

The first settlers of this town were adventurers from Surry and Kent near London, and, unlike their mercantile brethren who peopled New Haven, were mostly farmers.¹ They had

¹ Their first recorded act as a separate community was the Covenant, which they signed on ship-board, while on the passage, which was as follows :

COVENANT.

We, whose names are hereunder written, intending by God's gracious permission to plant ourselves in New England, and, if it may be, in the southerly part, about Quinnipiack : We do faithfully promise each to each, for ourselves and families, and those that belong to us ; that we will, the Lord assisting us, sit down and join ourselves together in one intire plantation ; and to be helpful each to the other in every common work, according to every man's ability and as need shall require ; and we

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promise not to desert or leave each other or the plantation, but with the consent of the rest, or the greater part of the company who have entered into this engagement.

As for our gathering together in a church way, and the choice of officers and members to be joined together in that way, we do refer ourselves until such time as it shall please God to settle us in our plantation.

In witness whereof we subscribe our hands, the first day of June, 1639.

Robert Kitchell,	John Stone,	Thomas Norton,
John Bishop,	William Plane,	Abraham Cruttenden,
Francis Bushnell,	Richard Gutridge,	Francis Chatfield,
William Chittenden,	John Hughes,	William Halle,
William Leete,	Wm. Dudley,	Thomas Naish,
Thomas Joanes,	John Parmelin,	Henry Kingsnorth,
John Jurdon,	John Mephram,	Henry Doude,
William Stone,	Henry Whitfield,	Thomas Cooke,
John Hoadly,		