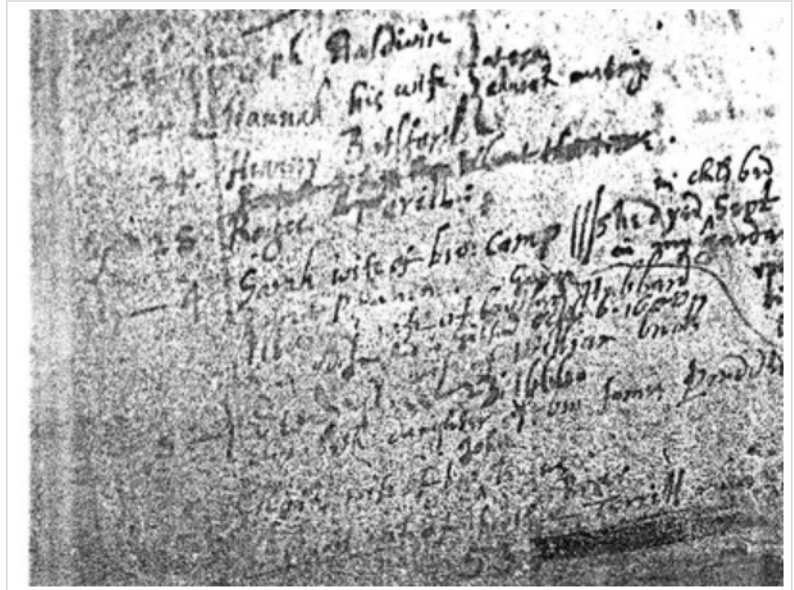


Roger1 Terrill of Milford

by Nancy Tyrrel Theodore

Although **Roger1 Terrill's roots** in the Old World aren't proven, he did leave some **record of his life** in New England.

In 1639, Roger1 was admitted to the Milford society along with eight other planters who were not "*settled in the church*." He rectified that status on **25 July 1644** when he joined the **First Congregational Society** at Milford, and Abigail "*wife of Brother Roger Terrill*" joined on 3 November of the same year. Although difficult to read from the copied microfilm record (LDS #1012263 **Milford Congressional Church Records 1640-1675**) at right is from the surviving record for the year 1644.



Roger1's name is in the center, and Abigail at the bottom although you can probably only make out "**Terrill**." Notice that Roger1's last name is spelled "Terill," different than Abigail's. This is not at all unusual as spelling was a haphazard business, usually left to the whim of the recorder of a record.

What was Roger1's Congregational Church of Milford is now the white, gracefully-spired church called **The First United Church of Christ[†] (Congregational)**. The first meeting house was built in 1640, "thirty feet square," and rolling drumbeats called settlers to worship and town meetings. A "three-decker" **second meeting house was built in 1728**. The cornerstone for the **third meeting house was set in 1823** and is the present-day structure at 34 West Main Street in Milford.

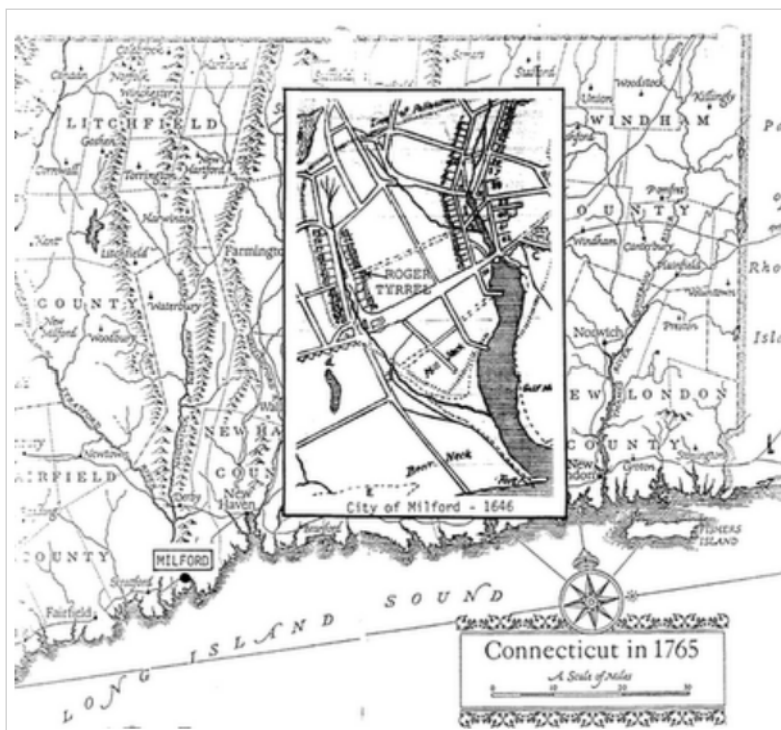
By 1645 most of the planters had erected frame houses in the old lean-to style, which were covered with rent-ash shingles. The **settlement was surrounded with palisades** twelve feet high enclosing a square mile. The palisades were needed because the **Indians weren't friendly**. In 1646 the Indians went on the **warpath** and tried to burn down the town by setting fire to the countryside. After this **display of hostility**, sentries were posted along the palisades, and each household was **required to furnish one watchmen who did sentry duty** every fifth day. Planters didn't venture outside of the palisades except in **armed parties**, and during this time of unrest the whole colony lived in fear.

[†] <http://www.firstchurchofmilford.org>

In the center of the palisade enclosure they laid out home lots, and **Roger1 had lot 49 at right:**

Milford is located on the inner coast of Long Island Sound where the **Wepowaug river** flows into the harbor. The cascading river provided the power for the **first grist mill** in all the New Haven towns. The Milford settlers were mostly from **Essex, Hertfordshire and York** counties in England. In 1639 there were approximately 200 settlers in Milford.

