The Frothingham House

Carol Terzini
The Great Valley
Prof. Peter Hall
December 15, 1986
Special thanks are due to several sources for sharing their resources and encouragement while working on this paper: Lisa Broberg, of the Middlesex Historical Society, the Middlesex County Preservation Trust, and particularly my friend and neighbor of 74 Mill St., William R. Batty.
"... he told me that in ye night when asleep many years ago among the trees in that very spot where the meeting house now stands, he had a discovery of glorious brightness among the trees where said house now stands, long before there was any separates in the town, or even thought of building a house there. And he said that he could not compare that brightness to anything more than the sun shining on a body of clear ice some distance off; which will dazzle the eyes of men ..."

- Related to Ebenezer Frothingham by a neighbor, 1747. From the Organisation of the South Congregational Church, Middletown, Ct., 1836
While the original intent of this paper was to provide a brief historical sketch of a building, the results of the initial research revealed that during the latter half of the 18th century, the house served a religious and social function of great import. In fact, the particular history of the house located at 84 Mill St. provides a unique opportunity to address the historical and religious significance of the Separatist movement in the 1700's. Therefore, in addition to providing a chronological and descriptive history of this vernacular building, I will also attempt to touch on the social history surrounding one of its residents, the Reverend Ebenezer Frothingham.

At the present time, the outward appearance of the Mill Street house shows few indications of its age or history. Aluminum siding covers asphalt shingling which in turn hides the remaining clapboards of the original facade. The building had been converted to a two-family home by the turn of the last century, and now harbors three units. However, the house has retained its original post and beam construction, and the beams as viewed from the attic are clearly hand-hewn and display wooden pegs. Several doors, and their latchings and hinges, also appear to be quite old. One corner of the house still rests on a fieldstone foundation, but it has been faced with concrete. While the side wings on the house are obvious additions to the original structure, the northern wing is already apparent in the sketch of the house on the H. L. Barnum Map of Middletown, done in 1825.
In reference to the history of the general locale of the house, the Middletown Town Notes of December 24, 1666 refer to a corn and fulling mill on the corner of South Main and Mill Streets, having been built around 1655, and having been granted to Thomas Miller and wife, Sarah. While the original title search of 84 Mill Street went slightly astray and led to the neighboring property of 74 Mill Street, this was partly due to the fact that both properties were owned by the Strict Congregational Church and Society during the late 1700's. A brief summary of the corrected title search from the Middletown Land Records is outlined as follows:

In April of 1746 Jonathan Meigs sells to Thomas Phillips a small parcel of land, "reserving a passage on said land to go to and from his labors on his adjoining land and to carry off the produce there." (Vol. II, p. 130) In December of 1751, Thomas Phillips sells to Paul Livingston, John Lawrence, Jr., James DePeyster, Charles Crommelin and Margaret Vetch, several parcels, one with "small dwelling house" (Vol. 14, p. 384). In January 1760, the above is sold to Abner Ely, and in April of 1760, to the Reverend Ebenezer Frothingham (Vol. 17, p. 331). In June of 1798, Ebenezer Frothingham leaves the property to his daughters Lydia and Hannah and "also land lying east of the house so as to include an apple tree of good fruit" (Vol. 6, p. 435). Hannah Priest then sells to Daniel Camp (Vol. 98, p. 383). Daniel Camp then sells to Sarah Ellen Douglas; Sarah Douglas to Frederick and Arthur Hurlbut (Vol. 154, p. 687). And in 1926, Arthur S. Hurlbut sells to Harry Field (Vol. 174, p. 53). There have of course been several more recent owners, but the house is still referred to in the Middletown Land Records as the Harry Field Property. Incidentally, the fruit of the apple tree is still good.

