

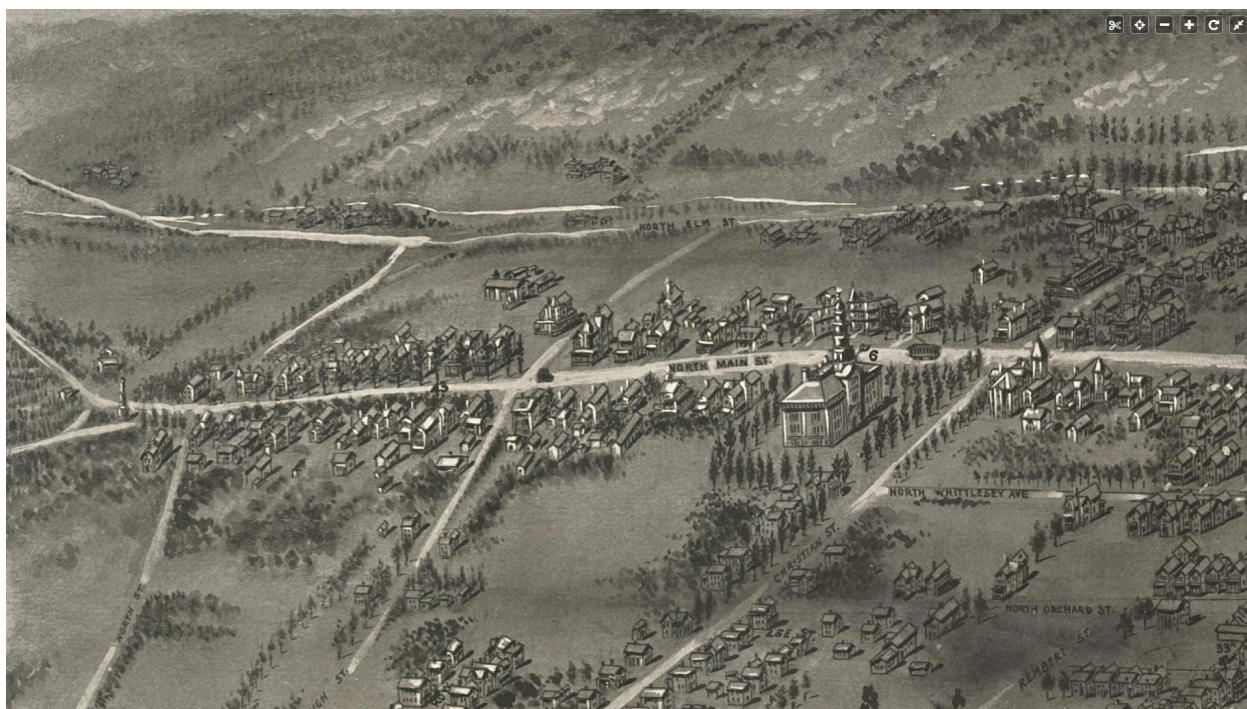
# The Royce Quarterly

Winter 2024

A Publication of the Royce Family Association (RFA)

