



**CHORLEY CELEBRATES** 

# MYLES STANDISH

1620 - 2020

es Standust

400 years since carrying the Pilgrims to the New World

The Townships of Duxbury and Standish

# Thank you for celebrating with us

Visitors from across the world will be stopping off in Chorley and we are really proud to be a part of the national programme to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage.

In 2020 it will be 400 years since the ship set sail with the Pilgrims to find land in America and one of the people on board is believed to have been born and lived in Chorley.

We are very proud of Chorley's links to its past and the opportunity to be a part of a programme like this is fantastic.

We're really appreciative of the support we've had from the local community in helping us research into Myles Standish's past and we're thankful for all the visitors who have chosen to spend some time with us discovering the tale of the Mayflower's leading military adviser.

We've put this booklet together to give you a bit more of an insight into the history behind our connections to the Mayflower and we hope you enjoy taking time to read it.

It has been a privilege to Ehair the Working Group of dedicated people who have planned the wide range of events to mark the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower to America. In particular we celebrate the military leader of the Pilgrims - Myles Standish. The year 2020 will be when the people of Chorley Borough and from much further afield, will come to realise the importance in history of Myles Standish of Duxbury.

Lincoln Shields - Chairman of Mayflower 2020 Committee

Chorley's links to the voyage of the Mayflower is perhaps one of the borough's untold stories and being a part of the national programme allows us to tell the tale far and wide.

We owe a great deal of thanks to those who have spent a lot of time researching Myles Standish's history and why he is associated with Chorley and I'm sure you'll find this booklet a very informative read.

The events and visitor destinations in England are being promoted heavily overseas and we want to make sure we get as many visitors as we can to come and visit Chorley, which is the only place in the North West to have a link to this historic voyage.

**Councillor Alistair Bradley -** Leader of Chorley Council













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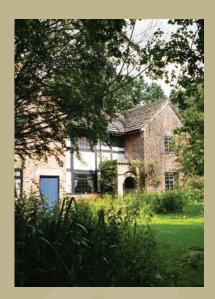
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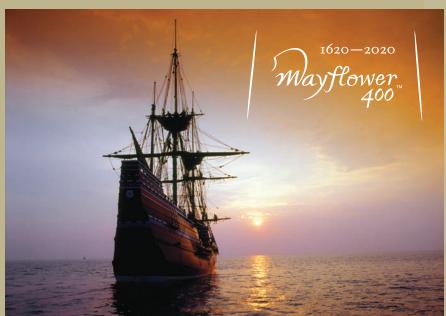
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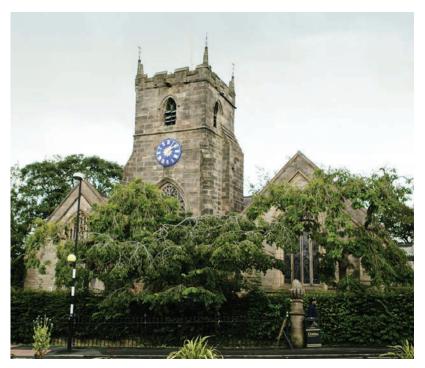








# Acknowledgements





The Mayflower 2020 Committee are currently driving the programme of events in commemorating Myles Standish's role with the Pilgrims momentous project of 1620 onwards.

They wish to acknowledge the previous work done on Myles Standish's life and possible connections with this part of Lancashire. Led by the then rector John Cree and Ed Fisher, the St Laurence History Society, between 2004 and 2007 carried out extensive research into Myles' origins and St Laurence's Church mounted a week long festival in 2006 which drew many local people and not a few from distant parts to enjoy an exhibition and diverse cultural and informative events emanating from the extant records about Myles. The Chorley Heritage Centre Support Group have initiated this recent attempt to research and highlight the life and significance of Myles Standish.

Secondary sources synthesising Myles' life have been published by authorities such as Jeremy Bangs and Helen Moorwood. (*Please refer to the short* bibliography at the close of this booklet). Local historians and writers have supported the work of the St Laurence Society and the current project. The information contained herein derives largely from the efforts of Tony Christopher, Jim Heyes, Paul Turner and Bill Walker.

The programme of events owes much to folk active in the cultural life of Chorley, for instance Rector Neil Kelley and Alan Winstanley of St Laurence's Church and Joan Dickinson of the Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society. Thanks are also due to the staff at Astley Hall and also Chorley Council for its contributions.

The wide range of personnel, many not mentioned here, who have joined in making possible "Chorley Celebrates Myles Standish 2020" reveals the wide interest of Chorley prople in a significant team effort.

### A Letter from America



Did you know that one of the 1620 Mayflower pilgrims and founders of New England had not been honoured with a society devoted to honouring their legacy until late 2016. That Pilgrim was Capt. Myles Standish of Lancashire.

England. I am pleased to say **The Society of Myles Standish Descendants** is now a member of the Mayflower Family Societies.

