

## TOWN-CLERKS.

We have seen that a petition was presented to the General Assembly in May, 1716, praying for "the privilege to choose a town-clerk and other town officers," which was negated. Whether any other petition was ever presented for this object does not appear; but in the year 1717 the town was permitted to choose town officers, and in December of that year commenced the exercise of that privilege. The following are the names of the persons who have been town-clerks of the town of Tolland, with the dates of the commencement and termination of their terms of office.

Joseph Benton,	elected	Dec., 1717,	held the office	three	years.
Shubael Stearns,	"	1720,	"	two	"
John Huntington,	"	1722,	"	one	"
Shubael Stearns,	re-elected,	1723,	"	one	"
Jonathan Delano,	elected,	1724,	"	twelve	"
Zebulon West,	"	1736,	"	thirty-four	"
N athaniel West,	"	1770,	"	six	"
Eleazar Steel,	"	1776,	"	nine	"
Benoni Shepard,	"	1785,	"	eighteen	"
Ephraim Grant,	"	1803,	"	four	"
Samuel Ladd,	"	1807,	"	one	"
Daniel Kellogg,	"	1808,	"	two	"
Samuel Ladd,	re-elected	1810,	"	five	"
Eliakim H. Williams,	elected	1815,	"	one	"
Luther Eaton,	elected	1816,	"	four	"
Joseph Howard,	"	1820,	"	sixteen	"
Oliver K. Isham,	"	1836,	"	ten	"
Samuel Kent,	"	1846,	"	two	"
William W. Brace,	elected	1848,	held to April 5, 1852,		
when Joseph Bishop was appointed by the selectmen upon the resignation of Mr. Brace, and held the office until the annual meeting in. 1852.					
Gurdon Isham,	elected	1852,	held tho office	two	years.
Oliver K. Isham,	re-elected	1854,	"	two	"
Gurdon Isham,	"	1856,	and held the office until his death,		
when Joseph Bishop was appointed by the selectmen for the balance of the year .					
Joseph Bishop,	elected	1857,	held the office	three	years.
Joseph A. Dresser,	"	1860.			

I have already spoken of Joseph Benton, and have given such genealogical facts of the Benton family as I had been able to obtain.

SHUBAEL STEARNS, the second town-clerk of Tolland, was one of a family that had much to do in the early settlement of the town. He was one of the grantees in the deed from the committee or trustees, and was also one of the signers of the petition dated May 14, 1716, and May, 1718. He had land allotted to him in June and July, 1720. He was born in Lynn, Mass., August 9, 1683, and married Rebecca Sanford, at Saco, on the 28th day of December, 1704. The following are their children:

Shubael,	born	January 28, 1705
Rebecca,	"	November 19, 1707
Peter,	"	August 2, 1710
Isaac,	"	March 22, 1713

The record made by Mr. Stearns himself, shows that the children above-named were born before his removal to Tolland. The following were born after his removal into this town:

Elizabeth	born	August 30, 1715.
Hannah	"	March 6, 1718.
Sarah	"	February 29, 1720.
Ebenezer	"	April 23, 1722.
Mary	"	April 27, 1724.
Martha	"	August 18, 1726.

Shubael Stearns was two years a selectman of Tolland.

Shubael Stearns, Jun., the oldest son of Shubael Stearns, Sen., was ten years old when his father removed to Tolland,

in 1715. He married Sarah Johnson, of Lexington, March 6, 1726. He remained in Tolland until the year 1754, when he removed from New England.

Between the years 1740 and 1745, the people of New England were electrified by the eloquence of the celebrated Whitefield, whose preaching was mainly instrumental in forwarding the great revival of religion that then spread through the land. The followers of Mr. Whitefield were called *New-lights*, and were not very favorably regarded by the more staid religious community. Their success, however, was so great, that many of the clergy who were then supposed to have permanent livings, were opposed to the revival, fearing that they might be deserted by their hearers, and be compelled to preach to empty seats. Many of them carried their opposition so far as to refuse the revival preachers the use of their pulpits, and actually procured the enactment of a law that under certain limitations confined all preachers to their own parishes,—an opposition as useless as unwise, and only encouraged the very thing it was intended to prevent. The minds of the people, having become excited by the fervor of the new teachings, could not relish the dry, formal service of the settled clergy, which they supposed were conducted by a set of graceless mercenaries, without any of that unction which characterized the performances of the *New-lights*. The town of Tolland shared the advantages, or disadvantages, of these movements; but the innovators were treated with more favor by the then settled minister, Rev. Stephen Steel, than their associates received from the clergy generally; and the wisdom of the course pursued by Mr. Steel, growing out of his forbearance, catholicity, and kindness, is evidenced by the fact, that in a very few years this sect entirely disappeared from the town, and left him in charge of a respectable congregation without any open dissension.

