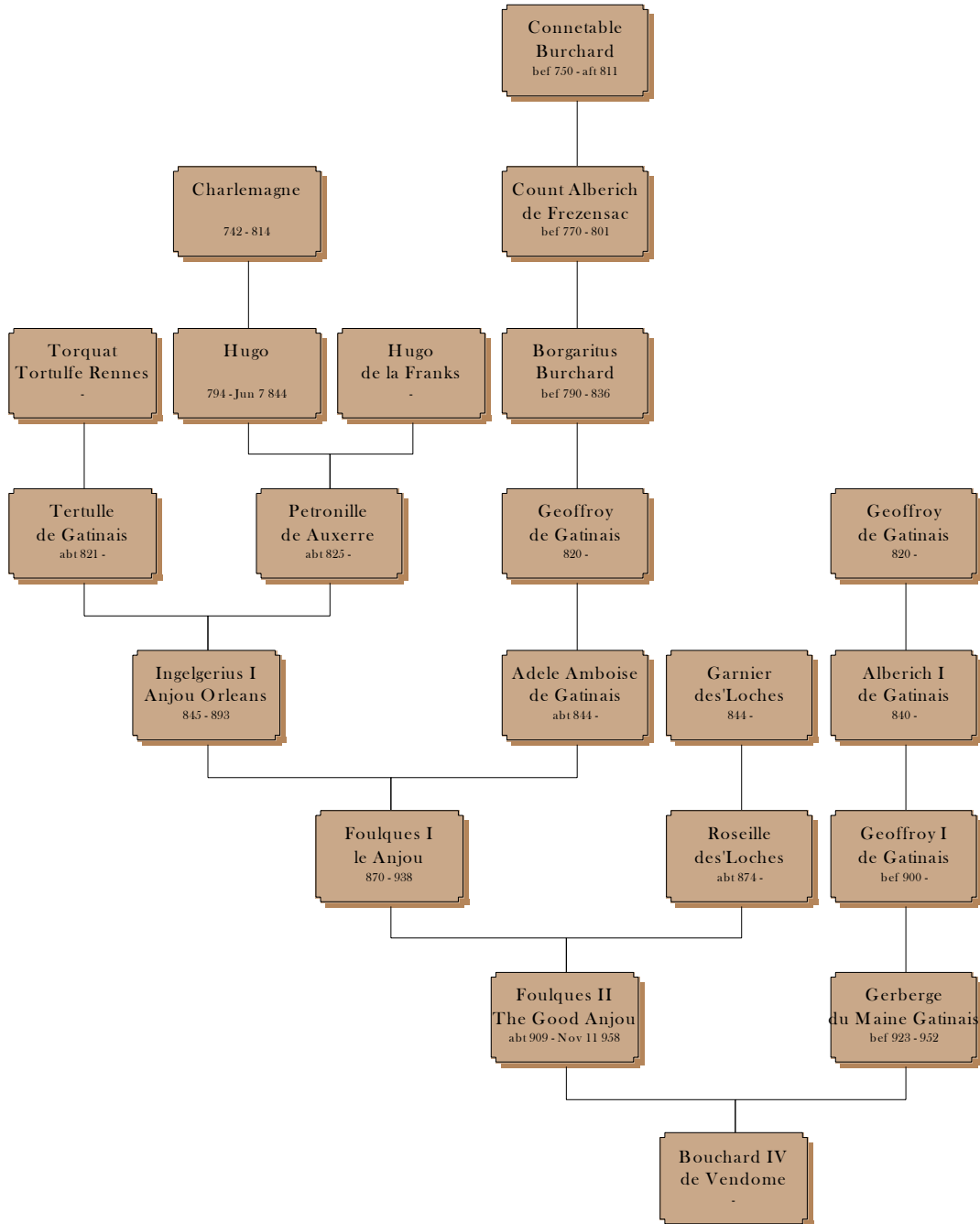


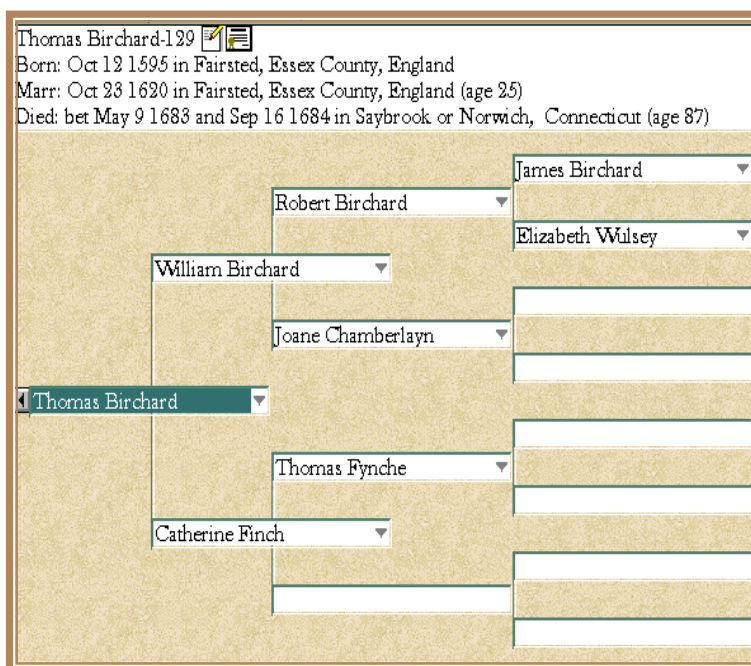
## The Burchard Name

Burchard, Burckard, Bouchard, Burckart, Burchardt, and Boucard have the same roots. It was written in Latin as Burchardus or Bourcardus. In South Germany it is written Burckard or Burchardt; in North Germany it is Burchard; in France the name is Bouchard or Burchard and in English the names Birckett and Burchett are forms of the same name. Burckhardt means “*hard castle*” or “*strong castle*”.

The earliest known mention of the name was in 496 A. D., when Burchard, the first Christian Chieftian of the Franks after Clovis, was baptized into Christianity. He bore the title of “*First Christian Baron*”. His battle cry was “*God and the First Christian Baron*”.



## The Birchards in America



### FOURTH GENERATION of the BIRCHARD FAMILY

*Tho. Birchard*

53. **Thomas Birchard** (William-3, Robert-2, James-1) was christened August 12, 1595 in Fairsted, Essex England. Thomas married **Mary Robinson** October 23, 1620 in Fairsted, Essex County, England. Mary died March 24, 1655 and

Thomas later married **Katherine Andrews** in 1658 at Martha's Vineyard, Duke County, Massachusetts. Katherine was born in 1600 in England and died in 1675 at Martha's Vineyard, Dukes County, Massachusetts. In 1676 Thomas married **Deborah** at Martha's Vineyard. Deborah was born in 1610 in England and died May 10, 1680 in Charlestown, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.<sup>25</sup>

