



John Alden: Signer of the Mayflower Compact

"I shall ... begin with a combination made by them before they came ashore; being the first foundation of their government in this place. Occasioned partly by the discontented and mutinous speeches that some of the strangers amongst them had let fall from them in the ship: That when they came ashore they would use their own liberty, for none had power to command them, the patent they had being for Virginia and not for New England... And partly that such an act by them done, this their condition considered, might be as firm as any patent, and in some respects more sure.

The form was as followeth: IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc. Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini 1620."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.
Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 75-76.

John Alden & the 1623 Division of Land

The 1623 Division of Land marked the end of the Pilgrims' earliest system of land held in common by all. Governor Bradford explains it in this way:

"And so assigned to every family a parcel of land, according to the proportion of their number, for that end, only for present use (but made no division for inheritance) and ranged all boys and youth under some family. This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use, and saved him a great deal of trouble, and gave far better content. The men now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.
Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 120.

Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds, &C., Vol. 1 1627-1651 is the oldest record book of the Plymouth. It begins with the 1623 Division of Land, recorded in the handwriting of Governor William Bradford. The lands of John Alden are described as "The Falles of their grounds which came first over in the May

Floure, according as thier lotes were cast ... "these lye one the north side of the towne nexte adjoining to their gardens which came in the Fortune ... John Alden."

[Also in this area were the lands of Edward Winslow, Richard Warren, John Goodman, John Crackston, Mary Chilton, Myles Standish, Francis Eaton, Henry Samson and Humility Cooper.]

John Alden & the 1627 Division of Cattle

Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds, &C., Vol. 1 1627-1651 also tells of the 1627 Division of Cattle: "At a publique court held the 22th of May it was concluded by the whole Companie, that the cattell wch were the Companies, to wit, the Cowes & the Goates should be equally devided to all the psonts of the same company ... & so the lotts fell as followeth, thirteene psonts being pportioned to one lot ... "The fourth lot fell to John Howland & his company Joyned to him (2) his wife Elizabeth Howland (3) John Howland Junor (4) Desire Howland (5) William Wright (6) Thomas Morton Junor (7) John Alden (8) Prissilla Alden (9) Elizabeth Alden (10) Clemont Briggs (11) Edward Dolton (12) Edward Holdman (13) Joh. Alden. To this lot fell one of the 4 heyfers Came in the Jacob Called Raghorne."

John Alden: a 1626 "Undertaker"

In 1621, King James I authorized the Council for New England to plant and govern land in this area. This Council granted the Peirce Patent, confirming the Pilgrims' settlement and governance of Plymouth. Peirce and his associates, the merchant adventurers, were allotted 100 acres for each settler the Company transported. The Pilgrims had a contract stating all land and profits would accrue to the Company for 7 years at which time the assets would be divided among the shareholders. Most of the Pilgrims held some stock. The Pilgrims negotiated a more favorable contract with the Company in 1626. In 1627, 53 Plymouth freemen, known as "The Purchasers," agreed to buy out the Company over a period of years. In turn, 12 "Undertakers" (8 from Plymouth and 4 from London) agreed to pay off Plymouth's debts in return for trade benefits.

John Alden was one of the 8 Plymouth "Undertakers," along with William Bradford, Myles Standish, Isaac Allerton, Edward Winslow, William Brewster, John Howland and Thomas Prence. Alden had also been involved in the negotiations with the Merchant Adventurers that led to the more favorable contract. Governor William Bradford wrote in his letter book:

"This next year being Anno. 1626, we sent Mr. Allerton into England, partly to make some supply for us, and to see if he could make any reasonable composition with the adventurers and because we well knew that nothing can be done without money, we gave him an order to procure some, binding ourselves to make payment thereof as followeth:

"Know all men by thee presents, that whereas we William Bradford, Governour of Plymouth in New England, and William Brewster, Capt. Miles Standish, Isaac Allerton, Samuel Fuller, Edward Winslow, John Jeney, John Howland, and John Alden; being all inhabitants of Plymouth, aforesaid, are for ourselves, and divers others, our associates, &c. And whereas the said Isaac Allerton (by God's providence) for the necessary occasions of the colony abovesaid, is bound for England; and whereas divers of us above named, have acquainted divers of our worthy and approved friends (by our letters) with our raw and weak estate, and want of ability of ourselves to manage so great an action, as the upholding of the plantation aforesaid. If therefore God shall move the heart or hearts of any of our friends, in compassion of our wants and present straits, to lend us above named, the sum of one hundred pounds sterling, for the space of two years, upon any such terms as shall be agreed upon, between him or them and the said Isaac Allerton, our partner and agent, and deliver the same into his hands for our use; that we, the said William Bradford, William Brewster, &c together with the said Isaac Allerton, do bind ourselves, our heirs, &c. jointly and severally, for the faithful performance of

such obligations, conditions, or covenants, as shall be agreed on,&c.
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 5, p. 198-199.

This "Undertaking" appears again in the Plymouth Colony Records of 1645:

"Vpon the ending of all the differrences vpon a demaund of foure hundred pounds betwixt Mr John Beauchamp of London merchant on the one pt And Mr Willm Bradford Mr Edward Winslowe Mr Thomas Prence Mr Miles Standish Mr John Alden Mr John Howland & Mr Isaack Alerton and the heires of Mr Willm Brewster deceased of thother pte these lands ensuing were seually acknowledged the sxif'th day of March Anno Dni 1645 ..."

[The records contain several pages of rather complicated and legalistic exchanges of land, etc., among the various Undertakers and John Beauchamp.]

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 128-131.

John Alden & the Plymouth Records

1632: "... those that lived on their lots on the other side of the Bay, called Duxbury, they could not long bring their wives and children to the public worship and church meetings here, but with such burthen as, growing to some competent number, they sued to be dismissed and become a body of themselves. And so they were dismissed about this time, though very unwillingly."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 253.

Samuel Eliot Morison notes "John Alden, Myles Standish, Jonathan Brewster and Thomas Prence were the first prominent settlers of Duxbury."

William Bradford later writes:

"Also about these times [1640], now that cattle and other things began greatly to fall from their former rates and persons began to fall into more straits, and many being already gone from them, as is noted before, both to Duxbury, Marshfield and other places, and those of the chief sort, as Mr. Winslow, Captain Standish, Mr. Alden and many others, and still some dropping away daily, and some at this time and many more unsettled, it did greatly weaken the place [Plymouth]."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 314-5.

January 1632-33: "At the same Court Edward Wynslow was chosen Govr, & held and was sworned to administer justice in that place for the yeare to come.

"Likewise Mr William Bradford, Capt Myles Standish, John Howland, John Alden, John Done, Stephen Hopkins, & William Gilson were chosen for the Councell the same yeare at the same Court, who held & received the oath."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 5.

1633: "The Names of the Freemen of the Incorporacon of Plymoth in New England, An: 1633.

Edward Wynslow, Govr. Capt Myles Standish, William Bradford, John Howland, John Alden, John Done, Stephen Hopkins, [and] William Gilson, Cowncell."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 3.

John Alden was also listed, with the appellation "gen" (meaning gentleman), in the 7 March 1636-7 List of Freemen (PCR I:52). He was listed under "Duxburrow" in the 1670 List of Freemen (PCR 5:274).

25 March 1633: "According to an order in Court held the 2d of January, in the seaventh yeare of the

raigne of o'r soveraigne lord, Charles, by the grace of God King of Engl., Scotl., France, & Irel., defendor of the faith, &c, the psons heer under menconed were rated for publike use by the Gov'r, Mr. Will Bradford, Capt Myles Standish, Joh: Alden, Joh: Howland, John Done, Stephen Hopkins, Will Gilson, Sam Fuller, Senior, John Genny, Godbert Godbertson, & Jonathan Brewster, to be brought in by each pson as they are heere under written, rated in corne at xi's p bushell, at or before the last of November next ensuing ... John Alden ... 01 [pounds]: 04 [shillings]: 00 [pence]."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 9.

On 26 March 1634, John Alden was also one of the "raters" and was personally "rated" at the same amount as in 1633. (PCR I:26-27).

1 January 1633-4: "At this Court, Mr Thomas Prence was elected Govr for the yeare following, and to enter upon the place the first of March or the 27 of the same, and to execute the office of Govr for one whole yeare from the time of his entry.

"At the same time, Edw: Wynslow, Mr Will Bradford, Mr Isaack Allerton, Mr Joh Alden, Mr Joh Howland, & Mr Stephen Hopkins chosen to the office of Assistants to the said Govr, & to enter thereupon wth the said Govr elect as aforesaid."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 21.

John Alden was also elected as one of the Assistants to the Governor for 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, and 1640.

1 June 1641: "Committees of the seuell Tounes..."Duxborrow, Mr John Alden, Jonathan Brewster."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 16.

John Alden served as a representative of the Town of Duxbury in 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, and 1650. Beginning in 1650, John Alden began to once again serve as an Assistant to the Governor. He served as Assistant to 1686. On several occasions, he served as "Deputie Gour" (PCR 4:81, 5:245).

John Alden's name as Assistant appears on many, many documents and at the start of many Court proceedings. Text included here does not include documents or records to which Alden's name is affixed as official witness, but only documents and proceedings in which he is an active, personal participant.

1634: The Pilgrims had an exclusive patent for trade at Maine's Kennebec River. An interloper, Hocking, from the Piscataqua Plantation in New Hampshire, interrupted this trade. A confrontation ensued, Hocking shot a Plymouth man. Another Plymouth man then shot Hocking. The Piscataqua Plantation wrote to their English patrons, without mentioning that Hocking had murdered first and, from England, word spread back to Massachusetts Bay.

