



# The Middler

NEWSLETTER of the SOCIETY of MIDDLETOWN FIRST SETTLERS DESCENDANTS  
CONNECTICUT, U.S.A.

Vol. 11, No. 1

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ctsmfsd/Index.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ctsmfsd/Index.html)

Spring 2011

## WHERE THEY CAME FROM

# English origins of Middletown's early settlers offer raw material for social & cultural analysis

By R.W. Bacon  
Editor, *The Middler*

When your editor assumed responsibility for the twice-yearly SMFSD *Middler* in 2005, it was estimated that there would be about 10 years worth of topics to explore, research, prepare, and present to Middletown history and genealogy enthusiasts. One topic on the list was identifying where the 1650-1700 settlers came from before arrival in Middletown.

Ensuing issues of *The Middler* included articles and profiles that referenced prior early settler residence in Hartford, Conn., Rowley, Mass., and Boston/Cambridge, Mass. This issue presents the known English origin and pre-Middletown residence of pre-1700 settlers, both male heads-of-household and spouses. (See the tables on pgs. 4, 5, 8, & 9; and maps on pgs. 6 & 7.)

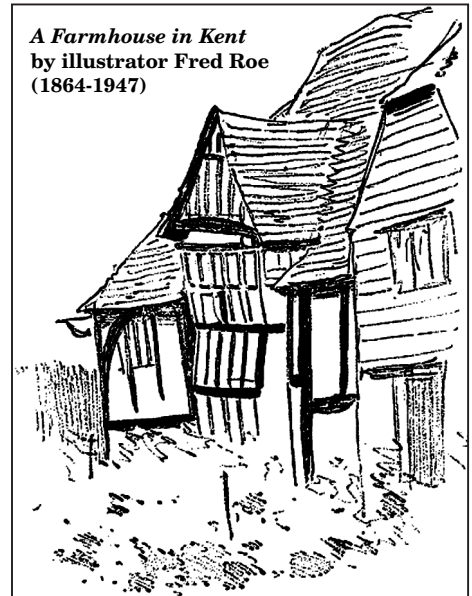
One motivation for diving into this project was to discern whether any broad conclusions can be inferred from plotting the English county origins of early Middletown settlers. A few questions might include: (1) Did region of origin influence the degree to which a new arrival embraced the Puritan standards of behavior? (2) Did region of origin influence a new arrival's relative success at farming? (3) Did region of origin influence settlement patterns and/or land use? (4) Did region of origin help or hinder harmonious relations with fellow townspeople? Questions abound, but

in this issue the information gathered is presented without interpretation. Readers are encouraged to conduct, and share, their own analysis.

It is significant to note, however, that most of the 1650-1700 settlers of Middletown did not make the bold decision for themselves to leave England for the New World, a risky and almost literal "leap of faith." Of the first wave of 23 families (1650-1654), just 16 of 45 adults were born in England that came to New England *as adults* of their own

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The illustrations for this article, by Fred Roe (1864-1947), are selected from the 47 he drew for the book *Vanishing England* by Peter H. Ditchfield (1854-1930), published in London, England in 1910.



A Farmhouse in Kent  
by illustrator Fred Roe  
(1864-1947)

## Wesleyan program revisits the history of Portland's brownstone quarries

By R.W. Bacon  
Editor, *The Middler*

Your editor, after an excursion to Wesleyan University on April 30, was moved to shout "Stop the Presses" (to himself, of course) upon his return. The reason? The content of the *Brownstone Stories* lectures was so informative that it had to be included in this issue. As a result, the Spring 2011 *Middler* is about two weeks later than usual, but more timely than ever.

Presented by the Wesleyan University Institute for Lifelong Learning, *Brownstone Stories*:

*Quarries and Dinosaurs*, explored the geologic history of the Connecticut River Valley; the commercial history of the Portland, Conn. brownstone quarries; and the rich fossil record left by dinosaurs in the sandstone beds in

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### In this issue . . .

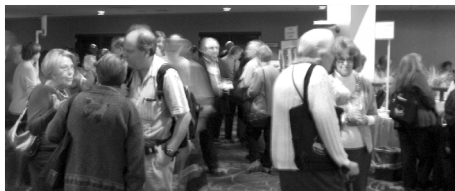
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## SMFSD NEWS

### SMFSD welcomes nine new members; exhibits at 2011 N.E. Genealogy Conference

• Welcome new members.

SMFSD extends an enthusiastic welcome to nine new members since the last issue of *The Middler*: **Cynthia Jones Nicewarner**, AM-285, Hanover, Md. (1st settler George Hubbard); **Michael W. Broad**, AM-286, Syracuse, N.Y. (1st settler William Cornwell); **Davena Louise Rigel-Liepman**, AM-287, Woodlands, Tex. (1st settler Francis Whitmore); **Janisue Weir-Rigel**, AM-288, Woodlands, Tex. (1st settler Francis Whitmore); **Baron Alexander Schneider**, AM-289, Oxnard, Calif. (1st settler Francis Whitmore); **Sarah**



Above is the crowd at the 2011 NERGC Society Fair. At right is the SMFSD booth, where prospective members could learn more about us.



**Amanda Schneider-Buckley**, AM-290, Burleson, Tex. (1st settler Francis Whitmore); **Gavin Donovan Buckley**, AM-291J, Burleson, Tex. (1st settler Francis Whitmore); **Jack L. White**, LM-292, El Cajon, Calif. (1st settler David Markham); and **Sheryl Anne Nash**, AM-293, Ramore, Mo. (1st settler Giles Hamlin).

• **2011 New England Regional Genealogical Conference.** The SMFSD exhibited at the Society Fair at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference April 7,

2011 in Springfield, Mass. The one day event, at which SMFSD exhibited display panels, its web site, and publications, served as a showcase for genealogical societies at the conference, held April 6-10 at both the Sheraton and Marriott hotels in Springfield. On hand to represent SMFSD to NERGC attendees were our organization's secretary, Marge Pierson, who traveled from Illinois; former board member Sue Welles (from Conn.), and *Middler* editor Reg Bacon (from Mass.). ■



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1650-1700 - Middletown, Connecticut, U.S.A.  
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## The many rewards of authorship bear fruit for Peter Haring Judd

Noted author/genealogist **Peter Haring Judd**, whose work over several decades has helped forge a new standard in presenting family history in broad historical/cultural context, was awarded the 2010 First Prize in Family History from the Connecticut Genealogical Society.

His latest book *Affection, Volume I*, uses family letters and photographs from the 1850s to the 1930s to masterfully chronicle his family history and evoke time and place.

Readers may be familiar with his award-winning book, *The Hatch and Brood of Time* (1999), or his tour-de-force published in 2004, *More Lasting Than Brass: The Thread of Family from Revolutionary New York to Industrial Connecticut*, a genealogical, social, and cultural history.

**The first unofficial SMFSD “Raspberry Award.”** Incidentally, the accomplished and certainly prolific Dr. Judd also unwittingly earned an informal SMFSD “raspberry award”

last year when he appropriated 16 paragraphs verbatim from copyrighted essays on the SMFSD web site for use in his 1060-page tome, *Four American Ancestries: White, Griggs, Cowles, Judd* (2008). (Please refer to the past two issues of *The Middler* for more details. The book is viewable in its entirety, including the SMFSD excerpts, on Google Books.)

