



Richard Warren: 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 ...

"Mr. Richard Warren, but his wife and children were left behind and came afterwards."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 441-3.

It is possible that Elizabeth Warren and her daughters were also part of the original group that meant to travel to America. William Bradford notes that, when the *Speedwell* was determined to be unseaworthy,

"...it was resolved to dismiss her [the *Speedwell*] and part of the company, and proceed with the other ship [the *Mayflower*]. The which (though it was grievous and caused great discouragement) was put into execution. So after they had took out such provision as the other ship could well stow, and concluded both what number and what persons to send back, they made another sad parting; the one ship [the *Speedwell*] going back for London and the other [the *Mayflower*] was to proceed on her voyage. Those that went back were for the most part such as were willing so to do, either out of some discontent or fear they conceived of the ill success of the voyage, seeing so many crosses befall, and the year time so far spent. But others, in regard of their own weakness and charge of many young children were thought least useful and most unfit to bear the brunt of this hard adventure; unto which work of God, and judgment of their brethren, they were contented to submit."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 53.

Richard Warren: Signer of the Mayflower Compact

"I shall ... begin with a combination made by them before they came ashore; being the first foundation of their government in this place. Occasioned partly by the discontented and mutinous speeches that some of the strangers amongst them had let fall from them in the ship: That when they came ashore they would use their own liberty, for none had power to command them, the patent they had being for Virginia and not for New England ... And partly that such an act by them done, this their condition considered, might be as firm as any patent, and in some respects more sure.

"The form was as followeth: IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc. Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the

general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini 1620."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 75-76.

Richard Warren and the "First Encounter"

This story appears both in *Mourt's Relation*, published in London in 1622, and (in a condensed version) in *William Bradford's Of Plymouth Plantation*.

"Wednesday, the sixth of December [1620]. It was resolved our discoverers should set forth ... So ten of our men were appointed who were of themselves willing to undertake it, to wit, Captain Standish, Master Carver, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Tilley, Edward Tilley, John Howland, and three of London, Richard Warren, Stephen Hopkins, and Edward Doten, and two of our seamen, John Alderton, and Thomas English. Of the ship's company there went two of the master's mates, Master Clarke and Master Coppin, the master gunner, and three sailors ...

Mourt's Relation, ed. Jordan D. Fiore (Plymouth, Mass.: Plymouth Rock Foundation, 1985), p. 27-28.

"... the 6th of December [1620] they sent out their shallop again with ten of their principal men and some seamen, upon further discovery, intending to circulate that deep bay of Cape Cod. The weather was very cold and it froze so hard as the spray of the sea lighting on their coats, they were as if they had been glazed. Yet that night betimes they got down into the bottom of the bay, and as they drew near the shore they saw some ten or twelve Indians very busy about something. They landed about a league or two from them ... they made themselves a barricado with logs and boughs as well as they could in the time, and set out their sentinel and betook them to rest, and saw the smoke of the fire the savages made that night. When morning was come they divided their company, some to coast along the shore in the boat, and the rest marched through the woods to see the land, if any fit place might be for their dwelling. They came also to the place where they saw the Indians the night before, and found they had been cutting up a great fish like a grampus ...

"So they ranged up and down all that day, but found no people, nor any place they liked. When the sun grew low, they hasted out of the woods to meet with their shallop ... of which they were very glad, for they had not seen each other all that day since the morning. So they made them a barricado as usually they did every night, with logs, stakes and thick pine boughs, the height of a man, leaving it open to leeward, partly to shelter them from the cold and wind (making their fire in the middle and lying round about it) and partly to defend them from any sudden assaults of the savages, if they should surround them; so being very weary, they betook them to rest. But about midnight they heard a hideous and great cry, and their sentinel called "Arm! arm!" So they bestirred them and stood to their arms and shot off a couple of muskets, and then the noise ceased. They concluded it was a company of wolves or such like wild beasts, for one of the seamen told them he had often heard such noise in Newfoundland.

