

= Myles Standish =

Myles Standish ( c . 1584 ? October 3 , 1656 ) was an English military officer hired by the Pilgrims as military adviser for Plymouth Colony . He accompanied the Pilgrims on their journey on the Mayflower and subsequently Standish played a leading role in the administration and defense of Plymouth Colony from its inception . On February 17 , 1621 , the Plymouth Colony militia elected him as its first commander and continued to re @-@ elect him to that position for the remainder of his life . Standish served as an agent of Plymouth Colony in England , as assistant governor , and as treasurer of Plymouth Colony . He was also one of the first settlers and founders of the town of Duxbury , Massachusetts .

A defining characteristic of Standish 's military leadership was his proclivity for preemptive action which resulted in at least two attacks ( or small skirmishes ) on different groups of Native Americans ? the Nemasket raid and the conflict at Wessagusset Colony . During these actions , Standish exhibited considerable courage and skill as a soldier , but also demonstrated a brutality that angered Native Americans and disturbed more moderate members of the Colony .

One of Standish 's last military actions on behalf of Plymouth Colony was the botched Penobscot expedition in 1635 . By the 1640s , Standish relinquished his role as an active soldier and settled into a quieter life on his Duxbury farm . He was still nominally the commander of the Pilgrim military forces in the growing Plymouth Colony , although he seems to have preferred to act in an advisory capacity . He died in his home in Duxbury in 1656 at age 72 . He supported and defended the Pilgrims ' colony for much of his life , though there is no evidence to suggest that Standish ever joined their church .

Several towns and military installations have been named for Standish , and monuments have been built in his memory . One of the best known depictions of Standish in popular culture was the 1858 poem *The Courtship of Miles Standish* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow . The highly fictionalized story presents Standish as a timid romantic . It was extremely popular in the 19th century and played a significant role in cementing the Pilgrim story in US culture .

= = Biography = =

= = = Birthplace and early military service = = =

Little is definitively known of Myles Standish 's origins and early life . His place of birth has been subject to debate among historians for more than 150 years . At the center of the debate is language in Myles Standish 's will , drafted in Plymouth Colony in 1656 , regarding his rights of inheritance . Standish wrote :

I give unto my son & heire apparent Alexander Standish all my lands as heire apparent by lawfull decent in Ormskirke ( Ormskirk ) Borscouge ( Burscough ) Wrightington Maudsley ( Mawdesley ) Newburrow ( Newburgh ) Crowston ( Croston ) and in the Isle of man [ sic ] ( to the west of Croston ) and given to mee as Right heire by lawfull decent but Surrupuously detained from mee My great Grandfather being a 2cond or younger brother from the house of Standish of Standish .

The places named by Standish are all in Lancashire , England , with the exception of the Isle of Man , leading some to conclude that he was born in Lancashire ? possibly in the vicinity of Chorley where a branch of the Standish family owned a manor known as Duxbury Hall . However , efforts to link Standish to the Standishes of Duxbury Hall have been inconclusive . A competing theory focuses on Standish 's mention of the Isle of Man and argues that he belonged to a Manx branch of the Standish family . No definitive documentation exists in either location to provide clear evidence of Standish 's birthplace .

Possibly the best source , however brief , on Standish 's origins and early life is a short passage recorded by Nathaniel Morton , secretary of Plymouth Colony , who wrote in his *New England 's Memorial* , published in 1669 , that Standish :

... was a gentleman , born in Lancashire , and was heir apparent unto a great estate of lands and

livings , surreptitiously detained from him ; his great grandfather being a second or younger brother from the house of Standish . In his younger time he went over into the low countries , and was a soldier there , and came acquainted with the church at Leyden , and came over into New England , with such of them as at the first set out for the planting of the plantation of New Plymouth , and bare a deep share of their first difficulties , and was always very faithful to their interest .

