

### In-Depth First Settler Profile: Samuel Bidwell (1672) / Elizabeth (Stow) Bidwell

Name: Samuel Bidwell

Birth: Abt. 1651, Hartford, Conn. (Hale, House and Related

Families/Jacobus, 1952)

Emigration: Born in Colony of Connecticut

Death: April 5, 1715, Middletown, Conn. (BCVR)

Occupation & Public Service: House/barn builder (MLR vol. 1, p. 80; vol. 4, p. 140); sawmill owner (MLR vol. 2, p. 532); on February 1, 1695/6, inventory of estate of Samuel Collins taken by Daniel Markham, Samuel Bidwell and William Sumner (MAN vol. 1, p. 430); will of Daniel Harris dated March 13, 1698/9, appointed his son John Harris and his son-in-law Samuel Bidwell as joint executors (MAN vol. 2, p. 72-74); on August 18, 1703, inventory of estate of William Sumner taken by Nathaniel Stow, Samuel Bidwell and William Ward (MAN vol. 2, p. 124); on March 2, 1704/5, inventory of estate of John Lucas taken by Samuel Bidwell and Job Paine (MAN vol. 2, p. 92); will of Daniel Markham dated November 23, 1708, "I request Mr. Russell, Samuel Bidwell and Joseph Rockwell to be overseers." (MAN vol. 2, p. 257)

Marriage: m.(1) Elizabeth Stow, November 14, 1672, Middletown, Conn. (b. abt. 1650, Concord, Mass.; d. unknown, Middletown, Conn.) She was the daughter of Thomas Stow and Mary (Griggs) Stow of Concord, Mass. and Middletown, Conn. (SAV) [Compiler's note: On July 7, 1707, to Samuel Bidwell (husband of Elizabeth Bidwell, decd.) and to Thomas Stow, brother of Sergt. Nathaniel Stow (MAN vol. 2, p. 120)]; m.(2) Sarah Harris, abt. 1690, Middletown, Conn. (b. September 30, 1663, Middletown, Conn.; d. abt. 1696) She was the daughter of Captain Daniel Harris and Mary (Weld) Harris of Rowley, Mass., and Middletown, Conn. (In-Depth First Settler Profile: Daniel Harris); m.(3) Abigail (unknown surname), abt. 1697 (d. March 8, 1732/3, Middletown, Conn.) (BCVR) [Compiler's note: Abigail Harris, daughter of Daniel Harris, Jr., married Joseph Cornwell, and not Samuel Bidwell.1

Parents: John Bidwell (d. 1687) and Sarah Wilcox (d. 1689/90), m. abt. 1644, Hartford, Conn. "John Bidwell was a proprietor by the 'courtesie of the town' in 1640, when his home lot was south of the Grants' home lot and on the east side of the road from Seth Grants to the Mill. He also owned a tan-yard on an island in Little River, receiving 4 acres in all ... freed from watching, warding, and training, Nov. 9, 1670. Inv., June 4, 1687 £419-10-6." Sarah was the daughter of John and Mary Wilcox. (Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut/Barbour, 1982)

**Children:** (BCVR; Hale, House and Related Families/Jacobus, 1952; Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Conn.)

By first wife:

