

## Chapter One

### PRE-COLONIAL ERA

European explorers visited and noted the land that would become known as Plymouth twice before the landing of the Mayflower. In 1605, French navigator Samuel de Champlain arrived in what is now known as Plymouth Bay, though he called it Port Saint Louis. This name was unsurprisingly ignored in 1614 when English Captain John Smith arrived and dubbed the region “New Plimoth.” Smith explored much of Cape Cod Bay, though he’s more famous for being one of the founders of the Jamestown settlement in Virginia, in 1607.

Before the arrival of the Mayflower and the Pilgrims, the land now known as Plymouth was home to about 2,000 Wampanoag Native Americans (many of them members of the Patuxet tribe). From the year 1614, however, a plague probably spread by British and French fishermen and traders struck the New Plimoth region, killing 90-95% of the local Wampanoag Indians (and nearly all the Patuxets). The disappearance of so many of the native inhabitants allowed the Pilgrims to claim the land and the Wampanoag corn fields with little to no resistance in 1620. Despite previous unpleasant encounters with Europeans, the few Wampanoag still living in the area were in no condition to object, and they chose instead to welcome their new neighbors.



### WAMPANOAG TRIBES

Like the Algonquin tribes, the Wampanoag tribes no longer roam the wilds in a nomadic fashion. They have become an agrarian tribe that augments its diet through hunting and fishing. Their residences are not completely fixed, however; instead, they have summer and winter dwellings. During the summer, they move closer to the coast to fishing and harvest the sea’s other bounties, such seaweed and crustaceans. In the winter, the Wampanoag move inland to hunt in territories that are carefully defined, in order to avoid inter-tribal disputes and conflict with the colonists.

The Wampanoag are organized as a loose confederation of lesser sachems and sagamores (often translated as chiefs) under the authority of a grand sachem.

## CHAPTER TWO

A master of numbers, Avent keeps the books for several businesses in town, including the Rothford Boarding Home, John's Rest Tavern, and many of the larger farmsteads. He has a keen eye for which business ventures will succeed and which will fail. Many of the town's businessmen consult with Avent before investing their hard-earned money in a new venture. If he says the deal is a dud, most potential investors will give it a pass.

Living up to his surname—from the French *avenant*, meaning “handsome” or “suitable”—Avent is one of the most eligible widowers in town. His first wife, Mable, died of a fever following the breach birth of his son, Jeffrey. Father and son currently reside in the Rothford Boarding House. If rumor is to be believed, the house's owner, the Widow Sarah Rothford, has already become a surrogate mother to the child and may soon become the wife of the father.

### JOHN BAYLEY III

John Bayley is the preeminent attorney in Plymouth. His office is on King Street near the docks, and he specializes in the law of trade, trade agreements, tariffs, and the like. His office is so successful that he employs a group of junior lawyers, assistants, and record keepers. Through his business, his contacts and his employees, he is aware of almost everything that is legally imported and exported through the Plymouth Docks. All of this combines to make him one of the most important businessmen in Plymouth.

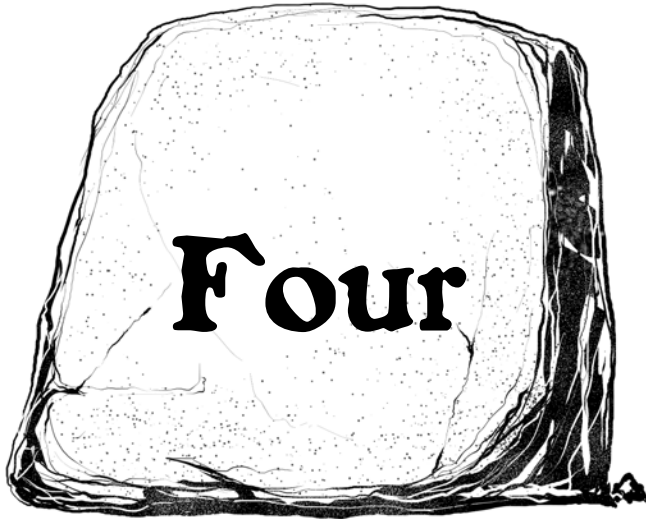


Bayley is married to the former Victoria Mathers, of the Boston Mathers. This connection to the famous and influential Mathers family gives Bayley considerable insight into the politics of the Colonies—especially in regards to the Crown Charters between the King of England and the Colonies. This connection to the Mathers family will give John a leg up, should he decide to enter the political arena, an idea with which he is currently toying.

John has three children—two boys and a girl. The boys, John Bayley IV and Steven Bayley, are five and seven, respectively. His daughter, Susannah, is nine. Completing the household are the Bayleys' two servants, Issac and Jessica Marks, freed slaves from the south.

### FATHER ROBERT BENNINGTON

Father Robert Bennington is the head of Saint Peter's church. Tall and imposing, Father Bennington does not particularly care what the rank and file of his congregation thinks of him. He is here to do God's work and that is all that matters to him.



## **EVENTS & MYSTERIES**

This is a series of events and mysteries set in and around Plymouth between the years of 1770 and 1780. Each event is an excerpt of a letter from someone in Plymouth to an outsider. If it suits the story, the events do not need to occur in the order or on the dates given. None of this information should be disclosed to the players ahead of time.

### **THE DEATH OF ROSS WINSLOW (1770)**

“...and now, such terrible news. I can scarcely write this without my quill trembling to the point of illegibility. Paul Winslows’ boy, Ross, is dead. Poor Margaret is beside herself with grief. The boy was only five. His sixth birthday was not for another month or so. The party planning had barely begun. Paul was the one to find the boy out in the Winslow cornfield. The day before, Stephen Watson told Paul about a broken fence bordering the lands between his and the Winslows’ land and, being neighborly, offered to help fix it. Neither man wanted the Watsons’ herd to accidentally stumble into the Winslows’ cornfield.