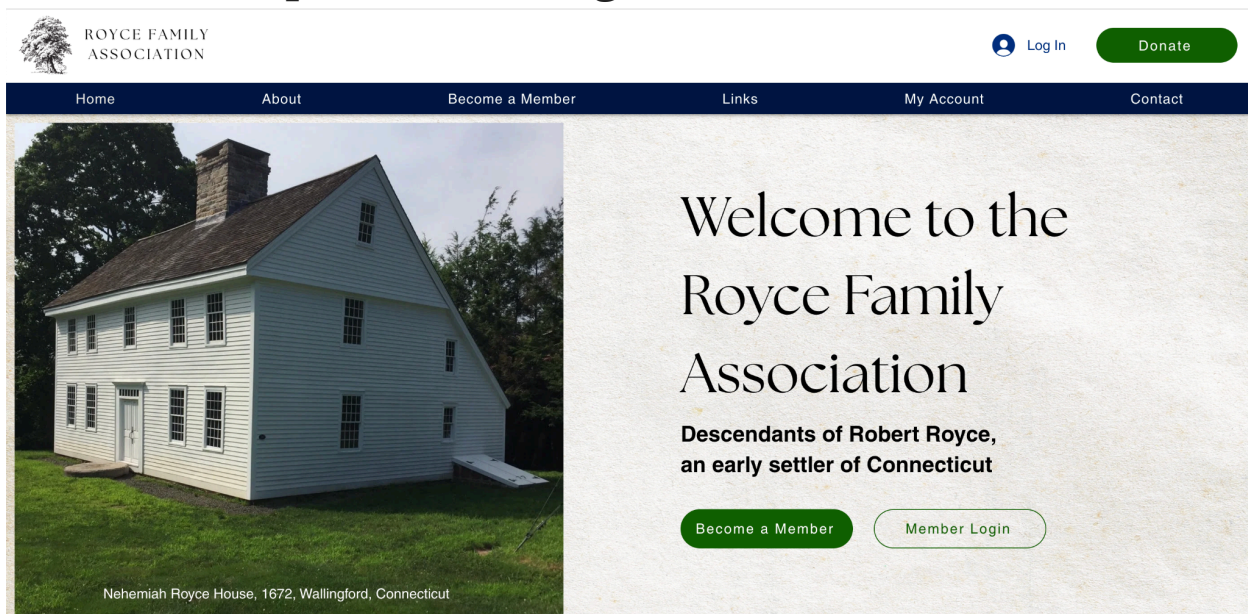
Volume 37 Number 1

**Co-Editor's Note:** The new year is upon us and the days ahead are opportune for exploring your Royce ancestry. While the weather is still cool, it is a good time to plan for a summer trip to explore your Royce roots or to travel down a rabbit hole on genealogical sites. I am always surprised by new information I discover about my Royce ancestors and enjoy the interesting twists and turns along the way. I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I enjoyed researching the founding of the town of Wallingford, Connecticut and the lives of our Royce ancestors.



Wallingford Connecticut: map created in 1904 and published in 1905 Library of Congress. The Nehemiah Royce House was (now relocated across the street) located in the upper left to the right of the arrow. The road running left to right is North Main St. and the first cross street on the left is North Street.

## In Case You Missed it: The Royce Family Association Website is Up and Running@ [roycefamillyassociation.org](http://roycefamillyassociation.org).



The Board engaged Sara Johnson of SMJ Design to develop a website for The Royce Family Association. Lori DiDonato (interim president of the association) has been working with Sara and RFA member emails have been entered. Members should have received an email with an invitation to join the website. Once at the website, set up a username and password in order to access the members-only area through the “my account” tab. The website has an on-line payment system that should be up and running soon for initial and ongoing dues payments. The next step will be to enhance our site’s visibility to online genealogical researchers through Search Engine Optimization. Please bear with us as we work out the kinks and feel free to reach out to one of us if you have problems with the site. Lori DiDonato: [ldido1016@aol.com](mailto:ldido1016@aol.com), Diana Royce Smith: [diana1319smith@comcast.net](mailto:diana1319smith@comcast.net), Kate Renner: [K8renmayo@gmail.com](mailto:K8renmayo@gmail.com)).

### Purpose of the RFA

The purpose of the RFA is to collect, maintain, and distribute genealogical and historical data pertaining to the early Royce/Royse settlers of England and New England, and their descendants, to preserve and display artifacts of the early descendants, and such other activities in recognition of the early settlers as may be determined by the Board of Directors not inconsistent with the articles of incorporation. The Association membership is open to all descendants of Robert Royce, who arrived in North America before 1648 and eventually settled in New

London Connecticut, and anyone who is researching any of the variations of the Royce name, including but not limited to, Royse, Roice, Roys, Rice, Ryse, and Ries.

## **The Future of the Royce Family Association**

The RFA Newsletter is now being emailed to all members who can receive emails. Paper copy editions will continue to be mailed to members who cannot receive it by email and any member who lets us know they would prefer a mailed paper version. If you have not already done so, please indicate your preference on your renewal form or by email to Diana Royce Smith at [diana1319smith@comcast.net](mailto:diana1319smith@comcast.net). You can also send Diana a note addressed to 1930 Oak Avenue Boulder, CO 80304.

The Royce Family Association board of directors voluntarily stepped forward in 2022 to keep the RFA alive and well and moving forward into the future. The board will serve until there is interest among the membership to hold elections.