"It was not long before they [Plymouth Colony] had occasion to send their vessel into the Bay of the Massachusetts. But they [Mass Bay] were so prepossessed with this matter and affected with the same as they committed Mr. Alden to prison, who was in the bark, and had been not Kennebec, but was no actor in the business but went to carry them supply. They dismissed the bark about her business, but kept him for some time. This was thought strange here, and they sent Captain Standish to give them true information, together with their letters, and the best satisfaction they could, and to procure Mr. Alden's release. I shall recite a letter or two which will show the passages of these things, as followeth.

"Good Sir: I have received your letter by Captain Standish, and am unfeignedly glad of God's mercy towards you in the recovery of your health, or some way thereto. For the business you write of, I thought meet to answer a word or two to yourself, leaving the answer of your Governor's letter to our Court, to whom the same, together with myself, is directed. I conceive, till I hear new matter to the contrary, that your Patent may warrant your resistance of any English from trading at Kennebec; and

that blood of Hocking and the party he slew will be required at his hands -yet do I with yourself and others sorrow for their deaths. I think likewise that your general letters will satisfy our Court and make them cease from any further inter- meddling in the matter. I have upon the same letter set Mr. Alden at liberty and his sureties, and yet lest I should seem to neglect the opinion of our Court and the frequent speeches of others with us, I have bound Captain Standish to appear the 3rd of June at our next Court to make affidavit for the copy of the Patent, and to manifest the circumstances of Hocking's provocations; both which will tend to the clearing of your innocency.

"If any unkindness hath been taken from what we have done, let it be further and better considered of, I pray you; and I hope the more you think of it, the less blame you will impute to us. At least you ought to be just in differencing them whose opinions concur with your own, from other who were opposites; and yet I may truly say I have spoken with no man in the business who taxed you most, but they are such as have many ways heretofore declared their good affections towards your Plantation. I further refer myself to the report of Captain Standish and Mr. Alden, leaving you for this present to God's blessing, wishing unto you perfect recovery of health and the long continuance of it. I desire to be lovingly remembered to Mr Prence your Governor, Mr. Winslow, Mr. Brewster, whom I would see if I knew how. The Lord keep you all. Amen. Your very loving friend in our Lord Jesus, Thomas Dudley."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed.
Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 262-265.

2 March 1635-6: "That the Govr, Mr Prence, Mr Collier, Mr Alden, Mr Browne, & Mr John Howland view that porcon of ground on the north side the Sowth River, and if they finde it more beneficiall for farmes to Scituate then to these pts, then to allot it them; if not, to reserue it."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 39.

14 March 1635-6: "At a Generall Meeting the 14th of March, concerning the Hey Grownds for Plymoth & Duxburrough."The places heerafter menconed were assigned to the severall psons, for their prnt use the yeare 1636, vizt: -
... To Mr Alden, where he mowed last yeare, & before his grownd so much as hee needeth."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 39-40.

On 20 March 1636-7, haying rights were again granted "To Mr Alden, the hey ground he had the last yeare" (PCR I:56).

1636: ["A law was passed by the Colony Court, November 15, 1636, `That every mans marke of his Cattle be brought to the towne book where he lives..."] "Alden a peece like a long round cut."
Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, p. 1.

6 February 1636-7: "At a Court of Assistants held at New Plymouth the sixt Day of February, Anno Dni, 1636.
"Five acres of land is graunted vnto William Rhenolds, lying on Ducksbury side, in regard he hath a stock of cattle, wch land is to be appoynted him forth by Mr Collyer, Mr Prince, or Mr Alden, or one of them."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 50.

6 March 1636-7: "At a Court of Assistants held the vjth of March, 1636... A pcell of lands containeing a knowle, or little hill, lying ouer against Mr Aldens lands at Blewfish Riuer, is graunted by the Court vnto the said Mr John Alden in lue of a pcell of land taken from him (next vnto Samuel Nashes lands) for publike use."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 51.

2 May 1637: "It was ordered by this Court, that a jury should be empanelled to set forth the heigh

wayes about Plymouth, Ducksborrow, and the Eele Riuer...

"It is agreed, that the heigh wayes, both for horse, cart, and foote, shalbe as followeth ... we allow a heigh way from the cutt betweene Willm Bassets & Francis Sprage, to goe to Ducksborrow towne; the heigh way to be continued from Willm Bassets garden or orchard, through John Washburnes ground, to Willm Palmers gate, as it now hs, and so along through Peeter Browne ground, by the outeside of which we allow a way to the marsh, and vp to the woods; the way still to passe by Henry Howlands house, leauing it on the east side, so keepeing the old way through the march to Mr Aldens house, and from thence through a valley wch leadeth to the corner of Phillip Delanoys feild, so to passe to Edward Bumpas house, and fourty foote to be allowed above his house straight to Rowland Leyhornes house, & so passage about the house to Greenes Harbor path."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 58-59.

4 December 1637: "Mr Edward Winslow haueing formly a graunt of diuers lands at or vpon a neck of land called Green Harbors Neck, {alis} Carsewell, the said graunt was confirmed, together wth all and singuler the vpland vpon the said neck, & seuall branches thereof, bounded & marked by Mr Thomas Prince & Mr John Alden, Assistants to this goument ..."

[The two following paragraphs are subsequent entries.]

"The bounds of the land of Mr John Alden, of Duxbery, as it was layed out by Gou Bradford, Mr Edward Winslow, Joshua Pratt, and Edward Banges. It begins, for the breadth of it, att a place where formerly an old pine tree stood, where now there is a grauelly hole, and from thence to a burnt walnutt stump, and runinge for the length, and from thence to take its length vnto a white oake tree standing a little within the land of Phillip Delano deceased, the root of that tree still remaining, and from thence for the breadth att the head of the lott, vp to the old Greens Harbor Path; on the southerly side bounded with the meddow of the said John Aldin in pte, and with the land of Experience Michell att the vper end.

"The bounds of a psell of marsh meddow, bought of Edward Hall in the yeer 1651, which meddow was prmarily Mr William Collyiars, and by him given to Mr Constant Southworth, and by him sold to Edward Hall aforsaid, and bought by mee, John Alden, & is as followeth, viz.: layed out att the first for fiue acres, and bounded with a creek, comonly called and knowne by the name of Indian Creeke; and from thence to run to the meddow land of Phillip Delano, deceased; and soe it runs on the northerly side as the riuer runs to the Mill Creike."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 71.

1 January 1637-8 with a notation "[The following paragraph is of a more modern insertion]: The bound of the lands of Mr John Alden at Duxburrow, as it was layed forth by Gou Bradford, Mr Edward Winslow, Joshuah Prate, Edward Banges, as followeth: from an old pine tree by the meddow, which meddow afterwards was allotted vnto mee, the said John Alden; and for the breadth of the said land buting vpon and ranging allong the said Blew Fish Riuer to a burnt walnut stump; and from thence for the length to a walnut tree ranging from the abouesaid stump west north west, which was sum time after run by Joshuah Prate and Phillip Delano, Senior, vnto a white oake tree, standing a little within the bounds of Phillip Delanoes land, there being a stump or root of that tree still remaining, and from thence for the bredth att the head, vp to Greens Harbor, old path; and on the southerly side of the land bounded ptly with my owne meddow, and with the land of Experience Michell toward the vper end."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 73.

5 February 1637-8: "At a Court of Assistants held at New Plymouth, the fift Day of February, in the xiiijth Yeare of his Ma'ties now Raigne, of England, &c ..."

"A graunt of certaine lands at Greens Harbor is made to Mr John Alden, wch, vpon view thereof taken, is to be bounden and confirmed vnto him."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 76.

6 March 1637-8: "It is agreed vpon by the Court, that Captaine Standish and Mr John Alden shall, wth all convenient speede, goe to Sanditch, and set forth their bounds of the lands graunted to them." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 80.

2 April 1638: "Two hundred acres of vpland, and a competency of meadow lands to be layd to yt, are graunted to Mr Wm Vassell, to keepe a ferry ouer the north, where the old Indian ferry was, and to transport men & beasts at these rates, vizt: for a man, j'd, & for a beast 4'd, a horse and his rider 4'd, and to make the way passable for man & beaste through the marshes on both sides the riuier at his owne charges, and to keepe them in reparaire from tyme to tyme, & Captaine Standish & mr Alden are appoynted to set the said lands forth for him." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 82.

7 May 1638: "Whereas diuers of the brethren of this church of Plymouth, now ymploying lands on Duxborrow side, are to reparaire to this place, by wch meanes the neighbourhood there wilbe weakened and those there remayneing are for the most pte yeong men, the Court doth order this day vpon a peticon exhibited by Mr Partridge, in the behalf of the neighbourhood there, that the lands on Duxborrow side shall not be disposed to any but to such new commers as Mr Collyer, Mr Partrich, Jonathan Brewster, & Willm Basset shall approue of to be fitt for their societie; as also the lands lying betwixt the North Riuier and the South Riuier (except those lands wch are graunted to Captaine Standish & Mr John Alden,) to be reserued for farmes for such new commers as shall be thought fitt to sitt downe wth them at Duxborrow." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 84.

2 July 1638: "Liberty is graunted to Mr Starr to cutt hey this yeare at ..., or els vpon the hey ground graunted to Captaine Standish & Mr Alden, and to build a house there, if he please, to winter his cattle; & the captaine & Mr Alden will pay him for it what it is worth when he hath donn wth yt. "One hundred acres of lands are graunted to Mr Jonathan Brewster, lying on the west side of the mouth of the South Riuier, and on the south side of the North Riuier, to be viewed and layd forth for him by Captaine Standish and Mr John Alden; and likewise a pcell of meaddow there, to be layd forth for him vpon their report to the Court when they haue viewed the same, wch by order of the Court, was by Capt Standish & Mr Alden layd forth for him, and haue allowed him all the meddow land that lyeth in and about the said lands vpon the said North and South Riuers, for meddowing to the said farme.

