

History of William Backus

William Backus was born about 1603 in England. He was in Saybrook in 1637. He moved to the new settlement of Norwich in 1660 where both he and his oldest son, William Jr., had been assigned home lots. He took with him his second wife, her son Thomas Bingham, and his youngest son, Stephen, who was not quite of age in 1659 when lots were assigned. His three daughters were already married.

William Backus died at Norwich the following summer between 12 June, the date of his will, and 28 August 1661. His estate was valued at 102 pounds. His son Stephen inherited his father's home lot. When the deeds of the home lots were later recorded, Stephen's name was shown rather than his father's. He left his son William, Jr. all the "tools belonging to the trade of a smith and cutler", along with a bellows and a stock of ivory. His widow Ann soon went to live with her son Thomas Bingham who had married by 1666. She died in May 1670.

William was buried in the old Post and Gager burial ground which was in use prior to 1700. On the Founders' monument which is nearby appear the names of his two sons, William, Jr. and Stephen.