

EXCERPTS: "Family Histories and Genealogies"

AUTHOR: Edward Elbridge Salisbury

Published in 1892

Page 524:

" Francis Willoughby was admitted an inhabitant of the town of Charlestown, in New England, August 22, 1638."

" Francis Willoughby's family consisted of himself, his wife Mary, and his son Jonathan, aged about three years. With his wife he joined the church December 8, 1639, from which time forward till his death, he 'was almost constantly engaged in public service,' says Frothingham, 'and is always respectfully alluded to in the Colonial records."

Page 525:

"The oath of Freeman was administered to him 13 May, 1640. During the latter year, his wife having died, it would appear that he returned to the Old Country seeking consolation, which he soon found in the person of Sarah, his second spouse, who, there is evidence to show, was the daughter of John Tailer, 17 shipwright of Wapping. Francis Willoughby was a prominent merchant also, did much for the improvement of the town, and WAS a Selectman of the same for seven years, from 1640."

" He was a Selectman 1640-47; Representative 1649-50; Assistant 1650 and 1651, 1B and set out, during the latter year, for England, doubtless to arrange the estate of his late father."

Pages 527-528:

"The call to England, above alluded to, was undoubtedly the settlement of his late father's estate, Col. Willoughby having, as we have seen, died in March 1651. It does not appear that any of his family accompanied him, his eldest son Jonathan having just entered College, and his wife Sarah remaining to care for the little household, consisting of her daughter and namesake aged ten years, and a young son, Nehemiah, aged seven; she did not long remain, however, after the birth of a second son, William, the following year, but reached Portsmouth with her family about December 21, 1653, the vessel narrowly escaping the fate of her consort, which was carried into Brest."

Page 529:

"...September 28, 1652, the President reported from the Council of State, that they having taken into consideration the necessity of settling some fit person to be a Commissioner at Portsmouth, in the room of Capt. Robert Moulton, lately deceased; and having received very good satisfaction of the fidelity and good ability of Capt. Francis Willoughby, SON to the late Colonel Willoughby, late commissioner there, for that trust

do humbly present him to the Parliament as a fit and able man for the management of the State's affairs in that place, if the Parliament shall so think fit.' Whereupon Capt. Willoughby was appointed one of the Commissioners at Portsmouth, in the place of Capt. Moulton, deceased, and with ' like commission, power, authority, salary and other profits and commodities, as the said Capt. Moulton had, or was to receive or enjoy.' This office he continued to hold for some years."

Page 530:

"His second wife, Mrs. Sarah (Taylor) Willoughby, who, as we have seen, returned to England in 1653, with three children, Sarah, Nehemiah and William, probably died there, leaving these children with their father."

"How faithfully Commissioner Willoughby continued this "extraordinary care," through the eight years he was in office, may be inferred from the abstracts of his many letters to the Admiralty Committee, and theirs to him, and other records of his doings, in the Calendar of State Papers between 1652 and 1660. They show his great administrative ability, and untiring energy in building, repairing, fitting out and despatching ships, his anxious oversight of them in their voyages and battles, his tender care for the comfort of the seamen, in sickness and health, and his power of controlling the mutinous, his active measures against pirates, and his vigilance in guarding the coast. The inspiring motive of all his activity is shown to have been his religious fidelity, and his enthusiastic devotion to his " poor nation," whose perils and distresses made his heart sore. The vigor, freedom and elegance of his style show the high character of his mind, and the excellence of his education."

Page 515:

"The old Navy Office in London was in Seething Lane, and there no doubt Col. William Willoughby must have resided, as did his widow and his son after him, when in London. The famous courtier and statesman Sir Francis Walsingham and many other distinguished men resided in the same Lane. It was in close vicinity to Buttolph's Lane where was the home of the widow of Enoch Lynde, and to the Tower of London. When the Kings of England held their Court in the Tower, it was natural that the presence of royalty should attract many of the nobility and gentry to reside in the then fashionable vicinity of the royal fortress."

Page 533:

" Amid the confusion of the times Mr. Willoughby had removed from Portsmouth and located in London, as a merchant. Certain deeds, about the period of the Restoration, describe Francis Willoughby as ' now dwelling at his house in Seething Lane in London.'"

"In April 1662 license was given to Francis Willoughby merchant,

bound to his habitation in New England, to embark in the ship ' Society
'with his family and goods, &c, in company with Capt. John Leverett."

