

The Totoket Historical Society, Inc.

**Selected Documents Related to the  
Establishment of North Branford**

Transcribed  
by  
Leonard Labaree  
Emeritus Professor of History, Yale University  
1971

Digitized  
by  
Theodore Groom, Ph. D.  
Chairman, Technology  
The Totoket Historical Society  
November, 2012

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Introduction:

The Totoket Historical Society possesses a two volume tome entitled:

Documents Related To The History  
North Branford and Northford  
Connecticut

Collected by  
Lenard W. Labaree  
Farnam Professor Emeritus of History  
Yale University

From The Connecticut Archives  
State Library  
Hartford, Conn

Arranged by Lydia Lake Davis

Sponsored by The Northford Historical Society  
1971

This tome is Accession Number 1971-006-001. This work comprises documents related to the establishment of the Town of North Branford. Many, if not all, of the documents were transcribed by Dr. Labaree from microfiche and/or original documents at The Connecticut State Library in Hartford. All of the documents shown here are from that work.

At some point I hope to be able to digitize the entire two volume history.

Theodore Groom, Ph.D.  
Chairman, Technology  
The Totoket Historical Society, Inc.

November, 2012

*Transcription  
of  
The 1717 Petition From The Northern Farmers To Form  
A Separate Society From Branford*

To the Honorable General Court to be holden at Hartford May the 9th. 1717

The Humble Petition of the Northern Farmers in the Town of Branford Humbly Sheweth

That Whereas your Petitioners Liveing very Remote from the Meeting House in Branford, are under great Difficulty in going to Attend the Publick worship of God there, and being by the Good Providence of God Increased to Such a Number of families and Such Estates as we think ourSelves able, to Maintain a Minister and Set up the Worship of God amongst our Selves - We therefore Humbly Petition the Honorable Court to grant us Liberty to be a Distinct Society for maintaining the worshop of God, and Let the bounds of our Society Extend on the East to Guilford Line, on the Southwardly Side begining at Roses Meadow, and So Running westward by the Rocks Called Rattle Snake Rocks, takeing in Some of Jonathan Roses land, and So to the Saw mill Near Jonathan Linlys, and So Westward taking in the farms of Samll Pond, Josiah Rogers, John Tyler, Benjamin Barns, and Isaac Barthellomew, and So on the West Side Northward to the Great Hill by Newhaven line and So Runing on the North Side of Sd Great Hill Eastward to Guilford Line; and So O n the Southwardly Side as to take in all the Lands of those that Belong to our Society, which Border upon the Line, and Leveing out all the Lands of those Belonging to the Town Society, which Border upon the sd. Line; And we humbly Petition that when we shall have Occation to build a Meeting House, or Ministers House, within our sd Society, we may have power to Assess all the Lands within these Bounds for Raising a proportionall part of the Charges arrising for building the Sd Meeting House and Ministers House

Signed in Branford may the 7 1717

And Yor humble Petitioners shall Ever Pray

Nathaneill Johnson  
John Linsly

Amos Johnson

Isaac Bartholomew  
Jonathan Butler  
Josiah Rogers  
Joseph Frisbie  
Jonathan Rose  
Israel Baldwin  
Edward frishie  
John Byinsun  
Luk hil  
John herreson  
Sam herreson  
Jonathan linsly  
John Tyler  
daniel berker  
Henry cuk  
nethanel page  
Beniaman barns  
Daniel page  
sam tiler  
Isaac cook  
ebenezer ewel  
John palmer iuner  
Beniamon linsly  
ebenezer tiler  
addam raner