"So they rested till about five of the clock in the morning; for the tide, and their purpose to go from thence, made them be stirring betimes. So after prayer they prepared for breakfast, and it being day dawning it was thought best to be carrying things down to the boat ...

"But presently, all on the sudden, they heard a great and strange cry, which they knew to be the same voices they heard in the night, though they varied their notes; and one of their company being abroad came running in and cried, "Men, Indians! Indians!" And withal, their arrows came flying amongst them. Their men ran with all speed to recover their arms, as by the good providence of God they did. In the meantime, of those that were there ready, two muskets were

discharged at them, and two more stood ready in the entrance of their rendezvous but were commanded not to shoot till they could take full aim at them. And the other two charged again with all speed, for there were only four had arms there, and defended the barricado, which was first assaulted. The cry of the Indians was dreadful, especially when they saw their men run out of the rendezvous toward the shallop to recover their arms, the Indians wheeling about upon them. But some running out with coats of mail on, and cutlasses in their hands, they soon got their arms and let fly amongst them and quickly stopped their violence ...

"Thus it pleased God to vanquish their enemies and give them deliverance; and by his special providence so to dispose that not any one of them were either hurt or hit, though their arrows came close by them and on every side [of] them; and sundry of their coats, which hung up in the barricado, were shot through and through. Afterwards they gave God solemn thanks and praise for their deliverance, and gathered up a bundle of their arrows and sent them into England afterward by the master of the ship, and called that place the FIRST ENCOUNTER."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 68-72.

Richard Warren & the 1623 Division of Land

The 1623 Division of Land marked the end of the Pilgrims' earlier 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 Richard Warren were among those designated as "their grounds which came first over in the May Floure, according as thier lotes were case" and are described in this way "these lye one the north side of the towne next adjoining to their gardens which came in the Fortune."

Richard Warren & 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 ninth lot fell to Richard Warren & his companie Joyned with (2) him his wife Elizabeth Warren (3) Nathaniell Warren (4) Joseph Warren (5) Mary Warren (6) Anna Warren (7) Sara Warren (8) Elizabeth Warren (9) Abigall Warren (10) John Billington (11) George Sowle (12) Mary Sowle (13) Zakariah Sowle. To this lott fell one of the 4 black heyfers that came in the Jacob caled the smooth horned Heyfer and two shee goats."

Richard Warren: a 1626 Purchaser

In 1621, King James I authorized the Council for New England to plant and govern land in this

area. This Council granted the Peirce Patent, confirming the Pilgrims' settlement and governance of Plymouth. Peirce and his associates, the merchant adventurers, were allotted 100 acres for each settler the Company transported. The Pilgrims had a contract with the Company stating all land and profits would accrue to the Company for 7 years at which time the assets would be divided among the shareholders. Most of the Pilgrims held some stock. The Pilgrims negotiated a more favorable contract with the Company in 1626. In 1627, 53 Plymouth freemen, known as "The Purchasers," agreed to buy out the Company over a period of years. In turn, 12 "Undertakers" (8 from Plymouth and 4 from London) agreed to pay off Plymouth's debts in return for trade benefits.

The list we have of the 1626 Purchasers comes from the *Plymouth Colony Records* (Vol. 2, p. 177). Because of some discrepancies in the names, it is usually assumed that the list was compiled several years after the actual agreement was negotiated. The Plymouth Colony Records do not list Richard Warren; instead "Elizabeth Warren, widdow" is listed even though Richard Warren was still living in 1626/1627.

Richard Warren: his death

"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 ...

"Mr. Richard Warren lived some four or five years and had his wife come over to him, by whom he had two sons before [he] died, and one of them is married and hath two children. So his increase is four. But he had five daughters more came over with his wife, who are all married and living, and have many children."

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

"1628.

"This year died Mr. Richard Warren, who hath been mentioned before in this book, and was an useful instrument ; and during his life bore a deep share in the difficulties and troubles of the first settlement of the plantation of New Plimouth."

Nathaniel Morton, *New England's Memorial* (Boston: John Usher, 1669)

Richard Warren's burial site is unknown.

