

# Unearthing John Done - A Plymouth Colony Late Comer

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Family associations are often considered to be the principal repository of all knowledge about their founding ancestors. Just read their websites. However, when you begin to inspect the original records you discover a different persona from the one which is depicted.

This paper will re-examine the life of Plymouth Colony 'late comer', John Done. It will re-evaluate the available records for his residency in Plymouth, and determine if some key assumptions about the patriarch can be substantiated. It will also provide a new hypothetical persona on this immigrant ancestor based upon the available records, and make recommendations for where additional research on his 'so-called' English origin may be warranted.

## Doane Family Association

The Doane Family Association (DFA) of America was created in 1907 to research the "history and welfare of the descendants of Deacon John Doane, who came to Plymouth in 1630". The Association's By Laws state that: "At the bi-annual reunion, the research committee is to provide a report on the "English Ancestry of Deacon John Doane".

The DFA website provides a list of "known facts". It notes that John Done was a Freeman, served as an Assistant to the Governor of the Plymouth Colony, was appointed Deacon of the First Church of Plymouth, and aided in the settlement of Eastham on Cape Cod (then called Nauset).<sup>2</sup> From his will, John Done assigned his birth around 1590.<sup>3</sup> He died at Eastham in 1685.<sup>4</sup>

- "John Doane came over from England and settled in Plymouth".<sup>5</sup>
- "Of John Doane's early life, of his parentage, the place of his nativity, the family name of his wife, the name of the vessel on which he came nothing whatever has yet been discovered."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> DFA. Who was Deacon John Done? Accessed, June 28, 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Alfred A. Doane. *The Doane Family: and their Descendants* (Binghamton, NY: Vail-Ballou Press, 1984), 15.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Doane, *The Doane Family*, 1.

- “From the fact that he was one of the principal men in the affairs of the Plymouth Colony, we infer, however, that he was heir to a good birthright, that in some broad field educated and friction had developed a manhood and strength of character that inspired the confidence of his Plymouth associates.”<sup>7</sup>

Since the Doane Family book was published in 1902, there has been considerable interest in adding to the life story of John Done. While the DFA book makes John Done to be a prominent and important individual within the Plymouth Colony there is not a single entry for him in Bradford’s *History of the Plymouth Plantation*?<sup>8</sup> At the 1972 biannual conference the esteemed genealogist and author Gilbert H. Doane asked the fundamental question “Mr. John Done - Who Was He?”<sup>9</sup> He developed the first short list of research questions for the DFA research committee. Since then the research committee has run down many leads. Many hypotheses have been rejected by DFA Research Committee; however it has uncovered what it considers to be powerful circumstantial evidence that points to one John Done ‘cordwainer’ as being the same individual as the Deacon. This remains a hypothesis that awaits confirmation.

This paper does not intend to reevaluate existing theories or explore previously suggested avenues of research. It will undertake a new tack of resorting, reevaluating, and reanalyzing the existing available records on John Done within the Plymouth Colony. Original sources will be consulted and a new timeline will be created. Done’s actions will be summarized from the earliest available record until he departs for Eastham in 1645. By reevaluating John Done based upon the complete record, a new persona or character will emerge. This will lead to possible conclusions about his working relationships with others in a leadership role of the Plymouth Colony. A ‘working hypothesis’ will be provided to tie together some unanswered gaps in the data and to provide a more a continuous narrative about this family patriarch. From this, recommendations will be provided for areas of new research by the Doane Family Association or others.

## Plymouth Colony Records

Original Plymouth Colony sources were consulted to create the new persona of John Done. These sources were also available to the author of the DFA book. Secondary sources were used to weave the actions of John Done into the fabric of the Plymouth Colony settlement. In this paper, the original sources punctuate a historical timeline.

The principal original records used in the report were the *Records of New Plymouth in New England* by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff (Volumes 1-8) and David Pulsifer (Volumes 9-12). The largest number of records on John Done are found in Volumes 1 and 2 which cover court orders from 1633 to 1651. While titled “Court Orders” these document a wide variety of actions by the colony from the allotment of land, to the selection of the leaders, and trials for various offenses, both trivial and criminal.

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647: Vol. 2* (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1912).

<sup>9</sup> Derek Done. “Mr. John Done: Who Was He? – The Continuing Story,” 2004 Report of Proceedings - Doane Family Association, (2004): 41-49.

Volume 8 of this records set covers miscellaneous records. This is a collection of various records and lists such as those of Freemen and/or the names of males able to bear arms. Volume 11 includes the laws of the colony. This record set extends from 1623-1682. While the volume starts before John Done arrived in Plymouth, there are only three pages before it mentions Mr. John Done helping to rewrite the colony laws in autumn of 1636. Volume 12 is the list of deeds which extend from 1620 to 1651. This is also known as the "Great Book of Deeds". Volumes 11 and 12 emphasizes the lack of records prior to John Done's appointment to the Governor's council in 1632/3.

Records regarding John Done were also located in the records of Plymouth Town (Town). This record set began after a clerk was selected in January 1636/7 for the Plymouth Colony Court.<sup>10</sup> The scope of these records is narrower as they only apply to the Town, and were published as *Records of the Town of Plymouth: Volume 1, 1636-1705*. The Heritage Book reprint was used along with a digital copy provided by the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Library.

The website, the *Consolidated Index to Plymouth County Records* by Dale H. Cook was consulted to insure that all the references to John Done for the desired time period were located. It served as a useful checklist, and was available on the internet. An index of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (NEHGS) was also checked to insure that no new information regarding John Done had been published.

To place John Done in the proper relationship to his Plymouth Colony brethren, two sources were consulted. Robert Charles Anderson's, *The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1620-1633* was used. This resource is the most complete compilation of what is known about a Plymouth settler. John Done is listed in this source. The historical narrative of the Plymouth settlement was provided by Eugene A. Stratton's *Plymouth Colony: Its History & People 1620-1691*. It is a more recent chronicle of the Plymouth story, and as written in an approachable tone, while being very well documented.

## **New Observations about John Done**

All of the entries for John Done from the Plymouth Colony Records are listed in the Appendix. The records extend from the earliest available record through 1645 when Done departs for Eastham. The records in the Appendix are also listed in chronological order. The name **John Done**, **Mr Done** or its variant have been bolded to increase readability, but the form of the name has been retained as it appeared in the records. Those records listed in the DFA book are noted with [DFA] at the end of the entry.

The Appendix contains eighty-five entries about John Done. These reveal a new range and depth of details about John Done's life which has been previously undiscovered. Placing the records in chronological order was the first step to better understanding the relationship between individual entries. A review of the records indicates a familiarity with the Gregorian (modern) calendar with many

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<sup>10</sup> Town of Plymouth. *Records of the Town of Plymouth: Volume 1 -- 1636-1705* (Bowie MD, Heritage Books reprint, 1989) ix.

major actions of the court occurred on January 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. However, the Appendix uses the Julian calendar which was in effect during this time of the settlement of Plymouth and the system of double dating the days between - 1 January and 24 March.

Table 1 (below) identifies the number of entries per year and the number of times his name is mentioned in the entry. As noted in Table 1, the Appendix contains about three times as many records on John Done as the DFA book. The DFA book used verbatim extractions from the Plymouth Colony Records “to show the career in Plymouth of Deacon John Done”. “These extracts comprise all references of importance to John Done in the Colony records.”<sup>11</sup> The Appendix provides a summary of the event and details.

