

Chapter I

The Book of Robert

containing the
direct line of Rice-Royce
ancestry from
the immigrant Robert Royce
to David Augustus Rice

PEDIGREE CHART

CHAPTER I- DIRECT ROYCE (RICE) LINE

Direct line of: ROBERT ROYCE married Mary Sims (1-1)
|
SAMUEL ROYCE married Hannah Churchill (1-2)
|
ROBERT ROYCE married Mary Porter (1-3)
|
GIDEON ROYCE (RICE) married Mary Dutton (1-4)
|
TITUS RICE married Lois _____ (1-5)
|
IRA RICE married Sarah Ann Harrington (1-6)
|
LEONARD GURLEY RICE married Elizabeth Almira Babbitt (1-7)
|
LEONARD BABBITT RICE married Martha Jane Stoddard (1-8)
|
DAVID AUGUSTUS RICE married Hannah Priscilla Parkinson (1-9)

ROBERT ROYCE (- 1676)

MARY SIMS (- 1696-7)

The direct paternal line of ancestry from Robert Royce to the writer, V. E. (Rice) Gibb Kimzey, can be seen in the foregoing chart. This chart spans ten generations over a period of three hundred and eighty years time. Robert and Mary take on their separate identity by the information that is available in print. An acquaintance with those who have lived and died so long ago is dependent upon the rhetoric supplied and by the reader's perceptions of that rhetoric. It becomes the responsibility of the writer to be thorough in making available every source of information so that perceptions come as close to reality as possible.

Most of us who will have taken the time to peruse the pages of Robert and Mary's life sketch and the stories that follow of their descendants, including collaterallines of ancestors, will have done so with a desire to put their personal heritage into a proper perspective. We cannot discount our desire, too, to acquaint ourselves with some of the more relevant features of our cultural past--those small surviving fragments of information that help us realize that we are, indeed, an integral part of a genealogical saga.

The probability of heraldic connections back in the line of ancestry from Robert Royce, the subject of this sketch, is of enough interest to justify some consideration to the English and Welsh records of the Rhys (Rice) name. Even though Robert's New England identity remains without the necessary connection beyond himself, we must not discount the probability of a royal lineage or any connection to the many notable Rhys or Rice characters of the past. Becoming familiar with the family in early England and Wales is warranted whether or not we have an unbroken line that can be traced. It may be of interest to examine the illustrious, factual or even dubious conclusions of the authors who have endeavored to record early findings.

The Royce (Rhys or Rice) name is of honorable antiquity as evidenced in the reviews of many early records of Great Britain. The name is linked with the Royal House of South Wales in a line from Prince Rhys ap Tewdur and Rhys ap Griffith. Any connection with a royal line is to be desired because such a pedigree has been so well recorded in ancient history.

There is a pedigree tabulated in "Memoirs of Owen Glendower", 1822, and quoted in "The Thomas Book Genealogies of Sir Rhys ap Thomas", written by Lawrence Buckley in 1896, page 187, which established Griffith ap Rhys as the son of Rhys ap Thomas and a descendant of Rhys ap Tewdur of the Royal House of Wales. The Thomas Book is a noble attempt to reveal an unbroken line to the sixth century after Christ and boasts an extant pedigree even to Adam. ¹

Of the Royce (Rhys) genealogy in Great Britain, Brother Archibald Bennett, a former director of the genealogical work of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, gave some concise statements in the 'Utah Genealogical Magazine' of July, 1934. He brought to light a line from Prince Rhys ap Tewdior (Tewdur) and Rhys ap Gruffydd (Griffith), generally known as "The Lord Rhys", who was the last reigning Prince of South Wales. Brother Bennett added these words:

"Most Rice families of British descent are descended from him, Prince Rhys ap Tewdur of South Wales, and they can be reasonably sure this (referring to the chart submitted in the magazine, 1934) will be a part of their own pedigree".²

From this we can be encouraged that the probability, at least, exists that a line can someday be traced from Robert, the immigrant ancestor, to Rhys ap Tewdur and Rhys ap Griffith of South Wales.

Some of the data expounded by Lawrence Buckley might fall into place when the time arrives to unfold an ancient Rhys pedigree. A brief review is justified on the grounds of the mentioned probability.

"Sir Rhys ap Thomas was born in 1449, and was educated at the Court of Burgundy where he held a post of honour in the Dukes household. This he relinquished to accompany his father on his banishment to Wales. Here he became well known for his wisdom, politic and bravery. He put an end to the long established feud between his own family and that of the Court of Henry the Seventh and Henry the Eighth by marrying Eva, the only daughter and heiress of Henry ap Gwilym, the head of that House. By this marriage he added to his possessions a property not much inferior to his original patrimony, and became one of the most opulent subjects of the realm...

"Mr. Camden, the Herald, is quoted as saying 'that they were the best born gentlemen in Wales, and furthest spread in their branches of any family in England, being allied with the Houses of Northfolk, Worcester, Pembroke, Bullinbrooke, and Barkley'.

"His (Sir Rhys ap Thomas) establishment and hospitality were in every respect suitable to his immense wealth, and indeed displayed the magnificence of a prince, rather than of a private gentleman. He acquired unbounded popularity, and by degrees very formidable power...by training the young men to the use of arms. It is stated that...he could bring into the field five thousand disciplined men, mounted and armed. He was a great builder and enlarger of castles, built New Castle Emlyn and greatly added to Carew Castle...Fuller writes of him, 'though never more than a knight, he was little less than a prince in his native country...'

"There was in common usage the phrase, 'The King owns the island except what pertains to Sir Rhys.'

"...He was frequently employed by King Henry in negotiations on the Continent...

"Griffith ap Rhys, the only son of Sir Rhys ap Thomas by his first wife, Eva, of Court Henry, born 1478...was created a knight of that ancient order. He was a favorite companion of the Prince..."³

Donald Lines Jacobus, well known authority on New England genealogies who compiled an extensive work "Families of Ancient New Haven", studied many published materials and searched the vital records for facts pertaining to the Rice family and his findings are printed in Vol. 3 of his work. The study substantiates the fact that there is no known evidence in existence that warrants any claim of any close connection of Robert, the immigrant, to lines of ancient heraldry. However, he does not discount the possibility. He allows that Rhys ap Griffith and Katherine Howard, his wife, had a real existence, but that their connection to Robert has not been sufficiently established by either documental or traditional origin, and further states "that those responsible for any fabrication, innocently or not, have only stirred suspicion."⁴

Jacobus looked with disfavor on an alleged pedigree printed in 1911, "The Rice Family" by Dr. C. E. Rice. He claimed that the pedigree was widely accepted without any record of authority or documentation and has since been repeated in many genealogical works. Jacobus gave his reasons for suspecting that it was a fabrication to appease the American branches of the Rice family. The pedigree is as follows, and the above author's explanations are included that we might benefit from the concentrated research effort made by Jacobus. The pedigree, innocently accepted through the years, is recorded thus:

- "A. Sir Griffith ap Rhys, Knight of the Bath 1501
- B. Rhys ap Griffith b. 1500; m. Katherine Howard
- C. William Rice, born in 1522, of Boemer Co. Bucks; granted arms, 1555
- D. Thomas Rhys, father of Edmund and Robert (twins) who were born 1594" 5

Jacobus goes on to explain that no doubt exists as to the validity of generations A and B and they become the chief authority for the earlier generations that can be found on record in the books of the peerage records. He explains, further, that there is no doubt about the existence of William and Thomas in generations C and D, but that there is no documentation that shows that they (C and D) are descended from A and B. He calls attention to the fact that if William is a son of Rhys ap Griffith, then he was only fourteen years of age when the son was born. There is a William on record of the specified time, but he died without issue. Research has also uncovered the fact that Bohmer or Boemer is not included in any parish record of England or Wales, which makes its actual existence somewhat doubtful. (Boemer was the acclaimed location of some of the Royce, Rhys or Rice ancestry) Another discounted claim made by some writers was the assertion that Robert and Edmund, both New England immigrants, were twins. (Many Rice families trace their pedigree to Edmund Rice) This assumption has never been verified.

