



***In-Depth First Settler Profile:***  
***Nathaniel White (1650) /***  
***Elizabeth (unknown surname) White***

**Name:** Nathaniel White

**Birth:** About 1629, Messing, Essex, England (NEHGS, CBRMC)

**Emigration:** With his parents and siblings from England June 22, 1632 on the ship *Lyon*, arriving at Boston, Mass. September 16. To Hartford with family as part of Thomas Hooker group in 1636. (*Memorials of Elder John White/Kellogg*, 1860). To Middletown by November 1653. (FFS)

**Death:** August 27, 1711 (MVR, BCVR)

**Occupation & Public Service:** "He became a resident of Middletown in 1653, when he was chosen Townsman. He later held the offices of Constable, Rate Maker, and Grand Levy Man. He was one of the committee appointed by the town to secure successors to the first and second ministers. In 1669, he was one of the committee appointed to superintend the building of the new meeting house. In 1679, with two others, he was appointed to take charge of the military stores in town; in 1685 was named as one of the patentees of the town; and in 1696 was appointed Recorder to act during the absence of John Hamlin. In military life he held the position of Ensign, Lieutenant, and Captain. His most important duties were as Deputy to the General Court for 114 sessions from 1659 to 1710, and as Commissioner or Justice of the Peace from 1659 until his death, except during the Andrus usurpation." (FFS)

**Marriage:** m.(1) Elizabeth (unknown surname; possibly Bunce), about 1651, Hartford or Middletown, Conn. (b. about 1625, England; d. 1690, Middletown, Conn.). She may have been the daughter of Thomas Bunce of Hartford, Conn. (*Memorials of Elder John White/Kellogg*, 1860). m.(2) Martha (Coit) Mould, about 1692, Middletown, Conn. (b. about 1643, Salem, Mass.; d. April 14, 1730, Middletown, Conn.). She was the widow of Hugh Mould of New London, Conn.; and the daughter of John Coit & Mary (Jenners) Coit of Chopstowe, Wales, and later Salem, Mass. and New London, Conn.

**Parents:** John White (1600-1684) & Mary Levett (1601-1682) of Messing, Essex, England; later Cambridge, Mass., Hartford, Conn., and Hadley, Mass. (*Memorials of Elder John White/Kellogg*, 1860)

**Children** (MVR, Land Records, vol. 1, page 7; BCVR), (*Memorials of Elder John White/Kellogg*, 1860), (*Ancestral Lines of James Goodwin/Starr*, 1915):

(1) Nathaniel White, b. July 7, 1652, Middletown, Conn.; d. February 15, 1742, Hadley, Mass.; m. Elizabeth Savage, March 28, 1677-8, Middletown, Conn. (11 children)

(2) Elizabeth White, b. March 7, 1654, Middletown, Conn.; d. December 25, 1711, Middletown, Conn.; m. John Clark, before April 18, 1676, Middletown, Conn. (8 children)

(3) John White, b. April 9, 1657, Middletown, Conn.; d. July 1748, Hartford, Conn.; m. Mary (unknown surname), about 1686, Hartford, Conn. (10 children)

(4) Mary White, b. April 7, 1659, Middletown, Conn.; d. November 15, 1732, Middletown, Conn.; m.(1) Jacob Cornwell, January 16, 1677, Middletown, Conn. (10 children); m.(2) John Bacon, April 13, 1710, Middletown, Conn. (no children)

(5) Daniel White, b. February 23, 1661, Middletown, Conn.; d. December 18, 1739, Middletown, Conn.; m. Susanna Mould, March 1682-3, Middletown, Conn. (11 children)

(6) Sarah White, b. January 22, 1663, Middletown, Conn.; d. before 1711; m. John Smith of Haddam, Conn. (4 children)

(7) Jacob White, b. May 10, 1665, Middletown, Conn.; d. March 29, 1738; m.(1) Deborah Shepard, February 4, 1692, Middletown, Conn. (10 children); m.(2) Rebecca (Willet) Ranney, December 16, 1729, Middletown, Conn. (no children)

(8) Joseph White, b. February 20, 1666, Middletown, Conn.; d. February 28, 1725, Middletown, Conn.; m. Mary Mould, April 3, 1693, Middletown, Conn. (7 children)

**Residence/Property:** "His home lot was in that part of Middletown formerly called 'Upper Houses,' and afterwards 'Upper Middletown,' now constituting the town of Cromwell. His dwelling house was in the lower part of the village, on the street that lies between the Middlesex Turnpike and the Connecticut River." (*Memorials of Elder John White/Kellogg*, 1860)

**Will:** Vol. 2, p. 329 (MAN). (Estate inventory, August 16, 1711: 927-11-05, i.e. 927 pounds.) "In his will, which is dated August 16, 1711, after some other bequests, he gives one-fourth of his undivided lands 'to remain for the use of the Publick School already agreed upon in the Town of Middletown, forever.'" (*Memorials of Elder John White/Kellogg*, 1860)