"Fourty acres of vpland are graunted to Job Cole lying at Greens Harbour, next to the lands graunted to Mr Thomas Prence, wth some meddow land there to be layd to yt vpon the view of Mr Edward Winslow, Captaine Standish, & Mr Alden.

"Three hundred acres of vplands are graunted to Captaine Miles Standish and Mr John Alden, lying on the north side of the South Riuier, the breadth whereof to begin at the easterly side of the Beaver Pond, (the said pond being included,) vnto the westerly side of the little brooke next Scituate Path ou the south Riuier, and to range in length vpon a norwest line on both sides, vp into the land, and all that tract of meadow lying wthin or at thend of the fore said menconed breadth." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 90-91.

7 August 1638: "One hundred and twenty acres of lands are graunted vnto Mr Comfort Starr, lying betwixt the North Riuier & the South Riuier, and such part of it to be meaddow as shalbe thought meete & conveyent, and to be viewed and layd forth by Mr Edward Winslow, Capt Standish, & Mr Alden; wch was accordingly layd forth, and rangeth west south west in length, & south southeast in bredth, and butteth vpon the South Riuier." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 92.

3 September 1638: "A little pcell of land is graunted to Mr John Alden, lying at the southerly side of his lott, bounded wth Greenes Harbor Payth, all alonge the westerne side thereof, and wth Hounds

Ditch and the lands of Edward Hunt on the south side."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 95.

1 October 1638: "One hundred acres of lands are graunted vnto Leiftennant Willm Holmes, lying at the North Riuer ... Capt Standish, & John Alden, gent, layd it forth."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 99-100.

26 December 1638: "That Leiftennant Wm Holmes of Plymouth doth acknowledg that for and in consideracon of the sume of sixteene pounds sterl to him in hand payd wherewth he is fully satisfied and payd hath freely and absolutely bargained and sould vnto Nathaniel Sowther of the same yeom All that house and garden place in Plymouth aforesaid lying on the North side of the heigh street betweene the lands of Mr John Alden and the fort ..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 40.

7 January 1638-9: "Mr Willm Kemp is graunted a pporcon of land a mile or two from the head of the south Riuer, to be viewed by Mr Winslow, mr Alden, Mr Browne, Jonathan Brewster, and Willm Basset, and vpon their report of the nature of the land, the number of acres to be assigned by the court."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 109.

4 February 1638-9: "The Court appoynteth Mr Alden, Mr Collyer, Xpofer [Christopher] Waddesworth, & Wm Basset, to view North Hill & the marsh adjoyneing, and to set marks and bounds vpon the poynts thereof for Mr Collyer"
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 112.

March 1638-9: "Mr Alden, Willm Bassett, and Joshua Pratt are appoynted to view & lay forth Mr Partrich lands."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 115.

7 October 1639: "Captaine Miles Standish, Mr Alden, & Mr Ed. Winslow are appoynted to lay forth the lands and meadow graunted to Job Cole, as also the lands graunted to Francis Godfray & Robert Carver, and to pportion their number of acres."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 135.

6 April 1640: "The land at Carsewell Creek, desired by John Rowse, is to be viewed by Captaine Standih & Mr Alden, and if they shall adjudg it to bee competent for the said John Rowse and Abrahame Sampson, vpon their certyfycate to the Court thereof, they to haue it...
"Captaine Standish and Mr Alden are to view the meddow lying by the lands graunted to Leiftennant Willm Holmes, and to allow him a pporcon thereof to his vpland there...
"Mr. Willm Collyer, Capt Standish, Mr Alden, Mr Browne, Mr Winslow, and Jonathan Brewster are appoynted to set forth the two farmes at the South Riuer, graunted to belong to Greenes Harbor, and likewise to view Mr Princes farme there, and to add to it such a pportion as shalbe thought fitt by them
...
"... that the pcell of land, graunted to William Bassett, of one hundred acres of vpland, wth meddow conveyent, was veiwed and layd forth by Mr William Collyer, Jonathan Brewster, and Mr John Alden"
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 145-146.

16 April 1640: "At a genall meeting of the townesmen of Sandwich, held the xvjth day of April, in the xvjth yeare of the raigne of our souaigne lord, Charles, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland, defendor of the fayth, &c., before Thom Prence, gent, one of the Assistants of the Goument of New Plym, by vertue of a comission to him & John Alden, gent, or either

of them, directed for the calling before them, or either of them, the said inhabits of Sandwich, & to heare and determine all causes of differenc & contousie now depending amongst them, in genall, or betwixt pticuler psons, or diuision of vpland & meddow, or betwixt them & the Indians, and to sett downe some orders ..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 147.

5 October 1640: "The Court doth order, that Captaine Standish & Mr John Alden shall view and lay forth the meddow lands to Jonathan Brewsters farme at the North Riuer, so much as they shall adjudg competent for the said farme.

"The Court doth graunt vnto Francis Cooke & John Cooke, Junr, the pcell of vpland lying betwixt Leiffenant Holmes lands at the North Riuer ... or so much as shalbe thought competent when the same is viewed & layd forth by Capt Standish & Mr John Alden ...

"The aforesaid graunt of two hundred acres of vpland were layd forth by Captaine Standish and Mr Alden, according to the order of the court... "

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 163.

2 November 1640: "It is ordered by the court, that Capt Miles Standish, Mr John Alden, and Jonathan Brewster shall lay forth Constant Southwood lands at the North Riuer."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 164.

2 March 1640-1: "It is concluded and agreed betwixt Captaine Miles Standish, Mr John Alden, Jonathan Brewster, & Willm Basset, and Mr Edward Winslowe, the xxvijth day of December, 1640, that from a great rock that is flatt on the topp, called Parting Rock, shalbe the psent bounds betweene Greenes Harbour & Duxborrow"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 9.

23 September 1641 [the inventory of Mr. William Kemp]: "In debts oweing to Mr Willm Kemp at his death. It by mr William Collier 00 [pounds] 17 [shillings] 08 [pence], It by Captaine Standish 00 [pounds] 12 [shillings] 00 [pence], It by mr Alden 00 [pounds] 18 [shillings] 00 [pence]..."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 4, p. 75-82.

26 January 1642: "Memorand That Edward Hall ... Hath freely and absolutely bargained & sold vnto the said Thomas Gannett all that his dwelling house oute houses and lotts of land containeing tenn acres of vpland be it more or lesse lying at Houndsditch in Duxborrow betweene the lands of Edward Hunt on the North side and John Tisdall on the South side and one acre of meddow lying at Blewfish Riuer next to the meddow of Mr John Alden ...

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 88-89.

7 September 1642: "This Court was occationed by the Indians to puide [provide] forces against them for an offensiue and defensiue warr; and though all the inhits were warned, yet they appeared by their seuall deputies, as they had liberty to doe.

"For Duxborrow, Capt Miles Standish, Mr John Alden, Johathan Brewster, Mr Comfort Starr, Mr Wm Wetherrell, Willm Basset, Christopher Waddesworth, Georg Soule."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 45-46.

7 March 1642-3: "Vpon the peticon of John Washburne, it is ordered by the Court, that Mr Edward Winslow, Captaine Miles Standish, Mr John Alden, & Jonathan Brewster shall view the bounds betwixt Mr Thomas Besbeech & the said John Washbourne, and wth the help of Mr Willm Vassells instrument, according to their best informacon & judgment, set the bounds of their lands betwixt them; and what bounds they shall sett shall so remayne ppetually, wthout any alteracon."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 52.

2 May 1643: "In the case betwixt Willm Newland, complnt, agst Mr Wm Thomas, deffent, for a debt of iiij li [pounds] x s [shillings], wch he vnderooke to pay for the towne of Marshfeild, and whereas the Court is informed that Mr Thomas pferreth the payment thereof in a cove to Thomas Shillingsworth, for the said Wm Newlands use, the Court doth order, that Mr John Alden and John Winslowe shall indifferently prize the said cove accordingly as shee will passe betwixt man and man, and if the cove shall come to more, that Thomas Shillingsworth shall satisfye Mr Thomas for yt, as the said arbitrators shall in equitie judg fitt, if the said Mr Thomas & the said Thom Shillingsworth do not agree themselues."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 55.

6 June 1643: "Whereas Mr David Offley did by warrant sumon Thomas Payne, of Yarmouth, to appeare here to answeere to a suite, and had neither entred action against him nor appoynted any to psecute for him, but onely to vex the said Payne, & put him to charges, the Court doth order and award the said Daud Offley to pay the said Thomas Payne xij s [shillings], according to the rate of ij s [shillings] p day for xj dayes.

"Mr Andrew Hellott, for the like, is awarded by the Court to pay Mr John Alden and Mr John Howland v s [shillings] a peece."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 58-59.

4 June 1645: "Mr Thomas Prence and Mr John Browne chosen comissioners for this yeare, to treat with the comissioners of the Vnited Colonies, according to the articles of the confederacon, at the tyme & place appoynted, &c.

"It is ordered by the Court, that the Gounor and Assistants shall giue the two comissioners aboue named instruccions about the occations they shall deale in and agitate wth them about; and that the Treasurer, Mr Alden, and Mr Paddy shall pvide money and horses for the defraying of their charges & the charges of their servants for that journey, &c."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 83.

4 June 1645: "It was ordered by the Court, that a committee should be elected & authorised for the ppareing of some psent lawes for redresse of some psent abuses, and for pventing of future, wherevpon these psons following were elected and nominated, viz: Mr Willm Collyer, Mr John Browne, Mr John Alden, Mr Willm Paddy, Nathaniell Souther, Jonathan Brewster, Josias Winslow, Edward Case, Edmond Eddenden, Anthony Annable, Richard Burne, Mr Anthony Thacher, Steeven Payne, and Willm Carpenter."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 85.

