

WILLIAM MALTBY, ESQ.

1645---1710

Our Emigrant Ancestor.

In the year 1645, as we learn from his tombstone * our emigrant ancestor, William Maltby, was born. Where he was born, and who were his parents is not as yet known, though recent searches in England give us strong clues towards answering these questions. What these clues are will be found in another part of this booklet. We know but little of his family. He had a brother John, probably older, who emigrated to New England with him. There was a near relative named Robert Maltbye, as a deed of land of William's is dated Branford, April, 1673, and is witnessed by one Robert Maltbye.

The "Dwight Strong Genealogy" states on page 354, "John Maltby, Sr., came with his brother William, both of the rank of gentleman,' from Yorkshire, England, to New Haven, about 1670."

It may be that the emigrants were not direct from Yorkshire, but it seems almost certain that they were of the Yorkshire Maltbys. If we can prove this fact we shall have established our descent from one of the oldest families in England—descending probably from "Crowned Heads." Hugo de Maltby held lands in England at the time of the Norman Conquest and

**A reproduction of William Maltby's Tombstone appears with the secretary's second annual report published in the latter part of this Booklet.*

it is so recorded in the Domesday Book. Prior to this, the Maltbys were undoubtedly Danes, and came down in the Viking ships, landing on the northeastern coast of England. The name Maltby shows the Danish origin—by meaning town—and the malt may have meant grain, or some think it is derived from mael—mahel—mill.

What the life of William and John Maltby was in England we can only surmise. They evidently lived near the coast and were probably sea-faring people. In fact it seems very probable that they left England in their own ships, and sailed for the New World via the West Indies. Probably they had relatives living in the West Indies as we know that Christopher Maltby, alderman of York, buried his wife in St. Croix about the year 1600. Mrs. Christopher had a sister Jane, married in 1604, and it seems to the writer, that they were very probably nearly related to the father of William Maltby.

We know that our American Maltbys had interests in the West Indies as we find in the Inventory of the estate of William Maltby Jr.:

"Debts due ye estate in	L	s	d
Barbadoes – Sundry Items,	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	35	13	7 ½
The Estate Dr. to Mr. John			
Morris, for freight,		17	3
84			

M. Maltbie, widow, April 20, 1701 18 10 4 ½

(Note—Mr. John Morris was probably his father-in-law, as he married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. John Morris.)

As we have been unable to secure facts pertaining

to the early life of our emigrant ancestor we have had to resort to deduction, and after many years of studying the situation, the following ideas have been woven together. Probably the father of William and John died when they were small, or we should have had some information as to their father's name—or we should probably find William or John being called "Junior." From the names of William's children we can form some idea as to what his parents were named. Let us look at these names:

1. John Maltby, b..... (perhaps named for his father.
2. Jane Maltby, b.....(perhaps for his wife Hannah or Jane.)
3. Mary Maltby, b. 1672 " " " mother.
4. William Maltby, b. 1673, for himself-perhaps his grandfather
5. Elizabeth, born 1676, (perhaps a near relative.)
6. Daniel Maltby, b. 1679 " " "
7. Samuel Maltby, b. 1693 ! (evidently Bishop
8. Jonathan Maltby, b. 1698 ! family names.)

(The above names are given here so they may be compared with those found in the English research work on another page.)

Suppose their father to have died early in life, and possibly their mother married again, it would have left the emigrants with few home ties, and a natural step would be for them to seek their fortune in the New World, and especially so, if they already had relatives in the West Indies.

It will be noticed that no dates of birth are given for John (2), Jane (2), and this is because we do not know where they were born. They might have been born in England, or the West Indies. Neither do we know where William Maltby was married, but we feel very sure that the name of his first wife was Hannah—as we find William and Hannah Maltby together joining the church in Branford in the year 1688. Where Hannah Maltby died is not known, though she was living in 1689-90 as she signs as witness a deed of John Yales, at this date.

I believe the earliest record found of William Maltby is the birth of his daughter Mary, born in 1672, and recorded in New Haven, Conn.

