

= Francis Marbury =

Francis Marbury ( sometimes spelled Merbury ) ( 1555 ? 1611 ) was a Cambridge @-@ educated English cleric , schoolmaster and playwright . He is best known for being the father of Anne Hutchinson , considered the most famous ( or infamous ) English woman in colonial America .

Born in 1555 , Marbury was the son of William Marbury , a Member of Parliament from Lincolnshire , and Agnes Lenton . Young Marbury attended Christ 's College , Cambridge , but is not known to have graduated , though he was ordained as a deacon in the Church of England in January 1578 . He was given a ministry position in Northamptonshire and almost immediately came into conflict with the bishop . Taking a position commonly used by Puritans , he criticised the church leadership for staffing the parish churches with poorly trained clergy and for tolerating poorly trained bishops . After serving two short jail terms , he was ordered not to return to Northamptonshire , but disregarded the mandate and was subsequently brought before the Bishop of London , John Aylmer , for trial in November 1578 . During the examination , Aylmer called Marbury an ass , an idiot , and a fool , and sentenced him to Marshalsea prison for his impudence .

After two years in prison Marbury was considered sufficiently reformed to preach again , and was sent to Alford in Lincolnshire , close to his ancestral home . Here he married and began a family , but again felt emboldened to speak out against the church leadership , and was put under house arrest . Following a time without employment , he became desperate , writing letters to prominent officials , and was eventually allowed to resume preaching . Making good on his promise to curb his tongue , he preached uneventfully in Alford , and with a growing prominence was rewarded with a position in London in 1605 . He was given a second parish in 1608 , which was exchanged for another closer to home a year later . He died unexpectedly in 1611 at the age of 55 . With two wives Marbury had 18 children , three of whom matriculated at Brasenose College , Oxford , and one of whom , Anne , became the famous puritan dissident in the Massachusetts Bay Colony who had a leading role in the colony 's Antinomian Controversy .

= = Early life = =

Francis Marbury , born in London and baptised there on 27 October 1555 , was one of six children of William Marbury ( 1524 ? 1581 ) , and the youngest of three sons . His father , who possibly attended Pembroke College , Cambridge in 1544 , was a lawyer in Lincolnshire , a Member of Parliament and a member of the Middle Temple , where he was admitted " specially ... at the instance of Mr. Francis Barnades " in May 1551 , and still active until 1573 . His mother was Agnes , the daughter of John Lenton of Old Wynkill , Staffordshire according to historian John Champlin , but genealogist Meredith Colket suggests that Lenton was from Aldwinkle in Northamptonshire , which is much closer to where the Marburys lived . Marbury was likely schooled in London , perhaps at St Paul 's , and he became well grounded in Latin as well as learning some Greek . Though he was born and raised in London , his family maintained close ties with Lincolnshire . His older brother , Edward , was knighted there in 1603 , and died in 1605 as the High Sheriff of Lincoln .

Marbury matriculated at Christ 's College , Cambridge in 1571 , but is not known to have graduated . From Cambridge he went to Northamptonshire where he was ordained deacon by Edmund Scambler , Bishop of Peterborough , on 7 January 1578 . Though he was young when he became a deacon , he was not ordained as priest until decades later , in 1605 . While Marbury was of the Anglican Church , he had decidedly Puritan views . Not all English subjects thought that the queen had gone far enough to cleanse the Anglican Church of Catholic rites and governance , or to ensure that its ministers were capable of saving souls through powerful preaching . The most vocal of these critics were the Puritans , and Marbury was among the most radical of the non @-@ conforming Puritans , the Presbyterians . These more extreme non @-@ conformists wanted to " abolish all the pomp and ceremony of the Church of England and remodel its government according to what they thought was the Bible 's simple , consensual pattern . " To do this , they would eliminate bishops appointed by the monarchs , and introduce sincere Christians to choose the church 's elders ( or governors ) . The church leadership would then consist of two ministers , one a teacher in charge of

doctrine , and the other a pastor in charge of people 's souls , and also include a ruling lay leader .

= = 1578 trial = =

As a young man Marbury was considered to be a " hothead " and felt strongly that the clergy should be well educated , and clashed with his superiors on this issue . He spent time preaching at Northampton , but soon came into conflict with the bishop 's chancellor , Dr. James Ellis , who was on a mission to suppress any nonconforming clergy . After two short imprisonments , Marbury was directed to leave Northampton and not return . He disregarded this order , and was then brought to trial in the consistory of St. Paul 's in London before the high commission on 5 November 1578 . Here he was examined by the Bishop of London , John Aylmer , and by Sir Owen Hopton , Dr. Lewis , and Archdeacon John Mullins . Marbury made a transcript of this trial from memory and used it to educate and amuse his children , he being the hero , and the Bishop being portrayed as somewhat of a buffoon , and the transcript can be found in Benjamin Brook 's study of notable Puritans . Historian Lennam finds nothing in this transcript that is either " improbable or inconsistent with the Bishop 's testy reputation . "

