

Influential Colonial Leaders

William Bradford



William Bradford came to New England on the Mayflower. He was part of a group of English Separatists that faced persecution or unjust treatment for their religious beliefs. These colonists became known as Pilgrims. A pilgrim is a person who goes on a journey for religious reasons.

Before setting foot in the New World, the males aboard the ship met to agree upon a document that provided the basics for self-government based on the general good. This document is known as the Mayflower Compact.



Image borrowed from: <http://www.pilgrimhall.org/bradjour.htm>

Bradford was one of the original leaders of the Plymouth Colony, founded by the Pilgrims in 1620. He was elected governor of the colony in 1621 and re-elected 30 times. The survival of the Colony was in large part due to his patience, wisdom, and courage.

Anne Hutchinson



Anne Hutchinson, a Puritan, came to America in search of a place where she could worship freely. But when she arrived, she found the Massachusetts Bay Colony's religious rules very intolerant. Hutchinson believed that people could communicate directly with God--without the help of ministers or the Bible. This was in direct contradiction with the established religion.

She stood trial and faced banishment if convicted. Her "crime" was expressing religious beliefs that were different from the colony's rulers. The verdict was against her. She was banished from Massachusetts Bay.

Hutchinson was banished in spring of 1638. The religious persecutions continued. even amidst persecution, the idea of religious freedom grew.

After she left Massachusetts Bay Colony, Anne Hutchinson lived out her years in exile, first in Aquidneck, Rhode Island and later on Long Island, where she died during an attack by Native Americans in September, 1643.

William Penn



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William Penn was an important English Quaker who founded the Pennsylvania colony. Penn believed in religious toleration and called Pennsylvania the 'holy experiment'. He created a written constitution for the colony that amazingly limited the power of government. It also called for freedom of the press and the right to own private property.

John Smith



Image borrowed from: <http://ushistoryimages.com/captain-john-smith.shtm>

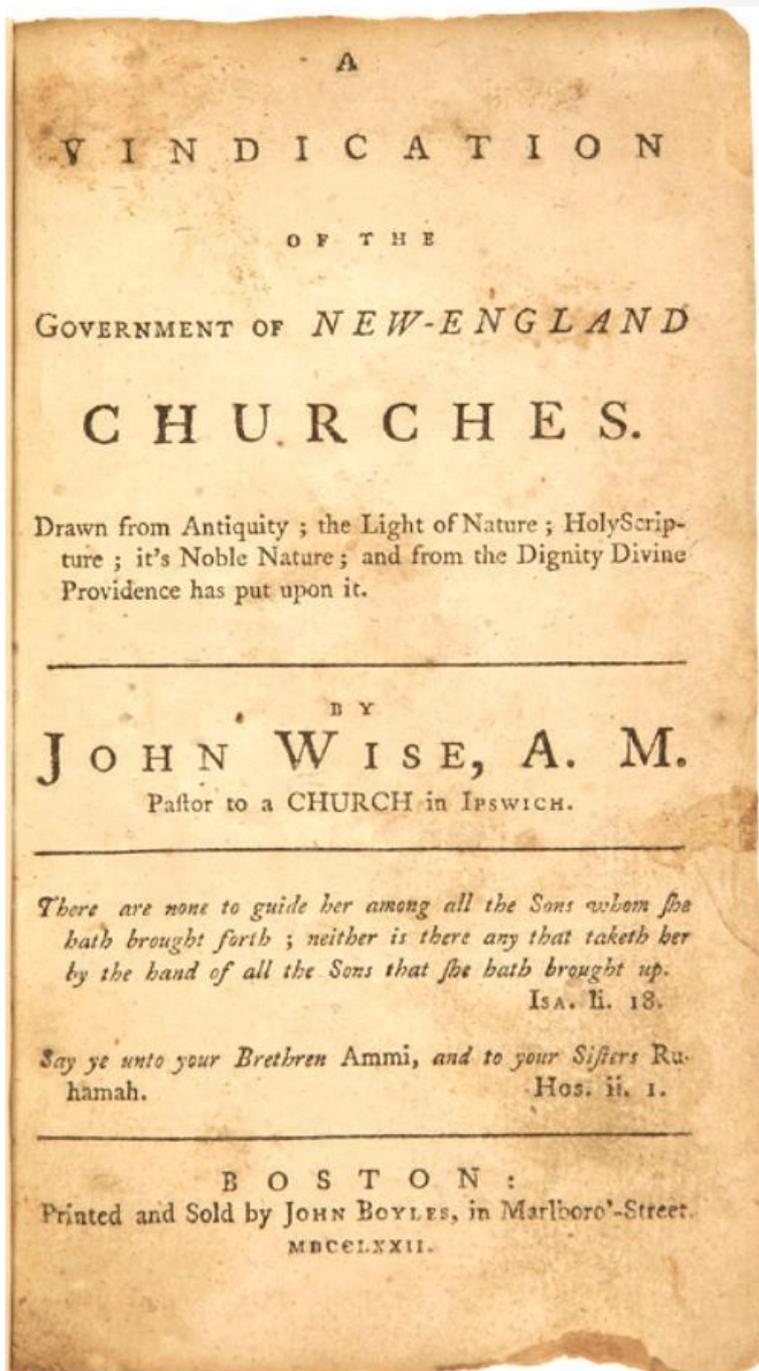
Born on January 6, 1580 in Lincolnshire, England, John Smith was an explorer and key figure in the settlement of North America. Smith helped establish Jamestown, forged relations with Native Americans, and named New England.