The earliest mention of the name as yet found is under date 1664 when "T" (probably J.) Maltbie witnessed a deed for Alexander Bryan. (Alexander Bryan was the grandfather of Mary Bryan, who later married John Maltby the emigrant.)

It is interesting to know something of the social standing and prosperity of our emigrant ancestor in New England, and this can best be done by quoting various authors:

"Among the men who came to Branford soon after the Newark exodus (about 1666) were Eleazer Stent, William Rosewell, William Maltbie and Samuel Pond. They became especially prominent"—Baldwin in his Brantford Annals (N. H. Hist. Soc. Papers, Vol. III, p. 265) and on page 270:

"The Wilfords, Maultbies, Bakers and Johnsons, that are leading names in Brantford at this time, were of the merchant class and apparently wealthy. They became large land holders.

The Society at Branford at this time must have been most select, comprising the governor and others named," etc.

Annals of Branford, page 300: "Large and most substantial houses were erected by the new settlers, some of whom were possessed of considerable property. This was especially true of the Bartholomews, Maltbies, Wilfords, Greys, Stents, Goulds, Bakers, Barnes and Bladestones. * * * The Hoadley, Maltbie, Rose, Foote and Harrison families present so many names that were prominently identified with

the Church, Town and business during this period, time fails me to speak individually of them.”

There are many other records, private and public to show that the Maltbys were a prominent Connecticut family.

William Maltby's public life can best be shown by quoting from the “Public Records of Connecticut.”

In these records his name is variously recorded as:

Maultbey—Maltbey—Malbye—Maltby—Malby—Maltbie and Malbury.

Page 2—Special Court held at Hartford Aug 29, 1689 – Mr. Wm. Maltby, for Branford.

Page 3—A General Court at Hartford Oct 16, 1689, Mr. Wm. Maltby, for Branford, Deputy.

Page 15—Gen. Court at Hartford April 11, 1690; Mr. Wm. Maltby for Branford.

Page 23—Gen. Court at Hartford May 8, 1690; Mr. Wm. Maltby, for Branford.

Page 42—Court of Election at Hartford May 14, 1691; Mr. Wm. Maltby, for Branford.

Page 54—Special Court at Hartford July 9, 1691; Mr. Wm. Maltby, for Branford.

Page 55—Gen. Court at Hartford Oct. 8, 1691; Mr. Wm. Maltby, for Branford.

Page 105—Gen. Court at Hartford Oct. 12, 1693, Mr. Wm. Maltby, for Branford.

Page 120—Court of Election at Hartford May 10, 1694; Mr. Wm. Maltby, for Branford.

Page 149—Gen. Court at Hartford Oct. 10, 1695; Mr. Wm. Maltby, for Branford.

Page 158—Gen. Court at Hartford May 14, 1696; Mr. Malbie for Branford.

Page 174—Gen. Court at Hartford Oct. 8, 1696; Mr. William Maltbie, for Branford.

Page 197—Court of Election May 13, 1697; Mr. Will Malbie, for Branford.

Page 221—Gen. Assembly at Hartford Oct. 14, 1697; William Maltbie, for Branford.

Page 235—Gen. Court at Hartford Jan 22, 1697, Mr. Will Malbury, for Branford.

Page 244—Court of Election May 16, 1698; Mr. William Malbie, for Branford.

Page 283—Gen. Assembly at Hartford May 11, 1699; Mr. Will Malbye, for Branford.

