



### Samuel Eaton: 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...

"Francis Eaton and Sarah his wife, and Samuel their son, a young child."

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

### Samuel Eaton & the 1627 Division of Cattle

*Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds, &c., Vol. I 1627-1651* tells of the 1627 division of cattle:

"At a publicque court held the 22th of May it was concluded by the whole Companie, that the cattell wch were the Companies, to wit, the Cowes and 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 tenth lot fell to ffrancis Eaton & those Joyned wth him his 2) wife Christian Eaton 3) Samuell Eaton 4) Rahell Eaton 5) Stephen Tracie 6) Triphosa Tracie 7) Sarah Tracie 8) Rebecka Tracie 9) Ralph Wallen 10) Joyce Wallen 11) Sarah Morton 12) ~~Edward Fludd~~ 12) Robert Hilton Bartlet 13) Tho: Prence. To this lott fell an heyfer of the last yeare called the white belyd heyfer & two shee goats.

### Samuel's apprenticeship

**13 August 1636:** "Samuell Eaton, the sonne of Fr. Eaton, late of Plym, deceased, by the consent and approbacion of Christian, his mother in law, hath bownd himselfe apprentize to John Cooke the younger for & during the full terme of seaven yeares, to begin at the first of October next ensuing; and at the expiracion of the said terme, he, the said John, to give him one compleate sute of appell, besides two other, one for ordinary weare, & the other for the Sabbath; also, twelve bushells of Indian corne, and one heyfer of a twelve-moneth old, & the advantage of the spring to yt prnt."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 43.

### Samuel Eaton in the Plymouth Colony Records

**August 1643:** "The Names of all the Males that are able to beare Armes from xvi. Years old to 60 Yeares, wthin the sevrall Townshippis.

"Plymouth... Samuell Eaton."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 8, p. 187.

**7 January 1644-45:** "Upon a Ltre directed to the Govnor from Captaine Miles Standish to give the Court to understand That Samuell Eaton was misconceived in the recording of an acre of land to the heires of Mr Willm Brewster deceased The said Samuell Eaton came into the Court and

deposeth that whereas the xxviiijth of Aprill 1644 he recorded an acre of land form'ly bought by Mr Wm Brewster of Christian the said Samuells mother lying on Duxborrow side wherein the said Mr Brewster hath erected a house and planted an orchard & a garden And whereas it was confirmed by the said Samuell Eaton unto the heires gen'all of the said William Brwster as by the Record thereof it more playnely appeareth Now the said Samuell Eaton declareth and deposeth that his intent and meaneing was and is to confirme the said acre of land wth the appurtences onely unto Love Brewster and his heires who dwells upon the same one of the sonnes of the said Mr Willm Brewster To have and to hold to him and his heires forever.

And the said Love Brewster pmiseth that the said Samuell Eaton his heires and assignes shall have liberty to make use of the water spring there if it fall wthin the lands of the said Love Brewster. And the said Samuell Eaton also pmiseth That the said Love Brewster his heires & Assigns shall have like liberty to make use of the said water spring there if it fall wthin the lands of the said Samuell Eaton."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 99

[and "Samuell Eaton deposed that his meaneing was to confirme the acre of land Mr Wm Brewster bought of his mother unto Love Brewster. See the great booke where it is entred one against another at large."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 79.]

**24 April 1644-45:** "Memorand That whereas Mr Willm Bewter did some tymes since for and in consideracion of the sume of six pounds sterl bargain buy and purchase of Christian late wyfe of ffrancis Eaton deceased but now wyfe to ffrancis Billington one acree of upland be it more or lesse as it is now fenced in and bounded lying on Duxborrow side whereon the said Willm Brwster hath built a house and made a garden place and an orchard Now Samuell Eaton eldet sonn and heire apparent unto the said ffrancis Eaton deceased being of the age of twenty & foure yeares and upwards came before the Govnor and did for good and valuable consideracions him thereunto especially moveing acknowledg the said bargaine and sale of the said acre of upland and by these prnts doth furth confirme and establish the same unto the heires and assignes of the said Willm Brewster and all his right title and interrest of and into the prmises wth their apprtences & every part & pcell thereof To have and to hold the said acre of upland be it more or lesse fenced and bounded as aforesaid with the apprtences thereunto belonging unto the heires and Assignes of the said Willm Brewster for evr to the only pp use and behoofe of them the said heires and Assignes of the said Willm Brewster forevr."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 100.

