

MILFORD INDIANS*

As late as the spring of 1831 it is said that a company of Indians journeyed from the shores of Lake Champlain and camped for two or three weeks at Milford Point. An old man of eighty was recognized by them as their chieftain.

Conversation among themselves was carried on in the Indian tongue. Some had acquired a little English and as they expressed it, "they made this pilgrimage for the last time to the home of their ancestors and the sacred ground of their fathers."

If this barbaric, savage race had that reverence for their ancestors and the homes of their fathers, should not we of a civilized race, at the present day, show reverence for and pay homage to the homes of our ancestors by gathering at intervals and studying their characters and rehearsing the experiences of these founders of a great nation.

The Quinnipiack tribe claimed the territory from New Haven to Madison. The Wepawaugs and Paugussetts from New Haven to Fairfield, extending back to Beacon Hill (Beacon Falls, Waterbury Line). The Wepawaugs† occupied the east bank of the Ousatonick River and the Paugussetts, the west bank. They numbered several hundred warriors and braves and historians all assume that they were all one people. Ansantawae‡ was the sachem of both tribes and all the deeds in their territory conveyed to the English included the names or marks of the heads of both families.

DeForest says, "The Quinnipiacks numbered only forty-seven braves and warriors."

* About 1648 the Mohawks, as was frequently their custom, swept down along the coast and attacked the Milford Indians, near a swamp about a mile east of the Ferry. The Mohawks were defeated.

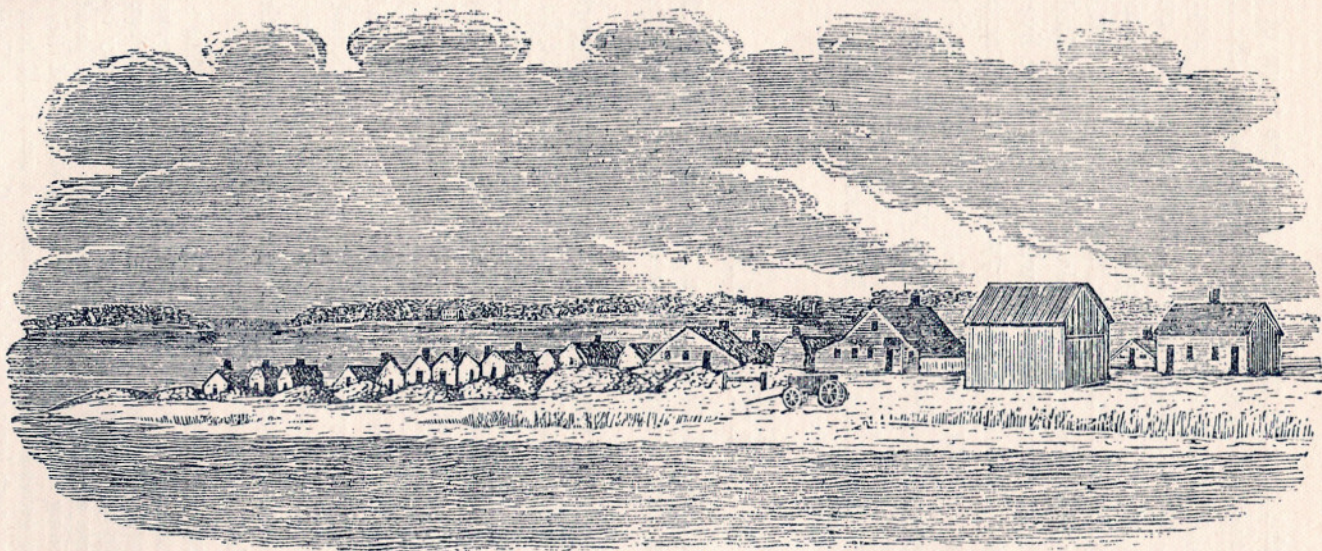
† Wopowage Housatonick—Trumbull's Conn., 1797.

Wapawaug Ousatonick—Gazateer of Conn. & R. I., 1818.

Wepowage Housatonuc—Lambert's, 1838.

Wepawaug Paugussetts—DeForest's History of Conn. Indians, 1852.

‡ Ansantawae had a wigwam on the banks of the Wepawaug about opposite Plot 19 on the map.



EAST VIEW OF THE OYSTER ESTABLISHMENT, ON POCONOC POINT, MILFORD,

(Copied and enlarged from Lambert, 1838.)

