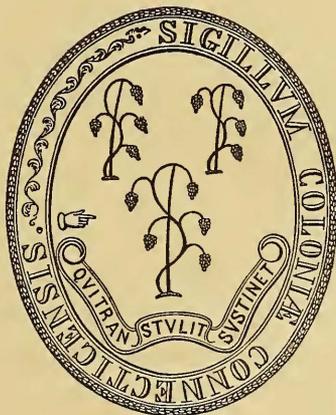


THE  
PUBLIC RECORDS  
OF THE  
COLONY OF CONNECTICUT,

FROM MAY, 1726, TO MAY, 1735, INCLUSIVE.

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A RESOLUTION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.



BY CHARLES J. HOADLY,

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1726/1735

QUERIES RELATING TO THE COLONY OF CONNECTICUT, FROM THE  
BOARD OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS, WITH THE  
ANSWERS THERETO, 1729-1730.

[The original queries are not now found in our archives; they are recorded, with the answers, in the volume lettered *Colonial Records, New England, 1664-1702*.

On the 16th of May, 1730, the Upper House appointed Jonathan Law, James Wadsworth, and the Lower House, John Curtiss, Samuel Hill, and Thomas Fitch, a committee to consider the letters of queries, and to draw up answers, &c. The draught of the answers with the letter accompanying them, in the hand-writing of Governor Talcott, is in *Foreign Correspondence*, I. 145, 146.

The letter of Mr. Popple, acknowledging the receipt of the answers, is from the original among the papers of the Connecticut Historical Society.]

Gentlemen: My Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations command me to send you the enclosed Queries relating to the Colony of Connecticut, and to desire your particular answers thereto as soon as may be. I am,

ALURED POPPLE.

[1] What is the situation of the Colony under your government, the nature of the country, soil and climate, the latitudes and longitudes of the most considerable places in it; have those latitudes and longitudes been settled by good observation, or only by common computations, and from whence are the longitudes computed.

[2] What are the reputed boundaries, and are any parts thereof disputed; what parts, and by whom.

[3] What is the constitution of the government.

[4] What is the trade of the Colony, the number of shipping, their tonnage, and the number of sea-faring men, with the respective increase or diminution within ten years past.

[5] What quantities and sorts of British manufactures do the inhabitants annually take from hence.

[6] What trade has the Colony under your government with any foreign plantations, or any part of Europe besides Great Britain; how is that trade carried on; what commodities do the people under your government send to or receive from foreign plantations.

[7] What methods are there used to prevent illegal trade, and are the same effectual.

[8] What is the natural produce of the country, staple commodities and manufactures, and what value thereof in sterling money may you annually export.

[9] **What mines are there.**

[10] What is the number of inhabitants, whites and blacks. Are the inhabitants increased or decreased within the last ten years, how much, and for what reasons.

[11] What is the number of the militia.

[12] What forts and places of defence are there within your government, and in what condition.

[13] What number of Indians have you, and how are they inclined.

[14] What is the strength of the neighbouring Indians.

[15] What is the strength of the neighbouring Europeans, French or Spaniards.

[16] What effect have the French or Spanish settlements on the continent of America upon his Majesty's plantations, especially on your Colony.

[17] What is the revenue arising within your government, and how is it appropriated.

What are the ordinary and extraordinary expences of your government.

[18] What are the establishments, civil and military, within your government, and by what authority do the officers hold their places.

It is desired that an annual return may be made to these queries, that the board may from time to time be apprised of any alterations that may happen in the circumstances of your government.

#### LETTER FROM GOVERNOR TALCOTT TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Right Hon'ble: I received your Lordships' Queries to this Colony, and laid them before the General Assembly at their sessions in May last. They immediately appointed a committee to assist me in the affair, that so our answers to them might be with the greater certainty. By their indeavours and assistance, I am inabled to give your Lordships the answers herewith enclosed, which, I hope, will be to your satisfaction; and it is a pleasure to me to assure your Lordships, that with greatest cheerfulness our Assembly are ready to inform you in these and in every other thing that you may judge for his Majesty's interest. I am, with greatest regards and sincere respects,

Your Lordships' most obedient and very humble servant,

Hartford, Sept. 9th, 1730.

J. TALCOTT.

To the Right Hon'ble Lords of Trade, &c.

#### ANSWERS TO THE QUERIES.

May it please your Lordships: We have received your Queries to this his Majesty's Colony of Connecticut, and in answer thereunto, we inform your Lordships as followeth:

[1] The Colony of Connecticut is situate upon three principal rivers, Connecticut River, Stratford, and Quinibauge Rivers, and on the sound southward, towards Long Island. In some places our lands are interval or meadow upon the rivers, and by the sound the soil is fruitful, but the far greater part of the land in the Colony is mountain-

ous, rocky and more barren. The climate is very cold in the winter and very hot in the summer, the weather often and suddenly changing. The Colony lyeth between 41 and 42 degrees of north latitude, and in longitude about 70 degrees west from London. The latitude has been found by repeated and careful observations.