**Editor’s note:** Your editor withheld identifying the culprit for over a year, allowing time for proper attribution, withdrawal, or paraphrasing of the text. Since there has been no remedial action to follow up Dr. Judd’s gentlemanly apology for his “discourtesy” – and since your editor promised to reveal the culprit to SMFSD members in this issue – his identity is now public. This is done as gently as possible, without accusatory mention of the “P”-word. Indeed, this unofficial “raspberry award” will stand as just one of many distinctions in Dr. Judd’s fruitful career. ■

## English origins of early settlers provide raw material for analysis

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free will, while 24 who were born in England came to New England as young children with their families who first settled elsewhere. As such they likely had no part in the decision of their parents, whether the decision was motivated by religion, economics, speculation, or adventure. (Specific emigration information for some individuals is unknown.) Of the pre-1700 Middletown settlers after the first wave, 81 of 121 were born in New England. Therefore Middletown was in great part a “second generation” settlement from the beginning.

For an introduction to this type of analysis, readers are directed to the work of historian David Hackett Fischer, author of *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America* (1989), and Roger Thompson, author of *Mobility and Migration: East Anglian Founders of New England 1629-1640* (1994).

In *Albion's Seed*, Fischer identifies four major groups of settlers in the Colonial period from different areas in England and Ireland – that settled in different regions in America. He posits that elements of regional culture of the “old country” persisted, and despite centuries of homogenization, cultural differences are still manifested today. Fischer identifies four major socio-religious groups: (1) New England's Puritans, mostly from East Anglia (1620-1640); (2) the Chesapeake Bay region's English, mostly from the

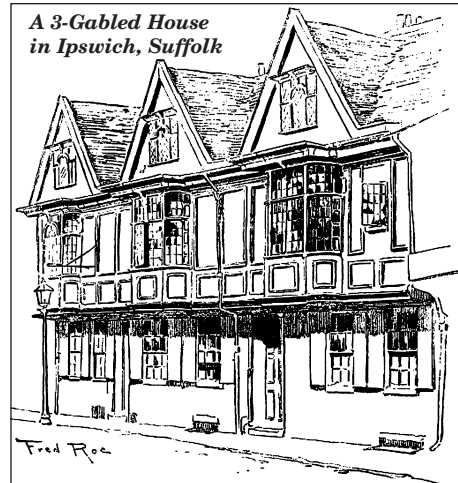
south and west of England, along with their Irish and Scottish indentured servants (1642-1675); (3) the Delaware Valley region's Quakers, from the English midlands, along with Germans tolerant of their beliefs (1675-1715); and (4) Appalachia's English, Irish, and Scottish from England's borderlands (1717-1775).

In *Mobility and Migration*, in some ways Anderson applies Fischer's approach to the first category of New England settlers from East Anglia. His study focused on 2000 such emigrants, and compiled information on age at each migration; family, community, and group migration; and differences in occupational, spatial, social, and attitudinal mobility.

Among his subjects were the 66 families he identifies as the “first-wave dispersal” from Boston, who made the trek to Wethersfield, Springfield, and Hartford – many descendants of whom later settled in Middletown.

Several earlier researchers sought to tabulate the number and origin of English emigrants. Charles Edward Banks (1854-1931) worked for years compiling his *Topographical Dictionary of 2885 English Emigrants to New England 1620-1650*, and died before its completion. His work was finished in 1937 by Elijah Ellsworth Brownell (1872-1963), who created the map (redrawn by your editor) on page 6. More recent research, however, indicates that Banks had compiled fewer than 20% of English emigrants to New England in the 1620-1650 period.

British genealogist Peter Coldham, FASG, has completed a multi-volume series, *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1776*. In the U.S., the New England Historic Genealogical Society published six volumes of *English Origins of New England Families* in 1984, in which editor Gary Boyd Roberts compiled relevant articles from the *NEHGS Register*. In 1991, scholar Virginia DeJohn Anderson compiled data on 693 English emigrants



in her book, *New England's Generation: The Great Migration and the Formation of Society and Culture in the 17th Century*. Robert C. Anderson, FASG, founder of the ongoing Great Migration Study Project, aims to profile every known New England settler through 1640. This raw material will be indispensable to those who do take on the challenge of analyzing collective data.

Information about Middletown settlers in the tables to follow is drawn from sources used for the In-Depth Profiles by R.W. Bacon and Paula Higgins compiled for the SMFSD web site. Profiles are complete for 60 of Middletown's pre-1700 settlers, and 30 remain to be done. For individuals not yet profiled, information was compiled from cursory investigation only. As always: “Verify, verify, verify.” ■

### Suggested reading:

Anderson, Robert C. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633*. NEHGS, Boston, Mass., 1999.

Anderson, Virginia DeJohn. *New England's Generation: The Great Migration and the Formation of Society and Culture in the Seventeenth Century*. Cambridge University Press, New York, N.Y., 1991.

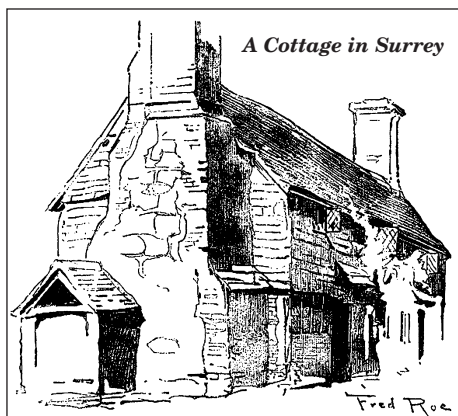
Bailyn, Bernard. *The Peopling of British North America: An Introduction*. Vintage Books, New York, N.Y., 1986.

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants 1607-1660*. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Md., 1987.

Fischer, David Hackett. *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America*. Oxford University Press, New York, N.Y., 1989.

Roberts, Gary Boyd (ed.). *English Origins of New England Families*. NEHGS, Boston, Mass., 1984.

Thompson, Roger. *Mobility and Migration: East Anglian Founders of New England, 1629-1640*. University of Mass. Press, Amherst, Mass., 1994.





## Origins of early settlers of Middletown, Conn., 1650-1700: A table of birthplace, emigration, prior residence, & arrival

Information in the tables is drawn from In-Depth Profiles prepared for the SMFSD web site by R.W.Bacon & Paula Higgins. Sources include vital records, land records, probate records, court records, the NEHGS Register, Savage's Genealogical Dictionary of New England, The Great Migration Project, credible genealogies, and selected standard works. An asterisk indicates a profile is not complete.

