



Edward Hilton

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child was born about 1629, it may be that while he was in England he acquired both a wife and his patent.

"Edward Hilton Steward of the Plantation of Hilton's Point" was included as one of the witnesses of the forged 17 May 1629 deed of the four sagamores to John Wheelwright [NHPP 1:56-60]; as Savage points out, he was "the only one of the nine witnesses, who, we may reasonably believe, was there 17 May, 1629," and the demonstrable absence of the other eight is the strongest evidence against the validity of the document [WJ 1:486-514, at 510].

With other inhabitants of Exeter Edward Hilton petitioned the Massachusetts Bay General Court to receive for the town one hundred acres of common meadow about seven or eight miles distant, 24 May 1652 [NHPP 1:198-99].

On 9 May 1669 Massachusetts Bay General Court "on perusal of the articles of agreement between this colony & the inhabitants of Dover, &c., several of them well remembering that Mr. Edward Hilton was one of those that were commissioned to agree with this Court in behalf of the inhabitants of Piscataqua, do declare that Mr. Edward Hilton is, according to the articles, justly exempted from the country rates" [MBCR 4:2:430].

At the October 1670 court Mr. Edward Hilton withdrew his suit against Mr. Andrew Wiggin for damage done to corn by Wiggin's hogs [NHPP 1:256]. If he was alive at this date and the case was not withdrawn simply because Hilton had died, this is his last contemporary appearance in the records.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In addition to the material gathered by Noyes, Libby and Davis [GDMNH 331-37], a good account of Edward Hilton was published by Mary Lovering Holman in 1938 [Pillsbury Anc 333-35].

WILLIAM HILTON

ORIGIN: London

MIGRATION: 1621 in *Fortune*

FIRST RESIDENCE: Plymouth

REMOVES: Piscataqua, Dover 1628, Kittery 1648, York 1651

OCCUPATION: Tavern keeper and ferry operator (at Kittery). On 27 June 1648 "Mr. William Hilton being licensed for to keep the ordinary at the mouth of the river of Pascataquack and that none other shall keep any private ordinary there, nor to sell wine, beer nor liquor upon any pretence" [MPCR 1:125]. On 16 October 1649 "Mr. William Hilton pre-

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sented for not keeping victual and drink at all times for strangers and inhabitants, admonished" [MPCR 1:135]. On 15 October 1650 "for as much as the house at the river's mouth where Mr. Shapleigh's father first built and Mr. William Hilton now dwelleth; in regard it was first house there built and Mr. Shapleigh intendeth to build and enlarge it, and for further considerations, it is thought fit it should from time to time be for a house of entertainment or ordinary with this proviso, that the tenant be such a one as the inhabitants shall approve of" [MPCR 1:147].

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: In his discussion of the controversy surrounding Rev. JOHN LYFORD and his followers at Plymouth, Hubbard noted that "the first occasion of quarrel with them was, the baptizing of Mr. Hilton's child, who was not joined to the church at Plymouth" [Hubbard 93-94]; this event apparently took place in 1624.

FREEMAN: 19 May 1642 [MBCR 2:292]. "Mr. W[illia]m Hilton" was among the residents of York who on 22 November 1652 subjected themselves to Massachusetts Bay government and took the freeman's oath [MBCR 4:1:129].

EDUCATION: William Hilton wrote several competent, if poorly spelled, letters [NEHGR 21:179; WP 3:119, 120-21, 449]. Committee to "examine the book delivered in by Mr. Bellingham, & compare it with the book of records, & return their objections & thoughts thereof to this house in writing," 7 June 1644 [MBCR 3:6].

OFFICES: Deputy for Dover to Massachusetts Bay General Court, 7 March 1643/4, 29 May 1644, 14 May 1645 (disguised as "William Heath") [MBCR 2:54, 66, 3:2, 10].

Arbiter, 15 October 1650 [MPCR 1:144]. Grand jury, 11 March 1651, 28 June 1655 [MPCR 1:159, 2:40]. Jury, 25 November 1650 [MPCR 1:155]. Committee to divide land, 19 March 1651/2, 28 June 1655 [MPCR 1:178, 2:38].

York alderman, 1652 [YLR 1:2:14-15]. York selectman, 1653, 1654 [GDMNH 335].

