

















DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF  
RHODE ISLAND





Charles

King of  
England

# DOCUMENTARY HISTORY of Rhode Island

VOLUME TWO

BEING THE HISTORY OF  
THE TOWNS OF PORTS-  
MOUTH AND NEWPORT  
TO 1647 AND THE COURT  
RECORDS OF AQUIDNECK

BY  
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Earl of  
Pembroke

William-Viscount  
Saye & Sele

Philip-  
Lord Wharton

Sir  
Arthur Hazelrig  
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John  
Rolle

Sir  
Henry Vane Jr.  
Knt.

Samuel  
Vassell

Miles  
Corbet

Cornelius  
Holland

Robert-Earl of Warwick  
Lord High Admiral

William  
Spurstow

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## PREFACE

The previous volume contained a history of the towns of Providence and Warwick to 1649 and of the Colony to 1647. This volume covers the towns of Portsmouth and Newport. As the early Portsmouth town records have been carefully printed and are easily accessible, those after the reunion of the two towns (1640) have not been included in this volume.

The court records which are printed in this volume have been transcribed from a manuscript volume entitled "Rhode Island Colony Records 1646-1669." This volume is in the custody of the Secretary of the State. It contains the minutes of the General Assembly, the minutes of the Aquidneck circuit courts, the minutes of the Colony Court of Trials, a large number of deeds, and a few vital records. The entries are not in chronological sequence, but seem to have been entered somewhat at random. The minutes of the General Assembly were transcribed in 1822 by Charles Gyles and subsequently printed in Bartlett's "Rhode Island Colonial Records." The minutes of the Aquidneck court are printed in the present volume. The minutes of the Court of Trials are being transcribed by the Rhode Island Historical Society. The land records have not as yet been printed, transcribed or even abstracted, except in a few isolated instances.

H. M. C.



# CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE VISIT OF VERRAZZANO . . . . .	I
II. THE VOYAGE OF BLOCK—THE EARLY USE OF THE NAME RHODE ISLAND . . . . .	12
III. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT—THE SEARCH FOR A LOCATION—THE ADOPTION OF A DATING SYSTEM . . . . .	16
IV. THE DEED OF AQUIDNECK—THE GIFT OF DYRE ISLAND . . . . .	24
V. POCASSET UNDER THE JUDGE . . . . .	32
VI. POCASSET UNDER THE JUDGE AND ELDERS . . .	47
VII. THE COUP D'ÉTAT OF 1639 . . . . .	55
VIII. PORTSMOUTH UNDER THE HUTCHINSONS . . .	62
IX. THE SETTLEMENT OF NEWPORT . . . . .	69
X. RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AT AQUIDNECK . . . . .	84
XI. THE UNION OF NEWPORT AND PORTSMOUTH . .	94
XII. THE ACQUIDNECK GOVERNMENT IN 1641 . . .	107
XIII. EARLY RESIDENTS OF AQUIDNECK . . . . .	116
XIV. THE AQUIDNECK GOVERNMENT FROM 1642 TO 1644	121
XV. AQUIDNECK QUARTER COURT RECORDS . . . .	132
XVI. CONTEMPORARY LETTERS . . . . .	166





## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
Page of "John Clark Bible" . . . . .	22
William Coddington's House . . . . .	44
Henry Bull's House . . . . .	64
Title Page of John Clark's Book . . . . .	82
Roger Williams' Compass . . . . .	90
Window from the Coddington House (outside) . . . . .	110
Window from the Coddington House (inside) . . . . .	124
Balusters from the Coddington House . . . . .	140
William Coddington's Gravestone . . . . .	168





## ABBREVIATIONS

Aspinwall=Aspinwall Notarial Records. (Printed.)

I.R.=Records of the Island of Rhode Island.

M.C.R.=Massachusetts (Colonial) Court Records.

M.H.S.C.=Massachusetts Historical Society Collections.

P.C.R.=Plymouth Colony Records.

Po.R.=Portsmouth Records. (Printed.)

R.I.C.R.=Rhode Island Colonial Records.

R.I.H.S.P.=Rhode Island Historical Society Proceedings.

R.I.L.E.=Rhode Island Land Evidences.

Winthrop=The History of New England by John Winthrop.



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# *Documentary History of Rhode Island*

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## I

### THE VISIT OF VERRAZZANO

**A**LTHOUGH the history of the political entities of Newport and Portsmouth begins with the visit of the Antinomian leaders to Aquidneck in March, 1637/8, yet there is an interesting prelude in the contemporary accounts of two earlier visits to the island.

On Thursday, 21 April, 1524, Giovanni da Verrazzano, a French corsair, then perhaps better known as Juan Florentin, a name derived from his Italian birthplace, sailing in the "Delfina" under the banner of François I of France, dropped anchor in Newport Harbor. Verrazzano, on board the "Delfina" at Dieppe, 8 July, 1524, writing in Italian, but signing his name in Latin, Janus Verazzanus, gave the following description of his visit to Newport.

"We weied Ancker, and sayled towarde the East, for so the coast trended, and so alwayes for 50. leagues being in the sight thereof wee discovered an Ilande in forme of a triangle, distant from the maine lande 3. leagues, about the bignesse of the Ilande of the **Rodes**, it was full of hills covered with trees, well peopled, for we sawe fires all along the coaste, wee gave the name of it, of your Maiesties mother, not staying there by reason of the weather being contrarie. And wee came to another lande being 15. leagues distant

from the Ilande, where wee founde a passing good haven, wherein being entred we founde about 20. small boates of the people which with divers cries and wondrings came about our shippe, comming no nerer then 50. paces towards us, they stayed and behelde the artificialnesse of our ship, our shape & apparel, thā they al made a loud showte together declaring that they rejoyced: when we had something animated them using their geasters, they came so neare us that wee cast them certaine bells and glasses and many toyes, whiche when they had received they lookte on them with laughing & came without feare aborde our ship. There were amongst these people 2. kings of so goodly stature and shape as is possible to declare, the eldest was about 40 yeeres of ag, the second was a yong man of 20 yeres old. Their apparell was on this maner, the elder had upō his naked body a harts skin wrought artificialie with divers branches like Damaske, his head was bare with the haire tyed up behinde with divers knottes: About his necke he had a large chaine, garnished with divers stones of sundrie colours the young man was almost appareled after the same manner. This is the goodliest people and of the fairest conditions that wee have found in this our voyage. They exceed us in bignes, they are of the colour of brasse, some of thē encline more to whitnes: others are of yellowe colour, of comely visage with long & blacke heire which they are very carefull to trim and decke up, they are blacke and quicke eyed. I write not to your Maiestie, of the other parte of their bodie, having all suche proportion as appertayneth to anye handsome man. The women are of the like conformitie and Beawtie, verie handsome and well favoured, they are as well mannered and continente as anye women, of good education, they are all naked save their privie partes which they cover with a Deares skinne braunched or embroidered as the man use: there are also of them whiche weare on their armes verie riche skinnnes of leopardes, they

dorne their heades with divers ornamentes made of their owne heire, whiche hange downe before on both sides their restes, others use other kinde of dressing them selves like unto the women of **Egypt** and **Syria**, these are of the elder sorte: and when they are married they weare divers toyes, according to the usage of the people of the East as well man as women.

Among whom wee sawe many plates of wrought coper, which they esteeme more then golde, which for the colour they make no accompt of, for that among all other it is counted the basest, they make most accompt of **Azure** and **red**. The things that they esteemed most of al those which they gave them were bells, cristall of Azure colour, and other things to hang at their eares or about their necke. They did not desire cloth of silke or of golde, much lesse of any other sorte, neither cared they for thinges made of steele and iron, which wee often shewed them in our armour whiche they made no wonder at, and in beholding them they onely asked the arte of making them: the like they did at our classes, which whē the behelde, they sodainely laught and gave them us againe. They are very liberal for they give us what which they have, we became great friendes with these, and one day wee entred into the haven with our shippe, where as before wee rode a league of at sea by reason of the contrary weather. They came in great companies of their small boates unto the ship with their faces all bepainted with divers colours, shewing us yt it was a signe of ioy, bringing us of their victuals, they made signes unto us where wee might safest ride in the haven for the safegarde of our shippe keeping still our companie: and after we were come to an anchor, we bestowed fifteene dayes in providing our selves many necessary things, whether every day the people repayred to see our ship bringing their wives with them, whereof they are very ielous: and they themselves entring aboard the shippe and stayinge there a good space, caused

their wives to stay in their boates, and for al the intreatie we could make, offering to give them divers things, we could never obtaine that they would suffer them to come aborde our ship. And oftentimes one of the two kings comming with his queene, and many gentlemen for their pleasure to see us, they all stayed on the shore two hundred paces frō us, sending a smal boate to give us intelligēce of their comming, saying they would come to see our shippe, this they did in token of safetie, and assoone as they had answere from us they came immediately, and having stayed a while to behold it, they wondered at hearing the cryes and noyes of the marriners. The queene and her maids stayed in a very light boate, at an Iland a quarter of a leage off, while the king abode a long space in our ship uttering divers conceites with geastures, viewing with great admiration, all the furniture of the shippe, demaunding the propertie of everie thing perticularly. He tooke likewise great pleasure in beholding our apparell and in tasting our meates, and so courteously taking his leave departed. And sometimes our men staying for two or three dayes on a little Ilande nere the ship for divers necessities, (as it is ye use of seamen) he returned with 7. or 8. of his gentlemen to see what we did, and asked of us oft times if wee meant to make any long aboade there, offering us of their provision: then the King drawing his bowe and running up and downe with his gentlemen, made much sporte to gratifie our men, wee were oftentimes within the lande 5. or 6. leagues, which we found as pleasant as is possible to declare very apt for any kinde of husbandry of corne, wine, and oyle: for that there are plaines 25. or 30. leagues broad, open and without any impediment of trees and such fruitfulness, that any seede being sowne therein, will bring forth most excellent fruite. We entred afterwards into the woods which wee found so great and thicke, that any armie were it never so great might have hid it selfe therein, the trees whereof are okes, cipres trees, and

other sortes unknownen in Europe. We found Pomi appii, Damson trees, and Nutte trees, and many other sorts of fruits differing frō ours: there are beasts in great abundance, as hartes, deares, leopardes, and other kinds which they take with their nets & bowes which are their chiefe weapons, the arrowes whiche they use are made with great cunning, and in steade of iron, they head them with smeriglio, wt jasper stone, & hard marble & other sharp stones which they use in stead of iron to cut trees, and make their boates of one whole piece of wood, making it hollowe with great and wonderfull art, wherein 10 or 12 men may be cōmodiously, their oars are shorte and broad at the ende, and they use them in the sea without anye daunger, and by maine force of armes, with as great spedinesse as they lifte them selves. We sawe their houses made in circuler or rounde fourme, 10 or 12 foote in compasse, made with halfe circles of timber, seperate one from another without any order of building, covered with mattes of strawe wrought cunningly together, which save them from the winde and raine, and if they had the order of building and perfect skil of workmāship as we have: there were no doubt but yt they would also make eftsoones great and stately buildings. For all the sea coastes are full of cleare and glittering stones, and alablaster, and therefore it is full of good havens and harbarours for ships. They moove the foresaide houses from one place to another according to the commoditie of the place and season wherein they will make their aboade, and only taking of the cover, they have other houses builded incontinent. The father and the whole familie dwell together in one house in great number: in some of them we sawe 25 or 30 persons. They feede as the other doe aforesaide of pulse whiche doe growe in that countrey with better order of husbandry thē in the others. They observe in their sowing the course of the Moone and the rising of certaine starres, and divers other customs spoken of by antiquitie.



Moreover, they live by hunting and fishing, they live long, and are seldome sicke, and if they chaunce to fall sicke at any time, they heale them selves with fire without any phisition, and they say that they die for very age. They are very pitiful and charitable towards their neighbours, they make great lamentations in their adversitie & in their miserie, the kinred reckon up all their felicitie, at their departure out of life, they use mourning mixt wt singing, we continueth for a lōg space. This is asmuch as we coule learne of them. This lande is situated in the Paralele of **Rome**, in 41 degrees & 2 terces: but some what more colde by accidentall cause and not of nature, (as I will declare unto your highnesse els where) describing at this present the situation of the foresaide countrie, which lyeth East and West, I say that the mouth of the haven lyeth open to the South halfe a league broade, and being entred within it betweene the East and the North, it stretcheth twelve leagues: where it wareth broder and broder, and maketh a gulfes aboute 20 leagues in compasse, wherein are five small Islandes very fruitfull and pleasant, full of hie and broade trees, among the which Ilandes, any great Navie may ryde safe without any feare or tempest or other daunger. Afterwardes turning towards the South and in the entring into the Haven on both sides there are most pleasant hilles, with many rivers of most cleere water falling into the Sea.

In the middest of this entraunce there is a rock of free stone growing by nature apt to builde any Castle or Fortresse there, for ye keeping of the haven. The fift of May being furnished with all thinges necessarie, we departed from ye said Coast Keeping along in the sight thereof. . . .”

(London 1582 ed. of Hakluyt's *Divers Voyages*.)

The Italian, as printed in Ramusio, is as follows:

“Leuata l'anchora nauigamo verso leuante che cosi la terra tornaua, & cosi leghe cinquanta sempre à vista di

quella discoprimo un'isola in forma triangulare, lontana dal continente leghe dieci, di grandezza simile all'isola di Rhodi, piena di colli, coperta d'arbori, molto popolata, perche si vedeuano continui fuochi per tutto intorno al lito. Battezzamola in nome della vostra Serenissima madre non sorgendo à quella per la contrarieta del tempo, & peruenimo ad vn'altra terra distante dall'isola leghe quindici, doue trouamo vn bellissimo porto, entrati in quello vedemo circa.XX.barchette di gente, che con varij gridi & marauiglie veniuano intorno alla naue, non approssimandosi à piu di cinquanta passi, fermauansi guardando l'artificio, la nostro effigie & gliha biti: dapoi tutti insieme metteuano vn'altro grido, significando rallegrarsi assicuratigli alquanto, imitando li lor gesti: tanto s'approssimorono che gettamo loro alcuni sonagli & specchi & molte fantasie, lequali prese con riso riguardandole sicuramente entrarono nella naue. Erano fra queste genti duoi Re di tanto bella statura & forma quanto narrar sia possibile, il primo d'anni .40, in circa, l'altro giouane d'anni venti, l'habito de quali era di questa maniera. Il piu vecchio sopra il corpo nudo haueua vna pelle di ceruo lauorata artificiosamēte alla damaschina con varij ricami: la testa nuda con li capelli auolti à dietro con varie legature. Al collo vna catena larga, ornata di molte pietre di diuersi colori. il giouane era quasi nella medesima forma. Questa è la piu bella gente, & di piu gentili costumi che habbiamo trouata in questa nauigatione, eccedono noi di grandezza, sono di color bronzino, alcuni pendono piu in bianchezza, altri di color giallo: il viso profilato, & capelli lunghi & neri, ne quali pongono grandissimo studio in adornarli: gliocchi neri & pronti: l'aria dolce & soaue, imitando molto l'antico, dell' altre parti del corpo non dico à Vostra Maesta, tenendo tutte le proportioni che s'appartengono ad ogni huomo ben composto. Le donne loro sono della medesima conformita & bellezza, molto gratiose, di piaceuole aria & grato aspetto, di costumi & continentia

secundo l'uso femminile quanto ad ogni persona di buona creanza sapartiene: vanno nude fuor che le parte vergognose, lequali cuoprono con vna pelle di ceruo ricamata, come gli huomini, vene sono di quelle anchora che alle braccia portano pelli di lupi ceruieri molto ricche, adornano il capo con varij ornaventi di treccie, composte de medesimi capelli, che pendono dall'uno & l'altro lato del petto. Alcune hanno altre aconciature come vsano le donne d'Egitto & di Soria, & queste sono quelle ch'ecedono l'altre di eta: & essendo maritate all'orecchie tengouo pendenti di varie fantasie, come gli orientali costumano cosi gli huomini, come le donne, à quali vedemo molte lame di rame laurate, da quelli tenute in pretio piu che l'oro, il quale per il colore nom stimano, imperoche fra tutti è da loro tenuto il piu vile, l'azzurro & il rosso sopra ogni altro esaltano, quello che piu tenessino in prezzo delle cose che da noi gli erano donato, erano sonagli, cristallini azzuri, & altre fantasie da metter all'orecchie ò al collo. Non pregiauano drappi di seta, ò d'oro, & manco d'altra sorte, ne si curauano hauerne di simili à quelli, de metalli come è acciaio & ferro, (che piu volte mostramo loro delle nostre arme) non ne pigliauano admiratione, & quele riguardando, solo dimandauano l'artificio: delli specchi il simile faceuano, che riguardandoli, subito ridendo, ce li restituiuano: sono molto liberali, perche donano cio che hanno: facemo con loro grande amista. & vn giorno con la naue entramo nel porto, standoper li tempi contrarij vna lega al mar surti. veniuano con gran numero di loro barchette alla naue tutti dipinti & acconci il viso con varij colori: mostrandoci ch'era segno d'allegrezza, portandoci delle lor viuande, ci faceuano segno doue nel porto hauessimo à sorgere per saluatione della naue, di continuo accompagnandone. poi che fumo forti posamo quindici giorni, prouedēdoci di molte cose necessarie, la onde ogni giorno veniuano genti à veder la naue menando le lor donne, dellequali sono molto gelosi: imperoche entrando essi nella

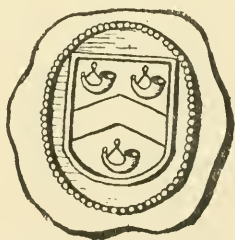
naue, & dimorandoui per lungo spacio, faceuano aspettar le loro donne nelle barchette: & con quanti preghi facemo loro, offerendo donàrli varie cose, non fu mai possibile che volessero lasciarle entrar in naue. Et molte volte venendo vno delli duoi Re con la Reina, & molti gentilhuomini per suo piacere à vederci, tutte si fermauano ad vna terra distante da noi dugento passi: mandando vna barchetta ad auisarci della sua venuta, dicendo volar venire à vedere la naue: questo facendo in segno di sicurezza. & come da noi habbano la risposta, subito venono: & stati alquanto à riguardare, si marauigliauano, sentendo il gridi & strepiti delli marinari. madama la Reina con le sue damigelle in vna barchetta molto leggiere restò à riposar ad vna isoletta distante da noi vn quarto di lega, in dimoràdo il Re lunghissimo spatio nella nostra naue, con ragionare per canni & gesti varie fantasie, riguardando, con marauiglia tutti li apparati & fornimenti della naue: dimandando in particolare la proprieta di quelli. prendeua ancho piacere di vedere li nostri habiti, & gustare li nostri cibi: dipoi cortesemēte presa licētia da noi, si parti. & alcuna volta stando le nostre gēti due e tre giorni ad vna isoletta vicina alla naue per varie necessità, come è costume de marinari, tornò con sette o otto de suoi gentillhuomini per vedere quello che faceuamo, & piu volte ci dimandò se voleuamo quiui restare per lungo tēpo, offerēdoci de le sue facultà: dipoi tirando il Re con l'arco & correndo faceua con li suoi gentilhuomini varij giuochi per darne piacere. fumo piu volte infra terra cinque o sei leghe, laquale trouamo tanto amena, quanto dir si possa, atta ad ogni sorti di cultura, di frumento, vino, lolio: imperoche in quella sono cāpagne larghe .25. in .30 eghe, aperte & senza alcuno impedimento d'alberi: di tanta fertilita, che qual si voglia semēza in quelle produrrebbe ottimo frutto. Entramo dipoi nelle selue, lequali trouamo tanto grandi & folte, che vi si potrebbe ascondere ogni numeroso esercito, gli alberi di quelle sono quercie, cipressi

ſi altri incogniti nell'Europa. trouamo pomi appij, susine ſi nociuole, ſi molte sorte di frutti dalli nostri differēti: vi sono animali di grādisimo numero, come cerui, daini, lupi ceruieri, ſi altre sorte, quali pigliano cō lacci ſi archi, che sono el loro principali armi. le frecce che vsano sono con grande eccellentia lauorate. ſi nell'estremita di quelle pongono per ferro smeriglio, diaspro, duro marmo, ſi altre taglienti pietre, dellequali si seruono per ferro in tagliar alberi, ſi fabricar le loro barchette d'un sol fusto di legno con mirabile artificio cōcauo, nellequali cōmodamente vanno dieci ſi dodici huomini: i lor remi sono corti, ſi nell'estremita larghi, ſi adoperangli in mare senza pericolo alcuno, ſi solamente con forza di braccia, con tanta velocita, quanto à lor piace. Vedemo le loro habitationi in forme circolare, di dieci in dodici passi di circuito, fabricate di semicircoli di legno, separate l'una dall'altra senza ordine d'architettura: coperte con tele tessute di paglia, sottilmente lauorate, che da vento ſi pioggia si difendono. ſi non è dubbio che se hauessero lordine del fabricare ſi la perfettione delli artificij come habbiamo noi altri, non è dubbio dico che ancho loro nō con ducessero grandi ſi superbi edificiij, imperoche tutto il lito maritimo è pieno di pietre viue trasparenti, ſi alabastri, ſi per tal causa è copioso di porti ſi recettacoli di nauilij. mutano le dette case d'uno in altro luogo, secōdo la cōmodita del luogo ſi tempo che in quelle vogliono dimorare, ſi leuando solamēte le tele, hāno in vn istāte fabricate altre habitationi. dimorano in ciascuna padri ſi famiglia in grandissimo numero. in alcuna vedemo .25. ſi .30. anime. Il viuer loro è come de glialtri, di legumi, che quelle terre producono, con piu ordini di coltura de glialtri. osseruano nelle semenze il corso della luna, ſi il nascimēto d'alcune stelle ſi motli modi detti da gli antichi. oltre di ciò viuono di cacciagioni ſi pesci. Viuono lungo tēpo, ſi rare volte si amalano, ſi se pur alle volte sono oppressi de qualche infermità, senza medico, col fuoco da lor medesimi si sanano. ſi la loro morte dicono



venire da vltima vecchiezza. sono de loro prossimi molto pietosi & charitatiui, facēdo nelle aduersita loro gran lamenti; & nelle miseria, i parenti luno con l'altro ricordano tutte le lor felicità. Nel fine de la lor vita vsano il pianto misto con canto, & dura per lungo tempo. Questo è quanto di loro habbiamo potuto conoscere. Questa terra è situata nel parallelo di Roma, in gradi .41. è dua terzi. ma alquanto piu fredda, pr accidēte, nō pr natura, come in altra parte narrero à V.S. Maesta, descriuēdo al presente il sito di detto paese, qual corre de leuāte à ponēte. dico che la bocca del porto guarda verso mezzo di, strezza mezza lega. dipoi entrando in quello, infra leuanto & tramōtano, si estende leghe docici, doue va allargandosi, & fa vn golfo di circuito di leghe venti incirca, doue sono cinque isolette di molta fertilità & vaghezza, piene di alti & spatiosi alberi. fra liquali, ogni grossa armata, senza timor di tempesta ò altro impedimēto di fortuna, puo star sicura. Tornando dipoi verso mezzo di, all'entrata del porto dall'uno laltro lato, sono amenissimi colli con molte Riui, che dalla eminentia di quelli conducono chiarissime acque al mare. nee mezzo di detta bocca si troua vno scoglio di viuua pietra, dalla natura prodotto, atto à fabricarui qual si voglia fortezza per custodia di quello. Il giorno quinto di Maggio essendo d'ogni nostro bisogno prouisti, partimo dal detto porto, continuando il lito, non perdendo mai la vista di terra, & nauigamo leghe .150. . . .”

(Ramusio, 1556, vol. 3, p. 421)



Seal used by William Coddington



## II

### THE VOYAGE OF BLOCK—THE EARLY USE OF THE NAME RHODE ISLAND

THE Dutch captain, Adrian Block or Blox, visited Narragansett Bay about 1614. The following account of his visit was printed by De Laet in Dutch in 1625:

“Beyond these lies also an island to which our countrymen have given the name of *Block's Island*, from Captain Adrian Block. This island and the Texel above mentioned are situated east by north and west by south from one another, and the distance is such that you can see both from the quarter deck when you are half way between.

To the north of these islands and within the main land, is situated the river or bay of Nassau, which lies from the above named Block's Island north-east by east and south-west by west. This bay or river of Nassau is apparently very large and wide, and according to the description of Captain Block must be full nine <sup>1</sup> miles in width; it has in the midst of it a number of islands, which one may pass on either side. It extends east-north-east about twenty-four miles, after which it is not more than two petard shots wide, and has generally seven, eight, nine, five, and four fathoms of water, except in a strait in the uppermost part of the bay, at a petard shot's distance from an island in that direction, where there is but nine feet water. Beyond this strait we have again three and a half fathoms of water; the land in this vicinity appears very fine, and the inhabitants seem strong of limb and of moderate size. They are somewhat shy, however, since they are not accustomed to trade with strangers, who would otherwise go there in quest of beaver

<sup>1</sup> “twee” in Dutch text.

and fox skins, &c., for which they resort to other places in that quarter.

From the westerly passage into this bay of Nassau to the most southerly entrance of Anchor bay, the distance is twenty-one miles, according to the statement of our skippers, and the course is south-east and north-west. Our countrymen have given two names to this bay, as it has an island in the centre and discharges into the sea by two mouths, the most easterly of which they call Anchor bay, and the most westerly Sloop bay. The south-east shore of this bay runs north-east by north and north-north-east. In the lower part of the bay dwell the Wapenocks, a nation of savages like the rest. Capt. Adrian Block called the people who inhabit the west side of this bay *Nabicans*, and their sagamore *Nathattow*; another chief was named Cachaquant. Towards the north-west side there is a sandy point with a small island, bearing east and west, and bending so as to form a handsome bay with a sandy bottom. On the right of the sandy point there is more than two fathoms water, and farther on three and three and a half fathoms, with a sharp bottom, where lies an island of a reddish appearance. From Sloop bay, or the most westerly passage, it is twenty-four miles to the Great Bay, [Long Island Sound,] which is situated between the main land and several islands, that extend to the mouth of the Great River [Hudson.]” (Translation in N.Y.H.S.C. 2, I, 293.)

The original Dutch as given by De Laet is as follows:

“Hier buyten af leght mede een Eylandt welck de onse den naem gheven van Blocks Eylandt / naer de naem van Schipper Adriaen Block: dit Eylandt ende het voornoemt Eylandt Texel legghen Eost ten Noorden / ende West ten Suyden van malkanderen / ende de distantie is sulcx dat ghyse beyde van de Compagnie sien kont als ghy ten halven tusschen beyden ziit. By Noorden dese Eylanden ende aen

t'vaste landt leghte eerst de rievier ofte baye van Nassouwen, welck van Blocks Eylandt voornoemt streckt Noord-oost ten Oosten ende Suydt-west ten Westen. Tese baye ofte rievier van Nassouvven, is seer groot ende wijt om in te sien / ende is naer t'segghen van Schipper Adriaen Block wel twee mijlen wijt / ende heeft int midden eenige Eylandekens daer men aen beyde ziiden oin mach zeylen / streckt O. N. O. in ontrent acht mijlen / dan is achter niet over twee geutelingh scheuten wijt / ende daer is meest seven / acht / neghen / vijf ende vier vaden waters / uytgesondert int achterste daer een droogte is van neghen voet water / op een geutelinck scheut na by een Eylandeken welck men daer ghemoet; daer over heest men weder dry vaden ende een half; het is daer om her seer schoon landt ende seer kloeck volck van leden / ende tamelijck groot / dan ziin wat schouw door dien sy noch geen handel met vreemde ghewent ziin; anders zijn daer mede vellen van Bevers / Vossen / ende anders te bekomen / gelijk in de plaetsen daer ontrent: Van t'Westelijckste gat van dese baye van Nassouwen, tot aen het Suydt-oostelijckste gat van de Ancker baye, zijn seven mijlen naer de rekeninge van onse schippers / ende de cours Oost ten Suyden ende West ten Noorden: dese baye heeft by de onse twee namen door diense een Eylandt int midden heest / ende met twee monden in Zee Komt / waer van het Oostelijckste gat ghenoeemt wort de Ancker baye, ende het Westelijckste de Sloep baye: de Suydt-oost-wal van dese baye strect hem N. O. ten N. ende N. N. O. inden bodem van de baye woonen de Wapenocks een natie van Wilden als de reste; Schipper Adriaen Block noemt het volck welck aen de West-zijde van dese baye woont Nahicans, ende haren Sagimos Nathattou; eñ een anderen Cachaquant; aen de Noortwest zijde legt een sandt punt / ende een Eylandeken N. ten W. in dem bocht met een schoone sandt baye; op de steert van t'sandt punt is maer twee vadem waters / dan daer voor by weder dry ende dry en een half

vadem steeck-grondt / ende daer legt een rodlich Eylandeken dicht by. Van de Sloep baye ofte het Westelijckste gat van desen in-wijck tot aen de groote baye / zijn acht mijlen; dese groote baye is gelegen tusschen het vaste lant / ende seker gebroken lant oste Eylanden die haer strecken tot in de baye welck legt aen de mondt van de groote rievriere: . . .” (Ioannes de Laet’s *Nieuwe Wereldt*, 1625, p. 85. Book 3, Chapter 8.)

The earliest appearance of the name Rhode Island as the designation of the island of Aquidneck is in a letter of Roger Williams to Deputy Governor John Winthrop which is dated “New Providence, this 2d of the week,” and which from its context was evidently written in the spring of 1637.

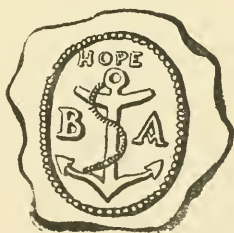
It reads:

“4. They also conceive it easy for the English, that the provisions and munition first arrive at Aquednetick, called by us Rode-Island, at the Nanhiggontick’s mouth, . . .” (M. H. S. C. 3, I, 160.)

In 1666 Roger Williams wrote: “Rode Island (in the Greeke language) is an Ile of Roses.” (R. I. H. S. P. VIII, p. 152.)

In the preface of the “Short Story” of 1644, Winthrop wrote: “Read-Iland, (surnamed by some, the Iland of errors).” (Prince Col. 21, p. 93.)

In 1646 Henry Walton styled himself as of Portsmouth on the Isle of Rodes. (Aspinwall, 21.)



Seal used by Benedict Arnold

### III

#### THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT — THE SEARCH FOR A LOCATION — THE ADOPTION OF A DATING SYSTEM

[1638]

JOHN CLARK, writing in 1652, thus relates how the Antinomians came to choose the island of Aquidneck as the place for their abode.

“In the Colony of *Providence Plantations* in point of antiquity the Town of *Providence* is chief, but in point of precedency *Rode-Island* excels. This Iland lieth in the *Narraganset Bay*, being 14 or 15 miles long, and in breadth between 4 and 5 miles at the broadest; It began to be planted by the English in the beginning of the year 39, and by the hand of providence. In the year 37 I left my native land, and in the ninth moneth of the same, I (through mercy) arived at *Boston*, I was no sooner on shore, but there appeared to me differences among them touching the Covenants, and in point of evidencing a mans good estate, some prest hard for the Covenant of works, and for sanctification to be the first and chief evidence, others prest as hard for the Covenant of grace that was established upon better premises, and for the evidence of the Spirit, as that which is more certain, constant, and satisfactory witness. I thought it not strange to see men differ about matters of Heaven, for I expect no less upon Earth: But to see that they were not able so to bear each with other in their different understandings and consciences, as in those utmost parts of the World to live peaceable together, whereupon I moved the latter, for as much as the land was before us and wide enough, with the

profer of *Abraham* to *Lot*, and for peace sake, to turn aside to the right hand, or to the left: The motion was readily accepted, and I was requested wth some others to seek out a place, which accordingly I was ready to do; and thereupon by reason of the suffocating heat of the Summer before, I went to the North to be somewhat cooler, but the Winter following proved so cold, that we were forced in the Spring to make towards the South; so having sought the Lord for direction, we all agreed that while our vessel was passing about a large and dangerous Cape, we would cross over by land, having *Long Iland* and *Delaware-Bay* in our eie for the place of our residence; so to a town called *Providence* we came, which was begun by one M. *Roger Williams* (who for matter of conscience had not long before been exiled from the former jurisdiction) by whom we were courteously and lovingly received, and with whom we advised about our design; he readily presented two places before us in the same *Naragansets Bay*, the one upon the main called *Sow-wames*, the other called then *Acquedneck*, now *Rode-Iland*; we enquired whether they would fall in any other Patent, for our resolution was to go out of them all; he told us (to be brief) that the way to know that, was to have recourse unto *Plymouth*; so our Vessell as yet not being come about, and we thus blockt up, the company determined to send to *Plymouth*, and pitcht upon two others together with my self, requesting also M. *Williams* to go to *Plymouth* to know how the case stood; so we did; and the Magistrates thereof very lovingly gave us a meeting; I then informed them of the cause of our coming unto them, and desired them in a word of truth and faithfulness to inform us whether *Sow-wames* were within their Patent, for we were now on the wing, and were resolved through the help of Christ, to get cleer of all, and be of our selves, and provided our way were cleer before us, it were all one for us to go further off, as to remain neer at hand; their answer was, that *Sow-wames*



was the garden of their Patent, and the flour in the garden, then I told them we could not desire it; but requested further in the like word of truth and faithfulness to be informed, whether they laid claim to the Ilands in the *Naraganset Bay*, and that in particular called *Acquedneck*? they all with a cheerfull countenare made us this answer, it was in their thoughts to have advised us thereto, and if the provident hand of God should pitch us thereon they should look upon us as free, and as loving neighbours and friends should be assistant unto us upon the main, &c. So we humbly thanked them, and returned with that answer: So it pleased the Lord, by moving the hearts of the natives, even the chieftest thereof, to pitch us thereon, and by other occurrences of providence, which are too large here to relate: So that having bought them off to their full satisfaction, we have possessed the place ever since; and notwithstanding the different understandings and consciences amongst us, without interruption we agree to maintain civil Justice and judgment, neither are there such outrages committed mongst us as in other parts of the Country are frequently seen." (Ill News from New-England, reprinted in M. H. S. C. 4, 11, 23.)

In regard to this, under the date of March 22, 1637, Winthrop, after giving an account of Mrs. Hutchinson, wrote in his Journal: "At this time the good providence of God so disposed, divers of the congregation (being the chief men of the party, her husband being one) were gone to *Naragansett* to seek out a new place for plantation, and taking a liking of one in *Plimouth* patent, they went thither to have it granted them; but the magistrates there, knowing their spirit, gave them a denial, but consented they might buy of the Indians an island in the *Naragansett Bay*." (Winthrop, 1, 311) The discrepancy between the statements of Clark and of Winthrop was noted by Savage who made the following comment in his edition of Winthrop's Journal:

"The *denial* was matter of inference, for the adventurers were resolved to go free of Plimouth as well as Massachusetts; and the *consent* was the advice of equals, not the dictate of superiors." (Winthrop, 1, 311)

However, before the "chief men of the party" started upon this exploring expedition, a compact was drawn up and signed, presumably at Boston, on 7 March, 1637/8.

"The 7th day of the first month 1638.

We whose names are underwritten do here solemnly in the presence of Jehovah incorporat our selves into a Bodie Politick & as he shall helpe will submit our persons lives and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings & Lord of Lords and to all those perfect & most absolute lawes of his given us in his holy word of truth, to be guided & judged thereby.

Willm̃j Coddington

John Clarke

Willm Hutchinson. J.

John Coggeshall

William Aspinwall

Samuell Wilbore

John Porter

John Sanford

Edward Hutchinson Junr. Es.

Thomas Savage

William Dyre

William Freeborne

Phillip Shearman

John Walker

Richard Carder

William Baulston

Edward Hutchinson. Senr.

Hennery + Bulle his marke

Randall Howldon"

Exod. 24. 3, 4.

2. Chron: 11: 3.

2. Kings: 11. 17.

(I. R. I, I.)

Four signatures, which appear below Randall Holden's name, have been partly erased. They were:

“Thomas Clarke  
John Johnson  
William Hall  
John + Brightman Esq.”

The erasure of these names may have been due to the fact that they did not move to the island with the first settlers, or through some error they may have at a later date subscribed their names to this paper after their arrival.

Apparently the signers of this compact planned to establish a theocratic state governed by their interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, *i.e.* “his holy word of truth.”

The biblical references, as taken from John Clark's Bible,<sup>1</sup> perhaps the one used by those who drew up the compact, are:

“3 Afterward Moses came and tolde the people all the words of the Lord, and all the Lawes: and the people answered with one voyce, and sayd, All the things which the Lord hath said, will we doe.

4 And Moses wrote all the wordes of the Lord, and rose up early, and set up an Alter under the Mountaine, and twelve pillars according to the twelve Tribes of Israel.”  
Exod. 24.

“And Saloman sent to Hiram the king of Tyrus, saying, As thou hast done to David my father, and diddest send him Cedar trees to build him an house to dwell in, so doe to me.” 2 Chron. II, 3.

“And Jehoiada made a covenant betweene the Lorde, and the King and the people, that they should be the Lordes people: likewise betweene the King and the people.”  
2 Kings XI, 17.

<sup>1</sup> Now in R. I. H. S.

At this meeting officers were elected for the as yet unfounded town.

"The 7th of the first month 1638. We that are Freemen Incorporate of this Bodie Politick do Elect and Constitute William Coddington Esquire a Judge amongst us and so Covenant to yeeld all due honour unto him according to the lawes of God, and so far as in us lyes to maintaine the honour & privileges of his place wch shall hereafter be ratified according unto God, the Lord helping us so to do.

William Aspinwall Sec'r.

I, Willm Coddington Esquire being Called & chosen by the Freemen Incorporat of this bodie Politick to be a Judge amongst them; do Covenant to do Justice & Judgment impartially according to the lawes of God and to maintaine the Fundamentall Rights & Priviledges of this bodie Politick wch shall hereafter be Ratified according unto God, the Lord helping us so to do.

Wm Coddington.

William Aspinwall is appointed Secretary." (I. R. 1, 12.)

That the "compact" of March 7 was signed before the committee went in search of a place to settle, is shown by the fact that Clark states that the committee went out in the "spring," by which he could scarcely mean before March 7; and by the fact that Winthrop's entry in regard to this expedition appears under March 22. If Clark understood "spring" to begin on March 21st, as it is reckoned today, it would mean that the "committee" left Boston on the 21st, went to Providence, then to Plymouth and on to Aquidneck and Narragansett, arriving at the latter place on the 24th, the day the deed was executed. This would be making the journey rather rapidly for that period and it is more probable that Clark used the word "spring" broadly, meaning about the middle of March.

It is a curious fact that these Aquidneck settlers adopted a dating system of their own,<sup>1</sup> slightly at variance with that in vogue in New and Old England; where March was reckoned as the "first month," and the year was reckoned as beginning upon the 25th of the first month. Thus March 24, 1637 (March 24, 1637/8) was the last day of 1637, and the year 1638 began on March 25, 1638.

The Aquidneck leaders were educated men and must have been perfectly conversant with the current dating system, yet they arbitrarily decided to begin their year on March 1, the "first day of the first month." It was a rational change, but it makes some of the old entries rather confusing. The days from March 1 to March 24, which by common consent were called 1637 (1637/8), they called 1638 as would be done in New Style. Thus Sunday, March 24, 1638 Old Style, Sunday, March 24, 1639 Aquidneck Style, and Sunday, April 3, 1639 New Style are actually the same day.