### The First 23 Middletown Families 1650-1654:

Name	B. & D. Dates	Birthplace	Emigration Date & Age	Prior Residence in New England	First in Middletown
<b>Thomas Allen</b> . . . . .	(?-1688) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown) . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn. by 1636 . . . . .	c.1650
m1. (unknown spouse); m2. Martha (unknown)(Gipson) (?-1690). . . . .			unknown		
<b>Nathaniel Bacon</b> . . . . .	(1630-1705) . . . . .	Bramford, Suffolk, England . . . . .	1648 (age 18) . . . . .	Hartford, Conn. by 1648. . . . .	c.1650
m. Ann Miller . . . . .	(1636-1680) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown) . . . . .	1643 (age 7) . . . . .	Rowley, Mass. in 1643. . . . .	1651
<b>William Blumfield</b> . . . . .	(c.1604-c.1664) . . . . .	Ipswich, Suffolk, England . . . . .	1634 (age 30) . . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. 1634; . . . . .	by 1652
m2. Isabel(Pearce)(Sackett)(1627-1663) . . . . .		St. John, Isle of Thant, Kent, England		Hartford 1639; New London, Conn. 1648	
<b>William Cornwell</b> . . . . .	(1609-1678) . . . . .	Terling, Essex, England. . . . .	1633 (age 24) . . . . .	Roxbury, Mass. 1633; . . . . .	by 1652
m1. Joan Ranke . . . . .	(?-c.1639) . . . . .	Fairsted, Essex, England		Hartford, Conn. 1639	
<b>John Hall, Sr.</b> . . . . .	(1584-1673) . . . . .	Kent, England. . . . .	1635 (age 51) . . . . .	Roxbury, Mass. 1635; . . . . .	1652
m. Esther Willicke. . . . .	(1590-d. bef. 1633 in England)			Hartford, Conn. 1636	
<b>John Hall, Jr.</b> . . . . .	(1619-1694) . . . . .	Kent, England . . . . .	1635 (age 16) . . . . .	Roxbury, Mass. 1635; . . . . .	1652
m. Ann Wilcox. . . . .	(1616-1673) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown)		Hartford, Conn. 1636	
<b>Richard Hall</b> . . . . .	(1620-1691) . . . . .	Kent, England . . . . .	1635 (age 15) . . . . .	Roxbury, Mass. 1635; . . . . .	1652
m. Mary Anthony . . . . .	(1621-1691) . . . . .	Hampstead, London, England		Hartford, Conn. 1636	
<b>Samuel Hall</b> . . . . .	(1626-1690) . . . . .	Kent, England . . . . .	1635 (age 9) . . . . .	Roxbury, Mass. 1635; . . . . .	1652
m. Elizabeth Cook. . . . .	(1626-c. 1693) . . . . .	Guilford, Conn.			
<b>Giles Hamlin</b> . . . . .	(1622-1689) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown) . . . . .	1651 (age 29) . . . . .	Hartford, Conn. bef. 1651. . . . .	bef. 1654
m. Hester Crow . . . . .	(1628-1700) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown)			
<b>Daniel Harris</b> . . . . .	(1626-1701) . . . . .	Hatherup, Gloucestershire, England . . . . .	1630 (age 4) . . . . .	Boston, Mass. 1630; . . . . .	bef. 1652
m. Mary Weld . . . . .	(1627-1711) . . . . .	Sudbury, Suffolk, England		Rowley, Mass. by 1643	
<b>William Harris</b> . . . . .	(1620-1717) . . . . .	Hatherup, Gloucestershire, England . . . . .	1630 (age 10) . . . . .	Boston, Mass. 1630; . . . . .	bef. 1652
m. Edith (unknown) . . . . .	(?-1685) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown)		Rowley, Mass. by 1643	
<b>George Hubbard</b> . . . . .	(1601-1684) . . . . .	England ("southeastern part") . . . . .	1630s (age 30+) . . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. 1630s; . . . . .	1652
m. Elizabeth Watts . . . . .	(1622-1702) . . . . .	Bocking, Essex, England . . . . .		Hartford, Conn. by 1639	
<b>John Kirby</b> . . . . .	(1624-1677) . . . . .	Rowington, Warwickshire, England . . . . .	1636 (age 12) . . . . .	Boston 1636; Hingham, Mass. 1643; . . . . .	by 1652
m. Elizabeth Hinds . . . . .	(1627-1697) . . . . .	Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, England		Hartford, 1645; Wethersfield, Conn. 1647	
<b>John Martin</b> . . . . .	(?-1653) . . . . .	unknown. . . . .			1652
m. (unknown) . . . . .	(?-?) . . . . .	unknown			
<b>Thomas Miller</b> . . . . .	(1609-1680) . . . . .	Ashford, Kent, England. . . . .	1643 (age 34) . . . . .	Rowley, Mass. by 1643 . . . . .	1651
m. Isabel (unknown) . . . . .	(c.1607-1666) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown)			
<b>John Savage</b> . . . . .	(?-1685) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown) . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	Hartford, Conn. bef. 1652. . . . .	by 1652
m. Elizabeth Dubbin. . . . .	(1631-1696) . . . . .	(specifics unknown)			
<b>William Smith</b> . . . . .	(1617-1669) . . . . .	Stratford-on-Avon, Warwick, England . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn. by 1644. . . . .	by 1651
m. Elizabeth Stanley. . . . .	(1621-1674) . . . . .	Kent, England			
<b>Samuel Stocking</b> . . . . .	(1620-1683) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown) . . . . .	1633 (age 13) . . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. 1633; . . . . .	1653
m. Bethia Hopkins . . . . .	(?-1692) . . . . .	Braintree, Essex, England		Hartford, Conn. 1636	
<b>Samuel Stow</b> . . . . .	(1623-1704) . . . . .	Biddenden, Kent, England . . . . .	1634 (age 11) . . . . .	Boston, Mass. 1634; . . . . .	1651
m. Hope Fletcher . . . . .	(1625-bef. 1702) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown)		Chelmsford, Mass. 1649; Concord, Mass. 1650	
<b>Matthias Treat</b> . . . . .	(?-1662) . . . . .	Pitminster, Somersetshire, England. . . . .	unknown . . . . .	Watertown, Mass. 1638; . . . . .	by 1652
m. Mary Smith . . . . .	(1627-?) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown)		Wethersfield, Conn. 1639	
<b>Robert Webster</b> . . . . .	(?-1676) . . . . .	Pitminster, Somersetshire, England. . . . .	unknown . . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. 1634; . . . . .	by 1652
m. Susanna Treat . . . . .	(1629-1705) . . . . .	Pitminster, Somersetshire, England		Hartford, Conn. 1636	
<b>Thomas Wetmore</b> . . . . .	(1615-1681) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown) . . . . .	1635 (age 20) . . . . .	Watertown, Mass. 1635; . . . . .	1652
m. Sarah Hall . . . . .	(1622-1665) . . . . .	Kent, England		Wethersfield, Conn. by 1640; Hartford 1646	
<b>Nathaniel White</b> . . . . .	(1629-1711) . . . . .	Messing, Essex, England . . . . .	1632 (age 3) . . . . .	Boston, Mass. 1632; . . . . .	1653
m. Elizabeth (unknown)(1625-1690) . . . . .		England (specifics unknown)		Hartford, Conn. 1636	



