford

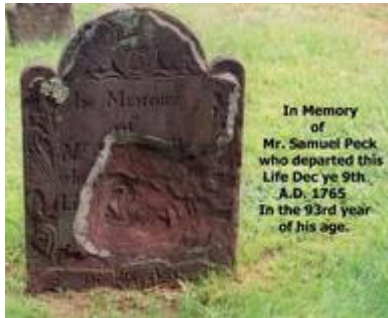
Children: Samuel (1701-1784), Moses (1703-1759), Isaac (1706-1748), Abijah (1709-1797), Zebulon (1712-1795), Amos (1714-1802), Abel (1717-1742), Elisha (1720-1762)

Oct 28, 1742, Abigail died age 61 – Christian Lane Cemetery

Early member of Great Swamp Society – joined February 1718/19 from Hartford with his wife Abigail.

Lived along the “country road”, probably Worthington Ridge

Find a grave (Internet) photos.



Samuel Peck who departed this life Dec ye 9th A.D. 1765 in the 93rd year of his age – Maple Cemetery



Abigail Peck, wife of Samuel Peck who died October 28, 1742 in the 62 year of her age – Maple Cemetery

PORTER

1705 petition: Nehemiah Porter

1716/17 seating: Nehemiah Porter

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Nehemiah Porter

1909 Founder's Rock: Porter

Nehemiah Porter

Born October 24, 1656, Farmington, son of Daniel Porter and Mary Scott

Married January 21, 1686, to Hannah Lum (1664-1710), daughter of John Lumm and
Joanna Strickland

Children: John (1687-1735), Martha (1692-), Hannah (1694-), Thomas (1697-), Jonathan
(1700-1754), Samuel (1702-1732), Rachel (1703-1801)

Porter's Pass is named in honor of his descendant Norman Porter (1789-1863)

Dec 8, 1713, chosen to dig graves.

Died May 23, 1722, in Kensington – unknown grave.

ROOT

1705 petition: Stephen Root

1716/17 seating: John Roote

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First settlers: Rootes

1909 Founder's Rock: Root

Stephen Root

parents: John Root and Mary Kilbourne

lineage: Stephen2, John1

born about 1652 in Farmington, 5th child of John Roote and Mary Kilbourn

married in 1681 to Sarah Wadsworth (1657-1740), daughter of John Wadsworth and Sarah Stanley

children: Timothy (1681 – 1713 Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada), John (1685-1764), Mary (1691-), Hannah (1700-)

He grew up to be a man six feet, six inches tall. He was a well-built man of Herculean strength and power. Foot racing was the greatest sport in the early days in New England, and he became the greatest white racer of his day, only being outrun once – by an Indian. He was also noted as the greatest wrestler in the Connecticut Colony.

He served in King Philip's War (1675-1678) serving under Major Treat for two-and-a-half years.

He always carried a sword and a huge musket.

A man of mighty courage and of sound judgement.

He and his brothers were known as the "giants of Connecticut."

Lived on Christian Lane/Porter's Pass

died January 6, 1716/17 – Farmington Memento Mori Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.



Inscription: Stephen Root

John Root

born 1685 in Farmington, son of Stephen Root and Sarah Wadsworth

lineage: John³, Stephen², John¹

Home built 1712 on Christian Lane – town down.

married on July 10, 1716, to Margaret Strong (1690-1751),

children: Eunice (1718-), Margaret (1720-), John (1723-1781), Lois (1724-), Mary (1728-), Sarah (1731-1819) - all born in Kensington.

S.R. Durand: John Root was five-feet-ten inches tall, a strongly built, vigorous man, and always soundly well. In 1707, he settled in the Great Swamp. He was one of the first settlers, his deed being dated 1703. He commenced clearing a farm, which was very difficult operation at that time, the ground being thickly covered with grapevines and brush. He built his barn in 1706 and his house in 1712. He was a prominent church member, and in 1729 was collector of the rate bill for the minister's support. In the same year, he was one of a committee of three chosen to expand the church. John Root was never sick until his last illness. He died of lung fever after only three days illness.



