"A Flourishing College Will...Build Up a Town:"
The Twelve Local Trustees of Wesleyan University,
1830 - 1840

Betsy H. Potts

Social Studies 637
Wesleyan University

December 16, 1986
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The Twelve Local Trustees of Wesleyan University,
1830 - 1840

Sociology 637
Society and Culture in the Valley of the Great River, 1635-1870
Peter Hall

Betsy H. Potts
December 16, 1986
The year was 1829. While Middletown boasted more shipping than any Connecticut River town, it was no longer, and never would be, the major port that it was before the turn of the 19th century. Although the city could not compete with the more rapidly growing towns of New Haven and Hartford, Middletown could still make an effort at revitalization.

The 1820s saw local leadership actively involved in rejuvenating Middletown. Workingmen's societies were founded to politically educate local citizens. A new Methodist Meeting House was erected. While he was out of the country for several years, wealthy China merchant Samuel Russell directed the building of a Greek Revival structure on a grand scale as his permanent residence, an indication of his optimism about Middletown. A mansion house was built as an elegant hotel for visitors and a meeting place for local leaders. Although machine shops and various factories produced goods and provided local employment, future trustee Samuel D. Hubbard may have felt that Middletown would benefit from an improvement in its appearance. The block of brick buildings known as the "Exchange Building," which Hubbard built, was described in a July 4, 1827 Sentinel editorial as adding to the business appearance of Main Street.

Like other communities of the period, one positive and practical way for the city to invest in its future was to found an institution for higher education. As was the case in Middlebury, Vermont, Middletown's leaders may have felt a college would enhance the town's "reputation, aid its growth, and educate its sons." The time was right for a college. Resources were readily available. By the mid 1820s, local subscriptions totalling nearly $38,000 had been raised by individuals who hoped

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to locate Washington College (now Trinity) in the town. When Hartford was chosen as the site location for Washington College, the Middletown pledges were no longer committed; yet, hope for a future educational institution was very much alive. Valuable acreage and two new buildings which had housed Partridge's Academy were offered to the Methodist conferences on condition that the entire property be "perpetually used for a college or university" and that $40,000 first be raised as the endowment. Middletown's local leaders were the town's best college boosters. They could understand that a successful educational institution on the hill above Main Street would help to bring prestige to their city and to stimulate its economy. Some of these men with a vested interest in Middletown's prosperity became Wesleyan's first trustees. They were a part of the "intricate alliance forged between college promoters and a particular town or country."

A closer look at these citizen boosters who played a critical role in Wesleyan's first years finds that they were twelve men who were either members of the board when the university was chartered or who joined the board later that same decade. Although they never comprised a majority of the Prudential Committee, many contributed liberally Wesleyan through subscriptions, served as trustee officers, and worked as committee member charged with responsibility to purchase real estate and improve the campus with plantings. (The Prudential

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⁴ Alumni Record of Wesleyan University (Third Ed.), 1881-3 (Hartford, 1883) xiv.

Committee acted as an executive committee, meeting periodically between the annual meetings of the Board.\(^6\)

The profiles of the local trustees (found in Appendix A) include biographical information, plus a sampling of their town and campus involvement in the years immediately preceding and following 1831. How many were born in or near Middletown? What percentage were college graduates? What was the nature of their civic leadership as reflected in the positions they held in the community? What were their professions? In addition to supporting Wesleyan University as trustees and board officers, how substantial were their subscription gifts? A sizeable amount would be one indication of the commitment on behalf of the early trustees to help the fledgling institution to fly. A healthy Wesleyan would presumably provide a stimulus to the local economy and would assure them a mark of status. Finally, how many local trustees of the newly chartered Methodist school, the first in the country, were Methodists?

While a profile on Heman Bangs is included, he does not fit neatly into either the category of local, or of nonlocal, trustee. For six of the ten years between 1830 and 1840, Bangs lived in New York, New Haven, or Hartford. During two of the four years that he listed Middletown as his home address, he rode the Derby Connecticut circuit.\(^7\)

Unlike Lafayette College, none of whose first trustees was born in Easton and only one of whom attended college, six of Wesleyan's early trustees were born in Middletown.\(^6\) Nearby Wallingford and Chester (then Saybrook) were the birthplaces of two others. These eight men, plus Barnes, Smith, and Stanley had

\(^6\) George M. Dutcher, "Wesleyan University: The First Years" (unpublished manuscript, Wesleyan University, 194-), III, appendix A, p. 1152.

