

*William Bradford*

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wife, having but one child, a son left behind who came afterward," and in 1651 reported that "William Bradford his wife died soon after their arrival, and he married again and hath four children, three whereof are married" [Bradford 441, 444].

Although we know that Dorothy May, first wife of William Bradford, was from Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, her parentage has not been satisfactorily determined. She has been called daughter of John and Cordelia (Bowes) May [NEHGR 50:462-65], and this couple apparently did have a daughter Dorothy, but that she was the same as the wife of William Bradford remains only a supposition. Bowman debunked the story claiming that Dorothy (May) Bradford had committed suicide [MD 29:97-102, 31:105], and Stratton summarized the literature on her identity and her death [Stratton 324-26].

The identity (and even the existence) of the second wife of William Bradford, son of the immigrant, remains a major mystery. His will included a bequest to his son Joseph of "a portion of lands near Norwich aforesaid (which was his mother's & part I purchased)" [MD 4:144]. Many sources call her "widow Wiswall," but the basis for this is not seen.

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE:** The best information on William Bradford is found in his own writings. Most important of these, of course, is his history of Plymouth Colony, and of its antecedents. In his edition of this work Samuel Eliot Morison tells the story of how the manuscript was found after having been lost for many years. He also lists all earlier editions of the history, and allows that "the best edition of Bradford was edited by Worthington C. Ford."

*History of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647.* By William Bradford, ed. Worthington C. Ford, 2 volumes (Boston 1912).

*Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647,* ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York 1952).

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants has published one of its "in progress" volumes on William Brewster, now in its fourth edition, compiled by Robert S. Wakefield.

**SIMON BRADSTREET**

**ORIGIN:** Horbling, Lincolnshire

**MIGRATION:** 1630

**FIRST RESIDENCE:** Boston

**REMOVES:** Cambridge 1634, Ipswich 1636, Salem 1646, Andover 1652, Salem 1676, Boston by 1689, Salem 1692

**RETURN TRIPS:** To England and return in 1662 on colony business

**OCCUPATION:** Magistrate.

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:** "Simon Brandstreete" admitted to Boston church as member #7, which would be in the fall of 1630 [BChR 13].

**FREEMAN:** 25 May 1636 [MBCR 1:372]. (He was one of seven men admitted on that day who had been involved with the Massachusetts Bay Company for many years, and had held high offices; their admission to freemanship on this date was merely a formality that recognized a status that had existed for some time.)

**EDUCATION:** Morison argues that the Simon Bradstreet who received degrees at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was not the immigrant, although the immigrant did reside at that college about 1628-9 and was a very well-educated man [Morison 367-68; see Venn 1:203 for the record of the "other" Simon Bradstreet].

**OFFICES:** Assistant, Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1630 to 1678; Secretary, 1630 to 1636; Governor, 1679 to 1686 and 1689 to 1692; Commissioner of the United Colonies, 1644, 1663 to 1667 [MA Civil List 17-18, 21-26, 28]. (Savage credits Bradstreet with service as Deputy Governor from 1673 to 1678, but Samuel Symonds held this office in those years, as Savage also notes.) Bradstreet held many other offices at the county and local level, such as Cambridge selectman and Essex magistrate.

**ESTATE:** With other leading men of Essex county, "Mr. Symon Bradstreete" petitioned to be allowed a "free company of adventurers" to pursue trade in Massachusetts Bay, 1 October 1645 [MBCR 2:138].

The General Court granted "Mr. Symon Bradstreete" eight hundred acres to be located near the farms of Capt. Keane and others, 23 May 1650 [MBCR 3:193, 413]. Bradstreet and Thomas Wiggen, gent., were granted one thousand acres near Dover, with the privilege of timber for their sawmill, 14 October 1651 [MBCR 3:247, 306, 364]. Mr. Bradstreet and Mr. Symonds were granted five hundred acres "in reference to service done at York and Kittery," 14 September 1653 [MBCR 3:339] to be laid out eight miles from the Haverhill meeting house [MBCR 4:2:327]. He was granted another five hundred acres, August 1653, near the Connecticut River next to his two hundred acres, 6 May 1657 [MBCR 3:430], but was encouraged to locate it elsewhere, 28 May 1659 [MBCR 4:1:380]. As a result, he was granted an additional three hundred acres, to be six miles or more from the Northampton meeting house, 31 May 1660 [MBCR 4:1:420]. His five hundred acres near Hadley was in controversy 18 May 1664 [MBCR 4:2:106].