The records in the Appendix end in 1645. That year John Done sold his Plymouth house in mid-February and reportedly removed to Eastham. Other records indicate that the move may have been underway for some years prior. In September 1645, Samuel Hicks marries Lydia Done, the Deacon’s eldest daughter.<sup>12</sup> John Done disappears from the records until 1649 when he is on the Town Committee representing Nawset (Eastham) with his son-in-law, Samuel Hicks. He was on the same committee in 1650 and ’51 as Mr John Done.<sup>13</sup>

**Table 1 - Plymouth Colony Records which mention John Done**

Year	1631 '31/2	1632 '32/3	1633 '33/4	1634 '34/5	1635 '35/6	1636 '36/7	1637 '37/8	1638 '38/9	1639 39/40	1640 '40/1	1641 '41/2	1642 '42/3	1643 '43/4	1644 '44/5	1645 '45/6	Total
Total Entries	0	6	10	2	4	8	10	7	4	5	3	7	10	7	2	85
Number in DFA	0	3	6	0	4	4	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	1	29

New observations about John Done from the records in the Appendix and Table 1 are as follows:

- There are no records of John Done before 1 January 1632/3.<sup>14</sup>
- There is only a single entry of the 85 where the spelling of his last name is “Doane”. The other entries are spelled “Done”.<sup>15</sup>
- John Done is on the first page of the Plymouth Colony Records, as an assistant to the Governor. He appears to be the only assistant which is a recent arrival.<sup>16</sup> The term ‘late-comer’ or ‘recent-comer’ was used for those that arrived in Plymouth after the land dispersal of 1627.

<sup>11</sup> Doane, *The Doane Family*, 3.

<sup>12</sup> Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, editor, *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England: Volume 2, Court Orders, 1641-1651* (Boston: Press of W White, 1855), 88.; The DFA book indicates that Lydia was his eldest daughter. Doane, *The Doane Family*, 19-21.

<sup>13</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2*, 144, 154, & 168.

<sup>14</sup> See Appendix A – 1 Jan 1632/3, A, B, & C.

<sup>15</sup> See Appendix A – 25 Nov 1633.

<sup>16</sup> See Appendix A – 1 Jan 1632/3, C.

- John Done was very active in the first two years of the records, with 16 of the 85 entries (19%) being in those years.
- The request to be released as an Assistant of the Governor was “at the request of the church & himself”.<sup>17</sup> In this case, it is likely that the term “church” would have meant Elder William Brewster.
- There is no indication where John Done lived from the date of his arrival until he purchased a house in February 1633/4.<sup>18</sup> If he boarded with someone, there are no records indicating who that might be.
- John Done is mentioned twice in 1634, but he is not listed in an active person until July 1635, a period of over one year.<sup>19</sup> After a purchase of a residence, John Done had enough time to travel back home to collect his family and return later that autumn or the spring of the following year.
- John Done arrived in Plymouth a well-to-do individual. In the first two years he tithed more than one pound.<sup>20</sup>
- Taking inventories of goods and properties was one of John Done’s key activities. This he did for the common settlers as well as the Plymouth leaders like Mr. William Brewster and Mr. Stephen Hopkins.<sup>21</sup> This may indicate skill as an accountant.
- In his first two years at Plymouth, John Done helped to collect the tithes for the colony and later undertook audits of others accounts on two occasions.<sup>22</sup>
- Done was asked to lay out new roads four times, and to divide meadow lands (twice), and layout lands that were granted by the town.<sup>23</sup> This may indicate skill as a surveyor.
- John Done was on the select committee to revise the Mayflower Compact and create a consistent set of laws for all the towns within the Plymouth colony.<sup>24</sup>
- Honesty was a key attribute of John Done’s activities. He directed the transfer of ownership of an indentured servant, was the guardian of a child and managed her inheritance, and was responsible for equally dividing the marsh lands and the town cows to the poor. One of the higher honors was undertaking an inventory for Elder Brewster. One of his final assignments for Plymouth was an audit of the accounts from Treasurer Mr. Thomas Prence.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> See Appendix A – 2 Jan 1633/4.

<sup>18</sup> See Appendix A – 14 Feb 1633/4.

<sup>19</sup> See Appendix A – From 26/27 Mar 1634 to 5 July 1635.

<sup>20</sup> See Appendix A – 25 Mar 1633 and 27 Mar 1634.

<sup>21</sup> See Appendix A – 28 Oct 1633, 11 Nov 1633, 25 Nov 1633, 25 Jan 1633/4, 10 May 1644, and 27 July 1644.

<sup>22</sup> See Appendix A – 25 Mar 1633, 2 Jan 1633/4, 26/27 Mar 1634, 7 Sept 1641 and 3 Mar 1644/5.

<sup>23</sup> See Appendix A – 1 July 1633, 5 July 1635, 2 May 1637, 2 Oct 1637, 20 Sept 1642, 27 Sept 1642, 17 Oct 1642, 29 Aug 1643, and 20 Aug 1644.

<sup>24</sup> See Appendix A – 4/5 Oct 1636 and 15 Nov 1636 A and B.

<sup>25</sup> See Appendix A – 8 Apr 1633, 11 Nov 1633, 10 Oct 1644, 1 July 1633, 20 Sept 1642, 27 Sept 1642, 17 Oct 1642, 22 July 1644, 10 May 1644, and 3 Mar 1644/5.

- John Done undertook a total of thirteen appointments with his fellow Deacon Mr. William Paddy.<sup>26</sup> He also had many other appointments with others who carried the title of “Mr.”
- In the Plymouth Colony Records a threat was often used as a means of moving things along. Mr. Done appears to have been the committee chairman to select the route of a new highway. He and his jury were directed to be done with the task and report to the court, “or else be fined”.<sup>27</sup> This is the only such ‘encouragement’ used toward Done and was during a year when Bradford was Governor.
- John Done appears to have had a relationship with John Atwood, a gentleman from London. Done first handled the transfer of ownership of an indentured servant for an absent Atwood. Atwood then pays Done 60 pounds for his interest in a residence and property at Plains Dealing. It was referred to as a “partnership” with Done. There are no land records for this property by either Done or Atwood. Done and Atwood also served together on several committee assignment from 1636/7 to June 1643. The date of his death is not known, but it occurred between the date of his will, 20 Oct 1643, and when his will was probated on 5 Jun 1644.<sup>28</sup> Surprisingly, a biography of Atwood was not compiled for either *The Great Migration* or *The Pilgrim Migration* projects.<sup>29</sup>
- It seems out of character for a Deacon of the church to charge a widow with slander for the sum of 100 pounds.<sup>30</sup> Fisher estimates a typical English Yeoman’s wages at 40 to 60 pounds per year, while a husbandman would do well at 20 pound per year.<sup>31</sup> Therefore, 100 pounds was a tremendous amount of money. While the record does not indicate the offense, the question still remains: What egregious thing did Widow Billington say to or about Deacon Done that would cause such a retaliatory response?
- John Done had a license to draw wine for a period from 1639 until 1644/5.<sup>32</sup> Anderson identifies the occupation of John Done as “Yeoman, Innkeeper”.<sup>33</sup> The term ‘Yeoman’ refers to a social rank in English society and is not an occupation. The term ‘Innkeeper’ is not found in any of Done’s entries, but could fit the available records. Done’s profession as an innkeeper is not listed in the DFA book, nor on its website.
- John Done’s property is mentioned in 18 land transactions.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> See Appendix A – Multiple from 4 June 1639 to 8 Apr 1645.

<sup>27</sup> See Appendix A – 29 August 1643.

<sup>28</sup> John Atwood, Assistant Governor, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Atwood\\_\(Assistant\\_Governor\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Atwood_(Assistant_Governor)), Accessed, June 28, 2011.

<sup>29</sup> See Appendix A – 8 Apr 1633, 30 Dec 1636, 7 Mar 1636/7, 17 Jan 1641/2, 7 Jun 1642, 27 Sept 1642, and 6 Jun 1643.

<sup>30</sup> See Appendix A – 7 Jun 1636.

<sup>31</sup> David Hackett Fisher, *Albion’s Seed: Four British Folkways in America* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1989), 28.

<sup>32</sup> See Appendix A – 4 June 1639, 1 June 1640, and 7 Jan 1644/5.

<sup>33</sup> Robert Charles Anderson. *The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1620-1633* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2004), 171.

<sup>34</sup> See Appendix A – 14 Feb 1633/4 to 19 Feb 1645/6 (the last records in Appendix A).