4 June 1645: "Whereas Jonathan Brewster desireth a pcell of land at Namassacheesett, wch Mr Collyer, Mr Alden, & Georg Soule are appoynted to view and make report thereof vnto the Court; and as the Court shall approue, it so to be graunted vnto him..."

The inhabitants of the towne of Duxborrow are graunted a competent pporcion of lands about Saughtuckquett, towards the west, for a plantacion for them, and to have it foure miles every way from the place where they shall sett up their center, (pvided it entrench not upon Winnetuckquett, formly graunted to Plymouth,) and have nominated Captaine Miles Standish, Mr John Alden, George soul, Constant Southworth, Joseph Rogers, and Willm Brett to be feoffees in trust for the equall deviding and laying forth of the said lands to ther inhabitants."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 88.

2 June 1646: "The Counsell of Warr chosen & nominated by Court for this ensuing yeare. Mr Edward Winslow, psident, Mr Thomas Prence, Captaine Miles Standish, Mr Tymothy Hatherley, Mr John Browne, Mr John Alden, Capt Willm Poole.

"It is enacted by the Court, that these, or any three of them, meeting together, shall haue power and authority to make orders for matters of warr, and to yssue forth warrants, &c... "

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 100.

John Alden also served on the Council of War in 1653 (PCR 3:26), 1658 (PCR 3:138) and 1667 (PCR 4:142).

2 June 1646: "The Court doth order, that one of a towne, viz, Mr Thomas Willet, Mr John Alden, Mr Thomas Bourne, Thomas Chambers, Thomas Tupper, Henry Andrewes, Anthony Annable, Edmond Hawes, & Steeven Payne, shall, as a comittee, consider of a way for the defraying the charges of the ma'trates table, by way of excise vpon wyne & other thinges."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 101.

7 July 1646: "The action betwixt Tobias Taylor, complnt, and John Shawe, defent, is referred to the ending of Mr Hanbury and John Lewes for John Shawe, Mr Alden and Thomas Clark for Tobias" and "Tobias Taylor complns against John Shawe, Junr, in an action of trespas vpon the case, to the dam of 50 li [pence]. The jury could not agree vpon their verdict, and therefore it was referred vnto the arbitracon of Mr Willm Hanbury & John Lewes for the deffent, and Mr John Alden and Thomas Clarke for the plaintiff, and if they cannot end it, then these foure to choose a fift man vnto them, and as any three or more of them agree, so to stand."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 105 and Vol. 7, p. 42.

4 March 1647: "Bee it Knowne vnto all men by these presents That I Moris Truante Inhabitant of the Towne of Duxborrow and Jaane my wife haue for diuers Reasons and vpon good Conciderations sould to John Washburne ... all the planting land lying between John Irishes & John Aldens Inhabitants of the same Town which quantity of land is twenty acars bee it more or les ; Together with another pcell of planting land as it supposed to bee about the sum of eight acars bee it more or les ; The same land likewise adioyning to the lands of the aforsaid John Alden a hieway parting them at the Corners of their land..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 153.

2 May 1648: "Whereas differences are between Captaine Miles Standish and Samuell Eaton, about the bounds of thayer lands, the Court haue apoynted yt Mr Alldin, John Washburn, Senior, Henery Sampson, and Phillip Delanoy shall viue and set at rights sutch diferences as are between them."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 122.

7 June 1648: "Mr Howland and Mr Alldin to bee aded to the Tresurer, to take an account of the trade of Cenebecke [Kennebec, Maine], and to yeild a trew account to the Court therof, betwext this and the sixteenth of July next."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 127.

7 June 1648: "The agreement made between John Phillips and John Barker Robert Barker and Ralph Chapman.

"Impri the aboue said pties are agreed yt the sowth syde of John Barkers brooke shalbee the bounds of the abouesaid John Phillips for his meadow to hould for euer as his owne prper Right to him and his heaires for euer..."

"Wittnes John Allden"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 163.

4 October 1648: "Wheras differences haue been betwext Loue Brewster and Samuell Eaton about the bounds of their lands, the Court hath ordered and doe requeste Mr Alldin, Henery Sampson, and Phillipe Delanoy to range out thayer lands betwexte them, begining at the lower end, and make report therof to the Court how they find it."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 135-136.

8 June 1649: "The first Tuesday in July is appointed for those to meet together who are appointed to treat & order the letting of the trade [at Kennebec, Maine].

"The committee appointed are Mr Coliar, Captaine Standish, Mr Hatherlee, Mr Brown, and Mr Thomas, Mr Alden ...

"Those yet were appointed by the court aforesaid to let the trade at Kenebeck, - viz, Mr William Coliar, Captaine Miles Standish, Mr Timothy Hatherlee, Mr John Browne, Mr William Thomas, Jr James Cudworth, and Constant Southworth; Mr John Alden and Robert Waterman being absent, - the 4th of July, 1649, did let and set the said trade of Kenebeck..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 144.

8 June 1649: "Mr Edmund Hawes of Yarmouth Came into the said Court and acknowledged yt hee hath freely and absolutely bargained and sold unto Mr Thomas Burne of Marshfield a certaine parcel of vpland being in Marshfield aforesaid lying on the North side of the south River esteemed at about thirty acres bee it more or les bounded also with the lands of Daniell Cole on the one side and Mr John Aldins on the other side..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 174-175.

28 July 1649: "... whereas Sergiant William Mericke aforesaid hath formerly been in partnership with John Vobes aforesaid in a house and parcel of vpland Containing about fiftene acres bee it more or les being in the towne of Duxbery aforesaid at powder point... hee [William Mericke] hath freely and absolutely bargained allied and sold unto the said John Vobes the one halfe of the aforesaid house and fiftene acres of vpland and the meadow land appertaining therunto wch said house and lands they had formerly in Joynt partnership betwixt them together with his part of a Smale parcel of vpland purchased Joyntly by the said parties of Mr John Alden of Duxbery aforesaid which said Smale parcel being about two acres bee it more or les the said Mr John Alden the day and yeare above written did acknowledge yt hee hath formerly sold unto the said William Mericke and John Vobes when they were in partnership together and yt hee is fully satisfied for it ; The said William Mericke his said halfe part of the aforesaid house fifteen acres of vpland and his halfe of the meadow appertaining therunto with his halfe part of the said two acres of vpland purchased of Mr John Alden the said premises with all and singular the appurtenances belonging unto the said premises to have and to hold unto the said John Vobes..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 178-179.

29 October 1649: "The Court have ordered Mr Alden, Phillip Delanoy, & Henery Sampson to measure Samuell Eatons land at the vpper end, & to make report thereof unto the Court."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 147.

3 October 1650: "According to an order of Court the day and yeare above written, that whereas John Alden, Senior, and Miles Standish, Senior, by order of the Court in the year 1640, were to lay out lands and meddows to John Cooke, Francis Cooke, and John Rogers, and since sold by the said parties to Tho Tilden, Moris Truant, and Willam Maycomber, and difference falling out betwixt the aforesaid Thomas Moris and William, by order aforesaid, wee, the said John and Miles, doe thus declare our intents when wee first layed out the said land and meddow ... Wittnes our hands this 13th of March, 1650. MILES STANDISH, JOHN ALDEN."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 149-150.

10 June 1650: "Josiah Wampatuke, Indian, sagamore of the Massachusits, and Nahatan, the sonne of Jumpum, cam to Plym the 7th of June, 1650, and there did testifye, that the land, according to a drafft in the keeping of Mr Hatherley and others, and the particulars therein specified, was the onely proper lands of Chickatawbutt, father to Josiah Wampatuke aforesaid; and this hee acknowledged before Captain Standish, Mr William Thomas, and Mr John Alden."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 157.

2 October 1650: "Ordered, that wheras Captaine Miles Standish and Mr John Alden were somtimes ordered by the Court to lay out certaine lands and meddows att North Riuer vnto Francis Cook and John Cook and John Rogers, the Court doth therefore further order the said Captaine Standish and Mr Alden to manifest what were their intents about the bounds of the said lands and meddows when they formerly layed them forth, and to sett and establish the bounds of the said lands and meddowes soe as to continew for the futuer."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 164.

1 March 1652-53: "Wheras Edward Hall is departed the gouernment, ended vnto divers men much more than his estate will amount vnto and satisfy, the Court, haueing seriously considered of the promises, doe order that the estate shalbee equally devided vnto such creditors as can make full proof of their debts proportionable to what is owing them from him, and that all such shall repaire vnto Capt Standish, Mr Alden, Mr Colliare, and Constant Southworth, of Duxburrow, betwixt this psent day and the first of May next ensuing the date heerof; the said Capt Standish and the rest aboue expressed being those whom the Court haue deputed to haue the ouersight of the deposing of the said estate ...

"The Court haue ordered Capt Standish and Mr Alden to provide portions out of the estate of Thomas Chillingsworth, deceased, for his children, and to take security in the Courts behalfe for the right disposing of the said estate..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 21-22.

