

# DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS OF ANCIENT WINDSOR

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## NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2020

### JOIN US FOR OUR VIRTUAL FALL PROGRAM AND ANNUAL MEETING

The Summer issue of our *Newsletter* usually includes an invitation for members to “return to Windsor” for our Fall Program and Annual Meeting. However, this has not been a “usual” year. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, on



September 26 we instead invite you – wherever you may live – to join us at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time for a “virtual” meeting conducted via Zoom. Conducting a “virtual” meeting does provide certain benefits. The cost to members is lower since no meal is included, and DFAW does not have to pay for meeting space. In addition, you can join the meeting from wherever you live, even if you cannot normally travel to Windsor. Although we won’t be able to gather together to share a luncheon buffet together and we won’t be conducting a full “Memorial Service,” we will be remembering members whose deaths were reported or made known to us over the past year. If you are aware of the recent death of a member, please email [membership@DFAW.org](mailto:membership@DFAW.org).

Our speaker will be Mel Smith, reference librarian at the Connecticut State Library, whose presentation will be “Going Beyond the Barbour Collection, One More Time!” (rescheduled from our cancelled March meeting).

Sometimes you must go beyond vital records to find your elusive Connecticut ancestor. At times you may have to utilize multiple primary source records that are unique for a given family, community, or state. Please join Mel Smith as he outlines a wide range of underutilized resources that are found at the State Library, and perhaps right at your fingertips on your computer or mobile device -- records which may reveal information about your elusive Connecticut family. Such primary resources will include private family papers and bible records, court records with a special emphasis on divorce records, and specialized indexes that may provide information about the untimely death of your ancestor.

Mel E. Smith has spent the last twenty-plus years helping people find their ancestors. His extensive knowledge of the State Library’s unique genealogical collections and his ability to clearly convey information about these resources to the public is well known. Mel was featured in the first season of “Who Do You Think You Are?” aiding actor Matthew Broderick in finding his Connecticut heritage, which led to a long-lost Civil War ancestor, and has assisted in the genealogical research for several other episodes. He has worked extensively with Connecticut primary source records and has created many databases that showcase these materials.

Following Mel’s presentation, we will hold our Annual Meeting, to include reports of committees and election of Officers and Board members for the 2020-2021 year.

### **SCHEDULE - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 (ALL TIMES EASTERN) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; INVITE A FRIEND!**

<b>What:</b>	<b>1:30 -</b>	<b>Chat Box Opens.</b> Meet other DFAW members via Zoom Chat.
	<b>2:00 - 2:05</b>	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> by President Richard Roberts
	<b>2:05 - 3:05</b>	<b>Program:</b> “Going Beyond the Barbour Collection, One More Time!,” Mel E. Smith
	<b>3:05 - 3:30</b>	<b>Annual Business Meeting</b>

**Where:** Your home, via Zoom.

**Registration:** \$8.00 per person. Registrations must be received by **Friday, September 25, 2020**. Those registered will receive a link to the Zoom meeting prior to September 26.

To register online, visit us at [www.DFAW.org](http://www.DFAW.org).

To register by mail, see the separate first-class mailing that includes the registration form.

## TREKKING ACROSS THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Richard C. Roberts

In his 1610 play *The Tempest*, William Shakespeare wrote:

*“Full fathom five thy father lies; Of his bones are coral made; Those are pearls that were his eyes:  
Nothing of him that doth fade / But doth suffer a sea-change / Into something rich and strange.*

This has certainly been a strange year. While perhaps not a full-blown “tempest,” many of those of us here in Connecticut (as well as on other parts of the Atlantic seacoast), were hit by a tropical storm in early August that knocked out power, cable, and Internet for as much as a week. World-wide, we are experiencing a pandemic, after which, even when it finally ends, life will probably never be the same. And in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd in May, statues throughout the world have been toppled, shattered, removed, or defaced.

After all these years, I still remember studying this poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley in high school English:



*I met a traveller from an antique land  
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert. Near them on the sand,  
Half sunk, a shatter'd visage lies, whose frown  
And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
Which yet survive, stamp'd on these lifeless things....*

This summer, the passions of Christopher Columbus as expressed by many nineteenth or early twentieth century sculptors – whether expressing “cold command” or the hope of new discoveries – lie shattered. In Windsor, red paint was thrown at the Major John Mason statue on Palisado Avenue; in the aftermath, there has been ongoing discussion as to whether the statue should be retained on the Palisado Green.

The purpose of the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, Incorporated is “to record and to perpetuate the history and genealogy of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, and the history and genealogy of their families and their descendants.” As we continue to record and perpetuate those stories, it is important to remember that our ancestors were not perfect. As Nathaniel Philbrook has written, the Pilgrims set sail on the *Mayflower* with a vision of religious freedom, but “it was the material rewards of this life that increasingly became the focus of the Pilgrims’ children and grand-children.” The quest for land and control of trade ultimately culminated in King Philip’s War, a conflict that pitted the Plymouth Colony and its allies against the tribe that had assisted it in 1620. In Windsor, some of our ancestors joined Major Mason in the now controversial fight against the Pequots in 1637. Others persecuted individuals whom they believed to be witches. At the time of the 1790 census, nine of Windsor’s heads of households owned slaves. These episodes are all part of our story.

