

May 28, 1823

Incorporation of Manchester as a town, separated from East Hartford.

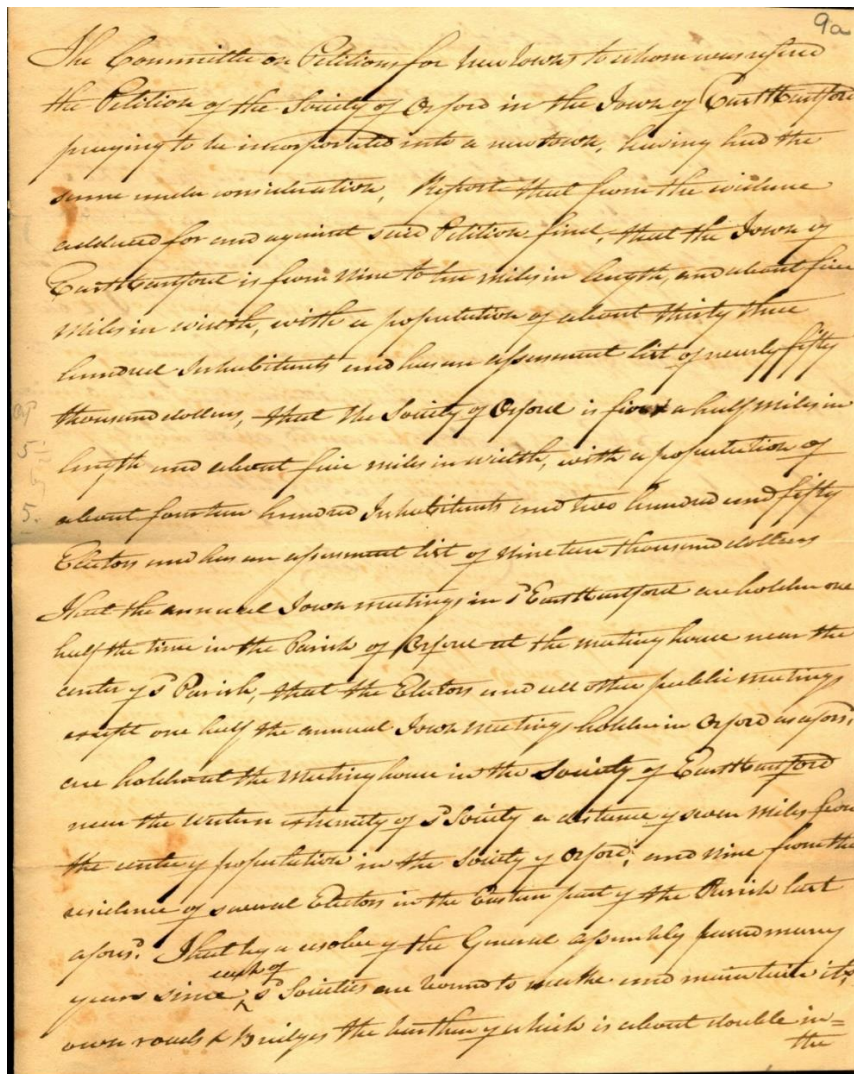
Copies of the original documents from the Connecticut State Library, research by Noreen Cullen & Susan Barlow. Scroll to end for derivation of the name "Manchester."



May 28th 1823. Approved
Oliver Wolcott, Jr.

Signed by Oliver Wolcott, Jr., Governor of Connecticut 1817-1827 and, earlier, a member of George Washington's cabinet. The above signature is on page 7 of the following 8-page document:

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9a
The Committee on Petitions for new towns to whom was referred
the Petition of the Society of Oxford in the Town of East Hartford
praying to be incorporated into a new town, having had the
same under consideration, Report that from the evidence
adduced for and against said Petition find, that the Town of
East Hartford is from West to East miles in length and about five
miles in width, with a population of about thirty three
hundred Inhabitants and has an appraised list of nearly fifty
thousand dollars, that the Society of Oxford is from West to East
miles in length and about five miles in width, with a population of
about fourteen hundred Inhabitants and has an appraised list of
nine thousand dollars, that the annual Town meetings in East Hartford are held on
half the time in the Parish of Oxford at the meeting house near the
center of said Parish, that the Electors and all other public meetings,
except one half the annual Town meetings, held in Oxford as aforesaid,
are held at the meeting house in the Society of East Hartford
near the Western extremity of said Society a distance of seven miles from
the center of population in the Society of Oxford, and nine from the
residence of several Electors in the Eastern part of the Parish last
aforesaid. That by a resolution of the General Assembly passed many
years since ^{except} said Societies are bound to use the most convenient of their
own roads & bridges the better of which is about double in
the

