

53 page book, which he dedicated to his wife. The volume is now in the Forbes Library in Northampton, where microfilm has been made of the pages. Worthington has not relinquished possession of these papers, but they can be more safely kept at Forbes.

His son John studied law at Yale, graduating in 1740. Father and son accumulated land holdings covered by 250 deeds. J.G. Holland says that as a lawyer he divided with Joseph Hawley of Northampton "the highest legal honors of old Hampshire County."
He was said to be a Tory, but must have been left undisturbed during the Revolution, for he died at 81 years of age on April 25, in 1800.
Why Plantation #3 was named for him remains a mystery. An early historian apparently recorded an error in an effort to explain the name, and later historians repeated the error. The "History of the Town of Northampton" by James Clay Rice, printed in 1852, says: "Plantation #3... was purchased by Col. Worthington of Springfield and Major Barnard of Deerfield for about \$1500. In honor of the former gentleman, who liberally induced the early settlers to occupy the land, by the erection of a church and a parsonage at his own expense, together with a generous assignment of ministerial and school lots for the use of the town, the plantation was called Worthington." (Note that he omits 3 other buyers.)

Gay's "Gazetteer of Hampshire County, Massachusetts, 1854-1887, uses these same words and adds: "He made the town a donation of 1200 acres of land. This was divided into 12 sections. One part of these sections ministerial lots, the other school lots."

Worthington, John 1719-1800

He was a lawyer in Springfield. He and his father were important land owners and money lenders.

He graduated from Yale in 1740. He was a Tory sympathizer.

In 1762 he became one of the 5 proprietors who bought the "plantation" that became Worthington. It is not known why his name was chosen for the town.

These papers had been found by his wife in the old Hooker homestead when that structure was being demolished by the Springfield Street Railway Company to make room for its car barns on North Main Street. Springfield. One account says that the Hookers were a family of lawyers and Mrs. Edgerton was their friend. Mr. Edgerton found these papers in her desk after she died.
The papers of interest to Worthington cover the period of 1762-1772. They give the names of the five proprietors and records of their numerous meetings, with the actions taken. A plan of the township drawn up by the surveyor, Captain Nathaniel Dwight, the first division and assignment of lots, and the proprietors' petition, dated October 16, 1765, asking that Plantation #3 be incorporated into a town. There are bills for the construction of main roads, school, church, grist mill, bridges over streams, sawmill, etc. with signatures of workers acknowledging receipt of pay. There are maps also, including a map of the original English grant of the Plantation #3 area in 1765.