DeForest's "Indians of Connecticut" says "large heaps of shells found along the coast show what must have been the natives' favorite and principal food ; but do not necessarily prove that there was as large a population as it would indicate, for the shells were probably the accumulation of centuries by some race that came and disappeared before the foot of a Paugussett or Wepawaug left its print on these shores."

In consequence of the erection of factories along the banks of the Housatonic and Naugatuck Rivers, the fishing and oyster industry at this point has been destroyed.

1777 At the time of the settlement of the town of Milford the Indians had four so-called villages within the limits of the town; one on the banks of the Wepawaug near the First Church, one on the banks of the Ousatonick; one at Washington's bridge; one at Peconic or Milford Point and one at Turkey Hill. After a time they complained that having sold their land, they had no place to live and asked the town to assign them some portion where they might live and fish and hunt. Accordingly in 1777 one hundred acres at Turkey Hill were reserved and Capt. Benjamin Fenn, Steven Gunn, Esq., and Lieut. Benjamin Fenn were appointed to take care of this land.

Mollie Hackett, the last of the Wepawaug tribe, died here between 1780 and 1800.

MILFORD ISLANDS

1712-13 Milford Islands were evidently considered of importance as they are distinctly mentioned in the 1712-13 patent.

1657 Milford, or Charles Island,* the most important, contains twelve acres and is beautifully located. The Indian name was "Eaquahaug"; it was a favorite summer resort of the Indians. Ansantawae the sachem had a royal wigwam or summer home, on this Island. In the settlement of the town it was laid out to George Hubbard who sold it to Richard Bryan. In 1657 grant was given to Charles Deal (from whom it evidently acquired its present name) to use the island for a tobacco plantation on condition that buildings should not be used for any other purpose and he was not to trade with the Dutch or Indians.

* Connected with the island is a legend that the notorious Kidd buried money on the south side beside a huge rock and that some persons digging for this treasure succeeded in getting as far as the iron box and looking in the air saw a man descending without a head. They became frightened and ran away and as they left they saw the space enveloped in smoke. Returning for their spades the next day they found they were mistaken and the ground was smooth as though it never had been dug. This and the Hog rock legend probably deserve the same credit as that concerning the New Haven phantom ship.

1825 In 1825 the island was sold to John Harris of New York, who erected upon it an imposing residence. That was afterwards utilized as a summer hotel and in the early days of the writer, excursion steamers ran from New Haven and Bridgeport to this island during the summer season. The spot is highly attractive at the present day and will undoubtedly, in the future, be acquired by some one impressed with the advantage of its situation and possibly be developed as a yachting rendezvous.

DUCK ISLAND near the mouth of the Housatonic River.

NELL'S ISLAND between that and Washington Bridge.

WOOSTER ISLAND opposite Wheeler's Farm.

FORT TRUMBULL

1776 In 1776 Fort Trumbull was built for the defense of the town. Earth works were built on the West side on the entrance of the Harbor and a military post was established. Great guns were mounted, ready for use if necessary in defense and Captain Isaac Miles was placed in command. The fort was named "Fort Trumbull," undoubtedly in honor of Jonathan Trumbull (Brother Jonathan) the war governor of the State of Connecticut during the Revolutionary period.

ROADS

1846 By reference to the original map, 1846, it will be observed that no effort was made to lay out the town regularly as was done by the planters in New Haven.

It is said that a cart driven over the ground making a track where the trees did not interfere, made the basis for the establishment of the road. Some roads were laid out on the Indian trails, such as the old road to New Haven by Burwell's Farm and Oyster River; also the road to Turkey Hill.

The old country road to the ferry was called the Witch Road. A ferry was established in 1675.

Hog Rock, a boulder about ten feet in diameter, is located about a mile east of Washington Bridge. The following stanza explains the origin of its name:

“Once four young men upon ye rock
Sate down at chuffle board one daye;
When ye Deuill appeared in shape of a hogg;
Ande frighten'd you so they scampered awaye;
Ande left Olde Nick to finish ye play.”

On the north side of the rock is cut in capitals, “LIBERTY, 1776,” done by Peter Pierett, Jr., at the time of the Revolutionary War. Thus old Cloven Foot's gaming table is made a monument of American Liberty.

1712 In 1712 a committee was appointed by the town to agree with the Stratford authorities to carry the inhabitants to Milford over the river for half price on condition that the town furnished a ferry boat on this side.

1802 “In 1802 the New Haven and Milford Turnpike Company was opposed by the people of the town who objected to the turnpike road running through people's land, necessitating that they should keep the old road except cutting off sharp corners.”

