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**Northford, The Athens of Connecticut
1768-1826**

By

Gordon S. Miller

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By

Theodore Groom, Ph.D.
Chairman, Technology
Totoket Historical Society, Inc.

Introduction

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The Home of the Reverends Warham Williams and Matthew Noyes. Built 1750. *Courtesy of the Totoket Historical Society*

Northford, the Athens of Connecticut, 1768-1826

by Gordon S. Miller

Between 1768 and 1826, twenty-six graduates of Yale College were from the Lilliputian-sized village of Northford, Connecticut. Their names and dates of graduation, their biographies, comments on their common Puritan heritage, and remarks on the Revolutionary War and on the economy of the times were set forth in a letter written in 1844 by the Reverend Jonathan Maltby (Y-1779). That letter was written at the request of Maltby's cousin Dr. Jared Linsly (Y-1826). Both men had been born in Northford, were graduates of Yale College, and shared a regard for their early colonial origins.

The first four pages of Maltby's letter of 1844 pay tribute to

the persecuted Pilgrim fathers, their church and ... the Bible [which] was their statute book. ... their first care was to set up the tabernacle of the Lord in the wilderness. They erected the church & fast by it the school house ... the court house, the academy, the college

They were no ordinary men They were the most remarkable men which the world ever produced. They lived for a nobler end ... for a higher destiny than any that have ever lived. These are the men to whom New England owes her religion with all the blessings civil, social & literary that follow in its train.

They live in the immortal principles which they taught. In the enduring institutions which they established. They live in the remembrance of a grateful posterity. They will live on through all time, in the gratitude of unborn generations Where are the men-or when have they ever

lived who are more prayerful-more zealous-more patient-more heavenly-more conscious-harder students-better scholars-more willing to be informed-advised-than these *great and good men?*¹

Maltby's letter of 1844 was written two hundred years after Branford's first minister, John Sherman, was called to preach in that town. From his perspective, Maltby surely knew that among the Puritan fathers were those who had helped base the laws of Branford on the Old Testament, those who had advocated that only church members be allowed to vote for officers of the government, those who had helped found Yale College, or who had been tutors or Fellows of the College-men who "lived for a nobler end-for a higher destiny than had ever lived."² In order to demonstrate the character of these influential Puritan fathers of church and education, the following biographical notes are submitted:

John Davenport (b. 1597; d. 1670 attended the Free Grammar School of Coventry and entered first Merton College, Oxford in 1613 and then removed to Magdalen Hall when he became a licensed preacher. In 1624 he was elected vicar of the Church of St. Stephens, London. Returning to Magdalen Hall in 1625, he received the degree of bachelor of divinity. Resuming his duties at St. Stephens, he became a nonconformist and ultimately became a financial supporter of the Massachusetts colony. He joined with Theophilus Eaton to form a colony in New England, which resulted in the settlement of Quinnipiac on April 14, 1638, and Branford in 1644. Davenport, being committed to the cause of education, "in 1654 brought forward the plan of establishing a college in New Haven."³ The town provided the land and Governor Hopkins donated £ 500 sterling. By 1664, "the small number of inhabitants in the colony and the subsequent removal of Mr. Davenport to Boston ... left the institution to terminate in a Grammar School."⁴

John Sherman was Branford's first minister. He was born in Dedam Essex County, England, December 26, 1613. Having entered Emanuel College of the University of Cambridge, he left at an early age because of Puritan tendencies. He came to New England in 1634-35 and preached at Watertown, Massachusetts, as an assistant to Rev. George Philips. He was a famous preacher, a man of marked intellectual gifts; the foremost mathematician in the colonies, he left many learned contributions to the astronomical sciences.

Evidence seems to indicate that Sherman "came [to Branford] in the late September of 1644."⁵ He "remained in Totoket two or more years, and then removed to his former home in Watertown."⁶ While he was serving Branford, "the laws ... were drawn from the Old Testament and the

interpretation of the code was a literal one."⁷

Abraham Pierson was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1613 and graduated from the "Mother of Puritans," Trinity College, Cambridge. Ordained in the Episcopal Church prior to his emigration, he was ordained again in the Congregational Church as an immigrant. "Pierson moved from Southampton to Totoket, where only church members could vote, since Totoket was under the laws of New Haven He was convinced that the admission of unregenerated persons to participate in state affairs could result only in disaster and a return to those evils which the Puritans had forsaken England to escape."⁸ "He was a Puritan of the Puritans."⁹ On this basis, he became the second minister in Branford in 1646 or 1647. Feeling that the church and state were synonymous and refusing to accept the tenets of the "Halfway Covenant," he and his followers departed from Branford to Newark, New Jersey, in 1667. He was the father of Yale's first president, Abraham Pierson.

