

Descendants of William Brewster

Generation No. 1

1. WILLIAM¹ BREWSTER was born About 1534 in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, ENG, and died About 1590 in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, ENG. He married MARY SMYTHE About 1566. She was born About 1535 in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, ENG, and died About 1567 in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, ENG.

Child of WILLIAM BREWSTER and MARY SMYTHE is:

2. i. WILLIAM² BREWSTER, b. About 1566; d. Apr 16, 1644, Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA.

Generation No. 2

2. WILLIAM² BREWSTER (*WILLIAM¹*) was born About 1566¹, and died Apr 16, 1644 in Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA¹. He married MARY ? About 1590 in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, ENG¹. She was born About 1569 in England¹, and died Apr 17, 1627 in Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA¹.

Notes for WILLIAM BREWSTER:

Per SAVAGE'S Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers, v. 1

BREWSTER, WILLIAM, Plymouth, the famous Elder, claimed of liberal Christians everlasting gratitude, as the earliest of distinguished Puritan laymen in England, came in the Mayflower, 1620, with his wife, two younger sons, the widow of the eldest, and her son William. He was born 1563 (probably, but earlier by some computations) at Scrooby, in Nottinghamshire at the manor hall of whose village belonged to the archbishop of York, he afterwards long resided at the same house at which Cardinal Wolsey had made his last stop, before reaching home in his final journey, on compulsory retirement from court, after banishment by King Henry VIII. thirty years earlier. His father, probably William, was tenant under liberal lease from archbishop Sandys, and the son was educated some time at Cambridge University and his father became as sub-tenant of Scrooby manor, the possessor of that very residence of the Cardinal, and the son therein worshipped God according to the simple forms of the chief protestants of Protestantism. After very honorable service with Davidson, secretary of Queen Elizabeth, he partook in the fall of that statesman, the consequences of the Queen's heartless deception and treachery; and abandoned in 1587, political life. Devoting himself for many years to religion, he was the first prominent layman who rejected confirmation to the ceremonies of the church of England. He was in the employment of the crown, however, as post-master before April 1594, at Scrooby, above a dozen years after leaving London; there he married the wife Mary. With his young friend, Bradford, after a dozen years to be made Governor of New Plymouth and others, he passed about 1607 or 1608, into Holland for enjoyment of worship without the many idle forms, on which King James had set his heart, and was ruling Elder of the church at Leyden of which John Robinson was teacher as he had been probably at Scrooby. His daughters Patience and Fear, came in the Ann, 1623; and on 5 August of next year Patience married Thomas Prence, afterwards the governor and died 1634; and Fear married 1626, Isaac Allerton, as his second wife and died 1633. His wife died before 1627; and Governor Bradford says the son Wrestling died before, never married. He had early removed to Duxbury, and there, under the same roof with Love, died 16 April 1643, after one day's illness. His inventory has proof in the titles of the books of honorary regard for letters. See Geneal. Reg. IV. 174. Bradford's Memoir of him is in Young's Chronicles of the Pilgrims 461. See, also, Davis's Morton; Hunter's First Colonists of N. E., of which the best impression is in 4 Mass. Hist. Coll. I. 52; and Shurtlef's Recollections of the Pilgrims in Russell's Guide to Plymouth. It may be useful to mark the error of so valuable an authority as Baylies, in II. 6, where he gives to our most glorious of the Mayflower's passengers, three children Lucretia, Mary, and William, and is even so rash as to say, two of them were born in America. Yet if born on our side of the water, he ought to have presumed they could not, from his age, be children of the Elder. The first was wife, others, children of Jonathan.

Mayflower Families in Progress,

William Brewster of the Mayflower & His Descendants for Four Generations: pg 1

No birth records have been found for William Brewster or his wife Mary. Each of their birth years has been determined from an affidavit of declaration made before the magistrates of Leyden, Holland, on 6/25/1609, in

which "William Brewster of St. Ursualsteeg, Englishman, aged 42 years, Mary Brewster, his wife aged 40 years, and their son Jonathan Brewster, aged 16 years," acknowledged receipt of cloths from Bernard Rosse of Amsterdam, Englishmen. /p/ Letters of administration on the estate of Mr. W.B., late of Plymouth, gentleman, deceased, were granted to Jonathan and Love Brewster on 6/5/1644. In the settlement of his estate by the "onely two sonnes surviveing," the estate was divided in half between Jonathan & Love Brewster and Jonathan was directed to pay Love "for the dyett of Isaack Allerton, a grandchild of the said William, which he had placed with his sonn Love to table..."

from The Great Migration Begins

WILLIAM BREWSTER

ORIGIN: Leiden, Holland

MIGRATION: 1620 on Mayflower

FIRST RESIDENCE: Plymouth

REMOVES: Duxbury

OCCUPATION: Printer (in Leiden). (George Ernest Bowman summarized what was known in 1921 about the books printed by Brewster at Leiden [MD 23:97-105]. See also R. Breugelmans, "The Pilgrim Press and How Its Books Were Sold," in The Pilgrims in The Netherlands: Recent Research, ed. Jeremy D. Bangs [Leiden 1984], pp. 25-28.)

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Morison summarized Brewster's church activities prior to 1620: "One of the original members of the separatist congregation at Scrooby which became the nucleus of the Pilgrim church, he emigrated with them to Holland in 1608, and became elder and teacher of their church at Leyden" [Morison 368]. With no minister at the Plymouth church for most of the years before Brewster's death, he was the lay leader and preached to the congregation regularly, and continued in this manner after his move to Duxbury. In the course of relating the controversy surrounding John Lyford, Bradford recounts how "our reverend Elder hath labored diligently in dispensing the Word of God to us, before he came: and since, hath taken equal pains with himself, in preaching the same" [Bradford 162]. Included in the inventory of his library were "7 sermons by W B," which may have been his notes for some of his own sermons.

