

JOSEPH BRADLEY (1646-1705)  
SILENCE BROCKETT (1648- )

Joseph Bradley was born 4 Jan. 1646, eight years after his father, as a young man of 18 years, arrived in New Haven with Gov. Theophilus Eaton and Rev. John Davenport in 1638, to begin the settlement of a new Colony. His mother was Alice Prichard, daughter of Roger and Frances Prichard (7-79).

Joseph and Silence remained in New haven throughout their married life, rearing their family; four of their six children reached maturity. They were married 25 Oct. 1667 at Milford, Conn., a settlement to the south-west of New Haven about ten miles.

The fathers of both Joseph and Silence were with the same company of emigrants, traveling the ocean in the ship 'Hector', having joined the Puritan band in England that had determined to escape the ecclesiastical domination of the established Church of England. <sup>1</sup>

The settlement at Quinnipiac (New Haven) became an industrious trade town during the life time of Joseph and Silence.

"It had so far as we know, been unlike others of New England; no grant from the Crown had been given, his authority was not acknowledged. The land was, rather, purchased from the Indians, directly, with whom the planters, for some years, lived in peace and harmony. But the rights of the whites to land acquired by this purchase, were rigorously and orderly distributed and by law recognized as true and valid." <sup>2</sup>

New Haven had an independent spirit with the great hope of building its own Empire for righteous people who would live in a state of perfection, so it took a while to convince the people of New Haven to be united with the Connecticut Commonwealth. The year of Joseph's birth saw the Quinnipiac Colony (New Haven) merged with the larger Colony of Connecticut, and thereafter all laws being issued by the "General Courte" at Hartford. We see in this action that the mother country, England, had no intentions to relinquish her claim on all the New England colonies.

This change did not effect the general atmosphere of homelife in the village. The simple, regular life of a planter's family was favorable, in all peace times, to health and happiness. Corn was husked and houses were "raised" by neighborly kindness. The whole plantation sympathized when a family was afflicted with sickness or death and came quickly to assist.

Farms were necessarily small for tools and farm implements were crudely made mostly of wood; only a small area could be tilled by each planter but it served as sufficient for the family needs. Pasture for the stock abounded plentifully and wild game of the forest and fish in the stream added to their supply of food. They had few worries except for the disasters that came as a result of the severe winters or the ever present possibility of unexpected Indian uprisings.

Furniture was not much less than what had been used in England. Benches, stools, tables and beds were hewn with axe and chisel and put together with wooden pegs. The doors of wood slabs were hung on leather hinges and the latches of wood held the door closed which opened by a latch string of leather

stripping. The better hewn log houses, instead of a floor of tramped dirt or hardened clay that could be swept with grass brooms, had a floor of wooden slat boards that could be cleaned by frequent scrubblings.

The settlers soon became further self sufficient in clothing needs by the carding, spinning and weaving of wool. The hides of wild animals furnished a portion of the material for clothes, bedding and floor coverings until such a time as the fur trade brought more manufactured goods from Europe.

The Meeting House in the center of the Market Place or "Green" was for many years, the important gathering place of the people and the Market grounds were the place of military training and marches as well as places to exchange goods in trade deals. (map # 26)

The children of Joseph and Silence, as recorded in the DAR research were:

- "1. a daughter Bradley, b. 25 April 1669
2. Abigail Bradley, b. 9 Sept. 1671; md. 29 June 1692, John Moulthrop
3. Mary Bradley, b. 6 Dec. 1674; md. 2 July, 1706, John Peck, son of John Peck and Mary Moss (7-72)
4. Joseph Bradley, b. 15 Feb. 1677; died 1757
5. Samuel Bradley, b. 3 Jan. 1680; md. 25 Dec. 1703, Abigail Atwater, daughter of David and Joanna Atwater; died 1757 (7-78)
6. Martha Bradley, b. Aug. 1683

Joseph died at New Haven Jan. 1705 but no record is given of the death of his wife, Silence." 3

1. #71 pp. 29, 33-35
2. #33 p. 21
3. #71 pp. 28, 29