Thomas and Mary Robinson Birchard immigrated to Massachusetts Bay, Suffolk County, Massachusetts November, 1635. Thomas was made a Freeman in Roxbury, Norfolk County, Massachusetts May 17, 1637. He died in 1684, probably in Norwich, Connecticut.

Thomas Birchard and Mary Robinson had the following children. Because they were previously numbered with the Robinson family, their identity numbers appear out of sequence:

- +34 i. **Elizabeth Birchard** was born November 1, 1621. She died February 28, 1700.
- +35 ii. **Marie Birchard** was born April 2, 1623. She died in 1658 in Saybrook, Connecticut.
- +36 iii. **Sarah Birchard** was born Aug 22 1624 and died after 1698
- +37 iv. **Susanna Birchard** was born June 26, 1626. She died June 9, 1682.
- +38 v. **John Birchard** was born January 31, 1627 and died November 17, 1702.
- 39 vi. **Thomas Birchard** was born September 24, 1629 and died February 19, 1631.
- 40 vii. **Deborah Birchard** was born April 18, 1632 and died April 6, 1633.
- +41 viii. **Hannah Birchard** was born October 17, 1633.

Thomas was born in Fairsted, Essex County, England. When he was baptized, his father was listed as “*William Byrcharde*”.<sup>26</sup> Thomas was a Puritan. Thomas and his first wife, Mary Robinson, had eight children, all of whom were born in Essex. Two children died before Thomas and Mary left England. In 1635, when Thomas was 40 years old, he immigrated to America with his family. They sailed on the *TRUELOVE*, which sailed from London in September, 1635. Master John Gibbs was the Captain. The ship's list was compiled before sailing and was dated September 20. It arrived safely in Massachusetts Bay.