Margaret died 1740 at age 62 – Christian Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.



John Root died November 16, 1764 –
Christian Lane Cemetery
Find a grave (Internet) photo.



RUE

1716/17 seating: John Rue

John Rue

Baptized on September 18, 1671, in Dunston, England, son of Bartholomew Rue and Anne Couch

Married in 1683 in Farmington to Hannah Norton (1646-1743), daughter of John Norton and Dorothy Rowley of Branford

Children: John (1696-1783), Hezekiah (1696-1753)

John died on September 26, 1717, at age 56/57, probate in Hartford on Sept. 26, 1717 – unknown grave.

Hannah died in 1743 – unknown grave.

SAGE

1909 Founder's Rock: Sage

Captain David Sage

lineage: John², David¹

born April 1, 1703, in Middletown, son of John Sage and Hannah Starr. He had a twin brother named Benoni.

House was built about 1720 and remained in the family until the 1970s. Location: 1276 Worthington Ridge.

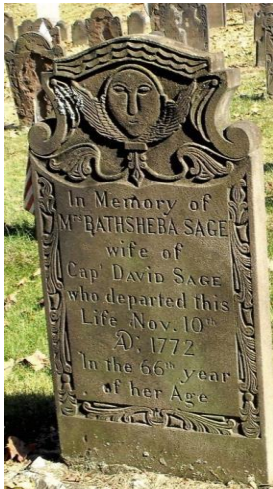
married on December 26, 1728, in Middletown to Bathsheba Judd (1701-1772)

1775 - He was a Revolutionary War soldier



children - all born in Berlin: David (1732-1779), Rhoda (1734-1807), Solomon (1737-1805), Jedediah (1739-1826), Bathsheba (1743-), Mindwell (1746-1818), Zadock (1748-1834), Candace (1752-1805)

Bathsheba died in 1772 – Maple Cemetery



Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Inscription: In memory of Mrs. Bathsheba Sage wife of Captain David Sage who departed this life November 10th A.D. 1772 in the 66th year of her age

David remarried on June 14, 1773, at the Kensington Congregational Church to Mary Rosseter (1705-).

They had one child: Jedediah

David died November 15, 1798, in his 96th year – Maple Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.



SEYMOUR (Seemore)

leader of the 1686 settlement: Captain Richard Seymour

1705 petition: Richard Seymour, Samuel Seymour, Ebenezer Seymour

1712: seven pillars of the church: Samuel Seamore and wife Hannah North

1716/17 seating: Saml Seammer, Ebenezer Seamer

1909 Founder's Rock: Seymour

Captain Richard Seymour – Seymour Fort, Christian Lane Cemetery

A History of the Seymour Family, Descendants of Richard Seymour of Hartford, CT by
Donald Linus Jacobus, c1939

Born 1645 in Farmington, son of Richard Seymour and Mercy Ruscoe

The family moved to Norwalk. After his father's death in 1654 and his mother's remarriage to John Steele, the Seymour brothers, Richard, John, and Zachariah returned to Farmington.

In 1669 a freeman in Farmington

Married 1674 to Hannah Woodruff (1648-1712), daughter of Matthew Woodruff and Hannah of Farmington

Children: Hannah (1675-), Jonathan (1678-1725), **Samuel (1680-1749)**, Mercy (1683-1731), **Ebenezer (1684-1733)**

in 1672 he was one of 84 proprietors of Farmington

Hannah joined the Farmington Church March 1, 1679/80. Richard joined the Farmington Church May 31, 1685

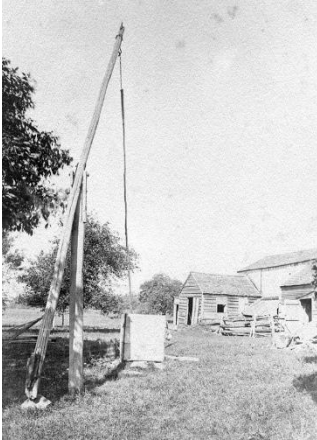
In 1679 he bought two parcels of land from Jonathan Gilbert

