

William Partridge

{1638, Lynn}

Version of April 1, 2024.

A New England settler sketch
by Ian Watson.

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ORIGIN: Olney, Buckinghamshire.

MIGRATION: 1638 (son baptized in England on 11 September 1637; granted land at Lynn in “1638” [EQC 2:270]; admitted to freemanship on 14 March 1638/9 [MBCR 1:375]).

FIRST RESIDENCE: Lynn.

REMOVES: Salisbury by 1641.

OCCUPATION: Shoemaker [SCF 813:109]. His inventory lists “one hide of leather”; “four dozen of lasts”; “awls, pincers & other shop tools”; and a debt of 16s “to the currier” [EPF 20681; EP-D 1:192-193]. He filed, then withdrew a lawsuit against William Gerish “for not delivering fifteen pounds worth of leather at a certain time according to promise” [EQC 1:281]. He kept money due to the children of Salisbury tanner HENRY BYLEY {1638, Salisbury} [EQC 1:167; EP-D 1:103], and two records casually associate him with CHRISTOPHER BATT {1638, Salisbury} [EP-D 1:103; Essex Ant 3:109], who was also a tanner and Byley’s first cousin [NEHGR 52:50]. His sons John and Nehemiah were both cordwainers and served as leather sealers [GDMNH 532]. His nephew, the eldest son of Henry and Jane (Partridge) Gaines,

was apprenticed to a shoemaker after his parents' death [NEHGR 85:30-31].

Husbandman (his inventory lists considerable livestock including "five milch cows"); he also had five hives of bees [EPF 20681; EP-D 1:192-193].

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Lynn church prior to 14 March 1638/9 implied by freemanship.

CIVIL STATUS: Massachusetts Bay freeman, 14 March 1638/9, with other Lynn men [MBCR 1:375].

CIVIL OFFICES: Ipswich jury, 29 September 1646 [EQC 1:108]. Hampton jury, 26 September 1648 [EQC 1:149]. Salisbury jury, 8 April 1651, 12 April 1653 [EQC 1:221, 279].

Salisbury "townsman" (possibly meaning selectman), 5 January 1642/3 [SyTR-E 43].

MILITARY SERVICE: His inventory included "two swords & belts," 18s; "two muskets & one carbine," £2 15s; "one pistol," 10s; "a sword & bandoliers," 5s; and "a matchlock musket," 12s [EPF 20681; EP-D 1:192-193].

PROPERTY: In "1638" (probably 1638/9), "Will[iam] Partridge" received 10 acres of "upland" at Lynn [EQC 2:270].

In the undated "first division of the town of Salisbury there was granted unto Willi[am] Partridge a house lot containing ... two acres," abutting "the street leading to the great neck" and "the east side of the green ... Also there was granted unto him a six-acre planting lot" [SyBOP 38; SyTR-E 11]. (The house lot is mapped at SyMap-M.)

On 25 March 1641, the town of Salisbury "granted to Willi[am] Partridge the meadow lot which was formerly granted to Willi[am] Purrier containing four acres if it do not prejudice other lots formerly laid out in full of his lot formerly granted, the said meadow lot ... butting upon the little river with one end, & with the other end upon the great neck." On the same day, "there was granted unto Willi[am]

Partridge a great lot containing per estimation twenty acres ... butting upon the great River Merimack with the one end” [SyBOP 38; SyTR-E 31].

On 15 January 1643[/4], the town of Salisbury “granted unto Willi[am] Patridge a parcel of land lying upon the north side of the highway leading to the great meadows over against his planting lot, not exceeding the breadth of his planting lot in breadth” Apparently on the same day, “there was granted unto Willi[am] Partridge a meadow lot containing per estimation four acres ... lying between the meadow lots of Richard Currier & Henry Browne butting with one end upon the great neck & with the other end upon the meadow of Willi[am] Allen” [SyBOP 38; SyTR-E 51; SCF 813:109]. (This was the grant later in question in the case of *Severance v. Downer*; see *COMMENTS*.)

On 25 December 1650, and again on 18 July 1652, William Partridge was taxed in Salisbury [Hoyt 11, 12]. On 3 February 1650[/1], he was on a list of “townsmen and commoners” of Salisbury [SyTR 34; SyTR-E 77; Hoyt 11]. In 1654, he received land in Salisbury [Hoyt 14].

