



## Wethersfield: A Literary Landmark

The Town of Wethersfield has been named a Literary Landmark for its use as the setting for *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*.

The Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) sponsors the Literary Landmark project which enables local libraries to call attention to the literary significance of sites in their communities.

The bronze plaque designating Wethersfield as a Literary Landmark and a more detailed map created by Phil Lohman are on display at the Wethersfield Library.

# Wethersfield LIBRARY

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This 1958 Newbery Award-winning historical novel, tells the adventures of young Kit Tyler who, after leaving her privileged life in Barbados, arrives in Wethersfield to live with her only remaining relatives. But it doesn't feel like home.

Kit struggles to adjust to the strict culture of 1687 Puritan Wethersfield. The Puritan community does not take kindly to her colorful clothing, her outspoken ways, her ideas or her friendship with the gentle Quaker widow who lives near Blackbird Pond in the meadows by the Connecticut River.

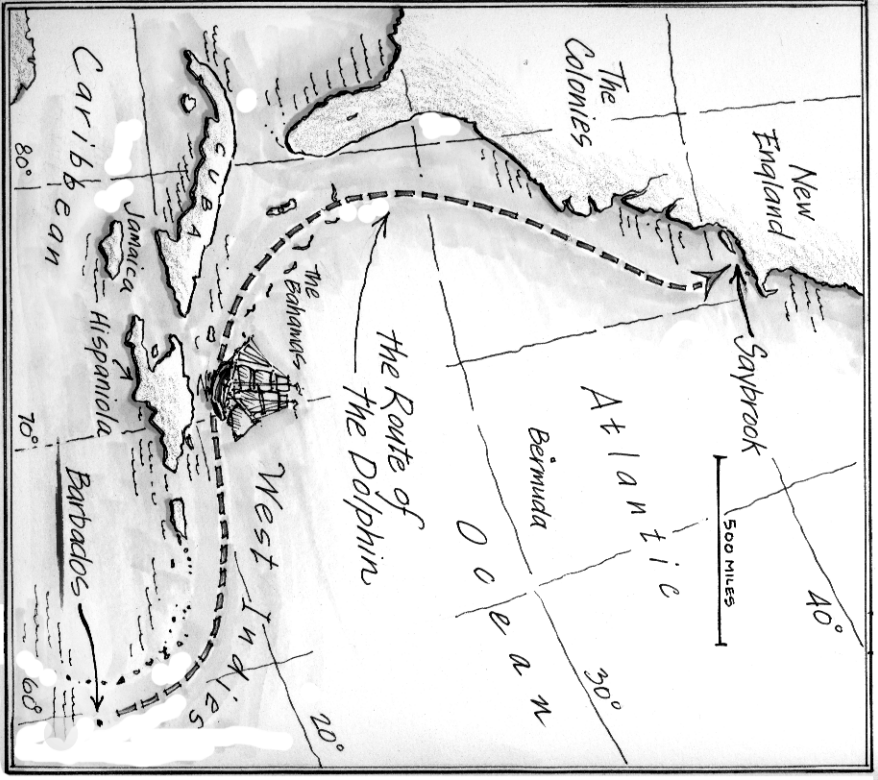
When Kit rescues Hannah Tupper from the charge of witchcraft, the community then tries Kit as a witch.

Weaving through this brave teenager's struggle with her own loneliness and the town's bigotry is her budding romance with Nat, a young sailor from the Dolphin, the ship that brought her to Wethersfield.

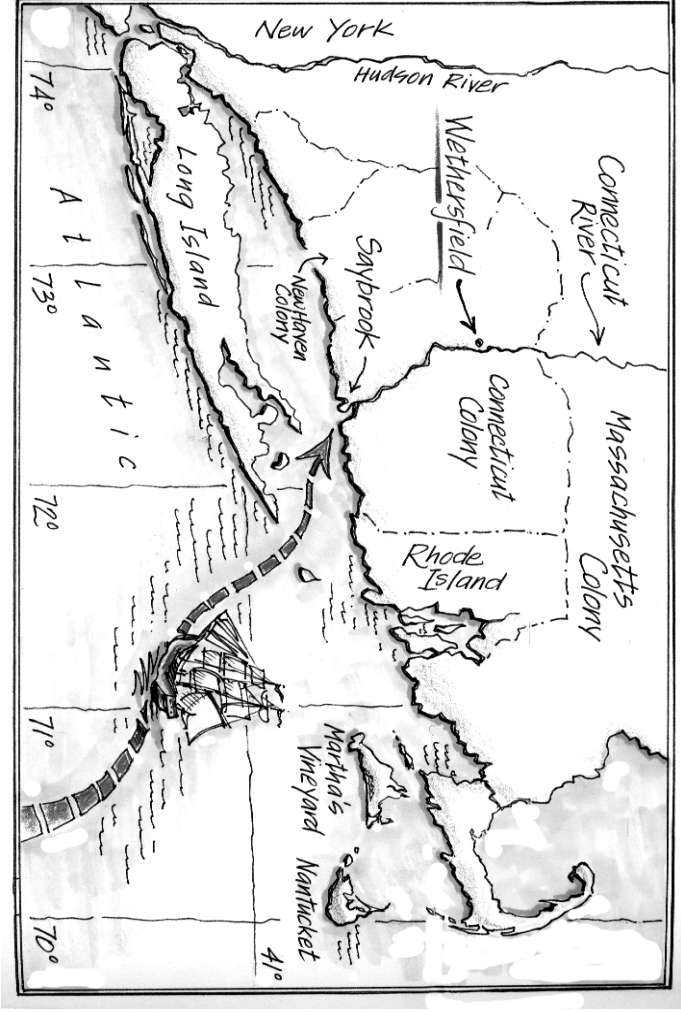
A guide to some of the events described in

