

PHILIP GROVES ( -1675)

ANNA HAWLEY ( )

"Elder Philip Groves was an early settler of the interior of Connecticut. He was Deputy to the General Court in Hartford in 1642 and after. He removed to Stratford before 1650, where he was Ruling Elder." <sup>1</sup>

This brief record would indicate that Philip Groves first settled in or near Hartford (Map # 6), north of Stratford. However, data is very limited regarding Philip's early life, his place of birth and parentage, or details of his migration to New England. Since his daughter, Hannah, and after her death, his daughter, Elizabeth, married Nathaniel Porter of Windsor, Conn., (3-3) it might well be thought that the Porters and Groves families were acquaintances prior to the time that Philip and Anna (Hawley) Groves moved with their family to Stratford.

It would seem probable that Anna (Hawley) was not without kinfolk who also settled in Stratford. We find recorded in the "History of the Old Town of Stratford" this reference:

"It has been difficult to ascertain in what hands the mercantile business was held previous to this time (1675), except that from the first, or about 1650, until 1680, or near that time, Joseph Hawley and Isaac Nichols, sen. had some, considerable, probably the leading part in such trade. Joseph built vessels, here and at Derby, and also sold foreign clothes and other mercantile goods. He was also, some of the time, the ordinary, or tavern keeper, and in those days such an inkeeper was an important position for the convenience of travelers to and from distant outposts." <sup>2</sup>

Research done by P. B. Goodsell of Cheshire, Connecticut, revealed that the name of Philip's wife was Anna Hawley, but nothing further seems recorded as to her forebears or her birth or death. <sup>3</sup> It is not known at this time what connection Anna could have had to Joseph Hawley mentioned above.

The most complete record of Philip Groves was obtained from the writings of Rev. Orcutt, 1886:

"Philip Groves was among the first settlers at Stratford (Map #4), and was early appointed the Ruling Elder, and the only one, of the Stratford church...Mr. Groves was prominent in the town. He was, in 1642, the first Deputy of the town, and in 1647 a juryman at Hartford General Court while living at Stratford. In 1653, he was appointed with William Beardsley by the General Court to settle a question of boundaries between Fairfield and Norwalk; and the same year was directed as "Goodman Groves" to assist the Constables in making the draft of soldiers and provisions for the supposed impending war against the Dutch at New York. In 1654 he was appointed by the Court with others, an Assistant to the Magistrates, which might be sent to execute justice in the town, and reappointed in 1655 and '56. This order empowered them to examine misdemeanors, to grant out summons, or bind over delinquents to Court. In this jurisdiction, they were authorized to marry persons, to press horses by warrant from them as the public welfare of this Commonwealth and as the Court of the same might require thereunto.

"In 1655 he was elected Deputy; in 1656 he was again appointed Assistant; in October, 1656 he, with Robert Rice (see story 1-1), was appointed leather sealer for Stratford, perhaps the first in that office; and in May, 1660, he was appointed one of the grand jury for the colony. He died in 1675, having been a useful, prominent man in the church, town and state." 4

Philip and Anna (Hawley) Groves were familiar with the struggle with the Indians of that time. The "Pequod War" was fought all along the Connecticut shore line and many miles inland in the valleys where new towns were being settled along the rivers. They had made their move to Stratford during the stressful period of Indian raids. Stratford was situated at the mouth of the Housitonic River, a crucial area of the conflict.

All of the settlements along the Housitonic and Connecticut rivers joined forces in an organized attempt to crush the Pequod nation. The Pequod captain, Nepaupuck, whose cold blooded atrocities had hastened a declaration of war against his tribe, was finally captured in the coastal area of Connecticut. He was tried, found guilty and executed at New Haven. The people of Stratford, in their small young settlement of just seventeen families, were only a few miles from the place of execution and no doubt felt the impact of the incident. Philip and Anna, most surely, were well aware of the event and the relief that comes when a conflict so frightening is ended. The settlers were wary of any let-down of guard duty, however, for the Indian was unpredictable of moods. Each settlement continued to train every man in safety procedures and every man continued to take his turn to stand on guard, night or day.

"A beautiful township, inhabited by a noble people", is the theme of Rev. Orcutt's discourse as he describes the place called Stratford:

"Antiquity has a charm for many thousands of persons who love to linger in thoughts amidst the realities of early years and the recollection of those, whose names were long since inscribed on marble tablets in the cemetery. Over two hundred and fifty years— (now one hundred past the above writing) is the measure of the period which is to pass in review, as compassing the history of this locality, to the present time.