Elizabeth Warren in the Records of Plymouth Colony

1631 [a bequest in the will of Mary Ring]: "I give unto mrs Warren one wooden cupp with a foote as a token of my love."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 1, p. 29-30.

1633: "a misted [meerstead] that was granted formerly to Richard Warren, deceased, & forfeited by a late order, for want of building, the said misted was granted to Mr. Raph Fog & his heires forever, provided the said Raph w'thin twelve moneths build a dwelling howse upon the same, & allow the widow Warren so much for her fence remaying thereon ..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 18.

1633: "According to an order in Court held the 2d of January, in the seaventh yeare of the raigne of o'r soveraigne lord, Charles, by the grace of God King of Engl., Scotl., France, & Irel., defendr of the faith, &c, the psons heere under menconed were rated for publike use ... to be brought in by

each pson as they are heere under written, rated in corne at vi [pence] bushell ... Widow Warren ... 12 s[hilling]s."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. I, p. 9-10.

In 1634, she was also "rated": "Widow Warren 9 [shillings]."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 26-27.

1633 [inventory]: "John. Thorp debtor to ... To mrs Warren 01 10 08."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 1, p. 160.

1635: "At this Court, Thomas Williams, ye sarvant of widow Warren, was accused for speaking profane & blasphemous speeches against ye mauestie of God, which wer these: ther being some discention betweene him & his dame, shee, after other things, exhorted him to fear God & doe his duty ; he answered, he neither feared God, nor the divell ; this was proved by witneses, and confesed by himselfe. This, because ye Courte judged it to be spoken in passion & distemper, with reprove did let him pass, upon humble acknowledgme of his offence ; though ye Gove'r would have had him punished wth bodily punishmente, as ye case seemed to require."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 35.

1635: "Thomas Clarke was plaintive against widow Warren, for taking a boat of his, which was lost in ye Eele River, wher she left it, by an extraordinary storme, in ye same place ; for which he demanded 15 [pounds] damage ; but ye jury aquite ye defendante, finding ye boat to be borrowed, & laid in an ordinary place of saftie ; yet, for other considerations, they gave ye said Thomas Clarke 30 [shillings]."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 36.

1636/37: "It is agreed upon, by the consent of the whole Court, that Elizabeth Warren, widdow, the relict of Mr. Richard Warren, deceased, shalbe entred, and stand, and bee purchaser instead of her said husband, as well because that (hee dying before he had pformed the said bargaine) the said Elizabeth pformed the same after his decease, as also for the establishing of the lotts of land given formly by her unto her sonnes in law, Richard Church, Robert Bartlett, and Thomas Little, in marriage with their wives, her daughters."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 54.

1637: "That Mrs Elizabeth Warren of the Eele River Widdow for and in consideracon of a Marriage already solempnized betwixt John Cooke the yeonger of the Rockey Noocke and Sarah her daughter doth acknowledge that shee hath given granted enfeoffed and confirmed unto the said John Cooke one lot of land lying at the Eele River containeing eighteene acres or thereabouts and lying on the North side of Robert Bartletts lott formly also given the said Robert in Marriage w'th Mary another of the sd Mrs Warrens daughters ..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 27.

1637: "whereas John Cooke hath a lott of land at the Eele River lying next to Robert Barlet containeing by estimacon eighteene acres or thereabout given him by Mrs. Elizabeth Warren in marriage w'th his wyfe and Robte Bartlett hath a lott of land of like quantitie lying on the Duxborrow side ... the said John Cooke & Robert Bartlett have exhcaunged the said lotts w'th eich other ..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 28.

1639: "M'ris Elizabeth Warren Widdow for and in consideracon of a marriage already consummate betwixt Anthony Snow & Abigall her daughter Hath freely & absolutely given granted assigned & made over unto the said Anthony Snow All that her house scituate nere the place

called Wellingsly (alis) Hobs Hole ..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 53.

1640: "Richard Church, Robte Bartlett, Thomas Little, & Mrs Elizabeth Warren are graunted enlargement at the head of their lotts to the foote of the Pyne Hills, leaveing a way betwixt them and the Pyne Hills, for cattell & cart to passe by."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 152.

