## SAMUEL ROYCE (1647-1711)

## HANNAH CHURCHILL (1646-1689)

Genealogists have differed considerably on the date of Samuel's birth. It has been recorded as 1640, 42, 44, and 47. This data left his birthplace very indefinate. The most complete record of both Samuel's family and that of his parents was submitted to the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City by Dora (Rice) Duncan. These family group records give his birth as Jan. 9, 1647, at Stratford, Connecticut, the seventh child and fifth son of Robert and Mary (Sims) Royce (1-1).

Most early New England immigrants landed in America at the Boston Harbor on the shore of Massachusetts after crossing the Atlantic Ocean prior to their selection of a place to call home. This seems to have been the case of our Samuel's parents. It is assumed that at least three of their children were born in the area of Boston. Often sailing vessels left the Massachusetts coastline to continue on into the Long Island Sound to distribute settlers along the southern coastline of Connecticut, which was, no doubt, the circumstance of the Royce's move to Stratford. (maps #3, 4, 5, 8) With any sort of speculation, Samuel was a young child while his family lived at this coastal harbor town and was about 10 years of age when they again moved eastward in 1657 to their second primitive settlement at New London, Connecticut. Samuel and his four older brothers and three sisters grew to maturity in this harbor town at the mouth of the Thames River, one of many rivers that find their way into the waters of Long Island Sound. (see maps #5, 7, 8) The names of the town and river were given in honor of their counterparts in England. [1] Philip Freneau wrote of New London:

> "Here fond remembrance stampt her much loved names;
> Here boasts the soil its London and its Thames, ..."

In the lowest spring tides, the New London Harbor has twenty-five feet of water and this depth extends several miles above the town of New London where ocean ships could sail inland that passengers be allowed to enjoy the beauty of the river shoreline. Ships coming from as far away as England or from Boston or even New York, were frequently seen entering the New London Harbor where the open port was convenient of anchor and the view exotic.

Here in the New London area, Samuel and his brothers were assisted by their father in obtaining land of their own. When Samuel was about nineteen years old, his father petitioned the town for a grant of land to settle his two sons, Samuel and Nathaniel, which grant was approved, and Robert also gave them his 'mountain farm', some high ground near the town that came to be known as 'Royce's Mountain'. This high ground retained its name for many years.

The mountain farms did not prove to be very desirable. This feature, probably, was a factor in decisions made to migrate to the more productive areas to be found in the valleys along the Quinnipiac River to the west of New

London. As early as 1671, Samuel and his brothers were looking toward these valleys as a possible opportunity for a new settlement,

It is reasonable to assume that Samuel and his brothers had made visits to the inland areas of the Quinnipiac and Connecticut River Valleys. It was in Wethersfield where Samuel met and married Hannah, the daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth (Foote) Churchill, January 9, 1667,

Hannah's parents (2-1) were early settlers of the town of Wethersfield which was in close proximity to Wallingford. Wethersfield had been Hannah's home throughout her life. She was born there November 1, 1644. Samuel and Hannah, after their marriage, went to New London to live where they remained until after the death of Samuel's father in 1676. Three children were born to them in New London, namely; Robert, who became the next progenitor in the ancestral line being considered, born 29 Jan. 1669; Josiah, born 14 Feb. 1670, and Samuel, born 17 April 1673. The next child, Abigail, was born in Wallingford, Connecticut, 24 Nov. 1677. Samuel's father, Robert, the immigrant, passed away in New London in 1676, and written documents reveal that Mary, his mother, and her sons, were left to the management of the extensive Royce estate.

In the "History of Wallingford" we are told that,

> "Among the first planters in Wallingford was Isaac and Nehemiah Royce, who made their appearance in the place in 1671; (this notation assures us that the two mentioned came prior to their father's death) Nathaniel. Samuel, Joseph and Robert Royce were also there soon after, all of whom had families..." 2

Mary remained in New London for awhile, but eventually, as land transactions reveal, the properties were disposed of and she left to be with her families in Wallingford. It is written that, "Samuel's mother was still an occupant of the Post Hill Homestead in 1688, which was subsequently sold..." 3 There is reason to believe that Samuel and Hannah felt a responsibility to Samuel's aged parents and because of close family ties had delayed their move until after Robert's buriel.

The miles that lay between New London and Wallingford could be traveled on one of two routes, either over the wilderness by land, or by boat from New London to New Haven and then by some means of upstream conveyance, on the Quinnipiac River. Regardless of the route and means by which the move was carried out, we can be sure it was a difficult undertaking, for all modes of travel in those days were tedious, dangerous and primitive. For Hannah. the journey would be rough and hazardous, but it would bring her closer to her family in Wethersfield, a day, no doubt, that she had been waiting and hoping for.

It seems likely that the overland route may have been chosen for the Royces possessed an accumulation of livestock, farm implements and household goods. The stock required prodding and feeding along the way. They required the watchful care of a herdsman who probably came along on horseback. The provisions, furniture, tools or goods necessary to start operations in a new home were loaded into the primitive wooden wheeled carts, pulled clumsily by oxen. Roads were narrow trails that followed primitive markings worn by Indians or by wild animals in search of salt licks. The ruts worn by prior

vehicles were often obliterated by washes or by new growth and much cutting away of underbrush and trees was required to make the means of travel possible. The particular terrain of the cross-country route, so near the coastline, was broken by the numerous streams that flowed in the general direction of the Sound to the south. No journey was undertaken except for urgent reasons, and then it had to be on foot, on horseback or, when the traveling was expected to take several days or weeks, by the crude, homemade wagons with their canoe shaped boxes that held the scanty provisions and belongings of the family. Because of the threat posed by the unpredictable Indians, the families usually traveled in groups for protective measures, and as the caravans with their cattle, moved through dense forests and swamps and across streams, often carrying their household goods in packs on their backs, these pioneers anxiously hoped and prayed that they might arrive at their destination safely.