### **Current Board**

**President:** Lori DiDonato

**Secretary and Newsletter Advisor:** Kate Renner

**Newsletter Co-editor:** Anne McGreevy

**Lou Rice:** Board Member at Large

**Treasurer:** Diana Royce Smith

**Vice President:** Cynthia Royce

**Newsletter Advisor:** Richard Rice

**Ed Royce:** Board Member at Large

## **The Royce Family Association is Now on Facebook!**

A Facebook group called Royce Family Association (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1127883208081516>) was formed to initiate a presence on social media. If you are on Facebook and interested in joining the private group, input the name into the Facebook search bar, upper left side, answer a few questions, and you should be admitted. If that does not work, please email Kate Renner at [k8renmayo@gmail.com](mailto:k8renmayo@gmail.com). The board hopes that we can attract and retain members going forward. Please share the news of our revitalization with your Royce/Rice cousins. As you connect with DNA matches on Ancestry or other sites, please mention our association and encourage them to join via email to Diana Royce Smith ([diana1319smith@comcast.net](mailto:diana1319smith@comcast.net)).

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# A Bit of Wallingford History

by Anne McGreevy

## New Beginnings

The following summary of the founding of the town of Wallingford contains excerpts from "History of Wallingford, Connecticut from its Settlement in 1670 Until Present Time", researched and written by Charles Henry Stanley Davis M.D. and published in 1870. This history is housed at the Library of Congress and can be downloaded @:

[oc.gov/item/rc01003313/](https://oc.gov/item/rc01003313/)



### Author Biography:

Dr. Davis was born in 1840 in Goshen, Connecticut to parents Timothy Fisher Davis (1810–1870), and Moriva Hatch (1811–1907). He moved to Meriden, Connecticut in 1850 with his parents and that is where he received his early education. Dr. Davis followed in his father's footsteps and became a physician. In 1864 he enrolled at the University of Maryland to study medicine and graduated as Doctor of Medicine from New York University in 1866. He then took a course at the medical department of the University of Baltimore and another course at Harvard Medical School. Interesting fact: Dr. Davis also wrote at least two other books. One on the philosophy of stoicism and the second, a beginners guide to the modern Irish language. Both are available on Amazon.com

The author of History of Wallingford, Connecticut from its Settlement in 1670 Until Present Time (1870)"

## The following is an excerpt from Dr. Davis' introduction to his book:

Dr. Davis explains the following in the introduction in his book: "In 1858 I commenced gathering materials for this work, by looking over old files of deeds and papers, searching family, church, town and probate records, the State archives, and interviewing the oldest inhabitants, until I had accumulated a large quantity of interesting information of a local nature. In 1867 I returned to Meriden (once part of Wallingford) after an absence of seven years; and the time that could be devoted



from my other duties was given to the collecting of genealogical records, and the completion of the history. While thus engaged in 1869, I received a letter from Mr. Elihu Yale of New Haven, in which he informed me that he had been engaged for nearly fifteen years in compiling genealogies of the Wallingford families. We met and compared notes, and the result was that I placed my genealogical records in his hands for completion. To these records I have made a few alterations and additions, bringing a few families down to the present generation, and adding notes, principally from Durrie, showing where further information can be obtained of each family. It is not possible that a work of this description, containing such a mass of facts and abounding in names and dates, should be free from error.”

According to Dr. Davis’ book, on October 10, 1667 a General Assembly was held in Hartford, Connecticut at which the town of New Haven was granted the freedom to build a village on the east River (Quinnipiac River). It was stipulated that the proposed village had to be settled within four years.

At the Hartford general assembly held in 1667 the following resolution was passed:

“Upon the motion of the deputies of New Haven, this Court grants the towne of New Haven liberty to make a village on the east River, if they see it capable for such a thing, provided they settle a village there within fower years from May next.”

The ownership of or title to lands of Wallingford were derived from several sources: purchase from the Native Americans, the patent of Connecticut under the great seal of England, grants made by the Colonial Legislature to individuals, and from the patent of Wallingford under the seal of the Colony, which gave the proprietors of Wallingford the power to make allotments of land to individuals.

The purchase of the land of Wallingford from the Native Americans was made with: 12 coats of English cloth, 12 alchemy spoons, 12 hatchets, 12 hoes, two-dozen knives, 12 porringers, and 4 cases of French Knives and scissors. Other tracts were purchased and sometimes purchased multiple times from different Native American tribes. The land north and adjacent to Wallingford remained in possession of Native Americans.