Samuel Russell, son of John Russell (H-1645), was graduated from Harvard in 1681, and on September 2, 1687, he accepted the call to be Branford's minister.¹⁰ After a pastorate of more than forty-three years, "Mr. Russell died on June 25, 1731 at the age of seventy one."¹¹ Ten of the most prominent ministers of the colony "met sometime in the year 1701, in the Russell parsonage The tradition is that each of them brought to this gathering a gift of books and, laying them upon the table, pronounced the well-known words, 'I give these books for the founding of a college in this colony' ... Abraham Pierson, son of Branford's first settled minister, was chosen the first rector, or president of the new college Later, after the removal to New Haven, Samuel Russell and Governor Saltonstall bore a large part of the expense of the erection of the first building upon the present campus."¹²

Jonathan Merrick (Y-1725). Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on August 13, 1700; d. 1772. He studied theology and was ordained in 1731 as the first pastor of the north parish (North Branford) in Branford. He managed an extensive farm besides his pastoral work, which included the residents of Paug (Northford). In theological divisions of time he was identified with the Old Light party. He was a fellow of Yale College from 1763 to 1769 and was succeeded in that office by the Reverend Warham Williams. His estate was valued at £3,365.

Warham Williams (Y-1745) Born in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, on January 7,

1725/26; d. 1788. Third son of Rev. Dr. Stephen Williams (H-1713). Berkeleian Scholar after graduation from Yale. Tutor from 1746 to 1750. Pursued theology. Ordained June 13, 1750, as first minister of the Third Ecclesiastic Society of Branford (Northford). Sympathized with New Lights. Member of Yale Corporation 1769 to 1788. Secretary of the Board 1770-76. An enlightened scholar. Read Tully and Virgil as readily as his mother tongue.

Matthew Noyes (Y-1785). Born in Lyme, Connecticut, ca. 1764; d. 1839. Son of Judge William Noyes. Two brothers were graduates of Yale (1775 and 1781). Studied theology with the Reverend Dr. Josiah Whitney (Y-1752) of Brooklyn, Connecticut. Licensed to preach by Middlesex Association of Ministers, 1788. Reverend Dr. Elizur Goodrich of Durham and a member of the Yale Corporation gave the sermon at Noyes's ordination. It was published subsequently. Noyes was minister of the Northford Congregational Church from 1790 to 1835. The Enrolled Church was formed in 1801 by a rebellious group of the Northford Society for reasons that remain unclear. They returned in 1833 when Mr. Noyes's services were suspended, again for reasons unknown. Two hundred one new members were admitted during his tenure. Reverend Noyes served as Fellow of Yale College from 1823 until his death in 1839. Reputed to be one of the wealthiest ministers of his generation .

... AND SOME OF THE PURITAN FATHERS WHO CAME TO
BRANFORD & DESCENDANTS ...¹³

Samuel Maltby (Y-1712). Born in Branford, August 7, 1693; mother, Abigail, daughter of Deputy Governor James Bishop. Farmer, teacher. Captain in Militia, 1716. Town clerk 1721-48, General Assembly 1722-39. He and Samuel Russell, also of Branford, were the only graduates of Yale College, Saybrook, in 1712. Died 1751. Estate £7,000. Buried in Northford.

John Maltby (Y-1747). Half-brother of Samuel (Y-1712). Born in New Haven, August 3, 1727; mother, Sarah, was the daughter of Reverend John Davenport (H-1687). Studied theology at Yale and roomed with Ezra Stiles. Continued study under the Reverend Aaron Burr (Y-1735) who was president of the College of New Jersey (Princeton). Tutor from 1749 to 1752. Pastor Presbyterian Church, Bermuda, from 1752 to about 1768. Visiting his stepfather, Dr. Wheelock, president of Dartmouth, he died after a few days' illness on September 30, 1771. First interment in the grounds set apart for burials in Hanover. He was greatly beloved by Dr. Wheelock, who wrote on

October 3,1771, "I had in my mind fixed upon him to be my successor."¹⁴

Davenport, Sherman, Pierson, Russell, Merrick, Williams, and Noyes-what a succession of leaders! They were among those who defined our culture for two hundred years, from Davenport's arrival in Quinnipiac in 1638 to the retirement of Noyes in 1835. Indeed, we enjoy their influence today and are confident that it will endure for many tomorrows. Northford's earliest settlers were contemporaries and parishioners of the Reverend Samuel Russell of Branford. It was in his home that the library of Yale College was established. The incorporating purpose of the college was to prepare youths for "public employment both in Church and Civil State."¹⁵ Russell's successors in influencing directly the lives of those living in the Northford part of town were the Reverends Jonathan Merrick, Warham Williams, and Matthew Noyes. As graduates of Yale and Fellows of the College, as well as being ordained in the Puritan tradition, they were answerable for the promotion of education. "The ministers of Connecticut were men of learning and of ability to impart it. They were the academies and preparatory schools of the day, instructors of boys for college and of young men for the ministry."¹⁶

Williams and Noyes took that responsibility as a personal matter according to Reverend Maltby, who wrote that Williams "fitted most of the graduates" for college.¹⁷ Elijah Baldwin echoed that statement: "Williams and Noyes were accustomed to instruct young men and women in their home. They ... fitted a number for college and practicallife."¹⁸ But more direct evidence of ministerial influence on education is found in the diary of Medad Rogers (Y-1777), the third of Maltby's twenty-six Yale graduates. This diary was given to Yale by Medad's grandson in 1901 and is located in Beinecke Library. The diary relates to Medad's precollege years, his college years, and postcollege years as a privateer out of New London.