I began research in early 2016 to investigate
Mayflower societies with the goal of creating a
lineage society for the Mayflower passenger Capt.
Myles Standish. In November of 2016 a group of
Myles Standish descendants banded together to
rectify this void, and The Society of Myles Standish
Descendants was established. A year later in
September 2017 we hosted our first society meeting
and reunion. Our guest speaker was Caleb Johnson,
a Standish descendent and an accomplished
historian and author. He spoke on his recent
research on Myles Standish and about the various
theories of Myles' origins In Lancashire or on the Isle
of Man.

The aim and purpose of the Society of Myles
Standish Descendants is the preservation of the
spirit and tradition of the early pilgrims, whose
sturdy strength and fearless integrity lie as the basis
of American's beginning; the especial honoring of
the Mayflower Passenger Capt. Myles Standish from
whom we directly trace descent; the publication of a
Myles Standish genealogy and such other histories
as shall make suitable records for public archives;
the establishment of fitting memorials for the Pilgrim
Capt. Myles Standish; and lastly the fostering among
the descendants of this revered ancestor of a spirit
of comradeship and an honorable pride in the source
of their common lineage, and to this purpose, the
creation of closer personal and social relations for
the membership of the Society

The year 2020 will soon be upon us, marking the 400th anniversary of that historic voyage and the founding of the Plymouth Colony. This is an exciting opportunity for all Mayflower Descendants and Mayflower Family Societies.

We recognize that the 400th anniversary is a oncein-a-lifetime experience, not only for the Mayflower Descendants, but for all American citizens and also our ancestral family descendants in England.

The 400th Anniversary of the founding of Plymouth Colony will provide many opportunities for everyone to participate in the many celebrations to be held in Massachusetts, in other States, and throughout many locations in England.

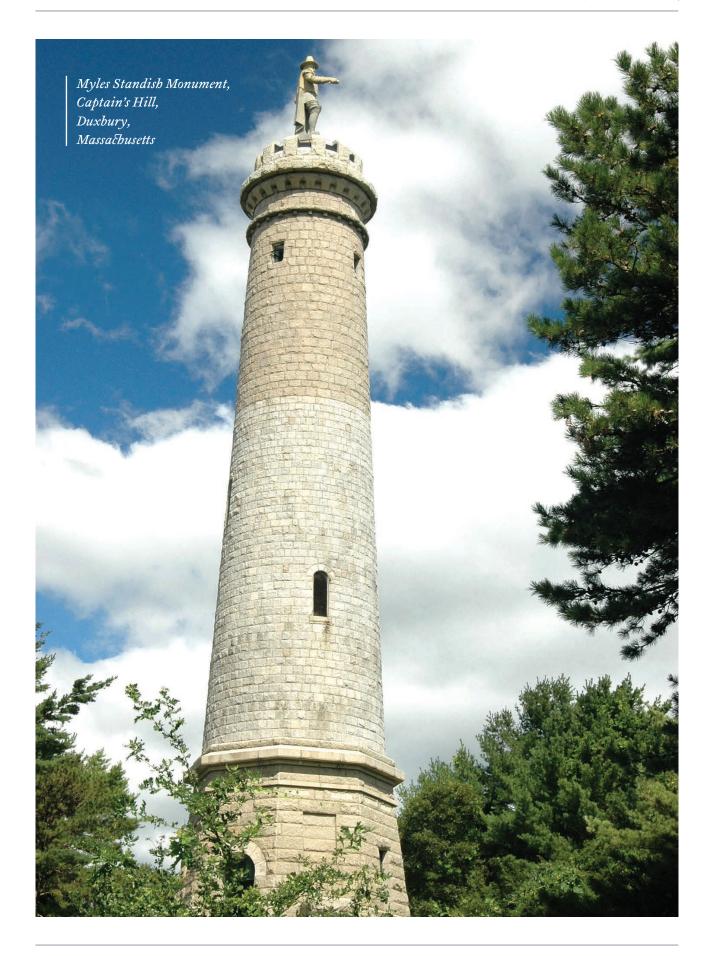
We are indeed honoured that the people of England have embraced the spirit of the Mayflower's historic vovage in 1620.

We are especially honoured that Myles Standish is receiving such an enthusiastic and widespread commemoration

Respectfully submitted
Charles Willard | President
Society of Myles Standish Descendants







# Chorley Celebrates Myles Standish 1620-2020 Events November 2019 -November 2020

2019

Saturday 9 November

Saturday 23 November Sunday 24 November Fireworks / Son et Lumiere / Drama Act1

Astley Illuminated
Christmas Lights Switch On

St Laurence's Church

Astley Hall Town Centre

2020

Saturday 14 March

Saturday 4 April Saturday 16 May Sunday 14 June 8 -13 June

Saturday 20 June Saturday 27 June Saturday 4 July

Saturday 4 July Saturday 11 July Saturday 18 July

Saturday / Sunday

1 - 2 August

Saturday 19 September Saturday 19 September Fri/Saturday 2-3 October

Sunday 15 November

Film "Mayflower"

Reception Evening
Gala Concert
Picnic in the Park
Legally Blonde
Golf Competition