\(^7\) Heman Bangs, Autobiography and Journal of Heman Bangs (New York, 1872), passim.
moved to the city by the mid 1820s or earlier. Jackson's place of residence is unclear. Beers says that Jackson moved to Middletown in 1827, yet he does not appear as a taxpayer on Middletown's 1835 Grand Levy. For all these men, an investment in Middletown's future was also a sound personal investment.

Wesleyan's early local trustees were lawyers, ministers, or merchants. The seven who were college educated entered the legal profession. Six graduated from Yale and one from St. Mary's, Baltimore (this was Ebenezer Jackson, who then studied law in Litchfield). Five men engaged in a variety of businesses. One, Elijah K. Hubbard, Jr., listed himself as both lawyer and merchant. Laban Clark was a minister.

By 1831, the year of Wesleyan's incorporation, the twelve trustee, who seemed to be established in their professions, ranged in age from their early thirties to their mid-fifties. A few weeks shy of fifty-six, George W. Stanley was the eldest; Samuel D. Hubbard was thirty-one and the youngest. Several would go on to achieve positions of county, state, and national prominence. Ebenezer Jackson would become a member of the 23rd Congress under the presidency of Andrew Jackson.† William L. Storrs was active in the Connecticut General Court and General Assembly (1827-29 and 1834. After teaching law at Wesleyan (1841-46) and Yale (1846-47), he continued in state government, and from 1856 until his death in 1862, Storrs was Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court of Errors.⁴ For many years Jonathan Barnes was the "acknowledged head of the bar in

† J. H. Beers, Complete Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut (Chicago, 1903), p. 158.

⁴ Alumni Record of Wesleyan University (Third Ed.) (Middletown, 1883), xxxi.
Middlesex County."\textsuperscript{11} Samuel D. Hubbard served for a short time as Postmaster General in the Fillmore administration.\textsuperscript{12}

Most of the local trustees assumed active leadership positions in college, church, and community. Four were officers of the Board of Trustees during Wesleyan's first decade, with two serving many years beyond. Laban Clark was President for 37 years (1831-1868). During Heman Bang's brief pastorate of the First Methodist Church of Middletown from 1827-1829, the new Meeting House cornerstone was laid (July 4, 1828), and the building completed less than seven months later.\textsuperscript{13} He was Secretary of Wesleyan's Board of Trustees (1833-38) and Treasurer, 1834-35.\textsuperscript{14} In addition to being tax assessor for Middletown's 1835 Grand Levy, John L. Smith was Treasurer of the Board from 1831-1834 and, after a one-year interlude, from 1835-1856.\textsuperscript{15} George W. Stanley was Connecticut's Attorney for Middlesex County for two years in the 1820s, and served for two years as Wesleyan's first Secretary of the Board.\textsuperscript{16} Before moving to Hartford in the 1840s, William L. Storrs was among the first incorporators and directors of the Middletown Savings Bank. Both Elijah K. and Samuel D. Hubbard were mayors of Middletown. Other trustees were also officers of banks, of insurance companies, and later of the Indian Hill Cemetery Association (see individual profiles).

As leaders of the young university, Wesleyan's local trustees were generous in their financial gifts. Six held Wesleyan subscriptions ranging from a $50 Middletown subscription

\textsuperscript{11} Franklin B. Dexter, Yale Biographies and Annals (New York, 1911), VI, p. 300.
\textsuperscript{12} J. H. Beers, p. 21.
\textsuperscript{13} Harrington, p. 9.
\textsuperscript{14} Alumni Record (Third ed.), xxii.
\textsuperscript{15} Alumni Record (Third ed.), xxii.
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid.
to a $500 scholarship in perpetuity; four of the six gifts were for at least $200.\textsuperscript{17} The significance of the scholarship in perpetuity which was set up by Samuel D. Hubbard was considerable, since an individual of the giver's choice could attend Wesleyan at no cost for his entire four years.

