

**Subject Index
to the
"Connecticut" Series
of the
"Judd Manuscript"**

**Forbes Library
Northampton, Massachusetts**

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INTRODUCTION

In the 1830's and 1840's, Sylvester Judd made trips to a number of Connecticut towns, where he copied or made notes on items relative to the colonial history of those towns, and devoted considerable effort to similar activities among the state archives in Hartford. When finished, he had collected ten volumes of material which can be separately identified as the "Connecticut" series in Judd's broader sixty-four volume "Manuscript." Unfortunately, Judd followed no perceivable system of organization in his labors, and what he left has generally been difficult to use. Where to find usable information on a specific topic has been impossible to determine. The following subject index is an attempt to remedy that situation.

So that the index may direct the user to available material quickly and easily, it is desirable for the indexer to explain his principles of organization and the usage of certain terms. The essence of the following index is that it follows Judd's own ideas regarding the place, importance, or relevance of the material. In his own work Judd was essentially a local historian and genealogist, and this viewpoint is evident in his "Manuscript." Most of the material in the "Connecticut" series is noted under the name of the relevant community, and the indexer has followed that system. Wherever possible, items have been primarily indexed under a town's name, although cross-references from the major subdivisions within the towns have been included to assist the user. Thus for example, "Probate

records," of which there are many, is a sub-entry for those towns where it is applicable, and can also be found as a main entry, including references to general probate matters and a list of the towns which have "Probate records" as a sub-entry.

A second major aspect of the "Connecticut" series is material relevant to individuals, much of it recorded by Judd in the form of birth, death, and marriage lists. It must be stressed, however, that not all of the thousands of names Judd entered in his "Manuscript" are indexed here. To have attempted such an effort would have precluded completion of the index. Those individuals who are included in the index are those who received special consideration by Judd, as evidenced by his having given them a separate page or section in his notes, or in some way indicating that he regarded them as significant. Those individuals who appear, however, only as names on a list, whether they be signers of a petition, holders of land in a given field, or simply have their birth or marriage recorded are not included in the index. Any researcher looking for a particular individual not listed in the index will find that individual, if he or she was included by Judd, only by using the genealogically oriented entries which are discussed at the end of this introduction. "Births," "Deaths," and "Marriages" are obvious areas to investigate, but Judd was also interested in recording individual land holdings, and thus many individuals are listed in those entries germane to land ownership.

Note should also be made that in addition to local history and genealogy, Judd was very much interested in the American Revolution, especially its economic aspects. In volume six of the series, he included much material relevant to Connecticut in the Revolution. That material is included in the index.

On the broadest scope, the user of the following index should be aware that, unless otherwise indicated, all entries relate to Connecticut, and thus the name of the state has been omitted except where necessary to clarify an entry or sub-entry. It should also be noted that all entries are from the ten volumes of the "Manuscript" designated as the "Connecticut" series, and that the Roman numerals in the index refer only to volume numbers in that series.* The consequence of indexing only the "Connecticut" series is that material in other volumes of the "Manuscript" relevant to Connecticut have not been included. This omission is especially vexing concerning volume six of the "Miscellaneous" series, which contains some useful Connecticut references. Eventually all the series in the "Manuscript" will be integrated into a single index, but until that project is completed, the indexer asks the user's forbearance and understanding.

Because of the minuteness and individuality of Judd's local and genealogical point of view, and his inconsistent labeling, much of what he included does not fit into an easily indexed format. It has therefore been necessary to select certain terms, which, while they are not Judd's, describe the contents of the "Connecticut" series in ways that it is hoped will be useful and helpful. Some of them are obvious and self-explanatory, others have been more arbitrarily assigned, and need an explanation if the index and the "Manuscript" are to realize their full potential. The following terms will be found both as separate main entries and as sub-entries under the towns wherever applicable:

BIRTHS is an entry generally used to denote a list of individuals born, possibly Judd's rendition of

*These volumes will be found on microfilm designated "Microfilm, Forbes--10, --11, --12."

the town's vital statistics. Often the parents' names are given, and siblings are usually listed together. The date of birth is also usually included.

BOUNDARIES is an entry which refers to some note made by Judd regarding the boundary location of a particular town, usually its determination as the result of some controversy.

CHURCH refers to material relevant to the church as a congregation or as a building. It does not include references to the minister.

CLERGY is the entry used to refer to the minister, having to do with his appointment and support, as well as his activities.

DEATHS is an entry used to indicate a list of those who died, and is usually organized by year of death. Like Births, it may be a copy of vital statistics.

FOUNDING is an entry which refers to the establishment of the town, to include such things as the founding covenant and its signers, or a petition regarding the establishment of a particular town.

GENEALOGY is a catchall entry used where one of the more specific genealogical entries is not applicable. The "Manuscript" items are usually brief notes, without unifying principle. Judd's terms were sometimes "people" or "families."

INHABITANTS refers to a variety of "Manuscript" items which are lists of the residents of a specific town, and dated after its founding. The lists may be petitioners to the General Court, a list of assigned seats in the meeting house, or a list of a town's "proprietors."

INDIANS is an entry covering Indian affairs in a town, usually relating to the sale of land by the Indians to the town or its residents.

JUDD VISIT refers to a visit or visits made by Judd to the town while collecting material for the

"Manuscript." The "Manuscript" item most often includes when Judd was in the community and his observations about it.

LAND CONTRACTS is an entry referring to the purchase and sale of land by individuals. A large number of transactions are usually grouped together in the "Manuscript."

LAND GRANTS is an entry used to indicate a list of the individual recipients or owners of land in the "division" of a particular field. Judd usually identified such lists by the name of the field, such as the Hartford item "Lots in Westfield."

LAND HOLDINGS is an entry used to specify lists of individual residents with their collected land holdings. The entries are organized by individual owners, and differ distinctly from the previous term. "Wethersfield Homelots" and "Waterbury Lands 1687" are examples of this latter entry.

MARRIAGES is an entry used to identify lists of marriages. Both individuals are generally included, and occasionally children of the union are mentioned.

OFFICIAL RECORDS is an entry which is used to locate those few instances where Judd did not follow his usual practice of digesting and grouping material under a specific topic, but merely summarized the official records or minutes of the town meetings.

PROBATE RECORDS is an entry which denotes Judd's summation of wills and inventories, and usually includes the names of the decedent's survivors. The notes are often in chronological order. It is not a substitute for the Deaths entry, but a supplement to it.

TAXATION is an entry referring to lists of property assessments made in individual towns, usually including the name of the owner, the value of the property, and the specific tax.

Among the other sub-entries occasionally found under a town, but not extensive enough to warrant cross references, are two which need a brief explanation.

"Fences" is used to denote references to fence erection and repairs within the town, and is not necessarily linked with either the town's boundaries or inhabitants' land holdings. "Roads" refers to the building and maintenance of roads within the town. Inter-town and inter-colonial roads are found under a separate "Roads" entry in the index.

Finally, a brief note about the sub-entries used with personal entries in the index. Some, like "Land," "Marriage," or "Lawsuit" are self-explanatory; others are not. The "Death" sub-entry is used to include any reference to the death of the individual, including the actual death, and any material relevant to the probating of the estate, such as a will or inventory. The descendants of the individual are also quite often mentioned. "Genealogy" is a sub-entry which covers any reference to the family of the individual, including ancestors and descendants. Where only the surname is given by Judd or where he included a number of individuals with the same surname together in the "Manuscript," that surname with "family" added to it will be found following the specific individuals with that surname.

