


owns land at New London in 1662, may be the same who later came to Norwich, perhaps after the death of his father. Josiah Read was by trade a tailor. Miss Caulkins says that he removed to Newent, then known as "over Showtucket," to a farm he had purchased, in 1687, but the deed of the homestead to Richard Bushnell is dated 1698. He had eight children, four of whom were sons, Josiah, Jun., William, John and Joseph, who became "farmers in ye crotch of ye Rivers." Josiah, Sr., died in 1717, his wife Grace in 1727.



In purchasing this home-lot of Josiah Read, Richard Bushnell may have realized a youthful ambition to own the land, with whose streams and broad meadows he had been familiar from boyhood, when he lived with his step-father, Dea. Thomas Adgate, on the opposite side of the way. Here he now settles to a long life of usefulness and honor, in a neighborhood of relatives, his mother and step-father, and his two brothers-in-law, Samuel Lathrop and Christopher Huntington, 2nd, across the street, and his brother Joseph, and brother-in-law, Thomas Leffingwell, just below him on the "Sentry Hill" Road. Richard Bushnell was born in 1652, and was the son of Richard Bushnell of Norwalk, Ct., who married Mary, daughter of Matthew Marvin, and later moved to Saybrook, where he died about 1658. The widow, Mary, married just before coming to Norwich, Deacon Thomas Adgate, and when Richard arrived here with his mother and step-father he was about eight years of age. In 1672, he married his step-sister, Elizabeth Adgate, and had two sons and two daughters. Anne Bushnell was married in 1695 to William Hyde, and Elizabeth in 1709 to Jabez Hyde, sons of Samuel and Jane (Lee) Hyde. Caleb (b. 1679), married in 1699-1700 Anne Leffingwell, and Benajah (b. 1681), married in 1709 Zerviah Leffingwell, daughters of Ensign Thomas Leffingwell.

According to Miss Caulkins, in the early part of the eighteenth century, Richard Bushnell was one of the most noted and active men of Norwich, and very popular also, we should judge, from his being chosen to fill the important offices of townsman, constable, school-master, sergeant, lieutenant and captain of the train band, town agent, and justice of the peace. He was repeatedly chosen deputy to the General Court, in all thirty-eight times; and he officiated also as clerk, and speaker of the house for many years.

In 1683, he was appointed to take care of the town's stock of ammunition. In 1693, he was appointed ensign of the train band. In 1697, he was chosen school-master for two months in the year, the terms 4d. per week for each scholar, the rest of the salary to be paid by the town, who empowered Lt. Leffingwell and Ensign Waterman "to satisfie" him in land "for his teaching school, to say what the schoolers doe not doe." At this same date, he was also called "shoemaker," and it is possible that he hammered nails into the shoes and ideas into the heads of the children at the same time. In 1698, he was commissioned lieutenant, and in 1701 captain of the train band.

He served as town clerk from 1691 to 1698, and again from 1702 to 1726, and his books show a great improvement on the work of his predecessor, John Birchard. The following specimen of his poetical powers was written by him, as a begging petition for Owaneco, Sachem of the Mohegans, who spent the last years of his life, wandering about the country, soliciting alms of the English:—

" Oneco King, his queen doth bring,
To beg a little food;
As they go along, their friends among,
To try how kind, how good."

" Some pork, some beef, for their relief,
And if you can't spare bread,
She'll thank you for pudding, as they go a-gooding,
And carry it on her head."*

At the time of the great snow storm, in the winter of 1717-18, the meeting of Commissioners, in the Mason and Indian controversy, was appointed to take place at the house of Richard Bushnell, but on the 17th of February it began to snow, and continued for two nights and a day, with a furious wind, which piled the snow up into huge drifts ten or twelve feet high. For days, the Commissioners were hardly able to get together.

Richard Bushnell died in 1727. His son, Dr. Caleb Bushnell, who, as physician, captain of the train-band, and a prosperous merchant, was "almost as conspicuous

* "The last line alludes to the Indian custom of bearing burdens in a sack upon the shoulders, supported by a bark strap called a *metomp* passing across the forehead."—Miss Caulkins' History of Norwich.

in town affairs as his father," had died in 1724. In his will, Richard states that he never intended to give a double portion to his oldest son (as was the custom), but to give his children equal portions of his property. To his son, Benajah, he gives his double-barreled gun, silver-hilted sword, and belts, ivory-headed cane, and silver whistle; to his son, Richard, his small rapier, and two pistols. The gun, silver-hilted sword, and pistols may have been those left to him by Capt. René Grignon. The inscription on his grave-stone reads :

HERE LIES ye BODY
OF CAPT. RICHARD
BVSHNELL ESQUIRE
WHO DIED AVGVST
ye 27.. 1727.. & in ye
75th YEAR OF HIS AGE
AS YOU ARE
SO WAS WE
BUT AS WE ARE
YOU SHALL BE.

After the death of Richard, his son Benajah (b. 1681), occupied the house and home-lot. He had four children. One daughter (named for her mother), Zerviah, married in 1750-1 Phinehas Holden. Another daughter, Elizabeth, married in 1730 Isaac Tracy, son of John and Elizabeth (Leffingwell) Tracy, and the son Benajah (b. 1714-5), married (1) in 1740 Hannah Griswold, daughter of John and Hannah (Lee) Griswold of Lyme, and later in 1774, Betsey Webster of Lebanon. This son settles on a farm which was given to him by his father.

Benajah Bushnell, 1st, was chosen lieutenant of the first company, or train-band, in 1714. In 1720, he was elected deputy, an office which he filled eight times in different years. In 1721, he was appointed captain of the train-band, and in 1723, he took a prominent part in settling the boundary line between Norwich and Preston. He was an influential member of the Episcopal Church, was senior-warden and treasurer of that organization, and gave, in 1746-7, a lot of land "at the north-east end of Waweequaw's hill, near the old Landing Place," on which to build a church. This is the land on which Christ Church now stands. He also contributed £40 to forward the erection