- Page 296—Gen. Assembly at Hartford Oct. 12, 1699, Mr. Will Malbye, for Branford.
- Page 327—Gen. Assembly at Hartford Oct. 10, 1700, Mr. Will Malbye, for Branford.
- Page 342—Court of Election at Hartford May 8, 1701, Mr. William Malbie, for Branford.
- Page 351—Gen. Ass. At New Haven Oct. 9, 1701, Mr. William Malbie, for Branford.
- Page 372—Gen. Ass. At Hartford May 14, 1702, Mr. William Malbie, for Branford.
- Page 395—Gen. Ass. At New Haven Oct. 8, 1702, Mr. Will Maltbie, for Branford.
- Page 407—Court of Election, Hartford May 13, 1703, Mr. Will Malbie for Branford.
- Page 499—Gen. Assembly, Hartford May 10, 1705, Mr. William Maltbie for Branford.
- Page 521—Act passed at Gen. Assembly at New Haven, Oct, 11, 1705, Mr. Will Malbye for Branford
- Page 532—At Gen. Assembly, Hartford, May 9, 1706, Mr. William Malbie. ----
etc ---- “Are by this Assembly appointed to be Justices of the Peace and Quorum in the Countie of Newhaven.
- Page 35—Vol. III (?) 1690, ?Mr. Wm. Maltby is confirmed Ensigne of Brandford train brand, and is to be commissioned accordingly.”
- Page 18—April 1690. “This Court have upon the desire of Brandford, chose Mr. Malbey and Lnt. Stent to be commissioners for Brandford, and they were sworn accordingly.”
- Page 24—May 1690, “These were made Commissioners for the year ensueing for Branford—Stent and Mr. Maltby.”
- Page 43—May 1691. The Court appointed these for Commissioners in the severall plantations Mr. Wm. Maltby and Lnt. Eben. Stent for Brandford.
- Page 92—May 1693, These were chosen Commissioners for the year ensueing, Mr. Wm. Maultbey and Lnt. Ebenzer Stent, for Brandford.”
- Page 121—May 1694, These Commissioners were chosen for the year ensueing Lnt. Eben. Stent and Mr. Wm. Maltby, for Brandford.
- Page 201—May 1697, Commissioners for Brandford, Mr. Will Malbie, Capt. Ebenzer Stent.
- Page 260—May 1698, Justice appointed for the Countie of Newhaven, Mr. Will Malbie, of the Quorum.
- Page 317—May, 1701—Justice of the Peace and Quorum appointed for Newhaven Countie—Mr. William Malbie

Page 378—May, 1702, Justice of Peace and Quorum, Mr. William Malbie.
 Page 414—May, 1703, Justice of Peace and Quorum, William Malbie, Esqre.
 Page 467—May, 1704, Justice of Peace and Quorum, William Malbie.
 Page 468—May, 1705, Justice of Peace and Quorum, William Malbie.
 Page 532—May, 1706, Justice of Peace and Quorum, William Malbie.
 Page 56, (Vol.--) A.D 1691. The list of estates for the Colony are 321 persons—

£15,622, 00 00. This Court appoint Capt. Niccols, Mr. Maltby, Mr.

Eliphalet Hill, and John Chapman to be a comitte to perfect the say'd lists that are imperfect and to return them to the Court.

Page 226, Oct. 1667—In answer to the petition of Mr. Samll. Ha!....? This Court doth desire and appoint Majr. Moses Mansfield, Majr. James Fitch. Mr. Will Malbie, Mr. Josiah Rossiter and Capt. Thomas Clark, they or the majr. Part of them, to be a comitte to indeoom an accommodation and agreement between the towns of Fairfield and Norwalk concerning their dividing line, and other maters of controversie, with reference to propertie of land," etc., etc.

Page 258, May, 1698—This Court made choice of Capt. Samll. Mason, Mr. William Pitkin, Mr. John Chester, Mr. John Woolcutt, Mr. Will Malby, to frame such bills as they shall judge needful either for emendation of laws formerly made, or for making other laws that are now wanting in the government and to exhibit the same in Court."

The Colony records furnish other interesting records of William Maltby, but we have not the volumes at hand, nor does space allow further quotations. Enough has been said to show that our emigrant ancestor held a prominent place in the public affairs of his day.

It is not generally known that the prefix "Esqre." And "Mr." Were not applied in the early days as they are now, promiscuously. In connection with the above Colony records it might be interesting to know something of what a prefix of respect meant in the early days. The following item is taken from the

“Tuttle Family Genealogy.” The title Hon. Was entirely unknown in our records until 1685, and subsequently for many years was applied only to the Governor, and seldom even to him. The next title was that of Esqre., and meant the same as in England temp. Elizabeth and James I.