## Subsequent Pre-1700 Middletown Settlers:

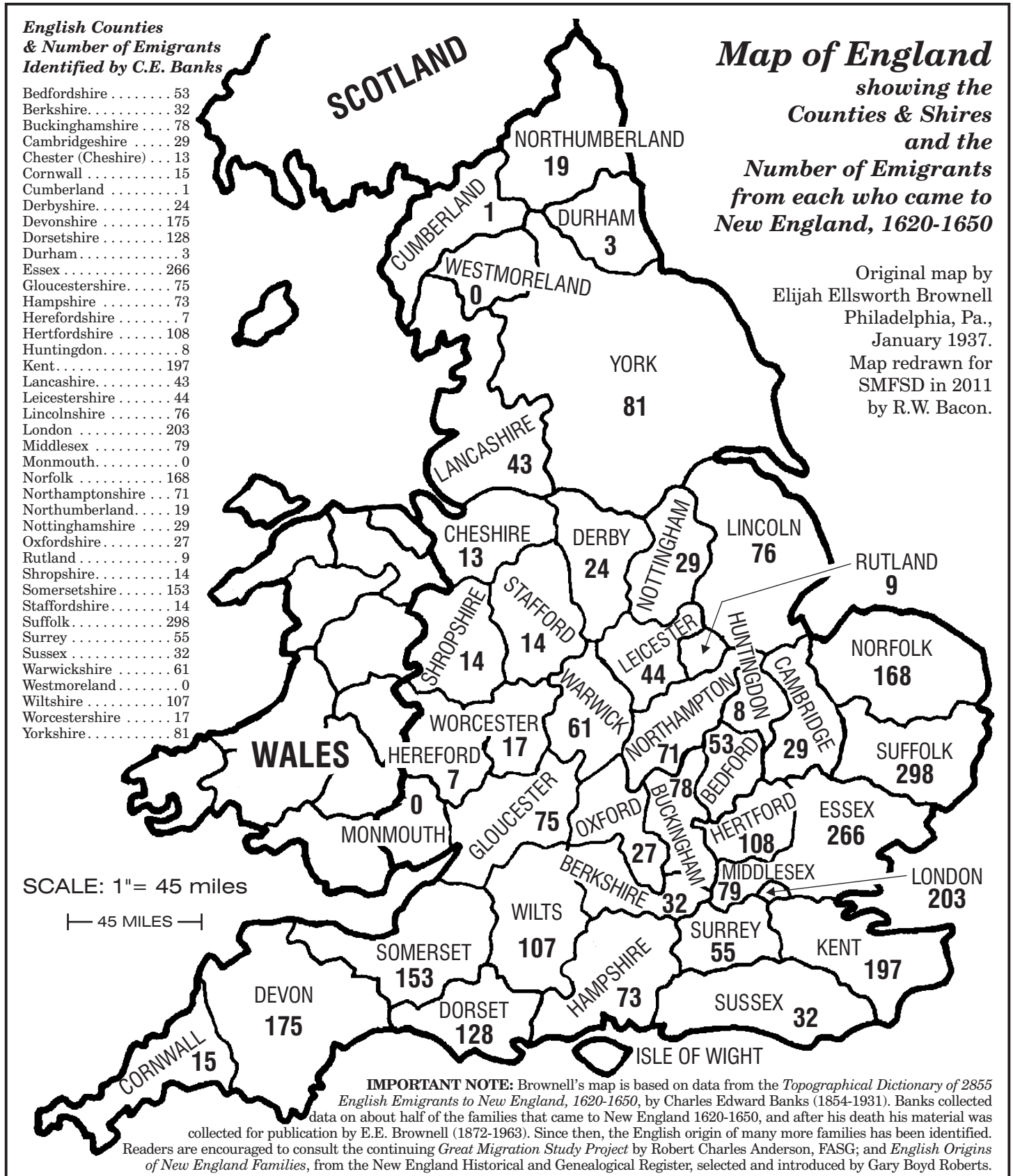
Name	B. & D. Dates	Birthplace	Emigration Date & Age	Prior Residence in New England	First in Middletown
*Josiah Adkins m. Elizabeth Andrews	(1620-1690) (1629-1704)	Waltham, Berkshire, England London, Middlesex, England	unknown	East Hartford, Conn.	1673
Obadiah Allyn m. Elizabeth Sanford	(1644-1712) (1648-1706)	Windsor, Conn. unknown	N/A.	Windsor, Conn.	1670
Samuel Bidwell m. Elizabeth Stow	(1651-1715) (1650-?)	Hartford, Conn. Concord, Mass.	N/A.	Hartford, Conn.	1672
*John Blake m. Sarah Hall	(1652-1690) (1654-1726)	Malden, Surrey, England Middletown, Conn.	1660 (age 8)	Malden, Mass. 1660	1661
John Boarn m. Hannah Bacon	(?-1704) (1655-aft. 1708)	unknown Middletown, Conn.	N/A.		by 1677
*Alexander Bow m1. Sarah (1637-1665); m2. Rebecca Hughes (1657-1683)	(c.1633-1678)	England (specifics unknown)	unknown	Charlestown, Mass. 1656 Hartford, Conn.	1658
*William Briggs m. Mary Yelling	(c.1640-bef. 1681) (c.1642-c.1693)	Boston, Mass. unknown	N/A.	Charlestown, Mass.; possibly Wethersfield, Conn. 1660s	1677
Nathaniel Browne m. Eleanor Watts	(1625-bef. 1658) (1625-1703)	England (specifics unknown) England (specifics unknown)	1633 (age 8)	Cambridge, Mass. 1633; Hartford 1636; Springfield, Mass. 1648; England 1652	1654
*Thomas Burk	(?-?)	unknown.			1670
William Cheney m. Anna (unknown)	(?-1705) (?-1689)	Little Bourton, Oxfordshire, England b. unknown	unknown	unknown, possibly Hartford, Conn. 1650s	1654
John Clark m. Elizabeth White	(1645-1731) (1654-1711)	Hartford, Conn. Middletown, Conn.	N/A.	Hartford, Conn.; Haddam, Conn. 1662	by 1676
Jasper Clements m2. Eleanor (Watts)(Browne)(1625-1703)	(1613-1677) (1625-1703)	England (specifics unknown) England (specifics unknown)	unknown	unknown.	1660
*Henry Cole m. Sarah Rusco	(?-1676) (1626-1688)	England (specifics unknown) Billerica, Essex, England	unknown	Yarmouth, Mass. 1643; Hartford, Conn. by 1646	1654
Nathaniel Collins m. Mary Whiting	(1642-1684) (1643-1709)	Cambridge, Mass. Hartford, Conn.	N/A.	Cambridge, Mass.	1664
Samuel Collins m. Mary Marvin	(1636-1696) (1636-1715)	Framingham, Suffolk, England St. Mary's, Essex, England	1638 (age 2)	Cambridge, Mass. 1638	1665
Thomas Cooper m. Desire Lamberton	(1646-1722) (1642-aft. 1708)	Springfield, Mass. New Haven, Conn.	N/A.	Springfield, Mass.	1696
*Samuel Cotton m1. Liddiah Bates (1673-1713); m2. Experience Hall (1684-1762)	(1676-1741)	Chelmsford, Mass.	N/A.	Chelmsford, Mass.	1697
Samuel Doolittle m. Mary Cornwell	(1665-1714) (1666-1742)	New Haven, Conn. Middletown, Conn.	N/A.	New Haven, Conn.; Wallingford, Conn. 1670	1693
*George Durant m. Elizabeth (?) Blake	(1632-1687) (1636-1691)	Brundish, Suffolk, England England (specifics unknown)	1660 (age 28)	Malden, Mass. 1660	1663
Samuel Eggleston m. Sarah Disbrough	(1634-1690) (1641-1690)	Dorchester, Mass. Hartford, Conn.	N/A.	Windsor, Conn. 1635	1663
John Elton m. Jane Hall	(?-1686) (1653-1724)	Bristol, Somersetshire, England (?) Middletown, Conn.	unknown	unknown.	1677
*Thomas Ferman	(?-?)	unknown.			1679
*Edward Foster m1. Elizabeth Harris	(1645-1712) (1649-1684)	Kingswear, Devon, England Middletown, Conn.	unknown	Marblehead, Mass. 1668	1670
*Jonathan Gilbert m. Dorothy Stow	(1648-1697) (1659-1698)	Hartford, Conn. Middletown, Conn.	N/A.	Hartford, Conn.	1672
John Gill m. Martha Goodale	(1647-1712) (1652-?)	Salisbury, Mass. Salisbury, Mass.	N/A.	Salisbury, Mass.	1676
*Richard Goodale m. Mary Cole	(1655-1740) (1658-1688)	Salisbury, Mass. Wallingford, Conn.	N/A.	Salisbury, Mass.	1671
*George Graves m. Elizabeth Ventres	(1631-1692) (1631-c.1701)	Braintree, Essex, England England (specifics unknown)	c.1635.	Hartford, Conn. 1636	1657

*continued on page 8*



## Feature Graphic #13: County Map of England c. 1620-1650

The map below is a redrawn version of a 1937 map by Elijah Ellsworth Brownell entitled "A Map of England showing the Counties & Shires and the Number of Emigrants from each who came to New England 1620-1650." (New map & interpretation by R.W. Bacon.)





## Feature Graphic #14: English Origins of Early Middletown Settlers 1650-1700

The map below is an enlarged section of southeastern England, showing the known origins of Middletown's earliest pre-1700 settlers. Of the 80 settlers born in England, the specific origins of 27 are uncertain ... or yet to be discovered. (Map & data by R. W. Bacon.)