The circumstances are vague at best concerning Standish 's early military career in Holland ( the " low countries " to which Morton referred ) . At the time , the Dutch Republic was embroiled in the Eighty Years ' War with Spain . Queen Elizabeth I of England chose to support the Protestant Dutch Republic and sent troops to fight the Spanish in Holland . Historians are divided on his role in the English military . Nathaniel Philbrick refers to Standish as a " mercenary " , suggesting that he was a hired soldier of fortune seeking opportunity in Holland , but Justin Winsor claims that Standish received a lieutenant 's commission in the English army and was subsequently promoted to captain in Holland . Jeremy Bangs , a leading scholar of Pilgrim history , noted that Standish likely served under Sir Horatio Vere , an English general who had recruited soldiers in both Lancashire and the Isle of Man , among other places , and who led the English troops in Holland at the time Standish was there .

Whether commissioned officer , mercenary , or both , Standish apparently came to Holland around 1603 and , according to historian Tudor Jenks , may have seen service during the siege of Sluis in 1604 , in which Vere 's English troops were involved . The subsequent Twelve Years ' Truce ( 1609 ? 1621 ) between Spain and the Dutch Republic might have ended Standish 's service .

Standish was certainly still in Holland in 1620 and living in Leiden when he was hired by a group of refugee dissenters from England ? Puritans ? to act as their adviser on military matters . At that time , he was using the title of " Captain . " When considering candidates for this important position , the Puritans had at first hoped to engage Captain John Smith . As one of the founders of the English colony at Jamestown , Virginia , Smith had explored and mapped the North American coast . When they approached him to return to the New World , Smith expressed interest . His experience made him an attractive candidate , but the Pilgrims ultimately decided against him ; his price was too high and they feared that his fame and bold character might lead him to become a dictator . Standish lived in Leiden with his wife Rose and was apparently already known to them .

= = = Voyage to New Plymouth = = =

On July 22 , 1620 ( Old Style date ) , the initial group of English Dissenters living in Leiden boarded the Speedwell , which was meant to accompany another ship to be hired in England . This initial group included the mostly Brownist congregation . Myles and Rose Standish were aboard , along with the Bradfords , Winslows , Carvers , and others . The small , 60 @-@ ton pinnace sailed to Southampton with about 30 passengers , to be provisioned there and join a much larger vessel for the voyage to the New World . Another 90 passengers would board the 180 ton Mayflower . The Speedwell had some significant leaks while in port that caused delays , but both vessels departed Southampton August 5 .

The leaders of the colony decided to leave the smaller Speedwell behind after numerous delays caused by leaking , which had caused them to return to port twice . They sold some valuable supplies such as butter to pay the mounting port fees , and finally departed Plymouth , England on September 6 , 1620 on board the Mayflower , bound for the northern part of the Virginia Colony . The Speedwell , now with only a few passengers , went on to London to be resold ; she subsequently made numerous successful journeys as a cargo vessel for her new owners , but never sailed to the New World . The Standishes and most of the Speedwell passengers crowded into the Mayflower .

The passage of the Mayflower across the North Atlantic lasted more than two months , with 102 passengers crowded onto the cargo ship 's gun deck and about 30 crew members . The seas were not severe during the first month of the voyage but , by the second month , the ship was being hit by strong autumn gales , causing it to be badly shaken with water leaks from structural damage . There were two deaths , but this was just a precursor to what happened after their Cape Cod arrival , when

almost half the company died in the first winter .

On November 9 , 1620 , lookouts spotted land , but it was quickly appreciated that their location was about 200 miles east @-@ northeast of their planned destination of northern Virginia ? near what is now called Cape Cod . They tried briefly to sail south , but strong seas forced them to retreat to Cape Cod to harbor near the " hook " ? present @-@ day Provincetown Harbor . It became apparent that the weather would not permit the passage south , so they decided to settle near Cape Cod . Shortage of supplies ( including wood and beer ) and the roaring Atlantic made it too dangerous to press on for a Virginia landing . They anchored at the hook on November 11 , but not before signing a significant document . The leaders of the colony wrote the Mayflower Compact to ensure a degree of law and order in this place where they had not been granted a patent to settle . Myles Standish was one of the 41 men who signed the document .