- (1) Sarah Bidwell, b. September 20, 1674, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown; m. William Brainerd, December 3, 1698, Middletown, Conn. (Haddam Vital Records) (7 children) [Compiler's note: Date of marriage also given as December 15, 1698; died after March 2, 1759; resided Haddam Neck, Conn. (Hale, House and Related Families/Jacobus, 1952)]
- (2) Samuel Bidwell, b. June 10, 1677, Middletown, Conn.; d. March 1726/7, Middletown, Conn.; m.(1) Ann Stanborough, November 1, 1707, Southampton, L. I. (3 children); m. (2) Mary Barnes, December 2, 1715, New Haven, Conn. (2 children) [Compiler's note: Inventory of estate taken May 1, 1727; on May 17, 1733, "Daniel Bidwell, age 15 years, son of Samuel Bidwell, late of Middletown, decd., chose his uncle, Lt. Hezekiah Sumner, to be his guardian." (MAN vol. 2, p. 466)]
- (3) Mary Bidwell, b. January 8, 1678/9, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown (unmarried) [Compiler's note: On May 19, 1733, Mary Bidwell conveyed 100 acres of land to her brothers-in-law William Brainerd, Caleb Brainerd and Hezekiah Sumner and their wives, "land which was given to me by my Honrd father Samll Bidwell, Late of sd. Middletown, Decd." (MLR vol. 5, p. 471); she may have been the Mary Bidwell whose estate inventory was taken September 13, 1734; administration was granted to Hezekiah Sumner on September 3, 1734 (MAN vol. 3, p. 141).]
- (4) Elizabeth Bidwell, b. abt. 1681, Middletown, Conn.; d. October 20, 1758, Haddam, Conn.; m. Caleb Brainerd, May 1, 1701, Middletown, Conn. (6 children)
- (5) Abigail Bidwell, b. abt. 1683, Middletown, Conn.; d. May 13, 1772, Middletown, Conn., m.(1) Hezekiah Sumner, February 10, 1703/4, Middletown, Conn. (6 children); m.(2) Samuel Frary, November 1, 1753, Cromwell, Conn. (*Hale, House and Related Families*, by Donald Lines Jacobus, 1952) [Compiler's note: "Abigail Frary, widow, formerly wife of Hezekiah Sumner, died May 13, 1772 (*Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions*, Middletown, Conn.; McDonough Cemetery, no 711-19, p. 644).]
- (6) Hannah Bidwell, b. abt. 1685, Middletown, Conn.; d. August 22, 1725, Middletown, Conn.; m. Richard Turner, July 18, 1717, Middletown, Conn. (3 children) [Compiler's note: "Hannah Turner, wife of Richard, died Aug. 22, 1725, age 40 yrs." (Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions, Middletown, Conn.; McDonough Cemetery, no 711-19, p. 642).]
- (7) Nathaniel Bidwell, b. abt. 1688, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown; m. Mary Keeney, December 22, 1720, Glastonbury, Conn. (5 children) [Compiler's note: On June 28, 1740, Nathaniel Bidwell of Glastonbury conveyed equal ninth part of land laid out "in right of my Honrd father Samuel Bidwell decd" (MLR vol. 9, p. 2); on June 12, 1758, dwelling house conveyed "where Nathaniel Bidwell dwells, reserving life use for Nathaniel Bidwell and his wife." (Hale, House and Related Families/Jacobus, 1952; Glastonbury deeds vol. 8, p. 252).]

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By second wife:

(8) Thankful Bidwell, b. December 8, 1695, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown; m. Edward Yeomans, September 8, 1716, Middletown, Conn. (3 children) [Compiler's note: On December 18, 1732, Edward Yeomans and Thankful his wife of Stonington rights in undivided land belonging to Thankful accrued to her grandfather Daniel Harris and to her father Samuel Bidwell (MLR vol. 5, p. 479).]

#### By third wife:

(9) Moses Bidwell, b. January 9, 1698/9, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown; m. Dorothy Ward, May 20, 1729, Middletown, Conn. (6 children) [Compiler's note: On May 26, 1746, Abigail Ward widow of William Ward decd to her children ... Moses Bidwell and Dorothy his wife (MLR vol. 10, p. 452); on September 15, 1750, Moses Bidwell and Dorothy his wife quitclaimed land to Daniel Ward (MLR vol. 15, p. 454).]

(10) Zacheriah Bidwell, b. abt. 1700, Middletown, Conn. (died young)

Residence/Property: On April 20, 1673, land of Samuel Bidwell recorded, six acres given to him by his uncle John Hall bounded east and west on the highway north on Thomas Wetmore and south on Samuel Hall; on March 1, 1685, twelve acres which he had of the town by exchange for land out of his father Stow's lot "as appears by the towne Voat Janauary 25th 1674" bounded on the town commons on every side except where it abuts the saw mill lot (MLR vol. 1, p. 101); on March 26, 1685/6, one hundred fifty acres commonly called the parsonage land on the east side of the great river (MLR vol. 1, p. 80); on April 29, 1707, five acres at the upper end of wongong (MLR vol. 1, p. 101); on March 13, 1713/4, thirty five acres southeast from town (MLR vol. 3, p. 74).

Will: Vol. 2, p. 356-357 (MAN). Will dated March 23, 1715, to my son Samuel Bidwell; to my son Nathaniel Bidwell; to my daughter Sarah Braynard, "one-half of my right in the great lott at the Streights Hills, which I bought of my brother-in-law Thomas Stow and also by gift in will by my father Stow;" to my daughter Elizabeth Brainard; to my daughter Abigail Sumner; to my daughter Mary Bidwell; to my daughter Hannah Bidwell; to my wife Abigail Bidwell and to my son Moses Bidwell; to my daughter Thankful (Estate inventory, April 25, 1715: 977-05-06, i.e., 977 pounds).