- Accounts, Treasury
 see Treasury accounts
- Administrative fees
 VI, 199
- Adultery
 V, 62-63, 64-65
- Age at death
 see Longevity
- Agents to England
 V, 28-29; VI, 242-243, 244-245
- Agriculture
 see Fairs; Farm equipment; Farm products; specific
 products
- Alarms, Military
 see Military calls
- Alcohol
 see Distilleries; Wine
- Alcoholism
 see Drunkenness
- Allen, John (Col.)
 Genealogy, V, 236
- Allerton, Isaac
 Death, IX, 164
 Land, IX, 95
- American Loyalists
 VI, 167, 183, 196-197, 296-297
- American Revolution - Intercolonial cooperation
 see Intercolonial cooperation
- Ammunition
 VI, 176-177, 262, 280, 281, 299, 301
- Amusements
 see Sports
- Ancestry
 see Genealogy
- Andre, John
 Death, 112-113

Andrews, Edward
Death, V, 217

Andrews, William
Death, V, 216
Genealogy, V, 216

Andros, (Sir) Edmund
V, 14, 54-55

Animals, Domestic
see Domestic animals

Appearance, Personal
see Personal appearance

Armed ships
VI, 274-278, 310-313
see also Privateering and specific ships: "Defense,"
"Guilford," "Minerva," "Oliver Cromwell,"
"The Spy," "Trumbull"

Ashford
III, 192
Inhabitants, III, 194-195, 197
Land contracts, III, 196; V, 281

Athletics
see Sports

Baptisms
see Births

Barrels
X, 19

Bastardy
V, 93-94

Battles
see specific battles and wars

Beauty, Personal
see Personal appearance

Bedford, New York
V, 51

Belcher, Jonathan
Land, V, 280

Bidwell, John
Death, V, 140-141

Bidwell, Sarah
Death, V, 140-141

Bidwell, Thomas
Commerce, V, 181

Bills of Credit
see Paper money

Bills of Exchange
see Paper money

Birds
see Pigeons

Births

Branford, X, 233
Farmington, II, 179-180; VI, 18-24
Hartford, II, 47-50, 65-70; IV, 138-146, 203-207
Middletown, X, 116-135, 138-139
Milford, VIII, 344-349, 356-363, 365
New Haven, IV, 284-287; VIII, 1-25; IX, 92, 203-214
Norwalk, IV, 311
Simsbury, III, 163-164, 165-169
Stamford, VIII, 314-316
Stratford, VIII, 154-160
Suffield, I, 91-98
West Hartford, IV, 348
Wethersfield, I, 38; III, 241-243, 292-295
Windsor, I, 71-73, 76, 87; III, 20-23, 87-93,
123-124; IV, 170-173, 174-196

Bissell, Jacob
Death, V, 142

Blockade
see Embargo

Blocks, Horse
see Horse blocks

Bolton
Founding, III, 177

Books and reading
V, 332, 254; VI, 35

Boundaries
Connecticut - Massachusetts, V, 6-9, 116-117

Canton, VI, 202-211
 East Hartford, V, 72
 Greenwich, V, 45, 127-129
 Hartford, V, 282
 Lyme, III, 205; V, 80-81
 New London, III, 205; V, 80-81
 Simsbury, VI, 202, 211
 Stamford, V, 45
 Windsor, V, 151

Bounties

Wolves, VI, 327

Bradford, William

Genealogy, IX, 117

Branford

X, 232
 Births, X, 233
 Deaths, X, 232
 Fences, X, 228
 Founding, V, 258; X, 158-174
 Genealogy, X, 158-174
 Land contracts, X, 235-238, 241
 Land grants, X, 229, 234, 242
 Land holdings, X, 230
 Marriages, X, 233
 Official records, X, 231, 239-240
 Placenames, X, 237
 Probate records, VIII, 366-381, 387-399

Bridgeport

Founding, V, 122-124
 Judd visit, IV, 303-304

Bridges

Windsor, VI, 184

Brimfield, Massachusetts

Genealogy, I, 163

Brooklyn

Founding, VI, 203

Buckingham, Thomas (Rev.)

IX, 171-172

Burial

see Deaths

Burnham, William (Rev.)

Marriage, VII, 205

Burr, Andrew, Jr.
Marriage, V, 260

Burr family
VIII, 188, 209, 299

Butler, John
Death, V, 86

Butler, Thomas
Death, III, 43

Calendar
IX, 282-283

Canterbury
Founding, V, 136
see also Plainfield

Canton
Boundaries, VI, 202, 211

Capitol
V, 212

Carter family
V, 219

Census
VI, 268-269

Champion, Henry (Col.)
Commissary, VI, 163-164

Charter (1662)
V, 28; IX, 151

Chauncey, Charles (Rev.) [Jr.?]
IV, 295

Chauncey, Robert
IV, 295

Church
Days of Humiliation, IV, 161-163
Thanksgivings, IV, 164-166
Derby, VIII, 83-84
East Hartford, IV, 99
Farmington, VI, 1-7, 26-30

Hartford, IV, 208-211, 212-213
 Lebanon, V, 198, 286-287
 Milford, V, 109; VIII, 340-343, 350
 New Haven, IV, 289; VIII, 50-51, 64-65, 67; IX, 157,
 193-195, 202
 New London, V, 198; VIII, 141
 New Milford, V, 32
 Norwalk, V, 58-59; X, 266, 270-273
 Simsbury, III, 165, 169-170
 Stonington, VIII, 137
 Stratford, VIII, 186
 West Hartford, IV, 342, 344-347
 Windsor, III, 114-117; IV, 167-169, 170-173
 see also Episcopalians; Quakers; Rogerenes; Sande-
 manians; Shakers; Synod of 1656; Half-Way
 Covenant

Citizenship

see Freemen

Civil law

V, 171, 176, 203; VI, 139
 see also County courts; Court of Assistants; specific
 types of cases

Clergy

V, 199
 Derby, VIII, 82-83
 Farmington, I, 169
 Guilford, X, 215
 New London, III, 176; VIII, 141
 Norwalk, X, 265-266, 274
 Plainfield, VIII, 133
 Saybrook, IX, 190
 Stratford, VIII, 163
 Wethersfield, III, 298
 Woodbury, IV, 324-325

Clocks

V, 358; IX, 280-281

Clothing and dress

V, 334-335, 346-349, 356-357; IX, 298-300, 304-307,
 320-321; X, 318-355, 348-349, 394-395, 428-429,
 443, 446-448, 451-453

Coaching

VI, 186-187

Coast defenses

VI, 361, 363, 366-368

- Coinage
V, 53; VI, 198
- Colchester
VI, 140
Founding, V, 177
Mason controversy, V, 177
Westchester, III, 184
- College of New Jersey
VIII, 150
- Colony records
II, 193-199, 224-230
- Commerce
V, 112-113, 152-161, 174-175, 179, 181-182, 225,
359-376; VI, 141, 250-254, 308, 326
see also Depressions; Economic conditions; Embargo;
New London Society for Encouraging Arts,
Manufactures, and Economics; New London
Society for Trade; Paper money; Tariff;
specific commodities
- Commissary
see Military supplies
- Commissioners of the United Colonies
see Intercolonial cooperation
- Common lands
IX, 66
- Comptroller
see Controllershship
- Conditions, Economic
see Economic conditions; Commerce; Depressions
- Connecticut Gazette
IX, 296-297
- Connecticut Historical Society
V, 35
- Connecticut River
VI, 194
- Controllershship
VI, 288
- Cook, Aaron
Land, V, 245
Petition of, V, 36

- Cook, Joseph, Jr.
Second Continental Congress, VI, 352
- Copper mines and mining
Farmington, V, 227
Simsbury, V, 143, 186-187, 226-227, 235
Wallingford, V, 227
- Corbin, James
Land, III, 192-193
- Corn
see Grain
- Counterfeiting
V, 32, 33, 171, 210-211; VI, 124
- County courts
II, 224-225, 227-229; V, 303, 305, 311-326;
IX, 96-101, 106-114
- Court of Assistants
II, 226, 230; V, 299-302, 304, 306-310; VI, 36-69,
80-89, 94-106
- Courts
V, 296; VI, 90-91, 124-127, 132-133, 309; VIII, 54
Secretaries of, V, 357
see also County courts; Court of Assistants;
Probate court
- Coventry
Founding, III, 179
Petition of, V, 30
- Cowles, Ezekiel
IV, 332-337
- Crane, Lydia
Petition of, VI, 308
- Crime and criminals
V, 13, 24, 31, 33, 60-61, 76-77, 92-95, 144-145,
170-171, 202; VI, 309; VIII, 56
Adultery, V, 62-63
Bastardy, V, 93-94
Counterfeiting, V, 32, 33, 171, 210-211; VI, 124
Fornication, IX, 159
Horse stealing, VI, 124
Murder, V, 88
Sumptuary, V, 215
Witchcraft, III, 383-384; V, 203; IX, 152-156

Crops

Production

Crow, John, Jr.

