

= Samuel Shute =

Samuel Shute (January 12 , 1662 ? April 15 , 1742) was an English military officer and royal governor of the provinces of Massachusetts and New Hampshire . After serving in the Nine Years ' War and the War of the Spanish Succession , he was appointed by King George I as governor of Massachusetts and New Hampshire in 1716 . His tenure was marked by virulent disagreements with the Massachusetts assembly on a variety of issues , and by poorly conducted diplomacy with respect to the Native American Wabanaki Confederacy of northern New England that led to Dummer 's War (1722 ? 1725) .

Although Shute was partly responsible for the breakdown in negotiations with the Wabanakis , he returned to England in early 1723 to procure resolutions to his ongoing disagreements with the Massachusetts assembly , leaving conduct of the war to Lieutenant Governor William Dummer . His protests resulted in the issuance in 1725 of the Explanatory Charter , essentially confirming his position in the disputes with the assembly . He did not return to New England , being replaced as governor in 1728 by William Burnet , and refused to be considered for reappointment after Burnet 's sudden death in 1729 .

Thomas Hutchinson (Massachusetts royal governor in the early 1770s) , in his history of Massachusetts , described Shute 's tenure as governor as the most contentious since the Antinomian Controversy of the 1630s .

= = Early life = =

Samuel Shute was born in London , England on January 12 , 1662 . He was the eldest of six children of Benjamin Shute , a London merchant . His mother , identified in sources as Elizabeth , Patience , or Mary , was the daughter of Joseph Caryl , a dissenting Presbyterian clergyman . His brother John , afterward Lord Barrington , became an influential member of parliament , political leader of religious Dissenters , and confidant of King George I. Shute was educated by Rev. Charles Morton , who afterward emigrated to New England . Shute then attended the University of Leyden in Holland and subsequently entered the English army , serving under William III .

In the War of the Spanish Succession Shute served in the campaigns of the Duke of Marlborough in the 3rd Dragoon Guards . He was a captain of that cavalry regiment when he was wounded at the 1704 Battle of Blenheim ; by the end of the war he had a full promotion to lieutenant @-@ colonel and a brevet promotion to colonel . Upon the accession of King George I in 1714 , Colonel Elizeus Burges was commissioned as governor of Massachusetts and New Hampshire . Massachusetts agents Jeremiah Dummer and Jonathan Belcher , representing opponents of a land bank proposal that Burges had promised to support , bribed him £ 1 @,@ 000 to resign before he left England . Dummer and Belcher were then instrumental in promoting Shute as an alternative to Burges , believing among other things that he was likely to be well received in New England because he was from a prominent Dissenting family .

= = Governor of Massachusetts and New Hampshire = =

Shute arrived in Boston on October 4 , 1716 , where he began a difficult and contentious tenure in office . He signaled his partisanship by first taking up residence with Paul Dudley , son of the last @-@ appointed governor Joseph Dudley and a land bank opponent , rather than Acting Governor William Tailer .

= = = New Hampshire = = =

Shute 's administration of New Hampshire was not as troublesome as that of Massachusetts , but issues began early . Lieutenant Governor George Vaughan , who had been acting as governor for a year before Shute 's arrival , insisted on claiming full authority to act when Shute was not present in that province . Against direct orders from Shute , Vaughan , in Shute 's absence , dissolved the

assembly and dismissed councillor Samuel Penhallow . In September 1717 Shute , with the concurrence of his council , suspended Vaughan , recalled the assembly , and reinstated Penhallow . Vaughan was afterward formally replaced as lieutenant governor by John Wentworth .

One positive event connected with the administration of Governor Shute was the resettlement of a large number of Scotch emigrants from the north of Ireland . In early 1718 Reverend William Boyd arrived from Ulster to petition for land on behalf of a number of Presbyterian families seeking to emigrate . Shute favorably received the emissary , and several ships with migrants arrived in August 1718 . They eventually settled in New Hampshire , where they founded the town of Londonderry . This was the beginning of a major wave of Scotch @-@ Irish migration to both New Hampshire and Massachusetts .

Shute also made other grants of townships in land that is part of the modern state of New Hampshire . However , much of southwestern New Hampshire was at the time disputed between the two provinces Shute governed , and grants he made in that area went to Massachusetts interests . This upset a number of New Hampshire politicians , notably Lieutenant Governor Wentworth . Wentworth used discontent over these grants , combined with competing ones that he issued himself under New Hampshire authority , to build a power base that would eventually (after his death) successfully lobby for the separation of the governorships .