**Burial Location:** Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn. "Here lyeth the Body of Samuel Bedwel, who departed this life in the year 1715, on the 5th of April, in the 65 year of his Age." (NEHGSR, vol. 11, p. 80)

#### **Notes:**

(CAF): Samuel Bidwell was deputy to the General Court in October 1697, May 1698, October 1698, October 1703, and October 1705.

(SAV): "BIDDLE, JOHN, Hartford 1639, d. 1687, leav. John, Joseph, Samuel, and Daniel, beside ds. Sarah House, Hannah Waddams, b. 2 Oct. 1644, and Mary Meekins, prob. w. of John of H."

(SAV): "BIDDLE, SAMUEL, Hartford, s. of the first John, m. Elizabeth d. of Thomas Stow, wh. d. early, and for sec. w. took, I think, Sarah, d. of Daniel Harris. This name, sometimes spel. Biddell, or Beadle, may be the same as Bedell, and easi. become Bidwell, so that Hon. Barnabas Bidwell, M. C. from Mass. s. of Rev. Adonijah, was thot. to be of this fam."

(MAN): Will of John Winlock (i.e., Wilcox) of Hartford, dated July 24, 1651, "to my daughter Ann Hall, to her Children if shee have any then living; but if shee be dead and leave no Issue, then my will is that ten pounds be paid to John Hall her husband if he be then Living ... to my daughter Sarah Biddell my mare and two working stears, Allso a Carte & a plowe with a share and Coulter & a plowe eare ... to John Biddell's Children forty pounds, to be paid at the death of my wife, equally to be devided amongst so many of Sarah Biddell's Children as then shall be living." (vol. 1, p. 164-165)

(HMC): "March 8th 1671-2. Samuel Bidwell adm'd an inhab't."

(MLR): On February 11, 1674, Thomas Miller, Samuel Bidwell of Middletown and John Bidwell Junior of Hartford agreed to build a saw mill in Middletown not far from the corn mill belonging to Thomas Miller. (vol. 2, p. 532)

(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870): On September 20, 1674, Samuel Bidwell who was recommended from the "2d ch of xt at Heartford" received as member in state of initiation; Sarah, daughter of Samuel Bidwell baptized (p. 21); on June 10, 1677, Samuel Bidwell, son of Samuel, baptized (p. 25); on January 12, 1678/9, "Mary daughter of Samll Bidwell & Eliz: his wife" baptized (p. 28); on August 28, 1681, Elizabeth Bidwell baptized (p. 32); on March 4, 1682/3, Abigail Bidwell baptized (p. 34); on November 9, 1684, "Hannah daughter of Samuell Bidwell and Elizabeth his wife was baptised" (p. 36); [Compiler's note: No baptisms were recorded from 1684 (when Pastor Nathaniel Collins died) to 1688]; on November 11, 1688, "Nathll (son of Samll & Elizabeth) Bidwell" baptized (p. 36); on January 26, 1689/90, Samuel Bidwell admitted to full communion (p. 39); on December 15, 1695, Thankfull daughter of Samuel and Sarah Bidwell baptized (p. 47); on January 15, 1698/9, Moses son of Samuel and Abigail Bidwell baptized (p. 52); on June 2, 1700, "Sarah ye daughter of Sarah Bidwel alias Braynard ye wife of Willm Braynard of Haddam was baptised, the mother belonging to this church & having formerly ownd ye covenant here" (p. 54); on October 27, 1700, "Zacheriah ye son of Samll & Abigail Bidwell" baptized (p. 55); on January 2, 1708/9, Samuel son of Samuel Bidwell, Jr., baptized (p. 68); on July 8, 1711, "Nathll Bidwell made confession of his breach of 8th command. ch acceptd his confessn." (p. 74); on May 15, 1720, Giles son of Thankful

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Yeomans baptized, she "belonging to this place formerly & now owning the covenant here, there being no settled minister at Stonington," her present place of abode. (p. 86); on October 28, 1722, Moses the son of Edward Yeomans was baptised" (p. 89); on April 28, 1723, Sarah the daughter of Edward Yeomans was baptised" (p. 89).

(MAN): Will of John Bidwell Senior of Hartford, dated February 10, 1680, "I give to my son Samuel Bidwell £20 - £10, to be payd him two years after my decease, and £10 for the use of his children after my wife's decease." (MAN vol. 1, p. 274-275); will of Thomas Stow Senior of Middletown, dated January 26, 1680/1, to my son Nathaniel Stow, to my son Thomas Stow and to "Samuel Biddoll, the other halfe of my great Lott at the Streight Hills" (vol. 1, p. 369).

