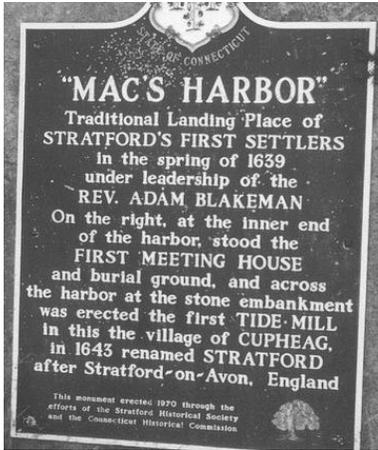




## Early Settlers of CUPHEAG (Stratford)

from Mary Fairchild - [www.Mfairlady.com](http://www.Mfairlady.com)

The earliest shelters of the settlers at [Cupheag](#) (Stratford) were “cellars” dug into the banks at Stratford (Mac’s) Harbor, or “English wigwams,” a cross between the Indian wigwam made of thatch, bark or hides, and the



English charcoal burner’s hut. . . . The first reference to the name Cupheag is in a June 1640 court order to Mr Ludlowe, Mr Hopkins, and Mr Blakeman to “sett out the bownds betwixt the Plantations of Cuphege and Uncoway.” On April 13, 1643, the records first referred to it

as Stratford.” (*In Pursuit of Paradise*, Lewis G Knapp, 1989)

The original Indian name of Stratford was Cupheag. It was purchased from the Indians by Mr Fairchild in 1639, and settlement commenced at the same time. Mr Fairchild came directly from England, and was the first person vested with civil authority in the town. The first principal persons in the town were John and William Eustice, & Samuel (sic), Hawley, who were from Roxbury, & Joseph Judson and Timothy Wilcoxson, who were from Concord, Massachusetts. A few years from the commencement of settlement, John Birdsey removed from Milford, and became a man of eminence, both in the town and church. There were also several of the chief planters from Boston, and a number by the name of Welles from Wethersfield. “Adam Blackman, who had been episcopally ordained in England and a preacher of some note, first at Leicester and afterwards at Derbyshire, and one of the first planters, was their minister. It is said he was followed by a number of the faithful into this country, to whom he was so dear that they said unto him, in the language of Ruth, ‘Intreat us not to leave thee, for whither thou goest, we will go; thy people shall be our people, and thy God our God.’” (*Connecticut Historical Society collection*)

The following spring, 17 families, of about 60 persons, on foot and on horse-back, threaded their way through the wilderness from Wheathersfield, forded the Pootatuck,

halted at the red man’s Cupheag, and named it home. How familiar to us are many of the names on the lips of the settlers that day as they addressed one another— Blakeman, Fairchild, Curtis, Sherwood, Judson, Wilcoxson, Beardsley—a real Stratford in miniature, small in numbers but not in extent, as the original township embraced most of the land afterwards. . . . They were landed at the mouth of Mack’s Creek where the settlers made a temporary abiding place—huts, tents and meeting-house—until the division of the land could be affected.” (*Stratford’s 250th Anniversary*)

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in Stratford, CT !!!  
October 3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th**



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Our reunion host for 2019 is Past President of the Hawley Society - Joseph S Hawley. (*Joseph S, Rollin J, Philip E, Rollin S, Elijah Jr, Elijah Sr, Andrew, Capt Jehiel, Ephraim, Samuel, Joseph of Stratford*)