Mr. Thomas Wells was magistrate for 17 years, deputy governor one year, and was chosen Gov. the 2d time before he was distinguished with Esq. The next title was Gentleman, but seems to have been soon discarded in Connecticut. The prefix Master (Mr.) belonged to all gentlemen, including those designated by the higher modes of rank. Master corresponds very nearly to the English word gentleman. In Connecticut it embraced clergymen, and planters of good family and estate who were members of the Gen. Court, those bred at an university and those of sufficient education to manage the general affairs of the Colony, civil or ecclesiastical, and who had been sufficiently well born. Comparatively few of the representatives of the town, even though they might be returned year after year, were honored with the title. To be called Mr. Or to have one's name recorded by the Secretary with the prefix 200 years ago was a more certain index of the rank of the individual as respects birth, education and good moral character than any one of the high sounding titles with which many men of no merit whatever, in our day of swift locomotion are content to cajole others in order that they may be enriched in their turn with the same spurious currency. It may be observed by reference to our colonial records that there were scores of men of good family and in honorable stations

Who still did not possess all the requisite qualities of Master. It was seldom that young men of whatever rank were called Master. Sir was sometimes applied to young gentlemen undergraduates at a college. Mrs. Was applied to the wives of Masters and also to unmarried females of the higher class.

Military titles were considered of a very high order. Previous to 1654 the highest military officer in the colony was Captain.”—Hollister’s Hist. Of Conn.

Palfrey in Hist. Of N. Eng. Says: There was great punctiliousness in the application of both official and conventional titles. Only a small number of persons of the best condition (always including ministers and their wives) had Mr. Or Mrs. Prefixed to their names.Wm. Bradford, though at the head of the Bridgewater, Mass., proprietors, a son of the Gov., and himself often Lieut. Gov., was not entitled to “Mr.”

A word as to the “worldly goods” possessed by our emigrant ancestor. The inventory of his personal estate was taken November 2d, 1710, and it assets. £1058, 7s. and 10d. This figure does not seem very large in these days, but an examination of the estates settled about the year 1700 will show that our emigrant ancestor was, by comparison, wealthy. Among the interesting things mentioned in the inventory are the following:

Wearing Apparel—Woolen and linen.....	£23, 4s, 6d.
A negro man (from the West Indies probably)	£45
A negro woman “ “ “ “	£30
A cupboard with drawers.....	£2, 5s.

A great table, 12s. Six leather chairs, 24s. Six other chairs £1, 4s. 2 chairs, 8s. (Note the leather chairs, and the number of chairs for those days) 2 pictures, 10s. A great olking Glass, £1. Ivory headed cane, 6s. Silver headed cane, 12s. Looking glass, 6s. 82 lbs. Of ginger, £1, 6s. A chest, 4s Iron beds and furniture (value not given.) 20 lbs. Tobacco, 6s., 8d. A quilt, £2, 10s. (\$10.00) 3 forks, 2s. Spoons. A tablecloth, 1s, 6d. Napkins, 6s. Tablecloth, 11s. More napkins, £1, 16s. Towels, 5s A great Bible, £3, More books, £1, 10s. A chest with drawers, £3. A desk, 4s. Candlestick 7s, 6d. Chairs, 16s. Table, 5s. A silver cup, £2, 10s.

The inventory of the estate of William's brother John, taken in 1676 also contains articles of interest. We mention two:

7 alcury spoons, 2s 1 payre of gloves, 3s.

In the early days very few people had spoons, and we can form some idea of how much they were thought of from the following extract from Alice Morse Earle's "China Collecting in America," p. 43. She mentions how few people possessed spoons, and goes on to say, "Extremely elegant people had spoons of alchymy or occomy, alcaney, alcamy, acoury, askamy, accamey, as I have seen it spelt, a metal composed of pan brass and arsenicum.