ESTATE: In the 1623 Plymouth division of land William Hilton received one acre as a passenger on the *Fortune* and "William Hilton's wife & 2 children" received three acres as passengers on the *Anne* [PCR 12:5, 6].

Administration on the estate of William Hilton was granted 30 June 1656 to Richard White "the said Whitte having married his widow" [MPCR 2:51]. White posted a £100 bond as administrator [MPCR 2:54].

On 31 May 1660 Massachusetts Bay General Court, in "answer to a petition of Willjam Hilton, humbly craving the Court's allowance & confirmation of a deed of gift of six miles square of land lying on the River Pennieconaquigg, being a rivulet running into the River Penacooke, with two miles of the best meadow lying on the northeast side of Penacook, given to his father & him in the year 1636 by Tahanto, the

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sagamore there; & the Court, having considered the contents of this petition, judge meet not to grant the same, but considering the petitioner's grounds for the approbation of the Indian's grant, do judge meet to grant that three hundred acres of the said land be set out to the petitioner by a committee chosen by this Court, so as that it may not prejudice any plantation; and this as a final end of all future claims by virtue of such grant from the Indians" [MBCR 4:1:430].

BIRTH: By about 1591 based on estimated date of marriage, son of William Hilton of Northwich, Cheshire.

DEATH: Between June 1655 and 30 June 1656 [MPCR 2:47].

MARRIAGE: (1) By 1616 _____, who came with two children to Plymouth in 1623 on the *Anne*; she died by about 1648.

(2) By about 1642 Frances _____, born about 1618 (deposed on 27 February 1687/8, aged about seventy, regarding events that had taken place forty-six years earlier involving William Hilton [NEHGR 31:181, citing York Court Files]). She survived him and married again by 30 June 1656 Richard White [MPCR 2:74]. (In a footnote in his MPCR series, Charles Thornton Libby remarked: "This woman's [Frances's] court records serve to illustrate the social distinctions of the period. While married to Mr. William Hilton she was always entitled 'Mistress,' even when called into court for rude behavior, but after his death and upon her marriage to Goodman Richard White, she promptly dropped to 'Goody'" [MPCR 1:267].)

CHILDREN:

With first wife

- i ELIZABETH, bp. Northwich 27 June 1616; bur. there 1 August 1616.
- ii WILLIAM, bp. Northwich 22 June 1617; m. (1) by 1641 Sarah Greenleaf, daughter of Edmund Greenleaf (eldest child b. Newbury June 1641; in his will of 22 December 1668 Edmund Greenleaf made a bequest to "my grandchild Elizabeth Hilton" [Pillsbury Anc 590, citing SPR 7:112]); m. (2) Charlestown 16 September 1659 Mehitable Nowell [ChVR 1:38], daughter of INCREASE NOWELL. (See NEHGR 124:88-108 for his activities as an explorer.)
- iii MARY, bp. Northwich 11 May 1619; apparently the second of Hilton's two children who arrived at Plymouth in 1623; no further record. (See *COMMENTS* below.)
- iv JOHN, b. about 1624, perhaps the child whose baptism caused such strife in Plymouth; did not marry [GDMNH 332 ("3 JOHN (17)")].. (There is no assurance that the child born shortly after the family's arrival in Plymouth

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was named John, but there does not appear to be any other child who would have been born at this date.)

With second wife

- v MAGDALENE, b. say 1636; m. (1) by 1656 James Wiggin; m. (2) Newbury (int.) 14 May 1698 Henry Kenning. (On 30 June 1656 "Magdeline Wiggin the wife of James Wiggin" was presented at York Court for "reporting that she saw William Moore & her mother Frances Whitte in the act of adultery" [MPCR :52]. The claim that this marriage took place by 1646 [GDMNH 335] seems to be a simple typographical error.)
- vi MAINWARING, b. by 1646 [YLR 2:33]; m. by about 1670 as her first husband Mary Moulton, daughter of Thomas Moulton (eldest child of daughter Magdalen b. York 24 September 1691 [NEHGR 110:60]; on 4 July 1671 administration was granted to "Tho[mas] Mowlton of the estate of Mannering Hilton his son-in-law lately deceased" [MPCR 2:214]).
- vii AGNES, b. say 1647; m. by 1667 Arthur Beale (apparently based on his occupation of Hilton land and subsequent activity in association with Mainwaring Hilton and Richard White [YLR 2:33]).
- viii WILLIAM, b. about 1653 (age twenty-four December 1677 [GDMNH 336, citing unknown source]); m. by 1678 Ann ____ [GDMNH 336, 531].

