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Volume 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition: What Has Changed?

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One question that came up at October's family reunion was whether it was necessary for the cousins to replace their old editions of Volume 1 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. It may not be necessary, but it might just be a good idea. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition includes a lot more information. That information comes in the form of a deeper discussion of English origins, expanded biographies of the individuals in America, and better citations to sources.

This table contains a list of topics and compares the number of pages for each between the 1990 book and the 2012 book. It does only make sense that more time would result in more text.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Volume 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition</b>	<b>Volume 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</b>
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The last person shown as a fifth generation child in the 1990 book is numbered 1071. In the new book that number is 1091. This is because we found information that led us to update the children in a few families.

Here is a taste of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition:

Excerpt from the Biography of Gov. Thomas Welles.

Research has linked both Thomas Welles and Alice (Tomes) Welles to their families in England. A court case involving the homestead they sold in England prior to their trip to New England provides strong and ample evidence for their connections. They came from small towns that are today in southern Warwickshire. The Welles family had been established for a few generations in Stourton, a village in Whichford, Warwickshire. The Tomes family was centered in Long Compton Marsden, then in Gloucestershire.

Great Britain had only recently been established with the union of Scotland and England at the death of Queen Elizabeth I on 24 March 1602 at Richmond Castle and the accession of James I of England and VII of Scotland, her heir. Her reign had been so long that people by-and-large had never experienced the change of the head of state. Thomas would have been nearly 13 years old and Alice about 10 at this thrilling time.

Elizabeth's reign had established the Anglican Protestant church in England after many years of changes in church form (Catholic then Protestant under Henry VIII, Protestant under Edward VI, and Catholic under Mary I). The availability of the Bible in English rather than Latin had given common people the ability to come to their own understanding of Biblical stories. This had given rise to a version of Protestant understanding today called Puritanism.

It is unknown when Thomas and Alice became Puritans. It is possible that Thomas was born into a Puritan family but doubtful that this is true for Alice. It is known that Alice's brother John Tomes was a Royalist in later years.<sup>1</sup> No baptisms have been found for the children of Alice and Thomas in the extant bishop's transcripts for the parish of Burmington, which cover about half the years they lived there. [Puritan] "Parents would fetch a preacher from outside to baptize their children, rather than submit them to the sign of the cross" (Elizabethan Puritans 374).

Warwickshire — the location of Stourton, Tidmington, and Burmington — experienced continuous Puritan activities starting by 1585. Ministers with an interest in Puritan topics would provide additional lectures to interested parties on Market Days. Puritans would travel distances to hear ministers whose fame had spread. The nearest market town, Stratford-on-Avon, is mentioned in particular for these lectures.

How thoroughly Stratford was Puritanized, and how all the country round was very much of the same complexion, ... Warwickshire was, in short, one of the chief Puritan districts of England. The contiguous shires of Leicester and Northampton were also remarkable in the same respect. And in another contiguous shire, not far from the Warwickshire border, was Banbury. It was one of the counties in which "private classes" were organized, and the book "The Holy Discipline of the Church described in the Word of God" (*De disciplina ecclesiastica ex Dei verbo transcripta*), designed as a platform of Church discipline, was widely accepted, being "subscribed" by all members of those "classes." (Contemporary Review 67:58).

At nearby Banbury, William Whately was the official lecturer from 1605. He also gave lectures every-other-week at Stratford-on-Avon until the Bishop of Northampton stopped them, presumably before Whately's death in 1639. A nearby church rector, Robert Harris of Hanwell, also lectured alternate weeks at Stratford-on-Avon. "What a fair of souls was then held at Hanwell and Banbury by these two brothers! How did religion flourish!" (Contemporary Review 67:61). We know that Thomas Welles was acquainted with Whately because he proved his older brother Robert's will before Whately (see the History chapter above).

Thomas's father and older brother took pains to set him up as a landholder prior to his marriage. The Burmington, Warwickshire, property was described as "one messuage, one garden, one orchard, fifty acres of arable land, four acres of meadow,

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<sup>1</sup> Following the Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651, Prince Charles (later to become King Charles II) fled disguised as a servant of Lady Jane Lane. They stayed overnight at the inn of John Tomes in Long Marston as John was a friend of Col. John Lane, Lady Jane's brother (Dictionary of National Biography XXXII:74-75). Today called the King's Lodge, the inn is still in the possession of the Tombs family.

thirty acres of pasture, six acres of heath and firzes, and common pasture, with appurtenances” (NEHGR 80:282). Thomas and Alice probably spent the first twenty years of their married life there. The messuage [dwelling house and outbuildings] was not at all far from his boyhood home in Tidmington, halfway between Chipping Campden on the west and Banbury on the east, and about a dozen miles southeast of Stratford-on-Avon. Like Tidmington, it is a village lying along the banks of the River Stour.