Among the persons in Tolland who adopted the *New-light* ideas, no one became so much distinguished as Shubael Stearns, Jr., above named. He united with them about the year 1745, became a preacher, and continued with them about five or six years. In the year 1750 or 1751, he became acquainted with the Baptist denomination; renounced the tenet of infant baptism, and was himself rebaptized by Rev. Wait Palmer, in Tolland, in the year 1751. On the 20th day of May, in the same year, he was ordained to the work of the ministry by Mr. Palmer and Rev. Joshua Morse. Several persons in Tolland attached themselves to Rev. Mr. Stearns, among whom were one or two by the name of Paulk. Mr. Stearns and his companions left Tolland in the year 1754, and fixed their residence elsewhere. It does not appear that he started with any particular place in view, upon which to settle. His biographer, from this point, remarks respecting him, that he "resolved to follow the guidance of the spirit, as it should be manifested to him from time to time. The first place at which he made any stay was in Virginia, on Opeckan creek, where there was a Baptist church under the care of the Rev. S. Heton, and where he met with Mr. Daniel Marshall, his brother-in-law, just returned from his mission to the Indian country. Mr. Stearns pitched at a place called Cacapon, not far above Winchester. Remaining there but a short time, and not finding that ministerial success which his impressions had lead him to hope for; he and his company, now joined by Mr. Marshall and his company, removed to North Carolina, and settled at a place called Sandy Creek, and immediately formed a church. He continued to labor with great assiduity, aided by Marshall and Breed. So great was their success, that in a little time this little band swelled to more than six hundred. Mr. Stearns' impressions, respecting a great work in the West, seemed now to be verifying; and considering subsequent events, he must be an infidel who doubts the origin of these impressions.

"He was a preacher of some doctrinal talents, but he was more remarkable for his zealous animating manner. He brought from New England the same tones, gestures, &c., which had distinguished the new lights of that country. He was of small stature, had a very expressive and penetrating eye and a voice singularly harmonious. His enemies, it was said, would sometimes be captivated by his musical voice. Many things are related of the enchanting sound of his voice; and the glance of his eyes which had a meaning in every move. Mr. Stearns continued to discharge his duties as a pastor of Sandy Creek church until a short time before his death, which took place on the 20th day of November, 1771. He lived and died faithful to the important truths confided to him. Mr. Stearns was an orator of the right sort, and the effects of his public speaking upon his hearers proved it better than if a thousand finished orations had been published from his lips."

It is not known whether any of the family of Shubael Stearns, Sen., remained in Tolland after the year 1754; it is certain, however, that several of them left at that time with Shubael Stearns, Jr., and settled in North Carolina, where their posterity is now very numerous; and where, as has been likewise ascertained, within a few years, the Rev. Mr. Stearns left a very desirable reputation as a pulpit orator.

JOHN STEARNS was a brother of Shubael Stearns, Sen. This fact is verified as well by tradition as by the copy of a deed from Shubael to John, dated Jan. 16, 1720, on the town records, which deed is expressed to be for the consideration of five pounds in money, or its equivalent, in hand, paid by my brother, John Stearns, of Tolland, &c. This deed shows that John Stearns was a resident of Tolland before 1720. He married Elizabeth Barnes, of Tolland, Dec. 2, 1723. The following is their record :  
children:

Eleanor,	born	February 13, 1725, died October 2 1737
David,	"	December 14, 1725, died February 2, 1725-6
Elizabeth,	"	May 26, 1728
Ruth,	"	July 19, 1780
Lydia,	"	July 25, 1732
John,	"	January 11, 1736

Elizabeth, wife of John Stearns, died April 19, 1737. He married Abigail Diggins, of Windsor, April 19, 1739, she died February 13, 1752; he then married Eunice Miller, July 29, 1754. Their children were :

Daniel	born	January 24, 1756, died April 8, 1756
Eleanor	"	August 11, 1757
Charles	"	October 19, 1758
Mary	"	February 8, 1760, died August 15, 1787
Sarah	"	November 6, 1761

JOHN STEARNS, the son of John and Elizabeth Stearns, was the Doct. Stearns who married a Miss Wills of Tolland, and was the father of Judge Elisha Stearns, of whom I spoke in my lecture on the History of Tolland County. It is only necessary for me to state here that the Stearns family is represented in Tolland by Mrs. Charles R. Hicks and her children; also in Bristol, in this State, by Mrs. Leverett Griggs and Rev. Leverett Griggs' children.

I have before said that Doct. James Stimson married Hannah, sister of John and Shubael Stearns. This relationship is verified by a record of a deed from James Stimson to John Stearns, dated Jan., 10, 1720, in which he sells to "his brother John Stearns of said Tolland." There were of course three families, where one of the united head was a Stearns, among the first settlers of Tolland.

John Huntington, the third town-clerk, has heretofore been described.

JONATHAN DELANO, town-clerk of Tolland, came from Dartmouth, Mass., May 8, 1722. He was a resident of Tolland July 20, 1723, as appears by a deed to him of that date from Stephen Steel. He was twelve years town clerk, and eleven years a selectman. To judge from his records he possessed a superior English education, and probably was a very useful citizen. His children, thirteen in number, are as follows; the first nine were born in Dartmouth, Mass.:

Sarah	born	March 18, 1706, married Samuel West, March 30, 1732
Joan	"	December 16, 1706, married Joseph West, May 19, 1725
Jabez	"	January 12, 1708
Nathan	"	March 1, 1711
Amy	"	August 11, 1713, married Christopher West, October 25, 1732
Jonathan	"	December 2, 1715
Barbabas	"	April 11, 1718
Sylvanus	"	May 17, 1720
Elizabeth	"	May 15, 1722
Susanna	"	June 23, 1724
Thomas	"	December 24, 1726
Timothy	"	November 4, 1729
Jethro	"	October 29, 1732

JABEZ DELANO, above-named, married Prudence Hobart, of Windham,—had five daughters, but no sons that survived infancy.

