



Mary Chilton Winslow: Mayflower passenger

"The names of those which came over first, in the year 1620, and were by the blessing of God the first beginners and in a sort the foundation of all the Plantations and Colonies in New England; and their families..."

"James Chilton and his wife, and Mary their daughter; they had another daughter that was married, came afterward."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647,
ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 441-3.

Death of James Chilton and his Wife

Governor William Bradford, writing in 1650:

"And seeing it hath pleased Him to give me [William Bradford] to see thirty years completed since these beginnings, and that the great works of His providence are to be observed, I have thought it not unworthy my pains to take a view of the decreasing and increasing of these persons and such changes as hath passed over them and theirs in this thirty years

"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. So their increase is ten."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647,
ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 443-7.

Mary Chilton Winslow and the 1623 Division of Land

The 1623 Division of Land marked the end of the Pilgrims' earliest system of land held in common by all. Governor Bradford explains it in this way:

"And so assigned to every family a parcel of land, according to the proportion of their number, for that end, only for present use (but made no division for inheritance) and ranged all boys and youth under some family This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use, and saved him a great deal of trouble, and gave far better content. The women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647,
ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 120.

Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds &c, Vol I 1627-1651 is the oldest record book of the Plymouth settlement. It begins with the 1623 Division of Land, recorded in the handwriting of Governor William Bradford. The lands of "Marie Chilton" were among those designated as "their rounds which came first over in the May Floure, according as thier lotes were case" and described in this way "these lye one the north side of the towne nexte adjoining to their gardens which came in the Fortune."

The lands of John Winslow are listed in the 1623 Division of Land among those designated as "their grounds which came in the Fortune according as their Lots were cast 1623 ... these lye to the sea, eastward."

John & Mary Chilton Winslow and the 1627 Division of Cattle

Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds &c, Vol I 1627-1651 also tells of the 1627 Division of Cattle: "At a publique court held the 22th of May it was concluded by the whole Companie, that the cattell wch were the Companies, to wit, the Cowes & the Goates should be equally devided to all the psonts of the same company ... & so the lotts fell as followeth, thirteene psonts being pportioned to one lot ...

"The sixt lott fell to John Shaw & his companie Joyned (1) to him (2) John Adams (3) Eliner Adams (4) James Adams (5) John Winslow (6) Mary Winslow (7) Willm Basset (8) Elizabeth Bassett (9) Willyam Basset Junor (10) Elizabeth Basset Juno (11) ffrancis Sprage (12) Anna Sprage (13) Mercye Sprage.

"To this lot fell the lesser of the black Cowes Came at first in the Ann wth which they must keepe the bigest of the 2 steers. Also to this lott was two shee goats."

Mary Chilton Winslow in the Records of Plymouth Colony

3 March 1644-45: "Kenelme Winslow complns agst Willm Hoskine, in an action of trespas vpon the case, to the dm of xl. It is agreed that for tenn shillings worth of corne, to be payd to Mary, the wyfe of John Winslow, wthin xiij dayes next ensuing, all defferences, suits, and actions betwixt them shalbe discharged."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 7, p. 39.

8 June 1654: "Memorand: That Mr John Winslow of the Towne of Plymouth in the Jurisdiction of New Plymouth Doth acknowledge that for and in consideration of the summe of an hundred pounds to him in hand paied wherwith hee Doth acknowledge himselfe fully satisfied by Mr Stephen Payne of the towne of Rehoboth in the Jurisdiction of Plymouth aforsaid hee hath freely and absolutly bargained allianated and sold enfeofed and confeirmed; and by these presents Doth bargaine sell enfeofe and confeirme from him the said John Winslow and his heires to him the said Stephen Payne and his heires and assignes for ever all that his pte portion or share of land both upland & meddow belonging unto him as Purchaser lying and being att Sowamsett Mattapoissett and places adjacent together with all and singulare the appurtenances priviledges and emunities therunto belonging with all the said John Winslow his Right title and enterest of and into the said prmises or any pte or pcell therof to have and to hold the said whole pte or share of upland and Meddow with all and singulare the timbers woods underwoods swamps waters and all other priviledges emunities in upon or in any way belonging unto the said whole share or portion of upland and meddow or any pte or pcell therof unto The said Stephen payne his heires and assignes for Ever The said prmises with all and singulare the priviledges and appurtenances therunto belonging; To appertaine unto the onely proper use and behoof of him the said Stephen payne his heires and assignes for ever with warrantice against all pson or psons whatsoever that by the said John Winslow his right or title might claime any Right title or enterest into the prmises or any pte or pcell therof

"This abovesaid sale of land was acknowledged before mr Bradford Govr the seaventh of June 1654

"And the said John Winslow Doth heerby covenant promise and graunt that his wife shall in Due and convenient time Resigne up all her Right in the above mencioned land and the appurtenances belonging therunto unto the said Stephen payne his heires and assignes for ever." Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 6, p. 247.

10 October 1657: "That Mr John Winslow somtimes of Plymouth in New England in America

gent: Doth acknowledge that for in Consideration of a valluable sume to him alreddy satisfied and fully payed by Edward Gray of the towne of Plymouth aforsaid in the Jurisdiction of Plymouth aforsd planter; hee hath freely fully and absolutely bargained allianted and sold enfeofed and Confeirmed and by these presents Doth bargain allianate sell enfeofe and confeirme unto the said Edward Gray all that his house and land lying and being att plain Dealing in the Township of Plymouth aforsaid The said tract or pcell of land containing acres or therabouts bee it more or lesse being bounded on the one side with the lands of Jonathan Shaw; and on the other side with the lands of Samuell Kinge with all and singulare the orchyards on the said land and all the fruit trees theron with all the outhouses woods trees ffences and all other the appurtenances and privilidges belonging to the said land or any pte or pcell therof with all and singulare the meddows or pcells of meddow belonging therunto To have and to hold the said house with all and singulare the boards shelves Dores lockes and glasse in and belonging unto the said house with all the out houses upon the said land with all the aditions att any time aded or graunted as enlargments therunto as namly an Inlargment att the uper end of the said tract of land which said Inlargment extendeth up unto a rid Swamp att the uper end therof; with all and singulare the appurtenances & privilidges belonging unto the said land or any pte or pcell therof with all the meddow belonging therunto unto the said Edward Gray his heires and assignes for ever; The said prmises with all the said John Winslow his right title and Interest of and into the same and every pte or pcell therof; to belonge and appertaine unto the onely use and behoofe of him the said Edward Gray hee his heires and assignes for ever; Mis Mary Winslow wife unto the said Mr John Winslow thath given her free Concent unto the abovesaid sale according to order."
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 11, p. 209-210.

1674: [from the will of John Winslow] "Item I give and bequeath unto my Deare and well beloved wife Mary Winslow the use of my now dwelling house with the gardens and yards thereunto belonging for and during the tearme of her naturall life Item I give and bequeath unto my said wife the use of all myhousehold good for her to dispose of as she shall thinke meet Item I give unto my said wife the sume of ffoure hundred pounds in lawfull mony of New England to be paid unto her by my Executor or Overseers hereafter named in convenient time after my decease: Item after the death of my said wife I give and bequeath my said dwelling house with all the Land belonging to the same unto my sone John Winslow"
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 3, p. 129-134.