



## *In-Depth First Settler Profile:*

*Giles Hamlin (1650) /*

*Hester/Esther (Crow) Hamlin*

**Name:** Giles Hamlin (Capt.)

**Birth:** 1622, England (*The Hamlin Family/Andrews, 1900*)

**Emigration:** To Hartford before 1651; to Middletown before March, 1654 (FFS)

**Death:** September 1, 1689, Middletown, Conn. (MVR)

**Occupation & Public Service:** “His occupation was that of a mariner, and from the inscription on his gravestone, we learn that he was ‘near fifty years crossing the ocean wide.’ In 1665 he was in command of a vessel called the *Desire* and in 1679, the *John and James*. He was chosen rate maker, grand levy man, townsman, and was appointed one of a committee to seat the new meeting house. He was appointed Justice of the Peace for Middletown from 1666 to 1685.”(FFS)

**Marriage:** m. Hester Crow, about 1655, Hartford or Middletown, Conn. (b. about 1628, England; d. August 23, 1700, Middletown, Conn.) She was the daughter of John Crow (an early settler of Hartford, Conn., and later, Hadley, Mass.) and his first wife (identity unknown). “The date of his marriage to Hester, daughter of John Crow of Hartford, is unknown.”(FFS)

**Parents:** Unknown

**Children** (MVR, Land Records, vol. 1, page 11; BCVR) (*The Hamlin Family/Andrews, 1900*):

(1) Hester Hamlin, b. December 15, 1655, Middletown, Conn.; d. November 11, 1692, Middletown, Conn.; m. William Southmayd, October 1673, Middletown, Conn. (5 children)

(2) John Hamlin, b. December 14, 1658, Middletown, Conn.; d. January 2, 1732, Middletown, Conn.; m. (1) Mary Collins, January 1684, Middletown, Conn. (9 children); m. (2) Sarah Bull, January 2, 1723, Middletown, Conn. (no children)

(3) Mary Hamlin, b. February 11, 1662, Middletown, Conn.; d. October 24, 1743, Middletown, Conn.; m. Rev. Noadiah Russell, February 20, 1690, Middletown, Conn. (9 children)

(4) Mehitable Hamlin, b. November 17, 1664, Middletown, Conn.; d. 1749, Hartford, Conn.; m. Samuel Hooker, June 28, 1687, Farmington, Conn. (8 children)

(5) Giles Hamlin, Jr., b. August 13, 1666, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown. No further account after 1710 expedition to Nova Scotia (*Andrews, pg. 37*)

(6) William Hamlin, b. February 3, 1667, Middletown, Conn.; d. May 22, 1733, Middletown, Conn.; m. Susannah Collins, May 26, 1692, Middletown, Conn. (8 children)

(7) Richard Hamlin, baptised July 1671, Middletown, Conn.;

d. unknown.

**Residence/Property:** “His home lot on the east side of Main Street extended from about the north side of J.H. Bunce’s store, nearly, if not quite, to Court Street. In 1679, he purchased a house and ten acres of land on the southwest corner of Main and Washington Streets. This was the home of the family for four generations.” (FFS)

**Will:** Vol. 1, p. 460 (MAN). (Estate inventory, August 30, 1689: 2249-18-06, i.e. 2249 pounds)

**Burial Location:** Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn. (NEHGS Register, Vol. 11, Jan. 1857, p. 80-83; Vol. 15, April 1861, p. 161-167). “He died September 1, 1689, and his gravestone bears the oldest date of any now extant in Middletown.”(FFS)

### **Notes:**

(FFS): “In 1686 he was one of five appointed to attend the finishing of the parsonage house. In 1666 he gave ‘a drum to the town and train band,’ and the town passed a vote regarding its use.”

(*The Hamlin Family, by H. Franklin Andrews, 1900*): “For many years his name appears in the records of the proceedings of the General Assembly of Conn. Colony. He was deputy from Middletown to the General Assembly at twenty-three sessions from 1666 to 1684; an office similar to a representative in the legislature. He was an assistant or member of the upper house of the General Assembly from 1685 until his death.”