(MLR): On May 10, 1681, Deacon John Hall in consideration of forty shillings paid by Samuel Bidwell, also in consideration of some estate of the sd Bidwell's put under the estate of said John Hall in the year seventy and seventy three and more principally for the love and good affection which be bearth to his said kinsman Samuel Bidwell; six acres of land whereon his house standeth bounded east and west on highway north Thomas Wetmore and south on Samuel Hall; five acres in Gooses Delight; forty acres in westernmost range of lots (vol. 2, p. 83) [Compiler's note: Deacon John Hall married Ann Wilcox, the sister of Samuel Bidwell's mother Sarah.]

(MLR): On March 26, 1685/6, Mr. Giles Hamlin, Lt. Nathaniel White, Ensign William Ward, Deacon Thomas Allyn and Deacon John Hall as agents on behalf of the town of Middletown conveyed to Samuel Biddle one hundred fifty acres commonly called the parsonage land on the east side of the great river in exchange for six acres on the west side of the great river with dwelling house and the promise of said Biddle to build for the town a good sufficient frame of a house forty feet long and eighteen feet in breadth and fourteen feet in height and to make all the windows to the house and to board the rough side of the house and cover it with shingles with nails provided by the town. (vol. 1, p. 80)

(MAN): Will of Capt. Daniel Harris of Middletown, dated March 13, 1698/9, appointed his son John Harris and his son-in-law Samuel Bidwell as joint executors; "I give unto my grandchild Thankfull Bidwell one parcel of land lying in my farm, 111 acres ... to her father (my son-in-law), Samuel Bidwell ... to my sd. son-in-law Samuel Bidwell what in reversion was to have been my daughter Sarah's." On April 8, 1712, "Whereas, Daniel Harris and Isaac Johnson of Middletown did summon and cite John Harris and Samuel Bidwell of said Middletown to appear before this Court of Probate, as executors to the last will of Capt. Daniel Harris, late of sd. Middletown deed., to answer the complaint of sd. Daniel Harris and Isaac Johnson, wherefore the said John

Harris and Samuel Bidwell have not performed the trust committed to them, in neglecting to set out to them their legacies according to the said will of the decd., upon consideration whereof this Court are of opinion that this case is not cognizable before this Court, and therefore do dismiss the same and do declare that this case is proper and cognizable before the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, and therefore have considered that the said John Harris and Samuel Bidwell shall recover their costs of this Court, and cost allowed is fifteen shillings money, and this Court do order that execution be issued forth upon this order." (vol. 2, p. 72-74)

(*Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776*): On May 10, 1711, "Upon consideration of the petition of Daniell Harris of Middletown, respecting the last will of his father, Capt. Daniell Harris, late of Middleton, deceased, and the pleas of the petitioner, with the replys of John Harris and Samuel Bidwell of said Middletown, executors of the said will: This Assembly do not see cause to grant the matter pray'd for therein, but do adjudge the said petitioner to pay to the said executors their cost of attendance upon the said petition, which is allowed to be twenty two shillings and six pence, currant money." (vol. 5, p. 208)

(MAN): Probate record of Sargt. Nathaniel Stow of Middletown; on March 6, 1704/5, "Adms. to Thomas Stow, Sen., a brother of the deceased;" on April 4, 1706, legatees to his estate are Thomas Stow, Samuel Stow, heirs of John Stow, Mary Spalding, Thankful Hill and heirs of Elizabeth Bidwell, decd; on July 7, 1707, distribution to John Stow, to Thankful Hill, to Samuel Cotton (son of Mary Spalden alias Cotton), to Samuel Bidwell (husband of Elizabeth Bidwell, decd.), and to Thomas Stow (brother of Sergt. Nathaniel Stow). (vol. 2, p. 120)

(MLR): On July 22, 1707, legatees to the estate of Sergeant Nathaniel Stow of Middletown included his brother Thomas Stow, his brother Samuel Stow of Marlborough, province of Massachusetts Bay, his sister Thankfull Hill widow of John Hill of Gilford, Samuel Bedwell Senior, and Samuel Cotton of Middletown for himself and as representing his mother Mary Spaulding now wife of John Spaulding of Chelmsford in the province of Massachusetts Bay (vol. 2, p. 208); on March 1, 1707/8, Thomas Stow to his brother in law Samuel Bidwell, all right that he had by virtue of his deceased father Thomas Stow's last will and testament in his great lot at the Straits Hills and his half mile lot on the east side of the great river (vol. 2, p. 230).

