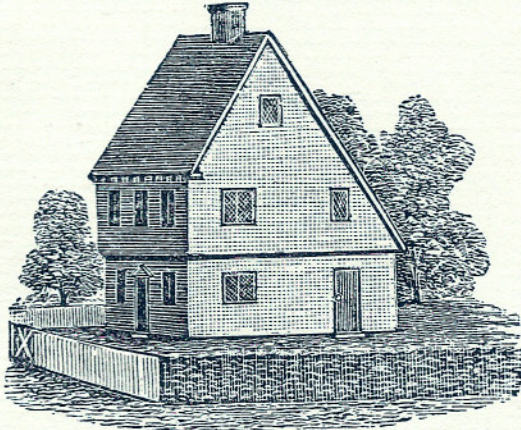



Stiles in 1794 says, "Governor Treat's house was on Mr. Tapp's lot." He says, "Mr. Edmund Treat, now 80 years old, lives and owns the farm lot with other pieces of land that were Mr. Tapp's and Governor Treat's."



Southwest view of Governor Treat's House.

The following is the fac-simile of his signature, and of the seal used by him:

Robert Treat 

Robert Treat* was by far the most distinguished citizen the town ever produced from its settlement to the present date. He was a son of Richard, the founder of Wethersfield, and came to Milford (when sixteen years of age) with Rev. Prudden. He rapidly rose to prominence and, being a surveyor, assisted in the laying out of the town.

1653 Lambert gives him the credit of being the first Town Clerk of Milford from 1640 to 1648 but this fact is difficult to establish. He was chosen Deputy from the General Court

*For a more complete account see New Haven Colony Historical Society, Vol. 7, paper entitled "Robert Treat, Founder, Farmer, Soldier, Statesman, Governor," read before the New Haven Colony Historical Society by George Hare Ford, 1911.

· ROBERT TREAT ·

THE DOMINANT SPIRIT IN THE SETTLEMENT OF NEWARK IN 1666
CHOSE THIS SITE FOR HIS HOME.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICES.

"THE NEIGHBOURS FROM MILFORD FREELY GAVE WAY
THAT CAPTAIN ROBERT TREAT SHOULD CHUSE EIGHT
ACRES FOR HIS HOME LOTT"

HE WAS TOWN MAGISTRATE, THE FIRST TOWN CLERK,
ONE OF THE TWO DEPUTIES TO THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY,
AND IN THE GENERAL AFFAIRS OF THE YOUNG
SETTLEMENT'S FOUNDATION BECAME A TRUSTED LEADER.
IN 1672 HE RETURNED TO CONNECTICUT
AND LATER WON HONOUR ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE
IN KING PHILIPS WAR. HE WAS GOVERNOR FOR THIRTEEN
YEARS AND WAS ONE OF THAT DAUNTLESS COMPANY WHO
REFUSED TO SURRENDER THE COLONY'S CHARTER
AND CONCEALED IT IN THE CHARTER OAK.
IN A LARGE DEGREE IT WAS HIS WISDOM IN COUNSEL
AND FORCEFULNESS IN ADMINISTRATION
THAT MADE THE "TOWN ON THE PESAYACK"
THE WORTHY FORERUNNER OF THE GREATER NEWARK.

ERECTED BY

THE SCHOOLMENS CLUB

ASSISTED BY THE PUPILS OF THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWARK DAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1912

TREAT TABLET ON KINNEY BUILDING

Courtesy of Newark Evening News.

to Milford in 1653 and annually each year until 1659, when he was elected magistrate and served until 1664, when he declined reelection in consequence of being obliged to take the oath prescribed, namely:—favoring the union of New Haven and Connecticut Colonies. At this time great discontent prevailed and Milford declined to send representatives to the General Court. The union of the two colonies was accomplished in 1665 but on terms so unsatisfactory to Robert Treat that he, with forty heads of families from New Haven, Milford and Branford, together with Abraham Pierson, the first rector of Yale College, as their spiritual leader, removed and settled on the banks of the Passaic River. They called that place “Milford,” which was its name until 1667 when its name was changed to Newark in honor of the English home of Rev. Mr. Pierson.

