Jacob Cooke in the writings of William Bradford

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 ...

"Francis Cooke and his son John; but his wife and other children [this includes Jacob Cooke] came afterwards."


Jacob Cooke 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."


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 Francis Cooke were among those designated as "their grounds which came first over in the May Floure, according as thier lotes were case" and described in this way "these lye on the South side of the brooke to the baywards." Francis Cooke received 2 acres, one for himself and one for his son John who was also on the Mayflower.

The name of Francis Cooke also appears in the list of "their grounds which came ouer in the shipe called the Anne," which was the ship on which his wife and children arrived. Here, he receives 4 acres, one for his wife and one for each of the three children who accompanied her. One of these children was Jacob Cooke.

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 5

Jacob Cooke & 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 first lot fell to Francis Cooke & his Companie Joyned to him his wife Hester Cooke (3) John Cooke (4) Jacob Cooke (5) Jane Cooke (6) Hester Cooke (7) Mary Cooke (8) Moses Simonson (9) Phillip Delanoy (10) Experience Michaell (11) John ffance (12) Joshua Pratt (13) Phinihas Pratt. To his lot fell the least of the 4 black heyfers Came in the Jacob, and two shee goats."

**Jacob and Damaris (Hopkins) Cooke in the Records of Plymouth Colony**

7 June 1637: "The Names of the Souldiers that willingly offer themselves to goe upon the sd Service, wth Mr Prince & the Leiftent. Voluntaries: Thomas Clarke, Richard Church, Georg Soule, Samuell Jenney...Jacob Cooke."


**June 6 1644** Damaris Hopkins was remembered in her father's will:

"The sixt of June 1644 I Stephen Hopkins of Plymouth in New England being weake yet in good and prfect memory blessed be God yet considering the fraile estate of all men I do ordaine and make this to be my last will and testament in manner and forme following...

Alsoe I doe give and bequeath unto my daughter Damaris Hopkins the Cowe called Damaris heiffer and the white faced calf and half the cowe called Mottley...

Also I do give and bequeath unto my foure daughters that is to say Deborah Hopkins Damaris Hopkins Ruth Hopkins and Elizabeth Hopkins all the moveable goods the wch do belong to my house. as linnen wollen beds bedcloathes pott kettles pewter or whatsoever are moveable belonging to my said house of what kynd soever and not named by theirprticular names all wch said moveables to bee equally devided amongst my said daughters foure silver spoones that is to say to eich of them one, And in case any of my said daughters should be taken away by death before they be married that then the part of their division to be equally devided amongst the Survivors...

ffurthermore my will is that my daughters aforesaid shall have free recourse to my house in Plymouth upon any occasion there to abide and remayne for such tyme as any of them shall think meete and convenyent & they single persons... It is also my will that my Executr & Supervisor shall advise devise and dispose by the best wayes & meanes they cann for the disposeing in marriage or other wise for the best advancnt of the estate of the forenamed Deborah Damaris Ruth and Elizabeth Hopkins Thus trusting in the Lord my will shalbe truly prformed according to the true meaneing of the same I committ the whole Disposeing hereof to the Lord that hee may direct you herein June 6th 1644

By me Steven Hopkins
Witnesses hereof Myles Standish, William Bradford

The items being given to each sister were spelled out. "Damaris porcon" is as follows:

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Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 4, p. 114-115

