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Potter” was granted four acres at the Town Plot in Watertown [WaBOP 11]. In 1645 this man sold his Watertown land and moved to Stamford [SLR 1:66; GMN 1:8], where he died late in 1684 leaving a will which named no children [TAG 10:179, citing Stamford TR 1:106]. On 10 September 1683, this William Potter gave his age as “75 years or thereabouts” [Stamford LR A:36]. This gives a birthdate of about 1608, reasonably close to the age of the 1635 passenger. However, had the passenger settled in Watertown immediately upon arrival, he should have appeared in the lists of land grants in 1636 and 1637, which did not happen. He might have settled elsewhere in New England prior to his appearance in Watertown in 1638, but no evidence of such a prior residence has been found.

On 30 December 1639, “Willyam Potter hath [a Great Lot] granted to him for xi heads, 44 acres [at the Mount]” (meaning Mount Wollaston, or Braintree) [BTR 1:44]. On 13 May 1640, “William Potter” was admitted to Massachusetts Bay freemanship, fifth in a sequence of eight Braintree men [MBCR 1:377]. He is almost certainly the William Potter who married Judith Graves at Roxbury on 2 June 1646 and died there on 17 January 1653/4 [RChR 175], leaving a will which named no children [NEHGR 5:301]. He included in this will a bequest to “Mr. Tompson, pastor of the church of Brantrey,” which suggests the connection with the William Potter earlier at Braintree.

Either of these men could have been the passenger of 1635, but no evidence convincingly connects either one with that passenger.

WILLIAM POTTER

ORIGIN: Lewes, Sussex.

MIGRATION: 1635 on the *Abigail* (on 1 July 1635, “husbandman William Potter,” aged 27, “uxor Francis Potter,” aged 26, and “Joseph Potter,” aged 20 weeks, were enrolled at London as passengers for New England on the *Abigail* [Hotten 97-98]).

FIRST RESIDENCE: Unknown.

REMOVES: New Haven.

OCCUPATION: Husbandman [Hotten 97].

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to New Haven church by 22 August 1641 implied by baptism of two children on that date [NHChR 11]. In the 10 March 1646[/7] seating of the New Haven meetinghouse,

“W[illia]m Potter” was in the fourth of the “seats on the side for men” [NHCR 1:303].

FREEMAN: “Will[iam] Potter” signed the New Haven Fundamental Agreement on an unknown date [NHCR 1:17]. On 1 July 1644, “Will[iam] Potter” took the New Haven oath of fidelity [NHCR 1:138].

EDUCATION: In his examination at court on 26 May 1662, “He was asked how he was educated? He answered, well, & was taught to read” [NHCR 2:443].

OFFICES: New Haven fenceviewer [NHCR 1:314].

On 6 September 1643, “brother Potter” was one of eight New Haven men who, “for coming late the last training day, were fined each man one shilling” [NHTR 1:87]. On 4 January 1643[/4], “Will[iam] Potter” was one of eleven New Haven men “fined each man 2s. for defective guns” [NHTR 1:122]. On 7 October 1651, “William Potter was complained of for neglecting to train one day, and for neglecting to show his arms, and for neglecting to bring in a note of his estate to them appointed to lay the rates in March last. He said for the training he can say little to excuse himself, though indeed he did not know the day, but that was his fault; for his arms he had all but a sword; and for the not bringing in a note of his estate, he can say nothing. The sentence of the court is, that William Potter pay five shillings for neglecting to train, and 5s. for not showing arms and for want of a sword, and a note under some of the military officers that his arms are now complete, and for not bringing a note of his estate to pay 2s. 6d.” [NHTR 1:87]. On 3 August 1652, “William Pottere was complained of for neglecting to train one day. Mr. Atwater said William Potter was with him and desired him to inform the court that he sent his son one day which was appointed, but the training was put off, and the next day fearing his son should lose his labor again, and having other urgent business, sent him not, but he leaves it to the court, who saw nothing in what he said to excuse him, therefore ordered that William Potter pay the fine, which is 5s.” [NHTR 1:134].

ESTATE: In the New Haven Early List of Estates, compiled in 1640, “Will[iam] Potter” held an estate for four persons and £40: twelve acres in the first division; two and a quarter acres and 24 rods in the neck; four acres of meadow; and sixteen acres in the second division [NHCR 1:92].

In the New Haven Book of Alienations, compiled in 1646, “W[illia]m Potter” held an estate for four persons and £40: “12 acres within 2 miles”; “2 acres $\frac{1}{4}$ 24 [rods in] the neck”; “4 acres of meadow”; “16 acres his 2d dividend”; “27 acres $\frac{1}{2}$ of meadow from Mr. Evance”; “32 acres upland from Mr. Evan[ce] in 2d division”; and “1 farm, house &

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barn & all the lands of Mr. Ro[bert] Newman & 26 acres of meadow passed at a Court the 2d of September 1651" [BA 13v].