15 April 1653: "Wheras a Diference hath arisen between the Inhabitants off the Towne of Sandwidge and the Sachem off Manomett and other Indians concerning a Tract of upland called quitnite the said Sachem with the Rest haueing chosen Miles Standish senior and John Alden senior; And the said Townsmen of Sandwidge haueing chosen Robert Dennis of Yarmouth and John Smith of Barnstable to arbtrate and fully to conclude and end the aforsaid Diferences; all the said pties of Sandwidge and the said Sachem haueing given full power to end and conclude all Diferences betweene the said pties Diferinge for any matter of Land

"Wee therefore haueing waighed the arguments on both sides according to our best understanding haue; all the said pties that is to say Miles Standish John Alden Robert Dennis and John Smith mutually concluded all the said Diferences concerning the Land off quitnite as followeth;

"videlect wee Doe by these presents in full satisfaction wee give unto the said Sachem &c. twenty six acres of upland onely for all that the said pties haue can or may challenge in full satisfaction for all rightes claimes or Demaunds of all or any pte of the said Lands appertaining to the Towne of Sandwidge except the formencioned twenty six acres of upland; Alsoe wee Doe mutually agree and conclude the said Sachem &c shall haue the twenty six acres of Land in one Intire place provided it bee in the best and fittest Land for their use; Wee alsoe graunt to the said Sachem &c libertie to fell fitt wood to ffence the said Land upon any pte of the said quitnite alwaies provided incase there bee not sufficient upon the twenty six acres of upland; further It is concluded that the said Indians make a sufficient fence att their owne Dammage; and that the said Sachem shall for himselfe and all other Indians that shall Resort to him; shall undertake for him and them that neither hee or any such Indians that they shall not Damnifye the said Townsmen of Sandwidge by killing or hunting any such cattle as they shall att any time put upon the said necke: and incase any cattle bee hurt or killed by the Indians upon Due prooffe the aforsaid Sachem shall make the Dammage good; and that there may bee naighbourly agreement between the said Indians and the Townsmen of Sandwidge

"Alsoe it is concluded by the said Miles Standish John Alden Robert Dennis and John Smith that the said Sachem and all that appertaine to him or Resort unto him shall not hunt or chase the cattle of the towne of Sandwidge; And if the said Sachem shall see any of the cattle of the English in any Danger the Sachem shall presently give notice to som man or men of the Towne of Sandwidge

"To all the aforemencioned conclusions Wee haue subscribed our hands This 15th of Aprill 1653.

Miles Standish, John Alden; Robert Dennis, John Smith"

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 2, p. 31-32.

3 May 1653: "Wheras by order of Court, bearing date March 4th, 1652, Capt Miles Standish, Mr John Alden, mr Willam Collyare, and Mr Thomas Dexter, Senior, or any three of them, were comissionated by the said Court, that incase such as haue theire seuerall allotments of land vndevided att Conahassett should neglect to bring the bounds of theire seuerall allotments to the psons first chosen and appointed to record those lands within eighteene daies next after the day of the date of the aforsaid order, to see the thing done with the first conveniency"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 27.

7 June 1653 [inventory of Thomas Chillingsworth]: "The Debts owing by Thomas Chillingsworth ... To Mr John Alden of Duxburrow 02 [pounds] 10 [shillings] 00 [pence]"

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 11, p. 158.

2 August 1653: "Vpon a complaint of John Phillips against Joseph Roes, for none paiement of a debt of six pound due vpon bill, an order was directed vnto Mr Alden as followeth: These are to request you, that wheras there is a debt due vnto Joseph Roes from John Browning, deceased, and that certaine goods of the said Brownings are in the custody of the cunstable of Marshfeild vndesposed of, that you would take course that the said goods of the said Roes may bee equally deuided betwixt the widdow Waterman and the said Joseph Roes"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 39.

3 July 1654: "These are to signify vnto such as it may conserne, that vpon the desire of Mr Arther Howland, for the ending of contraversies, that hee might know the bounds of his lands wheron hee now liueth, which hee bought of Mr Freeman, the Court doe determine, that Capt Standish, Mr Alden, Phillip Delanoy, and Experience Michell shall, as soone as conveniently they can, goe thether and acquaint the said Mr Howland and Thomas Doged with the bounds of the said lands according to the originall graunt."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 62.

1654: "By vertue of an order of court bearing Date sume three years since from which order this must take Date; in May following Captaine Myles Standish and mr John Alden were Deputed by the court to; Determine of certaine bounds of mersh in contraversye and to appoint me to Servay the said mershes, and to make Devision of the same; which according to theire order I Did lay out the line of the mersh by the line of the upland..."

"According to the order of court given us by vertue of the said order wee gave to Mr Garrett order to lay it out by the bound Markes wee then shewed him; which hee haveing sence Done as wee understand by this writing wee Doe approve and Doe Desire it may bee Recorded.

August 1, 1654 Myles Standish, John Alden."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 8, p. 130-132.

5 March 1655: "Such as appeered from some of the townes of this jurisdiction, and acted in the setting and letting of the trad att Kennebecke in the behalfe of the cuntry as is aboue expressed, were those whose names are vnderwritten: - Mr. William Collyare, Mr Timothy Hatherley, Mr John Alden, Capti James Cudworth, Mr Josias Winslow, Senir, Mr Edmond Hawes... Constant Southworth."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 96.

1 May 1655: "Captaine Standish and Mr Alden haueing formerly ben ordered by the Court to goe with Experience Michell and Phillipe Dellanoy to shew them, as neare as they could, the bounds of the lands which was somtimes theires in the township of Marshfeild, now possessed by Arther Howland and the successers of Thomas Chillingsworth, att this Court they declared that they had done

according to the aforsaid order."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 76.

8 June 1655: "In further answare to a petition prefered to the Court by the church of Marshfeild the last year, desiring healp in a like case as aboue expressed, the Court ordered and requested two of the majestrates, - videlecett, Capt Standish and Mr Alden, - to goe ouer to Marshfeild, and att a publicke towne meeting to signify vnto them the Courts desire is, that the inhabitants of the said towne would take notice of their duties soe as to contribute according to their abilities freely to the mayntainance of the minnester, that soe the said minnester may carry on comfortably in despensing the word of God amongst them"
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 81-82.

5 October 1655: "These presents Witnesseth that Mr Timothy hatherley hath lett A Mare unto Mr John Alden for the tearme of 4 years to halves the encrease"
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 9, p. 233.

3 June 1656: "Att a Generall Court holden att Plymouth the third Day of June, 1656 ... Mr. John Alden was chosen Treasurer"
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 99.

He was also Treasurer in 1657 (PCR 3:115) and 1658 (PCR 3:135).

3 June 1656: "Att this Court, a jury was appointed to giue meeting to Mr John Alden, Asistant, on the 18th day of this psent June, att the house of Mr Arther Howland, att the South Riuer, by the said Mr Alden to bee impaneled to lay outt or deuide the lands of the said Arther Howland and Tho Chillingsworth, deceased, according to their best euidence."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 102.

3 July 1656: "Wheras, att March Court last past, Willam Collyare, Mr John Alden, Capt James Cudworth, Mr Josias Winslow, Senir, and Thomas Clarke were requested by the Court to goe to Capt Standish to examine and pfect the accounts betwixt Capt Standish and the countrey; accordingly the said Mr Alden, Capt Cudworth, and Josias Winslow mett att the day appointed; and the other two not appeering, they, the said Mr Alden, Capt Cudworth, and Josias Winslow, examined the said accounts from the yeare 1653 to that psent time, which said account, being examined as aforsaid, is now brought and psented to the Generall Court held att Plymouth the 4th of July, 1656 ... wheras Capt Standish, as being Treasurer for the countrey, hath receiued noe allowance for sallary for the two yeares last past, in consideration wherof the Court did freely allow the said fifteen pound vnto the said Capt Standish, all accounts being cleared betwixt Capt Standish and the countrey from the begining of the world to this day ; furthermore, att the same time, att the motion of the Gou, with the free concent of the whole Court, the two barrells of oyle in the hands of Mr Alden, were freely giuen vnto the said Capt Standish as a gratuitie from the country."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 104.

3 July 1656: "An agreement made the eighteenth of June, 1656, between Mr Arther Howland and Thomas Dogged, both of Marshfeild, made before Mr John Alden and Capt Cudworth, Assistants, and the jury that were appointed by the Court to deuide the land in controuersye, confeirming the deuission of the vpland and meddow land of Mr Arther Howland, and the land of the heires of Thomas Chillingsworth..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 104-5.

3 June 1657: "The comitte appointed by the Court to review the lawes, and to reduce them to such order as they may conduce to the benefitt of the goument. Mr. Willam Collyare, Mr Timothy Hatherley,

Mr John Alden, Capt James Cudworth, Capt Josias Winslow."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 117.

3 June 1657: "Mr John Alden and Leiftenant Southworth are requested and appointed by the Court to goe downe to Yarmouth and Barnstable, and to sett those differences that are betwixt the Indians and them att rightes according to their best abilities."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 117.

3 June 1657: "Libertie is graunted vnto Mr John Alden to looke out a portion of land to accomodate his sons withall, and to make report therof vnto the Court, that soe it may bee confeirmed vnto him."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 120.

22 December 1657: "The 22cond of December, Willam Collyare, John Alden, Josias Winslow, and Thomas Southworth, Asistants, &c, mett together att the house of Mr John Alden att Duxburrow, the occation wherof followeth, vix: -
"That wheras Robert Huchin, one of those that are comonly called Quakers, goeing too and frow in some of the townes of this goument, procured sundry psons to giue meeting to him, contrary to order of Court; and sundry alsoe began to bee taken with his novalties, which was likely to produce great disturbance in this goument ... Capt Josias Winslow, by warrant in his highnes name, required the abouesaid cunstable, John Phillips, to repaire to the house of the said Arther Howland, to warn him to appeer psonally att the house of Mr John Alden, before the majestrates aboue expressed, and likewise to apprehend the abouesaid Robert Huchin, hee being then in the said house..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 124-5.

2 February 1657-8: "John Copeland, one of the sect comonly called Quakers, being summoned, appeered, and being examined and found guilty of speaking falsly concerning Mr John Alden, as that his head and knees trembled att such times as the said Copeland and Christopher Holder were before the said Mr Alden and Leiftenant Southworth, for which the said Copeland is centanced by the Court to bee whipt att such time as hee shalbee found in the goument, being required to depart the jurisdiction within eight and forty houres from this psent."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 127.