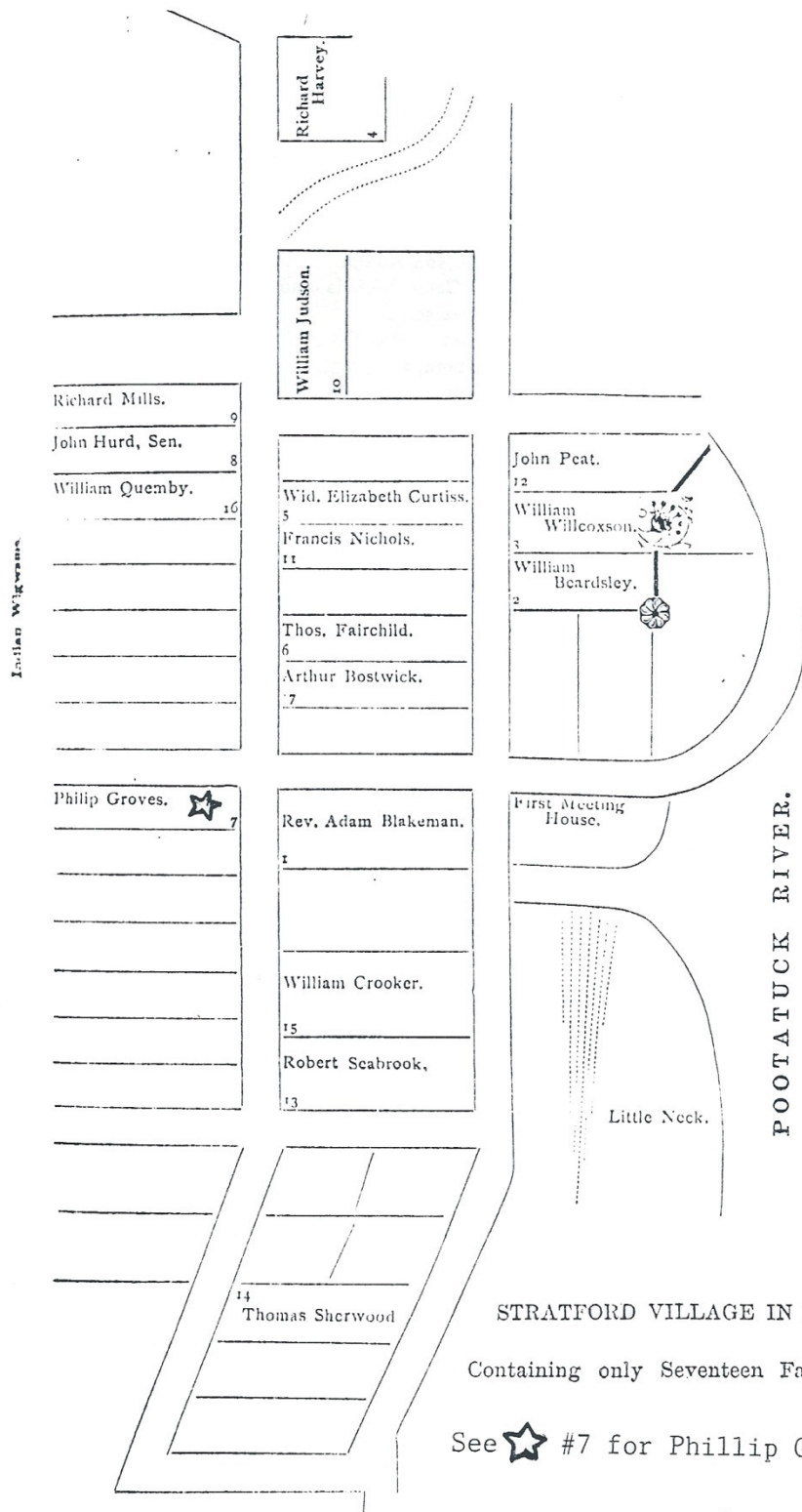
"Stratford was, and is, a beautiful spot of earth, and they who have wandered from it have looked back with pride, as well as with longing hearts, and have almost wished that the destinies of men would have allowed them to tarry by the old hearthstones of their ancestors...and many more will look back from far away places and proclaim with joy that they descended from the early planters of this good old town...

"Its situation, being bounded by the sunrising by the placid Housatonic, and on the south by the ever charming Long Island Sound, was, and is, one of remarkable attractiveness, and such as never to be forgotten by any of its wandering sons and daughters... Stratford sat down as a child in 1639, and thereafter grew towards maturer years, but the picturesqueness of its early setting was of such beauty that it is no wonder that its settlers envied none of its neighboring towns.