Death, V, 340

Currency

see Paper money

Curtains

see Drapery

Customs duties

see Tariff

Damage, War

see War damage

Danbury

Judd visit, IV, 321, 323
in Revolution, VI, 185, 217

Davenport, John

Death, VIII, 117

Days of humiliation

see Church

Deaths

Branford, X, 232
Derby, VIII, 80-81
East Hartford, IV, 252
East Windsor, IV, 45-46
Farmington, II, 159-162
Hartford, II, 57-60; IV, 137
New Haven, VIII, 33-39
Norwalk, IV, 320
Stamford, VIII, 313, 317
Stratford, VIII, 161
Watertown, II, 150
West Hartford, IV, 349, 350
Wethersfield, III, 290-291, 380
Windsor, I, 74-75; III, 128; IV, 197, 198-201

Debt, Imprisonment for

VI, 160, 190, 191

Debts, Public

see Public debts

- Deeds
see Land contracts
- Deerfield, Massachusetts
Attack on, V, 290-292
- "Defence" (Armed ship)
VI, 275, 278, 310-311
- Defenses, Coast
see Coast defenses
- Delaware Indians
X, 20-39
- Depressions,
VI, 116-123, 173, 179, 188-191, 204-209
see also Commerce; Economic conditions
- Deputies
see General Court
- Derby
Church, VIII, 83-84
Clergy, VIII, 82-83
Deaths, VIII, 80-81
Indians, VIII, 82
Inhabitants, III, 156-157; VIII, 70-74
Judd visit, VIII, 409
Land grants, III, 156-157; VIII, 76-77, 79
Land holdings, VIII, 85b
Marriages, VIII, 80-81
Official records, VIII, 74-75
Taxation, VIII, 85a
- Desertion, Military
see Military desertion
- Dickinson, Daniel
Petition of, V, 220
- Disborough, Mercy
Witchcraft trial, III, 383-384
- Diseases
V, 47, 238-239; VI, 134, 339
see also Hospitals; Medicine; Physicians
- Distilleries
V, 355; VI, 166

- Divorce
V, 86, 118-120; VI, 136-137, 210; IX, 162
- Dixwell, John
Land contract, IX, 148
- Doctors
see Physicians
- Domestic animals
V, 328; X, 264
see also Horses; Pigeons
- Down
see Feathers
- Drapery
VI, 193
- Drunkenness
IX, 260-262
- Dueling
VI, 180
- Durham
Inhabitants, III, 136
- Dutch land
V, 96-99
- Duties
see Tariff
- Dyer, Eliphat
Second Continental Congress, VI, 352
- East Fairfield
see Bridgeport
- East Guilford
see Madison
- East Hartford
Boundaries, V, 72
Church, IV, 99
Deaths, IV, 252
Genealogy, IV, 254-261
Judd visit, IV, 97
Land contracts, IV, 262-265; V, 138-139

Land grants, IV, 112-113, 114-115, 250-251, 266-267, 268-273
 Land holdings, II, 56, 119-120; IV, 94-96, 98, 100-102
 Mills, IV, 99

East Haven

Taxation, V, 121

East Lyme

V, 195
 Petition of, V, 194

East Windsor

Deaths, IV, 45-46
 Genealogy, IV, 111
 Land holdings, IV, 34-40
 Lead mines, IV, 44
 Petitions of, IV, 106, 107, 108, 109-110
 Roads, IV, 41

Easthampton, Long Island

VIII, 146-147

Eaton, Theophilus

Land contract, IX, 95

Economic conditions

VI, 138, 285-286
 see also Commerce; Depressions

Education

Taxes for, III, 209; VI, 326
 see also College of New Jersey; Hartford Free School;
 Harvard College; Hopkins Grammar School;
 Plainfield Academy; Staples Free School; Yale
 College

Edwards, Richard

Genealogy, V, 189

Eliot, Joseph (Rev.)

Death, VIII, 123

Elliot, John

Lawsuit, VI, 139

Ellsworth, Oliver

Second Continental Congress, VI, 352

Elmer, Edward

Death, IV, 42

- Embargo
VI, 141, 164-165
- Emigration and immigration
see Refugees
- Enfield
Iron mine, VI, 112
Shakers, VI, 184
- England, Connecticut agents to
V, 28-29; VI, 242-243, 244-245
- Enos, Roger (Capt.)
Duel, VI, 180
- Ensign, David
VII, 203-204
- Episcopalians
VI, 167
- Establishment of towns
see Founding of towns
- Estaing, Comte d'
VI, 238
- Estates
see Property
- Executions
VI, 126-127
- Exercises, Military
see Military exercises
- Exiles
see Refugees
- Fairfield
Inhabitants, VIII, 296-297
Judd visit, IV, 303; VIII, 411-412
Land contracts, VIII, 279, 283
Land grants, IV, 312-314; VIII, 298
Land holdings, V, 222-224
Mascimies, V, 221
Official records, IV, 296-297
Paul's Neck, VIII, 298
Probate records, IV, 298-301, 315; VIII, 210-278,
284-295

Staples Free School, VI, 182
 Witchcraft, IX, 153-156
 see also Bridgeport; Weston; Westport

Fairfield North Village
 see Weston

Fairfield Village
 see Bridgeport

Fairs
 VI, 193

Farm animals
 see Domestic animals

Farm equipment
 V, 332-333, 354; VI, 128; X, 433-438, 444-445,
 456-458

Farm produce
 V, 329, 351

Farmington
 II, 163-165, 175-176; IV, 332-337
 Births, II, 179-180; VI, 18-24
 Church, VI, 1-7, 26-30
 Clergy, I, 169
 Copper mines, V, 227
 Deaths, II, 159-162
 Founding, IV, 338-340
 Genealogy, VI, 8-17
 Inhabitants, II, 178
 Judd visit, II, 154; IV, 330-331
 Land grants, II, 177; IV, 338-340, 341
 Land holdings, IV, 116-118, 128-136
 Lead mines, VI, 299
 Marriages, II, 166, 171-174
 Probate records, II, 156-158; IV, 328-329

Farms - valuation
 see Land prices

Feathers
 IX, 362-364

Fee system (Taxation)
 see Administrative fees

Fees, Administrative
 see Administrative fees

- Fences**
V, 241
see also Fences in specific towns
- Firearms**
IX, 274-275
see also Military supplies
- Fires**
V, 257
- Fish**
see Shad
- Fisher's Island**
VI, 308
- Fitch, James**
Land, V, 279
- Fitch, John**
Genealogy, VII, 199
- Fitch family**
IV, 43
- Flatware**
see Forks
- Flax**
VI, 164
- Forest products**
see Tar; Timber trade
- Forks**
IX, 285
- Fornication**
IX, 159
- Foster, Ann**
Marriage, VII, 205
- Founding of towns**
Bolton, III, 177
Branford, V, 258; X, 158-174

Bridgeport, V, 122-124
 Brooklyn, VI, 203
 Colchester, V, 177
 Coventry, III, 179
 Farmington, IV, 338-340
 Granby, VI, 202
 Guilford, III, 151; X, 178-215
 Hartford, I, 1-11; II, 2-30, 278
 Killingworth, X, 144-156
 Lebanon, V, 1, 286-287
 Lyme, V, 133
 Middletown, III, 144
 Milford, III, 158-139
 New Haven, III, 140-141; VIII, 40-41
 New London, VIII, 140-141
 Newington, V, 70-71
 Newtown, III, 174
 Norwalk, X, 248-261
 Norwich, III, 134
 Plainfield, VIII, 132
 Pomfret, III, 158
 Portland, V, 68
 Preston, III, 189
 Ridgefield, III, 155; V, 60
 Stamford, IV, 317; VIII, 318-319
 Trumbull, V, 21
 Voluntown, III, 186
 Wallingford, III, 135, 147-148, 149
 Waterbury, II, 133-139, 141-142; V, 34-35, 252-253
 Westbrook, V, 134
 Weston, V, 130-131
 Westport, V, 124-126
 Willington, V, 249
 Windsor, I, 78-86; III, 2, 66; VII, 207-210
 Woodstock, III, 190

