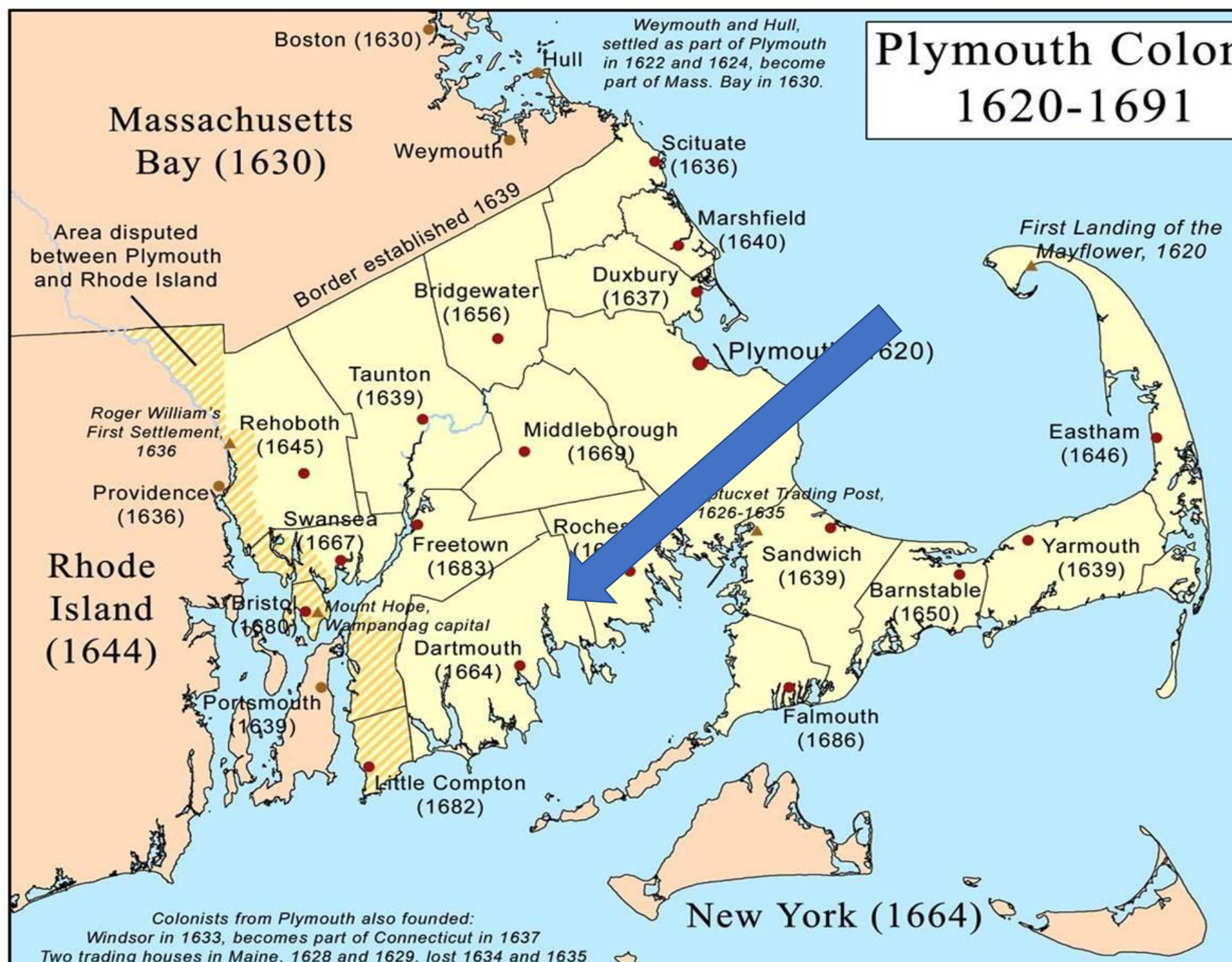
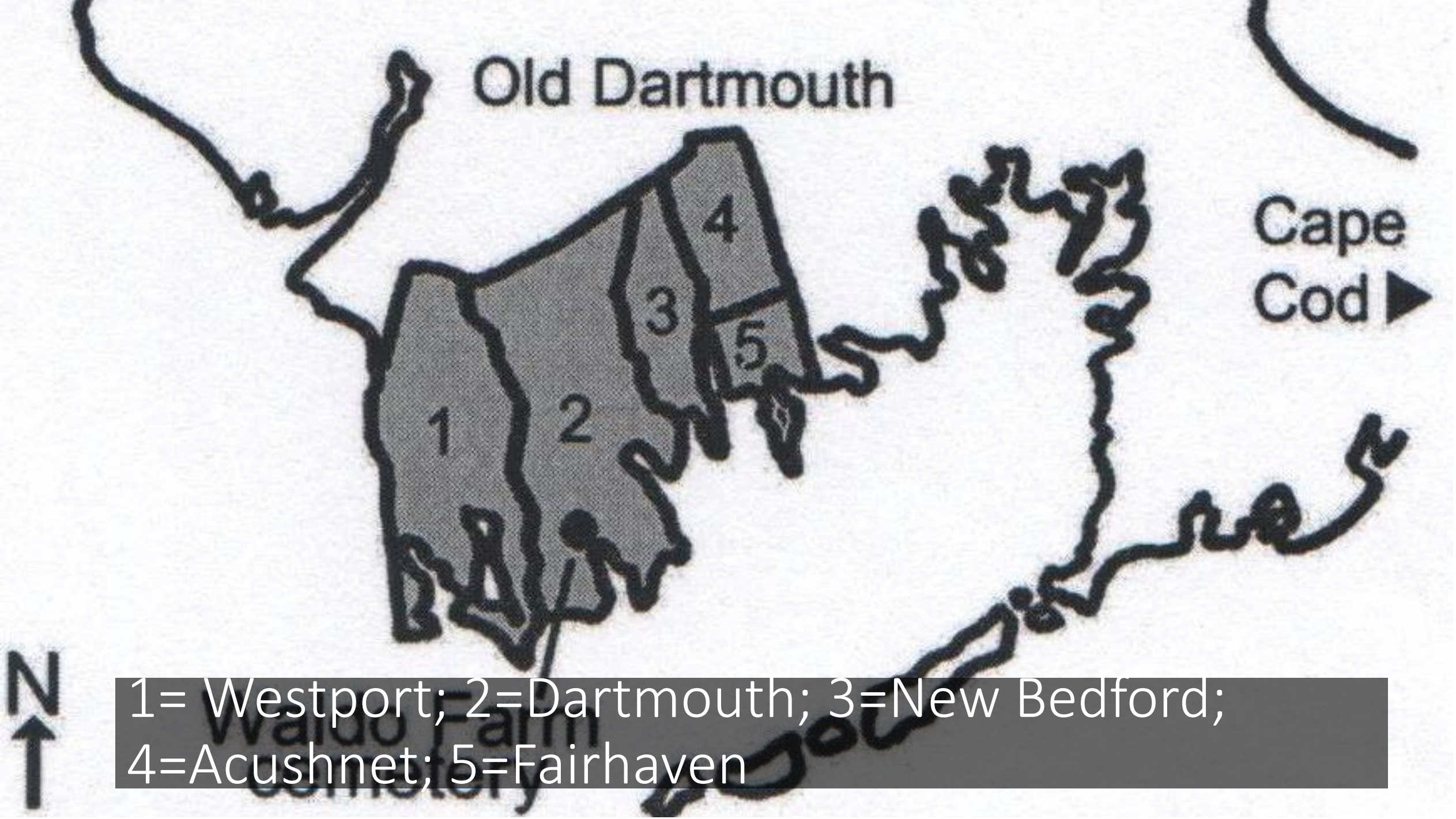


