

Until the final division of the church, in 1772, nearly all of what now constitutes the town of Berlin was, ecclesiastically speaking, Kensington.

The Samuel Hart dwelling house stood a little way north of the present house, on the corner. Some of the timbers from the old house are a part of Leonard Hubbard's wood-house. The well, south of the house, is the same that was used by the Harts. After Mr. Hubbard purchased the place, Mrs. Willard and her sister, Mrs. Phelps, called there and asked for a glass of water from the well of which they drank in childhood. Mrs. Willard left with Mrs. Hubbard, a framed engraving of herself, with the request that it might always remain in the house.

A gravestone at the Bridge Cemetery in Worthington bears the following inscription:

Thomas Hart,
Died Sept. 21, 1832,
Aged 78 years,
The youngest brother of John,
Elihu, Jonathan & Ebenezer,
sons of Ebenezer Hart, who died 1795,
Which was the son of Ebenezer Hart who died 1773
Which was the son of Thomas Hart who died 1771
Which was the son of Thomas Hart who died —
Which was the son of Stephen Hart,
Who arrived in America &
settled in Berlin, 1635.

According to reliable records the family history as given on that stone, is incorrect. Deacon Stephen Hart, the progenitor of the New Britain and Berlin Harts, came to Hartford with Mr. Hooker in 1635. He was a leader in the settlement of Farmington in 1640, and he died there in 1682-3 aged seventy-seven years. He never lived in Berlin, although in his will he mentions his land in "Great Swamp."

Thomas Hart, son of Stephen, born 1644, captain of the Farmington train band, thirteen times chosen deputy; four times speaker of General Court; chairman of committees to



protect the natives from "illegal trading" of lands with the whites; "to draw a Bill to prevent disorders in Retailers of strong drinke and excessive drinking" and "to prepare a Bill to put in execution the reform Lawes" was a man of wealth and influence. It is said that he owned 3,000 acres of land which was divided among his children.

"Worshipful Captain Thomas Hart," as he was called, died August 27, 1726, in his eighty-third year, and was buried with military honors.

The Hart homestead in Farmington was opposite the meeting house.

A clause in Captain Thomas Hart's will reads as follows:

I give my two sons, Thomas Hart and Hezekiah Hart, all my right in lands that have fallen to me within ye limits of ye Great Swamp Society.

This son Thomas was the Deacon Thomas who lived on the corner west of the Driving Park, and whose "home lot" was taken as a site for the second meeting house. He was a member, with his wife, of the Christian Lane church, in 1712, and was chosen deacon, after probation, 1719. He was Clerk and Recorder for the Ecclesiastical Society; six times a member of General Assembly, for the town of Farmington; chairman of memorialists and petitioners, justice of the peace, and was described as the most influential man in Kensington. His son, Deacon Ebenezer Hart, inherited the place, which is now known as Mott's Corner, and married widow Elizabeth Lawrence. They had five sons:

Ebenezer J., born at Kensington, July 29, 1742, removed to New Hampshire, where he died in 1796, aged fifty-four years. He was the grandfather of Jonathan T. Hart, the manufacturer of Kensington.

Jonathan, born at Kensington in 1744, was a graduate of Yale in 1768. He was in the public service from 1775 to 1791, and was slain by the Indians, November 4, 1791, at St. Clair's defeat. He held the military rank of major.