NATHAN DELANO married Ruth \_\_\_\_\_, September 3, 1731, and had three sons: Nathan, born January 5, 1739; John, born December 3, 1731; Jabez, born February 10, 1734, who removed to Coventry, and afterwards to Dover, N.H.

Jonathan Delano married Ann Ladd, October 8, 1754. Their children were :

Jabez	born	July 1, 1755
Jonathan	"	August 10, 1757
Anne	"	August 11, 1759
Phillip	"	June 15, 1761
Esther	"	August 13, 1764
Zebulon	"	February 19, 1767
Clarinda	"	June 10, 1769

BARNABAS DELANO had one son, Gideon, born November 27, 1742.

Sylvanus Delano married Elizabeth Peck, a widow, daughter of John Abbot, Sen. Their children were:

Sylvanus,	born	April 10, 1745.
Joseph,	"	August 21, 1746, died.

Amos,	"	August 2, 1747.
Sarah,	"	May 28, 1749, died.
Nathaniel,	"	May 27, 1751.
Elizabeth,	"	March 12, 1755, married Solomon Eaton.
Barbabas,	"	May 6, 1753.
Aaron,	"	November 13, 1756.
Anne,	"	April 17, 1760.
Moses,	"	June 15, 1762.

Jonathan Delano was a descendant of Philip De la Noye or De Laynaye, a French Huguenot or Protestant, who to escape persecution in his own country, fled to the puritan brethren at Leyden, and came to Plymouth in the second ship that came to that place, viz.: the Fortune, in November, 1621. From this Philip are descended all bearing the name of Delano in the United States. The descendants of Jonathan are very numerous and respectable, though mostly by female branches. Rev. Stephen West, the celebrated theological writer, was one of them. The representatives of this family now in Tolland, are: the children of Mr. Joel West; the children of Mr. Ephraim West, and their descendants; Mr. Luther Eaton and his descendants; Mrs. Anna Johnson and her descendants.

ZEBULON WEST was town-clerk thirty-four years. He was a son of Dea. Francis West, who before the year 1720, was a resident of Stonington. This is verified by the record of a deed from Josiah Rockwell, of Windsor, to Francis West, of Stonington, dated November 29, 1718; also of a deed from Nathaniel Grant, of Tolland, to Francis West, of Stonington, dated March 1, 1720, both conveying land in Tolland. He was a resident in this town in January, 1721, as appears by the record of a deed from John Huntington to "Francis West of Tolland." These records show that he then had over seven hundred acres of land standing in his name, lying principally in the south-east corner of the town. He had several sons whose names appear on the records of the town. Their names are Samuel, Joseph, Amasa, Zebulon, Pelatiah, and Christopher. Joseph and Samuel were in town January 14, 1720, on which day the ear marks of their cattle were recorded. Samuel's mark was a half-penny on the fore side of the right ear; and Joseph's mark was a half penny on the foreside of the left ear.

Samuel West was one of the original grantees in the proprietor's deed, and had land allotted to him with the other proprietors of the town. Francis West took a deed from Nathaniel Taylor, one of the original proprietors, of two lots of land containing one hundred and forty-two acres, "with all rights of division," which entitled him to an interest in common with other proprietors.

SAMUEL, son of Dea. Francis West, married Sarah daughter of Jonathan Delano, November 4, 1724. The following is their record:

Not legible,	born	September 5, 1726.
Sarah,	"	March 21, 1729.
Samuel,	"	March 30, 1732.
Abigail,	"	July 22, 1734, died February 12, 1750.
Abner,	"	May 1, 1737.
Joanna,	"	December 2, 1739.
Anna,	"	September 16, 1745.

Sarah, wife of Samuel West, died November, 1752. He then married Abigail, daughter of Ichabod Lathrop, November 26, 1754. Their children were :

Ann,	born	September 12, 1756.
Ruth,	"	December 21, 1759.

Samuel, son of Samuel West, married Sarah, daughter of Ichabod Lathrop, March 25, 1756. Their children were:

Sarah,	born	November 19, 1757.
Tryphena,	"	January 21, 1760.
Ichabod,	"	June 7, 1762
Stephen,	"	February 15, 1765.
Frederick,	"	April 2, 1767.

Grace, " September 26, 1769.

Prudence, " February 28, 1772.

Abner, son or Samuel West, Sen., married Mary, daughter of Joseph Hatch, 2d, July 3, 1760. Their children were :

Abigail, born June 28, 1761.

William, " February 12, 1762.

Abner, " January 6, 1767.

Mary, " March 6, 1767.

Submit, " July 24, 1769.

Joseph, son of Dea. Francis West, married Joanna, daughter of Jonathan Delano, May 19, 1725. His children were :

Mercy, born April 20, 1726.