ASSOCIATIONS: His brothers EDWARD HILTON and Richard Hilton came to Piscataqua.

COMMENTS: In a letter written in November 1621, soon after his arrival at Plymouth, and published the following year by Captain John Smith, William Hilton wrote to a cousin in England saying "Our company are for the most part very religious honest people, the word of God sincerely taught us every Sabbath, so that I know not anything a contented mind can here want. I desire your friendly care to send my wife and children to me, where I wish all the friends I have in England..." [Philip L. Barbour, ed., *The Complete Works of Captain John Smith (1580-1631) in Three Volumes* (Williamsburg, Virginia, 1986), pp. 430-31; Young's Pilgrim Fathers 250-51; NEHGR 31:179].

William's wife and two children (son William and daughter Mary) arrived in 1623. A third child was born soon, probably in 1624, and Rev. JOHN LYFORD's baptism of this child was the opening shot in a series of disruptions at Plymouth revolving around Lyford and JOHN OLDHAM.

William Hilton and his family soon left Plymouth, but his place of residence in the next few years is not certain, and is intertwined with the

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career of his brother EDWARD HILTON. A useful document in this regard is the petition of William Hilton, eldest son of the immigrant William Hilton. Although the petition itself is not dated, it was discussed at court in Massachusetts Bay in late May and early June of 1660. William Hilton tells us that "your petitioner's father came over into New England about the year Anno Domini 1621; & your petitioner came about one year & an half after, and in a little time following settled ourselves upon the River of Piscataq[ua], with Mr. Edw[ard] Hilton, who were the first English planters there" [SJC Case #362; NEHGR 36:41-42]. The petition goes on to claim land up the Merrimack River which had been granted to William Hilton Senior and William Hilton Junior by the local Indian sachem; the petition was only partially successful.

As we have seen above Edward Hilton settled on the Piscataqua sometime between 1625 and 1628, and the petitioner is here claiming that the Hilton brothers made the settlement simultaneously. One possibility, then, is that William Hilton left Plymouth in later 1624 or early 1625, after the baptism incident, and joined his brother Edward about that time in settling what would become Dover. This would not require any residence between Plymouth and Dover.

Noyes, Libby and Davis state that Hilton "left Plymouth and joined [David] Thomson at Little Harbor with the purpose of starting salt works," and apparently did this in partnership with GILBERT WINSLOW [GDMNH 334-35, 765 (documentary evidence no seen)]. This would provide William Hilton and his family with a home prior to the arrival of Edward Hilton, assuming the latter did not come so early as 1625.

John T. Hassam demonstrated that the immigrant William Hilton had two sons by that same name. The deposition of 1660 was made by the elder of these two sons, who lived in Newbury and Charlestown. A deposition of 1683 proves the younger son William of the immigrant William, for on 30 May 1683 two men testified that "Willia[m] Hilton now resident in York ... was commonly known, & reputed, to be the son of William Hilton Senior deceased, & formerly lived in York" [YLR 3:125; NEHGR 31:184, 36:40].

Mary Hilton alias Downer who married Thomas Sears and Abel Huse has sometimes been placed in this family, but she had children at an age far too advanced to be the Mary Hilton, daughter of William, who was baptized in 1619 [GDMNH 333]. Her parentage remains a mystery.

Noyes, Libby and Davis note that "(b)esides the wife who followed him to Plymouth, and Frances, possibly a widow with children when he married her about 1651, there may have been others," suggesting that "if one of his wives should prove to have been a Winslow it would explain his letter writing with Edward Winslow, his association with John Winslow, his removal to Piscataqua with Gilbert Winslow and the marriage of

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two of John Winslow's sons to his relations" [GDMNH 335 (without, unfortunately, documentary support for the Winslow associations)].

There is no date of death for the first wife of William Hilton, and we do not know when he married Frances, so the distribution of his children among his wives is difficult. We assume here that the first wife did not survive long in this country, and that the last four children were all with Frances. Magdalene, who calls Frances her mother, need not have been a Hilton, but since this name also suggests a Winslow connection, and since Libby makes such a point of the low social status of Frances, one might question the exact nature of this relation as well. For the moment we leave the problem in this unsatisfactory state.