ORIGINAL BRIDGES

LOCATION AND DATES OF BUILDING

- 1640 The Meeting House Bridge.
- 1645 Fowler's Bridge.
- 1662 Indian or Great Bridge.
- 1706 Plum's Bridge crossing Indian River on the old Country Road.
- 1711 King's Bridge.
- 1723 Bridge from a point below the present Episcopal Church near the present Railroad Bridge, now discontinued.
- 1753 Oyster River Bridge.
- 1768 North Street Foot Bridge by Jehiel Bristol.

- 1798 Washington Bridge* over the Housatonic supported by the Turnpike Company; about the same date Jefferson Bridge over Milford River also built and supported by the Turnpike Company.
- 1810 Gulf Bridge.

THE OLD KING'S HIGHWAY

THE ROUTE THAT PROBABLY † WASHINGTON TOOK THROUGH THE TOWN ON HIS JOURNEY FROM PHILADELPHIA TO CAMBRIDGE TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED COLONIES ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1775.

Crossing the Housatonic River by the Ferry, a few rods North of Washington Bridge; then on a road (Witch Road), running north of the present Turnpike terminating near Hog Rock, continuing on the present Turnpike to a fork in the road near the present Tibbal's House, then following left hand of fork along by the Railroad, across the Bridge, to the right, to the next fork, then left a short distance crossing Clark Street. Keeping the upper road, next corner turning right into West Main Street over what was known as Capt. Cornelius Peck Hill, continuing on West Main over Col. Ford Hill, where there was an old tavern built in 1710. On reaching the church he turned right into West River Street to where the railroad bridge is now, then left into Daniel Street, then left across what is now Memorial Bridge along by the railroad route across Gulf Street to Buckingham Avenue, a short street running into New Haven Avenue: crossing Indian River, over Eells Hill to fork in the road, turning left by schoolhouse at Burwell's Farm into New Haven Avenue, turn-

* Upon the completion of Washington Bridge the ferry was sold to William Hopkins for \$750.00, but a ferry was mentioned at Oronoque as late as 1850.

† Prepared for the Pilgrimage in 1914 of the Officers of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to mark the route taken by Gen. Washington on his journey from Philadelphia to Cambridge to take command of the Army of the United Colonies, June 22nd to July 3d, 1775.

ing left keeping the Avenue, crossing Oyster River Bridge; turning left over Jones Hill into West Haven at the Green, Campbell Avenue to Milford Hill over West Bridge to New Haven.

Mile stones were erected along this road by Benjamin Franklin during his administration as Postmaster-General of the United States.

*MILFORD AS A MILL TOWN

1640 From its settlement, Milford became famous as a Mill town. March, 1640, it was "agreed between William Fowler and the brethren that he should build a mill and have her going by the last of September"; for his encouragement the Town made him a grant of thirty acres, rent free during his life, which land long bore the name of the Mill Lot. It was the first mill erected in New Haven Colony and was of such importance that when damaged by a freshet the town "voted whenever aid was needed that each man should contribute one day's work."

1675 A Fulling Mill and a Saw Mill were built on the Island near the meeting house by Maj. Treat, Elder Buckingham, Lieut. Fowler, and Thomas Hayes.

1689 A fulling Mill was built upon Beaver Brook by Capt. Samuel Eells, Timothy Baldwin and Samuel Couch. Permission was given them upon consideration that they agree to build a bridge if the dam stopped the water to such an extent as to make it impassable for horses or carts.

1706 John Plumm, Sr., was permitted to set up a Grist Mill at East River, on condition "that he build a good causeway and bridge for foot, cart and horse over the river," he and his heirs and assigns to keep the same in repair.

1713-14 A mill was erected by a company of forty at the Gulf but did not prove a success.

* Name may have been acquired from the English town of this name or from the Mill by the ford.

BURYING GROUND

The Indians had a burying ground at Indian Point between East River and the Sound. In digging the cellar for the house of Daniel Buckingham some years since, skeletons were unearthed buried in a sitting posture and apparently preserved by charcoal. One skeleton indicated that the owner was nearly eight feet in height. The Indians also had burying grounds at Oronoque and Turkey Hill.

The eastern end of Mr. Prudden's garden, Plot 40, was first utilized by the settlers as a burying place and Sarah Camp, wife of Nicholas, was the first adult person buried on this spot. It is said that she had twins and was doing well until the night of the 4th of September, when she was taken suddenly ill from a cold, died in the morning and was buried in the evening in the garden of Mr. Peter Prudden, pastor.