While the house appears to have been built prior to 1746, it was certainly standing when its owner of forty-four years, the Reverend Ebenezer Frothingham moved to Middletown
in 1754. Frothingham originally lived and held services in Wethersfield, his congregation being comprised of people from both Middletown and Wethersfield. According to the records of the South Congregational Church in Middletown "... the principal members residing in Wethersfield emigrated to New York, and Mr. Frothingham removed to Middletown to devote himself entirely to those members of the church who resided here, and was installed over them in 1754."^3

Like many religious leaders during the Great Awakening, Ebenezer Frothingham was not a college-educated man. The ministers of the Separates and other New Light radicals were qualified instead by an "inward call"; by their experience of humiliation, grace and closeness to God.^4 In the Articles of Faith and Practice, a treatise Frothingham published in 1750 in defense of the Separates, he writes "... the essential qualifications for preaching the Gospel, are wrought by the Spirit of God: so that the knowledge of Tongues, or College Learning, may be helpful if rightly used, but if brought in to supply the Want of the Spirit of God, they prove a Snare to those that use them, and all that follow them ..."^5

After holding services in Frothingham's residence for many years, the Strict Congregational Church and Society built a meeting house next door to Frothingham's home in 1774, on land donated by a church member, Daniel Whitmore. The meetinghouse, like Frothingham's home, has been altered many times, but still stands at 74 Mill St. Whitmore transfers title "For the Consideration of the Love of God I have for the
Church and People of God who profess and hold strictly to the Congregational Principles Known by the name of Separates ... under the pastoral care and watch of Ebenezer Frothingham.⁶

After having been the leader of the Separatist movement in the Middletown area for forty-one years, Frothingham resigned from his pastorate in 1788. His successor, Stephen Parsons was to run the church for the following nine years, after which point there seems to have been a succession of brief ministries and near disbanding of the congregation.⁷ But by 1830, the church is firmly reentrenched, and in the process of building a new South Congregational Church.

Ebenezer Frothingham's pastorate was inspired by the religious fervor of the Great Awakening, and by a tendency to rebel against institutionalized authority already ingrained in colonial New Englanders. When the Saybrook Platform had attempted to divest individual congregations of their autonomy, it in fact fueled a natural inclination towards dissent. Overly institutionalized religion seemed threatening and hypocritical to a people who were also attempting to grapple with their own feelings of guilt and fraudulence. Bushman writes, "...the truly revolutionary aspect of the Awakening was the dilution of divine sanction in traditional institutions and of the investiture of authority in some inward experience."⁸

Ten years after resigning from the pastorship of the Strict Congregational Church and Society, Ebenezer Frothingham died at the age of eighty-one. Of his personal life we can piece together only a rough image based on the available
artifacts. We know from letters written to Frothingham by his son that he was married at least once. From the probate record taken at the time of his death that he had two sons, Ebenezer, Jr. and Samuel, and two daughters, Lydia and Hannah. One of the letters mentioned above also makes reference to four other people who may well have been members of the immediate family: "Give my love and best wishes to Betsy, Anne, Willy and Nancy with all the rest of our family." Yet their names do not appear in any of the other documents uncovered to date. Two of the letters, written from West Point, clearly show that both Ebenezer and Samuel served in the Revolutionary War.

Also of particular interest, is the inventory of Frothingham's estate taken at the time of his death in 1798 and appearing in the Middletown Probate Records.