Franchise

see Suffrage

Freedom of religion

see Religious liberty

Freemen

III, 30-36, 355-357
 see also Suffrage

French and Indian War

V, 12; VI, 116-117

Friends, Society of

see Quakers

Funerals

see Deaths

Funeral service

V, 342

FurnitureV, 330-331, 338-339, 343-345, 350, 352-354, 355
IX, 308-310, 322-357, 362-364, 377-381
see also Household goods**Games**

see Sports

Gardiners Island

VIII, 148-149

Gates, Horatio

VI, 345

GenealogyIII, 9-13; V, 106-107, 172-175, 188, 192-193,
230-231, 266-275; VI, 108-111, 119-122,
168-169; IX, 256-257

Branford, X, 158-174

East Hartford, IV, 254-261

East Windsor, IV, 111

Guilford, X, 178-215

Hartford, IV, 225-231, 233-249

Killingworth, X, 144-156

Middletown, III, 145

Norwalk, 248-261

Saybrook, III, 5-7, 180[a]-180[e]

Wethersfield, III, 240

see also Probate records

General Assembly

Expenses, VI, 173, 314-325

see also General Court

General Court

Deputies, I, 23, 28; III, 350-354, 358-361

Records, III, 316-345, 362-372

General Court deputies

see General Court

George IV

IX, 276

- Gibbons, William
Land, I, 15-16
- Goffe, William (Col.)
V, 14
- Goodsell, Sarah
Divorce, VI, 136-137
- Goodwin, William
IV, 76-81
- Goodyear, Stephen
Death, IX, 163
- Goring, William
Land, V, 204
- Governor's Guard
VI, 144-145, 173, 198
- Grain
VI, 129
- Granby
Founding, VI, 202
- Greenhills, Thomas
V, 78-79
- Greenhills family
V, 22-23
- Greenwich
Boundaries, V, 45, 127-129
Inhabitants, VIII, 325, 327
Judd visit, VIII, 402
Land contracts, VIII, 328
Land grants, VIII, 326
Petition of, V, 45
Taxation, VIII, 329
- Groton
Fort, VI, 241
Inhabitants, III, 172-173
- Guilford
X, 225, 227, 288-290
Clergy, X, 215
Founding, III, 151; X, 178-215
Genealogy, X, 178-215
Indians, X, 225-226

Inhabitants, III, 138, 150; X, 218-219
Land holdings, X, 220-223
Petition of, V, 42
Place names, X, 224
Podunk, V, 43
Probate records, VIII, 366-381, 387-399

"Guilford" (Armed ship)
VI, 313

Gunpowder
see Military supplies

Guns
see Firearms; Military supplies

Hackleton, Hannah
Trial, V, 62-63

Haddam
V, 257
Indians, III, 310-314
Inhabitants, III, 1
Land holdings, V, 254-256

Hale, Samuel
Lawsuit, V, 91

Half-way Covenant
Hartford, IV, 148-149, 155-158
Wethersfield, IV, 154, 159-160

Hallam family
V, 115

Hammonasset
V, 38-39

Harbert, Benjamin
Commerce, V, 160-161

Harbor defenses
see Coast defenses

Hartford
Births, II, 47-50, 65-70; IV, 138-146, 203-207
Boundaries, V, 282
Church, IV, 208-211, 212-213
Common lands, V, 262-262
Cow pasture, V, 283-284

Deaths, II, 57-60; IV, 137
 Founding, I, 1-11; II, 2-30, 278
 Genealogy, IV, 225-231, 233-249
 Half-way Covenant, IV, 148-153, 155-158
 Hartford Free School, V, 114
 Indians, V, 294-295
 Inhabitants, II, 31
 Judd visit, IV, 305; V, 377
 Land grants to, IV, 214-223
 Land grants, I, 1-12; II, 2-30, 32-42, 44-46,
 125-126
 Land holdings, I, 15-16; III, 37, 39-42; V, 264-
 265, 293
 Map, V, 1 (inset)
 Marriages, I, 63, 167; II, 51-54, 71-74
 Official records, II, 75-96; IV, 119-127
 Paper mill, VI, 161
 Probate records, II, 100-115, 183-192, 200-223,
 231-263; VII, 25, 27-193,[#] 195-198
 Quarter Court, V, 297-298
 Riots, V, 46, 206-207, 208-209
 Taxation, II, 121-124, 183-192
 Western lands of, V, 282

Hartford Free School
 V, 114
 see also Education

Harvard College
 VIII, 55
 see also Education

Hawley, Joseph
 Lawsuit, V, 20

Haynes, John (Governor)
 Death, V, 104

Haynes, Joseph (Rev.)
 Death, V, 104

Haynes, Sarah
 V, 105

Hebron,
 III, 160

—————* These records are indexed in VII, 21-24.

[#]Included in these pages are references to other material relevant to Hartford probate records.

- Henbane
IX, 116
- Highways
see Roads
- Hilliard, Benoni
Drill plow, VI, 128
- Home furnishings
see Drapery; Furniture; Household goods
- Hooker, Nathaniel
Marriage, V, 86
- Hooker, Thomas (Rev.)
Death, VII, 1-2
- Hooker family
III, 381
Deaths, IV, 328-329
- Hopkins, Edward
III, 25-27
Land, I, 15-16
- Hopkins Grammar School
IX, 173-178
see also Education
- Horse blocks
IX, 283-284
- Horse stealing
VI, 124
- Horses
V, 229
see also Domestic animals
- Hospitals
Brookline, Massachusetts, VI, 167
New Haven, VI, 279
Stratford, VI, 279
- Hotels, taverns, etc.
V, 205; VI, 195
- Housatonic River
III, 206[a], 207

- House furnishings
see Drapery; Furniture; Household goods
- Household goods
V, 334-335, 348-349, 356-357; X, 428-429, 443,
446-448, 451-453
- Household linens
see Drapery
- Hubbard, Elijah
Commissary, VI, 255-261
- Hubbard, William (Rev.)
IX, 193
Genealogy, IX, 118
- Huntington, Benjamin
Second Continental Congress, VI, 353
- Hurley, Jane
Marriage, V, 213
- Immigration
see Refugees; Vagrancy
- Imports
see Tariff
- Imprisonment for debt
see Debt, Imprisonment for
- Indians
III, 204, 207, 210-211, 216-237; VI, 333; IX, 181;
X, 20-39
Dictionaries, X, 20-27, 28-35
Lands, V, 294-295; VI, 131
Reservations, V, 277
Sachems, Joshua, V, 30, 276; Uncas, III, 211, 220;
V, 135
Tribes, Delawares, X, 20-39; Mohegans, III, 198-199,
222-225; Quinebaugs, III, 212-215; Wampanoags,
III, 379; VI, 70-79
Wars, III, 376-378, 379; VI, 70-79
In specific towns
Derby, VIII, 82
Guilford, X, 225-226
Haddam, III, 310-314
Hartford, V, 294-295
Kent, III, 200-203
Lebanon, V, 1, 3-4
Middletown, III, 310-314; X, 136
Milford, VIII, 333, 383
New Haven, IX, 147, 151

Norwalk, IV, 306, 307; X, 275
 Plainfield, VIII, 133
 Saybrook, V, 135
 Stamford, VIII, 309
 Stratford, VIII, 180, 182, 183, 184, 186
 Wethersfield, III, 270, 310-314

Inhabitants

Ashford, III, 194-195, 197
 Canterbury, V, 136
 Derby, III, 156-157; VIII, 70-74
 Durham, III, 136
 Fairfield, VIII, 296-297
 Farmington, II, 178
 Greenwich, VIII, 325, 327
 Groton, III, 172-173
 Guilford, III, 138, 150; X, 218-219
 Haddam, III, 1
 Hartford, II, 31
 Killingly, V, 137
 Killingworth, III, 29
 Middletown, III, 136
 Milford, III, 152-154
 New Haven, IV, 242-244
 Newtown, III, 175
 North Branford, III, 183
 Saybrook, V, 135
 Simsbury, III, 162
 Stamford, VIII, 310-321
 Stonington, VIII, 135-136
 Stratford, VIII, 179
 Voluntown, III, 187
 Wallingford, III, 147-148
 Waterbury, II, 140
 Windham, III, 181
 Windsor, IV, 19-20; VII, 211-213

Inns

see Hotels, taverns, etc.