## Subsequent Pre-1700 Middletown Settlers: *(continued from page 5)*

Name	B. & D. Dates	Birthplace	Emigration Date & Age	Prior Residence in New England	First in Middletown
<b>Benjamin Hands</b> . . . . .	(1659-1740) . . . . .	Little Bourton, Oxfordshire, England . . . . .	1681 (age 22) . . . . .	Boston, Mass. 1681 . . . . .	1682
m. Sarah Ward . . . . .	(1667-1744) . . . . .	Middletown, Conn. . . . .			
<b>*Edward Higby</b> . . . . .	(1616-1699) . . . . .	Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire, England . . . . .	1646 (age 30) . . . . .	Stratford, Conn. 1646; . . . . .	1667
m. Jedidah Skidmore . . . . .	(1624-1661) . . . . .	Mayshill, Gloucestershire, England . . . . .		Huntington, N.Y. by 1658; Jamaica, N.Y. 1663 . . . . .	
<b>*Tomas Hill</b> . . . . .	(c.1650-1704) . . . . .	unknown; possibly Connecticut . . . . .	N/A . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	1678
m. Mary (unknown) . . . . .	(c.1650-?) . . . . .	unknown . . . . .			
<b>Thomas Hopewell</b> . . . . .	(?-1683) . . . . .	Connecticut (Native American) . . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Branford, Conn. 1650s . . . . .	1662
m. O' Cinne . . . . .	(?-?) . . . . .	Connecticut (Native American) . . . . .			
<b>John Hulbert</b> . . . . .	(1642-1690) . . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn.; Killingworth, Conn. . . . .	1669
m. Mary Deming . . . . .	(1650-?) . . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn. . . . .			
<b>Isaac Johnson</b> . . . . .	(1644-1720) . . . . .	Roxbury, Mass. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Roxbury, Mass. . . . .	1670
m. Mary Harris . . . . .	(1651-1740) . . . . .	Rowley, Mass. . . . .			
<b>*Francis Jones</b> . . . . .	(?-?) . . . . .	unknown . . . . .			1672
<b>John Jordan</b> . . . . .	(1647-1713) . . . . .	Guilford, Conn. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Guilford, Conn. . . . .	1678
m2. Katherine Chalker (1657-?) . . . . .		Saybrook, Conn. . . . .			
<b>Isaac Lane</b> . . . . .	(1639-1711) . . . . .	Milford, Conn. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Milford, Conn. . . . .	1664
m. Hannah Browne . . . . .	(1651-?) . . . . .	Hartford, Conn. . . . .			
<b>*Thomas Lewis</b> . . . . .	(1656-1718) . . . . .	Barnstable, Mass. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Falmouth, Mass. (?) . . . . .	1687
m. Sarah Bassett . . . . .	(1662-1730) . . . . .	Sandwich, Mass. . . . .			
<b>*William Lucas</b> . . . . .	(1640-1690) . . . . .	Colchester, Essex, England . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	1667
m. Hester Clark . . . . .	(1645-1690) . . . . .	Colchester, Essex, England . . . . .			
<b>*Daniel Markham</b> . . . . .	(1641-1713) . . . . .	Earls Colne, Essex, England . . . . .	1665 (age 24) . . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. . . . .	1677
m. Elizabeth Whitmore (1649-1676) . . . . .		Cambridge, Mass. . . . .			
<b>Anthony Martin</b> . . . . .	(c.1637-1673) . . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn. . . . .	1661
m. Mary Hall . . . . .	(1646-1691) . . . . .	Hartford, Conn. . . . .			
<b>John Payne</b> . . . . .	(1646-1681) . . . . .	New Haven, Conn. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	New Haven, Conn. . . . .	1676
m. Mary (Hall)(Martin)(1646-1691) . . . . .		Hartford, Conn. . . . .			
<b>*George Phillips</b> . . . . .	(1653-1690) . . . . .	Watertown, Mass. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Watertown, Mass. . . . .	1673
m. Margaret Thompson (1655-?) . . . . .		Watertown, Mass. . . . .			
<b>Daniel Pryor</b> . . . . .	(1667-1754) . . . . .	Windsor, Conn. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Windsor, Conn. . . . .	1696
m. Sarah Eggleston . . . . .	(1670-1708) . . . . .	Middletown, Conn. . . . .			
<b>Thomas Ranney</b> . . . . .	(1616-1713) . . . . .	unknown (possibly Scotland) . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	1658
m. Mary Hubbard . . . . .	(1641-1721) . . . . .	Hartford, Conn. . . . .			
<b>*Samuel Roberts</b> . . . . .	(1638-?) . . . . .	New Haven, Conn. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Stratford, Conn. . . . .	1680
m. Catherine Butler . . . . .	(1641-1693) . . . . .	unknown . . . . .			
<b>Joseph Rockwell</b> . . . . .	(1668-1721) . . . . .	Windsor, Conn. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Windsor, Conn. . . . .	1675
m. Elizabeth Foster . . . . .	(1673-1753) . . . . .	Middletown, Conn. . . . .			
<b>*Alexander Rollo</b> . . . . .	(1645-1709) . . . . .	Bannockburn, Stirling, Scotland . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn. . . . .	1697
m. Hannah Kirby . . . . .	(1649-1717) . . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn. . . . .			
<b>Noadiah Russell</b> . . . . .	(1659-1713) . . . . .	New Haven, Conn. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. 1677; . . . . .	1696
m. Mary Hamlin . . . . .	(1662-1743) . . . . .	Middletown, Conn. . . . .		Ipswich, Mass. 1683 . . . . .	
<b>David Sage</b> . . . . .	(1639-1703) . . . . .	unknown, possibly in Wales . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	Hartford, Conn. . . . .	1662
m. Elizabeth Kirby . . . . .	(1646-1670) . . . . .	Hartford, Conn. . . . .			
<b>*Arthur Scovill</b> . . . . .	(c.1635-1706) . . . . .	Shapwick, Dorset, England . . . . .	1660 (age 25) . . . . .	Boston, Mass. 1660 . . . . .	1671
m. Joanna (unknown) . . . . .	(?-bef. 1678) . . . . .	England (specifics unknown) . . . . .			
<b>Edward Shepard</b> . . . . .	(1662-1711) . . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Hartford, Conn. 1666 . . . . .	1687
m. Abigail Savage . . . . .	(1666-1719) . . . . .	Middletown, Conn. . . . .			
<b>*Joseph Smith</b> . . . . .	(1655-1718) . . . . .	Middletown, Conn. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	Middletown, Conn. . . . .	1675
m. Lydia (unknown) . . . . .	(?-?) . . . . .	Farmington, Conn. . . . .			
<b>William Southmayd</b> (1643-1702) . . . . .		Gloucester, Mass. . . . .	N/A . . . . .	New London, Conn. 1650 . . . . .	1674
m. Esther Hamlin . . . . .	(1655-1682) . . . . .	Middletown, Conn. . . . .			