Drama Act 2

<u>Pageant /Drama Act 2/Bands</u>

Big Band Dance Drama Act2

Lancs. County Youth Band/Choirs

Chorley Flower Show Drama Act 3 /Heritage Open Days Community Choirs Concert

Chorley Live

Service of Thanksgiving

**Chorley Methodist Church** 

Town Hall Town Hall Astley Park

Chorley Theatre
Duxbury/Town H

Croston

Duxbury Park

Town Hall
Astley Park
Town Hall

Astley Park
Astley Hall
Town Hall

Town Centre

St Laurence's Church

#### Other Events (dates to be determined)

- Myles Standish Talks -Town centre venues
- Guided Walks around Duxbury by Chorley Archaeological and Historical Society
- Coach Tours to Myles Standish sites of interest
- Chamber Concerts at St Laurence's Church Sundays at 3pm
- Art Exhibition by local artists and featuring "The Courtship of Myles Standish"
- Theatre in the Park, Astley Park
- Organ recitals

All events are subject to change - please visit checkoutchorley.com/mayflower400 for full details



Thus, in 2020 Chorley, Duxbury and Standish will celebrate Myles Standish and the voyage of the Mayflower in 1620. There were plans for great celebrations of the three hundredth anniversary in 1920. Sadly these were cancelled after the untimely death of the main sponsor of the celebrations, Walter Mayhew, the then owner of Duxbury Hall and who himself claimed descent from the Pilgrims.



Duxbury Hall c. 1910, as Walter Mayhew would know it

#### STANDISH COUNTRY.

# Mayflower Tercentenary Celebration



WILL BE HELD IN

#### Duxbury Park, Chorley, Lancashire.

(By kind permission of P. S. Mayhew, Esq.)

Saturday, September 25th, 1920.



PRESIDENT - HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF CHORLEY.

Finance Sec. and Treasurer: Mr. ALBERT MAYOR.

Hon. Secretary: Councillor ERNEST ASHTON, 167 Eaves Lane, Chorley.

2-15.—Park Gates will be open.

#### THE NORTH LANCASHIRE (CHORLEY) BAND

(Late North Lancashire Territorial Band. Conductor: Mr. W. Sumner.)

Will lead through the Park the several Companies of

GIRL GUIDES AND BOY SCOUTS.

# 2-30.—The Band will give the following Programme of Music in front of Duxbury Hall.

MARCH	222	'	'Stars and Stripes for ever	г"			Souza
AMERICAN	TONE	POEM	"Breezes from the South	"			Myddleton
			Part I.—Lamentation. Part II.—Return of Happ	y Days.			
FANTASIA			"Alpine Echoes"	Car Table		=0, 11,	Herfurth
WALTZ	den a		"Missouri"				
MARCH	74	"Ba	attle March of the America	n Republic	,,,		Ard. Hulme

#### This Programme, Price 6d., will admit to the Park.

Profits to Chorley Hospital. Visitors are requested to keep to the Main Drive in the Park.

Central Printing Co., Market Place, Chorley.



# The Historical Background to The Pilgrims and Myles Standish

To most citizens of the United States the voyage of the Mayflower and the story of the Pilgrims is rooted deep in their history. It is an account of the way in which a small group of religious dissidents sought the freedom to rid themselves of the beliefs and practices of the Church of England and follow their own way of life. It tells of the events in which this group, after a fraught voyage landed at Plymouth Rock, were befriended by the local Wampanoags and their leader Massasoit who taught them how to plant corn which in turn led them to celebrate the first Thanksgiving. This, they consider is the foundation of their nation.

So who were these Pilgrims? Where did they come from? In England during the seventeenth century a group of English Protestants known as Puritans were unhappy with the rules and regulations introduced by Elizabeth 1 to control all forms of practice and belief within the Church of England. This conflicted with the theological beliefs of the Puritans who believed that God expected them to live only according to the scriptures and that they were unable to accept many of the beliefs of the Church of England. Within this group a smaller faction wished to go much further and considered the Church of England beyond reform.

They were known as Separatists and their failure to conform led to harassment, fines and often jail. Their solution was to seek sanctuary in Holland which had a reputation for religious tolerance. They settled in the town of Leiden for a period of about 12 years. Although their congregation grew they found life there hard. In addition the truce between the Dutch Republic and Spain was coming to an end and they feared that Catholic Spain would once again curtail their religious freedom.

They decided that the answer lay in crossing the Atlantic to the New World where they could found a colony and live a life in accordance with their religious beliefs. Led by William Bradford and William Brewster they decided to establish a farming village in the northern part of Virginia close to the present-day New York City. Lack of funds prevented them from paying for the expedition themselves so it was necessary for them to come to an agreement with financial investors who would supply them with tools, clothing and other supplies. In return the colonists agreed to work for the investors by sending fish, timber and furs back to England. The company would own all their assets including their houses but at the end of seven years all these assets would be divided between investors and colonists.