FREEMAN: In "1633" Plymouth list of freemen, prior to those admitted on 1 January 1632/3 [PCR 1:3].

EDUCATION: Entered Peterhouse, Cambridge, 3 December 1580, but did not graduate [Venn 1:213; Morison 368]. Within the inventory of William Brewster separate listings were made of his Latin and English books, with nearly four hundred titles included; "the total of both Latin & English books amounts to the sum of £42 19s. 11d." [MD 3:27].

ESTATE: In the list of Plymouth "meersteads & garden plots of [those] which came first laid out 1620" Mr. W[illia]m Brewster is on the south side of the street, at the corner of the highway, and next to John Goodman [PCR 12:3].

In the 1623 Plymouth land division Mr. William Brewster received six acres as a passenger on the Mayflower, and "Pacience & Fear Brewster" received two acres as passengers on the Anne [PCR 12:4, 6]. In the 1627 Plymouth cattle division "Mr. Will[ia]m Brewster," Love Brewster and Wrestling Brewster were the first three names in the fifth company [PCR 12:10].

Assessed £1 7s. in the Plymouth tax lists of 25 March 1633 and 27 March 1634 [PCR 1:9, 27].

Administration on the estate of William Brewster was granted on 5 June 1644 to Jonathan Brewster and Love Brewster [MD 3:15, citing PCR 2:101]. The inventory of the estate of William Brewster, taken 18 May 1644, totalled £150 7d., with no real estate included [MD 3:15-27, citing PCPR 1:53-59].

"Whereas William Brewster late of Plymouth, gent., deceased left only two sons surviving vizt. Jonathan the eldest and Love the younger and whereas the said William died intestate for ought can to this day appear," the two sons requested William Bradford, Edward Winslow, Thomas Prence and Myles Standish to assist them in coming to an agreement, and on 20 August 1645 a division was made. Jonathan Brewster was excused the debt he had owed to his father, except £4 "in consideration of the wintering of some cattle which the said Jonathan had the summering upon the division and for the diet of Isaack Allerton a grandchild of the said Will[ia]m which he had placed with his son Love to table and because he was the first born of his father we gave him his father's arms and also a two year old heifer over and above his part of the dividables of the said estate," and Love received his father's dwelling house. The lands were divided equally, except for a dispute over the lands at Duxbury, of which sixty-eight acres went to Jonathan (along with a "dwelling house which the said Jonathan had built on the said land by leave of his said father") and forty-three acres went to Love "and the reason wherefore we gave Love the

less quantity was and is because the quality of Love's land in goodness is equal to the quantity of Jonathan's as we judge" [MD 3:27-30, citing PCLR 1:198-99; PCR 12:115-17].

BIRTH: About 1566, probably at Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, son of William Brewster.

DEATH: Duxbury 10 April 1644 [MD 1:7].

MARRIAGE: By 1593 Mary _____; she died at Plymouth 17 April 1627 [MD 1:7]. (See COMMENTS below for discussion of her identity.)

CHILDREN:

i JONATHAN, b. Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, 12 August 1593 [MD 1:7]; m. Plymouth 10 April 1624

"Lucretia Oldam of Darby" [MD 1:8]; she was bp. All Saints, Derby, Derbyshire, 14 January 1600/1, and was sister of JOHN OLDHAM .

ii PATIENCE, b. say 1603; m. Plymouth 5 August 1624 THOMAS PRENCE , "the ninth marriage at New Plymouth" [Prince 229], as his first of four wives.

iii FEAR, b. say 1605; m. Plymouth by 1627 ISAAC ALLER~TON [Bradford 218, 242].

iv LOVE, b. say 1607; m. Plymouth 15 May 1634 Sarah Collier [PCR 1:30], daughter of WILLIAM COLLIER .

v Child, bur. St. Pancras, Leiden, 20 June 1609 [NS] [Dexter 605].

vi WRESTLING, b. say 1611; d. unm. after 1627 and by 1651 [Bradford 444; see GDMNH 109, MD 43:13, Waterhouse Anc 67].

COMMENTS: In his list of passengers on the Mayflower Bradford included "Mr. William Brewster, Mary, his wife, with two sons, whose names were Love and Wrestling" [Bradford 441]. In the accounting of 1651 we find that "Mr. Brewster lived to very old age; about 80 years he was when he died, having lived some 23 or 24 years here in the country. And though his wife died long before, yet she died aged. His son Wrestling died a young man unmarried. His son Love lived till this year 1650 and died and left four children, now living. His daughters which came over after him are dead but have left sundry children alive. His eldest son is still living and hath nine or ten children; one married who hath a child or two" [Bradford 444].

The quest for the identity of Mary, the wife of William Brewster, has attracted the attention of many genealogists, but as yet without a definitive result. For some time she had been thought to be Mary Wentworth, daughter of Thomas Wentworth of Scrooby, and in 1965 John G. Hunt presented his case in favor of this identity [TAG 41:1-5, 63], but this claim was rejected by Rubincam and others, and Hunt himself has now given up this position. He has, however, published a pamphlet claiming that she was a certain Mary Wyrrell, based on the appearance in a will of a bequest to "Mary Butho," which Hunt took to be a variant of Brewster resulting from a speech defect in the person dictating the will [John G. Hunt, *Of Mary Brewster: The Identity of Mary, Wife of Elder William BREWSTER of the Mayflower Voyage of 1620 from Plymouth, England, to New Plymouth, New England* (Bowling Green, Virginia, 1984)]. Eugene A. Stratton reviewed this volume negatively in 1985 [DSGRM 48:135-36], to which Hunt responded with a supplement to his pamphlet [*Of Mary Brewster*, part two (Bowling Green, Virginia, August 1985)]. The maiden surname of Mary, wife of Elder Brewster, remains unknown. (Hunt has published other articles on various aspects of William Brewster's life which, as with all of Hunt's work, need to be used with caution: "'Master Williamson' of the Mayflower " [NGSQ 62:88-90]; "The Mother of Elder William Brewster of the Mayflower" [NEHGR 124:250-56]; "Mary Stubbe - A Connection of Elder William Brewster?" [NEHGR 128:288-90].)