Dr. Davis explains in a footnote in Chapter 3:

“It is evident that as early as 1667, some of the inhabitants of New Haven had become acquainted with the country in and about Wallingford, and no doubt settlements by some adventurers had been made within the bounds of the town; but it was not until 1669, that the people of New Haven took hold of the matter. It appears that Abraham Doolittle and John Peck were on the ground in 1668, and John Moss and John Brockett in the autumn of 1669, which fact was undoubtedly

the cause of their being selected as a committee to superintend and manage the affairs of the new village; but it was not until the month of April, 1670, that the first permanent settlement at Wallingford was made.”

The idea of creating a new settlement was conceived in 1669 by the Colony of Connecticut located in New Haven, but was postponed until 1670 due to the difficulty in traveling, clearing land, and developing a settlement in wild, undeveloped territory. By 1670 Hartford and New Haven had been settled for 35 years and the population of Connecticut at this time was estimated at 10,000. There were many barriers in creating a new community including disease, lack of food, and the manpower needed to clear land for cultivation. Roads and houses would need to be built. Three years later, in 1670, the boundaries of the town were established.

On May 12th, 1670, the State granted to the towne of Wallingford:

“This Court haveing been moved to state the bownds of the New Village that is settled upon the playne as you goe to New Haven, doe grant that their bownds shall com from the Brook at the south end of the great playne, to the northward tenn miles, and from the said [Brook] sowthward to Brandford bownds, and on each side the river five miles, that is five miles on the east side and five miles on the west side the River, provided that the sayd village be carryed on and made a plantation without any relation or subordination to any other towne, and provided the bownds hereby granted to the sayd village doe not prejudice any bownds formerly granted to any plantation or perticuler person, or doe not extend to the north any further than wh[ere] the old road to New Haven goeth over Pilgrimes Harbour.”

In the image below North Main Street is running from left to right. In actuality it runs from North to South with the Nehemiah Royce house at the far left of North Main Street. Notice the compass below which is turned 90 degrees to the left to coincide with the orientation of the map.



North Main Street running from left to right. Published in 1905.



Different view of North Main Street looking from north in the lower left corner to south at the upper right. Published in 1905.

According to Dr. Davis, the following men were the original proprietors of Wallingford:



Samuel Street, Edward Peck, Samuel Whittlesey, John Parker, Sen., Thomas Yale, Joshua Culver, John Moss, John Hitchcock, John Brockett, Roger Tyler, Nathaniel Merriman, Samuel Cook, Samuel Thorp, Henry Cook, Jeremiah How, Daniel Mix, Isaac Curtis, Samuel 'Brockett, John Atwater, Mercy Moss, John Hall, Eliasaph Preston, Jehiel Preston, John Merriman, John Beach, Samuel Munson, Joseph Thompson, Benjamin Holt, John Peck, John Lathrop, Thomas Curtis, Nathaniel Royce, Doctor Hall, Abraham David Hall, John Austen, Zachariah How, Nathaniel How, Joseph Benham, Sen., Robert Roice, William Ebenatha, Ebenezer Clark, Samuel Hough, Joseph Benham, Jun., John Doolittle, Joseph Andrus, Thomas Beach, Doolittle.'

For those RFA members who have not been able to travel to Wallingford, it is located approximately 14 miles northeast of New Haven and in today's modern world 20 minutes by car. In 1670, 14 miles walking or on a horse through thick vegetation, was a much more arduous journey.

When I first started researching my Royce ancestors, with little information at hand, I imagined that my ancestors were independently forging through uncharted territory and had arrived in the Wallingford area by happenstance or perhaps had expanded outward from their current home looking for a suitable place to plant roots. Perhaps a few Royce ancestors did settle in the Wallingford area in this manner, but I have not found evidence to support this idea. After reading Dr. Davis' account, I was surprised to discover that Wallingford was a planned village and newcomers were either selected or had to apply to live in Wallingford and were accepted only after agreeing to abide by certain criteria.

