

# An Annotated Table of Contents for Bailey's Early Connecticut Marriages

By Scott Andrew Bartley

For people conducting research in Connecticut before 1800, Frederic W. Bailey's *Early Connecticut Marriages as found on Ancient Church Records prior to 1800* (New Haven, Conn., 1896-1906) is an excellent source to check. It can be a vexing experience, however. The original work was a series of seven small volumes. The various reprints have only combined the seven individual volumes into one volume. The arrangement was arbitrary. If you wanted to search a particular town, you had to look in all seven volumes. This table of contents was created to help the researcher quickly locate all the church records covered by Bailey. It also includes the churches for which he found no surviving records and the towns he did not cover (then the date the town was established is given). An added feature is to cross-reference the "old" town where the church was located before its present town was created.

The first six volumes of Bailey's work are the Congregational Church records for the state. Some are also in volume seven with the Episcopal churches. The years listed are for the surviving records published in Bailey's work and not the dates of the church. The formation of the church usually is many years before the earliest record. Every attempt has been made to identify the geographic locations of each church as towns are divided into other towns. Villages are listed in a few cases and some records technically within Massachusetts at the time. The listing of lost church records is also included here as a note in italic in parentheses. Each church's records are in chronological order in Bailey's work unless mentioned otherwise.

This has been reprinted as seven volumes in one by the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore in 1968, 1976, 1982, and 1997. These reprints (except for the 1982) do not contain the errata that were mixed in with the advertisement at the end of each original volume. The reprint may be the source for the new (2002) CD that indexes Bailey's work that is a single-user version of the web-based database, both by Ancestry.com. These electronic sources have transcription errors relating to the name of the church. See the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 156 [2002]: 394, for a review of the electronic sources.

*Scott Andrew Bartley, Boston, Mass., 2002*

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