Sometime before March 1639 William Hilton had participated in an exploratory expedition up the Merrimack [WP 4:101].

On 16 October 1649 Mrs. Hilton was presented and admonished for fighting and abusing her neighbors with her tongue. At the same court Mr. William Hilton was presented for breach of the Sabbath in carrying of wood from the woods and for failing to keep food and drink on hand for strangers and inhabitants [MPCR 1:135].

On 15 March 1649/50 Mr. William Hilton brought cases against Hatevell Nutter, Thomas Hanscom and Robert Mendam [MPCR 1:138]. He was still suing Hanscom and Mendam on 11 March 1651[2] [MPCR 1:156]. On 15 October 1650 Mr. William Hilton and Frances his wife were sued by Mr. Georg Moncke for slander [MPCR 1:145]. On 11 March 1651[2] Jeremy Sheires reviled Mr. William Hilton when Hilton was foreman of the jury, and Sheires was fined £2 [MPCR 1:160]. On 14 October 1651 Mr. William Hilton posted bail for Clement Campion, sued Thomas Way for debt, and sued Michael Powell for debt [MPCR 1:169].

On 30 June 1653 "William Hilton Senior" sued Samuel Allcocke for cutting and carrying away his timber [MPCR 2:11]. On 25 October 1653 Mr. William Hilton Senior sued Ann Mason of London and, in a separate action, sued Sir Ferdinando Gorges, for damage done against him [MPCR 2:19].

On 28 June 1655 the court found Frances Hilton, the wife of William Hilton, guilty of "railing at her husband and saying he went with Joane [*sic*, John in the blotter] his bastard to his three halfe penny whores and that he carried a cloak of profession for his knavery." For this offense she was sentenced to have "twenty lashes upon the bare skin, only the execution thereof upon her husband's request to be respited upon her good behavior until the next county court, except any just complaints come in against her. In the meantime, which if they do unto authority then the punishment to be inflicted upon her by order of the commissioners of York at what time they shall see cause to order it" [MPCR 2:43-44].

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At the same court in which Richard White became William Hilton's administrator, White also brought a charge of slander against Rice Jones for an offense against his wife, Frances White [MPCR 2:47]. As the court dragged on, Frances White was countersued for "causelessly abusing" the wife of Rice Jones with opprobrious and disgraceful speeches and was sentenced to acknowledge her offence in court, 3 July 1656 [MPCR 2:50]. At court 6 July 1657 the infamous Joan Andrews was presented for "threatening Goody Whitte at York in a profane manner saying that she would swear herself to the devil but she would be avenged of her" [MPCR 2:56].

On 30 July 1656 Magdeline Wiggin the wife of James Wiggin was presented for saying she saw "William Moore & her [step]mother Frances Whitte" in the act of adultery [MPCR 2:52].

On 5 July 1658 complaints were heard about Richard White and his wife fighting and quarrelling together [MPCR 2:63]. Things got worse. On 3 July 1660, Richard White and his wife Frances White were presented for allowing men to be drunk in their house on the Sabbath and for not attending public meeting, and for "common lying and backbiting of their neighbors & slandering them & for their great disorder in falling out & fighting one with another & for beating company in their house & for beating Mistress Gunnison & Joseph Davesse his servants, & Ric[hard] Whitte for being drunk several times" [MPCR 2:91]. On 1 July 1673 Richard White was paying fines for himself and his wife [MPCR 2:260]. On 6 July 1675 they were presented for not attending the public worship [MPCR 2:307].

Noyes, Libby and Davis list as a possible first child of this William Hilton a John Hilton who was buried at Northwich on 26 November 1610. This seems unlikely, as six more years would pass before another child was known to have been born to this William.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1877 John T. Hassam published "Some Descendants of William Hilton" and in 1882 "The Dover Settlement and the Hiltons" [NEHGR 31:179-87, 36:40-46]. Although these articles contain some errors (and in fact the second corrects some items in the first), they are filled with useful information on both brothers.

MARGERY HINDES

"Margery Hindes our brother John Underhill's maid servant" was admitted to Boston church 29 December 1633 [BChR 17]. No evidence whether she died, married or returned to England.

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