This locality was used for the purpose of a burying ground until 1675. Mr. Prudden, himself, was buried there in 1656.

Apparently the old part of the present burying ground was acquired at about that time. It is one of the most ancient and interesting in the country and contains the graves of many of the settlers born in England.

Inscriptions on tombstones erected prior to 1800 were transcribed and annotated by the late Nathan G. Pond in 1889 and published in the New Haven Colony Historical Society papers, Vol. V. X

1751 Previous to 1751 the old burying ground was open on all sides; but at that time a fence was built on the road side and a road three rods wide laid out on the south side. Adjoining ground has been acquired by purchase at different times.

1825 Not until 1825 was a hearse purchased, the old-fashioned method of carrying on a bier existing until that time.

The present cemetery contains the following identified graves of Revolutionary patriots, the tombs indicated by a bronze marker furnished by the Connecticut Society Sons of the American Revolution:—John Buckingham, Benjamin

Gillette, John Ford, Amos Ford, Capt. Charles Pond, Lieut. Benjamin Fenn, Lieut. John Fowler, Lieut. Jehiel Bryant, Sr., Sergt. Jehiel Bryant, Jr., Lieut. Nathan Baldwin, Samuel Wise, Samuel B. Smith, Samuel Clarke and David Clarke.

There are undoubtedly other graves of Revolutionary patriots that are yet unidentified.

On the southwest corner of the old burying ground stands an imposing monument in memory of revolutionary soldiers who were buried on this spot.* The following inscription tells the story:

INSCRIPTION

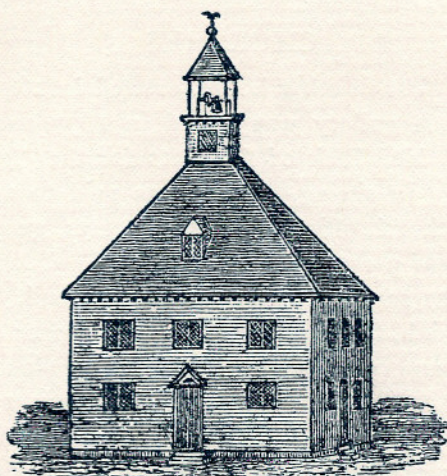
p. 58 * In honor of Forty-six American Soldiers who sacrificed their lives in struggling for the Independence of their country; this monument was erected in 1852, by joint liberality of the General Assembly; the people of Milford and other contributing friends. Two hundred American Soldiers, in a destitute, sickly and dying condition, were brought from a British Prison Ship, near New York, and suddenly cast upon our shore from a British Cartel ship, on the first of January 1777. The Inhabitants of Milford made the most charitable efforts for the relief of these suffering strangers; yet notwithstanding all their kind ministrations in one month these 46 died and were buried in one common grave.

NAMES AND RESIDENCES AS INSCRIBED ON THE MONUMENT.

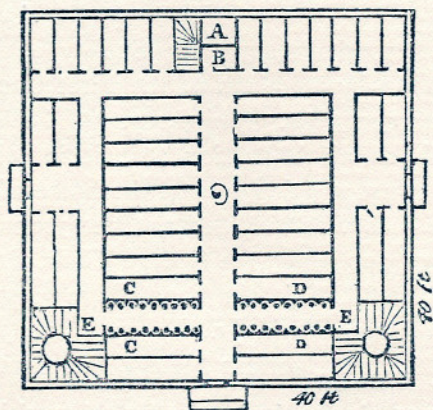
Captain Stephen Stow, Milford, Feb. 8, 1777; Age 51 years.

Josiah Colman, Sharon; Ebenezer Upham, Killingly; John Smith, Chatham; Antonio Gomez, Spain; John Clements, Middlebury; Richard Drake, Mass.; Samuel Fuller, Norwich; Amos Smith, Conn.; John Snow, Chatham; Richard Holder, Glastonbury; John Biddle, New London; John White, Mass.; William Thomas, Rocky Hill; Ebenezer Truman, Harwinton; Hezekiah Lee, Norwalk; Joseph Trowbridge, Killingly; Stephen Brown, Mass.; Benjamin Peas, Attleborough; Samuel Everett, Wrentham; Samuel Gale, Penn.; Richard Polsey, Conn.; Nathan Wilton, Conn.; Elijah Gregory, New London; Thomas Madison, ———; Solomon Jackson, Middlebury; Joseph Arnold, Chatham; Thomas Wright, Simsbury; Simon Elwell, Mass.; Abel Hart, Farmington; Constant Turner, Middletown; John ———, Penn.; Robert Colingham, Cape Ann; Benjamin Frisby, Harwinton; Abram Beach, Goshen; Asa Ladd, Haverhill; Samuel Whitney, Stratford; Elisha Bronson, Litchfield; John Pomeroy, Northampton; Joseph Mansier, Middlebury; Stephen ———, Penn.; Richard Minot, Mass.; Sergt. Smith, Mass.; Daniel Benedict, Harwinton; Sergt. Wright, Bolton; Sergt. George Milburn, Salem; Daniel Farnham, Windham.