A number of other children have been proposed for William Brewster. Jacobus in 1936 disposed of the claimed connections between William Brewster of Plymouth and Francis Brewster of New Haven and his son Nathaniel [TAG 12:199-210, 13:8-21, 113-116]. Mary Walton Ferris proposes a son Edward [Dawes-Gates 2:151].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: Emma C. Brewster Jones published early in this century a serviceable genealogy of the family [*The Brewster Genealogy, 1566-1907 ...* , 2 volumes (New York 1908)]. Among the many versions of the family published in all-my-ancestor volumes the most complete is that of Mary Walton Ferris [Dawes-Gates 2:142-56].

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants published in 1995 the Brewster volume of its "in progress" series, prepared by Barbara Merrick.

Many biographies of William Brewster have appeared, but mostly of the filiopietistic school; an example from the nineteenth century is that written by Ashbel Steele: *Chief of the Pilgrims: or The Life and Time of William Brewster ...* (Philadelphia 1857). An exception is Dorothy Brewster, *William Brewster of the Mayflower: Portrait*

of a Pilgrim (New York 1970).

Children of WILLIAM BREWSTER and MARY ? are:

3. i. JONATHAN³ BREWSTER, b. Aug 12, 1593, Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, ENG; d. Aug 07, 1659, Norwich, New London Co., CT.
4. ii. PATIENCE BREWSTER, b. About 1600, Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, ENG; d. 1634, Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA.

Generation No. 3

3. JONATHAN³ BREWSTER (*WILLIAM², WILLIAM¹*) was born Aug 12, 1593 in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, ENG^{1,2}, and died Aug 07, 1659 in Norwich, New London Co., CT³. He married LUCRETIA OLDHAM Apr 10, 1624 in Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA³, daughter of WILLIAM OLDHAM and PHILLIPA SOWTER. She was born About 1599 in Derby, Derbyshire, ENG, and died Mar 04, 1678/79 in Norwich, New London Co., CT³.

Notes for JONATHAN BREWSTER:

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Jonathan Brewster b 8/12/1593 Scrooby Eng d 8/7/1659 New London Ct bur Preston Ct; m 4/10/1624 Plymouth Lucretia Oldham (dau of William Oldham & Phillipa Sowter) bpt 1/14/1600 Parish of All Saints Derby/Darby Eng, d 3/4/1678-9 Norwich Ct bur Preston Ct.

Per SAVAGE'S Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers, v. 1

BREWSTER, JONATHAN, Plymouth, eldest son of Elder William, born at Scrooby, in County Nottinghamshire, on the road to Doncaster in Yorkshire from which it is only 12 or 13 miles distant in a manor belonging to the archbishop of York, under which his grandfather was tenant on long lease, had been instructed only by his glorious father either in his native land or the dozen years resident in Holland, where he was left by the Elder to take care of two sisters with his own family. Without the sisters, he came in the Fortune 1621, in June 1636, was in command of the Plymouth trading, housed on Connecticut river and gave notice to John Winthrop, governor of the fort at Saybrook, in a letter in my possession of 18 June, of the evil designs of the Pequots; removed to Duxbury, of which he was representative 1639, the earliest assembly of deputies in that Colony, thence to New London, before 1649, there was selectman, died before September 1659, having in September 1656 projected to return to England with his family. By wife Lucretia, he had William, and Mary, both, probably, but the first, certainly born in Holland; Jonathan; Benjamin, before mentioned; also, Grace, Ruth, Hannah, and perhaps Elizabeth, some of these born probably at New London. Mary married 12 November 1645, John Turner of Scituate; Elizabeth, married about 1654, Peter Bradley; Grace married 4 August 1659, Daniel Wetherill; and Ruth married John Pickett, and next, Charles Hill, and died 30 Apr. 1677.

More About JONATHAN BREWSTER:

Burial: Brewster Cemetery, Preston, New London Co., CT³

Notes for LUCRETIA OLDHAM:

More About LUCRETIA OLDHAM:

Baptism: Jan 04, 1599/00, Parish of All Saints, Derby, Derbyshire, ENG³

Burial: Preston, New London Co., CT³

Child of JONATHAN BREWSTER and LUCRETIA OLDHAM is:

5. i. BENJAMIN⁴ BREWSTER, b. Nov 17, 1633, Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA; d. Sep 14, 1710, Norwich, New London Co., CT.

4. PATIENCE³ BREWSTER (*WILLIAM², WILLIAM¹*) was born About 1600 in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, ENG³, and died 1634 in Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA. She married THOMAS PRENCE Aug 05, 1624 in Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA^{4,5}. He was born About 1600, and died Mar 29, 1673 in Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA^{6,7}.

Notes for THOMAS PRENCE:

Per SAVAGE'S Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers, v. 3

PRENCE, THOMAS, Plymouth, came in the Fortune, 1621, was son of Thomas of Lechlade, in Co. Gloucester, near Cricklade, in Wilts, married 5 August 1624, Patience, daughter of Elder William Brewster, had Thomas, Rebecca, Hannah, Mercy, and Sarah, of none of whom are dates of birth known. His wife died 1634, and he removed to Duxbury, married 1 April 1635, Mary, daughter of William Collier, and was chosen Governor that year and for two or three years after an Assistant and Governor again in 1638, afterwards an Assistant many years. With this wife, he had Jane, born 1 November 1637; and probably Mary, Elizabeth and Judith; in 1645 removed to Eastham, there again, chosen Governor 1658, and there his wife died. A third wife Mary in 1662, was widow of Samuel Freeman, senior and he removed again, 1663, to Plymouth, there he died 29 March 1673, aged 72, leaving widow Mary. The son Thomas went to England, married and died young, leaving widow and daughter Susanna. Of the daughters, all were married and we know the dates of all but one, and the name of her husband is obscure, even after the inquiries of Mr. Hamblen. Rebecca married 22 April 1646, Edmund, Freeman, junior; Hannah, married 13 February 1650, Nathaniel Mayo, and second husband Jonathan Sparrow; Mercy married 13 or 14 February 1650, John Freeman; Sarah married 1650, Jeremiah Howe of Yarmouth; Jane married 9 January 1661, Mark Snow; Mary married John Tracy of Duxbury; Elizabeth married 9 December 1667, Arthur Howland, Jr.; and Judith married 28 December 1685, Isaac Barker of Duxbury. See Morton's Mem. by Davis, 421-5; Mitchell's Bridgewater; Winsor; and Geneal. Reg. VI. 234.