2 March 1657-8: "Mr John Alden and Capt Winslow are appointed by the court to goe to Yarmouth, Barnstable, and Sandwich, to order sundry publick occations amongst them with whome the Gou is intended to meet, if God pmitt."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 132.

15 May 1658: "An agreement made the 15th of May, 1658, in the psence and with the help of Mr John Alden and Capt Josias Winslow, appointed therunto by the Court, touching a difference between the inhabitants of Barnstable and Paupmunnucke with the other Indians, his associates, about certaine land purchased of the said Indians in former contracts, bearing date the 17th of May, 1648, and the first of February, biz, that the said Paupmunnucke, Moash, Waumpum, and the rest of their associates, have fully and absolutely resigned up all the right, title, and claime which any or all of them have or can make for themselves, or any others of their associates, in all and every pte of those lands expressed in any of the aforsaid contracts, excepting the thirty acres excepted in the former contract, bearing date the 17th of May, lying att a necke called Cotochesett, and all the lands lying to the westward of Satuite river, and the westward of a north west line running from the easterly side of the next planting feild to Coituite Pond, lying on the easterly side of the said river, unto the bounds betwixt Sandwich and Barnstable, unto the said inhabitants of Barnstable, unto their proper use and behoofe forever against any claimes by them or any other Indians whatsoever; alsoe, it is further agreed, that it shalbee free either for Indians or English to fetch such alewives for their use as they shall take in the said river. The said Paupmunnucke and his associates doe alsoe heerby

acknowledg themselves fully paied and quietly satisfied and contented for ever without any further trouble, binding of themselves to keep the former conditions about their setting traps, with all the promises aforesaid. In witness whereof they have hereunto set their hands.

The marks of Paupmunucke, Moash, Waumpum, Charles is my name (an Indian)

Witness. John Alden, Josias Winslow."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 143-144.

1 June 1658: "An agreement made the 15th of May, 1658, in the presence and with the help of Mr John Alden and Capt Josias Winslow, appointed therunto by the Court, touching a difference between the inhabitants of Barnstable and Paupmunnucke with the other Indians, his associates, about certain land purchased of the said Indians...

"The line between vs and the Indians aforesaid was accordingly set at the east side of the aforesaid field, only making a set to a bound marked tree, leaving the skirts of good land lying about the said Coituite, allies Soituite, Pond, to the Indians, according to their desire, Richard Bourne of Sandwich, being their present, according to the desire of Mr John Aldin and Capt Josias Winslow" Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 143-144.

1 June 1658: "Janno [an Indian] hath, the day and yeare above written, for and in consideration of six coats, six paire of smale breeches, ten howes, ten hatchetts, 2 brasse kettles, the one of six spans and the other of seauen of Joannos aforesaid spans, and one iron kettle of six spanes, to be paid to him, Joanna, or his assigned, the one halfe moyetie by the first of August next ensuing the date hereof, and the other halfe moyety by the middle of May which shall be in the yeare of our Lord 1659, bargained, sold and confirmed vnto Mr John Alden and Mr Josias Winslow, in the behalfe of the townesmen of Yarmouth, all that tract and tracts of land...

"Whereas there hath been some unhappy differences between the towne of Yarmouth and their committees concerning some lands which they apprehended were formerly purchased of Jana, but through some neglect of theirs in not paying of the Indian for the said lands, have bene of late denied by him to be sold, and the possessors molested. Mr John Alden and Capt Josias Winslow being ordered by the Court to heare, and if it might be, determine such differences as were either between the English before mentioned or between the committees and the Indian, the towne of Yarmouth having made choice of Mr Edmond Hawes, Robert Denis, Ed Sturgis, and Thomas Boardman, and empowered them to manage and issue their aforesaid differences, there being propositions made on both sides tending to a composition, yett they not fully closing in their propositions, but referring it by mutuall agreement to the abovesaid Mr John Alden and Captaine Josias Winslow as umpires, to determine between them about the promises.

"Wee, the abovesaid John Alden and Josias Winslow, doe determine as followeth, viz: that the charge of the purchase, as now agreed vpon between vs and Jana, shall be equally borne betwixt the said committees and the towne

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 145-146.

29 September 1658: "Mr Collyare, Mr Alden, and Constant Southworth are requested and appointed by the Court to take some speedy course to reduce Goodwife Thomas, a Welch woman, living at the North River, to live more orderly, soe as shee be not for the future endangered to come to misery and extremity, as formerly shee hath bene."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 149.

1658: "A Railing paper sent from Humphrey Norton one of those Commonly Called Quakers unto the Govr:

"Ordered by the court to be Recorded as followeth

"Tho: Prence thou whoe has bent thy hart to worke wickesnes and with thy Tongue hast set forth Deceite; thou Imaginest mischief upon thy bed and hatchest thy hatred in thy Secrett Chamber the strength of Darknes is over thee and a malicious mouth hast thou opened against God and his

Annointed and with thy tongue and lipps hast thou uttered pverse things; thou hast Slaundered the Innocent by railing lying and falce accusations and with thy barbarouse hart hast thou Caused their bloud to bee shed thou hast through all these thinges broken and Transgressed the lawes and waies of God; and equitie is not before thy eyes ... thou hast pverted Justice and true Judgment and hast Defrauded the poor and needy thou hast Caused to Defraud the righteous owner of his goods and is heaping it up as upon a hill wherwith thou wilt purchase to thy selfe and other a feild of blood wherin to bury your Dead; John Alden is to thee like unto a Packhorse wherupon thou layes thy beastly bagg Cursed are all they that have a hand therin...

"A Raileing paper sent from Humphrey Norton one of those Comonly Called Quakers Directed to John Alden Majestrate and ordered by the Court to bee Recorded As followeth

"John Alden I have weighed thy waies and thou art like one fallen from thy first love; a tendernes Once I Did see in thee and moderation to Act like a Sober man; which through evill Councell and selfe love thou art Drawne aside from; if there bee in thee any expectation of mercy Doe thou follow the example of Timothy Hatherley; and withdraw thy body forever appeering att that beastly bench; and from whence God hath withdrawne himselfe untill hee have ovrturned it where the law of God is Cast behind your backes... then would thou see that thou art sett in the midst of a Companie that like a hedge of vipers the best of them is not worthy to hew wood in the house of our god receive my Instruction into thy hart as oyle and Depart from amongst them; and thou wilt see that it is beter to live of thyne own like a poor wise man and att peace with God and his people then like a selfe Conceited foole puffed up with the prid of his hart becaus[e] hee hath Gotten the Name of a Majestrate as some of them is; in love this is written to Disharten thee in time before the evill Day overtake thee lett it bee soe received from thy frind

Humphrey Norton"

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 18, p. 71-73.

29 September 1658: "It was ordered by the Court, that the railing papers sent to the Gou, to Mr Alden, from Humphrey Norton, together with Winters deposition & Nortons reply, should bee put on publicke records ; and that due course bee forthwith taken to apprehend the body of the said Norton, that soe hee may bee brought to condign punishment, according to his demerits."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 149.

1 March 1658-9: "Mr John Alden, Capt Thomas Willett, Major Josias Winslow, Mr Will Bradford, and Leiftenant Thomas Southworth were comissionated by the Court to giue meeting vnto those which the Court of Road lland shall depute, to treat and conclude with them about an iland in controuersy betwist them and vs, lying in the Narragansett Bay, called Hogg lland"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 157.

1 March 1658-9: "Vpon complaint of Willam Tubbs, that Goodwife Thomas, a Welch woman, that shee dwelleth on his land without his leaue, the Court haue appointed Mr Collyare and Mr Alden to take some speedy course to remoue her vnto her owne land."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 158.

7 June 1659: "Mr Alden and Mr Bradford are appointed and deputed by the court, to joyne with such as Mr Hatherly shall procure, to lay out the land graunted to Mr Hatherley att the Court held the 3d of July, 1656, and to make report vnto the Court of what they haue done there, that soe it may bee recorded."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 165.

6 October 1659: "Mr Alden, Captaine Southworth, Constant Southworth, and Gorge Watson are appointed by the Court to view the lands of Nathaneell Warren, &c, and to range the said lands, and to put a finall issue to the difference betwixt him and his naighbours respecting the bounds of their said lands in controuersy..."

"Concerning the complaint of Goodwife Thomas, the Welch woman, the Court haue ordered, that shee repaire to Mr Collyare and Mr Alden, to Duxburrow, att such time as they shall send for her, and they are to heare and determine what is meet in the case.

"Concerning a certaine woman, viz, the wife of John Spring, of Watertowne, which was somtimes the wife of Thomas Hatch, of Scittuate, which said woman hath liued about three or foure yeares att Scittuate from her husband, the Court haue ordered, that shee either repaire to her husband with all convenient speed, or to repaire to Duxburrow to the house of Mr Alden, on the twentyeth of this psent month of October, to giue a reason why shee doth not..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 174.

1660 re the Purchasers of Dartmouth: "Att a generall meeting of the Purchasers att Plymouth the seaventh of march 1652 It was ordered and fully agreed unto and Concluded by the whole that all that Tract and tracts of lands lying from the Purchassers bounds on the west side of Acougheasse to a river called Accusshaneck and three miles to the Aastwards of the same; with all llands meddows woods waters rivers creekes and all appurtenances therunto belonging should bee given to those whose names are heerunder written Containing thirty four shares and was then given allotted Assigned and sett over to them by the whole to have and to hold to them and their heires and Assignes for ever; to Devide and Dispose of the same as they should see good; and they are to Satisfy the Indians for the Purchase therof and to beare all other Due Charges that shall any way arise about the same According to their severall proportions ... mr Alden [et al.]

