



In-Depth First Settler Profile:
Thomas Hopewell (1662) /
O'Kinne (unknown) Hopewell

Name: Thomas Hopewell

Birth: Unknown

Emigration: Native American

Death: August 17, 1683, Windsor, Conn. (SAV)

Occupation & Public Service: Carpenter (*History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor; Connecticut* by Henry R. Stiles, 1892)

Marriage: m. O'Kinne, May 22, 1656, Branford, Conn. (Branford Vital Records)

Parents: Unknown

Children: (SAV)

(1) Sarah Hopewell, b. July 31, 1658, Windsor, Conn.; d. April 1704, Wethersfield, Conn. (unmarried) [**Compiler's note:** Inventory of estate of Sarah Hopewell of Wethersfield, Indian woman, taken April 22, 1704 (MAN vol. 2, p. 81)]

Residence: "This house lot was on the corner of Main and Church streets." (FFS); residence of Thomas Hopewell was located north of Church Street and south of William Ward's lot on the west side of Main Street, according to the Jessie Alsop Map of Main Street, Middletown, as redrawn by R. W. Bacon. (*The Middler*, vol. 7, no. 2, p. 7, Fall 2007); on July 4, 1662, land recorded to Thomas Hopewell, ten acre homelot bounded east and south on the highway north on William Ward and west on undivided land; six acres of swamp; ten acres of upland on the east side of the Great River; one acre of boggy meadow bought of John Hall Jr (MLR vol. 1, p. 32) [**Compiler's note:** The same land was recorded to Giles Hamlin on January 26, 1663 and described as "bought of Thomas Hopewell." (MLR vol. 1, p. 19)]

Will: Not found

Burial Location: Unknown

Notes:

(SAV): "HOPEWELL, THOMAS, Fairfield 1670, had Sarah, b. at Windsor, 31 July 1658; and he d. 17 Aug. 1683."

(FFS): " 'At a towne meeting feabaray the:3:1658 The inhabytans of middle towne being met together did Reaseave Thomas hopwell as ane inhabytaut: and did grant him a hows Lot containing fiue acors: more ore Les. The aforesaid Thomas ingageing himself to inhabit uppone it and: build a habitable hows, for the space of four yeare The towne also Did grant to Thomas hopwell: five acors of upland aJoyning toe his hows Lot Lying weastward from the Reare of his hows Lot: The afore sayd Thomas hopwell Dothe ingage and agree with the towne to pay Reats according to a fifty pownd eateat.' This house lot was on the corner of Main and Church streets. In 1663 it became the property of Giles Hamlin and Hopewell disappeared from view. It is thought that he removed to Fairfield county."

(Branford Vital Records): "Thomas Hopewell m ____ [O'Kinne], May 22, [16]56"

(*Early Connecticut Marriages* by Frederick W. Bailey, 1997): "Thomas Hopewell & Time _____, May 22, 1656" (handwritten notation says "Indians"), Branford, New Haven County, Conn.

(*Records of the Colony of Jurisdiction of New Haven from May, 1653 to the union*): On May 25, 1657, "Thomas Hopewell, an Indian that inhabits at Brandford, was complained of for rayling, threatening words to seuerall psons, as John Whitehead, Francis Bradley, Samuell Ward, Josias Ward, and goodwife Williams and her sonn, saying he would knock some of them ith' head, stab some of them at the heart, meete wth them in the woods, or one time or other, and then let them looke to it, he hath also accused to goodw: Williams, Francis Bradely for being naught wth his wife, and after denied it againe, but being examined and seuerall writings read by way of testimony, witnessing his miscarriages, he could show no just cause for such words or carriage, but said he had no witness here to cleere him, wherevpon he had libertie to send for them, and he was told vpon securitie he might haue his libertie, but fayling of that he was committed to prison in the meane time. After a conuenient season of wayting he was called before the court againe, but no witness appeared to cleere him, onely he accused the wife of Richard Harrison for giueing him some ill words, wch he requited wth worss, both which the court witnessed against, and told him that if he can cleere himselfe of all or any of these charges he hath libertie, at last he confessed that he had done fooleishly, and said he was faulty in the pticulers mentioned, and promised amendment, wherevpon Mr. Crane, John Whitehead, Franc. Bradley and Richard Harrison, who were present, declared themselues satisfied so farr as to make a tryall for a time, and the court told Thomas the Indian, that the miscarriages are very great and such as may not be borne, and had it bine an English-man he would haue bine witnessed against in another manner, but vpon his confession and promise to walke inoffensively hereafter, the court will spare him and also make a tryall for this time, and so vpon his paying his fees for imprisonment & other charges if it be required, he may haue his libertie." (p. 208)

(*Thirteen Historical Discourses, on the Completion of Two Hundred Years, from the Beginning First Church in New Haven* by Leonard Bacon, 1839): "May not this Thomas Hopewell have been Mr. Pierson's Indian ... Another Thomas the Indian, a wheel-wright, appears upon the town records in 1657 as an absconding debtor." (p. 348) [**Compiler's note:** The Rev. Abraham Pierson, the first minister of Branford, preached to the Indians in New Haven colony.]

(HMC): "November 26, 1657, at the sam meting the town granted to Thomas the Endyan to be an inhabitant among them if they agree on terms." (**Compiler's note:** "Thomas the Indian")

(HMC): "ffbruary 3, 1[6]58. Thomas Hopewell admitted an inhabitant."



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(HMC): “Feby 18, 1661. at the same town meeting the towne gave to Alexander Bow two acors of swamp before the Indian fort hill next to Thomas Hopewells land for on acer of meadow.”

(Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776): On February 6, 1663, “Thomas Hopewell haueing petitioned to this Council for the confirmation of his right in a parcel of land about Noridge upon part of Shawtaket Riuer, and liberty to dispose of some part of it to such English as the Court shall haue no cause of just exception against, as by his petition dated Feb. 5, 63 will appeare: this Council doth in answer to his petition grant his desires therein, provided the Generall Court in March except not against it. (vol. 15, p. 535); on October 13, 1670, “Thomas Hopewell moueing this Court for a confirmation of some land granted to him by an Indian, at Aspatuck, this Court perceiuing that Fayrefeild or Norwalk people may be interested in the case, referr the issue of the matter to the County Court at Fayrefeild.” (vol. 2, p. 139)

(History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut by Henry R. Stiles, 1892): “Hopewell, Thomas, ‘the Indian,’ the only Indian to whom land is rec. in W. His first purchase, 1657, was on the road W. from Palizado, cor. Hosford’s Lane; this was ‘returned’ 1662. He then bought a lot opp. John Rockwell’s; this was returned again. And still later another lot was ‘returned again.’ July 19, 1670, he sold to Samuel Forward his lot containing 132 r. lying N. of highway which ran N. of Samuel Gibb’s ho.-lot, bdg. W. on the continuation of Backer Row highway, there 9 ¾ r. wide, it ext. E. 17r., 5r. beyond the angle in the Sandy Hill road. On this lot Hopewell had ‘a frame for a house on it, set up by him, and a shelter of boards by it, in which he lives.’ This Indian appears to have been an acknowledged resident of the town, and one of their poor. There appears in

expenses of Town, 1668, five loads of ‘wood to Hopewell.’ Oct., 1670, he petitioned the Gen. Ct. for a confirmation of his title to some lands given him near Fairfield. He d. 17 Aug., 1683; had a dau. Sarah, b. 31 July, 1658.” (vol. 2, p. 403)

(Dawes-Gates Ancestral Lines/Ferris, 1943): “On March 6, 1667/8, the sum of nine shillings was credited to [William Thrall’s] account in the town rate or taxes, as payment to him for carrying three loads of wood to the home of an Indian, Thomas Hopewell, who was lame and unable to provide fuel for his family and whose wife had appealed to the authorities regarding this need.”

(Records of the Particular Court of the Colony of Connecticut, Administration of Sir Edmond Andros, Royal Governor, 1687-1688): On September 4, 1688, “Hannah Hopewell being presented by the Grand Jury in June Last for fornication, was summonsed before ye Court of Sessions, and appearing the 4th of Sept. she was Examined.” (p. 17); on October 30, 1688, “Hannah Hopewell Indyan single woman of Windsr was presented by the Grand Jury in June Last for fornication, she was summonsed & appeared at ye Genll Sessions in Sept last, & she being duly convicted by her own confession, and it is now Considrd by yis Court that she pay twenty shillings a fine to the King, at or before the first Tuesday of march next or else Receve Eight Stripes upon ye naked body when ye Court apoynt, and pay ye fees of prsecution which is 9s 6d.” (p. 21-22) [**Compiler’s note:** Connection to Thomas Hopewell not proven, but plausible.]

(MAN): Will of Giles Hamlin, Sen. dated August 30, 1689, “halfe of the swamp I bought of hopewell.” (vol. 1, p. 460)

(MAN): Inventory of estate of Sarah Hopewell of Wethersfield, Indian woman, taken April 22, 1704; on May 26, 1704, administration granted to Joseph Belden; on December 6, 1705, distribution to her relatives, to Robin Masshoot, to Sarah One penny and Munnumquask.” (vol. 2, p. 81)

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Abbreviation code used in SMFSD
biographical sketches and in-depth profiles:

- (MVR)** Middletown Vital Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)
- (BCVR)** *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* (original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; printed index available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.; digitized index available on CD-Rom as part of *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.)
- (MLR)** *Middletown Land Records* (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)
- (MAN)** *Digest of Connecticut Probate Records*, Hartford District (Manwaring, Charles William. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Originally published 1904-1906; reprinted 1995, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.)
- (CBRMC)** *Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, and Many of the Early Settled Families*. Chicago, Ill.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1903.
- (MUH)** *Middletown Upper Houses* (Adams, Charles C. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908.)
- (FFS)** Frank Farnsworth Starr (“The Settlers of Mattabesek 1650-1660,” *Middletown Penny Press*, Oct. 11, 1900; also published in the *Middletown Tribune* 250th Anniversary supplement.)

- (CAF)** *Centennial Address of Rev. David Field*. (Field, David D. *Centennial Address: With Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle Haddam, Middletown, and its Parishes*. Middletown, Conn.: W.B. Casey, 1853.)
- (GMB)** *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* (Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Vol. I-III*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996.)
- (SAV)** *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer’s Register*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Co., 1860-1862.)
- (GFHC)** *Genealogical & Family History of the State of Connecticut* (Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation*. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.)
- (HMC)** *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, ed. *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884)
- (RPCC)** *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Adams, Arthur W., ed. *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928.)
- (HCCM)** *Hartford County Court Minutes, 1663-1687* (Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. *Hartford County, Conn., County Court Minutes, Vol. 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005.)
- (NEHGSR)** *NEHGS Register (New England Historical and Genealogical Register)*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-2007.) (Online database available at NewEnglandAncestors.org)
- (TAG)** *The American Genealogist* (articles by Donald Lines Jacobus, ed., 1922-1971) (*The American Genealogist*. New Haven, Conn.: D.L. Jacobus, 1922-1971)