Reverse Photocopy of a Microfiche of the original 1717 Document

To the Honorable General Court to be holden at Hartford May 9<sup>th</sup> 1717  
 The Humble Petition of the Northern Farmers in the Town of Branford humbly sheweth  
 That whereas your Petitioners having every where from the Meeting House in Branford, are  
 under great Difficulty in going to attend the Publick worship of God there, and being by the Gods  
 Providence of God increased to such a Number of families & such Estates as we think our selves  
 able to maintain a Minister and set up the worship of God amongst our selves  
 We therefore humbly petition the Honorable Court to grant us Liberty to be a Distinct  
 Society for maintaining the worship of God, and set the bounds of our Society to extend on  
 the East to Guilford Line, our Southwardly Side beginning at cross Meadow, and so running Westward  
 by the Road called Rattlesnake Road, taking in one of Jonathan Cross Land, and so to the six  
 mile near Jonathan Linsly, and so Westward taking in the farms of Sam<sup>l</sup> Pond, Josiah Rogers,  
 John Tylor, Benjamin Parsons, and Isaac Bertholomew, and so on the West Side Northward to the  
 Great Hill by Northaven Land, and so running on the North Side of the Great Hill Eastward to  
 Guilford Line; and so on the Southwardly Side as to take in all the lands of those that belong to  
 our Society, which border upon the Line, and abating out all the lands of those that belong to  
 the Town Society which border upon the Line, and we humbly petition that when we  
 shall have occasion to build a Meeting House, or Ministers House, within our Society we  
 may have power to appoyse all the Land within those bounds for raising a proportionall part  
 of the Charges arising for building those Meeting House, & Ministers House  
 Signed in Branford May the 7 1717 And your humble Petitioners shall ever pray

- |                      |                  |                   |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Matthew noel Johnson | Jonathan Butcher | Isaac T. Bartlow  |
| John Linsly          | Isaac Rogers     | Luk tail          |
|                      | Joseph figbe     | John herregun     |
|                      | Jonathan Case    | Sam herregun      |
|                      | Isaac B. Baddwin | Jonathan Linsly   |
| Amos Johnson         | Edward foible    | Daniel berker     |
|                      | John Byington    | Henry cuth        |
|                      |                  | ne thanel, page   |
|                      |                  | Benjamin bang.    |
|                      |                  | Daniel page       |
|                      |                  | Samuel            |
|                      |                  | Isaac cook        |
|                      |                  | Ebenezer elwel    |
|                      |                  | John Paulus rians |
|                      |                  | Beniamon Linsly   |
|                      |                  | ebenezer tiler    |
|                      |                  | adam rauer        |

## Transcription of a 1725 Act Establishing The Second Society of Branford

Upon the Report of the Committe appoynted by this Assembly In May last to Inspect the Differences & Difficulties between the Northern Inhabitants of the Town of Branford, and others the Inhabitants of the sd. Town made to this Assembly for theyer present Cessions it is Resolved and ordered by this assembly. that the Inhabitants of the sd. Town Do Sumtime this Next ensuing Winter Levy A Rate upon the Inhabitants of sd. Town In General amounting to the Sume of one hundred & fifty pounds Current mony to be Improved for the Defraying of the Charg allredy expended by the erecting of A begun New meeting House In the Northerly part of sd. Town. and also that the sd. Town of Branford Shall be and is hereby Devided into two Parrishes or Distinct Minesterial Societies, and the Line of partition by which they shall be divided is ordered to be as followeth viz to begin at the Country Road by Gilford Bounds and thence Runing Westerly in sd. Road untill it Comes to a Highway going Northward Next West of Micah Palmers House on the Northerly Sid of sd. Road, Between sd. Palmers lott & the School Lands., and thence Runing Northerly In sd. highway untill it meets vwith & Intecepts the Line Granted and Conceded tto by the sd. Town of Branford In theyer meeting December 28<sup>th</sup>. 1724, and from thence the sd. pertetion line to Run Westerly In the sd. line or Lines Conceded untl by the Town as aforesd untill it Comes to Newhaven Bownds, and all the Lands on the Southerly Sid of sd. pertition Line to belong to and pay thayer ministerial and other Society Charges to the South Society. and all the Lands Lying Northward of the sd. Dividing Line to Belong to and pay theyer Society Charges to the North Parish In sd. Branford -- hereby Granting to each of the sd. Societies distinct powers and priveledges by Law belonging to A perticular Parish and further that the sd. New meeting house so farr Carreyed on as Now it is, shall belong to the sd. North Society

Oct 1725

Act for 2 Parrishes at  
Branford  
Octo 1725

Past in the Lower house  
Test Thomas Kimberly Clerk  
Past in the Uppr House  
Test Hz Wyllys Secretry

1847 Manuscript Copy of a 1750 Document Establishing The Third  
Society of Branford, That is, Northford

Anno Regni Regis Georgii 2<sup>di</sup> 18<sup>vo</sup>.

At a General Assembly holden at Hartford in his Majesty's English Colony of Connecticut in New England in America, on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, and continued by several adjournments until the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the same month, Annoq. Dom. 1745.