#### = = Establishment of Plymouth Colony = =

When the Mayflower was anchored off Cape Cod , Standish urged the colony 's leaders to allow him to take a party ashore to find a suitable place for settlement . On November 15 , 1620 , he led 16 men in a foot exploration of the northern portion of the Cape . On December 11 , a group of 18 settlers , including Standish , made an extended exploration of the shore of Cape Cod by boat , spending their nights ashore surrounded by makeshift barricades of tree branches . The settlers were attacked one night by a group of about 30 Native Americans . At first , the Englishmen panicked , but Standish calmed them , urging the settlers not to fire their matchlock muskets unnecessarily . The incident took place in present @-@ day Eastham , Massachusetts and came to be known as the First Encounter .

After further exploration , the Pilgrims chose a location in present @-@ day Plymouth Bay in late December 1620 as the site for their settlement . Standish provided important counsel on the placement of a small fort in which cannon were mounted , and on the layout of the first houses for maximum defensibility . Only one house ( consisting of a single room ) had been built when illness struck the settlers . Of the roughly 100 who first arrived , only 50 survived the first winter . Standish 's wife Rose died in January .

Standish himself was one of the very few who did not fall ill and William Bradford ( soon to be governor of Plymouth Colony ) credited Standish with comforting many and being a source of strength to those who suffered . Standish tended to Bradford during his illness , and this was the beginning of a decades @-@ long friendship . Bradford held the position of governor for most of his life and , by necessity , worked closely with Standish . In terms of character , the two men were opposites ? Bradford was patient and slow to judgment , while Standish was well known for his fiery temper . Despite their differences , the two worked well together in managing the colony and responding to dangers as they arose .

#### = = Defense of Plymouth Colony = =

By February 1621 , the colonists had sighted Native Americans several times , but there had been no communication . The men of the colony were anxious to prepare themselves in case of hostilities , so they formed a militia on February 17 , 1621 consisting of all able @-@ bodied men , electing Standish as their commander . The leaders of Plymouth Colony had already hired him for that role , but this vote ratified the decision by democratic process . The men of Plymouth Colony continued to re @-@ elect Standish to that position for the remainder of his life . As captain of the militia , Standish regularly drilled his men in the use of pikes and muskets .

Contact with the Native Americans came in March 1621 through Samoset , an English @-@ speaking Abenaki who arranged for the Pilgrims to meet with Massasoit , the sachem of the nearby Pokanoket tribe . On March 22 , the first governor of Plymouth Colony John Carver signed a treaty with Massasoit , declaring an alliance between the Pokanoket and the Englishmen and requiring the two parties to defend each other in times of need . Governor Carver died the same year and the responsibility of upholding the treaty fell to his successor William Bradford . Bradford and Standish

were frequently preoccupied with the complex task of reacting to threats against both the Pilgrims and the Pokanokets from tribes such as the Massachusetts and the Narragansetts . As threats arose , Standish typically advocated intimidation to deter their rivals . Such behavior at times made Bradford uncomfortable , but he found it an expedient means of maintaining the treaty with the Pokanoket .

= = = Nemasket raid = = =

The first challenge to the treaty came in August 1621 when a sachem named Corbitant began to undermine Massasoit 's leadership . Corbitant worked to turn the people of Nemasket against Massasoit in the Pokanoket village of Nemasket , now the site of Middleborough , Massachusetts , about 14 miles ( 23 km ) west of Plymouth . Bradford sent two trusted interpreters to determine what was happening in Nemasket : Tisquantum ( known to the English as Squanto ) and Hobbamock . Tisquantum had been pivotal in providing counsel and aid to the Pilgrims , ensuring the survival of the colony . Hobbamock , another influential ally , was a pniese ? a high @-@ ranking advisor to Massasoit ? and a warrior who commanded particular respect and fear among Native Americans . When Tisquantum and Hobbamock arrived in Nemasket , Corbitant took Tisquantum captive and threatened to kill him . Hobbamock escaped to warn Plymouth .