"Stratford was the seventh plantation settled within the present territory of Connecticut. Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield, the three first, were commenced in the years 1635 and 6; Saybrook, under John Winthrop, in 1635. Mr. Davenport's company from London arrived at New Haven in 1638, and some of that group settled in Milford (Map #5); and in the



spring of 1639, the first group of families settled at Stratford." 5 (see also map #3)



These seventeen families consisted of the following persons:

|    |                                                                   |            |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1  | Rev. Adam Blakeman, his wife and six children,                    | 8 persons. |
| 2  | William Beardsley, his wife and four young children,              | 6 persons. |
| 3  | William Willcoxson, his wife and three young children,            | 5 persons. |
| 4  | Richard Harvey and his wife,                                      | 2 persons. |
| 5  | Widow Elizabeth Curtiss and two sons, young men,                  | 3 persons. |
| 6  | Thomas Fairchild and his young wife,                              | 2 persons. |
| 7  | Philip Groves and wife,                                           | 2 persons. |
| 8  | John Hurd, probably his wife and son Adam,                        | 3 persons. |
| 9  | Richard Mills, his wife, sister of Caleb Nichols, and son Samuel, | 3 persons. |
| 10 | William Judson, his wife and three sons.                          | 5 persons. |
| 11 | Francis Nichols and his three sons,                               | 4 persons. |
| 12 | John Peat, his wife and two children,                             | 4 persons. |
| 13 | Robert Seabrook, probably no wife,                                | 1 person.  |
| 14 | Thomas Sherwood, his wife and six children,                       | 8 persons. |
| 15 | William Crooker and wife, perhaps children,                       | 2 persons. |
| 16 | William Quemby, his wife, two children, perhaps others,           | 4 persons. |
| 17 | Arthur Bostwick, probably his wife and one son,                   | 3 persons. |

It is possible that this list should be varied a little, but from the best light after very close study, it seems to be correct.<sup>7</sup>

In a few years the number of families at Stratford had increased so that the town was no longer a hamlet in a wilderness, but a town of over 75 families. (See 1660 Map #4) By 1660, we find not only our ancestor Philip Groves, and his family, but also Nathaniel Foote, oldest son of Nathaniel (2-3) #55; Robert Rice (1-1) #74, and Nathaniel Porter (3-3) #9; as well as several other surnames that, through marriage, find connections in the stories of this volume.

"The spirit of enterprise was great and their merchandise consisted largely of grain, beef, pork and live horses; the last were raised for the West Indies market, and others for Boston and New York. There was no trade in articles of wood, for by vote, was forbidden the transportation of any timber for clapboards, pipe staves, hoops, heading, rails or building lumber of any kind from the place, because of its value for the greater building up of their own settlement.

"During the first thirty years of Stratford, great progress was made in laying out the lands northward into the wilderness preparatory to their occupancy by resident farmers; and quite a number of young men had established their homes on these farms...The monotony and loneliness of their outlying locations were greatly relieved by the animation of the natural scenery and the spirit of enterprise and progress in the further settlement of the country. The challenge faced in felling the woods for cultivation and the extent of game and fish (quite too much so, as the wolves and bears were plentiful, as well as destructive), gave bountifully to a sustenance of furs and food.

"In 1699, the proprietors or owners of undivided land, numbered one hundred and forty-three and the families about two hundred."<sup>8</sup>

The Hawley family was an ancient one in Debyshire, England, dating back to Henry IV (1399-1413). Several families immigrated to New England. Thomas Hawley remained in Roxbury, Mass., while his brother, Joseph, born about 1603, and died in 1690, acquired land in Stratford in 1650. He was a prominent and prosperous citizen of Stratford until his death, serving as town clerk for 16 years, treasurer of the town, and "Keeper of the ordinary", meaning the tavern or inn, a responsibility in those early days that was given only to a person of highest integrity.<sup>9</sup>

It has not been determined what relation Anna may have been to the above Joseph Hawley but, according to the period of time and estimated ages of them both, they could have been brother and sister. It is thought that Philip Groves and Anna Hawley were married before leaving England and they likely were from the same area, Derbyshire, where the Hawleys originated, though of this, however, we cannot be sure.<sup>10</sup>

The date of Philip Groves' death is recorded as February 10, 1675, just prior to the outbreak of another major Indian war--the King Philips War. No date was found of Anna's death. The only members of their family to be mentioned were those of their daughters, Hannah and Elizabeth, who married Nathaniel Porter. (3-3) <sup>11</sup>

1. #15 p. 64
2. #110, p.193
3. #2, Vol. 4, Chart(35-27)
4. #110, pp. 112, 113
5. ibid, pp. 71, 72
6. ibid, p.185 (Map)
7. ibid, p.184
8. ibid, p.293
9. #28, p.1
10. ibid
11. #2, Vol. 4, Chart(35-27)