Thomas Welles, already living in Connecticut, acknowledged the fines due for the sale of the property in Burmington, as described above. This indenture bears a detailed description of the land there and who had taken it over:

- one messuage and tenement in Burmington, with the yard, orchard, garden, and one tith close thereunto belonging and adjoining, late in the occupation of the said Nicholas Hunt, his assign or assigns, and
- two yardlands and a half in Burmington to the said messuage and tenement belonging, late in the occupation of Nicholas Beale and the said Giles Tomes, and
- one cottage, with the close or backside and orchard thereunto adjoining and belonging, now or late in the tenure or occupation of one Richard Nason, his assign or assigns, and
- also one close in Burmington, called Broad Close, late in the occupation of one Robert Heminge

Very few facts are known about their lives before emigration to New England. One of these facts is that Thomas was still a young man when his elder brother Robert died in 1627/8. The family estate had been entailed to Robert. As discussed earlier, Thomas acted as executor on Robert’s estate, proving the will on 7 February 1627/8. Robert’s oldest child, a son named John, would have been about sixteen years old and still a legal minor.

On 5 January 1633, the town of Newtowne (now Cambridge) in the Massachusetts Bay colony granted the Rev. Thomas Hooker five acres (Cambridge Records pub. 7). At that time, it was recognized that Hooker’s followers had preceded him and already settled in Massachusetts. The Rev. Thomas Shepard left England around 10 August 1635 and landed in Boston on 3 October 1635 (Maine History 159-160). In Cambridge, Massachusetts, “the larger proportion of those whose names appear in 1635 and 1636 may safely be considered as members of [Shepard’s] company” (Cambridge History 35-36). However, Thomas Welles was still in England after the departure of the Shepard company when he made an indenture on 20 August 1635 (NEHGR 80:280).

Thomas and Alice and their six surviving children arrived in New England before February 1635/6, when Thomas Welles was listed as a householder in New Towne (Cambridge Records pub. 18). They were still in the Boston area on 9 June 1636, when Thomas and Alice acknowledged the deed selling their Burmington, Warwickshire, property in front of John Winthrop and Thomas Dudley (NEHGR 80:282). This legal acknowledgment took place after “Mr. Hooker went hence [from Boston] upon Tuesday the last of May” 1636 to settle the new colony of Connecticut (Winthrop N.E. History 1:468). As the Welles family remained in Massachusetts for at least two more weeks, Thomas Welles and his wife did not travel from Massachusetts to Hartford in the first company that went with the Rev. Thomas Hooker.

Thomas Welles thus follows neither the pattern of a member of Hooker's company nor the pattern of a member of Shepard's company. He moved independently to Massachusetts shortly after Shepard's company did so, and moved – again independently – to Hartford shortly after Hooker's company did so.

The layout of lands in Hartford arranged for members of Hooker's company to live in a cluster close to the church. Later arrivers were arrayed south of the Little River. The houselot of Thomas Welles was in the South-side Plantation (Hartford History 52 and opp. 108), just outside the cluster of the earliest settlers but in a group of people with larger landholdings sometimes called "Governors' Row."

The earliest land records in Hartford were made after-the-fact, listing the holdings of individuals in February 1639 and again in 1666. These land records are lists of the property lots held by each head of household. They do not resemble modern deeds. In the first listing in 1639, Thomas Welles still owned three of the four lots he had originally been granted (Hartford Deeds 1:10):