From January 1 to February 29 inclusive the Aquidneck settlers used the Old Style current calendar; from March 1 to March 24 inclusive they used the Old Style calendar but the New Style year date; and for the remainder of the year used the Old Style calendar.

In regard to the banishment of the Antinomians Winthrop gives the following interesting testimony:

"After the usual exercise by Mr. Cotton, on the 26th of September, 1640, objections were raised by the members who were under discipline.

*Objection 4.* But the Court hath censured us, and drove us out of the country; and Mr. Winthrop advised us to depart.

*Answer.* Mr. Winthrop affirms his advice was not as

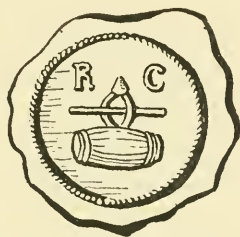
<sup>1</sup> Roger Williams at Providence had also adopted a dating system of his own. (See Doc. Hist. of R. I. 1, 36.)







Governor, nor as the mouth of the Court, but only in Christian love, to depart for a time, till they could give the Court satisfaction. He answers that he did not advise all to depart, for he persuaded Mr. Coddington earnestly to stay, and did undertake to make his peace with the Court. Neither did the Court banish or drive any away but two, Mr. Aspinwall and Mrs. Hutchinson. Some were under no offence at all with the Court, as our brother Hazard.” (Keayne’s Mss. in Ellis’, *Anne Hutchinson*, p. 343)



Seal used by William Coddington



#### IV

### THE DEED OF AQUIDNECK — THE GIFT OF DYRE ISLAND

[1638]

THE committee of the Antinomian leaders, consisting certainly of William Coddington, William Hutchinson, John Clark, Randall Holden, and probably also of John Sanford Sr., John Porter, Richard Carder and William Dyre, left Boston about the middle of March, possibly as late as March 21, 1637/8, and proceeded to Providence.

Here they were joined by Roger Williams, who accompanied them to Plymouth, where after a consultation with those in authority there, the settlers decided to buy Aquidneck.

The party then proceeded to that island, where they conferred with the local sachem, Wonnumetonomey. He referred them to his overlords, the chief sachems, Canonicus and Miantonomi. Thereupon the party crossed the bay to Narraganset, and, through the influence and mediation of Roger Williams, purchased the Island of Aquidneck on 24 March, 1637/8.

In regard to the purchase of Aquidneck, Roger Williams wrote in 1658, as follows:

“I have acknowledged (and have and shall endeavour to maintain) the rights and properties of every inhabitant of Rhode-Island in peace; yet since there is so much sound and noise of purchase and purchasers, I judge it not unseasonable to declare the rise and bottom of the planting of

Rhode-Island in the fountain of it: It was not price nor money that could have purchased Rhode-Island. Rhode-Island was obtained by love; by the love and favour which that honorable gentleman Sir Henry Vane and myself had with that great sachem Miantinomu, about the league which I procured between the Massachusetts English, &c. and the Naragansets in the Pequod war. It is true I advised a gratuity to be presented to the sachem and the natives, and because Mr. Coddington and the rest of my loving countrymen were to inhabit the place, and to be at the charge of the gratuities, I drew up a writing in Mr. Coddington's name, and in the names of such of my loving countrymen as came up with him, and put it into as sure a form as I could at that time (amongst the Indians) for the benefit and assurance of the present and future inhabitants of the island. This I mention, that as that truly noble Sir Henry Vane hath been so great an instrument in the hand of God for procuring of this island from the barbarians, as also for procuring and confirming of the charter, so it may by all due thankful acknowledgment be remembered and recorded of us and ours which reap and enjoy the sweet fruits of so great benefits, and such unheard of liberties amongst us." (Backus. I. 91.)

Coddington made the following deposition in regard to this:

"William Coddington, Esq., aged aboute seventy-six years, testifyeth upon his engagement, that when he was one of the magistrates of the Massachusetts Colony he was one of the persons that made a peace with Caunonnicus and Mianantonomy in the Collony's behalfe of all the Narragansett Indians, and by order from the authoritie of the Massachusetts a little before they made war with the Pequod Indians. Not long after this deponent went from Boston to find a plantation to settle upon, and came to

Acquidneck, now called Rhode Island, where was a sachem called Wonnumetonomey; and this deponent went to buy the Island of him, but his answer was that Caunonnicuss and Miantonomy were the chiefe sachems, and he could not sell the land; whereupon this deponent, with some others went from Acquidneck Island into the Narragansett <sup>1</sup> to the said sachems, Caunonicus and Miantonmy, and bought the Island of them; they having, as I understand the chief command, both of the Narragansett and Aquidneck Island; and further saith not.

Taken upon engagement in Newport, on Rhode Island, the 27th day of September, 1677.

Before P. Sanford, Assistant”  
(R. I. C. R. I. 51.)

The deed is as follows:

“The 24th of the 1st month called March, in the year (so commonly called) 1637.

Memorandum. That we Caunounicus and Miantunnomu the two cheife Sachims of the Nanhiggansets, by vertue of our generall Command of this Bay, as allso the perticular subjecting of the dead Sachims of Acquednecke & Kitackmuckqut,<sup>2</sup> themselves and Lands unto us, have sold unto Mr Coddington and his freinds united unto him, the great Island of Acquednecke lying from hence Eastward in this Bay, as allso the Marsh or grasse upon Quinunigut and the rest of the Islands in the Bay (exceptinge Chibachuwesa <sup>3</sup> formerly sold unto Mr. Winthrop, the now Gov<sup>r</sup> of the Massachusetts and Mr. Williams of Providence) allso the grasse upon the rivers and Coves about Kitackamuckqut,<sup>4</sup> and from these to Paupasquatch,<sup>5</sup> for the full payment of forty fathom of white beads, to be equally

<sup>1</sup> This confirms the location of the conference as Narragansett. See Doc. Hist. of R. I. Vol. 1, p. 60.

<sup>2</sup> Kittackquamuckquiet (Po. Rec.)

<sup>4</sup> Kittackquamuckopette (Po. Rec.)

<sup>3</sup> Doc. Hist. of R. I. 1, 47.

<sup>5</sup> Pumosquatick (Po. Rec.)

divided betweene us. In witnes whereof we have here subscribed.

Item Tht by giving by Miantunnomu's ten Coates and twenty hows to the present Inhabitants, they shall remove themselves from off the Island before next winter.

Witnes our hands.

the marke of



Caunounicus

In the presence of

The mark



of Yotuesh.<sup>1</sup>

Roger Williams

The mark of Miantunnomu <sup>2</sup>



Randall Howldon

The mark of



Assotemuit

The mark of



Mishammoh <sup>3</sup>

Caunounicus his son."

(R. I. C. R. 1, 46. Po. R. 60)

"This witnesseth that I, Wunumataunemet the present Sachim Inhabitant of the Island have received five fathom

<sup>1</sup> Yotuesh is identical with the Yotaash misread Sotaash of the "Towne Evidence." (Doc. Hist. of R. I. 1, 62.)

<sup>2</sup> Marks are different on Po. Rec.

<sup>3</sup> Neshanmah (Po. Rec.)

of wampam and doe consent to the contents, witnes my hand

The mark of Wanamataunemet.

In the presence of  
Randall Howldon.”

(R. I. C. R. I, 46.)

John Cotton, in his “Way Cleared” (1648), p. 88, wrote in regard to the purchase of Aquidneck:

“Fourthly, that which Mr. *Baylie* further relateth from the testimony of Mr. *Williams*, is as farre from truth, as the former.

Mr. *Williams* (saith Mr. *Baylie*) told me, that he was employed to buy from the Savages, for their late Governour, and Mr. *Cotton*, with their Followers, a portion of Land without the *English* Plantation whither they might retire and live according to their mind, exempt from the jurisdiction of all others, whether Civill or Ecclesiastick, Mr. *Williams* was in so great friendship with the late Governour, when he told me so much, that I believe he would have been loth to have spoken an untruth of him.

*Answ.* But this I dare be bold to say, if Mr. *Williams* told Mr. *Baylie*, so much, that he was imployed by me to buy any Land from the Savages, for mee and my followers (as he calls them) he spake an untruth of me, whatsoever he did of the governour. Yet because I would not speake nor thinke worse of Mr. *Williams* then necessitie constraineth, I cannot say but that he might speak as he thought, and as he was told; for it may well bee, that such as abused the Governours name to him for such an end, might also more boldly abuse mine. But I must professe, I neither wrote nor spake, nor sent to Mr. *Williams* for any such errand. If ever I had removed, I intended *Quinipyack*, and not Aquethnick. And I can hardly beleieve the Governour would send to him for any such end, who I suppose never

thought it likely, that himself should tarry longer in the Country, then he tarried in the Bay.”

In 1652 William Coddington made the following deposition in regard to the purchase of Aquidneck:

“Whereas there was an agreement of Eighteene persons to make purchass of some place to the southward for a plantation, whether they Resolved to Remove; for which end some of them were sent out to veiw a place for them selves and such others as they should take in to the liberty of freemen and purchasers with them. and upon their veiw was purchast Rhode Island, with some small Neighbouring Islands and privileges of grass and wood of the Islands in the Bay, and Maine adjoyninge . . .” (R. I. L. E. 1, 77.)

Later during 1638 and 1639 quitclaims were obtained from various Indian sachems. (see pp. 72 & 73.)

Apparently upon the trip back from Narragansett, on this memorable 24 March, 1637/8, William Dyre asked for and obtained as a gift from the other settlers, the island since called after him, Dyre Island.

The affidavits in regard to this gift follow:

“To whome these shall Concern I Testefy that the litle Island lying in the bay on the North Side of the wading River was given mr Dyre by the Purchassers.

31 october 1650

Jno. Sanford.

I Attest that the above written Premisses were by my fathers Order and Comānd by me written my father then being very sick and ill witness my hand the 4th of October 1669 John Sanford.

I do afirm also that as wee past along by the afore-said Island the Purchassers gave the said Island to mr William Dyre.

N<sup>o</sup>. 1. 1650

John Porter.”

(R. I. L. E. 1, 267., Po. R. 346.)

“Newport on Rhode Island 10 Novemb 1664 (ut vulg)

This is to Testefy that I Roger Williams being acquainted



(by the good Providence of God) with the first Conception Birth and growth of Rhode Island (alias Aquednick) doe Asert and affirme as in the holy Presence of God, that by the Consent of the first Purchassers of Rhode Island (Dead and liveing) the litle Island Comonly Called Dyres Island was from the first and allways (sometimes in Meriment) but always in Earnest granted to be not only in Name but also in truth and reality the Proper Right and Inheritance of mr William Dyre of Newport On Rhode Island.

Roger Williams Assistā:”

(R. I. L. E. 1, 267., Po. R. 376.)

“Captn Randall Houldon of Warwick in the Province of Rhode Island & Providence Plantation aged 57 years or thereabouts being Ingaged according to law Testefieth as followith That the Purchassers gave that litle Island Called Dyres Island to mr William Dyre senr that was then one of us and further saith not. Taken the 24th day of June 1669.”

“I Doe affirm that wee the Purchassers of Rhode Island (my selfe being the chief) William Dyre desireing a spot of land of us as we passed by it, after we had Purchassed the said Island, did grant him Our Right in the said Island and named it Dyres Island.

Witness my hand. October 18th 1669

William Coddington.”

“I Richard Carder being a Purchassere doe own the above said writeinge: November: 7th 1669 by me Richard Carder”

“William Cooley aged 66 years or thereabouts being Ingaged Testefieth that in the first year of the setling of this Plantation of Newport he being Master of a boat and Jeffery Champlin and Richard Serles being of his company, and stoping at the Island Called Dyres Island mr William Dyre in Presence of them took possession of the said Dyres



Island and further saith not Taken before me this 6th of  
December 1669.

John Green Assistant”  
(R. I. L. E. 1, 267., Po. R. 346.)



Seal of Roger Williams

## POCASSET UNDER THE JUDGE

[1638]

**I**N regard to the settlement of Aquidneck, Winthrop wrote under the date of March 22, 1637/8.

“After two or three days, the governour sent a warrant to Mrs. Hutchinson to depart this jurisdiction before the last of this month, according to the order of court, and for that end set her at liberty from her former constraint, so as she was not to go forth of her own house till her departure; and upon the 28th she went by water to her farm at the Mount, where she was to take water, with Mr. Wheelwright’s wife and family, to go to Pascataquack; but she changed her mind, and went by land to Providence, and so to the island in the Narragansett Bay, which her husband and the rest of that sect had purchased of the Indians, and prepared with all speed to remove unto. For the court had ordered, that, except they were gone with their families by such a time, they should be summoned to the general court, etc.” (Winthrop, 311)

On March 12, 1637/8, the General Court of Massachusetts Bay had enacted the following resolution:

“About Mrs Hutchinson. It is ordered, that she shalbee gone by the last of this month; & if shee bee not gone before, shee is to bee sent away by the counsell, without delay, by the first oportunity; & for the charges of keeping Mrs Hutchinson, order is to bee given by the counsell (if it bee not satisfied) to levy it by distres of her husbands goods.” (M. C. R. 1, 219)

At the same Court, March 12, 1637/8, a number of men were summoned to appear at the May Court if they had not removed from the colony by that time. Of those so summoned, the following removed to Newport; viz.: "Mr Willi: Coddington, Mr. John Coggeshall, Goo: William Baulston, Edward Hutchinson, Samuell Wilbore, John Porter, Henry Bull, Philip Shearman, Willi Freeborne, Richard Carder, and Nicholas Easton." (M. C. R. 1, 218: Cf. M. H. S. C. 4-7-110.)

Under the date of April 26, 1638, Winthrop wrote: "26.] Mr. Coddington (who had been an assistant from the first coming over of the government, being, with his wife, taken with the familistical opinion) removed to Aquiday Island in the Narragansett Bay." (I. 318)

It would appear from Winthrop that Mrs. Hutchinson and her family were the first to settle on Aquidneck, and that they removed there in the latter part of March, 1638. The Coddingtons joined them there the latter part of April and most of the other signers of the compact arrived with their families before May 2, 1638, the date of the aforesaid meeting of the General Court.

Thomas Savage, although son-in-law of Mrs. Hutchinson, seems to have remained in Boston, where he had a child baptized in August. There is no record of his ever residing at Aquidneck.

Aspinwall, Edward Hutchinson, Carder and Bull did not attend the town meeting held on Aquidneck May 13, 1638, but with the exception of Aspinwall, they were mentioned in the records of the meeting of May 20, 1638. Aspinwall may have removed to the island with the majority of the settlers, and then not attended the town meetings because of his disagreement with the leaders, for in January, 1638/9, he is charged with "defaults," in February suspected "for sedition," and in April, 1639, his property was attached for debt.

The record of the first town meeting held on Rhode Island 13 May, 1638, is as follows:

"It is agreed that William Dyre [shall be Clarke of] this Body

3d Month 13 day: 1638:

At a Generall Meeting upon publicke Notice, there being present.

Mr. Coddington Judge:	Sam Willbore
Will Hutchinson:	John Samfford
John Coggeshall	Wm Freeborne
Edward Hutchinson:	Philip Sherman
William Baulston:	John Walker
John Clarke	Randall Houlden
John Porter	

It is ordered, that none shall be Received as Inhabitants or Freemen, to build or plant upon the Iland but [such] as shall bee Received in by the Consent of the bodye, and doe submitt to the Governement that is or shall be established, according to the word of God.

:2: It is also ordered that the Towne shall be builded at the springe, and Mr. William Hutchinson is prmitted to have sixe Lots for himselfe & his Children, Layd out At the Great Cove. E X P:

:3: It is ordered also that a Generall Fence be made from Baye to Baye, Above the head of the springe wth five rayles, the Charge of this to be borne proportionally to every mans allotment E X P:

:4: It is ordered that every one of this body shall have for his present use one acre of medow for a Beast, one acree for :5: sheep, & one acree & a halfe for a horse, to be layd out at the discretion of Mr. Sanford & Mr. Willbore & John Porter, wth what convenient speed may be upon notice given of every mans severall Cattle.<sup>1</sup> E X P :

<sup>1</sup> From a marginal note it appears that orders 3 and 4 were later "Repeald."

:5: It is further ordered that every Inhabitant of this Island shall be alwayes prvided of one muskett, one pound of powder, twenty Bulletts & two fademe of match, wth Sword and rest & Bandeliers, all Completely furnished:

:6: It is ordered Also that the meeting house shall be set one the necke of Land that goes over to the maine of the Island wher Mr. John Coggeshall & Mr John Samfford shall lay it out." (I. R. 3)

The record of this meeting is in the handwriting of William Dyre, the Clerk. The office of Clerk seems to have superseded that of Secretary, which was held by William Aspinwall at the meeting in Boston, which is recorded in his handwriting.

The explanation of the change may be due to the dispute, previously mentioned, between Aspinwall and the other leaders, in which case it may have been easier for them to create a new office than to suspend Aspinwall.

The "Spring" at which the Town was built was near the Great Cove at the northeast end of the island. John Calender, in his "Historical Discourse," delivered 24 March, 1738 said: "The *Settlement* began immediately, at the *Eastward or Northward End of the Island*, (then called *Pocasset*,) round the *Cove*, and the *Town* was laid out at the *Spring*." (p. 33)

The "General Fence," later known as the "Common Fence," which ran from bay to bay, has given its name to the peninsula north of it, which is still called "Common Fence Point."

At this first town meeting, two committees were appointed, one to lay out land, and the other to choose a site for the meeting-house.

Although the "compact" may be considered as establishing religious liberty for Christians, which those who drafted it doubtless considered as "complete religious liberty"; yet it should be noted that the church was a state

church, and that the town government appointed a committee in regard to the meeting-house.

The neck of land designated for the meeting-house is probably the one now occupied by the village of Island Park.

The elaborate enactment with regard to firearms looks as if the settlers did not feel that they were on very friendly terms with the Indians.

The enactments concerning firearms and the meeting-house were doubtless in strong contrast with the legislation at Providence, early records of which unfortunately have not been preserved in full.

A week later the second town meeting was held at Pocasset. Thereafter these meetings were held at irregular intervals.

“At a Generall Meeting upon Publicke notice 20th of the 3d month:

Present

Mr Coddington Judge

Mr Will Hutchinson:

Mr John Coggeshall

Mr Will Balston

Mr John Samford

Mr. Sam Willbore

John Porter

Willi Freeborne:

John Walker:

Philip Sherman

Wm. Dyre, Cl.

:7: It is ordered that the neck of Land by Mr. Esson's house shall be sufficiently fenced in wth five Rayles at that place where John Samford Will Balston & Philip Sherman shall appoint, for to lye as a Comon feild belonging to the towne: & the fence to be begun on the 2d day ensuing.

:8: It is ordered & agreed upon that Every mans allotmt recorded in this Book shall be his Sufficent evidence for him & his, rightly to possess & enjoy.

:9: It is ordered that Mr Coggeshall Mr Samfford & John Porter shall lay outt the Allotmts for the towne & according to orders, thess allotmts following are Layd out by Mr Coggeshall and Mr Samfford.

Impr. To Mr Will Coddington a house lott of six acres, 8 [poles] in breadth & 120 poll in Length lying North & South, the [breadth] East & West along by the sid of the great pond.

Itt. Mr. Clarke 6 acres lying upon the west side of the same, being of the same bredth & length.

[Itt To Mr] Wm Dyre At the Cove by the marsh 6 Acres being [10] pole in bredth & 50 in Length & bounded round by the marsh.

Itt To Mr. Wm. Hutchinson 6 Acres being 10 Rode in bredth bounded by the great cove on the East & 14 at the West & so it runs 80 pole in Length westward.

Itt. To Mr. Samuel Hutchinson 6 acres adjoining lying as the former on the North Side.

Itt. To Mr. Easton 6 acres is granted to lye next the Cove on the North side of the great Cove.

Itt. To Edward Hutchinson, Senior, Idem.

Itt. To Edward Hutchinson, Junior, Idem.

Itt. To John Samfford, Idem, as it is marked out by Trees. West side of the Spring.

Itt. To Mr John Coggeshall 6 acrees, 20 pole in bredth on the East & 96 feet long.

Itt. To Randall Houlden 5 acres Large 9 pole in bredth, 96 long.

Itt. to Richard Burden 5 acres Large, 9 pole in bredth, 96 long.

Itt. To Will. Balston 6 acres on the East side of the



Spring 10 pole in bredth on the West Ɔ 80 in Length, Ɔ 14 at the East.

:io: It is also ordered Ɔ agreed upon, by Generall Consent that Will. Balston shall Erect Ɔ sett up a howse of Enter-tainmt for Strangers, as also to Brew beare Ɔ to sell wines Ɔ Strong waters, Ɔ such necessary provisions as may be usefull in any kind.

:ii: It is ordered, that Mr. Coggeshall Ɔ Mr Samfford is appointed to lay out :io: acres of plowing ground for Mr Coddington, Ɔ :6: acres to Mr Wm Hutchinson for the same use. (I. R. pp. 4 Ɔ 5)

From these records it appears that Samuel Hutchinson, Nicholas Easton, and Richard Burden had by this time joined the young colony, although Peter Easton wrote in 1669 that: "They [the Eastons] went into Rhode Island in June . . . 1638" and "builded at Portsmouth at the cove and planted there this year, 1638, 15th of the 5th month." (Notes of Peter Easton, printed in Newport Mercury, 2 Jan. 1858)

William Baulston established the first tavern within the present boundaries of Rhode Island and enactmt 10 is the grant of the first hotel license, and the first license to make and sell liquor.

On June 1 an earthquake occurred which was felt at Aquidneck.<sup>1</sup> In regard to this Winthrop wrote:

"This is further to be observed in the delusions which this people were taken with: Mrs. Hutchinson and some of her adherents happened to be at prayer when the earthquake was at Aquiday; etc., and the house being shaken thereby, they were persuaded, (and boasted of it,) that the Holy Ghost did shake it in coming down upon them, as he did upon the apostles." (I, 352)

"At a Generall Meeting upon Publick notice the 27th of the 4th month. 1638.

<sup>1</sup> See Doc. Hist. of R. I. 1, 75.

## Present.

Mr Wm Coddington Judge:	Mr Willbore
Mr Wm Hutchinson	John Porter
Mr. John Clarke	Randall Howlden
Mr Coggeshall	Wm Freeborne
Mr Balston	John Walker
Mr Edw'd Hutchinson Sen	Richard Carder
Edw'd Hutchinson Jun	Henry Bull
Mr. Samford	Wm Dyre, Cl.

It is ordered by Generall Consent, that Wm Balston, & Edward Hutchinson, are chosen Serjeants of the Traine Band & Samuell Willbore Clarke thereof, & Randall Howlden & Henry Bull are chosen Corporalls.

Whereas ther be divers as well Inhabitants as Freemen, who have taken up Certaine proportions of Land In the Island of Aquethnek, It is ordered that they shall pay in lieu thereof two shillings for every acree that they doe enjoy and so the like summ to be payed of all such who shall hereafter be admitted as Inhabitants into the Island: And it is further ordered that thess monies shall be paid the one halfe presently, & the other halfe att three monthes End; and it is further ordered that those who shall pay in their monies shall bring in a note unto the Company under the Treasurer's hande, his name & Lands then to be Registred in the Records according to a former order, fol. :i: numb :8:

:14: Mr Wm Hutchinson & Mr John Coggeshall is chosen Treasurers for the Company for one whole year next ensuing, or untill such time as new be chosen.

:15: It is ordered that all such Sumes of mony as the Treasurers shall receive they are to dispose of & employ, by the Companies order, & no otherwise, and to be accountable for the same to the Company when they shall require it of them.

:16: It is ordered, that Mr Hutchinson & Mr. Coggeshall

Treasurers of the Company shall receive & discharge such sumes of mony as the Company hath comming unto them, and is indebted by them; the sight of this order given under the prties hands that receives them shall be their discharge.

:17: It is ordered that Mr. Samfford wth foure others shall presently repair the highwayes betweene Titicutt & Aquethneck, and to be paid out of the Treasury.

:18: It is ordered that if any of the Freemen of this Body shall not repair to the Publick meetings to treat upon the Publick affaires of the Body upon Publick warning (whether by beate of the Drumm (or otherwise) if they fayle one quarter of an howre after the second sound they shall forfeitt twelve pence, or if they depart wthout leave, they are to forfeitt the same summ of twelve pence." (I. R. pp. 4 & 5)

On July 6, 1638, Ousamequin confirmed the settler's rights to the grass on the mainland.

"Memorandm. That I Ousamequin freely Consent that Mr. William Coddington and his freinds united unto him shall make use of any grasse or trees on the maine land on Pawakasick side, and doe promise loveinge and just Carriage of my selfe and all my men to the said Mr. Coddington and English his freinds united to him, haveing received of Mr. Coddington five fathom of wampam as gratuity from himselfe and the rest.

Dated the 6th of the fifth month, 1638.

The marke of  Ousamequin

Witnes

Roger Williams

Randall Howldon"

(R. I. C. R. 1, 46.)

This memorandum shows that Roger Williams again served the Aquidneck settlers as interpreter and mediator with the Indians.

Under the date of August 3, 1638, Winthrop mentions a storm which caused very high tides in Narragansett Bay.<sup>1</sup>

Under the same date Winthrop wrote:

"Many of Boston and others, who were of Mrs. Hutchinson's judgment and party, removed to the Isle of Aquiday; and others, who were of the rigid separation, and savored anabaptism, removed to Providence, so as those parts began to be well peopled." (1,268)

Under the date of 13 August, 1638, Winthrop wrote:

"Those who were gone with Mrs. Hutchinson to Aquiday fell into new errors daily. One Nicholas Easton, a tanner, taught that gifts and graces were that antichrist mentioned Thess., and that which withheld, etc., was the preaching of the law; and that every of the elect had the Holy Ghost and also the devil indwelling. Another one Herne, taught that women had no souls, and that Adam was not created in true holiness, etc., for then he could not have lost it." (338)

It is not clear who the Herne is, whom Winthrop mentions.

Under the date of August 15 Winthrop records:

"The wind at N. E., there was so great a tempest of wind and snow all the night and the next day, as had not been since our time. . . . Two vessels bound for Quinipiack were cast away at Aquiday, but the people saved." (345)

"At a Generall Meeting of the 20th of the 6th mo. 1638, upon Publick notice.

#### Present

Mr Coddington, Judge  
Mr Wm Hutchinson  
Mr Clarke  
Mr Willbore  
Mr Samfford  
Wm Freeborn

Philip : Sherman  
Rich Carder  
Randall Howlden  
Edw: Hutchinson  
Will Dyre, Cl

<sup>1</sup> Doc. Hist. of R. I. 1, 75.

It is Agreed that a paire off Stockes wth a whipping post shall forthwth be made & the Charges to be payd out of the Treasury.

:20: It is ordered that thoss Allottments wch are to be layd out for the towne are to be layd out eight Rodd brood up along the spring; & 6 rodd brod along by the waters sides; And the length to be left to the further Consideration of the Body.

:21: It is agreed this present 20th of the 6th by the Generall Consent of the Body present, That Mr. Rich: Dummer; Mr Nicholas Esson, Mr Williā Brenton & Mr Robert Harding are admitted as Freemen of this Society wth them fully to enjoy the priviledges belonging to that Body." (I. R. p. 5.)

There is no section numbered 19 in the original records.

It will be noted that Mr. Easton evidently had been living at Pocasset as an inhabitant since before the 20th of May, although he was not enfranchised until the 20th of August. The other three men may have just arrived in the settlement. Cf. p. 38.

"At a Generall Meeting upon Publick Notice this 23d of the 6th month

[Present]

Mr Coddington, Judge	Mr Ed: Hutchinson
Mr Dummer	Mr Brenton
Mr Esson	Mr Willbore
Mr Hutchinson	John Porter
Mr. Clarke	Wm Freeborne
Mr Harding	Rich Carder
Mr Samfford	Randall Howlden

Williā Dyre, Cla.

22. It is agreed that thirteen lotts on the west side of the Spring shall be granted to Mr Richard Dummer & his friends to witt Mr Stephen Dummer, Mr. Tho Dummer, Mr Esson, Mr Jefferyes, Mr. Doutch, Wm Baker, Mr.

Spencer, Adam Mott, Robert Feild, James Tarr, Mr Harding, and thess to Build ther at the Spring at furthest; or else their lotts to be disposed of by the Company.

:23: It is ordered that a howse for a prison, Containing twelve foot in length & tenn fotte in Bredth & ten foote Studd, shall forthwth be built of Sufficient strength & the Charges to be payd out of the Treasury and the oversight of the work being committed to Mr. William Brenton.

It is ordered that the Remainder of the Grass, wch is yett uncut at hogg Island shall be granted to Mr Brenton to mow this yeare for his necessity E X P

:25: It is ordered that Mr Richard Dummer In regard of a miller that he undertooke to build, wch was Conceived to be usefule to the plantation, he should be accomodated answerable to a man of a hundred and fifty pounds estate allottments.

26: It is ordered that Mr. Richard Dummer wth his friends, whose names are Recorded in the :22: order shall eyther be accomodated wth us in the present plantation Equall to ourselves, or in Case there be not sufficient accomodation here; then to accomodate them on some other parte upon the Island.

:27: It is ordered according to a former Choyce that Randall Houlden shall be Marshall for one whole yeare."

(I. R. 5)

From a marginal note it appears that order 25 was later "Repeald."

"At a Generall Meeting on the 15<sup>o</sup> of the 7<sup>o</sup>, [1638]

#### Present

Mr Coddington, Judge  
Mr Esson  
Mr Hutchinson  
Mr Coggeshall  
Mr Clarke

Mr Samford  
Henry Bull  
John Porter  
Randall Holden  
Will Dyre Cler



By virtue of a Warrant, George Willmore, George Parker, John Lutner, John Arnold, Samuells Smith, Robert Stanton, Anthony Robinson, John Vahun, being summoned to appeare before the Body for a Riott of drunkenesse by them committed on the 13<sup>o</sup> of the 7<sup>o</sup> month: It was accordingly agreed & ordered in Regard the default was different in some Circumstances, That George Willmore & George Parker shuld pay into the Treasury 5<sup>s</sup> a peece, and to sitt till the Evening in the Stockes; and that John Lutner shuld pay 5<sup>s</sup> & sitt one howre in the Stockes; & that Samuells Smith, Robert Stanton, Anthony Robinson & John Vahun should pay 5<sup>s</sup> a peece as a fine for their default.

29 It is further ordered, that Mr. Esson Mr. Coggeshall, & Mr. Willbore shall veiw such damages that are done upon the Corne & other fruits & accordingly shall give information to the Body." (I. R. 6)

It will be noted that Pocasset had by this time become a sizable town and in population had surpassed the neighboring settlement of Providence.

The rapid growth of Pocasset was due chiefly to the temporary popularity of Mrs. Hutchinson's religious teachings.

It will also be noted that Will. Balston's beer had begun to take effect and that the "Stockes" authorized on August 8 were in use in less than a month.

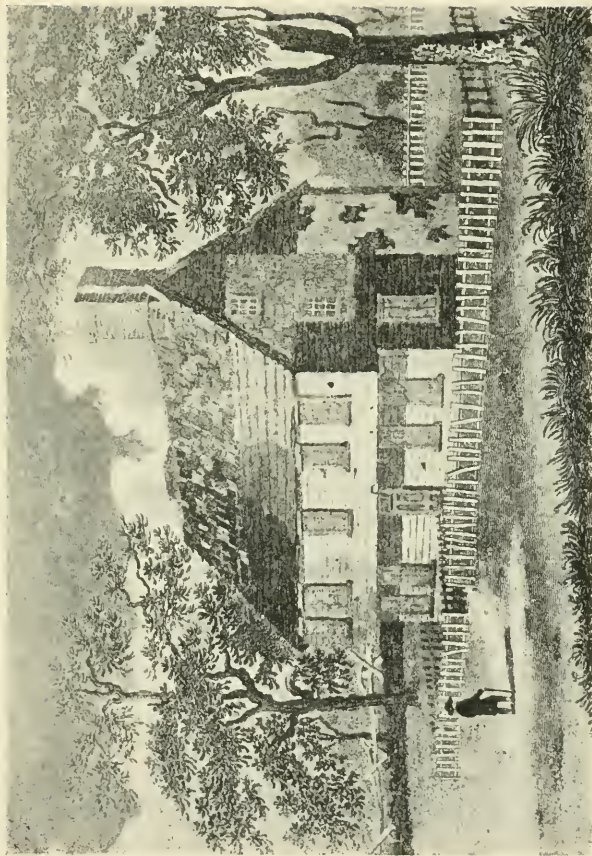
The inhabitants of Pocasset were divided into two classes, those enfranchised numbering about 25 heads of families and those not enfranchised numbering at least 17 or 18 and probably more.

"At a Generall Meeting upon Publicke notice, the 5th of the 9<sup>o</sup> month

Mr Coddington, Judge  
Mr Hutchinson  
Mr Brenton

Mr. Samford  
Mr. Freeborn  
Philip Sherman





WILLIAM CODDINGTON'S HOUSE AT NEWPORT, WHICH WAS BUILT  
ABOUT 1641.

From photograph of engraving made about 1831.  
From the library of Newport Historical Society.



Mr Clark  
Mr Balston  
Mr Willbore  
Mr Hutchinson

Mr Henry Bull  
John Walker  
Randall Howlden  
Wm Dyre, Cler.

30: It is ordered that on the 12th of this 9<sup>o</sup> month ther shall be a generall day of trayning for the Exercise of those who are able to beare Armes in the Arte of military discipline, and all that are of 16 yeares of age & upwards to 50 shall be warned therunto.<sup>1</sup>

31 It is ordered that Mr. Samfford & Mr. Jefferies shall lay out the house lotts for the towne, three Acres to each house, to thoss that are not yett provided for, & it was further ordered, that those who were upon the first discovery (and freemen) shall be provided according to six acres a howse lott as near to their howses as Conveniently may be.

32. It is ordered that Mr Edward Hutchinson shall Bake bread for the use of the plantation & that his Bread for the assize shall be ordered by the Body."<sup>2</sup> (I. R. 6)

"At a Generall Meeting upon the Publicke Notice, the 16th of the 9<sup>o</sup>:

#### Present

Mr Coddington, Judge  
Mr Esson  
Mr. Hutchinson  
Mr Clarke  
Mr Brenton  
Mr Coggeshall  
Mr Balston  
Mr Willbore

Hutchinson,  
John Porter  
John Samfford  
Will Freeborn  
John Walker  
Henry Bull  
Richard Carder  
Randall Holden

Wm Dyre, Cler

It is ordered, that John Porter and John Samfford shall treate wth Mr Nicholas Esson, & shall fully agree wth him,

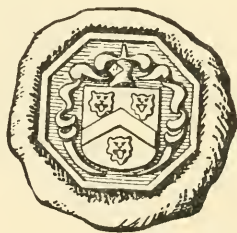
<sup>1</sup> Universal military training.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation of the size of bread, i.e. food prices.

in allowing of him sufficient accommodations for four Cowes & planting ground as they shall think meett all wch is for the setting up of a Water Millur wch the sd Mr Esson hath undertaken to build for the necessary use & good of the plantation, and further it is granted to the said Mr. Esson that he shall have liberty to fall & carry away any such timber as shall be of necessary use for the present building of the mill.

Forasmuch as John Lutner Carpenter is departed the Island wthout leave or licence, & is found to be indebted to sundry prsons; It is therfore ordered that Mr. William Brenton & Mr. John Coggeshall shall seize upon his howse & what he hath in the same & shall satisfie themselves & others of his Creditors, so farr as it shall goe being by them lawfully prayed.

It is ordered that Mr Coggeshall & Sargent Hutchinson & Mr Willbore & Mr. Dyre, is appoynted for the venison trade wth the Indiyans, & that they are not to give them above three halfe pence a pound in way of trade, & that those truck masters doe sell forth the sd venison for two pence a pound; a farthing for each pound being allowed to the Treasury, & the Rest be unto themselves for their attendance thereon." (I. R. 6.)



Seal of Richard Smith

## VI

### POCASSET UNDER THE JUDGE AND ELDERS

THE management of the affairs of Pocasset by a Judge and general town meeting after an experiment of eight months proved unsatisfactory. Whether the transaction of business at a general town meeting was too cumbersome, or whether the administration of the Judge was too autocratic, we do not know, although later events point to the latter probability.

The religious differences between Coddington and Mrs. Hutchinson would naturally cause her "party," a group which at first was probably bound only by religious ties, to chafe under the civil administration of a religious opponent.

The next step would naturally be for her "party" to seek to increase its political power in order to safeguard its religious views. The arrival of Gorton, if it did not in fact foster this change, certainly must have aided in its development, even if the actual change had already occurred. Gorton's extremely liberal civil ideas, and his religious proselyting would inevitably have thrown him into any party opposed to Coddington's strong theocratic government. It is not surprising that Gorton and Mrs. Hutchinson, although teaching antagonistic creeds, should have temporarily united to oust from civil power one of a different mind.

Coddington, apparently fearing the power of the majority, ingeniously acceded to their demands and acquiesced in the creation of a board of three elders. The election of Cod-

dington's followers on January 2, 1638/9, to all the positions, on this board only serves to show the extraordinary political ability and foresight of the Judge.

On 4 December, 1638, the Plymouth Court enacted that: "Samuell Gorton, of Plymouth, yeom for his misdemeanrs in open Court towards the elders, the Bench, & stirring up the people to mutynie in the face of the Court is fyned xxl: to be prsently levyed and to put in sureties for his good behavior during the tyme he shall remayne at Plymouth, wch is limited by the Court to xiiij dayes, and if he stay above, then to abide the further censure of the Court." (P. C. R. 1, 105.)

Hence it would appear that Gorton with his family, and perhaps some of his followers, left Plymouth before December 18th and hence reached Pocasset during that month, probably about the middle of December.

"At a Generall meeting of the Body o[n] the 2d of the 11th month, 1638

Present

Mr Coddington Judge	John Porter
Mr Esson	Randall Holden
Mr John Clarke	Wm Freeborn
Mr Coggeshall	Adam Mott
Mr Brenton	John Walker
Mr Jeremy Clarke	Henry Bull
Mr Willbore	Rich Carder
Philip Sherman	Wm Dyre Clarke

By the Consent of the Body

It is agreed

That such who shall bee chosen to the Place of Eldership they are to assist the Judge in the Execution of Justice and Judgmt for the regulating & ordering of all offences & offenders: And for the drawing up & determining of all such Rules & Laws as shall be according to God; wch may Con-



duce to the Good & welfare of the Comonweale. And to them is Comitted By the Body the whole care and charge of all the Affaires thereof. And that the Judge together wth the Elders shall Rule and Governe according to the Generall rule of the word of God, when they have no Particular rule from God's word by the Body proscribed as a direction unto them in the case: And further it is Agreed & Consented unto. That the Judge wth the Elders shall be Accountable unto the Body once Every Quarter of the year (when as the Body shall be Assembled) of all such Cases, Actions & Rules wch have passed throw their hands; By them, to be scanned & weighed by the word of christ. And if by the Body or any of them the Lord shall be pleased to dispence Light to the Contrary of whatt by the Judge & Elders hath been determined formerly; that then & there it shall be repealed as the Act of the Body. And if it be otherwise, that then it shall stand (till further light) Concerning it for the present, to be according to God, & the tender Care of Indulgent Fathers.

