

= Joseph Dudley =

Joseph Dudley ( 23 September 1647 ? 2 April 1720 ) was an English colonial administrator . A native of Roxbury , Massachusetts , and the son of one of its founders , Dudley had a leading role in the administration of the Dominion of New England ( 1686 ? 1689 ) , overthrown in the 1689 Boston revolt , and served briefly on the council of the Province of New York . In New York , he oversaw the trial that convicted Jacob Leisler , the ringleader of Leisler 's Rebellion . He then spent eight years in England in the 1690s as Lieutenant @-@ Governor of the Isle of Wight , including one year as a Member of Parliament for Newtown , ( Isle of Wight ) . In 1702 he returned to New England after being appointed governor of the provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire , posts he held until 1715 .

His rule of Massachusetts was characterized by hostility and tension , with political enemies opposing his attempts to gain a regular salary , and regularly making complaints about his official and private actions . Most of his tenure was dominated by Queen Anne 's War , in which the two provinces were on the front lines with New France and suffered from a series of major and minor French and Indian raids . He orchestrated an unsuccessful attempt to capture the Acadian capital of Port Royal in 1707 , raised provincial militia forces for its successful capture in 1710 , and directed an unsuccessful expedition against Quebec in 1711 .

Dudley 's governorship institutionalized a pattern of hostility toward royal governance in Massachusetts , most frequently over the issue of the salaries of crown officials . The colonial legislature routinely challenged or disputed the prerogatives of the governor . While this hostility affected most of the governors of Massachusetts up to the American Revolutionary War and the end of British rule , his rule of New Hampshire was comparatively uncontroversial .

= = Early life = =

Joseph Dudley was born in Roxbury , Massachusetts Bay Colony , on 23 September 1647 . His mother was Katherine Dudley ( née Dighton or Deighton ; formerly Hackburne ) , and his father was Thomas Dudley , one of the founders and leading magistrates of the colony . His father was elderly ( seventy ) when he was born , and he was raised by his mother and Reverend John Allin , whom she married after his father 's death in 1653 .

He graduated from Harvard College in 1665 , and was admitted as a freeman in 1672 . He became a member of the general court representing Roxbury in 1673 , and was elected to the colony 's council of assistants in 1676 . In 1675 , when King Philip 's War broke out , Dudley was a commissioner who accompanied the colonial troops into the field against the Indians . He was present at the Great Swamp Fight , in which the Narragansett tribe was decisively defeated . He served for several years as a commissioner to the New England Confederation , and was sent by the administration on diplomatic missions to neighboring Indian communities . He served on a committee that negotiated the boundary between Massachusetts and the neighboring Plymouth Colony .

= = Revocation of the colonial charter = =

The colony 's governance , which had first come under increased scrutiny by King Charles II beginning in the 1660s , came under substantial threat in the late 1670s . Crown agent Edward Randolph , sent to New England in 1676 to collect customs duties and enforce the Navigation Acts , documented a list of issues and took his complaints to the Lords of Trade in London . The colonial leadership was divided on how to answer this threat . Dudley was part of a moderate faction , along with his brother @-@ in @-@ law Simon Bradstreet and William Stoughton , that supported accommodating the king 's demands . The moderates were opposed by hardliners who opposed attempts by the crown to interfere in the colony 's business . These factions were separated in part along class lines , with the wealthier land owners and merchants who dominated the legislature 's upper house ( called the " court of assistants " ) favoring accommodation , while the more

representative lower house favored the hardliners .

In 1677 Dudley was elected as a member of the Artillery Company of Massachusetts .

In 1682 Massachusetts sent Dudley and John Richards to London as agents to represent its case to the Lords of Trade . Dudley brought with him a letter of introduction from Plymouth Governor Thomas Hinckley to William Blathwayt , the colonial secretary . The favorable relationship he established with Blathwayt contributed much to Dudley 's future success as a colonial administrator , although it also raised suspicions in the colony about his motives and ability to represent its interests . The authority of the agents was limited , and the Lords of Trade insisted to the colonial administration that their agents be authorized to negotiate modifications to the colonial charter . The legislature , dominated by hardliners , refused this demand . This led directly to this issuance of a quo warranto writ demanding the surrender of the colonial charter . When Dudley brought this news to Boston at the end of 1683 , a heated debate began in the legislature , with the hardline party again prevailing . The hardliners , whose leadership included the influential Reverend Increase Mather , in particular castigated moderates like Dudley and Bradstreet as enemies of the colony . Richards , despite the hostile reception the agents had received in London , sided with the hardliners , and the hatred focused against Dudley resulted in his ouster from the council of assistants in the 1684 election .