The Burchards' voyage to America is verified in the Original Lists of Persons of Quality Who Went from Great Britain to the American Plantations, 1600 to 1700.<sup>27</sup> The flyleaf of this volume bears this information:

*Original Lists of Persons of Quality, Emigrants; Religious Exiles; Political Rebels; Serving men sold for a term of years; Apprentices; Children stolen; maidens pressed, and others who went from Great Britain to the American Plantations 1600 to 1700. From Mas. (manuscripts) preserved in the State Paper Department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office, England.*

*The under written names are to be transported to New England imbarqued in the Truelove. Jo: Gibbs Master, the men have taken the oaths of Alleg. and Suprem.*

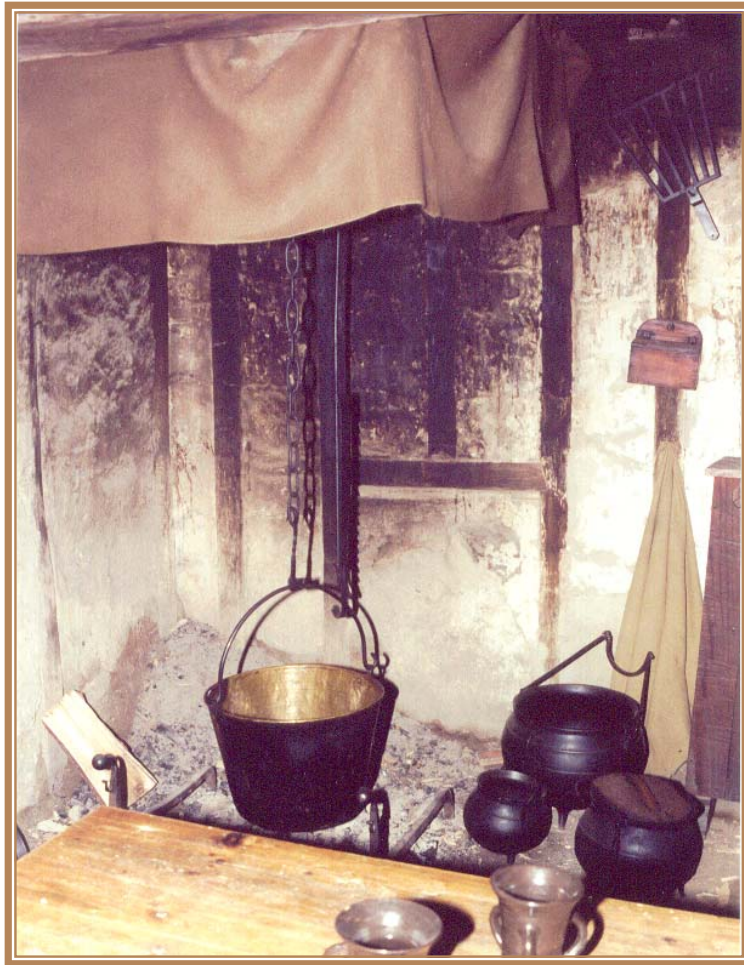
	<i>Yeres</i>
<i>Thomas Burchard, laboring man</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Mary Burchard</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Elizabeth Burchard</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Marie Burchard</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Sara Burchard</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Suzan Burchard</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Jo: Burchard</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Ann Burchard</i>	<i>18 months</i> <sup>28</sup>

There were 67 passengers in all on the Truelove for this voyage in 1635. This was the year of the “*Great Migration*” to America.<sup>29</sup> Ship space was principally reserved for laborers. Fourteen ships sailed from England to New England in 1635.

Even though Thomas was listed as a “*laborer*” on the ship's passenger list by 1651 he was a deputy to the General Court of Connecticut and was appointed to survey and lay out land. He must have had some experience as a surveyor. Later his son, John, and grandson, Samuel, were surveyors. By 1654 Thomas was town clerk of Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts so he was not only literate but possessed the reading and writing skills necessary to perform his job.