Upon the Memorial of Samuel Harrington, John Baldwin, Paul Tyler, Peter Tyler and others, Inhabitants of the North part of Branford, praying that a certain Report of Mess<sup>rs</sup>. John Hubbard, Jonathan Allen, and John Hitchcock of New Haven, dated October 13<sup>th</sup> 1744, and to this Assembly in October last exhibited, may now be reconsidered, accepted and allowed, &c., as per said Memorial dated May 2<sup>d</sup>. 1745.

Resolved by this Assembly, That the said Report be accepted, and that all the inhabitants within the limits in said Report mentioned shall be and become a distinct Ecclesiastical Society, with full power to form themselves into and embody in church estate and with all other powers and privileges which other parishes within this colony have, and that the bounds and limits of said parish shall be as follows, as in said Report is set forth, Bounding North on Wallingford Bounds, West on New Haven, South by the north side of Hezekiah Roges' to the Road, and then by Jacob Carters south line so that goes, from thence by the ridge of the hill to the Gulf so called, then up the brook to the brow of the hill on

the south side of said brook, thence on the Frow of the Hills  
to an Highway, thence southwardly by said Highway to the  
head of the widow Hoadley's Farm, thence eastwardly to  
Guilford Line, and so running with Guilford line to  
Wallingford line.

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Anno Regni Regis Georgii 2<sup>di</sup> 23<sup>o</sup>.

At a General Assembly holden at Hartford in His Majesty's  
English Colony of Connecticut, in New England in America,  
on the second Thursday of May (being the 10<sup>th</sup> day of said  
month,) and continued by several adjournments until  
the 31<sup>st</sup> day of the same month, Annoq. Dom. 1750.

Whereas, this Assembly, at their Sessions in May 1745 did constitute  
an Ecclesiastical Society in the Northwest part of the town of  
Branford,

Resolved by this Assembly, That the said Society be  
called Northford.

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State of Connecticut, ss. }  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of record in  
this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto  
set my hand and affixed the Seal of said State, at  
Hartford this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December  
A. D. 1847 John P. Robertson

Secretary of State.

this  
viz.  
New Haven  
land to  
as it

## ***RESOLVE INCORPORATING THE TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD***

***PASSED, MAY 1831.***

Upon the petition of Levi Bradley, and others.

*Resolved by this Assembly,* That all that part of the town of Branford, comprehended within the limits of the First School Society of said town, bounded southerly on the sea; easterly and westerly as said town of Branford is now bounded and northerly by the line which now separates the First School Society aforesaid from the remaining part of said town of Branford, with all the inhabitants belonging and residing within the said limits, be, and remain a separate and distinct town, by the name of Branford; and the inhabitants aforesaid, and their successors, forever, residing and belonging within the said limits, shall have, retain and enjoy all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities now enjoyed by said town of Branford, in the same manner, as if no alteration had been made in said town, except as is hereinafter provided; and the said inhabitants shall have and enjoy all powers, privileges, and immunities enjoyed by other towns in this State, with the right of sending one Representative only to the General Assembly of this State.

All that part of the old town of Branford; which is not comprehended within the limits of the First School Society of said town, as herein before set forth, with all the inhabitants therein residing, and belonging thereto, be, and the same is hereby incorporated into a new and distinct town, by the name of "*North Branford,*" and the inhabitants thereof, and their successors forever residing and belonging within the limits of said new town of North Branford, shall have and enjoy all the powers, privileges and immunities enjoyed by other towns in this State; with the right of sending one Representative only, to the General Assembly thereof. And said towns respectively, shall pay and bear their joint proportions, according to, their respective lists, of all debts, charges and expences, suits, petitions' and claims already due and accrued, commenced or existing against said town of Branford, or for which said town may hereafter be rendered liable, by force of any claim now existing; and the expence of providing and making all such roads in either town, as are already, vis. on this sixteenth day of May, 1831, laid out and not completed, or as may hereafter be laid out on any petition now pending against said town of Branford, for that purpose, before the county court for New-Haven county, shall be paid and borne by said towns respectively, in the proportion aforesaid, and nothing herein contained, shall be construed to defeat or effect any such petition now pending as aforesaid or to prejudice the rights of either of said towns in relation thereto

