


'Tis on this spot, this paradise of earth,  
 (Pardon my arrogance), I boast my birth.  
 Though this indeed it were not need confess,  
 For so, who reads these lines would sure have guessed.  
 Now what I write I let my readers know  
 Relates to facts of seventy years ago.  
 If any change for better or for worse  
 Has since occurred — pray what is that to us —  
 Some rising bard may in a fitting strain,  
 The present state depict of Crooked Lane.

James Hooker, Esq., first judge of the court of probate for the district of Guilford, was a native of Farmington and removed here about 1700. He married the daughter of William Leete, Jr., and held a distinguished place in the esteem of the people until his death, March 12, 1740.



Colonel Samuel Hill was a native of this town, and during his life time one of the principal regulators of its affairs. He was chosen town clerk in 1717, and was afterwards made clerk of the proprietors of the town until his death. In 1720, at the formation of the probate court for Guilford district, he was chosen clerk, and, on the death of Judge Hooker, in 1740, judge of that court, which position he held until his death in 1752. He was also, for a considerable period, judge of the county court for the county of New Haven, and one of the principal magistrates of the town. He always sustained a high character for integrity, uprightness, firmness and perhaps sternness of principle. His son Nathaniel Hill and grandson Henry Hill, were both eminent men in the town, county and state, and each in his day was clerk and afterwards judge of the probate court for this district, for a great length of time.

Nathaniel Hill, Col. Timothy Stone, Gen. Andrew Ward, Nathaniel Rossiter, and Nathaniel Griffing, Esq., were justices of the county court for the county of New Haven for considerable periods, and for many successive years enjoyed the highest honors in the gift of the town.