The episode also led to accusations that Dudley had secretly schemed in London to have the charter vacated as a means of personal advancement . Although he is claimed to have discussed the form of a replacement government with Edward Randolph , this discussion did not take place until after the quo warranto writ was issued . This was treated as evidence that he was hostile to the present order of the colony , and working against his commission as colonial agent . His discussions with Randolph were perceived favorably by the latter , who also came to believe that Dudley 's election loss meant he would make a good crown servant . As a result , rumors began circulating in Boston in late 1684 that Dudley might be appointed governor , with Randolph as his deputy .

The charter was annulled in 1684 , and the Lords of Trade began planning to combine the New England colonies into a single province called the Dominion of New England . This work was still in progress when King James II took the throne in 1685 ; however , difficulties in drafting a commission for the intended governor , Sir Edmund Andros , prompted Randolph to propose an interim appointment . Dudley was chosen for this post based on Randolph 's recommendation , and on 8 October 1685 a commission was issued to him as President of the Council of New England . The territories covered by his commission included those of Massachusetts , New Hampshire , Maine , and the " Narragansett Country " , a disputed territory in present @-@ day southern Rhode Island . Randolph was appointed to a long list of subsidiary posts , including secretary of the colony , that would give him considerable power in the colony .

= = President of the Council of New England = =

Randolph arrived in Boston with Dudley 's charter on 14 May 1686 , and Dudley formally took charge of Massachusetts on 25 May . His rule did not begin auspiciously , since a number of Massachusetts magistrates who had been named to his council refused to serve , and he was unable to reconcile with Increase Mather , who refused to see him . According to Randolph , the Puritan magistrates " were of opinion that God would never suffer me to land again in this country , and thereupon began in a most arbitrary manner to assert their power higher than at any time before . " Elections of colonial military officers were also compromised when many of them also refused to serve . Dudley made a number of judicial appointments , generally favoring the political moderates who had supported accommodation of the king 's wishes in the battle over the old charter . He renewed treaties with the Indians of northern New England , and traveled to the Narragansett Country in June to formally establish his authority there .

Dudley was significantly hampered by the inability to raise revenues in the dominion . His commission did not allow for the introduction of new revenue laws , and the Massachusetts government , anticipating the loss of the charter , had repealed all such laws in 1683 . Furthermore , many people refused to pay the few remaining methods of income on the grounds that they had

been enacted by the old government and were thus invalid . Attempts by Dudley and Randolph to introduce the Church of England were largely unsuccessful due to a lack of funding , but were also hampered by the perceived political danger of imposing on the existing churches for their use .

The enforcement of the Navigation Acts was conducted by Dudley and Randolph , although they did not adhere to the letter of the laws . Understanding that some provisions of the acts were unfair ( for example , resulting in the payments of multiple duties ) , some violations were overlooked , and they suggested to the Lords of Trade that the laws be modified to ameliorate these conditions . However , the Massachusetts economy was harmed by their vigorous enforcement of the acts . Dudley and Randolph eventually had a falling out over matters related to trade , administration , and religion . " I am treated by Mr. Dudley worse than by Mr. Danforth " , Randolph wrote , unfavorably comparing Dudley to one of the hardline magistrates .

While Dudley governed , the Lords of Trade , based on a petition from Dudley 's council , decided to include the colonies of Rhode Island and Connecticut in the dominion . Andros , whose commission had been issued in June , was given an annex to his commission with instructions to incorporate them under his authority .

= = Service under Governor Andros = =

When Governor Andros arrived in December 1686 he immediately assumed the reins of power . Dudley sat on his council , and served as judge of the superior court and censor of the press . He also sat on the committee that worked to harmonize legislation across the dominion .

Although Andros ' appointed council was intended to represent all of the combined territories , the difficulties of travel and the failure of the government to reimburse travel expenses meant that his council was dominated by representatives from Boston and Plymouth . Dudley and Randolph were widely regarded as being a significant part of the " tyranny " of Andros ' reign . Dudley 's position as judge brought him the harshest criticisms and complaints , in particular when he enforced unpopular laws concerning taxes , town meetings , and land titles imposed by Andros .

When word of the 1688 Glorious Revolution arrived in Massachusetts , a mob rose up and arrested Andros in April 1689 . Dudley was away from the city , but was arrested upon his return . Since he was ill , he was released into house arrest upon payment of a £ 1 @, @ 000 bond , but a mob descended on his home and carried him back to jail . He stayed in jail for ten months , in part for his own safety , and was then sent back to England at the command of King William along with Andros and other dominion leaders . Colonial authorities brought charges against Andros and Dudley , but since none of their agents in London were prepared to take responsibility for making those charges in court , they were dismissed , and both men were freed . The defense he prepared against those charges demonstrated to the Lords of Trade his willingness and ability to follow crown policy directives .