Joseph, " November 2, 1728.

Joanna, " August 21, 1732.

Rufus, " October 1, 1735.

Not legible, " January 30, 1738.

Not legible, " July 9, 1741.

Not legible, " December 5, 1747, died September 15, 1750.

Not legible, " January 30, 1751.

Joseph, son of Joseph and Joanna West, married Lois Strong, March 10, 1752. Their children were:

Joseph, born December 21, 1752, died March 20, 1753.

Sarah, " April 7, 1754.

Charles, " May 4, 1756, died September 18, 1760.

Dorcas, " May 17, 1760, died August 15, 1760.

Eunice, " December 20, 1762.

Joseph, " June 3, 1776.

Salome, " February 6, 1769.

Hannah, " October 30, 1771.

Zadoc, " December 1, 1773.

Joel, " March 19, 1777.

This Joseph West was a very useful citizen. He was entrusted with the guardianship of an unusual number of minors, not one of whom was ever known to express dissatisfaction with the management of his property. Towards the close of the revolutionary war, when the financial affairs of the town were necessarily in great confusion, and the state government had required additional duties from towns in their corporate capacity, the people of Tolland elected a board of five select-men, being two more than the usual number, and Mr. West was placed at its head, though he had, as selectman, long before, gone the customary round of office.

JOEL, son of Joseph and Lois West, married Abina Chapin, of Stafford, October 25, 1798. Their children were:

Lois, born February 23, 1800.

Percy, " January 1, 1802.

Lester, " July 8, 1804.

William, " June 3, 1806.

Alden, " August 27, 1808.

Chauncey, " May 22, 1811.

Elisha, " October 22, 1813.

Eli S., " August 15, 1817.

Henry W., " August 28, 1819, who with his family continues to occupy the farm and dwelling-house of his ancestors.

Rufus, son of Joseph and Joanna West, married Sarah Nye, November 22, 1764. Their children were :

Grace, born November 1, 1766.

Ephraim, " September 30, 1767.

Joel, " September 27, 1773, died in infancy.

EPHRAIM, son of Rufus West, married Ruth, youngest daughter of Doct. Samuel Cobb, December 8, 1790. Their children were :

Renda, born October 4, 1791.  
Rufus, " June 30, 1793.  
Orson, " February 1, 1796.  
Carlo, "  
Bicknell, " January 10, 1800.  
Sherman, " October 20, 1801.  
Parmela, " September 12, 1803.  
Grace, " October 29, 1805.  
Evaline, " June 26, 1807.  
Ruth, " August 6, 1809.  
Ephraim, " February 11, 1812, died March 28, 1818.

Mr. Ephraim West died November 2, 1860, aged ninety-three years. Mrs. Ruth West died January 14, 1888, aged sixty-seven.

Amasa, third son of Dea. Francis West, married Amy, daughter of the first Joseph Hatch. Their children were:

Francis, born November 1, 1731.  
Oliver, " October 2, 1733.  
Phebe, " September 2, 1735.  
Lucia, " August 9, 1738.  
Rebecca, " November 26, 1742, died December 10, 1774.  
Amy, " December 8, 1741, died August 8, 1756.  
Mercy, " September 16, 1744.  
Mehitable, " February 7, 1747, died March 24, 1755.  
Amasa, " May 1, 1749.  
Susan, " March 8, 1754, died March 25, 1755.

Amasa West married Bathsheba Gibbs, of Sandwich, September 20, 1757.

Levi, born April 27, 1760.

Francis, son of Amasa West, married Abigail Strong, of Coventry, September 13, 1751. He died June 22, 1769. Their children were :

Beulah, born September 8, 1752, died April 28, 1755.  
Abigail, " January 14, 1753, died April 22, 1755.  
Dorcas, " October 7, 1754.  
Amasa, " March 7, 1757, died July 31, 1758.  
Sarah, " August 15, 1758.  
Joanna, " June 28, 1763.  
Francis, " May 30, 1765.  
Irene, " August 9, 1767, died April 15, 1758.

Oliver, son of Amasa West, married Thankful Nye, January 20, 1757. Their children were :

Ebenezer, born November 23, 1758.  
Anna, " July 18, 1759, died July 23, 1765.  
Amy, " September 9, 1761.  
Caleb, " July 4, 1764.  
Amasa, " October 20, 1765.

Zebulon, fourth son of Dea. Francis West, married Mary Delano, of Barnstable, Mass., October 7, 1731. Their children were :

Mary, born September 17, 1732.  
Stephen, " November 2, 1735.  
Ann, " March 19, 1738, died January 8, 1775.

Thankful, " July 14, 1740, died December 15, 1756.

Elijah, " April 6, 1748.

Mary, wife of Zebulon West, died July 26, 1748. He married for his second wife, Mrs. Mary Sluman, February 22, 1744. Their children were :

Sarah, born January 27, 1745, died October 19, 1750.

Prudence, " February 16, 1747, died August 16, 1748.

Nathaniel, " September 6, 1748.

Jeremiah, " July 20, 1753.

Desire, " August 18, 1755.

Not Legible, " May 27, 1756.