Given: this 2d of iith 1638

Willm Dyre, Cl:

The votes being unseal'd upon this Conclusion & the Providence casting it upon Mr Esson, Mr Coggeshall & Mr Brenton, it was further ratified as followeth, viz

By the Election of the Body Mr Nicholas Esson Mr John Coggeshall and Mr William Brenton are chosen and Called on unto the place of Eldership to assist the Judge in the Execution of Justice & Judgmt for the Regulating and ordering of all offences & offenders, & for the drawing up & determining of all such Rules & Lawes as shall be according to God, wh may Conduce to the good & welfare of the Comonweale, &c., as aforesayd.

It is ordered that Mr John Clarke wth Mr Jefferies & John Porter & Richard Burden shall survey all the Lands



near abouts & shall bring in a mapp or Plott of all the s'd lands, & so to make Report to the Judge & Elders, whereby they may Receive Information & direction for the distributions to each man his Propriety.

It is Ordered that Mr Jefferies & Will Dyre shall lay out & measure the home Allotments.

These prticular casses vis. To deale wth Wm Aspinwall Concerning his defaults as also Concerning Invasions forreine and domestick as also the determination of military discipline, & the disposing of the lands as well hous lotts & impropriations, is committed to the Judge & Elders to Agitate & dispose of." (p. 7)

"The 24<sup>o</sup> of the ii<sup>o</sup>: 1638:

The body being assembled wth the Judge & Elders it was agreed (as necessary for the Commonwealth) that A Constable & a Sargeant shuld be chosen by the Body to execute the Lawes & Penalties thereof, viz: The Constable is to see that the Peace be kept, & that ther be no unlawfull meetings, or any thing that may tend to Civill disturbance practised & furthermore he is to informe in Generall of all manifest Breaches of the Law of God that tend to Civill disturbance & that he hath Authority to Command prtie or prties, one or more (as need shall require) to assist him in the discharge of his office.

The Sergeant he is to attend all meetings of the Judge & Elders & to execute the Sentences of the Courte And he is to serve all warrants directed unto him And to informe of all Breaches of the Lawes of God that tend to Civill disturbances; And further he is to keep the prison, & all such who shall be comitted unto his Custody wth all safety & diligence, And unto him is granted authority to Command prtie or prties, one or more as need shall be to assist him in the discharge of their several offices

Samuel Willbore by the Consent of the Body is chosen Constable & is invested wth the Authority aforesayd &

what else shall be found meet to Concurr wth that office of Constablenesship:

Henry Bull is by Consent of the Body Chosen Sergeant & invested wth the Authority aforesayd, & whatt else shall be found meet to Concurr wth that office of Sergeantship.

It is ordered, that the prison formerly Agreed upon shall be proceeded wthall & finished & that Mr Esson shall assist Mr Brenton in the worke, & then that it be sett near or Joyned unto the house of Henry Bull, Sergeant." (p. 8.)

"By the Judge & Elders on the 7<sup>o</sup> 12<sup>o</sup> 1638

Richard Maxon Blacksmith, upon Complaints made against him was accordingly detected for his oppression in the way of his Trade, who being Convinced thereof promised amendment & satisfaction.

Osamond Douch, upon Complainte & Information agst him Concerning damage & wrong done by him, promised to give satisfaction wn his accusers shall be produced, & thereupon bond taken of him wth the engagement of his shallop to the pformance of the same.

Thomas Beeder John Marshall Robert Stanton and Osamund Douch are admitted as Inhabitants.

Mr Aspinwall being a suspected prson for sedition agst the State it was thought meet that a stay of the building of the bote should be made whereupon [the?] workman was forbidden to proceed any further." (p. 8.)

Winthrop recorded under the date March 16, 1638/9:

"There was so violent a wind at S. S. E. and S. as the like was not since we came into this land. It being in the evening, and increased till midnight," and later he added, "The Indians near Aquiday being pawwawing in the tempest, the devil came and fetched away five of them." Under this same date Winthrop makes another reference to Aquidneck:

"At Aquiday, also, Mrs Hutchinson exercised publicly, and she and her party (some three or four families) would have no magistracy. She sent also an admonition to the

church of Boston; but the elders would not read it publicly, because she was excommunicated. By these examples we may see how dangerous it is to slight the censures of the church; for it was apparent, that God had given them up to strange delusions. Those of Aquiday also had entertained two men, whom the church of Roxbury had excommunicated, and one of them did exercise publicly there. For this the church of Boston called in question such of them as were yet their members; and Mr. Coddington, being present, not freely acknowledging his sin, (though he confessed himself in some fault,) was solemnly admonished.

This is further to be observed in the delusions which this people were taken with: Mrs. Hutchinson and some of her adherents happened to be at prayer when the earthquake was at Aquiday, etc., and the house being shaken thereby, they were persuaded, (and boasted of it,) that the Holy Ghost did shake it in coming down upon them, as he did upon the apostles." (p. 352)

Although there is nothing to show what the sedition was of which Mr. Aspinwall was suspected and punished on February 12, 1638/9, it is extremely likely that it was part of the Anti-Coddington "Conspiracy" of Mrs. Hutchinson, which is suggested by Winthrop's entry of March 16, 1638/9, and which resulted in the overthrow of Coddington in the following May.

"On the 2<sup>j</sup>: 12<sup>o</sup>: 1638: It is ordered that that neck of Land lying in the Great Cove Containing about two Acres or thereabouts on Corner whereof butting upon Serjeant Hutchinsons & Lying northeast, & Southwest, joining to the Maine of the Island is granted to Mr Samuell Willbore for him & his Rightly to possess & enjoy & is to go one as prt of his second division wch is to be layed out hereafter.

It is ordered that that lott wch was Reserved for Valentine Hill is granted to Serjeant Hutchinson as prt of his Second

division if so be Valentine Hill doth not Come to Inhabit & build thereon.

Joseph Clarke Robert Carr & John Briggs are admitted Inhabitants.

It is ordered that the Swinn that are upon the Iland shall be sent away from the plantation six miles up into the Island or unto some Yslands adjacente by the 10th of the 2<sup>o</sup> 1639: or else to be shutt up that so they may be inoffenseve to the Towne." (p. 9.)

"On the 6<sup>o</sup> of the 2<sup>o</sup> 1639 Whereas ther was an Order by the Body that Mr Esson Mr Coggeshall & Mr Wilbore shuld take a veiw of the severall damages done by the Cattle of severall heards of Cattle; and accordingly give information wch being done, we the Judge & Elders due further order that every one who shall Come to make demaund therof, shall have Liberty to demaund of every such prson whose Cattle hath done the harme according to the Information given in by them; and that if such prsons shall refuse to pay, that then both prties shall in time Convenient repair to the Court & ther in a Legall way according to God implead each other, & that if any shall Refuse to make their prsonal appearance that then warrants shall be granted forth for the destraining for the due satisfaction of the endamaged.

It is ordered that those parcels of Ground wch was planted the Last yeare by severall prsons That they shall have Libertie to plant it also this yeare and then all thoss precls of Lands to Returne unto the Towne or to such to whom the Land shall be appropriated unto, & for any Charge Concerning it shall be left unto the arbitration of such who shall be thereunto appointed.

It is ordered that All such Hoggs as shall be found wthin the Towne after the 10 of the 2<sup>o</sup> shall pay 2d for each hogg & it shall be Lawfull for any man to take them up & retaine them in their Custody till the said Summ be paid & that

the owners therof forthwth upon the delivery shall Convey them away tht they be no more offensive & the Sarjeant shall see that this Law be dewly executed.

It is further ordered that a place for the Impounding of Cattle shall be made & sett up in some Convenient place of each Towne & that the Treasurer shall see it accomplished & satisfie for itt wthin 30 days after the 5<sup>o</sup> of May: 1640.

It is ordered that in Regard of the many Incursions that the Island is subject unto & that an Alarum for the Securing of the place is necessary therfor itt is thought meet for the present that an Alarum be appointed to give notice to all who Inhabit the place that they may forthwth repair & gather together to the house of the Judge for the defending of the Island or quelling any Insolencies that shall be tumultuously raysed wthin the plantation, Therefore the Alarum that we appoynt shall be this, Three Musketts to bee discharged distinctly & a Herauld appointed to goe speedily throw the Towne & Crye Alarum, Alarum upon wch all are to repaire Immediatly to the place aforesaid." (p. 10.)

The reference to "each Towne" on April 6, 1639, is suggestive. There is no reason to believe that there was more than one town at this time, hence it would appear that the formation of another town on the island was already seriously contemplated.



Seal of Samuel Gorton

## VII

### THE COUP D'ÉTAT OF 1639

**W**ILLIAM CODDINGTON, by far the ablest man in the plantation, had dominated its affairs from the organization of the government in March 1637/8. At that time he had been elected to the chief office, the Judgeship, and had presided at every recorded town meeting. On January 2, 1638/9 a change was made in the government, three "Elders" being appointed to "assist the Judge." This change may have been due to the activity of a minority party which was headed by Mrs. Anne Hutchinson. At first merely as an expounder of religious ideas she had gathered about her a number of followers, but finding that Coddington, the head of the political government, was not in sympathy with her religious views, and that furthermore justice "according to the lawes of God" as interpreted by Coddington might readily fall heavily upon her, for it would be easy for him to interpret her religious teachings as not "according to the lawes of God," Mrs. Hutchinson converted her religious following into a political faction.

Coddington's concession of the establishment of a board of Elders was cleverly executed, for he succeeded in filling all three offices with his own followers, Easton, a religious opponent of Mrs. Hutchinson, a preacher of his own ideas, Coggeshall, and Brenton.

Mrs. Hutchinson, finding that the change had strengthened rather than weakened Coddington's power, continued her political agitation and according to Winthrop "she and her party (some three or four families) would have no magis-



tracy" (p. 51), by which she meant no jurisdiction of civil officers over religious affairs.

Coddington must have visited Boston about this time, for according to the letter quoted below, this conspiracy was hatched while he was "in the Baye."

The "Coupe" was skillfully planned, presumably by Gorton and Mrs. Hutchinson, and took place on Thursday, April 28th 1639. It is difficult to reconstruct the scene from the fragmentary records.

However, a town meeting was evidently held on that day, and the first business transacted was in regard to the Aspinwall case. The record is as follows:

"On the 28<sup>o</sup> of the 2<sup>o</sup> 1639. Upon the Complainte of Jeffrey Champlin & In the behalfe of a debt due to Wm Cowly & himselfe from Mr Aspinwall, warrant was granted forth for the Attachmt of his shallop till both that debt & other Actions of the Case be satisfied & discharged by him." (p. 10.)

One of Aspinwall's crimes, that of sedition, may have been his sympathy with the Hutchinson party, and hence the discussion of his case may have acted as a spark to kindle the Hutchinsonian plot.

This is the last record of the "old government." The surprise must have occurred immediately after the entry, and the clerk, Dyre, sympathizing with the old regime did not see fit to record the rest of the meeting, which he doubtless considered as out of order.

In regard to the affair Coddington wrote to Winthrop on 9 December 1639, "I am removed 12 myles further up in to the Iland. Ther they have gathered a Church, & doe intend to chuse officers shortely, & do desire better healpes in that kind, when the Lord is pleased to send them, & would gladly use what meanes doth lye in us to obtayne them. Things are in fare better passe consarning our civill governmentt then they have bene, divers Famelyes being



come in that had revolted from ther owne acte, & have given satisfaction. Mr. Gorton & Mrs. Huchson doth oppose it. It was hached when I was last in the Baye, & the Lord, I hope, will shortly putt an esew to it." (M. H. S. C., 4, 7, 278.) Winthrop in his Journal under the date, 11 May 1639, wrote: "At Aquiday the people grew very tumultuous, and put out Mr. Coddington and the other three magistrates, and chose Mr. William Hutchinson only, a man of a very mild temper and weak parts, and wholly guided by his wife, who had been the beginner of all the former troubles in the country, and still continued to breed disturbance. They also gathered a church in a very disordered way; for they took some excommunicated persons, and others who were members of the church of Boston and not dismissed." (I, 356.)

It would appear that the Hutchinsonians called for an election of officers and that a tumultous meeting ensued. The "conspirators" had a majority, for they succeeded in carrying their point and elected a new Judge.

Coddington and his friends withdrew in anger from the meeting and held a meeting of their own. The Clerk, William Dyre, sided with Coddington and carried away the records with him. In this manner the rebels were enabled to enter the records of their meeting in the original record book. Nevertheless they began the records of this meeting upon a new page and did not make them a continuation of the records of the previous meeting of the same day, although there was room upon the remainder of that page. The entry is as follows:

"Pocassett on the 28<sup>o</sup> of the 2<sup>o</sup>: 1639

It is Agreed

By us: whose Hands are under written to Propagate A Plantation in the midst of the Island or Elsewhere And doe ingage our selves to beare Equall charges answerable to our

Strength and Estates In Comon and that our determinations shall be by Major voice of judge & Elders the Judge to have a Double voice." (p. 11.)

This agreement was never signed, and the names which follow it are not signatures, but were written by Wm. Dyre as part of the minutes of the meeting of May 16th. The difference in the ink establishes this fact. The record of April 28th was written in brown ink, while the names and the record of May 16th were written in black ink; and from the condition of the ink, it is evident that the names and the record of May 16th were written at one time.

The majority, having elected their candidates, adjourned, and having no record book entered no records. But two days later, on Saturday, 30 April 1639, they again met and recorded the minutes of the previous meeting as follows:

"Aprill. 30. 16[39]

We whose names are underw[ritten] do acknowledge]<sup>1</sup> ourselves the Loyall subje[cts of <sup>2</sup> his Majestie] King Charles, and in his na[me] do hereby bind our]selves into a Civill body Politicke: a[nd] do submit] unto his lawes according [to . . .] matters of Justice:

Willm Hutchinson

Samuell Gorton

Samuell Hutchinson

John Wickes

Richarde Maggson

Thomas Spiser

*William Aspinwall*

*William Haule*

John Roome R mark

John Sloffe I mark

Thomas Bedder × mark

Erasmus Bullocke

Sampson Shotten

Ralph Earle	
Robert Potter	
Nathanyell Potter	× mark
George Potter	× mark
Wm Heavens	× mark
George Cleare	×
George Lawton	
Anthony Paine	× his mark
Jobe Haukins	× mark
Richarde Awards	
John More	× his mark
<i>Nicholas</i> Brownes	× his mark
William Richardson	× mark
John Tripp	
Thomas Layton	× his mark
Robert Stainton	his × mark
John Briggs	his × mark
James Davice	× his mark" (Po. R. 7.)

The names in italics have been crossed out. This was probably done when the three men moved away.

"Aprill. 30th : 1[639]<sup>1</sup>

According to the true intent of [the foregoing instrument, *wee*]<sup>2</sup> whose names ar above perticularly [recorded do agree] jointly or by the major Voice, to [govern ourselves by the] Ruler or Judge amongst us in [*all* transactions] for the space & terme of one [yeare, . . . he] behaving himself according to the t[enor of the same.]

We have freely made Choice of [William Hutchinson]<sup>3</sup> to be ruler or Judg Among [us.]

<sup>1</sup> The words in brackets are Bartlett's.

<sup>2</sup> The words in italics were in the original according to Bartlett 1856, but had disappeared by 1901.

<sup>3</sup> Name inserted on authority of Williams & Winthrop.

We have also for the helpe & ease [of the conducting of] publique businesse & affaires for [the colonies] for one yeare also, Chosen Unto him [. . .] William Balston, John Porter, Jo[. . .]<sup>1</sup> William Freeborne, John Wal[ker. . .] Phillipe Shermon, as also w'll [*Aspinwall to*] lay out landes as they sh[all be disposed.]

We have also made Choice of [. . .] amongst Us for this yeare en[suing].” (Po. R. 1, 9)

The words in brackets in the above items were supplied by Bartlett (R. I. C. R. pr. 1. 70-71) with the exception of the names William Hutchinson and Walker. Bartlett gives Walker as Wall, but there was no John Wall at Portsmouth and *k* at the edge of a torn sheet might easily resemble *l*.

Robert Baylie in “A Dissuasive from the Errours of the Time,” (London, 1645, p. 150) wrote:

“Mr. Williams related to me, that Mistris Hutchinson (with whom he was familiarly acquainted, and of whom he spake much good) after she had come to Rid Island, and her husband had beene made Governour there, she perswaded him to lay downe his Office upon the opinion which newly she had taken up of the unlawfulnessse of Magistracy.”

In the second edition (1646), the word “beene” appears as “been” and a comma appears after “office.”

From the fact that the aforesaid minutes are recorded in the past tense it might be inferred that they had been enacted previously, i.e. on April 28, and that the following items, being in the present tense, are the actual minutes of the meeting at which they were recorded, i.e. April 30.

“It is appoynted tht theire shalbe [a court held every] yeare, evry quarter one for [. . .] to doe right betwixt man & [man . . . a] Jury of 12 men, as also it is [ordered that] the Eight men chosen u[nto him shall hold a] meeting amongst themself[ves to consult together] as also to put an

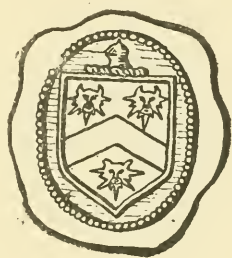
<sup>1</sup> Probably John Sanford.

end to any controver[*zey*] if it amount not to the Value of fo[r*tie* shillings] the Judge with the rest of the eight [*men*] shall decide . . . ] it brought to the publike court.

The quarter courts ar to bee the [first Thursday in June<sup>1</sup>] next the second, first thursd[ay in September the third] the first thursday in decembe[r fourth to be the] day of Election of new officer[s the first Thursday] in March.

And for the Monthly courts to [be the last Thursday] in the month." (Po. R. I, 9)

<sup>1</sup> Words in brackets supplied by the Editor; see previous note.



Seal of John Clark

## VIII

### PORTSMOUTH UNDER THE HUTCHINSONS

OWING to the mutilated condition of the Portsmouth records we have very incomplete minutes of the town's proceedings. There are, however, fragmentary records of four monthly meetings on page 11, which appear to have been held previous to the last Thursday, 31 October, 1639, for the minutes of that meeting are at the top of page 12. If their meetings were held regularly on the last Thursday of each month, it would appear that the records on page 11 were for the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th months and that the records of the meeting of the 30 May 1639 were probably on a lost page.

"At a Monthly meeting the [last Thursday in the 4th mo.] 1639.

Job Haukins was granted one House [*lott neare*]  
the west  
side of the swampe to buld on [*within one year or to*]  
be forfitt at the  
yeares end.

It It is ordered tht meddowes a[*bove . . . be*]  
laid out according to ech mans  
prp[ortion]" (Po. R. 11)

"At a quarter meeting the [first Thursday in]  
the 5th mo. 1639.  
these th[. . .]

That evry man that hath a house [lot . . .]  
shall buld upon the  
same wthin on[e yeare . . . or] he loaseth it.

mr. Thomas Spicer & Robert Potter ar[e hereby]  
 chosen Surveyers  
 for the hiewayes, & . . .  
 come in, two, foure, or six daies a[t . . .]  
 this & the 29 of 7 mo. next, & if the nece . . .  
 as he cannot come or procure a man, he . . .  
 day to the surveyers & the surveyers [to make report at]  
 the Court at  
 the yeares end.  
 It is agreed upon to call this towne [Portsmouth]  
 To Richard Haukins is granted one ho[use lot to build on  
 within]  
 one yeare or to be forfitt  
 To Thomas Slaid is granted one house lot [to build on]  
 upon the said  
 tearmes  
 To Tho: Waite one house lott next mr. [Wickes]  
 To Edward Fisher one house lott next [him]" (Po. R. 13)  
 "At a Monthly meeting the last th[ursday in the 5th mo.]  
 It is ordered that no man shall sell his lott or [meadow unless  
 he first]  
 offer it to the boddy heare in Portsmouth  
 It is ordered tht John Porter & Tho: Spiser [*shall receive*  
*from the*]  
 inhabitants of the laitly purchased meddo[ws . . .]  
 their monyes for  
 this yeare & bring it [*to the Towne*]  
 It is agreed upon tht their shalbe tend . . .  
 Joyning wth him to putt our matter o . . .  
 2 among themselves, & we tow amo . . .  
 ende it, to referr it to 4 men of [righ  
 tow, they other two,  
 It is ordered that wm. Freeborne & R . . .  
 about the corne Feilds of both sid . . .  
 man maintaine his own Fen[ce . . .]



to be maintained by the whole feilde, . . .  
the owners theirow are to pay the d . . .”

(Po. R. 11)

“At a Monthly meet[ing the last Thursday in the 6th mo.]  
It is ordered tht no man shall g . . .  
shall lose his lott heare, ti . . .

“At a Mont[hly meeting the last Thursday in the 7th mo.]  
To John Alborah [Albro] wa[s granted a house lot on]  
condition of  
buil[ding within a yeare]  
To John Vane [Vaughn] one [house lot . . .]”

(Po. R. 11)

“[At a monthly meet]ing the last thursday in the 8th mo.  
[16]39

. . . one House lott next John Vane [Vaughn] upon the  
said tear

[mes . . .] tht wch was George Gardiners grownd in the  
[. . . t]

ow more next it, upon the vew of [sd] Balston &  
[. . . .]

in the said North feild to plow

[. . . .] land at the Comon seller on the neck from wm

[. . . Hu]tchisons

lott.” (Po. R. 12)

“At a quarter Meeting the first Thursd[ay in the 8 mo] 1639

Nicholas Browne doth dismis himself of [hi . . .]

the govourment heare

[&] Meddowes formerly granted

[. . . h]ie way adioynning to mr Coddingtons garden

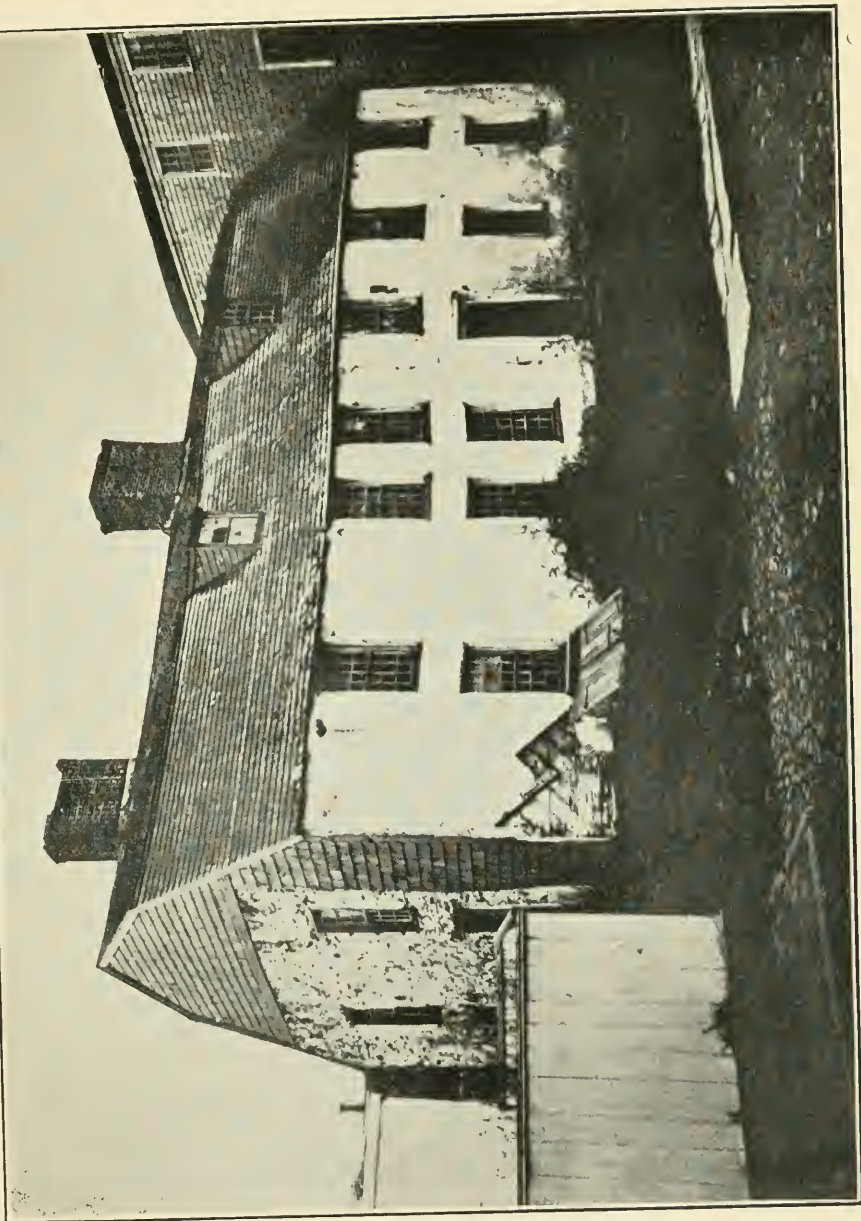
him wth the littl marsh wthout the Comon fenc nex the

. . . xt vnto him

next vnto him

next him & one at the end of his lott on the neck

. . . t mr wilbore



THE HOME OF HENRY BULL AT NEWPORT. BUILT ABOUT 1640.

From a photograph made in 1880 before the form of the roof was changed.



. . . en the salt Crick & his lotte  
 . . . . . Crick  
 . . . . . ge [4 Rood left for a hie way to the spring] Tow acre  
 . . . . . him i Ac.  
 . . . . . halfe next vnto him  
 . . . . . xt vnto him  
 . . . . . tow Ac next to him  
 . . . . . next to them,  
 . . . . . vnto him  
 . . . . . halfe next vnto him beyond the hieway.  
 . . . . . t to him  
 . . . . . halfe next to him  
 [ . . . . . G]eorg Layton & Tho Laiton to ech halfe an ac  
 next him  
 . . . . . e of the ponde  
 . . . . . ne Ac next next his house  
 . . . . . tton i Ac next to him  
 . . . . . i Acr next to him  
 . . . . . i Ac next to him  
 . . . . . next to him  
 . . . . . & [a] halfe next to him  
 . . . . . at the ponds mouth next the North sea  
 [. . . . . M]eddow of the Northwest side of the Towne  
 . . . . . end of the meddow 2 Ac of upland  
 [. . . . . u]nto h[im] 3 Ac of meddow,  
 . . . . . ac of meddow  
 . . . . . t to him  
 . . . . . xt to them  
 . . . . . xt to them  
 . . . . . xt to him  
 . . . . . meddow, wth an addition of vpland to  
 . . . . . o the Meddowe  
 . . . estward beyond the long Meddow. from the sea  
 . . . . . eddow;" (Po. R. 13-14)  
 "[At a monthly m]eeting the last thursday in 9 Mo.

[. . . gran]ted 6 ac of planting ground at his Meddow where

. . . next John Motts upon the former condition of bulding”

(Po. R. 12)

Coddington, as soon as he was well established at Newport, endeavored to extend his power over the whole island by uniting the towns under one government. On Dec. 9, 1639 he wrote Winthrop in the letter previously quoted: “Things are in fare better passe conserning our civill governmentt then they have bene, divers Famelyes being come in that had revolted from ther owne acte, & haue given satisfaction. Mr. Gorton & Mrs. Huchson doth oppose it.” (M. H. S. C. 4, 7, 279.)

From this it would appear that some of the Portsmouth men had already acknowledged the authority of the Newport government, and in confirmation we find that Robert Stanton and George Gardiner were admitted freemen at Newport 17 Dec. 1639 and Baulston seems to have become on very close terms of friendship with Coddington for the latter adds as a postscript to the said letter.

“Mr. John Cogshall, Mr. Willm. Brenton, & Sergant Balstone doe desire to have their service presented to your worship”

“[At a Monthly] meeting the 10 mo. 1639  
 . . . . . house lotte next beyond mr. Cowland on the  
 . . . . . the former condition of bulding wthin  
 . . . . . tow house lotts of the east side of the swampe  
 . . . . . next the Coupers upon Condition of  
 . . . . . & selling the 3d lott bought of Anthony  
 . . . . . good behaviour” (Po. R. 12)

“[At a Monthly meeti]ng the 11 mo. 1639  
 . . . . . have bene divers times trobled wth Claimes  
 . . . . . ing an equall right wth the purchasers to  
 . . . . . tion, wch is contrary to what is declared

. . . . . at our entrance into this combination  
 . . . . . tuall peace, tht all such Claimes should

. . . . . have his lands layed out to him as

. . . . . uppon the receite of their monyes" (Po.  
 R. 12)

"At a meeting the 10th of the 12 mo. 163 [9]  
 & further confirmed the 18 of the said [mo.]

It is Mutually agreed by the p  
 that these quanteties of grow  
 in these places following.  
 William Hutchison Four Hundred  
 North side of the salt Crick at Sachua East, & bo  
 on the west & soe to ronne Northward,  
 John Sanforde Tow hundred & Fourtie Acre  
 William Aspinwall Tow hundred Acres ab  
 Sandy poynte of the same side to pay  
 Philip Shermon Tow Acres ab  
 from the Towne of the same side

Of the west side  
 William Freeborne One hundredth & Fortie Acr  
 at his little Meddow & soe sowth west,  
 John Walker one hundred Acres ne

40

William Balston Tow hundreth Acr  
 brooke on the North East end of his Meddow

40

John Porter Tow hundreth Acres  
 Edward Hutchison Tow Hundret  
 & if there be noe Meddows within hi  
 of Tow Acres he is to have Tow  
 Porters Meddow,

30

Richard Carder Thirtie Ac next

It is also ordered that the afforsaid  
the one halfe of theire lande  
regarde of theire first advento  
Also it is ordered tht Robt Potter sha  
som losses he had by the heard  
Adam Mote fower scoere and  
Brooke next mr William B  
ward" (Po. R. 15)

At this special meeting of 18 Feb. 1639/40, the first enactment passed 25 July 1639 and the enactment passed 29 Aug. 1639 were repealed. (Po. R. Marginal notes, page 11)

Coddington, having the original deed in his own name and the official records, practically controlled all the land titles, and this in itself must have been a strong argument to the Portsmouth men to submit to the Newport government. What influence, conscious or subconscious, this may have had on Mrs. Hutchinson's sudden opinion of the unlawfulness of Magistracy, as related by Roger Williams (see p. 60), we can only conjecture, but by persuading her husband to lay down his office, she removed the chief obstacle to the union of the two towns. Gorton and his party still opposed the union, but they were an unimportant minority. Coddington on his part seems to have offered, as a compromise, annual elections; and as a result, on 12 March 1639/40 at a General Court held at Newport, eighteen Portsmouth men were received as Freeman. William Hutchinson was elected one of the assistants, doubtless in recognition of the service he rendered the Coddington faction by renouncing his office.



Seal of Robert Jeoffrey



## IX

### THE SETTLEMENT OF NEWPORT

**A**CCORDING to the notes of Nicholas Easton's son, Peter, Newport was founded May 1st 1639. The note reads, "(Sinc) Nuport began may first 30 1639." These notes were written on one of the blank pages of an almanac for 1669, and the 30 refers to the fact that the entry was in regard to an event which occurred 30 years earlier. (Peter Easton Mss. Amer. Antiq. Soc.) He adds: "(Sinc.) the first hous built in nuport in may 1639 30" (ibid.)

In an edition of Morton's Memorial of 1669, which he bought in November of that year, Peter Easton wrote in the margin of a page dealing with 1639: "This year 1d 3m we came to newport" and "In the beginning of May this year the Eastons came to Newport in Road Iland and builded ther the first English building and ther planted this year and coming by boat they lodged at the Iland caled coasters harbour the last of April 1639 and the First of May in the morning gave that Iland the Name of Coasters Harbour and from thence came to Newport the same Day." (R. I. H. S. C. XII, 80.)

From this it would appear that the Eastons left Pocasset on April 30, 1639, and proceeded by boat down Narragansett Bay along the west shore of Aquidneck, and began the settlement of Newport on 1 May 1639. Coddington and the rest of his followers joined the Eastons very soon, if they did not accompany them, and a town meeting was held 16 May, 1639.

Henry Bull (in the Rhode Island Republican for 29 May, 1832; Newport) in his "Memoir of R. Island," wrote:

"We have now arrived at that period of our history when the settlement of the town of Newport first commenced; the land fronting on the harbor where Thames street now is, was then an impenetrable swamp, which circumstance so discouraged the settlers that they once concluded to locate the town near the Beach; but on further survey they found the roadstead altogether unsafe for shipping, which obliged them to resort again to the spot where Newport now stands; when they rounded and Examined the harbor, and finding it safe and commodious, they concluded to encounter the swamp and establish the town on its margin; then they voted, that it should be built upon both sides of the spring, and so by the sea side southward. The place thus described was a running spring, and was in the place where the fountain is now, on the west side of Spring street a short distance south easterly from the State House. The stream from this spring run about North West into the river (as it was then called) which now runs under the Jail, and about this spring, and on both sides the stream running down into the harbor, was intended for the place to commence building the town. By their saying both sides the spring, we understand as meaning not only the source but the stream. Marlborough Street was the first street built upon which ran to the harbor, and wharves were first built into the cove. On the North side of that street Gov. Coddington's house was built, which is now standing and fronts Duke street."

"The fountain mentioned by Mr. Bull has recently been covered by the erection of a stable on the land of the heirs of Edward Hazard, on Spring street, at the foot of Barney." (Footnote of R. I. Hist. Mag. VII, 192.)

The town record to which Mr. Bull referred in the above quotation is that of the first meeting held in Newport, and is as follows:

“Wm. Coddington, Judge,		John Clarke
Nicholas Easton,	} Elders,	Jeremy Clerke
John Coggeshall,		Thomas Hazard
William Brenton,		Henry Bull
		W Dyre, Secr:
		16th 3d 1639

It is Agreed & ordered, that the Plantacon now begun att this South west end of the Island shall be called Newport; and that all the Lands lying Northward & Eastward from the sd Towne towards Pocassett for the space of five miles, And so to cross from sea to sea, wth all the Lands Southward & westward, bounded wth the maine sea together wth the small Islands And the grass of Cunnunnegott is appointed for the accommodation of the sd Towne.

It is ordered that every such Servant as shall abide wth any of us that first Came forth shall upō their deu admission, have Tenn acres of Land given unto them Grates

It is ordered that the Towne shall be built up on both the sides of the spring & by the seaside Southward.”

(I. R. p. 11.)

The names of nine of the Coddington followers are thus made known to us. It will be noted that they did not hold an election, but retained the offices that they had previously held. Dyre however signs as Secretary instead of Clerk. Coddington did not believe in elections, apparently claiming an indefinite or life tenure for these offices.

The first record of the Newport government was made at Pocasset on the day of the schism. The clerk, William Dyre, withdrew from the meeting with Coddington and took the record book. The Coddington faction held a meeting on their own account, and Dyre entered the following record of it:

“Pocassett. On the 28<sup>o</sup> of the 2d: 1639.

It is Agreed

By us whose Hands are under written, to Propagate A Plantation in the midst of the Island or Elsewhere And doe ingage our selves to beare Equall charges answerable to our Strength and Estates In Co<sup>m</sup>on and that our determinations shall be by Major voice of Judge & Elders the Judge to have a Double voice.”

(I. R. 11.)

Besides retaining the original record book, Coddington had, by not giving deeds, retained in “himself and friends” all title to the real estate, and thus had two valuable political and legal weapons for later use. The “double voice” given to the Judge is an example of Coddington’s political ability.

Nevertheless, considering discretion the better part of valor, the minority decided to leave Pocasset.

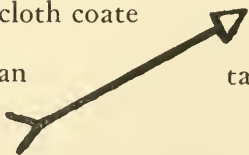
It would seem probable that all the Indians did not remove from Aquidneck when the settlers founded Pocasset, and that some remained at the south end of the island. When the Coddington party decided to settle there it became advisable to have those remaining Indians removed, and this was accomplished through the exertions of Miantonomi and two lesser sachems. Gratuities were given to these Indians for their services, and the following receipts were signed by them:

“the 11th day of May 1639. Received by me Miantunnu (as a gratuity) of Mr. Coddington and his Friends unitted for my paines and Travill in removeing off the natives off on the Island of Aquednecke tenn fathom of Wampum peage and one broad cloth coate

“Dat. May 14. 1639

Mian

tannomu”



Recieved of Mr. William Coddington and his friends

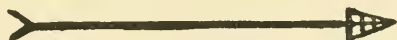
unitted to him, in full satisfaction for grownd broken up  
or any other title or claime whatsoever, formerly had of the  
Island of Aquedneck, the full sum of five fathom of wam-  
pum peage and a Coate

Weshaganesett, his marke



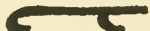
Witnesses

Miantinomu, his marke



Witness

Hugh Durdall

Thomas Sabery  his marke"

"June 20th 1639

Received from Mr. William Coddington and of his  
Friends unitted to him in full satisfaction of grownd broken  
up or any other title or claime whatsoever formerly had of  
the Island of Aquedneck, the full sum of five Fathom of  
wampum peage.

Wonimenatony



his marke

William Cowling  
Richard Sawell"

Elizabeth C. Brenton in the Newport Mercury for August 13, 1853 (reprinted, Newport, 1877, p. 5), gives in a different wording the tradition recorded by Bull (p. 70), and adds:

“The tall forest trees which luxuriantly grew from the bottom to the summit of the hill, were first cut away, and then coming downward to marshy ground, made impenetrable by low brush, the work was suspended by order of the corporation, until they could plan some way to pursue their object, when one day a canoe approached the shore near Coaster’s Harbor, where Nicholas Easton Wm Brenton, and Thomas Hazard were standing, one of the three addressed the Indians and very pleasantly inquired what they would take to clear that swamp; and after some moments silence one of the Indians replied, “if you will give me your coat, the pale faces shall have the land made clear.” The coat was given, and having large brass buttons upon it, the Indian cut them off, and putting them on a string he tied a knot between each, and placed them round his neck, for an ornament. The Indians soon after fired the swamp, and by the assistance of the whites, it was in time cleared and filled in with gravel and sand, and thus, after much labor, made sufficiently firm for building lots.”

A tradition which is first recorded in writing over 200 years after the event is of course of little historical value. Miss Brenton states that much of her information is derived from the papers of Benjamin Brenton, who obtained much of his information from Doctor Jonathan Easton.

“5° of 4°

It is ordered that all the meadow grounds lying within the Circuitt and bounds of Nuport shall be Layd out after the rate & proportion of Twentie Cowes meat to a division of Three hundred acres of upland and it is ordered that



Mr John Clark Mr Jeffreys Tho: Hazard & Wm Dyre or any three of them, by the major vote shall proportion it forth dewlie, & that the sd Companie which shall lay it forth shall have foure pence an acre for every acre.

About the same time the Secretarie being absent and the body meeting they did agree that the Land might reasonably accomodate thoss that were & as many as would bee fiftie families; wch agreemt being left wth Mr Easton is not readily to be found, but tht there was such an agreemt most then & ther present do confidently remember, therfor a space I leave to insert it.

It is ordered that the home allotmts shall be foure acres a peece laid out Conveniently wher the ground affords & that Mr Coddington shall have six acres for an orchard Laid out as Conveniently as cann bee" (I. R. p. 12.)

"11° 5°

It is agreed, tht Mr Clark Mr Jeffreys & Wm Dyre shall have full powre to lay out all the Lands for the townes accommodations as well upland as Medow, as also all high-ways wth the home allotmts, & the disposition of Severall farmes to the prsons Inhabiting according to the proportion that shall be allotted by the Judg & Elders and are to have 2<sup>d</sup> an acre for the great lotts laying forth EXP.

2° 7°

It is Agreed that Thomas Hazard & Mr Jeffreys are imbraced as freeman by this Body.

Upon some differences arising Concerning the Trad wth the Indians it is agreed that Mr Brentō & Mr John Clark shall informe Mr Jeffreys of the prticulars, and then Mr. Jeffreys shall determine the Cause.