He took "with him [from England] a third wife, Margaret, whom he
had there married [as early as 1658-59]."

We learn from Col. Chester that she was Mrs. Margaret (Locke) Taylor daughter
of William Locke of Wimbledon, co. Surrey, Gent. Her first husband
was " Daniel Taylor, Gent.," a merchant of London, descended from an
ancient family in Huntingtongshire."

Page 534:

"The Parish Register of Clapham, Surrey, gives the date of his second
marriage :

" 1654, Aug. 8. Daniell Taylor Esqr

. of Stephen's, Coleman Street, London, and

M". Margrett Locke of Wimbolton, Surrey .married August 8th before

Alder : Tichborne. Witness, Mr Jn°. Arthur, Mr Tho : Locke."

Daniel Taylor speaks of her in his will, dated about six months after
their marriage, as his "loving and dear wife."

"Francis Willoughby Esq. and Mrs. Margaret (Locke) Taylor had one
child before leaving England. " In the Parish Register of St. Olave,
Hart Street, London, is an entry that their son Francis was born 29 Feb.
1659-60."

Page 535:

" He was present in the Colony by May 1662, and sat as an Assistant
at the General Court held October 20, 1663 ; was again chosen the succeeding
year ; became Deputy-Governor May 1665, and so continued until
his decease."

"Palfrey, in his " History of New England," says that Francis
Willoughby was chosen Assistant in 1650, 1651, and 1664; and Deputy-
Governor in 1665, 1666, and 1667, and, again, in 1668, 1669, and 1670,
Richard Bellingham being Governor."

Page 538:

" It is to such far-sighted men as Willoughby that New England owes
its liberties. From this period, and the decision of this question, Judge
Minot dates the origin of the controversy between the patriots and prerogative
men, scarcely intermitted, and never ended, until the separation
of the colonies from the mother country."

"We have seen how bold and fearless was the Dep.-Govr in advocating
a decisive stand against encroachment upon the country's chartered privileges
still more so was he when, recognizing the errors of his fellow colonists,
he dared to raise his voice in opposition to the religious persecutions
sanctioned by the narrow-minded sectarians among them. The
Bostonians could not be brought to second the Royal Commissioners,

whose authority would give liberty to people of all religious denominations. Already in 1665, several of the Baptists, attempting to establish their sect in Boston, had been fined for not attending the established worship, imprisoned for heresy, and banished. Others were again imprisoned in July 1688, and their condition having 'sadly affected the hearts of many sober and serious Christians, and such as neither approve of their judgment or practice,' a petition for their release was presented, during the following October, by some of the best men of the town. Among those known to have been against these persecutions were Mr. Willoughby and Mr. Leverett. But liberty of conscience was not yet to be tolerated, and the petition, meeting with a fate similar to that one presented in 1646 to obtain a repeal of the law against Anabaptists, ' its chief promoters were fined, and obliged to ask pardon of the Court for the freedom they had taken with it.'"

Page 541:

"No wonder that the Deputy-Governor, being such a bold opposer of wrong, and yet so peace-loving a man, " is mentioned," as Hutchinson says, "in warm terms of affection by his contemporaries."

Page 542:

He was present at a session of the Gen Court on the eleventh of the following October, but it was for the last time ; he died Ap. 3, 1671. [We find no record of his birth, or of his age at his death ; but, if he was born when his father, b. 1588, was twenty-five years of age, he would not have been more than forty-five when he married Margaret Taylor, and fifty-eight when he died.] He was interred on the 7th, with much ceremony. Noadiah Adams describes the funeral, where eleven foot companies were in attendance, ' with the doleful noise of trumpets and drums, in their mourning-posture, three thundering volleys of shot discharged, answered with the loud roaring of the great guns rending the heavens with noise at the loss of so great a man.'"

"The Rev. Simon Bradstreet of New London says: ' He desired to be buried ten foot deep, and to haue ye top of his graue plain, only couered wth the turfes of ye grasse.'"

Additional information about this story

Description

Date

Location

Attached to [Francis Willoughby \(1613 - 1671\)](#)

The content of this page should adhere to our community guidelines.

Visit Other Generations Network sites

[Ancestry.com](#)

[Corporate Info](#) [Affiliate Program](#) [Advertising](#) [Ancestry Blog](#) [Contact Us](#)

© 2009, The Generations Network, Inc. - [PRIVACY STATEMENT](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)