= = = Disputes with Massachusetts assembly = = =

Shute engaged in a wide array of disputes with the Massachusetts General Court (the provincial assembly) concerning the royal prerogative and other issues . During his administration the assembly successfully expanded its authority at the expense of the governor 's , which permanently affected relations between later governors and the assembly until independence . Currency was a major issue which divided the province politically : a large populist faction supported the inflationary issuance of paper currency , while two economically powerful groups supported competing proposals for dealing with the currency problem . The faction that had secured Burges ' appointment supported a private land bank proposal that would issue bills secured by private property , while the Dudleys and their supporters , who backed Shute , favored the idea of paper that was backed by gold .

A major opponent representing the popular factions in the province was Elisha Cooke , Jr . , a politician and major landowner in Maine , which was then part of Massachusetts . Cooke 's opposition was rooted in disagreements on the currency , and the matter of logging in the Maine territory . During the Dudley administration logging interests had widely flouted the 1711 White Pine Act , British Parliamentary legislation that reserved large trees on ungranted public lands for the government 's use as ship masts . Shute sought to crack down on this behavior , earning the enmity of Cooke and others . Cooke 's early challenges to the law were legal in nature , but rapidly became political . In 1718 Cooke was nominated to serve on the Governor 's Council by the assembly , but Shute vetoed the choice . The assembly then appointed Cooke to be its speaker in 1720 . This began a constitutional argument about the governor 's powers , for Shute refused to accept Cooke 's appointment , claiming it was within his authority to veto it . The assembly , for its part , refused to appoint anyone else , and the following year seated a different speaker before Shute was given notice of his election .

Shute 's disagreements with the assembly also extended to its ability to adjourn for short periods of time . The assembly could only formally be called into session and adjourned by the governor , and provided one means by which the governor could control the assembly ; Shute took issue with a temporary adjournment of six days . This dispute combined with his refusal to approve Cooke 's appointment prompted the assembly to become strongly opposed to Shute on virtually all actions . This recalcitrance extended to a denial of any attempts on the part of the governor to fund the improvement of defenses on the province 's northern and eastern frontiers , where there were ongoing difficulties with the Wabanaki Confederacy .

One of Shute 's more notorious controversies concerned the assembly 's refusal to grant him a regular salary . This was a frequent source of dispute , and it spilled over into other matters : Shute

's veto of Cooke 's appointment in 1719 resulted in a reduction of his salary grant . The salary issue would continue to be a regular source of disagreement between the provincial assembly and the governor until the Belcher administration of the 1730s . Shute attempted to impose press censorship after Cooke partisans published pamphlets harshly criticizing his policies , but the assembly refused to pass the proposed legislation , effectively legitimizing freedom of the press in the province . Boston 's conservative religious establishment also expressed reservations over his attendance at Anglican church services , as well as his sometimes ostentatious and loud parties .

= = = Indian policy = = =

When the War of the Spanish Succession ended in 1713 , its North American theater (where it was known as Queen Anne 's War) came to an uneasy end . The Treaty of Utrecht that ended the war did not acknowledge any Native American claims , and contained ambiguous language concerning the French cession of Acadia . The contested areas of northern New England included present @-@ day Nova Scotia , New Brunswick , and eastern Maine . Joseph Dudley had in 1713 negotiated an end to hostilities with the tribes in Massachusetts and New Hampshire , but the written form of the Treaty of Portsmouth differed in content from the orally negotiated agreements , and its terms were being violated by British settlements encroaching on Abenaki lands on Maine 's coasts and rivers . Furthermore , neighboring Nova Scotia 's Mi 'kmaq had not signed any treaties . Both France and Britain claimed the claimed suzerainty over the tribes inhabiting the contested area . The tribes , loosely organized into the Wabanaki Confederacy , asserted their own sovereignty and ownership of much of the disputed area .

In a meeting at Arrowsic , Maine in 1717 Shute and representatives of some of the Wabanakis attempted to reach some agreement concerning colonial encroachment on Native lands and the establishment of provincially operated trading posts . The Kennebec sachem (chief) Wiwurna objected not only to the establishment of settlements on their lands , but also the construction of forts , and claimed sovereign control of those lands . Shute , who often rudely interrupted Wiwurna , bluntly reasserted British claims to the territory . The Wabanakis were willing to accede to existing illegal settlements if a proper boundary was delineated beyond which settlement would not be allowed ; Shute responded " We desire only what is our own , and that we will have . " This ambiguous response , and the treaty that was ultimately agreed , did not satisfy the Wabanakis .