In his will, dated 23 December 1689 (with codicil of 27 January 1692/3) and proved 2 April 1697, "Simon Bradstreet of Boston ... being at present in competent health and strength" set his house in order and "for my outward estate which God in his rich mercy hath blessed me withal in this Wilderness (having given all my eight children such portions as I

thought meet and equal & divided my plate and household stuff amongst them)" the remainder was bequeathed to "my dear and loving wife Mrs. Ann Bradstreet all that estate real and personal whatsoever that I had of hers or with her in marriage ... (according to agreement made with her before marriage) in lieu of her thirds," also £10 per year during her life out of my farm at Lynn "whereon Cornet John Lewis now liveth," also £10 more during her widowhood, one half from my house and land at Andover and the other half from my farm at Topsfield, also "my negro woman Hannah and her daughter Bilhah now living with me, not to be sold to any except in way of marriage, but if she finds meet to dispose of them or either of them before or at her death, then to some of my children whom she pleaseth," also "use of that little household stuff I bought since I came to Boston during her pleasure and then to some of my children as she shall see meet," also provisions at the house in Boston with one quarter rent of the house wherein I lived at my death "entreating her to accept of these small bequests as a testimony of my unfeigned love ... in regard of that love, care and tenderness she hath always showed to me and mine"; whereas "by a former will I had given to my eldest son Samuel Bradstreet my farm at Lynn" but at his death by his will given to Mary Bradstreet "his eldest daughter by his first wife whom I have been forced to educate and maintain ... since September 1670 ... and have now three of my said son's children sent me from Jamaica" make some alteration to this gift by granting my wife £10 a year from the farm and "to the said Mercy Bradstreet the daughter of my son Samuel" the farm in Lynn occupied by Cornet John Lewis, to her and her heirs or in want of such heirs of her body, to the children of her father Samuel Bradstreet equally she paying the aforementioned £10 to "her grandmother Ann Bradstreet"; to "the said Mercy her father's picture and household goods"; to "John and Simon Bradstreet two of my son Samuel's children now with me my house and land in Lynn" purchased of Major Samuel Appleton and his son Samuel, said land and house equally divided betwixt them, also to the said John Bradstreet my twenty acres of meadow and part of a little island in Topsfield; to "Anne Bradstreet another child of my son Samuel Bradstreet" a house and land in Lynn of forty-three acres lately purchased of Mr. Ezekiel Needham; "my dear and loving wife Mrs. Ann Bradstreet" executrix as regards the three children of my son Samuel viz. John Simon and Anne; to the three children of my son Simon Bradstreet viz. Simon John and Lucy, a half of all my houses and lands in Andover, also £10; to Simon Bradstreet the eldest of the three children before mentioned ten acres in Lynn near my farm; to "my son Dudley Bradstreet" the other half of my houses and lands in Andover, also to each of his children living at my decease £10 each; to "my son John Bradstreet and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten my house and farm at Topsfield wherein he now liveth," also the lots of wood belong-

ing to the farm, also the parcel of meadow purchased of Robert Muzzey together with all the swamp and ten or twelve acres of upland, also £60 and to each of his children living at my decease £10 apiece, his heirs to receive the farm as follows, one half to his eldest son and the other half equally divided amongst the rest of his sons and daughters; to "my grandchild Mr. John Cotton of Hampton" £20 and to his sisters "the daughters of my daughter Dorothy" or so many of them living at my decease £10 each "only as to Ann's legacy I leave it to my executor and overseers to do therein as they shall see cause and as she may deserve" by her carriage and behavior; to "my son-in-law Mr. Andrew Wiggin" all that debt which he owes me £50" and to every of his children by "my daughter Hannah" living at my decease £10 each; to "my daughter Mrs. Sarah Ward and to her husband Capt. Samuel Ward" all that debt which her former husband Mr. Richard Hubbard owed me being more than £100, and to every of her children living at my decease £10; to "my daughter Mrs. Mercy Wade and to her husband Mr. Nathaniel Wade" my farm at Topsfield whereon John Hunkins now lives, with twenty six acres of upland, part of an island, also the lot of upland of forty acres, she or her husband paying yearly the sum of £5 to "my wife Mrs. Ann Bradstreet during her widowhood," also to every one of her children living at my death £10 each; to "the three children of my son Simon" one farm of five hundred acres granted me for service to the colony and not laid out yet; to "my son Dudley Bradstreet" the other farm of five hundred acres granted me; to "the three children of my son Samuel (viz) John Simon and Anna now with me" £100 each for their education and make void a former bequest to them of my two houses and lands in Lynn mentioned in the former part of my will, "having already disposed of one of them"; to Mr. Samuel Willard "the Reverend Pastor of the South Church in Boston" £5; residue distributed by my executors to some of my grandchildren, especially to those of "my son Simon and Daughter Cotton whose parents had the least portions"; son Dudley Bradstreet sole executor except in duties committed to "my dear wife"; "my much honored friends Capt. Wait Winthrop Esqr. and Mr. Peter Sedgwick" overseers to accept 40s. each to buy a ring.