*continued on page 9*





## Subsequent Pre-1700 Middletown Settlers: (continued from page 8)

Name	B. & D. Dates	Birthplace	Emigration Date & Age	Prior Residence in New England	First in Middletown
<b>James Stanclift</b> . . . . (1639-1712) . . . .	Yorkshire, England . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	Lyme, Conn. by 1684 . . . . .	1689	
m. Mary (Tinker) Waller (1653-1712) . . . .	Boston, Mass.				
<b>Comfort Starr</b> . . . . (1644-1693) . . . .	Yarmouth or Scituate, Mass. . . . .	N/A. . . . .	Charlestown, Mass. 1654; . . . . .	1673	
m. Mary Weld . . . . . (1646-1706) . . . .	Roxbury, Mass.		Boston, Mass. 1660s		
<b>John Stow</b> . . . . . (1641-1688) . . . .	Braintree, Mass. . . . .	N/A. . . . .	Concord, Mass. 1648 . . . . .	1667	
m. Mary Wetmore . . . . (1649-?) . . . .	Hartford, Conn.				
<b>Nathaniel Stow</b> . . . . (1648-1705) . . . .	Concord, Mass. . . . .	N/A. . . . .	Concord, Mass. . . . .	1676	
m. Hannah Wetmore. . . (1653-1704) . . . .	Middletown, Conn.				
<b>Thomas Stow</b> . . . . (1615-1684) . . . .	Biddenden, Kent, England . . . . .	1634 (age 19) . . . .	Boston, Mass. 1634; . . . . .	1669	
m. Mary Griggs . . . . . (?-1680) . . . .	unknown		Braintree, Mass. 1641; Concord, Mass. 1648		
<b>William Sumner</b> . . . . (1656-1703) . . . .	Boston, Mass. . . . .	N/A. . . . .	Boston, Mass. . . . .	1687	
m2. Hannah Henschman (?-1719) . . . .	unknown				
<b>*James Tappin</b> . . . . (1643-1712) . . . .	Milford, Conn. . . . .	N/A. . . . .	Guilford, Conn.; Milford, Conn. . . . .	1662	
m. Anna Garrett . . . . (1644-1732) . . . .	Hartford, Conn.				
<b>Edward Turner</b> . . . . (1633-1717) . . . .	England (specifics unknown) . . . . .	c.1656. . . . .	Boston, Mass. 1656; . . . . .	1665	
m. Mary Sanford . . . . (1635-bef. 1717) . . . .	England (specifics unknown)		Milford, Conn. 1658		
<b>John Ward</b> . . . . . (1638-1684) . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn. . . . .	N/A. . . . .	Stamford, Conn. 1641; . . . . .	1664	
m. Mary Harris . . . . . (1645-1721) . . . .	Rowley, Mass.		Fairfield, Conn. 1648; Rowley, Mass. 1650s		
<b>*William Ward</b> . . . . (1632-1690) . . . .	Northleigh, Oxford, England . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	Rowley, Mass. . . . .	1654	
m1. Sarah (?); m2. Phoebe Fenner (c.1632-1691), b. Horley, Surrey, England					
<b>Andrew Warner</b> . . . . (1628-1682) . . . .	Essex County, England . . . . .	1633 (age 5) . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. 1633; . . . . .	by 1662	
m. Rebecca Fletcher . . (1638-1715) . . . .	Wethersfield, Conn.		Hartford, Conn. 1636; Milford, Conn. c. 1653		
<b>Robert Warner</b> . . . . (1630-1690) . . . .	Essex County, England . . . . .	1633 (age 3) . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. 1633; . . . . .	1655	
m. Elizabeth Grant. . . (1633-1673) . . . .	Cambridge, Mass		Hartford, Conn. 1636		
<b>*Benjamin West</b> . . . . (1665-1733) . . . .	Salem, Mass. . . . .	N/A. . . . .	Enfield, Conn. . . . .	1690s	
m. Hannah Shaddock . . (1673-1712) . . . .	Enfield, Conn.				
<b>Francis Whitmore</b> . . (1650-1700) . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. . . . .	N/A. . . . .	Cambridge, Mass. . . . .	1674	
m. Hannah Harris. . . . (1652-?) . . . .	Rowley, Mass. or Middletown, Conn.				
<b>John Wilcox</b> . . . . . (1625-1676) . . . .	England (specifics unknown) . . . . .	unknown . . . . .	Hartford, Conn. by 1639 . . . . .	1654	
m1. Sarah Wadsworth. (c.1626-1648) . . . .	Braintree, Essex, England				
<b>*James Wright</b> . . . . (c.1630-1728) . . . .	Kelveden, Essex, England . . . . .	1635 (age 5) . . . .	Boston, Mass. 1635; Watertown, Mass.; . . 1690		
m. Dorcas Weed. . . . . (1640-1692) . . . .	Stamford, Conn.		Glastonbury, Conn.		

## Middletown historians & genealogists have plenty of reading material at hand

By R.W. Bacon  
Editor, *The Middler*

The early settler families of Middletown have received much attention in recent history and genealogy publications.

The winter 2011 cover theme of *American Ancestors*, the magazine of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, was "Connecticut Settlers in Ohio's Western Reserve." The feature theme, of interest to those whose ancestors migrated west through Ohio, was comprised of three articles: "A Connecticut Pioneer Family in Ohio's Western Reserve," by Barbara Cook Barnes; "The Western Reserve - A Brief Overview," by John Grabowski; and "An Overview of Genealogical Research in the

Western Reserve," also by John Grabowski.

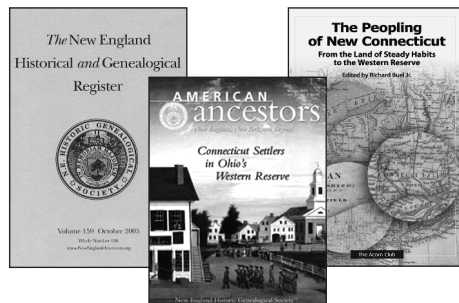
In the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Middletown first-settlers Daniel Harris and William Harris were subjects of a series in the July & Oct. 2010 and Jan. 2011 issues. The article,

"The Brothers William and Daniel Harris of Middletown, Conn.," was by Gale Ion Harris, FASG, co-editor of *The Genealogist*.

Also in the Jan. 2011 issue of *The Register* was an article by Christopher C. Child, "The Parents of Isaac Johnson, Husband of Margaret Miller of Middletown, Conn.," which sorts out discrepancies in two published genealogies.

### Speaking of the Western Reserve:

At the annual meeting of the Middlesex County Historical Society on April 26 in Middletown, Wesleyan University history professor emeritus Richard Buel, Jr. spoke on his newest book, *The Peopling of New Connecticut, From the Land of Steady Habits to the Western Reserve*, a compilation of primary source documents augmented by the author's introduction and commentary. The book is available through your favorite bookseller. ■





## 'Brownstone Stories' explore quarry history

*continued from page 1*

the valley. The three morning lectures were followed by visits to the quarry sites across the river in Portland (formerly known as East Middletown, and later, Chatham), and to Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, Conn.

**The first speaker was Jelle DeBoer**, the retired Wesleyan professor of earth and environmental sciences who authored the book reviewed in the last issue, *Stories in Stone: How Geology Influenced Connecticut History and Culture*. He explained how the valley came to be, and how the bedding of the brownstone layers came to be so horizontal, a gift from Mother Nature that enabled the stone to be quarried with comparative ease. This good fortune led to the quarries becoming a regional economic engine in the 19th century, as the distinctive building stone was transported by fleets of Middletown-based coastal schooners to cities all along the eastern seaboard and beyond.

**The second speaker was Alison C. Guinness**, who has researched the Portland quarries for over 20 years, and was instrumental in attaining recognition for them as a National Historic Landmark. A former curator at the Connecticut River Museum and college science instructor, she enlightened attendees with the history of the quarry site from English settlement to the present.

SMFSD members may know the beginnings of the story, and how stonemason James Stanclift (1639-1712) was likely the first English settler in East Middletown, and how he and his two sons became renowned for their gravestone carvings. The evolution of commercial quarrying, however, involves more than a few early Middletown families.

In the early years of Middletown's settlement, there was ample stone scattered on the riverbank that had fallen off the steep brownstone cliffs. This stone was easily accessible, and settlers rowed across the river to take back whatever they could use for foundations, walls, or gravestones. At the town meeting of Sept. 4, 1665, it was voted that only inhabitants of Middletown could take the stone, and for the privilege pay the town 12 pence per ton. Eventually, however, the loose stone along the riverbank was used up, and a plan was needed to most efficiently extract and transport more stone. In 1686 the town granted land on the east side of the river to James Stanclift in return for his stonework, and by 1696 he owned six acres of quarry land. His sons William Stanclift (1686-1761) and James Stanclift II (1692-1772) carried on in the stonemason's trade.