In historic **Milford**[†] is a monumented and manicured boulevard park called the **Milford Green** around which was situated the early shops and homes devoted to business, and today is downtown Milford. **Directly north of the Green** is the **original site of Roger1's almost three-acre home lot**, which is approximately from the corner of Beardsley and Jepson Drive, along Jepson Drive to High Street. The land is now a part of the campus of **Lauralton Hall**^{*}, a private girls school.



Roger1 has a colorful land acquisition record. In the Milford Land Records (LDS #4918) we find in 1646 that he evidently had taken over land claimed by another and was duly reprimanded: "General Court at Milford December 24th 1646 decreed that Roger Terrell is to give back again, that land which is in his possession, which was laid out for Philip Hatley." Notice the "give back **again**".... Philip Hatley was Roger1's neighbor to the north, and evidently he found Hatley's land quite enticing. But, perhaps Roger1 had the last laugh as **Philip Hatley left town in 1649**.

Roger1's original home lot as described in the Records of 1646: "Roger Terrill hath two acres three roods and twenty poles be it more or less being bounded with a high way to the west, Phillip Hatley on the north with other lotts to the east and Sergeant Camp to the south." Many other acres of land were allotted to Roger1 for pasture, agriculture and possibly commerce as one of his grants of land abuts the "**Comon**" on the north and west.

One way that Roger1 and Abigail's **children have been identified** is through land records, with references such as "upland and meadow which was formerly my father's Roger Terrill late of Milford deceased."

There is some scant evidence that Roger1 was connected in some fashion with ships. The

[†] http://www.ci.milford.ct.us/Public_Documents/index

^{*} <http://www.lauraltonhall.org/docs/339>

New Haven town records show the following for Roger1:

"At a Towne-Meeting - January 27, 1669. Tomacke, an indian, being accused of stealing an Anchor with Perry from Roger Terrill of Milford and now examined, he Confessed ye fact, and was sent back to ye Authority of milford to bee dealt with according to law."

About 1639 (this approximate date is not proven but generally accepted) **Roger1 married Abigail Ufford**, daughter of **Thomas and Isabel Ufford**. Thomas was a "free planter" founder of Milford in 1639. He was from **Nazeing in Essex, England** and according to the *Genealogical Dictionary of The First Settlers of New England*, by James Savage, Thomas "came in the Lion arriving at Boston 16 September 1632 with wife Isabel, and ch. Thomas, John and a daughter who married Roger Terrill, but whose name is not seen." (More of Ufford in a later post.)

Evidently Roger1 **had some standing in New Haven**, for Thomas Ufford appointed him to represent his son, John, in an **issue before the Court at New Haven in 1657**. (*Records of the Colony or Jurisdiction of New Haven by Charles Hoadley*.) It seems John Ufford had gotten himself into a **complicated personal situation** by obtaining a divorce (something rarely granted) on a claim of impotence, only to then be charged with fornication with his father's servant, **Martha Nettleton**, when she turned up pregnant.

John was allowed to marry Martha, although the Court was miffed at being misled in the matter of his first marriage and subsequent divorce, and his conduct after. Considering the **punishments** such behavior usually received, **Roger1 must have been quite persuasive** with the magistrates.

Roger1 and Abigail had eleven recorded children:

1 - JOHN2, baptized August 1644 (more in a later post on this ancestor of Monroe County, IA Tyrrels).

2 - ABIGAIL2, baptized August 1644. By 1660 she had married **William Tyler**. They had twelve children born in Milford including twins born in 1670 who died "soon."

3 - HANNAH2, baptized August 1645. She married **John Skeels** of **Woodbury, CT** and they had their first child of record in November 1678. As a younger woman, in 1670, she had a "natural child" by **Robert Hudson** of Rye, New York. Hannah and John's first child, born in Woodbury, died young, but she had six other children. She died 11 November 1730.

4 - SAMUEL2, baptized 31 October 1647. He settled in **Brookhaven, Long Island, NY** and raised a family.

5 - ROGER2, baptized 20 January 1649/50, was a **Founder of Woodbury, CT** and is listed as a signer of Woodbury's Fundamental Articles in 1673. He joined the church there in 1676. He fathered seven recorded children. He died 17 April 1722.

6 - JOSEPH2, baptized in 1652, had "**defective understanding**." He died in 1689, or when about 37 years of age.

7 - MARY2, born 12 February 1653, baptized 2 March 1654, and died 3 May 1654 when only a little over a year old.

8 - EPHRAIM2, born 8 April 1655, baptized 15 April 1655 and died "soon."

9 - THOMAS2, born 23 October 1656. He removed to **Elizabethtown, New Jersey**, then to **East Hampton, Long Island** in 1688, and then **Essex county, New Jersey** in 1694 where he died in 1725. He was married twice, his first wife the daughter of **Robert Dayton**. His second wife was **Mary Reeve**, daughter of Isaac Reeve. **Thomas, a blacksmith**, named 3 sons in his will.

10 - DANIEL2, born 1 March 1659/60, and died 10 June 1727. He remained in Milford and married first **Mary**, daughter of **Thomas and Ruth (Clark) Fitch**, and second, **Abigail**, daughter of **Henry and Lydia (Brown) Bristol**. He fathered ten recorded children, all by Mary Fitch.

11 - ELEAZER2, born 20 September 1662 and died the same day.

Roger1 died in either late 1681 or early 1682 as there is an inventory of his estate dated 22 February 1682, taken by John Beard, John Sherman and Samuel Clark. It totaled 701 pounds, a considerable amount at the time. Here is one of two pages from his **inventory** so you can see how extensive the listing.

Abigail died in about 1694. Her place of burial (and that of Roger as well) is unknown.