It is true that the concepts of the American “pioneer spirit” and “Manifest Destiny” that many of us grew up with no longer ring true in the twenty-first century. Today, shaping a more just society is perhaps more important than ever. But remembering our history is also important. The events of the past can't necessarily be judged by the standards of the present, and rather than destroying or removing memorials, it seems more appropriate that attention be focused on acknowledging and remembering both the good and bad stories those memorials can potentially represent. As Pequot Tribal Chairman Skip Hayward noted when John Mason’s statue was removed from Mystic in the 1990s, “If you take it down, no one will remember what happened....”

Perhaps what is needed on Windsor’s Palisado Green is not the complete removal of Mason’s statue, simply changing yet again the words on the pedestal, or moving it to a secure indoor location but the addition of an outdoor kiosk further expanding and interpreting his story as representative from Dorchester to the Massachusetts General Court, magistrate of the Connecticut Colony, Commissioner of the United Colonies, founder of the town of Norwich, and Deputy Governor of the Connecticut Colony. Equally important might be the addition of a statue or monument recognizing the Native American tribes that once inhabited the area that is now Windsor. Through a “sea-change,” the statue of John Mason (as well as other statues across the country) could be transformed into something truly “rich and strange.”

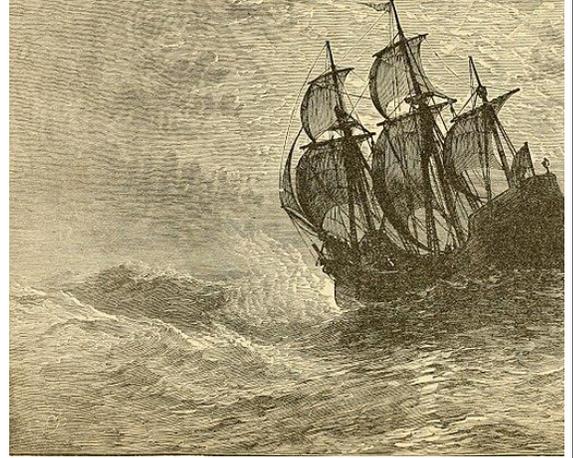


## THE PLYMOUTH COLONY'S SETTLEMENT AT WINDSOR

Richard C. Roberts

This year marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower* from Plymouth, England to what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. Windsor has its own Plymouth Colony connections, tracing its claim to being Connecticut's first town to the erection of a trading post by a delegation from Plymouth in September 1633, and DFAW considers two of the men associated with that trading post, Jonathan Brewster and Lt. William Holmes, to be Founders of Ancient Windsor.

In 1620, a congregation of Separatists who had earlier fled England for Amsterdam and Leiden, financed by a group of English "Merchant Adventurers" to the approximate equivalent of \$6,000,000 in today's dollars, secured a patent from the Virginia Company of London for a plantation near the mouth of the Hudson River (Woodward, p. 111-2). However, after experiencing many delays both prior to setting sail and during their voyage, and ultimately needing to erect shelters on land as soon as possible, the "Pilgrims" instead settled at what they later described as "a barren place," outside the bounds of the patent they had been granted but within the limits of the recently formed Council for New England. After the *Mayflower* returned to England, the "Merchant Adventurers" were able to secure the "Peirce Patent" dated June 1, 1621, which formally allowed the Pilgrims to legally settle at New Plymouth, in the vicinity of Cape Cod (Bradford, p. 162, n. 9; Philbrook, p. 125).



With repayment to the Adventurers due within seven years, the Plymouth Colony became dependent on trade. The Pilgrims grew corn and exchanged it and other goods with the Native Americans for beaver pelts which, along with fish and timber, were periodically sent to England (Morrison, pp. 55-6). In 1626, 53 Plymouth freemen ("Purchasers") arranged to buy out the Merchant Adventurers' debts and shares. In turn, 12 "Undertakers" (eight from Plymouth and four from London) agreed to assume Plymouth's debts in return for a monopoly in the fur trade (Philbrook, p. 168). This created the need for a new patent. Through Sir Robert Rich, the Lord of Warwick, a patent was issued to William Bradford and his heirs on January 13, 1630 "for all that part and portion of the said cuntry now called New-England in America." In addition to land that is now in southeast Massachusetts, this patent granted the Pilgrims title to land in present day Maine (Bradford, p. 343, n. 26, p. 466, n. 13; Philbrook, p. 125; Thistlethwaite, pp. 17-8).

In the 1620s, the Dutch began establishing a series of trading posts, and in 1624 they purchased Manhattan from the Native Americans (Philbrook, p. 194). Adriaen Block of the Netherlands had explored what Native Americans termed Quinni-tukq-ut, the "Long Tidal River" in the ship *Onrust* ("Restless") in 1614, sailing upstream at least as far as present day Hartford (where "the natives plant maize") (Bacon, pp. 6-7) and perhaps as far as the falls at present day Enfield (Van Duesen, p. 19). However, although patents for trade were issued to the New Netherland Company that year, 1614, no permanent trading posts were established.

In 1627, the Dutch, seeing the Pilgrims "in a barren quarter," sent Captain Isaac de Rasiere to Plymouth to propose a joint trading venture (Philbrook, p. 164, Van Duesen, p. 19). De Rasiere told the Pilgrims "of a river called by them the Fresh River, but now is known by the name of Connecticut-River" and suggested that it was "a fine place both for plantation, and trade...(Bradford, p. 399)." The Pilgrims did not accept the offer. Still, after 10 years, Plymouth's debt to its investors remained a major burden. The Plymouth Colony established trading posts at Manomet/Aptucxet (now Bourne, Massachusetts) in 1627 or 1628, Cushnoc (now Augusta, Maine) in 1628, and Penobscot (now Castine, Maine) in 1629 (Bradford, pp. 315, 351, 404, n. 5; Philbrook, p. 168).