from The Great Migration Begins

THOMAS PRENCE

ORIGIN: All Saints Barking, London [EIHC 17:103-04]

MIGRATION: 1621 on Fortune

FIRST RESIDENCE: Plymouth

REMOVES: Duxbury by 1637, Eastham 1644, Plymouth by 1665

FREEMAN: In the "1633" Plymouth list of freemen Thomas Prence was just after the councillors, and ahead of those admitted on 1 January 1632/3 [PCR 1:3]. "Thomas Prence, gen.," is in the 7 March 1636/7 list of Plymouth freemen [MBCR 1:52]. In the list of assistants at the head of the "1639" list of Plymouth Colony freemen, but as this list was revised and annotated his name was included in the "Nawsett" portion of the list [PCR 8:173, 177]. In Eastham section of 1658 list of Plymouth freemen, and in Plymouth section of list of 29 May 1670 [PCR 5:274, 8:201]

EDUCATION: His inventory included a long list of books valued at £14 2d., including two great Bibles and "100 of psalm books."

OFFICES: Plymouth Governor, 1634, 1638, 1657-72 [MA Civil List 35]. Assistant, Plymouth Colony, 1632-33, 1635-37, 1639-56 [PCR 1:32, 36, 48, 116, 140, 2:8, 15, 33, 40, 52, 56, 71, 83, 115; MA Civil List 37-38]. Treasurer, 1637 [PCR 1:48; MA Civil List 36]. Council of War, 1637 [PCR 1:60, PTR 1:16]. Commissioner for the United Colonies, 1645, 1650, 1653-58, 1661-63, 1670-72 [MA Civil List 28-29].

In Plymouth section of 1643 Plymouth Colony list of men able to bear arms [PCR 8:188].

ESTATE: In the 1623 Plymouth division of land Thomas Prence received one acre as a passenger on the Fortune [PCR 12:5]. In the 1627 Plymouth division of cattle Thomas Prince, Patience Prince and Rebecca Prince are the tenth, eleventh and twelfth persons in the fifth company [PCR 12:10].

In the Plymouth tax list of 25 March 1633 Thomas Prence was assessed £1 7s. [PCR 1:9]. He was omitted from the list of 27 March 1634. His cattle mark was three marks on the outer side of the ear [PTR 1:2].

Thomas Prence received grants of land, 1 July 1633, 14 March 1635/6, 20 March 1636/7 meadow at Jones River; 6 March 1636/7 land between two cedar swamps at Island Creeke Pond; 5 February 1637/8 all the land between Greenes Harbor and South River; 2 April 1638 a garden place; 5 November 1638 ten acres of land "in some convenient place about the town"; 3 December 1638 an acre and a half at Smilt River; 2 December 1639 a parcel between John Barnes's garden and George Watson's field; 16 September 1641 an enlargement at the head of his Joanes River lot; 17 October 1642 an additional six acres at Joanes River; 2 October 1650 granted rights to bass fishing at Cape Cod [PCR 1:14, 40, 51, 56, 77, 83, 102, 103, 136, 142, 145, 163, 2:26, 49, 161]. He exchanged land with John Combe, Phinehas Pratt and John Barnes [PCR 1:25, 30, 12:197].

On 14 September 1638 Mr. Thomas Prence purchased two acres of land on the south side of the second brook from Ellinor Billington and Francis Billington [PCR 12:37]. On 29 May 1643 he contributed 6d. to buy drumheads and £14 to buy bread [PTR 1:14-15]. About 1645 Mr. Thomas Prence acknowledged that he had sold to Mr. Edmond Freeman all his house and garden place and barn in Plymouth, ten acres of upland in the woods and five acres in the second brook, and eleven acres by John Barnes's land and one farm at Joanes River [PCR 12:129-30]. On 11 July 1649 Mr. Thomas Prence of Nawset, gentleman, sold to Jacob Cooke of Plymouth, planter, forty acres of upland in Rocky Noocke with three acres of marsh [PCR 12:175]. On 13 July 1649 Mr. Thomas Prence of Nawset, gentleman, sold to Richard Church of Nawset, carpenter, and to Anthony Snow of Marshfield, feltmaker, upland and marsh at Marshfield and forty acres of upland received by grant dated 5

February 1647 [PCR 12:176].

On 13 June 1655 Thomas Prence of Eastham sold to "Mr. Edward Buckley" of Marshfield five acres of marsh in Marshfield [MD 9:234, citing PCLR 2:1:155]. On 12 July 1655 Thomas Prence of Eastham sold to John Browne of Rehoboth "my half share with other purchasers situate and being near Rehoboth and Sowamsett" [MD 10:16, citing PCLR 2:1:159]. On 31 August 1658 Thomas Prence sold to John Cooke of Plymouth two acres of marsh meadow at Jones River [MD 13:44, citing PCLR 2:2:6].

On 5 February 1665 the town of Plymouth granted Mr. Thomas Prence six acres of upland meadow on the west side of Jones River meadow and on 16 March 1667/[8] twelve acres more there [PTR 1:83, 97].