For plodding through the thick woods, the travelers quickly adopted the Indian moccasin. Snowshoes also came into use during the northern winters. Poles with wooden disks at the bottom--similar to ski poles--gave the traveler on snowshoes extra support. Even though the chill of winter was severe, winter journeys were often preferred for frost hardened the trails and ice covered the streams, and it was easier to slip through the woods. The forests were really dense in those days and were thickly tangled with vines.

Since we have no way of knowing the details surrounding Samuel's journey to Wallingford, we must pass over it with words that are merely pointers, directing our attention to possible situations that were generally customary to all migrants of the day. It is possible that the journey from New London to Wallingford was made by boat, first to New Haven, where goods were transferred to river rafts at the mouth of the Quinnipiac River and livestock was unloaded on land to be herded upland through the river valleys to Wallingford.

The Royces early sojourn in Stratford made them familiar with the coastal area. A variety of craft for river travel was used in those days, one of which was the 'pirogue'. The pirogue was really a very large canoe-like raft. It was often built forty to fifty feet long and six to eight feet wide. It could carry tons of household goods along with several families. A farmer with cattle and other domestic animals usually followed an overland route, trailing the stock as best he could on foot or horseback. Traveling by horseback was called "by post". A woman often rode on the same horse with her husband, sitting behind him on a pad, or pillion. Horses, however, were scarce and expensive to own, and oxen were more formidable to strain and hardships than horses, thus more practical for strenuous travel.

After the arduous journey to Wallingford, whatever the route might have been, Samuel and Hannah, with their family of three young children, united themselves with the other members of the Royce families who had preceded them as settlers of the area. They acquired land near these relatives in what is now Meriden, Connecticut. It must be understood that the area of Wallingford at this early date (1677) encompassed a large tract of land that has since been divided into several towns, each with their rural areas. All early data refers to Wallingford as the home of the Royce families and all vital statistics would lead one to believe that the present town of Wallingford was the place of births, deaths, etc., of the family members. Not so.

The town of Meriden was not incorporated until many years later and so the town of Wallingford kept all early records. To find the actual locations of the Royce homes and farms, we must look to Meriden. (Maps #8-13)

The rigors of pioneer living was not new to either Samuel or Hannah. They had both grown to maturity in an environment of pioneers; building a new settlement out of the wilderness was only the usual and familiar thing. It did not take long for them to be tucked snugly in a log-hewn house with its two fireplaces, hand-built, no doubt, by Samuel himself. Prior experience at New London might well have prepared him for advantages in the new 'house raising' and 'barn raising' venture in Meriden. He may readily have had plenty of help from friends and relatives, as was the custom when newcomers arrived and needed shelter before the winter's cold came sweeping in.

Four more children were born after the family's arrival in this new settlement. Abigail, born in 1677, the year of their coming to Meriden; Prudence, born in 1680; Deborah, born in 1683, and Isaac, born in 1688.

The early settlers made practically everything they needed at home--tools, soap, candles, homespun cloth dyed with homemade vegetable and wild berry juices. Money was extremely scarce, and the few things that had to be bought--needles and pins, or nails--were precious. Some of their own farm products could often be exchanged for such things as maple syrup or vinigar. To supply articles such as cooking utensils, ribbons and other notions of luxury, peddlers soon appeared. The peddler was a welcome visitor, not only for his stocks, but also for the news he brought from outside a local area. The peddler was a solitary figure, wandering over the country on foot and carrying his pack on his back. If he was fairly prosperous, however, he might have a pack horse.

Road making began when the Indian paths were broadened by hauling wider loads over them. Very early there were crude roadways of this sort connecting neighboring villages. The first long stretch, however, was not opened until 1650 and spanned a country route south out of Boston. As old accounts often speak of stumps in roads, we can understand that though there were laws requiring the cutting of trees close to the ground, the law seems to have been honored more in the breach than in the observance. It was not until the later 1700's that the newcomers in America were inclined to go any distance inland so one can realize that the first settlers in the Valleys of the Quinnipiac and Connecticut Rivers were extremely courageous in their attempts to colonize. They were the pioneers of the outposts of civilization.

The four-wheeled wagon is more typical of colonial days. Each of its two axles was a different length so that the front and back wheels would pass over a different part of the road and in this way help widen and smooth the road to a greater extent. It was not until 1755 that the famous Conestoga, the forerunner of the later covered wagon, came into use.

Vehicles did most of the actual work of marking roads and traveling over them to harden and level the ground. First came the clumsy two-wheeled carts. The wheels were cross sections of tree trunks, often six feet in diameter and six or more inches wide. These wide wheels naturally did their

share of helping to smooth a roadway, and laws encouraged their use. It was not long, however, before the four wheeler was a preference.