2. The reputed and known boundaries are: the Massachusetts on the north, Rhode Island Colony on the east, Long Island Sound on the south, and New York Province on the west. No points thereof are disputed, but all settled and ascertained, excepting some part of the dividing line betwixt this Colony and New York, *which they unjustly refuse to finish with us, notwithstanding firm and clear agreements by commissioners, under hand and seal, have been made, since they obtained the confirmation of their ex parte act, by the late King George in Council, in case of our non-agreement.\**

3. As to the constitution of the government: The legislature is by our royal charter, granted by King Charles the second of blessed memory, lodged in the General Court, consisting of a Governour, or in his absence a Deputy Governour, twelve Assistants, and one or two Deputies from every town. The Governour, Deputy Governour and Assistants are annually chosen by the major part of the freemen of the Colony, and the deputies by the freemen in each town. Which Court or Assembly are divided into two houses, the Upper House, consisting of the Governour, or in his absence the Deputy Governour, and six Assistants at least; and the Lower House, of the Deputies. Without the consent of the major part of each house no act is past; who make laws, institute judicatories, appoint judges and necessary officers and cause them to be sworn, grant lands, make orders and institutions, as the necessity of the government requires. Which Assembly meet twice in the year, and in the vacancies the Governour and Assistants manage the contingent affairs.

4. The trade of the Colony is but small. Horses and lumber are exported from hence to the West Indies, for which we receive in exchange, sugar, salt, molasses and rum. What provisions we can spare, and some small quantity of tar and turpentine, are sent to Boston and New York, and Rhode Island, for which we receive European goods. The number of our shipping and their tonnage is as followeth:

Hartford, David Williamson, master,	Sloop Mary,	60 Tons.
Greenwich,	Sloop Sarah and Abigail, Henry Jones,	30
Guilford,	Sloop Mary,	12
New London,	A briganteen, London,	60
Norwich,	Sloop Olive Branch,	25
Milford,	Sloop Tryal,	40
New Haven,	Schooner Elizabeth and Mary,	50
Seabrook,	Sloop Lucy,	35
Killingsworth,	Sloop Success,	10
Norwich,	Sloop Mary,	20
Hartford,	Sloop Rebeckah,	40
New Haven,	Sloop Humbard,	20
Norwich,	do. Martha and Elizabeth,	40
Haddam,	do. Ranger,	30
New London,	A briganteen, Dolphin,	80
Guilford,	Sloop Tryal,	20
Middletown,	Sloop Lark,	45

\* The words in italics are struck out in the original draught.

Norwich,	Sloop Success,	40 Tons.
Hartford,	do. Hampshire,	18
New London,	do. Lydia and Mary,	25
Branford,	do. Dolphin,	33
New Haven,	do. Mercy and Mary,	30
Hartford,	do. Tryal,	35
New Haven,	Schooner Tryal,	30
Milford,	Sloop Swallow,	30
Norwalk,	Sloop Tryal,	25
Guilford,	do. Swan,	25
Middletown,	Briganteen Alten,	60
Guilford,	Sloop Rubie,	30
Killingsworth,	do. Tryal,	20
New Haven,	do. Tryal,	35
Weathersfield,	do. Thankful and Ann,	18
Greenwich,	do. Elizabeth,	30
Stratford,	do. Endeavour,	30
Fairfield,	do.	20
New London,	do. Dolphin,	15
Stratford,	do. Endeavour,	30
New London,	do. Michael,	12
Lyme,	do. Three Brothers,	30
Stratford,	do. Dolphin,	12
Seabrook,	do. North,	25
do.	do. Joseph and Mary,	30

Forty-two sail of vessels, which stand in the same order as they do in the Collector's register book; yet I am ready to conclude many of them are registered less than their measure.\* More, two sloops lately built in Hartford, one 30 tuns; one just now loading for Bri-tol, to be sold with her cargo at Bristol in old England, 90.—per the register book with his Maj-sty's collector in this Colony.

Our seafaring men are only what is necessary to manage the shipping aforesaid. There hath been no sensible addition or diminution for ten years last past, only that we have built considerable more in the ten years last past than heretofore, tho' most of said shipping so lately built have been sold at the Province of Boston, West Indies, and to his Majesty's subjects of Great Britain, Bristol, &c.

5. Our inhabitants take (annually) all sorts of woolen cloth, silks, glass, nails, scythes, pewter, brass, and fire-arms, of the British manufacture, but we can't ascertain your Lordships the quantity.

6. The trade which the Colony hath with any foreign plantations is only as before mentioned, and with no parts of Europe excepting only a few voyages to Ireland with timber; and some few, one or two, that have of late built here made their voyage to Bristol, there sold ship and cargo and brought their returns hither.

