

= Thomas Dudley =

Thomas Dudley (12 October 1576 ? 31 July 1653) was a colonial magistrate who served several terms as governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony . Dudley was the chief founder of Newtowne , later Cambridge , Massachusetts , and built the town 's first home . He provided land and funds to establish the Roxbury Latin School , and signed Harvard College 's new charter during his 1650 term as governor . Dudley was a devout Puritan who was opposed to religious views not conforming with his . In this he was more rigid than other early Massachusetts leaders like John Winthrop , but less confrontational than John Endecott .

The son of a military man who died when he was young , Dudley saw military service himself during the French Wars of Religion , and then acquired some legal training before entering the service of his likely kinsman the Earl of Lincoln . Along with other Puritans in Lincoln 's circle , Dudley helped organize the establishment of the Massachusetts Bay Colony , sailing with Winthrop in 1630 . Although he served only four one @-@ year terms as governor of the colony , he was regularly in other positions of authority .

Dudley 's descendants include his daughter Anne Bradstreet (1612 ? 1672) , The prominent early American Poet , and many famous Americans . One of the gates of Harvard Yard , which existed from 1915 to 1947 , was named in his honor , and Harvard 's Dudley House is named for the family .

= = Early years = =

Thomas Dudley was born in Yardley Hastings , a village near Northampton , England , on 12 October 1576 , to Roger and Susanna (Thorne) Dudley . His father , a captain in the English army , was apparently killed in battle . It was for some time believed he was killed in the 1590 Battle of Ivry , but this is unlikely because Susanna Dudley was later found to be widowed by 1588 . The 1586 battle of Zutphen has also been suggested as the occasion of Roger Dudley 's death . The family has long asserted connections to the Sutton @-@ Dudleys of Dudley Castle ; there is a similarity in their coats of arms , but association beyond probable common ancestry has not yet been conclusively demonstrated . Dudley 's mother was descended from Henry II of England through her Purefoy ancestors , and like many other young men of good birth Thomas Dudley became a page , in his case in the household of William , Baron Compton at nearby Castle Ashby . Later he raised a company of men following a call to arms by Queen Elizabeth , and served in the English army led by Sir Arthur Savage fighting with King Henry IV of France during the French Wars of Religion . He fought the Spanish at the Siege of Amiens in 1597 which in September surrendered and was the final action of the war .

After he was discharged from his military service , Dudley returned to Northamptonshire . He then entered the service of Sir Augustine Nicolls , a relative of his mother 's , as a clerk . Nicolls , a lawyer and later a judge , was recognized for his honesty at a time when many judges were susceptible to bribery and other malfeasance . He was also sympathetic to the Puritan cause ; the exposure to legal affairs and Nicolls ' religious views probably had a significant influence on Dudley . After Nicolls ' sudden death in 1616 , Dudley took a position with Theophilus Clinton , 4th Earl of Lincoln , serving as a steward responsible for managing some of the earl 's estates . The earl 's estate in Lincolnshire was a center of Nonconformist thought , and Dudley was already recognized for his Puritan virtues by the time he entered the earl 's service . According to Cotton Mather 's biography of Dudley , he successfully disentangled a legacy of financial difficulties bequeathed to the earl , and the earl consequently came to depend on Dudley for financial advice . Dudley 's services were not entirely pecuniary in nature : he is also said to have had an important role in securing the engagement of Clinton to Lord Saye 's daughter . In 1622 , Dudley acquired the assistance of Simon Bradstreet who was eventually drawn to Dudley 's daughter Anne . The two were married six years later , when she was 16 .

Dudley was briefly out of Lincoln 's service between about 1624 and 1628 . During this time he lived with his growing family in Boston , Lincolnshire , where he likely was a parishioner at St Botolph 's

Church , where John Cotton preached . The Dudleys were known to be back on Lincoln 's estate in 1628 , when his daughter Anne came down with smallpox and was treated there .