There is no account that the early planters of a settlement ever experienced any scarcity of food, or were ever deprived of the real comforts of life. On the contrary, they seem to have had abundant harvests. Though their modes of cooking were more simple than those now in vogue, the variety of substance was nearly as great. To obviate the necessity of going to the mill, which in most cases was too far distant in early days, the maize, or Indian corn, called samp, which resembled hominy, was hand pounded to grits of meal. Hasty-pudding was a common dish, and served the usual supper for the family. Out of New England this dish came to be called mush. This course meal required at least an hour's cooking to make the pudding good; the name 'hasty' is therefore entirely inappropriate. A more true hasty-pudding, requiring a shorter preparation was made of ground rye or buckwheat.

Another dish, which the Indians taught the English to make, was succatash, a mixture of tender Indian corn and new beans, still a great favorite in New England. They also learned of the natives to bake corn-cakes on the hot hearth, under the ashes, and to pound their parched corn and eat it with milk or molasses. The first planters were also famous for baked beans kept seething all day with a choice portion from the pork-barrel. Bean porridge was also, in those early days, a common breakfast dish. Where peas were grown instead of beans, it became a dish of peas-porridge.

With respect to the puddings, it is reported that an extra good housewife would put her pudding in a bag at night, and keep it boiling until dinner-time the next day when it could be unbagged and sliced for serving. Often these puddings came in such size and solidity as to carry ruin in their path if they chanced to fall. A sportive story was formerly current that on a certain festive occasion when the community was to be served, a conical pudding was set in the center of the table, in monumental dignity, but losing its balance at the first insertion of the carving-knife, it fell and knocked down three men. Whereupon the townsmen made a regulation that no pudding should henceforth consist of more than four bushels of corn.

These puddings were played up by the local humorists who stated that they were often made so large and hard that it was necessary to chip them up with a pick-axe. Another witticism went so far as to say that the remains of a great dinner being at one time thrown into the river near the harbor, formed the 'Isle of Rocks' and this island is still referred to by the local peoples, as the "Town Dumplins".

The bounties of Providence furnished them with plentiful deer, wild fowl and even smaller wild animals that might be caught in snares at the very doors of the houses. The planter's own domestic herds furnished further rich supplies of meat and the rivers and brooks around them furnished fish of many kinds.

Potatoes were not introduced to New England until after 1720, but a great variety of other vegetables have always been plentiful from earliest times. Pumpkin johnney-cake, made of corn-meal and stewed pumpkin, baked before the fire upon a trencher, and turned to give a brittle crust on both

sides, was a delicacy highly esteemed.

Thanksgiving was then, and has ever since been, the great feast day of the year--the day for family gatherings and heart-greetings; for the noonday feast, and the evening spent in eating nuts and apples, telling stories, and playing blind-man's buff--simple elements of pleasure, but great in their lifting result.

The story of the town of Meriden starts many years prior to its incorpor ation in 1806. As early as 1666 the name of Meriden appears in the lists of the General Court in Hartford, Connecticut. Long before Connecticut was made a State of the Union, there were two rival governments contending for the right to extend the bounds of land claims in the area; that of Hartford in the interior and New Haven on the Sound. Meriden was caught between the lines of contention and though claimed by both, went on existing, disregarding either claim until such a time as the bounds of the territory were laid and Hartford became the Capital of the area of Connecticut and Meriden became a part of the County of New Haven.

For many years after the colony of Meriden was settled, there was a considerable trade in furs and the area abounded in beavers and other fur-bearing animals. 'Falls Plain', a division of Meriden, "seems to have been particularly attractive to the Royces and several members of this numerous family took grants of large tracts of land in 'Milking Yard' and their farms ran up Colony Road for nearly a mile and the district was later called 'Royce's Farms'." [4] (See Maps #9 and #10)

Samuel Royce was referred to variously by those who spoke of the location of his farm as being a resident "of Wallingford," "of Meriden" and "of that part of Wallingford which became Meriden". All of these statements, though confusing, are correct. In reading the history of Wallingford, one forms the idea that the North Farms were on the east side of the river, yet we find that the Royce farms extended across the river. If we understand that North Farms and Cheshire Street were built on both sides of the Quinnipiac, the confusion disappears. [5]

"Without doubt the oldest highway of any length in the State of Connecticut is the old 'Colony Road', leading from Hartford to New Haven and still bearing this descriptive name as it passes through Meriden and Wallingford. Probably there was an Indian trail occupying the same general position before the white man's advent, for, according to credible tradition and written records the Indians in early days resorted hither from the vicinity of Hartford and New Haven to follow the chase and trap for furs in the valley between Lamentation and Hanging Hills, which has since been settled by the growing populous of Wallingford and its neighboring towns." [6]

Towns and rural homes dot this whole beautiful area that was once a wilderness of wild animals and Indian trails.