Intercolonial cooperation

American Revolution, VI, 291, 310-313, 350
 New England Confederation, VI, 70-79

Interior decoration

see Drapery; Furniture; Household goods; Paper-
 hanging

Intoxication

see Drunkenness

Inventories of decedents' estates

see Probate records

Iron mines and mining

- Enfield, VI, 112
- New Haven, IX, 151
- Salisbury, VI, 113-115, 248-249
- Saybrook, V, 111
- Suffield, V, 111, 234
- Springfield, V, 234
- Windsor, VIII, 228, 234

Jails

see Newgate Prison

Jones, Richard

Land, V, 254-256

Joshua (Indian sachem)

Death, V, 30, 276

Judd, Roger

I, 216

Judd, Stephen

Genealogy, II, 153

Judd, Sylvester

- Books and reading,* VIII, 137, 147, 322-324, 404, 405-407; IX, 167-170, 179-201, 220-230, 231-245, 246-255, 263-273, 287-294, 295, 301-303; X, 1-13, 42-44, 45-49, 54-57, 58-65, #67, 72-73
- Essays and notes, # IX, 365-376, 382-434
- Travels, † X, 463-488 (Connecticut, New York City, Brooklyn, 1850); VIII, 414, 462-463 (Expenses)
- Visits to specific towns
 - Bridgeport, IV, 303-304
 - Danbury, IV, 321, 323
 - Derby, VIII, 409
 - East Hartford, IV, 97

*The references are to notes taken by Judd on his personal reading.

#The references are to preliminary notes and brief essays written by Judd on various topics.

†The references are to Judd's journeys to collect his historical and genealogical material.

Fairfield, IV, 303; VIII, 411-412
 Farmington, II, 154
 Greenwich, VIII, 402
 Hartford, V, 377
 Meriden, IV, 305
 Milford, IV, 304; VIII, 402
 New Britain, IV, 305
 New Haven, VIII, 408
 New York City, VIII, 402, 413
 Newington, IV, 305
 Newtown, IV, 323
 Norwalk, IV, 302
 Plainville, II, 154
 Southbury, IV, 322
 Stamford, VIII, 412
 Stratford, VIII, 410
 Wethersfield, IV, 305

Judd, Thomas

I, 115-116; V, 249
 Genealogy, I, 117-122

Judd, William

I, 116

Judd family

II, 175-176, 181-182
 Deaths, I, 31-33; II, 148-149, 183-185
 Deputies to General Court, I, 23, 28
 Genealogy, II, 130-132, 147; IV, 318-319
 Land, II, 144-146
 Military service, VI, 359

Judson, Joseph

Lawsuit, V, 20

Kenilworth

see Killingworth

Kensington

Church, V, 201
 Inhabitants, V, 200
 Lead mines, VI, 162

Kent

Indians, III, 200-203

Killingly

Inhabitants, V, 137

Killingworth

Founding, X, 144-156
 Genealogy, X, 144-156
 Inhabitants, III, 29

King, Edward

IV, 43

King Philip's War

III, 379; VI, 70-79
 see also Indians

King William's War

V, 290-292

Lamberton family

IX, 164

Land contracts

III, 14-19; VI, 131, 135
 Branford, X, 235-238, 241
 East Hartford, IV, 262-265; V, 138-139
 Fairfield, VIII, 279, 283
 Greenwich, VIII, 328
 Milford, VIII, 335, 351-352
 New Haven, IX, 139-147
 Norwalk, X, 276
 Stamford, VIII, 311-312
 Stratford, V, 20; VIII, 184-185

Land grants

By colony to individuals, V, 44-45
 By colony to towns
 Hartford, IV, 214-223
 Windsor, IV, 214-223
 By towns to individuals
 Branford, X, 229, 234, 242
 Derby, III, 156-157; VIII, 76-77, 79
 East Hartford, IV, 112-113, 114-115,
 250-251, 266-267, 268-273
 Fairfield, IV, 312-314; VIII, 298
 Farmington, II, 177; IV, 338-340, 341
 Greenwich, VIII, 326
 Hartford, I, 1-12; II, 2-30, 32-42, 44-
 46, 125-126
 Lebanon, V, 3-4
 Middletown, V, 69
 Milford, III, 152-154; VIII, 333, 336-
 337, 338-339, 384-386
 New Haven, VIII, 49, 62-63, 66

Norwalk, IV, 306; X, 268
 Pomfret, III, 159
 Saybrook, III, 178[a]
 Stamford, VIII, 307
 Stratford, V, 19; VIII, 176-178
 Waterbury, II, 150
 West Hartford, V, 67
 Wethersfield, III, 268, 271; V, 84
 Windsor, III, 142

Land holdings

Branford, X, 230
 Derby, VIII, 85-88
 East Hartford, II, 56, 119-120; IV, 94-96, 98,
 100-102
 East Windsor, IV, 34-40
 Fairfield, V, 222-224
 Farmington, IV, 116-118, 128-136
 Guilford, X, 220-223
 Haddam, 254-256
 Hartford, I, 15-16; III, 37, 39-42; V, 264-265,
 293
 Meriden, V, 259
 Middletown, X, 157
 Milford, VIII, 332, 334, 354
 Saybrook, III, 178[b]-178[d]
 Stamford, VIII, 300-301
 Stratford, IV, 292-294; VIII, 163-175, 181-182
 Waterbury, V, 250-251
 Wethersfield, III, 244-261, 286-288, 302-309;
 V, 85
 Windsor, I, 77; III, 44-47, 50-65, 67-69, 96-
 106, 118-119; IV, 24-32; V, 87

Land prices

V, 336-337

Law

see Civil law; Crimes

Lawrence, [John]

Homestead, V, 293
 Treasurer of colony, VI, 237

Lawyers

V, 48, 73

Lead mines and mining

Farmington, VI, 299
 Kensington, VI, 162
 Middletown, VI, 162, 298
 New Canaan, VI, 162
 Windsor, IV, 44

- Leather
 Prices, VI, 173
- Lebanon
 Church, V, 198, 286-287
 the Crank, V, 5
 Founding, V, 1, 286-287
 Indians, V, 1, 3-4
 Land grants, V, 3-4
 Petition of, V, 198
 Riot, 53
- LeBaron, Mary
 Death, VI, 184
- Ledyard, William (Col.)
 Genealogy, VI, 185
- Legal proceedings
 see Courts
- Legislation
 Taverns, V, 205
- Legislature
 see General Court
- Lexington, Battle of
 VI, 212-213
- Life, Thomas
 Agent to England, VI, 242-245
- Linen
 see Flax
- Liquor
 see Distilleries; Wine
- Livestock
 see Domestic animals
- Lockwood, Moses (Sgt.)
 Military equipment, VI, 304
- Long Island
 IX, 160-161
- Loomis family
 IV, 202

- Longevity
IV, 232, 253; V, 147
- Loyalists
see American Loyalists
- Ludlow, Roger
Land, V, 162-166
- Lumber trade
see Timber trade
- Lyme
IX, 311-315
Boundaries, III, 205; V, 80-81
Founding, V, 133
Henbane outbreak, IX, 116
North Lyme petition, III, 182
Petition of, V, 194
Watsonsque (Stone's Rock), III, 188-189
- Mackwier, John
Marriage, V, 213
- Madison
Petition of, V, 42
Podunk, V, 43
- Mail service
see Postal service
- Manners and customs
see Dueling; Education; Funeral service; Sports;
Sumptuary laws
- Maps
Corbin, James, land purchase, III, 193
Hartford, 1640, V, 1 (inset)
Hartford, 1832, V, 1 (inset)
Hartford City, 1841, III, opposite 1
Hartford fields, 1671/72, II, 34
Podunk, V, 101
Pomfret and Mortlake, III, 159
Watsonsque (Stone's Rock), III, 188
Windsor, Palisado land distribution, 1654, III, 142
- Markets
see Fairs

Marriages

Branford, X, 233
 Derby, VIII, 80-81
 Farmington, II, 166, 171-174
 Hartford, I, 63, 167; II, 51-54, 71-74
 Milford, VIII, 364
 New Haven, VIII, 28-33
 Stamford, VIII, 315
 Stratford, VIII, 161
 West Hartford, IV, 343
 Wethersfield, III, 296
 Windsor, 65-67; III, 24-26, 82-87

