Josiah Winslow (1628-1680) was the son of Mayflower passengers Edward Winslow and Susanna White Winslow. Harvard-educated and introduced into public life at an early age, Josiah was the first Plymouth-born governor of the colony, serving as governor from 1673 until his death in 1680.

Josiah Winslow journeyed to England in 1651 and, while in England, married Penelope Pelham. Both Josiah and Penelope had their portraits painted in London, as did Josiah’s father Edward Winslow. Josiah, with Penelope, returned to Plymouth in 1655.

The two portraits of Josiah Winslow and his wife, Penelope Pelham Winslow, show a couple of wealth and prominence. Their elegance was new to the second generation of settlers.

Along with the painting of Edward Winslow, these paintings form one of the earliest groups of American family portraits.