

DECEMBER 27, 2025 – THE LIFE OF ANNE HUTCHINSON

On July 20, 1591, Anne Marbury (later Hutchinson) was baptized in Lincolnshire, England 21 miles from Boston, England.

On August 9, 1612, Anne Marbury married William Hutchinson in London. Their children were Edward (born 1613, and died in 1675 in King Philip's War), Susanna (1614 – 1630), Richard (1615 - 1670), Faith (1617 - 1651), Bridget (1619 - 1698), Francis (1620 – 1643), Elizabeth (1622 -1630), William (1623 – 1623), Samuel (1624 - 1643), Anne (1626 - 1643), Mary (1628 - 1643), Katherine (1630 -1643), William (1631 – 1643), Susanna (1633 – 1651) and Zuriel (1636 -1643) for a total of 15 children.

In 1634, William and Anne Hutchinson and 11 of their children followed John Cotton to Boston, Massachusetts Bay Colony. (Much of the information about Anne Hutchinson came from *American Jezebel, The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, the Woman Who Defied the Puritans* by Laplante. Other information came from the internet). Anne went on to establish meetings to discuss the sermons of the ministers of the Bay Colony, leading to a crisis in the New England Puritan governance of their churches.

In the Spring of 1636, Thomas Shepard started writing to John Cotton about Cotton's views on the Covenant of Grace, under which it was believed that God conferred His Grace on an individual at birth and that, no matter what good works were performed by an individual, God's Grace could not be subsequently earned or lost. Shepard believed good works were evidence of God's Grace (the Covenant of Works). This belief would assist Ministers in insisting that their parishioners do good works, presumably as defined by the Ministers.

On May 25, 1636, Sir Henry Vane became Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He would be a supporter of Anne Hutchinson.

Some members of the Boston Church refused to join the Bay Colony's expedition against the Pequot because John Wilson was its chaplain and Anne Hutchinson had been very critical of him.

On October 25, 1637, there was a meeting of seven Ministers and Anne Hutchinson at John Cotton's house to try to settle their differences over the meetings being held by Anne in which she disagreed with most of the Ministers in the Colony on a number of issues including their belief in the Covenant of Works. Richard Mather may have been at this meeting (see page 284 of *John Winthrop: America's Forgotten Founding Father* by Bremer).

On November 7 and 8, 1637, there was a civil trial of Anne Hutchinson, presided over by John Winthrop, the Governor of the Colony. She was charged with disturbing the peace of the commonwealth and the churches. After the trial, she was ordered to be banished from the Colony but was detained until there could be a Church trial to decide whether to excommunicate her. She was detained at the house of Joseph Weld, located in Roxbury, about two miles from her home in Boston. The distance was not great, yet

Hutchinson was rarely able to see her children because of the weather, which was particularly harsh that winter.

On March 15, 1638, there was a Church trial of Anne Hutchinson, leading to her excommunication, followed by the carrying out of her banishment. Richard Mather was one of the Ministers passing judgement on her. She and her family moved to what would become Portsmouth, south of Providence, with the help of Roger Williams. If there had been a separation of Church and state in the Bay Colony, maybe she would have been permitted to set up her own Church and to stay in the Bay Colony.

Soon after June, 1641, William Hutchinson, husband of Anne Hutchinson, died in Portsmouth, where he had previously briefly been Governor.

In the summer of 1642, Anne Hutchinson moved to New Amsterdam.

Anne Hutchinson (aged 52) and 7 of her children (Francis, Samuel, Anne, Mary, Katherine, William and Zuriel), were all massacred in August, 1643, by Siwanoy warriors in New Netherland (later The Bronx, New York). This was a part of a war between the Dutch and their native neighbours. Her son Edward was not living with her at the time and became a business associate of Humphrey Atherton in his relentless quest to acquire large amounts of native land.