It is probable that Zebulon West came into town with his father, Dea. Francis West, about the year 1720. He was admitted an inhabitant, that is, a voter, September 21, 1725. He was first elected to a public office in the year 1736, and from that time to the day of his death, thirty-four years afterwards, he was always in the possession of some place of public trust; and no man could be found who served in more capacities, or rendered more acceptable service. He was for seventeen years one of the selectmen of the town; he was town-clerk thirty-four years, and a justice of the peace twenty-six. He was the first person ever chosen to represent the town in the General Assembly, and represented the town at forty-three regular sessions; being first chosen in September, 1748, and with one exception was re-elected at every session there-after until his decease. He was Speaker of the House of Representatives several sessions. He was Judge of Probate for the district or Stafford, from its organization, in May, 1759, to his death. He was also one or the judges or Hartford County Court, several years. All these offices, except those of selectman and speaker, and with the addition of member or the council or upper house, to which he had just been elected, he held at the time of his decease.

Mr. West was rather above medium size—was exceedingly popular with the masses, yet it is said he never associated with them nor was familiar in his carriage towards them. His personal appearance was imposing, and with his deportment, commanded the most profound respect. About twenty-five years ago, a venerable lady, then nearly ninety-five years old, said to me, she had known Zebulon West very well, and had lived near him. She described him as very sedate, inclined to talk but little, but was remarkable for his good temper. When he went into a place of public resort, all present uncovered their heads, and conversation ceased. It should be remarked, however, that in his day respect was mutual,—that the removal of hats in salutation was customary, and that the young were carefully taught to be silent and respectful in the presence of their seniors.

In the petty prosecutions for violation of the moral law, so frequent in those times, Mr. West carefully distinguished between youthful thoughtlessness and confirmed depravity; and whenever such prosecutions arose from the disposition to annoy or revenge, he took care, as far as possible, to avoid making the law instrumental to gratify private malice under the mask of public virtue. It used to be said that "Zebulon West never did but one wrong thing,"—and that was certainly a very unfortunate one for the harmony of the town. It was the procuring by his superior influence the location of the meeting-house contrary to the just and strenuous wishes of nearly, if not quite a majority of the inhabitants of the town, at a place south of the geographical center. But notwithstanding this momentary resentment, he always exercised an almost unbounded influence in the management of town affairs, and was, through an entire generation, the principal man in Tolland. He educated three sons at Yale College; Stephen, the eldest, was a clergyman, settled in the ministry at Stockbridge, Mass., and became one of the most distinguished theological writers in New England. Nathaniel, the second son, did not study a profession after graduating, but settled in Tolland as a farmer, was elected town-clerk after the death of his father, six years, then emigrated to Vermont. Jeremiah, the youngest son, settled as a physician in Tolland. He was a surgeon in the revolutionary army, was a representative in the General Assembly ten sessions. He was also a member of the convention in 1788, and voted for the adoption of the federal constitution, and he was justice of the quorum or Judge of Tolland County Court fourteen years.

Zebulon West lived upon the farm lately owned by Bilarky Snow, in the south part of Tolland, and died on the 4th day of December, 1770, aged 65.

Note.—The record, so far as I have recited it, exhibits the character of Zebulon West as nearly faultless, yet when the whole is seen, he will appear, to some persons at least, in a light that will throw a different shade over this fair picture. Mr. West was a slaveholder and held one of the sable sons of Africa as property. My evidence for this assertion is found in the town's book of records of births, marriages and deaths, from which the following is copied : "Zebulon West's negro man Bristo, was married to Betty, Mulatto woman on ye 21st day of September, A. D. 1757." This record is in the hand-writing of Mr. West, and doubtless was made by him when town-clerk.

The name of this man was Bristo Harris, who lived until April, 1802, and is still recollected by some of the inhabitants of Tolland.

The darkness of this shade upon the reputation of Mr. West is very much relieved, when we recollect that Connecticut tolerated and protected slavery by its laws, and that our Puritan fathers saw nothing in slaveholding, nor even in the slave-trade itself, inconsistent with the Christian character.

It may here be stated that during the existence of slavery in Connecticut, several families in Tolland were in possession of that species of property, and that on the abolition of slavery by law, several slaves in Tolland gained their freedom. On the occupation of several islands in Narragansett bay by the British, in the revolutionary war, two or three families, with their slaves, came to Tolland and remained here until the enemy were expelled.

Pelataiah, son of Deacon Francis West, married Elizabeth Lathrop, December 5, 1734. Their children were:

Elizabeth,	born	September 17, 1735.
Susanna,	"	March 28, 1737.
Eleazar,	"	November 9, 1738.
Hannah,	"	March 28, 1741.
Zerviah,	"	August 2, 1743.
Eunice,	"	April 30, 1745.
Elijah,	"	March 7, 1747.
Daniel,	"	July 22, 1749.
Prudence,	"	June 1, 1751.
Mary,	"	June 28, 1753.

Eleazar, son of Pelataiah West, married Olive Redington, December 6, 1761. Their children; Charles, born October 4, 1768; Thankful, born November 20, 1765.