Jacobus cited from "English and American Heraldry," portions of which were published in "The American Genealogical Magazine", Volume 9, giving an account (pp 197-8) of a New England painter named 'Cole' who was very active near the end of the eighteenth century in turning out coat-of-arms. As Jacobus states, "Many a family are now the proud possessor of a Cole forgery". 6

Not all of Jacobus' findings were negative in character, for he gave consideration to the real existence of Rhys ap Griffith and Katherine Howard and to the fact that Katherine had an older half-sister who was the mother of Anne Boleyn, one of the wives of Henry the Eighth and grandmother of Queen Elizabeth. However, if the alleged pedigree, above, printed by Dr. Rice, were true, it would make our ancestor, Robert Royce, a third cousin to Queen Elizabeth and, as such, would have been the holder of high position. Even if later, out of favor of Court, because of Puritanism or for any other reason, the son or grandson of such a family would have been accorded such a mention by his fellow Puritans in their contemporary records. Such were the reasonings of the New England genealogist, Jacobus.

Even though Jacobus did not rule out the possibility of a Royal connection in the ancestry of Robert Royce, he was firm in expressing his conviction that there is no evidence at this time that would determine his English or Welsh forebears.

The review of the several controversies is given here to warn anyone

against accepting with confidence any information which does not meet the requirements of certain scrutiny. The chances of errors in the connections made on any purported 'Back to Adam' charts are great. Jacobus would remind all genealogists that documentation precedes conclusiveness.

It is regrettable that we have to remain at the mercy of bare conjecture as to the ancestry of Robert and Mary (Sims) Royce of Stratford and New London, Connecticut. However, we can be grateful for the preservation of enough New England vital records to substantiate their real existence and feel to thank the many conscientious writers who have given precious details of information regarding their life and surroundings. Withal, we can place Robert and his wife, Mary, at the head of a line of ancestors that can be claimed with pride.

We may never know what motivated Robert and Mary to leave their beautiful homeland of Martock, Somersetshire, England, for the more difficult life of a wilderness in New England. Reasons come readily to mind when considering the economic uncertainties, the religious unrest brought about by the persecutions that were inflicted upon the free-thinkers of the old world at the time. A great swelling of emotional and intellectual desire for freedom and opportunity filled the hearts and minds of the people of Old England during the period of time that Robert and Mary left their homeland. Opportunities to become a land-owner and the challenge of private enterprise was enticing to every lover of freedom. Topping all reasons was the offering of adventure. To be sure, only the most courageous souls, having tremendous strength of conviction, were among those who braved the ocean for the unknown, who were willing to take the risks and dangers of pioneering a wilderness peopled by thousands of savages who were brutal in ways and unready to be civilized.

The Massachusetts Bay shoreline and the Boston Harbor furnished the usual landing ports for New England's early immigrants. Not all chose to remain in the crowded Boston area, but reembarked on boats that sailed around Cape Cod and into the Long Island Sound to select a settlement along the shore of what later became Connecticut. This shoreline offered beautiful coves that lay beckoning to those who were looking for a place to settle and make a home. Robert and Mary, with their three or four small children, were among those early settlers of Stratford. (See Maps # 3, 4, 5)

It is not thought, at this early date when the country was first being settled, that those who traveled from Boston to Stratford, or other coastal towns, did so by land. Indian trails had been followed by eager groups from Boston to sections inland, as far as the Connecticut River Valleys further north, such as Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield, localities that were settled as early as 1635. The hardships and hazards of such a journey were tremendous. Those who settled along the coastline of the Sound, no doubt, came the easier and faster route by boat.

Robert Royce is mentioned by Calkins in this text: "When he (Robert) left Boston is not known, but he is found at Stratford, west of New Haven, before 1650, and was there in 1656." ⁷

Stratford was the seventh plantation settled within the present territory of Connecticut. Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield, the three firsts, were commenced in the years 1635 and 1636; Saybrook was commenced under the leadership of John Winthrop, the younger, in 1635, although but a few families had arrived there in 1636. Mr. Davenport's company from London with Mr. Pruden's company arrived at New Haven the middle of April, 1638, and the next spring, Mr. Pruden and his people, who had remained only one winter at New Haven, settled in what is now Milford. A number of the families from the new settlement of Pruden's company moved on to Stratford in 1639, then known by the Indian name of Cupheag.

We have no record that states that Robert and Mary Royce was a part of this earliest company. Alma L. James gives Robert and Mary's appearance in Stratford as 1644, just five years following the first settlers. Other authors in less definite terms, place his arrival as sometime before 1650. 8

Rev. Samuel Orcutt wrote a history of "Old Stratford" in 1886 and his descriptive words of the town makes one wish that the more than three hundred years could roll back to allow us to tarry by the old hearthstones of our ancestors who lived there. Not only was the Royces a part of Stratford's early times, but Nathaniel Porter (3-3), Philip Groves (3-5), Zachariah Ferris (7-62) and John Sturdevant (7-61), all ancestral kinfolks, resided in the beautiful area of that seashore town.

"Stratford was, and is, a beautiful spot of earth...Its situation being bounded toward the sunrising by the placid Housatonic River, and on the south by the ever charming Long Island Sound. Its situation is one of remarkable attractiveness, and such as never to be forgotten by any of its wandering sons and daughters..." 9

How true the above statement remains can be affirmed by one of its daughters, the compiler of the life histories of this volume, who traveled the Merritt Parkway, overlooking Stratford, in 1975 and again two years later. Lingered on both occasions, I felt the charm of the town's antiquity in remembrance of the halcyon days which will never-more return. It becomes a beautiful experience to let ones thoughts be preoccupied with past realities of those early years.

Returning again to the writings of Orcutt, we can picture Old Stratford as it was early in the 17th century.

"By the side of the great sea where the tide of the mighty ocean, ever obedient to the nod of the queen of night, ceases not its life-giving toil, Stratford sat down as a child in 1639, and thereafter grew towards maturer years. In historic time, it is still young, but compared with many of its inland neighbors, it is truly old; and, as the tale of its legends pass in review, the ages will seem to have multiplied, and its multitude of descendants indefinitely extended from ocean to ocean.