Seeking additional locations for trade and colonization, in the spring of 1632 Edward Winslow and his crew sailed a shallop along Long Island Sound and up the "Fresh River" as far as the rapids at today's Windsor Locks and Enfield. Although he was impressed with the potential of the river valley as a whole, he was especially impressed by a site at Matianuck, which offered access to new fur trading tribes (Andrews, *Beginnings*, p. 3). Meanwhile, in 1630, the *Mary and John*, followed by 11 ships of the "Winthrop Fleet," had carried some 700-1000 passengers to new settlements north of Plymouth under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Bay Company (Philbrook, p. 161).

The Pequots were also seeking expanded trading opportunities. They had previously conquered tribes living along the shore of what is now Connecticut. Then, to further control the fur trade with Europeans, they began displacing the "River Indians" of the Connecticut Valley. Seeking allies to help protect them against the Pequots, sachems Wahginacut, in 1631, and Natawanute, in 1632-1633, traveled to the English colonies at Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay, describing

the great potential of the “fertile valley,” inviting permanent settlement there (Windsor 375, p. 4), and offering “to finde them Corne & give them yearly 80 skins of Beauer (Winthrop, p. 49).”

On July 12, 1633 Governor Edward Winslow and William Bradford of the Plymouth Colony arrived in Boston “to conferre about joyninge in a trade to Conecticott, for Beauer & hempe.” During a July 12-18, 1633 joint conference, they proposed a 50/50 venture for a trading post on the Connecticut River. However, those “in ye Bay ...had no mind to it (Bradford, p. 400).” In his Journal Governor John Winthrop described Wahginacut as “a very treacherous man,” and his assessment was that “the place was not fitt for plantation, there being 3: or 4000: warlicke Indians, & the river not to be gone into but by small pinaces, havinge a barre affordinge but 6: foote at highe water....” and because the river was impassible seven months of the year “by reason of the Ice & then the violent streme (Winthrop, p. 92).”

Edward Winslow, concerned about French attacks on the trading posts in present day Maine in 1631 and 1632, needing to pay the creditors in England, and now distrusting the Bay Colony, committed Plymouth to the establishment of an outpost on the Connecticut River on its own. It is even possible that the Plymouth authorities, finding themselves “upon a barren place, where they were by necessity cast” and upon which “neither they, nor theirs could long continue upon” intended to remove to the Connecticut Valley “as soon as they could & were able (Bradford, p. 433).” In 1632 or early 1633 a large tract of land was purchased from both Nattawanut (the Podunk Sachem) and Sequasson (Hartford’s Suckiaugs Sachem) (Cave, p. 83; Stiles, p. 35), and in 1633, William Holmes was commissioned to establish an outpost at Matianuck, the site selected by Winslow the previous year. (Technically, Holmes should have purchased the land from the Pequots, as Connecticut’s “River Indians,” decimated by intertribal war and an epidemic, were by then subservient to the Pequots.)

The Dutch also remained interested in the Connecticut Valley. Apparently becoming aware of the Plymouth colonists’ intention to set up an outpost, on June 8, 1633, Jacob Van Curler, representing New Netherlands, paid “1 piece of duffel 27 ells long, 6 axes, 6 kettles, 18 knives, one sword blade, 1 pr. of shears, some toys, and a musket,” for a tract of meadow land “extending about a (Dutch) mile down along the river to the next little stream, and upwards beyond the hill, being a third of a (Dutch) mile broad” (Stiles pp. 24-5) from Tattoebum, a Pequot sachem, who claimed to have obtained it by “by right of conquest” (Bacon, p. 19, Van Duesen, p. 19). On this parcel, (now known as “Dutch Point” or “Adrien’s Landing”), near the junction of what are now known as the Park and Connecticut Rivers in Hartford, the Dutch erected a fort and trading post, which they named the “Huys de Hoop” (House of Hope).

In August and September 1633, Plymouth colonists loaded the frame, boards, nails, and other materials needed to erect a trading house onto a “great new bark,” which pushed off in early September (Bradford, p. 401). In late September 1633, a party led by Lt. William Holmes sailed up the Connecticut River. Holmes, considered by DFAW to be one of Windsor’s Founders, was challenged by the Dutch at the House of Hope, who “bid them strike, & stay, or else they would shoot them,” but he responded that he “had a commission from the Governour of Plymouth” to trade further up the river (Bradford, p. 401). The Dutch ultimately allowed the bark to pass.



On September 26, 1633, the Plymouth traders arrived at the previously selected site, about a mile above the Dutch and some 100 yards below where the Farmington River empties into the Connecticut, ready to begin the first English settlement in the Connecticut Valley. They “clapped up their house quickly; and landed their provisions, ... and sent the bark home,” “and later palisaded their house about.” (Bradford, p. 401); (Winthrop, p. 99).

