

This web page shares data for a number of early residents in Norwich, using excerpts from the book named "Old Houses of the Ancient Town of Norwich (Conn.) 1660-1800", by Mary Elizabeth Perkins (view the free eBook on www.books.google.com) and from several HTML files

Chapter I., Page 1

In May, 1659 a large number of the inhabitants of Saybrook applied to the General Court at Hartford for permission to make a settlement at Norwich, (or as it was then called), Mohegan. The Court “considered”, “approved,” and “consented to” the desire of “ye petitioners respecting Mohegin, provided y’ within ye space of three years they doe effect a plantation in ye place propounded”.

The settlers evidently lost no time in arranging for removal, for in June, 1659, the three sachems of Mohegan, Onkos (Uncas), Owaneco, and Attawanhood deeded to “the Towne and Inhabitants of Norwich” a tract of land, beginning on the southern line “at the brooke falling into the head of Trading Cove,” and extending from thence east, west and north, on both sides of the river over a territory nine miles square.

The town was first known as Mohegan; the first reference to it as Norwich occurs in March, 1661, when the constable at “Seabrook” is required to levy a certain sum “upon ye estates of such at Norridge, as are defective in their rates.” In 1662 it is “enrolled as a legal township.” This is all that is actually known of the settlement of the town. The records, both of Saybrook and of Norwich, are silent as to the reasons for removal, the naming of the new township, and the arrival of the settlers; so, on these matters we may speculate at will.

Some may believe the tradition recorded in President Stiles’ diary, that our ancestors were driven from Saybrook by the immense flocks of crows and blackbirds, which infested the fields in May and June, and others that Maj. Mason in one of his numerous expeditions, perceiving the great natural advantages which this Mohegan country offered for a settlement, persuaded some of his friends to leave their level coast-lands for this more attractive region of wooded hills, and sheltered vales, and rushing streams. We may suppose that any project of **Maj. Mason’s** would naturally meet with approval, and that, when it was seconded by the pastor, **Rev. Mr. Fitch**, most of the settlers would be ready to follow, wherever their military and religious leaders should show the way.

Chapter I., Page 4 ... First Settlers/wives and their children

Maj. John Mason/Anne and Priscilla, Samuel, John, Rachel, Anne, Daniel, Elizabeth

Rev. James Fitch/(1st wife died in Saybrook) and James, Abigail, Elizabeth, Hannah, Samuel, Dorothy

Thomas Leffingwell/Mary and Rachel, Thomas, Jonathan, Joseph, Mary, Nathaniel

Thomas Adgate/Mary and Elizabeth Adgate, Hannah Adgate, Richard Bushnell, Joseph Bushnell, Mary Bushnell, Mercy Bushnell

William Backus, Sr./Ann and Stephen, Thomas Bingham (stepson of W. Backus,Sr.)

William Backus, Jr/Elizabeth and William

Christopher Huntington/Ruth and Ruth

Simon Huntington/Sarah and Sarah, Mary, Simon

Thomas Tracy/(unk spouse) and Thomas, Jonathan, Miriam, Solomon, Daniel, Samuel

John Tracy (son John Tracy (son of Thomas Tracy)

Thomas Waterman

John Bradford/Martha

John Olmstead/Elizabeth

William Hyde/(unk spouse) and Samuel/Jane

John Reynolds/Sarah and John, Sarah, Susanna, Joseph

Thomas Bliss/Elizabeth and Elizabeth, Sarah, Mary, Thomas, Dolinda, Samuel

Thomas Post/Mary and Sarah

John Post/Hester and Margaret, Elizabeth, John, Sarah

John Gager/Elizabeth and John, Elizabeth, Sarah, Hannah, Samuel, Bethiah

John Birchard/Christian and John

Morgan Bowers/Judah(?)

Nehemiah Smith/Ann and Sarah, Mary, Hannah, Mercy, Nehemiah, Lydia, Ann, Mehitable

Richard Edgerton/Mary and Mary, Elizabeth, Hannah

Robert Allyn/(unk spouse) and John, Mary, Deborah, Hannah

Jonathan Royce/Deborah(?)

John Baldwin/ Hannah and John, Hannah, Sarah

Francis Griswold/(unk spouse) and Sarah, Mary, Hannah

Hugh Calkins/Ann

John Calkins (son of Hugh)/Sarah and Hugh

Robert Wade/Susanna (?)