1644 [from the will of Stephen Hopkins]: "I do bequeath by this my will to my sonn Giles Hopkins my great Bull w'ch is now in the hands of m'ris Warren Also I do give to Stephen Hopkins my sonn Giles his sonne twenty shillings in m'ris Warrens hands for the hire of the said Bull"
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 2, p. 12.

1651: "The Names of those that have Interest and proprieties in the Townes land att Punchkateesett over against Road Iland ... Mistris Elizabeth Warren."
Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, p. 36

1652: "petition was prefered by Robert Bartlet unto the Court holden att Plymouth the 7th of October, 1652, therin requesting that wheras sundry speeches have pased from som who pretend themselves to bee the sole and right heires unto the lands on which the said Robert Barlet now liveth, at the Eelriver, in the townshipp of Plymouth, which hee, the said Robert, had bestowed on him by his mother in law, Mis Elizabeth Warren, in marriage with her daughter ... doe therby find that Mis Elizabeth Warren, who gave the said lands unto the said Robert and others in like condicon, had power soe to doe, as being by an order of Court bearing date March the 7th, 1637, and other actes of Court before, envested into the state and condicon of a purchaser, as in the said order is expressed ; the said Court doth by these presents, therefore, further ratify and confeirme the aforesaid actes of Court wherby the said Elizabeth Warren is declared to have right to despose of the aforsaid lands, approveing and allowing of the abovesaid gift of land unto the said Robert Barlet and others in like condicon with him, to bee called ..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 19.

1653: "An Obligation appointed to bee recorded ;
"Wheras there hath been a Difference Depending betwixt Mis Elizabeth warren and her sonn Nathaniell Warren about certaine lands which the said Nathaniell conceiveth hee hath right unto as heire unto the lands of Mr Richard Warren Deceased ; These are therefore to Declare and certify unto the court by Mis Jane Collyare in the behalfe of her grandchild Sara the wife of the said Nathaniell Warren and an other petition formerly prefered to the court by Robert Bartlett sonn inlaw of the said Elizabeth wArren by each petitions the prties requesting Justice in the prmises ; the said Mis Elizabeth Warren and Mis Jane Collyare and Nathaniell Warren haveing agreed to refer the said Difference unto such of the bench as they have chosen ; viz Mis Elizabeth Warren hath chosen Mr William Bradford and captaine Willett and Mis Jane Collyare and Nathaniell Warren haveing Chosen Mr Thomas Prence and capt: Myles Standish and they the said Elizabeth Jane and Nathaniell Doe bind them selves heerby videlecett Elizabeth Warren in the summe of an hundred pounds and the said Jane Collyare and Nathaniell Warren in the summe of an hundred pounds to stand to whatsoever they shall Doe and finally Determine in the prmises or the Maior prte of them ; and incase they can not agree they are to chose a fift to bee Umpire in the case In Witnesse wherof they have heerunto sett their hands The eleventh of June 1653."
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 2, p. 64.

1653: "These are to signifye that upon a claime made by Nathaniell Warren as heire to the lands of Richard Warren late of Plymouth and by Reason alsoe of a petition prefered to the court held

att Plymouth the seaventh of June 1653 by mis Jane Collyare in behalfe of her grandchild the wife of the said Nathaniell Warren conserning sundry passages and Discourses between her and mis Elizabeth Warren ye mother of the said Nathaniell Warren about the time of theire contract ; by which the said mis Collyare Did conceive her grandchild should by promise have been Invested and entersed in more lands then the said mis Warren Doth now acknowldige By Reason wherof many great and sad Differences were like to arise between the prties abovsaid and the said mis Warren and her other children to whom shee had Desposed som prte of her lands to theire great Discontent if not undoeing ; The case was Referred by both prties ; videlecett the said Nathaniell Warren and mis Jane Collyare on the one prtie and mis Elizabeth Warren on the other prtie To Mr Willam Bradford Mr Thomas Prence captaine Myles Standish and captaine Thomas Willett as arbetrators chosen Indiffrently by them to end Deside Issue and finnally Determine all contraversies Differences and claimes about this matter that hath arisen or may for ever arise heerafter for which end the prties abovesaid were all and every of them bound in an assumsett of an hundred pounds apeece to stand to theire award which is as followeth