C. B. Gillespie in "A Century of Meriden--The Silver City", goes on to state:

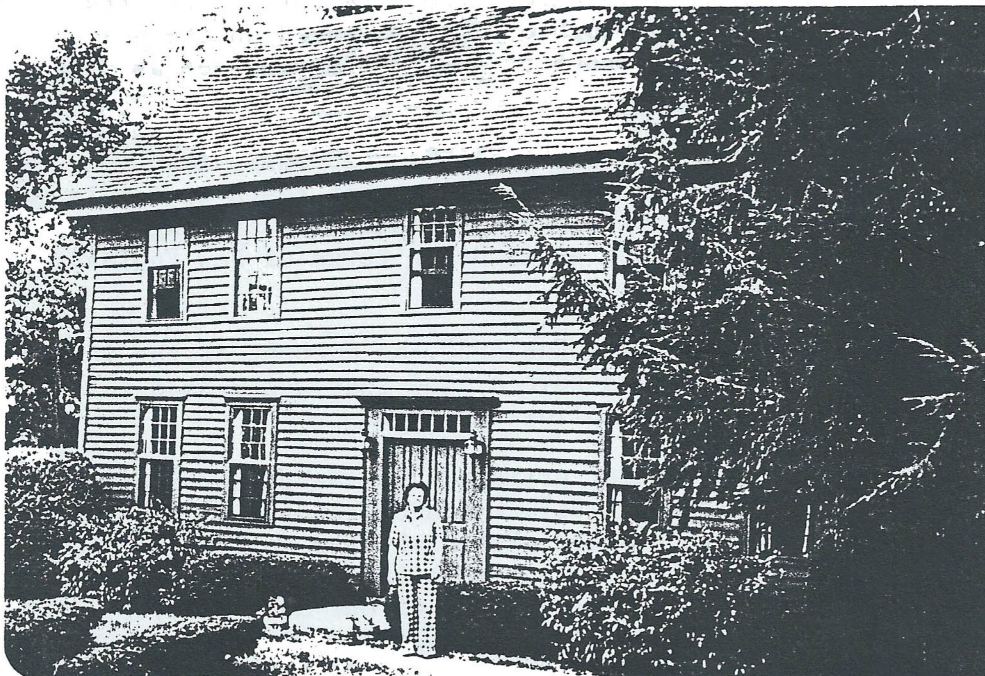
"No part of Meriden seems to have been regarded so favorably by the pioneers as the

territory now known as Hanover, or South Meriden. (See Map #11) It is a beautiful spot. As one stands on the hill west of Walnut Grove cemetery and looks down on the little village nestled between bold hills and half circled by the waters of the Quinnipiac, sweeping from the deep wooded valley known as Oregon, and then in the northwest beholds the glorious view of the rugged, serried ranges of the 'Hanging Hills', one admires the judgment of the planters. It is an ideal spot for just what seems to have been intended by the action of the town on Feb. 19, 1689. The ground had been laid out with a two rod street running north and south through the middle of the plain and the land on each side staked off into sixty-three lots. The lots ran from the street to the hill on the west and the river on the east...

"The event was considered of such importance that a map was drawn and spread upon the land records by Wallingford." 7

A reproduction on a small scale is shown. It is not known whether Samuel ever built a home on this property. (See Map #11) We know that his farm lands were located in the southern part of what is now the township of Meriden. The Royce properties were first considered to be in 'Falls Plain' and encompassed large acreages along "Old Colony Road", extending over into what now would include a large portion of the southern part of the present town of Meriden.

This first recorded land grant which became the home of Samuel and Hannah, was a portion of land obtained north of the Hanover area and across the river that lay on both sides of the old road to Waterbury. An extension of this old road to the east of his farm went south into Wallingford. In fact, the old boundary of Wallingford actually put Samuel within the Wallingford township, but in 1806, the line laid out for Meriden was to the south of all the Royce properties which puts the location of their land in Meriden, if one were to find the actual place today. The reproduction of an 1851 map shows the locations of the Meriden farms as they were situated in 1770. (See Map #13)

