

History of John Willey

John Willey Sr. was one of the early settlers of East Haddam. He was the son of Isaac Willey and Joanna, and was born in New London, Connecticut about 1648. He married, on 18 March 1669, Miriam Moore the daughter of Miles Moore and Isabelle Joyner.

John and Miriam Willey's sons were Isaac, who married Rose Bennett and lived in Lyme, and John Jr., born in 1669, who married Elizabeth Harvey. Mr. Willey Sr. removed to Haddam East, probably in 1687. He settled a little North of the Lyme town line on the road running North and South. His home was near the corner of the old highway, long since discontinued, leading easterly along the town line.

John Willey Sr. died 2 May 1688, and his was the first estate of a resident of Haddam East to be admitted to probate. He is perhaps buried in Haddam. He was the ancestor of the Hadlyme Willey family. After his death, Miriam, John Willey's widow probably married Nicholas Ackley as her second husband. He died in 1695, and she married thirdly, as his second wife, Samuel Spencer whose first wife was the sister of John Willey Sr. Miriam Willey Spencer also outlived her third husband, and she was still living in 1718 when she acknowledged receipt from her Spencer stepsons of the sum of money she had agreed to take in lieu of dower in Samuel Spencer's estate.