Bradford and Standish agreed that this represented a dangerous threat to the English @-@ Pokanoket alliance and decided to act quickly . On August 14 , 1621 , Standish led a group of 10 men to Nemasket , determined to kill Corbitant . They were guided by Hobbamock who quickly befriended Standish . The two men were close for the remainder of their lives . In his old age , Hobbamock became part of Standish 's household in Duxbury .

Reaching Nemasket , Standish planned a night attack on the wigwam in which Corbitant was believed to be sleeping . That night , Standish and Hobbamock burst into the shelter , shouting for Corbitant . As frightened Pokanokets attempted to escape , Englishmen outside the wigwam fired their muskets , wounding a Pokanoket man and woman who were later taken to Plymouth to be treated . Standish soon learned that Corbitant had already fled the village and Tisquantum was unharmed .

Standish had failed to capture Corbitant , but the raid had the desired effect . On September 13 , 1621 , nine sachems came to Plymouth , including Corbitant , to sign a treaty of loyalty to King James .

= = = Palisade = = =

In November 1621 , a Narragansett messenger arrived in Plymouth and delivered a bundle of arrows wrapped in a snakeskin . The Pilgrims were told by Tisquantum and Hobbamock that this was a threat and an insult from the Narragansett sachem Canonicus . The Narragansetts lived west of what is now known as Narragansett Bay in present @-@ day Rhode Island , and were one of the more powerful tribes in the region . Bradford sent back the snakeskin filled with gunpowder and shot in an effort to show that they were not intimidated .

Taking the threat seriously , Standish urged that the colonists encircle their small village with a palisade made of tall , upright logs . The proposal would require a wall more than half a mile ( or 0 @.@ 8 km ) long . In addition , Standish recommended the construction of strong gates and platforms for shooting over the wall . The colony had recently been reinforced by the arrival of new colonists from the ship Fortune , but there were still only 50 men to work on the task . Despite the challenges , the settlers constructed the palisade per Standish 's recommendations in just three months , finishing in March 1622 . Standish divided the militia into four companies , one to man each wall , and drilled them in defending the village in the event of attack .

= = = Wessagusset = = =

A more serious threat came from the Massachusett tribe to the north and was precipitated by the

arrival of a new group of English colonists . In April 1622 , the vanguard of a new colony arrived in Plymouth . They had been sent by merchant Thomas Weston to establish a new settlement somewhere near Plymouth . The men chose a site on the shore of what is now the Fore River in present @-@ day Weymouth , Massachusetts , about 25 miles ( 40 km ) north of Plymouth . They called their colony Wessagusset . The settlers of the poorly managed colony infuriated the Massachusett tribe through theft and recklessness . By March 1623 , Massasoit had learned that a group of influential Massachusett warriors intended to destroy both the Wessagusset and the Plymouth colonies . Massasoit warned the Pilgrims to strike first . One of the colonists of Wessagusset named Phineas Pratt verified that his settlement was in danger . Pratt managed to escape to Plymouth and reported that the English in Wessagusset had been repeatedly threatened by the Massachusett , the settlement was in a state of constant watchfulness , and that men were dying at their posts from starvation .

Bradford called a public meeting at which the Pilgrims decided to send Standish and a small group of eight , including Hobbamock , to Wessagusset to kill the leaders of the alleged plot to wipe out the English settlements . The mission had a personal aspect for Standish . One of the warriors threatening Wessagusset was Wituwamat , a Neponset who had earlier insulted and threatened Standish .