If the trustees were interested in making contributions and investments aimed at spurring the community's growth, what type were they? Predictably they were in buildings, churches, schools, and land. Although he was an Episcopalian, Samuel Russell contributed liberally toward "building the Roman Catholic Church" and "assisted all other denominations."\textsuperscript{18} Samuel D. Hubbard was instrumental in gathering adequate funds for the Mansion House which was constructed ca. 1827 on Main Street between Parsonage and Williams Streets (demolished in 1979). It soon became an elegant hotel, meeting place, and "the center of the town's public life."\textsuperscript{19} It was, in fact, within the walls of this building in the summer of 1829 that the Partridge Academy stockholders met to talk of the possibility of offering the Methodists the empty buildings and land.\textsuperscript{20} Two years after Wesleyan was incorporated, Isaac Webb purchased a large, newly-built residence opposite North and South Colleges and opened Bartlett's School for Young Ladies.\textsuperscript{21} The following year, Samuel Russell invested $100,000 in a manufacturing company. Each investment - in church, Mansion House, school, and business - was another means of return money, jobs, and pride to Middletown.

\textsuperscript{17} Wesleyan Archives

\textsuperscript{18} J. B. Beers, History of Middlesex County (New York, 1903), p. 16.


\textsuperscript{20} Harrington, p. 60.

\textsuperscript{21} Harrington, p. 67.
Harrington says that one reason for the "lively activity in real estate" prior to 1830 was the anticipation that an educational institution calculated to bring an additional $75,000 annually to the community was being considered. A study of the General Indices between 1808 and 1832 reveals that, with the exception of Reverend Laban Clark, who owned a single piece of property, and perhaps three other trustees who held more modest investments of three, five, and six properties, eight invested heavily in land. Elijah K. and Samuel D. Hubbard, William J. Trench, and George W. Stanley were the four most active land speculators. They are listed as grantees 99, 42, 35, and 23 times respectively. Since three were born in Middletown, and Stanley in Wallingford, all had a head start in real estate.

Although Wesleyan was the first Methodist institution of higher education in the country to open its doors, the majority of the twelve local trustees who provided both leadership and financial resources had no Methodist ties. A perusal of church records and biographical data show that only Laban Clark and Scottish-born John L. Smith were Methodist. Since William J. Trench was appointed visitor by the New York Conference prior to becoming a trustee, he, too, was probably a Methodist. Church records for Trench could not be located, even at the Connecticut State Library, and may have been lost in the June, 1885 fire which consumed the building of the First Methodist Church in Middletown. Barnes, Stanley, Webb, and Samuel D. Hubbard were Congregationalists, and the remaining five were Episcopalian. This latter group may have originally supported Washington

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22 Harrington, p. 17.

23 Middletown Land Records (Middletown, 1808-1832), V & VI, passim.

24 Wesleyan University Catalogue, 1832-33.

25 The First Methodist Church Celebrates the 175 Anniversary of the Founding of The Methodist Society in Middletown, 1791-1966.
College's location in Middletown. Once the college was established in Hartford, however, a second Episcopal school within twenty miles was out of the question.

In conclusion, my research shows that the enterprising local trustees were pragmatic men, and that a majority of them were non-Methodists. What their town needed was a college. Affiliation to a specific religious denomination was secondary to the promotion of Middletown as a city of importance in the state.

In his lengthy appeal to the State Legislature in 1839, President Willbur Fisk described a prospering Middletown six years after Wesleyan's founding, "In fact, a flourishing College will of itself, build up a town. If any one doubt this, let him look at Middletown and mark its progress for the last six years, compared with the six preceding years."²⁶ It could not be doubted that the growing university was one contributing factor.²⁷


²⁷ Wesleyan University Catalogues, 1831-39, show a steady growth in student enrollment. A slight dip in the 1839-40 academic year may reflect the panic of 1837.
Bibliography

Materials designated Wes are located in the Wesleyan University Archives, unless otherwise noted. Those designated State Library are located at the Connecticut State Library; those designated Preservation Trust are located at The Greater Middletown Preservation Trust; those designated Historical Society are located at the Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown.