In 1686 led a group of Farmington settlers to establish the Great Swamp Settlement. Brick monument was erected by the DAR at 655 Christian Lane. Inscription: Near this spot stood the stockade of the Great Swamp Settlement 1686. This tablet erected by the Emma Hart Willard chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Richard died November 29, 1710 – Christian Lane Cemetery – unknown grave – first person buried in the cemetery. He died when a tree fell upon him as he was clearing land for a cemetery. The land had been sold by his son Samuel to Rev. Burnham. Rev. Burnham then donated the land to a committee of the Great Swamp Society as a “Burying Ground forever.” Today the burying ground is known as the Christian Lane Cemetery at 435 Christian Lane. It is the oldest cemetery in town.

The Seymour Fort



The Seymour fort was built on land owned by Captain Richard Seymour. Trees were aligned vertically with the trunks sharpened and pointed at the top. Within the stockade were cabins where the inhabitants sought refuge at night during the Indian alarms, Richard Seymour being the captain of the garrison. It served as an enclosure for the livestock.

In the middle of the fort was a 16-foot well that remained into the 20th century.

From The Gilbert Family, descendants of Thomas Gilbert by Homer Washington Brainard, c1953 – page 81 - Ebenezer Gilbert

“Here was a fort and a blockhouse surrounded by a high stockade. Possibly built about 1675 or 1676 as a refuge during King Philip’s War (1675-1678), or more probably about 1688-1690, when there was another Indian war. A second “fort” or stockade was built on the land of Richard Seymour, further west, in present-day Kensington. The first named stockade stood upon land bequeathed to Ebenezer Gilbert by his father. Within the stockade were cabins for the settlers. Permanent settlement began about 1686. By 1705 the settlement comprised fourteen families and they obtained permission to have a minister and a meeting house of their own. It was then called Great Swamp village or Society. A meeting house was begun “having four short pews and six long seats. It was not completed until 1716. On Dec. 10, 1712, a church of ten members was organized and on the same date Rev. William Burnham was ordained and settled as its minister.”

Corrections to the above passage: It was in 1786 that fourteen families came from Farmington to establish the Great Swamp Society. On December 10, 1712, the seven pillars or elders and some of their wives were listed. The petition of 1705 had twenty-eight names and the seating chart of 1716/17 had 55 names showing that the church was much larger.

The fort was built of stakes set sixteen feet high, with a fort within and strong cabins of hand-hewn white oak and chestnut for the settlers. Each night the families returned from the fields and their farms to seek shelter in a palisade for protection from possible Indian attacks.³⁶ It is unknown how many years the fort was used. The well located in the center of the fort was still working in the 1930s.³⁷ The settlers continued to attend church services in Farmington walking about ten miles each way.

Today nothing remains of the fort or well. There is a small monument at 675 Christian Lane erected by the DAR.



³⁶ Catharine North: A History of Berlin, Connecticut, c1916

³⁷ Emily Brandegee: Historical Papers Berlin, Connecticut, DAR c1928

Samuel Seymour

Born 1680 in Farmington, son of Captain Richard Seymour and Hannah Woodruff

Brother Ebenezer

He became a sergeant in a military company.

Married on May 10, 1706, to Hannah North (1686-1757), daughter of Thomas North and Hannah Newell

Children: Hannah (1707-1736), Mary (1708-1791), Samuel, Rebecca (1711-1792), Sarah (1713-1781), Mercy (1715-1792), Ruth (1724-1799), Eliakim (1725-1767)

Member of Great Swamp Society May 11, 1707

December 10, 1712 – pillar of Great Swamp Society

1715 elected constable.

Died April 1749 age 68/9 – Christian Lane Cemetery – unknown grave.

