

= John Haynes (governor) =

John Haynes (May 1 , 1594 ? c . January 9 , 1653 / 4) , also sometimes spelled Haines , was a colonial magistrate and one of the founders of the Connecticut Colony . He served one term as governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and was the first governor of Connecticut , ultimately serving eight separate terms .

Haynes was influential in the drafting of laws and legal frameworks in both Massachusetts and Connecticut . He was on the committee that drafted the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut , which has been called one of the first written constitutions . He also invested most of his fortune in Connecticut , " to the ruine of his famlye in Englande " .

= = Early life = =

Haynes was likely born at Messing , Essex , England , the eldest son of John Haynes and Mary Michel Haynes . The family was an armigerous gentry or ' visitation family ' who had lived at Codicote , Herefordshire , and at Great Haddam . In 1605 , when he was eleven , his father died , and he eventually inherited the family 's many properties . It is possible that Haynes attended Cambridge ; during the relevant time period , two John Hayneses are listed as attending . By about 1616 , Haynes was living at Gurney 's Manor , Hingham , Norfolk , a hotbed of Puritan sentiment , where Haynes was Lord of the Manor . There he married Mary Thorneton , the daughter of Norfolk nobility , with whom he had six children . In 1627 , his wife Mary died and was buried at St. Andrews Church in Hingham . In the early 1620s , he purchased Copford Hall , near Colchester in Essex ; this estate alone was reported to produce £ 1 @, @ 100 per year .

Essex was also a Puritan center , and Haynes was greatly influenced by the pastor Thomas Hooker , who was a close friend . In about 1630 , John Winthrop and John Humphreys , two of the founders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony , extended invitations to Hooker and Haynes to join them in the New World . Apparently leaving his minor children behind , Haynes emigrated in 1633 , sailing aboard the Griffin with Hooker . They settled first at Newtowne (later renamed Cambridge) , where Haynes was the guest of Thomas Dudley until his own house was ready .

= = Massachusetts Bay Colony = =

As a man of some means , (Winthrop referred to him as a " man of great estate ") in 1634 , Haynes was admitted as a freeman and elected to the colony 's council of assistants . He was also named to a committee overseeing military matters , a position that assumed some importance when war broke out with the Pequot tribe that year . The assistants were called on to consider the controversial defacement of the English flag by John Endecott in 1634 . Claiming that St George 's Cross was a symbol of popery , he had cut it from the Salem militia company 's banner . Haynes was part of a moderate faction that disagreed with Endecott 's action , claiming that the cross had been reduced to a symbol of nationalism . For his action , Endecott was censured and deprived of serving in any offices for one year .

In 1634 , Haynes served in a variety of municipal capacities . He was a Cambridge selectman and served on a commission that decided the boundary between Boston and Charlestown . He was elected governor in 1635 , winning an election that Roger Ludlow had been expected to win . Haynes had argued for the lowering of taxes ; Ludlow also alleged that the deputies of some towns had made private agreements that concerned the vote before it occurred . Ludlow , who was not even elected as an assistant , was apparently motivated by his loss to leave the colony for a settlement on the Connecticut River .

Haynes ' one @-@ year term as governor was marked by political conflict between a faction led by Haynes , Hooker , and Dudley , and another led by Winthrop . The major disagreement between them concerned the strictness of judicial procedures and the process of rendering judgments ; the Haynes faction believed that Winthrop had been lax in some of his decisions . The conservative faction was successful in enacting regulations for stricter judicial procedures ; it also passed

legislation banning the smoking of tobacco and restricting overly ostentatious or fashionable clothing . Haynes also presided over the trial and banishment of Roger Williams , an act that Williams reports Haynes later expressed some regret over .