Six months are allow'd the Creditors to the Est. of Rev. Eb'n Frothingham late dec'd to exhibit their Claims to the Est. for settlement & they are to give lawful notice thereof.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Pot 60.</td>
<td>1 White Pitcher</td>
<td>1/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pr. Kitchen Hand Irons 7/6.</td>
<td></td>
<td>9. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pr., Tongs &amp; Fire Shovel 4/.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Trammels 12/.</td>
<td>1 Grid iron 6/.</td>
<td>1. 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Toaster Do. 2/.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Tin Pails 5/.</td>
<td>1 Tin Toaster 2/.</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Iron Pot 5/.</td>
<td>1 Small Do. 3/.</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Do. Bake Pan 5/.</td>
<td>1 Large T Kettle 13/.</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Do. Skillet 1/.</td>
<td>Spider 6/.</td>
<td>9. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Doz. Bottles 6/.</td>
<td>1 small Tea Kettle 2/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Water Pails 1/6.</td>
<td>2 Wash Tubs 1/6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Earthen. Tubs 2/6.</td>
<td>1 Wooden Do. for Butter 1/6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Iron Basin 2/.</td>
<td>1 Cannakin 1/.</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Fry'g. Pan 2/.</td>
<td>2 Tin Milk Pans 4/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 small Tin Pail 2/.</td>
<td>2 Tin Cullend'r. 3/6.</td>
<td>11/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Q. 1 Pt. Cup 5/.</td>
<td>3 2 Q. Basins 4/6</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Pt. Porridge 2/6.</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Half Pt. Do. 2/.</td>
<td>2 Tin Dippers 1/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Tin Cake Pans 1/6.</td>
<td>4 Earthen Platters 4/..</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Sieves 3/.</td>
<td>3 Trays 5/..</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Keiler 2/.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Wooden Bowls 1/4.</td>
<td>1 small Stone Pot 1/2...</td>
<td>12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Brass Kettle 14 Q. 25/8.</td>
<td>1 small Do. 10/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 small tables in kitchen 7/.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tin Lantern 2/6.</td>
<td>2 Tin Candlesticks 2/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Iron Do. 2/.</td>
<td>1 Brass Do. 2/6.</td>
<td>9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Flat Irons 4/6.</td>
<td>1 Box Iron &amp; Heating 4/6..</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pr. Steellyrds 9/.</td>
<td>1 Nail Hammer 1/.</td>
<td>19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pr. Pillows 2/.</td>
<td>1 small Do. 1/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 large Salt Mortar &amp; Pestle 6/.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Corn Baskets 4/.</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Rev. Rugs 25/.</td>
<td>2 Rose Blankets 24/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cotton Bed Quilt 15/.</td>
<td>9 Pr. Pillows 6/..</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bedsteads &amp; Cords 18/1.</td>
<td>1 large Wheel 3/5.</td>
<td>10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Dutch 12/.</td>
<td>1 Reel 4/.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 ft. Round Table 2/.</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pr. Breeches 5/.</td>
<td>1 Great Coat 10/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pillion 5/.</td>
<td>10 old Casks 20/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 shirts 18/.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Old Black Coats 12/.</td>
<td>5 Do. Vests 2o/.</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Old Black Coats 12/.</td>
<td>5 Do. Vests 2o/.</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pr. Breeches 5/.</td>
<td>1 Great Coat 10/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pillion 5/.</td>
<td>10 old Casks 20/.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 shirts 18/.</td>
<td></td>
<td>18.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 Pr. Stockings 6/. 1 Hat 6/.  
30 Bound Books Bible Dictionary etc. 35/... 2.  7.  -  
1 Spade 1/6. 1 Shovel 4/. 1 Dung Fork 3/.  
2 Hoes 3/. 2 Pitch Forks 5. ........................ - 16. 6.  
2 Iron Wedges 6/1. 1 Ax & 1 Hatchet 5/.  
1 Cow 90/. 1 Lathg. Hammer prow.  
& Nipp.5/3. ............................... 5.  6. 3.  
2 Trowsls. 3/. 1 small Hatchet. 2/6.  
1 Stone Hammer 1/. .............................. - 6. 6.  
\[ \text{Total: } 350 \] 1 0  

Middletown 25 June 1798. ELIJAH HUBBARD) App. under oath  
BENJN TARBOX  

At a Court of Probate held in Middletown the 25 of June 1798. There this Inv. was exhibited in Court under oath was accepted and to be recorded in the records of this court.  

TEST. IN. FISK, CLK.  