Arriving at Wessagusset , Standish found that many of the Englishmen had gone to live with the Massachusett . Standish ordered them to be called back to Wessagusset . The day after Standish 's arrival , Pecksuot , a Massachusett warrior and leader of the group threatening Wessagusset , came to the settlement with Wituwamat and other warriors . Standish claimed simply to be in Wessagusset on a trading mission , but Pecksuot said to Hobbamock , " Let him begin when he dare ... he shall not take us unawares . " Later in the day , Pecksuot approached Standish , looking down on him , and said , " You are a great captain , yet you are but a little man . Though I be no sachem , yet I am of great strength and courage . "

The next day , Standish arranged to meet with Pecksuot over a meal in one of Wessagusset 's one @-@ room houses . Pecksuot brought with him Wituwamat , a third warrior , an adolescent boy ( Wituwamat 's brother ) , and several women . Standish had three men of Plymouth and Hobbamock with him in the house . On an arranged signal , the English shut the door of the house and Standish attacked Pecksuot , stabbing him repeatedly with the man 's own knife . Wituwamat and the third warrior were also killed . Leaving the house , Standish ordered two more Massachusett warriors to be put to death . Gathering his men , Standish went outside the walls of Wessagusset in search of Obtakiest , a sachem of the Massachusett tribe . The Englishmen soon encountered Obtakiest with a group of warriors and a skirmish ensued , during which Obtakiest escaped .

Having accomplished his mission , Standish returned to Plymouth with Wituwamat 's head . The leaders of the alleged plot to destroy the English settlements had been killed and the threat removed , but the action had unexpected consequences . The settlement of Wessagusset was all but abandoned after the incident , which Standish had been trying to protect . Most of the settlers departed for an English fishing post on Monhegan Island . The attack also caused widespread panic among Native Americans throughout the region . Villages were abandoned and the Pilgrims had difficulty reviving trade for some time .

Pastor John Robinson was still in Leiden , but he criticized Standish for his brutality . Bradford , too , was uncomfortable with Standish 's methods , but defended him in a letter : " As for Capten Standish , we leave him to answer for him selfe , but this we must say , he is as helpfull an instrument as any we have , and as carefull of the generall good . "

= = = Dispersal of Merrymount settlers = = =

In 1625 , another group of English settlers established an outpost not far from the site of Wessagusset , located in what is now Quincy , Massachusetts , about 27 miles ( 43 km ) north of Plymouth . The settlement was officially known as Mount Wollaston , but soon earned the nickname " Merrymount . " Thomas Morton , leader of the small group of Englishmen , encouraged behavior that the Pilgrims found objectionable and dangerous . The men of Merrymount built a maypole ,

drank liberally , refused to observe the Sabbath , and sold weapons to Native Americans . Bradford found the weapons sales particularly disturbing and ordered Standish to lead an expedition to arrest Morton in 1628 .

Standish arrived with a group of men to find that the small band at Merrymount had barricaded themselves within a small building . Morton eventually decided to attack the men from Plymouth , but the Merrymount group was allegedly too drunk to handle their weapons . Morton aimed a weapon at Standish , which the captain purportedly ripped from Morton 's hands . Standish and his men took Morton to Plymouth and eventually sent him back to England . Later , Morton wrote the book New English Canaan , in which he referred to Myles Standish as " Captain Shrimp , " and wrote , " I have found the Massachusetts Indians more full of humanity than the Christians . "

= = = Penobscot expedition = = =

Having defended Plymouth from Native Americans and other Englishmen , Standish 's last significant expedition was against the French . The French established a trading post in 1613 on the Penobscot River , in what is now Castine , Maine . English forces captured the settlement in 1628 and turned it over to Plymouth Colony . It was a valuable source of furs and timber for the Pilgrims for seven years . However , in 1635 , the French mounted a small expedition and easily reclaimed the settlement . William Bradford ordered Captain Standish to take action , determined that the post be reclaimed in Plymouth Colony 's name . This was a significantly larger proposition than the small expeditions which Standish had previously led . To accomplish the task , Standish chartered the ship Good Hope , captained by a man named Girling . Standish 's plan appears to have been to bring the Good Hope within cannon range of the trading post and to bombard the French into surrender . Unfortunately , Girling ordered the bombardment before the ship was within range and quickly spent all the gunpowder on board . Standish gave up the effort .