On 8 December 1662 Thomas Prence deeded to "my son [i.e., stepson] Samuell Freeman and Mercye his wife the house and land Samuel now dwelleth in" [PCLR 3:201]. On 20 September 1664 Thomas Prence deeded to John Freeman of Eastham "all that his upland and meadow lying on the southeast side of great Namskekett, viz: a parcel of upland containing eight acres ... with five acres of meadow"; also two acres of meadow with ten acres of upland [PCLR 3:28]. On 14 November 1669 Thomas Prence exchanged one hundred acres "of upland lying upon Pachague Neck on the southerly side of Teticutt River" with "Mrs. Alice Bradford the executrix of Mr. William Bradford," receiving in return "a half share of Purchase Land at Satuckett, be it forty-five acres more or less, and also the one-half of twenty-five acres of meadow" [PCLR 3:171]. On 2 May 1670 Thomas Prence of Plymouth, Gent., sold to Thomas Paine of Eastham, cooper, "all my one-half share of Purchase Land at Paomett," with the consent of "Mrs. Prence" [PCLR 5:480]. On 25 July 1672 Thomas Prence, Esquire, Governor of New Plymouth, deeded to John Freeman Sr. of Eastham "one parcel of land containing thirty acres"; "another parcel of land containing eight acres ... of swamp and upland"; "one other parcel of marshland, containing twenty-four acres"; "also forty acres of upland"; "also [another] forty acres of upland"; "also fifteen acres of upland"; and "also five acres of upland" [PCLR 3:278].

In his will, dated 13 March 1672/3 and proved 5 June 1673, "Thomas Prence being at present weak in body" bequeathed to "Mary my beloved wife ... such household goods of any kind as were hers before we married, returned to her again, after my decease, and if any of them be much impaired or be wanting, that she shall make it good out of my estate in such goods as she desireth"; to "my said loving wife my best bed and the furniture thereunto appertaining, and the court cupboard that now stands in the new parlor with the cloth and cushion that is on it, and an horse and three cows such as she shall make choice of, and four of my best silver spoons, and also during her natural life, I give her the rents and profits of my part of the mill at Satuckett, and of the lands adjoining, and my debts and legacies being first paid, I do further give unto my said wife a full third part of my personal estate that remains"; to "my daughter Jane the wife of Marke Snow my silver tankard"; to "my daughter Mary Tracye a silver wine cup and a dram cup"; to "my daughter Sarah Howes my biggest beer bowl"; to "my daughter Elizabeth Howland my silver salt"; to "my grandchild Theophilus Mayo and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, the one half of my lands and meadows at or near Namassakett in the township of Middleberry"; "I give unto my grandchild Sussanna Prence the daughter of my deceased son Thomas Prence, the other half of my above mentioned lands and meadows at Middleberry aforesaid"; in the absence of an heir of these grandchildren, the abovesaid lands to revert to "my daughters, or such of them as shall be then surviving, or their heirs if all my daughters should be dead"; "to my said grandchild Theophilus, and to his heirs forever, my part of the mill and lands adjacent at Satuckett after the decease of my wife, and this I give for his encouragement to proceed in learning"; residue divided between "my seven daughters, Hannah, Marcye, Jane, Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah and Judith, and my above mentioned grandchild Susanna Prence"; Mary "my beloved wife sole executrix"; "my loving friend Major Josias Winslow to be helpful therein." A codicil to the will bequeathed "to Mr. John Freeman Speed's Cronicle and Wilson's Dictionary and the abridgement, and Simpson's History of the Church and Newman's Concordance "; to "my daughter Elizabeth Howland a black heifer"; a little yellow heifer to Lydia Sturtivant; to "my daughter Jane a bed, and another bed to my daughter Elizabeth Howland"; to "my grandson Theophilus Mayo all my books fit for him in learning, and if he carry it well to his grandmother I then give him a bed"; also "I desire my brother Thomas Clarke to be helpful to my wife as need may require" [MD 3:204-06, citing PCPR 3:1:58-59].

The inventory of "Thomas Prence Esqr. lately deceased" was taken 23 April 1673 and totalled £422 10s. 7d. [MD 3:206-16, citing PCPR 3:1:60-70]. Real estate was listed at the end of the inventory, but unvalued: "one hundred acres of land lying in the town of Middleberry at or near Winnapaukett pond and the brook going from it"; "one share of meadow lying in a certain tract of meadow called the Major's meadow that lieth upon Namassakett River, betwixt the pond and the weir"; "one hundred acres of land lying on the northerly side of Teticutt River"; "a considerable tract of land that lieth on the easterly side of Namassakett River between Winnapaukett pond and a tract of land called the Major's purchase"; "eight acres of land on the westerly side of Namassakett River"; "a grant of ten or twelve acres of land and a small parcel of meadow at Jones River meadow in the township of Plymouth"; "ten acres of land lying on the south side of a cart way that goeth to Lakenham, called Prence bottom in Plymouth"; "the one half of fifty or sixty acres of land and three acres of meadow between him and Major Winslow in Middleberry"; "twenty acres of land and three acres of meadow at Tonsett in

the township of Eastham"; "eight acres of land lying on Pochey Island in the aforesaid Eastham"; and "one fourth part of a mill at Satucket and lands adjoining to it" [MD 3:215-16].

On 10 June 1673 John Freeman, Jonathan Sparrow, John Tracy, Mark Snow, Jeremiah Howes, Arthur Howland and Isaac Barker receipted to "our mother-in-law Mrs. Mary Prence late wife and executrix to our father Thomas Prence Esquire deceased" for their shares of the estate of Thomas Prence [MD 33:97-100 (with photograph of the unrecorded original)].

