

Appendix

While the writer has endeavored to record facts impartially, he was primarily induced to study the early history of Plymouth colony because of his descent from many of the Pilgrim forefathers.

The Quaker love-story, included in this appendix, is rather exclusively a family affair, and *no person* is there mentioned by *name* who is not an ancestor of the writer. The facts there stated are historically accurate and are matters of public record.

One should know and study the quality, works and deeds of his forebears, in order that, having before him the picture of their deeds, he may realize his own inferiority, when in easier living conditions, improved surroundings and enlarged educational advantages he may fail to equal their achievements and worth.

A QUAKER LOVE STORY

Perhaps I am not justified in using this story in connection with a history of Fall River. The facts contained in it, however, show the extent of Quaker persecutions in Plymouth Colony. Quakers were encouraged in Rhode Island, discouraged in Plymouth and persecuted in Massachusetts Bay. In Plymouth Colony Quakers often made themselves nuisances and acts with reference to them were in abatement of the nuisance. The facts named in this chapter indicate about what might usually be expected if their activities were displeasing.

My real object, however, in publishing this story is because of its personal interest to me; I want to preserve it; it is a part of my family history. (References are to Plymouth Colony printed records.) There is no one who is mentioned in it by name, whether government official, church official or Quaker, who is not an ancestor of mine. Persons whom I have felt compelled to refer to and who are not my direct ancestors I have referred to inferentially only.

In 1657, the year when Quakers first appeared in New England, Thomas Prence was Governor of Plymouth colony and he continued to hold that office, which then combined the duties of Chief Justice, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Speaker of the General Court and Auditor of the Treasury till 1673, the year of his death. Prence came to Plymouth in 1621, married first a daughter of the elder of the Pilgrim church, and secondly Mary, the daughter of William Collier. In the division of colony lands Prence (as an Adventurer) became the owner of a large part of Warren, R. I. where he had a trading post.

His father-in-law (Collier) was a Governor's Assistant, had been a merchant in London where he became one of the Adventurers to finance the colony, and was deemed the richest man in the colony (Goodwin, p. 456). Collier and Prence both lived in Duxbury.

Goodwin says (p. 434) that Prence was just the man, as to dignity, wealth and orthodox zeal, to represent the colony in its foreign relations and to be acceptable to the dominant bigotry of the leaders in Boston. His recorded obituary (Vol. VIII, p. 34) reads "he was a worthy gentleman, very pious and very able for his office and faithful in the discharge thereof, studious of peace, a welwiller to all that feared God and a terror to the wicked."

My story relates particularly to the Governor's daughter Elizabeth, his third daughter by the Collier marriage.

The Pilgrim church was for many years under the guidance of Elder Thomas Cushman and his wife Mary. Thomas Cushman came to Plymouth with his father Robert in the same ship as Thomas Prence (The Fortune). He married Mary Allerton, the daughter of Isaac Allerton and Mary Allerton. All three Allertons came in the Mayflower, and Mrs. Cushman lived to be the last survivor of the Mayflower passengers. For over forty years, and until his death in office in 1691, she assisted the elder in supervising the activities of the Pilgrim church.

Every able person in the colony attended church. We haven't a very accurate description of the church service, but it is said that a question was "propounded", and that the pastor then briefly "expounded", after which the elder and others gave their views. The Geneva Bible was read, with a running comment, and psalms were sung: Then someone reminded the people of the duty of giving, whereupon the leaders went to the deacons' seat and deposited their gift, the others following in order. It was a long service, with youths and maidens on separate sides of the church, and it was on the walks to and from the church that the young people met and waited for one another, and many eyes also met others as romantic as theirs during the weary and tiresome preachings (pro and ex). You would expect the unusual daughter of an unusual man who was strict and stern, to do many things which elder wise sober eyes failed to see, — and such a daughter in such a church was Elizabeth Prence.

In far away Marshfield, at its extremist limit, lived Arthur Howland. He had five daughters and a single son, his name-sake. He had a farm of 50 acres near the north river and Scituate line, and while he was from a leading family (his brother came in the Mayflower) he was one of the

poorest men in the colony. He had a cow, which was then rather a rarity, but I imagine that five girls were then quite a liability, with only one boy to help, and besides that he was a so-called liberal, i. e. he pondered more on religious matters than most men of his time and was rather moderate in his activities; in short he and his brothers were all supposed to lean toward Quakerism.