Dr. Davis' research, which was written over 150 years ago, explains that in the year 1669 a committee of two people was appointed to lay out the boundaries of the new village. A committee was then appointed to manage the affairs of the town. This committee held the land in trust and acted as trustees of all the affairs of the town, including church affairs, until they resigned their trust in 1782. In addition, all of the incoming planters were obligated to adhere to the following:

"He or they shall not by any means disturb the church when settled there, in the choice of minister or ministers, or other church officers, or in any of their other church rights, liberties or administrations, nor shall withdraw due maintenance from such ministry."

According to Dr. Davis, the puritans came to Wallingford to find asylum for religious liberty that they had grappled with in England. Some of the planters came from New Haven and some from other adjoining settlements. In following years

some planters came from Boston and England. The committee received applications from prospective planters and chose those that they felt were “most qualified for the work”. A written agreement of rules and conditions was created on which the planters had to agree to and sign.

The following is the covenant or original agreement of the first planters at Wallingford : y<sup>e</sup> = the and y<sup>t</sup> = that and y<sup>m</sup> = them

"We whose names are underwritten, being accepted by the Committee of New Haven, for y<sup>e</sup> intended Village as planters, and desiring that the worship and ordinances of God may in due time, be set up, and encouraged among us, as the main concernment of a christian people, doe sincerely and in the fear of God, promise and engage ourselves that we shall not neither directly nor indirectly, do anything to hinder or obstruct any good means that shall be used by the said committee, or others intrusted by them, to promote the premises, by securing a Godly and able ministry among us to dispense to us the word of God, and when such ministry, or a Church of Christ shall be settled among us, we engage by no means to disturb the same in their choice of a minister or ministers or other ch'h officers, or in, any other of their ch'h rights, liberties, or administrations, nor shall refuse or withdraw due maintenance from such, minister or ministry, and farther we doe engage ourselves peaceably to submit to such settlement, and Civil order as the said committee shall direct among us either by themselves, or some others as a committee by them appointed, upon the place, untill the said village come to be an orderly establishment within itself, and lastly we doe engage personally to settle upon the place, by May next, come twelve month, if God's providence inevitably hinder not, and to observe and perform all and every the other articles agreed upon." Signed by: Samuel Street, John Mosse, John Brockett, Nath'l. Merriman, Jero How, Zac'h How, Abraham Dowlittle, Daniel Hogge, John Milles, William Johnsok, Thomas Hall, Nath'l How, Benjamin Lewis, Thomas Curtis, Thomas Yale, ... Sam'l Whitehead, John Beech, John Ives, Eliasaph Preston, Jehiel Preston, John Hall, Eliazer Holt, Samuel Hall, Joseph Ives, Samuel Andrews, Eleazar Peck, Joseph Benham, Daniel Sherman, Samuel Potter, Simon Tuttell, Samuell Munson, John Peck, Samuel Browne, John Harriman, Frances Heaton, Sam'll Cook, Samuel Milles, Nathan Andrews.

Note that there is not a Royce or Rice in the first signed agreement. The committee then selected a site for the village and allotted each planter a few acres. The settlement was built at the south end of the present day (1870) Main Street. Next the cross streets were laid out. And it is mentioned that Main Street was continued to the “old Rice place”. I wonder does this mean that the Rice home was in existence before the town was actually laid out or was there a prior Rice abode? House lots were 6 acres each and the streets 6 rods wide or just over 5 meters or 16.5 feet.

It was stipulated that the planters had to dwell upon the land for 3 years after which they could leave or sell, but only to someone of whom the town approved. No money or consideration was paid for the original 6 acres and the land had no value until it was cleared and planted. The planters had propriety (word used in original text) in the trees and highway that are within three rods of his lot of land. As families grew larger, additional land allotments were made by town vote. Planters were required to be members of an approved Church of New England, could not be single unless in an allowed relation or approved Family licensed by the court or Magistrate. The head of each family was required to: "Duly observe the course, carriage, and behaviour, of every such single person, whether he, or she, walk dilligently in a constant lawful imployment."

The following was recorded regarding the Rise/Royce family ancestors:

"12th Feb. 1671. Agreed by y<sup>e</sup> Comitee for y<sup>e</sup> Towne of Wallingford that Isack Rise, and Nehimiah Rise, shall have lotts granted y<sup>m</sup> provided they procure sufficient testamony of theyr good conversation in the place whear they formerly lived. None shall come to dwell as planters in this towne with out there concent and allowence, whether they come in by purchase or otherwise."