= = Connecticut Colony = =

In 1635 , a significant religious division began to grow in the Massachusetts colony . Anne Hutchinson and others espoused the Antinomianist view that the laws of the Church of England did not apply to them , while others argued the opposing Legalist position . Harsh reactions to the controversy may have played a role in the decision by Hooker , and consequently Haynes , to leave the colony for new settlements on the Connecticut River . Historians have also cited shortages of land and food as a reason for this migration , and political competition between Haynes and Winthrop . Winthrop recorded that Hooker 's company was motivated by " the strong bent of their spirits to remove " .

Haynes , while making arrangements to follow Hooker , continued to be involved in Massachusetts through 1636 , serving as an assistant and as colonel of one of the colony 's militia regiments . His lieutenant colonel was Roger Harlakenden , who in 1635 came over from England with his sister Mabel . John and Mabel were married in 1636 ; they had five children .

Haynes joined Hooker at the settlement they called Hartford in 1637 . The colonial settlements on the river were established without any sort of royal charter and were not within the bounds of the Massachusetts Bay Colony . For the first two years , the few small settlements were governed by a general court of magistrates , headed by Haynes , and were likely preoccupied with the ongoing conflict with the Pequots . After the war ended in late 1638 , the magistrates began drafting a body of principles and laws ; these were ratified in January 1638 / 9 . Now known as the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut , this document has been called the " first written constitution " . The chief architects of the Fundamental Orders were Ludlow , the colony 's principal legal mind , Haynes , and Thomas Hooker , who was known to advocate for the liberties the document enshrines .

Pursuant to the terms of this constitution , elections were held on April 11 , 1639 , and Haynes was elected as the colony 's first governor . Because of restrictions in the constitution that disallowed consecutive terms , he was in and out of the office of governor a total of eight times between 1639 and his death in 1653 / 4 . During most of the years he was not governor , he was instead the deputy governor .

Due to a lack of detailed documentation , the exact role Haynes played in the colony 's political activities is unclear . One of his more notable achievements was the negotiations with some of the neighboring colonies that led to the creation of the New England Confederation in 1643 . This organization was a loose confederation of the Connecticut , Massachusetts Bay , New Haven , and Plymouth Colonies , principally established to coordinate defense against common threats . For Connecticut , the major threats came from Indians and from the Dutch of the New Netherlands to the west . In particular , the smaller colonies benefited from this confederation at the expense of the significantly more populous Massachusetts colony . During his terms in office , he was called upon to mediate disputes between local Indians and to negotiate with Dutch representatives of the New Netherlands , who claimed land south of Hartford on the Connecticut River . When one Dutch trader complained about the seizure by some Englishmen of land he claimed , Haynes responded that because the Dutchman had done nothing to develop the land , and that because " it was a sin to let such rich land ... lie uncultivated " , he had effectively forfeited his claim . This dispute resulted in minor military confrontations between the English and Dutch in the 1640s and was resolved temporarily in the 1650 Treaty of Hartford , in which the Dutch ceded their claims on the river . Some territorial disputes continued even after the English took New Netherlands from the Dutch in 1664 , and the territory described in the Duke of York 's charter overlapped that of Connecticut .

= = Death and legacy = =

Contrary to the engraved date on his tombstone in Hartford 's Ancient Burying Ground , Haynes did

not die on March 1 , 1653 / 4 . A letter , written by John Winthrop , Jr. on January 9 , 1653 / 4 , mentions his recent death . The Connecticut General Court issued a statement on March 6 , calling for a " day of humiliation " following the " sudden death of our late Governor " . Haynes ' son , Hezekiah , a military officer who served in the English Civil War , noted that his father had invested between £ 7 @, @ 000 and £ 8 @, @ 000 in the colony " to the ruine of his famylye in Englande " ; his estate was valued at about £ 1 @, @ 500 . Haynes was a significant landowner in the Hartford area , and he and Edward Hopkins operated a mill in the town . Haynes ' daughter Ruth married Samuel Wyllys , the son of another Connecticut founder , George Wyllys . Their descendants have continued the legacy of political involvement in Connecticut and elsewhere .