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Society of Oxford to what it is in the Society of East Hartford
 That from this and other causes Dissensions and animosities have
 arisen between said Divisions, which your Committee believe will
 not subside so long as 2 Societies remain one town, that both 2
 Societies are willing to separate but do not agree on the dividing
 line, although your Committee are sensible that applications
 to divide towns might not in general to be countenanced, yet on
 full view of this case, the convenience, peace and harmony of both
 Societies require a division. Your Committee are therefore of opinion
 the prayer of Petitioners ought to be granted, with liberty of a
 Bill in form thereon, all which is respectfully Submitted
 Signed in order, *E. Willey* Chairman,

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Report of Committee on
 the Petition of the Society
 of Oxford,
 N. H.
 Accepted
 at N. H. March 1823
 In Senate May Session
 1823
 accepted
 at N. H. Boardman M^r
E

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When the Petition of the Parish of Oxford
in the Town of East Hartford praying for the
Pleasures set forth in their petition & be
Incorporated a distinct Town as by
petition on file dated April 30th 1823

Resolved by this Assembly That the
Parish of Oxford in the Town of East Hartford
with all the Inhabitants residing within the
Limits of the Parish of Oxford be & the same
is hereby Incorporated into a distinct &
separate Town by the name of "Manchester"
And the Inhabitants of said Parish
formerly residing within said Limits shall
have & enjoy all the former privileges &
immunities enjoyed by other Towns
in this State with the Right of sending
one Representation to the General Assembly
of this State

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1 and said new Town shall pay its just propor-
2 tion of all debts now due from or owing
3 against said Town of East Hartford -
4 Counting upon the List of 1822 - & shall be
5 entitled to their just proportion of any Town
6 property - and in future said new Town
7 shall support all the poor of said Town
8 whose ordinary residence has been in said
9 Parish of Oxford - whether said persons now
10 reside in the Town of East Hartford or not - provided
11 at the time they left said Town they resided
12 within said Parish of Oxford

The Collectors of the Town of East Hartford are
hereby authorized to collect all Taxes already
law in the same manner as if this Act
had not passed

The first Town meeting of said new Town
shall be holden at the meeting house
in or the Parish of Oxford on the

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Sixteenth day of June next
 at min island in the forenoon
 and George Chumsey Esqr. shall be moderator
 thereof - and I shall summon said meeting by posting
 a warning on the public sign post in said
 new Town, & such other place or places as
 he may think proper at least six days before
 said first meeting - and all subsequent meetings
 shall be ~~held~~ holden at or near said
 meeting house in or near
 and the officers of said Town chosen at
 said first Meeting shall have power to hold
 their office until others are legally chosen
 in their stead.

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In Senate May Session 1823
 Concurring with an amendment viz inserting in the 10th
 line of the 2^d page after the word East Hartford these words
 viz "or not" - also next after the word Oxford in
 the 12th line of the same page these words viz "And
 in case the two towns do not agree as to dividing
 the property of said town, or the division of the
 poor - or as to amount of debt - the County
 court for the County of Hartford are hereby au-
 thorized & empowered to make such division
 or apportionment, giving reasonable notice
 to the parties concerned -

Attest W^m Boardman Clk

N. B.
 On recommendation concurring with the Senate in
 their vote hereon Attest W^m Johnson Clk

May 28th 1823 approved
 Wm. Melvill

Done in Senate
 this 27th of May
 1823
 W. B.
 Attest W^m Johnson Clk

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At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the first Society of East⁹⁰
Hartford holden at the Meeting House in 3^d Society on Wednesday
the 14th May 1823

Samuel Pettin Esq Chosen Moderator
J. Olmsted Clerk pro. tem.

Resolved That Shubael Guinold Esq be and he is hereby
appointed an agent for this Society to oppose the petition
of the Inhabitants of Oxford now pending before the General
Assembly, unless they consent to a division at the end of
the three mile lots
Jest J. Olmsted Clerk Pro. tem.

Derivation of name of town unclear. From William E. Buckley's 1974 book, "A New England Pattern, the History of Manchester, Connecticut"

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A New England Pattern

that the prayer of the petitioners ought to be granted." The Assembly accepted the report and the bill incorporating the Parish of Orford as the town of Manchester passed by a large majority. Governor Wolcott signed it on May 28, 1823.

Careful search has failed to uncover any documentary evidence (or any other kind) bearing on the choice of the name Manchester. The traditional explanation has been that by 1823 Orford Parish had several textile mills and chose to be named for Manchester, England which had become the chief textile center of that country.

From Mathias Spiess & Percy Bidwell's 1924 book "The History of Manchester, Connecticut." The legislature picked the name "Manchester."

It was during the May session in the year 1823, that the General Assembly resolved "that the parrish of Orford, be, and the same is hereby incorporated in a distinct and separate town by the name of Manchester," and that "the first town meeting in said new town shall be holden at the meeting house in the parish of Orford, on the sixteenth day of June next."

On November 17, 1823, at an East Hartford town meeting it was "Voted that Giles Olmsted be & he is hereby appointed an