Isack (b.1643, d. 1681) and Nehemiah (b.1636, d.17) were the sons of Robert Royce and Mary.

## **The First Houses**

According to Davis, the first houses were constructed of logs or with the ground, such as a sod house. "If the soil was wet or the home was built for a person of taste and substance, split logs might have been used for a floor. The homes were good and substantial dwellings, at least eighteen feet in length, and sixteen feet wide, and nine foot between joynts, with a good chimly, of stone and clay mortar. Over time framed came into use. The frames were made of heavy oak timbers, some of them eighteen inches in diameter. The rafters were larger than the plates, sills and beams of our modern country houses (referring to 1870 when the book was published), and supported split sticks called in the rude architectural language of the day, "ribs," that were laid across them at regular distances, and to which long rent shingles of cedar were fastened with tough wrought nails. The sides of the building were covered with oak clapboards rent from the tree and smoothed with a shaving-knife. Houses were palisaded in the following manner : a deep ditch was dug around the house; logs were then placed perpendicularly in the ditch all around it, leaving a space only for a gate. The logs were sharpened only at the top, placed close together, and extended eight, ten or twelve feet above the ground. The earth was



then returned and beaten around the logs, till they stood firmly. This with a gate well secured, was a pretty good defence against a sudden attack.”



Cross beams inside the Nehemiah Royce Home

### **Building of the Grist Mill**

The first settlers of Wallingford soon came to realize the necessity of a grist mill for grinding their corn. Therefore, they soon began planning the building of a grist mill at Wharton's Brook, which was located just south of the residence of the late Joseph Doolittle. On January 30th, 1673, at a town meeting, it was "ordered that Lieut. Fowler be invited to come and confer with the townsmen about building a mill as he had proposed, so that the town might exactly know what his proposition was, that it might be reported to the town, and action taken accordingly." The town dealt with several years of grist mill turmoil due to needed repairs, damage from flooding and eventually moving the mill from its original location.

John Lothrop appointed Nathaniel Royce to assign men to work at the mill according to their proportion of cultivated land until the \$30 pound cost of the mill was paid off. However, Nathaniel had trouble getting men to work at the mill. Therefore, on April 5, 1674, townsmen John Hall Jr., Nathaniel Royce, Benjamin Lewis and Nathan Andrews, were assigned to oversee the operation of the mill and to make sure that the corn was ground. After the mill was completed, it was ordered at a town meeting on December 12, 1674, that the settlers were to bring their corn to the mill to be ground on Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week. By 1681 the town voted to give grinding control to a miller.

A town meeting was called on the third day of July, 1674, and a rate of sixteen shillings on the smallest lots, and twenty-four shillings on the middle lots, and thirty-two shillings on the largest lots, was assessed and ordered to be paid in the following manner: One-half of a third part in wheat and peas in equal proportion, and the remainder in Indian or other corn; the wheat, if winter wheat, at five shillings per bushel; summer wheat at five shillings eight pence; peas at four shillings, and corn at three shillings and sixpence, to defray the expense of the mill,

and in carrying on the work at and about to help in the building of Mr. Street's, who was the church minister. "The great difficulty of procuring help to accomplish the work about the mill, induced the town at a meeting held August 26, 1674, to order and direct the committee to call out the inhabitants of the town to work at the mill. The committee found some difficulty in carrying out the above order; therefore on the twentieth day of October, 1674, a further committee was appointed, consisting of Samuel Andrews, Thomas Curtis and Thomas Hall, to assist the former committee in prosecuting the work; and if on call any should refuse to work at the mill, they should pay a fine of five shillings. As this vote was the last one passed by the town on the subject, it is supposed that the committee found no further difficulty in finishing the work about the mill."

In order to get to the mill from the farms, the settlers had to cross the river by canoe, which was an inconvenient undertaking. By December 17, 1694, the settlers decided to build a bridge across the river so they could get there by horseback.

January 31, 1695, it was decided by a vote that the making of the bridge over Wharton's brook, shall be paid by the town. December 24, voted that Samuel Andrews, Samuel Munson, Nathaniel Roice, Thomas Curtis, and Benjamin Lewis be a committee to view the place and decide where a bridge could be most conveniently built over the river. On January 22, 1695, a tax of one-half penny was levied to pay for the expense of the bridge. It is thought that the bridge was east of Parker's factory and on the old road leading to Wallingford.