Thomas Howard

John Pease

The lands of the new township were surveyed, and home lots assigned by November, 1659, but it seems hardly probable that the settlers would bring their wives and children, so late in the season, to face the discomforts of the winter in Norwich. A rude building may have been hastily put together for shelter, and some of the men may have braved the cold and storms, constructing houses for the families, who were to arrive in the spring. One building was certainly standing in the spring of 1660, as a document of the General Court, dated June 9, 1660 thus reads:

“Not many weeks now past, we are by sufficient information certified, that one night at ye New Plantation at Monheage, some Indians, as will appear, of the Narragansetts shot 11 bullets into a house of our English there, in hopes, as they boasted, to have slain him whome we have cause to honor, whose safety we cannot but take ourselves bound to promote, our **Deputy Gov’ Major Mason.**”

The Great Migration

Added by kcech143 on 25 Mar 2009

ORIGIN: Unknown

MIGRATION: 1632

FIRST RESIDENCE: Dorchester

REMOVES: Windsor 1635, Saybrook 1647, Norwich 1659

OCCUPATION: Soldier, magistrate.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Dorchester church prior to 4 March 1634/5 implied by freemanship.

FREEMAN: 4 March 1634/5 (as "Captain John Mason") [MBCR 1:370]. "Major John Mason" is in the 9 October 1669 list of Connecticut freemen in Norwich [CCCR 2:523].

EDUCATION: His prose is vigorous and direct in his regular correspondence with the Winthrops [WP 4:419-20; 5:249-51, 253, 263, 317-18; 6:257-58, 384-85, 388, 395-96] and in his history of the Pequot War [A Brief History of the Pequot War (Boston 1736)]. His activities from the earliest days in New England give evidence of training as a military engineer.

OFFICES: Deputy for Dorchester to Massachusetts Bay General Court, 4 March 1634/5, 2 September 1635 [MBCR 1:135, 156]. Connecticut Deputy Governor, May 1660, May 1661, May 1662, October 1662, May 1663, May 1664, May 1665, May 1666, May 1667, May 1668 [CT Civil List 36]. Deputy for Windsor to Connecticut Court, November 1637, March 1638, April 1638, September 1639, February 1641, April 1641, September 1641 [CT Civil List 35]. Assistant, 1642-1659, 1669-71 [CT Civil List 35]. War committee for Saybrook, May 1653, October 1654 [CT Civil List 35].

Patentee, Royal Charter, 1662 [CT Civil List 36]. Commissioner for United Colonies, June 1654, May 1655, May 1656, May 1657, May 1660, May 1661 [CT Civil List 36]. A rate was gathered for the support of Captain Mason 29 December 1634 [DTR 1:9]. Militia Committee, May 1667 - June 1672 [CT Civil List 36]. Captain by 1637 [CT Civil List 35]. Major, June 1654 [CT Civil List 35] (but he was called Major at the General Court of 18 May 1654 [CCCR 1:256]).

ESTATE: On 10 February 1634/5 "Captayne Mason" received a grant of two acres in Dorchester [DTR 1:9]. He drew six acres of meadow beyond Naponset in lot #73 [DTR 1:322].

In the Windsor land inventory on 28 February 1640[1] John Mason held seven parcels, six of which were granted to him: "a homelot with some additions to it, ten acres"; "in the palisado where his house stands and mead adjoining twenty acres and half"; "in the first mead on the northside of the rivulet, for mead and addition in swamp eight acres"; "in the northwest field for upland eight acres with some addition on the bank side"; "over the Great River in breadth by the river twenty-six rods more or less, and continues that breadth to the east side of the west marsh, and there it is but sixteen rods in breadth and so continues to the end of the three miles"; "twelve acres of land by Rocky Hill"; and "by a deed of exchange with Thomas Duy [Dewey] ... on the east side of the Great River in breadth eighteen rods more or less, in length three miles" [WiLR 1:91].

On 5 January 1641/2 Connecticut court ordered "that Captain Mason shall have 500 acres of ground, for him and his heirs, about Pequoyt Country, and the dispose of 500 more to such soldiers as joined with him in the service when they conquered the Indians there" [CCCR 1:70].

On 12 July 1644 John Mason of Windsor sold to William Hosford of Windsor eight acres in a little meadow with addition of swamp [WiLR 48]. On 11 September 1651 "the island commonly called Chippachauge in Mistick Bay is given to Capt. John Mason, as also one hundred acres of upland and ten acres of meadow near Mistick, where he shall make choice" [CCCR 1:24-25].