## SOCIAL RANK OF JOHN DONE

Bartlett notes that “there was no royalty in Plymouth”.<sup>35</sup> Fisher and others agreed that the top layer of British social rank which included the Crown, major nobility, and minor nobility (knights, esquires, and gentlemen) was generally absent in Massachusetts Bay settlements.<sup>36</sup> “Beneath the rank of Gentlemen were clergy, lawyers and learned professions.”<sup>37</sup> A number of Plymouth Colony Records on John Done indicate skill as an accountant or surveyor.

“In terms of social rank, most emigrants to Massachusetts came from the middling strata of English society.”<sup>38</sup> In the adjacent Massachusetts Bay Colony, Gentlemen accounted for only 11% (27 of 247) of the heads of families in the Winthrop Fleet.<sup>39</sup> The great majority were yeoman, husbandmen, artisans, craftsmen, merchants and traders ... .<sup>40</sup> “Legal proceedings in Massachusetts, like those in England required that every plaintiff must be identified by social order, as ‘gentlemen,’ ‘yeoman,’ or ‘laborer,’ or else the case could be thrown out of court and new papers would have to be filed.”<sup>41</sup> In the 1636 court case John Done is listed as a ‘Yeoman’.

Over time, the Plymouth colony created its own gentry, which was made from men with education, means and social standing.<sup>42</sup> At the top of the Plymouth social pyramid were the governors of the colony. Then came the Assistants to the Governor, who were members of his Council. These were followed by the Secretaries and Treasurers of the colony. Town records list John Done as an Assistant as early as 1632/3.

A similar social structure was present within the church. Its ruling Elders guided the faith from 1609 in Leyden through its replanting at Plymouth. The Elders seemed to provide the glue between congregations and their pastors. Next in the church came the deacons.<sup>43</sup> John Done’s appointment as a Deacon occurred in 1633 with one source noting him as a “recent comer”.<sup>44</sup> Due to this appointment, he asked to be set free of the Governor’s Council in Jan 1633/4.

The comparative social rank of Freemen in the Plymouth Colony is not well documented. However, within this group came the leaders of the Colony and church. In the Plymouth minutes, a list of Freemen was created for 1633 and 1634. John Done was listed as a Freemen for both years.

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<sup>35</sup> Robert M. Bartlett, *The Faith of the Pilgrims: An American Heritage* (NY/Philadelphia: United Church Press, 1978), 120.

<sup>36</sup> Fisher, *Albion’s Seed*, 798 & 799.

<sup>37</sup> Fisher, *Albion’s Seed*, 799.

<sup>38</sup> Fisher, *Albion’s Seed*, 27.

<sup>39</sup> Charles E. Banks, *The Winthrop Fleet of 1630* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2003), 52-54.; Fisher, *Albion’s Seed*, 27.

<sup>40</sup> Fisher, *Albion’s Seed*, 27.

<sup>41</sup> Fisher, *Albion’s Seed*, 179-180.

<sup>42</sup> Bartlett, *The Faith of the Pilgrims*, 120.

<sup>43</sup> Bartlett, *The Faith of the Pilgrims*, 121.

<sup>44</sup> The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, *Collections, Volume 22: Plymouth Church Records 1620-1859* (Boston: The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1920), 73.; John A. Goodwin, *The Pilgrim Republic: An Historical Review of the Colony of New Plymouth* (Boston/NY: Houghton Mifflin, 1920), 378. The term “recent comer” refers to one who arrived after 1627 when land from the Town was dispersed to the settlers.

"The Pilgrims were very careful to give no titles where they were not due."<sup>45</sup> "In the Plymouth Colony the Governor, deputy governor, the magistrates and assistants, the ministers of the church, school-masters, officers in the militia, men of great wealth or connected with the gentry or nobility were entitled to be called *Mister* and their wives *Mistress* ... "<sup>46</sup> In the adjacent Massachusetts Bay Colony, the gentfolk were addressed as "Mister" and "Mistress" just as in England.<sup>47</sup>

**Table 2 - Plymouth Colony Records which mention John Done as a Mister**

Year	1631 '31/2	1632 '32/3	1633 '33/4	1634 '34/5	1635 '35/6	1636 '36/7	1637 '37/8	1638 '38/9	1639 39/40	1640 '40/1	1641 '41/2	1642 '42/3	1643 '43/4	1644 '44/5	1645 '45/6	Total
Done Named	0	6	15	2	4	12	11	9	4	5	3	9	10	8	2	100
Number as Mr.	0	1	8	0	2	4	7	5	4	5	3	7	10	7	2	65
Percent as Mr.	---	17%	53%	0%	50%	33%	63%	55%	100%	100%	100%	77%	100%	88%	100%	65%

New observations about the social ranking of John Done from the records in the Appendix and Table 2 are as follows:

- The first reference to Mr John Done as a Mr. occurs early in the records – 10 Jan 1632/3.
- Prior to 1636, less than half of the entries for John Done list him as a Mr.
- In 1636 Done sued Widow Billington for slander. It is possible that this event changed the Colony's perceptions about his character.
- In 7 March 1636/7 others Plymouth leaders are listed as "Gent", but John Done is not. This was a year which Bradford was Governor.
- On 22 June 1637 (less than four months later) the entry specifically notes John Done as a "Gent"[leman].
- After 1639 virtually all record entries use Mister as his title.
- Early usage patterns less than fifty percent would indicate that John Done did not arrive as a gentleman. The record is clear that he gained respect during his years in Plymouth. That when he departed for Eastham, he was considered to be a gentleman.

<sup>45</sup> Doane, *The Doane Family*, 2.

<sup>46</sup> Doane, *The Doane Family*, 3.

<sup>47</sup> Fisher, *Albion's Seed*, 179.



## PLYMOUTH COLONY AS A FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

To compliment a complete list of John Done's actions in Plymouth, it is necessary to place him into the correct historical context. Although stories of the *Mayflower* and the first Thanksgiving are cornerstones of New England mythology, the colony was in fact one of America's first corporations.<sup>48</sup> In the early 1600s passage to the shores of America was as expensive as it was dangerous to the settlers. With the average wage of middling colonists at 20 pounds per year, it became a supreme challenge to raise the capital to pay for their passage of 50 pounds to the new world.<sup>49</sup> Funds were even difficult to raise once established in America, where Miles Standish once negotiated a loan of 150 pounds at 50 percent interest.<sup>50</sup> Financing the crossing of the famous *Mayflower* was left to a group of London merchant bankers called the "Adventurers". They were willing to provide the capital for this New World settlement in hopes of great profits.<sup>51</sup>

Bradford's *History of the Plymouth Plantation* is ripe with the drama of everyday life in the new world. The colonists and their leaders faced shortages of supplies and immigrants, famine, disease, and disputes with the Native Americans. Along with this the Plantation sought what means it could to repay the loans to the London Merchants. To this point, no individual in Plymouth played a more pivotal role than the colony's go-to man, Isaac Allerton. He was a Leyden separatist who arrived in Plymouth in 1620 aboard the *Mayflower*.<sup>52</sup> His wife died during the first winter, and next he married Fear Brewster the daughter of the church Elder William Brewster. The lack of early records would indicate that Allerton served as the sole Assistant to Governor Bradford's from 1621 thru 1632.<sup>53</sup>

"Because of high interest rates, poor accounting, and perhaps some self-serving [individuals] ... and some of the Adventurers, the colony's indebtedness seemed to grow rather than decrease, despite some sizeable shipments of furs from Plymouth to England." This dismal fiscal outlook cause considerable strain on the relationship between the colony and its financiers in London. The lack of profits caused many Adventurers to become discouraged and some sold their interests at a loss to others.<sup>54</sup>

In the colony's early years, Allerton made multiple trips to England to negotiate with the London financiers to arrange for supplies necessary for its support.<sup>55</sup> In 1626, he was dispatched to London to explain the colonists' plight and seek a new agreement to refinance the colony's debt. He returned with an agreement from forty-two Adventurers to sell their interest in the colony for £1,800.<sup>56</sup> In 1627, eight of Plymouth's leading citizens signed as guarantors for the colony. As such, they undertook the

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<sup>48</sup> Eugene A. Stratton, *Plymouth Colony: Its History and People 1620-1691* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1986), 20.

