

Samuel Gidding, aged about thirty-nine years, testified that in the latter end of May last, two or three days before he died, Mr. Jonathan Wade came to Ipswich and inquired after sheep of his daughter Symonds. 'I was by the field side going down to fishing and when I saw him I stayed till he came unto me. He complained that he was very hot so we went under a shady tree where we stayed near two hours and there fell into discourse about several things and amongst the rest he inquired how we that is my brethren & I did agree about my father's estate that he had left not making a will. I told him that in a short time we agreed amongst ourselves and the court confirmed it. He then spoke of his own concerns and intentions he said that he had settled two of his sons at Mistick, he asked how high the men that prized our land valued it by the acre. I told him that that [*sic*] they prized it at £5 per acre. He told me that was very high, but said he I count the land at Mistick that my sons have to be worth fifteen hundred pounds apiece. Also, said he, my land in England I intend shall be equally divided amongst my three sons and the land at Mistick to them two that enjoy it and my land at Ipswich for my son Thomas. He also inquired how Goodman Proctor's sons did agree and whether the eldest had a double portion. I told him no: the land was equally divided amongst the three brethren after the old man's decease, only the eldest had formerly a hundred pound, he said I count that I have given my son Jonathan a great deal more than any of the rest by reason he had the enjoyment and the improvement of all the land at Mistick for many years, then after we went to Benja. Procters and to their Island and had much much [*sic*] discourse but not worth rehearsing now' [EQC 9:123-24].

Isaack Brooks, aged about forty years, testified that he came from Charlestown with Mr. Wade sometime since the Indian war, when the latter spoke about his affairs in England, that is, the trouble he had in obtaining good title to his land there, which he had done. He said also that he had given this land to his three sons equally [EQC 9:124].

## CHRISTOPHER WADSWORTH

**ORIGIN:** Unknown

**MIGRATION:** 1632

**FIRST RESIDENCE:** Plymouth

**REMOVES:** Duxbury

**RETURN TRIPS:** Possibly returned to England in 1636 "to fetch Mr. [Ralph] Partridge," who would become minister at Duxbury [Sewall 432]

**FREEMAN:** In "1633" Plymouth list of freemen prior to those admitted 1 January 1632/3 [PCR 1:4]. In list of 7 March 1636/7 [PCR 1:52]. In Duxbury section of lists of 1639, 1658 and 29 May 1670 [PCR 5:274, 8:174, 198].

**EDUCATION:** Signed his will. His inventory included "books" valued at £3.

**OFFICES:** Constable for the ward between Jones River and Green's Harbor [Duxbury], 1 January 1633/4 [PCR 1:21]; constable for Duxbury, 6 March 1637/8, 5 June 1638 [PCR 1:80, 86]. Plymouth petit jury, 4 October 1636, 2 March 1640/1, 7 December 1641, 7 November 1643, 5 November 1644, 2 October 1650, 4 March 1650/1, 7 June 1651, 4 October 1653, 7 March 1653/4, 3 October 1654, 5 June 1656, 6 October 1657, 3 May 1659, 3 October 1659, 2 October 1662, 7 June 1648, 6 March 1665/6 [PCR 1:44, 2:126, 4:115, 7:19, 25, 28, 36, 38, 52, 53, 54, 67, 70, 72, 79, 85, 93, 94, 105]. Duxbury delegate to committee to revise laws, 4 October 1636 [PCR 1:44]. Duxbury deputy to Plymouth General Court, 2 June 1640, 27 September 1642, 5 June 1666 [PCR 1:154, 2:46, 4:122, 148]. Grand jury, 7 March 1636/7, 4 June 1639, 7 June 1642, 7 June 1652, 3 June 1656, 6 June 1660 [PCR 1:54, 126, 2:41, 3:9, 100, 188]. Deputy to meeting about confederation of United Colonies, 1 August 1654 [PCR 3:63]. Surveyor of lands, 3 June 1656 [PCR 3:102]. Coroner's jury on the body of Thurston Clarke Sr. of Duxbury, 7 May 1662 [PCR 4:12]. Surveyor of highways, Duxbury, 3 June 1662 [PCR 4:15].

Selectman, 5 June 1666, 2 June 1667, 3 June 1668, 1 June 1669, 7 June 1670, 6 June 1671 [PCR 4:124, 149, 182, 5:19, 35, 56].

In Duxbury section of 1643 Plymouth Colony list of men able to bear arms [PCR 8:190].

**ESTATE:** Assessed 12s. in Plymouth tax list of 25 March 1633 [PCR 1:10]; omitted from list of 27 March 1634.

On 1 July 1633 granted mowing land where he "mowed last year" [PCR 1:15]; granted mowing land at Morton's Hole, 14 March 1635/6 [PCR 1:39]; granted mowing land he had the year before, 20 March 1636/7 [PCR 1:55].

On 2 October 1637 the "two lots of land on Ducksborrow side, formerly granted to Christopher Wadsworth, containing forty acres and upwards," were reconfirmed to Wadsworth, with some minor adjustments in the boundaries [PCR 1:66].

On 2 July 1638 "requested a parcel of land in the woods at the head of the Great Marsh, near Mr. Collyer's wolf trap" [PCR 1:90].