On 5 October 1647, "Mr. Evance hath sold to W[illia]m Potter 27 acres ½ of meadow as it cometh to him in the town's books, and it lyeth in the east meadow between Mr. Crayne & brother Punderson, and 32 acres of upland belonging to it next to Mr. Gilbert's farm" [NHCR 1:325; BA 13r]. On 2 September 1651, "Mr. Robert Newman sold ... to William Potter his farm, house & barn, and all his upland thereto belonging ... and all his meadow except ten acres, which is part of a piece of 22 acres which lies about the great creek southward ... and William Potter is to have the other 12 acres of that piece northward ... and 14 acres below the creek next the upland" [NHTR 1:87, 134; BA 13r]. On 2 March 1651/2, "William Potter passeth over unto James Clarke two acres & a half of meadow ... lying in the west meadow on the further side of the river" [NHTR 1:110; BA 13r].

"A writing presented as the will of William Potter: William Potter disposes of his estate of outward things as followeth: after all debts discharged, my will is that my wife should have her living out of the farm till my son Nathan[ie]ll come to the age of 21 years, then the said Nathaniell is to possess the said farm & all that is upon it, if my wife continue a widow my will is that my son Nathan[ie]ll allow her a comfortable living out of the farm, & if she see cause to dwell elsewhere, my will is that my son Nathaniell allow her £12 a year. My will is that my son Joseph should have £30 paid him out of the farm with what he hath received to be paid him within the time of six year after the date hereof. My will is that my daughter Hope & my daughter Rebeckah shall have £20 apiece paid them when their mother sees good to pay it them. My will is that those legacies be paid out of the farm before it come into my son Nathan[ie]ll's hands. 19:3:62 [19 May 1662]" [NHPR 1:1:118].

The inventory of the estate of "William Potter," taken 1 August 1662, totalled £190 4s. (against which were debts of £29 1s. 5d.), of which £70 was real estate: "house, barn, orchard, upland & meadow," £70 [NHPR 1:1:118-19; NHCR 2:484].

On 5 August 1662, "widow Potter appeared & presented the will of her husband, with an inventory of his estate. The will, the Court referred to the Court of Magistrates in October next, but the inventory was accepted, being attested upon oath by the widow to contain the whole estate of her husband to the value of ten shillings to the best of her light, & for the apprizement Mr. Tho[mas] Yale & David Atwater, attested upon oath to be just, to the best of their light, the sum amounting to £162 2s. 7d." [NHTR 2:2]. On 15 October 1662, "[t]he will of Will[ia]m

Potter being referred by Newhaven court to this court, was presented, and by widow Potter desired to know the mind of the court whether it should stand or no, which being read, it was asked her if any had anything to say against it? She answered yea, her son Joseph, but after some speech with him Joseph said that his mother & he had agreed & was satisfied that it should stand, & the widow declared the same in reference to her other children. Then the court upon that ground that nothing being presented by any to the contrary ordered it to stand, & left it to Newhaven court for the proving of it & to order that part which concerns the children" [NHCR 2:466]. On 3 March, 1662/3, "widow Potter appeared to prove the will of her husband (as left by the Court of Magistrates to this Court). The will being allowed by that Court & now presented for proof, Deacon Miles took oath that it was the last will of Will[ia]m Potter to the best of his knowledge; Deacon Peck being the other witness was not well & so was not there, but Deacon Miles testified that he subscribed to it" [NHTR 2:32; NHCR 2:484].

On 7 April 1663, "James Clearke presented a writing in which was expressed three parcels of land that he bought of Will[ia]m Potter, two of them within the fence betwixt W[illia]m Potter's house & his, one of them the quantity of three acres, the other is that which W[illia]m Potter bought of Lieutenant Nash his father; the other parcel without the fence joining to the said James Clearke's land ...; this land was confirmed to James Clearke with the consent of widow Potter that was then present in Court" [NHTR 2:37].

On 7 April 1663, "widow Potter with her two daughters appeared about their portions. They was asked what would satisfy them? They answered that they desired to be paid as soon as their mother could & being asked if they was willing to stay while their marriage, one of them, viz: Hope, said no. Then widow Potter was told that they was of age to receive their portions & therefore she should endeavor to pay them as soon as she could, & in the meantime the farm & lands must stand engaged while it is done. She was also blamed that she had paid so much to her son Joseph Potter contrary to the will whereby she was disenabled to pay just debts, to the wrong of sundry & also of her daughters" [NHTR 2:38].

On 20 October 1673, "W[illia]m Bassett having stood quietly possessed of two parcels of meadow (formerly W[illia]m Potter's), the one containing four acres ..., the other containing two acres ..., for sundry years without any let, claim, prosecution by any person or persons according to law, doth now enter it to himself & his heirs forever" [NHTR 2:284-85].