Treat was an acknowledged leader of men. Stearns in his history of Newark speaks of him as follows:—“Next comes Robert Treat the flower and pride of the whole company and to whose wise energy Newark owes much of its early order and good management.”

The inscription upon the tablet (see illustration) which was recently erected in Newark on the site of his old home will show the regard in which he is still held by the people.

1672 Treat, however, returned to Milford, 1672; but retained his property in New Jersey, leaving two of his children on that soil. At all Newark historical celebrations Robert Treat is referred to as the father and founder.

1654 As early as 1654, Treat was chosen as Lieutenant of the Train band at Milford. Later he was elected Captain and in 1673 was commissioned as Major and formed a committee of safety.

1675 King Phillip's War. Robert Treat was chosen Commander-in-chief of the Connecticut forces. The most conspicuous event in his long military career was the “Swamp Fight.” On his return he was commissioned Colonel of the militia of New Haven County.

1676 The following year he was elected Deputy-Governor of the Colony and was annually elected Governor or Deputy-

Governor for thirty-two years until 1708, when he declined reëlection to the office; having served during the most important years of New England's history. In 1686 and 1687, James II. recalled all the charters of the New England colonies.

The General Assembly of Connecticut convened, Governor Treat in the chair presided over the deliberators. Sir Edmund Andros arrived with great ceremony, demanding the charter in the name of the crown. "The story of the hiding of the charter," and the facts in connection therewith are a chapter of history. The charter was preserved, it is said, "through the diplomacy and skillful management by the masterhand of Governor Robert Treat."

EDITOR'S NOTE

There are more descendants from Richard and Robert Treat among the members of The Society of Colonial Wars than from any other family.

1709 Col. Robert Newton is referred to as a prominent man in Milford. He was a grandson of the minister, a graduate of Harvard, distinguished as a military officer in Queen Anne's War, 1709, served at Louisburg as commander of the Connecticut troops; was a Colonel of the Second Regiment, Judge of the County Court and Chief Judge in 1737 until his death.

1665 Gideon Buckingham is referred to as a prominent man in the colony. A graduate of Yale in 1665, thirty-four years town clerk.

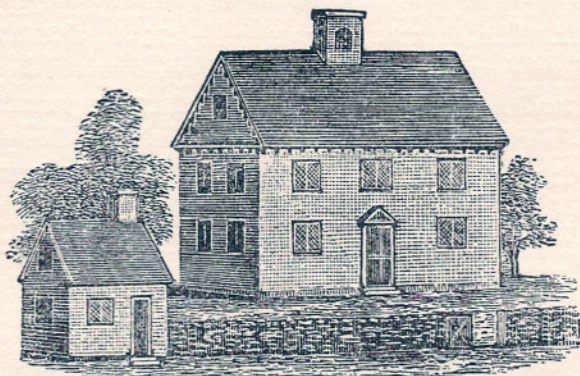
Gov. Charles Hobby Pond, whose attractive residence stood upon Broad Street, will long be remembered by many of the present day. Of commanding presence—democratic and aristocratic—courteous and magnetic; his characteristics have been transmitted to his descendants. Milford owes much to this distinguished family, especially the late Nathan G. Pond of cherished memory.

EDITOR'S NOTE

For other prominent men who have been distinguished in the various walks of life, Military and Civic, including ancestors of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, see Historical Address of George Hare Ford upon the unveiling of the Milford Fountain, page 70.

This house stood on lot 15, original map. Governor Law purchased the lot and the Regicide house and according to Stiles built his house a rod or two from the Regicide house.