On 10 June 1676 Josiah Winslow, Esquire, "attorney for ... Susanna Prence at Catheren Gate near the Tower in London ..., singlewoman"; and John Freeman in the right of Mary his wife and as attorney for "Mary Prence, relict and executrix of the last will and testament of the honored Thomas Prence, late Governor ... deceased," and of Jonathan Sparrow and Hannah his wife, Marke Snow and Jane his wife, and Jeremiah Howes and Sarah his wife, daughters of the said Thomas Prence; and John Trasye and Mary his wife, Arthur Howland and Elizabeth his wife, and Isacke Barker and Judith his wife, daughters also of the said Thomas Prence, sold to Constant Southworth, treasurer and agent of Plymouth Colony, "all that our dwelling house, messuage or tenement" in Plymouth "at a place commonly called Plain Dealing"; signed by Josiah Winslow, John Freeman, John Trasye, Arthur Howland and Isack Barker [PCLR 4:124].

BIRTH: About 1600 based on age at death, son of Thomas Prence, carriage-maker, of Lechdale, Gloucestershire. In his will, dated 31 July 1630 and proved 14 August 1630, Thomas Prence, carriage-maker, of Lechdale, Gloucestershire, left a legacy to his son Thomas Prence "now remaining in New England in the parts beyond the seas" [EIHC 7:103-04, citing PCC 70 Scroope].

DEATH: Plymouth 29 March 1673, in his 73rd year ("Thomas Prence, Esquire, Governor of the jurisdiction of New Plymouth, died the 29th of March, 1673, and was interred the 8th of April following. After he had served God in the office of Governor sixteen years, or near thereunto, he finished his course in the 73 year of his life. He was a worthy gentleman, very pious, and very able for his office, and faithful in the discharge thereof, studious of peace, a wellwiller to all that feared God, and a terror to the wicked. His death was much lamented, and his body honorably buried at Plymouth the day and year above mentioned" [PCR 8:34; see also MD 3:203-04]).

MARRIAGE: (1) Plymouth 5 August 1624 Patience Brewster [Prince 229], daughter of WILLIAM BREWSTER ; she died late in 1634 (in a letter to his son John Winthrop Jr. dated 12 December 1634, JOHN WINTHROP reported that "the pestilent fever hath taken away some at Plimouth, among others Mr. Prence the governor his wife ..." [WP 3:177]).

(2) Plymouth 1 April 1635 Mary Collier [PCR 1:34], daughter of WILLIAM COLLIER ; she died perhaps by 1644.

(3) After 1 July 1644 (when she witnessed Rev. George Phillips's will as Apphia Freeman in Watertown [NEHGR 3:78]) and certainly some considerable time before 8 December 1662 (when Thomas gave land to her son) Apphia (Quick) Freeman, former wife of SAMUEL FREEMAN , daughter of William Quick of London [TAG 11:178].

(4) After 26 February 1665[6] and by 1 August 1668 Mary (_____) Howes, widow of Thomas Howes [MD 6:157-65, 230-35]. She died 9 December 1695 [MD 6:230, citing YarTR 3:328].

CHILDREN:

With first wife

i REBECCA, b. say 1625 (living at time of cattle division in 1627 [PCR 12:10]); m. Plymouth 22 April 1646 Edmund Freeman [PCR 2:98].

ii THOMAS, b. say 1627 (in the 1627 Plymouth division of cattle is a second Thomas Prence, inserted at the end of the tenth lot; this may be the son Thomas Prence, born at about the time this list was compiled, and added separately from his family); m. _____ (an appendix to the fifth edition of Morton's Memorial refers to letters from the widow and daughter of this Thomas Prence, in London, to his father, the immigrant [pp. 424-25]; these letters have apparently never been published, but copies of some of them are held by the Massachusetts Historical Society).

iii HANNAH, b. say 1629; m. (1) Eastham 13 February 1649/50 Nathaniel Mayo [PCR 8:26]; m. (2) by 1671 Jonathan Sparrow [MD 14:193-203].

iv MERCY, b. say 1631; m. Eastham 13 February 1649/50 John Freeman [PCR 8:26].

With second wife

v JANE, b. Duxbury 1 November 1637 [MD 6:230]; m. Eastham 9 January 1660[1] Mark Snow [PCR 8:28], son of NICHOLAS SNOW .

vi MARY, b. say 1639; m. by about 1661 John Tracy [Tracy Gen 26].

Perhaps with third wife

vii JUDITH, b. say 1645; m. (1) Plymouth 28 December 1665 Isaac Barker [PCR 8:31], son of ROBERT BARKER ; m. (2) after 1693 William Tubbs [PPR 1:168; PLR 2:123].

viii ELIZABETH, b. about spring 1647 [WP 5:169]; m. Marsh~field 9 December 1667 Arthur Howland [MarVR 10], son of Arthur Howland [NGSQ 71:90-91].

ix SARAH, b. about 1648 ("departed this life March the 3d 1706 in the 60th year of her age," tombstone, Yarmouth, which conflicts with YarVR [NEHGR 59:217]); m. by about 1669 Jeremiah Howes (birth of child estimated by child's date of marriage), her stepbrother [MD 6:233; NEHGR 59:217-18].

COMMENTS: For many years it was believed that Prence had married only three times and that his last wife was "Mary" Freeman, but this was straightened out in 1904 by Ella Florence Elliott, who divided the erroneous construct into its proper wholes, revealing divorcee Apphia Freeman and widow Mary Howes as Prence's last two of four wives [MD 6:230-35].

Establishing the probable date of marriage for Apphia and Thomas Prence has significant implications for the parentage of Prence's last three children. Apphia is last seen as a Freeman 1 July 1644, about a year before the birth of Prence's seventh child, and at the end of a six- year hiatus in the birthdates of his children. She is called "Mrs. Freeman" as late as 15 October 1646 in a deed where she appears as an abutter, but this does not necessarily imply that she had not remarried by this date, since it was not unusual for archaic bounds to be used in this sort of description [SLR 1:78].