And the inhabitants of said old town of Branford, who may hereafter come poor, and whose residence is within or who may belong to that part of said town within the limits hereby incorporated into a new town and such as derive a settlement from them, shall be deemed inhabitants of said town of North Branford and shall be maintained accordingly, whether at present within the limits thereof as aforesaid, or not: and the said town of North Branford shall take of the poor persons now maintained and supported by the town of Branford, such proportion as the amount of the list within the limits of said town of North Branford bears to the whole list of said old town, and no more except as herein provided, in case of absentees; and the select-men next hereafter to be chosen by said towns of Branford and North Branford, respectively, shall at some convenient time and place, to be by them agreed upon, meet and apportion the poor, according to the rule aforesaid, and, also make an equitable division and distribution of the property and burdens aforesaid, of said old town of Branford; and in case they cannot agree upon the time, place, and apportionment thereof, the Honorable William Bristol, or in case of his inability, the Honorable David Daggett, is hereby authorized and empowered to make such distribution, first duly notifying the select-men aforesaid, of the time and place where the same shall be made.



And said towns respectively, shall be liable to maintain all such poor of the old town of Branford, who are or may be absent therefrom, as at the time of their departure, belonged to their respective limits, as herein before designated.

The collectors of the State and town taxes, in the town of Branford, are hereby authorized to collect all taxes already laid, and in their rate books, as though this resolve had not passed.

The first town meeting in said town of North Branford, shall be held at the Congregational meeting house therein, on the second Monday of June, A. D. 1831, and Benjamin Page, Esquire or either of the present select-men residing within the limits thereof is hereby authorized to warn such meeting, by setting up a notification thereof on the public sign-post in the society of North Branford, and in the society of Northford, and at such other public place if any, as he may deem proper, at least five days inclusive, before said first meeting. And said town of North Branford, at said first meeting, as being called to order by said Page or either of said select-men, shall have all powers incident to the other towns in this State, and full right to act accordingly; and the officers who may be elected at such meeting, shall hold their offices until others are legally chosen and sworn in their stead.

And the present select-men of the town of Branford, residing within said town of Branford, as the same remains after the separation therefrom, and incorporation of said town of North Branford, or the town clerk thereof, shall warn a town meeting of the town of Branford, to be held the congregational meeting house in said town, on the second Monday of June, A. D. 1831, at which meeting the inhabitants of said town of Branford, that is to say those residing within the limits of said first school society, are hereby authorized and empowered to choose two or more select-men in addition to the 1 already appointed and residing therein, and such other officers as they deem needful, not exceeding the number by law allowed; at which meeting said inhabitants shall act upon the question of relinquishing their right to two Representatives, and consenting hereafter to have but one representative to the General Assembly: And it is hereby expressly provided, that this grant shall be void and of no effect, unless the inhabitants of said town of Branford, at their meeting to be warned and held as is herein last before mentioned, shall pass a vote relinquishing all claim to have two Representatives, and consenting forever hereafter to have but one Representative to the General Assembly of the state, and shall cause a copy of such vote duly certified by their town clerk, to be lodged in the office of The Secretary of State, to be by him recorded and kept on file, as evidence of such relinquishment and consent.

It is further provided, that in case any of the inhabitants of said, first school society, who now reside in that part of Bear Plain school district, lying northerly of a line commencing on the south side of Josiah Baldwin's house on the northerly side of Lyd Hit's hill; thence running easterly along said hill till it strikes the old school society line, on the top of said hill; and westerly from said house to East Haven line: shall desire to be set, with their lands, so situated, to said town of North Branford, the county court for New-Haven County, at the term thereof next ensuing, shall be, and said court is hereby authorized, at their discretion, upon personal view, or otherwise, at the equal expence of said towns, on application of any such inhabitant or inhabitants, and reasonable notice to said towns, respectively, so to run the northerly line of said town of Branford, as to exclude the inhabitants of said district, and their lands situated as aforesaid, from said town of Branford and said court shall be further authorized, so to run and straighten the line between said towns as to give to said town of Branford an equivalent of other lands, to those so excluded as aforesaid. Provided nevertheless, that the line so straightened shall not run northerly of a line running from cider mill corner, so called, easterly to a heap of stones erected as a boundary on Guilford and Branford town line, between the dwelling houses of Eli Fowler and Noah Fowler.

And the doings of said County Court shall be returned within six months after the completion thereof, to the office of the Secretary of State, and there recorded, as evidence of the boundary line of said towns respectively; which shall be and remain conformable thereto, unless the General Assembly next following the return thereof, shall otherwise order.