It is also determined that Mr Jeffreys shall have the hearing & deciding of the matters Concerning the dammages done by the Cattle upō the planted Corne in the Circuit of the



Towne & that such who hath been so endammaged shall repair to him.

It is agreed that the trad with the Indians shall be free to all men &c

It is ordered that if Mr Jeoffreys cannot joyntlie goe along with the rest, in the Laying forth of the Lands, then Mr Easton is to goe along & prforme the sd service in Mr Jeoffreys Roome, who have full power to dispose of all Circumstances, as fencings & timber wth other Conveniences as may paralell the impropriations according to their best discretions.

I of 8th.

It is ordered that every first Tewsdays in the Moneth, the Judge & Elders shall assemble together to heare & determine all such Causes as shall be presented.

It is ordered that Mr Robert Jeoffreys is Elected Threārer of this Body for on whole yeare or till a new be chosen, & that Mr Jeremy Clarke shall assist him in taking up the accounts of the old Treasurer.

Upo an account of the Secretaries for Service done to the Body divers wayes a bill of 19<sup>d</sup> & ten acres of Land was assigned to be pd him by the Threarer and to Serjeant Bull for Service by him done 6<sup>t</sup>

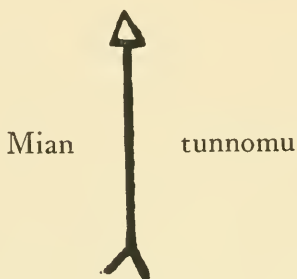
It is agreed that Mr Foster is received as a freeman of this Bodie

It is agreed that in the Quarter Courts the determinations of matters in hand shall be by major vote the Judg having his dowble vote, who also shall have power to putt it to vote & to gather up the votes." (I. R. 13)

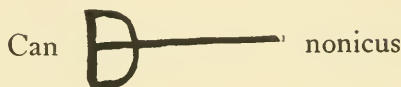
"The 22th of Novembr 1639

Rc'd by mee Miantunomu of Mr. William Coddington and his Friends united Twenty and three Coates and thirteen howes to distribute to the Indians that did Inhabitt

off the Island of Aquedneck in full of all promisses, Debts,  
and demands for the said Island as also two tarkepess



Witnes



Mompaucke



Wampammaquitt"



(I. R. p. 68.)

"By the Body Politicke  
in the Ile of Aqethnec  
Inhabiting this presant  
25° of 9°: m: 1639

In the fourteenth yeare of the Raigne of our  
Soveraign Lord King Charles  
It is agreed

That as Naturall Subjects to our Prince, & subject to his  
Lawes All matters that Concerne the Peace shall bee by  
those that are officers of the Peace Transacted, And All  
actions of the Case or Dept shall be in such Courts as by

order are Here appointed, and by such Judges as are Deputed, Heard and Legally Determined.

Given at Nieu-Port on the  
Quarter Courte Day which  
was adjourned till ths Day

William Dyre Secr

Mr Jeremy Clarke is Chosen Constable for one whole yeare or till a new be Chosen And is to Attend that service according to the Law in that Case provided.

Mr. William Foster is Chosen Clerke of the Train Band, & is to attend that service till another be Chosen who is presently to take a view of the Armes and to Returne the deffects the next Courte but one

It is ordered & Agreed upon that the Body of the people, viz. the Traine Band shall have Free libertie to select & chuse prsons one or more from Among themselves As they would have to be officers among them, to exerceise & Traine them; And then to present them to the Magistrats for their approbation.

It is ordered that Mr Robt Jefferies shall Traine the Band for the present.

It is ordered that no man shall goe two miles from the Towne unarmed eyther with Gunn or Sword and that none shall Come to any Publick Meeting without his weapon, upon the default of eyther he shall forfeitt five shillings.

It is further ordered that those Commissioners formerly appointed to negotiate the Business with or Brethren of Pocassett shall give them or propositions under their hands and shall require their propositions under their hands with their answers & shall give reply unto itt And so shall returne to the Body a Breive of what they therein have done.

By order Mr Easson & Mr John Clarke are desired to informe Mr Vane by writting of the state of things here and

desire him to Treate about the obtaining off a patent of the Island from his Matie and likewise to writt to Mr Thomas Burrwood Brother to Mr Easson Concerning the same thing.

The Courte is adjourned to this day three weekes.”  
(I. R. 16.)

Two exceedingly important matters were under consideration, namely the uniting of the Island under one government, and the obtaining of royal recognition of this government.

“At the prticular Courte holden the 3d of the 10th 1639 John Bartlett and John Hudson being convented and as well by wittness as their owne Confession found guiltie of the Breach of the Peace by their excess in drinking, is adjudged to pay five shillings a peece unto the Hands of the Constable according to the Law in the case provided.”

(I. R. 16)

In the postscript of a letter dated Dec. 9, 1639, Coddington styles Balston, “Sergant Balston.” (M. H. S. C. 4, 7, 279.)

“At the Generall Quarter Court wch was adjourned to this present 17<sup>o</sup> of 10<sup>o</sup> mo 1639

Mr Eastone for breach of an Order in Com̄ing to the publike meeting wthout his weapon according to that order is to paie five shillings

Whereas according to a former Order Mr Clerk was to assist Mr. Jefferies Treasurer, for the taking up of the Accounts off the old Treasurer, wch accordinglie they have done, & Exhibited the same into the Courte, wch have passed, And ther is found to Remaine due to Mr. Coggeshall the Sum̄ of £57: 2s: 4d; wch the Treasurer now being shall pay unto him wth all Convenient speed, allowing suficient satisfaction for the forbearance therof from this present day.

Itt is Ordered that those who are appointed to lay forth the lands, shall (in Regard of some naturall bounds lying neare unto the farme of Mr. Will Coddington Judge;) have full powre to add unto the sd farme such prcell or prcells of land as may extend to thoss Bounds according as their discretions shall guid them, when they Come to a veiue therof prvided that Mr Coddington Judge shall pay into the Treasurie so much monie (according to the order) as the overplus of his proportion amounts unto.

It is ordered that the Treasurer shall pay no monies unto any prson till he be Authorized by warrant signed under the hands of the Judge & some of the Elders, the wch shall be to him of sufficient Authoritie to pay all such bills so assigned.

It is Agreed that Wm Cowlie Robt Feild George Gardiner Robert Stanton Thomas Clerk & Joseph Clerke are admitted & imbraced as Freemen into this Body Politike.

It is agreed & ordered that the Secretarie shall take notes of all dammages of the Towne, & shall implead such as shall be delinquents; Legalie. And in every defect therof shall forfeit fortie shillings.

It is Ordered that ther shall be sufficient fences eyther hedge or post & raile made about the Corne grownds that shall be planted or sowne by the i of May next & if any man shall be found a delinquent therin he shall forfeitt for every rod that is defective the Sum of 3s: 4d:

It is ordered that no man shall keep any Hoggs about the Towne except it be wthin his owne inclosure after the 15<sup>o</sup> of Aprill untill the 15<sup>o</sup> of October upon the forfeiture of 4d a foote, & the former orders are Repealed.

Itt is ordered that ther shall be provision made of Bulls into the Towne, A Bull to every twentie Cows and heyfers by the first of May, 1640.

Itt is Ordered that keepers shall bee appointed to the severall heards of Cattle from the 15<sup>o</sup> of April to the i of

November, & that the spare cattle shall be separated from the milch Beasts & kept att Sachuis.

It is ordered that the Lands shall not be fired till the 1<sup>o</sup> of March & so for fourteen days to Continue & that if eyther Indyan or English shall fire any before or after, they are liable to such dammages as may be incurred thereby:<sup>1</sup>

It is Ordered that the Treasurer shall forthwth provide a pr of Stocks & a whipping post to be sett in some such place as he shall have Order for in the town of Niewport."

(I. R. p. 18.)

"At the Particular Courte held  
on the 7<sup>o</sup> of ii<sup>o</sup> 1639

Wheras it was ordered that the Clerke of the Band should take Notice of what defects were in the Armes among the Traine Band; & to make Returne therof at the Sessions of this Courte wch being prformed It is further ordered tht the Corporall shall forthwth give warning to all such who are defective to make their appearance before the Judge wthin these tenn days, to give answeere for their deficiencies therin; & further it is Ordered that every Traine Souldier shall be provided sufficiently of his owne Armes by the last day of Aprill 1640 as they shall answeere it att their prill.

Wheras Complainte was made by the Secretarie on the behalfe of the Towne of Nieuport agst Ralph Earle for his falling of Timber, Contrarie to order, & suitt made accordingly in the Courte. By the Courte it was ordered that the sd Ralph Earle & Mr Willbore his Copartner shall serve the Towne wth good sufficient Stuff, Vidz with sawn board att 8s the hundred &  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch board, at 7s: to be dd at the pitt by the water side; & Clapboard & Paile at 12d a foote by the Stubb sound & good sufficient merchandisable ware & futher it is Ordered that the sd Mr Willbore & Ralph Earle shall not make sale of any of the Timber wthin the

<sup>1</sup> According to a marginal note this order was subsequently repealed.



Bounds of the Towne of Nieuport nor Transport any of it (eyther whole or broken) to any other Plantation without licence as they shall Answere it at their Prill." (I. R. 8)

"At a Generall Assembly of the Body, 22<sup>o</sup> Jan: 1639:

Upon A Survey of the Corne wth the prsons inhabiting the Towne, the Corne arising to 108 bushells & the persons :96: It is thfore ordered tht the sd Corne shall be proportioned forth one bush & half a peck to each prson wch is to supply the sd prson for the space of six weeks ensuing the date hereof; prvided tht such who shall lend their Corne shall in due time be repaied as soone as a supply can be made.

Whereas the Generall Q Courte doth fall on the 2d of feb. wch being the Lord's day upon serious Consideration it is assigned to be kept foure days sooner being the 29<sup>o</sup> of ths prsent month." (I. R. p. 18.)

"At the Quarter Courte  
held the 29 of Januarie 1639:

It is Ordered that Mr Jeremie Clarke shall supply the Trear place till his Returne from the Dutch.

It is ordered & Ordayned that once in the yeare forever hereafter namelie the twelfth day of March: The Judge & Elders & all other Officers of this Bodie incorp shall bee in the Generall Courte or Assembly to be held for that day or time Newlie chosen, for the yeare ensuing by such greater prte of the Bodie of Freeman, then or ther present, & such as shall be necessarily detained to send in their votes sealed up to the Judge.

It is ordered that on the 6<sup>o</sup> of march ensuing the Bodie shall assemble together for the Recording of the Lands according to the order in that Case made on the Sessions held the 27<sup>o</sup> of 4<sup>o</sup> 1638:

It is ordered that the Secretarie shall Commend and advise wth the Judge & Elders Concerning such suitts & Cases as he shall have information of." (I. R. p. 19.)



ILL  
N E W E S  
FROM  
NEW-ENGLAND:  
OR  
A Narrative of *New-Englands*  
PERSECUTION.

WHEREIN IS DECLARED

That while old *England* is becoming new,  
*New-England* is become Old.

Also four Proposals to the Honoured Parliament and Council of State,  
touching the way to *Propagate the Gospel of Christ* ( with small  
charge and great safety ), both in Old *England* and New.

Also four conclusions touching the faith and order of the Gospel of  
Christ out of his last Will and Testament, confirmed and justified

---

By JOHN CLARK Physician of Rhode Island in *America*.

---

Revel. 2. 25. Hold fast till I come.

3. 11. Behold I come quickly.

22. 20. Amen, even so come Lord Jesus.

---

L O N D O N.

Printed by Henry Hills living in Fleet-Street next door to the Rose  
and Crown, in the year 1652.

TITLE-PAGE OF BOOK BY JOHN CLARK.

From original in John Carter Brown Library, Providence.



“At A General Assembly of the  
Body on the 6° of March:

Wheras according to Order Mr Nicholas Eston Mr John Clarke & Wm Dyre was appointed to lay forth all such Lands as by the Judge & Elders were proportioned forth to that purpose a schedule was given them from the Courte of such as they had appointed them to accomodate who according to their best Judgmts & discerning have prformed the same & exhibited a map therof to this Generall Courte, wch is accepted and ratified therby; And are discharged of the service by the authority therof.

It is ordered that All the Sea Banks is free for Fishing to the Towne of Nieuport.

Itt is ordered that such that shall bring in their acquittances from the Trear to the Judge & Elders shall have their Lands Recorded.” (I. R. p. 19.)



Seal of Ezekiel Holliman

## X

### RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AT AQUIDNECK

**A**LTHOUGH the Aquidneck settlers were deeply interested in religious affairs, they do not seem to have immediately formed a church organization.

The construction of a meeting-house was authorized by the town meeting on May 13, 1638, but there is no evidence to show that it was immediately built or even begun. (See Chap. V.)

The settlers at first were probably all adherents to the doctrines of Mrs. Hutchinson.<sup>1</sup> Soon however the teachings of Nicholas Easton<sup>2</sup> and John Clark<sup>3</sup> began to make proselytes, while Coddington in his theocratic office of Judge interpreted Scripture and determined without appeal the relation of temporal and spiritual matters.

Such religious differences doubtless prevented the organization of a church, and the building of a meeting-house. One Herne<sup>4</sup> and after him Samuel Gorton<sup>5</sup> brought still other religious views to the Island. After the political separation of the two towns, which indeed seems largely to have been due to religious as well as political disagreements, a church was established at Newport, before Dec. 9th, 1639, under the leadership of Clark and the protection of Coddington. Lechford in 1641 records that this church had been dissolved through dissension. Meanwhile three new

<sup>1</sup> See Doc. Hist. of R. I. vol. 1, p. 95.

<sup>2</sup> See Chap. V.

<sup>3</sup> In Sept. 1638 Winthrop styles Clark: "A physician and a preacher to those at the Island". (p. 271.)

<sup>4</sup> See Chap. V.

<sup>5</sup> See Chap. VI.

religious teachers, Mr. Lenthall,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Doughty<sup>2</sup> and Ezekiel Holliman<sup>3</sup> arrived on the island, and added new fuel to the religious unrest.

In May, 1639, referring to the colonists at Aquidneck, Winthrop wrote: "They also gathered a church in a very disordered way; for they took some excommunicated persons, and others who were members of the church of Boston and not dismissed." (p. 297.)

It is not clear whether Winthrop intended to refer to Portsmouth or Newport, but probably to the latter, for as late as July 20, 1640, Francis Hutchinson stated that he knew of no church at Portsmouth (see later); but this statement was an attempt to appease the Boston church, rather than to give an historical survey of Portsmouth.

Coddington in a letter written Dec. 9, 1639, said:

"I am removed 12 myles further up in the Iland. Ther they have gathered a Church, & doe intend to chuse officers shoretly, & do desire better healpes in that kind, when the Lord is pleased to send them, & would gladly use what meanes doth lye in us to obtayne them. Things are in fare better passe concerning our civill government. . . ." (M. H. S. C. 4, 7, 278.)

Lechford, writing in England in January, 1641/2, and referring to conditions in New England between March and August, 1640, wrote:

"At the Island called *Aquedney*, are about two hundred families. There was a Church, where one master *Clark* was Elder: The place where the Church was, is called *Newport*, but that Church, I heare, is now dissolved; as also divers Churches in the Country have been broken up and dissolved through dissention. At the other end of the Island there is another towne called *Portsmouth*, but no

<sup>1</sup> See Chap. XI.

<sup>2</sup> Francis Doughty, formerly at Taunton, and subsequently at Long Island.

<sup>3</sup> See page 92.

Church: there is a meeting of some men, who there teach one another, and call it Prophesie. These of the Island have a pretended civill government of their owne erection, without the Kings Patent. There lately they whipt one master *Gorton*, a grave man, for denying their power, and abusing some of their Magistrates with uncivill tearmes; the Governour, master *Coddington*, saying in Court, *You that are for the King, lay hold on Gorton*; and he againe, on the other side, called forth, *All you that are for the King, lay hold on Coddington*; whereupon *Gorton* was banished the Island: so with his wife and children he went to *Providence*. They began about a small trespasse of swine, but it is thought some other matter was ingredient.

At Providence,<sup>1</sup> which is twenty miles from the said Island, lives master *Williams*, and his company, of divers opinions; most are Anabaptists; they hold there is no true visible Church in the *Bay*, nor in the world, nor any true Ministrie. This is within no Patent, as they say; but they have of late a kind of government also of their owne erection." (Lechford 4I, M. H. S. C. 3, 3, 96.)

In the Lechford manuscript, which is preserved at the Massachusetts Historical Society, the following interesting variations occur.

Clark is styled "Pastor" instead of "Elder," and the following addition appears: "There is Mr. Lenthall, a minister out of office and imployment, and lives poorly. Mr. Doughty also is come to this Island. The place where the church is, is called New porte." (M. H. S. C. 3, 3, 403.)

Under the date of (1) 24] i.e. March 24, 1639/40, Winthrop records:

"the church of Boston sent three brethren, viz. Capt. Edward Gibbons, Mr. Hibbins, and Mr. Oliver the younger, with letters to Mr. Coddington and the rest of our members at Aquiday, to understand their judgments in divers points

<sup>1</sup> Note in the marginal heading "Providence" is called "New Providence."

of religion, formerly maintained by all, or divers of them, and to require them to give account to the church of their unwarrantable practice in communicating with excommunicated persons, etc. When they came, they found that those of them, who dwell at Newport, had joined themselves to a church there newly constituted, and thereupon they refused to hear them as messengers of our church, or to receive the church's letters. Whereupon, at their return, the elders and most of the church would have cast them out, as refusing to hear the church; but, all being not agreed, it was deferred." (p. 328.)

On 24 February, 1639/40, a delegation from the Boston church, consisting of Edward Gibbons, William Hibbins and John Oliver, left Boston and visited Aquidneck. The account of this mission is preserved in The Robert Keayne Manuscript, which contains a record of the conversations at a church meeting held March 16, 1639/40, upon the return of the delegates.

Brother Hibbins' report was as follows:

"we thinke it our dutie to give an account to the church of gods dealinge with us in our jorny owt & in & of the successe of our bussines when we came to our jornies end, at the Iland. The second day of the weeke, we reached the first night to mownt wolliston, whear we were refreshed at our Brother Savidges<sup>1</sup> House wherby we were comfortably fitted for our jorny, the next day, in wch by the mercy of god, & the helpe of yor prayers, god did accompany us with seasonable weather, & in our jorny the first observable providence of god that presented itselfe to our vew & especially to my owne observation, wch was in providinge for me a comfortable Lodginge, that second night, wch was the thinge I most feared becas I never was used to lye with out a Bead & there was one that mett us in the way, that came from Cohannet who had a Howse to him selfe & he of his owne

<sup>1</sup> Savage probably never moved to Aquidneck.



accord, did give us Leave to Lodg & abide in his Howse that night, where myselfe especially, & all of us had comfortable Lodginge for that night, wch was a greate refreshinge to us & a deliverance from my fear.

The next providence of god that fell out in our jorney, was some manifestations of gods hand agaynst us, for beinge the 4th day to passe over a River in a canew, in wch was 8 of us our canew did hange upon a tree, to very great daynger, the water runinge swiftly away, now my Ignorance was Such that I feared no daynger, though those wch had more skill sawe we were in imminent daynger, here our god delivered us.

But now, we cominge safe over the water it pleased god to exercise us much in the Losse of our Brother Oliver, whose Company we mist & did not perceave it, he fallinge unto mr. Luttalls company that was a goinge that way to the Iland, then they Lost thear way & as our hartes was full of fear & care for our Brother, soe was his of us & the fear increased one both sides, becaus thear fell a greate snowe & very hard weather upon it, & it was to our greate rejoysinge when we met one another agayne in helth & safetie accordinge to the good hand of our god, that was upon us in our jorney & they had bin exposed to so much daynger in that could season, for want of a fiar, & all meanes to make it, had not the Lord beyond expectation provided for them, to bring forth a little powder through the shott of the peece, now the 5th day we were to goe over another River, where we were in great daynger, our Canew fallinge upon a Rocke, wch had not some of our brethren more skilfull stepped out on the Rocke & put of the canew our daynger had bin very greate, but god brought us safe at Last one the 6th day viz. 28 day of the 12th month to our greate rejoysinge."

Brother Oliver reported:

"Now for the sucess of our jorney to our Brethren at the Iland, we acquaynted them with our purpose in Cominge, & desired that they would procure us a meetinge that daye,

but for reasons in thear owne brest, & because of the snowe they did not thinke meete then to give us a meetinge but the next day they promisd & did give us a meetinge, mr Ashpinwall our Brother Boston,<sup>1</sup> Brother Sanfoard & others & we delivered our message & the churches Letter, wch they Read & gave us satisfactory Answers. The next day we went to portsmouth where beinge entertayned at our Brother Cogshalls Howse we desired them to procure us a meetinge, to deliver our message & the churches Letter, But when we expected a meetinge mr Cogshall sent us word that by reson of a Civell meetinge that was befor apoynted; But for a meetinge they did not know what power one church had over another church, & they denyed our comission & refused to Let our Letter be read, & they Conceave one church hath not power over the members of another church, & doe not thinke they are tide to us by our covenant & soe were we fayne to take all their Answers by goinge to thear severall Howses, mr Hutchison tould us he was more nearly tied to his wife than to the church; he thought her to be a dear st & servant of god.

We came then to mrs Hutchison & tould her that we had a message to doe to her from the Lord & from our church.

She Answered, There are Lords many & gods many, but I acknowledge but one Lord, which Lord doe you meane

We Answered, we came in the Name but of one Lord, & that is god. then sayth she, soe far we agree & where we doe agree, Let it be set downe Then we tould her we had a message to her from the church of ch in Boston She replied, she knew no church but one we tould her: in scripture the Ho. Ghost calls them churches She sayd Ch. had but one Spouse we tould her he had in some sort as many spouses as sts; but for our church she would not

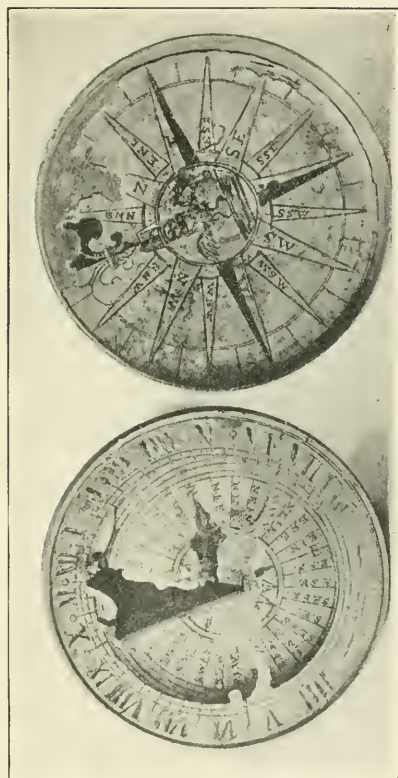
<sup>1</sup> Baulston.

acknowledge it any church of Ch." (Keayne MS. in Prince Soc. Coll. V. 21. p. 393. The original is in M. H. S.)

In summing up the situation Mr. Cotton said:

" . . . For the Answers of our Brethren at the Iland they are divers, as for those at Portsmouth that they would not reaseve thear message & comission, except they would present it to thear church, wch had bin to have acknowledged them a Lawfull church, wch they had no comission to doe, now these doe wholly refuse to hear the church or to hold any submission or subjection to the church . . ." and "Others doe not refuse to hear the church but Anser as farr as thay can goe, only some scruple the covenant, & others other things but doe not reject the church: but doe honor & esteeme of us as churches of Ch now consider whether, it is not meete that we should first wright to them & Labor to satisfi them & to take of thear growndes & see if thay may be redused befor we goe to further prosedinges with them. & I would knowe how farr the wives doe consent or dissent from thear Husbands or whether thay be as resolut & obstinatle peremptory as thay Thear is another sort & that was of such as are excommunicate, now we have gone as far with them as I thinke we can goe except thay did showe some pertenacy & obstenacy agaynst ch Je & then the greate censure of anathama marinatha that is for mrs Huchison But such as start aside from church censure & Rules out of Ignorance, another corse is to be taken with them to reduce them agayne if we can; as mrs Harding & mrs dyar, who acknowledged the churches & desiar Communion with us still And for mr Ashpinwall, he now beinge satisfied of the Righteous & just proceedings of the church in casting out some of our members & soe refuseth to have any communion with them in the thinges of god.

I pray consider of these things agaynst the next Lords day, accordinge to the distributions of the qualetie & nature



SUNDIAL AND COMPASS  
Owned and used by Roger Williams  
From museum of the Rhode Island Historical Society.



of thear offenses, as those that are necessarily tied thear for a home as children to thear parents & wives to Husbands, and others that stand out of obstency."

(Keayne, Prince Soc. 21, p. 398.)

On March 30, 1640, Mr. Wilson made the following statement in church:

"Brethren you know the Bussines of the Iland hath bin a Longe time propounded, & taken by the church into Consideration & now we should drawe to some Issue & determination you know the Cases of them thear doe much differ, some are under admonition & some under excommunication: & some have given satisfaction in part to the church & doe hould themselves still as members of the church & doe yet harken to us & seeke to give satisfaction & others thear be that doe renounce the power of the church & doe refuse to hear the church as mr Coddington mr Dyar & mr Cogshall, the 2 first have been questioned in the church & delt with & are under Admonition & have bine soe long, yet this act of the church hath bin soe farr from doinge them any good, that thay are rather growen worse under the same, for mr Coddington beinge delt withall abowt hearinge of excommunicate persons prophecy, he was sensible of an evell in it, & sayd he had not before soe well considered of it, yet since he hath not only hearde such by accident as befor, But hath himselfe & our Brother diar & mr Cogshall have gathered themselves into church fellowship, not regarding the Covenant that thay have made with this church, neyther have taken our advise & consent herin, neyther have they regarded it, but thay have joyned themselves in fellowship with some that are excommunicated wherby thay come to have a costant fellowship with them, & that in a church way, & when we sent messengers of the church to them to admonish them & treat with them about such offences, they wear soe farr from expressing any sorrow or givinge any satisfaction



that thay did alltogether refuse to hear the church. . . .” (Keayne, Prince Soc. 21, p. 400.)

Keayne made the following entry under the date of 20 July, 1640:

“Francis Hutchinson, living at the Island, or Portsmouth, with his father and mother, so that he cannot frequent the church, nor the church discharge her duty in watching over him, desired, by a letter to the church, that we would dismiss him to God and to the word of his grace, seeing he knew of no church there to be dismissed to.” (Ellis’ “Anne Hutchinson,” p. 338.)

This request was refused.

On September 26, 1640,

Brother Button said, “I would express my thoughts. I being at the Island this week, they expressed themselves to me, that if we do send to them in a church way, they would not hear us. Therefore, I think the best way were to send private messengers to deal with them first.”

(Keayne, in Ellis’ “Anne Hutchinson,” p. 345.)

Into the midst of these many teachers of diverse religious views, Ezekiel Holliman, the Baptist, came early in 1640. He had in 1637/8 been called before the Massachusetts Court for seducing many with his religious teachings, had in 1638 or 1639 baptized Roger Williams and been baptized by him, and had then removed to Aquidneck. He was in 1640 the only man known to be a Baptist who was then residing on Aquidneck. There has not yet been discovered any evidence to show that any other of the Aquidneck settlers were at that time Baptists or that the Baptist church later founded there had then been established.

Callender in 1738 said: “In the mean Time Mr. *John Clark*, who was a Man of Letters, carried on a publick Worship (as Mr. *Brewster* did at *Plymouth*) at the first coming, till they procured Mr. *Lenthall* of *Weymouth*, who was ad-

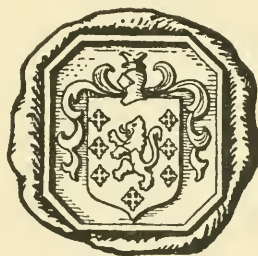


mitted a Freeman here *August 6, 1640*" (p. 62), and "It is said, that in 1644, Mr. *John Clark*, and some others, formed a Church, on the Scheme and Principles of *the Baptists*."

It is certain that in 1648 there were fifteen Members in full Communion." (p. 63.)

In a footnote Callender gives the names of some of them: "The Names of the Males were John Clark, Mark Lukan, Nathanael West, Wm. Vahan, Thomas Clark, Joseph Clark, John Peckham, John Thorndon, William Weeden, and Samuel Hubbard."

The earliest contemporary reference to Baptists or Anabaptistry on Aquidneck is that made by Winthrop in the summer 1641, the year after Holliman's arrival. (See Chap. XII)



Seal of Samuel Hutchinson

## XI

### THE UNION OF NEWPORT & PORTSMOUTH.

[1639-1640]

**I**N the autumn of 1639 the towns of Portsmouth and Newport appointed two commissioners to meet and negotiate in regard to a union of the towns, as appears from the record of November 25, already quoted. (See Chap. IX)

No record of these negotiations has been preserved, but the fact that Coddington held in himself the title to the island, and that the only records of land transfers from him to the other settlers were those recorded in the official record book, which was in the custody of the Newport Secretary, William Dyre, then a strong Coddington man, doubtless exerted an appreciable if not a determining influence in inducing the Portsmouth men to unite with their Newport "brethren." They nevertheless insisted upon annual terms of office, and annual elections, and Coddington seems to have deemed it advisable to compromise to this extent.

The Union was consummated on 12 March, 1639/40 at a meeting held at Newport.

The record of this meeting is: "Att the Generall Courte of Election held on the twelvth day of the first mo: 1640: in the Towne of Niewport.

#### Present

Mr Willm Coddington Judge  
Mr Nicholas Easton Elder  
Mr John Coggs shall Elder  
Mr Willm Brenton Elder

Wm Cowlie  
Thomas Hazard  
Robert Field  
Thom: Clarke

Mr Robert Jeoffreys Threar

Joseph Clarke

Mr John Clarke

George Gardiner

Mr Jeremy Clarke

Henry Bull

Mr Wm Foster

Robt Stanton

Mr Sam Willbore

## Guliel Dyre, Secret

i. Mr William Hutchinson Mr Wm Balston Mr John Sanford John Porter Adam Mott, Wm Freeborne John Walker Philip Sherman Richard Carder & Randall Holden presenting of themselves and desiring to be Reunited to this Body are readily Imbraced by us.

2. It is Agreed by this Bodie united that if ther shall be anie prson found meett for the service of the same, in eyther plantation, If ther be no just exception against him, upon his orderlie presentation, he shall be Received as a freeman Therof.

3. Itt is Agreed thatt Mr Samuells Hutchinson, Thomas Emons, Job Hawkins Richard Awards, Sampson Shatton Toby Knight John Roome And George Parker are Received as freemen of this Bodye fully to enjoy the priviledges belonging therunto.

4. It is ordered that the Cheife Magistrate of the Island shall be Called Governour and the next, Deputie Governour and the Rest of the Magistrates Assistants, and this to stand for a decree.

5. It is Agreed that the Governor and two Assistants shall be chosen in one Towne, & the Dept Governor and two other assistants in the other Towne.

6. It is ordered that the Plantation at the other End of the Ysland shall be called Portsmouth.

## 7. By Election

Mr Wm: Coddington is chosen Governor for the yeare or till a new be chosen Mr Wm: Brenton is chosen Dept Governor for the yeare or till a new be chosen

Mr Nich: Easton is chosen Assistant for this yeare or till a new be chosen

Mr John Coggeshall is chosen Assistant for this yeare or till a new be chosen

Mr Wm: Hutchinson is chosen Assistant for this yeare or till a new be chosen

Mr John Porter is chosen Assistant for this yeare or till a new be chosen

Mr Robt: Jeoffreys	} are chosen Threārs for ths yeare or
Mr Wm: Balston	
	} till new be chosen

Wm Dyre is chosen Secretary for this yeare or till a new be chosen

Mr Jeremy Clarke is chosen Constable of Niewport for this yeare or till a new be chosen

Mr Samfford is chosen Constable of Portsmouth for this yeare or till a new be chosen

Henry Bull is chosen Sarjeant Attendant for this yeare or till a new one be chosen

8 It is Agreed and ordered that the Governour & Assistants are invested with the offices of the Justices of the Peace according to the Law.

9 It is ordered that to the number of five men shall be chosen to lay out the Lands belonging to the Towne of Portsmouth, and three for Nieuport

10 By order of Court, John Sanmfford Adam Mott Thomas Spicer Richard Burden & Philip Sherman is chosen to the Service of laying out the Lands for the Towne of Portsmouth.

ii By order of Courte Mr John Coggsall, Mr Robert Jeoffreys and Mr. Jeremie Clarke shall lay out the Remainder of the Lands of the Towne of Nieuport.

12 It is ordered that Libertie is granted for the major parte of the freemen of Each Towne to select Certaine men from Among them selves to proportion forth to Each man his propriety of land, And than having it Layd forth orderly,

It shall be Recorded at the Generall Courte.” (I. R. p. 27.)

It would appear from this record that Brenton must have continued to reside at Portsmouth, although continuing in office as an Elder in the Newport government.

It will be noted that Secretary Dyre cleverly arranged the records so that from them the Newport government should appear to be the only legitimate successor of the original “compact” government. The titles of the officers were changed, and more officers created. The political power, however, was still clearly and firmly in Coddington’s hands. It is noticeable too that Gorton did not take part in this union although the Hutchinsons did. This might seem to point to an estrangement between Gorton and Mrs. Hutchinson. It seems quite probable that some such estrangement took place over the political management of Pocasset soon after the “coup d’état” and that this may have influenced the Hutchinsons toward a reapproachment with Coddington, whose political genius could scarcely fail to appreciate and utilize to the utmost such developments.

“At the Generall Courte Held on the  
6th of May 1640: att  
Nieuport

13 Whereas it was desired that all the orders & Lawes formerlie Recorded in this Booke of State shuld be openlie read prused & Examined, by this present Court assembled be it knowen therfor that it hath been so done, And such as were disallowed are Repealed & so noted in the margent & the Rest are Ratified, & stand in full force though the Tittle of the magistrates be Altered.

14 In Regard of the many Incursions our Island is subject unto, & tht an Alarum be necessary for the safe securing therof, be itt therfor Enacted that in each plantation ther bee this forme dylie observed, That as soone as notice is

given of any probable Incursion that then forthwth Three musketts be distinctly discharged, & the drum or drummes incessently to beat an Alarum; & tht forthwith eᵛ man bearing Armes shall Repair to the Coullers wch shall be Loddged at the Chief Magistrates house in each Plantation as he will answer it as his prill.

15 It is ordered that the Governor wth the Assistants shall write to Plymouth about their Tittle of the maine Land grass

16 It is ordered that all such who shall have a houslott granted unto them wthin any of our Townes shall build A house theron wthin a yeare after the grant Therof or else it shall be forfeitted to the Townes use Repealed

17 It is ordered that Commission be directed to the Threars to make demaunds of all such monies as is due to the Treasury for the Lands assigned forth to prticular men And to make Returne of all such who shall be therin remiss at the next prticular Corte, who are to bee ordered therby according to Law.

18 It is ordered That the prticular Courts consisting of magistrates & Jurors shall be holden on the first Tuesday of eᵛ moneth & one Court to be held at Nieuport the other at Portsmouth & that the sayd Court shall have full powre to Judge and determine all such cases and actions as shall bee presented." (I. R. p. 28.)

"At the Generall Court Held att  
Portsmouth on the 6<sup>o</sup> of Aug

1640

19 By the Generall Consent of this Court Mr Robt: Lenthall & Thomas Cornill, & Ralph Cowland are admitted freemen of this Body Politike fully to enjoy the priviledges belonging therunto.

20 It is Agreed & ordered thatt all men allowed & assigned to beare Armes shall make their prsonal appearance Completely Armed wth muskett & all its furniture or pike wth its furniture to attend their coulers by Eight of the Clock



in the morning, at the second beat of the drum on such dayes as they are appointed to Traine. And further it is ordered, that Eight severall times in the yeare the Bands of Each plantacon shall openlie in the field be exercised & disciplined by their Commanders & officers. And further it is ordered that ther shall be two Generall Musters in the yeare the one to be disciplined at Nuport the other at Portsmouth and that if any shall faile to make their prsonal appearance as aforesaid according to time & place aforesd he shall forfeitt & pay the sum of 5s into the hands of the Clark of the Band. And further it is ordered, & by this prsent authority established that if any prson shall Come to the sd Training or Generall Muster defective in his Armes or furniture equivalent he shall pay forthwth the sum of 12d, and further it is ordered, that when the Generall Muster shall be held at the one Towne, ther shall be a sufficient Guard sett & Left at the other Towne wth the Constable or his deputy. And further it is ordered that the Commanders Vidgt cheeftaine & Leiutent shall appoint the dayes & times of their sd meetings, And further it is ordered tht all men who shall Come & Remain the space of Twentie dayes on the Island, he shall be Liable to the injunctiōs of this order, prvided, that if eyther heardsmen or Lighter men bee otherwayes detained upon their necessary Employments, they shall be exempted, paying only 2s 6d for tht day into the hands of the Clarke, And further be it established that the two Cheif Officers of each Towne, to witt: the on of the Comonweal, the other of the Band, & these two officers upō the exhibiōn of the Complaint, by the Clark (wch shall be wthin three dayes after the faults committed), shall Judg & determine of the Reasons of their excuses who upō the hearing therof shall determine whether ev̄ such prson shall pay 5s or 2s 6d, or nothing. And further it is ordered that Libertie be granted to farmes or farmers to leave on man at the sd farme he paying the sum of 2s 6d into the



hands of the Clarke. And further it is ordered that the Clark of Each Band shall Receive the monies off any man to provide & make supply of such things as he shall stand in need of; during whh time after the deliverie of the sd mony, he shall be excused for his defects in his armes, but if the mony be not dd then to be Liable to the injunctions herin contained provided, also tht the Clark of each Band shall hereby be authorized to ask receive or destraine for all such fines or forfeitures as by any is made & that the sd sum of monies so Levied shall be imployed to the use & service of the Band.

21. It is ordered that the Threary shall provide & fitt up on Drum Collers & halberds for the Band of Portsmouth.

22. It is ordered thatt Wm. Dyre shall be adjoynd wth the rest in Mr. Jeoffrey's Roome for the Laying outt of the Lands of Nuport

23 It is further ordered, that each Towne shall have a joynt & an equall supply of the money in the Threary for the necessary uses of the same; & that the Governor & one assistant of one Towne, & the Dept Governor & one assistant in the other shall give a warrant according to the determinacon off the major vote of the Townsmen for the same unto the Threasr wh shall be his discharge: and it is further ordered that at the Issue of the Threasurers that now bee, a due & True account of all Bills, & monies, received or dispended shall be presented by the Threasurer of each Towne, And the chardges dispended shall be equally ballanced & each Towne to beare its true proportion, And likewise wtt hath beene expended out of the whole shall be borne by the whole; & what orders were formerly made being repugnant to this are hereby Nullified.

24 It is ordered that Mr Coggeshall & Mr. Balstō Threasurers shall take up Mr Hutchinson his accounts & pruse it & exhibite it at the next Generall Courte.

25 It is ordered that each Towne shall have the Transaction of the affaires that shall fall wthin their owne Towne, And that the magistrats of each Towne shall have Libertie to call a Court ev first Tewsday in the moneth at Nuport, & every first Thursday in the moneth at Portsmouth wherein actions may be entered and Juries impanelld & Causes Tryed provided that it be not in the matter of Life & Limb and that if so be a Plaintiff hath Commenced his suitt & the defendant cast, he shall have libertie to make his appeale to the Qter Sessions wch are to be held upo the foure Qter dayes, And the two Parlimentarie (or Gnerall) Courts to bee held on the Wensday after the 12 of march, wth what time is requisitt therunto, & the other the first Wensday after the 12 of october wth what time is requisite therunto, wch Courts are equally to be kept at the two townes, and what former orders are herto Repugnant are hereby nullified.