The precollege years are recorded on ten pages of paper measuring 4 1/4" x 6 5/8". Page 1 is headed "Medad Rogers His Book 1768," which is followed by several exercises of name writing. Page 3 is notable for recording "Gideon Rogers Derpter [Debtor] pr 1788," followed by five entries covering seven bushels of food such as Indian corn at a cost of 14 shillings. At the top of page 4 Medad has noted, "to study at Mr. Williams." Pages 4, 5, 6, and 8 (7 is blank) are filled with enigmatic entries such as "June the 15: day 1772: one day," and "June the 26, 1773: three days." Page 8 has several other entries such as "December the 7d: 1772 Mr. Williams had been gone nine days" followed at the bottom of the page with additions and divisions in pounds, shillings, and pence. Subsequently, an entry is made pertaining to "War Williams," which seems to define that person as Warham Williams, the Northford minister from 1750 to 1788, and as one who tutored the local youth. The diary is not clear as to whether or not the references to money represent payment to Williams.¹⁹

The public will to promote education was so strong that laymen participated both within and without the authority of the church. Until 1795 when State funds became available for support of public education, five men from each school district were elected annually to represent the church's interests. Deacon Smith, a blacksmith and father of Eli (Y-1821) "took apprentices, and where they gave evidences of piety and fair talents, encouraged them to seek a college education. Living some distance from meeting, he was yet very regular in attendance. His large wagon, filled every Sabbath by his numerous family of children and apprentices, went so uniformly to the House of God, it came to be dubbed 'Dea. Smith's piety cart'."²⁰ This was the environment known to Maltby and Linsly: direct participation in education by both an educated and inspiring clergy as well as a receptive and eager laity.

At this point it is appropriate to repeat some of Maltby's words as a tribute to those who helped define so much of his and today's culture: "They were no ordinary men They live in the immortal principles which they taught, in the enduring institutions which they established. They live in the remembrance of a grateful posterity."²¹

Maltby, who had retired to Northford and died in 1856, must have shared many hours of conversation on these and other matters with Reverend Elijah C. Pierce, who served as minister of the Northford Congregational Church from 1853 to 1866. Years later, while delivering a Memorial Discourse on the founding and growth of the Northford Congregational Society during the centennial year of 1876, Pierce picked up on Maltby's theme of education. He was not content merely to state that he thought there had been thirty-one graduates of Yale from Northford as opposed to Maltby's twenty-six; Pierce went on to say that "in the matters of EDUCATION AND EDUCATED MEN, it is believed that the past of Northford will compare favorably with most communities around with most throughout New England indeed." Continuing, he emphasized that it was the Ecclesiastical Society, not the town, that had established the school system. Further, he stated that in spite of lacking an academy or other institution of higher learning, "few parishes in the State and perhaps none of equal population, have given to the world so large a number of liberally educated men-so goodly a number of emigrant sons, who have served their generation in the varied fields of professional labor as Northford."²² He then went on to state that thirty-one sons of Northford had been graduated from Yale College, of whom four Northford men became lawyers, nineteen became doctors, fourteen ministers, one author, and two female missionaries. He concludes his remarks on education by commenting on his pleasure that so many have qualified themselves for such positions. He hoped the recital of their names, "some of them known and honored around the world," would encourage other youths to "serve the age on fields broader than their native parish."²³

A contemporary of Reverend Pierce was the Reverend Elijah C. Baldwin, who had been pastor of the Branford Congregational Church from 1865 to 1877. The Baldwin family had been prominent members of the Branford community during colonial times, and John Baldwin was among the nineteen original members of Northford's Congregational Church in 1750. On April 7, 1886, reading his *Branford Annals, 1700-1800* before the members of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, Baldwin stated, "Northford has furnished more liberally educated men and women for various professions than any other place of equal size in the State."²⁴

These statements of the Reverends Pierce and Baldwin applauding Northford's educated servants to society invite questioning. One must ask, Were there more educated persons from Northford than from other towns of equal size? if so, who were they? what were their accomplishments? and last, what could have been the stimulant for such conditions?

The years 1768 and 1826 frame what must have been Maltby's earliest known Yale graduate and the year of Dr. Linsly's graduation. Using Dexter's *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, I counted the number of Yale graduates from each Connecticut town between 1768 and 1826 and compared them to Maltby's listing of twenty-six Northford graduates. Dexter recorded three on Maltby's list as being born in North Branford or Branford, which can be misleading because Northford was the Third Ecclesiastical Society of Branford between 1746 and 1831. Two of those three were baptized in the Northford Congregational Church. Another two are listed by Dexter as being born in Wallingford and North Guilford, which, though correct politically, does not account for the very close social and geographical relationship those families (Cooke and Elliot) had with the Northford community. Yet, Maltby included Increase Cooke (Y-1793), who was born in Cheshire, probably on the basis of his being a brother of Oliver Dudley Cooke (Y-1786) and the grandson of Captain Aaron Cooke, an original member of the Northford Church. Still, Maltby failed to account for John Foot (Y-1765), Calvin Tyler (Y-1787), and Roger Harrison (Y- 1791). Not included in this list of twenty-six are four others who "entered college & continued for one year or more & left very reluctantly for want of health ... were destined for the ministry."²⁵

