

The LIFE & TIMES of ANDREW WARDE (1597-1660)



ANDREW WARDE

HESTER SHERMAN



- ANDREW WARDE (1597–1660) was a Colonist, Judge, Farmer, and a Founding Father of the Connecticut towns of Wethersfield, Stamford, and Fairfield.

ANDREW WARDE was born in SHEFFIELD, England, in 1597. He emigrated to New England with the WINTHROP FLEET sometime around 1630.

- In 1626 the 22-year old ANDREW WARDE married 20-year old HESTER SHERMAN (1606-1666) in England. Hester was a daughter of EDMUND SHERMAN (1572-1641) and JOAN SHERMAN (born MAKIN) (1575-1618) of Dedham, Essex, England

ANDREW WARDE, accompanied by his wife, HESTER and 3-children, arrived in New England aboard the migrant ship "ARBELLA" in 1633 and was admitted as a Freeman at Watertown Massachusetts in 1634 and also a Member of the Watertown Church in May of that year.

■ The Winthrop Fleet.

The WINTHROP FLEET was a group of 11 ships led by JOHN WINTHROP out of a total of 16 funded by the Massachusetts Bay Company which together carried between 700 and 1,000 Puritans plus livestock and provisions from England to New England over the summer of 1630, during the first period of the GREAT MIGRATION.

■ Motivation.

The Puritan population in England had been growing for several years leading up to this time. They disagreed with the practices of the Church of England, whose rituals they viewed as superstitions. An associated political movement attempted to modify religious practice in England to conform to their views, and KING JAMES I tried to suppress this growing movement. Nevertheless, the Puritans eventually gained a majority in Parliament.

His son KING CHARLES I came into direct conflict with Parliament, and viewed them as a threat to his authority. He temporarily dissolved Parliament in 1626, and again the next year, before dissolving it permanently in March 1629.

The King's imposition of Personal Rule gave many Puritans a sense of hopelessness regarding their future in England, and many prepared to leave it permanently for life in New England. A wealthy group of leaders obtained a Royal Charter in March 1629 to found the MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY.

A fleet of five ships had departed a month previously for New England that included 300 Colonists led by Francis Higginson. However, the Colony leaders and the bulk of the Colonists remained in England for the time being to plan more thoroughly for the success of the new Colony.

- In October 1629, the group who remained in England elected JOHN WINTHROP to be Governor of the Fleet and the Colony. Over the ensuing Winter, the leaders recruited a large group of Puritan families, representing all manner of skilled labor to ensure a robust colony.

JOHN WINTHROP was an English Puritan lawyer and one of the leading figures in founding the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the second major settlement in New England following Plymouth Colony. Winthrop led the first large wave of colonists from England in 1630 and served as governor for 12 of the colony's first 20 years.

■ Voyage

The initial group (ARBELLA and her three escorts) departed Yarmouth, Isle of Wight on April 8, 1630, the remainder following in two or three weeks. Seven hundred men, women, and children were distributed among the ships of the fleet. The voyage was rather uneventful, the direction and speed of the wind being the main topic in Winthrop's journal, as it affected how much progress was made each day. There were a few days of severe weather, and every day was cold. The children were cold and bored, and there is a description of a game played with a rope that helped with both problems. Many were sick during the voyage.

Ships

JOHN WINTHROP'S journal lists the 11 ships in his fleet:

- *ARBELLA*: The flagship, designated "Admiral" in the consortship; named for Lady Arbella, wife of Isaac Johnson (see below)
- *TALBOT*: Designated "Vice Admiral"; Henry Winthrop sailed on this ship, John Winthrop's son and first husband of Elizabeth Fones
- *AMBROSE*: Designated "Rear Admiral"
- *JEWEL*: Designated a "Captain"
- *MAYFLOWER* (not the Mayflower of the Pilgrims)
- *WHALE*
- *SUCCESS*
- *CHARLES*
- *WILLIAM AND FRANCIS*
- *HOPEWELL*
- *TRIAL*

Six other ships arrived at Massachusetts Bay in 1630 for a total of seventeen that year.



ARBELLA at anchor in SALEM.

The Winthrop Fleet was a well-planned and financed expedition that formed the nucleus of the MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY. They were not the first Settlers of the area; there was an existing settlement at Salem, started in about 1626 and populated by a few hundred Puritans governed by John Endicott, most of whom had arrived in 1629. Winthrop superseded Endicott as Governor of the Colony upon his arrival in 1630. The flow of Puritans to New England continued for another ten years, during a period known as the GREAT MIGRATION.

- ANDREW WARDE was granted a 10-acre homelot in Watertown about 1633. On 3 Mar 1635 he was one of 8 Commissioners assigned by the MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT to govern the Colony of Connecticut for one year. He settled in Wethersfield in 1635 in order to perform his duties and became a Magistrate in 1636.

He was one of 3-Settlers appointed to go to AGAWAM (SPRINGFIELD) "to treat with the Indians of Waronocke". Pyquaug, it's Indian name, was changed in 1635 to Watertown and later to WETHERSFIELD.

- In 1634, at a deep bend in the Connecticut River, JOHN OLDHAM and 9 other adventurers from Watertown, Massachusetts were welcomed by the WONGUNK INDIANS, anxious to trade beaver pelts. Marsh hay in the low meadows and the rich alluvial soil soon attracted Settlers who planted their farms on the broad terrace above the River.

The surrounding forest gave up timber for houses, and the Town was laid out with a Common alongside the present Cove. The Settlers named the town WETHERSFIELD.

At that time, it included the Parishes of ROCKY HILL to the south, NEWINGTON to the west, and GLASTONBURY to the east, across the river, where they pastured their livestock.

In WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS, ANDREW WARDE assumed early prominence as a man of affairs; he was made a FREEMAN of the Town on May 14, 1634. His name is recorded in the second Book of Inventory, as having "an homestall of 10-acres, by estimation". He held this estate until 1642, some 7 or more years after he had left Watertown.

- In 1635-1636, ANDREW WARDE was one of several (8) persons granted to govern the people at Connecticut by the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony under Governor John Winthrop, as mentioned on the memorial.

Along with other founders of Connecticut, he likely attended the meeting that resulted in the FUNDAMENTAL ORDERS.

The FUNDAMENTAL ORDERS describe the Government set up by the Connecticut River Towns, setting its structure and powers. They wanted the Government to have access to the open ocean for trading. The Orders have the features of a written CONSTITUTION and are considered by some authors to be the first written Constitution in the Western tradition. Thus, Connecticut earned its nickname of *THE CONSTITUTION STATE*.

ANDREW WARDE was a member of the Upper House, when War was declared against the PEQUOTS in 1637. He would serve as a Magistrate. In 1638, he was appointed with Capt. John Mason & Mr. Allen to go to Agawam or Springfield, *"to treat with the Indians of Waronocke concerning the tribute towards the charges of the Pequot war, to the value of one fathom of wampuma man, & also to the Nawattocke & Pacomtuckett Indians one fathom & quarter a man."*

- By 1640, ANDREW WARDE also owned over 350-acres of land in Wethersfield, Hartford County, Connecticut.

In 1640, he also founded and settled the Plantation of TOQUAMS (later called STAMFORD) that had recently been purchased from the Natives. There he was the Constable (1642) and then Magistrate (1647). His final Settlement was in FAIRFIELD.

- An historical marker in Wethersfield, Connecticut credits Andrew Ward with the other nine adventurers who founded arguably the oldest English town in Connecticut.

While in Wethersfield, ANDREW was named "CONNECTICUT ASSISTANT" for 2-years from April 1635 - May 1637, which made him one of the first Judges in the Colony. He served as Deputy to the General Court for Wethersfield from November 1637 to 1640 when he moved his family to STAMFORD, Connecticut. From Stamford, he again served as Deputy to the General Court in April 1644 and was a Judge at NEW HAVEN in October 1646.

In 1648 he made his final move, settling at FAIRFIELD, Connecticut from which he continued his public service having been appointed Deputy to the General Court.

- ANDREW WARDE died on February 28, 1660 at age 63-years in Fairfield, Fairfield County, Connecticut, British Colonial America. Claims that he was buried in Woodbury, Litchfield, Connecticut 28 Feb 1660 are mistaken. Woodbury was unsettled in 1659.



The Ward - Homersfield Connection Fraud

In 1995, ROBERT CHARLES ANDERSON, in the "GREAT MIGRATION BEGINS," stated that the origins of ANDREW WARD of Connecticut are still unproven but cites Jacobus's "FAMILIES of OLD FAIRFIELD," which called out a fraud stating that he was related to a noble family from Homersfield, Suffolk, England and also to an article in "The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record" pointing to the correct family.

In the erroneous Ward genealogy, Andrew is stated to be the Andrew Ward of Homersfield, Suffolk, England son of Richard Ward of of Gorleston or Homersfield and a fictional wife named Anne Guiville with a long noble lineage. Further Richard Ward is styled a knight which is a complete fraud.

In "Families of Old Fairfield," Jacobus writes:

"...family of Richard Ward of Gorleston or Homersfield have been investigated. No such person as Sir Richard Ward, Kt. was found; no Anne (Guiville) Ward. No Gunville family existed in that vicinity as Lords of the Manor; and every reference given has proved to be fictitious. It is likely that these statements were the invention of a fraudulent genealogist, innocently accepted by members of the Ward family, through whom they found their way into the book."

In 1913, J. HENRY LEA and J. R. HUTCHINSON pointed out that ANDREW WARD of Homersfield, Suffolk, England, son of RICHARD WARD of Gorleston or Homersfield, had died in 1615 and therefore couldn't be the immigrant:

"It is also noteworthy, in further contravention of that erroneous derivation, that we find in the PARISH REGISTERS of St. Mildred's Cornhill, London, the burial of a Mr. ANDREW WARDE, Gent., 23 January, 1615, who was probably the son of that RICHARD WARD of Homersfield and Gorleston, Suffolk, who was so lightly accepted as the American Emigrant without a scintilla of evidence beyond the Christian name.

According to Stow, the Parish Church of St. Mildred (Poultry) was built in 1457 on the bank of the Walbrook stream (Stow). The Church sat on the corner of Poultry and Walbrook Street. The Church was destroyed in the Great Fire, then rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, and finally demolished in 1872 (Sugden, Carlin and Belcher).



**St. MILDRED'S CHURCH,
 Cornhill, London, England
 (Demolished in 1872)**

The "NYGBR" author then goes on to present strong evidence that the immigrant was related to STEPHEN and JOYCE (TRAFFORD) WARD who had a son RICHARD of Faxton, Northampton County, whose Will in 1640 named various relatives, including a brother Andrew:

"If further confirmatory evidence were needed of the derivation of the Wethersfield people from the Braffield stock, we find it in the constant recurrence, among the American descendants, of the Christian names of the last mentioned English family, as shown in the Will, every one of which is repeated and notably the very unusual ones of Ambrose, Andrew, Richard, Alice, Grace and Margery, while those of Stephen, Robert, Daniel and Isabell of the recorded pedigree also appear. All of them but Richard and Andrew being conspicuous by their absence from the Homersfield pedigree."