Over the next several years settlers continued to encroach on Wabanaki lands east of the Kennebec River , including the construction of block house fortifications on the east side of the Kennebec River . The Wabanakis responded by raiding livestock . Canso , Nova Scotia , a settlement disputed by all three parties but fortified by Nova Scotia and primarily occupied by Massachusetts fishermen , was also a flashpoint for conflict . After receiving complaints of harassment and raids from Canso @-@ based fishermen in 1718 , Shute dispatched a Royal Navy frigate to the area , which seized French ships and goods . Tensions there were further raised when Canso was attacked in 1720 by the Mi 'kmaq .

At a conference in 1720 the Wabanakis agreed to pay 400 fur pelts as restitution for property damage done in Maine , leaving four hostages as surety until the pelts were delivered . Shute also protested the presence of the French Jesuit priest Sebastian Rale , who lived among the Kennebec in central Maine , demanding that he be removed . In July 1721 the Wabanakis delivered half the furs , demanded the return of their hostages , and refused to hand over Rale (who accompanied them to the meeting site) . Massachusetts made no official response , and raids soon resumed .

The Wabanakis then went to extraordinary lengths to produce a written document reasserting their sovereign claims to disputed areas , delineating the areas they claimed , and threatening violence if their territory was violated . Shute dismissed the letter as " insolent and menacing " , and sent militia forces to Arrowsic . He also asserted , based on Rale 's influence , that the Wabanaki claims were part of a French intrigue to further French claims to the disputed areas . Following up on this idea , he sent a militia expedition to capture Rale in January 1722 . The force reached the Kennebec village at Norridgewock where Rale was based , but the priest escaped . The militia recovered a strongbox containing his papers (including communications with French authorities) , which Shute

used to reinforce the claims of French involvement . Shute reiterated British claims of sovereignty over the disputed areas in letters to the Lords of Trade and to Governor General Philippe de Rigaud Vaudreuil of New France . Vaudreuil in response pointed out that although France claimed sovereignty over the area , the Wabanakis maintained ownership , and suggested that Shute misunderstood the way in which ideas of European and Native American ownership interacted .

The raid on Norridgewock and the fortification of the Maine coast brought a predictable response : the Wabanakis went to war , raiding British settlements on the Maine coast in 1722 and seizing shipping vessels off Nova Scotia . On July 25 , 1722 , Shute formally declared war on the Wabanakis , marking a formal start to the conflict often referred to as Dummer 's War , since Lieutenant Governor William Dummer would end up conducting the Massachusetts involvement in the war .

= = = Decision to leave = = =

Under the leadership of Cooke and others of the " country party " , the assembly investigated the province 's expenditures . Finding that some payments of militia had been made fraudulently , the assembly was able to introducing spending bills that very precisely delineated how public funds could be spent ; this represented an increase the assembly 's power at the expense of the governor . The assembly further encroached on the governor 's authority by establishing a committee to oversee the activities of the militia in December 1722 . With the Indian war looming , Shute saw this as a serious threat to his power , and decided that only by returning to London would he be able to correct the situation . Not long after Christmas 1722 Shute sailed for England .

= = Later years and legacy = =

Upon his arrival in London , Shute presented his many issues to the Privy Council . His opponents were represented by Jeremiah Dummer and Elisha Cooke , the former having long served as colonial agent in London , and the latter being chosen by the assembly to put forward its case . Shute 's arguments were accepted by the council , and only the diplomacy of Dummer convinced the council not to revoke the colonial charter . In 1725 the council issued an explanatory colonial charter confirming Shute 's position on the adjournment issue and the approval of the house speaker , which the provincial assembly reluctantly accepted the following year . Shute was preparing to return to Massachusetts in 1727 when King George I died . This brought about a change of administration in London and a reshuffling of colonial governorships . The Massachusetts and New Hampshire governorships were given to William Burnet , then the governor of New York and New Jersey , and Shute was given a pension . Burnet 's brief administration was dominated by an extended attempt by the governor to secure an annual salary . The sudden death of Burnet in 1729 again opened the Massachusetts and New Hampshire seats . Shute was apparently considered again for the post , but demurred , implicitly offering his support instead to Jonathan Belcher , who was actively seeking the post .

Shute , who never married , died in England on Apr. 10 , 1743 . Shutesbury , Massachusetts is named in his honor .