In the trial , Aylmer began the accusations of Marbury , saying " you had rattled the Bishop of Peterborough , " to which Marbury accused the bishop of placing poorly trained ministers in the parish churches , adding that the bishops were poorly supervised . Aylmer then retorted , " The Bishop of Peterborough was never more overseen in his life than when he admitted thee to be a preacher in Northampton . " Marbury warned that for every soul damned by the lack of adequate preaching , the guilt " is on the bishops ' hands . " To this Aylmer replied , " Thou takest upon thee to be a preacher , but there is nothing in thee . Thou art a very ass , an idiot , and a fool . "

As the examination continued , Aylmer considered the ability of the Anglican Church to put trained ministers in every parish . He barked , " This fellow would have a preacher in every parish church ! " to which Marbury replied , " so would St. Paul . " Then Aylmer asked , " But where is the living for them ? " To this Marbury answered , " A man might cut a large thong out of your hide , and that of the other prelates , and it would never be missed . " Having lost his patience , the bishop retorted , " Thou are an overthwart , proud , puritan knave . " Marbury answered , " I am no puritan . I beseech you to be good to me . I have been twice in prison already , but I know not why . To this , Aylmer was unsympathetic , and he rendered the sentence , " Have him to the Marshalsea . There he shall cope with the papists . " Marbury then actually threatened divine retribution upon the bishop by warning him to beware the judgements of God . His daughter Anne would make a similar threat towards the magistrates and ministers at her civil trial before the Massachusetts Court , nearly 60 years later .

= = Later life = =

For his conviction of heresy , Marbury spent two years in Marshalsea Prison , on the south side of the River Thames , across from London . In 1580 , at the age of 25 , he was released and was considered sufficiently reformed to preach and teach , and moved to the remote market town of Alford in Lincolnshire , about 140 miles ( 230 km ) north of London , near his ancestral home . He was soon appointed curate ( deputy vicar ) of Saint Wilfrid 's , the local church in Alford . His father died in 1581 , leaving the resource @-@ poor Marbury with some welcome income as well as " lawe bookes and a ring of gold . "

Sometime about 1582 he married his first wife , Elizabeth Moore , and in 1585 he became the schoolmaster at the Alford Free Grammar School , one of many such public schools , free to the poor , begun by Queen Elizabeth . Marbury is thought to have been the teacher or tutor of young John Smith , who later became famous as an early explorer and leader in the Jamestown Colony in Virginia .

After bearing three daughters , Marbury 's first wife died about 1586 , and within a year of her death he married Bridget Dryden , about ten years younger than he , from a prominent Northampton family . Bridget was born in the Canons Ashby House in Northampton , the daughter of John Dryden and

Elizabeth Cope . Her brother , Erasmus Dryden , was the grandfather of the famous playwright and Poet Laureate John Dryden .

In 1590 Marbury once again felt emboldened to speak out against his superiors , denouncing the Church of England for selecting poorly educated bishops and poorly trained ministers . The Bishop of Lincoln , calling him an " impudent Puritan , " removed him from preaching and teaching , and put him under house arrest . On 15 October 1590 Marbury wrote a letter to the statesman William Cecil , Lord Burleigh , who was the uncle of Marbury 's acquaintance , Francis Bacon . In the letter he explained his religious creed and claimed that he was deprived of his preaching license " for causes unknown to him . " Without employment , he tended his gardens and tutored his children , reading to them from his own writings , the Bible , and John Foxe 's Book of Martyrs . Somehow the family was able to survive , perhaps from borrowing from the Drydens . While this suspension from preaching was thought to be short by historian Lennam , his daughter 's biographer , Eve LaPlante , wrote that it lasted nearly four years . Whichever the case , by 1594 he was once again preaching , and from this point forward , Marbury resolved to curb his tongue and not openly question those in positions of authority .

Following this final suspension , both his fame and fortune rose , and at one point Marbury became lecturer at St Saviour , Southwark . In 1602 he was given the honour of delivering the " Spittle sermon " in London on Easter Tuesday , and again at St Paul 's Cross in London in June . The following year he had the distinction of delivering a special sermon on the accession of James I to the throne , and at this point several of his sermons were finding their way into print . With the support of Richard Vaughan , the Bishop of London , he was moved to London in 1605 , finding a residence in the heart of the city where he was given the position of vicar of the Church of Saint Martin 's in the Vintry . Here his Puritan views , though somewhat muffled , were nevertheless present and tolerated , since there was a shortage of pastors .