In a letter dated at Plymouth 8 June 1647, Thomas Prence wrote to John Winthrop that "since my parting company [with you] I have almost met with Jacob's trial in his travel between Bethel and Ephrath: God's having been heavy upon my wife and that for diverse months and is not yet removed" [WP 5:169]. In Genesis 35:16-19 Jacob's favorite wife Rachel died between Bethel and Ephrath after giving birth to a son she named Benoni, but he called Benjamin. Prence here is referring to the birth of his own daughter Elizabeth, apparently a difficult childbirth.

On 6 March 1637/8, having been elected governor, Thomas Prence was excused from the requirement that the governor live in Plymouth, and was permitted to retain his residence in Duxbury [PCR 1:79]. When he was again elected governor, in 1657, he was allowed to maintain his residence in Eastham, but in 1663 the court ordered that the governor's house at Plymouth be enlarged, and by 1665 Prence again became a resident of Plymouth [Dawes-Gates 2:684].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: Perhaps due to the fact that Thomas Prence had no grandsons that carried the Prence surname, little attention has been directed to this family. A very brief account of his family was prepared in 1852 by David Hamblen and a more substantial treatment was published in 1931 by Mary Walton Ferris [Dawes-Gates 2:682-94].

Children of PATIENCE BREWSTER and THOMAS PRENCE are:

- i. THOMAS⁴ PRENCE, b. About 1625, Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA⁷; d. Bef. Mar 13, 1671/72, prob. England⁷.
- ii. REBECCA PRENCE, b. About 1627, Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA⁷; d. Bef. Jul 18, 1651, Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA⁷; m. EDMOND FREEMAN, Apr 22, 1646, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA⁷; b. About Nov 1620, Billingshurst, Sussex, England; d. Bef. Jan 05, 1703/04, Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA.

More About EDMOND FREEMAN:

Baptism: Nov 26, 1620, Billingshurst, Sussex, England⁷

6. iii. MERCY PRENCE, b. About 1631, Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA; d. Sep 28, 1711, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA.
7. iv. HANNAH PRENCE, b. Bef. 1633, Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA; d. Bef. Nov 23, 1698, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA.

Generation No. 4

5. BENJAMIN⁴ BREWSTER (*JONATHAN*³, *WILLIAM*², *WILLIAM*¹) was born Nov 17, 1633 in Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA^{7,8}, and died Sep 14, 1710 in Norwich, New London Co., CT^{9,10}. He married ANN ADDIS Feb 28, 1659/60 in Norwich, New London Co., CT^{11,12}, daughter of WILLIAM ADDIS and MILLICENT WOOD. She was born About 1627 in Frampton on Severne, Gloucestershire, ENG, and died May 09, 1708 in Norwich, New London Co., CT^{13,14}.

Notes for BENJAMIN BREWSTER:

Per SAVAGE'S Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers, v. 1

BREWSTER, BENJAMIN, New London 1654, son of Jonathan, married February 1659, Ann Dart, sister perhaps, of Richard of the same, had Mary, born probably at New London December 1660; at Norwich, Ann, September 1662; Jonathan, November 1664; Daniel, March 1667; William, March 1669; Ruth, 16 September 1671; Benjamin, 28 November 1673; and Elizabeth 23 June 1676. He died 10 September 1710. Caulkins, History of Norwich, 115.

More About BENJAMIN BREWSTER:

Burial: Brewster Cemetery, Preston, New London Co., CT^{15,16}

Estate Inventory: Sep 14, 1710¹⁶

Will Dated: Jun 28, 1709¹⁶

Will Proved: Nov 20, 1710¹⁶

More About ANN ADDIS:

Baptism: Mar 17, 1627/28, Frampton on Severne, Gloucestershire, ENG^{17,18}

Burial: Preston, New London Co., CT¹⁹

Children of BENJAMIN BREWSTER and ANN ADDIS are:

- i. MARY⁵ BREWSTER, b. Dec 10, 1660²⁰; d. Unknown.
8. ii. ANN BREWSTER, b. Sep 29, 1662, Norwich, New London Co., CT; d. Aft. Jun 1718.
- iii. JONATHAN BREWSTER, b. Nov 30, 1664²⁰; d. Unknown.

6. MERCY⁴ PRENCE (*PATIENCE³ BREWSTER, WILLIAM², WILLIAM¹*) was born About 1631 in Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA²¹, and died Sep 28, 1711 in Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA^{21,22}. She married MAJ. JOHN FREEMAN Feb 14, 1649/50 in Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA^{23,24,25}. He was born About Jan 1626/27 in Billingshurst, Sussex, England, and died Oct 28, 1719 in Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA^{26,27}.

More About MERCY PRENCE:

Burial: Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA²⁷

Notes for MAJ. JOHN FREEMAN:

Per SAVAGE'S Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers, v. 2

FREEMAN, JOHN, Eastham, son of first Edmund, born in England, married 13 or 14 February (both days being given in record by Genealogical Register IX. 313, and 314), 1650, Mercy, daughter of Thomas Prence, the Governor, had John, born 2 February 1651, died soon; John, again, December 1651; Thomas, September 1653; Edmund, June 1657; Mercy, July 1659; Hannah; Prence, 3 February 1666; and Nathaniel, 20 March 1669; he was an Assistant of the Colony 1666 and following years but neither his nor his wife's death is found. Mercy married December 1679, Samuel Knowles; and Hannah married 14 April 1681, John Mayo.

More About MAJ. JOHN FREEMAN:

Baptism: Jan 28, 1626/27, Billingshurst, Sussex, England²⁸

Burial: Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA²⁹

Children of MERCY PRENCE and JOHN FREEMAN are:

- i. JOHN⁵ FREEMAN, JR., b. Feb 02, 1650/51, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA³⁰; d. Infant, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA³⁰.
9. ii. JOHN FREEMAN, JR., b. About Dec 1651; d. Jul 21, 1721.
- iii. THOMAS FREEMAN, b. Sep 1653, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA³⁰; d. Unknown.
- iv. EDMUND FREEMAN, b. Jun 1657^{31,32}; d. Unknown; m. RUTH MERRICK, Jan 1676/77³³; b. May 15, 1652^{34,35,36}; d. Unknown.
- v. MERCY FREEMAN, b. Jul 1659^{37,38}; m. SAMUEL KNOWLES, Dec 1679³⁹; b. Sep 17, 1651, Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA⁴⁰; d. Unknown.

