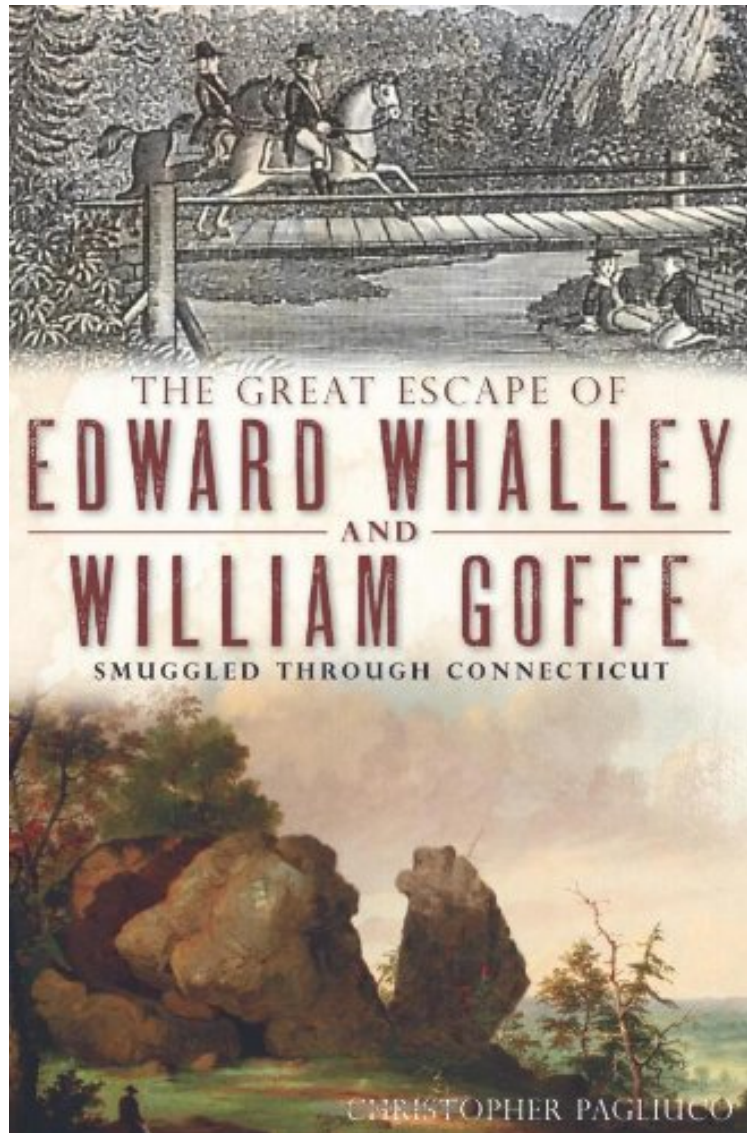


## The Great Escape of Edward Whalley and William Goffe: Smuggled Through Connecticut

*Christopher Pagliuco*

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**Christopher Pagliuco : The Great Escape of Edward Whalley and William Goffe: Smuggled Through Connecticut** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Escape of Edward Whalley and William Goffe: Smuggled Through Connecticut:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read for the casual reader or the studentBy IcyoneAs a

young child growing up in Western Massachusetts I was given original copies of Mary P Wells Smith's "Young Puritans" books -- books which originally belonged to my distant cousins. I lived, breathed, and acted out those chapters, and to this day I can vividly recall the illustration of the boy hero "John" on a Sabbath morning errand encountering the frightening "Mysterious Stranger" (Judge Goffe) on the staircase, shortly before the "Stranger" reappeared as the "Angel of Hadley". Later on I learned more about the tale, and the history behind the Regicides and the history of England from which they fled. I therefore welcomed the chance which this book brought to learn more, both about the historical background in England and what is known, surmised, or embellished about the subsequent lives of the fugitives. Mr. Pagliuco is not a professional historian, but clearly a gifted amateur who has researched this subject well and written a book which is accessible both to the serious reader and to the "hobbyist" and/or "local" wanting to learn more about both the background of the "Regicides" and the current state of knowledge about their subsequent life in the colonies. While Goffe's later life and exploits were well-known (and perhaps mythologised) in Smith's day, as the local surroundings changed or were destroyed, interest in the early Puritan era seems to have waned, and the story of the "Angel of Hadley" was debunked. More recently, the "debunking" itself has been criticised on the grounds that the lack of specific detailed accounts of an actual raid is not proof positive that these events did not occur. (My own view is that it is quite likely that there WAS an Indian raid, but on a much smaller scale than the legendary story describes -- possibly just a few marauders -- a scale upon which a single figure like Goffe could really have rallied the surprised and ill-trained locals to act). This book is a well-written description of a piece of New England history which has unfortunately faded from view, as well as containing updates of the current landscape. History is never entirely "finished" -- it is possible that more information may be discovered; perhaps confirming the truth of the "myth" -- even on a more modest scale, as I have suggested. My thanks to Mr. Pagliuco for this account, and may it spur others to not only revisit this history but perhaps uncover further knowledge as well.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Read! By Martin Glasser  
In *The Great Escape*, author Chris Pagliuco provides the first detailed account of two heroes of Puritan New England, Edward Whalley and William Goffe. Their adventure, which at one time was known throughout the country, is carefully documented in a historical narrative that reads smoothly and briskly. Of particular interest is that fact that the lives of Whalley and Goffe provide an interesting way of learning about the larger context of their times, most importantly the English Civil Wars and the founding of the New England colonies. Pagliuco simplifies and clarifies this complex history for a popular audience without sacrificing historical accuracy. In all, a pleasant, fun and informative read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By b phoenix  
Great book

When Puritans Edward Whalley and William Goffe joined the parliamentary army against King Charles I in the English civil wars, they seized an opportunity to overthrow a tyrant. Under their battlefield leadership, the army trounced the Royalist forces and then cut off the king's head. Yet when his son, Charles II, regained the throne, Whalley and Goffe were forced to flee to the New England colonies aboard the ship *Prudent Mary*--never to see their families or England again. Even with the help of New England's Puritan elite, including Reverend John Davenport, they struggled to stay a step ahead of searches for their arrest in Boston, New Haven (where they hid out in Judges Cave) and the outpost of Hadley, Massachusetts. Forced to live as fugitives, these former major generals survived frontier adventures in seventeenth-century New England. Author Christopher Pagliuco reveals the all-but-forgotten stories of these Connecticut heroes.

"Pagliuco takes his readers crisply along on the journey, with a sense of urgency and pleasant readability." --*New Haven Register*

About the Author  
Chris Pagliuco is a freelance writer who specializes in seventeenth-century colonial history. His interest in the regicides originated in his graduate studies in history at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. He teaches high school history in Madison, Connecticut, and serves as town historian in Essex, Connecticut, and on the editorial team of *Connecticut Explored*, a quarterly history publication. He lives with his wife, two daughters and two dogs in Ivoryton, Connecticut. This is his first book.