Explicacon for the Better understanding of the terme of the foure Qter dayes, It was at the next Sessions of Court Generall determined that the Qter Sessions Courts shuld be held the Tewsdays (or days) before the Two Generall Courts, & the other two to fall, the one the first Tewsday in July, & the other the first Tewsday in January." (I. R. p. 30.)

"Certaine Propositions made interchangeably on the 7<sup>o</sup> of July 1640.

By

Mr. Willm Coddington, Governr wth the rest of the Assistants, & Miantonomie Sachem of Narraganset wth the rest of the Sachems and agreed upon.

That no Indian whatever under his Jurisdiction shall eyther Winter or Summer kindle or cause to be kindled any fiers upon or Lands, but such as they shall Put forth immediatly againe upon their departure; Provided that no

hurt or dammage be done therby upon or after the kindling of the said fire; or if it so fall out, that hurt or dammage be done by their kindling of fire, then the dammag to be adjudged, and they to be tryed by our Law.

That in Lieu of a Boore tht belonged to the Island, killed by an Indian, the sd Indian shall Pay 10 fadome of beads at Harvest next.

That no Trapp or Engine be sett by them upon the Island, to take or stroye the deare or other cattle thereon.

That if any Indian shall be unruly or will not depart or howses whn they are bidden they are to carry them to the Governr or other magistrat, & they shall be Punished according to their demeritt. And further that for any common or small crime he shall receive his Punishmt according to Law; & for any matters of greater weight exceeding the valew of 10 fadome of beads then mianconomy is to be sent for, who is to come & see the Tryall, but if it be a Sachem that hath offended though in smaller matters then he is also to be sent for & to see his Tryall & Judgmt who hath Promised to come.

That no Indian shall take any Cannew from the English neyther from their Boatside or shoreside, & the like not to be done to them.

That upon their trading and bargaining having agreed they shall not revoke the sd bargaine or take their goods away by force, & that they shall not be Idleing about nor resort to or howses, but for trade message or in their Jour-neys.

Ratified at Generall Courte August 6 <sup>o</sup> 1640	}	These two leaves were torne out by the G. Cort march the 16th, 1641 & these two forgoing Containe the same orders being again written." (I. R. p. 14.)
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"At the Generall Courte  
held on the 14<sup>o</sup> of  
the 7<sup>o</sup> 1640.

26 It is agreed that Mr. Brace, Jeremy Gold, Jeoffrey Champlin, John Anthony, John Hicks, James Rogers, H. Bishop & Marmaduke ward are admitted as Freeman of this Body Politicke to enjoy the priviledges throff

27 It is agreed & ordered by the unanimous consent of this Court that a Line of divisio be drawn between the Townes of Nuport & Portsmouth as the bounds of the Lands of each Towne, vidgt. The sd Line to begin halfe a mile beyond the River commonlie cal'd Sachuis River, being the River that lies next beyond Mr. Brentons Land on the South east sid of the Island Towards Portsmouth and so on in a streight Line to Runn to the nearest part of the Brooke to the hunting wiggwamm now standing in the highway between the two Towns & so by that Line to the Sea on the North side of the Island, wch Line shall be & is the Bounds between the Two Townes, & to be sett out by marked Trees; and tht Mr Easton & Mr Porter, & Mr Jeoffreys and Mr. Samfford shall Lay out this Line by the first of November ensuing. And further it is ordered that whereas ther was 900 acres of Land (vidg't, To Mr Wm Hutchinson 400, & to Mr Samford 200, & to Mr Samuel Hutchinson 200, & to Francis Hutchinson 100) Layd forth unto them on this side of the sd River, called Sachuis River next unto Nuport, shall be & is still graunted to them & their posterity, as their right & propriety: Provided they hold it as from the Towne of Nuport; Provided also that this graunt do no wayes damnifie the Land formerly Graunted to the accommodation of Mr Brentons farme; Provided also that if so be the Said Parties befor mentioned shall refuse their or any off their accommodations, before premised in that place then the sd Lande or Lands shall Returne to the use & disposall of the said Towne of Nuport.

28 It is ordered that wheras ther was an order formerlie made for five men to Lay out the Lands for the Towne of

Portsmouth, & upo Complaint made for their Neglect being so many; be it now established that Three of them, vidgt Mr Samford, Adam Mott & Richard Burden shall Lay out the said Lands according to the Proportions granted forth by the Towne.

29 It was further ordered that Two Barrels of Gunn Poulder be alway readie in the Threary of each Towne, wth Bulletts & match; and that Provision be forthwith hereof made by the Threars; And that the Threasurers make demaund of all such moneys as is due; and if any neglect the Payment, then to take warrants from the Magistrats to the Constable to destraine for the Same; & that also the Threasurers shall provide Thirtie two pikes to lye by alway in readiness in the magazines of each Towne.

30 It is ordered that the Secretary shall only attend the two General Courts, & the foure Quarter Sessions Courts, unless he be desired & shall have 3s a day for his attendance thereon.

31 It is ordered that the Governor shall writt to the Governor of the Bay that they would Communicate their Councells concerning their Agitations wth the Indians.

Here endeth the Acts & Orders made by  
the Bodye in the yeare

1640:

Being one & thirty in  
Number

W: Dyre    Secretary ”

Under date of October (Mo. 8) 1640, Winthrop wrote:

“We received a letter at the general court from the magistrates of Connecticut and New Haven and of Aquiday, wherein they declared their dislike of such as would have the Indians rooted out, as being of the cursed race of Ham, and their desire of our mutual accord in seeking to gain them by justice and kindness, and withal to watch over them to

prevent any danger by them, etc. We returned answer of our consent with them in all things propounded, only we refused to include those of Aquiday in our answer, or to have any treaty with them." (p. 20)

This refers to the following resolution of the General Court passed October 7, 1640:

"It is ordered, that the letter lately sent to the Governor by Mr Eaton, Mr Hopkins, Mr Haynes, Mr. Coddington, & Mr Brenton, but concerning also the Generall Courte, shalbee thus answered by the Governor; that the Court doth assent to all the propositions layde downe in the aforesaid letter, but that the answere shalbee directed to Mr Eaton, Mr Hopkins, & Mr Haynes, onely excluding Mr Coddington & Mr Brenton, as men not to bee capitulated wth all by us, either for themselues or the people of the iland where they inhabite, as their case standeth." (Mass. Col. Rec. 1, 290, pr. 305.)

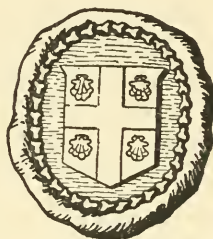
Robert Lenthal accompanied the mission from the Boston Church on part of their journey to Newport in March 1639/40. If this was the occasion of Lenthal's removal from Weymouth to Newport, then it follows that Lechford must have visited Newport after this date, and before 20 August 1640, when Lenthal became schoolmaster (Cf Chap. XI). Lenthal was admitted Freeman at Newport on Aug. 6, 1640 (see p. 98).

Callender adds:

"And *August 20*, Mr. *Lenthal*, was by Vote called to keep a *publick School* for the learning of Youth, and for his Encouragement there was granted to him and his Heirs one hundred Acres of Land, and four more for an House-Lot; it was also voted, 'that *one hundred Acres* should be laid forth, and appropriated for a *School*, for encouragement of the poorer Sort, to train up their Youth in Learning, and Mr. *Robert Lenthal* while he continues to teach School, is to have the Benefit thereof.'" (p. 62) Callender would seem



to have had access to records which have since disappeared. This first Rhode Island school did not continue very long for Lenthal returned to England.



Seal of John Coggeshall



## XII

### THE AQUIDNECK GOVERNMENT IN 1641

A GENERAL COURT for the Island was opened at Portsmouth on 16 March 1641, the records of which are:

“The Generall Court of Election began & held at Portsmouth, from the 16<sup>o</sup> of March to the 19<sup>o</sup> of the same mo 1641

1. It was ordered & agreed before the Election, that an ingagemt by oath shuld be taken of all the officers of this Body now to be Electd as Likewise for the time to Come; the ingagement wch the severall officers of the State shall give is this; To the execution of this office I judge myself bound before God to walck faithfully & this I profess in the presence of God.

By Election.

2 Mr Wm Coddington is chosen Governor for on whole yeare or till a new be chosen.

Mr Wm Brenton is chosen Dept Governr for on whole yeare or &c

Mr John Coggeshall is chosen Assistant for on whole yeare or &c

Mr Robt Harding is chosen Assistant for on whole yeare or &c

Mr Wm Balston is chosen Assist & Threar for on whole yeare or &c

Mr John Porter is chosen Assistant for on whole yeare or &c

Wm Dyre is chosen Secretarie for on whole yeare or &c

Mr Robt Jeffreys is chosen Threar for on whole yeare  
or  $\text{£c}$

Thomas Gorton	}	is chosen Sargeant Attendants.	
$\text{£}$			
Henry Bull			
Thomas Cornill	}	is chosen Constable	{ of Portsmth }
$\text{£}$			
Henry Bishop			{ of Nuport }

for one whole yeare or till a new be chosen.

3. It is ordered  $\text{£}$  unanimously agreed upon that the Governmt wch this Bodie Politick doth attend unto in this Island  $\text{£}$  the Jurisdiction therof in favour of our Prince is a Democracie or Popular Governmt that is to say It is in the Powre of the Body of freemen orderly assembled or major Part of them to make or Constitute Just Lawes by wch they will be regulated  $\text{£}$  to depute from among themselves such ministers as shall see them faithfully executed between man  $\text{£}$  man.

4 It was furthur ordered by the Authority of this Present Court, that none bee accounted a Delinquent for the Doctrine: Provided it be not directly repugnant to the Governmt or Lawes established.

5 It is futher ordered, that all such who shall kill a fox shall have  $6s\ 8d$  for his Paines duly Paid unto him by the Threar of the Towne in wch bounds it was killed: Provided, that he bring the head therof to the said Threasurer;  $\text{£}$  this order shall be of sufficient Authority to the Threar to Pay  $\text{£}$  discharge the sd summ.

6 It is futher ordered tht all men who shall kill any Deare (except it to be upon his owne Proper lands) shall bring  $\text{£}$  deliver half the said Deare into the Threarie or Pay fortie shillings;  $\text{£}$  further it is ordered that the Governor  $\text{£}$  Dep Governr shall have Authority to give forth a warrent to some one deputed of each Towne to kill some against the

Court times for the Countries use, who shall by his warrent have Libertie to kill wher ever he find; Provided it be not whin any man's inclosure, & to be Paid by the Threarie: Provided also that no Indian shall be suffered to kill or destroy at any time or any wher.

7 It is ordered from henceforth that the Quarter Session Courts shall alway be kept the first, the first Tewsday in march; the 2d the first Tewsday in Junn; the 3d, the first Tewsday in september; the Last the first Tewsday in December.

8 It is ordered that Eight Gunns & their furniture, wth two corsletts now in the hands of Mr Willbore, shall be taken of by the Threarie Jointlie, as part of Satisfaction for what debts from him is dew therto: and that the said Armes be Equally devided to each Towne

9 It is ordered that the Deptie Govr & Mr Willbore & Mr Coggsball, & Mr Jeremy Clark shall be joyned in Comission wth the Two Treasurers that now bee to Examine the Treasurie & to even the Accounts, & then to Present them so rectified to the next Generall Court and wtt unevenness there is found to bee the on Treasurer shall make Paymt to the other Treasurer wthin twentie dayes after the Period of their Comission, the Limitts wh is set for the performance of this shall be three weeks from the date hereof.

10 It is ordered, that Mr Porter Mr Balston Mr Easton & Mr Jeffreys shall runn the Line between the two Towns wthin twentie dayes after the date hereof or else shall forfeit a mark a peece, & Performing it wthin the (time or) tearme they shall have a mark a Peece for their Labor.

11. It is ordered that each towne shall Provide a Town book wherin they shall record the Evidences of the Lands by them Impropiated; and shall also have Powre to give forth a Coppie therof, wch shall be a cleare Evidence for them & theirs to whom it is so granted.

12. It is ordered that the officers of Justices of Peace is Confirmed to the magistrats.

13. It is ordered that no fiers shall be kindled by any whatsoev to runn at randome, eyther in Meddows or woods but whatt by him that so kindled it shall forthwth be putt out, that itt damnifie none, And that if dammage shall accrew, satisfaction to the utmost shall be awarded.

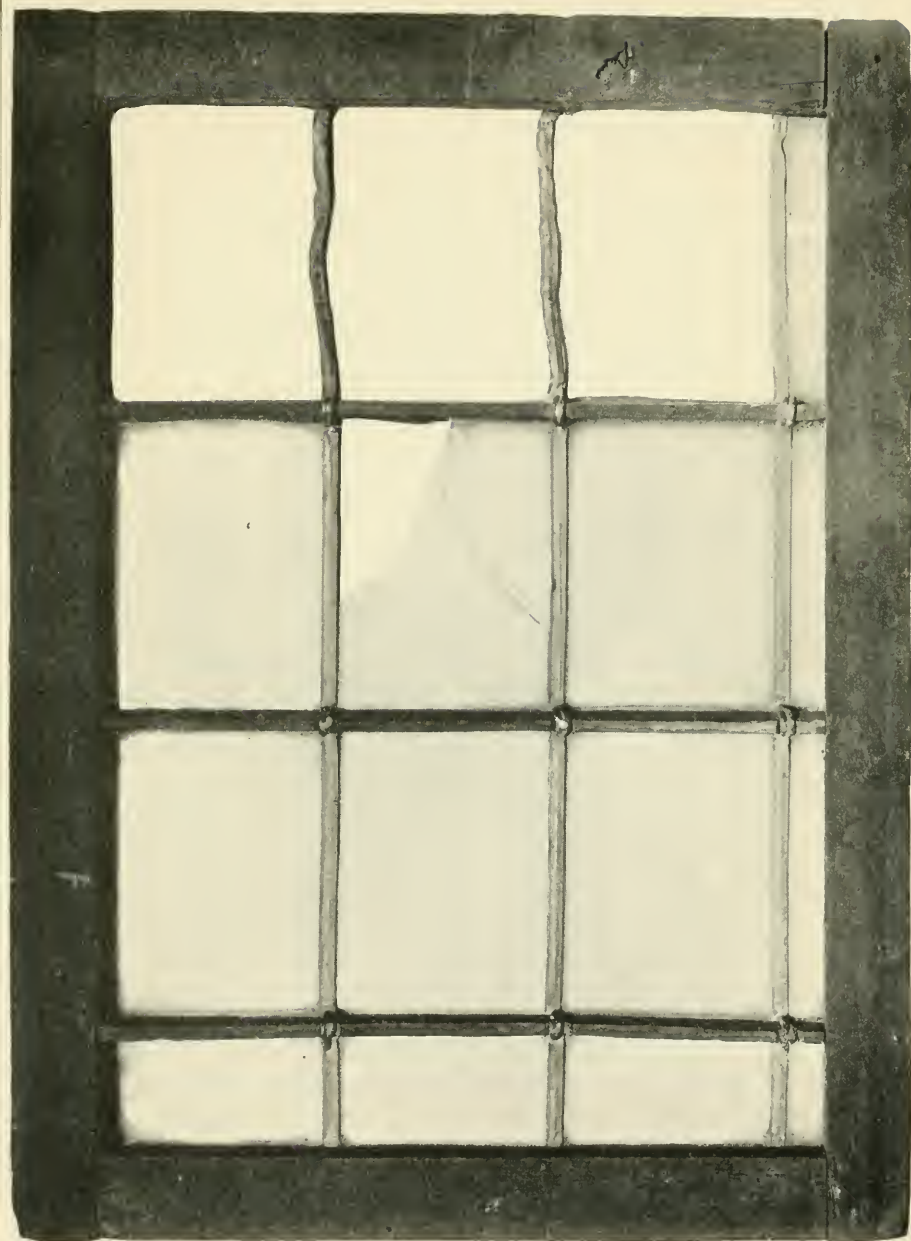
14. It is ordered that A Booke shall be Provided wherin the Secrety shall writt all such Laws and Acts, as are made & Constituted by the Body, to be left Alway in that Towne wher the said Secretarie is not resident; And also that Coppies of such Acts as shall be made now or hereafter at the Generall Courts concerning necessary uses & ordinances to be observed shall be fixed upon some Publik Place wher all men may see & take notice of thm; or that coppies therof be given to the clerks of the band, who shall read thm at the head of the companie.

15. It is ordered that A Manuall Seale shall be Provided for the State, & that the Signett or Engraveur thereof shall be a sheafe of Arrowes bound up and in the Liess or Bond this motto indented Amor vincett omnia.

16 It is ordered that Ingagemt shall be taken by the Justices of the Peace in their Qter Sessions of all men or youth above fiveteen yeares of Age, eyther by the oth of Fidelity or some other strong cognizance.

17 It is ordered, that a Line be drawen and a way be cleared between the townes of Nuport and Portsmouth, by removing of the wood & mowing itt; that drift cattle may sufficiently Pass; and for the performance therof Capt Morris, of the one towne & Mr Jeoffreys of the other is appointed to draw the Line, & to be Paid therfore, and the Townes to Perform the rest.

18. It is ordered that the Traine Bands shall choose among the freemen, on or more such as shall be for their commanders & Present them to the Towne. The major



WINDOW FROM WILLIAM CODDINGTON'S HOUSE AT NEWPORT (1641).  
Original window is in museum of Rhode Island Historical Society.





vote of the Towne, by the Authoritie of this Courte, shall have the Negative voice for the Estabblishment of them, & shall order their Powre till the next Generall Courte.

19. It is ordered that the major part of the Courts, being Lawfullie assembled at the Place and houre appointed, shall have full Powre to transact the businesses that shall be Presented; (Provided, it be the major pt of the body intire, if it be the generall Courte be present) or the major pt of the magistrats wth the jury in the inferior Courts & that such acts Concluded & Issued be of as full authority as if ther were all present. Provided, ther bee due & seasonable notice given of every such Court.

#### The Tenure of the Lands of Aquethneck.

20. It is ordered Established and Decreed, unanimouslie, that all men's Prorietes In their Lands of the Island, and the Jurisdiction therof shall be such, and soe free, that neyther the State nor any Person or Persons shall intrud into it, or molest him in itt, to deprive him of any thing whatsoever is or shall be wthin that or any the bounds theroff, and that this Tenure and Propriety of his therein shall be continued to him or his, or to whomsoever hee shall assigne it for Ever." (I. R. p. 37.) Captions for each section were written in the margins.

In regard to the religious contentions at Aquidneck in 1641 Winthrop wrote:

"Mrs. Hutchinson and those of Aquiday island broached new heresies every year. Divers of them turned professed anabaptists, and would not wear any arms, and denied all magistracy among christians, and maintained that there were no churches since those founded by the apostles and evangelists, nor could any be, nor any pastors ordained, nor seals administered but by such, and that the church was to want these all the time she continued in the wilderness, as yet she was . . .

Other troubles arose in the island by reason of one Nicholas Easton a tanner, a man very bold though ignorant. He using to teach at Newport, where Mr. Coddington their governor lived, maintained that man hath no power or will in himself, but as he is acted by God, and that seeing God filled all things, nothing could be or move but for him, and so he must needs be the author of sin, etc., and that a christian is united to the essence of God. Being showed what blasphemous consequences would follow hereupon, they professed to abhor the consequences, but still defended the propositions, which discovered their ignorance, not apprehending how God could make a creature as it were in himself, and yet no part of his essence, as we see by familiar instances; the light is in the air, and in every part of it, yet it is not air, but a distinct thing from it.

There joined with Nicholas Easton Mr. Coddington, Mr. Coggeshall, and some others, but their minister, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Lenthall, and Mr. Harding, and some others dissented and publicly opposed, whereby it grew to such heat of contention, that it made a schism among them.” (v. 2 p. 41.)

“The Orders & Lawes  
made the Generall Courte held  
att Newport, the 17<sup>o</sup> of Septem Ano 1641.

21 Whereas ther was certain Records to witt Eleven in number made & entered into this Booke of State wch records are since found to be imperfct by wanting of that wch was intended both for bounds quantitie & Tenure; It is therfore ordered that it shall be Lawfull to transcribe & rectifie the said Records according to the Perfect rule & orders in that case Provided.

The order made for the restraint of killing deare the last Court is repeald.

22 It is ordered & agreed that no English man or other

shall sett any Trapps for deare upon the Island under the paine of forfeiting five pounds, except it be wthin his owne inclosed grownds.

23 It is also ordered that no Indian shall fall or Peel any trees upon the Islands and that if any be found so doing or carrying of Bark (so Peeled upon the Islands) away; It shall be Lawfull for all that so finds them to bring or cause to be brought the Parties so offending before the magistrats, who shall order and Punish them according to the Law.

24 Wheras ther was difference in the understanding of that order made the Last Court concerning the Election of military Commanders it was explained by the authority of this Courte, vidg't. That the freemen of the Towne according to order shall confirme one to each office, out of all such as the whole Traine Band did Present; and this to stand as the true meaning of that clause in tht order.

25 It is ordered that Mr Jeffrey's shall draw the Line between the Townes by the Last of November next who shall have five shillings a day for the time he spends att home about it and ten shillings a day wñ he Lies abroad, upon paine of forfeiting 5 li if nott done; also those that shall helpe him shall have 3s per diem, and the chardge to be Equally borne by the Townes.

26 It is ordered that Mr Robt Jeoffreys shall be authorized to exercise the function of chirurgerie.

27 It is ordered that every half yeare ther shall bee 3 men chosen out of each Towne to view the swine, that shall be kill'd by any Person or Persons wthin the Limitts of the said Towne: And that he that doth or shall kill any swine, & not call on or more of the said men to veiwe & see the said swine so kill'd or to be kill'd, he shall forfeitt five and also it is ordered that every Inhabitant or Person keeping swine shall wthin on month after the end of this court bring in their earmarke wch they have or do usually give, & ther to be kept in the Towne Records upon paine of forfeiting 6s 8d;

and those that have the Seigniority of the marke shall keep it, and others that have given the same shall alter the said marke upon notice given to em; and it is also ordered that the same order in all Points shall be observed for Goates; and also that each Towne shall have a Coppy of each others Earmarks.

28 It is ordered and received that the Ingagemt that already was given by the Freemen was & is of the force as tht oath is wch is authorized to be administred to the Inhabitants wh oath Nicholas Easton Robt Jeffreys & Wm Dyre did take in Presence of the Court.

29 It is ordered that if any Person or Persons on the Island, whether Freeman or Inhabitant shall by any meanes open or Covert endeavour to bring in any other Powre than wt is now here Established (except it be from our Prince by Lawfull Commission) shall be accounted a delequent under the head of Perjurie.

30 It is ordered that that Law of the Last Court made concerning Libtie of Conscience in point of Doctrine is Perpetuated.

31 It is ordered That Order concerning trainings made at Portsmth aug: 6, 1640, shal be duliae observed and kept in all Points effectually, excepting the Powre & all Particles therof wh is given to the Commanders therin; also bee excepted the two Generall musters, and also bee excepted the half crowne paying for such as are necessarily detained. And be it further ordered that the Townes shall order the Powre of the officers of their severall Bands from time to time.

32 It is ordered that each Towne shall choose a comitte to Examine the accounts of each Towne Interchangeably and to exhibitt them wholie at the next General Courts.

33 It is ordered that the Indian Corne shall goe at 4s a bushell between man & man in all Paymts for debts made from this day forward Provided it bee Merchandable.

34 The Court doth order & Proclayme a Generall Pardon of all offences that have been Presented to and given in this Present Session.

35 According to an order of Court made in March last wherein a comitte was appointed to examine & rectefie the Threaries accounts, wh accordingly they have done and also exhibiting this following ans: in writting.

Memorandum Ther remains due from the Threasury of Portsmo to the Threasury of Nuport the summ of on hundred Pounds and Eleven li three shillings & four pence as appeareth by the severall prticulars; and in case that Mr Dyre & Henry Bulls bills upon Portsmouth be more then on Nuport then the Surplus to be discounted & in case any thing be omitted by eyther Threasury then upon demand allowance to be made of the on halfe.

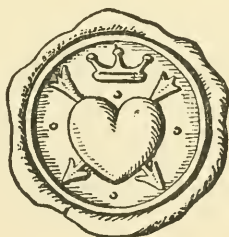
Signd,

William Brenton

John Coggeshall

Wm Baulston &

Robt Jefferies." (I. R. p. 39.)



Seal used by Mary Sweet Holliman

### XIII

#### EARLY RESIDENTS OF AQUIDNECK

WE have for Aquidneck several lists of the early residents before 1647: the original signers of the compact, the "inhabitants" admitted up to May 3, 1638, the "inhabitants" of Portsmouth in 1639, the "inhabitants" admitted at Newport after May 20, 1638, and the list of qualified Freemen in 1641.

There were three classes of persons on Aquidneck; viz. "Freeman," who could vote and hold office in the Aquidneck government (i.e. the government of the two towns); "Inhabitants," apparently admitted by each town, who had certain rights, at first that of land owning, and later that of jury service and perhaps that of voting and office-holding in their own towns; and a third class that for lack of a contemporary name we might call "temporary residents." Those who signed the compact were ipso facto Freemen, and all of them with the exception of William Aspinwall, who was suspected of sedition in 1638 and probably disenfranchised, are listed as Freemen in 1641. Carder, Holden, Shotton, Potter, Briggs, and Lenthall were subsequently disenfranchised. Freemen were admitted at various meetings from 1638 to 1640, and in every case the men so admitted are named in the list of 1641, with the exception of Richard Dummer, who had moved away to Massachusetts.

Inhabitants were admitted at the meeting of December 7, 1638, but the names of inhabitants admitted later do not seem to have been entered with the minutes of the meetings.



When Pocasset and Newport separated, and Pocasset reorganized as Portsmouth, the new compact was signed by the "inhabitants" of Portsmouth. Every one of these signers, except Job Hawkins, who is listed as Freeman in 1641, is either one of the signers of the first compact or is named in the list of "inhabitants" admitted before May, 1638. Some of the men named in the two lists of inhabitants are also named as Freemen in 1641, showing their advance in rank.

The lists not printed in the previous pages follow:

"A Catalogue of such [persons] who by the Generall Consent of the Company [were] admitted to be Inhabitants of the Is[land] now Called Aqueedneck, having submitted themselves to the Governement that is or shall be Established, according to the word of God: therin.

3d month 20th

1638	Mr. Samuel Hutchinson,	James Davis.
	Thomas Emons:	George Parker.
	Richard Awards:	Erasmus Bullock,
	Edward Willcocks: 2 <sup>o</sup> ii <sup>o</sup>	George Cleer.
	Thomas Clarke. 24 <sup>o</sup> :ii <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Hazard.
	John Johnson.	William Cowlie,
	William Hall.	Jeffery Champlin,
	John Briggs:	Richard Sarle,
	George Gardiner:	John Sloff,
20th: 3d:	William Withrington:	Thomas Beeder.
20th: 4th	Mr. Sammuell Gorton:	John Tripp.
	John Wickes.	Osamond Douth:
	Ralph Earle:	John Marshall:
27th: 4th	Nicholas Browne.	Robert Stanton
	Richard Burden.	Joseph Clarke;
	Richard Maxon.	Robert Carr.
16th: 5th	Mr. Nicholas Esson.	George Layton.
	Thomas Spicer:	John Arnold.



Robert Potter.	Wm. Heavens.
Nathaniell Potter	Thomas Layton.
William Nedam	Edward Poole.
Sampson Shatton	Mathew Sutherland.

Adom Mott  
John Mott  
Mr. Robert Jefferyes

Thomas Hitt

James Tarr

John Rome.

Robert Gilham,

Jeremy Clarke.

12° 9° Nicholas Davis.

Wm. Baker.

16° 9° John More.

6° 10° Anthony Pain

George Potter.

Wm. Richardson.

27: 10th Wm. Quick.

Inhabitants Admitted at<sup>t</sup> the Towne of Nieu-Port since  
the 1° of the 3d, 1638.

Marmeduke Ward,	Nicholas Cotterell,
Robert Feild	John Vaughan
Thomas Stafford	John Smith
Job Tyler	John Merchant
Thomas Savorie	Jeremy Gold
Hugh Durdall	Enoch Hunt
William Baker	Nathaniell Adams
John Layton	Samuell Allen,
Mr. Will Foster.	George Allen,
John Hall	Ralph Allen
Toby Knight	Mr. Thomas Burton,
John Peckum	Henry Bishop
Michell Williamson,	John Hicks

Mr Robt Lintell	Edward Browce
Richard Smith	Mathew Gridell."
John Smith	(I. R. 41-42)
James Rogers	
Wm. Parker.	
John Grinman	
Edward Rero,	
John Macunmore	
Robert Root	
Ezekiah Meritt	
James Burt	
John Bartlett	
Edward [Andrews]	
Sampson Salter,	

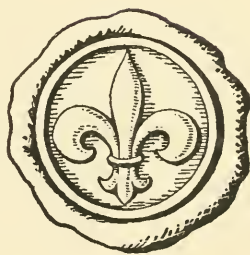
"The Court Roll off Freemen wth the officers as they were  
Elected on the 16<sup>o</sup> of march, 1641:

Mr Willm Coddington	Goverr,	
Mr Willm Brenton	Dept Goverr.	
Mr John Coggshall,	} Assistants & } Threar	
Mr Robert Harding,		
Mr Willm Ballston,		
Mr John Porter,		
Wm Dyre, Secret,		
Mr Robert Jeoffreys,	Threar.,	
Mr Nicholas Easton	Robt Carr	
Mr John Clarke	John Briggs	
Mr Jeremy Clarke	Mr. Cornill Const	
Mr Samuel Willbore	Henry Bishop Const	
Wm Freeborne	Ralph Cowland	
Philip Shearman	Mr Bracee	
John Walker	Jeremy Gould	
Adam Mott	Henry Bull, Sarj	
Mr Foster	Jeoffrey Champlin	
Mr Spicer	John Anthony	

Mr Lenthall  
Wm Cowlie  
Georg Gardiner  
Robert Feild  
Thomas Clark  
Joseph Clarke  
Robt Stanton  
Thomas Emons  
Job Hawkins  
Rich: Awards  
Thomas Hazard  
Toby Knight  
John Roome  
George Parker  
Richard Burden  
John Smith  
Thomas Wait  
John Peckum  
Michall Williamson

John Hicks  
James Rogers  
Marmeduke Ward,  
Capt Moris,  
Thomas Gorton, Sarj  
Mr Wm Hutchinson  
Mr Samfford  
Mr Sam<sup>n</sup> Hutchinson  
Mr Edw: Hutchinson Senr  
Mr Edw Hutchinson, Junr  
Mr Savadge  
Richard Carder,  
Randall Holden,  
Sampson Shatton,  
Robt Porter,

These foure by the Court  
at the Sessions march 16  
were disfranchised & Th<sup>r</sup>  
names to be Cancelld out of  
the roll." (I. R. p. 33.)



Seal of Obadiah Holmes

# XIV

## THE AQUIDNECK GOVERNMENT FROM 1642 TO 1644

“ **A**T the Generall Court of Election held on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> march att Nuport 164i.

It is ordered that Richard Carder Randall Holden Sampson Shatton, & Robt Potter, are disfranchised of the Priviledges and Prerogatives belonging to the Body of this State & that their names be cancelld out of the record.

It is further ordered that George Parker and John Briggs are suspended their votes till they have given satisfacon for their offences.

It is further ordered that Mr Lenthall being gone for England is suspended his vote in Elecon.

By Election

Mr Wm Coddington is chosen Govr for on whole year or till a new be chosen.

Mr Wm Brenton is chosen Deptie Govr for on whole year &c.

Mr Nicholas Easton is chosen assistant	} for on whole year or till &c
Mr John Coggeshall is chosen assistant	
Mr John Porter is chosen assistant	
Mr Wm Balston is chosen assistant	

William Dyre is chosen Secretarie for on whole year or till &c

Mr Robt Jeffries is chosen Threar of Nuport	} for on year or &c
Mr Thom: Spicer is chosen Threar of Ports- mouth	

Henry Bull	}	are chosen sargeant attendants for on whole yeare or till new be chosen.
Thomas Gorton		
George Gardiner,	}	are chosen Constables.
Willm Freeborn		

The Court doth declare that it was the Intent of tht order made Concerning militarie officers, that each Town or Band shuld chuse their officers wthin themselves, & not to choos their officers out of another Towne or Band.

The Court doth further declare that the Officers for militaries affaries is included in that order of yearly Elections namelie: in that Particle (all officers &c)

Forasmuch as by the dew care of this honord Court divers orders from time to time have been made & Established Concerning Trainings and great neglect have been therin hitherto, wherby great detriment hath & is like to ensue upon the state by reason therof the wh being earnestly desired by divers of this Court to be taken into Consideracon. Be it therfore enacted and by this Present authoritie Established that the officers for militarie affairs, vid Captains, Leiftents, Ensigns, Sarjeants & Clarks shall be dewlie chosen every yeare at the Generall Court of Election; & that also the officers of Each Band shall be chosen wthin themselves or Limitts (and not officers to be chosen on band out of another Towne or Band) and further that their Powre shall be ordered from time to time by the Towne according to the order in tht case Provided; and also that the order or orders made aug 6<sup>o</sup> 1640 Sept 17 1641 be effectually observed in all Points, excepting what is already excepted; and that all former orders excepting are hereby made void & of no force:

#### By Election

Mr Robt Jeoffreys is Elected Capt for Nuport.

Mr Jeremy Clarke, Lieftenant.

Mr Smith Ensigne

George Gardiner, Sarjant Senr

Robt Stanton, Sarjant Junr

Toby Knight, Clarke.

Mr Rich: Morris is Elected Capt for Portsmo

Mr Balston, Lieftenant,

Mr Tho: Cornill, Ensign,

Mr Cowland, Sargent, Jun'r,

Adam Mott, Clarke.

It is ordered that the first munday of every moneth the Train bands shall be excersised by the Comanders excepting in the moneths of may & august Jan & Febru and the warning to be seasonably given by the officers at the on meeting against the other & further, it is ordered that the Capt shall chuse their Drumers & Corporalls.

It is further ordered that he tht shall kill a wolf upon the ysland shall have 30s for every wolf he kills, also it is ordered that the magistrats of each Towne shall procure two men for each Town to range the woods for to kill them who shall also agree to satisfie them by the day besides the 30s a head wh mony or Paymt shall be made the moitie out of each Threasurie.

Mr Jeoffreys Threar his accounts being dewlie examined by the auditors by order appointed, and accordingly exhibited to this Court, Is allowed of and he is discharged of the said account and wt remaines to be Transferrd to the other accounts he being again chosen Threar. Also it is ordered that the other Towne shall appoint three to audite the old Threars accounts, and exhibit them att the next Qter Sessions, and the remainder to be transferd to Mr Spicer now Threasurer.

It is ordered that the ordinaries shall no Longer make Provision of diett for the Courts of the contrie charge.

It is further ordered that the 3s a day allowance shall be taken of from the officers, and that the Secretarie shall have the fees and customes allowed by the Lawes and Constitutions of England; also he shall execute the Clarke of the

Peace his office, and for what time the said Secretarie shall expend for writting, or enrolling the Courts acts satisfacon shall be made out of the Treary. Also the Sarjeants shall have the fees allowed them by order of law for their arrests and sumons &c, or upon the States service their attendance to to be satisfied, Provided also that by this order their bills for the last yeare be not frustrated.

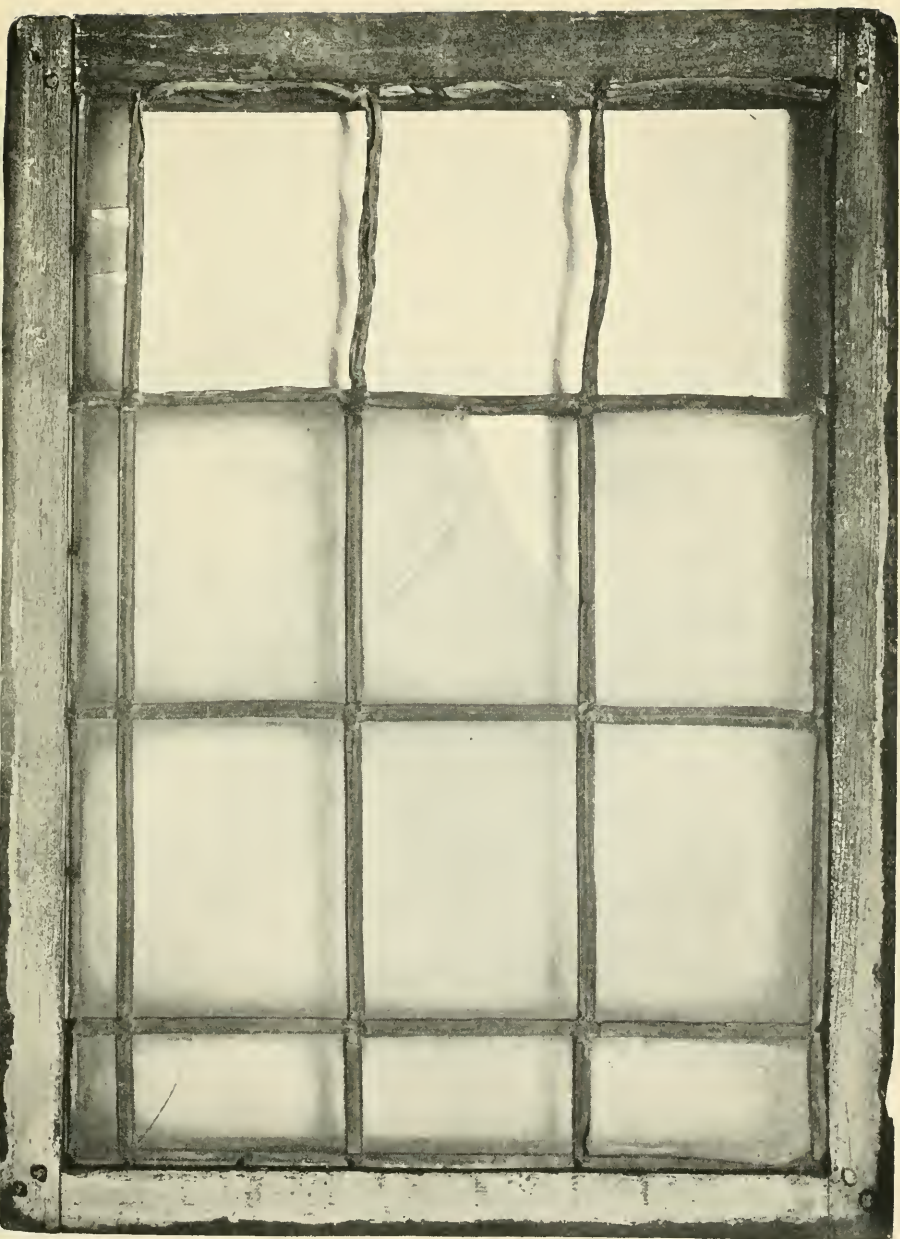
It is further ordered that ther shall be but one Generall Court in the yeare vidgt the Court of Elecon, and that to be held according to the antient forme & Custome, and but two Qter Sessions in the yeare vidgt the one in June the other in Decem: and they to be held according to the antient forme and Custome, Provided that if ther shall appeare spetiall occasion, then the Govr & Deptie wth the rest of the magistrats or two of them shall have Powre to call eyther Generall Courts or more Session Courts, and what former orders are Contrary here unto to this Present act is made void.