**7 January 1645-46:** "At a Court of Assistants holden at Plym aforesd, the vijth Day of January , in the xxth Yeare of his said Ma'ties now Raigne, of England, &c...

"Samuell Eaton deposed that his meaneing was to confirme the acre of land Mr Wm Brewster bought of his mother unto Love Brewster. See the great booke where it is entred one against another at large.'

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 79.

**3 June 1647:** "Know all men by these presents that whereas Samuell Eaton of Duxborough wthin the govmt of New Plimouth in America in New England hath bargained sould remised & enfeofed unto love Brwster of Duxborough aforesaid for a vawable consideracion all that third pte of land sometime belonging unto Christian Billington wife of ffrancis Billington formerly wife of ffrancis Eaton and father of the said Samuell Eaton: to have & to hold to him the foresaid Love Bruster his heires and Assitnes for ever wth all the apprtences Imunities and heriditam't whatsoever belonging and accrewing to the said third pte of land, now know ye that the said Samuell Eaton by these presents doth remise quit claime and discharge him selfe his heires Executors administrators or Assignes of any right title or interest for ever to any pte pcell or Immunity to the fore said third

pte of land, also the said Samuell Eaton bindeth him selfe by these presents his heires & assignes &c to give unto the said Love Brewster at his request such further assurance as shalbe required from time to time as shalbe according to ye lawed customes or orders of this Govmnt of New Plimouth to all the said prmises according to the true intent of the same The said Samuell Eaton bindeth himselfe as aforesaid under his hand & seale this 10<sup>th</sup> of march 1646.

the marke of SAMUELL EATON ye seale

this bargaine and sale as above is acknowledged by Elizabeth Eaton before ye ensealing of ye same ye day & yere above written before me.

Myles Standish"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 144-145.

**2 May 1648:** "Whereas differences are between Captaine Miles Standish and Samuell Eaton, about the bounds of thayer lands, the Court have appoynted yt Mr. Alldin, John Washburn, Senior, Henery Sampson, and Phillip Delanoy shall viue and set at right sutch differences as are between them"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 122.

**4 October 1648:** "Presentments of the Grand Enquest.

Christofer Wadsworth, Nicolas Robbins, John Roggers, John Willis, Samuell Eaton, Jonathan Brewster, Arther Haris, Thomas Gannet, being presented for being deffective in ladders, uppon thayer now being better provided of them, are cleared...

"Wheras differences have been betwext Love Brewster and Samuell Eaton about the bounds of their lands, the Court hath ordered and doe requeste Mr Alldin, Henery Sampson, and Phillipe Delanoy to range out thayer lands betwexte them, beginning at the lower end, and make report therof to the Court how thay find it."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 135-136.

[Note: A law had been passed in 1636 requiring that each householder have at least one ladder that would reach to the top of his house "fforasmuch as great Losses have heretofore happened by fyer whereby men have had their houses and goods wthin the same utterly consumed, wch might have beene prvented in some good measure if Ladders could have beene had neere hand."]

**29 October 1649:** "The Court have ordered Mr Alden, Phillip Delanoy, & Henery Sampson to measure Samuell Eatons land at the uper end, & to make report therof unto the Court."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 147.