Several millers later, the mill ended up in the control of William Tyler in 1707. The mill would reside on the Tyler family property for nearly 100 years. When Samuel Tyler passed away, he left the property to one of his daughters. Eventually it was sold by her guardian, Nehemiah Rice, to the late Charles Yale. Yale made extensive repairs and modifications to the mill as well as changed the name of Tyler's mills to Yalesville.



As a side note, here is some interesting information on food costs from 1673-1770. In 1673 corn was 3s (shillings) per bushel. In 1674 winter wheat was 5s. (shillings), 6d. (pennies); summer wheat was 5s.; peas 4s; corn 3s. In 1679 winter wheat 5s.; summer wheat 4s. 6d.; peas 3s. 6d ; corn 2s. 6d.; pork 3 1-2d. per. lb.; beef 2d. In 17 10

wheat 5s.; rye 3s. 6d.; corn 2s. 6d. In 1755 wheat 4s.; rye 2s. 6d.; corn 2s. In 1770 wheat 6s. 8d.; rye 4s. 6d.; corn 3s. 6d.; oats 2s. 2d; pork 3 1-2d. per lb.; beef 3d.; butter 1s.; cheese 7d.

What this equates to in today's prices is difficult to determine. Though at first glance it looks like prices did not fluctuate very much over a 100 year period.

## **Additional Land Allotments**

In 1679 Dr. Davis also notes that, "The town granted to Nathaniel Royce, David Hall, Thomas Hall, Daniel Mix, Joseph Holt, each 3 acres lying on the east side of the meadow called dog's misery, by the southward branch of Pilgrim's harbor, that being the name of the whole stream from its mouth-up to the pond whence it flows." At the next town meeting, Nov., 1679, "granted to Neh. Royce, Isaac Curtiss, each 3 acres, and Nathaniel How, and Isaac Royce, each 2 acres, and all at dog's misery." At still another meeting, 1679, there was another grant of swamp, meadow and upland, "about dog's misery," to Yale, Curtiss, Royce and others. In 1685, granted to Walter Jonson 20 acres, "on long hill toward dog's misery." In 1683, "granted to Daniel Hooper 12 acres at dog's misery." In 1700, the daughter of Nathaniel Royce, had "three and a half acres, at dog's misery," as her portion.

Four sons of Robert Royce relocated and settled in Wallingford. Nehemiah (b. 1637, d. 1706), Isaac (b. 1643, d. 1681), Samuel (b. 1644, d. 1711), and Nathaniel (b. 1647, d. 1746). Nehemiah was Christened in Stamford, England on May 30, 1637, while the younger three boys were born in Stratford, Connecticut. By 1657 the family was living in New London Connecticut. In 1663 the town of New London granted Robert Royce two lots for his sons Samuel and Isaac to settle on. All four died in Wallingford.

In 1677, in a town meeting, it was voted to "reserve a certain watering place for the use of cattle and neighbors adjacent, the watering place being near the property of Nathaniel Royce. After some years Mr. Royce claimed the land and watering place as his property. A committee were appointed to determine whether the land and watering place belonged to the town or to Ensign Royce. Nothing further was heard of this question until March 16, 1696, when the following petition was brought before the town:

Wallingford, March 16, 1696. We whose names are underwritten being in some mesuresencable of y<sup>e</sup> mezery of Contention & y<sup>t</sup> there is too much of it in our Town & one part of it is about doggs mezery which may hazard Charg to y<sup>e</sup> Town if not timely prevented allso y<sup>e</sup> watering-place so Called between Capt. yaile & Enn Royss has been A great part of our strife for A great while which for y<sup>e</sup> preventing of both



treble and Charg upon y<sup>t</sup> account or at least. to secure ourselves therefore declare as followeth y<sup>t</sup> for our parts wee enter our descents against any Charg at law about doggs mezery, as for y<sup>e</sup> watering place so Called we are sattisfied y<sup>t</sup> Ens Roys Enjoy y<sup>e</sup> land y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Town has granted him & doe hereby declare our desent from any voat to y<sup>e</sup> Contrary or any vote y<sup>t</sup> may hereafter be gained by y<sup>e</sup> Town or any parties for suing out y<sup>e</sup> Towns or any perticular mans Rights declareing to y<sup>e</sup> world y<sup>t</sup> we will be at no Charge for time to Come about doggs mezery nor y<sup>e</sup> watering place & y<sup>t</sup> such y<sup>t</sup> Cannot find no other way to raise their own spirits but to spend their Estates shall spend of their own Estates & not of ours.”