On 4 February 1638/9 granted fifty acres of upland about the head of South River [PCR 1:112-13]. On 20 September 1643 Christopher Wadsworth sold to "Mr. Raph Partrich" his uplands and meadow in Duxbury [PCR 12:96]. On 23 January 1648[9] he was a renter of lands of

Robert Hicks [PCR 12:155]. On 13 August 1651 Job Cole of Eastham sold Christopher Wadsworth of Duxbury a house and land lying against a place called Morton's Hole [PCR 12:216].

On 20 October 1655 John Starr of Duxbury sold to Christopher Wadsworth of Duxbury "all that my mansion and dwelling house" in Scituate, with eighty acres of upland, along with some marsh or meadow; also another parcel of upland [PCLR 4:253-55]. On 10 May 1664 John Bradford of Marshfield sold to Christopher Wadsworth of Duxbury "all my houses, orchards, uplands and meadows" in Duxbury [PCLR 3:1:66-67].

In his will, dated 31 July 1677 and proved 27 October 1680, Christopher Wadsworth bequeathed to "my eldest son Joseph" "one-half of those lands which I bought of Mr. John Bradford," upland and meadow, in Duxbury, he paying to "my daughter Mary Andrews two cows with calf not exceeding the age of five years old each of them" (and also confirmed to son John two shares of land in Bridgewater previously given to him); to "Grace my wife the one-half of my dwelling house during her natural life and half the lands thereunto belonging"; to "my son John" all remaining lands; to "Grace my wife" all household goods and some cattle [PCPR 4:1:68-70].

The inventory of the estate of Christopher Wadsworth, exhibited 7 June 1681, was untotaled and included no real estate [PCPR 4:1:71].

In her will, dated 13 January 1687/8 and proved 13 June 1688, Grace Wadsworth, widow, "by reason of old age and the many infirmities usually attending the same," bequeathed to "my son Joseph Wadsworth, a Dutch kettle, and to his wife my red petticoat, beside the pewter dishes & Bible which they have heretofore received"; to "the children of my son Samuel Wadsworth, deceased, the sum of £5 to be equally divided among them"; to "my daughter Mary Andrews, widow, a brass kettle"; to "my grandson John Wadsworth" 5s.; to "my granddaughters Mary and Abigaile Wadsworth to each of them a pair of my finest sheets, moreover to Abigaile I bequeath my bed bolster, red rug and blankets"; "to my son John Wadsworth" residue after the payment of legacies and debts; "my son John Wadsworth" executor [PPR 1:17-19; Gen Adv 1:20].

**BIRTH:** About 1609 based on estimated date of marriage.

**DEATH:** After 31 July 1677 (date of will) and before 27 October 1680 (date of probate). (Pope and some other sources assign to the immigrant the death date of 18 April 1676, but this was the death of his son Samuel [Sewall 15; NEHGR 7:221-24].)

**MARRIAGE:** By about 1634 Grace \_\_\_\_\_; she died between 13 January 1687/8 (date of will) and 13 June 1688 (date of probate). (Many sources state that she was Grace Cole, but there is no evidence for this identity.)

**CHILDREN:**

- i JOSEPH, b. say 1634; m. by an unknown date Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (his widow, named in his will of 22 March 1689[/90], was Mary [Gen Adv 1:115-16, citing PPR 1:68-69]). (See *COMMENTS* below.)
- ii SAMUEL, b. say 1636; m. by about 1660 Abigail Lindall, daughter of James Lindall (so stated in 1853 by John A. Vinton, with no evidence supplied [NEHGR 7:17]).
- iii JOHN, b. say 1638 (d. Duxbury 15 May 1700 aged "about sixty-two years"); m. Duxbury 25 July 1667 Abigail Andrews, daughter of Henry Andrews of Taunton [NEHGR 52:16-23].
- iv MARY, b. say 1640; m. say 1659 Henry Andrews, son of Henry Andrews of Taunton [NEHGR 52:16-23].

**ASSOCIATIONS:** Some secondary sources claim that Christopher Wadsworth came to New England in 1632 on the *Lyon*. This is based on a supposed relationship with WILLIAM WADSWORTH, who did come on that ship in 1632. Christopher Wadsworth is not on the passenger list for the *Lyon* in 1632, and there is no evidence that he was brother or any other relation of William, and, although he must have been in New England by 1632, he could have come earlier, so there is no basis for this claim.

**COMMENTS:** Christopher Wadsworth led a long, blameless and uneventful life. He held a number of offices, but was never before the court as a defendant in either a civil or criminal case. He carefully amassed land for his sons, never sold any, and apparently was never in debt.

The family of his son Joseph Wadsworth needs careful examination. All secondary sources state that he had first wife Abigail Waite, whom he married about 1655. No contemporary record of a wife named Abigail has been found, and there was no Waite family in Duxbury or vicinity from which Abigail could have come. According to his will Joseph had six children, three sons (Elisha, Joseph and Samuel) and three daughters (unnamed). Elisha married in 1694 and Samuel about 1700, indicating births in the early 1670s, and so no need for a marriage as early as 1655. Since Elisha named a son Wait, and this name was carried down in the family, some later historian of the family may have thought this indicated the surname of Elisha's mother, rather than a popular Puritan virtue.