**6 March 1651-52:** "Whereas Love Brewster late deseassed in his life time did make sale of three acars of Marsh meddow bee it more or lesse unto Samuell Eatono f Duxburrow in the Collonie of New Plym: laborer; for and in Consideration of the sum of seaven pounds to him allreddy fully satisfyed and paid; which said Meddow lyeth against the neather end of the land of Henery Howland in Duxburrow aforsaid; These presents doth therefore Wittness that Sara the late Wife of Love Brewster executrix of his last will and Testament doth heerby acknowlidg and Consent unto her said husbands acte in the aforsaid prmises Videlicet That hee the said Samuell Eaton shall have and enjoy xxx three acars of Meddow with all the appurtenances belonging therunto as his xxxpper Right to him his heires and assignes for ever To have and to xxxx the onel pper use and behoofe of him the said Samuell Exx heires and assignes for ever."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 204-205.

**7 October 1651:** "Presentments by the Grand Enquest..."

"Wee further present Samuell Eaton and Goodwife Halle, of the towne of Duxburrow, for mixed daunsing."

With a note in the margin "Released, with admonition."  
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 173-174.

**2 March 1651-52:** "Fines and Sensures..."

"Samuell Eaton, for pilfering and stealing, sentenced to sit in the stockes, and accordingly executed."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 4.

**5 October 1652:** "Christopher Winter being suspected fraudulently to have cutt a coult, that soe the right owner therof might nott bee knowne, for which the said Winter standeth bound unto the Court in the summe of tweenty pound.

The condicion, that if the said Christopher Winter doe psonally appeer att the Generall Court to bee holden at Plymouth the first Tusday in March next, and bee reddy to answare unto what shall bee farther enquired of him by the Court conserning the said coult, and not departe the said Court without lycence; that then, &c.

"The oath of Rachell Ramsden conserning the said Coult.

"Rachell Ramsden, aged twenty-six years or therabouts, being deposed, saith that shee heard Goodwife Eaton say that Christopher Winter and Samuell Eaton were together on Munday last; and that shee heard her husband say that hee bid Goodman Winter not deny that hee had cut the coult, the said Winter being angry that hee should soe speake; 'for,' said hee, 'it is true, Goodman Winter; for I was with you att work then, and saw it.'

"Samuel Eaton, aged 32 years or therabouts, being deposed, saith that Goodman Winter said the coult was cutt, and tould him hee knew who cutt him."

Plymouth Colony Records, Col. 3, p. 18.

**16 June 1659:** "Memorand; That Samuell Eaton Doth Acknowledg that hee hath sould unto Edmond Chandeler of Duxburrow two acres of meddow lying between Mr Kempes land and John Rouses; and is fully satisfied for the same; To have and to hold the said two acres of meddow unto the said Edmond Chandeler his heires and assignes for ever to belong unto the onely proper use and behoof of him the said Edmond Chandeler hee his heires and Assignes for ever"  
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 14, p. 14.

**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 Acougheasse 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 ... ffrancis Eaton [et al.]

"Wheras these Purchasers whoe by agreement of the whole had their proportions of Purchase land falling unto them in the places above mencioned whoe by agreement had their 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 their 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 their right might bee recorded; wherupon order was given by the aforesaid Gov'r that it might be Done ...

"The names of those whoe by order of the Purchasers mett att Plymouth the seaventh Day of

march 1652 whoe by Joynt 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 westeren end of Neckatay and to Coaksett alias acoakius and places adjacent... 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 prte or pcell therof to belonge unto the prties 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 ... Samuell Eaton one whole share."  
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 4, p. 165-188.

**10 January 1660-61:** "Samuell Eaton married to Martha Billington the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 1660"  
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 8, p. 22.

**1661:** "Samuell Eaton acknowledged the sale of halfe a share of his purchase land lying att Coaksett unto Ralph Earle for the which the said Samuell Eaton is fully Satisfied; before mee John Alden Assistant this first of the fift month 1661."  
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 16, p. 81

**1 June 1663:** "Att the Generall Court of Election held att the Towne of Plymouth for the Jurisdiction of New Plymouth, the first Day of June, 1663...  
Freemen admitted this Court, and sworne. Jeremiah Howes, John Miller, John Reed, Samuell Newman, Willam Carpenter, Jonathan Sparrow, Samuell Eaton."  
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 37-38.