Mason Controversy
 see Colchester

Mason, John (Capt.)
 Land, V, 279

Massachusetts (state)
 Boundary with Connecticut, V, 6-9
 Connecticut embargo on grain to, VI, 164-165
 Indian lands, VI, 131

Mead, Dr.
 Duel, VI, 180

Medicine
 IX, 246-247
 see also Diseases; Hospitals; Physicians

Meeting houses
 see Church

Meriden
 Judd visit, IV, 305
 Land holdings, V, 259

Metal-work
 X, 336-343, 370-372, 406-417

Middletown
 Births, X, 116-135, 138-139
 Founding, III, 144
 Genealogy, III, 145
 Indians, III, 310-314; X, 136
 Inhabitants, III, 136
 Land grants, V, 69
 Land holdings, X, 137
 Lead mines, VI, 162, 298
 Taxation, X, 140
 see also Portland

Milford

VIII, 353, 355, 382
 Births, VIII, 344-349, 356-363, 365
 Church, V, 109; VIII, 340-343, 350
 Founding, III, 138-139
 Indians, VIII, 333, 383
 Inhabitants, III, 152-154
 Judd visit, IV, 304; VIII, 403
 Land contracts, VIII, 335, 351-352
 Land grants, III, 152-154; VIII, 333, 336-337,
 338-339, 384-386
 Land holdings, VIII, 332, 334, 354
 Marriages, VIII, 364
 Official records, VIII, 330-331
 Probate records, VIII, 366-381, 387-399

Military calls

VI, 346-347
 see also specific towns

Military desertion

VI, 344

Military exercises

VI, 141, 212, 240, 370-378

Military offenses

see Military desertion

Military pay

VI, 279, 289, 290, 295, 350-351, 358-359

Military ranks

VI, 65

Military supplies

V, 331, 342; VI, 161, 163-164, 238, 255-261,
 304, 354-355; IX, 274-275
 see also Firearms

Militia

see Military listings

Mill rates

II, 55
 Hartford, I, 13

Miller, Thomas, Sr.

Genealogy, V, 237

- Mills
 V, 105
 Hartford, II, 43
 East Hartford, IV, 99
- Mills, Paper
 see Paper mills
- "Minerva" (Armed ship)
 VI, 274, 278
- Mines and mineral resources
 see specific metals or minerals
- Mix, Ebenezer
 Lawsuit, VI, 139
- Mohegan Indians
 III, 198-199, 222-225
- Money
 see Paper money
- Moore, John
 Marriage, V, 212
- Mortality
 London, X, 68-71
 see also Deaths; Longevity
- Mortlake
 see Pomfret
- Murder
 V, 88
- New Britain
 Judd visit, IV, 305
- New England Confederation
 see Intercolonial cooperation
- New Haven
 II, 127; III, 373-375; IV, 288; VIII, 52
 Alarms, VI, 290, 372
 Births, IV, 284-287; VIII, 1-25; IX, 92, 203-
 214
 Catechism, IX, 2
 Church, IV, 289; VIII, 50-51, 64-65; IX, 157,
 193-195, 202
 County Court, IX, 96-101, 106-114

Crime, VIII, 56
 Deaths, VIII, 33-39
 Deputies, VIII, 53
 Education, VIII, 55, 60; IX, 149-150, 173-178
 Executions, VIII, 54
 Founding, III, 140-141; VIII, 40-41
 Hospital, VI, 279
 Indians, IX, 147
 Inhabitants, IV, 242-244
 Judd visit, VIII, 408
 Land contracts, IX, 139-147
 Land grants, VIII, 49, 62-63, 66
 Marriages, VIII, 28-33
 Military activity, VIII, 59; IX, 157-158
 Oath of fidelity, VIII, 42-48
 Official records, VIII, 57-67, 95-97; IX, 3-57,
 62-91, 102-105
 Probate records, IV, 274-275, 278-283; VIII, 85-
 94, 98-131; IX, 120-138, 165-166
 Quakers, IX, 157
 Riot, VI, 290
 Synod, 1656, VIII, 60
 Taxation, VIII, 68-69
 Witchcraft, IX, 152-153

New Jersey (state)

IX, 215-219; X, 1-13, 14-16
 see also Newark, New Jersey

New London

III, 8
 Alarm, VI, 370
 Boundaries, III, 205; V, 80-81
 Church, V, 198; VIII, 141
 Clergy, III, 176; VIII, 141
 Fort, VI, 241
 Founding, VIII, 140-141
 Riot, V, 46

New London Society for Encouraging Arts, Manufactures and
 Economics
 VI, 128

New London Society for Trade
 V, 232-233

New Milford

Church, V, 32

New York (state)

Laws, X, 17-18
 Paper money, V, 191
 Prices, X, 306-316
 Probate, X, 74-89

- New York City
 Battle of, VI, 214, 216-217
 Judd visit, VIII, 402, 413
- New York Gazette
 X, 90-97
- New York Journal
 X, 90-97
- Newark, New Jersey
 Settlement from Connecticut, VIII, 150-152
 see also New Jersey
- Newgate Prison
 VI, 146-149
- Newington
 Founding, V, 70-71
 Judd visit, IV, 305
- Newport, Rhode Island
 IX, 197, 200
- Newspapers
 see Connecticut Gazette; New York Gazette; New York Journal
- Newtown
 Founding, III, 174
 Inhabitants, III, 175
- Nickols, William
 Duel, VI, 180
- North Branford
 Inhabitants, III, 183
 Petition of, III, 183
- Northwest Fairfield
 see Weston
- Norwalk
 Births, IV, 311
 Church, V, 58-59; X, 266, 270-273
 Clergy, X, 265-266, 274
 Deaths, IV, 320
 Education, X, 269
 Founding, X, 248-261
 Genealogy, X, 248-261
 Indians, IV, 306, 307; X, 275

Judd visit, IV, 302
 Land contracts, X, 276
 Land grants, IV, 306; X, 268
 Livestock, X, 264
 Mill, X, 265
 Official records, IV, 308-309, 310
 Sawmill, X, 269
 Taxation, IV, 308-309, 310

Norwich

Founding, III, 134
 Paper mill, VI, 182

Nova Scotia

VI, 167

Oak

IX, 66

Official records

Branford, X, 231, 239-240
 Derby, VIII, 74-75
 Fairfield, IV, 296-297
 Hartford, II, 75-96; IV, 119-127
 Milford, VIII, 330-331
 New Haven, VIII, 57-67, 95-97; IX, 3-57, 62-91,
 102-105
 Norwalk, IV, 308-309, 310
 Wethersfield, III, 262-267, 272-285
 Windsor, I, 88-89; III, 70-80

"Oliver Cromwell" (Armed ship)

VI, 276-277, 310-311

Osborn, Jeremiah

Commerce, V, 225

Pantry, John

Death, V, 288-289

Paper mills

Hartford, VI, 161
 Norwich, VI, 182

Paper money

V, 10-12, 143, 169; VI, 179, 196, 220-222, 233,
 343, 348-349, 356-357

New York, V, 191; X, 17-18, 97
Pennsylvania, X, 16
see also Commerce; Depressions; Economic conditions; Prices

Paper-hanging
IX, 284

Pardee, George
Commerce, V, 225

Parke, Robert
VII, 202

Particular Court
see Court of Assistants

Paupers
see Vagrancy

Pay, Military
see Military pay

Pennsylvania
Paper money, X, 16

Personal appearance
IX, 317-318, 358-360, 361

Petitions
V, 25, 26-27, 218, 220; VI, 308
see also Petition in specific towns

Physicians
V, 180, 183; VI, 336-338, 340-342
see also Diseases; Hospitals; Medicine

Pierpont family
IX, 92

Pigeons
VI, 194

Pitkin, Edward
Books, VI, 35

Plainfield
Clergy, VIII, 133
Founding, VIII, 132
Indians, VIII, 133
Plainfield Academy, VI, 182
Winthrop deed to, V, 278