(MAN): Inventory of Mary Harris, single woman, daughter of Thomas Harris, taken January 28, 1712/3. On April 5, 1714, distribution to the heirs, to Samuel Harris, to William, to John Harris, to Samuel Cadwell, his daughter Thankfull Cadwell, to the heirs of Elizabeth Honeywell, to Hannah Savage. [Note: for Samuel Harris, read Daniel Harris; for Samuel Cadwell, his daughter Thankful Cadwell, read Samuel Bidwell for his daughter Thankful Bidwell; for Hannah Savage, read Hannah Sprague]. (vol. 2, p. 218)



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(MLR): On January 8, 1719/20, William Brainerd and Caleb Brainerd of Haddam conveyed ninety six acres, being part of a great lot originally belonging to Thomas Stow and given to our wives by our honored father Samuel Bidwell in his last will and testament. (vol. 4, p. 55)

(MLR): On May 19, 1733, Mary Bidwell "for the consideration of the Maintenance which I have already had and expect further to receive of my brother in Law and sisters William Brainard and Sarah his wife, Caleb Brainard and Elizabeth his wife all of Haddam in sd County and Lieut. Hezekiah Sumner and Abigail his wife of Middletown" conveyed to them "one hundred acres of Land (which was given to me by my Honrd. Father Samll Bidwell, Late of sd Middletown Decd. in his last will and testament ... bounded easterly on Moses Bidwell's Land westerly on Wallingford bounds Northerly on Richard Turners Land and Southerly on undivided Land or Middletown south line" on the condition that the above named provide for the said Mary Bidwell "with good and sufficient meat drink apparrel lodging and washing and other necessaries at all times in sickness and health during her natural Life." (vol. 5, p. 471)

(MLR): On February 2, 1744, Moses Bidwell conveyed land in the Three Mile Division containing ten acres, being one fifth right that is "my brother Nathaniel Bidwells" and my own right in the 35th lot, the whole lot containing fifty four acres and was "laid out in right of my Honrd father Samuel Bidwell decd." (vol. 11, p. 53); on September 15, 1750, Jonathan Ward, William Whitmore and Abigail his wife, Abijah Moore and Anna his wife, Moses Bidwell and Dorothy his wife quitclaimed to Daniel Ward land lying at a place called Huntinghill containing ten acres bounded east on land that belonged to Giles Hall Esq., deceased, west on James Ward and north on a brook. (vol. 15, p. 454)

### For further reading:

Genealogy of the First Seven Generations of the Bidwell family in America, by Edwin M. Bidwell (Albany, N.Y.: J. Munsell's Sons, 1884.)

Hale, House and Related Families, Mainly of the Connecticut River Valley, by Donald Lines Jacobus (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1952.)

*Bidwell Family History, 1587-1982*, by Joan J. Bidwell (Baltimore, Md.: Gateway Press, 1983.)

### VERIFY - VERIFY - VERIFY

# Abbreviation code used in SMFSD biographical sketches and in-depth profiles:

(MVR) Middletown Vital Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(BCVR) The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records (original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; printed index available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.; digitized index abailable on CD-Rom as part of The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.)

(MLR) Middletown Land Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(MAN) Digest of Connecticut Probate Records, Hartford District (Manwaring, Charles William. A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records. Originally published 1904-1906; reprinted 1995. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.)

(CBRMC) Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, and Many of the Early Settled Families. Chicago, Ill.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1903.

(MUH) Middletown Upper Houses (Adams, Charles C. Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908.)

(FFS) Frank Farnsworth Starr ("The Settlers of Mattabeseck 1650-1660," *Middletown Penny Press*, Oct. 11, 1900; also published in the *Middletown Tribune* 250th Anniversary supplement.)

(CAF) Centennial Address of Rev. David Field. (Field, David D. Centennial Address: With Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle Haddam, Middletown, and its Parishes. Middletown, Conn.: W.B. Casey, 1853.)

(GMB) The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633 (Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG. The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Vol. 1-III. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996.)

(SAV) Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England (Savage, James. A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer's Register. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Co., 1860-1862.)

(GFHC) Genealogical & Family History of the State of Connecticut (Cutter, William Richard. Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.)

(HMC) The History of Middlesex County (Henry Whittemore, ed. The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884)

(RPCC) Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663 (Adams, Arthur W., ed. Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928.)

(HCCM) Hartford County Court Minutes, 1663-1687 (Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. Hartford County, Conn., County Court Minutes, Vol, 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005.)

(NEHGSR) NEHGS Register (New England Historical and Genealogical Register. Boston, Mass: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-2007.) (Online database available at NewEnglandAncestors.org)

(TAG) The American Genealogist (articles by Donald Lines Jacobus, ed., 1922-1971) (The American Genealogist. New Haven, Conn.: D.L. Jacobus, 1922-1971)