Widow Hannah joined the New Britain Church

Ebenezer Seymour

Born Feb 1, 1684, in Farmington, son of Captain Richard Seymour and Hannah Woodruff

Brother Samuel

Married December 27, 1709, to Abigail Hollister (1688-1733), daughter of Stephen Hollister and Abigail Treat

Children: Samuel (1711-), Rebecca (1711-), Abigail (1711-1796), Anna (1712-1773), Elizabeth (1714-1800), Richard (1716-1796), Stephen (1718-1807), Gideon (1723-1736), Lydia (1725-1762)

Died September 1, 1753 – Christian Lane Cemetery – unknown grave.

SMITH

1705 petition: Samuel Smith, Joseph Smith

1716/17 seating: Samuel Smith, Joseph Smith

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First Settlers: Joseph Smith sr

1909 Founder's Rock: Smith

Joseph Smith

Born 1682, baptized August 10, 1684, in Farmington, son of Joseph Smith and Lydia Huit

Married January 19, 1707/8, in Farmington to Mary Royce (1681-1708), daughter of Isaac Royce and Elizabeth Lathrop

Children: Joseph (1710-1792), Azariah (1712-1784), Jedediah (1715-), Amos (1716-1765), Hannah (1721-1736), Elijah (1721-1777), Esther (-1725), Daniel (1725-1755), Isaac (1727-1736)

Member of the New Britain Church

Samuel Smith

Born about 1674

Married August 15, 1706, in Farmington to Sarah Lewis (1682-1742), daughter of William Lewis and Sarah Moore

Children: Eunice (1707-1735), Noah (1710-1760), Daniel (1712-1751), Phoebe (1712-), Sarah (1719-), Samuel (1722-)



Died April 30, 1735, in the 61st year of his age – Christian Lane Cemetery
Find a grave (Internet) photo.

STANLEY/ Standly

1705 petition: John Standley,

1716/17 seating: John Standly

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First Settlers: Standleys

1909 Founder's Rock: Standly

John Stanley

born February 17, 1682, in Farmington, son of John Stanley and Hester Newell

married August 1710 to Hannah Porter. No children. She died.

married second to Mary Wright

children: Mary (1719-1801), John (1720-1766), Thomas (1726-1787)



John died September 8, 1748 – Christian Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Mr John Stanly



Mary died August 17, 1752

Christian Lane cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

Widow of Mr. John Stanly in the
63rd year of her age

STEELE

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First Settlers: Dr Joseph Steel

Dr. Joseph Steele

James³, Samuel², John¹

born 1690 in Wethersfield, son of James Steele and Anne Webb

married on February 16, 1715, to Elizabeth Hollister (1689-1750), daughter of John Hollister and Sarah Goodrich

children: Elizabeth (1715-), Sarah (1717-1751), James (1719-1775), Abigail (1720-1789), Samuel (1823-1782), Anna (1724-1803), Ebenezer (1727-1821), Jonathan (1730-), Elizur (1736-1767), Lucy (1737-1804)

1719 earned 15 shillings to make improvements to the church building.

carpenter and builder

physician

died 1750 New Britain – unknown grave.

THOMPSON

1909 Founder's Rock: Thompson

Samuel Thompson

born July 1691 in Farmington, son of Thomas Thompson and Elizabeth Smith

married June 20, 1716, in Farmington to Sarah Porter (1694-1778)

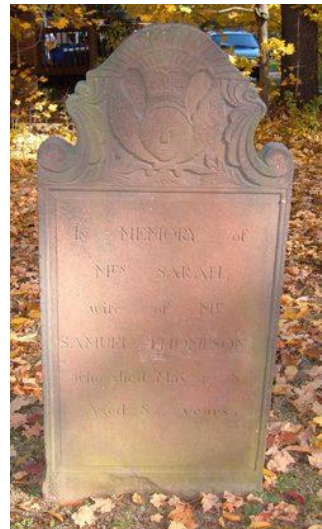
children: Martha (1717-1808)

members of Kensington Congregational Church in 1712



died November 25, 1773, age 84 – Christian Lane Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.



