



*In-Depth First Settler Profile:*  
*Jasper Clements (1660) /*  
*Eleanor (Watts) (Browne) Clements*

**Name:** Jasper Clements (Name also spelled Gasper Clemens - MLR, vol. 1, p. 372.)

**Birth:** Abt. 1613 [**Compiler's note:** Died in 1677, "aged about 64 years." (MAN vol. 1, p. 291)]

**Emigration:** Unknown

**Death:** October 16, 1677 (BCVR)

**Occupation & Public Service:** Horse trader (MLR vol. 1, p. 372); "I freely give to the Benefit of the Schools in Middletown all my Divisions of Land on the East side of the Great River" (MAN vol. 1, p. 291)

**Marriage:** m.(1) unknown wife in England; m.(2) Eleanor (Watts) Browne, widow of Nathaniel Browne, abt. 1660, Middletown, Conn. (b. about 1625, England; d. September 28, 1703, Middletown, Conn., MLR vol. 1, p. 28) She was the daughter of Richard Watts of Hartford, Conn. Widow Eleanor Clements later married Nathaniel Willett. (*Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut* by Lucius Barnes Barbour, 1982.)

**Parents:** Unknown

**Children:** Left no known children (SAV); wife and stepchildren inherited his estate. (MAN vol. 1, p. 291)

**Residence/Property:** Lands of Jasper Clements recorded September 2, 1677 (six weeks before his death), "Land neare a brooke Comonly Called two sticks containing fiue Acres more or Lesse Abutting on the high ways and Comons one all sids;" [**Compiler's note:** Land later recorded to John and Benoni Brown (MLR vol. 1, p. 6)]; long meadow swamp containing fourteen acres; upland southward from the town containing sixteen acres [**Compiler's note:** Both parcels of land bequeathed to stepson Nathaniel Brown (MLR vol. 1, p. 142)]; upland at a place commonly called two mill brook containing 246 acres; upland lying in westernmost range of lots containing 306 acres. (MLR vol. 1, p. 41)

**Will:** Vol. 1, p. 291 (MAN). Will dated October 13, 1677, age about 64 years, "I give to Eleanor my wife ... to Nathaniel Brown 17 acres of Swamp in Long Meadow Swamp, & 15 acres of Upland near the south End of the Town. My two great Lotts on the West side of the Great River I give to Nathaniel Brown & John Brown & Benoni Brown, to be divided equally amongst them ... to Hanna Lane, the younger, 2 Sheep. [**Compiler's note:** Hanna Lane, the younger, was the daughter of his stepdaughter Hannah (Brown) Lane.] I give to my wife all my Household Goods of all sorts, only my Will is that after her decease my great Kettle & my Great Chest shall be my cousin Hanna Lane's. And moreover, I give to my wife all other of my Estate which is not herein mentioned, making her

soale Executrix. I freely give to the Benefit of the Schools in Middletown all my Divisions of Land on the East side of the Great River." (Estate inventory taken November 7, 1677: 243-04-00, i.e., 243 pounds.)

**Burial Location:** Unknown

**Notes:**

(CAF): "Jasper Clements was born in England about 1614. He died here in 1678 [1677], aged 64, leaving property for support of schools in the town."

(SAV): "JASPER, Middletown 1660, had a w. in Eng. but desir. one here, d. 1677, leav. w. but no ch."

(*Catalogue of the Names of the First Puritan Settlers of the Colony of Connecticut* by R. R. Hinman): "Clements, Jasper, Middletown died in 1678, aged 64 years. Wife, Eleanor. Left no children and gave his estate to Nathaniel, John, and Benoni Brown, Hannah Long, and the town of Middletown for the support of a school there." (p. 125)

(**Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776**): At a Court of Election held at Hartford on May 17, 1660, "This Court haueing intelligence yt Jasper Clemens being in a probable way to enter into the estate of marriage, and confessing that he had a wife in England, and noth: doth appeare to evidence that she is dead, It is therefore ordered, that the said Jasper and Ellin Browne shalbe forthwith seperated, vntil such evidence be procured that may clearly demonstrate that the couent of marriage be dissolued twist ye said Clemens and his former wife. And the Townsmen of MiddleTowne are required to put this order forthwith in execution." (vol. 1, p. 351-352)

(HCCM): A Court held at Hartford on December 3, 1663, "This Court haueing considered the Complaynet made against Jasper Clemens & Helena Browne, for there unlawfull Joyneing themselues together doe Judg there so Joyneing themselues together Null, & for there midemeanor therein fine them forty shilling to the publique Treasurye." (p. 14) [**Compiler's note:** Helena Browne is Eleanor (Watts) Browne, widow of Nathaniel Browne.]

