

households of Richard Smith and William Smith are indicated on the map. None of these latter three Smiths are thought to have been related to Samuel. Nathaniel Foote and J. Churchill with whose families members and descendants of the Samuel Smith family later intermarried, are shown but not John Roote or Luke Hitchcock who came later. Robert Seeley, from whom the children of this writer's son directly descend, is shown, he having been one of the very early settlers of Wethersfield.

"Samuel Smith is called "The Fellmonger" in the early Wethersfield records meaning very likely that he was a tanner by trade and a dealer in skins and furs of animals. The word generally refers to sheep pelts but there could not have been many sheep in that wolf infested wilderness at so early a date although there were some a little later. This writer rather expected to find that he was a representative or London fur traders who were becoming active in North America at the time but no records to support this conjecture have been found. He must have been a man of some means because he figured in a goodly number of land purchases and sales in Wethersfield. On page 643, Vol. I of Adams and Stiles "Ancient Wethersfield" the statement is made that Samuel Smith was "one of the wealthiest men Wethersfield". This was in 1646. His son John in 1672 was admitted by town vote in Wethersfield as an inhabitant to set up "a trade of tanning in this town". He had been living in Hadley and evidently had returned to Wethersfield then or before.

"Samuel Smith served Wethersfield as a Deputy to the general Court almost continuously from November 1637 to May 1656. He also served as Assistant to the Connecticut Colony in March and April of 1638. (See Conn. Colonial records )The General Court sat first at Hartford (April 26, 1636) by authority of a commission from Governor Winthrop - Massachusetts to "govern the people of Connecticut for the space of one year". Rev. Henry Smith was one of the governor's original appointees and was living in Watertown Massachusetts at the time. Later the General Court of Connecticut which included the elected deputies called itself the "General Assembly". In May of 1678 it was known as the "Governor and Council". In May of 1698 it was divided into two sections known as "The Upper House" which consisted of the Governor or his deputy and his assistants and the "Lower House" made up of the deputies of the several towns. In 1819 the Upper House became Senators, the Lower House, Representatives.

"The Court in early days consisted of the Governor and least seven chosen assistants and four deputies from-each town. It not only performed legislative and adjudicative functions but also served as the "Court of Elections" with power to choose the Governor and his assistants. In February 1651 Samuel Smith served as a member of a Particular Court in Hartford, chosen to try John Carrington and his wife for witchcraft. An indictment "thou deservest to dye" was returned but the sentences were probably not carried out.

"Samuel Smith figured in a number of land transactions and seems to have been engaged in various commercial enterprises. In November 1649 the General Court authorized him and "the rest of the owners of the shipp at Wethersfield to fit and make so many pipestaves as will freight out said shipp the first voyage, etc.". Pipestaves were used in the West Indies to make barrels for the shipment of molasses, rum, salt beef, pork and fish. The building of this ship had been authorized by the General Court and was probably the first ship built in Connecticut. Thomas Deming, a ship carpenter, was probably the master