## The Witch of Blackbird Pond

by Elizabeth George Speare



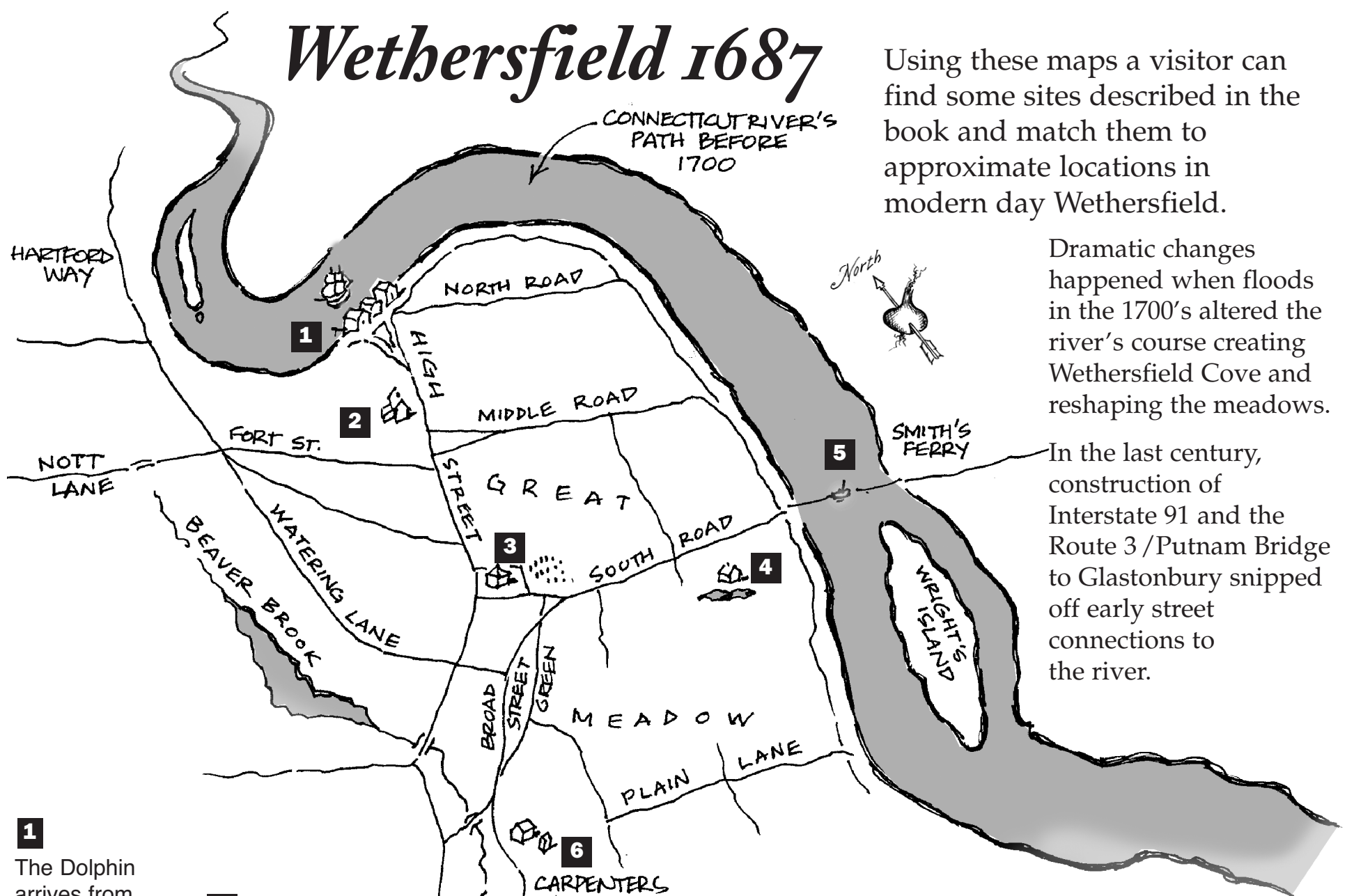
Approximate 2,000 mile route of the Dolphyn from Barbados to Saybrook.



From Saybrook, the Dolphyn sailed 43 miles upriver to Wethersfield.



# Wethersfield 1687



Using these maps a visitor can find some sites described in the book and match them to approximate locations in modern day Wethersfield.

Dramatic changes happened when floods in the 1700's altered the river's course creating Wethersfield Cove and reshaping the meadows.

In the last century, construction of Interstate 91 and the Route 3 / Putnam Bridge to Glastonbury snipped off early street connections to the river.

**1**  
The Dolphin arrives from Saybrook. Kit disembarks at mist-shrouded Wethersfield landing..

**2**  
Captain Eaton delivers Kit with her seven trunks to Mathew Wood's house on High Street.

**3**  
The Meeting House at town center across from the pillary, whipping post and stocks .

**4**  
Widow Hannah Tupper's one room shack by Blackbird Pond in the meadows.

**5**  
Governor Andros, the king's representative, crossed the river here on his way to Hartford to take back Connecticut's Charter.

**6**  
The Constable's shed where Kit spent a miserable night before her trial for witchcraft.

# Wethersfield today