(CAF): “Giles Hamlin is generally considered as coming here immediately from England. He was born about 1612. He was in the habit of crossing the Atlantic, and was engaged in foreign commerce, ‘partly by himself and partly with John Pynchon of Springfield, his brother-in-law John Crow, jr., who dwelt in Fairfield, and eled Goodwin of Hartfore, afterwards of Farmington.’ He died in 1689.” (Field, pg. 145-146)

(HMC): “Hon. Giles Hamlin, ancestor of the early and very respectable family of that name, came from some part of England, and became a resident of Middletown, probably in 1650. He was probably a seafaring man. He was the first person admitted to the communion of the church under Rev. Mr. Collins, and was elected to the Colonial Council in 1685, and annually thereafter till his death, except during the usurpation of Andross. He died in 1689.”

(SAV): “GILES, Middletown 1650, m. 1655, Esther, d. of John Crow of Hartford, had John, b. 14 Dec. 1658; Giles, 13 Aug. 1666; William, 3 Feb. 1669; and Richard, whose date may be next to John; ds. Mehitable, or Mable, b. 17 Nov. 1664, who m. Samuel Hooker; Esther, b. 15 Dec. 1655, m. Oct. 1673, William Southmayd; and Mary, 11 Feb. 1663, m. 20 Feb. 1690, Rev. Noadiah Russell; was rep. 1666, and nearly every yr. to 1684, assist. 1685 till he d. 1 Sept. 1689,



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aged 67. He perhaps own. ships and command. in the John and James at Barbados, Aug. 1679. See Geneal. Reg. VIII. 206. Field, 49, gives the inscript. on his monum. His wid. d. 25 Aug. 1700, aged 72. To a fam. tradit. that he was br. of James Hamblen, and went with him to Barnstable, bef. sett. at M. I sec no reason for attach. any credit. JOHN, Middletown, s. of the preced. m. Jan. 1685, Mary, eldest d. of Rev. Nathaniel Collins, had John, b. 16 July 1687; Giles, 19 Feb. 1692; Esther, 7 Jan. 1695; Mary, 10 Apr. 1697; Sibil, 1 Mar. 1699, d. next yr.; Jabez, 7 Jan. 1701, d. young; Ebenezer, 12 Oct. 1702, d. soon; Sibil, again, 10 Oct. 1704; and Jabez, again, 28 July 1709. He was in high esteem, an assist. 26 yrs. and 5 yrs. a Judge of the Sup. Court. His w. d. 5 May 1722; and he d. 2 Jan. 1733. His youngest s. d. 1791. WILLIAM, Middletown, br. of the preced. m. 26 May 1692, Susanna, d. of Rev. Nathaniel Collins, had Richard, b. 17 May 1693; William, 7 Oct. 1694; Giles, 6 May 1697; Nathaniel, 26 Oct. 1699; Edward, 1 Mar. 1703; Susanna, 28 Aug. 1704; Charles, 8 May 1707; and Esther, 14 Jan. 1711. His w. d. 24 Oct. 1722; and he d. 22 May 1733."

(From *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*, J. H. Beers & Co., N.Y., 1884, "Middletown - Prominent Men," Part 1, Pg. 152-173.): "Hon. Giles Hamlin, ancestor of the early and very respectable family of that name, came from some part of England, and became a resident of Middletown, probably in 1650. He was probably a seafaring man. He was the first

person admitted to the communion of the church under Rev. Mr. Collins, and was elected to the Colonial Council in 1685, and annually thereafter till his death, except during the usurpation of Andross. He died in 1689. Hon. John Hamlin, eldest son of Giles, inherited the sterling qualities of his father, and served the public for a much longer period. He was an assistant, from 1694 to 1730. In 1715 he was appointed a judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Hartford, and from 1716 to 1721, he was an assistant judge of the Superior Court. He died in 1733, at the age of 75. Hon. Jabez Hamlin, son of John, was held in equally as high esteem as were his father and grandfather, and was still more extensively employed in public life. He was early made a colonel of militia, and was in the commission of the peace in 1733 or 1734, and was a justice of the Quorum from 1745 till 1754. He was a judge of the Hartford County Court from 1754 till 1784, was judge of the Court of Probate from 1752 till 1789, and mayor of the city of Middletown from its incorporation till his death. He was annually elected an assistant from 1758 till 1767. Although he supported an unpopular measure, such was his personal popularity that he was at once sent as a representative to the Assembly and was made speaker of the House, a position which he continued to occupy till he was returned to the Council in 1773. He died in 1791, at the age of 82."

**For further reading:**

*The Hamlin Family*, by H. Franklin Andrews, published by the author, Exira, Iowa, 1900.

**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 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)