



1620—2020
Mayflower
400™

KEY STAGE 2 ACTIVITES

MYLES STANDISH

1620 - 2020



Myles Standish

The Townships of Duxbury and Standish

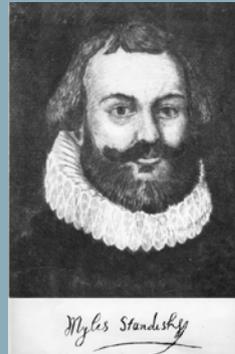
Activities for schools to try out / This project supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund



ACTIVITY 1.

Who was Myles Standish? What was he like?

In 2020 Chorley, Duxbury and Standish will celebrate Myles Standish and the voyage of the Mayflower in 1620. Myles was the military adviser and leader of the Pilgrim Fathers, religious refugees and migrants, who crossed the Atlantic and founded their own settlement in North America.



The portrait of Myles could well be authentic and was probably painted c. 1625 when he briefly returned to England in order to seek more investment in the Pilgrims' settlement of New Plymouth.

- i) Look at the portrait. What can we tell about Myles?
- ii) What do the following words mean: military, refugee, migrant, founded, authentic, investment, settlement?
- iii) What questions do you think a historian might ask about Myles?

The evidence on the next page will help us find out what people thought Myles was like.

What Was Myles Like?

This painting was painted by a Dutch artist two hundred years after Myles died. i) Will it be more authentic than the portrait painted in 1625?

- ii) What can we learn about Myles from the evidence left by people who knew him or heard about him? Here is some evidence.



Evidence A.

"Was a gentleman born in Lancashire....came over to New England....and bore a deep share of the first difficulties and was was always very faithful..."
1669, by Nathaniel Morton, an official, who had met Myles.

Evidence B.

"A little chimney is soon fired.... The captain, a man of very little stature, yet of very hot and angry temper"
1677 by William Hubbard, a historian who spoke to Thomas Morton

Evidence C.

"Myles Standish, Captain Shrimp!" 1625, Thomas Morton, a man arrested by Myles in America.

Evidence D.

"They (Myles and two others) were not found wanting to any that had need of them"
1621, by Governor Bradford, writing about Myles nursing ill and dying people

Evidence E.

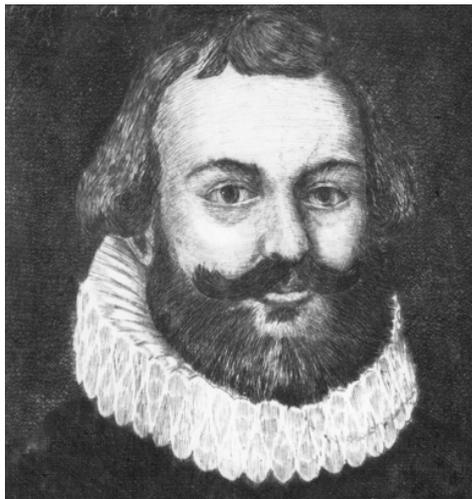
"He lacks that tenderness...which is meet (i.e correct)" 1623, by Pastor John Robinson

Make your own first history page of "What Was Myles Like?". First think about all the evidence from this page and think how well you can trust it.

ACTIVITY 2.

Making Your Biography of Myles Standish

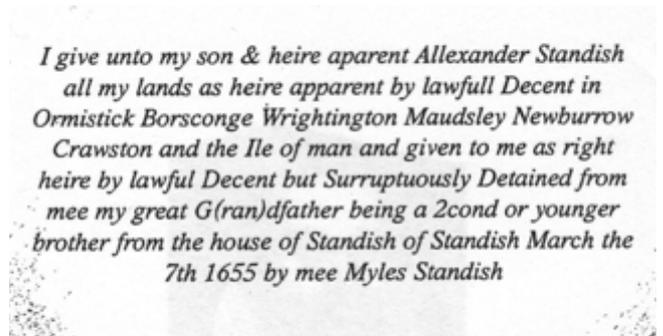
Use the evidence (or "sources") to make your own history of the life of Myles Standish. You could display this as a time-chart, a timeline, a pictogram or a cartoon strip. (A bit of help- No-one is sure when and where he was born. You should find two possible dates for his birth!)



Painted in 1625, "in his 38th year"



B. St Laurence's Register
Damaged page from 1583-4
Some say the record of his
baptism was rubbed out



C. Myles' will. He died a year later

- D Military records...show he joined the army of Queen Elizabeth I around 1599 to fight in the Dutch Wars...
G. Greenman, historian, writing in 2005.
- E E. He was sent ..with the Pilgrims in the Mayflower (in 1620). ..He might defend the emigrants and teach them to defend themselves.
T.C.Porteus, biographer, writing in 1920



F. A Later Painting Showing the Pilgrims Landing in America, December 1620.



G. Later Painting showing Myles leading an attack against native Americans, 1621-23



H. Myles' Family's House in Duxbury, America. He moved there in 1632.



ACTIVITY 3.