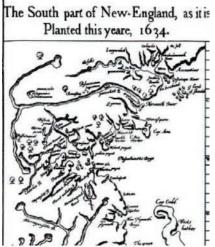
They underwent a series of misadventures coping with a leaky craft, twice turning back and the necessity to leave some of their number behind because of lack of space. Eventually 102 passengers including 35 Separatists set sail for the New World in the Mayflower on a journey that was to take two months. They were accompanied by a Captain Myles Standish, a soldier with roots in England but who had served in the Dutch Republic. He had been hired by the Separatists for his military skills, to protect them against local inhabitants once they had landed.

Before disembarking, the Pilgrims needed to establish an official government whose primary purpose was to create a binding social contract between the Separatists and non-Separatists in order to ensure the success of the colony. Signed by 49 of the male passengers, including Myles Standish, it became known as the Mayflower Compact. It was important because it was the first document to establish self-government in the New World. It remained active until 1691 when the Plymouth Colony became part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.



Signing the Mayflower Compact by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris 1899

The Pilgrim's Early Settlements





and a celebratory replica of the Mayflower



# Timeline of Myles Standish

Date	Event	Source
1584	Possible birth date, likely in Lancashire	Preferred date and place by Myles' American descendants from 1846
1587	Possible birth date	Indicated by caption on portrait of Myles
By 1601	Drummer/soldier in the Netherlands	New England writers who knew Myles eg. Nathaniel Morton
1601	Possible wounded Nys Sickem/ Myls Stansen in Leiden hospital (but later recorded as dead!- so was it his relative?)	Leiden hospital records
1601 -	Gains commission as lieutenant	Document extant with his American descendants mid nineteenth century to early twentieth
1609-19	Becomes friendly with John Robinson and Leiden Separatists	N.Morton (later secretary New Plymouth), William Bradford (early Governor New Plymouth)
	Marries first wife Rose	Rose recorded as his wife on "Mayflower"
	Selected as "captain" by Pilgrims about to sail to America	On Mayflower passenger list
11/11/1620	First landfall in America	Mourt's "Relation" (1622, from Bradford and Edward Winslow)
15/11/1620	Commands first exploratory survey	Mourt's "Relation"
29/1/1621	Wife Rose dies	Mourt's "Relation"
17/2/1621	Confirmed as Captain	Mourt's "Relation"
Jan-Feb 1621	Helps nurse settlers through sickness	Governor Bradford's Journal
1620-3	Involved in exploratory/punitive missions amidst natives	Mourt, Bradford



Date	Event	Source
July 1623	Marries second wife, Barbara	Mrs Barbara Standish on "Anne" passenger list
1624-33	Spells as assistant governor	Bradford, N.Morton "New England Memorial"
By 1625	Elder children –Charles(1), Alexander, Josiah	Land Division List
June 1625	Returns to London	Bradford's History and Letter book
April 1626	Back at New Plymouth	Bradford's History
1627 onwards	Further children born- Lora, Josiah, Charles (2)	Will
1627-41	Undertaker- helps organize trade and debt repayment	Bradford's History
1628	Arrests William Morton at Merrymount	Bradford, N.Morton
By 1632	Founds farm and settlement at Duxbury, township 1637	Bradford
1644	Treasurer of Colony	N.Morton
1653	Placed in command in event of Dutch War; retires	N.Morton
7/3/1655	Will	Will
1656	Dies	N. Morton
4/5/1657	Will exhibited at New Plymouth Court	Plymouth Court Records



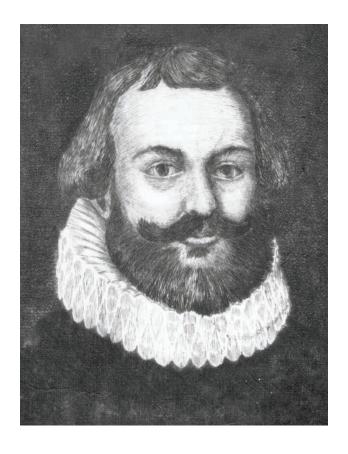
# Looking for the Birthplace of Myles Standish

Even at some five centuries distance, there is much known about great Tudor personalities like Henry VIII. Other figures, just as real, enchanting or fascinating may have very low profiles in the remaining records. Even Sir Francis Drake's progress is largely uncharted before 1565. Myles Standish is another figure, reasonably well profiled after 1620 but mysteriously and enigmatically cloaked as regards his Tudor origins.

Most readers will know that Myles Standish was a resourceful and brave military adviser who accompanied the Pilgrims to New Plymouth and helped to found the colonies in America. He is a noted and venerated figure for Americans, having a 116 foot tall memorial in Duxbury, New England and many sites named after him. In his homeland of Britain he is usually a footnote in general histories but his origins periodically excite much debate and even passion!

When was he born? There are copies of a portrait, an inscription whereon indicates his birth date as 1587. There is some doubt about the portrait's provenance, given that the original was only available from 1877 and 1919.

Copies do exist and a reputable Philadelphia family held it prior to 1877. A group of Myles' nineteenth century American descendants claimed he was born in 1584; they allege that his baptism was erased from the Chorley St Laurence parish records and he and now they were true owners of the large Standish of Duxbury estate. Unfortunately the supposed removal could simply be a result of normal wear and weathering.