On 14 March 1660/1 the "jurisdiction power over that land that Uncus and Wawequa have made over to Major Mason is by him surrendered to this Colony. Nevertheless for the laying out of those lands to farms or plantations the Court doth leave it in the hands of Major Mason. It is also ordered and provided with the consent of Major Mason, that Uncus & Wawequa and their Indians and successors shall be supplied with sufficient planting ground at all times as the Court sees cause out of that land. And the Major doth reserve for himself a competence of land sufficient to make a farm" [CCCR 1:359].

On 14 May 1663 the court granted "unto the Major, our worshipful Deputy Governor, 500 acres of land for a farm, where he shall choose it, if it may not be prejudicial to a plantation already set up or to set up, so there be not above 50 acres of meadow in it" [CCCR 1:406]. On 13 October 1664, the "Major propounding to the Court to take up his former grant of a farm, at a place by the Indians called Pomakuck, near Norwich, the Court grants liberty to him to take up his former grant in that place, upon the same terms as it was granted to him by the Court" [CCCR 1:432].

On 20 May 1668 the "Major desiring this Court to grant him a farm of about three hundred acres, for one of his sons, his desire is hereby granted (provided there be not above thirty acres of meadow) and Lt. Griswold & Ensign Tracy are hereby desired to lay it out to him in some convenient place near that tract of land granted Jer[emiah] Adams, it being the place the Major hath pitched upon, the name of the place is Uncupsitt, provided it prejudice no plantation or former grant" [CCCR 2:86-87]

On 9 May 1672 "Ensign Tracy is appointed to join with Sergeant Tho[mas] Leffingwell in laying out to the Major and Mr. Howkins their grants of land according to their grants" [CCCR 2:171].

BIRTH: By about 1605 based on military service in the Low Countries in the 1620s [DAB]. (Some secondary sources give his age at death as seventy-two, which would place his birth about 1600, but the source for this age is not known.)

DEATH: Norwich between 9 May 1672 and 6 June 1672 [CCCR 2:171, 182].

MARRIAGE: (1) By about 1638 _____. She died at Windsor before 10 March 1638[9] [Grant 77]. (2) Hingham [blank] July 1639 Ann Peck [NEHGR 121:11], daughter of Rev. Robert Peck [TAG 26:85]; she died shortly before her husband. (Her son-in-law, Reverend James Fitch, preached the sermon at her funeral, which was published under the title Peace The End of the Perfect and Upright Demonstrated and Usefully Improved in a Sermon Preached upon the Occasion of the Death and Decease of the Piously Affected and Truly Religious Woman, Mrs. Anne Mason, Sometime Wife to Major John Mason, Who Not Long After Finished His Course and Is Now at Rest [Cambridge 1672].)

CHILDREN (births of iii-ix recorded at Norwich [NoVR 1:20]):

With first wife

i ISRAEL, b. say 1638; m. Windsor 17 June 1658 John Bissell [Grant 23; TAG 26:84-94, 27:100-01].

With second wife

ii ANN, d. Windsor 7 October 1640 [Grant 78].

iii PRISCILLA, b. Windsor October 1641; m. Norwich [8] October 1664 Rev. James Fitch [NoVR 39].

iv SAMUEL, b. Windsor July 1644; m. (1) Rehoboth 26 June 1670 Judith Smith [NEHGR 121:124-25]; m. (2) Rehoboth 4 July 1694 Elizabeth Peck (at Rehoboth but recorded Stonington [StonVR Barbour 158]).

v JOHN, b. Windsor August 1646; m. about 1670 as her first husband Abigail Fitch [TAG 40:50-54, 58:135-37].

vi RACHEL, b. Saybrook October 1648; m. New London 12 June 1678 Charles Hill [NLVR Barbour 204].

vii ANN, b. Saybrook June 1650; m. Swansea 8 November 1672 John Brown [SwVR 23]. (On 7 October 1672 Thomas Minor reported that "An Mason was married," but he did not seem to be interested in the identity of the groom [Minor Diary 112]).

viii DANIEL, b. Saybrook April 1652; m. (1) by 8 February 1673/4 Margaret Denison, daughter of Edward Denison (she was buried 15 May 1679 [Minor Diary 148]); m. (2) Hingham 10 October 1679 Rebecca Hobart [NEHGR 121:205].

ix ELIZABETH, b. Saybrook August 1654; m. Norwich January 1676/7 James Fitch [TAG 46:44].

COMMENTS: In his list of "some omitted in former records being gone yet had children born here," Matthew Grant included "Captain Masen" and credited him with four children born in Windsor [Grant 93], which are best accounted for as the daughter Ann who died in 1640, and Priscilla, Samuel

and John [TAG 26:86-87].