Dartmouth Has Roots of Faith – Eighteenth Century

Second in the Series
Dartmouth Historical and Arts Society
Pamela J. Cole
September 2, 2018

Plymouth Colony 1620-1691





Old Dartmouth

Cape
Cod ►

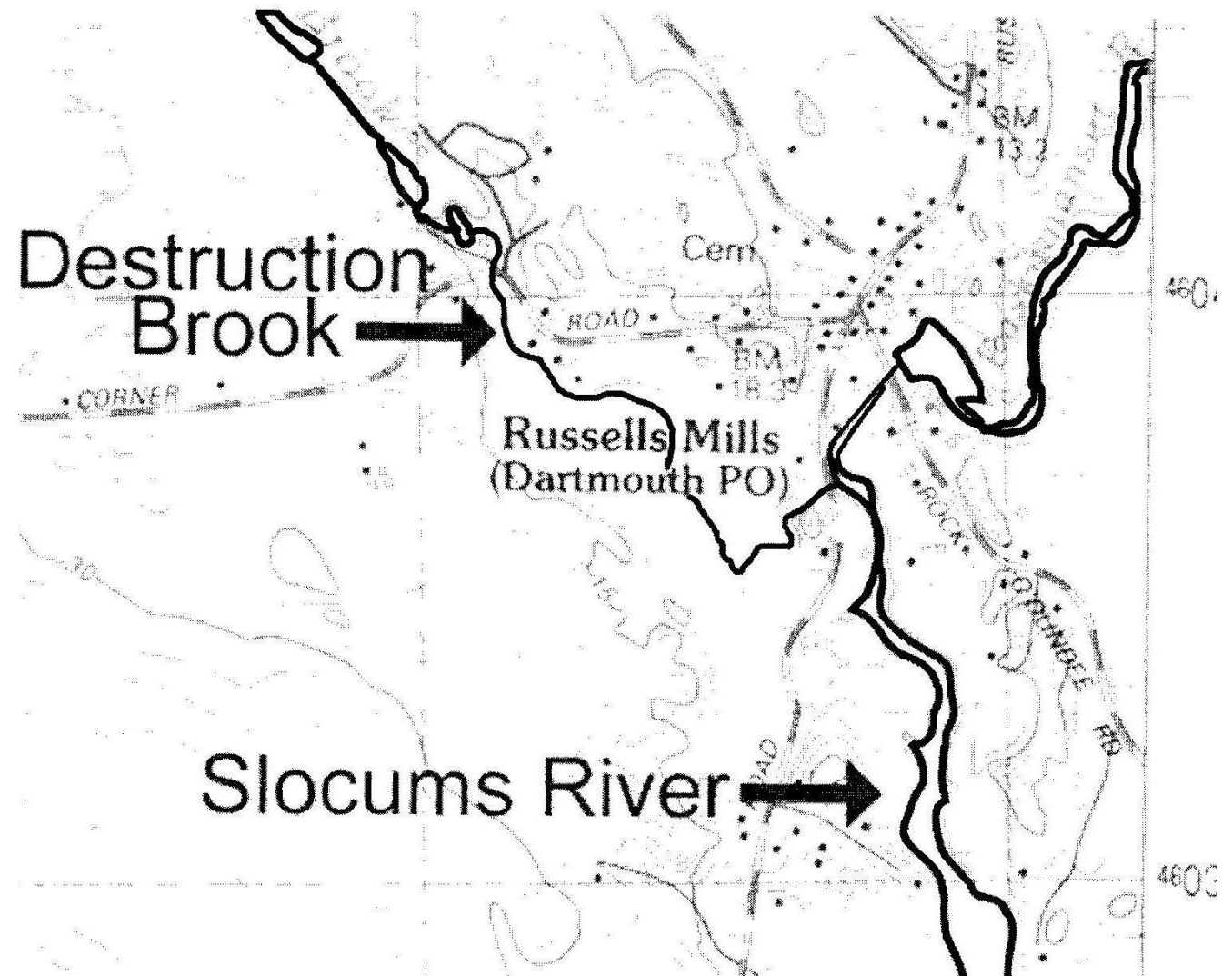
1= Westport; 2=Dartmouth; 3=New Bedford;
4=Acushnet; 5=Fairhaven

