

The Pilgrims

A strange group of religious dissenters called “Pilgrims” had fled England circa 1608 to escape persecution and had settled in Leyden, Holland. A decade later, distressed by the fact that their children were losing contact with their English traditions and unable to earn a decent living in Holland, they had decided to seek a place to live and worship as they pleased in the emptiness of the New World. They approached Sir Edwin Sandys seeking permission to establish a settlement within the London Company’s jurisdiction; and Sandys, while not sympathetic to their religious views, appreciated their inherent worth and saw to it that their wish was granted. The Pilgrims boarded the *Speedwell* and sailed from Delfthaven, Holland. They joined with friends who had embarked on the *Mayflower* at Southampton and sailed for the New World on August 6, 1620. However, the *Speedwell* leaked badly and both ships returned to Plymouth. Eventually, the *Speedwell* was sold and on September 6, 1620, the group of about a hundred set out on the *Mayflower*.

Had the *Mayflower* reached its intended destination in Virginia, the Pilgrims might well have been soon forgotten. However, they had been carried far out of their way, and the ship touched America on the desolate northern end of Cape Cod Bay. Unwilling to remain longer at the mercy of storm-tossed December seas, the settlers decided to remain. Since they were outside the jurisdiction of the London Company, the group claimed to be free of all governmental control. Therefore, before going ashore, the Pilgrims drew up the *Mayflower Compact*. “We whose names are underwritten,” the Compact ran, “do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one another covenant and combine ourselves into a civil Body Politick . . . and by Virtue hereof do enact . . . such just and equal Laws . . . as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony.”

In this simple manner, ordinary people created a government. The *Mayflower Compact* reflected both the confidence of the Pilgrims in one another and the impact of the immense emptiness of the New World on generations of pioneers. Alone in the wilderness, people recognised their interdependence and came to appreciate the virtues of social and political organisations. This realisation had much to do with the development of American government and democracy.

Generation One

Richard Chilton

Died in 1549

Richard Chilton resided in St. Paul’s Parish, Canterbury. He married Isabell, and they had a son:

- **Lyonell Chilton**, mentioned next.

Generation Two

Lyonell Chilton,

Died circa 1582/83. His will was dated September 7, 1582 and proved February 13, 1582/83.

Lyonell was a yeoman of considerable property who resided in St. Paul’s Parish, Canterbury. He married twice, but the name of his first wife has been lost. Lyonell and his first wife had the following children:

- John Chilton
- **James Chilton**, mentioned next.
- Alice Chilton

- Anne Chilton
- Margaret Chilton

Lyonell married secondly to Isabell Furner who, by a previous marriage to Francis Furner, had two children, Thomas Furner and Susanna Furner.

Generation Three

James Chilton who signed the Mayflower Compact.

Born before 1556 (at. 63 in 1619)

Died on December 18, 1620 aboard the Mayflower in Cape Cod Harbour.

The name of James Chilton’s wife is unknown. It has been suggested that she was Susanna Furner, daughter of his step-mother and her first husband Francis Furner. However, the identity of James’ wife remains in doubt as Susanna Furner’s baptism record indicates she was far too young (only 12) to be married and having children in 1586. To further confuse the issue, James is said to have married secondly to the widow Isabell Furner, who was not the mother of his children. Note that “Isabell Furner” was also the name of James’ stepmother.

James Chilton’s wife was one of a group excommunicated in 1609. Apparently, they buried a young child without following the proper ceremonies prescribed by the Church of England. Religious dissenters opposed such ceremonies, since they were not Biblically-based. The excommunication record from St. Peter’s, Sandwich, reads:

“I the parson there doe present Thomas Bartlet the wife of James Chilton Danyell Hooke and Mosses Flecher all of our said parish for pryvatly burying a childe of Andrewe Sharpe of St. Maries parish who is strongly suspected not to dye an ordinary death the which they secretly conveyed to the earth without anie notice to given to me or my clarke of anie companie of neighboures but such only as semed accessary thereunto, this they did the 25 or 24 of Aprill last past, the lawfulness of which acte some of them seem now since to dissent by calling into question the lawfulnessse of the kinges constitutions in this and other behalves, affirming these thing to be popishly cerimonious and of no other force; for the truth of all which the premisses with much more when it shall be further erquired I the now resident incumbent there have hereunto subscribed my name this 8 May 1609.”

Governor Bradford wrote in 1650:

“James Chilton and his wife also died in the first infection, but their daughter Mary is still living and hath nine children; and one daughter is married and hath a child.”

James died on December 18, 1620, scarcely a month after signing the Mayflower Compact. His wife shortly followed him, dying during the First Sickness at Plymouth sometime after January 21, 1620/1.

James Chilton had the following children by his first wife:

- Isabella Chilton baptized St. Paul’s Parish, Canterbury, January 15, 1586/7.
- Jane Chilton baptized St. Paul’s Parish, Canterbury, June 8, 1589.
- Mary Chilton born Canterbury; buried St. Martin’s Parish November 23, 1593.
- Joel Chilton born Canterbury; buried St. Martin’s Parish November 2, 1593.
- Elizabeth Chilton baptized St. Martin’s Parish, Canterbury, July 14, 1594.