Whether one uses the figure of twenty-six from Maltby's list, Pierce's figure of thirty-one, or some reasonable modification, the results of the comparison are quite startling. The figure of twenty-six has been used here:

<i>Town</i>	<i>Population=</i>	<i>Number of Yale Grads</i> 1768-1826	<i>% of Grads per</i> <i>population</i>
Northford	500 ²⁷	26	5.2

Norwich	4,323	47	1.9
Farmington	2,298	37	1.6
Lebanon	1,810	28	1.6
New Haven	7,580	111	1.5
Durham	1,097	17	1.5
Canterbury	1,884	26	1.4
Bethlehem	981	12	1.2
Stratford	2,517	29	1.2
Pomfret	1,878	20	1.1
Colchester	1,225	12	1.0
Hadlyme	-- ²⁸	13	-----

This comparison demonstrates that the statements of Pierce and Baldwin were actually far short of the mark. The number of graduates as a percentage of the population exceeds by far that of all towns in Connecticut regardless of population.

The identity and accomplishments of Maltby's twenty-six Yale graduates from Northford, plus a few more mentioned by Pierce and Baldwin as being liberally educated professionals who served society beyond the limited borders of Northford, are presented here in support of the claims of those three Congregational ministers. The following data are excerpted primarily from Maltby's letter of 1844 and Dexter's biographical sketches:

1. (Y-1768) *Jehiel Hoadly, born in Northford, February 14, 1743/44; d. 1810.*
Sir Hoadly, as he was addressed, kept a school in the winter of 1768. Physician in Middlefield with special skills in cases of colic. Estate valued at about \$2,500.
2. (Y-1774) *Timothy Rogers, born in Branford, December 24, 1752; baptized Northford Congregational Church, March 11, 1753; d. 1827.* Attended Jehiel Hoadly's School prior to Yale. Taught school in Springfield, Massachusetts. Studied medicine and practiced in Cornwall, Connecticut, and Schoharie and Hamilton, New York. Sufficiently distinctive to be put forward as an incorporator of the Connecticut Medical Society in 1792.
3. (Y-1777) *Medad Rogers, born in North Branford, August 17, 1750; baptized Northford Congregational Church, August 12, 1750 (note that dates are as recorded by the church and Dexter); d. 1824.* Brother of Timothy (Y- 1774). Journal of 1772-1819 includes diary of precollege and college years, as well as years as a privateer sailing from New London and other matters. It is in Yale Beinecke Library. Studied theology with Dr.

Benjamin Trumbull (Y-1759) of North Haven. Licensed to preach by New Haven Association of Ministers in 1780. Served in Salem Society (Naugatuck), New Lebanon, New York, Hardwick, Massachusetts, North Cornwall, Connecticut, and Fairfield, Connecticut. Ordained, 1786. Beautiful letter on anticipation of death included in Reverend Maltby's letter of 1844.

4. (Y-1777) *Jonathan Law Williams, born in Northford*; d. November 1, 1777. Son of Rev. Warham Williams (Y-1745). Brother of William A. Williams (Y-1780). Great-grandson of Governor Law.
5. (Y-1779) *Stephen Fowler, born in Northford*, May 8, 1756; d. 1829. Kept a boys' school in Fairfield that the elder Professor Silliman attended. Entered the shipping and general merchandise business about 1790 in New Bern, North Carolina. In 1808, Joseph E. Sheffield, founder of the Yale Scientific School, joined the business and in 1814 became a partner. Shipping business given up as a result of the embargo of 1813. Mercantile business moved to Bay River under the name of Joseph Fowler and Co. (son of Stephen).
6. (Y-1779) *Jonathan Maltby, born in Northford*, May 2, 1759; d. 1856. Author of my source letter of 1844. Studied theology with the Reverend Dr. Benjamin Trumbull (Y-1759) of North Haven. Licensed to preach in 1783 by the New Haven Association. Illness prevented him from pursuing the ministry. Engaged in mercantile business in New Haven, later in Northford. Taught at an academy in Killingworth, then farmed for three years in Vernon, New York. Retired to New Haven, then Northford.
7. (Y-1780) *Lemuel Tyler, born in Northford*, August 17, 1761; d. 1810. Studied theology with the Reverend Benjamin Trumbull (Y-1759) of North Haven. Licensed to preach in 1785; ordained in 1789. The ordaining sermon was given by the Reverend Trumbull and later printed. Tyler served in Preston, Connecticut. His son-in-law was E. B. Downing, M.D. (Honorary Yale College, 1833).
8. (Y-1780) *William Augustus Williams, born in Northford*, February 10, 1763; d. 1834. Son of the Reverend Warham Williams (Y-1745) and brother of Jonathan Law Williams (Y-1777). Practiced medicine in Hatfield, Massachusetts; then he moved to Canandaigua, New York, where he had a large and successful practice. He married the daughter of General

Chapin of that city.