= = Massachusetts Bay Colony = =

In 1628 Dudley and other Puritans decided to form the Massachusetts Bay Company , with a view toward establishing a Puritan colony in North America . Dudley 's name does not appear on the land grant issued to the company that year , but he was almost certainly involved in the formative stages of the company , whose investors and supporters included many individuals in the Earl of Lincoln 's circle . The company sent a small group of colonists led by John Endecott to begin building a settlement , called Salem , on the shores of Massachusetts Bay ; a second group was sent in 1629 . The company acquired a royal charter in April 1629 , and later that year made the critical decision to transport the charter and the company 's corporate governance to the colony . The Cambridge Agreement , which enabled the emigrating shareholders to buy out those that remained behind , may have been written by Dudley . In October 1629 John Winthrop was elected governor , and John Humphrey was chosen as his deputy . However , as the fleet was preparing to sail in March 1630 , Humphrey decided he would not leave England immediately , and Dudley was chosen as deputy governor in his place .

Dudley and his family sailed for the New World on the Arbella , the flagship of the Winthrop Fleet , on 8 April 1630 and arrived in Salem Harbour on 22 June . Finding conditions at Salem inadequate for establishing a larger colony , Winthrop and Dudley led forays into the Charles River watershed , but were apparently unable to immediately agree on a site for the capital . With limited time to establish themselves , and concerns over rumors of potential hostile French action , the leaders decided to distribute the colonists in several places in order to avoid presenting a single target for hostilities . The Dudleys probably spent the winter of 1630 ? 31 in Boston , which was where the leadership chose to stay after its first choice , Charlestown , was found to have inadequate water . A letter Dudley wrote to the Countess of Lincoln in March 1631 narrated the first year 's experience of the colonists that arrived in Winthrop 's fleet in an intimate tone befitting a son or suitor as much as a servant . It appeared in print for the first time in a 1696 compilation of early colonial documents by Joshua Scottow .

= = = Founding of Cambridge = = =

In the spring of 1631 the leadership agreed to establish the colony 's capital at Newtowne (near present @-@ day Harvard Square in Cambridge) , and the town was surveyed and laid out . Dudley , Simon Bradstreet , and others built their houses there , but to Dudley 's anger , Winthrop decided to build in Boston . This decision caused a rift between Dudley and Winthrop ? it was serious enough that in 1632 Dudley resigned his posts and considered returning to England . After the intercession of others , the two reconciled and Dudley retracted his resignations . Winthrop reported that " [e] ver after they kept peace and good correspondency in love and friendship . " During the dispute , Dudley also harshly questioned Winthrop 's authority as governor for a number of actions done without consulting his council of assistants . Dudley 's differences with Winthrop came to the fore again in January 1636 , when other magistrates orchestrated a series of accusations that Winthrop had been overly lenient in his judicial decisions .

In 1632 Dudley , at his own expense , erected a palisade around Newtowne (which was renamed Cambridge in 1636) that enclosed 1 @,@ 000 acres (400 ha) of land , principally as a defense against wild animals and Indian raids . The colony agreed to reimburse him by imposing taxes upon all of the area communities . The meetings occasioned by this need are among the first instances of a truly representative government in North America , when each town chose two representatives to advise the governor on the subject . This principal was extended to govern the colony as a whole in 1634 , the year Dudley was first elected governor . During this term the colony established a committee to oversee military affairs and to manage the colony 's munitions .

The colony came under legal threat in 1632 , when Sir Ferdinando Gorges , attempting to revive an

earlier claim to the territory , raised issues of the colony 's charter and governance with the Privy Council of King Charles I. When the colony 's governing magistrates drafted a response to the charges raised by Gorges , Dudley was alone in opposing language referring to the king as his " sacred majesty " , and to bishops of the Church of England as " Reverend Bishops " . Although a quo warranto writ was issued in 1635 calling for the charter to be returned to England , the king 's financial straits prevented it from being served , and the issue eventually died out .