The claim, and thus the suggested birth date, only arose after the "discovery" of the alleged tampering in 1846. Researchers, for example John Wilson in 1914, concur that the disputed heirs to Duxbury in 1812 and 1841 were undoubtedly legal. Again, his lieutenant's commission that is also said to have included his birth date, has disappeared since last seen early nineteenth century.

At least we know when he died, in 1656, for the clerk to New Plymouth colony recorded it Myles also left a will which would seem to describe his family origins. The key clause runs:

I give unto my son & heire aparent Allexander Standish all my lands as heire apparent by lawfull Decent in Ormistick Borsconge Wrightington Maudsley Newburrow Crawston and the Ile of man and given to me as right heire by lawful Decent but Surruptuously Detained from mee my great G(ran)dfather being a 2cond or younger brother from the house of Standish of Standish March the 7th 1655 by mee Myles Standish

# Morden's map (1695)



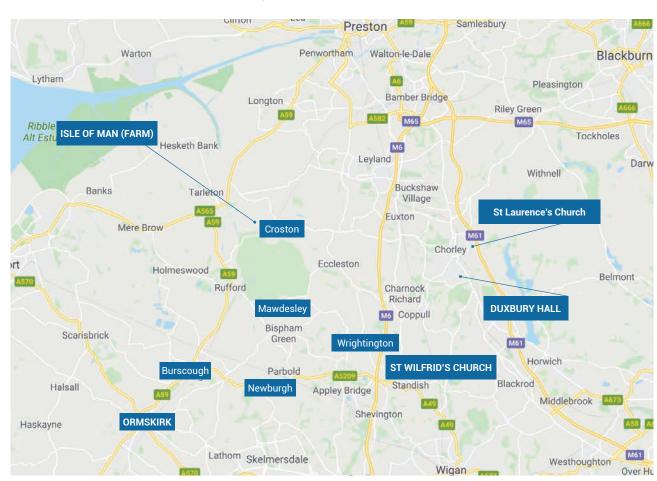
Morden's map (1695) of the area around Chorley



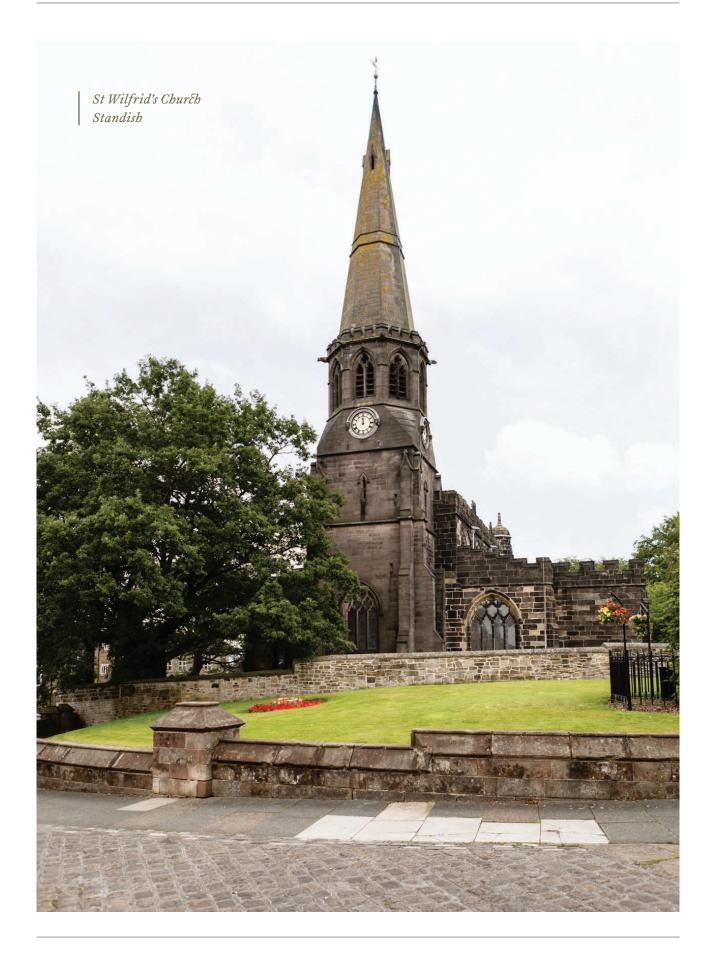
So we know he claimed to be in the line of Standish of Standish. However there were at least six landed Standish families around Chorley in the sixteenth century. He may indeed have simply been a Standish of Standish but their records contain no Myles. It is possible that he is an unrecorded great grandson of Alice Standish or Katherine Standish, both daughters of Alexander Standish of Standish (d. 1507). There was also one Roger Standish who was born in 1584 and disappeared later. His elder brother Ralph got into financial difficulty and disposed of lands in 1640, allowing "surreptitiously detained" to be inferred. Roger may have used the name "Myles" but this is doubtful given that Myles never admitted such, even at the end of his life when such a revelation would have greatly favoured his heir.