10 June 1646: "This 10th of June 1646 the condicions of the marriage between Jacob Cooke and Damarise hopkins
"Know all men by these presents that upon a conclusion of a marriage between Jacob Cooke of Plymouth and Damarise hopkins of the same It is promised by ffrancis Cooke of Plym: aforsaid and father of the said Jacob Cooke upon the conclusion of the said marriage That hee Doth give unto the said Jacob his sonne one hundred acres of land with meddow or therabouts bee It more or lesse Lying att the north River ;
"2condly The said ffrancis giveth to his said sonne Jacob halfe the Land that att any time shall fall to him the said ffrancis by any Devision of the Purchase Land or Due to the first commers
"3dly The said ffrancis given upon the conclusion aforsaid to his said sonne Jacob one oxe one cow and one calfe and the next foile that the said ffrancis his mare bringeth
"4ly It is promised by the sd ffrancis that att any time that the said Jacob shall see most conducable to his condicon that the said Jacob at his said fathers appointment in such place as shalbee considered convenient by the said ffrancis and Jacob build an house upon the Land wherof the said ffrancis is now possessed of att Rockynooke and if the said Jacob shall think it convenient att any time in the time of his fathers life or after his Decease to Remove himselfe or shalbee enforced to Remove ; that then the said ffrancis Doth promise that the said Jacob Removeing or being Removed the said Jacob shall at the Judgment of honest and Judiciall men shall have satisfaction for any building or buildings fence or fences which otherwise might prove Damage to the said Jacob ;
"5ly It is mutually promised by the said ffrancis Cooke and Hester Cook his wife ; the parents of the aforsaid Jacob Cooke that att the Decease of the Longer surviver of the said ffrancis and hester that then and att such time the said Jacob or his heires shall have the teame with all the furniture belonging therunto
"And to concluding of all these prmises aforsaid wee the said ffrancis and hester Doe by these presents bind ourselves our heires administrators or assignes
"Witnesse our hands the Day and yeare above written ; In prsence of these Witnesses ffrancis Cooke the marke of hester Cooke Miles Standish James Hurst John Howland"

1 June 1647: "The names of such as were ppounded to take up their Freedome at the next Genall Elecion Court:
"The Supvisors of the Highwaies...For Joanses River, Jakob Cooke."
1647/48: "Plymouth Register of Births…
Elizabeth Cook, the daughter of Jakob Cook, was born on the 18th of January."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 8, p. 5

7 June 1648: "Freeman admitted this Court, and sworne: - Isaak Stedman, Robert Carver, Robert Titus, William Cheesburow, John Morton, Ephraim Morton, John Wood, Henery Wood, Samuell Dunham, Robert Finny, Jakob Cooke…
"Servayors for the Hyewayes.
For Plimouth, Richard Sparrow, John Barnes, Thomas Clarke, Jakob Cooke."

17 May 1649: "At a meeting of the Townsmen of new Plymouth holden at the meeting house the 17th of May 1649 the Comites chosen weer…
"Grand Jury: Robert Bartlet, John ffenney, Jacob Cook, Andrew ringe"

11 July 1649: "Memorand the 11th of July 1649 yt Mr Thomas Prencce of the towne of Nawset in the Coliny of New Plymouth in New England in america gent" doth acknowledg yt for and in concideration of twenty one pound and tenn shillings hee hath freely and absolutly barganed and soule unto Jakob Cooke of the towne of Plymouth in the Coliny of New Plymouth planter a percell of upland being estemated at about fourty acars bee it more or les lying in Rocky noocke near Plymouth aforsaid being bounded with the lands of Mr John Combe on the one syde and of ffranc Cooke on the other side abuting upon the bay and so extending itselufe up into the woods with the Inlargment at the upper end therof as is expressed in the Record of the Inlargment aforsaid entered in the Court booke with three acars of Mersh medow or therabouts bee it more les aioyning unto the upland aforsaid; all and singular the premises with all and singular the apurtenances apertaining unto the said premises. to have and to hold videlecett the aforsaid fourty acars of upland more or les with the Inlargment aded therunto and the three acars of meadow with thaire severall apurtenances unto the said Jakob Cooke his heaires and assignes for ever unto the only proper use and behoofe of him the said Jakob Cook his heaires and assignes for ever.
Furthermore the said Mr Thomas Prencce Covenanteth by these prsents to defend the propriety and titles of the lands aforsaid from time to time and at all times from any prson or prsons yt shall or may lay any Claime or title from by or under him or any before him unto the whole or any part or pcell of the lands and thaire severall apurtenances aforsaid and shall warrantice the salle therof against any yet shall opose the same unto the said Jakob Cook his heaires and assignes for ever."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 175-76.

9 April 1650: "That on the 9th of aprell 1650 ffrancis Cooke did com before the Goue'r and acknowledge yt hee hath freely given & made over unto his sonne Jacob Cook all his Right title and Enterest of & into a Certaine Tract of vpland & meadow being estemated att an hundred acars bee it more or lesse; lying att the North River accordingly as it was graunted unto him the said ffranc Cooke as appeers by the Record of the said graunt bearing date the fift of October i640 the said Tract of vpland & meadow with all & singulare the apurtenances & privilidges therunto belonging to haue & to hold to him the said Jacob Cooke his heaires & assignes for euer unto the only proper vse & behoofe of him the said Jacob Cooke his heaires and assignes for euer."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 185.