Bailey Map (1877), revised edition, Preservation Trust.


Barnum Map (Middletown: 1825)


Charter of Incorporation (Middletown: Charles H. Felton, 1859). Page 3 lists the original incorporators, Wes.

Christian Advocate, Aug. 13, 1830, p. 199, col 2, meeting at which seven members of the board of trustees are elected, Wes.

City Directory for Middletown and Meriden, 1868-69 (New York: Webb and Fitzgerald, 1869), first year of the directory's publication, Wes.

Clark Map (Philadelphia: 1851)

Complete Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut (Chicago: J. H. Beers Co., 1903), Wes.


Constitution, Dec. 9, 1846, p. 3. Part of a memorial for Elijah K. Hubbard, Wes. Microfilm Room.

Dutcher, George M., "Wesleyan University: The First Years" (unpublished manuscript, Wesleyan University, 194-), 3 vols., Wes.


Field, David D., "Centennial Address" (Middletown: William B. Casey, 1853), Historical Society.

First Methodist Church, Middletown, CT Celebrates One Hundred and Seventy-five Years of Methodism in Middletown, CT, 1791-1966, Wes.

Fisk, Willbur, "An Appeal to the Citizens of Connecticut in Behalf of the Wesleyan University" (Middletown: W.D. Starr, 1839), Wes.

Hale, Headstone Inscriptions, Town of Middletown, Connecticut (Hartford: 1937), Russell Library.

Hall, Peter, Middletown: Streets, Commerce, and People 1650-1981, Wesleyan University, Sesquicentennial Papers Number Eight, Wes.

Harrington, Karl Pomeroy, The Background of Wesleyan: A Study of Local Conditions about the Time the College was Founded (Middletown: Wesleyan University, 1942), Wes.

Hartford City Directory, 1851. William L. Storrs is listed, "bds. at City Hotel," State Library.


Historical Sketch of Hold Trinity Parish in Middletown, Connecticut (Middletown: Pelton & King, 1887), Wes.

History of Middlesex County (New York, J. B. Beers Co., 1884), Wes.

Membership list, First Methodist Church of Middletown, undated 4 pp., Preservation Trust.


Middletown. First Congregational Church. Confession of Faith, and Covenant, 1833. Includes members and dates, Wes.


Nicolson, Frank W., ed., Alumni Record of Wesleyan University, Centennial (Sixth) Edition (Middletown: Pelton & King, Inc., 1931), lists years of service of original trustees, Wes.


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Richter, Alice B., History of the Church of the Holy Trinity (Middletown, 1963), Historical Society.

Subscriptions lists and financial appeals in the 1830s, Wes.


Trench genealogical folder, Historical Society.

Van Vleck, Clara, A Historical Sketch of the Endowment of Wesleyan University (Middletown: Pelton & King, 1904), Wes.

Walling Map (New York: 1859)

Wesleyan University Catalogues: 1831, 1843-4, Wes.


APPENDICES

A: Trustee Profiles
B: Map Locating Trustee Birthplaces
C: Taxes Paid by Local Trustees in 1835
BANGS, HEMAN

Trusteeship: 1831-1869, Secretary, 1833-38; Treasurer, 1834-35

Wesleyan Subscription:
An original subscriber (1831-33), $100, plus a $100 Ministers Scholarship and $100 more in the early 1830s.

Church: First Methodist Church, Middletown

Education: No information located

Occupation: Ministerial work for 54 consecutive years. Pastor of Methodist-Episcopal Church, Middletown, 1827-29.

Other:

Residence: As minister, Bangs probably had housing provided by the church. From autobiography, pp. 162-63: "Our house is pleasantly located, but small, and some distance from the church."

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808-1832: none located.

Birth: Fairfield, CT. April, 1790

Marriage: To Sally Burritt, August 20, 1811

Death: November 1, 1869, New Haven, CT

Burial Place: New Haven, Evergreen Cemetery in family plot

Main Sources:
BARNES, JONATHAN

Trusteeship: 1831-1861

Wesleyan Subscription:

Church: First Middletown Congregational

Education: Yale, 1810

Occupation: Lawyer, Admitted to bar in 1813, "practiced his profession in Middletown with unusual industry and success," Yale Biographies and Annals, vol. VI., p. 300.