Russells Mills Village in 1700

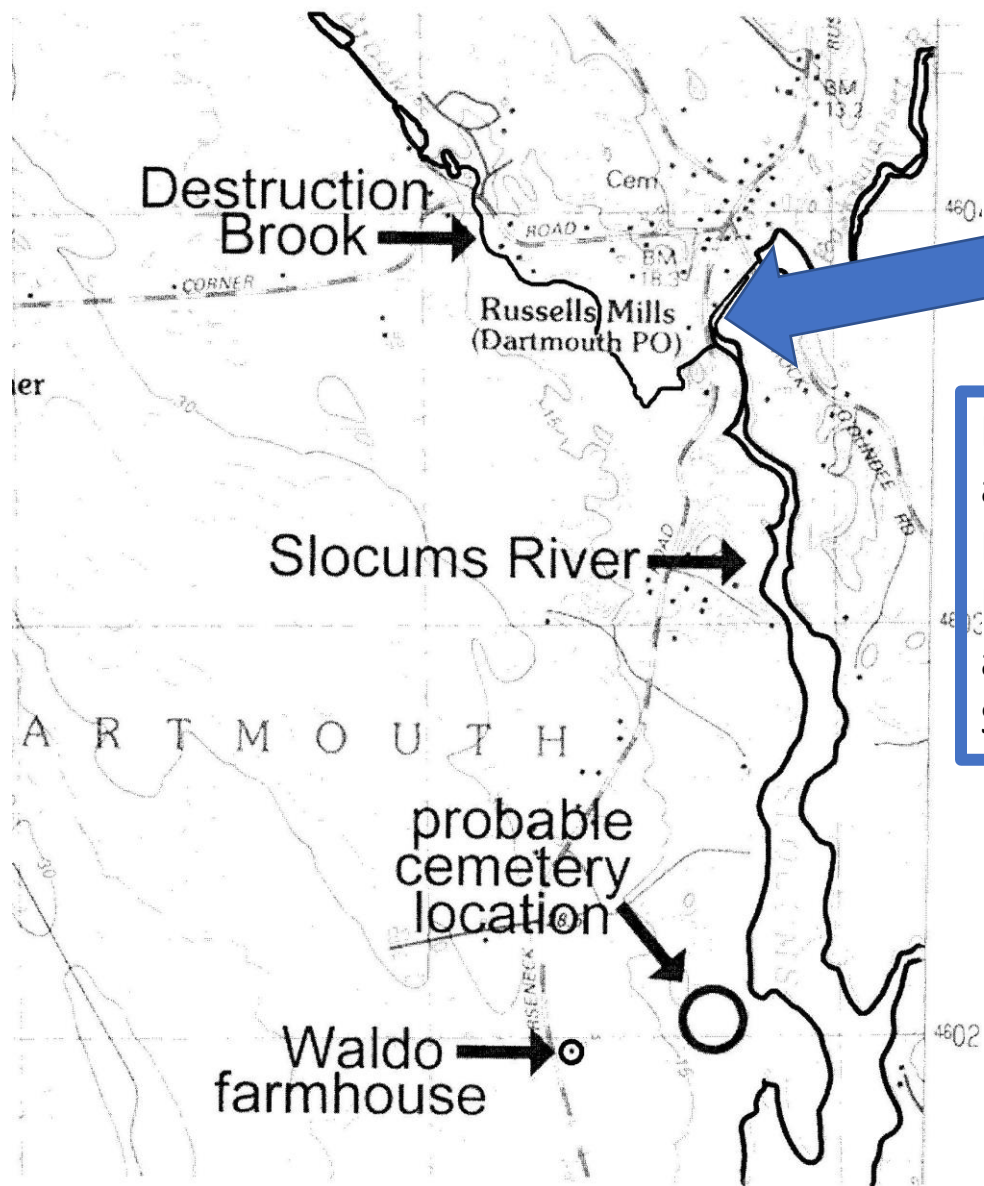
Dartmouth Historical
and Arts Society

As we begin our
century, where will we
worship?

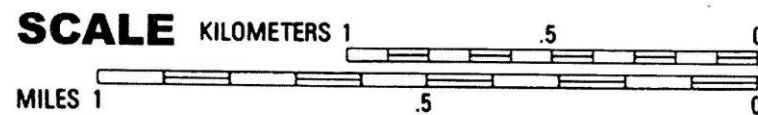
Nearby were Quakers
to the south and
northeast.



South,
At the Indian
Meeting
House on
Slocums River



Here we are
at the
Dartmouth
Historical
and Arts
Society



Christina J.
Hodge,
Faith and
Practice at an
Early-
Eighteenth-
Century
Wampanoag
Burial Ground:
The Waldo
Farm Site in
Dartmouth,
Massachusetts

- A Wampanoag cemetery was discovered by Farmer Waldo in 1922.
- Land for the Waldo Farm cemetery and a nearby Native meetinghouse was given by Slocum to those Dartmouth Wampanoags whom Public Friends Slocum and his wife Mary Holder had converted sometime around 1700
- Evidence, therefore, suggests use of the Waldo Farm burial ground began ca. 1700 and ended by the early 1750s, more certainly by the late-18th century, as Wampanoag occupation of the Slocums' banks ended and Natives in the town dispersed

Northeast, At Dartmouth Monthly Meeting

Apponegansett Meeting House, 856 Russells Mills Road, was built in 1699 when Dartmouth Monthly Meeting was set off from Newport Monthly Meeting.

Photo is of the second meeting house, larger than the first, but built in the same location.



John Woolman

His most famous quote: “To Turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives.”