Then, only weeks after turning down the joint venture with Plymouth, the Massachusetts Bay Colony took an interest in exploring the Connecticut Valley on its own. In September 1633, a party led by John Oldham “went ouer land to Conectecott to trade, the Sachem vsed them kindly & gave them some beauer. They brought of the hempe which growes there in great abundance, & is muche better then the English.... (Winthrop, p. 97).” They also “discovered many very desirable places upon the ...river, fit to receive many hundred inhabitants (Andrews, *Beginnings*, p. 4).” Oldham apparently explored the river from the future site of Springfield as far south as present-day Wethersfield (Andrews, p. 10). At about the same time, Massachusetts Bay also sent a bark, the *Blessing of the Bay*, to the Connecticut coast to trade (Winthrop, p. 98). After exploring the river, and prior to returning to Massachusetts, the crew of the *Blessing* sailed to Manhattan Island, delivering a message from Governor John Winthrop indicating that the land along the Connecticut River was part of a grant from the King of England.

In the winter of 1633/34, an epidemic, perhaps smallpox, spread throughout New England. Although all those at the Plymouth trading post survived, Native Americans had less resistance to disease, and an estimated 70 to 90 percent of Connecticut’s “River Indians,” including the Matianuck sachem Naattawantut, died (Thistlethwaite, p. 134). The English

Puritans believed that the 1634 epidemic was due to divine providence. The decimation of the Native American tribes, which appeared to open the land to them, combined with the favorable reports of the Oldham and *Blessing* expeditions, drew many settlers from the Bay Colony to the Connecticut Valley in 1635.

The Dorchester, Massachusetts congregation, many of whom had arrived on the *Mary and John* in 1630, decided to settle there en masse. An advance party of twelve men, led by Founder Roger Ludlow, arrived at Matianuck on June 28 and were provisioned and entertained by Jonathan Brewster, son of Elder William Brewster and Plymouth's agent in charge of the Plymouth trading post. Then, after exploring other potential sites for settlement further up the river, they returned to the high sandy banks northwest of the Plymouth settlement, in the vicinity of what is now Windsor's Palisado Green (Thistlethwaite, p. 106). On July 6, 1635 Brewster reported, "The Massachusetts men are coming almost daily, some by water, & some by Land, who are not yet determined where to settle, though some have a great mind to the place we are upon (Bradford, p. 431; Stiles, v. 1, p. 28)."

By August 1635 many in Dorchester, including Founders Thomas Holcombe and Thomas Dewey, were selling out to newer settlers, and the following month Founder Matthew Grant, a surveyor and later Windsor's second town clerk, began to lay out the first lots in Matianuck's Great Meadow and adjoining upland (Thistlethwaite, p. 149). A second group of about 60 men, women, and children left Massachusetts on October 15, 1635, and after traveling overland for fourteen days, arrived in the Connecticut River Valley in late October or early November (Stiles, v. 1, p. 52, Van Duesen, p. 21). Even though the Plymouth Company had purchased "for a valuable consideration" from Sequassen and Nattawanut, representing "the rightful owners," in 1633 (Stiles, p. 109, 123) and had established their trading post, the Dorchester party refused to recognize those claims of prior settlement. Massachusetts authorities, in a communication to the Plymouth Colony, acknowledged "some maters in difference between us about some lands at Connecticut ... upon which God by his providence cast us.... (Bradford, p. 432)."

Settlement of the Connecticut Valley by people from Massachusetts Bay continued in 1636. That year an additional group left Dorchester with the Rev. John Wareham. In June, the Rev. Thomas Hooker led a group from Cambridge to what became Hartford. A contingent from Watertown, including their ministers, the Rev. Richard Denton and the Rev. John Sherman, settled at what became Wethersfield; and William Pynchon led a group to Agawam (now Springfield).

In the spring of 1637, settlers from the "Dorchester Party" – then still under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts Bay -- sowed crops in the Matianuck Meadow, using as justification Genesis 1:28 (to fill the earth and subdue it), "*it being the Lord's wast* (Stiles, p. 30)." The Plymouth authorities replied that "whereas you say God in his providence cast you, &c., We told you before, and (upon this occasion) must now tell you still, that our mind is otherwise; And that you cast rather a partial, if not a covetous eye, upon that which is your neighbour's, and not yours.... (Bradford, p. 433)." Plymouth contended that the area was not the "Lord's waste" but was land it had "bought ... of the right owners" (i.e., the Native Americans). Edward Winslow journeyed to Boston to seek retribution from the Bay Colony. He defended Plymouth's right to the meadow on the grounds that Plymouth had "maintained a chargeable possession upon it all this while... (Bradford, p. 433)," remaining there long enough to establish "domicillium," a European legal term for establishing a right to land ownership (Burpee, pp. 25, 32; Clark)."

That April the Pequots attacked Wethersfield, killing six men, two women, and 20 cows and kidnapping two girls (Clark, p. 39; Thistlethwaite, p. 128; Winthrop, p. 213). The Dutch negotiated the return of the girls (Thistlethwaite, p. 129; Vaughan, p. 142), but in May, the newly formed Connecticut General Court declared war on the Pequots. Connecticut's allies consisted of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Mohegans, and the Narragansetts. However, the Plymouth Colony initially objected to joining in the expedition, in John Winthrop's view, because "1. Our refusal to aid them against the French. 2. Our people's trading at Kenebeck. 3. The injury offered them at Connecticut by those of Windsor, in taking away their land there. 4. Their own poverty, and our ability, which needed not any help from them (Vaughan, p. 140; Winthrop, p. 213). Although Plymouth ultimately committed 30 troops under the command of Lt. William Holmes and a crew to transport them, the war was over before they left Plymouth (Vaughan, p. 140). During the Pequot War, many of Windsor's settlers from Dorchester sought protection within a palisade erected in the area that is now known as Palisado Green. However, the Plymouth traders remained at their trading house, from which they protected Sequassen, a Connecticut River sachem, and his people, as well as additional Native Americans from Hartford Meadow who temporarily resettled in Windsor (Stiles, pp. 38-39).