Thomas was “*made a Freeman of Boston*” on May 17, 1637 when he had complied with the immigration regulations for the colony of Massachusetts.<sup>30</sup> In order to be admitted as a freeman he must have been a member of one of the churchers within the limits of that Colony.<sup>31</sup> A document from the town of Boston has the following: “*Recorde of such as adjoynd themselves unto the fellowship of this Church of Christ at Roxborough*” the name of “*Thomas Bircharde*”. “*--- Birchard, the wife of Thomas Birchard*”. Thomas Birchard was admitted in 1635 to the Roxbury Church as member #137.<sup>32</sup> The Reverend John Eliot, the “*Apostle to the Indians*,” wrote out the first records of the First Church of Roxbury himself. Thomas Birchard's name is included in this list of church members.<sup>33</sup>

By 1639 Thomas had moved from Roxbury to Hartford. Previously there had been other inhabitants of Roxbury who had moved west. Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield, like three pearls on a necklace, were strung along the Connecticut River and were the sites of the first settlements in Connecticut, made during the winter of 1634-35.



The fireplace in the corner of a house in Plymouth Plantation is covered with clay. It is simply a corner of the room, rather than being set off by brick or stone.

These early structures were dank, dark, and drafty. One visitor said, “*We had a fire, but the house was so wretchedly constructed that if you are not so close to the fire as almost to burn yourself, you cannot keep warm, for the wind blows through everywhere.*”

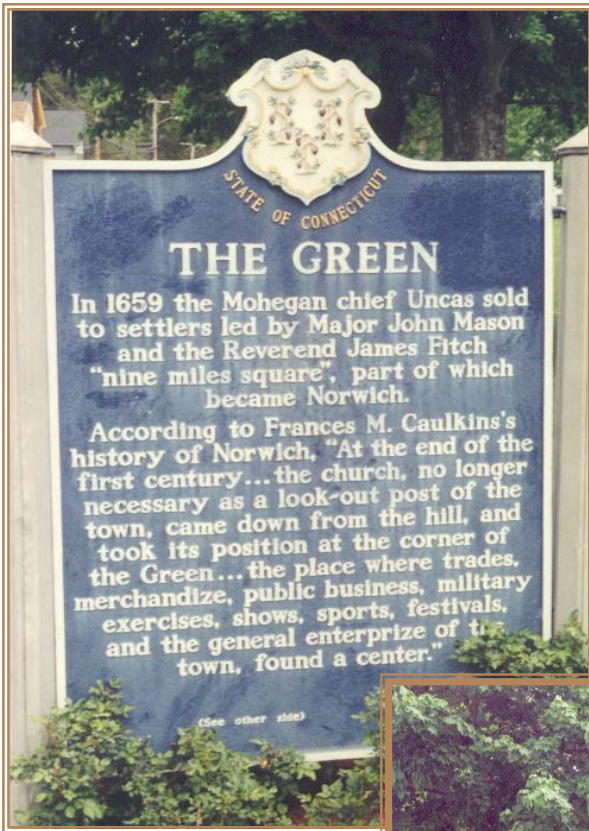
Log houses were found to be snugger and more tightly constructed. A newcomer to manual labor, once he learned to swing an ax, could construct one quickly and with ease. The English tended not to build them; rather, they were built by Scandinavian immigrants to the New World.

The first settlers preferred to reproduce houses they had known at home. A man who came from a cold and windy part of England built his house low to the ground. Another man who came from a warmer climate favored a boxlike house with a loft or second story. Those from areas where thatched roofs prevailed reproduced these roofs in America. However, within a generation geographic uniformity started to prevail since there was a cultural need for settlers from different backgrounds to express membership in a new group.

The climate of the new home also affected the house designs. Shingles were soon substituted for thatched roofs to reduce the risk of fire in a climate drier than England’s. A cellar became a common feature used to store food during the more hot summers. Cellars were generally unknown in England. In New England the pitch of the roof was steepened to let snow slide off more easily. Lean-to’s added at the rear were a cheap and easy way to meet the needs of a growing family. The abundance of wood in New England and the colder winters led to a larger fireplace with the chimney centrally located so heat could be more evenly spread throughout the house.

