

great personal adventure—therefore it is mutually agreed that forty acres of meadow, lying on the south of Endbrooke, under a hill-side, shall belong to the sd. Parties, free from all charges forever; that is to say, twenty acres to Mr. William Pynchon, and his heirs and assigns forever, and ten acres to Jehue Burr, and ten acres to Henry Smith, and to their heirs and assigns forever, which said forty acres is not disposed to them as any allotment of town lands, but they are to have their accommodation in all other places notwithstanding.

[Article 10th fixes the tax to be laid upon those who should join the settlers at a later day.]

11ly. It is agreed that no man except Mr. Pynchon shall have above ten acres for his house-lot.

[Articles 12, 13, and 14 refer to the distribution of the land among actual settlers.]

The instrument is signed by seven persons, who may be reckoned the first settlers of Agawam, or Springfield.

They seem to have considered themselves beyond the bounds of the Massachusetts Colony, and to have joined their fortunes with Connecticut at once, as at the General Court of the latter; for that year, Wm. Pynchon appears as Deputy for the plantation of Agawam, and indeed for several sessions afterward. Also the next year—1637—Jehue Burr, who is described as a leading spirit in the settlement, was appointed collector of rates therein.

He was probably the first tax gatherer in the Connecticut Valley, and was appeased with lesser rates than are some of his successors. From the act of Legislature appointing him, we learn that there were then but four settlements or "plantations," in the Connecticut Colony, viz., Hartford, Windsor, Wethersfield, and Agawam. The collectors for these were Wm. Wadsworth, Henry Wolcott the elder, Andrew Ward, and Jehue Burr respectively. Of this levy, Agawam's apportionment was £86 16s., payment optional "in money, in Wampum, at fower a penny, or in good and merchantable beaver, at 9s. per pound."

Jehue Burr remained an active and useful member of the society at Springfield, for about eight years, and then removed, for the third and last time, to Fairfield, Conn., which had been discovered a few years before, during the famous pursuit of the Pequots, and which with its level lands and warm, productive soil was very attractive to the early settlers. He seems to have taken a high rank at Fairfield, from the first. The next year after his removal, in 1645, he represented Fairfield at the General Court, again in 1646, and for several succeeding sessions prior to the union of the Hartford and New Haven Colonies.