Inventory of William (2) Maltby, Jr. estate mentions one or two interesting things, namely:

Hatt..... £1, 13s.
Books..... 4s.
A chest of drawers.....6, 10s, 30d.
Seven pair of sheets.....15,
2 pair sheets.....4,
Man Servant.....16,
Negro Boy.....20,

The will of William Maltby, Senior, and the inventory of his estate shows him to have been quite a

large land-owner—some of the lands mentioned are the following: “First, I give and bequeath unto my oldest sonn John Maltby all that house and land which I bought for him at Saybrook; being all the lands I have ther with the appurtenances thereof, of which s^d house and land my s^d sonn now stands seized and possessed—also I give and bequeath unto him my s^d. sonn John Maltby my allotment of land which I bought of Capt. Merriman and Thomas Hall in quantity about one hundred acres lying between the bounds of Wallingford and Middletown and an equal share with the rest of my children in my commons and undivided land within the town of Branford,” etc. “Also I give and confirm unto my s^d. grandson William Maltby sixty-four acres of land at that place called Tibbs Hill in the third division in Branford aforesaid with the addition northward adjoining those unto which all parcel of land with the appurtenances thereof,” etc. “I give and bequeath unto my loving son Daniel Maltby all that house and lands that he now stands in possession of in the town of Branford, the homlott being in quantity ten acres be it more or less, also all my land at Mulliner’s Neck and my divition there also. I further give my s^d. son Daniel all my land on Bushy Plaine, containing thirteen acres be it more or less, all which land and appurtenances my will is shall be and remain to him,” etc. “I give and bequeath unto my loving son Samuell Maltby my orchard that lieth eastward of my now dwelling house in Branford from the street to the salt meadow,” etc. “I give and bequeath unto my loving son Jonathan Maltby my

mansion house I now dwell in within the precinct of Branford afores'd with the homlott of land thereto adjoining and belonging together with all housing, buildings, edifices and appurtenances thereunto belonging," etc.

Item: "I give unto my daughter Jane Parker the bed, bedstead hangings and furniture thereof in my hall which were her mothers's."

(Note the "which WERE her mother's"—referring to his first wife—as Abigail Bishop, born 1659, married John Talmadge in 1686 it is evident that John 1, Jane 2, Mary 3, William 4, Elizabeth 5 and Daniel 6 were children of a first wife.)

I give and bequeath to my aforesaid sons John Maltby and Daniel Maltby the remainder of my fourth division lotts beyond Tibb's Hill," etc.

The inventory of his estate mentions:

"15 acres of land at Scotch Cap.
About 8 acres of salt meadow at the same plact.
About 12 acres of rough land at Scotch Cap.
9 acres of land at Great Plaine.
5 acres of land at Indian Neck.
3 1/2 acres of land at Point Lotte.
2 acres of meadow at Indian Neck.
¾ acre of meadow.
3 acres of Salt meadow at Peters Bridge.
A small parcel of fress meadow.
1 acre of Salt meadow in the mill quarter.
24 acres of land lying between the bounds of Wallingford and Middletown.
76 acres of land at Sea Hill.
About 100 acres of land at Sibbes,
8 acres of land at Cravery Swamp.

From the above records we can form some idea as to the prosperity of our emigrant ancestor.

A word as to the reasons for thinking that the first wife of William was Hannah-----

The Branford Church records, March 7, 1687-8 has the following:

“IMBODIED IN CHURCH COVENANT---

Saml. Russell	and women	Eliz. Barker
Wm. Maltby		Hannah Maltby
Eleazer Stone		Sarah Blar
Saml. Pond		-----Pond
John Frisbie		Dorcas Taintor
John Taintor,”		
etc., etc.		

Saml. Russell was the minister, and had the first pew in the church in consequence. After the minister the eople of highest rank were seated. Why Eliz. Barker is named first among the women we do not know—there is a possibility that she was Hannah Maltby’s mother.

In 1682 we find a curious spelling of the name in the record, that, “Mr. William Mawbley and Noah Rogers are presented for freeman.”

The above sketch, will, we trust, give some idea of the life of William Maltby, “Esqre.,” who died in Branford, Conn., Sept. 1 1710, aged 65 years.