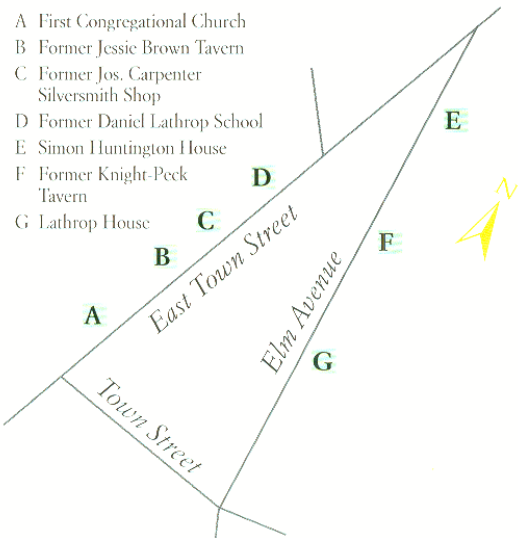
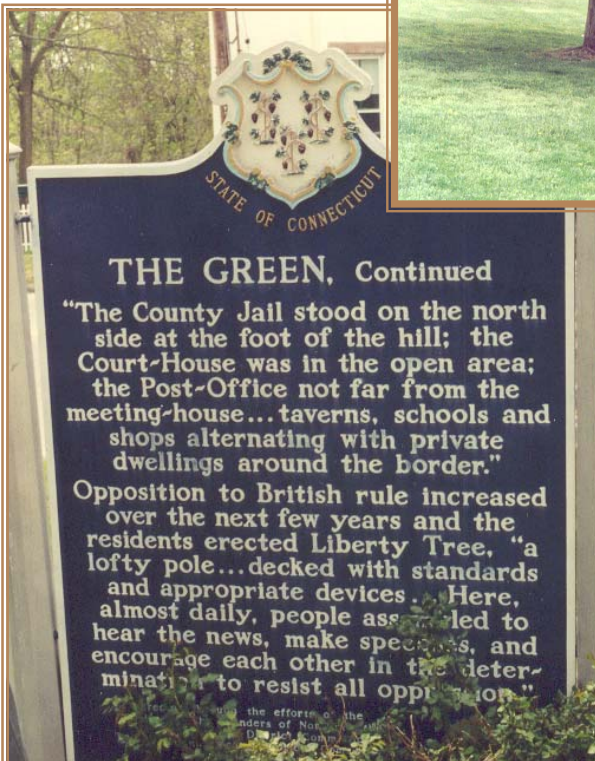
Each new settler knew the kind of house he wanted—one like the house he had just left—but few knew how to build one. Those from European cities or villages had lived in dwellings that had been passed down from one generation to the next. They had no experience constructing a house from the ground up. They had to utilize the skills of an itinerant master builder or carpenter. If a family needed a roof over their heads quickly, they had to accept the fixed floor plan he offered.