John Smith was the first English explorer to map the Chesapeake Bay area and New England. His courage and tenaciousness overcame many adverse situations in a new land. This strength of character and determination overcome problems presented from the hostile Indians, the wilderness and the troublesome and uncooperative English settlers.

In the fall of 1608, he became president of the Jamestown colony. In this office he strengthened defenses, enforced discipline, and continued to seek food from the Indians. He forced men to work if they wanted to be fed. He trained them in military skills and dealt effectively with the Indians in trade and political negotiations, until his strong-arm tactics angered local tribes as well as his own countrymen. He is credited with ensuring the survival of Jamestown by forcing discipline into the colonists and providing leadership.

John Wise 1652-1725

**OLD GRAVEYARD
1680**
Within are graves of Rev. John Wise
Rev. Theophilus Pickering and
Rev. John Cleaveland, first three
Pastors of Chebacco Church 1683-1799.
Also many noted Revolutionary Soldiers



John Wise was probably the most original prose writer in colonial America. His works were filled with humor, metaphors, and practical examples that appealed directly to the common townsfolk of New England.

In 1682 Wise accepted an offer to become the first minister of the newly created Chebacco parish in the township of Ipswich.

It was as minister in Ipswich that Wise achieved fame as a defender of the rights of the colonists and as a staunch supporter of the Congregationalist form of church government.

He is best known for his 1717 publication *A Vindication of the Government of New England Churches*, in which he dealt with the basis of both religious and civil government.

Wise demonstrated from the Bible that:

- God created all men equal and every man must be acknowledged by the state as equal to every man.
- The end of all good government is to promote the happiness of all and the good of every man in all his rights: his life, liberty, estate, honor, etc.
- The consent of the governed is the only legitimate basis for government.
- Taxation without representation is tyranny.

His opinions regarding religious and civil democracy foreshadowed the logic of the Declaration of Independence

Roger Williams



Image borrowed from: <http://www.nps.gov/rowi/historyculture/rogerslife.htm>

Roger Williams' views of Puritanism alienated him from the Church of England and he was forced to leave. He arrived in Boston in 1631. On October 7, 1635, Roger Williams was banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for his beliefs in the freedom of religion and the need for separation of Church and State.

In 1636, Roger Williams founded the colony of Rhode Island on the premise of separation of church and state. This colony was the first to guarantee freedom of worship for all its citizens.