John Woolman – the
Quaker apostle for
freedom of the slave

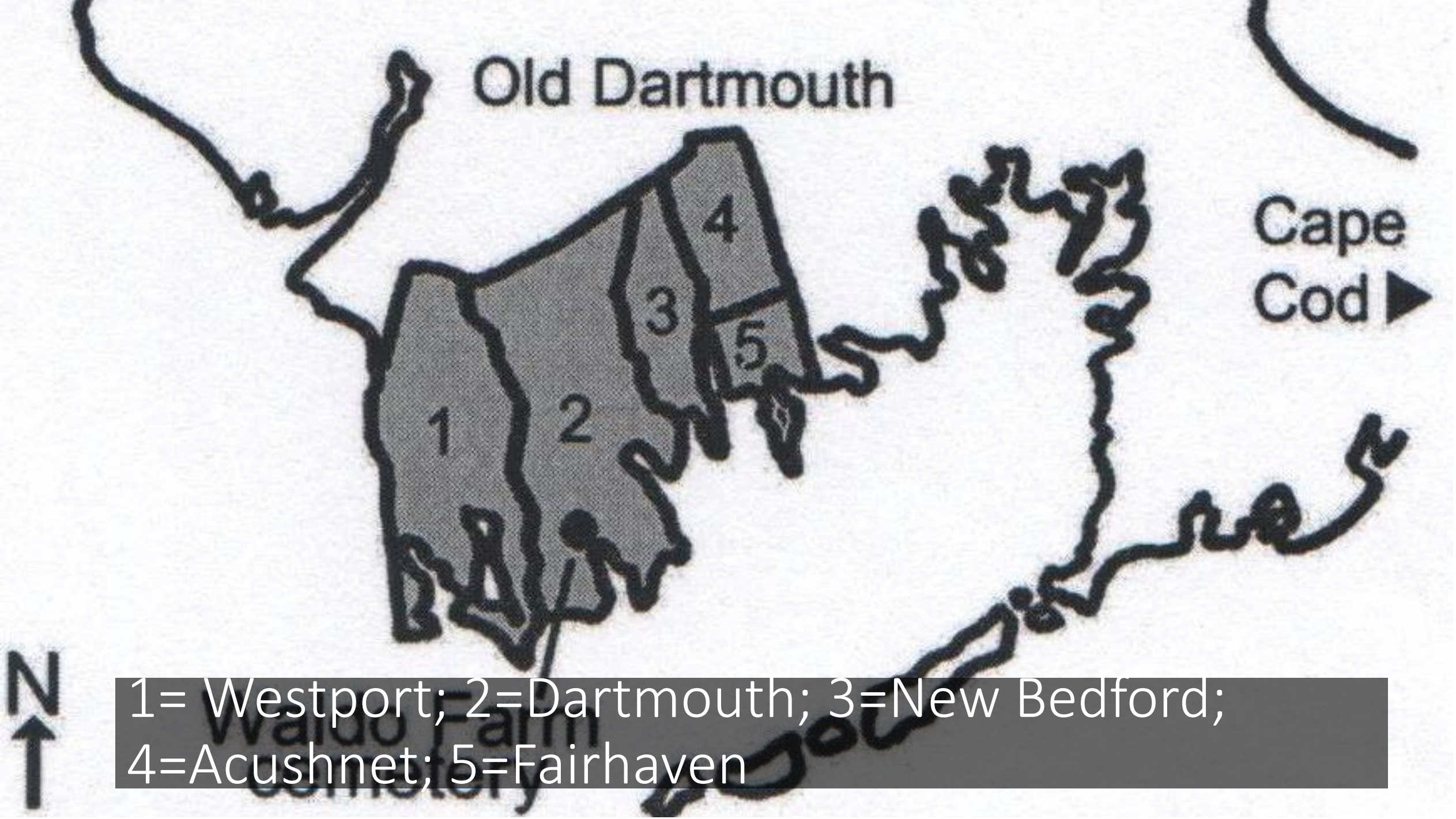
- Visited Dartmouth Monthly Meeting in 1747 and again in 1760
- After the second visit some Friends no longer felt easy to keep their slaves and so freed them.
- In 1772 a committee was appointed to visit those members still holding slaves and those were freed.

If we were
Baptists, we
would travel to
what is now
Tiverton



First Baptist Old Stone Church

- Founded in 1685 by Pilgrim First-Comer John Cooke, Old Stone Church is full of lively enthusiastic members today.
- It would be three-quarters of a century before the next Baptist Church would be founded at the end of the eighteenth century in North Dartmouth eight miles to the north in the village of Hixville.