<sup>49</sup> Fisher, *Albion's Seed*, 28.; In 1630 the cost to outfit and move a family of six to New England was estimated at 50 pounds for the poorest accommodations or 60 to 80 pounds with a few comforts.

<sup>50</sup> Bartlett, *The Faith of the Pilgrims*, 149-150.

<sup>51</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 19-20.

<sup>52</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 44.

<sup>53</sup> Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation*, 86.; Anderson, *The Pilgrim Migration*, 11. In early 1621 "Isaac Allerton was chosen to be an assistant unto him [Bradford] who, by renewed election every year, continued sundry years together." He was again chosen to be an Assistant on 1 January 1633/4. Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 21.

<sup>54</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 27.

<sup>55</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 44.

<sup>56</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 27

responsibility of repaying this debt to the London financiers, and as such were called the "Undertakers".<sup>57</sup>

Allerton, William Bradford and Captain Miles Standish were apparently the initial Undertakers; being later joined by church Elder William Brewster, Edward Winslow, John Alden, John Howland, and Thomas Prence. Those original Adventurers who choose to continue with the financial relationship included James Sherley, Richard Andrews, John Beauchamp, and Timothy Hatherly.<sup>58</sup> The London Undertakers were to be repaid at the rate of £200 per year.<sup>59</sup>

In the succeeding years Allerton's "good and faithfull service" appeared to give way to actions which were completely self-serving. Governor Bradford noted that Allerton brought back goods from England to sell to the colonists for his own profit. Allerton's accounts made the colony take any losses, while he claimed full profits for himself. He so inter-mixed the colony's goods with his own for sale that they could only be separated based upon his word. While in England he charged his high living expenses solely against the colony. Eventually, Bradford suspected that Allerton was in league with some of the London Undertakers. In short, Allerton ignored instructions, exceeded his authority, and undertook separate financial deals with some of the London financiers to the detriment of the colony.<sup>60</sup>

The financial outlook for New England changed greatly in 1630. That year the Winthrop Fleet arrived in Cape Cod with some 920 settlers.<sup>61</sup> This mass migration must have lead to great concern by the London Undertakers. Plymouth no longer had a monopoly in Cape Cod and the extensive number of settlers transported to the Massachusetts Bay Colony over a single season must have raised new doubts about Plymouth's ability to repay its debts. After that it is likely that the laissez-faire approach to their investment gave way to a more active engagement by the London financiers.

In 1631, London Undertaker Timothy Hatherly began yearly sailings to New England and then returning to England after a few weeks to a few months. In July 1631 he arrived at Boston on the *Friendship*, the following year arrived at Boston aboard the *Charles* in June.<sup>62</sup> In 1633 it is possible that Hatherly made both a spring and then a late-summer crossing. In 1634 he migrated to Plymouth to permanently reside within the colony.<sup>63</sup>

The 1631 voyage appears to have been made so that Hatherly could inspect the accounts and the general affairs of the Plymouth Colony. Mr. Sherley corresponded tactfully to Bradford regarding Hatherly's arrival, but his purpose was clear.<sup>64</sup> This is likely the first indication that the London merchants had concerns about the colony's accounts and its representative, Isaac Allerton. Bradford's *History* notes that "Mr. Hatherly came over again this year, but upon his own occasions, ..." and in that

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<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 27-28.

<sup>59</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 37.

<sup>60</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 44-45.

<sup>61</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 51.

<sup>62</sup> Pilgrim Ship Lists Early 1600's, <http://www.packrat-pro.com/ships/shiplist.htm>, accessed 1 November 2011.

There are no passenger lists for either the 1631 voyage of the *Friendship* or the 1632 voyage of the *Charles*.

<sup>63</sup> Anderson, *The Pilgrim Migration*, 239.

<sup>64</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 45.

passage the editor inserted the year “[1632]”.<sup>65</sup> By 1633 James Sherley put it straight to Bradford that Allerton had deceived both his Plymouth companions and the London financiers.<sup>66</sup>

Governor Bradford mentions accountants in his *History* and in particular Josias Winslow. Winslow was the younger brother of Edward Winslow and reportedly was in the employ of the London Undertakers, as both a “booke keeper” and “their accountant”.<sup>67</sup> It is most likely that Bradford, leader of the Plymouth Undertakers, was not pleased with the prospect of someone else poring over his accounts and attempted to avoid this from happening. However, in the end he reluctantly acquiesced when it occurred. While Josias Winslow is not our person of interest, it indicates the type of greeting that John Done would have received if he arrived in Plymouth to audit the accounts of the colony.

“This year [1631] also Mr. Sherley would needs send them over a new accountant: he had made a mention of such a thing the year before, but they write him word, that their charge was great already, and they neede not increase it., as it would; but if they were well delte with, and had goods well sent over, they could keep their accounts hear them selves. Yet he now sent one, which they did not refuse, being a younger brother of Mr. Winslows, whom they had been at charge to instructe at London before he came. He came over in the *White Angel* with Mr. Allerton, and ther begane his first employmente; ...”<sup>68</sup>

The Plymouth Colony Records indicates that Done had skill as an accountant. Many times he was called upon to take inventories of deceased colonists, including gentlemen and the founders of the colony. He even undertook a complete audit of the accounts of Plymouth as late as 1644/5. Is it possible that the reason which John Done was not mentioned in Bradford’s *History* because Done was a member of Hatherly’s party, and was the auditor for the London Undertakers? This ‘working hypothesis’ appears to fit the available records and historical circumstances.

Stratton notes that much of Bradford’s *History* concerns the colony’s dealing with the Adventurers, “but he presents his information piecemeal, with gaps and some confusion.”<sup>69</sup> Bradford describes the ‘Allerton Accounts’ as being so poorly kept that a quick review may not have been possible. Bradford notes that “they were so large and intricate, as they could not well understand them, ... and it was 2 or 3 years before they could bring them to and good pass, but never made perfect.”<sup>70</sup> It is possible that Hatherly arrived in 1631 only to discover that the accounts were beyond his skills to decipher, thus requiring a return trip in 1632. A more likely scenario is that John Done travelled with Hatherly on the *Friendship* in 1631, and returned to London to describe the dismal condition of the Plymouth accounts to the London financiers.

The year 1633 provided profound changes in Plymouth. Likely the most significant change was the selection of the first new Governor in over a decade. However, a change of great significance was the addition of six more assistants to help run the colony. At the same time, detailed record keeping began. During 1633 an epidemic also ravaged the colony. This caused the death of two of its church deacons.

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<sup>65</sup> Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, 252.

<sup>66</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 46.

<sup>67</sup> Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation*, 296-298.

<sup>68</sup> Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation*, 135-136.

<sup>69</sup> Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 31.

<sup>70</sup> Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation*, 129.

John Done and William Paddy were appointed as replacement Deacons. Church records have no specific date of this appointment, but it appears to have occurred during 1633, because Done resigned his post as an Assistant to the Governor on 2 January 1633/4.<sup>71</sup>

While providing a new leader for the church, the appointment could have benefitted Done. If we assume that he was in the employ of the London Undertakers, this would have provided him the opportunity to gently cut the ties with his employer. This would eliminate the stigma of his 'being on their payroll'. A less likely possibility is that the appointment was a means of reinstating Issac Allerton, the son-in-law of Elder Brewster, as an Assistant to the Governor. Whatever the cause, Done's appointment and resignation would have required that the London undertakers provide a replacement accountant, e.g. Josias Winslow.