In a codicil dated 27 January 1692/3 Bradstreet altered the bequest of his two negros Hannah and Bilhah so they were completely at the dispose of wife Ann Bradstreet and she to pay to said negros 20s. each; to my wife my spectacles set in gold; again entrusted the education of his son Simon's three children to wife Ann Bradstreet; to my grandson John [Bradstreet] my set of gold shirt buttons; to Simon a silver trencher salt; to Anna a silver porringer; to "my granddaughter Mrs. Mary Oliver her father's picture"; to "my three grandchildren John, Simon and Anne, all the arrears of what is due to me for salary as late Governor of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay"; to "my grandson Simon the son of my

late son Mr. Simon Bradstreet" ten acres of land in Lynn "he standing in great need of my help"; authorized his executor to sell the farm at Topsfield if the price of £250 can be gotten, £100 to his three grandchildren, John, Simon and Anne the children of my son Samuel, and the rest to my daughter Wade; Mr. Isaac Addington overseer [SPR 11:276-82].

**BIRTH:** Baptized Horbling, Lincolnshire, 18 March 1603/4, son of Rev. Simon Bradstreet [NEHGR 48:168-71].

**DEATH:** Salem 27 March 1697 [Sewall 371].

**MARRIAGE:** (1) Before 1630 Anne Dudley, daughter of THOMAS DUDLEY. (At the birth of her first child she wrote "It pleased God to keep me a long time without child ..." [EHC 64:303]. She was admitted to Boston church as member #13, shortly after her husband [BChR 13]. She died at Andover 16 September 1672. (Simon Bradstreet's first wife, Anne (Dudley) Bradstreet, was, of course, the renowned poetess. Two recent studies of Anne Bradstreet and her poetry are Elizabeth Wade White, *Anne Bradstreet: The Tenth Muse* [New York 1971], and Ann Stanford, *Anne Bradstreet: The Worldly Poet* [New York 1974].) Of her children she wrote

I had eight birds hatcht in one nest,  
Four cocks there were, and hens the rest;  
I nurst them up with pain and care,  
Nor cost, nor labour did I spare,  
Till at the last they felt their wing,  
Mounted the trees, and learn'd to sing  
[EHC 64:303].

(2) 6 June 1676 Ann (Downing) Gardner, baptized St. Brides Fleet Street, London, 12 April 1633, daughter of Emanuel Downing (by his second wife, Lucy Winthrop), and widow of Captain Joseph Gardner of Salem (son of THOMAS GARDNER) [Hale, House 518]; she d. 19 April 1713 [Sewall 710].

**CHILDREN:**

With first wife

- i SAMUEL, b. say 1632; Harvard College 1653 [Sibley 1:360-61]; m. (1) "in" 1662 Mercy Tyng [TAG 32:18]; m. (2) by 1682 Margery or Martha \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii DOROTHY, b. say 1634; m. Andover 14 June 1654 Rev. Seaborn Cotton [Sibley 1:292], son of Rev. JOHN COTTON.
- iii SARAH, b. say 1636; m. (1) by about 1658 Rev. Richard Hubbard [Sibley 1:342-43] (brother of William Hubbard the historian); m. (2) after 1681 Samuel Ward.
- iv HANNAH, b. say 1638; m. Andover 3 June 1659 Andrew Wiggin, son of THOMAS WIGGIN [GDMNH 751].