9. (Y-1786) *Isaac Maltby, born in Northford, November 10, 1767; d. 1819.*
Studied divinity with the Reverend John Smalley (Y-1756) in New Britain, Connecticut. Licensed to preach in 1789 by the Eastern Association of New Haven County. He married Lucinda, daughter of General Murray of Hatfield, Massachusetts, where he settled. Attained rank of major in State Militia in 1803. Member State Legislature 1808-09 and again in 1816. Presidential elector in 1812. Brigadier general during War of 1812. Published several items relating to armed forces. Died in Waterloo, New York. Long obituary repeated in Reverend Maltby's letter of April 12, 1844.
10. (Y-1786) *Oliver Dudley Cooke, born in Wallingford, 1766; baptized Northford Congregational Church, March 13, 1768; d. 1833.* Grand-son of Capt. Aaron Cooke, an original member of the Northford Congregational Church. Half-brother of Increase Cooke (Y-1793). Studied theology with the Reverend Dr. John Smalley (Y-1756) of New Britain, Connecticut. Licensed to preach in 1789 by the New Haven East Association of Ministers. Ordained in 1792 in North New Fairfield, now Sherman, Connecticut. Retired in 1793 owing to ill health. Became a very successful bookseller and bookbinder in Hartford. Left \$1,000 to Yale College in 1831.
11. (Y-1786) *Ambrose Todd, born in Northford, December 7, 1764; d. 1809.*
Ordained deacon of the Episcopal Church, 1787, Stamford, Connecticut. Spent twelve years at St. Andrew's Church, Simsbury. Advanced to priesthood, 1789, by Bishop Seabury, Norwalk. Rector St. Paul's Church, Huntington, from 1799 to 1809.
12. (Y-1787) *Joseph Foot, born in Northford, May 12, 1770.* Studied medicine with Dr. Jared Potter (Y-1760) of Wallingford and practiced in North Haven. One son-in-law graduated from Yale in 1820, and another in 1832. Funeral address by the Reverend Dr. Leverett Griggs was published. Given honorary M.D. by Yale in 1816.

(Y-1787) *Calvin Tyler, from Northford; d. 1788.* Not included by Maltby, Pierce, or Baldwin.

(Y-1791) *Roger Harrison, born in Northford, February 2, 1769; d. 1853.* Not included by Maltby, Pierce, or Baldwin. Licensed to preach by the New

Haven East Association of Ministers in 1795. Ordained and installed in 1798 in West Parish, Granville, Massachusetts. (Tolland in 1810.) Postmaster, town work, representative in General Court 1833-35. Wrote music.

13. (Y-1791) *Enos Foot, born in Northford, March 4, 1772; d. 1840.* Prominent citizen and merchant in Southwick, Massachusetts. Postmaster, state legislator, 1808-17. State Senate, 1831-32. Member Constitutional Convention of Massachusetts in 1820. Presidential elector in 1824. Colonel in state militia.

Malachi Foot, born in Northford. The Reverend Maltby notes next to his name "educated" and indicated Yale, 1791, but no record of him was found in the alumni files.

14. (Y-1791) *Daniel Rose, born in Northford, January 31, 1772; d. 1833.* Engineer in the War of 1812. Physician in Townsend (now Boothbay), Maine. Also magistrate and surveyor. Member of 1819 convention at Portland that framed the constitution by which the District of Maine became a state. President of the State Senate, 1821-22, and acting governor for a few days. Commissioner to effect division of the public lands belonging to Maine and Massachusetts. First warden of the New State Prison in Thomaston. Land agent in 1828. Published the official reports of his work as land agent.
15. (Y-1791) *Noah Linsly, born in Branford, January 26, 1774; d. 1814.* (As a son of Josiah and Rachel (Fowler) of Northford, this must be his birthplace.) Graduated with high reputation as a scholar. Became tutor at Williams Collage in 1793, undoubtedly owing to recommendation of President Ebenezer Fitch, who left a tutorship at Yale in 1791 for the academy that became Williams College. Taught for one year at Williams, then at Yale - highly praised. Moved to Wheeling in 1795. Became mayor and had a successful law practice. By his bequest, the Linsly School was established in 1814 and today is the oldest private academy west of the Alleghenies. Gave \$3,000 to Yale, which was added to the library fund.
16. (Y-1793) *Increase Cooke, born in Cheshire, March 15, 1771; d. 1814.* Prepared for college by the Reverend Dr. Elizur Goodrich (Y-1702) of Durham. Brother of Oliver Cooke (Y-1786). Book selling and publishing firm of Increase Cooke Co. opened in 1802 in New Haven. In 1810

moved business to new brick building on Church Street opposite the post office. Issued first edition of Noah Webster's *Dictionary* in 1806 and *Cicero's Select Orations by Duncan* in 1811. Inscription over his grave reads "Active ... particularly in the diffusion of religious knowledge."

