

### History of Mary Leffingwell

Mary Leffingwell, the second daughter of Lieutenant Thomas Leffingwell, was born at Saybrook, Connecticut on 10 December 1654 and died at Norwich, Connecticut on 31 March 1745 in her 91st year. She was married, 28 November 1673, to Joseph Bushnell, the son of Richard Bushnell. Joseph was born at Saybrook in May 1651. They were among the more prosperous families of the new town of Norwich: he survived her, and after a union of over seventy years, he died 23 December, 1746, in his 97th years. Her gravestone was standing in the old Norwich cemetery not long ago.

### History of Thomas Leffingwell

Lieutenant Thomas Leffingwell was born in England in 1622. He was baptized in March 1624 at White Colne, Essex, England.

Thomas came to America when he was about fourteen years of age. In a sworn testimony before the Court of Commissioners at Stonington in 1705 he stated he was acquainted with Uncas, the Mohegan sachem in the year 1637. When he was 21 years of age, he returned to England and married Mary White of Croxhall.

They lived first at Saybrook where their first six children were born. His lot there bordered the North Cove near the fort first built on the peninsula where the Saybrook colony was located.

In 1645 Uncas and his Mohegan Indians were being held in their fort on the west bank of the Thames by the Narragansett Indians who had invaded the territory. Taking a canoe loaded with provisions and needed supplies, Lieutenant Thomas Leffingwell paddled at night from Saybrook up the river to the Indian fort, causing the siege to be broken.

In 1660 he moved with the Reverend James Fitch and several members of his congregation to the new plantation of Norwich. His lot there consisted of 12 acres, with an additional pasture lot of ten acres which had Indian wigwams upon it.

He was an active and influential member of the new plantation of Norwich, being one of the first two deputies chosen to represent the town to the General Court in 1662 and was chosen also for the following years of 1663, 1665, 1668, 1669 to 1674, 1676, 1677, 1679, 1681 to 1687, 1689 to 1691, 1693, 1695, 1696 and 1700. He was chosen Commissioner in 1669 and 1671, for trying cases involving

less than 40 shillings. He served as Townsman in 1669, 1677, 1679, 1680, 1682, 1684 and 1686.

He played an important role in military affairs, becoming Sergeant of the first military organization in 1668, being commissioned Ensign in 1672 and Lieutenant in 1676. He served under Captain Denison during King Philip's War.

He was a legatee in the will of Joshua, third son of Uncas, which bequeathed to twelve 'gentlemen' of Norwich lots consisting of 1,000 acres. The will was approved by the General Court of Connecticut in May, 1678, and Thomas Leffingwell was on the committee for laying out the land. Five days were spent making the surveys and measurements of the 48,000 acre shares of Joshua's tract which became the new plantation of Windam, located north of Norwich.

Lieutenant Thomas Leffingwell died in 1714 at Norwich Connecticut.