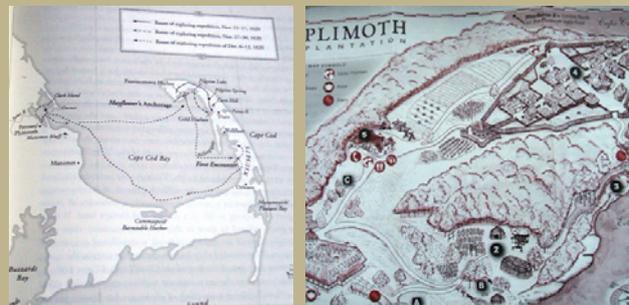
A Key Turning Point in Myles' Life- 1620-21

You will know by now Myles was taken as a soldier for the Pilgrim Fathers, sailed with them on the Mayflower and was made captain when they first settled in new Plymouth, America. It was a terrible journey across the ocean in 1620.

ii) What can we learn about Myles from the evidence left by people who knew him or heard about him? Here is some evidence.

Crowded conditions?	Old and leaky ship?	Split in main beam?	
Disrespectful crew of 25?	Sailor threatened to throw Pilgrims overboard!		
Fierce storms from 25 September?	Soggy food- water splash put galley fire out?		
Scurvy set in	Seasickness?	Man overboard?	Filth?

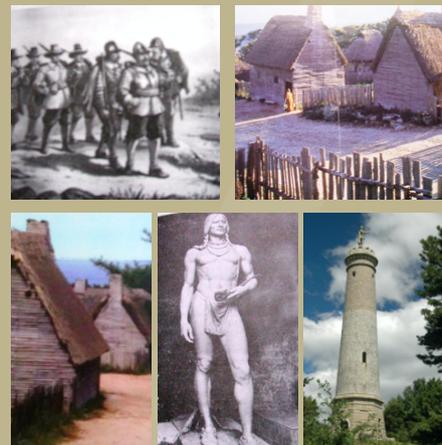
The main beam was held together by a Pilgrim printing press. The sailor threatening violence died of sickness and was buried at sea. Just one servant lad, William Button, died. John Howland fell overboard, was dragged back by a rope and founded an American family existing today. After a horrendously stormy voyage, they landed in Cape Cod Bay in November and after three exploratory expeditions chose the site which became New Plymouth.



ii) Write your own log of the voyage, as though you were there.

The Pilgrims were too late to plant crops, they had difficulty fishing. Their first common building was burnt down due to a stray spark. They worried about native Americans they saw. It was bitterly cold and wet and a mysterious sickness took hold, killing half their number and making it almost impossible to work. It is here that Myles Standish comes to the fore. He was elected military captain, organised a militia, constructed a stockade and nursed his sick comrades.

The Pilgrims managed to make friends with some of the native Americans, the Pokanoket, led by their chief Massasoit. They protected them against their native enemies. Myles also led an expedition against Corbitant, who was rebelling against Massasoit. In 1623 he pretended to make peace with two leaders of the Massachusetts natives but then killed them. Historians have said this was wrong, although he could say he was obeying orders.



Myles' became very valued by the settlers in New Plymouth. In 1632 he was able to set up his own farm at a place he called Duxbury. At some time he was assistant governor and treasurer of New Plymouth. He married twice and had a large family. He has many descendants in America today. A monument to him was placed on Captain's Hill. He is very famous in America.

iii) The time of 1620-21 formed a turning point in Myles' life. Why do you think some historians say that it was?
iv) How might the events of 1620-23 turned out very differently for Myles?

ACTIVITY 4.

Detective Exercise. Where was Myles Born?

i) Myles left a will in 1655. Which lands did he claim? Make a list and find them on a map. The lands mentioned belonged to the Standishes of Ormskirk.