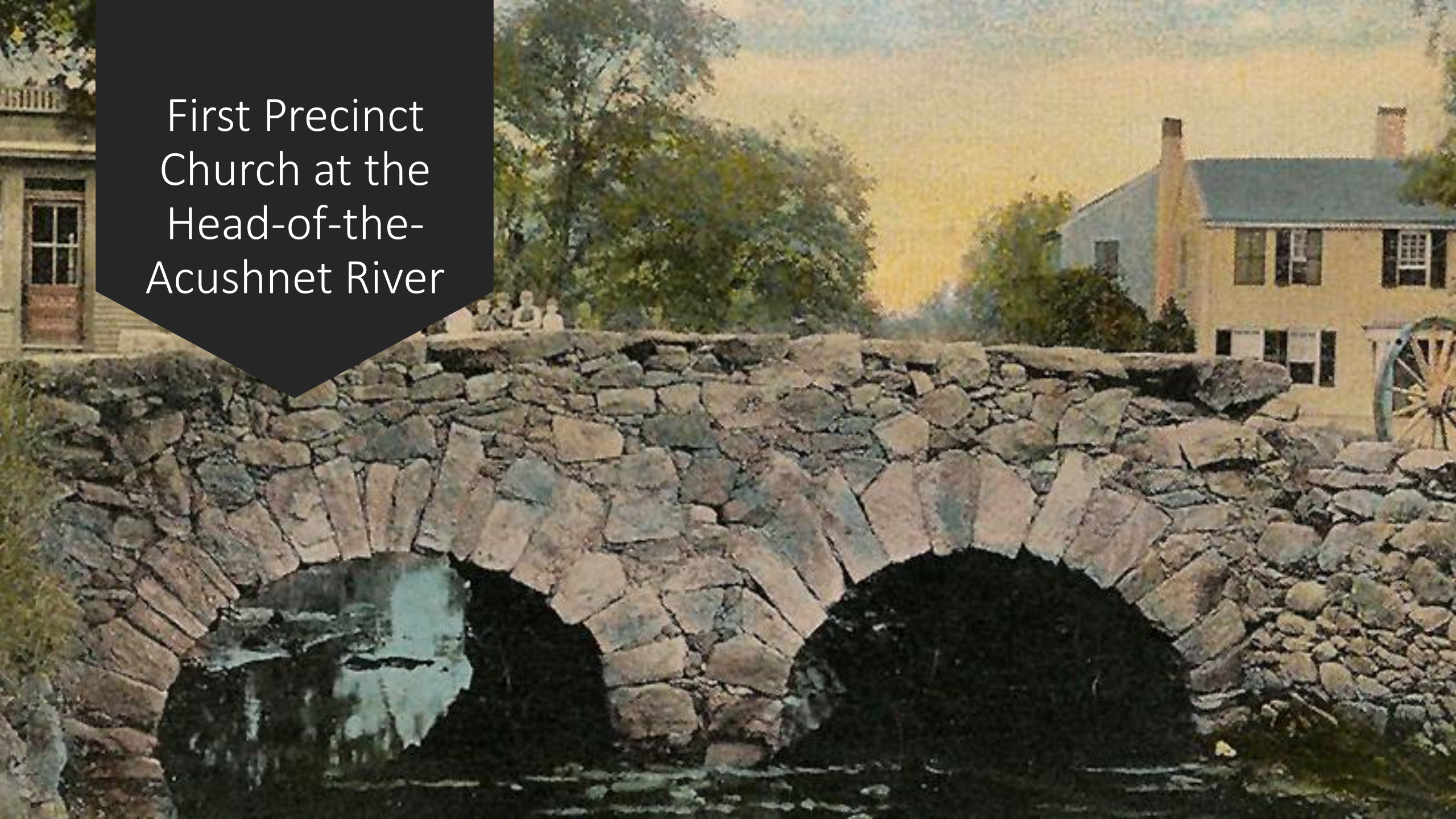


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First Precinct
Church at the
Head-of-the-
Acushnet River



Precinct Church was not founded when the town was founded, as the Law required

- **The Plymouth Colony court annually apportioned to the town a tax for the support of ministers in addition to the province tax, but the Baptists and Quakers of Dartmouth were inflexible in their resistance to it, and while the province rates were faithfully met, those for the maintenance of ministers were refused.**

First Precinct Church

Although tradition says that people worshipped in the Congregational style as early as 1696, the Quakers and Baptists would not

elect a person of congregational beliefs to be the minister. Finally

In 1808 the Massachusetts General Court sent Weymouth-resident Samuel Hunt to Dartmouth to become the minister.

The young minister had married Hannah, the daughter of Captain Seth Pope, the wealthiest and most influential Puritan then living in the town.

They purchased the Summerton's home in the latest style—large chimney, gambrel roof, facing southeast to catch the sun's rays.

He was the minister until his death at the age of 48 in 1829 and is buried in the cemetery there.

Source: History of the Town of Acushnet by Franklyn Howland

Burial Hill
**PRECINCT
CEMETERY**
Est. Prior 1700

The Acushnet Cemetery is located
where the Precinct
Meeting
House stood.



Although the old meetinghouse is not there now, a new gambrel-roofed house replaces the house of the first minister, Samuel Hunt. The Methodist Church is now placed between the Hunt's home and the meetinghouse location.



The land for the meeting house and burial place had been owned by Sarah Jenney, one of the original purchasers. Here a Jenney descendant views Jenney gravestones

First Civil Rights Case in colonial North America

To the Quakers of Dartmouth and Tiverton, aided by the Baptists, must be given the honor of the first successful appeal for justice to the English government. In October, 1723, John Akin and Philip Tabor, of Dartmouth, Joseph Anthony and John Sisson, of Tiverton, were assessors of their respective towns ; and being Quakers and Baptists, they refused to collect the taxes imposed by the General Court of Massachusetts for the maintenance of ministers. At this time the Plymouth Colony and that of Massachusetts Bay had been consolidated under the new charter (1692) of the Province of Massachusetts. Therefore this order was from the General Court at Boston. For this they were all imprisoned in the common jail at New Bristol.

Case tried in Privy Court of King George I

- First civil rights case in colonial North America
- The assessors petitioned the king.
- The King's response: ..." His Majesty in council taking the said report into consideration, is graciously pleased to approve thereof, and hereby to remit the said additional taxes of £100 and £72 which were by the said act to have been assessed on the said towns of Dartmouth and Tiverton. And His Majesty is hereby pleased to order that the said Joseph Anthony, John Sission, John Akin and Philip Tabor be immediately released from their imprisonment. "
- Source: Leonard Bolles Ellis, The History of New Bedford and its Vicinity



Quakers refused military duty demanded of colonists by England in Queen Anne's War

From www.whalingcity.net

1709

John Tucker Sr., William Wood, William Soule, John Lapham Jr., Deliverance Smith and Nathaniel Howland, members of the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting (Quakers) were impressed for military service in Canada against the French.

They refused to serve and were taken before Governor Dudley at Roxbury who gave them a hearing and discharge.

1711

Nicholas Lapham and John Tucker Jr., Quakers, for refusing to render military service were imprisoned for four weeks and two days in the "Castle" in Boston.

French and Indian War

- **1758**

The town was compelled to furnish its quota of soldiers for the invasion of Canada.

- Eleven settlers and one Indian were conscripted and marched to Lake George.

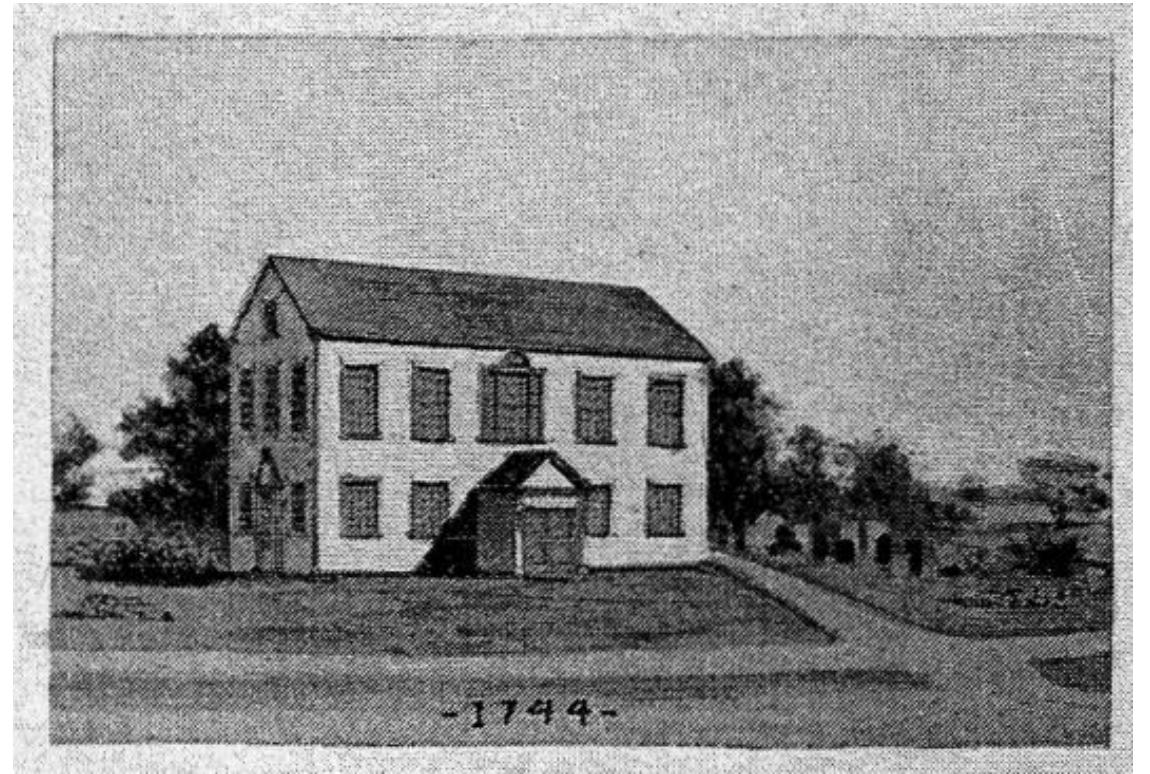
This was to continue as the records show several expeditions for His Majesty's Service over the next years.