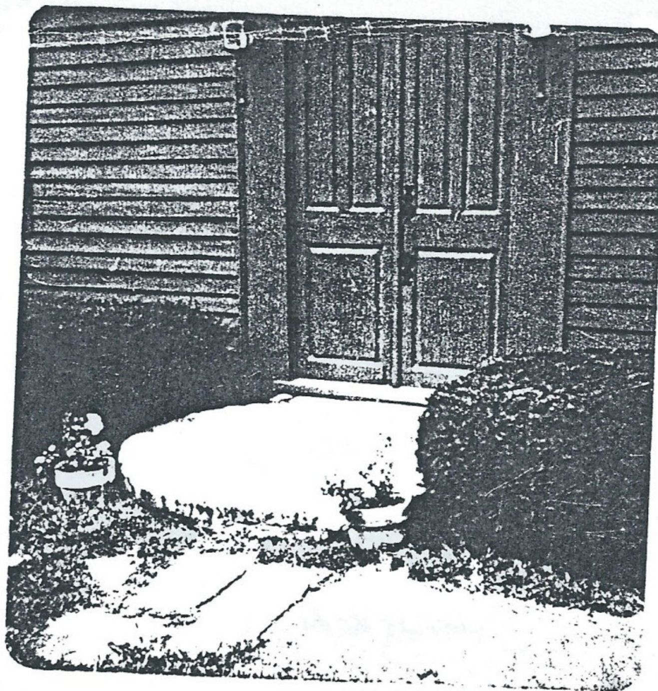


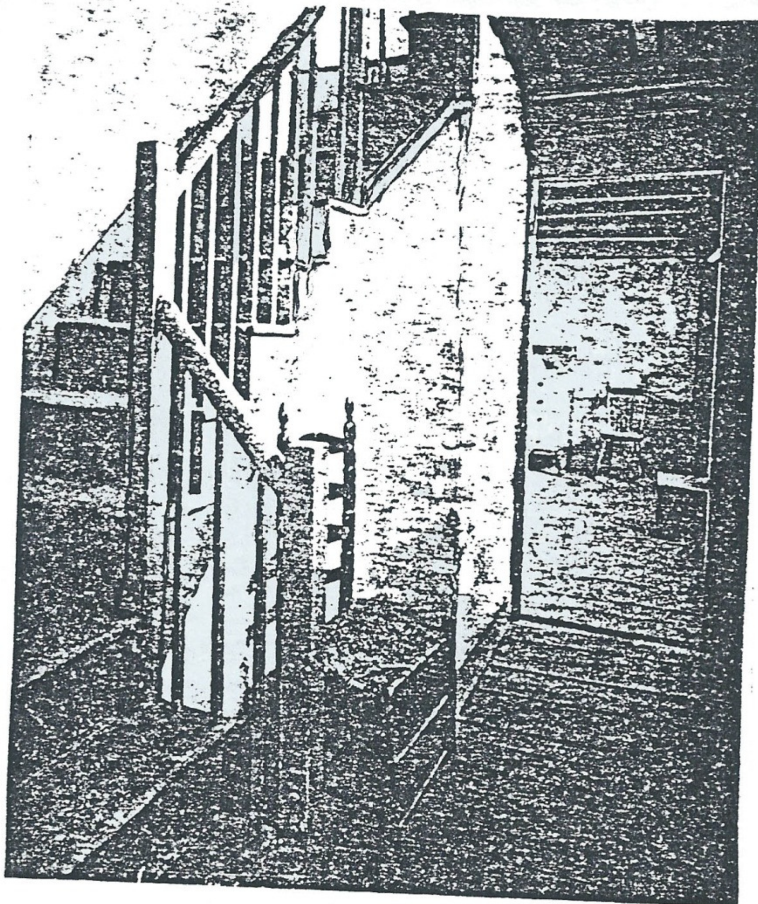
The pictures of the Nehemiah Royce house were taken by the writer in 1975 and are shown above and on the previous page. It had been moved to its present location in Upper Wallingford from its original place on the homestead within the bounderies of Meriden. It is now situated in its quaint old setting where it is seldom seen by the touring motorist and had been used as a guest house of the Preparatory School of Choates College. The School is well known today and has been attended by many noted dignitaries, including the Shah of Iran, President John F. Kennedy, and others. It is now (1975) used as a dwelling of a faculty member, the director of the Arts Center of the Choates School. The large double door, pictured on the next page, is graced with an old mill wheel stone of the past and serves as a welcoming threshhold.

Nehemiah, who was the brother of our Samuel, built this home two years after his arrival to Meriden. It's plaque marker rests upon a large rock beside the way to give details of the home's antiquity. Along the street one can see that much has been done, as in other towns of New England, to preserve old homes and landmarks of the past.

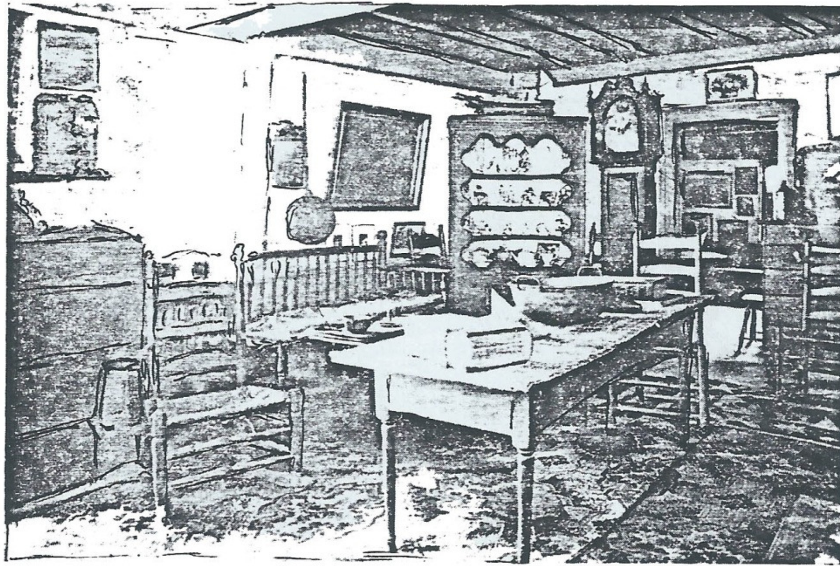
In a bulletin, "Old Time New England", an account of the interior of the house with pictures of its rooms gave a view that was missed in the 1975 visit. Interior pictures are shown on following pages.

The writer of the particular article, "The Nehemiah Royce or Washington Elm House, Wallingford, Connecticut", was a descendant of our ancestor Robert Royce of New London through his son, Nehemiah, the builder of the old 17th century house. Though we would rather have had material that would acquaint us with similar details regarding the home of our Samuel Royce, still, the article written by Lucy Atwater Royce in 1934 does fill us in with a precious account of a house of the period.