**3 January 1663-64:** It is noted in the third volume of Plymouth Colony Deeds that "Francis Billington of Plymouth gives to son in law Samuel Eaton and daughter Martha, land on Namasket River; after their deaths land to go to their daughter Sarah Eaton."  
From: Susan E. Roser, Mayflower Deeds & Probates. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, c1994. Page 57.

**31 October 1666:** "In reference unto the complaint of Elizabeth, the wife of George Vaughan, and alsoe the complaint of the wife of Samuell Eaton, against an Indian called Sampson, allias Bump, for most insolent and intollorable carriages towards them, whoe coming into the house of the said Vaughan, hee not being att home, and help up his knife att the said Elizabeth Vaughan severall times in a threatening way and menor as if hee would have wounded her, with other insolent carriages that much affrighted her, and alsoe carrying to the wife of Samuell Eaton att the same time very wickedly by twisting of her necke to the indangering of her life, and alsoe other insolent carriages to Francis Billington att the same time, whoe was sent for to rescue the said weomen from his violence and wickednes; for which said facts, agravated by divers other pticulars, hee was sentanced by the Court to be severly whipt att this psent Court, and to bee branded in the shoulder with a Roman P, which accordingly was inflicted."  
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 136-137.

**30 March 1666-67:** It is noted in the third volume of Plymouth Colony Deeds that Samuel Eaton of Middleboro made a deed of gift to his brother Benjamin Eaton and his wife of Plymouth, and to their heirs, of land at Dartmouth.  
From: Susan E. Roser, Mayflower Deeds & Probates. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, c1994. Page 266.

**17 August 1669:** "Know all men by these presents, that I, Samuel Eaton of Duxbery in New England, on the one party (have sold unto Josiah Standish in the township of Sandwich, in New England, on the other party) all my lands, housing, fencing, now belonging to me in Duxbery, containing forty acres of upland, more or less, with three acres of meadow land, which I purchased of Constant Brewster, lying against the lands of Henry Howland, by the bay side, all these lands with the orchard, Housing, fencing now upon it, with all the privileges and appurtenances there unto belonging, and do by these presents, in consideration of Twenty Pounds already paid in hand, bargained, given, sold and set over unto the above said Josiah Standish, all the above said lands, Housings, fencings and orchard, all the immunities, privileges and appurtenances there unto belonging, unto the said Josiah Standish, his heirs and assignes, to have and to hold from the date hereof forever, and do by these presents bind myself, my heirs, executors and administrators forever, from any [----] let or hinderence, unto the above said Josiah Standish, his heirs, executors and assignes, from the quiet peaceable enjoyment thereof forever, after the date hereof, in witness whereof I have set my hand and seal, this seventeenth day of August in the year of Our Lord one thousand six hundred and sixty three.

The mark of Samuel (S) Eaton

The mark of Martha (C) Eaton

and a seal

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of William Pabodie, Alexander Standish.

Transcribed in 1669 by me, William Pabodie, T.C.

Samuel Eaton and Martha his wife, acknowledge the sale of the land expressed in this writing before me, John Alden, Assistant, the day and year above mentioned.

Records of the Town of Duxbury 1642-1770, p. 22-23.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> of May, Anno Dom 1670..."

"Middleberry. John Morton, Henery Wood, deceased, Jonathan Dunham, Francis Combe, Willam Nelson, Seni'r, Samuell Eaton."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 5, p. 278-279.

**Samuel Eaton, as written by Governor William Bradford c1650.**

Francis Eaton his first wife died in the general sickness... He died about 16 years ago. His son Samuel who came over a sucking child, is also married and hath a child."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 446.