9 April 1650: "Memorand That on the 9th of aprell i650 ffrancis Cooke did com before the Gove
and acknowledge yt hee hath freely given & made over unto his sonne Jacob Cook all his Right
title and Enterest of & into a Certaine Tract of upland & meadow being estemated att an hundred
acars bee it more or lesse; lying att the North River accordingly as it ws graunnt unto him the
said ffrancis Cooke as appeers by the Record of the said graunt bearing date the fift of October
i640 The said Tract of upland & meadow with all & singulare the apurtenances & privilidges
therunto belonging to have & to hold to him the said Jacob Cooke his heaires & assignes for ever
unto the only proper use & behoofe of him the said Jacob Cooke his heaires and assignes for ever;
"Memorand the 9th of Aprell i650 That Jacob Cooke of Plymouth doth acknowledg yt for and in
Concideration of the som of sixteene pound sterling to him allredy payed by Moris Truant of
Marshfeild in the Colonie of New Plym. aforsaid hee hath freely & absolutely barganed & sould
unto the said Moris Truant a Certaine Tract or percell of upland & meadow lying att North River
the said upland being estemated att about an hundred acars or therabouts bee it more or lesse
beeing the one half of a Certaine Tract of Land formerly graunted unto ffrancis Cooke & John
Cooke his sonne; being bounded with the lands of Lieuetenant Holmes on the one side and the
lands of Constant Southworth & Tho: Southworth Joseph Rogers & John Rogers on the other
side; & abutting upon the said North River; The said half of the aforsaid Tract being understood
which appertained formerly unto ffrancis Cooke which hee hath freely given & made over with all
& singulare the apurtenances unto his sonn Jacob Cooke aforsaid with all the meadow land
apertaining therunto wh meadow land is the one halfe of all the meadow lying against the end of
the whole Tract Concidered together as it was graunnt to ffrancis Cooke & John Cooke as
aforsaid; With the one halfe of whatsoever meadow belongeth unto the aforsaid Tract lying before
or someway bounding upon the land of John Rogers aforsaid; And whereas the said meadow is
not yet equally devided betwixt the said Jacob Cooke & John Cooke nor there assignes it is to be
equally devided according to the goodnes therof betwixt the said Moris Truant and Tho: Tilden
who hath allso Purchased the other halfe of the aforsaid Tract both of upland & meadow of John
Cooke to whom it formerly belonged as aforsaid: The said halfe part of the aforsaid Tract both of
upland & meadow formerly belonging unto ffrancis Cooke and sence given and made over by him
unto his sonne Jacob Cooke To have and to hold unto the said Moris Truant his heaires &
assignes for ever; The said premises with all the said Jacob Cooke his Right title & Enterest of &
into the said premises with all & singular the apurtenances belonging therunto; TO belong unto
the said Moris Truant his heaires & and assignes for ever unto the onely proper use & behoofe of
him the said Moris Truant his heaires & assignes for ever.
Records of Plymouth Colony, Vol. 12, p. 185-86.

4 June 1650: "The Grand Inquest…sworne, Jacob Cooke."
And, again, on 3 June 1662 (PCR Vol. 4, p. 14) and on 5 June 1667 (PCR Vol. 4, p. 148).

March 1651/52: "The Names of those that have Interest and proprieties in the Townes land att
Punckateesett over against Road Island… Jacob Cooke."

1651/52: "Plym Register of the Beirth of their Children…
Caleb Cook, son of Jacob Cook, born the 29th of March."

2 March 1651/52: "Steven Bryant, and Abigaill, his wife, complaineth against John Haward,
Edward Hall, and Susanna Haward, of Duxburrow, in an action of slander and defamacion, to
the dammage of five hundred pounds.
The jury find for the plaintife five pound damage, and the chargs of the Court, equally & joyntly to
bee paid by the defendants.
Judgment was granted, according to the verdict.
Charges allowed:
It, to the constable of Duxburow, for serving of two attachments on the bodyes of Edward Hall and John Haward, 5 [shillings] 0 [pence]
It, for a warrant for Mercy Tubbs, 0 [shillings] 6 [pence]
It, to Dammeris Cooke, as a witness, 3 [shillings] 0 [pence]
It, to Elizabeth Hopkins, as a witness 1 [shilling] 6 [pence]
It, to the jury 6 [shillings] 6 [pence]
It, to Tho Lettice 0 [shillings] 6 [pence]
It, to the clerk 3 [shillings] 6 [pence]


1653: "Wheras sundry proportions of meadow were granted unto sundry persons at the Meadow commonly called Joanes River Meadow in the woods and the measurers appointed to lay it out this done as followeth…
"The fift is Jacob Cooke's which is to run from his Brothers stake to another stake in the meadow; and from the said stake to run a west norwest line over to the upland."
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 6, p. 102.