It is also further ordered that such acquittances for the receipt of the Land moneys under the Threars hand, being exhibited or sent unto the Secretarie, he shall have full powre to record the said lands & give the Parties exemplifications of the same under his hand in the States name.

It is ordered that if any Prson or persons shall, sell, give deliver, or any other waies convey, any Powder, shott, Gunn, Pistoll, sword, or any other Engine of warr, to the Indians that are or may prove offensive to this State or to any member therof, he or they for the first offence being lawfully Convict shall forfeit the sum of 40s, & for the 2d offence offending in the same kind, shall forfeit 5*li* half to or Sovr Lord the King & half to him tht wil sue for it & no wager of law by any meanes to be allowed the offender.

It is ordered tht if John Weeks, Randall Holden, Richard Carder, Sampson Shatton or Robert Porter shall come upon





WINDOW FROM WILLIAM CODDINGTON'S HOUSE AT NEWPORT (1641).  
Original window is in museum of Rhode Island Historical Society.



the Island armed, they shall be by the Constable (calling him sufficient aide) disarmed & carried before the magistrate and there find sureties for their good behavior, and further be it istablished that if that Course shall not regulate them or any of them then a further dew & lawfull course by the magistrats shall be taken in their Sessions. Provided that this order hinder not the Course of Law already begun with J. Weeks.

It is ordered that the Secretarie shall have full powre upon the Threars informacon to sew for the monys that is due unto the Threaries

Finis.”  
(I. R. p. 59)

“At the Generall Court assembled att Nuport on the 19<sup>o</sup> of sept 1642 these orders following were agreed upon.

It is ordered that George Parker & John Briggs are remitted of their censure of suspencion.

It is ordered that the freemen of the Towne in their Towne meetings shall appoint the Juries for the Courts, & tht they shall have powre as well to appoint the Inhabitants, as freemen, for that service, by vertue of the Tenure & grant of their lands wh is freehold; and further it is ordered that the two Courts in June & Decemb: shall be held as the two Generall Sessions, also that the two other Courts vidgt in march & sept shall againe be held and kept as Qter Courts, and further it is ordered that the Juriors shall have 12*d* a peece pd thm for every Cause upon Issue joined, both at thess & all other Courts held & kept wthin our Jurisdicon.

It is ordered that full Commission is granted to Mr Roger Williams to Consult & agree wth miantonomie Sachem of the Narragansets; For the destruction of the wolves that are now upon the ysland, as also that they no way damnifie the English in that or in a present hunting granted to them

for the killing of the deare that are upon the same provided tht the Indians shall no more require the like Curtesie of hunting upon the Island wn as this enterprise is effected.

It is ordered that a Comittee shall be appointed to Consult about the procuracon of a Patent for this Island and Islands & the lands adjacent, and to draw up Peticon or Petitions, & to send letter or letters for the same end to Sr Henry Vane, and that if any oppertunitie be presented they shall have full Powre to transact & send to the fore-named Gentlemen or any others whom they shall think meet for the speedy effecting of said business provided that an oppertunitie be as aforesd presented, between this & the Generall Court in march next wh oppertunitie failing then to present the affaires ripened to the Generall Court then assembled; & further it is ordered tht what charges shall any way be dispended herein the Body doth ingage themselves a dew proporcon therin.

The Comittee appointed for the transacon of this business is the Govr, the Dept, the foure assistants the Secret, Capt Jeoffreis Capt Harding & Mr John Clarke.

It is ordered that all such freemen that doth not Cohabitt upon the Island shall have no vote or Powre to transact in our Courts.

It is ordered that no man shall be disfranchised, but wn the major parte of the bodie intire is Present.

It is further ordered that all the Priviledges prerogativies & liberties of the Governmt, State, Townes, Persons or person is confirmed.

It is ordered that if any English man shall kill and bring in any wolves heads tht are upon the Island & slain theron, & bring the head therof to the Govr in Nuport or Dept in Portsmo, he shall have five pound for his Paines, & that at the next Town's meeting a rate by the townsmen, shall be made for every man to pay to it according to his state of cattle, wh mult shall be levied, and raisd by the Sarjant,

who shall be satisfied for his Paines, and that both Towns shall pay it proporconably to the Cattle therein.

It is ordered that the Govr & Dept shall treat wth the Govr of the Duch to supplie us wth necessaries & to take of our comodities at such rates as may be sutable.

It is ordered that no person or persons shall make any sale of his lands, (in or belonging to our Jurisdicon) to any other Jurisdicon or person therein, unless that that Jurisdicon or person shall subject to the Governemt here established, upon paine of forfeiture of the sd lands so proffered." (I. R. p. 64.)

"At a Generall Court of Election held at Portsmo the 15<sup>o</sup> of March 1643.

By the Election of the Body The officers of the State were elected as they stood the former yeare excepting the Sarjants wh were

James Rogers for Nuport  
and George Parker for Portsmo

Mr. Baulston, Threar of Portsmo exhibited his Thre accounts this Present Court and by the Court was allowed & the sd Mr Baulston discharged of the sd accounts for the time passed, and whatt surpluss remained her to be transferred to the other Accounts." (I. R. p. 64.)

In September a vessel bound from Boston to Virginia, and carrying three Ministers, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Knolles and Mr. James from New Haven "lay windbound sometime at Aquiday" according to Winthrop (p. 115).

Sometime between 1641 and 1643 Anne Hutchinson, Mr. Cornell and some others removed from Aquidneck to a new settlement on Long Island Sound near New Amsterdam.

Under the date of September (Mo 7), 1643, Winthrop wrote:

"The Indians near the Dutch, having killed 15 men, as it is before related, proceeded on and began to set upon the English who dwelt under the Dutch. They came to Mrs.

Hutchinson's in way of friendly neighborhood, as they had been accustomed, and taking their opportunity, killed her and Mr. Collins, her son-in-law, (who had been kept prisoner in Boston, as is before related,) and all her family, and such of Mr. Throckmorton's and Mr. Cornhill's families as were at home; in all sixteen, and put their cattle into their houses and there burnt them. By a good providence of God, there was a boat came in there at that same instant, to which some women and children fled, and so were saved, but two of the boatmen going up to the houses were shot and killed.

These people had cast off ordinances and churches, and now at last their own people, and for larger accommodations had subjected themselves to the Dutch and dwelt scatteringly near a mile asunder: and some that escaped, who had removed only for want (as they said) of hay for their cattle which increased much, now coming back again to Aquiday, they wanted cattle for their grass." (2, 164.)

"At the Generall Court off Election held at Nuport on the 13 of the first month Ann<sup>o</sup> i644:

All were chosen officers againe as they were Last yeare, except Mr Jeremy Clark who was chosen Threar of Nuport in Mr Jeoffrey's stead.

The military officers elected for Nuport was Mr Clark chef Mr Smith LLt Georg Gardiner Ens: Toby Knight Clark Robert Stanton & Peter Easton Sarjts John Coggeshall Tho: Gould James Barker Henry Timberleggs Corp & Jon Hardy Drummer. For Portsmo Capt morris chef Mr Samford, LLt: Mr Cornill Ens Mr Willbor Clark Georg Parker Tho: Gorton Sam Willbor Sarj John Alsborow Tho Brookes Rich: Awards Jo Anthony Corp & Jo Cranston drum.

It is ordered by this Court that the ysland comonly called Aquethneck shall be from hencforth calld the Ile of Rhods, or Rhod-Island.

It is ordered that a debt of 30s due to Mr Ed: Hutchinson



for trading Comodities shall be satisfied out of the Threarie joyntly.

It is ordered that forasmuch as according to divers orders by Generall Courts formerly made, That all such Lands as were granted to any they shuld be recorded in the State Book wh shuld be their Evidence to Perpetuity &c And itt now appearing to this present Court that much Lands have been granted unto divers Persons who have made sales therof & have neglected to record their Lands so granted or past or so & so to Persons Purchasing the same Lands, and since have gone away or departed from this Jurisdiction so that originall Records cannot be in a dew forme made. Be itt now Established & decreed by this Court and the authority hereof that all who hath made or shall make Purchases of any such Lands and shall sufficiently evince eyther by writtings bargins contracts or other Testimony of the Purchase of any such Land or Lands, before on Judg of the Court and the Clerk of the Peace, and then the Secret shall have full Powre to record the sd Lands in the State Booke to the Purchaser & in his name then Holding the sd Land, wh Record shall be as Authentick to him or them their Heires Executors or Assigns as if the sd Lands had been originally granted and according to that Tract in all Points observed.

It is ordered that Robt west shuld be pd 3*li* from Nuport & 2*li* from Portsmo Threarys for destroying the other wolf." (I. R. p. 67.)

"It was ordered and Agreed by the Body of this State Before the election this Present day that the Major of the Major part of the Body in the Generall Courts, appearing shall have full Powre to transact the Affaires of the state also, to Impose fines or Penalties upon all such of the Body that shall not appeare or other wayes shall neglect or absent themselves from the service of the state having made their appearance in the Court, wthout leave." (I. R. p. 68.)



Under the date of July 1644, Winthrop wrote:

"Those also of Aquiday Island, being in great fear of the Indians, wrote to us for some powder and other ammunition, but the court was then adjourned; and because the deputies had denied our confederates, the magistrate thought not fit to supply them: but certainly it was an error (in a state policy at least) not to support them, for though they were desperately erroneous and in such distraction among themselves as portended their ruin, yet if the Indians should prevail against them, it would be a great advantage to the Indians, and danger to the whole country by the arms, etc., that would there be had, and by the loss of so many persons and so much cattle and other substance belonging to above 120 families. Or, if they should be forced to seek protection from the Dutch, who would be ready to accept them, it would be a great inconvenience to all the English to have so considerable a place in power of strangers so potent as they are." (2. 211.)

Shipbuilding early became an important industry at Rhode Island. Trumbull makes the following reference to it under the date of 1646:

"New-Haven having been exceedingly disappointed in trade, and sustained great damages at Delaware, and the large estates which they brought into New-England rapidly declining, this year, made uncommon exertions, as far as possible, to retrieve their former losses. Combining their money and labors, they built a ship, at Rhode-Island, of 150 tons, and freighted her, for England, with the best part of their commercial estates. Mr. Gregson, captain Turner, Mr. Lamberton and five or six of their principal men embarked on board. They sailed from New-Haven in January, 1647."

(Trumbull's Hist. of Conn. p. 1., p. 161.)

Winthrop referring to 1646 wrote: "Mr. Lamberton, Mr. Grigson, and divers other godly persons, men and women,

went from New Haven in the eleventh month last in a ship of 80 tons, laden with wheat for London; but the ship was never heard of after. The loss was very great, to the value of some 1000 pounds; but the loss of the persons was very deplorable." (2, p. 266.)

AQUIDNECK QUARTER COURT RECORDS

[1641-1646]

**A**T the [Q]ter Session held att Portsm the first of June  
Ano 1641

An ac of debt commenced by mr wm Brenton of Portsmo  
agst Ralph Earle of the same Towne upon two bills by the  
Ralph Earle signd & DD to mr John yarrow of London  
haberdasher, demurd

(R. I. C. R. p. 16.)

At a Qter Session Court held at Portsmo the 1 of Dec 1641

Petit Jury imp.

Jeremy Gould

Richard Awards

John Walker

Thomas Emons

Job Hawkins

Ralph Cowland

Jeoffry Champlin

Ralph Earle

Thomas Atkinson

Thomas Brooks

Richard Hawkins

Thomas Gorton

Grand Jury

Jeremy Clarke

Richard Morris

Thomas Spicer

Thomas Cornill

John Anthony

William Freeborne

William Foster

John Roome

Joseph Clarke

Toby Knight

Geordg Gardiner

Richard Barden

The acons Entered

An acōn of the Case between Tho: Brassy of Nuport Plā  
& Henry Bishopp of of the same tōw deffd.

An acon of the Case between Henry Bishop of Nuport Plā & Thomas Brasey of the same tow deffd.

An acon of debt commenced by Henry Bishop of Nuport Plā & Thomas Brasey of the same tow deffd. wch three acons were taken up by arbitracon

An acon of the Case Commenced by [Thomas] Applegate of Nuport Plā agst John Roome of the same towne deffd.

An acon of the Case Comēced by William foster Junr agst Anthony Paine of Portsmo deffd. The deff before Tryall promised to give satisfacon for the sd Coat demanded & what damāges & charges shall be thought meet since the Lone thereof by two Indifferent men.

An acon of the Case between Ezekiell holyman of hambrook <sup>1</sup> plā agst Thomas Read & Isaac Allertō of the masachusetts demurrd.

An acon of the Case between mr. willim Coddington of Nuport Agst Richard Tew of nuport Clifts who appeared not, being Returnd summond

The Cōurt orderd an attachmt upon his pson Lands goods & Chattells for the Jury to assease 20*l* damages the next Sessions [marginal note]

A Capias awarded served upon the . . . . .

It an acon of debt Commenced by the sd mr Coddington plā agst the sd Richard Tew

[Marginal note] both these acons by plantiff are deffer[ed to] the sessions in May.

The Grand Jury Return these psons following as having agst the peace of ouṛ Sovern Lord the King his Crown & dignitie transgresd.

George Parker of Portsmo for drunkenness & to appear the next cort & continued till the next.

being Con[victed] the . . . was bound to his good behavr.

<sup>1</sup> Hambrook is on Aquidneck.

James Tarr of Portsmo for drunkenness.  
 [Marginal Note] being the i time Convict was ad[judge] to sit in the stocks.

Robert Ballard for oppression in the way of his Servt  
 John weeks for Defamaçon of the Island & the Governr therof

Richard Tew for non prformance of a Bargaine of Farm-  
 ing of mr Wm Coddington Contra St. 5 Ed: 4

John Briggs of Portsmo for Trespassing agst Adam Mott  
 of the same Towne In taking & Killing a whitt weather  
 goat somewhat [Damdg?] price 12s

The Towne of Nuport for want of a prison  
 (R. I. C. R. p. 17.)

(Prob. Mar. 1641/2)

Petit Jury

Clarke  
 morris  
 Burden  
 [Marmad]uk-ward  
 Field  
 Cowley  
 Cowland  
 Hassard  
 Stanton  
 [A]wards  
 Hicks  
 C]hamplin

second Jury  
 impanelld  
 [J]ermy Gould  
 Robinson  
 [K]night

Grand Jurii Imp.

Jeremy Gould  
 wm Foster  
 Michall Williamson  
 John Room  
 Tobie Knight  
 George Gardiner  
 Thomas Spicer  
 Adam Mott  
 Willm Freeborne  
 John Walker  
 John Anthonie  
 Job Hawkins

stanton  
 ny  
 Champlin  
 er  
 Hawkins  
 ooen

. . . . .  
 . . . . .  
 . . . . .  
 . . . . .

An acon of the case commenced by Nicholas Cotterell of Nuport agst wm heavens of the same towne Carpenter concerning a deed off a house sold to the sd Nicholas conceived to bee fradulent John Room Ingageth himself that wm Heavens shall answ this suitt the next Cort.

An acon of the Case comenced by Thomas Cornill of Portsmo agst Henry Bull of Nuport concerning a sow by the sd Henry driven out of the Comon find for the deffendant damag 2*d* Costs of the Court.

An acon of the Case Comenced by John Gibbs of Nuport seaman agst John Briggs of Portsmo concerning a Sow in difference find for the plaintiff the sow & 6*d* dammage & costs of the Court

The said John upon Judgmt given was also bound over to his good behavior till the next Court.

An Acon of the case comenced by Thomas Applegat of Nuport plā against John Roome of the same towne Carpenter agreed.

An acon of the Case comenced by Jeremy Gould agst Thomas Applegate both of Nuport the cause by thm both is reffered to Mr Coggeshall & are bound in 10 Li days to other to abide [the] arbitration by the last day of Apr 1642.

The acon of the Case comenced by Jeremy Gould of Nuport agst Mr. Foster michall williamson & John Peckam of the same Towne demurred till next Court.



William Chapman Sojourner at Mr. Balst[on] of Portsmouth found & Inditted for taking away out of a chest a cap & [pair of St]ockings to the valeu of i<sup>od</sup> was adjudged to be whipt.

The Court held at Portsmo the 8<sup>o</sup> of June butt non appearance was Generall.

John Briggs being bound over to this Court in a bond of 10 Li to or Souveraing L the King upon testimonie of his neighbors of his peaceable & good behavior was released paying charges.

(R. I. C. R. p. 18.)

[Probably at Quarter Court held in September 1642]

A sale of Land by Robt Carr of Nuport to Mr. Jeremy Clarke made on the Eigth day of Sept Ano dom 1642 vid Towne Register

prse Wm Dyre P. Cl

Memorandum that on the Eigth day of Sept 1642 Mr Wm Coddington Mr John Coggeshall & Mr Jeramie Clarke, bought and purchased to them their heires & assignes of Robert Carr a pcell of Land contayning sixtie two ac more or less lying on the East sid of millbrook bounded on the south by the hieway that goes to the great Comon in prsent.

Wm Dyre P. Cl.

memorandum that on the Eigtheeth day of Sept Ano 1642 Toby Knight of Nuport bought & purchased of Thomas Beeder of the same Towne his hous lott contayning four ac more or less wth another like pcell adjoyning wch was the houslott of Robt Root & by assignmts transferred to John Mott who discharged [to] the Threãrie & then sold it to the sd Thomas & inffeoed the sd Toby into the full possession & injoymt of the said Land housing & fencing therto belonging in

prsent Wm Dyre P. Cl.

Memorandum that on the Ninteenth day of Sept Ano dom 1642 Robert Stāton of Nuport bought and purchased of Thomas Beeder of the same Towne a prcell of Land lying on the South side of the harbor bounded on the East by Toby Knights Land on the South by the Comon on the west by James Rogers Land & on the North by the harbor wch deed of sale by the sd Thomas Beeder was made to the sd Robert Stanton his heires & Assignes for Ever in prsent

Wm Dyre P. Cler.

An acon of the Case comenced by Thomas Slade of Portsmo agst wm withrington of Nuport.

An acon of the Case com by Mr Wm Brentō of Portsmo agst Wm Richardson of Nuport

Gilian Touzar [or Tonzar]<sup>1</sup> is discharged of her Recogniz paying her fees. (R. I. C. R. p. 18.)

At the Qter Session Court held att Nuport the 7<sup>o</sup> day of dec. Ano Do: 1642

5s	Jeremy Gould
ks	John Smith
han5s	John Peckham
hman	mar: ward
Bliss	John Room
dre-s	Tobie Knight
Paine	Robert Stanton
esburie	Jeff. Champlin
par . . . 5s	Rich Morris
Morris } . . . in	Rich Barden
Smith } def	Rich Hawkins
Burden } ault	Michall S
	George Parker
	John Anthonie
	John Roome
	Christop Holmes

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps identical with the Gillian who was wife of John Vaughn in 1644.

The ac between Nicholas Cotterell & w<sup>m</sup> Heavens adjoined to this Court.

The a<sup>con</sup> of debt comenced by w<sup>m</sup> Dyer against John Briggs of Portsmouth for court fees by the sd Briggs detained promised to satisfie

The a<sup>con</sup> of mr w<sup>m</sup> Brenton agst Ralph Earle in the behalf of Mr John Yarrow of London haberdasher Reviued & Issued the Jury Returned find for the plaintiff the house & Land & Twenty pound dama<sup>g</sup> and the whole chardges of the Court.

[Marginal Note] The pl declared two bills of iii Li & the disprove a colatoll satisfaction propounded & accepted by an attournmt . . . that by the party himself a writting drawn but not interchangably signed the issue ut apatur.

An a<sup>con</sup> of the case depending between Ezekiell holyman & Isaac Allerton & Thomas Read of Salem upon an attachment of goods for a debt due to the widdow Sweet now the wife of the sd Ezekiell demurrd bill dd againe demurrd.

An a<sup>con</sup> of Trespass com<sup>̄</sup> by Adam Mott of Portsmouth agst Ralph Cowland of the same Towne in 20 bush corne i bush of Indian Beanes Refferd Mr. Eston hath undertaken to satisfie the pl for 10 bush of corne.

An a<sup>con</sup> of the case com<sup>̄</sup> by Wm Withrington against Mr Wm Balston of Ports<sup>mo</sup> on 10 £i dam for retayning his couent to him dds we found for the defendant cost 6*d* & the charges of the Courte

[Marginal Note] The pl declared for an Indenture of his servt dd to the defft to keep the pl gave his servt the last yeare but to be at his masters disposall, the case beeing mingled the issue ut ap<sup>rtm</sup>.

An a<sup>con</sup> of Case commenced by w<sup>m</sup> withrington agst Ralph Earle of Ports<sup>mo</sup> for detayning his servant Nathaniell Browning to Arbitratiō.

An a<sup>con</sup> of dd for Retayning Joseph Ladd to Arbitration (R. I. C. R. p. 20.)

At the Qter Court held at Portsmo March 7 [1642/3]

Jury Imp and Sworn

Thomas Burton

Jeremy Gould

George Parker

John Anthony

Thom: Emons

John Briggs

Wm Freeborn

Henry Bull

James Babcock

Robert Bennett

Wm Field

Wm Amie

An ac of the case comc by Esek Holyman agst Isaac Al-  
lerton in an acon of 2 years dependance upon Arreages of a  
purchase between the sd Isaac and mary Sweet the wife of  
the sd Ezekiell the rest 4 Li 1<sup>s</sup> a barr of mackrell find for the  
pl: damages 7 Li 1<sup>s</sup>: costs of the Court 24<sup>s</sup> etc.

An ac of the case by mr Nicholas Easton agst Henry  
Bishopp of Nuport twice sumd Ɔ non appearance the court  
awards An attachmt it was issued the 7<sup>o</sup> of Jun Ano 1642  
find for pl damage 50<sup>s</sup> Ɔ charge of the Court 12<sup>s</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>: 10<sup>s</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>:  
4<sup>s</sup>

An acon of the case comr by Ezekiell Holyman agst Ralph  
Earle of Portsmo 30 L<sup>i</sup> damage demurrd find for pl 13L 2<sup>s</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>  
cost of the Court issued the 7<sup>o</sup> of June 1642.

An ac of the case com by Jeremy Gould agst wm Richard-  
son of Nuport demurd wth a cross ac by the sd Richardson  
demurrd

An ac com by John Smith agst Jeremy Gould demurrd

An ac of the case com by John Gibbs seaman agst Ralph  
Earle of Portsmo demurred

An ac of the case commenced by Jeremy Clarke on the

behalf off Sampson Salter pl upon the attachmt of goods of the widdow Sutherland of Long Island demurred.

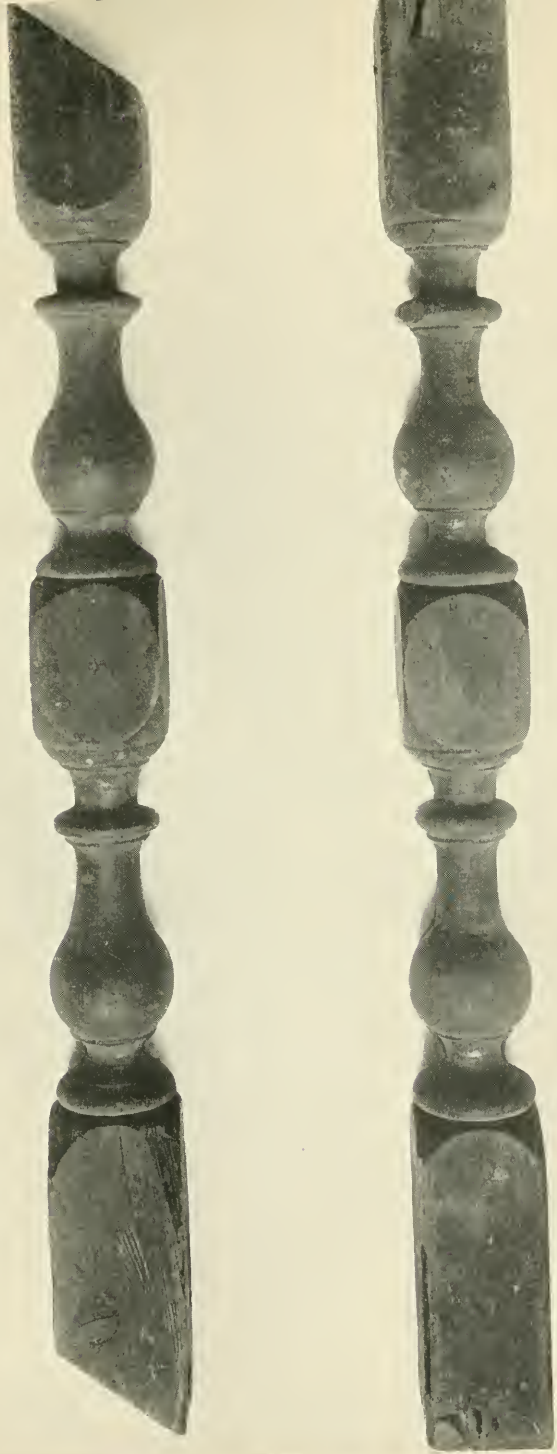
An acon of the case com by Henry Bull of Nuport agst Ralph Earle of Ports: agreed that Ralph Earle shall nt take any thing from the house of the sd Henry that is nayld or pinned, & tht the sd Ralph shall keep the sd house & lot tenentable in regacon (Casualties excepted & tht he shall leave the other lott next adjoyning to it of 3 ac fenced & broken up at the end of a yeare to the sd house and lott the sd Henry dding 6 bushells of Indian marchandable corne to the sd Ralph at a Lady day next come 12<sup>o</sup> mo: further tht the sd Ralph shall not destroy the old stock of hopps & tht the sd Henry shall have Libertie to sell the sd house & Land & Ralph to degt at 2 mo warning given him as two men Equall judgmeet for consideracon of his deptime each one, provided the sd Ralph shall nt be damnified in his crop.

Ralph Earle upon the impanelling of Jury chalenged threupon the ray vidzt John Smith Rich burden & Rich morris for that they wth the rest of the Jury in the Tryall (between himself & mr Brenton in the behalf off mr Yarrow of London haberdasher had) went contrary to their oathes and that sd he I will prove: wherupo the three prayed proves tht the sd Earle might be made good his Charge:

bond to appear & give ans: to wt shall be objected.

The sd Ralph Earle upon the 7<sup>o</sup> day of June 1643 did in the presence of the Court acknowledge & confessed that he had scandalized and done great wrong unto the prties afornamd & the Right wth them accused by him in that he had them accused in saying (they had gone contrary to their oathes & tht I will prove) for wch I am hartily sorry & do pray them to use so much lenitie & mercy as to pardon that expression or the like to that purpose by me uttered & I shall acknowledg my self thankfull & graciously dealt withall.

Teste pr Cur will Dyre Reg. (R. I. C. R. p. 21.)



BALUSTERS FROM WILLIAM CODDINGTON'S HOUSE AT NEWPORT (1641).  
Originals in museum of Rhode Island Historical Society.





At the Qter Session held att Nuport the 7<sup>o</sup> day of June  
1643

Harding

. . . . .  
. . . . .

An acon of the case commenced by wm Dyer of Nuport agst Thomas Applegate weaver of the same towne for detayning of goods to the damage of 40s the D: acknowledged wrong, & was injoynd to aske forgiveness of the Pl: & his wife for wronging of them & so cary back the goods to the Pl. house.

Itt An acon of the case Commenced by wm dyre of Nuport agst wm Richardson of the same Towne to the valew of 3 li, damag concerning a sheep killed by his dogg demurrd

Itt an ac of the case Commenced by Robert Harding of Nuport agst wm withington of Sachuis upō the forfeiture of abond of iooli

Itt An ac of debt by the towne of Nuport agst Edw: Andrews Richard Tue

Itt An ac of Trespass com by Henry Bull agst Thom: Applegate of the same Towne in damagg Applē is to satesfie the Pla as his neighbors hath done & doth

Itt An ac of the Trespass Com by Henry Bull of Nuport agst Ed Robinson of the same Towne demurrd.

Itt An ac of John Richman agst John wood of the same Town in an ac of Trespass; Referrd to mr Easton in 8<sup>li</sup> a peice to abide the arbitrmnt of all causes.

Itt An ac of slaunder by John Richman agst Job Tiler of the same Towne for saying in the mouth of two wittnesses tht the Pī stoole a bagg of meale & layd it in his house (confessed by the deft tht he did him wrong, the Jury find for the pla xxs damagg & costs of the Court & to aske forgiveness of the pl who did & was forgiven

It an ac of Trespass by David Greenman agst John wood of the same Towne Reffered.

It an ac of the case com by Ralph Earle agst wm Richardsō of Nuport Reffered

Ralph Earle acknowledgeing his faults comitted the last Cort was Remitted of his Recognisance paying his charges of Court is discharged. (R. I. C. R. p. 22)

It an ac of Batterie Comced by Jno Briggs Constable of Portsmo agst Jno Slade of the same Towne.

to pay the pl 5 li

The Court doth order that Thomas Sladde is ordered to pay to Rich morris Lambert woodward Richard Readman each of them 6s 8d for their costs

Itt an ac of the Case com by Edw: Andrews of Stony River agst & upon an attachmt of goods belonging to John Allen Lett sallen

Job Tyler being accused by two witnesses for slighting the Authorie when the S[er]jant came to Sum him that he sd he car'd not a fart[or] turd for all their warrants. who be adjudged to be whipt till his back be bloody

The Court doth order that a standard for measures vidzt a half peck & peck shall be made for each Towne & that they shall be made equall wth mr Hardings seald measure (and James Rogers to do them wthin 3 weeks) also that a seale shall be made to seale them & then all measures to be made & sealed by them & further it shall nt be lawfull for any to buy or sell but by such measures that are authorized by the standard & seald according to law in that case pvided. the care wherof for the oversight for prsent is comitted to the magistrats to see sd measure equall & seald.

The court doth order exec to be made upon Jno Roome & wm heavens for the mony dew to Nuport for thr Lands.

The Court ordered this prsent Session that Edward Andrews having exhibited sufficient proof of a good & sufficient purchase of the land of John Allen in Nuport being

a 4 ac lott more or less is also to make sale therof & to award the title good

The Court doth order tht the Rigster shall make out exec upō Henry Bishop for charges dew unto him vidzt iōs

An ac of Trespass com̄ by Henry Bull agst Edward Robinson for a pound breach to the damagg of 5 *li*

It is ordered that every man in his Jurisdicon shall secure sufficiently his owne corne feilds by a fence as also to secure his neighbors from damage in the same upō paine of dowble damagg upō dew informaçon and prooffe

An ac of the case com̄ by Mr wm Coddington of Nuport agst Thomas Stafford & Nicholas Cotterell of the same Towne for Non prformance of Covenant upō damag of

By the assent & consent of Edward Robinson & Henry Bull mr Wm Coddington Gent & mr Nicholas Easton are jointly chosen & if they cant agree they to choose a third to determine all cases of difference tht is or hath been to this prsent day the 7<sup>o</sup> of June 1643 upō paine off forfeiture of x *li* a peice to each other

An ac of Trespass agst Robert hobbs of Nuport com by wm withrighō

An ac of the Case com̄ by wm withrighō agst Robert Harding of Nuport

(R. I. C. R. p. 23.)

At the Qter Session held at Portsmo September 5<sup>o</sup>  
Ano-43

The acs depending between mr Robert Harding and william Withington upon prayer of both were Reffered as appeares by the joint petcon of both exhibited to this Session.

Most humbly petcon of Capt Robt Harding off Nuport & wm withington of the same.

Most humbly sheweth tht yor peticoners having wearied themselves wth those controversies & suits wch they have for long since both troubled themselves & freinds in both

wch arbitracons & suits and uncomfortable troubles do now enter into some strong ingagements each to other to have a finall end therof and to this end that the award may be Irrevocable we desire tht the sd award may be Recorded in the Court Rolls

And we most humbly pray of this honoed Court to have this our petiçon & ingagement to be Recorded amongst the Records of this prsent Court also, vidzt or Ingagmt is on hundred pounds a peece tht each of yor petiçoners shall dd into the hands & possession of Mr wm Brenton mr John Porter & mr John Clarke of their owne pper goods 100*li* into their hands & possession to Remaine to this use, that is to say we having bound orselves in 100*li* a peece each to other to abide the finall determinacon of the aforsd mr Brenton mr Porter & mr. John Clark or any two of them touching all these controversies wch now are between yor Petiçoners & on Robt hobbs & yor petitioner wm withington, in all & all mañor of Acons Suites & controversies concerning ether the Comon Law or Equity wch now is or may be between any of those prties from the beginning of the world to the day of the date hereof prvided tht the end & purpose wch the 100*li* that is to be dd into those 3 gentlemens hands is to this purpose, tht when those three or any two of them have dewly examined the truth and equitie of thoss controversies & determined therof, tht then they shall out of tht 100*li* give dew satisfaçon to the wronged prson and the Remainder unto him to whom it belongeth and that at the publicaçon of their Award & giving satisfaçon therin & Ristoring the overpluss to the Right owner yor petiçoners shall then make seale and dd each to other a generall Release from the beginning of the world to the date herof, And tht or Agremt between us is and also or desire of the Court that wn the Award is made it may also be Recorded in the next Court & farther, it is desired tht all three of the arbitrators be prsent wn the Award

is made & dd also tht it be Issued wthin ten dayes of the date herof

dat Sept 8      subsc   Robert Harding  
    William Withington

The petcon of Capt Robt Harding & wm withington is accepted & by this Court confirmed to be so ordered & accordingly recorded and for the further confirmacon therof the psons abovsd did Reciprocally dd an assumpsitt of blew wampom each to other saying I bind my self by the Receaving of this Assumpsett to dd into the hands of the three gentlemen above named *ooli* for the use & end tht is menconed and farther upō the assumpsitt it is accorded that they bind all their Lands goods & Chattells for the prformance thereof

[petit] jury Imp.	Grand Jurie Imp: Sworn
ward	Richard Morris
knight	John Anthonie
Champlin	Tho: Emons
Richman	wm Freeborn
Almie	John Briggs
Roome	wm Almie
[Free]borne	John Hall
wilber	John Crandall
Layton	Tho: Stafford
land	Jeffrey Champlin
Hall Xs	John Vaughan
taken	John Richman
defalt	

Itt the acon Com by mr wm Coddington of the case xxli agst Tho: Stafford & Nicholas Cotterell for non prformance of Covent the Jury find for plā damaḡ 40s & the Charges of the Court & to pay back agen wth they have Rd overpluss.

Itt an ac of case Com̄ by mr Nicholas Easton plā agst Thomas Bracee 5*li* damaḡ for nt making his fence find for pla id & in case the fence be not done by munday come seven night then 3*li* & the chardges of Court

It an ac of slaunder com by Richard morris of Portsmo agst Ralph Earle xx*li* damage find for plā damage 2*d* & to acknowledge in the Court tht he had wrongd Richt morris in saying he had forged a fals bill & the like to be done at Nuport & if he Refuse to abide the sentence of the Court & costs

An ac of mr Jeremy Clark agst the Towne of Nuport upon Areregs of money due to him wherupō an attachmt is granted & sved upō the Publick house of the sd Towne 20*li* damaḡ if the Towne satisfie nt by next Court then Judgment to be granted.

An acon of the case com̄ by Nathan Browning agst wm withrington of Nuport Arbitrated

An ac of the case com̄ by Ralph Earle of Portsmo agst wm withrington of Nuport

Arbitrated.

memorandum tht Ralph Earle & wm withington have bound themselves in 40 *li* p peec to or Sovereigne Lord the Kings mtie to stand to the arbitremt of mr Nicholas Easton & mr wm Balstone, as well in this case as in the three other before one being between Browning & withington & in case the two caunt end then the arbitrats to chuse a 3*d* the time of their limits is on mo from the date herof.

An acon of the case com̄ by mr Nicholas Easton upon an attachmt of the Record of the Land of michel williamson demurrd Issued by the Sessions July 7<sup>o</sup> and find for the p<sup>l</sup> proved dd to the deft 450 of Iron at 7 *li* 10*s*, Spoild in corne i: 10*s* & a debt — 9*s* & costs of the Court w: 6*d* A fees — 10*s* R: ch: 6*s*: Jury 12*s*

An acon of the case commenced by Jeoffry champlin upon



an attachmt of the goods & Lands belonging to michall williamson of Nuport demurrd 40s

An acon of the case com by mr wm Coddington agst Tho owin, marchant upō an attachmt of goods & cattell & a debt in mr Coggeshalls hand.

The cort doth order tht the goods cattle & debt attached for in & upon this acon shall be prised by the Sarjant & by him seen forth Coming acc to a dew cours of Law & the debts satisfied upō the ysland off the sd goods & chattells the said Owen & wt overpluss shall be found upon the same tht the creditors of the other . . . . . shall have the Remainder

An acon of the case com by Thomas Applegat of Nuport agst Edward Andrews of the same Towne Referd to mr wm Coddington & mr Nich. Eastō

(R. I. C. R. p. 25.)

An acon of the case com by wm dyre on the Towne of Nuport behalf agst wm Richardson Ezekiell holyman & Thomas Bracee for not paying their Towne Rates Composition mr Bracee if he come nt by the next cort & satisfie Judgmt shall be granted

An acon of debt com by wm Dyre on the behalf of Nicholas Cotterell of Nuport agst wm Richardsō of the same Towne Referrd

An acon of debt com by wm Dyre on the behalf of the Towne of Nuport agst the Towne & Treasurie of Portsmo in a debt of iii 3s 4d demurrd The cort doth accept the propocon of the Towne of Portsmo by mr wm Brentō for the

An acon of the Case of Equitie com by Ralph Earle of Portsmo agst mr wm Brenton Dept Govr of the same Towne

An action of the Case com by Thomas Applegate of Nuport agst wm Heavens of Portsmō upon a morgage of house & land Consigned by Sam Willbore to the sd Thomas Refferd

An acon of the case Com by John Smith of Nuport agst



the sd Towne of Nuport. if satisfacon be nt given thn Judgment be granted in the next court.

An acon of the case com̄ by Jeremy Clark agst Ralph Earle It is agreed tht Ralph Earle for the satisfacon of mr Jeremy Clarke debt of 28 *li* principall for wch the house wch the sd Ralph Earle sometime bought & tied for the satisfacon of the principle debt of the sd Jeremy some 3 years since the sd Ralph doth promise to surrender wthin 3 days to the sd Jeremy or his assignes wth the lot & fencing thrtto belonging wch house lott fencing & all apurtenances fixed therunto shall so be faithfully . . . . & delivered wth all claims Right or interest by the sd Ralph his heirs or assignes in the sd house lott & appurtenances thrtto now fxed or belonging upō wch true & faithfull deliverie the sd Jeremy Clarke doth acquite discharge & Release the sd Ralph Earle of the sd 28*li* wth all arreages debts or demaunds frō the begining of the world to this prsent

(R. I. C. R. p. 26.)

At the Qter Session held at Nuport the 3 of dec Ano 1643

Petitt Jury Impa:  
& Sworne

[Grand Jury]

Jer Clark  
Sam Willbore Sen  
Jo: Peckham  
Jo: Hall  
Tho: Gorton  
Tho: Layton  
James Badcock  
James Weeden  
Jeffry Champlin  
John Alsborow  
Tho Cornill  
John Tefte

Jer:  
Tho  
Geord G[ardiner]  
Rich. H[awkins]  
John Hicks  
Rich Bur[den]  
Hen Knol[les]  
John Smith  
marm: war[d]  
wm Almy  
Toby Knight

Robt Stantō	}	
Ed Robinson		taken
Toby Knight		upō
Rich Morris		deffalt
Capt Harding		

An ac of the Case com̄ by Thomas Tewe Marriner agst mr John Coggeshall upō the attachmt of his boate, find for the defft 2*d* dam & costs.