= = = Anne Hutchinson affair = = =

In 1635 , and for the four following years , Dudley was elected either as deputy governor or as a member of the council of assistants . The governor in 1636 was Henry Vane , and the colony was split over the actions of Anne Hutchinson . She had come to the colony in 1634 , and began preaching a " covenant of grace " following her mentor , John Cotton , while most of the colony 's leadership , including Dudley , Winthrop , and most of the ministers , espoused a more Legalist view (" covenant of works ") . This split divided the colony , since Vane and Cotton supported her . At the end of this colonial strife , called the Antinomian Controversy , Hutchinson was banished from the colony , and a number of her followers left the colony as a consequence . She settled in Rhode Island , where Roger Williams , also persona non @-@ grata in Massachusetts over theological differences , offered her shelter . Dudley 's role in the affair is unclear , but historians supportive of Hutchinson 's cause argue that he was a significant force in her banishment , and that he was unhappy that the colony did not adopt a more rigid stance or ban more of her followers .

Vane was turned out of office in 1637 over the Hutchinson affair and his insistence on flying the English flag over the colony 's fort ? many Puritans felt that the Cross of St George on the flag was a symbol of popery and was thus anathema to them . Vane was replaced by Winthrop , who then served three terms . According to Winthrop , concerns over the length of his service led to Dudley 's election as governor in 1640 .

Although Dudley and Winthrop clashed with each other on a number of issues , they agreed on the banning of Hutchinson , and their relationship had some significant positive elements . In 1638 Dudley and Winthrop were each granted a tract of land " about six miles from Concord , northward " . Reportedly , Winthrop and Dudley went to the area together to survey the land and select their parcels . Winthrop , then governor , graciously deferred to Dudley , then deputy governor , to make the first choice of land . Dudley 's land became Bedford , and Winthrop 's Billerica . The place where the two properties met was marked by two large stones , each carved with the owner 's name ; Winthrop described the spot as the " ' Two Brothers ' " , in remembrance that they were brothers by their children 's marriage " .

= = = Other political activities = = =

During Dudley 's term of office in 1640 , many new laws were passed . This led to the introduction the following year of the Massachusetts Body of Liberties , a document that contains guarantees that were later placed in the United States Bill of Rights . During this term he joined moderates , including John Winthrop , in opposing attempts by the local clergy to take a more prominent and explicit role in the colony 's governance . When he was again governor in 1645 the colony threatened war against the expansionist Narragansetts , who had been making war against the English @-@ allied Mohegans . This prompted the Narragansett leader Miantonomi to sign a peace agreement with the New England colonies which lasted until King Philip 's War broke out 30 years later . Dudley also presided over the acquittal of John Winthrop in a trial held that year ; Winthrop had been charged with abuses of his power as a magistrate by residents of Hingham the previous year .

In 1649 Dudley was appointed once again to serve as a commissioner and president of the New England Confederation , an umbrella organization established by most of the New England colonies to address issues of common interest ; however , he was ill (and aging , at 73) , and consequently unable to discharge his duties in that office . Despite the illness , Dudley was elected governor for

the fourth and last time in 1650 . The most notable acts during this term were the issuance of a new charter for Harvard College , and the judicial decision to burn *The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption* , a book by Springfield resident William Pynchon that expounded on religious views heretical to the ruling Puritans . Pynchon was called upon to retract his views , but he chose to return to England instead of facing the magistrates .

During most of his years in Massachusetts , when not governor , Dudley served as either deputy governor or as one of the colony 's commissioners to the New England Confederation . He also served as a magistrate in the colonial courts , and sat on committees that drafted the laws of the colony . His views were conservative , but he was not as strident in them as John Endecott . Endecott notoriously defaced the English flag in 1632 , an act for which he was censured and deprived of office for one year . Dudley sided with the moderate faction on the issue , which believed the flag 's depiction of the Cross of St George had by then been reduced to a symbol of nationalism .