By this time , the neighboring and more populous Massachusetts Bay Colony had been established . Bradford appealed to leaders of the colony in Boston for help in reclaiming the trading post . The Bay Colony refused . The incident was indicative of the rivalry which persisted between Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies . In 1691 , the two colonies merged to become the royal Province of Massachusetts Bay .

= = = Settlement in Duxbury = = =

In 1625 , Plymouth Colony leaders appointed Standish to travel to London to negotiate new terms with the Merchant Adventurers . If a settlement could be reached and the Pilgrims could pay off their debt to the Adventurers , then the colonists would have new rights to allot land and settle where they pleased . Standish was not successful in his negotiations and returned to Plymouth in April 1626 . Another effort was successful later in 1626 , this time negotiated by Isaac Allerton , and several leading men of Plymouth , including Standish , paid off the colony 's debt to the Adventurers .

Now free of the directives of the Merchant Adventurers , the leaders of Plymouth Colony exerted their new @-@ found autonomy by organizing a land division in 1627 . Large farm lots were parceled out to each family in the colony along the shore of the present @-@ day towns of Plymouth , Kingston , Duxbury , and Marshfield , Massachusetts . Standish received a farm of 120 acres ( 49 ha ) in what became Duxbury . He built a house and settled there around 1628 .

There are indications that Standish began to seek a quieter life by 1635 ( after the Penobscot expedition ) , maintaining the livestock and fields of his Duxbury farm . Standish was about 51 years old at that time , and he began to relinquish the responsibility of defending the colony to a younger generation . A note in the colony records of 1635 indicates that Lieutenant William Holmes , Standish 's immediate subordinate , was appointed to train the militia . When the Pequot War loomed in 1637 , Standish was appointed to a committee to raise a company of 30 men , but it was Holmes who led the company in the field .

The families living in what had come to be referred to as Duxbury ( sometimes " Duxborough " ) requested to be set off from Plymouth as a separate town with their own church and minister . This

request was granted in 1637 . Some , including historian Justin Winsor , have insisted that the name of the town of Duxbury was given by Standish in honor of Duxbury Hall , near Chorley in Lancashire , which was owned by a branch of the Standish family . The coincidence would suggest that Standish had something to do with the naming of Duxbury , Massachusetts , though no records exist to indicate how the town was named .

= = = Last years = = =

During the 1640s , Standish took on an increasingly administrative role . He served as a surveyor of highways , as Treasurer of the Colony from 1644 to 1649 , and on various committees to lay out boundaries of new towns and inspect waterways . His old friend Hobbamock had been part of his household , but he died in 1642 and was buried on Standish 's farm in Duxbury .

Standish died on October 3 , 1656 of " strangullion " or strangury , a condition often associated with kidney stones or bladder cancer . He was buried in Duxbury 's Old Burying Ground , now known as the Myles Standish Cemetery .

= = Marriages and family = =

Myles Standish married :

Rose Handley ( 1601 ? 1621 ) by about 1618 . She died on January 29 , 1621 . She was buried in an unmarked grave at Coles Hill Burial Ground in Plymouth , as were many others who died the first winter . She is named on the Pilgrim Memorial Tomb on Cole 's Hill as " Rose , first wife of Myles Standish " .

Barbara Mullins by about 1624 . Per Banks , she had come to Plymouth in 1623 on either the ' Anne ' or ' Little James ' , and they were married the following spring . In the past , historians have suggested that she may have been a sister of Standish 's first wife , Rose , and that he specifically sent for her . They had seven children . She died after October 6 , 1659 and her burial place is unknown .