## A WORKING HYPOTHESIS FOR JOHN DONE

A 'working hypotheses' requires a basis of historical records. In short, it is a theory that attempts to account for current gaps in the data. It is constructed for the purpose of furthering investigation and research, and for those reasons it is useful in this case. For this paper the working hypothesis is a linked list of assumptions about John Done. It was created by intersecting the John Done of the Plymouth Colony Records, with the preceding historical accounts of the Plymouth Colony's financial situation. Those bullet points which are part of the working hypothesis are listed in bold font, and are blended together with historical reference points which are not bolded.

The two dates suggested as when John Done arrived in Plymouth (1629 and 1630) were included in this timeline. The source for each date is somewhat obscure and each citation should be considered to be of low quality.

**Table 3 – Possible Assumptions about John Done  
'Working Hypothesis'**

- **Done attended a university for his education.**
- **Done was working for or with the London Undertakers.**
- About 1629 John Done arrived in Plymouth.<sup>72</sup>
- In 1630 the Winthrop Fleet arrived in Cape Cod with some 920 settlers.
- In 1630 John Done traveled to Plymouth.<sup>73</sup>
- In 1631 Timothy Hatherly traveled on the *Friendship* to Plymouth to review their accounts.

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<sup>71</sup> The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, *Collections*, lii.

<sup>72</sup> Doane, *The Doane Family*, 2. A letter from 1849 indicated that that Mr. John Done was a part of the Mr. Robinson's church in Leyden. There is no record of John Done ever being at Leyden.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. This passage refers to a Boston newspaper obituary from 1735 which indicates that Done "came to Plymouth with his wife in 1630"; Anderson, *The Pilgrim Migration*, 171.

- Done traveled with Hatherly, reviewed the Plymouth accounts, and returned to London.
- In 1632 Done returned to Plymouth with Hatherly. Done stayed in Plymouth to ensure that positive administrative and financial changes were made.
- Hatherly provided a letter to Governor Bradford informing him of a number of necessary changes to their Plymouth administrative and financial practices. These were prerequisites to continued financing for the colony. They were to be instituted immediately or at the beginning of the next year. These likely included five major points:
  1. No confidence in Bradford's financial leadership of the colony. Suggested that they select a new Governor. The London merchants were favorably impressed with Mr. Winslow.
  2. London would no longer accept Allerton as the Colony's representative.
  3. Suggested adding more assistants to help run the colony.
  4. Suggested making John Done a new Assistant.
  5. Suggested that better record keeping would reduce confusion about the colony's financial affairs.
- New Governor Winslow initiated these changes. John Done was made an Assistant. Records were kept and the Plymouth accounts improved.
- An epidemic occurs in 1633. This unexpectedly rearranges the leadership circle in Plymouth. Done was asked to be a Deacon. He accepted.
- Done wrote to the London Undertakers of his appointment as a Deacon and his decision to resign from the counsel.
- In 1633/34 Done resigned as an Assistant.
- The London Undertakers may have then relied upon Josias Winslow to track the Plymouth accounts.
- In early 1634 Done bought a house in Plymouth.
- In 1634 Done sailed home to collect his family. He may have returned with Timothy Hatherly later that year.
- In 1639 Done opened an inn to help support his family.
- Done is interested in moving to Eastham and away from Plymouth.
- In 1644 Elder Brewster dies. Done cuts the ties with Plymouth and completes the move to Nawsit (Eastham) with a number of old comers and original Adventurers.

## **NEXT STEPS FOR JOHN DONE RESEARCH**

While a working hypothesis lacks the substance of genealogical proof, it can serve as a temporary platform which will support further investigation. Historical research can be time consuming and costly. It is hoped that the following suggestions may aid future research on John Done in both the mother country or in the colonies.

### **1. University Records**

Multiple authors conclude that John Done must have been educated.<sup>74</sup> Fisher notes that a large portion of the Puritan elite in Massachusetts were educated at three Cambridge Colleges – Emmanuel, Magdalen and Trinity.<sup>75</sup> Church Elder William Brewster along with several of Plymouth's early pastors and teachers brought the Cambridge tradition of learning to the people of Plymouth.<sup>76</sup> If these records can be located, it may provide other details of Done's early life including listing his parents, place of residence, and true age.

- Available university records in England should be searched. The records of Cambridge would be a top priority. Given his surroundings it is the most likely place to have records of John Done's university education.
- Dr. Gilbert H. Doane notes other potential Universities would include Oxford and the Inns of the Court, where young men were educated to be lawyers.

### **2. John Atwood Partnership**

As noted by the DFA book and Gilbert H Doane, there must have been some sort of relationship between John Done and John Atwood prior to Plymouth. Like Done, Atwood was named an Assistant to the Governor. However, Atwood does not have a biography in the *Great Migration Project* so his life is not as well documented.

Their relationship included three types of interactions. First, was the sale of an indentured servant in the first year of the records (1633). Next was the sale of the partnership in a house "neare unto Plaine Dealing" for 60 pounds, a sizeable sum (1636). Last was a series of four committee assignments for both extending from 1641/42 to 1643. The DFA book mentions a debt that Done agreed to pay Atwood in 1639, but the source of the record is not provided and the passage is not in the text, but instead in a footnote. Until proven otherwise, this footnote record will be considered suspect.<sup>77</sup>

Atwood was asked by James Sherley to mediate the financial settlement dispute between the Colony and the London Undertakers. Bradford wrote:

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<sup>74</sup> Dr. Gilbert H. Doane, "Mr. John Done: Who was he?", 1972 Report of Proceedings - Doane Family Association, (1972): 28.

<sup>75</sup> Fisher, *Albion's Seed*, 39.

<sup>76</sup> Bartlett, *The Faith of the Pilgrims*, 45.

<sup>77</sup> Doane, *The Doane Family*, 10-11.

"Mr. Shereley being weary of this conrtoversie, and desirous of an end, (as well as them selves) write to Mr. John Atwode and Mr. William Collier, two of the inhabitants of this place, and of his speatiall acquaintance, and desired them to be a means to bring this business to an end, by advising and counselling the partners here..."<sup>78</sup>

Atwood was finally able to get the partners in London and Plymouth to agree to a compromise. The situation was finally resolved in 1642 after a span of two years time.

- Available records should be searched for additional information on John Atwood. It likely that these will reside in the US. Of particular interest would be any diaries and business papers. Given their relationship prior to Plymouth, John Atwood may be a key to the John Done of England.

### 3. William Paddy

John Done had more interaction with fellow Deacon William Paddy than any other person in Plymouth. He and William Paddy served on no less than thirteen appointments. Records regarding their joint appointment as Deacons in 1633 indicated that they were both recent-comers. It is possible that they traveled to Plymouth together.

- Few others in the colony warrant further investigation. However, there may be possible connections between William Paddy and his fellow Deacon John Done before Plymouth.

### 4. Records of the London Undertakers

We are lucky to have early Plymouth records from William Bradford, but it is only the colonist's side of the conversation. The other half may be found in the private records of their financiers, the London Undertakers. Since Timothy Hatherly settled in Plymouth his records may be in a repository near Plymouth. However the records for Richard Andrews, John Beauchamp, and James Sherley (their treasurer) would be located in the British Isles. While this recommendation is potentially the most challenging to research, any positive results may rewrite a major piece of the history of the Plymouth Colony.

- Available repositories near Plymouth should be searched for any records of Timothy Hatherly.
- The British Archives should be inspected for the records of the London Undertakers: Richard Andrews, John Beauchamp, and particularly James Sherley.

## CONCLUSION – A 'NEW' JOHN DONE

The purpose of this report was to undertake a review of the available existing records of John Done of Plymouth. It was hoped that this might reveal new or undiscovered facts. This report located fifty five

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<sup>78</sup> Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation*, 294.

additional records on John Done. While no new vital records were located in this paper, it provides new insights on John Done and has allowed a working hypothesis to address current data gaps.

Although the Doane Family Association website suggests John Done's arrival at Plymouth prior to the sailing the Winthrop Fleet, it is possible that John Done arrived shortly thereafter, and may have traveled to Plymouth upward of three times. His employment with the financial backers of the Plymouth Colony in London appears to be strong possibility. Done's appointment as an Assistant to the Governor in the first years of detailed record keeping and his other accomplishments are remarkable for any recent comer. However, it is his role as 'auditor to the colony' that may have adversely affected his relationship with former Governor William Bradford.