- James Chilton baptized St. Martin's Parish, Canterbury, August 22, 1596; died young.
- Ingle Chilton baptized St. Paul's Parish, Canterbury, 29 April 29, 1599.
- Christian Chilton (dau.) baptized St. Peter's Parish, Sandwich, July 26, 1601.
- James Chilton baptized St. Peter's Parish, Sandwich, September 11, 1603.
- **Mary Chilton**, mentioned next.

Generation Four

Mary Chilton

Baptized at St. Peter's Parish, Sandwich, May 31, 1607.

Died at Boston before May 1, 1679.

Mary's father died on December 18, 1620 and her mother died shortly after January 21, 1620/1. At age thirteen Mary Chilton was thus left an orphan at Plymouth. No record reveals with whom she spent the next few years but perhaps for at least a part of the time she was a member of either the Alden or the Standish household.

Mary married at Plymouth sometime between July 1623 and May 22, 1627 to John Winslow, who had arrived at Plymouth in 1621 on the Fortune. John was born at Droitwich, Worcestershire on April 16, 1597; and died at Boston before May 21, 1674. John was a son of Edward and Magdalen (Ollyver) Winslow, and brother of Pilgrim Edward Winslow. Both John and Mary are buried in King's Chapel Burying Grounds, Boston.

Mary and John had the following children:

- John Winslow born probably before 1630.
- Susanna Winslow born probably before 1630.
- Mary Winslow born about 1631.
- Edward Winslow born circa 1635.
- **Sarah Winslow**, mentioned next.
- Samuel Winslow born circa 1641.
- Joseph Winslow.
- Isacc Winslow born 1644.
- (child) Winslow born before 1650; probably died young.
- Benjamin Winslow born August 12, 1653.

Generation Five

Sarah Winslow

Born at Plymouth circa 1638

Died at Boston on April 9, 1726 at.88.

Sarah married first at Boston on July 19, 1660 to Myles Standish Jr., son of Pilgrim Myles and Barbara Standish. Myles Standish Jr. disappeared at sea circa. 1660. They had no children.

Sarah married secondly at Boston in Nov. 1666 or 1667 to Tobias Payne of Fownhope, Hereford, England. Tobias died at Boston on September 12, 1669. Sarah and Tobias had the following child:

- **William Payne**, mentioned next.

Sarah married thirdly in 1672 to Richard Middlecott who had been born in Wiltshire, England circa 1640 and died at Boston on June 13, 1704. He was a son of Edward and Mary Middlecott.

Sarah and Richard had the following children:

- Mary Middlecott born on July 1, 1674
- Edward Middlecott born circa 1676 (?)
- Sarah Middlecott born on May 20, 1678
- Jane Middlecott born on September 16, 1682

Generation Six

William Payne

Born at Boston on either 21 or 22 January 21 or 22, 1668/9.

Died on June 10, 1735 at.66.

William graduated from Harvard College in 1689 and continued for his master's degree. He was Collector of Excise 1699-70 and in 1716; and was a sheriff of Suffolk County 1714-15.

William married first at Boston on October 11, 1694 to Mary Taylor who had been born on January 25, 1675 and died at Boston on 6 January 6, 1700/1. Mary was a daughter of James and Elizabeth Taylor. The ancestry of James Taylor is interesting because it can be traced to one of the most infamous of mediaeval tyrants, none other than "the evil King John", arch enemy of the legendary outlaw Robin Hood. (see *Angevin Kings*, Generation Nineteen)

William and Mary had the following children:

- William Payne born on either 23 or 25 November 23 or 25, 1695.
- Tobias Payne born on June 25, 1697
- Sarah Payne born on either January 16 or July 16, 1699, died young.
- **Mary Payne**, mentioned next.

William married secondly on May 12, 1703 to Margaret Stewart, a daughter of William and Ann Stewart, who had been born at Limerick, Ireland in May 1683 and died at Boston between July 3 and November 28, 1760. William and Margaret had the following children:

- Sarah Payne born on June 15, 1704
- William Payne born on September 19, 1706, died young.
- William Payne born on January 26, 1707/8, died young.
- Edward Payne born on March 17, 1708/9, died young.
- Ann Payne born on June 8, 1711.
- John Payne born on February 9, 1712/3
- Edward Payne born on October 1 or 7, 1714, died young.
- Margaret Payne born on May 22, 1716
- Richard Payne born on April 4, 1718
- Thomas Payne born on April 23, 1720, died young.
- Edward Payne born on February 4, 1721/2 who married Rebecca Amory; their son:
 - William Payne wrote a letter dated February 7, 1818 outlining his family history.
- Jane Payne born on February 17, 1723

Generation Seven

Mary Payne

Born at Boston on January 6, 1700/1 and was living there on October 19, 1747.

Mary married on October 8, 1724 to Jonathan Sewall (I) who was born on February 7, 1692/93 and died on November 21, 1731. Their son Jonathan Sewall (II) was the last Attorney General of Massachusetts before the American Revolution. (see *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Six)

For the continuation of this line, see *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Six.

Sources

This chapter was researched by cousins Estelle Hughes and Robert Sewell from the following sources:

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