Dudley , stranded in London with limited connections , appealed to Blathwayt for assistance . He also asked a business associate , Daniel Coxe , for help in finding a new position . Coxe , a proprietor of West Jersey , considered Dudley for the post of lieutenant governor there . Through these or other connections , Dudley was eventually recommended as chief of council to the new governor of New York , Henry Sloughter , a position he took up in 1691 . In addition to his council duties , he negotiated with New York 's Indians , and sat as chief judge in the trial of Jacob Leisler , who had led the rebellion that in 1689 overthrew Andros ' lieutenant governor , Francis Nicholson . The trial was controversial , and Dudley 's role made him many enemies . Leisler was convicted of high treason and sentenced to death . Governor Sloughter was initially opposed to immediately executing Leisler and his main ally and son @-@ in @-@ law Jacob Milborne , preferring to defer the decision to the king . Under pressure from anti @-@ Leisler forces in his council , Sloughter changed his mind , and the two men were executed on 16 May 1691 . Cotton Mather claimed that Dudley was an influential force arguing for Leisler 's execution , but this is disputed by testimony from anti @-@ Leisler councillor Nicholas Bayard .

Dudley left New York for his home in Roxbury in 1692 , and re @-@ established connections with political friends like William Stoughton , who had just been appointed lieutenant governor of the

newly chartered Province of Massachusetts Bay under Sir William Phips .

= = Patronage = =

Returning to England in 1693 , Dudley embarked on a series of intrigues to regain an office in New England . He ingratiated himself to the religious elements of the London political establishment by formally joining the Church of England . He acquired a patron in Baron Cutts , who engineered his appointment as lieutenant governor of the Isle of Wight , where Cutts had been appointed governor . Dudley and Cutts assisted each other politically : Cutts worked to advance Dudley 's agenda in London , while Dudley worked to promote that of Cutts on Wight . The principal activity he was engaged in that has been documented is the manipulation of parliamentary election processes in the island 's constituencies to see that Cutts ' chosen candidates were elected . This process made Cutts highly unpopular on Wight , although he continued in its governorship until his death in 1707 . Dudley also tried to assist Cutts with some financial difficulties , unsuccessfully scheming with Cutts ' father @-@ in @-@ law to gain permission to mint coinage for use in the colonies .

Dudley 's principal object of intrigue was the removal of William Phips as Massachusetts governor , something he did not hide from the colony 's agents . Phips , whose rule in Massachusetts was unpopular , was recalled to England to answer a variety of charges his opponents made . Dudley caused Phips to be arrested shortly after his arrival , on inflated charges that Phips had withheld customs monies from the crown . Phips died in February 1695 before the charges against him were heard , and Dudley was optimistic that he would be named the next governor .

At this point Dudley 's enemies from New York and Massachusetts joined forces against him to deny him the opportunity . Jacob Leisler 's son was in London , attempting to have the attainder against his father 's estate reversed . With assistance from Massachusetts agent Constantine Phips , a bill to do this was introduced into Parliament . The debate included a review of Leisler 's trial , and Dudley was forced to appear and defend his role in it . Afterward , Phips wrote to Cotton Mather , " [ Dudley ] is not so much talked of to be governor . " The appointment to replace Phips went instead to Lord Bellomont .

Cutts continued to be active on Dudley 's behalf , and secured for him election as a Member of Parliament representing Newtown in 1701 . This made it possible for Dudley to further expand his own political connections in London . He managed to at least temporarily mend political fences with Constantine Phips and Cotton Mather , and began lobbying for the Massachusetts governorship after the death of Bellomont in 1701 . In this he was successful , receiving commissions as governor of Massachusetts and New Hampshire on 1 April 1702 from Queen Anne .

= = Governor of Massachusetts and New Hampshire = =

Dudley served as governor until 1715 . His administration was marked , particularly in the earlier years , by regular conflict with the general court . Upon instruction from the colonial office , he was to gain a regular salary for the governor . He and all of the succeeding royal governors were unsuccessful in extracting this concession from the provincial legislature , and it became a regular source of friction between representatives of crown and colony . Dudley pressed his complaint in letters to London , in which he complained of men " who love not the Crown and Government of England to any manner of obedience " . In one letter to his son Paul , then the provincial attorney general , he wrote " this country will never be worth living in for lawyers and gentlemen , till the charter is taken away . " This letter was discovered and published , fueling provincial opposition to his rule . Dudley also angered the powerful Mather family when he awarded the presidency of Harvard to John Leverett instead of Cotton Mather , and consistently vetoed the election of councilors and speakers of the general court who had acted against him in 1689 , further increasing his unpopularity in Massachusetts . In contrast , his tenure as governor of New Hampshire was popular ; its legislature specifically praised him to the queen after learning of complaints levelled against him by his Massachusetts opponents .