Even as preparations were being undertaken to fight the Pequots, Plymouth was preparing to close its trading post at Windsor. An English fort and trading post erected at Saybrook and William Pynchon's trading post at Agawam (Springfield), upstream of the rapids, had intercepted trade, so that Windsor was no longer a prime location. In addition, those from the Plymouth Colony were frustrated with dealing with their Dorchester neighbors. As a result, Thomas Prence, on behalf of "New Plymouth in America" agreed to convey to "the inhabitants of Windsor," "in consideration of £37, 10s, the title to fifteen sixteenths of the land it had purchased from the River Indians. The agreement, dated May 15,

1637, was witnessed by Josias Winslow, William Butler (via. his mark), Thomas Marshfield, Roger Ludlow, William Phelps, and John Whitfield (Stiles, p. 34; Thistlethwaite, p. 136).

Then, on October 10, 1637 William Bradford, Thomas Prentice, William Brewster, Miles Standish, John Alden, and John Howland of the Plymouth Colony granted power of attorney to William Holmes to sell “*all the lands, houses, “servants, goods and chattels” of the said company, in the town of Windsor* (Stiles, p. 39; Col. Land Rec., v. 1, p. 423-4). On May 3, 1638 Holmes, as Plymouth’s representative, conveyed to “Matthew Allyn of Hartford, upon the river Connecticut” “the house belonging to Plymouth aforesaid, situate within the limits of Windsor upon said river Connecticut, with all the meadow privileges belonging to the said plantation of Plymouth.... (Col. Land Rec. 424-5). Charles W. Burpee, in his 1930 book, *Burpee’s The Story of Connecticut*, states that, “*After a time, in 1637, leaving their small palisade and the Dorchester congregation in their large Palisade, the Pilgrims retired to peaceful but sorrowful Plymouth.*” (Burpee, p. 34). That year Jonathan Brewster and William Holmes were each granted adjacent 100 acres parcels on the North River in Duxbury (Hurd).

The English Civil War (1642-1651) not only ended the Great Migration but resulted in a shift of the economy of the colonies, with Plymouth’s cattle, crops, and other goods worth only a third of their value in the 1630s (Philbrook, p. 183). The Undertakers ultimately paid off Plymouth’s debts by selling land, not furs (Philbrook, p. 169). In 1686 King James II consolidated the colonies of Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, and New Hampshire into the Dominion of New England. (Although the other colonies surrendered their charters, Connecticut refused to do so, leading to the “Charter Oak incident”.) Although the Dominion was dissolved in 1689, a proclamation issued on October 17, 1691 combined the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colonies, and on June 8, 1692 the Plymouth General Court met for the last time (Plymouth Colony).

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## **FOUNDER JONATHAN BREWSTER**

**Richard C. Roberts**

Jonathan Brewster, one of those recognized by DFAW as one of Windsor's Founders, was born on August 12, 1593 at Scrooby, Nottingham, England, the oldest child of Elder William Brewster, one of the original members of the Separatist congregation at Scrooby, and his wife Mary (Anderson, v. 1, p. 228; Strickland, p. 1). In 1608, when Jonathan was 15, the family moved to Leiden, Holland with other Scrooby families seeking religious freedom. He became a Dutch citizen on June 30, 1617 (Find A Grave). Leiden was, at the time, one of Holland's economic hubs, with a large textile industry. Jonathan became a "Lintwerker" (ribbon maker) (Find A Grave) and merchant in the city's Pieterskerhof district, exporting goods to England.

Jonathan and his sisters remained in Holland when his parents and brothers Love and Wrestling sailed on the *Mayflower* in 1620. Instead, he sailed from London on the *Fortune*, the second ship financed by the Merchant Adventurers, arriving off Cape Cod November 9, 1621 (Bradford, p. 264, n. 30; Caulkins, p. 276). He was granted one acre as a single man in Plymouth Colony's 1623 land division (Land Div.).

On April 10, 1624 he married Lucretia Oldham, daughter of William Oldham and Philipa Sower (Anderson, v. 1, p. 228, v. 2, p. 1351, Strickland, p. 1). She was baptized on January 14, 1600 at All Saint's Parish, Derby, England (Anderson, v. 1 p. 228, v. 2, p. 1351). Lucretia and her brother, Captain John Oldham, had arrived on the *Anne* in 1623 (Anderson, v. 2, p. 1351). John Oldham engaged in trade with colonists and Native Americans along the Atlantic coast as far south as Virginia. On July 20, 1636, while on a trading voyage to Block Island, he and five crew members were killed by Native Americans (Anderson, v. 2, p. 1353), one of the episodes leading to the Pequot War in 1637.

Prior to May 6, 1635 Jonathan Brewster was appointed Plymouth Colony's resident agent of the trading post at Matianuck. On April 15, 1636 he signed as a witness a Native American deed for land to the "Dorchester Plantation" in what is now South Windsor (Stiles, v. 1, pp. 33, 128).