1652/53: "Plymouth Register of the Birth of their Children.
Jacob the son of Jacob Cooke, born the twenty sixth of March."
Records of Plymouth Colony, Vol. 8, p. 15.

10 October 1657: "Memorandum That Elizabeth Hopkins [Elizabeth is Damaris Hopkins Cook's younger sister] doth acknowledge that for and in consideration of a valuable sum to her already satisfied and fully paid by Jacob Cooke of the town of Plymouth planter she hath fully freely and absolutely bargained alienated and sold enfeofed and confirmed and by these presents doth bargain sell enfeof and confirm unto the said Jacob Cooke all that her portion or parcel of meadow that she hath in the great meadow at Joanses river six ten acres of fresh meadow be it more or less lying betwixt the meadow of Capt: Thomas Willett and Mr John Done running from woodsie to woodsie To have and to hold the said ten acres of meadow be it more or less lying in the meadow Commonly called the great meadow at Joanses river running and being bounded as above expressed with all and singular the appurtenances and privileges belonging therunto; unto the said Jacob Cooke his heirs and assigns for ever The said premises with all and singular the privileges belonging therunto with all the said Elizabeth Hopkins her right title and interest of and into the same or any part or parcel thereof to belong and appertain unto the onely proper use and behoofe of him the said Jacob Cooke his heirs and Assignes for ever"
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 4, p. 118.

1657/58: "Plymouth Register of Birth of their Children…
Mary, the daughter of Jacob Cooke, was born the 12th of January, 1657.
Records of Plymouth Colony, Vol. 8, p. 17.

10 April 1659: "Memorandum that Stephen Bryant doth acknowledge that in consideration of a valuable sum to him already paid by Jacob Cooke of the Towne of Plymouth in the Jurisdiction of New Plymouth planter; he hath freely and absolutely bargained alienated and sold unto the said Jacob Cooke a small parcel of merch meadow containing three acres be it more or less lying in greenharbour Mersh at a place Called the pyny point over against Wood Island lying next unto a parcel of mersh belonging [sometimes] to the heires of Mrs Jeney To have and to hold the said parcel of meadow being thre acres be it more or less with all and singular the
appurtenances belonging therunto with Warrantice of the sale therof against all persons whatsoever unto the said Jacob Cooke his heirs and assigns for ever the said premises with all and singular the appurtenances belonging therunto to appertaine unto the onely proper use and behoof of him the said Jacob Cooke his heirs and Assignes for ever; And Abigaill the wife of the said Stephen Bryant hath given her free Consent unto the abovesaid sale; of the meddow and all the Appurtenances
Acknowledged before William Bradford the Day and yeare above written."

6 October 1659: "An Inventory of the estate of Elizabeth Hopkins [Elizabeth is Damaris Hopkins Cook's younger sister] which is in the hands of Jacob Cooke taken this 6th of October 1659 as likewise what pte of her said estate is in the hands of Andrew Ring an Inventory therof likewise taken the Day and yeare abovesaid and attested on the oaths of the said Andrew ringe and Jacob Cooke before the Court and by the Court ordered to be recorded…"

1659/60: "Martha, the daughter of Jacob Cooke, was born the sixteenth of March, 1659."
Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 8, p. 22.

24 March 1661/62: "Libertie is graunted unto John Cooke and Jacob Cooke to looke out some land where it may lye convenient for them and not prejudicial to others and a Competency therof to bee Confeirmed unto them by the towne."
Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, p. 46.

1662/63: "Francis, the son of Jacob Cooke, was borne the fift of January, 1662."
Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 8, p. 23.

22 March 1662/63: "The severall lotes on Puncateesett Necke [Note: Puncateesett Necke was on Seconnet River and is now in Rhode Island] are as followeth…
"Jacob Cooke, John Jordaine. [Lot Number] 31. lott is on the north side of the 30th lett and on the south and west end is bounded with a Rid oake bush and on the east end and south side with a salnutt stake and from this walnutt stake the line to Run betwixt this lott and the highway north 14 degrees westerly for a highway to the 32 lott and to the meddow the north bounds to bee ordered by the owner therof and the owner of the 32 cond lott."