Governor Law (Jonathan, Jr.) was a grandson of Richard Law who was a first settler of Wethersfield, later moving to Stamford where he became a magistrate and had business at



Southeast view of Governor Law's House

The following is a fac-simile of Governor Law's signature, and his private seal, which, it may be seen, is a combination of the letters composing his name :

Jonathan Law 

New Haven. The following story is told in connection with the settlement of Jonathan Law at Milford in 1664: Richard, the magistrate, and Jonathan his son were being entertained by Robert Treat (afterwards Governor) over Sunday. At the meeting house Jonathan was charmed with the appearance of one of the maidens present, who proved to be Sarah, a daughter of George Clark. Arrangements were made for an introduction and Jonathan was successful in his suit. They were married in 1664. Their son, Jonathan, Jr. (afterwards Governor), was educated at Harvard, graduating in 1695. He

studied law and acquired a reputation in this State as a counsellor. In 1724 he was chosen Deputy-Governor; in 1741 Governor and he was annually reëlected until his death. In 1750 President Stiles of Yale College pronounced, as one expressed it, a pompous funeral oration in Latin upon this occasion. Governor Law had five wives: 1698, Anne Elliott; 1705, Abigail Arnold; 1706, Abigail Andrew, daughter of the Minister. His fourth, Sarah ——, 1726, died 1727; the fifth, Eunice, widow of Samuel Andrew, survived him. Governor Law had seven sons, Jahleel, died 1701; Jonathan, born 1705; Jaheel, born 1707, settled in Cheshire; Samuel, 1711, Milford; Richard, 1712, died early; Richard, 1732, settled in New London; John, 1735, died in the Army, French War. Richard and John were students at Yale at the time of the death of their father. Richard graduated in 1751; was a member of Congress, Judge of the Superior Court; and died Mayor of the City of New London.

THE REGICIDE HOUSE IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE OLDEST IN
EXISTENCE IN THE TOWN TO-DAY

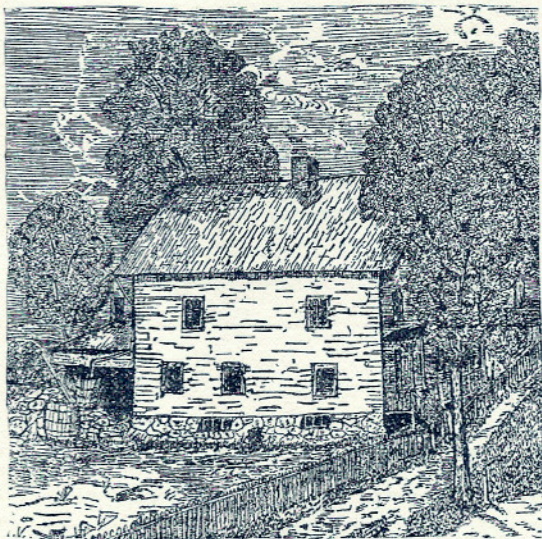
Goffe and Whalley, two of the Judges who signed the death warrant of Charles the First, resided in concealment in the vicinity of Milford from 1661-1664, three years and seven months.

The most prominent house of historic interest that can be identified as still in existence is undoubtedly the Regicide House, restored and removed within the recollection of many of the present day to the south side of Peacock Lane (now Maple Street) a short distance from West River Street.

It is in a good state of preservation and the outline of the main house may readily be recognized. This house originally stood on the site of the present central school house. Lambert says it stood on plot 15. Stiles says, "The Judges took up an asylum in the house of Mr. Tompkins thirty or forty rods from the meeting house; that Governor Law afterwards bought this house and lot and built his seat on that lot a rod or two from it." He, Stiles, was frequently in the Tompkins

house in the Governor's time. The building was about "twenty feet square, two floors on a stone wall and considered as a store: the top floor used by the Tompkins family as a spinning room."

"The Judges were here in concealment for two years, 1661-2. Roger Newton was the minister. Mr. Treat, Mr. Fenn and a few others were said to be in the secret."



The Judges also lived for a time at Judges' Cave and at Providence Hill, Amity, "Woodbridge." The hill is said to have acquired its name in connection with the Judges.*

Stiles states that Mr. George Clark, a very intelligent man, pointed out to him the Providence Hill and in a deed executed by this Mr. Clark in 1716 in deeding land to his son he describes it as being at a place called the Lodge. A brook of water running westward was called Bladen Brook. This place is now on the farm owned, I think, by Mr. Peck. While living here Richard Sperry of Woodbridge furnished the Regicides with food. The Lodge is sometimes called Hatchet Harbor.

