



# Wethersfield Historical Society

*Preserving and promoting Wethersfield's history and culture to inspire people today and tomorrow.*

## Colonial Wethersfield Scavenger Hunt

*Directions: The people of Colonial Wethersfield are scared because they believe that there is a dangerous witch causing trouble in their community. Search for clues in the following places in Wethersfield to decode the name of the accused witch.*

### 1. Saba'day House

141 Main Street

Religion was very important to the residents of Colonial Wethersfield. On Sundays, they would attend church services once in the morning and once in the afternoon. In between these two services, people could stay at the Saba'day House and enjoy a hot meal.

Find the sign on this house.

- If this house was built during the 1600s, then the first letter is J
- If this house was built during the 1700s, then the first letter is M

### 2. Broad Street Green

For centuries before the English came to Wethersfield, Wethersfield was home to the Wangunk tribe. Like many other Native American tribes, the Wangunk have survived deadly diseases, unfair land deals, discrimination, and many other forms of mistreatment. Today, the Wangunk continue to live in Connecticut and other parts of the United States.

Visit the Broad Street Green and find the Wethersfield Heritage Walk sign about the Wangunk tribe and learn more about the tribe's history.

- If Sowheage was the leader of the Wangunk in 1636, then the second letter is A
- If Terramuggas was the leader of the Wangunk in 1636, then the second letter is O

### 3. John Chester Tavern

138 Broad Street

In 1760, London was elected Black Governor. As a Black Governor, London would have been in charge of ensuring that African Americans followed local laws and punishing those who did not. He also would have acted as a mediator between Blacks and whites.

Visit the John Chester Tavern, where London probably lived.

- If this house is painted red, then the third letter is A
- If this house is painted white, then the third letter is R



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## 4. Ezra Webb House

246 Broad Street

Over time, many colonial homes have been torn down and replaced by newer buildings. This house nearly suffered that fate. By the 1960s, the town declared that it was in too terrible shape for anyone to live in it. Instead of knocking it down though, the house was restored through the efforts of individuals committed to saving this piece of colonial history.

Visit the Ezra Webb House.

- If the door of this house is black, then the fourth letter is N
- If the door this house is red, then the fourth letter is Y

## 5. Buttolph-Williams House

249 Broad Street

The most famous book written about Colonial Wethersfield is Elizabeth George Speare's *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. Speare used the Buttolph-Williams House as a source of inspiration for the home in which her heroine, Kit Tyler, would live.

Visit the Buttolph-Williams House and read the Wethersfield Heritage Walk sign.

- If it is now believed that David Buttolph built this house, then the fifth letter is C
- If it is now believed that Benjamin Belden built this house, then the fifth letter is J
- If 3 people from Wethersfield were executed for witchcraft, then the sixth letter is O
- If 9 people from Wethersfield were executed for witchcraft, then the sixth letter is A
- If 43 people from Wethersfield were executed for witchcraft, then the sixth letter is L

## 6. Ancient Burying Ground

Residents of Colonial Wethersfield were buried in the Ancient Burying Ground, some in marked graves and some in unmarked graves. Many of these people participated in maritime trade. Maritime trade was a risky business. Ebenezer and Sarah Talcott had three sons who all died at sea.

Find Sarah Talcott's gravestone. Need help finding Sarah Talcott's gravestone? Check out the Wethersfield Historical Society's website: <https://www.wethersfieldhistory.org/burying-ground-digitization/>

- If Sarah Talcott died before her husband, then the seventh letter is R
- If Sarah Talcott died after her husband, then the seventh letter is H



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## 7. Simeon Belden House

251 Main Street

This house features one of Wethersfield's few surviving examples of a Connecticut River Valley Doorway. Take a moment to admire the fancy woodwork above the door that makes this style of doorway so remarkable.

Visit the Simeon Belden House. Some of the windows are decorated with fancy triangular pediments.

- If the first floor windows have these decorated pediments, then the eighth letter is N
- If the second floor windows have these decorated pediments, then the eighth letter is R

## 8. George Hubbard House

481 Main Street

In 1671, the male and female leaders of the Wangunk confirmed the sale of the 72 square miles of land that became Wethersfield in exchange for 12 yards of trade cloth. As part of this land deal, they reserved the right for themselves and their descendants to return to the land and peacefully "use, occupy, possess, and enjoy" it. Sadly, the residents of Colonial Wethersfield did not honor the part of the land deal that allowed the Wangunk to return.

Visit the home of George Hubbard, the man who spoke enough Algonquin to act as a translator between the Native Americans and the English colonial settlers.

- If this house has diamond shaped panes of glass, then the ninth letter is S
- If this house has square panes of glass, then the ninth letter is I

## 9. Samuel Hanmer Sr. House

493 Main Street

Samuel Hanmer Sr. was a cooper. Coopers made barrels. Barrels were used to store the goods that were shipped to and from the Cove Warehouse. By rolling the barrels, sailors could more easily move the goods inside the barrels from the Cove Warehouse and onto the ships.

Visit the home of Samuel Hanmer Sr.

- If this house has one chimney, then the tenth letter is O
- If this house has two chimneys, then the tenth letter is N



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10.Cove Warehouse

533 Main Street

During the Colonial Period, Wethersfield merchants traded locally grown foods, animals, and lumber to the West Indies in exchange for sugar, molasses, and other goods. Unfortunately, the sugar and molasses that the people of Wethersfield bought were made by enslaved people. The goods that Wethersfield merchants sold provided slave owners with the resources that they needed to maintain slavery in the West Indies.

Visit the Cove Warehouse, where all of these goods were stored, and read the Wethersfield Heritage Walk sign to learn more about the Wethersfield Cove. Want to see the inside of this historic building? Wethersfield Historical Society offers free guided tours on Saturdays and Sundays between 1-4pm from the end of May through mid-October.<sup>1</sup>

- If the 1692 flood moved the course of the river, then the eleventh letter is N
- If the 1692 flood did not move the course of the river, then the eleventh letter is G

Write the Accused Witch's Name Here:

\_\_\_\_\_

1      2      3      4                      5      6      7      8      9      10      11

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<sup>1</sup>Hours may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic. Check the Wethersfield Historical Society's website for updates: <https://www.wethersfieldhistory.org/>.