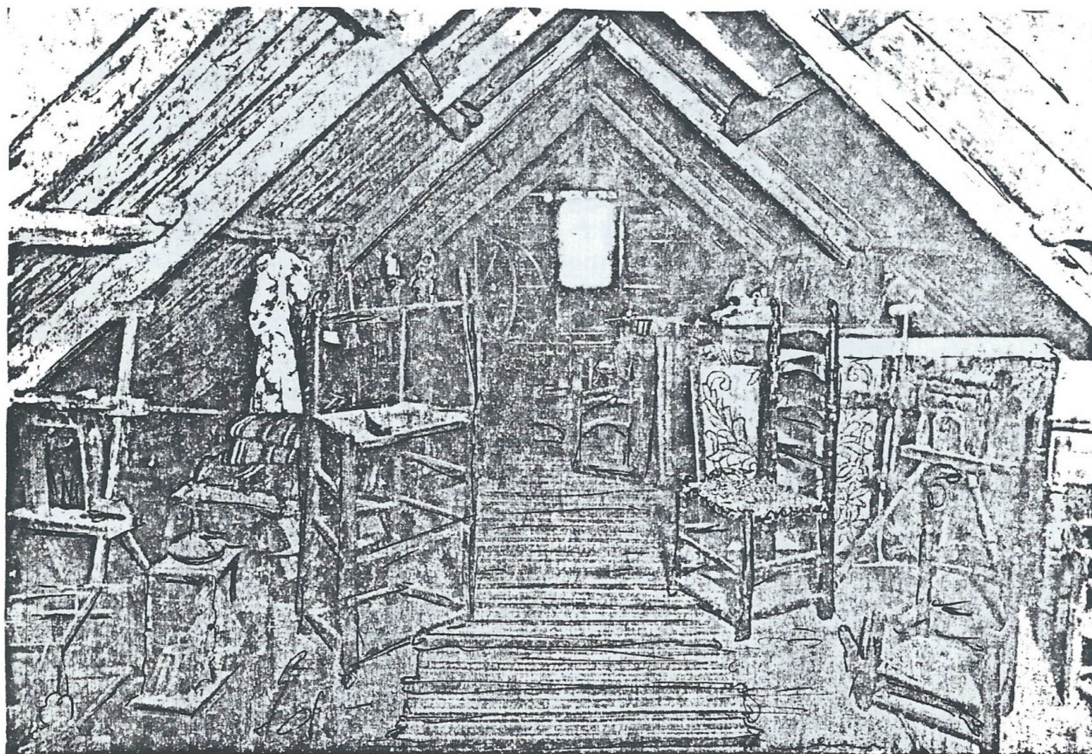




Front Stairs, Royce Homestead



Parlor, Royce Homestead



The Attic in the Royce Homestead, Wallingford, Conn.

Lucy Atwater Royce tells the story of the acquisition and moving of the Nehemiah Royce house when it was discovered by her and her genealogist as an antiquarian edifice worthy of preserving:

"In November, 1924, the Genealogist and I decided to explore the upper town of Wallingford, to look for our ancestral home, which we vaguely knew to be at the far end of main street, and to have been built in 1672 by our ancestor, Nehemiah Royce, who married Hannah Morgan, daughter of James Morgan, of Roxbury, Massachusetts, and New London, Connecticut.

". . .Strolling along we finally came upon the house of our quest. . .We approached the old double door of the house. A pleasant lady answered our knock and, as we went through the door with its many panels, we felt distinctly thrilled. Once inside we wandered about the first floor which had the usual small entry with a large room on either side. In the back leanto was a long narrow room with amusing little windows. As we went up the little old staircase, we noticed the horizontal wainscoting of the upper hall. We stepped into each of the two bedrooms, greatly cheered by their spacious beauty. From under the loose paper edges we could see the old pine unpainted panelling. On one of the panelled doors we found the initial "R" for Royce that had been cut on the latch. Wide floor boards, which had been walked over during the four different centuries, were in perfect shape. A little batten door led into the leanto attic from one of the rooms.

"Judging by the evident confusion in the house, the pleasant lady who showed us over it was on the point of moving out. She casually explained by saying, 'How fortunate that you came today, for, next week, the old house will be taken down'. 'What, this beautiful old house?' the Genealogist and I gasped. 'Yes, to make room for a fine new house.' 'But would you sell it,' we asked. 'Yes, but you must decide at once.'

"Now, deciding to buy a house is making rather a momentous decision and one likes to mull it over. However, the pioneer spirit of our ancestors flared up in us and we then and there decided to buy it. As we left, we wondered what we would do with our unusually large and unwieldly toy which must be moved. In our dilemma, we contacted our Architect in New York, who had always enthusiastically helped us in our restoration programs in other instances. After coming to see the house, he advised us by all means to save it by moving it to some nearby lot. . .The house was charmingly located on a ridge overlooking the Blue Hills, the 'Sleeping Giant' of Cheshire, Connecticut's most famous peak, and also the 'Hanging Hills' of Meriden.

"We started our restoration by re-roofing which took on an interesting rough, wavy effect, adding greatly to the antique charm. The plaster ceilings were next pulled down and the original beams stained black-brown, such as we had seen in seventeenth-century Acadian homes in Guilford, Connecticut. The wainscoted rooms were relieved of all its paper revealing the pine boards, in some cases twenty inches wide, having never been painted.

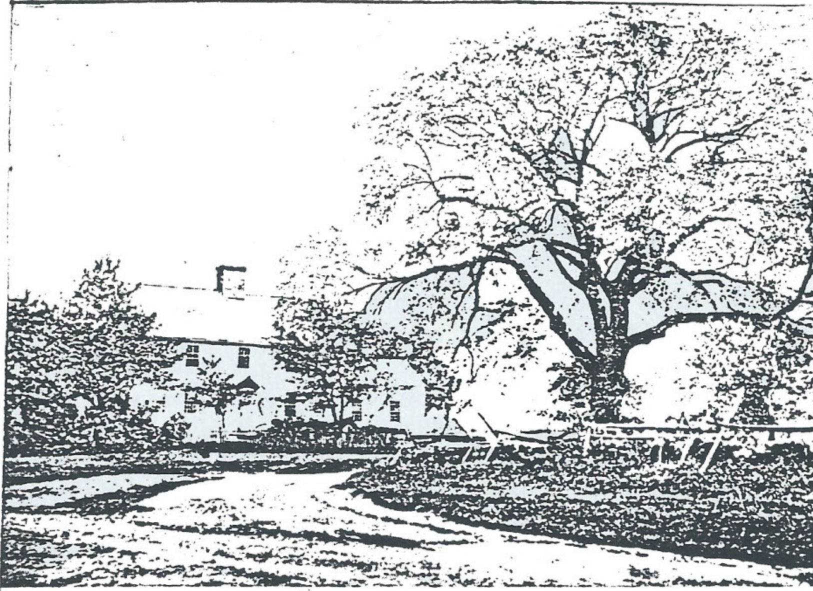
". . .The stone chimney that had been taken out in 1866 was restored giving the place back its old-time atmosphere. . .So, when you are motoring through Wallingford in the future, choose the High Road where you may see the home described and hear the chimes from Choates School." 8

