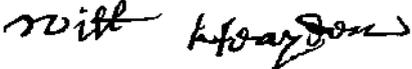
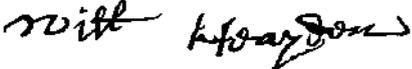


own mother sang them to her, and here she told them stories of dear old England, of her churches and her castles, of her flowers and her hedge-rows, of her green lawns and fragrant grasses.

It is significant of the yearnings of the sturdy first settlers for the familiar things of dear old England, that the year in which the wife of William Hayden died here in America, the town voted that "Brother Lieut. Wilton shall clear the burying-yard of stubs and bushes, and sow it down to English grass." For twenty years they had laid away their dead in that place, and still some of the stumps remained and put forth shoots, and only a coarse wild grass grew above their graves.* The little girl, Mary, was then but seven years old, the boys thirteen and fifteen. Who supplied the place of the lost mother we know not, but William Hayden continued here about nine years longer, when he removed with the first settlers to Homonossett [Clinton]. About the time of his removal he married the widow of William Wilcockson of Stratford, and Daniel, his son, married the daughter, and brought her here. Nathaniel and Mary went with their father to Homonossett.

William Hayden was one of the deputies [Representatives] 1667, from that town, then called Kenilworth. He was one of three to petition the court to give authority for the "gathering of ourselves into church order," † and when the organization took place his name is third on the list of her membership.

* A great want of the first settlers when the forests covered all except the river meadows, was grass-land; even the "bog hay" from swamps was saved for their stock. In a deed of land covering a tract north of Namerick and extending along the Connecticut towards Warehouse Point, there is a reservation of some of the meadow, but "only the grass land excepted which Goodman Hayden hath formerly to mow." This was at the north side of the mouth of Namerick (later May-luck) brook, on the opposite side of the Connecticut River from William Haydens, and about a mile above him.

† This petition is still on file at the State library in Hartford, and bears the autograph of our ancestor, the only one yet discovered, but it does not relieve the question of the proper way to spell Hayden, for no copy of his signature is like it, and  no one else so wrote it for him—  In 1642 he sold his lands in Hartford; on the record of the deed his name is copied Heyden. When he signs as a witness in