"Wheras these Purchasers whoe by agreement of the whole had their proportions of Purchase land falling unto them in the places above mencioned whoe by agreement had their severall names entered into a list (together with some other old Comers) under the hand of the honored Gov'r: late Deceased they Did Desire that the list of their Names might bee recorded; but the above written originall list of Names and the agreement Could not bee found in some yeares; soe that it was Judged lost These purchasers notwithstanding still Desiring that what was their right might bee recorded; wherupon order was given by the aforsaid Gov'r that it might be Done ...

"The names of those whoe by order of the Purchasers mett att Plymouth the seaventh Day of march 1652 whoe by Joynt consent and agreement of the said purchasers are to have their prtes shares or proportions att the place or places commonly called and knowne by the names of Acushena alias acquessent which entereth in att the westeren end of Neckatay and to Coaksett alias acoakius and places adjacent... The said Tract or tract[s] of Land soe bounded as abovesaid which is purchased of the Indians which were the right propriators therof; as appeers by a Deed under their hands with all the mershes meddows rivers waters woods Timbers; and all other profitts priviledges emunities comodities and appurtenances belonging to the said Tract or Tracts above expressed or any prte or prcell therof to belonge unto the prties whose names are underwritten (whoe are in number thirty four whole prtes or shares and noe more) to them and their heires and assignes for ever ... Mr John Alden one whole prte or share."

Mayflower Descendants, Vol. 4, p. 165-188.

13 June 1660: "Ordered to bee recorded, that Gorge Watson desire Mr Aldin to take notice, that hee was enformed, that Gorg Barlow tooks from Goodman Gaunt, for his fine of 24 li [pence], these pticulares: seauen coves & heifers, two steers, seauen bushells and a halfe of pease; and after, when one of the coves died, hee tooke another liue one in stead therof, because Barlow had not the hide of the dead cow deliuered to him..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 190.

13 June 1660: "Mr Collyare, Mr Aldin, Leiftenant Southworth, and Mr Hinckley are deputed to giue meeting to other att Taunton the fourth day of the last weeke in July, 60, to endeauor the settleing of such differences as are amongst them."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 195.

13 June 1660: "In regard that Mr Alden is low in his estate, and occasioned to spend much time at the courts on the contrayes occasions, and soe hath done this many yeares, the Court haue allowed him a smale gratuity, the sume of ten pounds, to bee payed by the Treasurer."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 195.

2 October 1660: "Likewise alsoe Mr Alden and Mr Hinckley are appointed by the Court, in the behalfe of the towne of Barnstable, to purchase a certaine portion of land belonging to Janno, the Indian sachem."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 201.

1660 [from the Plymouth Colony Treasury Accounts]: "Mr Constant Southworth debter to the countrey ... Pr 2 heiffers of Mr Aldins, 04 [pounds]: 10 [shillings]: 00 [pence], Pr a horse receiued of Mr Alden, 08: 00: 00 ...

"To the Gour, 11: 00: 00, To Mr John Aldin, 16: 00: 00 ... Impr, to the Gour, for what was due to him formerly, and for this last year, 22: 7: 4 ... To Mr Aldin, in reference to seruice as Treasurer, 16: 00: 00"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 8, p. 98, 100, 101.

5 March 1660-1: "It is ordered by the Court, that Mr Alden and Mr Hinckley shall reppure to the South Sea aboue Sandwich, and view the meddow there, and to order a competency therof to Richard Bourne; and likewise to view the meddow att Mashpee, and to order the matter about Myles Black and Thomas Burgis, Senir, their fraudulent procuring of a graunte of meddow neare Mannomett, and to make report vnto the Court of what they haue done in the pmises."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 208.

1661: "Know all men by these presents that I Quachatasett Sachem of Mannomett have for fourteen pounds to mee in hand paied; as alsoe one pound paied to Skippage; bargained sold and allianated from mee my heires and sucessors for ever Certain tractes or slipps of a meddow as alsoe a tract of upland lying on the westerly side of the River where the Sandwich men take alewives... all which tracts of upland and meddow above expressed, are... bought by Mr John Aldin of the above named Sachem for which hee is fully satisfied; it is alsoe agreed by the abovesaid psons that those which shall enjoy the abovesaid lands shall have libertie for their Cattle to feed on the lands adjoining; alsoe libertie to make use of timber for building or fencing as they shall have occasion; and alsoe ffish for their use as basse oysters or other fish; it is further agreed by the above- named for the preventing of trouble that may arise between the Indians and the English that come to make use of these lands above expressed lying on the westerly side of the River that the English shall Draw stufte to the place and the Indians to make the ffence to secure their owne Corne from Damage unto all which the abovenamed psons have sett to their hands this 17th of May 1661. John Alden, Quachatasett his marke, Skippage his mark

"I The abovesaid John Alden Doe owne and acknowlidg by these presents; That the above said Purchase, was made by mee the said John Aldin, for and in the behalfe of Mr Richard Bourn of Sandwich in the Collonie of New Plymouth; and was Purchased by mee, by order of Court, as abovesaid, and the abovesaid fifteen pound, which was by mee payed was the said Richard Bournes Mony; as witnessse my hand, I Testify to the Truth of this above written; John Aldin Assistant"
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 16, p. 179-180.

"Know all men that I Quachattasett for the sume of six pounds to mee in hand payed have bargained sould and allianated from mee and mine for ever unto John Aldin a Tract or pcell of upland... free range for his Cattle as alsoe free use of the sea for fish of any kind for his use; In witness wherof I have sett to my hand this 27th of the fift month 1661. Quachattasett his marke. Witness Sepitt his marke, Scippage his marke

"This land above expressed was bought for the proper use and Inheritance of James Sciffe and his

heires ffor ever pte of it being Due to him for his serve. me John Aldin"
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 18, p. 36-37.

"Know all men that I Quachatasset have barganed and sold unto mr John Aldin one tract of upland lying on that side of Mannomet River next unto Sandwich... with libertie for timber for building; alsoe with libertie for feed for Cattle; with libertie of basse or oysters for his use; alsoe a certaine tract of meddow lying on Mannomet side of the River; adjoyning to the meddow of Richard Bourne for the uper bound with all the mersh lying Round a little necke together with the said necke and soe unto a point; wheron stands some Dead burnt trees; for all which pcell of land and meddow above expressed the said John Aldin is to pay the sume of fourteen pounds in Cloth unto Quachatase[tt] in Convenient time before winter; unto which the said Quachatasset hath sett to his hand this 27th of the fift month 1661. Quachataset his marke. Witnes Sepitt his marke Scippague his marke"
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 18, p. 86-87.

4 June 1661: "Mr Aldin is appointed by the Court to purchase some accommodations of lands of the Indians att Mannomett for the supply of Mr Josias Standish, incase the said Josias liketh the land when hee seeth."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 217.

1 October 1661: "The Court haue graunted and confeirmed vnto Mr Josias Standish a tract of vpland lying on that side of Mannomett Riuer next vnto Sandwich, the bounds of which is from the lands of Esra Perr[y] vnto a little creeke alongst the riuer for the length, and for the bredth vnto the topp of the hills which lye in a ridg with twenty acres of meddow of that which was lately purchased by Mr Aldin...
"Mr John Aldin is appointed by the Court to lay out the aboue twenty acres of meddow to Josias Standish, and to bring report vnto the Court of what remaineth there vndisposed of."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 4.

4 March 1661-1662: "Conserning a difference betwixt Quachattasett and Josias, of Nausett, Indian sachems, the Court haue order Mr Aldin and Mr Hinckley to heare and determine the same."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 8.

3 June 1662: "In reference vnto a desire of Mr Collyare about his -- of meddow att the North Hill, in the township of Duxburrow, the Court haue ordered Major Winslow and Mr Aldin to view and settle the bounds of the said meddow."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 17.

3 June 1662: "In reference to a petition prefered to the Court by sundry of the freemen, and in reference vnto a graunt made to some to looke out accomodations of land, as being the first borne children of this goument, and for the disposing of two seuerall tracts of land lately purchased, the one by Major Winslow and the other by Captaine Southworth, the Court, haueing viewed the seuerall lists of the names of those that desired to bee accomodated therin, haue settled it vpon those whose names follow: - Mr Prence, Mr Bradford, Major Winslow, Mr Aldin..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 18-19.

3 June 1662: "Wheras many controuersies haue bine between Phillip, the sachem of Sowams, and Quiquequanchett and Namumpam, his wife, and som Narragansett Indians that are with them; and the said pties intersted haue desired vs to take notice of them, and by joynt agreement haue refered it to our determination and issue...
Wee doe therfor giue it as our aduise, for the issue of the contestes between the pties abouenamed ... doe advise that all vnkindnesses may bee buried between them, and that the remembrance of this difference, arieing from such smale beginings, may for future make them wise to liue in peace and

love.Thomas Prence, Gou, John Alden, Josias Winslow."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 24-25.

3 October 1662: "Mr Willam Collyare and Mr John Aldin are appointed by the Court to view and bound an addition of land graunted vnto Captaine Bradford, in some convenient place for him adjoining to the land hee hath att Stonybrooke ...

"Wheras Mr Collyare complaineth that the records of his graunt att the north hill are lost and cannot bee found, both of the vpland and meddow, the Court hath ordered, that Mr Aldin and Major Winslow shall view the same land, and bring report of it to the next March Court; that soe it may bee recorded as neare as may bee according to the first graunt."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 26-27.

1662 [from the Plymouth Colony Treasury Accounts]: "It is agreed that Mr Aldin haue fiue pound allowed by the Treasurer for his last yeares more then ordinary trouble."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 8, p. 106.