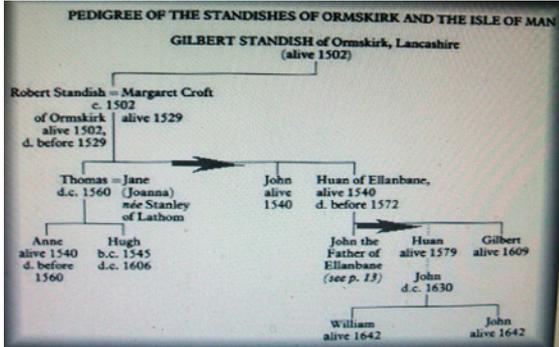
I give unto my son & heire aparent Allexander Standish all my lands as heire apparent by lawfull Decent in Ormistick Borsconge Wrightington Maudsley Newburrow Crawston and the Ile of man and given to me as right heire by lawful Decent but Surruptuously Detained from mee my great G(ran)dfather being a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



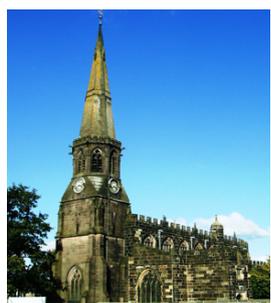
Morden's map (1695) of the area around Chorley, with places linked with Myles

Could Myles be a Standish of Ormskirk? Is he in their family tree?

ii) Huan Standish of Ormskirk, a younger son, had settled in the Isle of Man at Ellanbane. Could Myles be from the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea?



iii) Or could Myles have meant the Ile of Man farm near Croston?



St Wilfrid's Standish c. 1585



Standish Hall of the Standishes of Standish

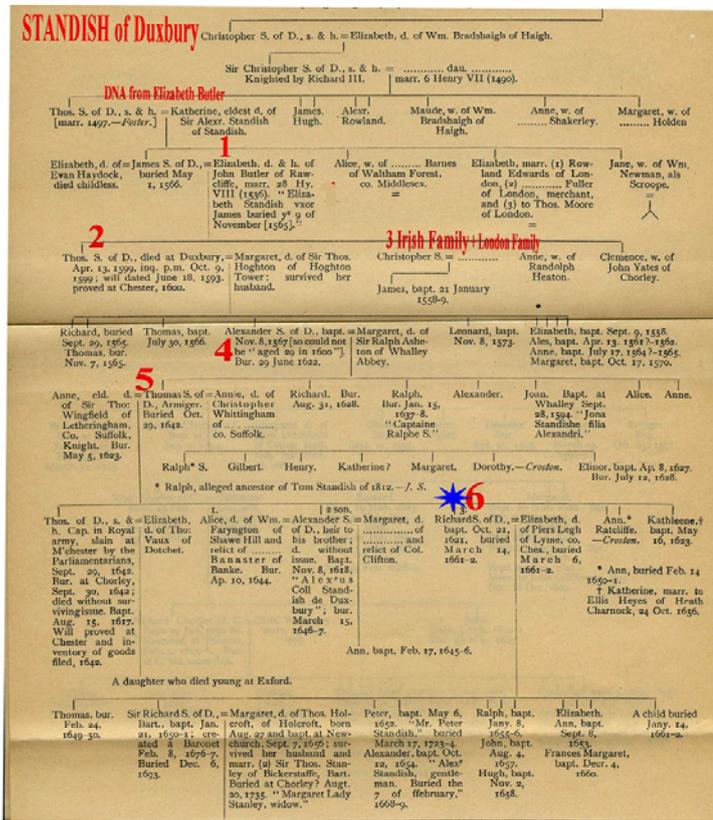
iv) But we do not think you found a Myles in the Ormskirk family tree. There were other Standish family branches. In his will Myles claimed to be from the main branch, the Standish of Standish. However, this family's records contain no Myles either!. It is possible that he was an unrecorded great grandson of Alice Standish or Katherine Standish, both daughters of Alexander Standish of Standish (d. 1507).

In 1632 Myles himself named his own farm "Duxbury". The Standish of Duxbury estate, some six thousand acres around Chorley, was large enough to be worth claiming in the will.



Duxbury Hall, circa 1850 (Chorley Library)

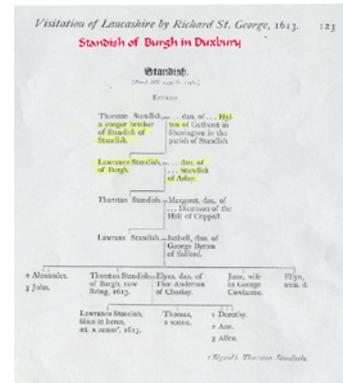
v) Can you find Myles in this very detailed Standish of Duxbury family tree? Remember Myles died in 1656.



vi) You probably have not found Myles yet! A final local Standish family should be mentioned, namely the Standishes of Lower Burgh near Chorley. As Myles claimed he was a Standish of Standish he could be a great grandson of Thurstan who was a second son of Alexander Standish (died 1507). So he would be in a direct male line. Part of Lower Burgh Hall you see today was there in Myles' day.