8 June 1664: "Surveyors for the Highwaies. Plym … Mr. Barnes, Jacob Cooke, Thomas Morton."

1665/66: "Ruth, the daughter of Jacob Cooke, was borne the seaventeenth of January, 1665."
Records of Plymouth Colony, Vol. 8, p. 32.

5 June 1666: "The surveyors of the highwayes are as followeth: Plymouth… Jakob Cooke, Robert Finney, Thomas Lettice."

20 June 1666: "the Surveyors for the highwaies Chosen by the Towne were Jacob Cooke Thomas Lettice and Robert finney whoe were chosen the last yeare to the said office but forasmuch as they did nothing in the mending of the ways they were Required to serve this yeare againe."
16 June 1668: "The names of such as have voted in Towne meeting in the Towne of Plymouth: Mr. Thomas Prence, Capt: Thomas Southworth, Capt: William Bradford, Mr John Cotton, The Elder Thomas Cushman, Mr John howland, Jacob Cooke..."

6 July 1668: "Twenty Acrees of land was granted unto Thomas Dunham lyingon the North syde of the Towne about Jonneses River to be layed forth for him by the Elder Cushman Jacob Cooke and Stephen Bryant as conveniently as they can to his benifitt and as little prejudiciall to others as may bee"

2 March 1668/69: "In answere to the petition prefered to the Court by Samuell Fuller, of Plymouth, wherein hee complaineth against Jacob Cook for trespsing upon his land att Smeltbrook, the Court have ordered, that both of them be warned to appeer att the Court to be holden att Plymouth in June next, and that then the case to be heard and determined; and that the said Jacob Cooke be warned in the mean time not further to trespas on the land in controversy by takeing wood of from it, &c."

29 May 1670: "An exact List of all the Names of the Freemen of the Jurisdiction of New Plymouth, transcribed by Nathaniel Morton, Secretary to the Court for the said Jurisdiction, the 29th of May, Anno Dom 1670.
Plymouth... Jacob Cooke.

5 June 1671: "The Constables of the severall Townes. Plyo... Jacob Cooke."

16 May 1673: "Six acrees of land is graunted to Jacob Cooke seni: lying neare his meddow att Winnatucksett on the Westerly syde therof"

31 January 1672: "The bounds of thirty acrees of upland or therabouts which was Graunted by the Towne unto Jacob Cooke seni: in Leiw of the land taken away from him att the head of his land att the smelt brooke in the Township of Plymouth by the Running of the line of Edward Grayes and Samuell fullers Lands which thirty acrees of land is bounded as followeth; viz: att the southeast end with an ash tree marked and with three stones att the foot of it; and att the southwest end nearest, it is bounded with a blacke oake tree marked having alseo three stones att the foot of it; and the southerly syde is bounded with the smelt brooke; and on the westerly syde betwixt Samuell fuller and him: It is bounded with a white oake tree and three stones att the foot of it The bounds of the Lands by Jacob Cooke Graunted by the Towne and layed out By Gorge Bonum, lying against Joneses River meddow upon the southsyde by the way Goeing to winnatucksett; it is bounded by a white oake tree Marked standing on the south syde of the way against Brewsters hill and soe Rangeth up into the woods to a blacke oake tree with three stones att the Root therof, and soe Ranging for the breadth of it to a white oake tree with three stones pitched att the Root of it upon a little Iland in a pond"

7 July 1676: "In reference unto the issuing of a difference between John Doten and the
executors and overseers of the last will of Jacob Cooke, deceased, and the rest of the children concerned in that estate, touching five pounds demaunded by the said Doughtey, committed to the finall determination of this Court, this Court, having heard and considered theire mutuall pleas, doe order, that the said John Doughty shall have alowed unto him by the sonnes that enjoy the lands of the said Jacob Cooke pportionable to theire respective ptes by them enjoyed, either two acrees of the marsh lying together out of the six acrees lying att Joneses River, or forty shillings in current New England mony, and forty shillings more to him in curent country pay out of the estate belonging to the sisters according to theire respective ptes, and this to be a finall end of the said difference."