The inventory of the estate of “William Partridge of Salisbury,” taken 5 September 1654, totaled £249 5s 8d (against debts of £105 9s). The estate owned £75 10s in real property: “four acres of arable land with an orchard planted upon it with the dwelling house & other out houses belonging to it,” £40; “forty acres of upland, six acres improved for corn,” £20; “twenty acres of upland upon Meremack River not improved,” £1 10s; a “planting lot in the neck containing eight acres, 5 acres broke up,” £1 10s; “four acres of meadow,” £4; “seven acres in the Barbarie Meadows,” £3 10s; “eight acres of salt marsh in the first division,” £4; “the last division of meadow part the sweepage of the beach & partly Meremack River about two acres,” £1. Thirty head of livestock and “five hives of bees” were valued at £131 [EPF 20681; EP-D 1:192-193; SCF 813:126].

On 3 October 1654, “Ann Partridg [was] appointed administratrix of the estate of her husband, Willi[am] Partridg, of Salisbury” [EQC 1:370].

On 6 January 1657[/8?], “Anthony Stanian & Anne Stanian of the town of Hampton” sold to “Lieut. Robert Pike of Salisbury ... a planting lot containing per estimation six acres ... with an addition thereunto ... in the bounds of the town of Salisbury”; the abutters show that this was the lot granted to William Partridge [NLR 1:62; Essex Ant 2:49]. Also on 6 January 1657[/8?], “Anthony & Anne Stanian (wife to the said Anthony) of the town of Hampton ..., planter,” sold to “Mr. Thomas Bradbury & John Stevens both of Salisbury ... a certain parcel of upland containing per estimation thirty-six acres ..., the said land being three ten-acre lots & a six-acre lot formerly purchased by William Partridg of Salisbury deceased the former husband of Anne Stanian abovenamed, the said land now lying & being within the town of Salisbury”; Robert Pike witnessed the deed, and it was acknowledged by both husband and wife “by the General Court’s order” [NLR 2:162; Essex Ant 7:136].

On 11 June 1659, “Anthony Stanian and Ann his wife both of the town of Hampton ... for diverse good & lawful considerations us thereunto moving & especially in consideration of the full discharge of twenty-six pounds by John Partridg of Boston, seaman, which twenty-six pounds was due unto the said John Partridg for several legacies given unto him by his grandfather John Partridg & his father Willi[am] Partridg deceased, as also in consideration of thirteen pounds to be paid unto Hannah Partridg at the age of one & twenty years, & thirteen pounds to Elizabeth Partridg at the age of twenty-one years,” deeded “unto the said John Partridg one messuage or dwelling house with certain lands hereafter expressed ... [in] Salisbury ... viz: four acres more or less of fresh meadow lying in the Great Meadows, & seven acres of meadow more or less lying in the Barberry

Meadows, and eight acres more or less of salt marsh, lying in the first divisions of higledee-pigledee towards Hampton, and four acres more or less of marsh lying at Mr. Hall's farm, and a division of sweepage at the beach towards Hampton, the house and lands being formerly the house and lands of Willi[am] Partridg late of Salisbury deceased" [NLR 1:109; Essex Ant 3:10]. (This deed shows the oldest son, John, receiving a double share (£26) of the money due the children both from their grandfather's and father's estate, and perhaps obligating himself to pay the shares of Hannah and Elizabeth, who were the eldest of his five siblings; the younger children Nehemiah, Sarah, Rachel, and William were not mentioned.)

On 21 October 1660, "John Partridg of Salisbury ..., seaman," deeded all the land he received in 1659 to "Mr. Anthony Stanian of the town of Hampton" for £52 [NLR 2:190; Essex Ant 8:127-128]. On 3 July 1661, "Anthony Stanian of Hampton" sold this same land to "Robert Downer of Nuberie" [NLR 1:122; Essex Ant 3:43]. On 17 September 1669, "John Partridg of Portsmouth in the river of Pascattaqua cordwinder" conveyed for "natural love & affection" to his "son John Partridg" the "messuage & tenement of William Partridg the elder father of the said John Partridg the elder late deceased," consisting once again of the same lands [NLR 2:155; Essex Ant 7:89]. How John Partridge regained title to property that had passed to Downer in 1661 is not clear from the record.

BIRTH: Baptized at Olney, Buckinghamshire, 5 September 1613, son of John and Frances (Beecham) Partridge [BT at DGS 8091963:367; NLR 1:109; Essex Ant 3:10; EQC 1:270, 312-313; father's probate, see *COMMENTS*].

DEATH: Salisbury 5 July 1654 [manuscript VR at DGS 7009666:301]. In 1667 Robert Downer referred to Partridge's death as "sudden" [SCF 813:110].