Following the sale of the trading post, in 1637 Brewster was granted a 100-acre parcel on the North River in Duxbury. He served as Deputy to the Plymouth Colony General Court from Duxbury in 1639 and from 1641 through 1644. On June 4, 1644 he and his brother Love were appointed administrators of the estate of their father, Elder William Brewster (Anderson, v. 1, p. 228). In addition to moveables, Jonathan received 68 acres including "a dwelling house which the said Jonathan had built on the said land by leave of his said father (Anderson, v. 1, p. 228)."

After briefly (and unprofitably) running a ferry across the North River, Jonathan Brewster concentrated on the coastal trade, plying a small sailing vessel as far south as Virginia (Caulkins, p. 277). This venture also proved to be unsuccessful. In order to settle debts to his business partners, John Holland and Hopestill Foster, "Jonathan Brewster ye elder of Duxburrow by vertue of his writing and deed bearing date fifteenth day November Anno Domo 1648," was forced to convey to them "his dwelling house, out house, Barnes, Stables, orchyrds, gardens, Land, Meddow & pastures." Holland and Foster then sold 80 acres of meadow granted to them by Jonathan Brewster to William Paybody (Caulkins, p. 277; Plymouth Colony Deeds, vol. 2, p. 24).

From 1646 to 1648 Brewster was in partnership with mariner Elias Parkman (formerly of Windsor) at Saybrook (Thistlethwaite, p. 158). However, his financial problems persisted; in September 1649 a "Mrs. Whiting" was awarded £33 18s plus damages of £10 by Connecticut's Particular Court in an "action of Debt" at which Brewster and Parkman both failed to appear (CCR pp. 165, 166).

About 1649, he settled at the area then known as Nameaug or Pequot, now New London, Connecticut. He was admitted as an inhabitant there on February 25, 1649/50 and served as a townsman and clerk in 1650 (Caulkins, p. 65; Strickland, p. 1). His original dwelling was at what is now the corner of Granite and Hempstead Streets, New London. However, on April 25, 1650 Uncas, sachem of the Mohegans, gave freely unto Jonathan Brewster of Pequot a tract of land bounded on the south side by "a great Coave called Poccatannocke" and on the north "with the old Poccatuck path that goes to the Trading Coave, &c." In consideration thereof, Brewster bound "himself and his heirs to keep a house for trading goods with the Indians." This deed was confirmed by the town on November 30, 1652 (Caulkins, p. 66; Strickland, p. 1). The area, still known as Brewster's Neck, is now part of Preston, Connecticut; for much of the twentieth century it was the site of the Norwich State Hospital.

He was admitted as a freeman of the Connecticut Colony in May 1650 (Caulkins, p. 65) and served as Pequot's Deputy to the General Court of the Colony of Connecticut in 1650 and from 1655 to 1658 (Strickland, p. 1).

The 1650 agreement with Uncas provided Brewster and his heirs with a trading monopoly with the Mohegans. However, the establishment of the trading post was not without controversy. It opened without the permission of the Connecticut's

General Court. In May 1650 the Court noted: "Whereas Mr. Jonathan Brewster hath set up a trading-house at Mohigen, this Courte declares that they connott but judge the thinge very disorderly, never the less considering his condition, they are content hee should proceed therein for the present, and till they see cause to the contrary (Caulkins, p. 66; CCR, p. 209; Strickland, p. 1).

Then, in the late 1650s, a conflict arose between the Mohegans and the Narragansetts. In 1657, Jonathan was among those helping defend Uncas, who had taken refuge in a fort at the head of the Nahantick River (Caulkins, p. 127). In addition, he supplied guns, powder, and shot to the Mohegans. Perhaps in retaliation, two years later, while Jonathan was away in Hartford, a Narragansett raiding party attacked the trading post and "killed an Indian employed in his service" after they "violently took him from [Mrs. Brewster], and shot him by her side to her great affrightment (Caulkins, pp. 127-8),"

Brewster had an interest in alchemy and set up a laboratory in his home. In January 1657 he shared the progress of his experiments with fellow alchemist John Winthrop Jr., writing, "I ffeare I shall not live to see it finished, in regard partly of the Indianes, who I feare will raise warres; and also I have a conceite that God sees me not worthy of a blessing by reason of my manifold miscariadges (Woodward)." Ultimately, as with so many of his other ventures, Brewster's experiments proved to be unsuccessful.

Jonathan Brewster died on August 7, 1659 at Norwich, New London (now Preston). His wife, Lucretia, died there on March 4, 1678/79 (Strickland, p. 1). Both are buried in Brewster's Plain Cemetery, Preston (Find A Grave).

Jonathan and Lucretia (Oldham) Brewster had eight children:

WILLIAM BREWSTER, born on March 9, 1625 at Plymouth, Plymouth Colony (Strickland, p. 1).

MARY BREWSTER, born on April 16, 1627 at Plymouth, Plymouth Colony (Strickland, p. 1).

JONATHAN BREWSTER, born on July 17, 1629 at Plymouth, Plymouth Colony (Strickland, p. 1).

RUTH BREWSTER, born on October 3, 1631 at Jones River (now Duxbury), Plymouth Colony (Strickland, p. 1).

BENJAMIN BREWSTER, born on November 17, 1633 at Plymouth (now Duxbury), Plymouth Colony (Strickland, p. 2).

ELIZABETH BREWSTER, born on May 1, 1637 at Plymouth (now Duxbury), Plymouth Colony (Strickland, p. 2).

