

EXCERPTS: "Family Histories and Genealogies"

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Information taken from the "Willoughby" section (pages 507-402).

WILLIAM WILLOUGHBY

"Francis Willoughby, who came to New England in 1638 with his wife Mary and young son Jonathan, is alluded to by Hutchinson as 'a gentleman from England; he was a son of William Willoughby, who, we learn from Winthrop, 'was a Colonel of the City,' i. e. of London; while from other sources we learn that he was a native of Kent,"

"Mr. William Willoughby is very frequently mentioned in the " Calendar of State Papers," during many years, as a Purveyor of timber for the Royal Navy, a Government office, several very large transactions in different parts of the country being especially referred to, and he was several times, during his life and afterwards, referred to as an owner of vessels which he put at the disposal of the Government. He was Colonel in the Regiment of the Tower, and finally Master Attendant for Portsmouth and Commissioner of the Royal Navy."

" During the succeeding year, Capt. Willoughby, with the rank of Colonel, at the head of a regiment known as the Regiment of [Yellow] Auxiliaries of the Hamlets of the Tower..."

"January 8, 1647-8, the Committee of both Houses appointed Col. Robert Tichborne, Col. William Willoughby, Maurice Thompson, Gent, and several others, as a Committee for the Militia of the Tower Hamlets, said ordinance to be in force for two years from December 20, 1647. Soon after, in recognition of their services, he, together with Mr. Thomas Smith and Mr. Peter Pett, were recommended to the Naval Committee, by the merchants of London, as persons fit and able to be employed as Commissioners for the Navy ; and it was particularly requested that Col. Willoughby should personally attend at Portsmouth, and receive in recompense the fee of a Commissioner at large. He was accordingly appointed by the House of Commons, February 16, 1648-9, Master Attendant for Portsmouth, and a Commissioner of the Navy"

" But the Colonel's term of usefulness in this department was of short continuance. July n, 165 1, it was reported to the House by Mr. Bond, from the Council of State, that Col. Willoughby was lately dead, and that they recommended Capt. Robert Moulton senior, in his place."

Col. Willoughby, born under Queen Elizabeth, lived through the

reigns of James I. and Charles I., and through the restless times which followed the beheading of the latter, did active service to his country under Parliamentary rule, but did not survive to see the Protectorate of Cromwell.

The remains of Col. Willoughby were interred in St. Thomas's Church, Portsmouth, where is to be found a mural tablet to his memory, with this inscription :

"Heerevnder lyeth ye body of Willi: Willoughby Esq:, formerly Collo: of a Regiment belonging to the Hamlets of ye Tower (London), and at his deceas a Commissioner of ye Navie, aged 63 years, who departed this life ye 30 March 1651. Mors mihi Lvcrum." Above the inscription his arms are emblazoned, as given at the head of this monograph the old Willoughby de Eresby arms."

"When we first hear of William Willoughby as Purveyor of Timber, in 1628, he was holding office under Charles I. He retained this place under the Parliamentary Government, became Captain and soon Colonel, in a volunteer Regiment, and at last Commissioner of the Royal Navy, and died in 1651, while still in active service, after having been continuously in Government offices, between these dates, for twenty-three years."

"In the "Calendar of State Papers" he is always spoken of with much respect, is called " Mr. Willoughby," the designation of a " Gentleman," before he had acquired the titles of Captain and Colonel. His frequent requests to the Admiralty for facilities to perform the duties of his office received ready attention, and appear to have been promptly complied with. His advances of his own money for the public service were the more generous because there was little security for their re-payment in those troublous and uncertain times. He was evidently a man of strong patriotism, intense religious convictions, much earnestness and warmth of feeling, and energy and courage in action.

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."

Additional information about this story

Description

Date
Location
Attached to [William Willoughby \(1588 - 1651\)](#)

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