- 7 acres 2 roods used for a dwelling house, other outhouses, yards, and gardens of which 2 acres are the house lot, 2 acres and 2 roods are upland; and 3 acres are meadows. This lot was bounded North and East on Mr. Hopkin's meadow; South on Mr. Whiting's land and Thomas Osmer's land; West on the Highway leading from William Hills's land to the ox pasture on the West and Mr. Webster's lot on the North. [This houselot of Thomas Welles is in the South-side Plantation.]
- 90 acres consisting of 23 of swamp, 20 of meadow, and 47 of upland. This lot was bounded North on Mr. Wyllys and Joseph Eason; East on the Indians' land; South on Mr. Whiting and Nathaniel Ward; West on John Moody.
- 12 acres in Hockanum. It was bounded North on Thomas Osmer; East on the upland; South on William Gibbens; West on the Great [Connecticut] River. Thomas Welles sold 4 acres of this upland division on 14 December 1650 when he was already living in Wethersfield to Capt. John Cullick (Hartford Deeds 2:139, recorded 7 July 1712).
- 3 acres 14 parches consisting of swamp by the Great River. It was bounded North on Mr. Whiting; East on the Great River; South on Mr. J. Webster; West on the Indians' land. In the February 1639 land listings, William Gibbons describes this lot as one he bought of Mr. Welles (Hartford Deeds 1:336). [Gibbons was an aide or servant of George Wyllys (FEH 696).]

Thomas Welles also owned land in Farmington, to the west of Hartford. The landholding list for Farmington dates to 3 May 1647. His three plots of land there were:

- 6 acres where the dwelling house stands, with outhouses and gardens. It was bounded North on the highway leading from town to the great meadow; East on John Steel, the son; South on the common; and West on the river. The landholding list notes that "one halfe weare of he hath given to his Sun [scratched out name] welles & the other halfe to thomas tomson & to his theyre hayres for ever" (Farmington Deeds 2:5).
- 100 acres in the great meadow. It was bounded North on Matthew Woodruff; East on the river; South on John Stone; and West on John Webster. The list notes that half of this land was given to "his Sun [name crossed out] welles" and half to Thomas Thompson (Farmington Deeds 2:5).

- 30 acres in the great meadow. It was bounded North on John Haynes; East on the river; South on the Indian's land; and West on John Webster (Farmington Deeds 2:5).
- 18 acres of farming and plowing land, which he sold to the town of Farmington – but the date is not specified (Farmington Deeds 2:67).

Although the son's name is crossed off in these landholding lists, other land records show that son John sold Farmington land in 1650 to John Cole (Farmington Deeds 2:96).

The land in Hartford remained in the family of Thomas<sup>2</sup> Welles. More than 100 years later, Daniel and Blackleach Wells petitioned the General Court in the May 1763 session. At issue was a fence on land they had inherited, characterized as land on which "their ancestor Mr. Thomas Welles had lived in 1654" (Col. Recs. 12:149-150). Blackleach's will was written in Hartford 22 Jun 1787 and provides life interest in this property to his brother John Wells and John's wife Elizabeth Wells. At their deaths is divided among their sons John, Thomas, and William (Hartford Probate District, Connecticut Estate Files, docket no. 5802).

During the first year of settlement in Hartford, from 26 April 1636 to 21 February 1636/7, the colony was governed by a Commission which held court for matters criminal and civil. The year after settlement, the colony developed a legislature and held its first election on the first day of the new year, 28 March 1637.<sup>2</sup> At this election, Thomas Welles became a representative of the town of Hartford in the General Court, that is, at the first meeting of the legislature of the fledgling Colony of Connecticut (Col. Recs. 1:8; Hartford History 68-69).

At that time, the men acting as representatives were called "committees". In turn, they elected Magistrates who served as senior members of the General Court and also as judges in the Particular Court. This latter court met quarterly and handled criminal and civil cases (Hartford History 73). By May 1637, Thomas Welles was a Magistrate (Col. Recs. 1:9); he would continue to sit on the General Court and serve as a Magistrate for the rest of his life.

On 31 May 1638, the Rev. Thomas Hooker delivered the Election Sermon to the General Court. It was from the issues he discussed that the General Court adopted the Fundamental Orders, often called the world's first constitution (Hartford History 73-76).

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<sup>2</sup> The new year was celebrated at the Feast of the Annunciation on 28 March every year until 1752, when the new year was shifted to 1 January and a twelve-day slippage in calendar time applied. Therefore, for years preceding 1752, for the dates between 1 January and 27 March, the number of the year itself is often given as 1635/6, meaning that it was 1635 under the old system and 1636 under the system used today. Occasionally these dates will be rendered as Old Style, i.e., 1635, or New Style, i.e., 1636, especially for men who did not turn 21 until after the twelve-day correction. They were unable to take legal status until their lives spanned the full 21 years. George Washington was an example of a man whose age-of-majority spanned the calendar change. His birthday is often given with both dates, as February 22, 1732 N.S. or February 11, 1731 O.S. – or – as we would say with double-dating, 11 February 1731/2. George may have been born on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, but he didn't reach the full 21 years of his majority until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February in 1752.