In his will Myles referred to lands in the "Isle of Man". This could well be a farm in Croston, close

to the other lands claimed. But... Could Myles be a Standish of Ormskirk and the Isle of Man? (i.e in the island of Man in the Irish Sea) Lands listed in the will were identified by T.C.Porteus as Standish of Ormskirk lands shown in deeds of 1529 and 1540. They were sold off in 1574 by Hugh of Ormskirk, Meanwhile Huan Standish of Ormskirk, a third among siblings, had settled in the Isle of Man at Ellanbane. His grandson, John Standish of Ellanbane had a second son who was not named and here is just possibly a Myles sized gap. However there is no written record of a Myles and the probability is that the "unnamed" son was called John, just like his father and the elder son who had already died. Furthermore, the lost Ormskirk lands were not "surreptitiously detained" but had been legally sold well before Myles' birth to a respectable lawyer William Stopford.



A modern map showing places mentioned in his will or otherwise associated with Myles







Standish Hall of the Standishes of Standish



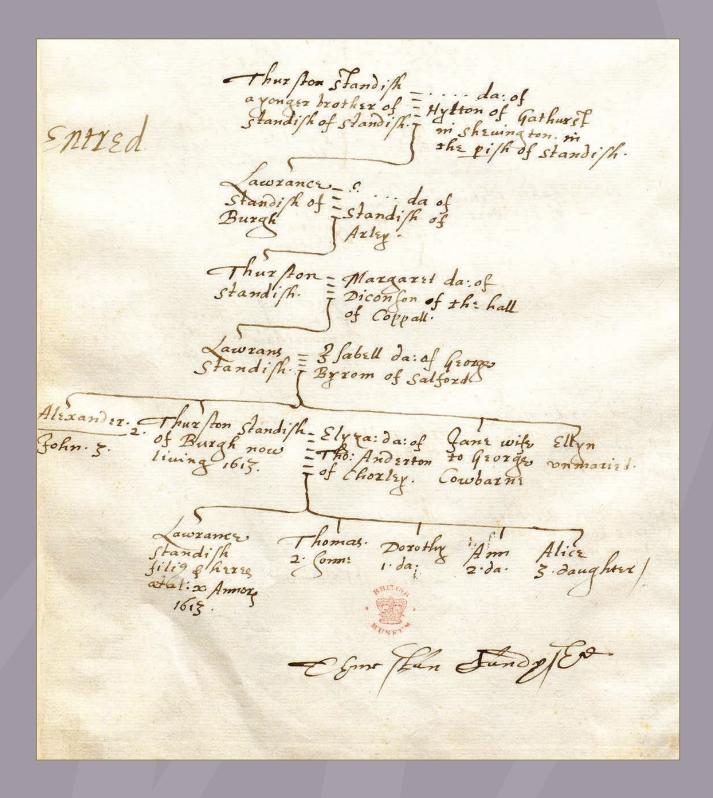
Ellanbane, Isle of Man

Moreover, on the eastern seaboard of America, Myles himself named his own farm, and emerging township, "Duxburrow" or "Duxbury". The Lancashire Duxbury estate, some six thousand acres around Chorley, was large enough to be worth claiming in the will. Interestingly, both Alice and Katherine Standish of Standish mentioned above, married Standish of Duxbury husbands, thus allowing a descendant such as Myles to claim both Standish and Duxbury heritage (but not in the male line as Standishes of Duxbury were originally of the Haydock family).

The forename Alexander was common to both Standish and Duxbury families and adopted by Myles for his son and heir. Also, the estate changed hands from one Duxbury cousin to another in 1647. The Standishes of Duxbury worshipped at and were buried at the nearby parish church of St. Laurence. Myles' nineteenth century descendants always claimed the Duxbury estate was indeed Myles' birthright.

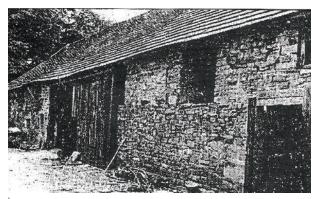
The Standishes of Duxbury originally came from the Pele just north west of the old Yarrow Bridge. Their earliest building on the Duxbury land they acquired was probably the barn which still stands today. A hall followed 1623 onwards, and the picture shows an 1828 rebuild.

# Pedigree of the Standish Family of Lower Burgh Hall Chorley





A final local Standish family should be mentioned, namely the **Standishes of Lower Burgh** near Chorley. There is a chance that there is an admittedly unrecorded Myles, great grandson of Thurstan Standish of Lower Burgh who was appropriately second son of the already noted Alexander Standish of Standish who died in 1507. As Myles claimed he was a Standish of Standish, this would allow a descent in the direct male line. Therefore we now have no less than four local Standish families who might have produced the mysterious Myles.



