

1749. A number of the original settlers of Guilford came from England in a ship which sailed from London on the 20th May, 1639, and arrived at New Haven about the 1st July in that year. During the voyage a covenant was entered into which may well be transcribed to these pages:

"June 1st, 1639, WE, whose names are hereunder written intending by God's gracious permission to plant ourselves in New England, and, if it may be, in the southern part of Quinpyack, we do faithfully promise each to, each for ourselves and our families and those belonging to us that we will, the Lord assisting us, sit down and join ourselves together in one entire plantation and be helpful each to the other in any common walk according to every man's ability and as need shall require and we promise not to desert each other on the plantation but with the consent of the rest or the greater part of the company who have entered into this engagement. As to the gathering ourselves together in a Church and the choice of officers and members to be joined together in that way we do refer ourselves until such time as it shall please God to settle us in our plantation.

"In witness Whereof we subscribe our hands this 1st day of June, 1639.

"Robert Kitchell, Francis Bushnell, William Lute, John Jordan, John Hoadly, Richard Guthridge, William Parmaley, John Mephon, Abm. Cruttenden, William Halle, Henry Kingsworth, Thomas Cooke, John Bishop, Brother of Lt. Governor Bishop of New Haven, William Crittenden, Thomas Jones, (Wm. & Jno. Stone, Brothers), William Plane, Jno. Housegrove, William Dudley, Thomas Norton, Francis Chatfield, Thomas Naish, Henry Dowde, Rev'd. Henry Whitfield.

"Of their arrival in Connecticut, of a meeting which was held by the people of New Haven for prayer and thanksgiving for their safe arrival," an account was given in a letter from the Rev. M. Davenport, of New Haven, to Lady Vere, Countess of Oxford.

William Stone, one of the two brothers above named who signed the covenant, died 16th November, 1683. His son William died on the 20th March, 1712, leaving a son Stephen, who was born on the 1st March, 1690, and married on the 9th December, 1711, Elizabeth Leeming, a daughter of one Christopher Leeming who came to East or South Hampton, Long Island, about 1640. Stephen Stone died 24th December, 1753. His son Stephen was born at Guilford, 13th August, 1721, and married for his first wife Rebecca Bishop, daughter of Stephen Bishop, and a descendant of the John Bishop who signed the covenant above mentioned. Of this marriage, Joel Stone, the subject of our memoir, was one of the issue. Stephen Stone survived his first wife (who died in 1769), was married to one Deliverance Chapman and died at Litchfield, Connecticut, in the month of September. He and his family had removed to Litchfield on the 23rd of April, 1751, when Joel was less than two years of age. Of this removal to Litchfield, Joel speaks in a narrative, and says of his father that there "by indefatigable labour and industry he improved a competency in land of which he was proprietor."

Of the early life of Joel Stone we have not any record further than that, in the narrative above referred to, he says that he remained at home with his father, in the improvement of the estate, until he was twenty-one years of age, when he proposed to try his fortune in a line of business more agreeable to his inclinations, and with his father's approbation entered

Jan 1639

Oct 1644 etc

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