At this time, terminology changed. Each town's representatives were now called Deputies (Hartford History 80).

Thomas Welles remains the only man to have served in all four official capacities in the Executive branch of Connecticut's colonial government. On 11 April 1639, Thomas was named Treasurer of the Colony (Col. Recs. 1:27), and on 9 April 1641 he received his first appointment as Secretary (Col. Recs. 1:64). He was Moderator of the General Court on 1 March 1653/4 in the absence of Gov. Haynes (Col. Recs. 1:250); and again following the death of Haynes on 6 March 1653/4 and 6 April 1654 (Col. Recs. 1:251, 252). When Edward Hopkins – who was absent – was chosen governor on 18 May 1654, Welles was chosen Deputy Governor and again moderated (Col. Recs. 1:256). He himself as Deputy Governor called a special session on 13 June 1654 when commissioners were chosen to negotiate with Massachusetts (Col. Recs. 1:259). He continued to preside at the General Court through that year (Col. Recs. 1:261, 264, 272) until chosen Governor on 17 May 1655 (Col. Recs. 1:273). On 15 May 1656 he stepped down to Deputy Governor and John Webster was elected Governor (Col. Recs. 1:280). Welles remained Deputy Governor at the election of John Winthrop, Jr., as Governor on 21 May 1657 (Col. Recs. 1:297). As such, he moderated half of the meetings the following year (Col. Recs. 1:300, 306). The two men switched positions on 20 May 1658 (Col. Recs. 1:314); and again a year later on 19 May 1659 (Col. Recs. 1:334).

Shortly after the death of Thomas Welles, the legislature reconsidered the policy on holding office. “This Court considering the necessity of altering that particular in y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Law, respecting the choice of a Governo<sup>r</sup>, vidz: That noe person be chosen Gov<sup>r</sup> above once in two yeares, have thought meet to propound it to y<sup>e</sup> consideration of y<sup>e</sup> freemen of the Collony, ...” (Col. Recs. 1:346). The rule was rescinded at the next General Court (Col. Recs. 1:347). John Winthrop thereafter served as governor for a number of years.

As a Magistrate for the criminal and civil court, Thomas was serving on the bench of the Particular Court when the estate of Nathaniel Foote of Wethersfield was brought for settlement on 21 November 1644 (Col. Recs. 1:461). The widow Foot received £212 in real estate and acted as administrator (Col. Recs. 1:462-463). It was probably soon after his marriage to Nathaniel's widow Elizabeth, that Thomas quitclaimed interest in the Foot estate to the heirs of Nathaniel Foot (Wethersfield Deeds 1:159). Thomas Welles settled in Wethersfield on lands he bought from John Plumb (Wethersfield Deeds 1:160). The property was on the north side of Fort Street (now Cove Road). William Swayne owned the property to the west of this lot. Thomas Welles later bought that property so that he owned along Fort Street to the road to Hartford. Today the historic home of Solomon Welles, owned by the town of Wethersfield, stands on the corner of Cove Road and Hartford Street on the western side of the property amassed by Thomas Welles (Stiles' Wethersfield 1:311, map opp. 1:44: lower left-hand corner for location of fort, J. Plumb's homestead, and Fort Street at the river bend that is today Wethersfield Cove).

Evidence shows that Thomas took great care in establishing his children as young adults, much as his father and older brother had set him up at the time of his marriage. In fact, he established many of his children in other towns as he had been set up in

Burmington rather than in Tidmington or Stourton. He gave his daughter Anne and her first husband Thomas Thompson a half share of a homestead and acreage in Farmington; the other half share was held by son John until John removed to Stratford. Thomas's daughter Mary was the first wife of Timothy Baldwin of Milford; no records show the marriage settlement the couple would have received. Son Thomas received the Hartford residence and lands when Gov. Thomas Welles moved to Wethersfield. Son Samuel received in his father's will all the land on the east side of the Connecticut River in Glastonbury, at that time still a part of Wethersfield. The youngest, daughter Sarah, married into the armigerous and wealthy Chester family in Wethersfield itself; no records show her marriage settlement.