In the early decades of the 18th century, the town exercised greater control over the taking of stone, appointing an agent for a



Above is a c. 1907 postcard view of a coastal schooner at a Portland, Conn. quarry dock.

“town quarry” and administering leases. Sometime in the early 1770s, shortly after East Middletown separated and renamed itself Chatham (1767), Thomas Johnson III (1750-1789), originally from Wallingford, Conn., bought the Stanclift's stonecutting shop, and with his brothers, began quarrying on nearby parcels. In 1788, Johnson was bought out by Nathan Shaler (1747-1817) and Joel Hall (1753-1818).

Joel Hall was a descendant of early Middletown settlers Samuel Hall (1626-1690) and John Hall (1584-1673). He married Hannah Ranney (1755-1817), the daughter of George Ranney and Hannah Sage, both descendants of early settlers.

Nathaniel Shaler, with family roots in Haddam, was an Anglican and loyalist who spent the Revolutionary War years in the West Indies. His mother was Abigail Stow (1721-1790), a descendant of early Middletown settler Thomas Stow (1651-1730).

It was Shaler & Hall who introduced large-scale commercial quarrying. Proximity to the river facilitated the quarry business: The shipyards in Gildersleeve, just upriver, made the shallow-draft coastal schooners used to

transport the brownstone, and stone was loaded onto the ships just a short distance from the quarry pits.

In the early decades of the 19th century, various partnerships established adjacent quarries. As noted in the accompanying diagram, the three quarries, south-to-north, were Shaler & Hall, Brainerd, and Middlesex.

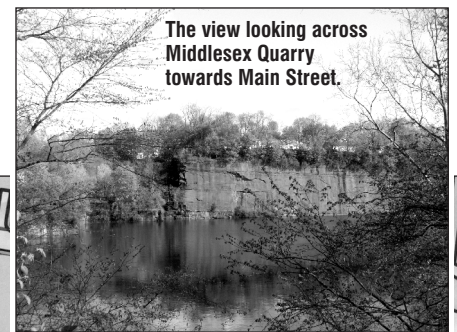
Brainerd quarry, located between Silver and Commerce Sts., began in 1814, when brothers Erastus Brainerd (1792-1861, m. Mary Stanclift) and Silas Brainerd, Jr. (1793-1846) of Middle Haddam, Conn. purchased the Hurlburt & Roberts quarry, in operation since 1783. The Brainerd brothers were descendants of early Middletown settler John Hulbert (1642-1690), but their exact relation to Aaron Hurlburt is inconclusive.

Middlesex quarry began in 1819 as the Patten & Russell quarry, and was incorporated as the Middlesex Quarry Co., in 1841. Early proprietor Daniel Russell (1790-1857), whose father, Timothy, acquired the property, was a descendant of early Middletown settler and minister, Noadiah Russell (1659-1713).

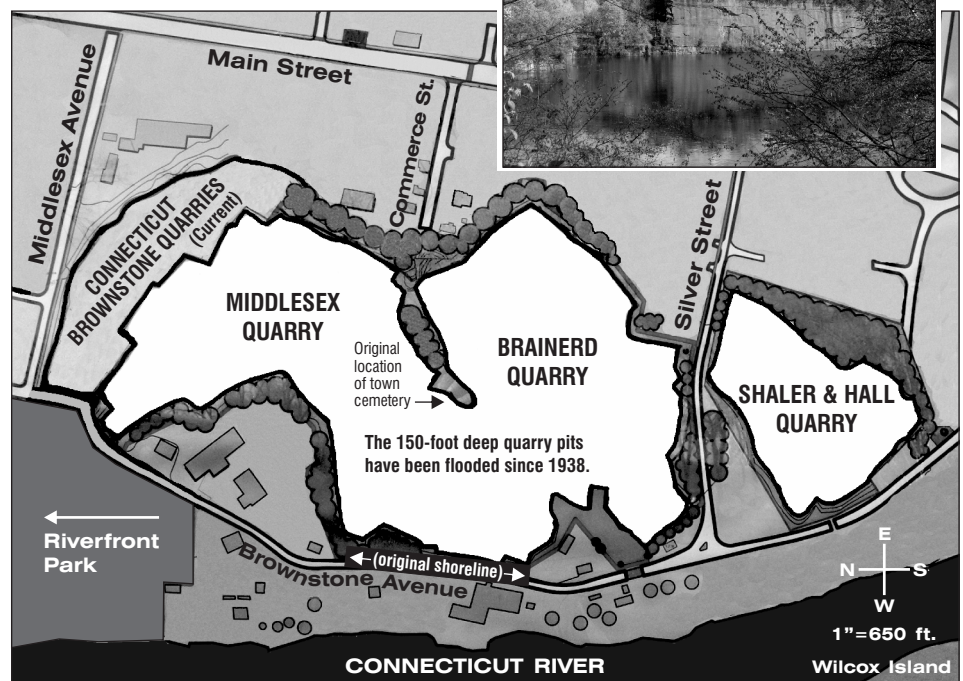
In the 1830s, stone from Middletown's original two-acre “town quarry” section was used as an asset to entice Wesleyan University to locate in town. The brownstone buildings, an impressive row built between 1833 and 1884, are still in use today.

In 1841 the town assumed the name of Portland, after the quarry town in England,

*continued on page 11*



The view looking across Middlesex Quarry towards Main Street.





## SMFSD Membership Information

*If you descend from a pre-1700 settler, we welcome you to join us*

The following are individuals (and presumably spouses & families) said to have settled in Middletown, Conn. before 1700. The list is from *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, Beers Co., 1884), which itself was derived in part from the *List of Householders & Proprietors*, Middletown, March 22, 1670. **Names in boldface** are the original 1650-54 settlers. **N.B.!** *This list is known to be incomplete!* If you descend from a pre-1700 settler *not* on this list, please contact our Registrar about submitting lineage and references. **Not a descendant? Join us in the Friends category!**