An acon of the Case com̄ by wm Almy of Portsmō agst Georg Roame marriner upō *x li* damage find for pla: *xx d* debt to be pd in silver & 2*d* damag & costs

An ac of trespass com̄ by Job Tyler agst mr. Nich Eastō . . . .

An ac at Case com̄ by Nicholas Easton agst — How of Long Island demurrd & againe demurrd

wm Richardson upō his Inditmt of selling a peec to the Indian was enjoined to bring in againe the sd peec by the last day of June ensuing.

Upō the ac between N Cotterell & Tho: Applegate the last Cort it was disired that Jeremy Gould & Capt harding might find the matters of difference between them & bond them selves in *x li* a peece to stand therto provided it were issued in a month

An ac of the case Com̄ by mr Nicholas Eastō agst mr will Foster Refferd.

An ac of the Case Com̄ by John Stretton marchant agst Tho: Toue marriner upō 100*li* damag find for pla 10*li* damage & costs of Court & each of them to have their proper goods in the vessell exec award: . . . nihill habet: a Capias was granted.

Tho: Gennings acqt his indictmt by Crandall & paying chardges is freed

John Briggs paying his chardges is acqted of his Indictmt  
Nicholas Brown paying Chardges is acqted his Indictmt.

Robt Hobbs paying chardges is acqted his in Indtmt.

Robt Bentett of Nuport being inditted this prsent Court for reporting slanderous speeches concerning the Gor was committed and acknowledging his fault & the due deserning of Condigne punishmt the Gor Interseded the Court for mercy, the Court Injoynd the sd Bennett both at this Court & the next qter Court as also att the next Generall Court to acknowledg his offence both to the Gor & the Court or els by liable to farther sentence

John Roome upō his Report of some slaunderous speeches concerning mr Coddington Govr being Indited & committed acknowledged his offence & disired hartily to be Remitted wch was to pay chardges.

George Cleere & John Cory being indited upō suspicion of felony & bound in x li a peec to appear the next Qter Court

Ralph Earle againe for misbehaving himself it was ordered that execucon shuld go forth for breach of his Recognizance."

(R. I. C. R. p. 27)

At the Qter Session Court held at Portsmouth the 7<sup>o</sup> of the i mo 1644

rk

Champlin

Gardiner

r-ill

[F]oster

[Fr]eeborn

alder

[An]thony

[Antho]ny Paine

Knolls

Brayton

It an ac of debt upō the forfeiture of a Recognizance of It com by henry Bull agst Edw: Robinson both of Nuport found for the plā the forfeiture & costs

Itt an ac of the case Com̄ by Richard Awards agst Richard Hawkins And Thomas Brookes of Portsmo, upō a bill of debt, find for plā the bill of . . . ℥ costs

It an ac of the case Com̄ by Richard Hawkins ℥ Thomas Brooks of Portsmo against Richard Awards of the same towne find for plā x s dam̄ ℥ costs

An ac of the case bet John Hall ℥ Wm England of Portsmo agreed tht England shall Return 14 score of Railes to the place when he had them.

An ac of the case bet Tho: Gortō ℥ wm Almy Agreed

An ac of the case com by Jeremy Gold on the behalf of Robt Lenthall agst Robt Bennett Taylor agreed

memo John Hickes of Nuport being bound to the peace by the Govr ℥ Mr Eastō in a bond of x *li* for beating his wife Harwood Hicks ℥ prsented this Court was ordered to continue in his bonds till the next ℥ then his wife to come ℥ give evidence concerning the case

Georg Laycon bound ov by the dept ℥ at the Court Released

memorandum That Ralph Earle of Portsmo Carpenter acknowledges to owe to or Sovereigne Lord x *li* to be Leived of his Lands goods or chattells the bond to appeare the next session at Nuport ℥ nt to dept the Court without Licence.

John Roome ℥ Tho: Gorton as his sureties in 8 *li* pr peece

Memorand that mr Thomas Burton att this Court exhibiting a motion by way of Complaint that John Free defunct at Newport by the fall of a Tree was indebted unto the sd Thomas the sūm of Eight pounds or therabouts ℥ the sd John leaving nothing behind him to give satisfacon but a peece of Land lying att Hambrook containing ten ac more or less facing upō the mill, the Court doth by this order allow and Authorize the sd mr Burton to adminster upō the sd pcell of Land taking unto and injoying the same

peaceably & quietly as his owne peculiar Right wth the Evidences herof unless any other as the True heire of the sd John shall come and make claime therof wthin on yeare & a day and so satisfie & difray the sd sūm of Eight pounds & the Arreages therof Teste William Dyre pac: cler:

(R. I. C. R. p. 28.)

Taken out of a letter from John Hicks to mr Coggeshall dated at Flushin the 12 of decemb:

now for parting what way ther is seeing she have carried the matter so subtilly as she have I know nt, but if ther be any way to bee used to untie that Knott, wch was at the first by man tyed that so the world may be satisfied I am willing ther unto, for the Knot of affection on her part have been untied long since, and her whordome have freed my conscience on the other part, so I Leave myself to yor advise being free to condissend to yor advice if ther may be such a way used for the finall parting for us.

Teste William Dyre Gen Record

(R. I. C. R. p. 36.)

In the records of the Quarter Sessions of 7, 1, 1644 will be found a previous reference in regard to the case of Hicks *vs.* Hicks which eventually culminated in a divorce. Horod Hicks, née Herodias Long, married secondly George Gardiner and thirdly John Porter.

"At a monthly Court Held at Nuport the 6th day of Jan: 1645

An acon of debt Com̄ by the Recorder of the Towne on the Townes behalf agst Ed: Robinson w<sup>m</sup> weedan James Weedan & Nicholas Cotterell for monyes dew for their Lands who appeared nt, Cotterell forwarnd the Sarjant of his ground telling him tht if he or any of his Confederates did Come to take his prson or goods. they shall find hott water, & further tht he was no officer nor would he obey him

Marmeduk ward Jo Vaughan John Hornden Toby Knight and George Hamund warnd to serve upō the Jury appeared nt & lost their Issues

Mr John dolling of vncaway merchant having part of, & goods in a shipp lately brought to Anchor in Nuport Harbor & being unwilling that she should dept in an unseasonable time drew up a protestaçon And by the Authoritie of Mr Jeremy Clark being on of the magistrates sent the serjant therwth to the master of the sd shipp, who gave affedavitt this prsent Court of the ddrie therof into the hands of Thomas Newton Master of the sd shipp or vessel, wch protest the said John dolling petiçoned this Court to be entered into the Records therof the better to give Evidence therof to such whom afterwards it might further Concern

I John Dolling of uncaway Merchant doe by these presents as Atorney for John Richbell Merchant, and for myself, Protest against the setting sayle of the shipp Virgin now at Anchor in the Road of Nuport and doe hereby deliver that itt is by me this present day Protested wittness my hand this 4 of Janu: Ano: 1645

pr mee John dolling

Before me Jeremy Clarke the day & yeare above written.  
Supers To Thomas Newton Master of the said shipp"

(R. I. C. R. p. 33.)

From the above entry it would appear that they had monthly courts at Newport as well as at Portsmouth. The Quarter courts it will be noted met alternately at Newport and Portsmouth.

"At a Qter Court held the first Tewsday of March 1645

Richard Morris  
Richard Burden  
Jo: Greenman

panelld &

for the  
persone  
Rich morris  
teased

Tho: Brookes  
David Greenman  
Henry Bull  
John Vaughn  
Jeremy willie  
John Horndall  
John Green  
Tho: Brookes  
Richard Awards  
Marmaduk ward

Note that in the morning the Towne Court was proclamd but deffdts Came nt.

Itt the ac prosecuted by the Towne agst Ed: Robinson the Jury Returnd found 4*li* 8*s* arreareges find more xxs damage & the Charge of the Court 28*s*

[A marginal note gives the account itemized, but it is almost illegible.]

Ed Robinson bound to his good behavr to appeare the next Sessions in *xx li* John wood & Robt Griffin his sureties in *x li* a peec, & Robinson became bound in *xx li* bond to same upon farmless discharged at Portsmo paying fees.

Itt thear prosecuted on the Townes behalf agst Nicholas Cotterell the Jury Returnes found 40*s* arraredges & 10*s* damag & charg of the Court 28*s*

Nich Cotterell bound to his good behavr & to appear next qter session in *x li* Jeremy Gould & Robt Stanton his surties in 8*li* a peec

Wm & James Weedan Junr presented by the G Jury for setting of traps so likewise [William] Jeoffreys Jer: Goulds sonn in Law" (R. I. C. R. p. 34.)

"At the Quarter Sessions Court held att Nuport the 6th of occtob Ano 1646 upō an adjournmt

Petitt Jury  
Tho Cornill

Grand [Jury]  
Tho: Corn [ill]



John Smith	R: Griffin
Rich Morris	J willis
Robt Griffin	J Richman
Jo Horndall	R Burden
Jer Willis	Wm Freeborn
Mar ward	
Jo Richman	
Rich Burden	
Ralph Cowland	
wm Freeborne	
Jo: Walker	
upon the last	
trial of Tho: Gold	
sam willsō	
R Bennet	
H Walton	
R Stanton	
J Barker	

An acon of the Case com̄ by Bartholemew Hunt Edward Greenman and Robert Bennett agst Jeremy Gould the 4 of June delayed to this Court Issued and found for the Plaintiffs *x li* damage the fence to be the sd Jeremies and according to the Record so to mainteyne itt & the Costs of Court  
[An illegible marginal note gives the charges.]

Thomas Gould Inditted by the Grand Inquist for breaking the Peace Refusing to give baile for his good behavr was Committed to the Constable till further order being found guilty upō the Traverse

Capt Partridg atturny for Georg Hamond demanded Early declaracon agst him or else a non suitt & Costs, Judged for execucon 5s 4d

Memord that on this prsent 8 day of october I Daniel Gould of Nuport in Rhode Island came into this Court in prsonall . . . some & did ackknowledg to surrender up all

his Right and tittle in wtt ever estate he had or could make claime unto into his father Jeremies hands for the satisfacon of the Cause depending between his father & mr wm Coddington Memorand that Mr Easton & Mr Balston Magist being sent by the Court to Thomas Gould being in duranc Retarnd this Ans: That Thomas Gould sonn to the sd Jeremy did acknowledge himself to surrender all his Right & Tittle in wtt ev estate he had or could make claime unto into his fathers hands for the satisfacon of the cause depending between his father & Mr Willm Coddington of Nuport

Memorand that on this prsent 8th day of octob that Jeremy Gould of Nuport came into this Court and did acknowledg himself to bee indetted unto Wllm Coddington [to] the sum of one thousand pounds to be Levied of his lands goods & chattells for the use of [the] said William Coddington, prvided that no Execucon shall be issued out upon this Judgm[ent] untill the arbitrators chosen in this Cause between the pla & defft shall be agree[d] the Award be dd or Ready to be dd . . . unto them in writting under their hands & se[ales] and if the prtie judged to be indebted against whom the Award shall be shall R[efuse] to dd up so much of his Estat as shall Satisfie the Award Then Execucon for [so] much as the Award shall be shall issue forth by the powre of this Court agst body, goods & Chattells, and from this prsent act ther shall be no appeale prvided that [both] Jeremy & Willm doth upō this judgment consist, and the Record therof made [did] choyce of eight Arbitrators vidzt Mr John Porter Capt Alexander Partridge, Mr Rog[er] Williams Capt Jeremy Clarke Richard Burden, Chad Brown, Mr John Clarke & Ezekiell [Holliman] & did authorize them wth full powre to judge & issue all manner of differences de[bts] or demands that is hath or may be presented since the beginning of the world to [the] day of the date herof between them and do both agree for themselves

heyres [ ] and administrators, that if all or six of the eight shall accurr then the case is full[y] determined but if ther do but five of the eight agree then a fift prt of the award to be abated & the determinaçon of those five to stand good and effectuall, bu[t] & if ther be an equall dividnt between them that is foure & foure then to determine itt by Lott Any two of the Arbitrators to cast itt The Time That the Arbitrators shall have to Issue this shall Bee till the Last day of Novemb next ensuing

Memorand that Mr William Coddington did acknowledge & cūfess the above said in[strument] also unto Jeremy Gould reciprocally ut supra dicitur" (R. I. C. R. p. 7.)

"At a Qter Session hold att Portsmouth December Ano Dom̄ 1646

An açon of the case com by William Withington plā of Nuport agst John wood of the same upō xx nobles damag Delayed till next Court find for the defendant costs

An açon of the Case com by Nicholas Easton agst Henry Timberleggs upo xx *li* damg delayed

An açon of the case com̄ by Nicholas Easton plā agst John Wardie of In damḡ of xx nobles delayed

An açon of the case com̄ by mr Easton plā agst George Baldwin upō x *li* damag delayed mr Balston Bayle

An açon of Sclaunder Co by Jeremy Willie of Nupt agst Walter Lettice upō xx *li* damage delayed mr Jeremy Clark Baile

An açon of the Case com̄ by Richard Knight plā agst William Jeoffreys bearing dat 27° Novemb upō dam̄ of 30 *li*

An açon of debt com̄ by Richard Awards of Portsmō agst Wm Almie of the same towne 18 *li* damaḡ delayed Baile Rich morris & John Briggs deff Nihill dixitt [Marginal note "dec filed the 2d dec"]

An açon of Trespass com̄ by Richard Awards plā agst Wm Almie upon damaḡ of 30 *li* del Baile Rich Awards & John Briggs find for plā debt 16 *li* 10 s & a p stock damag 10 *li*

The Court ord the Rec to sew Ralph Earle for forty shilling upō the breach of the Law in furnishing an Indian wth a Gun he being convict by w<sup>m</sup> Balstō & others also to Pay 5s for being drunk or to be stockt, the Court held at Nupt Ord Judgmt

The Court orders the peece that is in Mr Eastons hands wch was taken from the Indian provd to belong to Thos Layton and to be dd to the Recod who is to keep itt till the 40 s be pd, it is also granted that the sd Layton may appeare at the next qter Court & be heard in the case non appearance Judgmt orderd.

An acon of Trespass C. by Richard Burden plā Cont Ralph Earle 100 *li* damag Willm Richardson & Barth Hunt baile 100 *li* a peece

An acon Com by Nich Easton pla agst Wm Dyre 5 marke damag

An acon of trespass of Mr Eastō contra George Baldwine 20 marks damage

An acon of trespass com by w<sup>m</sup> dyre of Nuport plā agst w<sup>m</sup> Coddington deft in an acon of . . . to the . . . dammage 40 *li*" (R. I. C. R. p. 9.)

"Ingrocmt of Mr Coddington declara[tion] May the XXIIth 1646

The declaracon of william Coddington of Nuport in Roade Island Gent Plaintiff agst Jeremy Gould of the same towne Complaineth agst the said Jeremy in an acon of debt of breach of Covenant by vertue of a Covent or lease, Signed & Sealed betweene the forsaid Plaintiff and defft interchangably and befor divers sufficient wittnesseth, bearing date the first day of July in the sixteenth yeare of king Charles Ano. 1646 that wheras the sd Jeremie hath by his lease or Covent Indented and bound himself to keep and maniteyne himselfe his wife & a maid servant & five able men kind good workers to bee employed upō and about the demised premises of the farme for the benefitt of the said

farme & also one to keepe the demised goates & the said Jeremy is to the best of his skill to imploy appoint & improve the Labors of himselfe & those other eight prsons befor Covenanted for for the best advantage of the said farme & the said Plaintiff & Now so it is that for the space of above thess three yeares last past that is to say from the 23 day of oct 1642 untill the 25<sup>o</sup> day of may 1646 the sd defft hath willfully neglected the observing of his Covent & hath not kept so many able servants as his chardge, neyther hath he the sd defft to the best of his skill imployd himselfe & those other eight prsons before Covenanted to the best advantage of the demised premises to the damage of the platf 500 *li*

And wheras the said defft is to Redeliver two of the oldest demised oxen unto sd Plā ev yeare yearly during the Covent on the first of May and to Receave tw[o] steeres in their Roames, the sd defft hath refused so to do to the damage of sd Plā 20 *li*

And wheras the said defft is to imploy the Labors of the draught Cattle Coming unto him for the best advantage of the demised prmises & the Plaintiffs thatt is to say twelve oxen, one stoned horse & one mare the sd defft hath divers times used the demised oxen to his owne use & profit on & above the twelve dayes specefied in his Covent & also the demised horse & mare wholly to his owne use & service & nt at all upō the demised prmises according to the true purport & meaning of the Covent to the damag of the sd Plā 10 *li*

And wheras the sd defēt is to mainteyne & make good sufficient fences ab[out] the demised prmises, And to beare Equall charg therat for the preservacon & Safety of the Corne & seed sowen the said defftt hath nt sufficiently at all kept the fences in good Repair for the space of thess three ye[ares] last past to the damage of the Plā 300 *li*

And wheras all acct's weh shall arise to be dew unto the

Plā shall be [ten]dered & Cleerd once in six months, he the sd defft hath not tenderd hath not cleered no acct for the space of thess three years [last] past to the damag of the Plā 100 *li*

And wheras the sd defft was to expend the surpluss of . . . upō the Cattle of Plā & defft equally by Number & growth and on no other persons the said defft for thess three winters last past hath kept divers numbers of Cattle over & above the plaintiff Contrary to his Covent to the damāg of 50 *li*

And wheras the said diffendant is by his Covent bound to imploy himself and those eyght persons Covented for to the best of his skill for the best benefit & improvmt of the sd demised prmises now so it is that the said defft hath nt imployed himself & those eight prsons to the best of his skill for the manuring of the demised premises in keeping it in good . . . fitt for tillage but hath worne itt out for want of good manuring to the damage of the Plā 200 *li*

And wheras the sd defft is to Cary all the Corne of the demised into the barne or barnes of the demised prmises & ther according unto [the] intent and purport of the Covent to cause it to be therashed, & . . . to give notice to the plā wn it is so therashed & cleansd . . . devided ther by the bushell, the sd defft contrary herunto hath . . . to the sd Plā att any time or times to . . . at the great . . . Corne so threashed & cleansed as aforsd to the damage of *li*” (R. I. C. R. p. 3.)

[undated Court Record]

“Memo that upon the misbehaviour of Ralph Earle of Portsmo this prsent Court In comming ther into & saying that if the Court would not administer an oath unto him he would administer it to himself & so Informe the Grand Jury divers & other Rude deportmts he was bound to his good behavior in the sum of Tenn pounds to or Sovereign Lord the Kings matie.



An ac of slaunder by Com Richard Morris of Portsmo agst Thomas Gorton of the same Towne in xx *li* damage for the extravagancie of his wives Tongue in abusing the sd Richard, the Jury find for pla x *li* damage & costs: or else the woman to acknowledg her fault, who accordingly did & the damag was Remitted

An ac of the Case Com by Henry Bull & Nicholas will'd agst John Throgmorton

An ac of Case Com by Nicholas Cotterell of Nuport agst Thomas Applegate for [defect] of his fence wherby the pla hath susteined damag to 5 *li* by the defft demurrd

An ac of the Case Com by John Alsborough of Portsmo pla agst Wm withington of Sachuis 5 *li* damag by the defft demurrd till the next Court & then upo non appearance of the defft the Issue was joined and found for pla 50*s* damage and costs.

An ac of slaunder Com by Adam mott Senr agst John Anthony x *li* dam by the assent of both being bound in a bond of x *li* a peece that the Govr Mr Easton Mr Cogshall shall determine all matters between them in 3 dayes

Ther were 5 acon com between Jeremy Gould & John Layton but all demurrd & at the next Court agreed that Mr Brenton Mr Balsto Mr Easton & mr Jer: Clark should determine the matters in difference." (R. I. C. R. p. 13.)

"The declaracon of John Richman of Nuport plaintiff agst John west of the same towne in a plea of sur le case Complaineth that wheras the said John Richman plaintiff did agree wth the aforstd John west by a verball accord vidgt that the sd defft shuld helpe to build the said plantiff a mansio house by the mill brook at Nuport & to be finished by Aprill last past was twelve months the deffendant hath nt so done to the damag or yr pla. xxx *li*

thirtie eight weekes diett & washing to the valew of nine pounds ten shillings at five shillings p week.

And further the said Pla Complaineth tht wheras seeing ther was no written Covent nor wittness of the bargaine



making between the sd Pla & defft but the sd Pla relying upo the honestie of the defft in the accord, Yett so it is that since the house so farr done as it is, and the difference arysing between the sd Pla & defft the Pla hath divers times offered to Comprmise the matter of difference between them and to that end did take wth him two sufficient workmen to Judge of the worke who have given undre their hands their estemacion of the sd work tht so a peaceable end might be made the sd defft hath Refused to attend therto to the damage of yr pla xx *li* Referred & ended." (R. I. C. R. p. 4.)

"The declaracon of Mr Willm Coddington pla agst Jeremy Gold defft, Complaineth against the sd defft in an acon of Accountm May 22° 1646

Wheras the sd pla did demise in the yeare 1642 unto the sd defft 60 female goats & 3 shooc rams to be kept of the demised premises at the care & chardg of the defft for the milck & the one moytie of the increase and to deliver unto the pla yearly the other moyetie and thess to be pted yearly when they are weaned after the old stock being made up out of the ewe kidds befor the dividnt Now soe it is that the sd defft hath at no time for the space of fowre yeares last past mad no dividnt of the increase of the demised goats unto the pla to the damage of the pla twenty pounds

And wheras the sd pla did demise in the yeare 1640 unto the sd defft eight Cowes to bee kept as aforesaid and the increase therof equally to be divided in the beginning of May the yeare after they are fallen (and in the meane before the dividnt) they to be kept on the farme in the most secure place from harme & danger according to the true purport & meaning of the Covent the sd defft Contrary here unto hath nt for thess five yeares last past kept the increase of thess demised cattle in some safe & secure place on the farme neyther hath made any true dividnt of the increase of the demised cattle unto the pla to the damage of the pla 50 *li*

And wheras the sd pla did demise unto the defft in the yeare aforsd one mare to be imployed of the demised prmises & the sd pla to have & Receive one moyetie of the Labor & increas of the sd mare, the defft Contrary herunto hath nt at all or at least once made any trew dividnt of the increase to the damag of the pla 6 *li*

And wheras the sd pla did demise unto the sd defft in the yeare aforsd one farme Contayning 350 acs more or less to be imployed & improved to the best of the skill of the defft for the best advantage & Profit of both, the pla & defft the sd defft is to give & yeeld unto the pla the one moyetie of all the increase of the Corne arising & growing of the demise prmises Now so itt is that the sd defft for the Space of five yeares last past hath broken up and sowed for score or 100 acs of Land more or less wheron hath Risen & growne great crops of severall graine to the valew of 1500 bush a yeare at least wherof no accompt hath been given unto the pla to the damage of the pla 400 *li*

Wheras the sd pla did demise unto the sd defft in the yeare aforsd to be kept at the care & chardg of the sd defft 8 Cowes & that if threw the will full neglect of the sd defendt or any of his servts that any of the sd demised Cattle shall dye or be killed then shall the sd defft beare the loss, Now so it is that two of thess demised cattle hath threw the will full neglect of him & his servts been killed & dyed to the damag of the pla 14 *li*

And wheras the sd pla did lend unto the defft in the yeare aforsd one black ston'd Colt the sd defft hath nt since tht time Rendered him againe but hath Converted him to his owne use to the damag of the pla 12 *li*

wheras the sd defft doth stand indebted to the sd pla for 3 yds  $\frac{1}{2}$  of dimetie valew 1 s 2 bush &  $\frac{3}{4}$  of salt 13 9 d for 4 skinns 12s for wheat 3s 9d for a bed cord 1s 8d . . . candles 3s 4d for freitt of a . . . 1s 3d for xxs dew upo the last accompt 4*li* paid for you in the Pay to Mr Wm Ting for

Iron xxs a sith 7s a new sack . . . all wh & the sd defft stands in debt unto the sd pla to the damage of the pla 10 li” (R. I. C. R. p. 4.)

“The *sum of the Presentment of Samuel Gorton at Portsmouth in Roade-Island, by the Grand Jury.*

First, that *Samuel Gorton* certaine dayes before his appearance at this Court, said, the Government was such as was not to bee subjected unto, forasmuch as it had not a true derivation, because it was altered from what it first was.

2 That *Samuel Gorton* contumeliously reproached the Magistrates calling them Just Asses.

3 That the said *Gorton* reproachfully called the Judges, or some of the Justices on the Bench (corrupt Judges) in open Court.

4 That the said *Gorton* questioned the Court for making him to waite on them two dayes formerly, and that now hee would know whether hee should bee tryed in an hostile way, or by Law, or in sobriety.

5 The said *Gorton* allēdged in open Court, that hee looked at the Magistrates as Lawyers, and called Mr. *Easton*, Lawyer *Easton*.

6 The said *Gorton* charged the Deputy Governour to bee an Abetter of a Riot, Assault, or Battery, and professed that he would not touch him, no not with a paire of tongues: Moreover he said, I know not whether thou hast any eares,<sup>1</sup> or no: as also, I think thou knowest not where thy ears stand, and charged him to be a man unfit to make a warrant.

7 The said *Gorton* charged the Bench for wresting wittenesse, in this expression, I professe you wrest wittenesse.

8 The said *Gorton* called a Freeman in open Court (saucy Boy, and Jack-an-Apes;) and said, the woman that was upon her oath, would not speake against her mother, although she were damned where she stood.

<sup>1</sup> See Doc. Hist. of R. I. vol. 1, p. 64.

9 The said *Gorton* affirmed that Mr. *Easton* behaved himselfe not like a Judge, and that himself was charged either basely or falsly.

10 The said *Gorton* said to the Bench, Ye intrude Oaths, and goe about to catch me.

11 The said *Gorton* being reproved for his miscarriage, held up his hand, and with extremity of speech shooke his hand at them, insomuch that the Freemen present said, Hee threatens the Court.

12 The said *Gorton* charged the Court with acting the second part of *Plymouth* Magistrates, who, as hee said, condemned him in the Chimney corner, ere they heard him speak.

13 The said *Gorton* in open Court did professe to maintaine the quarell of another being his Maid-servant.

14 The said *Gorton* being commanded to prison, imperiously resisted the authority, and made open Proclamation, saying, take away *Coddington*, and carry him to prison; the Governour said again, all you that owne the King, take away *Gorton* and carry him to prison; *Gorton* replied, all you that own the King, take away *Coddington*, and carry him to prison.

*William Dyre* Secretary."

(Winslow's "Hyprocrisie Unmasked," 1646, p. 55.)



Seal of Benedict and Damaris Arnold

## XVI

### CONTEMPORARY LETTERS

THE following contemporary letters with their homely details give a little local color to our idea of Newport life in the early seventeenth century.

“To the Right Worshipfull and his much esteemed John Winthrape Esqr. Governour of the Massachusets,  
dd. in Boston.

Right Worshipful, — Haveing so opportune a measeinger as your owne Indean, being by my pinnice returned from Blocke Iland, & doth now hast to returne unto yow, I doe make bould to salute yow, haveing littell else to informe your worship of. Mr. James being returned lately from Quinepage doth informe that the Inhabitants did give their power to the Church, & the Church hath chosen Mr. Theophilus Eaton their Magistrate, for so they call him, Mr. Newman, Mr. Ffugall, Mr. Gilbard, Captin Turner, assistants. He did likewise informe that they have taken one of the Pequit murderes Nepawbuck by name, & have putt him to death. I have the names of 12 of the Pequits morders that are yet alive. Your Indan knowes some of them, his brother more, & wher they live. Our Indeans here are peaceable, though we trust them not. Could be glad to here from your worships, if any thinge be attempted aginest them about two maires & cowe we heare they have killed, that we might stand upon our gard. I am removed 12 myles further up to the Iland. Ther they have gathered

a Church, & doe intend to chuse officers shortly, & do desire better healpes in that kind, when the Lord is pleased to send them, & would gladly use what meanes doth lye in us to obtayne them. Things are in fare better passe concerning our civill governmentt then they have bene, divers Famelyes being come in that had revolted from ther owne acte, & have given satisfaction. Mr. Gorton & Mrs. Huchson doth oppose it It was hached when I was in the Baye, & the Lord, I hope, will shortly putt an esew to it. Being in great hast, with my love to yourselfe, Mrs. Winthrape, & all that doe remember me, I take leave & rest,

Yours to be commaunded wher in I maye,

Willm Coddington.

Acquednecke, Decmr. 9. 1639.

Mr. John Cogshall, Mr. Willm. Brenton, & Sergant Balstone doe desire to have their service presented to your worship."

Indorsed by Gov. Winthrop, "Mr. Coddington." (M. H. S. C. 4, 7, 279.)

"To the Worshipfull and his much respected frind John Winthrape Esqr. at his howse in Boston, dd.

Worthy & Beloved, — I have recaived your letter sent by my Cozen Burt, in answer wher unto I would not have yow trobled how to write unto me, seeing at this distance we knowe not how other wayes to confer to geather. Many loveing letters have passed betweene us, at a fare greater distance of place then now we bee at. Possibely yow may conceive of things deeper, or otherwayes, then ther is cause for. I doe intend to answer for my selfe (by neighbors) I doe not knowe howe yow doe meane, unlesse it be the brethren that did remove with me. It may be they are better able to answer for themselves than I am. I was sick



when the measinger yow mention came to the Iland, who said they had onely one Question to put to me, which was whither I did hould my selfe to stand a member of the Church of Boston or not. I answered, to my best remembrance, to this effecte, that the Question was very considerable, & needed my best health to answer to it, but for these grounds I did scruple it, viz: after serous debate at 2 solomon meeting, in which very few of the members was wanting (to my best remembrance, & so others afferme allso) which meeting was first accationed by the motion of one of the members nowe resident with you, and as I toucke it in the name of others; my selfe and Mr. John Coggshall, being to geather at my howse, with some other brethren, that wee two, & some others he mentioned, would remove, for their peace, & settlement, &c. I did inquire how that might be without offence, he said he would procuer us a church meeting, in which it should be transacted. At the later, our teacher being out of the towne when the former was, it was with the generall advice & consent of all (as I take it) we were commended to the grace of God in Christ Jesus in our removall, & it was the substance of Mr. Cotton's sermonds the next Lord's Day, wher ther was not Churches to commend their brethren two, ther they might commend them two the grace of God in Christ Jesus; which I have related to some Elders & brethren of other Churches amongst your selvs, as else wher, some by word, others by writing, & though they differ as I have to show, "1 Elder sayth it was a dumbe dismisson. 2: Elder sayth it was because most of them was departed in their spirits then from the sents here. The 3d Elder sayeth directly that it was a dismisson, & that your church had not further to doe," &c. And trewely I would seriously move this question, that if the Church Covenant did reche me, being removed, upon what grounds they did first advise & motion my departuer, which must of nessetye cutt of that relation.





GRAVESTONE OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM CODDINGTON AT NEWPORT.



For that place aleged by yow, Mathew 18, it doth re-mayne yet to be proved by scripture that any Church did ever clame power over their brethren, removed by their consent, more then those that was never in fellowshipe with them. It was tendered by Mr. Hibings, & accepted by me, that some thing should be donn on this kind, but I have hard no thing of it as yet, I would therfore wish my brethren knewe it, & that I was not thus charged.

2ly I may to your selfe answer my dismisson out of the Commonwealth, & when I was departed the feare that the contrie expressed, which stands upon recourde in your Court booke, that my selfe & others of us was gone out of the way, (when wee went to seeke out a place for our abod, & though I have it to shew under your selfe & the Governors hand that nowe is, that I had a yeares libertye for my removeall) to escape onely the censer of the Court for the present, & therfore it was inacted that unlesse we were departed by such a tyme, we were to appeare at the Courte. For my owne part, I was not willing to live in the fyer of contention with your selfe (& others whome I honored in the Lord), haveing lived 7 yeares in place of Government with yow, but chose rayther to live in exsile & to put my selfe upon a sudayne removall, upon 14 dayes tyme, to a place with out howseing, chuseing rather to fall in to the hand of God; which what my selfe & wife & fameyle did induer in that removeall, I wish nether you nor yours may ever bee put unto. If after all this under taken of my part for peace, we must clash, & make it appeare in the Christian world, we that are as a citty set of hill: (the will of our God be donn) I could wish for the good of both plantations that it was other wayes, & muteall love & helpefullnes continued.

For the letters you mention, they haveing said before that they had onely one thing to propound to me, & not profering me any leters, I might not possibely attend, being

sick, to what passed aboute them, as indeed I do not remember now, would they that wos aboute me have bene willing, yf they had profered me them, that I should then have read them, feareing it would doe me hurte. Sence my recovery I have desired a copy of them, & have bene promised one. The other thing you mention, concerning our uncurteous entertayment of your Church's measingers, I have enquired into it, & cannot understand but that they were recaved with respect & curteously entertayned at both plantations.

For the Indeans I could wish all lenety towards them, which understand not possibly the natuer of a promise, they saye it was that if any iniuryed the English, they would not protecte them, but deliver them up to make satisfaction ether in their persons or estates. Ther is a lude Felowe, one Tho. Saverye, whom I heare is now in durance with yow, who haveing stolne a paire of showes from my howse, of the Lords day, & heareing it was discovered, fled from the Iland to the 7 myles river, & ther being afflicted in consence, (as he pretended) for what he had donn, came to acknowledge the evill of it, & give satesefaction. I susspected though he seemed to crye, he did but dissemble, therfore searched him, & found of him a silver s[...] marked 1639, which he said he had 6 yeare, which wos [a]bove 4 yeare before it wos mayd, allso a bugle purre & a gould ringe, (which he said he found, as theefes use to fynd their goods) but wanting a prison he mayd an escape from us before punishmentt, aboute 5 weekes sence. Lately I was informed that at a place caled Puncatasset, upon the mayne land, wher he kept the last sumer, & wos much freequent in folowing, &c. he hath a child by an Indean womon, which is a boy, & is not black-haired lick the Indean children, but yelow haired as the English, & the womon being laitely delivered, doth say English man got it, & some of them name him, & when

he ranne away from us, he would at Titecute have lyne with Knowe Gods mother, which doth speake of it in detestation, & that those that professe them selvs to be Christians should be more barberous & wyld then Indeans, to the reproch of our nation & the dishoner of God. Seing God hath delivered him into your hands, I thought meet to informe yow, that yow might se justice donn of him. Thus with my due respect to the Governor, your selfe, the Debty Governor, Mr. Endecote, Mr. Humfreyes, Mr. Nowell, & Mr. Bradstreete, &c. I sease from writeing, but not from remayneing

Your loveing frind till death

Wm. Coddington.

Newport this 22th of May 1640.

Ther is a lude person, one Hugh Durdall, that Mr. Pamer brought in to the cuntrie, being bound over to answer some misedemenour at the next Courte, hath mayd escape awaye about 2 dayes sence, & is feared will git passage in the West Indean ship. He is much indebted here also.

*Vale in Dom: Jesu."*

Indorsed by Gov. Winthrop., "Mr. Coddington, Resp. (4) 11,-40." (M. H. S. C. 4, 6, 316.)

"Right worll

We have laityly received a letter from Barborah Sabire, the wife of James Sabire, now resident in Boston, with you, wherin we understand tht he hath made complaint of her, if not false accusations laid against her, theirfor we thought good to testefy, being desired their unto, what he confessed upon examination, before us whose names are heare under written: The ground of his examination was from



some false reporte he had raised up against his wife, we calld them falce because they proved so to be when they weare inquired into, but not to trouble you with those: A word or tow of what he did confess, when the question was demaned of him, did your wife deny unto you due benevolence, according to the rule of god or no. his answer was she did not, but she did & had given her body to him, this he confessed, & did cleare her of tht wch now he condemnes her for & this may evince it & prove it to be so, for he did heare likewise reporte his wife was wth childe, wch we understand he doth also deny unto your wor'pps and tht will also prove him to speake falsely if he shall say his wife did deny him mariage fellowship untill he did come under your goverment: 3 dly this we must wittness that his wife was not the ground or cause of his being sett in the stockes, but for his disturbance of the peace of the place at unseasonable howers wheras people weare in bedd, & wthal for his cursinge & swearing & the like, Againe a word or tow conserning his life when he was wth us, It was skandolus & offensive to men sinfull before god; & towards his wife, Instead of putting honour upon her as the weaker vessell, he wanted the naturall affection of a reasonable creature, we also found him Idle & in deed a very drone sucking up the hony of his wives labour, he taking no paines to provide for her, but spending one month after an other wthout any labour at all, it may be some finde one day in a month he did something being put upon it, being threatened by the govourment heare; & Indeed had he not bene releived by his wife & her freinds wheare shee did keepe, he might have starved, besides he is given very much to lying, drinking strong waters and towards his wife showing nether pittty nor humanetie, for Indeed he could not keepe from boyes & servants, secrete passages betwixt him & his wife about the maryage bedd, and of those things theire is more wittenesses then us, and concerning



her; she lived wth us about 3 quarters of a yeare, whose life was unblamable befor men for anything we know being not able to chardg her in her life & conversation but, beside her masters testimony, who best knowes her is this, that she was a faithfull, carfull, & panfull both servant & wife to his best observation, during the tyme wth him, those things we being requested unto, we prsent unto your wise considderations hoping tht by the mouth of 2 or 3 wittnesses, the innocent wilbe acquitted, & the guilty rewarded according to his worke; thus ceasing further to trouble you we take our leaves & rest.

Your worppl Lo: freinds

Willm Hutchinson

William Baulston

William Aspinwall

John Sanford

Portsmouth

the 29th of 4th 1640" (M. H. S. C. Winthrop papers 1, 135.)

"To the Worshipfull & his much respected frind John Winthrope Esqr. at his howse in Boston, dd.

Per Mr. Jer. Gould.

Newport Aug. 25, 1640.

Worshipfull & Beloved, — Your leter of the 11th of the 4 mo. I recaived. The substance of your whole leter to me falles into these 2 heads.

First will conserne your Church Covenant: this I aleged in my former leter as that which wos the princepale force with me, which yow did not answer unto, viz. That it doth remayne to be proved by the rules of the gosple, that any church ever clamed power over their brethren removed, more then over those that was never in fellowshipe with them. Mr. Hibings promised, & I accepted, that your

church covenant should be sent, with grounds to prove this poynte. The other that yow answer tow, of the advice I had taken with Elders & brethren in the poynt, & of the consent of the maior part of the Church, was but subordinate to this.

2 head of your leter doth trench upon the passages, concerning Mr. Weelewrights banishment. What I did ther in was in discharge of my conscence in my place. And trewley, Sir, to my deserneing, whither yow did well or I, depends of the trewth of the cause, the way of soulvation, & evidencing therof, which Mr. Cotton & he affermed, & the rest of the Elders opposed, which remaynes yet controvered, for ought I knowe. I well approve of a speech of one of note amongst yow, that we were in a heate & chafed, & were all of us to blame; in our strife, we had forgotten wee were brethren. Not further at this present.

