


1740, and died Nov. 9, 1742, in his thirty-second year. Both these young men are buried in the Green Cemetery, side by side. The next to assume the duties of the pastorate was the Rev. Isaac Chalker, who was installed October, 1744, and died May 21, 1765, in his fifty-eighth year. Financial troubles almost crushed him, but the intervention of kind friends saved him from further annoyance, and he passed the evening of his life in quiet.



Thomas Welles, son of Samuel, grandson of Samuel, and great-grandson of Thomas Welles, the third Governor of Connecticut Colony, was the successor of Thomas Kimberly as town clerk. He was a man of great ability, colonel of the militia, representative in 1725 and nearly every year succeeding, and for the larger part of the time every session until 1751, Speaker for the last two years, and Assistant from October, 1751, to October, 1760. He retained the office of town clerk for thirty-six years, until 1766, when it is sadly apparent from his official signature in our records that his "right hand had lost its cunning." He died May 14, 1767, in his seventy-fifth year.

The Rev. Ashbel Woodbridge's successor in the First Church was the Rev. John Eells, *John Eells* ordained pastor June 27, 1759, in his twenty-third year, and remaining here in his office until his death, in 1791. He was a son of the Rev. Nathaniel Eells, of Stonington, and cousin of the Rev. James Eells, afterwards settled at Eastbury. Under his wise and prudent leadership no dissension seems to have arisen; and the people were so united in patriotic sentiment that it is reported that only one left his country to become the associate of the Rev. Samuel Peters, formerly rector of St. Peter's Church in Hebron, in the London colony of Tory malcontents headed by that bitter champion of kingly power.

Soon after the decease of the Rev. Mr. Chalker, the Rev. Samuel Woodbridge, a son of the Rev. Ashbel Woodbridge, was ordained pastor of the Second Society. Mr. Woodbridge was then a young man of twenty-six years. Unremitting study, in his case, produced insanity, and after preaching about a year he was dismissed, to the "great sorrow" of the church and society. He was succeeded by the Rev. James Eells, son of the Rev. Edward Eells, of Upper Middletown (now Cromwell), who was ordained Aug. 23, 1769, and remained with his people until his death, Jan. 23, 1805, aged sixty-three, and in the thirty-fifth year of his ministry. Prior to the pastorates of the Messrs. Eells the church records seem to have been regarded as private property, and no one has given any information where they or any part of them may be found. If ever they should come to light they would undoubtedly elucidate many points which only exist in the misty traditions of the past.

The history of our town during the Revolution and the years immediately preceding is of the greatest interest, and is calculated to foster the respect and admiration which our citizens have for our fathers and our town. So early as June 18, 1770, a town-meeting was held at which measures were taken for the support of the non-importation agreement, and at which Messrs. Jonathan Welles (a son of Colonel Thomas Welles) and Ebenezer Plummer (long time from 1747 a successful merchant in this town and a prominent and patriotic citizen) were appointed their representatives to attend a meeting of the mercantile