Lower Burgh Hall



Myles was not in that family tree either! However we have four local Standish families who might have produced the mysterious Myles. His will claims local Standish family connections. He named his settlement "Duxbury". People who knew him said he was from Lancashire, Descendants of Myles in America have a y chromosome in their genes which is found in men in Lancashire. A DNA test done in 2004 shows a 23/25 match between the American Standishes and Father. Benjamin Standish of Wigan. He is able to trace his Standish family tree to the later seventeenth century. Would a DNA test involving Myles' descendants and the Standish forebears lying at rest in Lancashire prove a definite descent?



Fr. Benjamin in the Standish Pew



Myles' ancestors at St Laurence's, Chorley or



St Wilfrid's, Standish

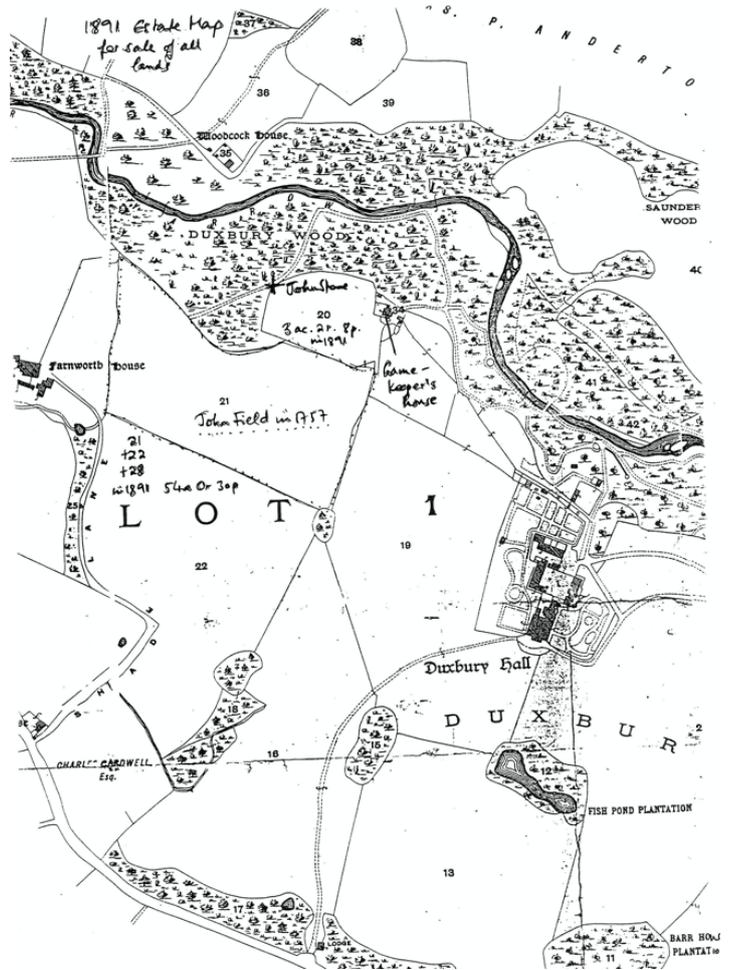
vi) Some questions to talk and think about:

1. Why do you think we could not find a Myles anywhere in the family trees?
2. Why do you think Myles said he was a Standish of Standish, but also claimed Standish of Ormskirk lands- and also named his settlement in America "Duxbury"?
3. If you were a historian what would you do next to try and find out where Myles definitely came from?

ACTIVITY 5.

Exploring Duxbury Park

The Standish Family of Duxbury sold off the last of their estate in 1898. Here is a page from their sale catalogue. Walter Mayhew bought the Hall and Park but his widowed daughter-in-law- sold it to Chorley Borough in 1932. The Hall was unoccupied and became damaged. It was pulled down. However you can still see much of the park and the outbuildings today.



North Lodge



The Duxbury Mill



The Cruick Barn in 1985

Good history things to do

1. Go on a field trip around the park. You could follow, with your teacher, the Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society leaflet, "Duxbury Hall History Trail." You could make a field record of the evidence you see.
2. Try to identify the features in the Duxbury photographs. How have they changed since the photographs were taken?
3. Examine the maps of Duxbury Park. Put them in chronological order, the earliest first. What things changed in Duxbury since 1757? Why do you think these changes occurred?
4. Examine the photographs of Duxbury Hall. Place them in chronological order. You should have one for 1850, 1890, 1910 and 1985.

What would a historian learn about the Hall from the photographs?

5. You might want to write your own illustrated "History of Duxbury", using the evidence you have been given and what you have found yourself.



ACTIVITY 5

Documents for the Duxbury Expedition



Silverwell Fountain



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



Coach House



Duxbury Hall, circa 1850 (Chorley Library).



the Hall site