The area of the homestead is located to the north a short distance, early recognized as the older part of what was then Wallingford. The streets are lined with fine trees and old houses of various periods. Both the homestead of Samuel and of Nehemiah were not far apart, though there is no

evidence of Samuel's home.

In the development of Wallingford and its parishes or neighboring settlements the Royces assumed a prominent part for many years. It was not until Samuel's second great grandson, Titus Rice (1-5), left Meriden in 1761, to take up residence in Western Berkshire County, Massachusetts, that the line of this study takes us away from the area of Wallingford.

President Washington is recorded as having passed through the town of Wallingford in 1789 on his way to Boston. On October 19, he wrote in his diary, "Left New Haven at 6 o'clock, and arrived at Wallingford (13 miles) by half after 8 o'clock, where we breakfasted and took a walk through the town. . ." He stopped for tea at the Squire Stanley's home--where now stands the Choates School campus--then continued north, resting briefly under an elm tree by the Royce house. (This would be the place of the Nehemiah Royce House' at its original setting on the homestead, before it was moved to its present sight). From this rest stop Washington and his companions took leave of the place. The Royce house has since been called "The Washington Elm House". Shown here is a picture of the house in it's homestead setting.[9]



It is interesting to note that in the early events preceding the settlement of Wallingford the bounds of New Haven's domain northward were laid out by a group of citizens assigned by the colony to the south. Among this group were others of our ancestors, namely, John Brockett (7-81) and Nathaniel Merriman (4-13). Ten years later they became leaders in the settlement of Wallingford, a natural inclination after finding so beautiful an area further inland.

Only a few handsome dwellings of the past, some of which have been preserved as museums, or the pen of a writer or brush of an artist, give us a glimpse of the history and romanticism of those early days. Most of the natural beauties have seen a profanation to amend modern deficiencies and modern conveniences.

The writings of Francis Manwaring Calkins in 1866, gave descriptions that distinctively belong to the early times when the interior of Connecticut was being settled. From this material, the following is taken:

"The early homes displayed great diversity in form and position. No town was laid in any specific pattern, but the result was more often one of fascinating beauty. Here a house stood directly on a town street; another was placed at the end of a lane; a third in a meadow by a gurgling brook; and others were scattered over side-hills, or sheltered under jutting ledges of rock. Some were only of one story, with two rooms; but the better sort presented a wide, imposing front of two stories, ending in a very low story in the rear. Two large rooms, often twenty feet square, one a 'best' or company room, and the other a kitchen, with a bedroom and a milk and cheese pantry adjoining in the very low leaning roof. These rooms usually covered all of the ground floor.

"The chambers in the garret were supplied with chimney-closets where either a winding course around the chimney or a space that turned like a corner cavity that were closed off from the rooms. These spaces seemed to provide inconspicuous places of concealment, which, as the houses began to decay became dusty reservoirs of discarded furniture, moth-eaten materials and tattered books and papers.

"The kitchen was the principal sitting-room of the family. Blocks in the chimney-corners were used for children's seats; the settle (wide seat with a high back) kept off the air from the door and provided a cozy area where the warmth from the fireplace could be trapped for full enjoyment. When the heaped-up logs presented a front of glowing coals and upward-rushing flames, and while storms were raging without, or the heavy snow obliterated the landscape, such a fountain of warmth not only quickened the blood, but cheered the heart, inspired gratitude and promoted social festivity. Such scenes have made the fireside an expressive type of domestic happiness. There is certainly a charm in the very phrase, 'old-fashioned comforts'.

"These large fire-places were not without their disadvantages. They required a constant current of air from without to force the smoke up the chimney, and this tended to keep the room cold. They were often made eight feet wide, and two or three feet deep. Wood was cut four feet in length, and the rolling in of a log was a ponderous operation that made all the timbers creak and crushed the bed of burning coals upon the hearth into cinders.

"Any room without a fireplace was cold and comfortless in the winter, so even the kitchen was often furnished with a bed. The ceilings were low, the posts and rafters were of great size and solidity and heavy beams stood out from the ceilings overhead. The floors were made of stout planks, with a trap-door leading to the cellar. A line of shelves often displayed a row of burnished pewter and strings of dried apples, chains of sausages and bunches of red peppers traversed from beam to beam. A small open recess for books was usually seen on one side of the fire-place, a little below the ceiling, where even the cleanest volumes soon acquired a dingy hue. In these houses, the Family Bible was never wanting. Venerated were these books, for they came from the fatherland, and were mostly of that blessed Puritan stamp whose truths had inspired the owners with courage to leave the scenes of their nativity, to find a home in this distant and savage land.