In December 1657, almost as soon as Quakers were heard of, but after they had become obnoxious to Prence and the leading churchmen, Arthur Howland was complained of (Vol. III, p. 125) for entertaining a foreign Quaker and suffering and inviting others to hear him. John Phillips, the then constable of Marshfield, went to the Howland home to serve a warrant upon Howland, and finding the preacher there, attempted to arrest him, which Howland would not allow, and (others refusing to assist the constable) the Quaker escaped. When brought to court several fines were imposed on Howland and he was required to furnish a bond, but this he refused to do and was committed. Then he wrote an indignant protest to the Court concerning its attitude towards the Quakers on account of which he was further fined for contempt of Court, yet later, upon acknowledgment of error, his fine was remitted "on account of his age and infirmities".

In 1659 he and his wife were fined for being unduly absent from public service, and in 1669 he neglected to pay his ministry tax, but this was also excused "in respect to his age and his low estate".

Now in spite of all this family divergence Elizabeth Prence and young Arthur had met; we don't know how or when, but we do know that mutual sympathy existed and that the Governor didn't know of it, yet that stern man who was a terror to evil doers found it out at a rather advanced period and invoked the aid of the law, for there was a law of many years standing that persons unfit for marriage on account of their young years and weak estates must not inveigle men's daughters into marriage without their consent. The Governor was quick to act and Arthur was surely young and of very weak estate, and so he was arrested and brought before the court for inveigling and making motion of marriage to Mistress Elizabeth Prence without the consent of her parents and contrary to their liking, and he was before the Court not once but on three different occasions and was fined, and was placed under bond of one hundred pounds, and finally in July 1667 was compelled to solemnly engage before the Court that he "would wholly desist and never thereafter apply himself in the future to Mistress Elizabeth Prence with reference to marriage".

I suppose there must have been a previous understanding, and that it was easier thereafter to promise no future "application", for although there is no record that the bond was forfeited, it does appear that Elizabeth and Arthur were married before another year had passed, and in due course there was a son named for the Governor and another Arthur Howland [the 3d]. The second Arthur prospered and held many important offices in the colony and seems to have concluded that Quakerism and an early weak estate, as well as paternal opposition, can be overcome and furnish no bar to later success and happiness. We do not learn that Elizabeth ever regretted her persistence.

Note: An interesting letter written by Arthur Howland and Elizabeth Howland, dated April 6, 1684 detailing their sufferings, is deemed of sufficient importance to become a part of the current Tercentenary History of Marshfield. It is lithographed at pages 39 to 41 incl.

FREEMEN'S DEED

Be it Known unto all men by these presents that whereas his Maj.^{ties} Generall Court held at New plimouth the third Day of July Anno Dom 1656 Did Grant unto Sundry of the Antient ffreemen of this Jurisdiction — viz: to Capt. James Cudworth Josiah winslow Sen^e Constant Southworth & John Barns in behalfe of themselves and other of the ffreemen of that standing in the Townes of plimouth Duxberry Scittuate & marshfeild whose Names are upon Record, Certain Tracts of land hereafter in these presents Mentioned viz: all the uplands and meadows Lyeing & being on the East Side of Taunton River, from assonate Neck to Quuquechan allias the place Commonly Called by the Name of the ffalls and so extending into the woods four miles and Bounded Northerly by ye Bound line of the Town of Taunton and Southerly by the line at the s^d ffalls which is the Bounds between it and the lands of Pocasset & Bounded Easterly by a strait Head line, which Rangesth from the said Bounds of Taunton at the four miles and affores^d, unto the Head of s^d line at ye ffalls And allso all those Meadow lands which lye between Sippican Bounds and the Purchasers Grant, or Eastermost Bounds of Cushena alias Dartmouth; — Excepting all former grant or grants within the abovesaid premises Know yee therefore that I Thomas Hinckley Govern^e of his Majesties Collony afores^d for o^e Sovereigne Lord the King by Vertue of the power Comitted to me as well by an Act & order made by william Bradford & his assotiats Assembled in Court Anno Dom: one thousand Six hundred thirty & Six, as by after Acts & orders of Court Since Made, ffor the more ffull assurance and absolute Confirmation of all the said lands with all & Singular the appur^{ces} belonging or any wise appertaining as to other Grants of Court hath been accostomed, according to the known approved and accostomed Boundares of ye said lands both uplands & Meadows, unto the said James Cudworth Josiah winslow Constant Southworth & all others the above mentioned ffreemen their & every of their heires & assignes forever, According to their Respective Rights and propriettyes therein To be holden of His Majestie his heires & Successors, as of his Mann^e: of East Greenwich in ye County of Kent in the Realme of England in free & Common Soccage & not in Capitie Nor by Knights Service, Yeilding & paying to our said Sovereign Lord the King his heires & Successors, one fifth part of the Oare of gold & Silver and one other fifth part to the president and Council according to the form & Tenure of our grant, Granted in our Charter or pattents Have hereunto affixed the Common Seale of the Government