17. (Y-1801) *George Hoadly, born in Northford, December 15, 1781*; first cousin of Noah Linsly (Y-1791). Studied law in New Haven with the Honorable Charles Chauncey and between 1803 and 1806 held the office of tutor in the college. In 1805 he gave the Phi Beta Kappa Oration. Married November 8, 1819, to Elizabeth Woolsey (sister of President Woolsey and niece of President Dwight). President of the Eagle Bank, which failed in 1825. Mayor of New Haven from 1822 to 1826. As justice in Cleveland from 1832 to 1847, he judged more than twenty thousand cases, not one of which was reversed. Mayor of Cleveland in 1846 and 1847.
18. (Y-1808) *Harvey Elliot, born in North Guilford, November 23, 1784*; d. 1824. Prepared for college by Dr. John Elliot (Y-1786) of East Guilford, now Madison. Studied medicine with Dr. David Rogers of New Rochelle, New York. Began practice in Harlem, New York, in 1808. Received M.D from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York in 1817. Buried in Northford. Dexter says Elliot's is the largest monument in Northford cemetery.
19. (Y-1813) *John Douglas Fowler, born in Northford; February 6, 1789*; d. 1817. His grandparents were Colonel William and Hannah (Mansfield) Douglas. Was prepared for college by Sylvester Seldon (Williams College, 1807). Studied law, opened an office in New Haven. Illness forced early retirement.
20. (Y-1817) *James Harvey Linsley, born in Northford, May 5, 1787*; d. 1843. His parents, James and Sarah, were Baptists. Took charge of New Canaan Academy in 1818 and left in 1821 to establish a boys' boarding school in Stratford. Began preaching in 1828 and was licensed in 1831. That same year he was ordained as an evangelist in Meriden at the Baptist State Convention. Gathered two Baptist societies: Milford in 1832 and Bridgeport in 1835. Bronchitis forced his retirement in 1836, enabling him to pursue his love of natural history. He completed an exhaustive catalogue of birds, mammals, reptiles, fishes, and shells of Connecticut.
21. (Y-1817) *Loammi Ives Hoadly, born in Northford, October 25, 1790*; d. 1883.

Married Lydia Smith, sister of the Reverend Dr. Eli Smith (Y-1821). Spent four years at Theological Seminary, Andover, Massachusetts. In 1822, preached at the Calvinist (now Center) Church in Worcester, Massachusetts and was ordained as their pastor in 1823. Poor health interrupted numerous ministerial tenures until 1832, when he engaged in literary work. He edited the last volume of *The Spirit of the Pilgrims* and assisted Dr. Jenks in preparing the *Comprehensive Commentary*. Regained health enabled him to resume his pastoral work from 1850 to 1865 when he retired. Brother-in-law of Eli Smith (Y-1821).²⁹

Samuel Whitney. Volume 1, page 547, of the Northford Congregational Church Records states, "Dismissed from church and recommended church Yale College.³⁰ At the age of twenty-four, he entered Yale accompanied by his nephew, Eli Smith (Y-1821), but "soon dropped out of college to become one of the pioneer missionaries to leave for Hawaii in 1819.³¹

22. (Y-1821) *Erastus Maltby, born in Northford, December 2, 1796; d. 1883.* After graduating from Yale, he spent three years at the Theological Seminary, Andover, Massachusetts, and was ordained there as an evangelist in 1824, expecting to serve as a missionary in the West. Preached for awhile in Marietta, Ohio, then returned to become pastor of the Trinitarian Church, Taunton, Massachusetts, where he served until his death.

23. (Y-1821) *Eli Smith, born in Northford, September 13, 1801; d. 1857.* One of the most distinguished servants of foreign missions. Between 1824 and 1825 taught school in Georgia, then ordained in 1826 after studying for the ministry in Andover, Massachusetts. That same year he sailed for Malta under appointment of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to take charge of the mission press. He studied Arabic in Beirut in 1827, then traveled in Greece, Armenia, Persia, and Georgia, thus preparing the way for the Nestorian Mission. Married in the United States in 1832, he and his wife returned to Beirut, where Mrs. Smith opened a girls' school for which was erected the first building in the Turkish Empire intended for the teaching of girls.

Together with Prof. Edward Robinson of New York, Palestine and Sinai were explored in 1834, opening the second great era of our knowledge of the Promised Land. Smith's experience and knowledge of Arabic contributed largely to the accuracy, variety, and value of the discoveries

of biblical geography made on this expedition. In Lepsic he superintended the final preparations for a new font of Arabic type after having collected the best models of Arabic calligraphy from Cairo, Damascus, Aleppo, and Constantinople. His work has since remained the standard for Arabic print. In 1848, Smith began the work of translating the Bible into Arabic. This work continued until his death in 1857, by which time much of the translation had been completed. The work was completed by Dr. C. V. A. Van Dyck.

He had received a doctor of divinity in 1850 from Williams College. One of his sons was graduated from Yale in 1865 and two from Amherst in 1876 and 1877, respectively.

24. (Y-1822) *John Maltby, born in Northford, March 8, 1795; d. 1860.* Graduated from Theological Seminary, Andover, Massachusetts, in 1825, ordained in 1826. Served the Hammond Street Church in Bangor, Maine from 1834 to 1860.
25. (Y-1822) *Isaac Bartholomew, born in Northford, May 31, 1797; d. 1822.* He had intended to study the ministry. Benjamin F. Harrison, MD. (Y-1836) was a nephew.
26. (Y-1826) *Jared Linsly, born in Northford, October 30, 1803; d. 1887.* Studied medicine with Dr. John C. Cheesman in New York City and was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1829. He formed a partnership in 1830 with Dr. William Baldwin, whose father had been baptized in 1780 by the Reverend Warham Williams. He succeeded to Dr. Baldwin's entire business and became a prominent physician while filling many positions of trust in connection with medical and charitable organizations in New York City. Bequeathed \$5,000 to the library funds at Yale, which was added to that of his Uncle Noah (Y-1791). Linsly Hall erected in 1906-07 as a gift to Yale of William B. Ross, B.A. 1852 and in honor of Jared Linsly, B.A. 1826. Linsly's son Wilford graduated from Sheffield Scientific School (Class of 1866) and became a painter and teacher of the Hudson River School.