"The early beginnings of colonization in the interior was a step in advance of the older settlements on the eastern coastline. The people had built their first habitations elsewhere, and in their new settings were ready to build their homes on firm

foundations and furnish themselves with very respectable houses. The forests along the rivers provided the material at easy access. No record or tradition favors the notion that huts or log houses of a temporary kind (such as were hurridly built in Plymouth, Mass.) preceded the comfortable buildings that, in many cases, have outlasted the passing of more than 300 years." 10

The date of the first interments in the old burying ground of Meriden is given as early as 1727, so any burials before that date were no doubt rendered in the Wallingford cemetery.

Hannah died in 1689 at the age of 45, when her oldest child was twenty years of age, and her youngest was still a baby. She was buried in the Wallingford cemetery. Samuel was left with his seven children to care for when all of them desperately needed a mother. This sad event may have been the main reason that Mary, Samuel's mother, left New London to come to Wallingford. This surmise was suggested in the writings of reference earlier mentioned. 11 It is very possible that Mary could have arrived to ease the hard adjustment of this family's loss.

Though the date of Mary's birth is not known, we can readily assume that she was near ninety years old when she passed away in 1697, and was buried in Wallingford.

On June 5, 1690, in Wallingford, Samuel married Sarah Baldwin, age 34, daughter of John and Mary (Bruen) Baldwin. To this union was born four children. Her line of descent is recorded thus:

"1. Sylvester Baldwin (died on the "martin" on the sea voyage from England to Boston)
2. John Baldwin, b. 1635; died, 1681
3. John (Josiah) Baldwin, md. Mary Bruen
4. Sarah Baldwin, 2nd wife of Samuel Royce; b. 29 Mar. 1668; died 1 Jan. 1729" 12

"Children of Samuel and his wives (1) Hannah Churchill and (2) Sarah Baldwin:

1. Robert Royce or Rice, b. 29 Jan. 1669/70, New London, Conn.; md. Mary Porter, dau. of Nathaniel Porter (3-3) of Windsor and Stratford, Conn., June 2, 1692; died 2 April 1759
2. Josiah Royce or Rice, b. 14 Feb. 1670/71, New London, Conn.; md. Elizabeth Parker, 24 Mar. 1693; died 1694
3. Samuel Royce or Rice (Deacon) b. 17 Apr. 1673, New London, Conn.; md. Hannah Benedict, 12 Dec. 1695; died 14 May 1757
4. Abigail Royce or Rice, b. 24 Nov. 1677; md. Joseph Cole, 13 July 1699; died 24 May 1714
5. Prudence Royce or Rice, b. 26 July 1680; md. John Austin, 18 Nov. 1703; died abt. 1742
6. Deborah Royce or Rice, b. 8 Sep. 1683; md. Thomas Mix, 21 Mar. 1705; died 15 Dec. 1738
7. Isaac Royce or Rice, b. 10 Mar. 1688; md. Mary Benedict, 10 or 16 Feb. 1713; died 23 Mar. 1729

Second wife:

8. Ebenezer Royce or Rice, b. 25 Sep. 1691, Wallingford; died 14 May 1757
9. John Royce or Rice, b. 25 Apr. 1693, Wallingford; md. Elizabeth Chilson, 9 Oct. 1727; died 10 Oct. 1774, ae. 82
10. Mary Royce or Rice, b. 17 Feb. 1695, Wallingford; md. John Beach, 22 Feb. 1717; died 27 Oct. 1767
11. Jacob Royce or Rice, b. 11 Apr. 1697, Wallingford; md. Thankful Beach, 28 Sep. 1724; died 13 Nov. 1727" 13 (Jacob was born the year his grandmother, Mary Royce, died.)

A brief review of Samuel's life is best given by a quote from the Beach Genealogy:

"Samuel Royce of Wallingford died sometime before the 24 Dec., 1711; Ensign of Wallingford Train Band, as early as 1697; Deputy to Connecticut General Court, May 1710 and August 1710; married first at New London, 9 Jan. 1666/7, Hannah Churchill, born at Wethersfield, 1 Nov. 1644, daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth (Foote) Churchill; married secondly, at Wallingford, 5 June 1690, Sarah Baldwin, born in Milford, Connecticut, 25 Sept. 1655, died at Wallingford, 11 Jan. 1729, daughter of John and Mary (Bruen) Baldwin." [14]

Arthur C. Ives visited the old Meriden cemetery at the summit of "Meeting House" hill and while looking for Ives markers, he noted two interesting graves--one, that of "Dec'n Samuel Royce, died May 14, 1757 in his 85th year"; the other, "Hannah Royce, died Jan. 12, 1761 aged 91." [15] It is evident that the above Samuel Royce was the son, and third child, of our ancestors, Samuel and Hannah (Churchill) Royce, b. Apr. 17, 1673 in New London, and who married Hannah Benedict.

Of this family it can be said that they lived during an era of rigorous pioneering. The all-consuming effort of the time was to eek out a subsistance in a wilderness where much was yet to be subdued and when the danger of Indian uprisings was a constant threat. Though personal data comes to us in small quantities compared to the day by day happenings that had transpired, the magnitude of courage that went into the building of a pioneer settlement during the life-time of this family, demands our sincere and loving respect.

1. #170, p. (1-1)
2. #7 p.890
3. #18, p. 300
4. #123 p.64
5. #33 (a) p.35
6. #123 p.8
7. ibid p.65
8. #11, pp. 41-49
9. ibid, p. 43
10. #108 pp. 75, 76
11. #18 p. 300
12. #15 p. 59
13. #170, (1-2)
14. #13 p 13, 14
15. #33 p. 106