* These men were cared for by Stephen Stow, husband of Freelove Baldwin Stow, after whom the Milford Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution was named.



South view of the first Meeting House.



Ground plan of the first Meeting House.

A, the pulpit; B, deacons' seat; C, guard seats; D, guard seats on the women's side of the house. The dots show the place where the guns were set. E, gallery stairs. The bell rope hung down in the middle aisle.

CHURCHES

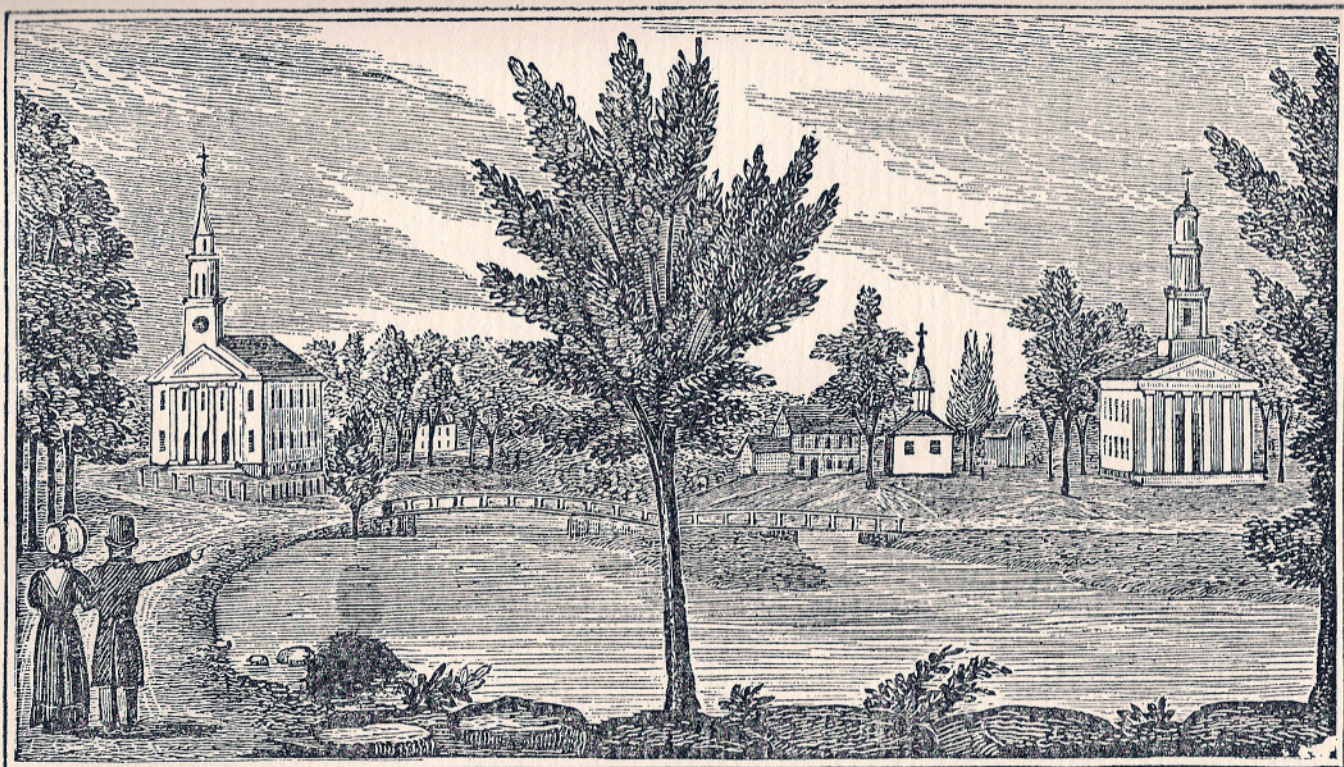
1641 The first meeting house, erected in 1641, was forty feet square. A gallery was added in 1697 and in 1700 a place was provided back of the seats for the "guards to set their arms." "In sitting, respect was paid to aged persons, the wives of church officers and magistrates, general military officers and deaf persons."

