

Basic Detail Report

PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST IN WINDSOR, CONN.

A half-page view from the top of Stony Hill shows Plymouth road (about 180 acres) on which the Plymouth people settled in 1733; also the Great Meadow (about 100 acres), on the far side of which the Danbury people and the Pioneers of the Lords and Gentlemen settled in 1733. These meadows were the only land "fit for immediate cultivation"; all else was covered with a forest, heavy with oaks. These meadows had once an Indian population to cultivate them, in their rude way, without plows, axes, saws, hoes, or other implements of iron. The ground had originally been cleared by burning the trees at the ground until they fell, and removing them afterwards by the same process; but Lindley says that now the Great Meadow "was void of inhabitants." The Indians in Windsor had been swept off by the smallpox a few years before, except a few at Windsor Station and at Pequonnock.

From the foot of Stony Hill we turn right, and a short stone bridge crosses the river to the island, and then "the way in the hill to head camp," which Plymouth occupied when they continued their Indian title to all the Great Meadow and a part of Plymouth to the Danbury people in 1742. Then we have a new view of Plymouth meadow and the site of the Plymouth House, which stood near the river on the "42 acres and three-fourths acres" conveyed and reserved to the House of the said New Plymouth. "This was sold in 1742 to Mr. Matthew Allen of Hartford, who for several years denied the jurisdiction of Windsor, in the colony of Connecticut, and claimed it to be an independent Plymouth settlement."

Proceeding north, we pass the site of the Windsor House, Henry Woodstock, then, looking back the first cliff officer (contaminated) seen in Windsor, the first sheepherd (before 1742) whose descendants have been given to those ancestors for Connecticut, including their estates, slaves, doctors, and lawyers. The last house, in the present town, is the present residence of the Hon. Thomas W. Leeson of the Connecticut Historical Society, a direct descendant of those who have owned and occupied, from the first, the land originally granted to Joseph Leeson in 1742, and this, together with adjoining territory, has been secured for the Leeson family, of which his House will give you further information.

Leaving the island, we come to the lot of Roger Lindley, who came up with the Pioneers from Danbury, Mass., in the summer of 1742 to prepare for the coming of their future the next spring. They were brooding over the Great Meadow when Frederick went his letter to Plymouth, July 4th, "with searching for an open meadow elsewhere which would accommodate Danbury." The Lords and Gentlemen's Pioneers arrived in the meantime and attempted to take up the Great Meadow.

In their report to their Lordships in England, they say, "the Plymouth men sent a letter disagreeing our men for meeting with it." "I conceive that Mr. Lindley was the chief man that answered it." "seeing the Danbury men had taken up the best place before we could get possession."

Next we come to the house of Samuel Allen, ancestor of our Mr. B. R. Allen. It was along this island road between Mr. Lindley's and Mr. Woodstock's that about a dozen first settlers built their houses. In the spring of 1742 there was a house higher than the island had ever known."

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about 1733 a new meeting-house was to be built, and it was found by survey measurement that it required more land to go than every house south of the river to the Palisades than for those on the north side to go to the north end of Broad Street Street, and the new meeting-house was built there. But the north side built a meeting-house of their own, and for convenience supported a minister. A large plan or map was then suggested, which included both parties.

John Peck, who was "called to go north against the Indians (Narragansett, 1752) and Mr. Knapp, minister of the Lord will make of me," gave his property for the school in Windsor. It was proposed to use Old Field, to which addition had been made for an academy to stand on one side of the river, and a stone church on the other, when a minister and a bridge should be built, and the two sides of the river. The consequence, built a

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The road north from the Palisades has several angles in it made to correspond with the angles in the meadow laid out; it was in the house of this road, which the Massachusetts men had used for their families, "their cows, horses, and oxen," before winter, to be found in actual possession.

When we reach the top of the hill after crossing the bridge we are within the Palisades. On this side the river follows the line of the hill; the meadow was nearly a quarter of a mile square at the time of the first settlement, 1742, all the Danbury people, and those of the Lords and Gentlemen's party lived within the Palisades. Mr. Lindley "lived by the mill" while Captain Munn and others went to fight the Pequot. Two weeks later he arrived at Mr. Peck's at Danbury (Springfield). "If this could be made so good as our other help you, you see you are as pleased to that small town we want to see those that remain are not able to supply our wishes, which are day and night, that our people are scarce able to stand upon their legs."

The country has many ancient granaries. Rev. Edmund Hall, who is believed to have been put up another than any now standing in New England. The granary of Captain John Eli, which those of the Windsor are carrying the most conspicuous among the remains of their forefathers.

In 1825, the town "passed that Golden Land, Windsor shall clear the burning yard of mine

Title Map of Windsor, 1633-1650

Date 1893

Primary Maker Connecticut Museum of Culture and History

Medium Offset lithography; black printer's ink on wove paper

Description Map of Windsor in the center of a sheet of text titled, "Places of Historic Interest in Windsor, Connecticut." The map depicts residential lots with

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squares representing houses and labeled with the owner's or occupant's name,

as they appeared between 1633 and 1650. The settlement extends from the

Farmington River to the north, the Connecticut River (called the Great River on

the map) to the east, and residences to the south and west. Physical features

include Hoyte's Meadow, Mr. Phelps Meadow, North West Field, Rocky Hill and

the Great Meadow. Elevation is conveyed with hachure marks.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (image height x width): 8 1/2 x 6 3/8in. (21.6 x

16.2cm) Sheet (height x width): 18 x 14 1/4in. (45.7 x 36.2cm)