MARRIAGE: Olney, Buckinghamshire, 6 October 1636 **Ann Spicer** [BT at DGS 7909451:670; NHGR 9:180]. She married, second, at Hampton 1 January 1655[/6?] **ANTHONY STANYAN** {1635, Boston, GM 6:479} [HampVR 73, 555; NLR 2:162]. She died at Hampton 10 July 1689 [HampVR 8].

CHILDREN:

- i **JOHN PARTRIDGE**, bp. Olney, Buckinghamshire, 11 September 1637 [BT at DGS 7909451:675; NHGR 9:180; SCF 813:121]; m. 11 December 1660 **Mary Fernald** [DoVR 120; NEHGR 7:125], daughter of **RENALD FERNALD** {1639, Piscataqua} [GDMNH 230-231; Waterhouse Anc 42].
- ii **HANNAH PARTRIDGE**, b. say 1639; m. about 1660 **Edward Gove**, son of John Gove [NEHGR 164:15-22, 296; NHPCF 17967 at DGS 8203792:868].
- iii **RACHEL PARTRIDGE**, b. say 1641; d. Salisbury 19 April 1650 [manuscript VR at DGS 7009666:301]. (See *COMMENTS*.)
- iv **ELIZABETH PARTRIDGE**, b. Salisbury 14 February 1642/3 [manuscript VR at DGS 7009666:276]; m. Hampton 26 June 1661 or 26 January 1661[/2] **Joseph Shaw** [HampVR 74, 556; EQC 3:101], son of **ROGER SHAW** {1638, Cambridge} [NHPP 31:47-50; NEHGR 158:317].
- v **NEHEMIAH PARTRIDGE**, b. Salisbury 5 May 1645 [manuscript VR at DGS 7009666:277; SCF 813:121]; m. by 15 July 1668 **Sarah** —, who Anthony Ellins of Portsmouth called “kinswoman” that day [NHPLR 3:13a; GDMNH 219, 532; NEHGR 67:81].
- vi **SARAH PARTRIDGE**, b. Salisbury 24 August 1647 [manuscript VR at DGS 7009666:277]; m. Haverhill 14 November 1666 **John Heath** [VR], son of Bartholomew Heath [Ordway Anc 313].

- vii RACHEL PARTRIDGE, b. 1650-1651 (see *COMMENTS*); m. Hampton 31 December 1671 or 31 January 1671[/2?] **Joseph Chase** [HampVR 76, 564], son of THOMAS CHASE {1639, Hampton} [NHPP 31:23; *Seven Generations of the Descendants of Aquila and Thomas Chase* (Derry 1928), 475-480].
- viii WILLIAM PARTRIDGE (see *COMMENTS*), b. 1654 (deposed 17 April 1693 aged 39 [SCF 2802:57]; died 3 January 1728/9 in his 75th year [Newbury VR]; see also GDMNH 533); m. Newbury December 1680 **Mary Brown** [VR].

ASSOCIATIONS: William Partridge was one of a cluster of immigrants from Olney, Buckinghamshire, who are described at TAG 68:65-69. William Partridge's sister, Jane Partridge, married HENRY GAINES {1638, Lynn} at Olney 17 May 1634 [BT at DGS 7909451:664; NHGR 9:180; TAG 65:68; NEHGR 63:283]. Partridge and Gaines were made freemen on the same day [MBCR 1:375]. On 9 July 1645, the inventory of the estate of Jane Gaines of Lynn mentioned a "debt due from Will[iam] Patridge, 9s" [EQC 1:79-81].

The text of William Partridge's 1641 land grant in Salisbury (see *PROPERTY*) suggests that he took over the proprietary share of WILLIAM PURRIER {1638, Ipswich}, and that his home lot and planting lot may also have been on Purrier's right. Purrier was also from Olney [TAG 65:69].

There are hints of an association between the Partridge family and Robert Pike, son of JOHN PIKE {1638, Ipswich}. On 14 April 1663, William Partridge's daughter Sarah chose Robert Pike as her guardian, and the quarterly court ordered Robert Pike to "demand of Anthony Stanian and his wife, administratrix to Will[iam] [Partridg], the amount which Will[iam] Partridg received in old England as the legacies given to the children of said Partridg" [EQC 3:62].

