

DFAW FOUNDERS LIST UPDATED 2021

The first Founders List was literally carved in stone when the National Society, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims erected the impressive Founders Monument on the site of the first meetinghouse on Palisado Green on May 30, 1930, the three hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the *Mary and John* in the waters off Nantasket. That congregation formed the nucleus of the collection of several groups who settled in Windsor before the end of 1641. That day in 1930 marked the 300th Anniversary of the organization of the First Church in Windsor on the dock in Plymouth just before the *Mary and John* set sail. Many turned out for the celebration that day -- a church event, not a town event -- and several future members of DFAW were children in photographs of that day.

In their enthusiasm, the organizers of the monument put on the names of many settlers who arrived well after the pioneer years, including Elder John Strong and Sgt. Josias Ellsworth, names that must be recalled in any remembrance of early Windsor families, without specifying just how early. Other names were left off -- any who came with the Holmes party from Plymouth in 1633 and many of the servants who came with the Stiles and other families. Virtually all the wives were left off.

Another list of early Windsor settlers was apparently developed for the town's Tercentennial in 1933. That September, the *Hartford Times* published a list of founders of Windsor which still circulates. That list suffers from the same inclusion of families arriving much later than 1635 and the same exclusions.

In 1983, the Windsor 350th Anniversary arrived. Working on behalf of the Windsor 350th Anniversary Committee, Stephen Simon and Kent Avery developed a list which included all those in Windsor before 1650, the cutoff date based on a map in Stiles' first volume. To develop their list, they combed the Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records for Windsor and the listing of householders in Stiles' first volume. That list was published in the 350th Anniversary Committee booklet, *The Settlement of Windsor, Connecticut*.

When DFAW was organized in the summer of 1983, a Founder was defined as anyone in Windsor by the end of 1640, a cutoff point intended to coincide with the date established by the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford based on the final land distributions there and by the closing of the Great Migration after the Puritans came to power in England. Additions to the Founders List were made in our earliest years on a case-by-case basis, usually by petition of someone whose ancestors had been overlooked in earlier compilations.

As time went on, the late Donna Siemiatkoski and Carolyn Porter-Fraher discovered that in Windsor the grants from the plantation did not stop in 1640 but continued to be made through the summer of 1641. Based on this information, DFAW altered the definition of a Founder to include all those individuals found on records pertaining to Windsor before the close of 1641, thus tying the Founders Era to the recording of the grants from the plantation (the original proprietors). However, we include anyone who is on record in Windsor at that time whether landowners or not.

Meanwhile, in compiling information on each of about 400 surnames in seventeenth century Windsor, Donna Siemiatkoski examined every important document which might contain names of people in Windsor by the end of 1641: Matthew Grant's record, Matthew Grant's reports to the colony, the land records in the Windsor Town Hall, the records of the General and Particular Courts of Connecticut, estates of persons who died in Connecticut before 1641 (which contain names mentioned of heirs, witnesses, executors, and so forth), and lists of men compensated years later for their service in the Pequot War. A few names were mentioned in other jurisdictions as "of Windsor". At the request of the DFAW Board, Donna compared her findings with the existing Founders List.

Further discussion and research ensued. Un-substantiated references in Savage, Stiles, and family genealogies were rejected, although they stand as possible clues. The literature was also combed for any new materials, especially on any names to be deleted. The result was the 1996 revision of the Founders List, which added new individuals but deleted several others including James Basket, Joseph Dwyer, Isaac Sheldon, and Robert Watson. As an example, Isaac Sheldon's name was dropped from the list because he was not found on any record before 1652 even though many of his personal circumstances strongly suggest an earlier arrival. On the other hand, strong preponderance of evidence for the presence of Miles Merwin in Windsor by 1641 came from an article by Douglas Richardson in the July and October 1995 issues of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, and his name was added to the list. The 1996 Founders List appeared in the Spring 1996 DFAW *Newsletter* and was widely disseminated.

In 1999, the History Committee concluded that Richard Lyman was not a Founder (see the Summer 2002 *Newsletter*), and in 2000, the History Committee concluded that Anthony Hoskins was not eligible for being added to the Founders List (see the July 2000 *Newsletter*). In June 2006, the History Committee recommended and the DFAW Board approved the addition of Deacon John Moore and a change of spelling from Thomas "Newell" to Thomas "Nowell". These, and some technical changes, resulted in the first revision of the Founders List in ten years. In December 2020 the Board, based on recommendations from the History Committee, voted to correct the List to remove Thomas Marshall and John Osborn, and to reinstate Richard Osborn (see the Winter 2021 DFAW *Newsletter*).