It is hoped that this work does not stand alone, but will generate new scholarship on the financial history of the Plymouth Colony. Should additional records regarding John Done be discovered, they should be incorporated into a future update. Finally, it is hoped that a more accurate portrait of John Done will be embraced by the DFA. For example, John Done's part-time occupation as an innkeeper should be noted on the DFA website.

The Deacon left us no reminiscence or diary. The facts of his early life remain to be discovered. As a result, we are left to view him through his actions and deeds in the colonies, and NOT by 'whom' or 'what' he was in his mother country.



**Appendix**  
**Occurrences of John Done in the Plymouth Colony Records**  
**1632/3 thru 1645<sup>79</sup>**

- 1633 [assume 1 January 1632/3] – **John Done** was listed as one of seven assistants to Governor Edward Wynslow for that year. He was listed on the “Cowncell”.<sup>80</sup> [DFA]
- 1633 [assume 1 January 1632/3] – **John Done** was listed as one of sixty-eight “Freeman” for the Colony of New Plymouth.<sup>81</sup>
- 1 January 1632/3 – **John Done** and six others were chosen and received the oath for the Governor’s counsel for that year.<sup>82</sup> [DFA]
- 10 January 1632/3 – **Mr John Done** and three others are noted as assistants to the Governor hear a case of a runaway servant who was returned by the Indians.<sup>83</sup>
- 25 March 1633 – **John Done** and ten others were rated for public use by the Governor. The passage refers to an action of the colony which occurred on the previous 2<sup>nd</sup> of January (probably 1 January). Those individuals selected were to collect the tithes (taxes) at the rate of 6 schillings per bushel of corn. The tithes were due “before the last of November”.<sup>84</sup>
- 25 March 1633 – **John Done** is the ninth person listed in the tithe roles for that year. He owed 1 pound 7 shillings. Only 14 of 89 owed a tithe of more than one pound.<sup>85</sup> [DFA]
- 8 April 1633 – **Mr John Done** of New Plymouth sold the indentured Walter Harris to Henry Howland for fourteen pounds sterling. Mr. Harris first bound himself to Mr. John Atwood of London, but was under the command of **John Done** at the time of the sale.<sup>86</sup> [DFA]
- 1 July 1633 – **John Done** and six others were appointed to divide the meadow ground in the bay equally between colony settlers according to their shares.<sup>87</sup> [DFA]
- 28 October 1633 – **John Done** presented an inventory of the goods of Martha Harding. He was made the administrator “in behalf of her son”.<sup>88</sup> He was to make it good to her creditors so far

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<sup>79</sup> There are few records from the Plymouth Colony prior to 1632/33. John Done is on the first page of records from Volume 1 of the Plymouth Colony Records.

<sup>80</sup> Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, editor, *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England: Volume, 1, Court Orders, 1633-1640* (Boston: Press of W White, 1855), 3-4. Hereafter “PCR”. Individuals on the list had no titles beyond those of Captain Standish.

<sup>81</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1*, 3-4. Only one person listed further down the list has a title of Mister (Mr). The location of a title in the bottom third of the list is somewhat odd, since people were generally placed in the order of their social rank.

<sup>82</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1*, 5.

<sup>83</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1*, 7. There is an error in the DFA book. It notes the date as “June 10”.

<sup>84</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1*, 9. The Plymouth Colony had taxes as early as 1623. They were to support the maintenance of government and public officers. Called “rates”, they required every male over 16 had to pay a bushel of Indian wheat, or the equivalent. The Plymouth Colony Archive Project - Glossary & Notes on Plymouth Colony [[http://www.histarch.uiuc.edu/plymouth/GLOSSARY.htm#N\\_1\\_](http://www.histarch.uiuc.edu/plymouth/GLOSSARY.htm#N_1_)] accessed on Sept 22, 2011.

<sup>85</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1*, 9-11. The rates ranged from nine shillings to three pounds and eleven shillings for former Governor’s Assistant, Isaac Allerton.

<sup>86</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1*, 12-13.

<sup>87</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1*, 14.

as it was possible. “**Mr John Done** the Administrator of the said Martha in whose behalfe the said **John Done** allowed to administer as pr order in Court Oct 28 before expressed”.<sup>89</sup> **Mr Done** was listed as a creditor “... he hath cleared & distributed for her the sum of” 9 pounds, 9 shillings, and 1 pence.<sup>90</sup> [DFA]

- 11 November 1633 – **Mr Joh Done** was directed to hold 15 pounds from the estate of Peter Browne for the benefit of his daughter Mary Browne for a period of nine years.<sup>91</sup> [DFA]
- 11 November 1633 – **Mr John Done** and Mr Steph. Hophins were directed to provide an inventory of the possessions of Godbert Godbertson and his wife Zarah (Sara).<sup>92</sup>
- 25 November 1633 – **Mr John Done** and Mr Thomas Prence were directed to make good with the creditors of Francis Eaton, a carpenter of Plymouth, for the benefit of his widow.<sup>93</sup> As a result, **Jon Doane** was listed as a debtor owed 2 pounds, 15 shillings, and 11 pence in the inventory of Francis Eaton, a Plymouth carpenter.<sup>94</sup>
- 2 January 1633/4 – **Mr John Done** requested to be freed from the post of Assistant to the Governor “at the request of the church & himself”. The request indicated that he had been chosen a deacon of the church.<sup>95</sup> [DFA]
- 2 January 1633/4 - **John Done** and twelve others “were rated for publick use by the Gov” and were appointed to collect bushels of products for the public.<sup>96</sup>
- 25 January 1633/4 - **Mr Done** is listed as one of 26 debtors on the inventory of John Thorp a Plymouth carpenter.<sup>97</sup>
- 14 February 1633/4 – **Joh Done** bought a dwelling house from Joh Coomb, gentleman, for 9 pounds, 10 shillings. Payment of 8 pounds was made to Mr Will Bradford, with the remaining sum of 30 shillings to Josias Wynslow.<sup>98</sup> [DFA]
- 26/27 March 1634 – **John Done** and twelve others were rated for public use by the Governor to collect tithes of corn. The passage refers to an action of the colony which occurred on the previous 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. The rate and the timing of the tithe was the same as the previous year.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 18.

<sup>89</sup> C. H. Simmons, Jr., editor. *Plymouth Colony Records: Volume 1, Wills and Inventories, 1633-1669* (Camden, ME: Picton Press, 1996), 25.

<sup>90</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 25. The distribution of 17 of 20 pounds was to her husband’s brothers in England. The DFA book implies that this charity is proof that Martha Harding was a relation and likely his sister. This conclusion remains unsubstantiated.

<sup>91</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 18.

<sup>92</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 19.

<sup>93</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 19-20.

<sup>94</sup> Simmons, *PCR*, Vol. 1, *Wills and Inventories*, 41-44. This is the only entry where the spelling is “Doane”.

<sup>95</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 23. In a fever of 1633 the church at Plymouth lost two deacons who were replaced with John Done and William Paddy as recent comers. The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, *Collections*, 73.; Stratton, *Plymouth Colony*, 35-36.

<sup>96</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 26. There is an error in the DFA book. It has this event as occurring in “1632/33”.

<sup>97</sup> Simmons, *PCR*, Vol. 1, *Wills and Inventories*, 37-40.

<sup>98</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 25.

<sup>99</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 26-27.