Robert Pike also appears in records with William Partridge in other minor ways: both Pike and Partridge were involved in overseeing

money due to the children of Henry Byley [EP-D 1:103]; Pike and Partridge were listed next to each other on one of the two lists of Salisbury's first land grantees [Hoyt 10] and on an early list of Salisbury "townsmen and commoners" [Hoyt 11]; Pike was one of the men who took Partridge's inventory [EPF 20681; EP-D 1:192]; and after Partridge's death, Pike purchased land from Anthony and Anne Stanyan and on the same day witnessed another deed of theirs, with both transactions involving land formerly belonging to Partridge [NLR 1:62, 2:162; Essex Ant 2:49, 7:136].

These interactions could, however, reflect no more than Pike's local prominence and the fact that Pike's and Partridge's home lots were across the road from one another [SyMap-M]. On Pike, see ENEF Robert Pike.

COMMENTS: William Partridge's father's estate: William Partridge's father, "John Partridge of Olney," Buckinghamshire, "laborer," made a nuncupative will on 20 January 1647[/8] which was attested to by "Thome Whiteing" and "Elizabeth Wheelowes" on 12 February 1647[/8]. He gave all his "goods, cattle, chattels, and debts" to "William Geynes, Richard Kent, and Roger Tayre of Olney," in "trust and confidence" that they would use it to "maintain and keep Frances Partridge widow ... of the said John." After her death, "the overplus thereof (if any should then be) should be equally divided amongst the children of Will[ia]m Partridge son of the said John, and the three children of Henry Geynes brother of the said Will[ia]m Geynes, save only that the eldest child of the said Will[ia]m Partridge should have a double part thereof. (All which said persons now are or late were in New England.)" [Buckinghamshire Archives D-A/WF/37/246 at DGS 8094012:468-471; NEHGR 63:283].

"John Partridg & Franc[e]s Becham" were married at Emberton, Buckinghamshire, a mile from Olney, on 16 February 1606[/7] [BT at DGS 4010427:519]. Evidently Frances Partridge died by 5 October

1652, when William Partridge was bound to pay his father's bequest to his children [EQC 1:270]. These funds had still not been fully distributed in 1663, and the quarterly court saw a need to order Anthony Stanyan to complete the distribution, which suggests that there were complications of some kind [EQC 3:62, 101; EP-D 1:407].

On 5 October 1652, "Willi[am] Partridg of Salisbury [was] bound in £86 to the Governor and Company of Massachusetts to pay a legacy of £43, which was given by Jno. Partridg of Olney in Buckinghamshire, to the children of said William Partridg then living, the eldest child to have a double portion" [EQC 1:270]. On 4 October 1653, "Will[iam] Partridg of Salisbury informed the court that there yet remained five pounds in the hands of Willi[am] Geynes, Richard Kent and Rodger Tayre of Olney in Buckinghamshire, in old England, being part of the estate of Jno. Partridg of Olney, deceased, and bequeathed to the children of said Willi[am] Partridg, namely, John, Hannah, Elizabeth, Nehemiah and Sarah. The court ordered that said Willi[am] be bound in ten pounds for the distribution of the five pounds. Bond acknowledged in court, 7: 8: 1653" [EQC 1:312-313]. At William Partridge's death, his inventory listed £50 "due to be paid out of the estate to the children for so much received in England" [EPF 20681; EP-D 1:193].

On 14 April 1663, William Partridge's fifteen-year-old daughter "Sarah Partridg" chose "Capt. Robert Pike" as her guardian. The court ordered that "Capt. Robert Pike demand of Anthony Stanian and his wife, administratrix to Will[iam] [Partridg], the amount which Will[iam] Partridg received in old England as the legacies given to the children of said Partridg. This was to be delivered at the next county court at Hampton, according to said Partridg's bond" [EQC 3:62; EP-D 1:407]. Daughter Elizabeth had married Joseph Shaw, but had evidently still not yet received her portion of the inheritance as late as 13 October 1663, when the court ordered that "Mr. Stanian deliver to Joseph Shaw his wife's portion, £13, before the next Salisbury court,

and to have the remainder of the children's portions ready, also to give said Shaw's interest for five pounds of said portion for what time he keeps it after it is due" [EQC 3:101; EP-D 1:407].

The Severance-Downer case: At a Hampton court on 9 October 1666, John Severance sued Robert Downer over a three-acre tract in the Barberry Meadows in Salisbury [EQC 3:364]. Downer prevailed, but at a Salisbury court on 9 April 1667 Severance asked for the case to be reviewed, and when that also did not go his way he appealed to the Court of Assistants [EQC 3:407; SCF 813:99-128].

