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COL. JOHN CHANDLER 1665 - 1743

Tavernkeeper, New London, Conn.

Col. John Chandler was born in Roxbury, Mass. 16 April 1665; died in Woodstock, Mass (formerly New Roxbury, Mass., but later Conn.) 10 August 1743. He married first, 10 November 1692 Mary Raymond, daughter of Deacon Joshua Raymond and Elizabeth Smith, his wife, of New London, Conn. She died 8 April 1711.

Deacon John Chandler and his oldest son, Col. John Chandler, with their families helped settle New Roxbury, Mass. The town was later called Woodstock and after the death of Col. John, it became part of Connecticut. From the very first the two Chandlers established themselves as powers in the community. Col. John became Selectman and Town Clerk while his father was Selectman and Deacon. Both were Surveyors and real estate became their primary business. Miss Larned in her History of Windham County, Conn. refers to "those notorious land grabbers Major James Fitch and (then) Capt. John Chandler... Capt. John Chandler of Woodstock was next in the field, buying up land granted to soldiers for services in the Narragansett War ... and a thousand acres to the heirs of Gov. Haynes, three hundred to the heirs of Joseph Haynes and three hundred to Robert Treat were pitched upon by Captain Chandler in 1707." Deacon John Chandler died in 1703 with an estate of £ 512; Colonel John died with an estate of £ 8,700. That size estate was extraordinary.

Col. John Chandler was also rather extraordinary. Aside from being Woodstock Town Clerk, school teacher, surveyor, real estate speculator and developer, Justice of the Peace in 1707, member of the General Court at Boston, he somehow managed to live a good part of the time in New London, where in 1698 he was "licensed to keep a public house of entertainment." Nothing further is found concerning his activities as a tavernkeeper, but since the public house of entertainment was usually the meeting house of politicians in a

town it is safe to assume that this was one of the purposes to which the tavern was put. By 1711 Col. John was known as "The Hon. John Chandler, Esq." He had a major hand in the creation and establishing of Worcester County, Mass., becoming Judge of the Probate Court then Chief Justice of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas. He continued as Town Clerk and Treasurer of Woodstock, among other civic jobs until his death in 1743.

- by Douglas Chandler Wright  
74-18

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