Christopher, son of Dea. Francis West, married Amy, daughter of Jouathan Delano, October 25, 1732. Their children were:

Priscilla,	born	August 26, 1733.
Francis,	"	October 30, 1735.
Jonathan,	"	December 30, 1737.
Jerusha,	"	April 27, 1740.
Mipar,	"	January 9, 1743.
Lois,	"	in Conventry.
Mary,	"	May 26, 1750.

Solomon West, from Lebanon, married Abigail Strong, of Lebanon, October 10, 1743. Their children were :

Solomon,	born	August 23, 1744.
Ruby,	"	August, 1747.
Abigail,	"	December 19, 1748.
Lydia,	"	March 5, 1752, died October 28, 1772.
Esther,	"	March 17, 1754.
Chloe,	"	April 14, 1756.
Stephen,	"	August 19, 1759.
Jerusha,	"	June 6, 1762.

Ensign Solomon West died August 21, 1810; Abigail, his wife, August 12, 1807.

Solomon, son of Solomon West, married Prudence Lathrop, March 22, 1770. Solomon, their son, born July 26, 1770, died August 21, 1771.

Prudence, wife of Solomon West, Jr., died November 30, 1771. His second wife was Catherine Carpenter; they were married February 29, 1776. Their children were :

Jesse,	born	December 25, 1776.
Prudence,	"	April 2, 1778.
Sylvia,	"	November 20, 1780.
Ruby,	"	December 19, 1781.
Ebenezer,	"	April 12, 1782.

Solomon West died June 8, 1822, aged seventy-seven years.

John West came from Lebanon: Dorothy, his daughter, born October 1, 1751; Rebecca, born April 7, 1755.

Moses West married Jcmima Eaton, August 18, 1751: Dura, born January 23, 1752; Lana, born January 9, 1754; Alice, born September 7, 1757.

The children of Caleb West, whose parentage is not ascertained, are:

Hannah,	born	August 8, 1749.
Caleb,	"	January 22, 1751.
Ira,	"	June 26, 1752.
Jonathan,	"	June 20, 1754.
Roger,	"	July 1, 1755.
Irene,	"	_____, died November, 1763.
Susanna,	"	_____.
Priscilla,	"	November 25, 1763.
Kitty,	"	March 20, 1768.

Ira, son of Caleb West, married , \_\_\_\_\_, only daughter of Col. Samuel Chapman.

Ephraim Grant, one of the town-clerks of Tolland, I have spoken of in my address on the county organization. I here only trace his genealogy.

NOAH GRANT, of Windsor, was one of the petitioners for a new township, in the year 1713, and was one of the grantees in the first deed to the proprietors of Tolland. He came to Tolland before 1720, and settled on what is now called Grants Hill. He married Martha Huntington, June 12, 1717. Their children were:

Noah,	born	July 12, 1718, died October 16, 1727.
Adoniram	"	February 2, 1721.
Not legible,	"	January 29, 1722.
Martha,	"	June 9, 1726.

One Noah Grant married Susanna, daughter of Jonathan Delano, November 5, 1746, and had one son, Noah, born June 20, 1748.

Noah Grant, on the first day of January, 1720, deeded a tract of land in Tolland to his brother, Ephraim Grant, of Windsor.

EPHRAIM GRANT married Elizabeth Cady, August 22, 1723. Their children were: Grace, born January 14, 1724; Ephraim, born April 27, 1726.

Elizabeth, wife of Ephraim Grant, died November 8, 1746. He married for his second wife, Esther Ladd, of Coventry, (widow,) September 24, 1747. Their children were:

Eliza,	born	June 26, 1748.
Esther	"	March 5, 1750.
Not legible,	"	March 24, 1752.
Eunice,	"	April 5, 1754.
Ebenezer,	"	August 2, 1756.

Ephraim Grant, Jun., son of Ephraim and Elizabeth Grant, married Mary, daughter of Hon. Zebulon West, December 13, 1748. Their children were:

Ephraim,	born	April 6, 1750. (Town clerk.)
Prudence,	"	September 19, 1752, died October 4, 1760.
Elias,	"	April 7, 1755, died October 2, 1760.
Philip,	"	May 30, 1757, died September 26, 1760.
Solomon,	"	March 21, 1760.
Mary,	"	August 22, 1762.

Ann, " January 30, 1765.  
 Grace, " January 18, 1767.  
 Stephen, " March 9, 1770.  
 William, " October 24, 1773.  
 Zebulon, " December 9, 1776.

EBENEZER, son of Ephraim and Esther Grant, married Phebe Edgerton for his first wife, April 22, 1779. She died September 29, 1780. She had one child, Oliver, born 1779, died in 1794. He married Juliana Pearce, January 29, 1782. She died December 17, 1783. Ebenezer Grant married for his third wife, Edna, daughter of Hope Lathrop, December 23, 1784. Their children were :

Juliana, born November 16, 1784.  
 Phebe, " August 5, 1787.  
 Harry, " July 2, 1789.  
 Edna, " August 1, 1791.  
 Ebenezer, " June 16, 1793.  
 Oliver, " January 31, 1795.