Nathaniel Morton , an early chronicler of the Plymouth Colony , wrote of Dudley , " His zeal to order appeared in contriving good laws , and faithfully executing them upon criminal offenders , heretics , and underminers of true religion . He had a piercing judgment to discover the wolf , though clothed with a sheepskin . " Early Massachusetts historian James Savage wrote of Dudley that " [a] hardness in public , and rigidity in private life , are too observable in his character " . In a more modern historical view , Francis Bremer observes that Dudley was " more precise and rigid than the moderate Winthrop in his approach to the issues facing the colonists " .

= = = Founding of Harvard and Roxbury Latin = = =

In 1637 the colony established a committee " to take order for a new college at Newtown " . The committee consisted of most of the colony 's elders , including Dudley . In 1638 , John Harvard , a childless colonist , bequeathed to the colony his library and half of his estate as a contribution to the college , which was consequently named in his honor . The college charter was first issued in 1642 , and a second charter was issued in 1650 , signed by then @-@ Governor Thomas Dudley , who also served for many years as one of the college 's overseers . Harvard University 's Dudley House , now only an administrative unit located in Lehman Hall after the actual house was torn down , is named in honor of the Dudley family . Harvard Yard once had a Dudley Gate bearing words written by his daughter Anne ; it was torn down in the 1940s to make way for construction of Lamont Library .

In 1643 , Reverend John Eliot established a school at Roxbury . Dudley , who was then living in Roxbury , gave significant donations of both land and money to the school , which survives to this day as the Roxbury Latin School .

= = Family and legacy = =

Dudley married Dorothy Yorke in 1603 , and with her had five children . Samuel , the first , also came to the New World , and married Winthrop 's daughter Mary in 1633 , the first of several alliances of the Dudley @-@ Winthrop family . He later served as the pastor in Exeter , New Hampshire . Daughter Anne married Simon Bradstreet , and became the first poet published in North America . The third child , Sarah , married Benjamin Keayne , a militia officer . This union was an unhappy one , and resulted in the first reported instance of divorce in the colony ; Keayne returned to England and repudiated the marriage . Although no formal divorce proceedings are known , Sarah eventually married again . Patience , the fourth child , also married a colonial militia officer , and Mercy , the last of his children with Dorothy , married minister John Woodbridge . Dorothy Yorke died 27 December 1643 at 61 years of age , and was remembered by her daughter Anne in a poem :

Here lies ,
A worthy matron of unspotted life ,
A loving mother and obedient wife ,

A friendly neighbor , pitiful to poor ,
Whom oft she fed and clothed with her store ;

Dudley married his second wife , the widow Katherine (Deighton) Hackburne , descendant of the noble Berkeley , Lygon and Beauchamp families , in 1644 . They had three children , Deborah , Joseph , and Paul . Joseph served as governor of the Dominion of New England and of the Province of Massachusetts Bay . Paul (not to be confused with Joseph 's son Paul , who served as provincial attorney general) was for a time the colony 's register of probate .

In 1636 Dudley moved from Cambridge to Ipswich , and in 1639 moved to Roxbury . He died in Roxbury on 31 July 1653 , and was buried in the Eliot Burying Ground there . Some of his descendants , including son Joseph and grandson Paul , are also buried there . Dudley 's many famous descendants include Dudley Saltonstall , Revolutionary War naval commander , Paul Dudley Sargent , Revolutionary War military commander and privateer , John Kerry , the 2004 Democratic presidential candidate and United States Senator from Massachusetts , now Secretary of State , as well as former United States Supreme Court Justice David Souter and past political figures such as U. S. President Herbert Hoover and New Hampshire Senator Nicholas Gilman . Dudley , Massachusetts is named for his grandsons Paul and William , who were its first proprietors .

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation owns a parcel of land in Billerica called Governor Thomas Dudley Park . The " Two Brothers " rocks are located in the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Bedford , in an area that has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Two Brothers Rocks @-@ Dudley Road Historic District .

Thomas Dudley is the 12th great @-@ grandfather of Heather Lindsay McRae , b.02 Feb 1990 in Tampa , Hillsborough County , Florida .