7. The methods used to prevent illegal trade are the measures taken by the collector placed at New London and his deputy at Fairfield, where are also naval officers under the strictest regulations, which do at present prove effectual: but there being many other convenient harbours along the sound, many of which were allowed to be free ports, would render it difficult, had we any considerable trade, and now is a great hardship and an obstruction to the little trade that we have, all being obliged to put in at New London to enter and clear, whereby some winds and much time is lost.

8. The produce of the country is timber, boards, all sorts of English grain, Indian corn, hemp and flax. sheep, cattle, swine, horse-kind

\* These words are crossed out from the original draught.

and goats, and tobacco. Our manufactures are inconsiderable, our people being generally employed in tilling the earth; some few are employed in tanning and shoe-making and other handicrafts, others in building, joyner-work, taylors, smiths, without which we could not subsist.

9. There are some copper mines found amongst us, which have not yet been very profitable to the undertakers. Iron oar hath been found in sundry places, and improved to good advantage.

10. The number of our inhabitants, of both sexes and all ages, are computed to be 38,000, and about 700 Indian and negro slaves. The inhabitants are much increased within this ten years last past. The reasons are: 1st, The country is new and large. 2ly. The intestate estates are, or have been, divided amongst all the children, which encourages them while in their father's family to joyn their united strength to clear and subdue the earth, and thereby make room for their own settlement when they come of age. But the consummate and principal reason is, the blessing of the Almighty on the fruit of our bodies and the fruit of our lands.

11. The number of the militia, according to lists or muster rolls of the trainbands, which consist of all from sixteen to fifty-five years of age, is 8,500.

12. In time of war we have always had sundry forts on our frontiers, to cover us from the insults of the French and Indians, which yet have never been of any great service to us; the enemy coming in small parties surprize our people suddenly, and then flee into the adjacent woods. We have had a fort at New London long since, and several pieces of cannon, but are now building a new fort where are already mounted four cannon to secure that port, and in a short time intend divers more shall be there mounted.

13. The number of Indians amongst us are about 1600, of both sexes and all ages. They are inclined to hunting, idleness and excessive drinking. Some of their youth are now in a school at Mohegan, set up and maintained by the English for that purpose, and they give good evidence of their docibility.

14. The Five Nations (of Indians,) as they are called, live about 250 miles westward from us. The French Indians that live at Canada, and the eastern Indians, which live about 250 miles to the north-east of us, are our only neighbouring Indians, and their strength is unknown to us.

15. The Spaniards have not settled in North America to the eastward of Cape Florida, as we know of, which is very distant from us. The French at Canada are about 400 miles north of us, and of considerable strength.

16. The Spaniards in South America have of late years taken some vessels from this, and sundry from the neighbouring governments. The French at Canada have been very troublesome to this and the neighbouring governments, always incensing the Indians against the English, supplying them with arms and ammunition, and joyning with them in making inroads in time of war. They are of considerable strength, and since they are settled on the River Saint

Lawrence, and on the Masisipi, to the mouth of it, boast that in time they will drive us all into the sea.

17. The annual revenues arising on rates and duties is about £4000 in our paper currency, of which about £1000 is yearly laid out in maintaining free schools for the education of our children; the remainder is for the support of his Majesty's government here, and to sink a heavy debt we contracted in the war and our expedition against Canada and Annapolis in the reign of Queen Anne.

18. Our civil establishments are: 1st. A superiour court, consisting of one chief judge and four assistant judges. This court sits twice in the year in each county, tries all high crimes and misdemeanours, and civil actions that come to them by appeals from the inferiour courts. 2ly. An inferiour court in each county, consisting of one chief judge and three or more justices of the quorum. These courts have their quarter-sessions for the tryal of delinquents and civil actions. 3ly. In most of our towns is one or more justices of the peace, for the conservation of the peace and tryal of small causes.

19. The militia is divided into five regiments, as many as there are counties, over which the chief officer is, at present, a major; to each of which regiments belongs a troop. The superiour officers are appointed by the General Court. The captains, lieutenants and ensigns, are chosen by the souldiers, approved by the General Court, and all commissioned by the Governour in the name of our lord the King.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations.

Signed per order of his Honour the Governour  
and the Assembly,

HEZ. WYLLYS, Secretary.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE RECEIPT OF THE ANSWERS.

Whitehall, May 31st, 1731.

Sir: My Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, having read your letter of the 9th of September, 1730, with your Answers to the several Queries I sent you by their Lordships' order the 9th day of December, 1729, command me to acknowledge the receipt thereof, and to desire that you will constantly transmit to their Lordships authentick copies of the Laws passed in your Assembly, and also accounts of all the publick transactions in your government for the future.

I am sir,

Your most humble servant,  
ALURED POPPLE.

Gov'r. of Connecticut.