The case turned on whether William Partridge had title to all of the seven-acre meadow listed in his inventory. Severance claimed that three of those seven acres had actually belonged to Richard Currier; Downer claimed that they were Partridge's. Severance conceded that "Partridge mowed Curriers meadow some years in his lifetime" but argued that Partridge had, in January 1643/4, received only a four-acre grant which, moreover, the town records described as "bounded by the meadow of Currier." Severance referred to a recorded deed by which he had purchased the other three acres of meadow from Currier in 1646 [SCF 813:103, 114].

Downer pointed out that seven acres of meadow were listed in Partridge's inventory, and explained that they had then passed to "Mr. [Anthony] Stanyon," who married Partridge's widow. Downer produced a recorded deed showing that he had then bought all seven acres from Stanyon in 1661. Downer said that Partridge was "accounted an honest man," and that "it is evident that he as h[is] own enjoyed and possessed" the three acres "and said it w[as] his own." Downer speculated that Partridge might have bought the parcel "for shoes or some other such pay" without leaving any written record, as the land was "of small value" and "he was a shoemaker" [SCF 813:109, 124]. Witnesses confirmed that Anthony Stanian rented the land to a tenant after Partridge's death without "any molestation"

[SCF 813:117].

We have not seen any record of the higher court's judgement and it may be that it does not survive. An examination of Severance's and Downer's later land transactions might show who won.

The depositions in the Severance-Downer case show that in the early 1650s William Partridge hired other men, including Samuel Buswell and William Moss, to do mowing for him [SCF 813:119, 122].

Other comments: Based on her marriage date, William Partridge's daughter Hannah must have been born between John and Elizabeth, sometime between 1639 and 1641. The first daughter Rachel may have been born in this period too, and has been arbitrarily placed after Hannah. Rachel could also have been born after Sarah, about 1649, in which case she would have died as a infant.

The evidence that William Partridge had two daughters named Rachel is somewhat complex and comes with a shadow of doubt. There is little question that he had a younger daughter Rachel. On 20 June 1667, "Rachell Partridg, aged about sixteen years, deposed that she lived at [Edward] Gove's house at Hampton" [EQC 3:425], Gove being the husband of William Partridge's daughter Hannah. On 27 August 1718, Rachel Chase died at Hampton "in [the] 68th year of her age" [HampVR 126].

These two records of the younger Rachel's age, taken literally, point to a birth date between 28 August 1650 and 20 June 1651. Savage [3:366] and Pope [347] gave Rachel a birth date of 19 June 1650, and Noyes, Libby, and Davis gave 10 June 1650 [GDMNH 533]. These birth dates have been widely repeated, but we have seen no authentic source for them. They may have resulted from a miscopying of the record of the elder Rachel's death on 19 April 1650.

There is another reasonable interpretation: that there was only one daughter Rachel, and that the 1650 death record is a clerical error and was actually intended as her birth record. However, the original of this

death record presents no ambiguities, reading “Rachell the daughter of William Partridg died 19 : 2d : mo : 1650” [DGS 7009666:301]. This record is actually not the true original, but rather a very early copy. Still, in the absence of any clear indications that the death record was supposed to be a birth record, it is easier to believe that there were two Rachels. The sequence of known births to this couple leaves two gaps which easily accommodate an elder Rachel’s birth.

A complicating fact for both interpretations is that on 4 October 1653, no daughter Rachel was named in a list of William Partridge’s children due to receive money from the estate of their grandfather John Partridge [EQC 1:312-313]. However, her absence from the list seems to be explained by the court’s view that the grandfather’s bequest, made 20 January 1647/8, was “to the children of said William Partridg then living” [EQC 1:270].

Evidence that this immigrant had a son William comes from later records where his other children reference their brother William [NHPP 31:348; NHPCF 17966-17967 at DGS 8203792:858-870].

Printed versions of Old Norfolk County court records state that Ann (Spicer) (Partridge) Stanyan was an “administratrix to Will[iam] Peaslee” in 1663, but this is evidently an error for “Will[iam] Partridge” [EQC 3:62; EP-D 1:407].

On 16 June 1653, William Partridge gave evidence in court at Salisbury about conversations he had “in the house of Mr. [Christopher] Batts” with John Cheney and Isaac Buswell on the day in 1650 when ANTHONY SADLER {1638, Newbury} was drowned [Mass Arch 38B:106]. (For the full story, see the sketch of CHRISTOPHER BATT {1638, Salisbury}.)

PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIP: In 2010 Marian S. Henry published an article confirming that William Partridge’s daughter Hannah married Edward Gove and reviewing the family [NEHGR 164:15-22, 296].

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