Given the tenth Day of June Anno Dom one thousand Six hundred Eightty
& Six Annoque-RR^s.

Jacobi Secundi Secundo x^{te}.

Tho: Hinckley Govern^e

The
seale of
Plimouth
Collony
in N. E.

Recorded June 19th 1696 by Jno. Cary Recorder

THE POCASSET GRAND DEED

To all, to whom these presents shall come, Josiah Winslow, Esq. Governor of the colony of New Plymouth, Major William Bradford, treasurer of the said colony, Mr. Thomas Hinkley and James Cudworth, assistants to the said Governor, send Greeting.

Whereas we the said Governor, Treasurer, Thomas Hinkley and James Cudworth or any two of us by virtue of an order of the General Court of the Colony aforesaid bearing date November 1678 are empowered in the said colony's behalf to make saile of certain lands belonging to the colony aforesaid and to make and seale deeds for the confirmation of the same, as by the said order remaining on record in the said Court roles more at large appeareth,

Now Know Ye that wee the said Governor, Treasurer, Thomas Hinkley and James Cudworth, as agents and in the behalf of the said Collony have and in consideration of one thousand one hundred pounds in lawful money of New England to us in hand before the ensealing and delivery of these presents well and truly paid by Edward Gray of Plymouth in the collony aforesaid, Nathaniel Thomas of Marshfield in the collony aforesaid, Benjamin Church of Puncatest in the collony aforesaid, Christopher Almy, Job Almy and Thomas Waite of Portsmouth in the Collony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Daniel Wilcox of Puncatest and William Manchester of Puncatest in the colony of New Plymouth aforesaid, with which said sum we the said agents do acknowledge to be fully satisfied and contented and paid, and thereof doe acquit and discharge said Edward Gray, Nathaniel Thomas, Benjamin Church, Christopher Almy, Job Almy, Thomas Waite, Daniel Wilcox and William Manchester, their, either and every of their heires, executors, administrators and assigns forever, by these presents have given, granted, bargained, sould, aliened, enfoefed and confirmed and by these presents, we as and

for the said collony of New Plymouth doe fully, freely and absolutely give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfoef and confirm unto the said Edward Gray, Nathaniel Thomas, Benjamin Church, Christopher Almy, Job Almy, Thomas Waite, Daniel Wilcox and William Manchester, all those lands sittuate, lyinge and being at Pocasset and places adjacent in the Collony of New Plimouth aforesaid, and is bounded as followeth, viz:

Northwards and eastwards by the freemans lotts near the Fall River, westward by the bay or sound that runneth between the said lands and Rhode Island, southward partly by Succonet bounds and partly by Dartmouth bounds, and northward and eastward up into the woods till it meets with the lands formerly granted by the Court to other men and legally obtained by them from the Natives, not extending farther than Middlebury Town bounds and Quitquiessett Ponds (only excepting and reserving out of this bargain and saile, one hundred Acres of land granted and laid out to Capt. Roger Goulding and one hundred acres of land granted and laid out to David and Thomas Lake and the lands of Right appertaining to Puncatest Purchase and the lands formerly granted by the Court of Plymouth to Capt. Richard Morris.)