Enn or Ensign Royce is referring to Nathaniel Royce by his military title.

“On the 28th of April, 1696, the following was presented to the town:  
‘Whereas it has been often moved to y<sup>e</sup> town that Ensign Royce might have y<sup>e</sup> Watering place, at y<sup>e</sup> lower end of his home lot, or pasture, but hitherto has been opposed, y<sup>e</sup> town do now sequester said watering place to lye open to the common highway for ever, never to be desposed of any other way unless every inhabitant of y<sup>e</sup> town do subscribe to the contrary, y<sup>e</sup> which we understand be y<sup>e</sup> true intent of y<sup>e</sup> selectmen when they received it and y<sup>e</sup> mind of y<sup>e</sup> town, received it for the use of cattle and good of y<sup>e</sup> neighbors adjacent against y<sup>e</sup> above said Watering place Should lye open for the above said use forever as may appear by their act in y<sup>e</sup> town book April 24, 1677. The town do by their vote order and appoynt Eleazer Peck surveyor with one or too of y<sup>e</sup> Townsmen to lay out said land and Watering place and cause a Record made of it in y<sup>e</sup> Leger Book, of y<sup>e</sup> bounds of it and Capt. Yale, or Ens. Royce pay the cost out of it. They also voted that if the said Royce still neglects or detains record restitution of said Watering place y<sup>e</sup> which y<sup>e</sup> said Roice solemnly promised to do, in y<sup>e</sup> Leger Book of Wallingford, then the town do here by appoint Capt. Yale to be our attorney, and Lawful Trustee to sue said Royce, at law for our right, to receive estimation of y<sup>e</sup> same.’

Lieutenant Samuel Hall and William Ebenatha dissented from the above vote. Thus after a long contest Mr. Royce was compelled to surrender to the town all right to the watering place.

In the year 1677, “there was a grant of land to Nehemiah Royce and Samuel Royce, of some land ‘at the head of the plains,’ which is another phrase by which Hanover was then designated. A very natural phrase at that point; the stretch of level land which extends from New Haven, through North Haven and Wallingford, terminates. In 1680 a grant was made ‘to Sam’l Hough, to settle on the head of the plain near to Nehemiah Royces.’ In 1689 this ‘head of the plain,’ or ‘falls plain,’ was considered so beautiful a spot, that it was regularly laid out for a village. The main street was to be eighty rods long, and on each side of it were staked out building lots; the western

lots extending to the hill, and the eastern ones to the river. These lots were assigned by raffle, each planter in the town of Wallingford being allowed to draw one lot. The main street of this contemplated village must have been nearly if not quite coincident with the street now in existence, running north and south. The street however, as then laid out, was continued northward to the river.”

MORE TO FOLLOW IN THE SPRING RFA NEWSLETTER .....

**Who will take on the next Member Challenge?** It would be interesting to hear how some of our members first became curious about their genealogy. Maybe the first ancestor that you researched was not a Royce but led you to the Royce line. Did you first learn about your ancestry from an older relative? Did that person have a treasure trove of paperwork? Did you have to figure it out on your own?

### **Share Your Genealogical Research on the Royce/Rice Family**

The Royce Family Association is always accepting members' research on Royce/Rice ancestors. Perhaps you have interesting information about a Royce/Rice line that you would like to share in article form. Pre-internet adventures in court houses and graveyards? Email Anne or Kate with the story of your research ([amcgreevy16@gmail.com](mailto:amcgreevy16@gmail.com) or [k8renmayo@gmail.com](mailto:k8renmayo@gmail.com) ).

Dues are \$15/year. If paying by check, make checks out to: The Royce Family Association, and mail to:

**The Royce Family Association**  
**1930 Oak Ave.**



**Boulder, CO 80304-1319**

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<b>Inquiries can be made to Diana Royce Smith at 303.618.7762 or diana1319smith@comcast.net</b>
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**Name**

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**Snail-mail address**

**E-mail address (optional but recommended)**

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**Phone number (optional but recommended)**

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**Your connection to our ancestor Robert Royce (if known, optional)**

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