This concludes the Reverend Maltby's list of twenty-six Yale graduates from Northford. The following are additional educated professionals of Northford origin mentioned by Reverend Pierce in 1877:

(Y-1836) *Benjamin Franklin Harrison, born in Northford in 1811; d. 1886.* Doctor in Wallingford 1836-46. Traveled in Europe and studied in Paris

for six months and resumed his Wallingford practice until 1862. Commissioned as surgeon in a New York regiment. Served on the Sanitary Commission in Florida and South Carolina for a while, then resumed his Wallingford practice again in 1864. His interest in meteorology and record keeping of rainfall over a period of thirty years resulted in an honorary degree of Master of Arts in 1872 from Yale. Vol. 2, part 2, transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences contain his fifty-three-page description of weather in Wallingford, Connecticut, between 1871 and 1873. As a community servant he personally planted many of the elms that beautify the streets of Wallingford and was instrumental in securing the introduction of water into the town.

(Y-1844) *David A. Tyler, born in Northford, November 10, 1818; d. 1885. Studied medicine with Dr. Nathan B. Ives of New Haven, where he practiced for forty years.*

(Y-1858) *Gustavus Rose Elliot, born in Guilford, July 5, 1822; d. 1869. (Probably North Guilford, now part of Northford). Practiced law in New Haven.*

Two sisters of John Douglas Fowler (Y-1813) were missionaries. They were Mrs. Epaphrus Chapman (Hannah Fowler) among the Osage Indians, and Mrs Dwight Baldwin (Charlotte Fowler) in the Sandwich Islands.

Malcolm Foote, Doctor
William Foote, Doctor
Chauncey Foote, Doctor
Anson Foote, Doctor John
Linsly, Doctor Salmon
Frisbie, Doctor

Stephen Todd, Doctor
Lyman Cook, Doctor
Benjamin Fowler, Doctor
Elizur Beach, Doctor
Dr. Augur
Mr. Rose, Minister

Benjamin St. John Page, Minister, "a native of Northford and a pastor of a church in Bridgeport"³² preached the last sermon in the Meetinghouse on April 25, 1847.

The following additional educated professionals of Northford were noted by Reverend Baldwin in 1886:

D. S. Tyler, Doctor
Lent S. Hough, Minister

(Y-1765) *John Foot, born in Northford*³³ April 2, 1742; d. 1813. Studied divinity with the Reverend Samuel Hall (Y-1716) and licensed to preach by the New Haven Association of Ministers in 1766. Called to the parish of New Cheshire in Wallingford (now Cheshire) and confirmed acceptance in 1766. Ordained by the New Haven Consociation in 1767 and continued to serve his parish until his death in 1813. Three sons were graduated from Yale. They were John A. (Y-1790) a doctor, Samuel A. (Y-1797) State Representative and Senator, Congressional Representative, Governor in 1834 and Yale Honorary Doctor of Laws in 1834, and William L. (Y-1797) doctor and State Representative in 1839. His daughter, Lucinda (b. 1772; d. 1795), was a classical scholar. Reverend Baldwin wrote, "It was from this portion (Northford) of Branford that the father of Miss Lucinda Foot originated, who after examination was given a certificate by the President [Ezra Stiles on December 22, 1793] that she was fully prepared to enter Yale College [at age eleven] had the rules allowed the admission of ladies."³⁴

Of the twenty-six men mentioned by Maltby as having been Yale graduates from Northford, two died within a year of graduation. Twelve of the remaining twenty-four pursued one professional career and the balance of twelve engaged in as many as four professions or careers. Maltby himself was licensed to preach in 1783, gave up the ministry because of poor health, turned to the mercantile business, subsequently became a teacher, and finally a farmer. For our purposes his profession has been designated as that of a minister. I have made subjective interpretations in similar cases.

Pierce added nineteen new names to Maltby's list of twenty-four (twenty-six less two who died prematurely), and Baldwin another three to bring the total number of professionals to forty-six. The following is a breakdown of the professions served by these men and women with Northford origins:

<i>Profession</i>	<i>Maltby</i>	<i>Pierce</i>	<i>Baldwin</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Doctor	6	13	1	20
Minister	6	3	2	11
Lawyer	2	1		3
Missionary	1	2		3
Government official	3			3
Businessman	2			2
Priest	1			1
Scientist	1			1
Soldier	1			1
Publisher	1			1
	24	19	3	46

Another profession to which Maltby paid particular attention was the teaching of music—a cultural aspect of life encouraged, if you please, by the Calvinistic church. Excerpts from volume 2 of the Northford Congregational Church records provide clear evidence of a community interest in aesthetic as well as religious values. Shortly after the ordination service of the Reverend Matthew Noyes in 1790, church records establish an awakening interest in music:

December 12, 1791—Annual Society Meeting

"Voted the school committee shall get subscriptions in each district for the purpose of having a singing master."³⁵

December 10, 1792—Annual Society Meeting

Voted ten men Choristers.³⁶ (Voting for choristers continued until 1848).