== Queen Anne 's War ==

Dudley was active in managing colonial defenses during Queen Anne 's War . He attempted to forestall French @-@ orchestrated Indian hostilities by meeting with Indians at Casco Bay in June 1703 , but the French had already begun rallying the Indians to their cause , and the war began with raids on the settlements of southern Maine in August 1703 . Dudley called out the militia , and the Massachusetts and New Hampshire frontiers , extending from the Connecticut River to southern Maine , were fortified . The French and Indians raided Deerfield in February 1704 , prompting calls for retaliation . Dudley authorized the aging Indian fighter Benjamin Church to lead a retaliatory expedition against settlements in Acadia . He also engaged in protracted negotiations for the return of captives taken at Deerfield that the French sought to broaden into a wider @-@ ranging agreement .

In part because he specifically refused Church permission to attack the Acadian capital and commercial center , Port Royal , Dudley was accused by Boston merchants and the Mathers of being in league with smugglers and traders illegally trading with the French . He sought to forestall these criticisms in 1707 , when he sent the colonial militia on a fruitless expedition against Port Royal . In 1708 a bitter attack on his administration was published in London , entitled *The Deplorable State of New England by reason of a Covetous and Treacherous Governor and Pusillanimous Counsellors* , as part of a campaign to have him recalled . Dudley again rallied the provincial militias for a planned expedition against Quebec in 1709 , but the supporting expedition from England was called off . In 1710 support from England arrived , and a successful siege of Port Royal led to its fall , and the beginning of the Province of Nova Scotia . Boston was again the organizing point for an expedition to Quebec in 1711 . Combining British and provincial forces , the expedition failed disastrously when some of its transports foundered on the shores of the Saint Lawrence River . During the war Dudley also authorized expeditions against the Abenakis of northern New England , but these were largely ineffectual . The war quieted to some extent after the fall of Port Royal , with only small raiding parties hitting frontier communities , and peace came with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 .

Dudley negotiated a separate peace with the Abenakis at Portsmouth , New Hampshire , in 1713 . Seeking to separate at least the western Kennebec from French influence , he adopted a fairly hard line , threatening to withhold trade that was vital to their survival , and reiterated claims of British sovereignty over the Abenaki . Although the Treaty of Portsmouth that resulted from those negotiations repeats the claims of sovereignty , there is evidence that the implications of the sovereign claim were not explained to Abenaki negotiators , and that the Abenaki explicitly repudiated land claims in the negotiations . In response to Dudley 's claims that the French had ceded Abenaki lands ( claimed as part of Acadia ) , one sachem responded , " The French never said anything to us about it , and wee wonder how they would give it away without asking us " . Nevertheless , Dudley and succeeding governors treated the Abenaki as British subjects , and friction persisted over British colonial expansion into Maine that flared into Dummer 's War in the 1720s .

== Other issues ==

The war worsened currency and finance problems in Massachusetts . Since the 1690s the province had been issuing paper currency , and the issuance of large amounts of this currency was causing it to depreciate relative to precious metals used in other currencies . How to deal with this divided colonists among themselves and with the governor , and would not be resolved until the 1760s . Business leaders who borrowed money were happy to pay it back later with depreciated currency , while lenders sought reforms to stabilize the currency . In 1714 a major proposal was floated by Dudley 's opponents in which a land bank , secured by the holdings of the shareholder 's properties , would issue as much as £ 50 @, @ 000 in currency . Dudley was opposed to this scheme , and instead convinced the provincial legislature to issue £ 50 @, @ 000 in bills of credit . The financially powerful interests he upset with this move would prove to be his downfall .

In 1713 surveys determined that the border between Massachusetts and the Connecticut Colony had been incorrectly sited in the 17th century , and that Massachusetts had consequently distributed lands that actually belonged to Connecticut . Dudley and Connecticut Governor Gurdon Saltonstall negotiated an agreement in which Massachusetts would retain those lands , but grant to Connecticut for distribution an equivalent amount of land . The " Equivalent Lands " amounted to over 100 @, @ 000 acres ( 400 km<sup>2</sup> ) of land in an area on either side of the Connecticut River in present @-@ day northern Massachusetts , southeastern Vermont , and southwestern New Hampshire . These lands were auctioned off in April 1716 , and Connecticut used the proceeds to fund Yale College .