"Stratford village is located about one and a half miles from the waters of the Sound... fourteen miles from New Haven and fifty-eight miles from New York. The original township, being twelve miles in length north and south, and about seven miles wide east and west, comprised most of the territory now included in the five townships of Stratford, Bridgeport, Huntington, Trumbull and Monroe...(See Map #8)

"The picturesqueness of the locality is remarkable. The general slope of the land is towards the Housatonic River on the east and the Long Island Sound on the south, and the face of the country is divided with small elevations of land, called hills, but scarcely equal to the name, such as Old Mill Hill, Toilsome Hill, Chestnut Hill, Long Hill, Coram Hill, and the White Hills; rising only to such a height as to afford sites for many dwellings, in full view of many miles of water scenery of the Sound and landscape on Long Island beyond. A high degree of health is guaranteed by the balmy breezes of the Atlantic and the bracing, if not sometimes the biting, winds from the hills at the west and north. Great vigor of health, longevity of life, and beauty of the locality, have been characteristic of the region...

"Beginning in a wilderness, bordering on the sea, a settlement of noble English inhabitants, for the perpetuation of posterity under the broad principles of religious freedom and uprightness, as well as an enlarged perception of civil rights, was the honored privilege of the first planters of Stratford...The advanced position which they took upon emigrating from the terrible restrictions placed by their native country, upon the ideas which they had, was and still is, a marvel in itself; and it has proved already to be the germinating seed of mighty freedoms of a marvelously great proportion of national liberty and government..." 10

Stratford began with a few families and its immigrants were mainly families who came to build new homes with no thought of returning to England. They were not exploiters of the rich resources; they were colonizers.

"Robert Royce came from England in the "Francis" to Boston, Massachusetts, where he was disarmed for supporting Wheelwright and Ann Hutchinson. He married Mary Sims on June 4, 1634, and removed to Stratford in 1644, going to New London, Connecticut in 1657, where he was Constable and Deputy to the General Court. He died in 1676. His wife died before 1697." 11

In a similar but more complete sketch, recorded with several reference sources, found in film 929.273, P. 851h, in the Salt Lake Genealogical Library, is the following.

"Robert Royce, born in England, lived in Martock, Somersetshire, and married June 4, 1634, Mary Sims of Long Sutton, Somersetshire. They were married at Martock, England. They emigrated from England; were settled in Stratford, Connecticut, by 1650. After 1657, they lived in New London; he served as Constable; was on the city council; deputy to the General Assembly; a land owner; church goer; an influential and respected citizen. He died in 1676; the inventory of his estate was taken in New London, September 22, 1676. His widow died in Wallingford, Connecticut, in 1696." 12

This same review noted that Robert and Mary (Sims) Royce left England from Ipswich on the ship "Francis" in 1630. The children of Robert and Mary are listed thus:

- "1. Sarah Royce, 1634-1711; m. John Calkins, son of Hugh Calkins.
2. Nehemiah Royce, 1636-1706; md. Hannah Morgan, dau. of James Morgan.
3. Jonathan Royce, md. (1) Mary Spinning, dau. of Humphrey Spinning; md. (2) Deborah Calkins, dau. of Hugh Calkins. Died 1690.
4. Samuel Royce, md. (1) Hannah Churchill, dau. of Josiah Churchill; md. (2) Sarah Baldwin, dau. of John Baldwin. Died 1711.
5. Nathaniel Royce, md. (1) Esther Moss, dau. of John Moss; (2) Sarah Lothrop, dau. of Samuel Lothrop; (3) Hannah (Wilcoxon) Farnum; (4) Abigail (Cooke) Romeroy Hoyt.

6. Isaac Royce, md. Elizabeth Lothrop, dau. of Samuel Lothrop. Died 1681.
7. Ruth Royce, md. (1) John Lothrop, son of Samuel Lothrop; (2) Abraham Doolittle." 13

It is well to mention the several controversies that arose in the researches of the past concerning Robert and Mary's New England identity. In this way the reader can appreciate the selection of facts that make up a more conclusive statement for this writing. It is hoped that such an effort will be the proving ground to confound any future controversy.

For many years a point of real debate came with the appearance of two separate Roberts on early New England records. The confusion arose when some researchers claimed the two to be one and the same person. This debate persisted until one, F. F. Starr, writing in "Goodman and Morgan Ancestral Lines" in 1915, disclosed the documental proof which established their separate identity and which settled the dispute and gave us the data which makes positive the identity of the Robert from whom we are descended.

According to F. F. Starr, enough evidence is given, as he states that,

"should settle the controversy and confusion regarding the particular identity of Robert Royce...Some writers have claimed that Robert Rice or Royce, who was living in Boston in 1640 with a wife, Elizabeth, was the same person who later appeared in New London, Connecticut, with a wife Mary.

"An examination of the Suffolk County Deeds proves beyond question that Robert Royce of Boston died prior to October 1660 at which date his widow had become the wife of Michael Tarne or Tearn...Other facts, set forth later, show that Robert Royce of New London, the subject of this sketch, was living in 1670, thus proving the impossibility of this claim." 14

For reference, Mr. Starr gave New London County, Deeds, Vol. 9, pp.352 and 393, and Land Records of Stratford, Conn., old folios 62 and 106 and new records pages 101, 188 and 194. With his notations he makes a convincing issue of the fact that the Robert Royce of Stratford and New London, whose wife was Mary, is not the Robert Royce of Boston, whose wife was Elizabeth.

Jacobus, also confirms the subject's identity in some notes printed in the January, 1926 issue of the magazine, "New Haven Genealogy", pp. 106-7, in very similar wording:

"It needs to be reaffirmed that the New London man was a separate individual from Robert Royce of Boston, with whom he has been persistently confused. Robert Royce of Boston left a widow Elizabeth; Robert Royce of New London died in 1676, leaving a widow Mary." 15

As recorded by Jacobus. the line from father to son can be traced for this study as Robert (1), Samuel (2), Robert (3), Gideon (4), and Titus (5). The line extended -- Ira (6), Leonard Gurley (7), Leonard Babbitt (8), and David Augustus (9)--is the recording of later works.

No difficulties arose in completing an unbroken line from Robert until a more recent questioning required several years of research done by Dora Rice Duncan, the Rice Family genealogist of Salt Lake City, Utah, who has furnished satisfactory documents to establish the connection of Ira (1-6) to his father,

Titus (1-5), and to his grandfather, Gideon Rice (1-4).

The controversy that arose over two separate Roberts in New England, leaves one wondering which Robert actually came to Boston on the ship "Francis" and which Robert was disarmed for supporting Wheelright and Hutchison. These questions, like many others we may wonder about, must wait for the answers at some later date and realize, all the while, that we may never find the documental proofs for much wanted data.

Jacobus, of earlier mention, was also in agreement that the Robert Rice of Stratford and the Robert Royce of New London, was one and the same person.

The Royce home lot, #74, is shown on the map of the town of Stratford. Robert's other acreages were outside the home plots in areas of pasturage, timber and/or tillage lands. (Map # 4)

Mr. Starr had this to say regarding Robert's stay in Stratford:

"The land Records of Stratford, Connecticut, state that a Robert Rise had granted to him in that town, eight pieces of land including a two acre home-lot, all of which were recorded to him September 16, 1658.

"This home-lot was sold by him to Thomas Wheeler and by Wheeler to Richard Beach of Stratford, both sales being recorded February 6, 1660...