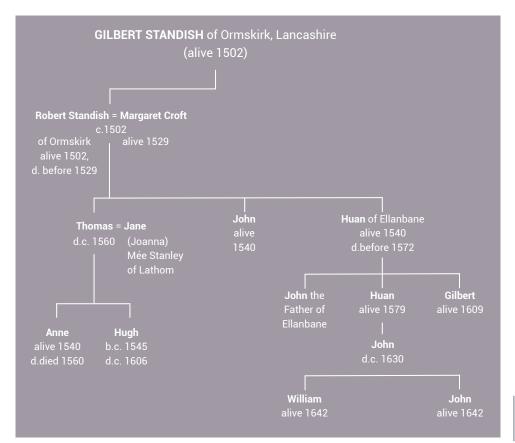
Duxbury Barn and yard. (Photograph first published in the Lancashire Evening Post)



Duxbury Hall, circa 1850 (Chorley Library)



Lower Burgh Hall



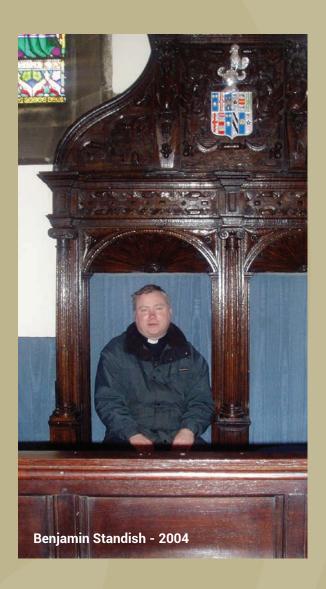
Pedigree of the Standish Family of Ormskirk and the Isle of Man

Myles Standish himself did not help the future historian. The claim he makes to Lancashire lands comes as low as the ninth clause of his will and was only added after the original had been completed, signed and dated. His scant references to his origins are enigmatic and confusing. Is this possibly a sign of his own ignorance or wishful thinking? As yet, historians and antiquarians have found no recorded "Myles Standish". Family trees of all possible Standish families have recently been recovered or constructed. Fascinatingly the Standishes of Peterborough had exactly the same coat of arms as Standish of Duxbury. There is an Irish Standish Mason family descended from Christopher Standish of Duxbury, a brother of the estate owner in the 1580s. The hunt goes on. Could Alexander Standish of London, buried in 1586, be his father? Could Myles Nightingale, an ordinary tenant in Duxbury in 1584, be father to an upwardly mobile man who later adopted a useful surname?

There are some grounds for allowing that Myles was likely born in or not far from Chorley, Duxbury or Standish. His will claims local Standish family connections. He named his settlement "Duxbury". Contemporaries said he was from Lancashire, of a landed gentleman's family. Documented descendants of Myles in America carry

a y chromosome in their genetic make-up which is very common in males in Lancashire in particular. Remarkably a DNA test done in 2004 shows a 23/25 match between the American Standishes and Fr. Benjamin Standish of Wigan who is able to trace his Standish family tree to the later seventeenth century. Would a DNA test involving known Myles' descendants and the Standish forebears lying at rest in St. Laurence's crypt prove a definite descent?

So Myles' origins provide a real historical detective case, as yet unresolved. Historians have to be honest – as they humanly can- in their work, and whereas we are close to an answer, no-one has provided a definitive solution.



### D.N.A and Benjamin Standish

Fr. Benjamin Standish traces Standish ancestry to 1700 and has a 23/25 match with DNA of proven Myles' descendants in New England.



# Myles Standish in America

When the Pilgrims sailed in the Mayflower to what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts they were not attempting something that was entirely new. Several attempts to establish settlements on the North American Continent had failed with the exception of a group who had settled in Jamestown, but even this could hardly be considered a great success with 70 of the 108 settlers dying in the first year. The Mayflower settlers, however, had the benefit of discovering an area with navigable rivers, fertile land on which to grow their crops and access to the fur-rich interior of New England. They also were led by two very able men, William Bradford who became governor of the colony and Myles Standish whose military experience in the Low Country proved invaluable.

Although not a member of the Separatist group. Standish quickly won the admiration of the group because he served the infant colony well with the specialist skills that he had acquired earlier in his life. It has been suggested that but for him the colony of New Plymouth might have come to a speedy and disastrous end and that the future of the American Republic would have been other than it is.

Driven by their religious beliefs the Pilgrims were not averse to the use of force when necessary. Their aim was to achieve a peaceful settlement with the native Indians but if fighting was necessary so be it and it was Standish who led these skirmishes, occasionally with brutality but almost always successfully. He learnt how to surprise the Indians in their encampments and protect the settlers.

However, he also had considerable abilities as a mediator which enabled him to negotiate

peace and he was able to make friends among their chiefs. He learnt to speak their language. Moreover he also became a trusted ally of the settlers assisting them in their various commercial projects and helping them to determine their colonial policy. Furthermore he appears to have had a hand in planning the layout of the town. During his time spent as a soldier in Leyden, he learnt from the Dutch army's chief engineer who provided him with the knowledge that the most easily defended settlement pattern consisted of a street with parallel alleys and a cross street, a system adopted with success by the settlers.