To have and to hold all the above mentioned and bounded lands with all and singular the woods, waters, coves, creeks, ponds, brooks, benefits, profits, privileges and heraditaments whatsoever in before arising, accruing belonging or thereunto anyways appertaining or to any part or parcell thereof, to them, the said Edward Grey, Nathaniel Thomas, Benjamin Church, Christopher Almy, Job Almy, Thomas Waite, Daniel Wilcox, William Manchester, them and every of them, their and every of their heires and assigns forever (that is to say) to the said Edward Grey nine shares or thirtieth parts of the said lands, to him, his heirs and assigns forever; to the said Nathaniel Thomas five shares or thirtieth parts of the said lands, to him and his heirs and assigns forever; to the said Christopher Almy three and three quarters of one shares or thirtieth parts of the said lands to him and his heirs and assigns forever; to the said Job Almy three and one quarter shares or thirtieth parts of said lands to him and his heirs and assigns forever; to Thomas Waite one share or thirtieth part of said lands to him and his heirs and assigns forever; to the said Daniel Wilcox two shares or thirtieth parts of said lands, to him and his heirs and assigns forever; and to the said William Manchester five shares or thirtieth parts of said lands, to him and his heirs and assigns forever.

And Wee the said Governor, Treasurer, Thomas Hinkley and James Cudworth, for us as agents of the said Collony of New Plimouth, for the

successive Governor and treasurer thereof, to And with the said Edward Gray, Nathaniel Thomas, Benjamin Church, Christopher Almy, Job Almy, Thomas Waite, Daniel Wilcox, William Manchester, and Every of them, their and every of their heirs, executors, Administrators and Assigns, Doe promise, covenant and grant in manner and form following:

That is to say That wee the said Agents have full power and lawful Authority to bargain, sell and confirm all and singular the above granted and bargained premises and thereof to make a pure and perfect estate of Inheritance in fee simple in manner and form above expressed and that the said lands, every part and parcel thereof at the time of the ensealing and delivery of these presents is free and cleare and freely and clearly acquitted of and from all other and former gifts, grants, bargains, sales, titles, troubles, charges and incumbrances whatsoever and that Wee the said Governor, Treasurer, Thomas Hinkley and James Cudworth and the successive governor, governments, and Treasurer of the Collony of New Plimouth afore-said to the said Edward Gray, Nathaniel Thomas, Benjamin Church, Christopher Almy, Job Almy, Thomas Waite, Daniel Wilcox, William Manchester, their and every of them, their and every of their heires and Assigns shall and will Warrant all and singular the above granted and bargained Premises and every Part and Parcell thereof from all lawful claims and forever confirm the same by these presents.

In Witness Whereof we the said Governor, Thomas Hinkley and James Cudworth have hereunto set our hands and the publique seel of the said Colony of New Plimouth the fifth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and seventy-80 and in the thirty-second year of the reigne of our Sovraine Lord Charles the Second, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith, & c.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered

in the presence of us

John Freeman

Daniel Smith

Josiah Winslow, Governor L. S.

Will Bradford, Treasurer

Thomas J. Hinckley Assistant

James Cudworth Assistant

The Instrument we owned and acknowledged by Josiah Winslow, Esq. Governor, William Bradford, Thomas Hinkley, James Cudworth March 6, 1679/90, before me

John Alden, Assistant.

On the twentieth day of May 1680 I Joseph Church of Succonit in the Collony of New Plimouth by Virtue of a letter of Attorney from the

within named Josiah Winslow, William Bradford Thomas Hinkley and James Cudworth, sealed with the Publique Seale of the said Collony, Did enter into the within mentioned Land by this within written Deed, sold to the within named feofees, and thereof quiet and Peaceable Possession did take and after quite and peaceable possession had and taken together with this Deed, Did deliver quiet and Peaceable Possession of the land contained and mentioned to be sold by the within Instrument, unto the within-named Edward Gray, Nathaniel Thomas, Benjamin Church, Christopher Almy, Job Almy, Thomas Waite, Daniel Wilcox, William Manchester,

To have and hold according to the form and effect of this within written Instrument.

In Witness Whereof I the said Joseph Church have hereunto sett my hand.

Joseph Church

The within-mentioned and bounded land was delivered to the written endorsement. Signed in the presence of us

John X Briggs	his mark
Thomas X Purdane	“ “
Ephem Allen	
Samuel X Brigs	his mark

This Deed is recorded according to order by

Nathaniel Whorton

the court for the jurisdiction of New Plimouth, the third Book of Evidence of Land Records Folio 24 Bristol SC Received Dec. 4th, 19th, 1723 and this Instrument is recorded in the 15th book of Records for Bristol County folio 149, 150, 151

By Samuel Howland
Register