The record of births of John Mason's children by his second wife was entered in Norwich vital records, even though none of the births had occurred there, with only the month and year of the birth given [TAG 26:86, citing NoVR 1:20]. The division of births between Windsor and Saybrook is based on the knowledge that Mason was in Saybrook by 1647, and on the accounting of Matthew Grant, discussed in the last paragraph.

In his few years in Massachusetts John Mason was found very useful by town and colony. On 2 July 1633 order is "given to the Treasurer to deliver to Lieutenant Mason £10 for his voyage to the eastward, when he went about the taking of Bull" [MBCR 1:106; MHSC 2:8:232]. On 5 November 1633 "Sergeant Stoughton is chosen ensign to Captain Mason" [MBCR 1:110]. On 3 September 1634 "Captain Mason" was appointed to a committee to "find out the convenient places for situation, as also to lay out the several works for fortification at Castle Island, Chareilton, & Dorchester" [MBCR 1:124]. On 3 September 1635 "Captain Mason is authorized by the Court to press men & carts to help towards the finishing of the fort at Castle Island, & to return the same into the Court" [MBCR 1:158].

John Mason was one of the most trusted men in Connecticut during his three and a half decades of residence there, in both civil and military matters. In his latter years the formal colony records referred to him simply as "the Major," without forename or surname. Only a sampling of his activities can be presented here.

On 1 May 1637 the Connecticut General Court ordered that "there shall be an offensive war against the Pequoitt" and levied ninety men from the three towns of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield, to be "under the command of Captain Jo[h]n Mason" [javascript:APop(p23623,120,144);">CCCR 1:9]. His comings and goings during the Pequot War are occasionally noted by Winthrop [WP 3:419, 421, 435, 456; WJ 1:233, 267]. He took a company of Englishmen up the river and rescued two English maids during this war [WJ 1:223]. (On 22 May 1639, even though he had been living in Connecticut for three years, "Captain Mason had granted him" by Massachusetts Bay General Court "ten pounds, for his good service against the Pecoits & otherwise" [MBCR 1:259].)

On 8 March 1637/8, in the aftermath of the Pequot War, the Connecticut General Court "ordered that Captain Mason shall be a public military officer of the plantations of Conecticot, and shall train the military men thereof in each plantation" [CCCR 1:15].

On 2 June 1647 the court ordered "that Captain Mason should for the peace, safety and good assurance of the Commonwealth, have the command of all soldiers and inhabitants of Seabrooke, and in case of alarum or danger by approach of an enemy, to draw forth or put the said soldiers & inhabitants in such posture for the defense of the place as to him shall seem best," and "whereas Captain Mason, at the special instance & request of the inhabitants of Seabrooke, together with the good liking of the Commonwealth, did leave his habitation in the River and repair thither, to exercise a place of trust. It is this day ordered, that his former salary of £40 per annum be continued" [CCCR 1:155-56].

During the winter of 1647/8 Winthrop records that "in the depth of winter, in a very tempestuous night, the fort at Saybrook was set on fire, and all the buildings within the palisado, with all the goods, etc., were burnt down, Captain Mason, his wife, and children, hardly saved. The loss was estimated at one thousand pounds, and not known how the fire came" [WJ 2:311].

Prior to the sitting of the court on 6 October 1651, Captain Mason had sent a letter to the court, "wherein he desires, among other things, the advice of this Court touching a motion propounded by some of New Haven interested in Dillaware design, for his assistance of them in that business, with some encouragements for his settling there." The Court did not like the idea, but admitted they could not prevent him, and gave their reluctant permission to "attend the service for 3 months, provided he will engage himself to return within that time and continue his abode amongst them as formerly" [CCCR

1:227]. (New Haven was at this time attempting to establish a daughter colony on the Delaware River [Isabel MacBeath Calder, *The New Haven Colony* (New Haven 1934), p. 192].)

By the sitting of the Court on 18 May 1654 he had been advanced from Captain to Major [CCCR 1:256], the rank that he would hold for the remainder of his life. On 13 June 1654 he and Captain John Cullick were sent to Boston as agents of Connecticut, to discuss Cromwell's plans for fighting the Dutch at New Amsterdam [CCCR 1:260]. In April 1657 he received from the General Court an extensive commission, requiring him to go to Southampton and investigate the complaints of the inhabitants of that town (then under Connecticut jurisdiction) regarding deprivations made by the Montauk Indians [CCCR 1:295-97].