- 27 March 1634 – **John Done** tithed 1 pound 7 shillings. He is the tenth person in order and only 15 of 81 owe more than one pound.<sup>100</sup>
- 5 July 1635 – **John Done** and three others were appointed to build a mile or road, collect the money for its construction, contract for workmen “and order other all things for ye dispatch thereof”.<sup>101</sup> [DFA]
- 5 January 1635/6 – **John Done** and six others were chosen to assist the Governor and the Council to set just rates for goods and laborer wages.<sup>102</sup> [DFA]
- 2 March 1635/6 – **Mr John Done** and six others were added as assistants to the Governor for that year.<sup>103</sup> [DFA]
- 14 March 1635/6 – **Mr Done** was to have the extra marsh hay from widow Billington from the ground which lay adjacent to her property.<sup>104</sup> [DFA]
- 7 June 1636 – “**John Done**, yeoman entreth an acco of slander & layeth it in an £100 [100 pounds], against Helin Billington, widow.<sup>105</sup> The court found for **John Done**, and charged the widow 5 pounds and sent her to the stocks to be whipped.<sup>106</sup> [DFA]
- 4/5 October 1636 – **John Done** and three others from Plymouth were appointed to a committee to draft revisions to the ordinance of the colony and corporation. His name is listed third after Mr William Brewster and Mr Ral[ph] Smith.<sup>107</sup> [DFA]
- 15 November 1636 – **Mr John Done** and others including the Governor and his Assistants met to rewrite the laws of the commonwealth. Relists those individuals selected on the [4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>] of October to draft revised laws for the colony.<sup>108</sup>
- 15 November 1636 – **Mr Done** and seven others were to evaluate the trade practices of those in the colony and provide the conclusion to the court.<sup>109</sup>
- 30 December 1636 – **John Done** (4 entries). John Atwood “late of London gent[leman]” bought out Done’s partnership in a dwelling house, with outbuilding and land “neare unto Plaine Dealing” for threescore pounds [60 pounds].<sup>110</sup> [DFA]

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<sup>100</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 26-29.

<sup>101</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 35. There is an error in Anderson’s *The Pilgrim Migration*. It indicates that the Deacon was “to collect money for a mill”.

<sup>102</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 36.

<sup>103</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 38. There is an error in the DFA book. It has the date as “March 1”.

<sup>104</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 40.

<sup>105</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 40. The record does not indicate the offense.

<sup>106</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 42. There is an error in the DFA book and the summation from Goodwin’s *Pilgrim Republic*. Both indicated that the Deacon received nothing.

<sup>107</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 44.; David Pulsifer, editor, *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England: Volume 11, Laws, 1623-1682* (Boston: Press of W White, 1861), 6. This was the first revision to the system of laws use by the Colony since the Mayflower Compact. Until this time, there had been no law establishing the offices of the Governor, Assistants (Councilors) or Constables. The changes reflect those in use in Plymouth since 1632/3 when John Done was made an Assistant to the Governor.

<sup>108</sup> Pulsifer, *PCR*, Vol. 11, 6.

<sup>109</sup> Pulsifer, *PCR*, Vol. 11, 25-26.

<sup>110</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 47. The DFA book notes that this location is about two miles north of Plymouth in an area called “Seaside” about 1900. Doane, *The Doane Family*, 9 & 11.

- 7 March 1636/7 – **John Done** is listed as a Freeman for Plymouth. He is 18<sup>th</sup> of 123 Freeman, and is not noted as a ‘gentlemen’ as are all who are listed before him.<sup>111</sup> [DFA]
- 7 March 1636/7 – **Mr Done**, Mr Hopkins, Mr Atwood, and one other were appointed to advise the Governor and his Assistants on ways to increase trade for the benefit of the colony.<sup>112</sup>
- 20 March 1636/7 – **Mr Done** was to have hey grounds at Heigh Pines.<sup>113</sup>
- 2 May 1637 – **John Done** and eleven other are named to a jury to select highways about Plymouth, Ducksborrow and the Eele River. He is listed first. They reported back to the court on 10 May but their findings are recorded on 7 July.<sup>114</sup>
- 7 June 1637 – **Mr Done** and seven others were named to aid the Governor and his assistants regarding the deteriorating trade in beaver.<sup>115</sup>
- 22 June 1637 – “**John Done** of Plym[outh] Gent[leman]” provided his assurance that Thomas Butler, of Ducksborrow, laborer, would appear at the next general court.<sup>116</sup> [DFA]
- 14 September 1637 – **John Done** (2 entries) paid 8 pounds to John Read of Waymouth for the remainder of the indenture of Mathew Osborne.<sup>117</sup> [DFA]
- 2 October 1637 – The property of **Mr John Done** is mentioned in a land description. This entry was later cancelled in the original record.<sup>118</sup> [DFA]
- 2 October 1637 – **Mr John Done** is granted 100 acres lying at the Joanes River.<sup>119</sup>

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- 2 October 1637 – The property of **Mr John Done** is mentioned in a land description. However, this entry was later cancelled in the original record.<sup>120</sup> [DFA]
- 2 October 1637 – **Mr John Done** and seven others were directed to divide the meadow grounds between the Eele River and the South River.<sup>121</sup>
- 4 Dec 1637 – **Mr John Done** was granted ten acres near Fresh Lake.<sup>122</sup>
- 5 February 1637/8 – The property of **Mr Done** is mentioned in a land description.<sup>123</sup>
- 7 May 1638 – The property of **Mr Done** is mentioned in a land description.<sup>124</sup>
- 5 June 1638 – **John Done** and fifteen others were sworn in for a coroner’s jury. His name appears at the top of the list.<sup>125</sup>

<sup>111</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 52-53.

<sup>112</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 54.

<sup>113</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 56.

<sup>114</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 58.

<sup>115</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 62.

<sup>116</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 63.

<sup>117</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 65.

<sup>118</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 65.

<sup>119</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 66.

<sup>120</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 66.

<sup>121</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 67.

<sup>122</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 69.

<sup>123</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 77.

<sup>124</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 83.

<sup>125</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 1, 88.

- 16 July 1638 – **John Done** and six others (including the Governor) were appointed to make arrangement for the management of the Town's cows for the next four years.<sup>126</sup>
- 1 October 1638 – The property of **Mr Done** was mentioned in a land description.<sup>127</sup>
- 5 November 1638 – The property of **Mr Done** was mentioned in a land description.<sup>128</sup>
- 4 Feb 1638/9 – Property adjustment to **John Done's** land were required.<sup>129</sup>
- 4 Feb 1638/9 – Further describes the property adjustments. The entry mentions **Mr John Done, Mr Done,** and said **John Done.**<sup>130</sup>
- 7 May 1639 – The property of **Mr John Done** was mentioned in a land transaction.<sup>131</sup>
- 16 May 1639 – **Mr John Done** and three others were appointed to the Committee for the Town of Plymouth.<sup>132</sup>
- 4 June 1639 – **Mr John Done** and three others were appointed to the Committee of the Town. However, this entry was later removed in the original record. He was replaced with fellow Deacon Mr Wm Paddy.<sup>133</sup>
- 4 June 1639 – **Mr John Done** was allowed to draw wine until the next court.<sup>134</sup> [DFA]
- 1 June 1640 – **Mr John Done** was granted 10 acres of meadow by Joanes River. However, this entry was later removed in the original record.<sup>135</sup>
- 2 June 1640 – **Mr Done** was present for selling wine. The record notes that the court was mistaken and this entry was later removed in the original record.<sup>136</sup> [DFA]
- 2 Nov 1640 – **Mr John Done** was granted 12 acres of meadow by the Joanes River.<sup>137</sup>
- 1 February 1640/1 – **Mr John Done** was one of twelve sworn in for a jury trial. He was the first person listed and the only individual with a title.<sup>138</sup>
- 2 March 1640/1 – **Mr. Done** and two others are seated as the Grand Inquest [court].<sup>139</sup>
- 7 September 1641 – **Mr John Done** and two others were appointed to view the books of James Luxford and report to the court. Fellow Deacon Mr Willm Paddy was included in this group.<sup>140</sup> [DFA]

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<sup>126</sup> Town of Plymouth, *Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, 3-4.*

<sup>127</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1, 99.*

<sup>128</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1, 102.*

<sup>129</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1, 111.*

<sup>130</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1, 111-112.*

<sup>131</sup> David Pulsifer, editor, *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England: Volume 12, Deeds, & c. 1620-1651,* (Boston: Press of W White, 1857), 42.