"The last of the eight pieces recorded to Rise at Stratford was a tract of land of three and one-quarter acres near the ferry.

"June 24, 1667, this tract was recorded to Moses Wheeler, as having been bought of Robert Rise..." 16

Noting that Robert Royce was in New London in 1657, we can account for the late recording of land purchases and sales in the authors words:

"There seems to be no further mention of Robert Rise on the Stratford records and it is suspected that he was not a resident there when these sales were recorded." 17

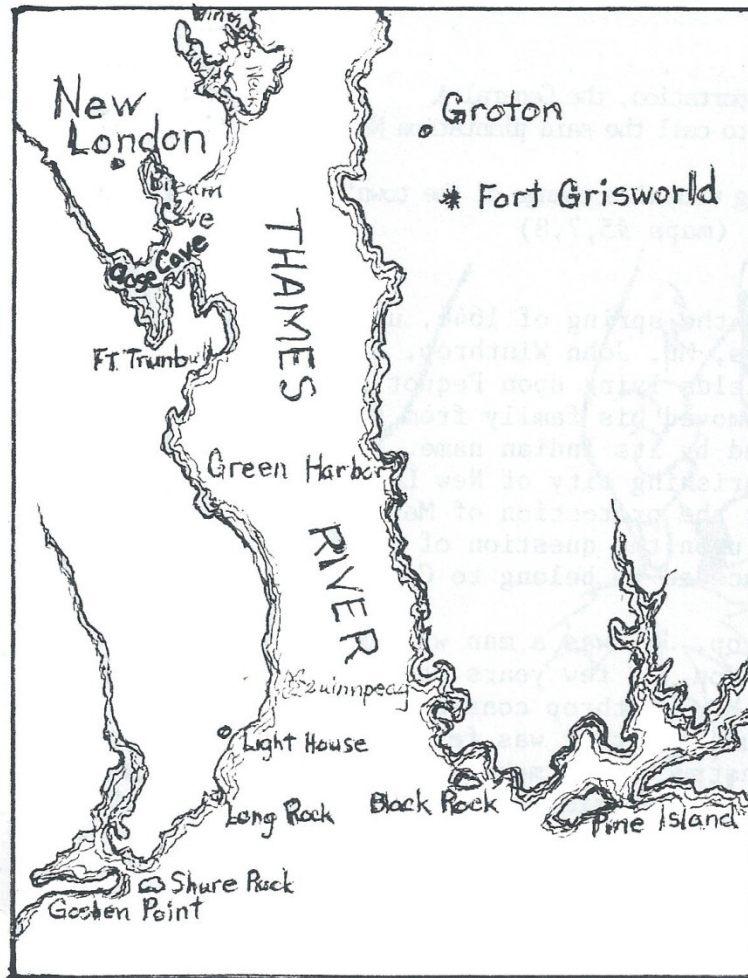
In many instances it is known that records were made some time after a sale took place. The author of reference was convinced that the Robert Royce who first appears on the New London town records in 1657 is the same Robert Rise who sold property in Stratford, the sale of which was recorded in 1658, 1660 and 1667.

The following statement of reference is appropriate before continuing with the New London portion of our story:

"Before quitting this period (alluding to New London's early history), it will be proper to gather up the names of residents that came in during the interval for which the New London town records were lost." 18

Among the names mentioned in this list was Robert Royce, 1657. It is known that many early records were lost at the time of the great fire, 1781,

when Colonel Benedict Arnold, the Revolutionary traitor, and his army, set fire to New London in a surprise attack. Were it not for this unfortunate event, we may have had more information about Robert and, perhaps, even some evidence of his parentage and early life in England.



NEW LONDON HARBOR

"The plantation of Nameaug, as the settlement of New London was called at first, according to its old Indian name, included all the territory between the Sound on the south, Norwich and Preston on the north, the Pawcatuck River to the east and Lyme on the west...The south-east section along the shore was the part that was first built up by the earlier settlers, and here the nucleus of the larger town was formed...

"It was not until 1658, after the town had been settled over ten years, that the changing of its Indian name, Nameaug, was proposed. Some of the things in the act of the Connecticut General Court on this matter, passed in March, 1658, (the year following Robert's arrival) is deserving of mention verbatim for their historical significance:

" 'Whereas, it has been the commendable practice of the inhabitants of all the colonies in these parts, that as this country has its denomination from our dear

native country of England, and thence is called New England, so the planters in their first settling of most new plantations, have given names to these plantations, of some cities and towns in England, thereby intending to keep up, and leave to posterity the memorial of several places of note there—and as there hath yet no place in any of the colonies been named in memory of the City of London, there being a new plantation within this jurisdiction of Connecticut, settled upon the fair river Mohegan, in the Pequot country, being an excellent harbor and a fit and convenient place for future trade—that thereby they might leave to posterity the name of that renowned City of London, from whence we have had our transportation, the General Assembly have thought fit, in honor of that famous city, to call the said plantation New London. (Map #5)

"...In keeping with this change of the town's name, the river also became the Thames." 19 (maps #5,7,8)

As early as the spring of 1646, under the auspices of the General Court of Massachusetts, Mr. John Winthrop, jun., and a few others, had already begun to plant the fields lying upon Pequot Harbor, and found a settlement there. Mr. Winthrop removed his family from Boston in the fall of 1646. The place was first called by its Indian name, Nameaugus. This was the first beginning of the new flourishing city of New London. Although the plantation was commenced under the protection of Massachusetts, yet after the action of the commissioners, upon the question of jurisdiction in July 1647, the dominion over it was conceded to belong to Connecticut.

John Winthrop, Jr. was a man who did a great deal in the early development of New London. A few years before Robert and his family made their home in New London, Mr. Winthrop considered the question of erecting a mill to grind corn. Such a matter was felt of prime importance in all new settlements. Six men were instructed to make it "substantial and sufficient". The proof of their faithfulness exists today in the still-intact and solid character of this ancient piece of reliable workmanship. It became one of the attractive points of tourist interest and is still a memorable landmark. The flow of the water over the sluice and through the rocky gulch below, has a very artistic effect and one only needs to dream to hear the clacking of the old wheel worn now with the weathering of time.

