



# Diary of Joshua Hempstead: A Record of Life in Colonial New London, Connecticut, 1711-1758

*Joshua Hempstead*

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## **Diary of Joshua Hempstead: A Record of Life in Colonial New London, Connecticut, 1711-1758** Joshua Hempstead

Joshua Hempstead- shipwright, farmer, surveyor, justice of the peace, selectman, militia captain, business agent for the Winthrops, and strong family man- led a busy, productive life throughout his eighty years. His diary, kept daily from 1711 until a few weeks before his death in 1758, helped him keep track of business transactions and important events in his and his neighbors' lives. The diary contains a wealth of information for anyone interested in Connecticut's colonial period, as well as for genealogists interested in New London County. Hempstead recorded baptisms, marriages, and deaths, and public events, war news and the weather. The new edition of the diary contains a new introduction, corrected genealogical material, and a more comprehensive index of names. Typographical mistakes in the original edition have been corrected, and the format changed to be easier to read. The New London County Historical Society, Inc., was formed in 1870 "for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and publishing historical and genealogical matter relating to the early settlement and subsequent history, especially of New London County." In pursuit of that goal, the Society has amassed a large collection of historical and genealogical materials, which is housed in the Shaw Mansion in New London, and open for research by appointment. The Society also publishes works relating to the history of New London County. Currently available titles include *Life on a Whaler*, *Connecticut's Naval War Office*, and *Tapestry: A Living History of the Black Family in Southeastern Connecticut*. A new edition of Frances Caulkins's *History of New London* (1860) and a memoir by Linwood Bland of the Civil Rights movement in New London are planned for the near future.

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