* See History of the Judges, President Stiles, 1794.

TOWN CLERKS

The following is a list of the town clerks, from the settlement of the town to the present time, with the year they were chosen: Robert Treat 1640, Richard Baldwin 1648, Samuel Eells 1680, Daniel Buckingham 1685, Thomas Oviatt (or Offat) 1689, Alexander Bryan 1698, Jonathan Law, Jr., 1705, John Fowler 1718, John Fowler, Jr., 1756, David B. Ingersoll 1774, Samuel Whittlesey 1774, Gideon Buckingham 1776, Abraham V. H. DeWitt 1809, Samuel Higby 1813, David L. Baldwin 1836, John W. Fowler 1876, Richard R. Hapburn 1895, Frank T. Munson 1912.

ARCTIC ENGINE COMPANY

Arctic Fire Engine Company No. 1 of Milford was organized in 1839, and has been in continual existence to the present time with a membership composed of the most influential men of the town. The following is a list of Foremen with the date of service: Theo. Buddington 1838-40, Hammond Beach 1841-45, Wilson Plumb 1846-50, Mark Tibbals 1851-52, Mark Mallett 1853-55, John P. Downes 1856, Francis H. Bradley 1857, David Miles 1858-73, Charles Luke 1874-76, Charles Munson 1877-82, Wm. H. Andrews 1883-89, E. L. Ford 1890-92, Frank L. Burns 1893-94, Frank L. Burns 1894-1900, Walter M. Irving 1900-02, Charles G. Fowler 1902-03, James E. Nolan 1903-04, Mortimer B. Fowler 1904-07, James E. Dorsey 1907-08, Herman Roder 1908-09, Anthony F. Schlosser 1909-10, James E. Dorsey 1910-11, Lewis F. Stowe 1911-14.

Lambert says, "Milford is a very healthy town" and the following physicians had practised in the town up to 1838:— Jasper Gunn, John Durand, John Fisk, Jean Harpine, Ezekiel Newton, Zebulon Gillet, Thomas Clark, Elias Carrington, Samuel Whittelsey, Caleb Austin, John Rossiter, Abraham Tomlinson, John Carrington, Wm. Tully, Chas. Beardsley, Elijah F. Bryan, Andrew French, Hull Allen, and Joseph Tomlinson.

NEW MILFORD SETTLED BY MILFORD

1701-02 At a town meeting it was "voted to purchase land at Wiantinoque of the Heathen" and all the freemen who desired to take a share were at liberty to do so and those who desired to exempt themselves, likewise had the liberty to do so. The committee appointed to conduct the transaction consisted of Col. Robert Treat, Ensign George Clark, Ensign Joseph Treat, Mr. Thomas Clark, Ensign Joseph Peck, Sergt. Jonathan Baldwin and Sergt. Timothy Baldwin. They were instructed "to secure the town's interest there to the best of their skill."*

THE TOWN OF ORANGE

1822 Incorporated by the General Assembly in 1822; it was originally known as the North Milford Parish and its people were accustomed to attend meetings at Milford as late as 1805.

OWNERS OF SLAVES, 1790

1790 According to the First Census of the United States, the following residents of Milford in 1790, were owners of slaves: Elias Carrington, 1; Daniel Buckingham, 2; Enoch Clark, 1; Joseph Treat, 2; Jonah Newton, 4; John Smith, 1; Samuel Smith, 1; Joseph Rogers, 1; Isaac Clark, 1; Charlotte Andrews, 1; Phebe Woodruff, 1; Samuel Platt, 1; Heil Bryan, 3; Enoch Clark, 2d, 1; Gideon Platt, 1; Elias Clark, 2; William Andrew, 2; Richard Treat, 1; John Murrain, 1; Elisha Treat, 1; Newton Morris, 1; Benedick Law, 1.

*For other towns settled by Milford see Historical Address, George Hare Ford, page 70.