Other: An occasional contributor without name: Furnished a series of sketches on "Lessons from History" to The Constitution in 1838, Yale Biographies.

Residence: Purchased house and property on east side of Main Street near the corner of Washington Street for $1,000 in 1819.

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808-1832: General Indices vol. VI. lists Barnes a grantee 16 times.

Birth: Tolland, CT. November 21, 1789

Marriage: Maria Ward of Middletown, 1819

Death: December 24, 1861, Middletown, CT

Burial Place: Middletown, Washington Street Cemetery, sec. 2

Main Sources:
Genealogical folder from Middlesex Historical Society, Middletown, CT
Yale Biographies and Annals, vol. VI., pp. 299-300
Middletown Land Records: 47/395
CLARK, LABAN

Trusteeship: 1831-1868; President of Board (same); Also was appointed a Wesleyan agent for three years, beginning in 1832.

Wesleyan Subscription:
An original subscriber (1831-33), $100, plus a $100 Ministers Scholarship

Church: First Methodist Church, Middletown

Education: No information located;
Honorary DD from Wesleyan in 1854

Occupation: Minister (first a missionary in lower Canada-1801)
"In 1801 received on trial in the NY Conference at the old John St. Church," Encyclopedia of World Methodism.

Other: While a pastor in New York (1819), a founder of the Missionary Society

Residence: 1851 tax assessment values a house at $2,000. Old Houses of Connecticut lists Clark’s address as 128 High Street.
He purchased the house in 1834, Middletown Land Records 58/515.
Clark sold this residence to Wesleyan in 1867 (demolished in June, 1965, Middletown Land Records, 65/225.

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808-1832: one.

Birth: Haverhill, NH July 19, 1778

Marriage:

Death: November 24, 1868, Middletown, CT—see Argus December 3, 1868.

Burial Place: Wesleyan Cemetery

Main Sources:
Encyclopedia of World Methodism, p. 516.
Nicolson, Alumni Record, Wesleyan University 1831-1931, Centennial (Sixth) Edition.
Middletown Land Records, 58/515; 65/225.
Argus, December 3, 1868.
DE KOVEN, HENRY

Trusteeship: 1831-1839, Treasurer, 1830-1831

Wesleyan Subscription: None located

Church: Church of the Holy Trinity

Education: No information located; Honorary MA from Wesleyan in 1842

Occupation: Merchant, captain

Other: First President, Middlesex County National Bank

Residence: 27 Washington Street

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808 and 1832: General Indices vols. V and VI list deKoven a grantee 10 times.

Birth: Middletown, CT 1784

Marriage: Margaret Sebor of Middletown, February 24, 1813.

Death: August 7, 1840, Middletown, CT

Burial Place: Middletown, Indian Hill Cemetery, sec. 7.

Main Sources:
Probate 16/317
Beers, J.H., Complete Commemorative Biographical Record of
Commemorative Biographies p. 92.
Van Vleck, Clara, Historical Sketch of the Endowment of Wesleyan
University, p. 5. De Koven is listed as the first treasurer of
Wesleyan, elected at the meeting of the Board of Trustees in
August, 1830, nine months prior to the incorporation date, May
21, 1831.
HUBBARD, JR., ELIJAH KENT

Trusteeship: 1831 - December, 1846

Wesleyan Subscription:
Ministers Scholarship, $100; a $25 Middletown subscription; plus $50 (New York Conference, 1836-37)

Church: Church of the Holy Trinity

Education: Yale, 1795

Occupation: Merchant, lawyer, justice of the peace

Other: Mayor, 1830-1838; President of Middletown Bank 1824 until his death. "In Middletown, one of the most prominent and influential citizens," Yale Biographies and Annals, vol. V., p. 152.

Residence: Unable to locate

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808-1832: General Indices vols. V and VI list Hubbard a grantee 89 times.

Birth: Middletown, CT. July 30, 1777

Marriage: Lydia Mather of Old Lyme, 1810

Death: December 4, 1846, Middletown, CT

Burial Place: Middletown, Mortimer Street Cemetery

Main Sources:
HUBBARD, SAMUEL DICKINSON

Trusteeship: 1831-1855

Wesleyan Subscription: A $500 Scholarship in Perpetuity, the largest single amount subscribed on the list I examined.