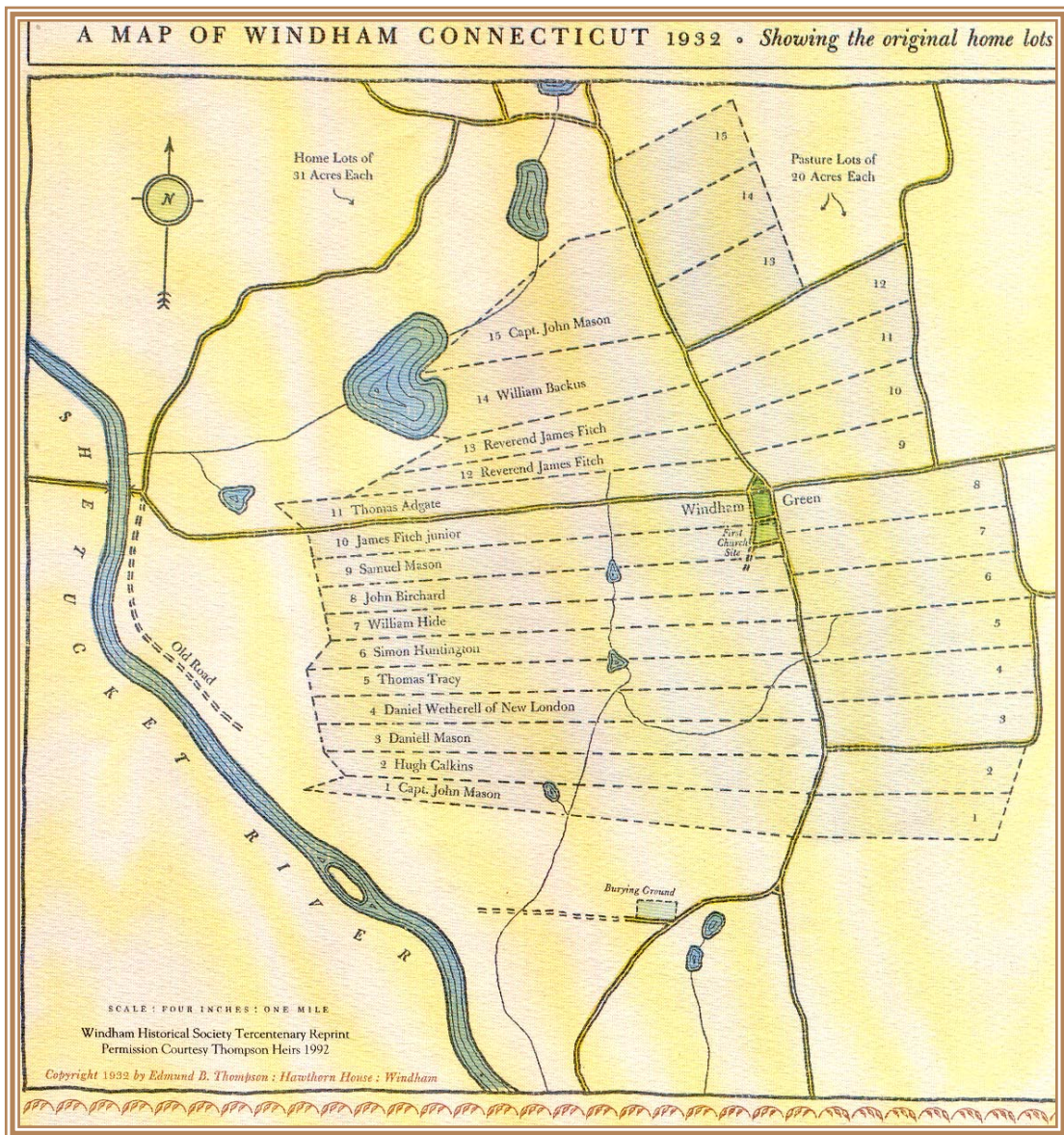
There were no rooms with assigned uses. The loft was for sleeping and also storage. It seldom held beds. Often the floor of the loft was not fastened to the joists so the boards could be removed when large items needed to be stored. There were no closets. The few garments were packed in chests or hung from pegs. In the beginning the ground floor consisted of the “*hall*”, and perhaps a small “*inner room*”. Generally there was no privacy. If a family member wanted to lose his temper or sulk, he



The Norwich Green appears park-like today, belying the activity that occurred here in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The courthouse, jail and whipping post were located here.

The Green was a transfer point where livestock was collected from families each day and driven to outlying pastures by herdsmen, then returned each evening. The Green was used for military training and the erection of a "Liberty Tree" to protest the stamp act in 1767.





John Birchard's home lot and pasturage lot at the Hither Place are number 8. The names of the other owners show the strong influence the early Norwich settlers had on the development of Joshua's Tract. John's son James settled on this lot until 1698.

The deed for John Birchard's lot at the Ponde Place describes the location of his home lot.

48 Land belong to John Birchard his heirs or assigns  
 lying in wind seam the one and twentieth lot at the ponds  
 six acres more or less abutting on the high way westerly from  
 to rods abutting on the the twentieth lot northerly onghtty  
 roads abutting on the river easterly twenty rods abutting  
 on the sixteenth division thirty rods layd out  
 may anno 1686  
 the first division lot twenty five acres abutting on the commons  
 on the twentieth lot easterly a hun

The home and pasturage lots at the Ponde Place are strung along route 195 south of Storrs, Mansfield Center being in the middle. Dodd Road goes east from Route 195 and the first home lot is at the corner of Dodd Road and Route 195, which is seen on the left of the aerial view below, running from top to bottom. John Birchard's lot was number 21 at the southern end of the lots. Mansfield Hollow Road turns to the northeast and forms a "V" with Route 195. John's home lot is at that intersection with his pasturage lot across Route 195. These home lots consisted of about 6 acres with allowances depending on the individual grant that might have unusable land in it, such as a bog. The pasturage lots were 20 acres or 24 rods wide by 133 1/2 rods long. The black lines in the aerial photo below indicate rock walls. The water on the right is the Willimantic Reservoir behind the Mansfield Hollow Dam. Samuel Birchard held this lot until 1698 when he moved to Coventry.

