

HON. WILLIAM PITKIN, the progenitor of the family in America, who came from England in 1659, was possessed of great ability and tenacity of purpose. He was admitted freeman Oct. 9, 1662, and was appointed the same year Prosecutor for the Colony, and was appointed, by the King, Attorney General in 1664. From 1675 to 1690, a period of fifteen years, he annually represented Hartford in the Colonial Assembly. In 1676 he was chosen Treasurer of the Colony. He was often appointed by the Colony of Connecticut Commissioner to the United Colonies. In 1676 he and Major Talcott were appointed to negotiate peace with the Narragansett and other Indians. In 1690 he was elected a member of the Colonial Council, and continued to hold this position until his death. He was one of the principal planters of the Colony, having purchased a large tract of land on the east side of the river.

He married Hannah, daughter of Hon. Ozias and Mary (Woodward) Goodwin, the progenitor of the Goodwin family in Connecticut. The latter was born in England, 1596, and came to New England in company with Rev. Thomas Hooker and others. His wife was the daughter of Robert Woodward, of Braintree, County Essex, England. William Pitkin, by his wife Hannah (Goodwin) Pitkin, had eight children, of whom William (2) was the second.

HON. WILLIAM PITKIN (2), son of William (1) and Hannah (Goodwin) Pitkin, was born 1664; died April 5, 1723. He was educated by his father in the profession of the law. He was Judge of the County and Probate Courts, and Court of the Assistants from 1702 till 1711. Upon the establishment of the Superior Court, in 1711, he was appointed Judge of that Court, and in 1713 he was made Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He represented Hartford in the General Assembly in 1696. In 1697 he was elected one of the Council of the Colony and was annually re-elected for twenty-six years till his death. He was one of the commissioners to receive the Earl of Belmont on his arrival in New York. He was Commissioner of War 1706-7. He was one of the committee to prepare the manuscript laws of the Colony in 1709; also committee on the revision of the laws. In 1718 he was appointed one of a committee of three by the General Assembly to build the first State House in the Colony at Hartford. He was a military officer in the company of his brother Roger. He built, in 1706, two fulling mills at Pitkin Falls, and did a large business in clothing and woolens in addition to his professional labors. He married, Oct. 24, 1689, Elizabeth, daughter of Capt. Caleb Stanley, and sister of his brother Roger Pitkin's wife. They had eleven children, of whom *William* (3) was the fourth child and eldest son.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM PITKIN (3), son of Hon William (2) and Elizabeth (Stanley) Pitkin, was born April 30, 1694; died Oct. 1, 1769. He was distinguished both in public and private life. He acquired from his father a thorough knowledge of business and public affairs, particularly of the laws and policy of the Colony. This, with his natural courtesy and ease of manner, soon brought him prominently before the public. He represented Hartford in the Colonial Assembly from 1728 to 1734. He was appointed Captain of the "train band" in 1730, and rose to the rank of Colonel in 1739. He was elected Speaker of the House in 1732, and was elected to the Council in 1734. He was Judge of the County Court from 1735 to 1752. He was appointed Judge of the Superior Court in 1741. He was Chief Justice of the Superior Court twelve years,