Church: First Congregational Church

Education: Yale, 1819; LLD from Wesleyan in 1854

Occupation: Merchant, captain

Other: Mayor, 1840-42
Postmaster General under President Fillmore
First Vice President of Indian Hill Cemetery
Member, Recording Secretary of Mechanics Society
(only early trustee to belong to a workingmen's society)
President of a local bible society, 1844

Residence: Not located at the time of Wesleyan's founding. The 1851 Clark map shows S.D. Hubbard house set back on Cross Street in the block bounded by High and Low Streets and the city line. In 1862, a residence built for Gabriel Coit was sold to Hubbard's widow when Coit moved to Hartford. Today this is the President's House.

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808 and 1832: General Indices V and VI list Hubbard a grantee 35 times.

Birth: Middletown, CT, August 10, 1799

Marriage: Jane Miles of Milford (1835?)

Death: October 8, 1855, Middletown, CT

Burial Place: Middletown, Indian Hill Cemetery

Main Sources:

First Congregational Church, Records, Archives of the First Congregational Church, Middletown, Connecticut.

Hall, Peter, Middletown: Streets, Commerce, and People 1650-1781, pp. 21-25.

Middletown Constitution, 17 October 1855.
Jackson, Jr., Ebenezer

Trusteeship: 1839-1872

Wesleyan Subscription:

Church: Church of the Holy Trinity

Education: St. Mary's College, Baltimore; law in Litchfield

Occupation: Lawyer, "gentleman farmer"

Other: Congressman under Andrew Jackson (23rd Congress)
Active in Legislature, 1829-1832, 1846
One of first directors of Middlesex County National Bank
Trustee of St. Luke's Home for Destitute and Indigent Women (1850s)
One of first directors of Indian Hill Cemetery

Residence: Not yet a resident at the time of Wesleyan's founding. A large house with name E. Jackson on 1851 Clark map (on Jackson Street might have been his. Jackson House on Cross and Vine Streets is listed in the 1868 Middletown Directory.

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808 and 1832: General Index vol. VI list Jackson a grantee six times.

Birth: Savannah, GA, 1796

Marriage: Eliza Ann Harper, 1801

Death: August 17, 1874, Middletown, CT

Burial Place: Middletown, Indian Hill Cemetery

Main Sources:
Beers, J. H., Complete Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, p. 158.
RUSSELL, SAMUEL

Trusteeship: 1837-1862

Wesleyan Subscription:

Church: Church of the Holy Trinity

Education: Common school

Occupation: China merchant; Russell Manufacturing company in 1834 with an investment of $100,000

Other: An incorporator of Middletown Gas Light Company
First president of Indian Hill Cemetery

Residence: 350 High Street, large-scale Greek Revival Style begun in 1828.

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808-1832: General Indices vols. V and VI list Russell a grantee 18 times.

Birth: Middletown, CT. August 25, 1789

Marriage: Mary Osborn, 1815 (died, 1819); her sister, Frances Osborn, 1827.

Death: May 5, 1862, Middletown, CT

Burial Place: Middletown, Indian Hill Cemetery

Main Sources:
Beers, J.H., Complete commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, p. 16.
SMITH, JOHN LYON

Trusteeship: 1831-1839, Treasurer, 1831-1834, 1835-1856

Wesleyan Subscription: a $100 Middletown Subscription

Church: First Methodist of Middletown

Education: No information located

Occupation: Jeweler

Other: Assessor, 1835 Grand Levy
First Secretary/Treasurer of the Middlesex Fire Assurance Co.
A director, Middlesex County National Bank
An incorporator, Middletown Savings Bank

Residence: 234 Court Street (built 1826-1828)

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808-1832: General Indices vols. V and VI list Smith a grantee five times.

Birth: 1797 in Ayr, Scotland

Marriage: Susan ?