Important as women are in the settlement of the colony (the lack of families spelled the failure of the early fishing settlements in New England), the names of most women living in Windsor by the end of 1641 are not included on the Founders List. If a woman's identity is known, and all her children are by one or more Founders, she is not listed in her own right. However, if a woman had children by a man who was not a Founder, either before coming to Windsor, or after moving away, or after the close of the Founders Era, she is listed as a Founder, enabling her descendants to join DFAW in her right. An example is the widow Mary (Merwin) (Tinker) Collins. Similarly, in July 2007, Elizabeth () (Nowell) Taylor was added to the Founders List.

In the same way, fathers and adult sons who were in Windsor by 1641 are not both listed, as the son's descendants are eligible to join through the father. Brothers are listed separately. Thus, strictly speaking, the Founders List is not a list of all individuals who were in Windsor before 1641, but of the individuals heading a family.

Since 1983, all the primary records pertaining to early Windsor -- vital records, land transactions, estate proceedings, and the colonial court records -- have been thoroughly searched, examined, and analyzed for information on the early inhabitants of Windsor. We believe we currently have the most accurate list of heads of households in Windsor by the end of 1641 that is possible based on the records known to exist. However, it remains possible that evidence may yet be found in other records. DFAW welcomes proposed additions to the Founders List provided they are accompanied by convincing documentation, not unsubstantiated references in family histories. Submissions should be addressed to the DFAW History Committee, P.O. Box 39, Windsor, CT 06095.

Revised: January 2021

Founders of Windsor

The following is a list of the "Founders" of Windsor as amended and approved by the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, Inc. through July 2007:

George Abbot	Thomas Gunn	Edward Preston
Benedictus Alford	William Hannum	Matthew Rainend
Samuel Allen	John Hawkes	Philip Randall
Matthew Allyn	Anthony Hawkins	Jasper Rawlins
Thomas Barber	William Hayden	John Reeves
John Bartlett	Gov. John Haynes	John Rockwell
Margaret (Barrett) (Huntington)	William Hill	Dea. William Rockwell
Stoughton	John Hillier	Dr. Bray Rossiter
Thomas Bascomb	Thomas Holcombe	John St. Nicholas
Thomas Bassett	Lt. William Holmes	Robert Saltonstall
John Bennett	Mary Holt	Richard Samos
Richard Birge	Elder William Hosford	Matthias Sension (St. John)
Capt. John Bissell	John Hoskins	Nicholas Sension
Elder John Branker	Simon Hoyte	Richard Sexton
Jonathan Brewster	Samuel Hubbard	Sgt. Thomas Staires
Thomas Buckland	Rev. Ephraim Huit	Aaron Starke
William Buell	William Hulbert	Francis Stiles
Joshua Carter	George Hull	Henry Stiles
George Chappel	John Hurd	John Stiles
Daniel Clarke	Humphrey Hydes	Thomas Stiles
Dea. Henry Clarke	Joseph Loomis	Ens. Thomas Stoughton
Joseph Clarke	Roger Ludlow	George Stuckey
Capt. Aaron Cooke	Henry Lush	John Talcott
Thomas Cooper	Ann Marshall	Elizabeth (Unknown) (Nowell) Taylor
Nicholas Denslow	Thomas Marshfield	John Taylor
Thomas Dewey	Major John Mason	Stephen Terry
Thomas Dibble	Mary (Merwin) (Tinker) Collins	Thomas Thornton
John Drake	Miles Merwin	William Thrall
John Dumbleton	Simon Mills	John Tilley
John Dyer	Dea. John Moore	Peter Tilton
John Eels	Thomas Moore	Michael Try
Bygod Eggleston	Thomas Newberry	Frances (Unknown) (Clark) (Dewey) Phelps
William Filley	Thomas Nowell	Richard Vore
Thomas Ford	Richard Oldage	Rev. John Warham
Henry Foulkes	Thomas Orton	Richard Weller
Lt. Walter Fyler	Richard Osborn	Richard Whitehead
Dea. William Gaylord	Sgt. Nicholas Palmer	Arthur Williams
Francis Gibbs	Elias Parkman	John Williams
Giles Gibbs	Thomas Parsons	Roger Williams
William Gilbert	Edward Pattison	Lt. David Wilton
Jeremiah Gillett	George Phelps	Robert Winchell
Jonathan Gillett	William Phelps	Elder John Witchfield
Nathan Gillett	George Phillips	Henry Wolcott
Matthew Grant	Humphrey Pinney	John Young
Thomas Gridley	Eltweed Pomeroy	
Edward Griswold	Samuel Pond	
Matthew Griswold	John Porter	