On 15 June 1659 Mr. Willis was "requested to go down to Sea Brook, to assist the Major in examining the suspicions about witchery, and to act therein as may be requisite" [CCCR 1:338].

In the summer of 1669 residents of Easthampton, Southampton and Stonington addressed letters to Mason, warning him of an impending attack by several groups of Indians. Mason passed these letters on to the colony authorities in Hartford, and added his own strongly worded advice [CCCR 2:548-50].

In the summer of 1670 John Mason acted as an intermediary between Roger Williams and the Connecticut government regarding a boundary dispute between Rhode Island and Connecticut [RWCorr 609-20; CCCR 2:536].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1935 Louis B. Mason published a book-length biography of John Mason [The Life and Times of Major John Mason of Connecticut: 1600-1672 (New York 1935)]. There is also an account in the Dictionary of American Biography.

The Great Migration Begins

Sketches

PRESERVED PURITAN

Additional information about this story

Anne Rosamond Peck (1619 - 1672)

From the Lebanon, Connecticut town website: <http://www.lebanontownhall.org/trumbulltownhist3.htm>

Settlement of the Town of Lebanon

The town of Lebanon was formed by the consolidation of a number of tracts of land when the town was incorporated by the General Assembly on October 10, 1700. The tracts of land included early land grants by the General Assembly, cessions by Mohegan Indians, and proprietary purchases by settlers from the Mohegans in the 1690s. The area encompassed nearly 80 square miles. It included the modern town of Columbia and a small section of the town of Andover.

In 1663, the General Court granted to Major John Mason of Norwich a tract of 500 acres of land for services to the colony. Mason selected a tract northwest of Norwich, in what is now the Goshen section of Lebanon, at a place along the Yantic River that the Indians called Pomocook. It was on the Hockanum Path, the Indian path from Norwich to the Connecticut River.

The tract officially confirmed and surveyed in 1664, was the first land grant in what would later become the town of Lebanon. It **contained extensive stands of white cedar, valuable for shingles, clapboards and cooperage stock, and was called Cedar Swamp. In 1666, the colony granted the Rev. James Fitch, the minister in Norwich and Mason's son-in-law, a tract of 120 acres adjoining Major Mason's land.**

Captain Mason's Mile, as it is first referred to in colony records, was a one-mile wide, seven-mile-long grant from Joshua, son of the Mohegan sachem Uncas, to Captain John Mason, Junior, in March 1675/76. This large tract was adjacent to the earlier Mason and Fitch grants.

Before he died in September 1676, John Mason, Junior, conveyed half the Mile to his father-in-law, the Rev. James Fitch. **John Mason 111, as the heir to one half of the Mile, and his grandfather, James Fitch, surveyed the land in 1695 and distributed the land. The area is also called "Fitch's and Mason's Mile."**

Five Mile Purchase

The Five Mile Purchase was the largest of the tracts of land included within the original boundaries of Lebanon and encompassed much of the area of present-day Lebanon. It was also called the Five Mile Square because it was supposed to be five miles on each side. It was purchased from the Mohegan sachem Oweneco, son of Uncas, in 1692 by Samuel Mason, son of Major John Mason, and John Stanton, both of Stonington, and Benjamin Brewster and John Birchard of Norwich.

This purchase by private individuals is typical of the second phase of town founding in Connecticut. Prior to 1685 the colony created new towns as local corporations and bestowed the land on the "inhabitants." The towns then enacted their own criteria for distributing land and gave land to those people the towns chose to admit as inhabitants.

This method of township creation was challenged during the short-lived reign of Sir Edmund Andros as governor of the Dominion of New England (1685-1689). The colony quickly decided to grant lands by patents to individuals, not to corporations, to forestall the challenge to land titles that had occurred in Massachusetts.

Private investors and land speculators were now permitted to buy land directly from the Indians. The legal form of ownership was vested by the colony through a patent to individual proprietors. Title to the undivided lands rested in the individual proprietors specifically named in the patents as their fee simple estates, and not in the town. The proprietors had ownership to the land and could distribute it by gift, bequest, or sale to assigns.

They also could dispose of their rights to future divisions of the undivided lands by the same methods. Usually, the rights to undivided land were conveyed with the home lots when they were sold or bequeathed but these rights could be reserved by the proprietor to gain the benefit of future land divisions.