**Burial Location:** Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn. (*Memorials of Elder John White/Kellogg*, 1860)

**Notes:**

(CAF): "Nathaniel White was from Hartford, a son of John White of Hartford and Hadley." (Field, pg. 148)

(SAV): "NATHANIEL, Middletown, s. of John of Hartford, b. prob. in Eng. was of the gr. jury 1662, rep. 1665-77 every yr. and almost every sess. with title of ens. but aft. the gr. Ind. war is swell. to lieut. was capt. bef. he d. 27 Aug. 1711. His w. Elizabeth brot him Nathaniel, b. 7 July 1652; Elizabeth 7 Mar. 1655; John, 9 Apr. 1657; Mary, 7 Apr. 1659; Daniel, 23 Feb. 1662; Sarah, 22 Jan. 1664; Jacob, 10 May 1665; Joseph,



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20 Feb. 1667; and she d. 1690; he had see. w. Martha, wid. of Hugh Mould, d. of John Colt, wh. d. 14 Apr. 1730, in her 77th yr. by town rec. and a. 86 [vol. 4, p. 513] by gr.st. I am impartial betw. the two, but the prob. is strong against the town clk.”

**(MUH):** “Nathaniel White, b. in England about 1629, removed in 1650 or 1651 to the Upper Houses. He early acquired great influence, was the most prominent settler of all Middletown, and held a high position in the early colony. He was first chosen in 1659 to the Great and General Court, and from 1661 to 1710, he was chosen once and generally twice a year to sit in the Legislature of the Colony, having been elected eighty-five times. In 1669 he was appointed by the legislature a magistrate and commissioner for Middletown and in 1684 for Middletown, Haddam, and the district of Meriden, holding local courts. He rose to the rank of Captain and then the ‘north traine band’ was termed ‘the first’ and a second was established on the ‘south side’ In the organization of the Church, 1668, he was prominent, being chosen to unite with pastor Collins in laying hands on the first deacons elected, one of whom was Samuel Stocking, his nearest neighbor. He was pre-eminent in his interest in schools and having seen the school in the Upper Houses receive by act of the Legislature, Oct., 1709, its proper share of the school tax money he in his will, made Aug. 16, 1711, gave one-fourth of his share in the common and undivided land to ‘the schools already agreed upon in the Town of

Middletown, for-ever.’ The will is written on one page with lines exceeding 14 inches in length. His wife, Elizabeth\_\_\_\_, died in the year 1690, ‘aged about 65 years.’ Her tombstone is in Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, by the side of his own. He married (2) Mrs. Martha Mould, widow of Hugh Mould, of New London, Conn., and daughter of John Coit and Mary Jenners. Two of her daughters had married his sons, one had married William Savage, one had married Daniel Stocking, and Esther Mould had married Samuel Stow. Widow White d. Apr. 14, 1730, ‘aged about 86.’ She is buried next to Esther Mould, and her four other daughters are buried by the side of their respective husbands. The town’s record that she was in ‘ye 77th year of her age,’ is evidently an error. Capt. White was ‘aged about 82,’ according to his tombstone record. ‘The good that men do lives after them,’ and on Jan. 6, 1902, when Cromwell’s first fine schoolhouse was opened for use the town unanimously voted to name it, as was proposed by the compiler of this volume, ‘The Nathaniel White Public School.”

**(GFHC):** “Nathaniel White, son of Elder John and Mary (Levit) White, was born in England about 1629, and came to this country with his father. In 1650 he settled in Middletown, where he was one of the prominent men of the town. He was deputy to the general court in 1659, was elected to that office eighty-five times, his last term being in 1710. In 1669 he was appointed a magistrate and commissioner. He served as captain of the train band, and was prominent in the organization of the church in 1668. His interest in educational matters was a beneficial and lasting one, and in his will, made August 16, 1711, he gave one-fourth of his share in the common land to the ‘schools

**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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already agreed upon in the Town of Middletown, forever.’  
On January 6, 1702, when Cromwell’s first fine schoolhouse  
was opened, it was named ‘The Nathaniel White Public  
School.’ Mr. White married (first) Elizabeth (unknown  
surname), born about 1625, died 1690. He married (second)  
Martha, born about 1644, died April 14, 1730, daughter of  
John and Mary (Jenners) Coit, and widow of Hugh Mould.

Children of first wife: Nathaniel, born July 7, 1652; Eliza-  
beth, March 7, 1655; John, April 9, 1657; Mary, April 7, 1659;  
Daniel, February 23, 1662; Jacob, see forward; Joseph,  
February 20, 1667.”

**For further reading:**

*Memorials of Elder John White, One of the First Settlers of  
Hartford, Conn., and of his Descendants*, by Allyn S. Kellogg;  
Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood Co., 1860.

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