It is clear from this record of his estate that Frothingham was not a wealthy man, but neither was he poor. Although limitations on time do not allow for a full analysis of the estate, as this would require a comparative survey and analysis, a few details may be mentioned. The mahogany for the desk is a common West Indian import during this period. And according to Deetz, more than one tea set is not uncommon for many families in the late 1700's, and is representative of the "re-Anglicization process that was at work at the time."10 In large part, the items listed above seem to represent the probable necessities of life during the 1700's. The only category of belongings which suggests more than necessity is that of the thirty books, Bible and dictionary, which support the image of Frothingham as a self-educated man.  

In many ways it seems that the more minute the detail, or remnant of a man's life, which is uncovered, the greater is
the addition to our sense of who he might have been and what his world was like. In attempting to research the history of a house, I happened upon a fascinating history of a man, one who was intimately involved with one of the most significant religious movements of the past few centuries. Yet it is the letters from his children, and his house and apple tree, and his tea cups and cannakin, which bring the vividness of color to the image of Ebenezer Frothingham.
Appendix I

(Courtesy of the
Middlesex Historical
Society)

Rev. Eb. Frothingham
Attn: Middletown

West Point, March 17, 1778
Honour'd Father & Mother,

I now write the third time, without having a letter from home ... I hope these will find you all in good health as by the Blessing of God they have me. I have heard that Bro. Samuel has enlisted into the Continental Service... I do not know what to say about it but I hope it will prove for the better. I should be glad to see him ... if Providence would admit of it. Pray write to me the first opportunity concerning Affairs.

I heard report that Josiah Roberts is Dead, but I cannot believe it, as I cannot hear any certain News - may I be prepared for whatever tidings I may hear.

We are at work upon the Fort here, I hope in a short time we shall be able to bid Defiance to our Blood Thirsty Foes.

My dutiful respects to GrandMother and Love to Brothers and Sisters ... with all enquiring Friends

I am, with due Respect,
Your Affectionate Son,

Eb Frothingham, Jr.
West Point, Aug. 19, 1785

Dear Sister:

I wish you to complete my shirts and stocks as soon as you can, get Betsy to help you as I suppose she has got home some time since. I unexpectedly march'd thro Litchfield and had the satisfaction to spend the evening with her at Smiths.

It is likely we shall march from here soon and probably I may come home for a day or two. Don't forget to ______ Anna and Polly Meigs. I have wrote to my Brother and Sister about your taking charge of my room. Take care of my bed and what furniture I left, make use of it if you please; wish you to see about getting thru from West South - farms and do anything else you may think of.

Give my love and best wishes to Betsy, Anne, Willy and Nancy with all the rest of our family.

Your Affectâ€œ Brother

E. Frothingham, Jr.

Miss Lydia Frothingham
Footnotes

1. Middletown Town Notes. (Town Clerk's Office, Middletown, CT, December 24, 1666.) No legible pagination.


7. Manual of the South Congregational Church, pp. 11-12.

8. Bushman, p. 220.


Bibliography


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Middletown Town Notes. Town Clerk's Office, Middletown, Ct.


The One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization of the South Congregational Church, Middletown, Ct., January 1, 1747 - January 1, 1897. Courtesy of the Middlesex Historical Society.
From the Manual of the South Congregational Church, Middletown, Ct.: Pelton & King, Steam Printers and Bookbinders, 1880. Courtesy of the Middlesex Historical Society

84 Mill St., Middletown, Ct.

74 Mill St., Middletown, Ct.
From the Manual of the South Congregational Church, Middletown, Ct.: Pelton & King, Steam Printers and Bookbinders, 1880. Courtesy of the Middlesex Historical Society.

74 Mill St., Middletown, Ct.

South Congregational Church.

Ten years before the close of Mr. Frothingham's ministry the church built them a meeting house, the town granting them a deed of the land lying between Mill street and Pruneca, on the south side of South Main street. The house was a spacious one compared with the upper room in the elder's house. But if tradition speaks correctly he had it well filled and they were easily able to raise the four hundred and fifty dollars with which they rewarded his ministry.

SECOND CHURCH EDIFICE, ERECTED 1774.