The Clarke and Dewey Purchase

On September 25, 1699, two Massachusetts men, William Clarke of Northampton and Josiah Dewey, Snr., originally of Northampton and later of Westfield, purchased a large tract of land from Thomas Buckingham and John Clarke of Saybrook, who were acting on behalf of Abimelech, the young son and heir of Joshua. The tract adjoined the Five Mile Square on its northern boundary, across the Ten Mile River

On May 2, 1700, this tract was conveyed again to Clarke and Dewey (who had already settled in Lebanon) by Oweneco, who also claimed the land that his brother Joshua had bequeathed to Abimelech. This section of Lebanon was known as the North Society or Lebanon Crank. It is now the town

of Columbia.

These large tracts with the later addition of several gores and town boundary adjustments made up the town of Lebanon. The town was incorporated by the General Assembly on October 10, 1700.

Land Distribution and Settlement

Settlement of the town began in the 1690s. Tradition holds that the first house in Lebanon was built on a site near Cedar Swamp, now called Red Cedar Lake. **Four sons of the Rev. James Fitch of Norwich were early settlers in Lebanon and at least one made his home near Cedar Swamp. There were Mason family homesteads nearby. There are no records that indicate exactly when an individual actually cleared land and built a house. Fitch retired to Lebanon in 1701 and died here in 1702.**

In 1695 the four original owners of the Five Mile Purchase or Square began distribution of land within the tract and settlement soon followed. The initial grants were very large, averaging 42 acres each. These large lots extended for several miles from what is now the green, south to the vicinity of Waterman Road, northwest to the vicinity of Mack Road, and north to Village Hill along Route 289. Village Hill is referred to in early deeds and records as "the Village."

Lebanon was not settled as a nucleated village. The nuclear village of small lots in a village center with large outlying lots was the first phase of colonial settlement but that practice was not followed after about 1685. The mile-long green that remains today is only a part of the "great broad street" along which many of the lots were distributed.

The settlers in the Square were primarily from towns in the Norwich area and from a number of Massachusetts towns, including a large group from the Northampton area. Many of the families were closely related to each other, either through marriage or direct kinship. The first ten allotments were granted to a group of these Massachusetts men, who assigned these lots on their own. How they came to acquire these ten allotments has yet to be discovered.

Almost a third of the 51 proprietors who were granted land in the Five Mile Square did not settle in Lebanon. They either gave their allotments to relatives or sold them to other buyers. Only one of the four original proprietors, John Birchard, Sr., actually settled in Lebanon. Another, Benjamin Brewster, received two allotments, which he transferred to his sons Benjamin, Junior, and William in 1701. Both sons were already living in the Square and may have been the first to settle here. Benjamin was in Lebanon when the birth of his eldest son was recorded in 1697.

While the majority of the original proprietors did settle in Lebanon, a few of these resident proprietors moved away within a few years and sold their land to other people.

Land Titles Contested

Many of the land titles in eastern Connecticut were clouded because of conflicting claims over the purchases and grants of land from the Indians to settlers, particularly the sales and grants made by Oweneco and his nephew, Abimelech. Individual grants by Oweneco and Abimelech overlapped in the area of Lebanon. For a number of years, their continuing disputes over this territory raised serious questions about the legitimacy of the deeds and conveyances made by the proprietors.

Furthermore, the General Assembly did not favor large grants and sales to land speculators and preferred to have actual settlers own the land. Therefore, the four original owners Mason, Stanton, Brewster and Birchard formally conveyed the Five Mile Purchase to 51 proprietors, including themselves, on January 4, 1699/1700. The disputes between Oweneco and Abimelech, however, continued to cloud the land titles in the Square.

In May 1705, responding to complaints by the Five Mile Purchase inhabitants and proprietors, the General Assembly finally confirmed Oweneco's 1692 sale of the Five Mile Purchase to Samuel Mason, Benjamin Brewster, John Stanton, John Birchard, their heirs and assigns, and the subsequent conveyances made to the other named proprietors and their heirs and assigns. This action validated any transfers of land the initial proprietary group had made over the years.

The proprietors also had rights to a proportion of all the undivided or commonly-held land remaining in the Five Mile Purchase. There are deeds recording only the sale of these rights as well as the deeds conveying these rights with the distribution of land parcels. The Lebanon proprietors seem to have retained an open proprietorship but only for about ten years after settlement. Newcomers could be admitted as proprietors, entitling them to share in land divisions, but by about 1708 the proprietorship appears to have been closed. Later divisions of the land in the Five Mile Square were made only to owners who held the rights to the undivided land.

Source: Alicia Wayland, *Remembering Lebanon, 1700-2000* (2000), 3-5.