The following poem, given here in part, came from the pen of M. G. Brainard:

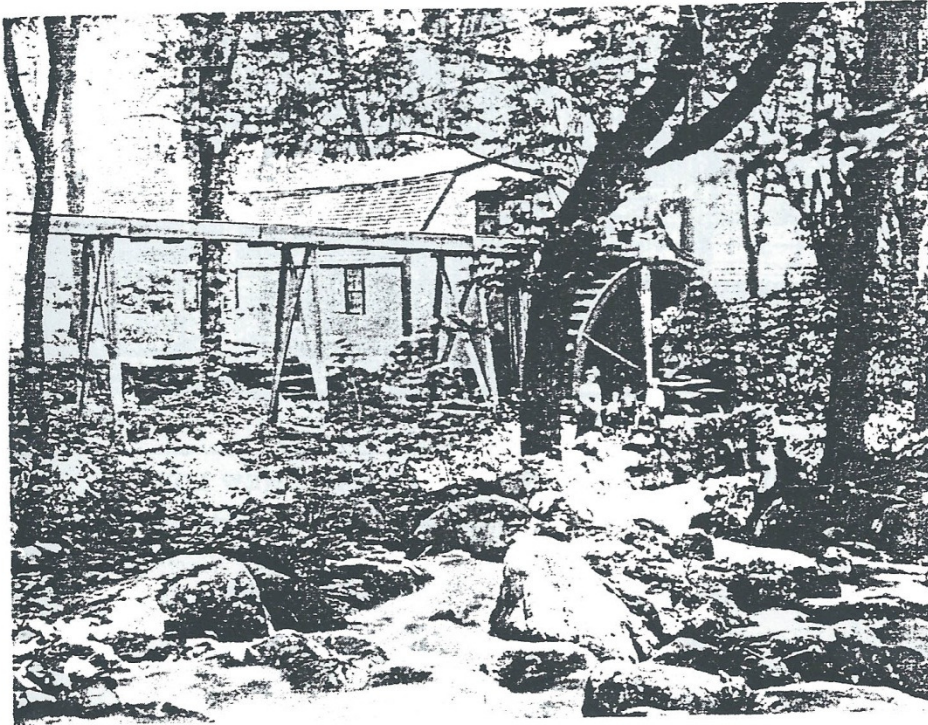
THE OLD MILL AT NEW LONDON

The same old mill that Winthrop built;
Few were the men that saw it rise;
Today it passes on their life,
Transmitted through the centuries.

And men have come and men have gone,
Houses been built and homes laid low;
And now, the same old mill-stone turns
E'en as two centuries ago.

How many by the placid pond,
The little wharf, the dainty bridge,
Have watched the willows as they dipped
Their fringes in the water's edge.

Or, lingering near this quiet spot
In the soft moonlight pale and still,
Have listened to the water's gush
And drank the peace of the old mill.



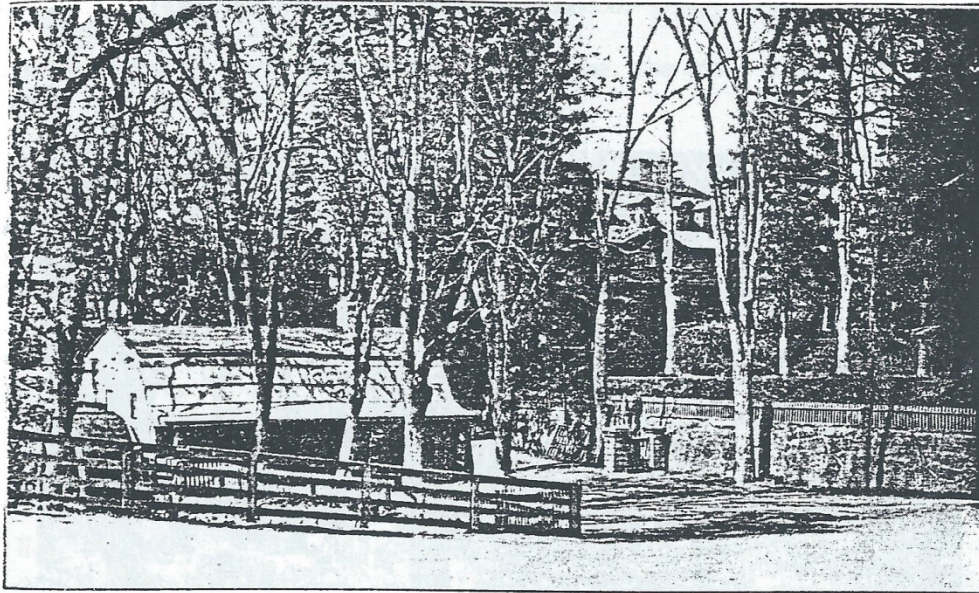
THE OLD MILL.

And still the water wends its way
With rush and gush of happy sound,
And throws its arch of sparkling spray,
And pushes the big wheel around.

Long may the ancient millstone grind!
Long may the ancient mill be seen!
Long wave the trees, long flow the pond!
Long rest the rocks in their ravine!

Long, through the narrow, open door
And little window o'er the wheel,
May sunshine gleam upon the floor
O'er golden heaps and bags of meal.

Soft be the touch of rushing time,
Swift as they need the prompt repairs,
Reverent the care shall pass thee on
As thou hast been to waiting years. 20



OLD TOWN MILL AND WINTHROP MANSION, NEW LONDON

The Old Town Mill built by Winthrop in 1652 is still standing



John Winthrop, Founder of New London



GOVERNOR WINTHROP MANSION, NEW LONDON
 Building razed and site now occupied by Winthrop School

Mr. Winthrop found the area of Nameaug to be the favorite and central headquarters of the Pequot Indians, the most fiery and powerful tribe of southern New England. The Pequots dwelt mainly on the east side of the Thames river, and that part dwelling on the west bank were called Mohegans. Indian disturbances had been especially prevalent before the Royces settled in New London. John Winthrop's administration had seen some bitter conflicts and finally the Pequot war was waged.

"The origination of the trouble between the English and the Pequots seems to have been largely unintended on the latter's part. In provocation at some insult or injury, the tribe slew an English trader on the river. For this, the authorities at the Massachusetts Bay, who then had jurisdiction over this locality, called them to account, and demanded the surrender of the murderers. Upon refusal, there ensued some trifling quarrels between the representatives of Massachusetts, in which one of the Pequots was slain. Thereupon the bitter, revengeful spirit of the race was set on fire, and their hand was against every Englishman as a deadly foe. By lying in ambush and picking off stray individuals or parties, they succeeded in obtaining a good many scalps from their hated foe, until finally it became unsafe for a settler, anywhere within a hundred miles of their camp, to venture into the fields or to church unless fully armed. At length, incensed by many wanton murders the colonies united to put an effectual quietus to the "pesky rascals"...It was on May 26, 1637, that the English defeated a force of some nine hundred of these fiery warriors, and accomplished the complete dissolution of the tribe...Perhaps they were not without reason in warring against the Indians, but the treatment of the captives afterwards by the English, can hardly be called less brutal than the action of the less enlightened savages themselves. But, of course, large latitude must be made for the necessities of the situation and temper of the time." 21

It was in 1646 that the actual settlement of New London was begun. Under Winthrop's wise leadership an atmosphere of great activity and progress marked the people of the settlement from the start. By 1657, the year of Robert Royce's arrival, John Winthrop had been chosen Governor of the Colony of Connecticut, and, much to the regret of his townsmen, it became necessary for him to remove to Hartford.

In the same year, with the erection of the old mill on Mr. Winthrop's property (1650), "the first regular minister, Mr. Blinman, was settled at New London, and this practical inauguration of the religious and commercial interests of the town, was attended by a large influx of new settlers; so the growth of the place went rapidly forward".²²

When Robert and his family moved to New London in 1657, it is most likely that they again traveled by boat even though the distance by land was only a matter of about 50 or 60 miles. Land travel was difficult--there were only Indian trails through the thick vegetation. The many rivers and inlets of the Sound were formidable barriers between Stratford and New London at this early time.

New England was one big Commonwealth of Great Britain, governed by General Assemblies. Stratford, New Haven and New London and other smaller settlements of the area were represented at periodic assemblies held at Hartford, a town which later became the Capital city of Connecticut.