Children of Myles and Barbara Standish :

Charles ( 1 ) was born in 1624 . He died between May 22 , 1627 and 1635 .

Alexander was born about 1626 and died July 6 , 1702 . He was buried in Myles Standish Burying Ground in Duxbury , Massachusetts . Alexander married first : Sarah Alden by about 1660 and had eight children . She died before June 13 , 1688 . Her father was Mayflower passenger John Alden . Second , he married Desire ( Doty ) ( Sherman ) Holmes by 1689 and had three children . She died in Marshfield on January 22 , 1731 . Her father was Mayflower passenger Edward Doty .

John was born about 1627 . No further record .

Myles was born about 1629 and died at sea after March 20 , 1661 . His body was lost at sea . Myles married Sarah Winslow in Boston on July 19 , 1660 , but there is no record of children .

Loara ( Lora ) was born about 1631 and died by March 7 , 1655 / 6 . Unmarried .

Josiah was born about 1633 and died in Preston , Connecticut , on March 19 , 1690 . He was historically known as Capt. Josiah Standish . His burial place is unknown . Josiah married first : Mary Dingley in Marshfield on December 19 , 1654 and died in Duxbury on July 1 , 1655 . Second , Sarah Allen after 1655 and had eight children . She died after September 16 , 1690 .

Charles ( 2 ) was born by about 1635 . He was still living on March 7 , 1655 / 6 . No further record .

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= = Legacy = =

Standish 's true @-@ life role in defending Plymouth Colony and the sometimes brutal tactics that he employed were largely obscured by the fictionalized character created by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his narrative poem The Courtship of Miles Standish . Historian Tudor Jenks wrote that Longfellow 's book had " no claim to be considered other than a pleasant little fairystory , and as an entirely misleading sketch of men and matters in old Plymouth . " However , the book elevated

Standish to the level of folk hero in Victorian America . In late 19th century Duxbury , the book generated a movement to build monuments in Standish 's honor , a beneficial by @-@ product of which was increased tourism to the town .

The first of these monuments was the largest . The cornerstone was laid for the Myles Standish Monument in Duxbury in 1872 , with a crowd of ten thousand people attending the ceremonies . It was finished in 1898 , the third tallest monument to an individual in the United States . It is surpassed only by the first dedicated Washington Monument ( 178 feet ) in Baltimore , Maryland ( finished in 1829 ) and the Washington Monument ( 555 feet ) in Washington , D.C. ( dedicated in 1885 ) . The top of the monument is 116 feet ( 35 m ) overall , and at the top stands a 14 @-@ foot ( 4 @.@ 3 m ) statue of Standish .

A second , smaller monument was placed over the alleged site of Myles Standish 's grave in 1893 . Two exhumations of Standish 's remains were undertaken in 1889 and 1891 to determine the location of the Captain 's resting place . A third exhumation took place in 1930 to place Standish 's remains in a hermetically sealed chamber beneath the grave @-@ site monument .

The site of Myles Standish 's house reveals only a slight depression in the ground where the cellar hole was , but it is now a small park owned and maintained by the town of Duxbury .

Standish , Maine is named for the Captain , as well as the neighborhood of Standish , Minneapolis . At least two forts were named after Standish : an earthen fort on Plymouth 's Saquish Neck built during the American Civil War , and a larger cement fort built on Lovells Island in Boston Harbor in 1895 . Both forts are now abandoned . Camp Myles Standish in nearby Taunton was also named for Standish .

Standish is buried in Myles Standish Burial Ground , obviously named after him .

Myles Standish State Forest is located in the towns of Plymouth and Carver in southeastern Massachusetts , approximately 45 miles ( 70 km ) south of Boston . It is the largest publicly owned recreation area in this part of Massachusetts , and is managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation ( DCR ) .