Compare the records of the Quakers.

- Anne Gidley Lowry, Old Dartmouth Historical Sketches, No. 70, Mrs. Lowry writes: In some similar cases of refusal to perform military duty, Dartmouth Friends were imprisoned and their property seized and sold to pay their fines.
- Here is a minute from Dartmouth Monthly Meeting Minutes that the Meeting reimbursed Friends who suffered in this manner.
- 1757—3rd mon. “The Committee appointed to collect the sum that freinds have suffered on account of wars and fighting distraint and imprisonment, and fines is 198£ 18 s which is allowed and assumed by the meeting.”
- 1757--5th mon. “380£ 0s 4p for ditto”.

New Precinct Meeting House

The dedication of the new meeting-house was Thursday, January 5, 1744. The latter house was about fifty feet square and its exterior as pictured in the accompanying half tone. There were entrances on the east and west ends, besides the front. Galleries extended along three sides of the interior which was elaborately finished for the times. The pulpit was of the latest style, semi-circular, high, with fancifully carved trimmings, and reached by steps at its rear. Suspended over it by a rod from the ceiling was a sounding board.



At one end of the east gallery were reserved seats for slaves and other Negroes. The pews on the main floor were square and high back.



Dr. Samuel West, minister of Precinct Church

- Friend of Ezra Stiles, President of Yale
- Very learned theologically
- Chaplain of Dartmouth Minutemen during General Washington's command at Cambridge, 1775-1776
- Preached the Election Sermon, 1776
- Delegate to the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention



Longfellow Home in Cambridge

- House built by a Tory,
- Henry Vassall, who moved his family to Boston to be protected by the British
- General Washington's Headquarters in 1775



Spy

Dr. Benjamin Samuel Church Jr. great grandson of Benjamin Church of King Philip's War fame graduated from [Harvard College](#) in 1754, in the same class as Samuel West and John Hancock.

Member of the Sons of Liberty

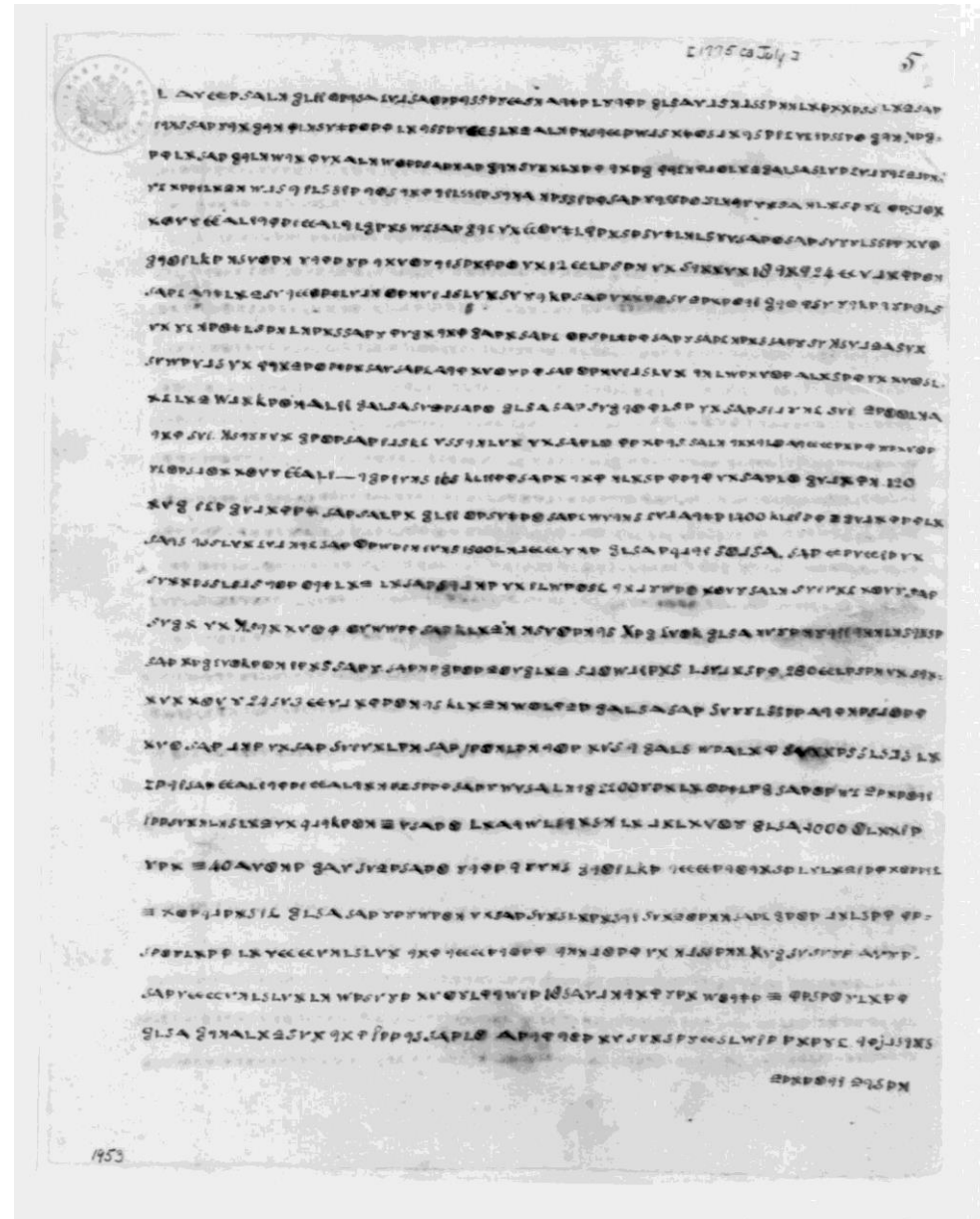
May have been the most dangerous spy ever. He began spying for the British in 1772.

The Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia in June 1775, appointed him director of the first American army hospital in Cambridge, Mass.

His headquarters for the hospital was in the Henry Vassal House.

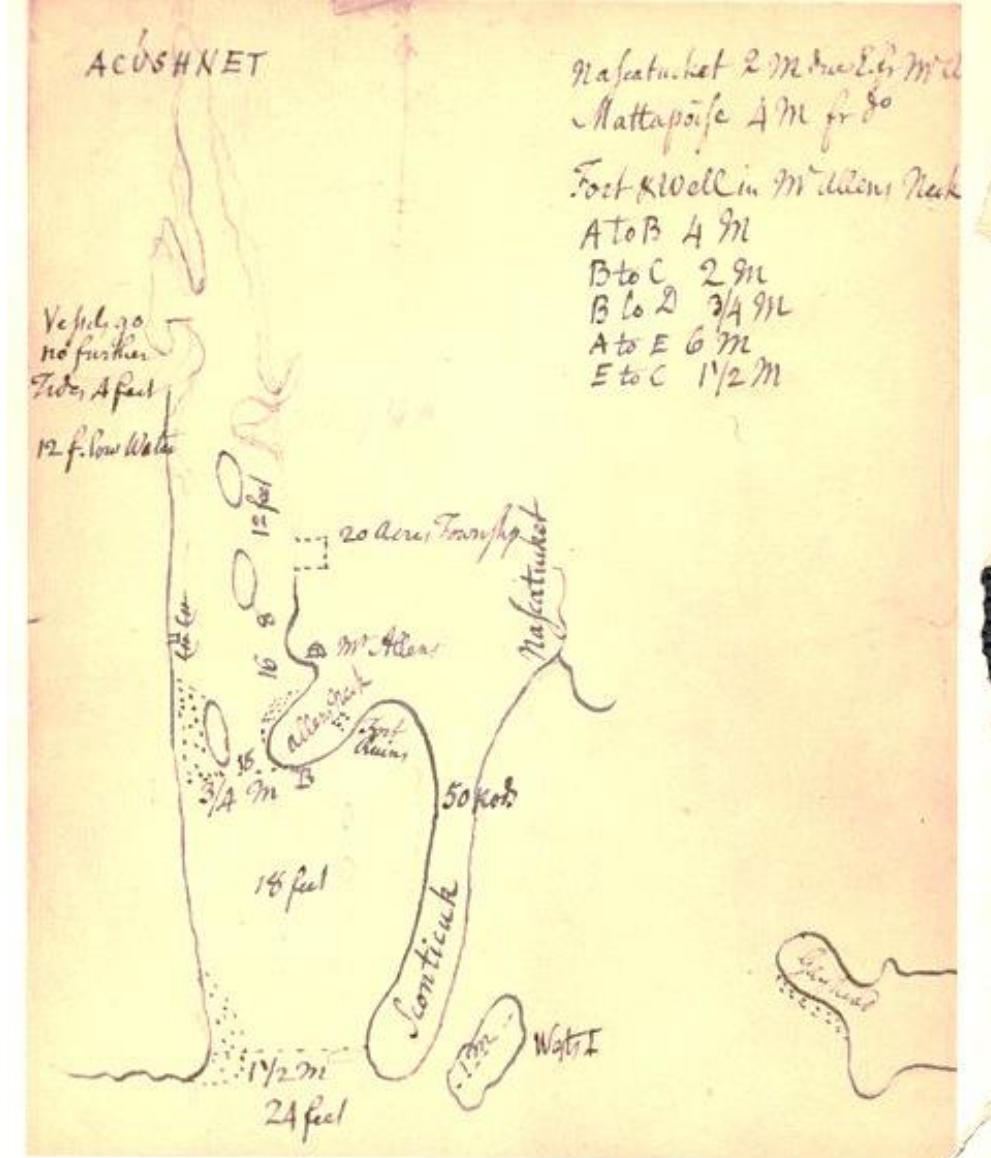
When they captured him as a spy, Church was briefly incarcerated in a room of the Henry Vassell House in Cambridge where his carved initials can be seen today.

Letter in code deciphered by Chaplain Samuel West of the Dartmouth Minutemen



Map of New Bedford, 1762

drawn by the Rev. Ezra Stiles



From a sketch drawn (partly in pencil, partly inked over) by the Rev. Ezra Stiles, New Bedford, R. I. in June, 1762, and preserved among his papers in the Library of Yale College.

Hixville named
after
Daniel Hix



Westport,
1716



Paul Cuffe
petitioned
for relief of
taxes, 1780





New Bedford



Newtown, 1778





March, 1780,
Elder Jacob
Hix held his first
meetings in
North Dart-
mouth.

December, 1780
asked brother
Daniel to become
Pastor

Pastor Daniel and Aunt Mary Hix of First Church, Hixville, Baptist

Prayer was his delight,
while he taught and believed the doctrine of
trusting in God for blessings needed in daily
life.

In 1785, built the first church on the site where the present church
stands.