One of the outstanding traits of our New England fathers was the orderly fashion in which their records were kept. Great importance was placed upon a system of keeping all covenants entered into and all vital statistics recorded. The church played a contributing part in this effort. In most cases a man's right to vote was determined by church membership. The separation of church and state was not altogether a ruling for the Puritan and Pilgrim settlements. New London suffered the loss of many early records when it was burned to the ground during the Revolutionary War by a British force under the command of an American soldier, Benedict Arnold, whose services are thrown into the background by his treason to his country.

During Arnold's service in the American cause, under George Washington, he aroused enmities, was accused of disloyalty, was tried by court-martial on charges which apparently had little basis, and was found guilty of two minor offences, for which Washington, directed by the court, mildly reprimanded him. Filled with a sense of wrong, and longing for revenge, he entered into treasonable negotiations with the British. One of his infamous endeavors was to command a British force which burned New London, Connecticut.

The place of Arnold's birth was Norwich, Conn., a town to the north of New London. (See Map #7)

Even though Arnold's fire (1781) destroyed many New London records, much of the Land Records were preserved. In 1657, the town of New London granted Robert the original Post Lot on Post Hill. The name Post Hill, where the Royces made their home, was so named for an earlier occupant, Mr. Richard Post. In Calkins text we are told:

"He (Robert Royce) was, by trade, a shoemaker, was Constable in 1660, one of the town

freemen in 1663, and in 1667, appointed to keep an ordinary and the same year freed from training, probably on account of age..." 23

An ordinary was one selected to keep an Inn for the entertainment of town meetings and to accomodate travelers passing through the area.

All male members of a community were obliged to take military training in the use of arms and to take turns at guard duty as a protective measure against any surprise attacks. To this type of duty is the term 'training' or 'train band' given reference.

"December 1, 1658, the town gave Robert ten acres of upland woodland by Mill Brook.

"April 2, 1659, Richard Smith, Junior, of Wethersfield, sold to him his house lot of six acres which he had bought of the widow Mudge..." 24

The Mudge family story (7-45) makes reference to this particular incident. It is interesting to note that Jarvis Mudge lived and died in New London before Robert Royce had made his appearance there. The likelihood of Jarvis having had an interest in the building of the mentioned "Mill" in New London is convincing, for the Mudges, descendants of Jarvis, were all great Mill builders as will be noted in stories (7-48) and (7-49). It is also of interest to note that Robert Royce's fourth greatgrandson, Leonard Gurley Rice, married Jarvis' fifth great granddaughter, Elizabeth Almira Babbitt. (1-7)

The land records reveal that Robert bought:

"ten acres next Scull Plain, four acres in the Neck, four acres of fresh meadow and twenty-four acres of upland.

"September 11, 1660, John Stebbins deeded him sixteen acres of upland by the Mill Brook and his six acre lot with the remaining part of Post Hill adjoining Royce's land... (On January 7, 1662, Robert conveyed some of his land to his son Nehemiah)

"In 1663, Robert Royce petitioned the town for a grant of land to settle his two sons, Samuel and Nathaniel. This was granted; their father gave them also his mountain farm... The name of 'Royce's Mountain' was long retained in that locality." 25

The high ground, occupied by Samuel and Nathaniel, was called the 'Mountain Farms', so named for the particular hilltop location. It became legendary reference that an English emigrant at a later date settled on one of these farms; and the witticism was current that he selected the spot on the supposition that from the top of the rocks he could see England.

Starr's examination of the New London Land Records reveals the purchase and sale by Robert of other tracts of land in various parts of the town. 26 Ten acres of land in those days was an extensive farm, as much land as one man could handle with the crude implements in use for the planting and harvesting of crops. Pasturage of stock was done on a communal arrangement of the planters of the town and meadows were set aside and each man took his turn at guard duty with the herding. Few people acquired as much land as did Robert. He was a wealthy man in his own right.

"The location of his home-lot was sightly (meaning beautifully kept) and convenient, near the town square and the church." 27

This home-lot was referred to as the 'Post Hill Homestead'. We might tarry awhile to become sentimentally close to our immigrant ancestors, Robert and Mary Royce, both of whom made a courageous and notable impress, doing what they could to fulfill the needs of their time and place. The author, Starr, tells us that Robert's public service gave him a distinguished standing in his community. To be chosen for the 'sealing of leather', which position he held from 1661 to sometime later than 1667, or to be selected a Deputy to the General Court at Hartford, Conn., and serve as one of the Grand Jurors for New London, were all positions requiring the confidence of his fellow townsmen. 28

"Our ancestors do not often appear to us in all the homeliness of their true portraiture. Imagination colors the truth and we overlook the simplicity of their attire and the poverty of their accomodations..." 29

As most of the trading was by barter or exchange of goods, money was not missed as much as might be imagined. Stores were mere trading posts and most of the things we now consider indispensable were unknown then. Besides everything that was indispensable to them was hand made at home, and things that were not indispensable were cheerfully dispensed with.

The necessary crude tools were made by the planter himself. His house, furniture, and much of his wife's kitchen utensils were hand carved. The time was reckoned from the shadow of the door facing as it fell on one side or other of the knife mark extended north across the puncheon next to it. On a cloudy day, this clock always stopped, but as a rule, they learned to guess the time.

They built their houses with only the ax, the broadax, the fro and in the absence of nails, they used hot iron augers to bore holes in the logs and made wooden pegs to fasten the building together. With the ax, they felled the trees, with the broadax they hewed the logs to a flat surface on two sides, and with the fro they rived the boards that formed the roof of the house. The boards for the roof were often weighted down instead of being fastened. Stones, selected because of evenness and smoothness and daubed with clay, were used for fireplaces and chimneys. Cooking was done in pots on hangers over the fire or on the hot coals.

The usual attire was that of the Puritan, which is often illustrated and familiar to all. More often the tanned hides or the furs of animals were used to make hand made articles of clothing and bedding.

Calkins gives a picturesque description of life in and around New London as he tells about the prevalence of wolves and other animals in the wilderness countryside.

"The swamps around New London were infested to an unusual degree with these perilous animals. Though an act of the General Court had ordered every town to pay a bounty of fifteen shillings for the killing of a wolf within its bounds, New London had always paid twenty shillings. On every side of the plantation these animals abounded...In

1673, this bounty was claimed by Nehemiah Smith, and Samuel and Nathaniel Royce for killing each five wolves...The havoc made by the wild beasts was a great drawback to farming and wool growing interests." 30

Their domestic animals, so important to a livelihood in that day, had to be constantly guarded by the settlers who took their turn at such duty, just as military training was required regularly, and turns were taken to watch for intruding Indians.