"first That the said Nathaniell Warren shall enjoy to him and his heires for ever all that land which hee is now possess of ; and moreover shall have two thirds of those lands called purchase lands as yett unlayed out ;

"2'condly And mis Warren shall enjoy that three acres of land bee it more or lesse lying neare to the lotts of Nathaniell Warren ; Dureing his life ; but after her Decease it shall come to Nathaniell Warren

"3'dly shee and her children (viz mis Warren aforsaid) shall quietly enjoy all the Rest of her lands and all of them to whom shee hath alreddy att any time heer(to)fore Desposed any prte therof by gift sale or otherwise or shall heerafter Doe the same To them and theire heires for ever without any trouble or molestacon ;

"4'ly Lastly the said Nathaniell Warren shall for ever cease all other or further claimes suites questions or any molestations or Disturbance att any time heerafter conserning the pr'mises ; but that his said mother and all her children or any other to whom shee hath any way Desposed any lands or shall heerafter Doe the same ; But that they may quietly and peacably possesse and enjoy the same they and theire heires for ever without any molestation from him and his att any time heerafter ; This Determination and award wee have signed under our hands The eleventh of June 1653.

Willam Bradford, Thomas Prence, Myles Standish, Thomas Willett."
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 3, p. 141-142.

1660 re the Purchasers of Dartmouth: "Att a generall meeting of the Purchasers att Plymouth the seaventh of march 1652 It was ordered and fully agreed unto and Concluded by the whole that all that Tract and tracts of lands lying from the Purchassers bounds on the west side of Acoughcusse to a river called Accusshaneck and three miles to the Eastwards of the same ; with all llands meddows woods waters rivers Creekes and all appurtenances therunto belonging Should bee given to those whose names are heerunder written Containing thirty four shares and was then given allotted Assigned and sett over to them by the whole to have and to hold to them and their heires and Assignes for ever ; to Devide and Dispose of the same as they should see good ; and they are to Satisfy the Indians for the Purchase therof and to beare all other Due Charges that shall any way arise about the same According to their severall proportions... mistris Warren, [et al.]...Wheras these Purchasers whoe by agreement of the whole had theire proportions of Purchase land falling unto them in the places above mencioned whoe by agreement had theire severall names entered into a list (together with some other old Comers) under the hand of the honored Gov'r: late Deceased they Did Desire that the list of theire Names might bee recorded ; but the above written originall list of Names and the agreement Could not bee found in some yeares ; soe that it was Judged lost These purchasers notwithstanding still Desiring that what was theire right might bee recorded ; wherupon order was given by the aforsaid Gov'r that it might bee

Done ...

"The names of those whoe by order of the Purchasers mett att Plymouth the seaventh Day of march 1652 whoe by Joyne consent and agreement of the said purchasers are to have their partes shares or proportions att the place or places commonly called and knowne by the names of Acushena alias acquessent which entereth in att the western end of Neckatay and to Coaksett alisa acoakius and places adjacent ; the bounds of which Tract fully to extend... The said Tract or tract[s] of Land soe bounded as abovesaid which is purchased of the Indians which were the right propriators therof ; as appeers by a Deed under their hands with all the marshes meddows rivers waters woods Timbers ; and all other profitts priviledges emunities comodities and appurtenances belonging to the said Tract or Tracts above expressed or any parte or pcell therof to belonge unto the parties whose names are underwritten (whoe are in number thirty four whole partes or shares and noe more) to them and their heires and assignes for ever ...Mis Warren one whole share, [et al.]"

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 4, p. 185-188.

1673: "Mistris Elizabeth Warren, an aged widdow, aged above 90 yeares, deceased on the second of October, 1673, whoe, haveing lived a godly life, came to her grave as a shocke of corn fully ripe. Shee was honorably buried on the 24th of October aforsaid."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 8, p. 35.