It was at the close of a pastorate of forty-five years that Mr. Frothingham resigned his charge. He had been both father and mother to the church, for none of the established churches ever mothered it. It had been born probably in his home, and for twenty-seven years it was designated as in the days of Apostolic congregationalism, "The Church in the house of Elder Frothingham." Ten years longer, Mr. Hill says, he lived, and continued to reside in Middletown, but the only mention of his name which we find in the original records of the church, which begin with the installation of his
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74 Mill St., Middletown, Ct.
To all People to whom these Presents shall Come, Greeting:

KNOW YE, That I Abner Ely, of Middletown, in the County of Hartford, and Colony of Connecticut, in New England, received to my full Satisfaction, of Enever Frothingham, of the same Middletown, for the Consideration of Forty Pounds, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, one certain piece of Land lying on the West side of Connecticut River in said Middletown, containing three acres and thirty-one rods of land, and is bounded on the North by said Abner Ely's Road East and West, on said Abner Ely's Road South and North, and part Southerly except (two rods) or Highways, together with a small Building thereon standing on said Bargained Said.

To have and to hold the above-granted and bargained Premises, with the Appurtenances thereof, unto him the said Enever Frothingham, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, to his, and their own proper Use and Benefit; And also, I the said Abner Ely, Do for my self, my Heirs, Executors and Administrators, Covenant with the said Enever Frothingham, his Heirs and Assigns, That at and until the Enfeoffing of these Presents, I am well Satisfied of the Premises as a good indefeasible Estate in Fee Simple; and have good Right to Bargain and Sell the same in Manner and Form as is above-written, and that the same is Free of all Incumbrances whatsoever. And furthermore, I the said Abner Ely, do by these Presents Bind my self, and my Heirs for ever to WARRANT and Defend the above-granted and bargained Premises, to him the said Enever Frothingham, his Heirs and Assigns, against all Claims and Demands whatsoever. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the 1st. Day of April, in the 37th. Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, Annoque Domini, 1769.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered in Presence of:
Joseph Southward
Matthews Celestus.

Middletown April 15, 1769
Joseph Southward, Justice Peace.

May 24, 1769, A True Record, Sett with Rockwell Roger.
Know Ye That of Daniel Whitmore of Middleborough in the County of Plymouth and State of Massachusetts

For the Consideration of

Said

Received

To Have and to Hold the above Granted and Bargained Premises

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal.

Daniel Whitmore

Ann Domini 1788

Stephen Bowers

Elisha Hubbard, Esq
In the Presence of

Sarah Griswold

Hiram Childs Jr.

Middlesex County, St. Middlesex, Nov. 15, 1789. This Solomon Leake's action

by him executed to be paid & final, in three installments, as above, and in the presence of

John Beale, 1312. cliued

Isaac Griswold Jr.

To all People to whom these presents shall come:

Know ye that the Jonathan Turner, John Beale, Josiah

and Nathan Strong, all of Middlesex in the town

of Middlesex, and State of Connecticut, for diverse good

and sufficient consideration money, and especially for two

hundred and fifty dollars received by me, for full satisfactions

of due debt from Brown and the rest of the 29, first

agreement. That in said debt have now, received, related and

paid said debt, and by these presents for ourselves,

and our heirs, do fully, strictly, and absolutely release, release

and forever quit claim unto said 29th Congregational

Church and Society in their full and perfectable rights

and interest and in their free and perpetual possession

and power, and to their heirs and assigns for all

such trust. That, title, interest and demand whatsoever

as we, the said, for a former, John Beale, Josiah Beale,

Nathan Strong, have had or ought to have in or to a
certain piece of land, as said Middlesex, which is Bennett's meadow, on land, belonging to said Church.

That partly on highway and partly on land. Said Bennett gave to said church, partly partly on land, to Whitmore.

Said church and partly on highway and East

on highway containing one acre and half more or less

above described land as members of said Church

and Society to be the price of land, as brought of said

Whitmore as of said district, the 30th day of May 1818, do have to hold this description of land.