"The latter part of the seventeenth century was chiefly marked by the terror and danger of the Indian wars...The outbreak of King Philip's War introduced a large element of gloom and discouragement for a time. King Philip was the name given to the Indian's ferocious chief. When the first news of the massacres by King Phillip's men reached New London, in June, 1675, a panic ensued, and preparations were made for immediate defense, as the eastern towns of Connecticut lay very much exposed. During the next year, (the year of Robert's death) the town was in constant terror, but, though attacks were made at no great distance, it suffered no harm itself. The large tribe of Mohegan Indians to the north of New London remained peaceful...In the winter of 1675-76, an expedition was sent against the Indians, winter-quartered in the swamps of Narragansett, and New London was made the rendezvous for the Connecticut troops, so that the period was one of military excitement for the place. The quartering of the soldiers on the citizens added to the general scarcity of provisions, and occasioned no little want and suffering. New London contributed its quota to the colonial troops, and lost some of its citizens in the bloody fights that took place among the Narragansett swamps of what is now central Rhode Island. (See Map #18) An immense weight of anxiety was lifted from the hearts of the colonists when, in the following August, 1676, the last of the Indian tribes that had combined to eliminate the English, was brought to bay and thoroughly defeated. This year marked not only the culmination of the worst war experience of New England's history, the King Philip's War, but New London had grieved the death of the founder of its town, Governor John Winthrop, Jr., who died while on a visit to his father in Boston, and was buried there in April, 1676." 31

During the travels of the writer in 1975, the area of New London left an impression of mixed emotion, for the view had a ring of "back home", a place to linger awhile. The leaving brought a feeling of sadness--a feeling of having to desert a homeland, as if the tide of time must leave the past to a loneliness all its own. Maybe a moment of lingering, like that of the immigrant who saw New London for the first time and decided that this was the place to build his home; perhaps such a lingering can bind the past to the present so that there need not be any feeling of abandonment.

Taking a position on the high ground, we can see that early band of settlers, erecting their buildings from the raw materials to be had in the near-by timber lands, clearing their own farm plots, planting their gardens, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, leading their children up the winding paths to worship God in that single church--that decent and comely building, plain in appearance, but beautiful by praise, which "sate" on the hill-top side by side with the lowly mansions of the dead...

"There is an interest lingering about these early dead which belongs to no later race. The minutest details seem vivid and important. A death in that small community was a great event. The magistrate, the minister, and the fathers of the town, came to the bed of the dying to witness his testament and gather up his last words. It was soon known to every individual of the plantation that one of their number had been cut down. All were

eager once more to gaze upon the face they had known so well; they flocked to the funeral; the near neighbors and coevals of the dead bore him on their shoulders to the grave; the whole community with solemn step and downcast eyes, followed him to his long home.

"Riding at funerals was not then in vogue; and a hearse was unknown. A horse litter may, in some cases, have been used; but the usual mode of carrying the dead was on a shoulder bier. In this way, even from a distance of five or six miles, came the walking bearers who made frequent halts to rest or alternate as changing off required. These funeral customs continued down to the period of the Revolution." 32

Looking northward from the town plot we see a marshy meadowland kept productive by Mill Brook and other fresh water streams, and farther northward the eye meets with a tract of high ridgy land often called 'The Mountain' or 'Royces Mountain'. This is a rough and barren region and the thought occurs that perhaps the difficulty of farming in the rocks might have influenced Nathaniel and Samuel in their later removal to Wallingford, Connecticut.

The salt marshes next to the meadowland were esteemed as the best land to acquire. The marshes, and swamps, nearest the harbor generally overflowed and were granted to the less desirable settlers to induce them to leave. As our eyes look to the uplands above the rivers, we can see the areas that furnished planting fields and the Poquonuck Plains that furnished grass land.

In this compass are seen all the varieties of forest and meadow, arable land, pasture and salt marsh, ridgy high land, lowland swamps and rocky shore line and the waters of the Thames River.

Taking our position now from an ocean vessel, as if to be the immigrant himself, we see the town as it looked to the prospective planter who had come either from his far-away homeland or had embarked again at Boston to journey around Cape Cod and tarry along the Connecticut shore of Long Island Sound. We find ourselves in the Poquonuck Inlet, since known as Mumford's Cove. Looking beyond the rocky banks, washed by the waters of the Sound and intersected at several points by inlets of salt water, is the view of a wooded country flaunting its prolific charms of enticement. Here from the prow of our ship can be seen that early primitive area sitting, as it were, away from the rough waters of the Atlantic and the Sound. Here lays a country inviting any settler who is willing to brave the wilderness of hope, and is not averse to the privations of a meager sustenance. The greatest enchantment of the beautiful view must have fell upon the one who was looking for a place to home.

There is a reluctance to leave the past for the present, and once on land again, there is the temptation, like that of Lot's wife, to have one last backward look to be reminded that Robert's remains became the only Royce ancestor to be laid to rest in the soil of New London. In that last glance, there looms a view of a funeral procession, paying its last respects, in 1676, (one hundred years before the Declaration of Independence) to Robert Royce, as his body was carried the short distance from his home to the churchyard that bordered his own land on Post Hill; to that burial spot where the church no longer stands and grave markers no longer endure.

"An examination of the New London Records fail to reveal any entry of his (Robert's) death, but that it occurred prior to September 22, 1676, and probably in that year, is shown by the record of the Inventory of his estate on that date...Unfortunately his Will was probably destroyed at the burning of New London by Arnold in 1781, 105 years after Robert's death." 33

Several documents of record show the disposition of Robert's properties after his decease. The children eventually sold their portions as they chose to live elsewhere. Son, Jonathan, and daughter, Sarah, moved to Norwich (Map #7), Connecticut, and the others were known to have moved to Wallingford, Conn., leaving none of the Royce family in New London after about 1688.

"On folio 116 of Volume 5 of the New London Land Records are entered two documents dated Feb. 4, 1687-8; the first is a power of attorney, giving the children of Robert and wife, Mary, authority to sell any lands in which they were interested...The second document signed by Mary, widow of Robert, and her children, recites in part as follows: '...our honored father, Robert Royce, died seized of was by the County Court settled upon our mother for her support for life and at her death to go to the children of the deceased...' " 34

This document gave Mary the Post Hill home which she occupied until about 1688, and which she subsequently sold to John Prentis of New London and left to live near her children in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Mr. Starr makes these final remarks:

"Nothing is known about Mary, widow of Robert Royce, after Feb. 4, 1687-8, when she signed the agreement of that date with her children, consenting to the sale of some of the Royce property of which she had the life use.

"It is quite probable that she went to spend her declining years with one of her children." 35

Notes in the magazine, "New Haven Genealogies", Jan. 1926, page 107, states:

"Four of the five sons of Robert Royce of New London removed to Wallingford, and the widow Mary probably lived with the son, Samuel (1-2). On 14 July 1697, 'Upon ye Request of Ensigne Sam'll Royce son of Mary Royce of Wallingford Deced to him ye said Ensigne Royce for ye Recovering of any debt or debts due to ye Deced and yt he give an acct of his Adson wn by ye Court Requird.' (New Haven County Court Records, Vol. 1 p251)" 36

"The year 1689 was rather somberly distinguished by a malignant epidemic, following upon the extreme heat of the summer, hardly sparing a single family in New London, and causing the death of more than a score of victims." 37

This was the year of the death of Samuel's wife, Hannah, in Wallingford, and which event, along with the aforementioned epidemic, could have motivated Mary to move away from New London to join some of her family living in Wallingford and where she could assist the grief stricken family of her son, Samuel. One author suggested the possibility of Mary's having lived in the home of her son, Samuel, for a time and perhaps until she died in 1696/7.