Sarah died May 17, 1778, at age 84 – Ledge Cemetery

Find a grave (Internet) photo.

In memory of Mrs. Sarah wife of Mr Samuel Thompson who died May 17, 1778, age 83 years.

WINCHELL

1716/17 seating: Nathl Winchell sen

1909 Founder's Rock: Winchell

Nathaniel Winchell

born August 7, 1665, in Windsor, son of Nathaniel Winchell and Sarah Porter

married March 15, 1693, to Mary Graves (1670-), daughter of George Graves and

Elizabeth Ventres

children: Nathaniel (1694-1741), Hannah (1695-), Hezekiah (1697-1760), Mercy (1700-),

Zebediah (1701-1798)

CT Church Records Abstracts: December 10, 1712, member of Great Swamp Society

1713 he took care of firewood for minister, Mr. Burnham

1714 – elected as moderator of Great Swamp Society

In 1716 his son was, Nathaniel, was given 10 shillings for beating drum for Sunday services. In 1737 son Nathaniel earned 30 shillings to beat the drum.

Weaver

Lived on Glen Street/High Road area.

died October 4, 1741, Kensington – Christian Lane Cemetery: Row 12, #3: epitaph

reads: No longer ye physician art avails vy every remedy its master fails.

son Hezekiah had Winchell Mills which he sold to Moore & Sons Manufacturing

WOODRUFF

1716/17 seating: John Woodruff

1867: Alfred Andrews list of First Settlers: John Woodruff

1909 Founder's Rock: Woodruff

John Woodruff

Born 1669 in Farmington, son of John Woodruff and Mary Winchell

Married 1696 to Elizabeth Thompson (1671-1705), daughter of Thomas Thompson and
Elizabeth Smith

Children: Elizabeth (1697-), Mary (1700-), Phebe (1702-), Elizabeth (1704-)

December 8, 1713, elected moderator of Great Swamp Society

Died 1727 in Kensington – unknown grave.

Part Four: A Timeline 1659-1785

- 1659: The first settler, Richard Beckley and his family settle in the area
- 1661: Jonathan Gilbert is given 300 acres of land in the area of Christian Lane. He and his son-in-law Andrew Belcher build roads and a tavern.
- 1669: Richard Beckley builds a mill on the Mattabassett River
- 1686: Richard Seymour leads fourteen families from Farmington to establish the Great Swamp Settlement
- 1687: the Hartford-New Haven path is established.
- 1705: A petition to establish a church for the Great Swamp Settlement is granted. Rev. Burnham moves to town.
- 1710: Land is cleared for a cemetery. Richard Seymour is killed while clearing the land and is the first person buried. Today the cemetery is known as the Christian Lane Cemetery.
- 1712: The church building is dedicated, and Rev. Burnham is officially installed as the minister.
- 1722: The church is renamed Kensington Society – May 1722
- 1729-1732: After many votes and arguments, the General Assembly built the second meetinghouse at the corner of Farmington Avenue and Porter's Pass. The bill was sent to the Society by the General Assembly.
- 1740: William and Edward Pattison come to Berlin where they begin a tinware business. They become the first Yankee Peddlers as they travel along the entire east coast.
- 1753-1762: French and Indian War.
- 1758: New Britain establishes its own parish.
- 1772: After decades of turmoil, the General Assembly votes to allow the Kensington Parish to be divided: the western part retaining the name Kensington and the eastern part was named Worthington.
- 1774: Kensington Meeting house dedicated
- 1775: Worthington Meeting house dedicated
- 1775: George Washington stops at Beckley Tavern on his way to Boston to assume command of the Continental Army.
- 1775: Revolutionary War begins
- 1785: The Town of Berlin is incorporated including areas of Farmington, Middletown, and Wethersfield. It includes the area known as New Britain.