1727-8 The second meeting house was built 80 x 65 feet, three stories high, two tiers of gallery, the upper one designed for the slaves and other blacks to sit in. The plan of the house was said to have been drawn by Governor Law, 1740. It was voted to purchase a new bell of 600 pounds, the old one being cracked.* In the same year Ebenezer Parmelee set up a brazed clock, which proving to be a good one, the Town, two years after, paid for it. In 1825 the Town employed Barzillai Davidson to make a new wooden clock at an expense of \$260. He took for part payment the old brazed wheel clock, allowing for it \$40. This, it is said, he set up and sold in New York for \$600.

1741 The Second Presbyterian Society at Milford was originated in 1741 by members of the First Church, opposed to the settlement of Mr. Whittlesey. "The debates were conducted with so much passion that it is said fists were doubled." The first meeting was at the home of Mr. George Clark, Jr. Persons who qualified as Presbyterians according to the Church of Scotland were George Clark, Samuel Tyrrel, Bartholomew Sears, Benjamin Fenn, Ezra Camp, Nathaniel Buckingham, George Clark, Jr., Henry Peck, Joel Baldwin, Elder Noah Baldwin, Ephraim Strong, Jr., Samuel Whiting,

*The old bell was taken to the foundry for old metal in part payment for the new one. It was brazed and sold to a society in Waterbury and now hangs in the belfry in the church at Salem Bridge and is considered to be the best bell in the State.

No one was excused from attending the public worship on Sunday, except on account of sickness. A fine of Four Shillings and sometimes a whipping was imposed for non-attendance. Apples and nuts were not to be indulged in on the Lord's day or travel more than a sabbath journey (two miles) except to attend meeting.



SOUTHERN VIEW OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES IN MILFORD.
The building seen on the left is the first Congregational Church; that on the right, the second; the small building with a spire is the Academy.

(Copied from an old engraving about 1835.)

For a number of years Academy Building, erected 1810, stood on the banks of the river near the Plymouth Church, kept until 1825 by Elijah Bryan, afterwards by Oliver Hammond, later by Jonas French; afterwards by Miss Brandon. This esteemed and worthy woman will be remembered by the writer and many of his friends to whom she gave their earliest instruction.

Benjamin Fenn, Jr., John Smith, Jesse Lambert, Samuel Sandford, 3d, Joseph Fenn, Jr., Jeremiah Peck, Jr., Peleg Baldwin, Samuel Sanford, Samuel Smith, Andrew Sandford, Jr. John Sandford, William S. Sears, also, soon after, Andrew Sandford, Jonathan Fowler, Josiah Tibbals, Ephraim Strong, Josiah Northrop, Samuel Sandford, Jr., Joseph Fenn, Samuel Bristol, John Downs, Samuel Oviatt, Thomas Tibbals, Thomas Welch, Jerijah Baldwin, Edmund Treat and Horace Peck.

1764 The Episcopal Society was formed in 1764 although the collector of taxes in 1739 had complained that they met with difficulty in collecting from some persons who called themselves Episcopalians (Church of England), and it was voted that the selectmen should apply for advice to the Hon. Jonathan Law, Roger Newton and Samuel Gunn, Esq., and proceed according to their advice. The church was built in 1771 and consecrated with the name of "St. George Church" in March, 1775.

1836 The Methodist Episcopal Society of Milford was formed in August 1836 at the home of Stephen Gunn and for a year held services in the Baptist Church then standing. In 1837 a building was purchased on North Street for \$450, and was used for worship until 1844, when the larger and more commodious one was built on Main Street opposite the present Milford Trust Company and the first building was sold to D. Beach & Co. for use in connection with their carriage factories. The present Mary Taylor Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, built on Broad Street in 1892-3, by the children of the late Henry A. and Mary Taylor as a memorial to their mother, is one of the most beautiful and artistic churches of the present day.

1853 The first Catholic church was erected on Gulf Street and was continued as a mission attached to St. Mary's of New Haven.

1881 As expressed by Rev. P. H. McClean in an interesting History of the Catholic Church in Milford, "With the zeal and hearty coöperation of the faithful of Saint Mary's, the present church was built and dedicated on June 25th, 1882."

TAVERNS

The Tavern, or Public House, was of great importance to the early settlers, the method of traveling being such as to require a stop for refreshments for man or beast at frequent intervals.