I was advised by leter first out of the Baye that the Governor, & the Deputy, & other of the magistrates had adviced & encouraged the towne of Brantree to commence a sute aginest me, after I recaived a note from the Governor that it was for a promise. I knowe no thing of it, in regard wher of I desire that the Plantives may put in their Complant in Answer, & that I may have tyme given to put my defence, seing, for these reasons I have aleged to the Governor, & others, I cannot be free to come & plead my cause, & seing it is according to what is practized in our native land, & the courts of justice ther established. I could wish that we, that have lived 7 yeares in place of magistracey to geather, might not multeplye greveances one aginest an other; but I shall not ade further ther in. I have sent over the berer, Mr. Jer. Gould, who is desirous to confere with your worship about it. The Nara-gansets & Nantequits keepe constant wach sence Conectecute men touck 3 Nantequits. Ther be 12 notorious murder[er]s yet liveinge, 4 at Nantequite, & 8 of them at

Mohegen according to my best intelegence, whose names I have. The Nanteqets would deliver up their 4, but they would have Ocas first deliver up his 8, that they may see its justice the English seekes. With my love & my wives, presented to your selfe & yours, I rest yours

Wm Coddington."

Indorsed by Gov. Winthrop, "Mr. Coddington about the Church, R (6) 25,-40." (M. H. S. C. 4, 6, 318.)

"Honored Sir, — I doe thankfully acknowledge your love unto mee in your kind profer to my agent, Mr. Jer. Clarke, to return to me my runn away servant, Tho. Jonnes, in case hee could have bene found. I shall be ready to bee commaunded by yow in the licke or wherin I may heare. Now deare Sir, for soe you have bene to mee, as Sollomon sayth, ther is a frind that [erased] nearer then a brother! Oh, that the nearnes of that relation had never bene vyo-lated. But wee are men, & so wee shew ourselves. Some tymes deifying of men & ordenances, other whyle vylefy-ing of them. The Lord hath let mee see the vanetye of my owne spirit, and need of attending of him in all his ordenances, but I cannot inlardge, the meassinger staying. My desire is, that that anchent love which much watters cannot quench, may bee renewed, & in token wherof, that yow would recaive, at my hands, a smale remembrance therof, in a vessell of beefe, for your winter provishon, which is not yet redy, but aginst that tyme by some pinice that commeth this way, shall be sent unto yow. Though the thing bee not worth the mentioning betweene us, yet because I remember your loveing excussing of your non-acceptance (of my profer in this kind att my depar-tuer) so as it did not, nore doth not take any impression of unkindnes with mee, & I hope that which wos then a ground to yow is removed, yet I desire yow fully to satisefye

mee heare in, if it (or rather I) may thus fare fynd acceptance with yow. Not other at present, with the remembrance of my love & my wifes to your selfe & yours, with all that remember us, I rest

Your assuured lo: friend

Wm. Coddington.

Newport, mo 4. 12, 1643." (M. H. S. C. 4, 6, 319.)

"Honored Sir —

Yors of the (8) 10-43 I have received filled wth exsamples of the Judgments of God of the Duth & English that fell by the Indeans, for the English yow mention, their forsaking the fellowship of god's people & ordenances, & the unseasonableness of seeking of greate things, the lord plucking up what he hath planted, &c., though I might render some excuses, yet I forbear & doe acknowledge my neglecte in not writeinge unto you long ere this, & returning a thankfull acknowledgement of your love in setting before me such grave exhortations . . . lemons, let the righteous smite me, it shall not ( break) my head, noe, it shall be a healing balsome. I have forsaken yourselfe and others against my . . . posses in distance of place, yet I hope and live by his grace never shall in affection till my dying day, and the ordenances with you both in Church & Commonwealth, are to me the ordenances of the lord Jesus. And the lord hath begunne to let me see by experience that a man's comfort doth not depende in the multitude of those things he doth possesse, the lord having this last winter taken from me a larg Corn Barne which did cost me above or aboute 150£, building, my farm house, 12 Oxen, 8 Cowes, 6 other beasts, in which howses was my Corne for Seed, and spending and paying my debts, the fyer breaking forth in the night, neither beeding nore household stuff, nore so much as my servants wering cloth, nothing but the shertes of their backs was saved, and lives

to the valew of 4 or 500.£. And yet blessed be his name, he is the portion of my sowle, I shall not wante, he hath by one pvidence or other pvided for me a considerable surplys, so that I have enough, blessed be his name. And being nowe in writeinge, I shall make bould to ade a word to 3 or 4 pticulers in yors to Mr. Brenton and Mr. Balstone (my loving friends), & in them to me you desire they much consider in what relation they stand to the Church and Commonwealth wth you for the Church to answer for itselfe, we being not to . . . doe look at that Church Meeting at Mr. Balstone's . . . wch I was advised to remaine and Comended to the grace of god . . . christ Jesus in so doing, and the sermon concerning of it the . . . lord does that wher ther wer not churches to comend ther brethern unto, ther they might comend them to the grace of god, &c., to carie with it the force of a dismissiō wch is not my light alone, but of the reverent and larned, I desire that this lynne of devishiō was removed, that I might have such free acesses to all as to see their faces wth comfort, and to ptake with you in the ordenances. 2ly. For the Comonwealth the difference arose about Mr. Wheelwright[s] banishment of which he is released (as I am informed), but if it was a meanes in rayseing any unquietnes in the Comonwealth, I shall upon information indevor to give satisfaction, the lord so helping me.

3ly. For Gorton as he came ther be of the Island before I knew of it, and is here against my mynd, so shall he not by me be pteded. I could have hartely desired for the god I pfeesse of both plantations, that we had not bene rejected in alyance wth you aboute the Indeans, wch now the generaletie here will be averse from, the trewth is, here is a pty wch doe adhere unto Gorton & his Company in both the plantations, & Judge them so much strength to the place wch be neither frinds to you nore us. Now the trewth is, I desire to have either such alyence with yor-

selves or Plimouth, one or both, as might be safe for us all. I have my cheefe intrest the Island, it being bought to me & my friends, and how inconvenient it might be if it were possessed by an enemye lying in the heart of the plantations & convenient for shiping, I cannot but see I want both Counsell & Strength to effect what I desire. I desire to hear from you & that you would burye what I write in deepe silence, for what I write I never impted to any, nor would to you had I the least doubt of yor faythfullness that it should be uttered to my prejudice.

for Morton he was . . . who was for the King at his first coming to Portsmouth, & would report to such as he judged to be of his mynd, he was glad [to be met with] so many Caveleres, to Mr. Hart (as I am informed) of Cohannet, he discoursed something in this way, & after doubted he was not trew, & he had lands to dispose of to his followers in each province, from Cape Ann to Cape Cod was one he did & disposed of to Lambert Woodward. My Tenant Gould was his hosthouse, he being much taken with him, & towld me wch I will afferme with my oath, that he had land to dispose of in each plantation a . . . his son John some land, & tht he had wronge in the bay [to the] valew of 200£, & mayd bitter complaints thereof but Morton would let it rest as he tould me till the Governor came over to right him, & did intimate he knew whose roste his spits & jacks turned, &c., but I feare tediousness, & therefore wth the tender of my love to the Govr yorselpe Mr. Dudley & who also remember me, I take leave & rest.

Yors,

Wm Coddington.

Newport, Aug. 5, 1644

Pesecus nore Canonecus have not sent unto me since I rejected a present of 30 fingers & thumes after first attempt.

Osemecome was last Satterday at my house, & doth say he is all one hart wth . . . & sayth that Canonecus



sent him to borrow some peeces he hath to goe againe . . . the next weeke, which he refused to lend. [I] told him he did well so to doe, & to . . . he knew . . . vale." (Mass. Archives 2, 5; N. H. M. v. 3, p. 1.)

"To his honnered friend

John Winthrop Esq

Gor of the Massachusets

p mr Robt Jefferye"

"Honnered Sr

I thought meet to informe yow that yor sonn mr John & all his, Depted from or Island of the 3 day in the morneing arely, the wynd being not good to Carye them further then block Island. but of the 4 Day in the morneing it was very good, so tht I Doubt not they were all safely arrived before the Storme begane: by whome I receaved yor let of the 21 of the 8-46. for Gorton & his Companye they are to me as ever they have bene, their freeDom of the Island is Dennyed, & was when I accepted of the place I nowe beare. the Comishoners have Joyned them in the same Charter, tho we mentayne the Govermtt as before. to further that end yow write of, I sent to Mr. Cotton to be Delivered to Mr. Elott, tht requested it, wt was entered upon record under the Secretaries hand, wch I Doe think yow may Doe well to mak use of, because I heare it sinkes most wth the Earle, wher they had libertie of consyence. Mr. Petters writes in tht yow sent to yor sonn, tht yow psecute. & soe in hast I rest not Doubting as accatione serves to approve. my self.

Yors ever

Newport Novr.

Wm Coddington

11.1646

my purposse is er long to come in to the baye. I Desire to be rembered to all tht remember me." (N. E. H. & G. R. 4, 221.)

“To the Worll: Jo: Winthrop, these present,

Worthy Sr—Respects presented &c: My bro: (who allso presents the like) having formerly related unto me your desire of Inlish hay seede, with the great benifite of it unto your Plantation, upon which I had reserved out of what I had promised what might serve your occations, yet since, it seemes, you have been pleased (supposinge incoveniencys) to with draw yor pleasure; but therein my bro thinks you will bereave your Plantation of an unknowne beni[fit] and being a well wisher to your Plantation, having such an oppertunitye, and such season to sowe it, I have ventered the sending, and hath informed Mr. Throgmorton, who allsoe hath much experience, how you shall order the same. There is 12 bushell heaped for allowance, in which is 5 sorts of seed [torn] will be both for moouing & feeding of cattle. I sell it here at 5s the bushell, concerning wch I have expressed my mind to Mr. Throgmorton, yor conueniencys & benifite of plantation being much desired,

By yors to command Robert Williams.

Providence, 18 Apl., 1647” (M. H. S. C. 5, 1, 343.)

“To the Worshipfull his much honored frind John Winthrope Jur Esqr at his plantation at Kaninicut, dd.

Per Tho. Stanton.

Worthy Sir, — My best respectes from my selfe, as allsoe my wifes, salute yow & yours. Sir, I recaived yours of the 17 of the present, to which I answer I intend to sell tenn ewes, most of them are as we calle them quine ewes, bringes two at a tyme, & few of them ould. Two ewes here in exchange ordenariely is given for a cowe, & the trewth is one ewe is as much profit to me as a cowe. Nowe, Sir, my price to yow is, and under which I will not sell them,

for I cann have more for them, 20 li in silver, English monye, I desire, paid in the Baye the 20 or the 21 of June next, for them I have accation to make use of it, and then I shall with in a weeke or tenn dayes after the recaite, deliver tenn to Mr. Smyth of Newhaven, or whome yow appoynte, who is to bringe me two Cottsewell rambes, & is to have black ewes for them (in lifetenant Gardners shalupe) if yow take order with him accordingly, who is about that tyme to be heare, of the Island, in hope to procuer some sheepe for New haven. Now, Sir, my desire is in the first place to pleasuer yow, & because I would not be disappoynted to answer my accations in the Baye, I desire your speedie answer with in 14 dayes or three weeks, the souner the better, for I dennye Secounke men till I heare from yow, & allsoe Newhaven & others. Ther will be no sheepe let of the Island, & those that are let are to the fowerths, for they do ordaneriely duple in a yeare, & more, for the lambes have lambs when they are a yeare ould; for here is noe wolves of the Iland but one or 2 that wos when yow were here. Thus expecting your speedie answer, in hast, I seasse from writeing, but not from remayneing Yours ever  
Wm Coddington.

Newport, Rod Island, Aprill 20, 1647." (M. H. S. C. 4, 6, 320.)

"To the Worll. John Winthrop in Nameag in Pecod this present.

Portsmouth this 22 day of Maye 1647.

Honnerd Ser, — I am bould to present these fewe lynes unto you in the behalfe of naybor Capting Morris, that have lattly lost his Indean mayde-servant, and as we sopose is com into your libertyes, by the intisement of her father and her unkell, that have latly bin at Capt Morris'es howse and lovvingly entertaynned and so have bine from time

[to time,] but at ther last being heare have tacken her away with them, as I am imformed. Her father's name is Quason and the mayd have a great cut in her face by the ie, and, as she have informed, she have a cusen living with you; therfor my request is that you be pleased, in the Captings behafe, to macke inquiry for her, and if found, to cause her to be sent home agayne unto her master, or so much wampom as may purches eather an other Indean or blackmor; for Mrtris Morris is agged and weack, and is in great destres for want of a survant, and also be plessed to understand she was a childe of death, delivered to hime by the Bay in time of the Pecod ware, and lad by tow yeares under the surgens handes.

Ser, the grounds of her going away I know not, for she was, to my knowledg, well kept and much tendered, both by master and mistris, and allso marradg have bine tendered unto her; but I macke to bold, only be plessed to tender mistris Morris' condistyon, and so presuming upon your redynes to do this fafour I tack leave,

Youers in the lick or any other sarvis

William Baulston.

My selfe and wife present our sarvis of love to your selfe and Mistris Winthrop." (M. H. S. C. 5, 1, 344.)

Honored Sir; — I reseyved your loving letters, for wch I thanke you, and I had saluted you wth the like, but had noe oppertunity sence to send to you, for both Thomas Stanton and Mr. Throckmorton fayled to call on me, altho I desired it, but now I have sent you, 12 boshells of heyseed. I filled the sakes, because I know you will not repent it & also I want corne. Thomas Stanton tould me he would have more, but he could not put in at our towne as he came back, but if you have not soe much corne for

present, I shall willingly stay till you have it. Thomas Stanton gave me a boshell & halfe for a boshell, for he held his corne at 3s. 4d. wth us, but sould it at last (at the other end) for 2s. 2d.; but a boshell & a halfe I am contented to take you, altho they that bought the corne of Tho. Stanton sells it for 2s 8d, & I sell my heyseed for 5s a boshell. What corne you send, if you put it in the sakes & leave it [at] your Iland, Mr. Throckmortō will sall for it there. I did inquire about sheep as you desired, & find none willing [to] put any out. I am informed Mr Alme at Portsmoth will sell some. The last weeke we had a Generale Court of the Province, and ther was a generall agreament (beyond expectatiō) to the satisfactiō of all. Ther was only 2 acts passed wherin a considerable party were unsatisfied, & the next day they were altered, soe that all were satisfied. The lawes of England are established wth very litle variatiō, & the lawes of Oleron or sea lawes for sea men, & the Court (thorow the earnest suit of many wth us) have made an order, that the Dutchmen shall pay the same customes wth us that we pay wth them, & that they shall not trad wth the Indians in our Provice (unles they allow us free trad wth them) upon forfeiture of ther goods, only I gott this thus fare moderated that the Gor should first be informed, & his answere to be considered on by the Court, before it be put in operatio. Sir, Captayne Moris sent me this note to informe me tht I might writt to you, but the messenger staying I cannot writt it out; he desires you will be pleased to doe what you can in it, for his wife is much straitned for want of her. Soe wth my love remembered to your selfe & wife, I take leave, but desire ever to remain your affectionate friend to serve you

John Coggeshall.

You may sow this hayseed now if you spred the hills, or upon other ground if you mow downe the grase or weeds

twise this sumer; but upon ground tht have bin planted (the hills being spred) it will come soner to perfectiō & les seed lost.

Newport, this 24 of May, 47" (M. H. S. C. 5, 1, 346)

"To his assuered lo: frind Mr. Jo: Winthrope, dd. Per Robt. Bull.

Mr. Jo: Winthrope and My Indeared Frind, — I kindly salute yow & yours Sir, I have, accordeing to your desire, sent yow but tenn ewes; they are all, I doe assuer yow, of the best English breed. I could have sent yow longeled & bigger sheepe, but these are better breed. I have sent yow five blacke & five whit. I judged it best so to doe, yow not expressinge your desire to me. They are all but sherings, that is, one yeare ould at last lambeinge, & nowe yeening of two, which is knowne by their teeth, none of them haveinge above two brod teeth. I have sent you a rambe lambe which is of my English breed lickewise, both by the ewe & rambe. I know the Iland nore the cuntrie could not have furnished yow with such a parsell of sheepe, out of my hand. I have write unto you two letters, which I do perceive yow have not received. I am glad I was on the Iland to deliver your sheepe my selfe. If yow desire to have more whit sheepe then blacke, then rambe your ewes with whit rambs; if more blacke then yow may save a blacke rambe out of your breed of blacke ewes; but by all meanes put not to your rambes till the latter end of the next month, November. Lond delivered shorte of tenn pounds, 2s 6d., & Rich. Rayment detaynes 10s 6d of myne in his hand for woole yow had of him. You may please to order me it in the Baye, whither I now am hasting to take passage for England with my doughter. Sir, if in any thing I may be serviceable to yow ther, yow may com-



maunde me. Let me have your letter to Mr. Petters; & soe I bid yow hartely fairewell. If wee never se one another againe, yet we part in trew love. Yours truly,

Wm Coddington.

Octor 14, 1648.

Sir, I pray yow send me my note."

Indorsed by John Winthrop, jun., "Mr. Coddington about the sheepe sent per Robert Bull, & directions about them." (M. H. S. C. 4, 7, 280.)



Seal of Daniel Gould



## INDEX

- Adams, Nathaniel, 118  
 Albro, John, 64, 128, 148, 161  
 Allen, George, 118  
     —, John, 142  
     —, Ralph, 118  
     —, Samuel, 118  
 Allerton, Isaac, 133, 138, 139  
 Almy, William, 139, 145, 148, 149, 151, 157, 183  
 Andrews, Edward, 119, 141, 142, 147  
 Anthony, John, 103, 119, 128, 132, 134, 137, 139, 145, 150, 161  
 Applegate, Thomas, 133, 135, 141, 147, 149, 161  
 Arnold, Benedict, 15, 165  
     —, Damaris, 165  
     —, John, 44, 117  
 Aspinwall, William, 15, 19, 21, 23, 33, 35, 50, 51, 56, 58, 67, 89, 90, 116, 173  
 Assotemuit, 27  
 Atkinson, Thomas, 132  
 Awards, Richard, 59, 95, 117, 120, 128, 132, 134, 151, 154, 157  
 Babcock, James, 139, 148  
 Backus, Isaac, 25  
 Baker, William, 42, 118  
 Baldwin, George, 157, 158  
 Ballard, Robert, 134  
 Barker, James, 128, 155  
 Bartlett, John, 79, 119  
     —, John R., 59, 60  
 Baulstone, William, 19, 33, 34, 36-39, 44, 45, 60, 64, 66, 67, 79, 89, 95, 96, 100, 107, 109, 115, 119, 121, 123, 127, 136, 138, 146, 156-158, 161, 167, 172, 177, 182  
 Baylie, Robert, 28, 60  
 Beeder, Thomas, 51, 58, 117, 136, 137  
 Bennett, Robert, 139, 150, 152, 155  
 Bishop, Henry, 103, 108, 118, 119, 132, 133, 139, 143  
 Bliss, George, 137  
 Block, Adrian, 12, 13  
 Borden, Richard, 37, 38, 49, 96, 104, 117, 120, 132, 134, 137, 140, 148, 153, 155, 156, 158  
 Bradstreet, Mr., 171  
 Browce (Brace), Edward, 103, 119  
 Brassy, Thomas, 132, 133, 146, 147  
 Brayton, Francis, 150  
 Brenton, Benjamin, 74  
     —, Elizabeth C., 74  
     —, William, 42-46, 48, 49, 51, 55, 66, 71, 74, 75, 94, 95, 97, 103, 105, 107, 115, 119, 121, 132, 137, 138, 140, 144, 147, 161, 167, 177  
 Brewster, Mr., 92  
 Briggs, John, 53, 59, 116, 117, 119, 121, 125, 134-136, 138, 139, 142, 145, 149, 157  
 Brightman, John, 20  
 Brooks, Thomas, 128, 132, 151, 154  
 Brown, Chad, 156  
     —, Nicholas, 59, 64, 117, 149  
 Browning, Nathaniel, 138, 146  
 Bull, Henry, 19, 33, 39, 43, 45, 48, 51, 70, 71, 76, 95, 96, 108, 119, 122, 135, 139-141, 143, 150, 154, 161  
     —, Robert, 184, 185  
 Bullock, Erasmus, 58, 117  
 Burrwood, Thomas, 79  
 Burt, James, 119, 167  
 Burton, Thomas, 118, 139, 151  
 Button, Mr., 92

- Callender, John, 35, 92, 93, 105  
 Canonicus, 24-27, 77, 178  
 Carder, Richard, 19, 24, 30, 33, 39, 41,  
     42, 45, 48, 67, 95, 116, 120, 121,  
     124  
 Carr, Robert, 53, 117, 119, 136  
 Champlin, Jeffrey, 30, 56, 103, 117, 119,  
     132, 134, 135, 137, 145, 146, 148,  
     150  
 Chapman, William, 136  
 Charles I, 58, 77  
 Clark, Jeremy, 48, 71, 76, 78, 79, 82,  
     95, 96, 109, 118, 119, 122, 128,  
     132, 136, 139, 146, 148, 153, 156,  
     157, 161, 175  
 —, John, 16, 18-21, 24, 34, 37, 39,  
     41-43, 45, 48, 49, 61, 71, 75, 78,  
     83, 84, 86, 92, 93, 95, 112, 119,  
     126, 144, 156,  
 —, Joseph, 53, 80, 93, 95, 117, 120,  
     132  
 —, Thomas, 20, 80, 93, 94, 117, 120  
 —, 134  
 Cleare, George, 59, 117, 150  
 Coddington, Mary, 33  
 —, William, 11, 19, 21, 23-25, 29, 30,  
     33-45, 47, 48, 52, 55-57, 64, 66,  
     68-73, 75, 76, 80, 84-86, 91, 94,  
     95, 97, 101, 105, 107, 112, 119,  
     121, 132, 134, 136, 143, 145, 147,  
     150, 156-158, 162, 165, 167, 171,  
     175, 176, 178, 179, 181, 185  
 Coggeshall, John, 19, 33-39, 43-46, 48,  
     49, 53, 55, 66, 71, 79, 89, 91, 94,  
     96, 100, 106, 107, 109, 112, 115,  
     119, 121, 135, 136, 147, 149, 152,  
     161, 167, 183  
 —, John, Jr., 128  
 Collins, Mr., 128  
 Cornell, Thomas, 98, 108, 119, 123, 128,  
     132, 135, 148, 154  
 Cory, John, 150  
 Cotterell, Nicholas, 118, 135, 138, 143,  
     145, 147, 149, 152, 154, 161  
 Cotton, John, 22, 28, 90, 168, 174, 179  
 Cowland, Ralph, 16, 98, 119, 123, 132,  
     134, 138, 155  
 Cowley, William, 30, 56, 73, 80, 94,  
     117, 120, 134  
 Crandall, John, 145, 149  
 Cranston, John, 128  
 Davis, James, 59, 117  
 —, Nicholas, 118  
 Dolling, John, 153  
 Doughty, Francis, 85, 86  
 Douth, Osamund, 42, 51, 117  
 Dudley, Mr., 178  
 Dummer, Richard, 42, 43, 116  
 —, Stephen, 42  
 —, Thomas, 42  
 Durdall, Hugh, 73, 118, 171  
 Dyre, Mary, 90  
 —, William, 19, 24, 29, 30, 34-37,  
     39, 41-43, 45, 46, 48-50, 56-58,  
     71, 75, 78, 83, 91, 94-97, 100, 104,  
     107, 114, 119, 121, 136, 138, 140,  
     141, 147, 152, 158, 165  
 Earle, Ralph, 59, 81, 117, 132, 138-140,  
     142, 146-148, 150, 151, 158, 160  
 Easton, Jonathan, 74  
 —, Nicholas, 33, 36-38, 41-46, 48,  
     49, 51, 53, 55, 67, 71, 74-76, 78,  
     79, 83, 84, 94, 96, 103, 109, 112,  
     114, 117, 119, 121, 138, 139, 141,  
     143, 146, 147, 149, 151, 156-158,  
     161, 164, 165  
 —, Peter, 38, 69, 128  
 Eaton, Theophilus, 105, 166  
 Eliot, John, 179  
 Emmons, Thomas, 95, 117, 120, 132,  
     139, 145  
 Endicott, John, 171  
 England, William, 151  
 Field, Robert, 43, 80, 94, 118  
 —, William, 134, 139  
 Fisher, Edward, 63  
 Foster, William, 76, 78, 95, 118, 119,  
     132, 149, 150

- Foster, Willliam, Jr., 133, 135  
 Francis I, 1  
 Free, John, 151  
 Freeborne, William, 19, 33, 34, 36, 39,  
     41, 42, 44, 45, 48, 60, 63, 67, 95,  
     119, 122, 132, 134, 139, 145, 150,  
     155  
 Fugall, Mr., 166  
 Gardiner, George, 64, 66, 80, 95, 117,  
     122, 128, 132, 134, 148, 150, 152,  
     181  
 Gibbs, John, 135, 139  
 Gibbons, Edward, 86, 87  
 Gilbert, Mr., 166  
 Gilham, Robert, 118  
 Gorton, Samuel, 47, 48, 54, 56-58, 66,  
     68, 84, 86, 97, 117, 164, 165, 167,  
     177, 179  
 —, Thomas, 108, 120, 122, 128, 132,  
     148, 151, 161  
 —, wife of Thomas, 161  
 Gould, Daniel, 155, 185  
 —, Jeremy, 103, 118, 119, 132, 134,  
     135, 137, 139, 149, 151, 154-158,  
     161, 162, 173, 178  
 —, Thomas, 128, 155, 156  
 —, Mrs., 158  
 Greene, John, 31, 154  
 Greenman, David, 142, 154  
 —, Edward, 155  
 —, John, 119, 153  
 Gregson, Mr., 130  
 Griffin, Robert, 154, 155  
 Grinnell, Matthew, 119  
 Hakluyt, 6  
 Hall, John, 118, 145, 148, 151  
 —, William, 20, 58, 117  
 Hammond, George, 153, 155  
 Harding, Philippa, 90  
 —, Robert, 42, 43, 107, 112, 119, 126,  
     141-143, 145, 149  
 Hardy, John, 128  
 Hart, Mr., 178  
 Havens, William, 59, 118, 138, 142, 147  
 Hawkins, Job, 59, 62, 95, 117, 120, 132,  
     134  
 —, Richard, 63, 132, 137, 148, 151  
 —, 135  
 Haynes, Mr., 105  
 Hazard, Edward, 70  
 —, Thomas, 23, 71, 74, 75, 94, 117,  
     120, 134  
 Helme, Christopher, 137  
 Herne, 41, 84  
 Hibbins, William, 86, 87, 169, 173  
 Hicks, Herod, 151, 152  
 —, John, 103, 118, 120, 134, 148, 151,  
     152  
 Hill, Valentine, 52, 53  
 Hitt, Thomas, 118  
 Hobbs, Robert, 143, 144, 150  
 Holden, Randall, 19, 24, 27, 28, 30,  
     34, 37, 39, 40-43, 45, 48, 95, 116,  
     120, 121, 124  
 Holliman, Ezekiel, 83, 85, 92, 93, 133,  
     138, 139, 147, 156  
 —, Mary, 115, 138, 139  
 Holmes, Obadiah, 120  
 Hopkins, Mr., 105  
 Horndall, John, 153-155  
 How, 149  
 Hubbard, Samuel, 93  
 Hudson, John, 79  
 Humphreys, Mr., 171  
 Hunt, Bartholomew, 155, 158  
 —, Enoch, 118  
 Hutchinson, Anne, 18, 23, 32, 33, 38,  
     41, 44, 47, 51, 52, 55-57, 66, 68,  
     84, 89, 90, 97, 111, 127, 128, 167  
 —, Edward, Senr., 19, 33, 34, 37,  
     39, 41, 42, 45, 46, 52, 67, 120, 128  
 —, —, Jr., 19, 37, 39, 120  
 —, Francis, 85, 92, 103  
 —, Samuel, 37, 38, 58, 93, 95, 103,  
     117, 120  
 —, William, 19, 24, 34, 36-39, 41-45,  
     57-59, 64, 67, 68, 89, 95, 96, 100,  
     103, 120, 173

- James, Thomas, 127, 166  
 Jennings, Thomas, 149  
 Jefferey, William, 154, 157  
 Jeffries, Robert, 42, 45, 49, 50, 68,  
     75, 76, 78, 79, 95, 96, 100, 103,  
     108, 109, 110, 113-115, 118, 119,  
     121-123, 126, 128, 179  
 Johnson, John, 20, 117  
 Jones, Thomas, 175
- Keayne, 23, 91, 92  
 Knight, Richard, 157  
 —, Toby, 95, 118, 120, 123, 128, 132,  
     134, 136, 137, 145, 148, 149,  
     153  
 Knolles, Mr., 127  
 Knowles, Henry, 148, 150
- Ladd, Joseph, 138  
 Laet, Johannes de, 12, 13, 15  
 Lambertson, Mr., 130  
 Lawton, George, 59, 65, 151  
 —, John, 118, 161  
 —, Thomas, 59, 65, 117, 118, 148, 158  
 —, 145  
 Lechford, Thomas, 85, 86  
 Lenthal, Robert, 85, 86, 88, 92, 98, 105,  
     112, 116, 119, 120, 121, 151  
 Lettice, Walter, 157  
 Long, Herodias, 152  
 Lukar, Mark, 93  
 Lutner, John, 44, 46
- Macunmore, John, 119  
 Marshall, John, 51, 117  
 Maxon, Richard, 51, 58, 117  
 Merchant, John, 118  
 Merritt, Ezekiel, 119  
 Miantonomi, 24-27, 72, 73, 77, 101, 125  
 Mishammoh, 27  
 Mompaucke, 77  
 More, John, 59, 118  
 Morris, Mrs., 181, 182  
 —, Richard, 110, 120, 123, 128, 132,  
     134, 137, 140, 142, 145, 146,  
     149, 153-155, 157, 161, 181-183
- Morton, 67, 178  
 Mott, Adam, 43, 48, 68, 95, 96, 104,  
     118, 119, 123, 134, 138, 161  
 —, John, 66, 118, 136
- Needham, William, 118  
 Newman, Mr., 166  
 Newton, Thomas, 153  
 Nowell, Mr., 171
- Oliver, John, 86-88  
 Ousamequin, 40, 178  
 Owen, Thomas, 147
- Paine, Anthony, 59, 66, 118, 133, 137,  
     150  
 Palmer, Mr., 171  
 Pardie, John, 157  
 Parker, George, 44, 95, 117, 120, 121,  
     125, 127, 128, 133, 137, 139  
 —, William, 119  
 Partridge, Alexander, 155, 156  
 Peckham, John, 93, 118, 120, 135, 137,  
     148  
 Pessecus, 178  
 Peters, Hugh, 179, 185  
 Poole, Edward, 118  
 Porter, John, 19, 24, 29, 33, 34, 36, 37,  
     39, 42, 43, 45, 48, 49, 60, 63, 67,  
     95, 96, 103, 107, 109, 116, 119,  
     121, 144, 152, 156  
 Potter, George, 59, 118  
 —, Nathaniel, 59, 118  
 —, Robert, 59, 63, 68, 118, 120, 121,  
     124
- Quason, 182  
 Quick, William, 118
- Ramusio, 6, 11  
 Raymond, Richard, 184  
 Read, Thomas, 133, 138  
 Readman, Richard, 142  
 Rero, Edward, 119  
 Richardson, William, 59, 118, 137, 139,  
     141, 142, 147, 149, 158

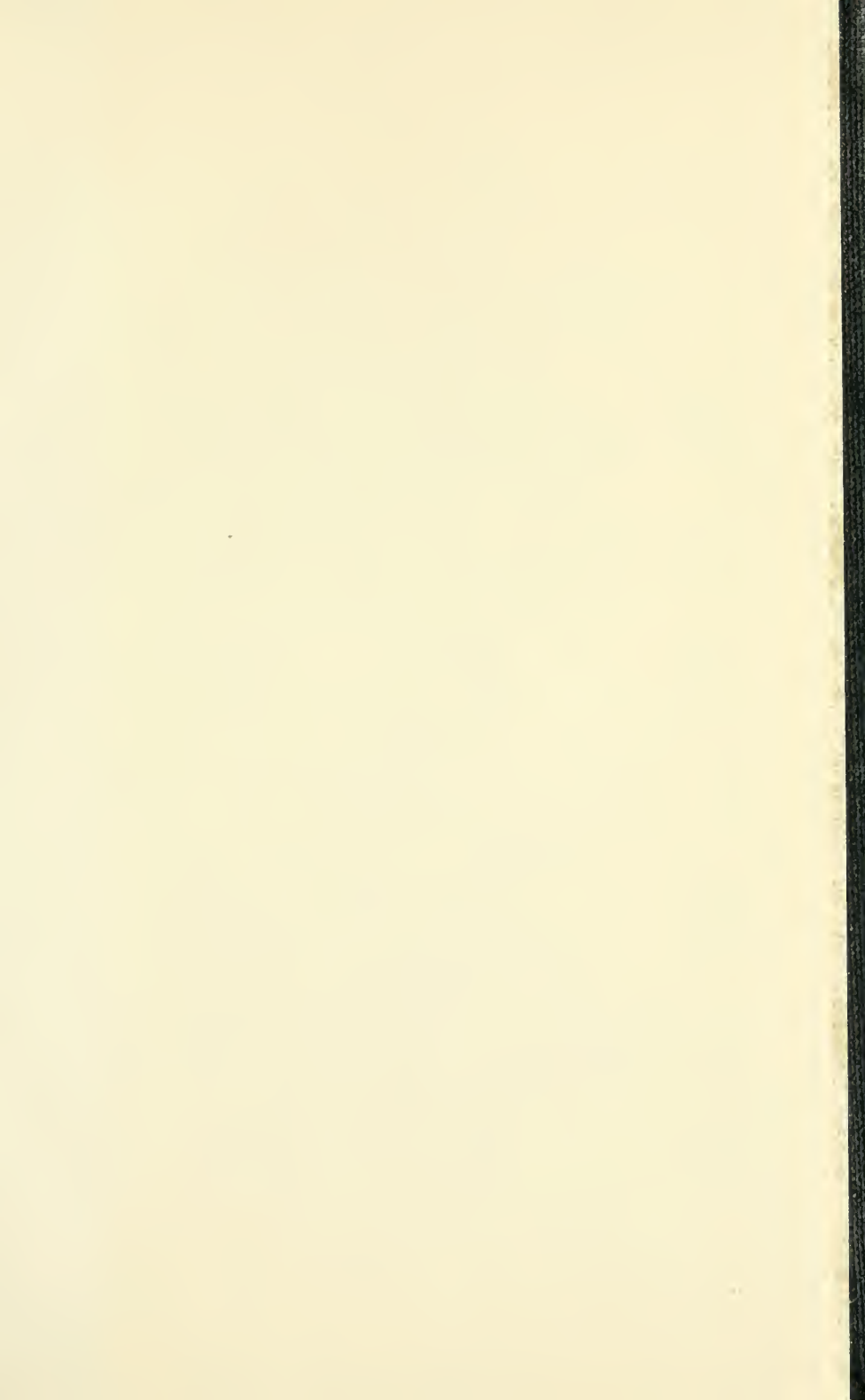


- Richbell, John, 153  
 Richmond, John, 137, 141, 145, 155, 161  
 Robinson, Anthony, 44,  
 —, Edward, 134, 141, 143, 149, 150,  
 152, 154  
 Rogers, James, 103, 119, 120, 127, 137,  
 142  
 Roome, George, 149  
 —, John, 58, 95, 118, 120, 132-135,  
 137, 142, 145, 150, 151  
 Root, Robert, 119, 136  
  
 Sabery, *see* Sabire  
 Sabire, Barbara, 171-173  
 —, James, 171-173  
 —, Thomas, 73, 118, 170  
 Salter, Sampson, 119, 140  
 Sanford, John, 19, 24, 29, 34-45, 60,  
 67, 89, 95, 96, 103, 104, 120, 128,  
 173  
 —, P., 26  
 Savage, James, 18  
 —, Thomas, 19, 33, 120  
 Savory, *see* Sabire  
 Searle, Richard, 30, 73, 117  
 Sherman, Philip, 19, 33, 34, 36, 41, 44,  
 48, 60, 67, 95, 96, 119  
 Shotten, Sampson, 58, 95, 116, 118, 120,  
 121, 124  
 Slade, Thomas, 63, 137, 142  
 Sloff, John, 58, 117  
 Smith, John, 118, 119, 120, 122, 128,  
 137, 139, 140, 147, 148, 155  
 —, Richard, 46, 119  
 —, Samuel, 44  
 —, Mr. (of New Haven), 181  
 Spencer, Mr., 43  
 Spicer, Thomas, 58, 63, 96, 117, 119,  
 121, 123, 132, 134  
 Stafford, Thomas, 118, 143, 145  
 Stanton, Robert, 44, 51, 59, 66, 80, 95,  
 117, 120, 123, 128, 134, 135, 137,  
 149, 154, 155  
 —, Thomas, 180, 182  
 Stretton, John, 149  
  
 Sutherland, Matthew, 118  
 —, widow, 140  
 Sweet, Mary, 138, 139  
  
 Tarr, James, 43, 118, 134  
 Tefft, John, 148  
 Tew, Richard, 133, 134, 141  
 —, Thomas, 149  
 Thompson, 127  
 Thornton, John, 93  
 Throckmorton, John, 128, 161, 180, 182  
 Timberlake, Henry, 128, 157  
 Touzar, Gilian, 137  
 Tripp, John, 59, 117  
 Trumbull, 130  
 Turner, Capt., 130, 166  
 Tyler, Job, 118, 141, 142, 149  
  
 Vane, Sir Henry, 25, 78, 126  
 Vaughn, Gilian, 137  
 —, John, 44, 64, 118, 137, 145, 153,  
 154  
 —, William, 93  
 Verrazzano, Giovanni da, 1  
  
 Waite, Thomas, 63, 120  
 Walker, John, 19, 34, 36, 39, 45, 48,  
 60, 67, 95, 119, 132, 134, 155  
 Wall, John, 60  
 Walton, Henry, 15, 155  
 Wampammaquitt, 77  
 Ward, Marmaduke, 103, 118, 120, 134,  
 137, 148, 153-155  
 Washagansett, 73  
 Weeden, James, 148, 152  
 —, —, Jr., 154  
 —, William, 93, 152, 154  
 West, John, 161  
 —, Nathaniel, 93  
 —, Robert, 129  
 Wheelwright, 32, 174, 177  
 Wickes, John, 58, 63, 117, 124, 125, 134  
 Wilbur, Samuel, 19, 33, 34, 36, 39, 41,  
 42, 44-46, 48, 50, 52, 53, 64, 81,  
 95, 109, 119, 128, 145, 147, 148

- Wilbur, Samuel, Jr., 128  
Wilcox, Edward, 117  
Willd, Nicholas, 161  
Williams, Robert, 180  
——, Roger, 15, 17, 22, 24, 26-31, 40,  
59, 60, 68, 86, 92, 125, 156, 180  
Williamson, Michael, 118, 120, 134, 135,  
146, 147  
Willis, Jeremy, 154, 155, 157  
Willmore, George, 44  
Wilson, Samuel, 155  
——, Mr., 91  
Winslow, Edward, 165  
Winthrop, John, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26,  
32, 33, 38, 41, 51, 52, 55-57, 59,  
85, 104, 111, 127, 130, 166, 167,  
171, 173, 175, 178-182, 184  
Winthrop, Mrs. 167, 180, 182, 185  
Withrington, William, 117, 137, 138,  
141, 143-146, 157, 161  
Wonnumetonomey, 24, 26-28, 73  
Wood, John, 141, 142, 154, 157  
Woodward, Lambert, 142, 178  
Yarrow, John, 132, 138, 140  
Yotuesh, 27







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