The Grant family is now represented in Tolland by Mrs. Levi Edgerton, George M. Grant, and Edwin Lathrop Grant, with their families. These persons can trace their descent from the first settlers as well by the Lathrops as Grants, they being lineal descendants of Hope Lathrop.

SAMUEL LADD was town-clerk of Tolland six years. He

was a descendant of Jonathan Ladd, who, before 1720, was an inhabitant of Norwich, Conn. Tradition says he first came to Tolland in 1719; but it is certain he took a deed of Nathaniel Wallis, or Windham, of three pieces of land, dated February 11, 1720, which lands were situated in Tolland. In this deed he is described as of Norwich, in the county of New London. Jonathan Ladd married Susannah Kingsbury, of Norwich, December 28, 1713. Their children were:

Ezekiel, born January 31, 1715.  
 Elizabeth, " March 14, 1716.  
 Jonathan, " March 5, 1718.  
 Mary, " February 6, 1720.  
 Susanna, " February 17, 1722.  
 Ephraim, " January 30, 1725.  
 Abigail, " March 26, 1728.  
 Zuriyah, " March 30, 1730.  
 Jesse, " April 10, 1732.  
 Samuel, " March 29, 1734, died December 24, 1736.

Ezekiel, oldest son of Jonathan Ladd, Sen., married Hannah Bigelow, November 3, 1740. Their children were:

Lucy, born May 1, 1741.  
 Samuel, " June 7, 1742.  
 Ruth, " January 12 1744, died September 3, 1766.  
 Hannah, " September 6, 1745.  
 Daniel, " April 9, 1747.  
 Ephraim, " May 11, 1749.  
 Elizabeth, " April 28, 1751.  
 Elisha, " March 7, 1753, died December 26, 1841 Wilbraham.  
 Ezekiel, " May 1, 1755.  
 David, " July 27, 1757.  
 Lydia, " July 3, 1761.  
 Eunice, " March 12, 1764, died in infancy.

Jonathan Ladd, Jr., married Anna Tyler, June 27, 1751. Their children were :

Anna, born August 27, 1752.  
 Eliab, " April 21, 1754.  
 Ahijah, " February 27, 1756.  
 John, " April 3, 1758.  
 Sarah, " April 27, 1760.  
 Jonathan, " June 15, 1762.}  
 Anna, " June 15, 1762.} twins, died August 21, 1762

Jonathan,           "           March 20, 1764.  
Ruth,               "           March 20, 1764.

Jonathan Ladd, Jr., died August 27, 1810. His wife, Anna, died August 19, 1803.

Eliab Ladd, son of Jonathan Ladd, Jr., married Susalla; daughter of John Lathrop, Jr., January 14, 1779. The following is their record :

Joseph,           born       October 22, 1779, died in infancy.  
Luther,           "         December 20, 1780, died in infancy.  
Ariel,           "         February 9, 1783.  
Stephen,         "         November 8, 1784.  
Lura,            "         October 30, 1786, died May 22 1816.  
Roxy,            "         September 8, 1788, died in infancy.  
Roxy,            "         January 29, 1790, died in infancy.  
Not legible,     "         September 9, 1791.

Eliab Ladd died December 15, 1800.

Ahijah, son of Jonathan Ladd, Jr., married Huldah Fuller, of Hebron, February 2, 1785. Their children were:

Lois,             born       November 18, 1785, died May 25, 1787.  
Ahijah,          "         February 20, 1787, died June 2 1787.  
Ahijah,          "         August 15, 1788.  
Levi,            "         December 20, 1790.  
Joel,            "         March 8, 1793.  
Ezra,            "         February 23, 1795, died February 4, 1810.  
Alvan,           "         May 17, 1797.  
Huldah,         "         September 26, 1799, in Ellington.  
Daniel,         "         June 28, 1804, died February 9, 1807.

Ahijah Ladd died April 15, 1826, aged 70; Huldah his wife, November 20, 1834, aged 72.

John, son or Jonathan Ladd, Jr., married Esther Wood, of Somers, December 11, 1783. Their children were:

Esther,          born       September 15, 1784.  
Luther,          "         May 10, 1786.  
Eunice,         "         June 26, 1788

Also, John, Maria, Laura, Lois, Lathrop, and Eliab.

Samuel, son of Ezekiel and grandson of Jonathan Ladd, Sen., married Margaret, daughter or Capt. Samuel Chapman, Sen., April 28, 1768. Their children were :

Ruth,            born       January 18, 1769, in East Windsor.  
Samuel,          "         May 11 1770 Town-clerk.  
Margaret,       "         October 8, 1772.  
Mary,            "         November 28, 1775.  
Warsham,        "         April 28, 1778.  
Jacob,           "         December 14, 1781.

Capt. Samuel Ladd died May 18, 1814. His wife, Margaret, died February 4, 1813.

AHIJAH LADD, Jr., son or Ahijah Ladd and grandson of Jonathan Ladd, Sen., married Almy Cobb, daughter of William Cobb, and granddaughter of Doct. Samuel Cobb, January 20, 1818. They had three sons, viz: William Cobb, born March 26, 1820; Charles Ahijah, born March 12, 1822; and Theodore Stearns, born September 4, 1826.