- Plainfield Academy
VI, 182
- Plainville
Judd visit, II, 154
- Plumb, John
Petition of, V, 37
- Podunk
East Hartford, V, 100-103 (includes map), 247
Guilford, V, 40-41, 43
- Poll tax
VI, 160
- Pomfret
Founding, III, 158
Land grants, III, 159
Mortlake, III, 159
see also Brooklyn
- Poor
see Vagrancy
- Portland
Founding, V, 68
Petition of, V, 68
- Postal service
VI, 130, 143, 161, 306
- Post-roads
see Postal service
- Preston
Founding, III, 189
- Prices
V, 160, 241, 358-376; VI, 326, 343, 379; X, 390,
392
Clothing, V, 334-335, 348-349, 356-357; X, 428-
429, 443, 446-448, 451-455
Farm equipment, V, 332-333, 354
Farm products, V, 328-329, 351
Household goods, V, 329-331, 350, 355; X, 396-399,
432-433
Land, V, 336-337
Metals and metal goods, X, 406-417
Textiles, X, 400-405, 427, 438-439, 449
Wood and wood products, X, 418-423

Miscellaneous items, V, 331, 332, 354; VI, 173;
X, 424-425, 430-431, 440-442, 450, 456,
460

Regulation of, VI, 272-273, 292-294
New York, X, 98-111, 114-115, 306-316
see also Commerce; Depressions; Economic conditions;
Paper money; Tariff

Princeton University
see College of New Jersey

Prisoners of war
VI, 183

Prisons
see Newgate Prison

Privateering
VI, 311-313
see also Armed ships

Prizes
see Armed ships; Privateering

Probate Court
II, 264-277

Probate records
I, 17-33, 55-62; III, 9-19; IV, 276-277; VI, 3-20
Branford, VIII, 366-381, 387-399
Fairfield, IV, 298-301, 315; VIII, 210-278, 284-295
Farmington, II, 156-158; IV, 328-329
Guilford, VIII, 366-381, 387-399
Hartford, II, 100-115, 183-192, 200-223, 231-263;
VII, 25, 27-193, 195-198
Milford, VIII, 366-381, 387-399
New Haven, IV, 274-275, 278-283; VIII, 85-94, 98-
131; X, 120-138, 165-166
Saybrook, III, 178[b]-178[d]
Stamford, VIII, 302-306, 320
Wethersfield, I, 41; III, 346-348
Windsor, I, 68-70; III, 44-45
Woodbury, II, 150

Produce, Farm
see Farm produce

Property
under Andros, V, 54-55

Providence, Rhode Island
IX, 191-192, 198-199

Public debts
VI, 232

Quakers
IX, 157

Quarter Courts
see County Courts

Quinebaug country
III, 212-215

Quinebaug Indians
III, 212-215

Rape-oil
V, 225

Rates
see Taxation

Read, John
Land, V, 120

Real property
see Land prices; Maps

Refugees
VI, 167

Religion
see Church; Clergy; Half-way Covenant; specific
denominations

Religious liberty
IX, 276

Reservations
see Indians

Ridgefield
Founding, III, 155; V, 60

Riots
see Riot in specific towns

Roads

III, 80-81; VI, 160, 186-187, 267, 270
 Hartford to Albany, VI, 179, 263-266
 Hartford to Boston, V, 52; VI, 261
 East Windsor, IV, 41
 Wethersfield, III, 300-301
 Windsor, III, 80-81

Rogerenes

VIII, 141
 see also John Rogers

Rogers, John

V, 89; VII, 200
 see also Rogerenes

Rose, John

Lawsuit, V, 215

Rosseter, Benjamin

Petition of, V, 37

Royce family

IX, 133

Rum

VI, 192

Salisbury

Iron mines, VI, 113-115, 248-249

Salt

VI, 291

Saltonstall

VI, 170

Sandemanianism

VI, 142

Sanders, Christopher

Commerce, V, 152-153

Sanders, George

Commerce, V, 152-153

Saybrook

III, 4, 206[b]
 Clergy, IX, 190

Genealogy, III, 5-7, 180[a]-180[e]
Hammonasset, V, 38-39
Indians, V, 135
Inhabitants, V, 135
Land grants, III, 178[a]
Land holdings, III, 178[b]-178[d]
Petition of, V, 38-39
Probate records, III, 178[b]-178[d]
Subdivision of, V, 132
Windmill, VI, 181

Schools

see Education

Seacoast defenses

see Coast defenses

Second Continental Congress

Representatives, VI, 352-353

Sedgewick family

V, 110

Seldon, Joseph

Land, V, 195

Sellick family

V, 110

Sewall, Edward

Probate, V, 52

Shad

VI, 181, 187

Shakers

VI, 184

Sheldon, Thomas

Commerce, V, 179, 181

Sheldon family

I, 54

Shelton

Paugasset, VIII, 58

Sherman, Roger

Second Continental Congress, VI, 353

Sherman, Theophilus

V, 110

- Shevee, Ephraim
Counterfeiting, V, 210-211
- Ship-building
V, 240; VI, 291; IX, 280
- Shipping
Hiring commercial vessels, VI, 250-254
- Ships and shipping
see Armed ships; Privateering; Shipping
- Ships, Armed
see Armed ships
- Silk
VI, 129
- Silverware
see Forks
- Simsbury
Boundaries, VI, 202, 211
Births, III, 163-164, 166-169
Church, III, 165, 169-170
Copper mines, V, 143, 186-187, 226-227, 235
Inhabitants, III, 162
Petition of, V, 56-57
Tar and pitch manufacturing, V, 245
Taxation, III, 171
- Slave trade
V, 191, 241
- Slavery
V, 354; VI, 174-175, 200-201, 268-269
see also slave trade
- Smith, Joseph
Genealogy, V, 178-179
- Smith, Lydia
Marriage, V, 260
- Smith, R. D.
"Papers" of, X, 144-215
- Smith, Samuel
Trial, V, 64-65
- Snuff
VI, 193
see also Tobacco

Society of Friends
see Quakers

Soldiers
VI, 215, 216-217, 219, 344, 360-365, 374-378
see also Vagrancy

Sports
IX, 286

Springfield, Massachusetts
Iron mines, V, 234
Land grants, I, 99-102
Official records, 103-113

"The Spy" (Armed ship
VI, 274, 275

Stagecoaches
see Coaching

Stamford
VI, 140
Births, VIII, 314, 316
Boundaries, V, 45
Deaths, VIII, 313, 317
Founding, IV, 317; VIII, 318-319
Indians, VIII, 309
Inhabitants, VIII, 310, 321
Judd, visit, VIII, 412
Land contracts, VIII, 315
Land grants, VIII, 307
Land holdings, VIII, 300-301
Marriages, VIII, 315
Probate records, VIII, 302-306, 320
Taxation, VIII, 308

Stamp duties
see Administrative fees

Stanley, Caleb
VII, 201
Commerce, V, 359-376

Staples Free School
VI, 182

State house
see Capitol

Steel, Samuel
Commerce, V, 160

Stiles family
IX, 183-184, 186

Stills
see Distilleries

Stoddard, Anthony (Rev.)
Death, IV, 325
House, IV, 324

Stoddard, Josiah (Capt.)
Duel, VI, 180

Stone, Samuel (Rev.)
Land, V, 246-247

Stone's Rock
see Watomsque

Stonington
Church, VIII, 137
Inhabitants, VIII, 135-136
Petition of, 49-50

Stoughton, Abigail
Marriage, V, 212

Stratfield
see Bridgeport

Stratford
Births, VIII, 154-160
Church, VIII, 186
Clergy, VIII, 163
Deaths, VIII, 161
Fences, IV, 290-291
Half-way Covenant, V, 15-18
Hospital, VI, 279
Indians, VIII, 180, 182, 183, 184, 186
Judd visit, VIII, 410
Land contracts, V, 20; VIII, 184-185
Land grants, V, 19; VIII, 176-178
Land holdings, IV, 292-294; VIII, 163-175, 181-182
Marriages, VIII, 161
Petition of, V, 18
Probate records, VIII, 187
Taxation, VIII, 162
Witchcraft, IX, 153-156

Streets
see Roads

Strong, Nehemiah
Marriage, V, 260

Suffield
Births, I, 91-98
Iron mines, V, 111, 234

Suffrage
VI, 160
see also Freemen

Sugar
VI, 192

Sumptuary laws
V, 215

Supplies, Military
see Military supplies

Susquehannah Company
VI, 150-159, 242-243

Synod, 1656
VIII, 60

Tableware
see Forks

Talcott, Joseph (Governor)
on paper money, V, 10-12

Talcott, Joseph (Treasurer)
VI, 134

Talcott, Mrs.
Death, V, 205

Tar
V, 225, 229, 245; IX, 278-279

Tariff
Clothing, X, 318-355, 348-349
Household goods, X, 368-369, 378
Metals and metal goods, 356-343, 370-372
Textiles, X, 352-367, 373-377, 379-383, 386-389
Wood and wood products, X, 345
Miscellaneous items, X, 344, 346-347, 350-351,
384-385

Taverns

see Hotels, taverns, etc.