Josiah Adkins . . . . . 1673	Samuel Cotton . . . . . 1697	Edward Higby . . . . . 1667	Daniel Pryor . . . . . 1696	<b>Samuel Stow . . . . . 1651</b>
Obadiah Allyn . . . . . 1670	Samuel Doolittle . . . 1693	Thomas Hill . . . . . 1678	Thomas Ranney . . . 1660	Thomas Stow . . . . . 1669
<b>Thomas Allen . . . . . 1650</b>	George Durant . . . . . 1663	Thomas Hopewell . . 1662	William Roberts . . . 1680	William Sumner . . . 1687
<b>Nathaniel Bacon . 1650</b>	Samuel Eggleston . . 1663	<b>George Hubbard . 1650</b>	Joseph Rockwell . . 1693	James Tappin . . . . . 1662
William Briggs . . . . . 1677	John Elton . . . . . 1677	John Hulbert . . . . . 1669	Alexander Rollo . . . 1697	<b>Matthias Treat . . 1659</b>
John Blake . . . . . 1677	Thomas Ferman . . . 1679	Isaac Johnson . . . . 1670	Noadiah Russell . . . 1696	Edward Turner . . . . 1665
<b>William Blumfield 1650</b>	Edward Foster . . . . 1670	Francis Jones . . . . . 1672	David Sage . . . . . 1662	John Ward . . . . . 1664
John Boarn . . . . . 1677	Jonathan Gilbert . . 1672	John Jordan . . . . . 1678	<b>John Savage . . . . 1650</b>	William Ward . . . . . 1659
Alexander Bow . . . . 1660	John Gill . . . . . 1676	<b>John Kirby . . . . . 1653</b>	Arthur Scovill . . . . 1671	Andrew Warner . . . . 1667
Nathaniel Brown . . . 1655	Richard Goodale . . . 1671	Isaac Lane . . . . . 1664	Edward Shepard . . . 1687	Robert Warner . . . . 1655
Thomas Burk . . . . . 1670	George Graves . . . . 1650?	Thomas Lewis . . . . . 1687	Joseph Smith . . . . . 1675	<b>Robert Webster . . 1650</b>
William Cheney . . . . 1655	<b>John Hall . . . . . 1650</b>	William Lucas . . . . . 1667	<b>William Smith . . . 1650</b>	Benjamin West . . . . 1698
Samuel Clark . . . . . 1676	<b>Richard Hall . . . . 1650</b>	Daniel Markham . . . 1677	William Southmayd. 1674	<b>Thomas Wetmore 1650</b>
Jasper Clements . . . 1670	<b>Samuel Hall . . . . 1650</b>	Anthony Martin . . . 1661	Comfort Starr . . . . 1673	<b>Nathaniel White . 1650</b>
Henry Cole . . . . . 1650?	<b>Giles Hamlin . . . . 1650</b>	<b>John Martin . . . . 1650</b>	James Stancliff . . . 1686	Francis Whitmore . . 1674
Nathaniel Collins . . 1664	Benjamin Hands . . . 1678	<b>Thomas Miller . . . 1650</b>	<b>Samuel Stocking. 1650</b>	John Wilcox . . . . . 1654
Samuel Collins . . . . 1665	<b>Daniel Harris . . . . 1653</b>	John Payne . . . . . 1676	John Stow . . . . . 1667	James Wright . . . . . 1690
<b>William Cornwell 1650</b>	<b>William Harris . . . 1650</b>	George Phillips . . . 1680	Nathaniel Stow . . . 1676	

### Membership benefits . . .

When you join the Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants, you will receive:

- Two issues per year of *The Middler*, the SMFSD newsletter full of information useful for research about Middletown's first settler families and local history.
- Access to the SMFSD web site which includes first settler profiles, genealogy resources, local history articles, a custom-prepared annotated bibliography for Middletown research, and an archive of past *Middler* issues.
- The annual membership roster enabling you to network with Middletown "cousins" and researchers across the country.
- The opportunity to attend SMFSD meetings (every three years) in Middletown that include genealogy research, cemetery tours, library/museum visits, networking, and social events.
- The opportunity to participate in the organization, suggest/plan meeting activities, and vote on SMFSD business.

### Membership is a simple 1-2-3 procedure . . .

If you are a descendant of *any* pre-1700 Middletown settler, and would like to join SMFSD, here is the easy procedure:

- (1) Send an outline/worksheet of your lineage to the Registrar. The applicant shall do their own genealogical research, and the resulting lineage should be accompanied by copies of reference material by generation. The Registrar seeks to verify submitted information, but does not research family lines.
- (2) Send a check payable to the Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants (1650-1700) for the non-refundable \$10.00 application handling fee.
- (3) The Registrar will review the application for approval. Documentation is required only through the line of descent from the 1650-1700 settler. If needed, guidelines will be sent that help document descent by generation. (The Society will return an application if more documentation is needed. It is the applicant's responsibility to complete any gaps in the records.) When approved, the new member can choose to pay annual or lifetime dues:
  - (A) Annual dues (Nov. 1 to Oct. 31) are \$20.00 (in addition to the initial \$10.00 handling fee).
  - (B) A new member may elect to pay lifetime dues (instead of annual dues) based on age: Age 0-50, \$300; Age 51-70, \$200; Age 70+, \$100. Life Members receive a certificate suitable for framing.

**Friends of SMFSD.** Are you a history enthusiast? Would you like to receive *The Middler*? Join us at \$20 per year!

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### Brownstone quarries ...

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and in the ensuing decades the town earned its own far-reaching reputation, as brownstone became the fashion for the ornate row-houses of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Portland brownstone would be used on building projects as far away as San Francisco and Europe.

In the mid-19th century the quarries were staffed by new arrivals, first from Ireland, then from Sweden. At the peak of operations (1870s-1890s), the three quarries spread across 100 acres employed 1500 men, 150 yoke of oxen, 60 teams of horses, and 40 schooners known as "brownstoners." In the early years, human manual labor was aided

exclusively by oxen power, but as soon as steam power proved itself, it was adapted for quarry operations. Steam-powered cranes hoisted the stone from the deep pits, steam-powered locomotives hauled the stone to the docks on narrow-gauge tracks, and steam-powered derricks loaded the stone onto the decks of the schooners. The three adjacent quarry companies agreed to maintain the same wages and prices, and created their own monopoly of Portland brownstone.

It is estimated that over ten million cubic feet of stone was removed from the pits, which were quarried to a depth of 150-200 feet. The demand for stone was so great that in the 1870s the town elected to move all the graves in its first cemetery, located on the promontory that separated the Brainerd and

Middlesex quarries. (These graves were removed to the Episcopal burial ground in Portland.) It is estimated that half of the brownstone taken from the quarries was unusable. The waste was dumped along the riverbank, which extends 200 feet further west than it did when quarrying began.

By the early 20th century the vogue of brownstone had passed. The deficiencies of the stone had become apparent: moisture caused facades to crumble, wind abraded the relatively soft stone, and acids from various sources caused corrosion. In addition, new construction in cities was becoming more vertical, adopting new building methods that used steel and reinforced concrete. By 1906 the three quarries had merged. In 1926 a

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## Brownstone quarries ...

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construction company, Brazos Bros., bought all the acreage, but demand for stone was low.

In spring 1936 the Connecticut River overflowed and flooded the quarries, destroying cranes, saws, and railroad equipment. The Brazos Co. pumped out the pits and was progressing with its recovery when the hurricane of 1938 struck. The river overflowed again, flooding the quarries. By this time there was no longer economic incentive to pump out the pits, and they remain flooded to this day.

**The third speaker was Bob McDougall**, director of the Ruth Callandar House Museum in Portland, who brought everyone up-to-date with the status of the quarries and the development of the Portland Riverfront Park. As a lifelong resident of Portland, he shared the irony of the community's changing regard for the quarries. When he attended the public school adjacent to the quarries in the 1970s, youngsters were always warned away from the pits. Today he is among the leaders of the grassroots group that encourages access.

After the flooding of the quarries in 1938, the Brazos Co. retained ownership until 1959.

Since then there have been ambitious plans for development, but none were realized. In 1994, Connecticut Brownstone Quarries leased the northernmost section of ledge (see diagram) and resumed quarrying on a small scale to provide stone for building restoration. ([www.brownstonequarry.com](http://www.brownstonequarry.com))

A decade ago the quarries and adjacent riverfront acreage were purchased by the town of Portland. The initiative to embrace the riverfront area as a community asset has been driven by the Brownstone Quorum, a volunteer group of Portland citizens. ([www.brownstonequorum.org](http://www.brownstonequorum.org))

Since 2005 the former Middlesex and Brainerd quarries have been leased to Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park, an "adventure sports" enterprise that offers scuba training, rock-climbing, cliff-diving, wakeboarding, snorkling, and kayaking ([www.brownstonepark.com](http://www.brownstonepark.com)). The 25-year lease includes provisions for preservation and cleanup, as well as a percentage of revenue.

The town's 40-acre Riverfront Park – sited on land created by quarry waste – is just north of the quarries. Trail maps guide walkers and bicyclists on loops through

woods, wetlands, and fields. This park is in line for future enhancements, and in the estimation of your editor, is worth a visit at the next SMFSD Triennial Meeting in 2012. ■

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