

THE HISTORY
OF
RIDGEFIELD, CONN.

*FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE
PRESENT TIME.*

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DANBURY:
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HISTORY OF RIDGEFIELD.

CHAPTER I.

SURVEY AND PURCHASE OF TOWN TRACT.

IN the month of May, 1708, a number of the inhabitants of the town of Norwalk petitioned General Assembly, then in session at Hartford, to grant them "libertie to purchase of the Indians a certain tract of land, bounded south on Norwalk bounds, north-east on Danbury, and west upon York line."

Such "libertie" was granted the said petitioners "provided it doth not prejudice any former grant ; this Assembly reserving to themselves a power for the settlement and allotment of the land so to be purchased among the petitioners, and such others as the said General Assembly shall judge meet."

On the 30th of September, 1708, such a purchase was made, as the following deed will show :

"To all people to whom these presents shall Come Greeting &c.
Know ye that I Catoonah Sachem of Ramapoo Indians and Associates within her Majesties province of New York in America. For & in Consideration of y^e sum of One Hundred Pounds as current money of said province. To us in hand before the ensealing hereof well and Truly Paid by John Belden, Samuell Keeler Sen^r, Matthew Seamor James Brown Benjamin Wilson, Joseph Birchard, John Whitne Sen^r,

Matthias Saint John Benjamin Hickcock, John Beebe Samuel Saint John, John Bouton Joseph Keeler, Samuel Smith Junior, Jonathan Stevens, Daniell Olmsted, Richard Olmsted, John Stirdevant, Samuel Keeler Jun^r, Joseph Bouton, Jonathan Rockwell, Edmond Wareing, Joseph Whitne, Daniel Hait, Thomas Hyott, James Benedick, Joseph Crampton, Ebenezer Sension, Matthew Saint John, all of the Town of Norwalk in y^e County of Fairfield, within her Majesties Colony of Connecticut in New England, and Thomas Smith, Thomas Canfield, & Samuell Smith, of the Town of Milford in y^e County of Newhaven & Colonie aforesaid. The Receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledg, and our selves therewith fully Satisfied, and Contented, and thereof and of every part and percell thereof Do Exonerat Acquitt & discharge the said John Belden, Samuell Keeler Sen^r, Matthew Seamor, James Brown, Benjamin Wilson, Joseph Birchard, John Whitne Sen^r, Matthias Saint John, Benjamin Hickcock, John Beebe, Samuell Saint John, John Bouton, Joseph Keeler, Samuell Smith, Jonathan Stevens, Daniell Olmsted, Richard Olmsted, John Stirdevant, Samuell Keeler Jun^r, Joseph Bouton, Jonathan Rockwell, Edmond Wareing, Joseph Whitne, Daniell Hait, Thomas Hyott, James Bennedick, Joseph Crampton, Ebenezer Sension, Matthew Saint John, Thomas Smith, Thomas Canfield, and Samuel Smith, their heirs executors, administrators forever by these presents. Have given, granted bargained, sold Allowed Conveyed and Confirmed, and by these presents Do freely fully and absolutely give grant bargain sell, Aliene Convey and Confirm unto them the said John Belden, Samuell Keeler Jun^r, Matthew Seamor, James Brown, Benjamin Wilson, Joseph Birchard, John Whitne Sen^r, Matthias Saint John, Benjamin Hickcock, John Beebe, Samuell Saint John, John Bouton, Joseph Keeler, Samuell Smith, Jonathan Stevens, Daniell Olmsted, Richard Olmsted, John Stirdevant, Samuell Keeler, Joseph Bouton, Jonathan Rockwell, Edmond Wareing, Joseph Whitne, Daniel Hait, Thomas Hyott, James Bennedick, Joseph Crampton, Ebenezer Sension, Matthew Saint John, Thomas Smith, Thomas Canfield, and Samuell Smith, their Associates heirs and assigns forever. A Certain Tract of Land Scituat Lying and being so esteemed within her Majesties Colony of Conecticott aforesaid Butted and Bounded as followeth, at a Rock with stones Lay'd thereon that lyeth upon y^e west side of Norwalk River about twenty rod northward of the Crossing or where Danbury old Cart path Crosseth the River which said Rock is the South East Corner and from said Corner a line Runneth upwards unto Umpewange pond to a White Oak Tree,

Standing by the Northwest Corner of said Pond, the said tree being marked and Stones Lay'd about it and is the North East Corner, and from the said Corner Tree, another line Running near Two points to the North of West into a pond Called Nesopack and Continues y^e Same Coarse untill it meets with a second pond Called Aokkeels, Crossing by y^e south End of both ponds, and from thence Running Near West untill it Extends to a place Called Mamanasquag, where is a Oak Tree Marked on y^e North Side of the outlet of water that Comes out from a sort of a grassy pond, which is known and Called by Said Name, which tree is the North West Corner, and from said Tree another line Runing South bearing to y^e East About one mile and half. Runing by y^e East side of another Mountain Called Asoquatah untill it meets Stanford Bound line, about a quarter of a mile to y^e Eastward of Cross River pond, where stands a Marked White Oak tree with Stones about it, and is y^e South West Corner, and from Said Marked tree a long by Stanford line untill it Comes to Norwalk purchase and so by Said Purchase Bounds to the Said Rock at the South East Corner. Containing by Estimation Twenty Thousand Acres, be it more or less. The Four Corners of Said Tract of Land being Called by the following Indian Names South East Corner 'Wheer Cock' North East Corner 'Wononkpakoonk' North West Corner 'Mamanasquag' South West Corner 'Narahawmis.'

"To Have and to Hold, the Said granted and bargained premises with all the appurtenances priviledges, and Comodities to the same, belonging or in anywise Appertaining to them y^e Above Named persons their Associates heirs and assigns forever, to them and their only proper Use bennefitt and behoof forever. And I the Said Catoonah and Associats for ourselves our heirs Executors, administrators, Do Covenant promise and grant to and with the above Said persons their associates heirs and assigns, that before the Ensealing hereof. We are the true Sole and Lawfull Owners of y^e above bargained premises and by Native Right Seized and possessed of the Same in our own proper Right as a Good perfect and Absolute Estate of Inheritance in fee Simple and have in Ourselves good Right full power and Sufficient Authority to grant bargain Sell Convey and Confirms said Bargained premises in manner as above said, and that the said John Belden, and the rest above said their Associats heirs and assigns Shall and may from time to time, and at all times forever hereafter, by force and virtue of these presents Lawfully and peaceably and quietly Have, Hold, Use, Occupie, possess and enjoy the said Demissed and bargained premisses.