1644 The Town Records of 1644 refer to a debate in reference to an "Ordinary" and offered inducement to Henry Tomlinson if he would undertake one speedily so that the "town might not be destitute." Apparently Tomlinson exchanged property with Richard Bryan and established a Public House. Lambert says, "on the old country road 10 or 12 rods west of the meeting house."

1656 In 1656, Tomlinson was before the court for selling strong water, wine and beer at greater prices than allowed. This tavern was afterwards kept by the Bryans and is said to have existed up to about 1820; then kept by David Butler.

1789 General Washington stopped twice at Milford. Lambert says that this tavern was kept by Andrew Clark in 1789. Investigation indicates that the Clark Tavern was located on or near Plot 11 where Joseph R. Clark now lives on West River Street; a portion of the house is still standing and in good state of preservation. Mrs. Clark (Sarah Ford) relates a story often told her by her grandmother, who saw George Washington as he came up the stone steps; one or two of these steps near the top are now standing and serve as an entrance from the street to the present house. Her grandmother, who lived in this house, also recalled General Washington's order of bread and milk for supper, and being served with a pewter spoon, asked for a silver one. When told that the house did not afford one, he gave a shilling to the attendant with instructions to "go over to the minister's and borrow one."

1705 A tavern was kept on lot 50 by one John Camp.

1710 A house was built and opened by Samuel Miles on the hill known as the "Col. Samuel B. Ford Hill."

1830-40 There were at least four Public Houses in the town of sufficient importance to be mentioned by Lambert. One at Washington Bridge kept by Capt. Frank Trowbridge, one at Milford Point kept by Bennagh Thompson. This was said to be "a delightful resort for people from the country who wished to visit the seashore." The Milford Hotel on Broad Street standing on the present site of the Chapter House of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was the most important and was kept by Nathan Merwin. Another on the opposite side of the green, probably the DeWitt house (now standing), was also a Public House at that time and was kept by Capt. Stephen Trowbridge. A Tavern once stood opposite the Episcopal Church called "Buddington Tavern."

EDUCATION

Education received early attention. The first schoolmaster was Jasper Gunn. Richard Bryan was also an early teacher.

1645 In 1645 the first school house was built and occupied until 1734.

1656 According to New Haven Records, a Latin school was established in Milford. It seemed to be still in existence in 1696. An appropriation of thirty pounds was made from the treasury of the town and the school was kept open the whole year. Mr. Samuel Andrews, the teacher, was to see "that the school was attended by such scholars that need learning."

1750 In 1750 schools were established at Amity (Woodbridge), ye Bryan's Farms, Burwell's Farms and Wheeler's Farms.

1790 In 1790, Steven Gunn, Esq., was appointed treasurer and Gideon Buckingham, clerk, to receive public money for the school fund and the following committee were appointed to collect the money and pay it over to the treasury: Abraham W. DeWitt, Joseph Pratt, Jr., William Cogswell, William Atwater, Nathan Baldwin and Lewis Mallett.

1734 In 1734, a new school house was built that was torn down in 1758 by British Soldiers on a lark or revel. That year being the year of the French and Indian Wars, a company of the King's Troops were quartered in the town.

1833 In 1833 a Town Hall was built, "Elijah Baldwin, Architect, expense \$12,000; 42 x 32 feet; two stories high." The upper story was used for a central school room. It was voted that the lower part of this building should be occupied for the use of the town exclusively and the upper part for the advancement of education. It is the impression of the writer that the Original West Town House, yet standing, is the building herein described. Many hundred of Milford boys received their education on the second floor of that portion of this Town House. In the first two hundred years of the existence of the town, or up to 1838, one hundred had received collegiate education.

MILFORD FURNISHED THE FIRST THREE RECTORS OR PRESIDENTS OF YALE COLLEGE

It is a most remarkable fact that the three first officers, rectors or presidents of Yale College were directly or indirectly of the town of Milford.

First President. Abraham Pierson, the first rector of Yale College, resided in Milford after his graduation and pursued his theological studies under Mr. Newton. There he married Abigail Clark (daughter of George Clark), sister of Sarah, the mother of Governor Law. Pierson held the position of Yale's president from 1701 until his death in 1712.

Second President. Samuel Andrews, who was for fifty years a pastor in the town of Milford, was the successor of Abraham Pierson in 1707 and was the second rector or President of Yale.

Third President. In 1719, Rev. Timothy Cutler, son-in-law of Rector Andrews, was third Rector or President of Yale and as Dexter says, "was selected not without misgivings."