London was a vibrant and cosmopolitan city , and active playwrights of the time were William Shakespeare , Christopher Marlowe , and Ben Jonson , whose plays were performed just across the river . The Marburys managed to avoid the bubonic plague that occasionally worked its way through the city . Marbury took on additional work in 1608 , preaching in the parish of Saint Pancras , several miles northwest of the city , travelling there by horseback twice a week . In 1610 he was able to replace that position with one much closer to home , and became rector of Saint Margaret 's , on New Fish Street , only a short walk from Saint Martin in the Vintry . While all seemed to be going well , Marbury died unexpectedly in February 1611 , at the age of 55 . He had written his will in January 1611 , and its brevity suggests that it was written in a hurry following a sudden and serious illness . The will mentions his wife by name and 12 living children , but only his daughter Susan , from his first marriage , is mentioned by name . His widow resided for a time at St Peter , Paul 's Wharf , London , but about December 1620 she married Reverend Thomas Newman of Berkhamsted , Hertfordshire , and died in 1645 .

= = Works and legacy = =

Marbury 's most noted work , The Contract of Marriage between Wit and Wisdom was written in 1579 while he was in prison . It was a moral interlude or " wit play " , following The Play of Wyt and Science by John Redford , and an adaptation of its sequel The Marriage of Wit and Science . The play had actually been performed , being noted in 1590 as one of the " current plays of the time . " Author T. N. S. Lennam described the work as a " lusty , occasionally very coarse , short interlude in which the morality material is dominated by rather imitative farcical episodes more elementally entertaining than didactic . "

Marbury also helped write the preface to the works of other religious writers . One of these prefaces was written for Robert Rollock 's A Treatise on God 's Effectual Calling ( 1603 ) , and another was for Richard Rogers ' seminal work , Seven Treatises ( 1604 ) . In the latter , Marbury praised Rogers " for having delivered a crushing blow against the Catholics and thereby vindicating the Church of England . " This prefatory material summed up the puritan unitary vision for England : " one godly ruler , one godly church , and one godly path to heaven , with puritan ministers writing the

guidebooks . "

While Marbury was not considered one of the great Puritan ministers of his day , he was nevertheless well known . Sir Francis Bacon called him " The Preacher , " and recognised him as such in his 1624 work *Apothegm* . A leading minister of the time , Reverend Robert Bolton , expressed a considerable respect for Marbury 's teachings .

One negative aspect of Marbury 's later career involved his time in Alford when he was the governor of the free grammar school there between 1595 and 1605 . A 1618 court case pointed to Marbury 's improper handling of the school 's endowments , and following an inquisition , the surviving executors to Marbury 's will were ordered to pay " certain sums unto the Governors " of the school as compensation .

= = Family = =

Marbury was said to have 20 children , but only 18 have been identified , three with his first wife , Elizabeth Moore , and 15 with his second wife , Bridget Dryden . The three children from his first marriage were all girls , Mary ( c . 1584 ? 1585 ) , Susan ( baptised 12 September 1585 ; married a Mr. Twyford ) and Elizabeth ( c . 1587 ? 1601 ) . His children with Bridget Dryden were Mary ( born c . 1588 ) , John ( baptised 15 February 1589 / 90 ) , Anne ( baptised 20 July 1591 ) , Bridget ( baptised 8 May 1593 ; buried 15 October 1598 ) , Francis ( baptised 20 October 1594 ) , Emme ( baptised 21 December 1595 ) , Erasmus ( baptised 15 February 1596 / 7 ) , Anthony ( baptised 11 September 1598 ; buried 9 April 1601 ) , Bridget ( baptised 25 November 1599 ) , Jeremuth ( or Jeremoth , baptised 31 March 1601 ) , Daniel ( baptised 14 September 1602 ) , Elizabeth ( baptised 20 January 1604 / 5 ) , Thomas ( born c . 1606 ? ) , Anthony ( born c . 1608 ) , and Katherine ( born c . 1610 ) .

Three of Marbury 's sons , Erasmus , Jeremuth , and the second Anthony , all matriculated at Brasenose College , Oxford . His daughter Anne married William Hutchinson and sailed to New England in 1634 , becoming a dissident Puritan minister at the centre of the Antinomian Controversy , and was , according to historian Michael Winship , " the most famous , or infamous , English woman in colonial American history . " His only other child to emigrate was his youngest child , Katherine , who married Richard Scott and settled in Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations . Katherine and her husband were at times Puritans , Baptists , and Quakers , and Katherine was whipped in Boston for supporting her future son @-@ in @-@ law Christopher Holder who had his right ear cut off for his Quaker evangelism .

Marbury 's sister , Catherine , married in 1583 Christopher Wentworth , and they became grandparents of William Wentworth who followed Reverend John Wheelwright to New England , and eventually settled in Dover , New Hampshire , becoming the ancestor of many men of prominence .

= = = Ancestry = = =

In 1914 , John Champlin published the bulk of the currently known ancestry of Francis Marbury , showing his descent from Charlemagne and Alfred the Great . Most of the material in the following ancestor chart is from Champlin , supplemented by genealogist Meredith Colket . The Williamson line was published in *The American Genealogist* by F. N. Craig in 1992 , while an online source , cited within , covers the Angevine line . An online source giving the ancestry of Agnes Lenton is incorrect based on Walter Davis ' research published in the *New England Historic Genealogical Register* in 1964 .