GRACE BREWSTER, born on November 1, 1639 at Duxbury, Plymouth Colony (Strickland, p. 2).

HANNAH BREWSTER, born on November 3, 1641 at Duxbury, Plymouth Colony (Strickland, p. 2).

For more information on the children, see *Some Descendants of Jonathan Brewster*, available through our sales catalog.

### **Some Famous Descendants of Jonathan and Lucretia Brewster**

**Eliphalet Adams Bulkeley** (June 20, 1803 – February 13, 1872) -- American business executive, politician, and first president of the Aetna Insurance Company.

**Morgan Gardner Bulkeley** (December 26, 1837 - November 6, 1922) -- son of Eliphalet; Governor of Connecticut, 1899-1893; first president of baseball's National League.

**Julia Caroline (McWilliams) Child** (August 15, 1912 - August 13, 2004) -- cooking teacher, author, and television personality.

**Katherine Houghton Hepburn** (May 12, 1907 – June 29, 2003) -- American actress.

**George Brinton McClellan** (December 3, 1826 – October 29, 1885) -- Civil War Union general; 1864 Democratic candidate for President; 24<sup>th</sup> Governor of New Jersey.

**Matthew Calbraith Perry** (April 10, 1794 – March 4, 1858) -- commander of ships during the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War.

**Oliver Hazard Perry** (August 23, 1785 – August 23, 1819) -- brother of Matthew; an American naval commander, the "Hero of Lake Erie" during the War of 1812.

**Nelson Adrich Rockefeller** (July 8, 1908 – January 26, 1979) -- American businessman and politician; served as the 49th governor of New York from 1959 to 1973 and as 41st vice president of the United States from 1974 to 1977.

**John Batterson Stetson** (May 5, 1830 – February 18, 1906) -- American hat manufacturer; inventor of the cowboy hat; benefactor of what became Stetson University in DeLand, Florida.

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## NERGC 2021 IS GOING VIRTUAL!

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium to take a serious look at its plans for 2021. For health and safety reasons, the conference will be presented next April and May in a virtual format. Planning is underway to offer the same high-quality lectures and programs you are accustomed to, but from the comfort of your home. Consider these advantages:



- **On-demand presentations** – No difficult decisions about which lecture to attend! All pre-recorded presentations will be available for you to view whenever you choose.
- **Conference extended** - Plenty of time to listen to any and all of the recordings.
- **Live chat sessions with presenters** – Opportunities for you to ask questions and interact with some speakers and other attendees.
- **Safe, convenient, and less expensive** – No risky and costly travel, no reservations, no trip delays.
- **Renowned genealogists, covering a variety of topics.**
- **No hotel or meal costs.**

Plans are in progress to present the other features you have enjoyed in the past: Ancestors Road Show, Society Fair, Special Interest Groups, Queries, and a “virtual” Exhibit Hall. Options are being explored to support persons with special needs.

DFAW is a Participating Society in the 2021 virtual conference. Watch for more details at [www.NERGC.org](http://www.NERGC.org) and [www.facebook.com/NERGC](https://www.facebook.com/NERGC).

## **MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE**

**Pam Roberts, DFAW Membership Secretary**

### **Membership Database:**

We are working on uploading our active membership list into new software, which is integrating with our new website at [DFAW.org](http://DFAW.org) as well as with our bookkeeping financial records. While the clean-up of our data has proven to be time intensive and complicated by the fact the system was brilliantly developed in the early '90s to meet our needs well all this time, cleaning up a version to load to provide a less historical record but focusing on ACTIVE members was difficult. I finally have a handle on it. We will begin to meet safely again in person to make the upload into the installed software and proof the results.

I appreciate all the contact updates and corrections that have arrived by email or mail. If you use email and have not yet recorded your email with us, please email me at: [membership@DFAW.org](mailto:membership@DFAW.org) from the email address you wish us to use. When you share your email, we keep it secure, using it only for DFAW purposes with the goal of making your member benefits more efficient and accessible and your contact updates under your control. Thank you for sending me your updates so we can begin with as clean a version of the active membership database as possible.

### **Membership Renewal Notices or Invoices?:**

You will either get a renewal notice by mail or an email invoice as we move the new system forward. We intend to continue to offer the option of basic mailed communications to those who do not use email. When you receive your renewal notice or a dues invoice, please follow the instructions. Things may look different this year, so do feel free to request clarification as needed. My contact information is repeated at the end of this report.

- If your last paid date is showing as "0/2019" you will receive a reminder to pay the 2020-2021 dues before November 1, 2020. This will be your last *Newsletter* as an active member unless you renew for the 2020-2021 membership year. Once moved to inactive, reinstatement can occur at any time by paying the current year's dues for your category of membership.
- If "0/2020" follows your member number in your label on the *Newsletter* AND you have provided an email for contact, you will likely receive an email renewal notice or an invoice with instructions which may or may not include piloting our new online payment as an option for paying your dues.
- Life members will get information about ways you can make a donation to DFAW and instructions for keeping us informed of any changes in contacts. That information will likely be in the First Class mailing, with the information about our September 26 Virtual Fall Program and Annual Meeting. As always, Life members may request a replacement for their permanent membership card as needed. A "0/999" shows on Life members' labels, indicating that they do not owe dues for the rest of their lifetime.
- If your last paid date is showing as "0/2021" or a later year than 2021, you are paid forward; you don't owe dues at this time and you will get your updated 2020-2021 membership card mailed to you by October 1, 2020.