"Voted we are willing the Bassoon should be used on Sunday."³⁷

December 9, 1793—Annual Society Meeting

"Voted the Society treasurer shall pay Mr. Benham his due for singing in this Society."³⁸

As Noyes was reputed to have been one of the most wealthy ministers in Connecticut, it would seem he may have been exposed to music as well as to the Bible, Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. Certainly, he condoned the use of music by the church.

Maltby's comments on the subject of music reveal a long and widespread interest in this cultural attitude. He wrote,

Northford has furnished a large proportion of Teachers of church music. For more than sixty years church music has been taught in Northford. First by the Reverend Andrew Law. Since, those taught by him, & their descendants. There has been more or less of the time a little band of vocal & instrumental music. Gen. Isaac Maltby & Col. Stephen Maltby were eminent teachers & were much employed at home & abroad. And Mr. Lemuel Tyler, after, Reverend T--- of Preston, Connecticut taught on North River, I believe in Fishkill. - Doctor Augustus Williams taught at Newbury Port at Greenfield & at Wallingford. Mr. Solomon Fowler taught at Milford, & Fairfield, I believe. Mr. Levi Fowler has taught abundantly at home & in Pennsylvania.

A large proportion still of district & high school Teachers of men & women at home & abroad have been employed. Hence probably the remark - "the Village exhibits a scholastic appearance."³⁹

Having established Northford as being preeminent among all Connecticut

towns regarding the number of Yale graduates between 1768 and 1826 and having established their beneficial influences from the outer reaches of New England to Wheeling, Cleveland, New Bern, Hawaii, Cairo, and Damascus, one is forced to ask, "Why Northford?" The answer points directly to the influence of the church and its ministers: "The Pilgrim churches were all strong for learning and for an educated minister. The colonists were of the intelligent middle class of England, to the extent of 98 percent of their population, accustomed to leaders of university training, and naturally desirous of like privileges for their children."⁴⁰ "The ministers ... had the principal part in forming the character of the new communities. The whole subject of education was one, which fell principally to their charge."⁴¹

John Davenport, John Sherman, and Abraham Pierson had direct influence on the manners and mores of the parents and grandparents of Northford's earliest settlers, while Russell, Merrick, Williams, and Noyes affected those after the settlement of about 1700. All were university-educated ministers, and all were devoted to the Puritan tenets of education.

NOTES

1. Maltby, *A Sketch*, 2,3,4.
2. *Ibid.*, 3.
3. Maltby, *Family Record*, 66.
4. *Ibid.*, 66.
5. Simonds, *History of the First Church*, 10, 12.
6. *Ibid.*, 17.
7. *Ibid.*, 12.
8. *Ibid.*, 28.
9. *Ibid.*, 33.
10. *Ibid.*, 43, 44, 45.
11. *Ibid.*, 67.
12. *Ibid.*, 55, 56.
13. Maltby, *A Sketch*, 1.
14. Wheelock.
15. Dexter, *The Removal of Yale College to New Haven in October, 1716*, 72.
16. Osborn, *History of Connecticut*, 300.
17. Maltby, *A Sketch*, 15.
18. Baldwin, *Branford Annals*, 317.
19. Rogers, *Diary*.
20. Baldwin, *Branford Annals*, 317.
21. Maltby, *A Sketch*, 3.
22. Pierce, *Days of Old*, 23.
23. *Ibid.*, 23.
24. Baldwin, *Branford Annals*, 316.
25. Maltby, *A Sketch*, 36.
26. Population: These figures were derived from the *Connecticut State Register and Manual*, 1978 (pp.

- 604-09) for all towns having ten or more Yale graduates born between 1790 and 1830, the years close to Maltby's time frame of 1768 and 1826. If figures were not available for the earliest date between 1790 and 1830 was used; If only population figures for 1830 were provided, that figure was used.
27. Northford: That same *State Register and Manual* gives North Branford's population figure for 1830 as 1,092. As the village of Northford has always been considered somewhat smaller than the first voting district, North Branford, the figure of 500 has been used to represent Northford's population between 1768 and 1826.
 28. Hadlyme: This is the only other town with ten or more Yale graduates for which no population figures are provided by the 1978 *State Register and Manual*.
 29. Leavy, *Looking for the Armenians*, 272.
 30. Northford, Vol. 1, 24.
 31. Leavy, *The Making of a Missionary*, 22.
 32. Northford, Vol. 3, 19.
 33. Baldwin, *Branford Annals*, 316.
 34. *Ibid.*, 316.
 35. Northford, Vol. 2, 6.
 36. *Ibid.*, 8.
 37. *Ibid.*, 8.
 38. *Ibid.*, 9.
 39. Maltby, *A Sketch*, 21-22.
 40. Osborne, *History of Connecticut*, 328-29.
 41. Kingsley, *Historical Discourse*, 47.

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GORDON S. MILLER is a former president of the Totoket Historical Society. He is a graduate of Yale, Class of 1943, and served as a liaison officer to the French Navy in Morocco, 1944-1945.