Death: October 4, 1889, Middletown, CT

Burial Place: Middletown, Indian Hill Cemetery

Main Sources:
Argus, October 9, 1889, p. 18.
STANLEY, GEORGE WASHINGTON

Trusteeship: 1831-1837, Secretary, 1831-33

Wesleyan Subscription:

Church: First Congregational Church

Education: Yale, 1793

Occupation: Lawyer

Other: State's Attorney for Middlesex County, 1820-1827

Residence: Unable to locate at the time of Wesleyan's founding

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808 and 1832: General Indices vols. V and VI list Stanley a grantee 23 times.

Birth: Wallingford, CT. June 25, 1775

Marriage: Clarrisa Nichols of Newtown, 1817

Death: September 5, 1854, Cleveland, Ohio

Burial Place: Middletown, Mortimer Street Cemetery, sec. 1

Main Sources:

South Congregational Church, Middletown, Records 1787-1923. Microfilm made by the Connecticut State Library.

STORRS, WILLIAM LUCIUS

Trusteeship: 1831-1861

Faculty: Professor of Law at Wesleyan, 1841-1846

Wesleyan Subscription: A $50 Ministers Scholarship

Church: Church of the Holy Trinity

Education: Yale, 1814

Occupation: Lawyer, Connecticut legislator, Chief Justice of the Court of Errors (Connecticut)

Other: One of the first incorporators of Middletown Savings Bank

Residence: Unable to locate at the time of Wesleyan’s founding. Later in Hartford, a boarder at the City Hotel

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808 and 1832: General Indices vols. V and VI list Storrs a grantee 31 times.

Birth: Middletown, CT. March 25, 1795

Marriage: Unmarried

Death: June 25, 1861, Hartford, CT

Burial Place: Not yet determined
    Old North Cemetery, Hartford
 revised 1-21-92

Main Sources:
Beers, J.H., Complete Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, p. 92.
Hartford Daily Courant, June 27 and 28, 1861, p. 2.
Connecticut Church Records Index, Colchester 1732-1936, reference to grandparents, Lemuel and Hannah Storrs, burial place.
Who Was Who in America, R:510
 revised 1-21-92
TRENCH, WILLIAM JAMES

Trusteeship: 1835-1867

Wesleyan Subscription: a $100 Middletown subscription for Ministers Scholarship

Church: No information located. Trench was likely a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since he was appointed a visitor of Wesleyan University by the New York Conference before becoming a trustee in 1835.

Education: No information located


Other: An early director of the Middlesex Mutual Assurance Co.

Residence: 1851 Clark Map lists his name beside a house on the corner of William and Broad Streets.

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808 and 1832: General Indices vols. V and VI list Trench a grantee 42 times.

Birth: Middletown, CT. September 14, 1778

Marriage: Aner (Annah) Turner of Meriden

Death: January 1, 1867, Middletown, CT

Burial Place: Middletown, Mortimer Street Cemetery, sec. 2

Main Sources:
WEBB, ISAAC

Trusteeship: 1831-1842

Wesleyan Subscription:

Church: First Congregational Church, Middletown

Education: Yale, 1822

Occupation: Insurance agent, merchant

Other:

Residence: Webb purchased a house from Hall in 1833, opposite the academy on High Street. It is unclear if Webb ever resided here or only operated Barlett’s School for Young Ladies. He also owned a lot with buildings on the corner of Parsonage Street.

Total Middletown Properties owned between 1808 and 1832: General Index vol. VI lists Webb a grantee three times.

Birth: Chester (then Saybrook), CT. 1798

Marriage: Mary ?

Death: September 29, 1842, Middletown

Burial Place: Wesleyan Cemetery

Main Sources:
Middletown, First Congregational Church, Confessions of Faith, and Covenant, 1833.
TAXES PAID IN 1835

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<td>ELIJAH K. HUBBARD, JR.</td>
<td>1008.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMUEL D. HUBBARD</td>
<td>749.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBENEZER JACKSON</td>
<td>No taxes appear on the 1835 Grand Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMUEL RUSSELL</td>
<td>1928.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOHN L. SMITH</td>
<td>66.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGE W. STANLEY</td>
<td>142.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLIAM L. STORRS</td>
<td>185.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>WILLIAM J. TRENCH</td>
<td>156.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISAAC WEBB</td>
<td>245.00</td>
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