Following the death in 1714 of Queen Anne , Dudley 's commission and that of Lieutenant Governor William Tailer , like most royal commissions , expired six months later . The governor 's council , dominated by Dudley 's political opponents , at that point asserted its authority , and on 14 February 1715 , assumed control of the government under the provisions of the provincial charter concerning governance in the absence of the governor and his lieutenant . Just six weeks later , news arrived from England that Dudley 's commission had been at least temporarily confirmed by King George I , and he was reinstated on 21 March .

However , Dudley 's political opponents , especially those involved in the land bank proposal , were active in London , and they convinced the king to appoint Colonel Elizeus Burges as governor later in the year . Burges ' commission was proclaimed in Boston on 9 November 1715 , ending Dudley 's commission . Since Burges was not in the colony , governance fell to Lieutenant Governor Tailer , whose commission had been renewed . Burges was bribed by Jonathan Belcher and Jeremiah Dummer , the brother of Dudley 's son @-@ in @-@ law William , to resign his commission in April 1716 without leaving England , and a new commission was issued to Samuel Shute , who promised to oppose attempts to introduce the land bank . He arrived in the colony and assumed the post of governor in October 1716 , with William Dummer as his lieutenant .

Dudley retired to the family home in Roxbury . He acted as an informal advisor to Governor Shute upon his arrival , and made appearances at public and private functions . He died in Roxbury on 2 April 1720 . He was buried , with pomp and ceremony appropriate to his position , next to his father in Roxbury 's Eliot Burying Ground .

= = Family and legacy = =

In 1668 , Dudley married Rebecca Tyng , who survived him by two years . They had twelve children , ten of whom survived to adulthood . His son Paul served as attorney general and chief justice of Massachusetts . Dudley , Massachusetts , is named for his sons Paul and William , who were its first proprietors .

Dudley at his death owned large tracts of land in Massachusetts , principally in Roxbury and what is now Worcester County . The latter properties he purchased from the Nipmuc in partnership with William Stoughton , and was granted land for the purpose of settling French Huguenots that became part of Oxford . Dudley frequently used his position , especially when president of the dominion and governor of the province , to ensure that the titles to lands he was interested in were judicially cleared , a practice that also benefited friends , relatives , and business partners . Edward Randolph wrote that it was " impossible to bring titles of land to trial before them where his Majesties 's rights are concerned , the Judges also being parties . "

Nineteenth century historian John Palfrey wrote of Dudley that he " united rich intellectual attributes with a groveling soul " , forging political connections and relationships in his early years for the purpose of furthering his own advancement . He capitalized on his favorable family connections to the Puritan leadership of Massachusetts to establish connections in England , but then betrayed those Massachusetts connections when it became necessary to further his quest for power . Thomas Hutchinson , who later also served as provincial governor , and wrote an extensive history of Massachusetts , wrote of Dudley that " he had as many virtues as can consist with so great a thirst for honour and power . " Biographer Everett Kimball wrote of Dudley , " ... in spite of his failings of temper he possessed a good deal of tact and personal charm , by which , when everything else

failed , he could sometimes transform an enemy into a friend . "

= = Portrait = =

Dudley 's portrait ( seen above ) , is documented as having been painted in 1704 . The portrait remained in the family from its creation , through a direct line of descent , to the 20th century . It was sold at public auction by Eldred 's in 2006 . Numerous internet sites misidentify a reversed 19th century black and white photograph of this portrait as his father Thomas .

The following text is inscribed on the reverse of portrait , ? Gov. Joseph Dudley , Supposed to have been painted by Lely about 1680 - Property of Dr. Daniel Dudley Gilbert . Restored by Harold Fletcher in 1886 . ? The attribution to Peter Lely was conjecture and incorrect .

Recorded in : American Colonial Painting , Materials for a History by Waldron Phoenix Belknap , Jr . ( ref : The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press , Cambridge , Massachusetts , 1959 ) p . 238 , ? Gov. Joseph Dudley ( 16 - ) , son of Gov. Thomas Dudley , No 1 . HL , own hair long , robe and steinkirk , right hand gesturing across body . Repro . Hist . Dudley Fam opp p . 834 , photo by Elmer Chickering , Boston . Ref . : Hist . Dudley Fam . , pp. 757 , 163 , ? Memorial of Reunion , ? p . 13 . Owned 1892 : Dr. Daniel Dudley Gilbert ( 1838 - ) , of Dorchester , Mass . ?