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JOHN HOBSON c. 1610 - 1701

Innkeeper, Guilford, Conn., 1685

John Hobson (Hopson) was born in England c. 1610. He died 3 July 1701 in Guilford, Conn. He married first, Sarah (-); second, Elizabeth Shipman of Saybrook in 1672; third, Elizabeth Alling of New Haven in 1673. There were five children.

John Hobson arrived on The Globe in 1635, age 25 years. By 1639 he was in New Amsterdam where on 11 August he took the oath of allegiance. There he and William Williamson rented a plantation on the North River, "when the crop of tobacco shall be off the field." He was still in New Netherland in 1641 when he and John Meris contracted to build a house for Isaac de Forest.

John Hobson came to Guilford about 1660. He was appointed Constable 1 June 1665. He was made chairman of a committee of six to search and report what lands were suitable for a third division 20 September 1667. He was made a Townsman 19 February 1667. Listed as a freeman with Gov. William Leet, Deacon John Fowler and others 24 September 1669, John was also one of the three Townsmen who signed the list. On 11 December 1672 he was made a Planter. The town list of inhabitants assessed in 1672 carried the names of John Hobson, William Leet and John Fowler first.

The "Old Stone House" said to be the oldest stone house in New England, was built for the minister, Rev. Henry Whitfield, the leader of the 25 founders of Guilford in 1639, when it was also used as the church. Many years later it was rented by John Hobson. It was a large house situated on a spot commanding a fine view of Long Island Sound, well suited for an inn. On 12 August 1685 John Hopson was appointed Ordinary Keeper. Savage states that Hobson is now written Hopson and that John is now called "Mr."

In 1690 John purchased the home lot formerly owned by Aaron Blachly which contained 9 acres 7 rods of upland and swamp, thus

adding considerably to his other land holdings. He was a highly respected and trusted member of the community who was called upon to act on many occasions.

- Norma Hopson Jones
72-11

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