<sup>132</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1, 121.*

<sup>133</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1, 126.*

<sup>134</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1, 127.*

<sup>135</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1, 154.*

<sup>136</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1, 156.*

<sup>137</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 1, 166.*

<sup>138</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2, 7.*

<sup>139</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2, 11-12.*

<sup>140</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2, 24.*

- 28 October 1641 – The property of **Mr John Done** was mentioned in a land description
- 17 January 1641/2 – **Mr John Done** and three others were selected to the Committee of the Town. The others included Mr John Atwood, and fellow Deacon Mr Wm Paddy.<sup>141</sup>
- 7 April 1642 – **Mr John Done** sold three acres of marsh ground at Joanes River to Willm Bradford for consideration of four goats. Said **John Done** (2 entires) is also mentioned.<sup>142</sup>
- May to December 1642 – **Mr John Done** bought the house, barns, outbuilding and garden plot in Plymouth along with six acres of garden in the new field, from Mr Ralph Smith on behalf of the Church of Plymouth. And hath given said property over to Mr John Reynor “their teacher”.<sup>143</sup>
- 7 June 1642 - **Mr John Done** was listed on the Plymouth Town Committee along with fellow Deacon Mr Wm Paddy, Mr John Atwood, and one other.<sup>144</sup>
- 20 September 1642 – **Mr Done** and six others (including the Governor) were appointed to dispose of lands for the Town.<sup>145</sup>
- 27 September 1642 - **Mr John Done** and six others were placed on the war committee. The others included fellow Deacon Mr Wm Paddy, and Mr John Atwood.<sup>146</sup>
- 27 September 1642 - **Mr John Done** and four others were appointed to “lay forth” the lands which the Town granted to settlers. The others included fellow Deacon Mr Paddy, Mr Prence, and Mr Jenny.<sup>147</sup> [DFA]
- 17 October 1642 - **Mr John Done** and four others were appointed to lay out land that was granted by the Town. The others included his fellow Deacon Mr Wm Paddy.<sup>148</sup>
- 19 April 1643 – **Mr Done** tithed a half peck of Indian corn (roughly one gallon) for the keeper of the Town’s cows.<sup>149</sup>
- 6 June 1643 – **Mr John Done** and three others were listed on the Plymouth Town Committee. The others included fellow Deacon Mr Wm Paddy and Mr John Atwood.<sup>150</sup>
- August 1643 – **Mr John Done** is listed as one of the males able to “beare Armes” for the Town of Plymouth.<sup>151</sup>
- 29 August 1643 - **Mr John Done** and three others were listed on the Plymouth Town Committee.<sup>152</sup>
- 29 August 1643 – **Mr Done** and the rest of a jury were directed to provide the Court with the selected route (“verdict”) of the highway to the Eel River, or else be fined.<sup>153</sup>

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<sup>141</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2*, 31.

<sup>142</sup> Pulsifer, *PCR, Vol. 12*, 79.

<sup>143</sup> Pulsifer, *PCR, Vol. 12*, 87. Neither the value of the property or a payment were noted in the record.

<sup>144</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2*, 40.

<sup>145</sup> Town of Plymouth, *Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol 1*, 11.

<sup>146</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2*, 45.

<sup>147</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2*, 48.

<sup>148</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2*, 48.

<sup>149</sup> Town of Plymouth, *Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol 1*, 13.

<sup>150</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2*, 57.

<sup>151</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 8*, 187-188.

<sup>152</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR, Vol. 2*, 59.

- 24 September 1643 – **Mr John Done** and three others were assigned to the war counsel for the Town. The others included fellow Deacon Mr Wm Paddy.<sup>154</sup>
- 10 October 1643 – **Mr John Done** and three others were appointed to the Committee of the Townships for Plymouth. The others included fellow Deacon Mr Wm Paddy.<sup>155</sup>
- 10 February 1643/4 – **Mr Done** and five others were directed to make wolf traps for the Town.<sup>156</sup>
- 10 February 1643/4 – **Mr John Done** and three others were appointed to the Committee of the Town. Others included fellow Deacon Mr Wm Paddy.<sup>157</sup>
- 5 March 1643/4 – **Mr John Done** and three others were appointed to the Committee of the Town. The others included fellow Deacon Mr Willm Paddy.<sup>158</sup>
- 10 May 1644 – **Mr John Done** and Capt Miles Standish submitted the first of four separate inventories on the property and goods of Mr William Brewster.<sup>159</sup>
- 17 July 1644 – **Mr John Done**, Captain Miles Standish, and Mr Thomas Willet provided the inventory of Mr Steven Hopkins' goods.<sup>160</sup>
- 22 July 1644 – **Mr John Done** and four others were appointed to distribute the Town's cattle. The others included Mr Bradford, Mr Prence, and Mr Thomas Willet.<sup>161</sup>
- 20 August 1644 – **Mr Done** and the rest of the jury for laying out highways to the Eele River are to provide their route on the first Tuesday in October so "that they be repaired that want mending before winter".<sup>162</sup>
- 10 October 1644 – **Mr John Done** was discharged from his guardianship responsibilities for Mary Browne. She had reached the age of seventeen. The term of said **John Done** expired with Mary choosing her uncle John Brown to administer her inheritance.<sup>163</sup> [DFA]
- 7 January 1644/5 – **Mr John Done** and James Cole were licensed to draw wine. Cole was directed to take those wines which **Mr Done** "now hath in this hands."<sup>164</sup> [DFA]
- 3 March 1644/5- **Mr John Done**, Capt Miles Standish, and one other were directed to check the accounts of the Town treasurer Mr Thomas Prence and report their findings to the court.<sup>165</sup> [DFA]

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<sup>153</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 2, 60. In the Plymouth Colony Records a threat was often used as a means of moving things along. This is the only such 'encouragement' used toward Mr. Done, and was done while Bradford was Governor.

<sup>154</sup> Town of Plymouth, *Records of the Town of Plymouth*, Vol 1, 15.

<sup>155</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 2, 63. The date is noted as "9 October" in the *Records of the Town of Plymouth*, Vol 1, 17.

<sup>156</sup> Town of Plymouth, *Records of the Town of Plymouth*, Vol 1, 16.

<sup>157</sup> Town of Plymouth, *Records of the Town of Plymouth*, Vol 1, 17.

<sup>158</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 2, 68.

<sup>159</sup> Simmons, *PCR*, Vol. 1, *Wills and Inventories*, 113-115.

<sup>160</sup> Simmons, *PCR*, Vol. 1, *Wills and Inventories*, 130-131.

<sup>161</sup> Town of Plymouth, *Records of the Town of Plymouth*, Vol 1, 18.

<sup>162</sup> Pulsifer, *PCR* Vol. 12, 75.

<sup>163</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 2, 76.

<sup>164</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 2, 79-80.

- 8 April 1645 – **Mr Done** and five others were appointed to make arrangements for the Town cows. The others included Mr Bradford, Mr Prence, and fellow Deacon Mr Paddy.<sup>166</sup>
- 19 February 1645/6 - **Mr John Done** sold his dwelling house, barns, buildings, and garden space in Plymouth to Mr. Willm Hanbury of Plymouth for 10 pounds. This to be paid within the next year. The Deacon was allowed to harvest the corn now growing in the garden along with the fruit on some half dozen fruit trees.<sup>167</sup> [DFA]

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<sup>165</sup> Shurtleff, *PCR*, Vol. 2, 82. Thomas Prence was one of the founders of Eastham along with the Deacon and other old comers. "The above auditorship may have been an annual affair, but appears to have been the closing of his [Governor Prence] service as treasurer". Doane, *The Doane Family*, 13.

<sup>166</sup> Town of Plymouth, *Records of the Town of Plymouth*, Vol. 1, 19.

<sup>167</sup> Pulsifer, *PCR*, Vol 12, 133.; Pulsifer, *PCR*, Vol. 10, 136.