

## WILLIAM HOLT OF NEW HAVEN AND WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

William Holt made his first appearance in the records of the New Haven Colony of Connecticut on 6 September 1643. It was recorded that he was one of several men who "having come late for the last training day" (of the militia), he was fined one shilling (Records of Colony and Plantation of New Haven from 1638-1649 by Charles J. Hoadly, pg. 109). William Holt appeared in court in July, 1646, to testify against an Indian was charged with leaving the gate to the oyster-shell field standing open and also with speaking blasphemy. The matter being dealt with is said to have occurred in 1642. From this we deduce he had arrived in the colony prior to July, 1642. His name appears as one of the signers of the Revised Constitution of the New Haven Colony on July 1, 1644.

It has been known for some time that William Holt, age 19 years, appeared on the passenger list of the ship "Truelove of London", Robert Dennis, Master. This vessel sailed from Gravesend, England, in June, 1635, to the Sommer Islands (now called Bermuda). With the execution of King Charles, great unrest and dissention arose and many of the settlers left there, some coming to New England beginning in the 1640's. No record has been found for how and exactly when our William made his way from Bermuda to the New Haven Colony. It has recently been learned that William Holt appears on page 92 of the book "Bermuda Settlers of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century" by Julia E. Mercer. Also, William appeared in the court records in Bermuda in 1638 (( page 255 of "Bermuda Under the Sommer Island Company, 1612-1684" by A. C. Hollis).

New Research in England has found William Holt's parents to be William and Katherine Halstead Holt, married 16 May, 1602 in London, at St. Stephen's Church on Colman Street (London Metropolitan Archives Composite Register 1598-1636.) A baptismal record for William Holt was found at St. Giles in Cripplegate, London, on 24 March, 1616, son of William Holt, "Gentleman". Additional church records indicate he had nine siblings.

In 1644, in New Haven, William married Sarah (surname unknown). They became the parents of eight children, namely John (1645-1733) m. Elizabeth Thomas; Nathaniel (1647-1723 in Newport, Rhode Island); Mercy (1649-ab1688) m. Abraham Doolittle; Eleazer (1651-1736) m. Tabitha Thomas; Thomas (1653-1677); Joseph (1655-19 Dec 1697) m. Elizabeth French; Benjamin (1657-2 Aug 1690) along with a daughter whose name is not recorded.

In 1673, William and the family moved to Wallingford and settled on a lot on the north side of what is now Water Street. It contained two acres. He later owned six acres of land on Main Street. William died 1 Sep 1683, and was among the earliest burials in the Center Street Cemetery in Wallingford. The following year, his widow, Sarah, married Deacon William Peck. Sie died in 1717.

The Holt Association placed a granite marker at William's gravesite in 1970 during the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town of Wallingford and a dedication service was held with a number of his descendants and **Holt** Association members present. Also, at that event our President F. Burton Holt contributed a letter he had written on behalf of the Association which was put into a time capsule by the town to be opened at the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.