



**Daniel Williams**, who died at the age of 14 in what is known as the Battle of Groton Heights, is one of the more tragic stories in Saybrook's early history. The Revolutionary War battle occurred on September 6, 1781 at Fort Griswold on the Groton side of the Thames River. Daniel, it is said, had always wanted to see Fort Griswold, and when a neighbor on duty at the fort came home on furlough, Daniel's father allowed him to take the neighbor's duty at the fort for a few days. Unfortunately, it was during that early September time that the British attacked the fort. Daniel was said to have been struck down by enemy fire while passing ammunition to the Patriot soldiers.

**Nathaniel and Susanna Lynde** are buried on a rise underneath where stands today a large tulip tree in view of their beloved Lynde Point across South Cove. All of Lynde's land, including Lynde Point and much of the land extending west to Cornfield Point was formerly owned by his father Simon Lynde, who bought the land from George Fenwick's sister Elizabeth Culick. She came in possession of the land when Colonel Fenwick left Saybrook for his return to England following Lady Fenwick's death.

**Rev. Azariah Mather** was the sixth minister in Saybrook and a descendant of a family of celebrated clergyman. His wife, Hannah Treat, was the daughter of Robert Treat of Milford who would later become Governor of the CT Colony. Mather was a tutor at the Saybrook School distinguished for his knowledge of Hebrew, Greek and Latin. Mather bought the house and land of Thomas Buckingham which was said to be located across the highway from the old burying ground. It was said that Mather was quite distressed when the collegiate school left Saybrook for New Haven in 1717. **Rev. William Hart**, progenitor of the Harts in Saybrook, succeeded Mather in the Saybrook ministry.

**Rev. Salmon McCall** was for 18 years a pastor at the Saybrook Church having graduated from Yale College in 1851. He was the pastor who presided over the ceremony for the reinterment of Lady Fenwick. He left the ministry because of ill health.

**Rev. Frederick W. Hotchkiss** was ordained in 1783 with William Hart. During the latter part of his ministry, the church was moved from the triangle at Pennywise Lane to the present location on Main Street with the new building dedicated on January 1, 1840. Hotchkiss was said to have possessed a commanding presence and sonorous voice and he was always in demand on public occasions. It was said that for many years, he rarely ate supper at his own house. Instead, he would take supper with one of his parishioners.

The first meeting to discuss building a Protestant Episcopal church was held in 1830. The building committee consisted of **Richard Hart, William Lynde, Richard Chalker, Richard E. Pratt, Augustus Chalker, William Willard, William H. Lynde, Ira Bushnell** and **William Clark**. The church, it was decided, would be called Grace Episcopal Church.

**Reverend Thomas Buckingham** was one of twelve clergy who met in 1708 to develop a set of rules for the mostly independent churches of the Connecticut Colony. What the Saybrook Platform succeeded in doing was to establish a "mild advisory control of the whole over the parts." The twelve ministers and four laymen represented approximately forty churches in colonial Connecticut met in Nathaniel Lynde's house on Saybrook Point (likely at the site where the Samuel Willard House stands and formerly the house lived in by Colonel and Lady Fenwick) and developed the Platform. Reverend Buckingham of Saybrook, a founder of the Saybrook Collegiate School, was amongst the participants and, with Reverend James Noyes, was chosen as a moderator.

The **Humphrey Pratt Tavern** at the corner of Main Street and the Boston Post Road was a stage stop between New York and Boston and housed Saybrook's first post office. Pratt also built a house for Rev. Frederick W. Hotchkiss. Humphrey was brother with Deacon Timothy Pratt who lived in what is now the Deacon Timothy Pratt Bed & Breakfast. The Humphrey Pratt Tavern property also had a general store housed in a building that was later moved down the street to become the James Pharmacy. Both Pratts, Reverend Hotchkiss and Miss James rest in Cypress.

**Matthew Griswold** and his three brothers first came from England to Windsor, CT. He then came to Saybrook where he lived until moving over to Black Hall on the east side of the river. That land was given to him by Colonel George Fenwick in return for Griswold's care of Fenwick's deceased wife's grave. Griswold died in 1698 and because of his continuing connection to the Saybrook Church, he was buried in Saybrook in the old burying ground. Tradition has it that Griswold, and likely many other early colonists, are buried under College Street. The location of College Street, or "the Great Highway", in 1838 may explain how the northern boundary of the cemetery was further north than today. That would suggest that there may be burial sites under lawns on the NORTH side of College Street as well.

Many Saybrook residents sailed the seas as a part of the West India Trade **Captain Benjamin Whittlesey** and his mate, **Richard Dickinson**, sailed their last voyage for the West Indies in a new "brig" or "bark", built expressly for making fast trips, and were never heard from again after leaving port.

In the early years of the 1800's, shad fishing was at its height in terms of number of shad caught. The largest haul on record was 3,700 caught at "Folly Point" at the mouth of South Cove by **Elias Tully**. The fishery at the mouth of the river near the inner light house was one of the best. No pier was needed; seine nets would be cast into the river from the beach.

Prior to 1812 and for 175 years, the deceased were carried to Cypress on a simple frame bier carried on the shoulders of several townspeople, no matter what the distance or weather. This custom came to a close when **Captain Elisha Hart**, the father of the seven Hart sisters, presented the parish with a hearse for carrying the deceased to the cemetery. A "hearse house" was built to store the hearse at the upper burying ground on North Main Street.