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On 23 August 1706, "Sarah Blachley *alias* Foot *alias* Potter, daughter of William Potter late of New Haven, deceased, have received full satisfaction out of the estate of my deceased father William Potter" from Nathaniel Potter [NHLR 5:130]. On 11 December 1707, "John Bristoll and Mercy Bristoll, wife to the said John Bristoll and daughter of Mary Mansfield," acknowledged having received from "our uncle Nathan[ie]ll Potter ... our part of a portion due to our said mother of her father's estate" [NHLR 5:130]. On 14 December 1708, "Japhet Mansfield of New Haven, husbandman, the son of Mary Mansfield of New Haven of late deceased, who had a real right by way of portion from the estate of W[illia]m Potter and Frances wife to the said W[illia]m have received of Nathan[ie]ll Potter now only son of the said W[illia]m Potter my full part of said estate" [NHLR 5:131]. On 27 November 1713, "Ebenezer Mansfield of New Haven have received and had the right of my honored mother Mary Mansfield that was due to him from his uncle Nathan[ie]ll Potter Senior" [NHLR 5:130]. In an undated document, "William and Elizabeth Johnson both of New Haven, she being the daughter of Joseph Mansfield late of New Haven deceased, do acknowledge that we have received full satisfaction of our uncle Nathaniel Potter Senior, he being brother to our honored mother Mary Mansfield deceased" [NHLR 5:131].

BIRTH: Baptized St. Thomas, Lewes, Sussex, 28 August 1608, son of William and Ann (Langford) Potter [TAG 79:32].

DEATH: Executed at New Haven on 6 June 1662 for bestiality [NHCR 2:440-43; NHTR 1:527-28, 2:1-2; Magnalia 2:405-7; Legal Executions NE 32-33; Godbeer 114-15].

MARRIAGE: By 1635 Frances _____.

CHILDREN:

- i JOSEPH POTTER, b. about February 1635 (aged 20 weeks on 1 July 1635 [Hotten 97-98]); m. by 1661 Phebe Ives (eldest known child b. New Haven 8 October 1661 [NHVR 18]), daughter of WILLIAM IVES {1639, New Haven} [FANH 910].
- ii MARY POTTER, b. say 1637, bp. New Haven 22 August 1641 [NHChR 11]; m. by 1658 Joseph Mansfield (eldest known child b. New Haven 6 April 1658 [NHVR 15]), son of Richard Mansfield [NEHGR 66:308].
- iii SARAH POTTER, b. say 1639, bp. New Haven 22 August 1641 [NHChR 11]; m. (1) by 1660 Robert Foote (eldest known child b. New Haven 13 April 1660 [NHVR 17]), son

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- of NATHANIEL FOOTE {1634, Watertown} [GM 2:2:540-44]; m. (2) by an unknown date Aaron Blachley.
- iv HOPE POTTER, bp. New Haven 3 October 1641 [NHChR 11]; m. New Haven 3 February 1663[4] Daniel Robinson [NHVR 20].
 - v REBECCA POTTER, bp. New Haven [blank] January 1643[4?] ("in the 11 month [16]43") [NHChR 12]; m. New Haven 27 November 1667 Thomas Adams [NHVR 26].
 - vi NATHANIEL POTTER, bp. New Haven 22 December 1644 [NHChR 12]; m. New Haven 1 April 1675 Elizabeth Howes [NHVR 41].

ASSOCIATIONS: William Potter was followed to New England by his mother, Ann (Langford) (Potter) Beecher, his brother, John Potter, and his half-brother, Isaac Beecher [TAG 79:28-33].

COMMENTS: The residence of this immigrant prior to his appearance in New Haven has not been discovered. He was not WILLIAM POTTER {1637, Watertown}, who also resided at Stamford [GMN 1:8]. Savage split the records for this immigrant into two separate entries and incorrectly assigned the passenger list entry pertaining to the subject of this sketch to William Potter of Watertown [Savage 3:468].

On 8 December 1645, "Brother Potter made an offer to carry every man's grist from their houses to the mill & bring it home again to their houses for 2d. per bushel, but that was respited" [NHTR 1:44]. On 6 August 1650, "William Potter was called before the court and was desired to inform them, what profit that heifer he had of Hanah Potter's his kinswoman's, hath amount to for her advantage. He said he took the heifer intending it for the child's advantage. He kept the heifer till she was 4 years old, then she had a calf, which was fat and lusty, and like to do well, but in the summer it died, the next year she had no calf, but now is in calf again. He desired if the court pleased they would dispose of the cow otherwise; he was asked what she was worth, he said he thought £5 10s. He was asked what he should allow a year to Hanah Potter's use for the cow, he standing to the adventure. He said he would allow to her use 20s. a year, and stand to the adventure of a cow, and keep her till his kinswoman was of age to receive her, or the court saw otherwise to dispose of her, which the court approved of and ordered that he should have the cow upon them terms, the time to begin now, and he from this time to pay 20s. a year into the court, for Hanah Potter's use, which the court will see to dispose of" [NHTR 1:44]. (Hannah Potter was the daughter of John Potter, the deceased brother of William Potter.)