In the early 1630s Standish together with some of the other leading figures of the colony moved to land that was more fertile and where a farm was apportioned to each of them. Here he founded the colony of Duxbury, named, it is thought, after Duxbury Hall near Chorley In Lancashire reflecting the roots of his family. His first wife Rose had died in the first winter after the landing of the Mayflower. In 1623 he married Barbara who had arrived on the ship Anne and with whom he had seven children. They settled in Duxbury where he died on 3rd October 1656 aged 72.

Such was Standish's influence in the colony that historian John Godwin, in his book The Pilgrim Republic, suggests that he might easily have made himself military dictator of the colony. He states that "Great as a ruler over others he was, he was a far greater ruler over himself. He was the man of men whom the Pilgrims most needed to come to them and nothing was more improbable that such a one would do so or if he did would remain loyal, steadfast and submissive to the voice of the people."

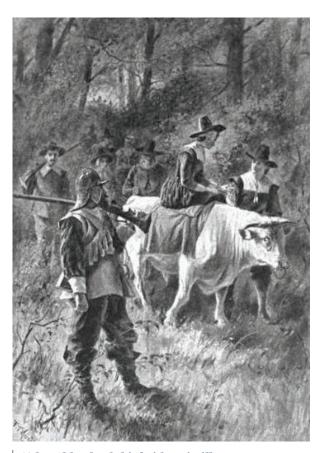
# The Courtship of Myles Standish

The Courtship of Myles Standish is a narrative poem written in 1858 by the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It is set in the year 1621 against the backdrop of a fierce Indian war and features a love triangle between three of the Mayflower passengers, Myles Standish, his close friend John Alden with whom he shared a house, and Priscilla Mullins.

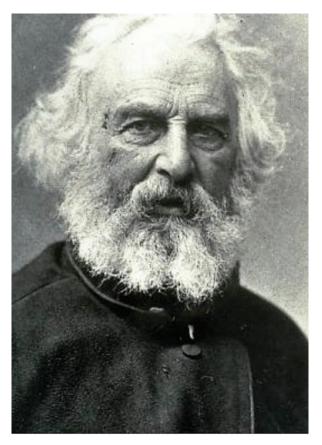
Following the death of his wife Rose, the first of the Mayflower passengers to die in the New World, Myles fell in love with Priscilla and, although a fearless warrior, he is too timid to approach her himself. He persuades John to speak to her on his behalf. Whilst not wanting to be disloyal to his friend John also falls in love with Priscilla. As an independent minded women Priscilla charges John to speak for himself and it is they who eventually marry.

Longfellow, who was a descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins claims that the story was true and had come down to him through the family as oral tradition. However, most scholars consider it to be a fictionalised history although the background gives us some account of what life was like in the early days of the settlement. It was tremendously popular, selling a reported 10,000 copies in London on a single day.

For Americans the Pilgrims became not as they had been but the heroes Victorians wished them to have been. L.J.Potts' painting in the Harris Museum, Preston, is one famous representation of the marriage of Alden and Priscilla.



John Alden leads his bride Priscilla, watched by Myles Standish



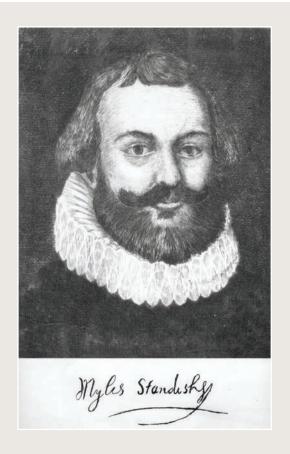
Henry Wadsworth Long fellow



### After the Celebrations...

We hope you found plenty to enjoy in the range of events presented in the celebration of Myles Standish and the Mayflower, 1620-2020. The pages about Myles Standish himself may have informed you and made you want to find out more about Myles. A very select set of sources that would repay further study, are:

- Websites: www. mayflowerhistory.com; www.mylesstandish.info; www.moorwood.de; www.sail1620.org
- 2. T.C.Porteus ,Captain Myles Standish: his lost lands and Lancashire connection. A new investigation (Manchester, 1920) and the other books in the Standish Collection at Chorley Public Library.
- 3. E.Johnson, The Standish Family 1189-1920 (The History of Standish) (Standish, 1972).
- 4. G.V.C.Young, Myles Standish, First Manx American (Peel, 1984).
- 5. R.Kissack, Was Myles Standish a Manxman? (Journal of the Manx Natural History and Antiquarian Society, 1986-88)
- 6. J.Bangs, Myles Standish, Born Where? The State of the Question (Mayflower Quarterly 72, pps 133-159, 2006).
- 7. D.K. Davis, Miles Standish: Military Leader at Plymouth Colony (Infobase Learning, 2013).





Myles early grave site



ALEXANDER STANDISH'S HOUSE, DUXBURY, MASS., U.S.A.

Alexander Standish's house, Duxbury, Mass, New England

## The Mayflower Trail

Trail will provide a common thread running through the partnership, telling the story of the Mayflower through aligned interpretation and content while also commemorating the unique history of each location. This will be a world-class attraction, and a special opportunity to explore the Mayflower's history within the communities that inspired and enabled this epic journey.