He was thirty-five years of age, had made a favorable impression for ability. During his administration, the first college building was erected at New Haven. "About the time it was finished," as expressed by Dexter, "the Rector's usefulness came to a sudden end, when it became known that he was considering the question of declaring for Episcopacy."

EDITOR'S NOTES

Pierson and Andrews were original trustees at the meeting of the Connecticut pastors at Branford in 1701 that had constituted the founding of Yale College. It was then designated by Boston gentlemen from Harvard College as a collegiate school.

The first Yale commencement was held in 1702 at the house of Thomas Buckingham (of Milford descent) at Saybrook Point.

The beautiful and picturesque "Laurelton Hall," formerly the estate of the late Henry A. Taylor (built by Charles H. Pond) is, at the present time, a Catholic boarding school for young ladies, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. There are usually from seventy-five to one hundred pupils.

TRADE, COMMERCE AND SHIP BUILDING

1819 The Gazetteer of the State of Connecticut and Rhode Island, 1819, refers to Milford as an ancient maritime post township and says, "It is a circumstance of no small importance that it is situated immediately upon a stream of water communicating directly with Milford Harbor which is navigable to the Sound and sufficiently copious to operate the mills. . . . The waters of the 'Ousatonic,' wash its Western border and the Wapawaug runs through its center from North to South. . . . The great Atlantic road from New Haven to New York leads through the center of this town. . . . It has vessels engaged in foreign and coastwise trade. . . . There is a comfortable and pleasant village which is of an ancient date. . . . It comprises within the limits of about one mile space, nearly 100 dwellings many of which are neat and handsome buildings. . . . There are 4 corn mills; one of which is a large merchant's mill for flour and contains 4 run of stones, 3 full mills and clothiers' works 3 carding machines and 3 canneries. . . . The population in 1810 was 2,674;

3 companies of militia and 380 dwelling houses. The list of the town 1816, was 54,320 (dollars). This is one of the ancient towns of the State and was settled as early as 1638."

1640 The first merchants were Alexander Bryan and son, Richard: as early as 1640 trade with Boston by water was begun.

1650 The town granted Bryan a piece of land as a store-house, corner of Broad Street and Dock Lane (Wharf Street) and he built a dock at the end of the Lane.

1653 He contributed the dock to the town in 1653 on condition that it should always be kept in good repair at the expense of the town.

1655 The town gave Richard Bryan permission to build a warehouse near his father's home on the other side of the highway and Sergeant East a warehouse between this and the home of Miles Merwin the tanner.

1675 The men above mentioned owned vessels making voyages to the West Indies and between Milford and Boston. They sent to the West Indies cattle, horses, beef and corn meal and brought back rum and molasses.

1686 The town encouraged trade and commerce by giving Nicholas Camp the ground for a new warehouse.

1696 Mungel Nesbitt, a resident of the town, was given liberty to prosecute free trade and commerce and he opened traffic to New York in 1696.

1714 Samuel Clarke bought Bryan's warehouse in 1714 and in 1730 Peter Perritt, a Frenchman, built a wharf and sent a ship to France (for a cargo of wine) which made a good voyage across the ocean but was wrecked and the cargo lost between Newport and Milford.

About 1754, John Gibbs engaged in maritime enterprises and sent boats from Milford to Holland.

1790 Charles Pond & Co. built the wharf at the Gulf.

1821 Strong & Miles engaged beyond their capacity in a commercial enterprise and failed. With their failure it is said the marine commercial enterprises of the town were discontinued.

1690 Ship building was prominent in 1690. A brig of 150 tons was built and in 1695 another for a Boston merchant.

1717 The *Seaflower* was launched by Richard Bryan and several boats were built at Milford for New York and Boston people. The last important vessel built was an East Indian ship named *Isabella*, launched in 1818, owned by parties in New York. Vessels were also, at this period, built upon the "Housatonic" River and at Wheeler's Farm. A ship building plant in the rear of Fowler's Mill existed during the early part of the nineteenth century.

1651 Hop raising was once a most important industry of the town and it was encouraged by the authorities. In 1651 action was taken by the General Court, owing to the pressing need for hops. Acres of ground were granted to Edward Wooster to be improved as a hop garden. Sergeant Camp afterwards had a grant for a hop garden "for as much land as he should want beside the Paugusett River" (Housatonic).

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the early part of 1800 the quarrying of marble at Milford was an important industry. The color of the stone was a verde antique and it was so attractive that the Capitol at Washington contains chimney pieces made from this marble.