### **Our 2020 Virtual Fall Program and Annual Meeting**

Typically, in the Summer issue, I focus on hoping to see you at our Fall Program, Luncheon, and Annual Meeting. As is clear in other areas of the *Newsletter*, on September 26, 2020 we will not meet in person. Do check out all the information, and register to join us remotely whether you live near or far. We hope you can join us for our modified virtual program and short business meeting. I have resources to share with you to help you connect if you are not familiar with the Zoom platform being used. Let me know, and I can mentor you so you will be ready to "join the meeting" on September 26, whether using a computer, a tablet or a smart phone or a landline. I am glad to help.

In these strange times, I find myself sitting in front of my computer and hope to keep up with email requests. I do miss the one-on-one interactions with the members of DFAW. Perhaps I'll "see" some of you whom I have never "met" in person at our virtual meeting and can put names and faces together. I am here to help family and friends who may be interested in joining DFAW and to be sure that as members you receive all the benefits of your membership with us. It will be my pleasure to answer your questions and help connect you to others who may assist you. Your questions are always welcome. My goal is to help you take full advantage of your DFAW membership. Reach me, Pam Roberts, Membership Secretary at [membership@DFAW.org](mailto:membership@DFAW.org) or at 860 428-2406.

**DFAW REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

**Olivia Patch**

I recently received one lineage application. The documentation appears to be fine. Some reminders:

- Our organization does not limit membership to only those who descend from one of our Founders; it is open to anyone interested in helping “record and perpetuate the history and genealogy of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, and the history and genealogy of their families and their descendants.” So, whether or not you have submitted your Lineage or whether or not it has been approved, we hope you enjoy the benefits of membership including receiving the *Newsletter*, taking part in the Cousin Exchange, and getting together with fellow members at our fall and spring meetings.
- We do encourage active members with bloodline descent from one or more Founders to take a second step and complete a Lineage Form and submit it along with documentation providing proofs of descent. Those seeking Lineage Certification must be active members of DFAW (Lineage Certification is not open to non-members or inactive members).
- The most recent version of the Founders List is dated July 2007. It may be downloaded from our new webpage, DFAW.org, or requested from our Membership Secretary, Pamela Roberts, [membership@DFAW.org](mailto:membership@DFAW.org) or 860-428-2406.
- If you need a Lineage Form and instructions for documentation, contact our Membership Secretary, Pamela Roberts, [membership@DFAW.org](mailto:membership@DFAW.org) or 860-428-2406.
- Before sending me your Lineage papers, make and keep copies of your Lineage Form (all four pages) and documentation. Once I have reviewed the Form and documentation, I send them to our Genealogist who completes final reviews, and, if approved by him, enters the information into the database and issues certificates.

Some Lineage packets I have received over the years contain some very interesting family stories. We would love to hear yours! Consider submitting them to our Newsletter Editor, Richard Roberts. We hope to hear from some of you soon!

**COUSIN FINDERS EXCHANGE REPORT**

**Olivia Patch, Chair**

I haven't received any Cousin Finders permission slips recently. However, I am going over past Cousin Finders submissions, checking the DFAW ancestor participants are working on to see if I can add to the information that was shared previously.

**DFAW COUSIN EXCHANGE**

To participate in the Exchange and be put in touch with other “cousins” researching your DFAW lines, you must be a DFAW member. Return your completed form, including complete mailing address with ZIP code + 4, *and a self-addressed, stamped envelope* to Olivia Patch, DFAW Registrar, 83 Cedar Swamp Rd., Tolland, CT 06084. Once part of the Exchange, your name, and the names of the Founders you are researching, are "carried forward" across your years of DFAW membership. We hope this benefit of DFAW membership will be popular and rewarding!

-----CUT HERE-----

**Cousin Exchange Permission Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP+4:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DFAW Membership Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**I am interested in sharing with cousins descended from the following Founders:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I grant permission to give my name, address, and e-mail to others participating in the DFAW Cousin Exchange:**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



## DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUNDERS OF ANCIENT WINDSOR, INC.

Richard C. Roberts, Editor  
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### HOW TO CONTACT US

#### **Have a general question, comment, or suggestion?**

The “Contact Us” page on our new website, <https://DFAW.org>, has an easily completed form. First enter your name, email address, and subject. Then, write your message, confirm that you are not a robot, and click on “Send”.

OR

Send an email to: [contact@DFAW.org](mailto:contact@DFAW.org).

OR

Send general correspondence and sales orders to: DFAW, P.O. Box 39, Windsor, CT 06095-0039.

#### **Need information about joining DFAW?**

The “Join DFAW” page on our new website, <https://DFAW.org/join-dfaw/> has an interim form. A convenient on-line application form is coming soon.

#### **Have questions relating to your membership status?**

Send an email to: [membership@DFAW.org](mailto:membership@DFAW.org).

OR

Correspond with Pam Roberts, DFAW Membership Secretary, 596 Gurleyville Rd., Storrs, CT 06268-1408.

#### **Have a completed Lineage Form with documentation or want to join our “Cousin Exchange”?**

Correspond with Olivia Patch, DFAW Registrar, 83 Cedar Swamp Rd., Tolland, CT 06084.

### JOIN US ON THE WEB

Webpage: Our new webpage is <https://DFAW.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DescendantsOfTheFoundersOfAncientWindsorInc/>

Blog: <http://DFAW.blogspot.com/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/dfaw1633>