- v SIMON, b. 28 September 1640; Harvard College 1660 [Sibley 2:54-57]; m. Newbury 2 October 1667 Lucy Woodbridge.
- vi MERCY, b. about 1647 (d. Medford 5 October 1714 "in her 68th year"); m. Andover 31 October 1672 Nathaniel Wade.
- vii DUDLEY, b. say 1649; m. Andover 12 November 1673 Ann (Wood) Price, daughter of Richard and Ann (Priddeth) Wood and widow of Theodore Price [NEHGR 139:139-42].
- viii JOHN, b. Andover 22 July 1652; m. Topsfield 11 June 1677 Sarah Perkins.

**ASSOCIATIONS:** As argued under JOHN BOSWORTH, Simon Bradstreet may have brought with him as servants ANTHONY COLBY, JOHN BOSWORTH, GARRETT HADDON and JOSEPH REDDING.

While still in England Bradstreet had married the daughter of THOMAS DUDLEY.

**COMMENTS:** Bradstreet was partners with George Carr and Richard Saltonstall in a vessel captained by Elias Parkman, who plied up and down the coast from the Bay to Connecticut. Parkman's debt was the subject of a letter by Saltonstall to Winthrop in October, 1638 [WP 4:64].

Stephen Bachiler invited the help of "our Christian Friend Mr. Brodstreet" the first working day when he began the settlement of Hampton [WP 4:70].

On 23 April 1646 Emmanuel Downing reported to John Winthrop that "Mr. Broadstreet is about to settle his habitation with us, at Salem; and to employ his stock in trading here" [WP 5:78].

At the General Court on 27 November 1661, "the honored Mr. Bradstreete is called, on the service of the country, to leave his family's occasions, & go for England..." [MBCR 4:2:36]. "1661 February 10th Mr. Bradstreet & Mr. Norton with Mr. Davis & Mr. Hull took ship & set sail the next morning" [RChR 199]. Eliot welcomes him home 3 September 1662: "Mr. Bradstreet & Mr. Norton returned from England, bringing with them a gracious letter from his Majesty confirming our Charter & liberties" [RChR 200]. In parallel with other New England colonies, Massachusetts Bay saw the need to send representatives to England at the time of the Restoration to see to their "liberties."

John Eliot recorded on 10 July 1666 that

There happened a dreadful burning at Andover. Mr. Bradstreet's house & the greatest part of his goods were burnt. The occasion of which burning was the carelessness of the maid, who put hot ashes into an hogshead over the porch: the tub fired about 2 o'clock in the morning & set the chamber & house on fire [RChR 204].



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Unlike several of his contemporaries, Simon Bradstreet managed his estate with a firm hand and dealt with reliable people. There was no necessity for him to clog the courts with debt cases, and aside from the occasional dead cow [EQC 1:116], "worried hog" [EQC 1:248] or missing beaver skins [EQC 1:90], Bradstreet generally tended to stay on the bench and not before it. Certainly in comparison to others of similar broad trading interests, Bradstreet's business career was quite peaceful. His choice of servants was generally good as well, although he did have a little trouble with Thomas "Shareman" [EQC 1:205].

*BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE:* Unlike many of his equally illustrious contemporaries, Bradstreet has not been the subject of a lengthy biography (having been eclipsed by his more famous wife in this regard). William Andrews Pew did summarize his life in 1928 [EHC 64:301-28].

**JOYCE BRADWICK**

1 April 1633: "It is ordered, that Joyce Bradwicke shall give unto Alex: Becke the sum of 20s., for promising him marriage without her friends consent, & now refusing to perform the same" [MBCR 1:104].

*COMMENTS:* ALEXANDER BECK was admitted to Boston church on 22 June 1634, and had wife Mary who died 2 May 1639, so he apparently did not marry Joyce Bradwick. We do not learn the identity of her "friend" (or perhaps "friends"), nor do we know what fate befell her.

**BENJAMIN BRAND**

"Mr. Ben: Brand" requested freemanship on 19 October 1630 [MBCR 1:79].

*COMMENTS:* Benjamin Brand was son of John Brand of Edwardstone, Suffolk, a neighbor of Winthrop's in England. Benjamin is seen no more in New England, and was undoubtedly one of those who returned to England in the spring of 1631 [Savage; WJ 1:445; WP 2:229, 276, 307, 3:295].

**JOHN BRANKER**

*ORIGIN:* Dorchester, Dorset

*MIGRATION:* 1632