Taxation

III, 208, 209, 238; VI, 178, 220, 223-231, 239
 Derby, VIII, 85a
 East Haven, V, 121
 Greenwich, VIII, 329
 Guilford, X, 216-217
 Hartford, II, 121-124, 183-192
 Middletown, X, 140
 New Haven, VIII, 68-69
 Norwalk, IV, 308-309, 310
 Simsbury, III, 171
 Stamford, VIII, 308
 Stratford, VIII, 162
 Wethersfield, III, 269
 Windsor, III, 94-95; IV, 82-92

Tea

IX, 200-201

Tench, Edward

Death, IX, 58-61

Textile industry

X, 292-305

Textiles

X, 352-367, 373-377, 379-383, 386-389, 400-405,
 427, 438-439, 449
 see also Clothing and dress; Flax; Silk

Thanksgivings

see Church

Tilton's Marsh

see Windsor

Timber trade

V, 190, 225, 240

Tobacco

IX, 159, 277
 see also Snuff

Tories

see American Loyalists

Towns, Establishment

see Founding of towns

- Towns, Founding
see Founding of towns
- Towns guarded in Revolution
VI, 218
- Treasurer (Colony)
V, 269
John Lawrence, VI, 237
Joseph Talcott, VI, 134
- Treasury accounts
VI, 221, 282-284
- Trees
see Timber trade
- Trowbridge, Thomas
Death, VIII, 130; IX, 119
- Trumbull
Founding V, 21
- "Trumbull" (Armed ship)
VI, 276
- Trumbull, Jonathan (Governor)
Expenses, VI, 246
- Turner, Ephraim
Commerce, V, 225
- Uncas (Indian sachem)
Genealogy, III, 211, 220
Land, V, 135
- Vagrancy
VI, 309, 328-338, 340-342
see also Soldiers
- Varleet, Caspar
V, 108-109
- Vermont
VI, 181

Voluntown

Founding, III, 186
Inhabitants, III, 187
Patent, 1724, V, 249
Petition of, III, 187

Voting

see Suffrage

Wadsworth, James

Controller, VI, 288

Wages

V, 82-83, 360-361; VI, 173, 179
see also Military pay

Walcott, Henry, Jr.

Account book, IV, 48-70

Walcott, Jeremiah

Divorce, VI, 136-137

Wallingford

III, 146
Copper mines, V, 227
Founding, III, 135, 147-148, 149
Inhabitants, III, 147-148

Wall-paper

see Paper-hanging

Wampanoag Indians

III, 379; VI, 70-79

Wappaquasset

see Indians - Reservations

War

V, 26-27, 290-292; VI, 287, 234-236
Indians, III, 376-378

War damage

VI, 302

War, Prisoners of

see Prisoners of war

Wars

see specific wars and battles

Washington, George
VI, 345

Waterbury

Deaths, II, 148-149
Founding, II, 133-139, 141-142; V, 34-35, 252-
253
Inhabitants, II, 140
Land grants, II, 150
Land holdings, V, 250-251
Patent, 1720, V, 252-253

Watertown

Deaths, II, 150

Watomsque (Stone's Rock)
III, 188-189

Weapons

see Firearms

Weather

III, 382; V, 238-239; VI, 203

Welles, Thomas (Governor)
VII, 202

Wells, Abigail
Petition of, V, 218

Wells, Jonathan
V, 90

Wells, Samuel
Land, I, 15-16

Wells, Thomas
Land, I, 15-16

West Fairfield

see Westport

West Hartford

Births, IV, 348
Church, IV, 342, 344-347
Deaths, IV, 349, 350
Land grants, V, 67
Marriages, IV, 343
Petition of, V, 66

- Westbrook
 Founding, V, 134
- Westchester
 see Colchester
- Weston
 Founding, V, 130-131
- Westport
 Founding, V, 124-126
- Wethersfield
 III, 292-299, 349
 Births, I, 38; III, 241-243, 292-295
 Clergy, III, 298
 Common land, V, 336
 Deaths, III, 290-291, 380
 Genealogy, III, 340
 Half-way Covenant, IV, 154, 159-160
 Indians, III, 270, 310-314
 Judd visit, IV, 305
 Land grants, III, 268, 271; V, 84
 Land holdings, III, 244-261, 286-288, 302-309;
 V, 85
 Marriages, III, 296
 Official records, III, 262-267, 272-285
 Probate records, I, 41; III, 346-348
 Roads, III, 300-301
 Taxation, III, 269
 see also Newington
- Wheat
 see Grain
- Wheeler family
 VIII, 153
- Whiting, Joseph
 V, 169
- Whiting, Samuel (Rev.)
 Genealogy, IX, 118
- Whiting, William
 V, 160-163
 Death, V, 166-167
- Whiting, William, Jr.
 Commerce, V, 168
- Whiting family
 VII, 194, 198

- Wickford, Rhode Island
V, 51
- Wilbraham, Massachusetts
I, 164
- Willard, Mary
Lawsuit, VI, 143
- Williams, Roger
Genealogy, IX, 191-192
- Williams, William
Second Continental Congress, VI, 353
- Williamson, Alexander (Dr.)
V, 180
- Willington
Founding, V, 249
- Willis, Samuel
Commerce, V, 154-159
Land, V, 246-247
- Wills
see Probate records
- Wills, Joshua
VII, 202
- Wilson, Nathaniel
V, 115
Death, V, 185, 196-197
- Windham
Bridges, VI, 140
Inhabitants, III, 181
- Windmills
Saybrook, VI, 181
- Windsor
III, 133; V, 150, 336
Births, I, 71-73, 76, 87; III, 20-23, 87-93, 123-
124; IV, 170-173, 174-196
Boundaries, V, 151
Bridges, VI, 184
Church, III, 114-117; IV, 167-169, 170-173
Deaths, I, 74-75; III, 128; IV, 197, 198-201
Fences, V, 36

Founding, I, 78-86; III, 2, 66; VII, 207-210
 Inhabitants, IV, 19-20; VII, 211-213
 Iron mines (Tilton's Marsh), V, 111, 228, 234
 Judd visit, IV, 224
 Land grant to by colony, IV, 214-223
 Land grants, III, 142
 Land holdings, I, 77; III, 44-47, 50-65, 67-69,
 96-106, 118-119; IV, 24-32; V, 87
 Marriages, I, 65-67; III, 24-26, 82-87
 Official records, I, 88-89; III, 70-80; IV, 1-
 18, 21-23
 Petition of, IV, 103-105
 Poquonock, V, 148-149
 Probate records, I, 68-70; III, 44-45
 Recording fees, IV, 71-72
 Roads, III, 80-81
 Taxation, III, 94-95; IV, 82-92

Wine

VI, 193

Winthrop

VI, 170-172

Winthrop, John

Letters, IX, 246-255

Winthrop, John, Jr.

Deed to Plainfield, V, 278
 Quinebaug country, III, 212-215
 Scientific paper, IX, 278-279, 280

Winthrop, WaitStill

Deed to Plainfield, V, 278

Witchcraft

III, 383-384; V, 203; IX, 152-156

Wolcott, Oliver

Second Continental Congress, VI, 352

Wolves - control

see Bounties

Wood and wood products

X, 345, 418-423
 see also Timber trade

Woodbury

Clergy, IV, 324-325
 Probate records, II, 150

Woodstock

Founding, III, 190

Wappaquasset (Indian reservation), V, 277

Wooster, Edward

Death, VIII, 78

Worthington, William

V, 115

Commerce, V, 181

Wyllis, George

Land, I, 15-16

Yale College

IX, 93