

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

FRANCIS COOKE, 1577-1653, the seventh signer of the Mayflower Compact, was a native of Schrooby, once the hunting seat of the Archbishop of York. The palace there is described as a pretentious structure, which had two court yards, and was surrounded by a moat. The ancestors of the Cookes are said to have been Romanists, and there is some uncertainty as to date on which Francis Cooke espoused the doctrines of the Separatists. His name appears in the list of those designated "Exiles from Schrooby." Having worshiped with Brewster and Bradford there, he went with them to Holland, reaching Leyden in 1609. At Leyden he became an inmate of the home of Pastor Robinson, whose large house was also a place of worship. Among those who regularly attended service there was Hester the walloon, who later became the wife of Francis Cooke. Hester Cooke did not accompany her husband to Plymouth, but came about two years later in the ship Ann. Their house at Plymouth was on Leyden Street, adjoining that of Edward Winslow.

Francis Cooke is described by one of his biographers as "a man of sound judgment, of decisive, though not arbitrary action, who could see both sides of any question even when the necessity of action or conviction might be against his interest." In 1634 he was chosen a referee in settlement of various affairs between members of the colony. His death in 1653 was regarded an irreparable loss by his townsmen.

JOHN COOKE, about 1612-1695; oldest son of Francis Cooke and his wife Hester, came to Plymouth with his father on the Mayflower in 1620. His extreme youth is empha-

sized by a passage in the early records, which states that "he was led ashore by his father's hand."

On March 28, 1634, he was married to SARAH WARREN, daughter of Richard Warren and his wife Elizabeth. He resided for a number of years in that section of Plymouth known as Rocky Nook. On June 7, 1637, he volunteered to serve in the Pequot war on condition that provision be made for the care of his family during his absence. He was a member of the Plymouth Military Company in 1643, and a representative of Plymouth in the General Assembly of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1638-9, from 1641 to 1644, in 1647, and from 1653 to 1656. Plymouth Church made him one of her deacons, but disagreeing with the pastor, Rev. John Raynor, upon theological issues, and with others of the colony with reference to the persecution of the Quakers, to removed to Dartmouth, of which he was one of the first purchasers. He was a selectman there in 1670, from 1672 to 1673, in 1675, and from 1679 to 1683. He was also the representative of that town in the General Court from 1666 to 1668, from 1673 to 1675, from 1679 to 1682, and in 1686. He was one of the company that built "the first vessel of the colony—the forty-ton leviathan of the deep, the pride and delight of Plymouth." He was also largely interested in the first ferry that plied between Dartmouth and Rhode Island. About the time of his settlement at Dartmouth he openly espoused the religious principles advocated by Roger Williams and Obadiah Holmes, and was for many years a minister in the Baptist denomination. He died at Dartmouth November 23, 1695, the last male survivor of the Mayflower. His unmarked grave is at Oxford, the upper village of the town. His will, executed November 9, 1694, is recorded in Bristol County Register of Probate Office, vol. 1, page 139.

RICHARD WARREN, 15—1628, the father of Sarah Warren Cooke, was not of the Leyden Company. He came from London to join the Pilgrim band, and was one of the

signers of the immortal compact framed in the cabin of the Mayflower, which converted an obscure band of adventurers into the founders of a mighty commonwealth. Morton, in his *New England Memorial*, prints his name as twelfth in the list of signers, and Prince, in his *New England Chronology*, adds the honorable prefix "Mr." from the register at the end of Bradford's folio manuscript. He was one of the third exploring party which was surprised by the Indians on December 18, 1620, at the spot since known as the scene of "The First Encounter." Technically speaking, he was one of the first to land in Plymouth, December 21, 1620, on what may be called the birthday of New England.

"Under the land division of 1623, his apportionment as one of the Mayflower passengers, fell in the north side of the town, with William White, Edward Winslow, John Goodman, John Cruckston, John Alden, Marie Chilton, Capt. Miles Standish, Francis Eaton, Henry Thompson, and Hamiltie Cooper. In the apportionment to those who came in the *Ann*, his lands were on the other side of the town, toward Eele River, in the section later known as Welling-sly." He also owned land along the shore of the present Warren's Cove. His house was on his Eele River lands, and it was there that he died in 1628.

"A contemporaneous authority describes him as grave Richard Warren, a man of integrity, justice and uprightness, of piety and serious religion, and as a useful instrument during the short time he lived, bearing a deep share in the difficulties and troubles of the plantation."

ELIZABETH, the wife of Richard Warren, the mother of Sarah Warren Cooke, was married in England, and, accompanied by her daughters, followed her husband to Plymouth in the *Ann* in 1623. Mrs. Warren was rated in the Plymouth tax list of 1632-3, and was one of the first purchasers at Dartmouth. A study of the early Plymouth records leads to the conclusion that she was a woman of force and

social position in the community, and she is therein spoken of as Mistress Elizabeth Warren, a designation by no means common. Hers was, among the colonists, an unusual case of continued widowhood. A glimpse of one side of her domestic life is to be had in connection with the prosecution by the General Court of her servant, Thomas Williams, July 5, 1635, for "speaking profane and blasphemous speeches against ye masjestie of God." "There being," say the records, "some dissention between him and the dame, she, after other things, exhorting him to fear God and do his duty." Mrs. Warren, after the marriage of her daughters, conveyed to their respective husbands certain lands variously located at Eele River and Wellingsly. She died at Plymouth, October 2, 1673, aged about 90 years.

John Cooke and his wife Sarah Warren were the parents of:

Sarah Cooke,
ELIZABETH COOKE,
Esther Cooke,
Mercy Cooke,
Mary Cooke,

ELIZABETH COOKE, 164—1715, daughter of John Cooke and his wife Sarah Warren, was married November 28, 1661, to Daniel Wilcox, of Portsmouth, R. I., Dartmouth, Mass., and Tiverton, R. I. His will, dated June 9, 1702, and proven on August 25th following, mentions his wife Elizabeth and their eight children, viz:

Daniel Wilcox,
Samuel Wilcox,
Edward Wilcox,
MARY WILCOX, wife of John Earle (2),
Thomas Wilcox,
Susanna Wilcox,
Lydia Wilcox, and
Sarah Wilcox, wife of Edward Briggs.

JOHN EARLL, colonist, father of John Earll, 2nd, was born in England in 1639, and came from London to Boston