7. HANNAH⁴ PRENCE (*PATIENCE³ BREWSTER, WILLIAM², WILLIAM¹*) was born Bef. 1633 in Plymouth, Plymouth Co., MA⁴¹, and died Bef. Nov 23, 1698 in Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA⁴¹. She married (1) NATHANIEL MAYO Feb 13, 1649/50 in Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA^{42,43,44,45}, son of JOHN MAYO and THOMASINE ?. He was born About 1627 in England⁴⁶, and died 1662^{47,48}. She married (2) JONATHAN SPARROW Bet. Jun 05, 1667 - Sep 11,

1671 in Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA⁴⁹. He was born About 1633 in England⁴⁹, and died Mar 21, 1706/07 in Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA⁴⁹.

Notes for NATHANIEL MAYO:

Per SAVAGE'S Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers, v. 3

MAYO, NATHANIEL, Eastham, son of Rev. John, born in England, married 13 February 1650, Hannah, daughter of Gov. Thomas Prence, had Thomas, born 7 December following; Nathaniel, 16 November 1652; Samuel, 12 October 1655; Hannah, 17 October 1657; Theophilus, 17 December 1659, and Bathshua, 1662; was representative 1660, and he died 1662. His widow married Jonathan Sparrow.

More About NATHANIEL MAYO:

Estate Inventory: Feb 24, 1661/62⁴⁹

Will Dated: Dec 19, 1661⁴⁹

Notes for JONATHAN SPARROW:

Per SAVAGE'S Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers, v. 4

SPARROW, JOHN (Jonathan), Eastham, son of Richard, married 26 October 1654, Rebecca, daughter of Edward Bangs, who died before her father; had Rebecca, born 30 October 1655; John, 2 November 1656; Priscilla, 13 February 1658; Mary, 10 March 1659; Apphia, 11 December 1660, died at 2 months; Jonathan, 9 July 1665; Richard, 17 March 1670; and he married second wife Hannah, widow of Nathaniel Mayo, daughter of Gov. Thomas Prence; for third wife had Sarah, widow of James Cobb, daughter of George Lewis, married 23 November 1698; was captain, representative 1668, and 18 years following and under new charter 1692.

Children of HANNAH PRENCE and NATHANIEL MAYO are:

- i. THOMAS⁵ MAYO, b. Dec 07, 1650^{50,51}; d. Apr 22, 1729, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA⁵²; m. BARBARA KNOWLES, Jun 13, 1677, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA⁵²; b. 1656; d. Unknown.
- ii. NATHANIEL MAYO, b. Nov 16, 1652^{53,54}; d. Nov 30, 1709, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA⁵⁵.
- iii. SAMUEL MAYO, b. Oct 12, 1655, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA^{56,57}; d. Oct 29, 1738, Eastham, Barnstable Co., MA⁵⁸.
- iv. HANNAH MAYO, b. Oct 17, 1657^{59,60}; d. Unknown.
- v. THEOPHILUS MAYO, b. Dec 17, 1659^{61,62}; d. Unknown.
- vi. BATHSHEBAH MAYO, b. 1662^{63,64}; d. Unknown.

Generation No. 5

8. ANN⁵ BREWSTER (*BENJAMIN⁴, JONATHAN³, WILLIAM², WILLIAM¹*) was born Sep 29, 1662 in Norwich, New London Co., CT^{65,66}, and died Aft. Jun 1718⁶⁷. She married MATTHEW COY Bef. 1685⁶⁷, son of MATTHEW COY and ELIZABETH ROBERTS. He was born Sep 05, 1656 in Boston, Suffolk Co., MA^{68,69}, and died Aft. Jun 11, 1718⁷⁰.

Notes for MATTHEW COY:

Per SAVAGE'S Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers, v. 1

COY, MATTHEW, perhaps son of the preceding, had grant of a lot at Norwich 1685, that part now Preston.

More About MATTHEW COY:

Residence: Preston, New London Co., CT⁷¹

Children of ANN BREWSTER and MATTHEW COY are:

- i. DANIEL⁶ COY, b. Jun 15, 1685^{71,72}; d. Unknown.
- ii. JONATHAN COY, b. May 06, 1687^{73,74}; d. Unknown.
- iii. RUTH COY, b. Oct 07, 1689^{75,76}; d. Unknown.

More About RUTH COY:

Religion: Jul 19, 1719, Admitted to New London church⁷⁶

9. JOHN⁵ FREEMAN, JR. (*MERCY⁴ PRENCE, PATIENCE³ BREWSTER, WILLIAM², WILLIAM¹*) was born About Dec

1651^{77,78,79,80}, and died Jul 21, 1721⁸¹. He married (1) SARAH MERRICK Dec 18, 1672^{81,82}, daughter of WILLIAM MERRICK and REBECCA TRACY. She was born Aug 01, 1654^{83,84,85}, and died Unknown. He married (2) MERCY WATSON Aft. Dec 18, 1672. She was born About 1664, and died Sep 27, 1721⁸⁶.

Child of JOHN FREEMAN and MERCY WATSON is:

- i. MERCY⁶ FREEMAN, b. About 1687; d. Jul 07, 1720⁸⁷; m. DEACON CHILLINGSWORTH FOSTER, About 1705⁸⁷; b. Jun 11, 1680, Marshfield, Plymouth Co., MA⁸⁷; d. Dec 22, 1764⁸⁷.

More About DEACON CHILLINGSWORTH FOSTER:

Occupation: Blacksmith⁸⁷

Will Dated: Sep 30, 1763⁸⁷

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