Began Long Plain Baptist Church, now Acushnet



Before Addition



First Church of Hixville, interior

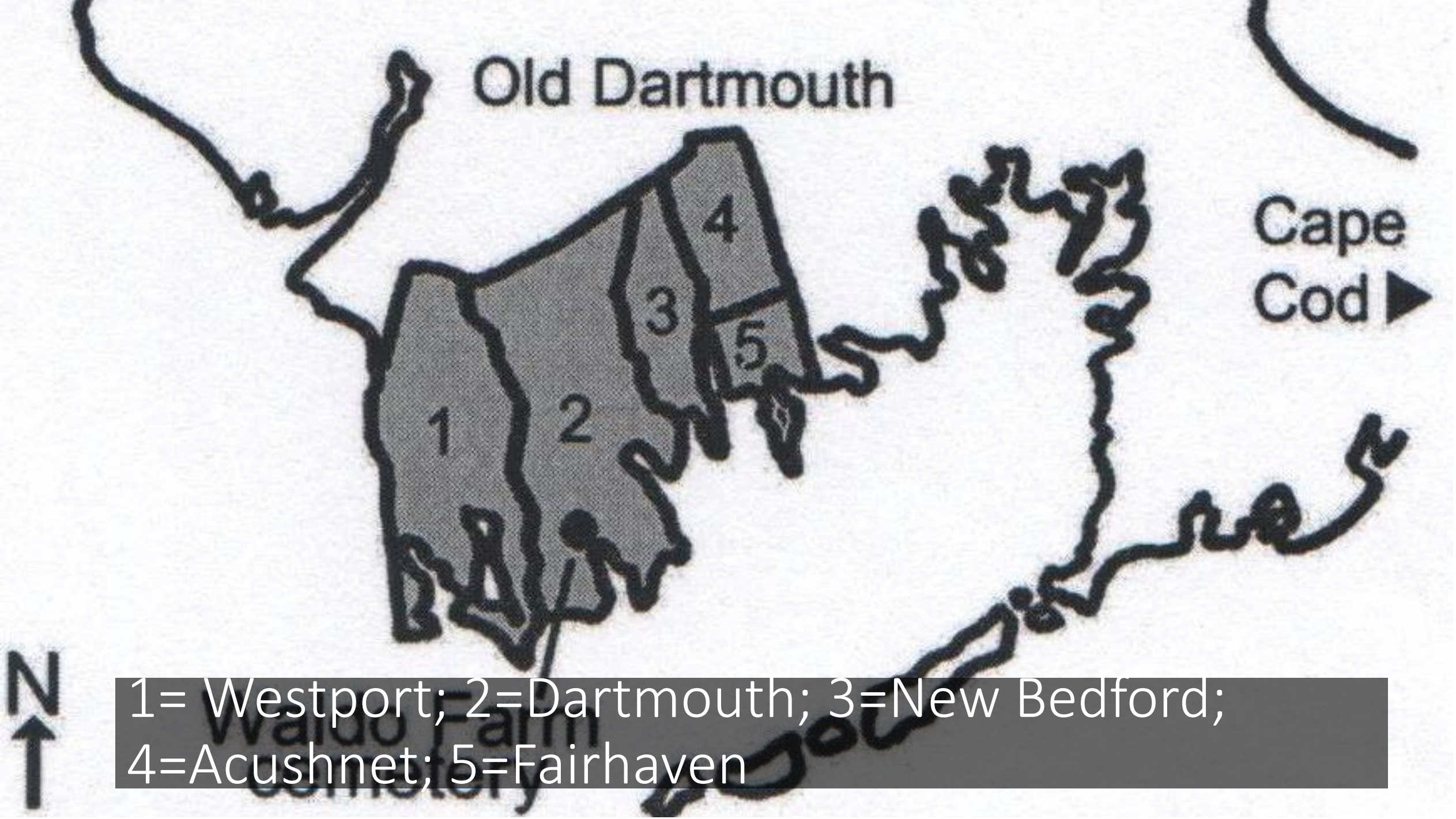
First Church Hixville



1790







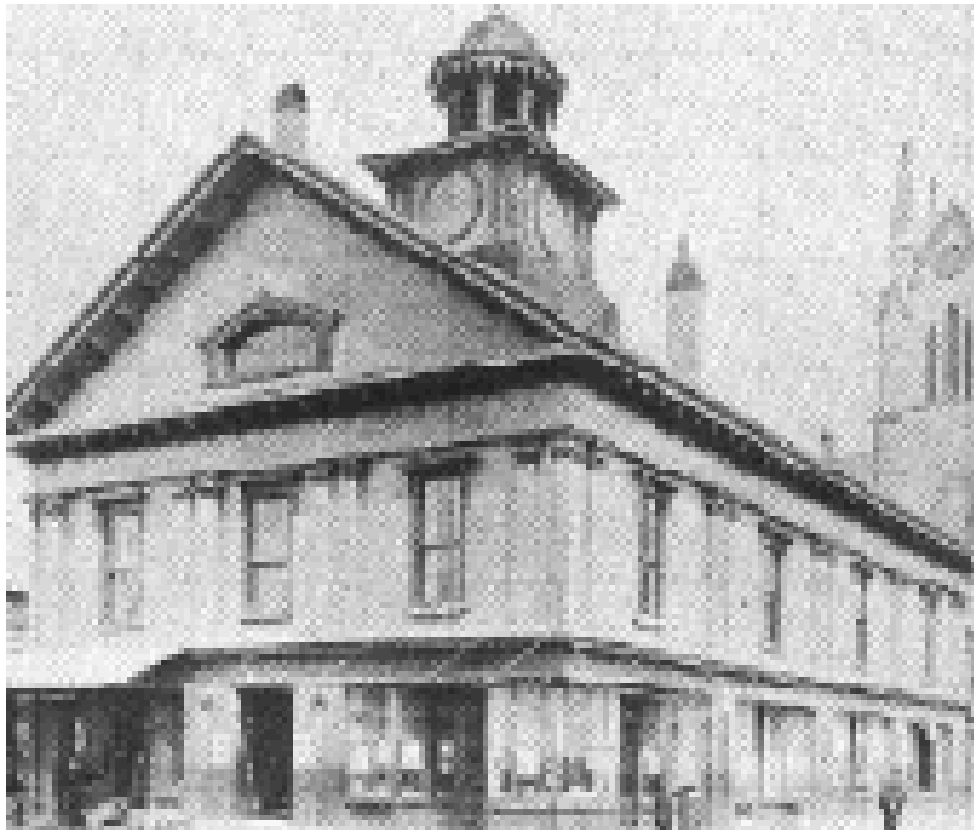
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1794 – 1795 Second Precinct, Bedford Village Precinct (3rd) – Pastored by Samuel West

Main and Centre Sts., Fairhaven



William and Purchase Sts., Bedford Village