Mr. Ladd had no opportunity for obtaining an education, other than was afforded by the common schools of his day, but by the closest application to these advantages, he obtained an unusually fair education for practical purposes. He early indicated an aptness for the duties of the sick room; the reputation of his skill as a nurse, probably induced him to study medicine. He accordingly entered the office of Doct. Judah Bliss, with whom he continued until receiving a license to practice in 1813, when he established himself in Tolland, where, with the exception of two years residence in Stafford, he remained until his decease, July 17, 1855, at the age of sixty-seven years.

Doct. Ladd always had a respectable practice; in one or two branches he was decidedly superior; was reasonable in his charges, and very indulgent to his customers. He maintained a respectable position in society, and was a very useful man. He exercised a most wholesome influence in the circle in which he moved; always on the side of good order and strict morality; discountenancing all improprieties and immoral conduct; possessing all the qualities that characterize the good neighbor; and without exhibiting any disposition to complain or wrangle when others were

more successful than himself. Conservative in all his actions and modes of thought, he seldom if ever took ultra ground on any subject, and avoided all angry and unprofitable disputations. With a kind heart and honest purposes, seeking to do right himself rather than to compel others to act according to his views and contrary to their own, he secured many friends and was generally esteemed.

SAMUEL KENT is one of the town-clerks who has passed away; I may therefore be indulged in a few words respecting him. He was born in Suffield, Conn., November 27, 1786; was educated as a farmer, and at one period of his life was very successful in the application of his practical knowledge to that business. He occupied a portion of the farm now in the possession of William West, on which he made many substantial improvements. He married Melicent Wills Steel, daughter of Capt. Ashbel Steel, March 3, 1812; and after residing two years in Suffield, commenced mercantile business in Tolland with Doct. Ahijah Ladd; after the discontinuance of which, and in June, 1819, he was appointed Deputy Sheriff for Tolland County, which office he held by successive triennial re-appointments until October, 1835--a period of sixteen years, when he resigned on account of ill-health. He continued to reside in Tolland, (with the exception of a six years residence in Fair Haven, from 1839 to 1845,) where he remained until his decease, May 28, 1854, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

He was two years selectman of Tolland, and on his re-election the third year, declined to serve longer. He was two years town-clerk, nearly seventeen years deputy sheriff, and nine years county jailer and keeper of the county house. Mr. Kent discharged the duties of these offices with great credit to himself, and to the entire satisfaction of the public. As an executive officer he could not be excelled, and was very rarely equaled. He had great energy, which impelled him to do his duty promptly; and a sympathy which invariably inclined him to leniency towards the poor and unfortunate. Sometimes, indeed, he was far too indulgent for his own interest, and at the commencement of his official life suffered an embarrassing loss by indulgence to an unworthy debtor. But it was one of Mr. Kent's peculiarities to meet misfortunes cheerfully; he never complained so long as he had physical strength to carry the burden; nor did he ever attempt to avoid any responsibility, which either the law or honor cast upon him. He was reasonably successful in business, until his health became so much impaired he was compelled to relinquish the ordinary labors of life. He was attacked with a lameness, ultimately extending to the spine, which continued, sometimes attended with great pain, until his death.

In stature, Mr., Kent was about five feet ten inches in height, rather spare habit; strait and firm in his carriage; quick and active in his movements. He was a kind and obliging neighbor; social and pleasant in his intercourse; honest and upright in his dealings; and ardent and sincere in his personal attachments. He deserved and received the respect and confidence of his acquaintance. He left two children: Elizabeth Sophronia, born September 18, 1817; and James Steel, born July 24, 1819.

GURDON ISHAM is one of the town-clerks whose last record is made. He was the son of James Isham, of Ellington, who moved into Tolland in the Spring of the year 1796. Asher Isham, brother of James, bought a tract of Land in Tolland, of Lathrop Birge, April 10, 1793, which he sold to James Isham, March 1, 1796. James Isham, of Tolland, married Polly Kingsley, of Lebanon, at Lebanon, April 20, 1796.

Their children were:

Oliver Kingsley	born	March 26, 1797, Physician in Tolland.
Gurdon,	"	December 10, 1800, Town-clerk, died February 7, 1857.
Shubael,	"	February 27, 1804, died July 22, 1825.
Mary,	"	July 15, 1806, married J. Lathrop, died May 2, 1888.

Gurdon Isham was apprenticed to the business of hatting, which he followed through life. He married Abigail Strong, of Columbia, January, 1824. Their children were:

Abigail,	born	November 17, 1824.
Shubael S.,	"	January 16, 1827.
Chester C.,	"	March 18, 1828, died April 4, 1828.
David B.,	"	May 5, 1830.
Abby Jane,	"	April 13, 1833.
Harriet A.,	"	March 19, 1843, died April 7, 1854.

Mr. Isham was captain of the militia company in Tolland when he was but twenty-five years old; was several years county treasurer, and between two and three years town-clerk, which office he held at the time of his death. He united with the Methodist church in 1831; was a most exemplary and useful member during life, entering into the subject of religion with his whole heart, and there are few whose lives are more in conformity with their profession. Honest and conscientious, never seeking popular applause, he was useful in his place; those who knew him best will kindly remember him.