Starr lists the children of Robert and Mary as follows:

- "1. Jonathan Royce, of Norwich
2. Nehemiah Royce, of Wallingford
3. Samuel Royce, of Wallingford
4. Sarah Royce, of Norwich
5. Isaac Royce, of Wallingford
6. Ruth Royce, of Wallingford
7. Nathaniel Royce, of Wallingford
8. Daughter Royce (there were three daughters, included in the distribution of the estate)" 38

"Jonathan Royce, one of the five sons of Robert Royce of New London, and probably the oldest, though no record of his birth has been found, was married to Deborah Calkins, daughter of Hugh Calkins, in June 1660, according to the registry in Norwich, but at New London it is recorded Mar. 1660-1. Allowing the latter date to be correct, the bride was barely 17 years of age...This was a second hymeneal tie connecting the two families; John Calkins of Norwich having taken for his partner Sarah Royce, sister of Jonathan. These two couples made their homes at Norwich, Connecticut. (See Map #7)

"The Royce family was also connected by a double link with that of the family of Samuel Lothrop; Isaac Royce being united to Elizabeth Lothrop, and John Lothrop to Ruth Royce. These two couples removed to Wallingford as did the others of the Royce family; Nehemiah, Samuel, Nathaniel, as well as Mary Royce, their mother." 39 (see Map #6, 9)

F. W. Calkins gives this short item of information regarding Robert's disposition of some of his monies:

"Robert Royce, at his death in 1676, left a small gratuity to each of the churches of New London, Norwich, and Wallingford, as a memorial of his 'great affection and goodwill' for the ministry and churches with which he and his family had been connected." 40

This latter gesture would indicate that Robert was a man thoroughly imbued with religious fervor, sincere intent and unselfish motives. It will be noticed that before Robert's death, there were those of his family who had married and moved elsewhere to Norwich and Wallingford, Connecticut, and when Mary sold the remaining properties in New London, twelve years after his death, there were no Royces left in that town. The ancestral line that followed through his son, Samuel, the line being considered in this study, remained in the area of Wallingford for the next four generations. Some of the descendants of Robert, our immigrant ancestor, may still be found in the valleys along the Quinnipiac and Connecticut Rivers. (See Map #6)

The most recent research summary of the family of Robert and Mary (Sims) Royce, was submitted to the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, by Dora (Rice) Duncan, a 6th great granddaughter. She states; "I have placed these children as best I could." The information from Mrs. Duncan's submission was the most thoroughly documented research that can be found to date:

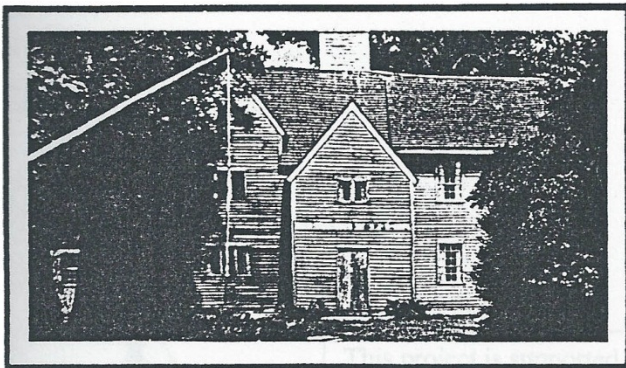
Robert Royce was born in England and he married Mary Sims, 4, June, 1634, at Martock, Somersetshire, England. Mary was born in Long Sutton Somers-

setshire, England. Robert died in 1676 at New London, New London, Connecticut, and Mary died in 1696/7 at Wallingford, New Haven, Connecticut. The listing of their eight children follows:

1. Nehemiah Royce, b. abt. 1634, Boston, Mass; md. 20 Nov. 1660, Hannah Morgan; died 7 Nov. 1706
2. Jonathan Royce, b. abt. 1636, Boston, Mass; md. (1) 1656, Mary Spinning, (2) June 4, 1660, Deborah Calkins
3. Sarah Royce, b. abt. 1638, Boston, Mass; md. 1658, John Calkins; died May 1, 1711
4. Nathaniel Royce, b. Apr. 24, 1640, Connecticut; md. (1) Oct. 27, 1673, Esther Moss, (2) Apr. 21, 1681, Sarah Lothrop, (3) Aug. 24, 1707, Hannah Wilcoxson, (4) Aug. 25, 1708, Abigail Cook; died Feb. 8, 1726
5. Isaac Royce, b. abt. 1643, Connecticut; md. Dec. 15, 1669, Elizabeth Lothrop; died, 1681
6. Ruth Royce, b. Dec. 7, 1645, Stratford, Connecticut; md. (1) Dec. 15, 1669, John Lothrop, (2) Feb. 12, 1689, Abraham Doolittle
7. Samuel Royce, b. Jan 9, 1647, Stratford, Connecticut; md. (1) Jan. 9, 1666, Hannah Churchill, (2) Jan 5, 1690, Sarah Baldwin; died Dec., 1711
8. Daughter Royce, b. abt. 1649, Stratford, Connecticut 41

Though we do not have the name of the third daughter, #8 above, we can be sure that she reached the age of 27 at the time of the disposition of her father's properties for three daughters were of mention.

Of interest regarding New London's early landmarks is 'The Hempsted House' that has remained intact for over 300 years. It was built in 1678, two years after the death of Robert Royce and is recognized on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Hempsted House is only one of a few remaining 17th century houses in Connecticut and is the oldest surviving house in New London having escaped the burning of that city by Benedict Arnold in 1781. Much of the original Hempsted family furniture and other possessions have survived. A good deal of the color and atmosphere of the Pilgrim Century has been recreated in the Hempsted House of today.

Robert Royce is a progenitor of Millard Fillmore, the 13th President of the United States, Wilford Woodruff, the 4th President of the LDS Church, Harold Bingham Lee, the 11th President of the LDS Church, and also of Emma Hale Smith, wife of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, who was first President of the LDS Church. 42

1. #4, p.1
2. #24 (b)
3. #4, pp. 10-21
4. #3, Vol. 3, pp. 14-20
5. ibid
6. ibid
7. #5, p. 293
8. #15, p. 69
9. #110, pp. 71-72
10. ibid, pp. 72-73, 84
11. #15, p. 96, also #14, pp. 3, 4
12. Film 929.273-851 h
13. ibid
14. #18, Vol. 1, p. 295
15. #4, Vol. 80, p. 107
16. #18, Vol. 1, pp. 295-296
17. ibid, p. 296
18. ibid, p. 93
19. #116, p. 10
20. ibid, pp. 8, 9
21. ibid, pp. 4-5
22. ibid, p. 7
23. #5, p. 294
24. #18, Vol. 1, p. 296
25. ibid, pp. 296, 297
26. ibid, p. 297
27. ibid, p. 298
28. ibid
29. #5, p. 268
30. ibid, p. 142
31. #116, p. 11
32. #5, p. 267
33. #18, Vol. 1, pp. 298-299
34. ibid, p. 299
35. ibid, p. 300
36. #4, p. 107
37. #116, p. 11
38. #18, Vol. 1, p. 300
39. #108, p. 199
40. ibid
41. #170, p. (1-1)
42. #222, p. 9