(**Hartford, Connecticut Land Records: 1638-1688**): On May 22, 1665, "Mr. Rich Lord sent to New yorke to be dd to mr Stenweck thefe mares," including "one dark collourd mare wth a piece Cutt out of the Backer Side of the near Eare bought of Jasper Clements." (p. 629)

(**Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776**): At a Court of Election held at Hartford on May 9, 1667, "These were prsented to stand for freemen: Mr Nath: Collins, Mr. Samll Collins, Henry Cole, Samll Cornewal, Georg Durant ... James Topping, Jasper Clements." (vol. 2, p. 60)

(HMC): The names of the proprietors of Middletown with their estates, taken March 22th 1670 included Jasper Clements



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with a value of £98. The list of the estates of the inhabitants of Middletown taken in 1673 included Jasper Clements with a value of £108.

**(HMC):** “The Donation Fund. This fund is peculiar to the town of Middletown, and its income is distributed among the districts formerly included in the First Society, i.e. all the present town except the four Westfield districts. The origin of this fund is found in the will of Rev. Samuel Stow, once a preacher in Middletown, who died in the year 1704 ... It is understood that this gift for the public good became the nucleus of the present donation fund, to which was added, in 1734, the estate given by Jasper Clemens, as shown in the following extract from the town records, December 24th 1734: ‘Voated: That Mr. Geo. Beckwith or those that shall challenge the estate given by Mr. Jasper Clemens to the use and benefit of a scoall for Mid-town shall have all the right given by said Clemens in his last will and testament to the said scoall. Viz. That for three hundred and fifty pounds money, he or they giving Bonds with surety or sureties for the money for a reasonable time with the interest, If he or they do not pay the money down and the interest of s'd money to be paid from year to year until the principle be paid, and Giles Hall Esq. and Jabez Hamlin Esq., with Capt. George Phillips are hereby full empowered to give and execute lawful conveyance of s'd land, and the interest of the money to be from year to year disposed according to the will of said Clemens. Passed in the affirmative by a unanimous voat.’”

**(One Thousand Years of Hubbard History, by Edward Warren Day, 1895):** “The other daughter of Richard ... Watts was Eleanor, who married Dec. 23, 1647, (1) Nathaniel Brown ... Eleanor (Watts) Brown then married (2) Jasper Clements of Middletown, b. in England in 1614, d in Middletown in 1678, leaving a handsome bequest for the support of schools. She then married (3) Nathaniel Willett of Hartford and died Sept. 28, 1703, leaving Thomas, Nathaniel, John, and Benoni.” (p. 270)

**(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870 (available at Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown, Conn.):** On December 30, 1668, “wife of goodman Clements” admitted as member in full communion (p. 4); on January 10, 1668/9, “The children of our sister Clements namely Nathaniel, Thomas, John, Bennoni, Hannah” baptized (p. 5) [**Compiler’s note:** The children of Nathaniel Browne were baptized after his death.]

**(Catalogue A Members of the First Congregational Church, Middletown, from November 9, 1668 to May 7, 1876; available at Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown, Conn.):** On December 30, 1668, Elinor Clements admitted as a member of the church.

**(MLR):** On April 9, 1664, “Gasper Clemens of midlle towne in the Corporatyon of Conite Cote morgageth his 2 Baye hors which hee bought of Goodman steeuens of gill ford to William lewis of hadly, for six pounds [steruling] to be in full forc if Payment bee notmade by ye mikellmas next” (vol. 1, p. 372); on June 4, 1669, land of Elenor Clements the wife of Jasper Clements of Middletown recorded, “Land wharon hir hous standeth containing about fiue acres ... buting on mr Stow South and Thomas watts North the high way East & mr stows

**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 available 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 Mattabesec 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. I-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](http://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)



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Land West;" meadow land in the Long meadow containing four acres; swamp in the long meadow swamp which was formerly mr Nath Browns; half the woodland that was laid out to thomas Watts which was formerly mr nathanill Browns on the west side of the Great River; half the bogie meadow which was formerly mr Nathanill browns; "These Records ware made after their agreement with Thomas Watts to whom the Wholl Lands Ware mortgaged Which war then Layd out and thus recorded with Thomas Watts consent;" on January 21,

1679, upland lying on the east side of the Great River giuen to her Husband browne containing thirty acres; on April 15, 1685, Isaac Lane enters caution against all the records above written which are recorded to his mother in Law Elenor Willet Sometime the wife of Mr Nathanill Browne (vol. 1, p. 72); on April 29, 1685, Nathaniel Browne [Junior] recorded sixteen acres of upland given to him by his father-in-law Jasper Clements. (vol. 1, p. 142)

(MAN): Will of Nathaniel Brown [Junior] dated September 20, 1731, "It is my will that my Wongunk land and my lott in the last division of land on the east side of the Connecticut River, which was laid out in the name of Jasper Clemens ... be made sale of by my executors after named, for the payment of my just debts and funeral charges." (vol. 3, p. 144)

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