1 June 1663: "The Court doe order, that Mr Collyares meddow bee recorded lying about North Hill, haueing bin lately viewed by Mr Aldin and the Major Winslow, and bounded by a pine tree anciently marked standing on the north side of the brooke, and from then by a range of stakes a crosse the meddow to a marked three on the west or southwest side of the said meddow, all the meddowes lying on the southerly side of that range, and alsoe a little nooke of meddow lying downe the said brooke towards North Hill, containing about two acres..."

"Wheras there was a graunt by the Court of an adition of land vnto Mr Willam Bradford, Senir, as appeers vpon record, which was not layed out nor bounded in his life time ; and wheras Captaine Willam Bradford, the son of the said Mr Willam Bradford, Senir, did make request vnto the Court that the same might bee pformed; the Court held att Plymouth on the third of October, 1662, did appoint Mr Willam Collyare and Mr John Alden, Assistants, to view and bound an addition adjoining vnto the lands which the said Willam Bradford posseseth..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 39-41.

5 October 1663: "Abraham Peirce, Junir, to bee sumoned to appeer before the major and Mr Aldin to answare for his abusiuue speeches vsed to his father, and if they shall see cause, to bind him ouer to answare it att the Court."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 47.

2 August 1664: "Att this Court, Mr Thomas Dexter, Senir, complained of sundry injurys against the towne of Sandwich about rights and titles to meddowes, &c, concerning which controversye, by mutuall consent of both pties, it was desired that the Gou, Mr Aldin, Mr Hinckley, and the Treasurer would repaire in convenient time to Sandwich, to haue the hearing and determination of the said controuersyes"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 70.

7 June 1665: "A competency of land is graunted vnto Mr John Alden, Captaine Thomas Southworth, and Mr Constant Southworth in any land that may bee found and purchased att or about Namasskett or elsewhere; which when it is sought out and purchased, and report therof made to the Court, to bee further confeirmed to them and their heires & assignes for euer."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 95.

3 October 1665: "Libertie is graunted vnto Mr John Alden, that if hee can find a portion of land fitt for accomodation, ether that hee may purchase it or that two of the other majestrates shall purchase it for him."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 109.

21 June 1666: "To all people to whom these presents May Come
Know yea That I Josias Wampatuke allies Chikatabuke for twenty pounds to mee in hand payed I doe
by these presents sell and make over all my Right and title in a smale Tract of land called
Sawmauchamoc lying and being bounded on the Northsyde by a certaine Tract of land sold by my
selfe and the squa Sachem; upon Namassakett river bounded on the southsyde with Namassakett
pond on the southwest by a little brooke to the southwest of Rockey brooke and soe Northward to a
pond that is the bounds of the former Purchase; The abovsайд Land with all priviledges belonging
therunto unto Mr John Aldin senior Mr Constant Southworth and Captaine Thomas Southworth; from
mee and my heires To them and every of their heires and assignes for ever; warranting them a lawfull
Right therto by vertue of this deed from any Claime from others all the above said Land I have freely
vargained and sould unto the persons abovenamed excepting one hundred acres of upland which I
Reserve for my loving friend John Winslow Junior which said hundred acres of land I appoint to be
layed out to him the whole length of his land as it is bounded by the former sale and the Squa
Sachem sold; That is to say from Namassakett river to the pond lying by Taunton path with the fourth
parte of meddow that lyeth upon Rockey brooke; and doe by these presents give liberty to the said
John Aldin Constant Southworth and Capt: Thomas Southworth by them selves or their assignes to
enrowle these presents in his Ma'ties Court of Records in Plymouth Collonie; and for the true
performance heerof I have heerunto sett my hand and seale the 21 of June one Thousand six
hundred sixty and six

The marke [I O] of Josias

Signed sealed and Delivered in the presence of us Thomas Cushman

The Mark of Edward Gray

This deed of sale was acknowledged the day and yeare abovewritten before mee Thomas Prence
Governor."

From Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs' *Indian Deeds: Land Transactions in Plymouth Colony, 1620-1291*.
Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002., p. 359.

6 June 1667 [from the Plymouth Colony Treasury Accounts]: "For Mr Aldens horse, 00 [pounds] 13
[shillings] 06 [pence]."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 8, p. 121.

2 July 1667: "The Court haue graunted vnto Robert Finney one hundred acres of land where Mr
Alden and Captaine Southworth hath land att Namassakett Riuer"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 160.

5 March 1667-68: "The Court haue ordered, that Mr Alden, Captaine Southworth, and the Treasurer
shall, on the second day of May next ensueing the date heerof, repaire to Marshfeild, and take notice
of the bounds of some land in controuersye, and the differences therabout between Captaine Thomas
and the towne of Marshfeild, and to make report therof to the next Court."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 4, p. 173.

7 July 1669: "Prence Gov'r

"To all people To whom these presents shall Come Wee Tuspaquin allies Blacke Sachem and
William the son of the said Tuspaquin Indian Sachems sendeth Greeting:

"Know yea that wee Tuspaquin allies blacke Sachem and William the son of that said Tuspaquin for
and in Consideration of the sume of ten pounds sterling To us in hand payed by Excperience Mitchel
Henery Sampson of Duxburrow and Thomas Little of Marshfeild and Thomas Paine of Eastham
wherwith wee doe acknowledge ourselves Joyntly and severally payed and fully satisfied and therof
and of every parte and persell therof; doe acquitt exownarate and discharge: The aforesaid
Experience Mitchell Henery Sampson Thomas Little and Thomas Paine their and every of their
heires exequitors and adminestrators and every of them for ever have bargained and sold allianated

enfeofed and Confeirmed; and by these presents doe bargaine allianate sell enfeofe and Confeirme from us the aforsaid Tuspaquine and William; and our heires unto the aforsaid Experience Mithcell Henery Sampson Thomas Little and Thomas Paine their heires and assigns for ever all that our Tract or persell of land that lyeth on the Westward syde of a Tract of land purchased by Mr John Aldin and others; from the Sachem Josias Wampatucke which Lyethe neare Assowampsett ponds; which aforsaid Tract now sold by these presents is one halfe mile in breadth and is in Length from the aforesaid ponds to Dartmouth Path where the said path Croseth the westwardsyde line of the aforsaid land of Mr Aldin and others; and from the said Dartmouth path into the woods the said Land purchased by these presents is to extend in length one mile and one halfe mile The aforsaid halfe mile in breadth is to be measured according to the square; according to the westward syde line of the aforsaid Mr Aldins Land; with all and singulare the appurtenances and priviledges therunto belonging; and all our right title and Interest offe and into the aforsaid premises; and every parte and persell therof; To have and to hold all this our said Tract or persell of Land being one halfe Mile in breadth and in length one Mile and an halfe mile from the said Dartmouth path into the woods and from the said path to extend home to the aforsaid pond; which pond is to be the bounds of one end of the said Land; with all and singulare the appurtenances and priviledges therunto belonging and all our Right title and Interest of and into the aforsaid premises and every parte and persell therof; unto the aforsaid Experience Mitchell Henery Sampson Thomas Little and Thomas Paine their heires and assigns for ever with warrantice against all people whatsoever for and by these presents to Claime any Right title or Interest of or into the aforsaid premises with their appurtenances or any parte or persell therof; and wee the said Tuspaquin allies Blacke Sachem and William doe by these presents Authorise the said Experience Mitchell Henery Sampson Thomas Little and Thomas Paine; either by themselves of their Attorney to record and enrowle these presents or Cause them to be Recorded and enrowled; before the Gov'r of New Plymouth or some one of his Assistants for the time being according to the usuall Manor of Recording and Inrowling of deeds and evidences in the Kings Ma'ties Court of New Plymouth aforsaid; In witnes wherof wee the aforsaid Tuspaquin and William have heerunto sett to our hands and seales this seaventh day of July; one thousand six hundred sixty and nine

The marke of Tuspaquin his seale

The marke of William his seale

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of

William Nicarson William Crow

The marke of Samuell Henery the Indian

The mark of daniell the Indian

The marke of old Harry the Indian

This deed was acknowledged the 7th of July 1669 before mee John Aldin Assistant"

From Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs' *Indian Deeds: Land Transactions in Plymouth Colony, 1620-1291*.

Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2002., p. 408-410.

8 December 1669: "Wee, whose names are vnderwritten, being impannelled by Mr John Alden on the coronors enquest, to make enquiry how John Paybody came by his death, doe find, - "That hee ryding on the road, his horse carryed him vnderneath the bow of a young tree, and violently forcing his head vnto the body therof, brake his skull, which wee doe judge was the cause of his death."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 5, p. 29.

4 March 1673-4: "According to a graunt of the Court bearing date June, 1662, and by a Court order bearing date 1671, Leiftenant Peregrine white and John Nelson layed out one thousand acres of land, lying and being neare the Old Indian Way att Teticutt Riuer, about a mile westerly, where Namassakett Riuer runs into Teticutt, and soe runs easterly, marked and numbered by the riuer syde, ten lotts, of one hundred acres in a lott, running halfe a mile in length southerley, and one hundred lotts in breadth, as may appeer by a draught therof, viz:

1. To Mr John Aldin, Senir, one hundred acres..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 5, p. 140-141.

1675-6: "Att a Meeting of the Councell of Warr for this Jurisdiction, held att Marshfeild the 29th Day of February, 1675, Acres and Orders were made and concluded as followeth ...
"The Men appointed to be of the Towne Councell in each Towne of this Jurisdiction ... Duxburrow: Mr John Alden, Mr Constant Southworth, Mr Josias Standish ...
"The said towne councells, together with the comission officers, or the major pte of the whole concurring, shall haue power to order all watches and wardings and garrisons in their respective townes, and the setting forth of scoutes for the safty of the townes, and to take care that the townes stocke of amunition, to which they belong, may be supplied... "
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 5, p. 185-186.

8 March 1678-9 [from the Plymouth Colony Treasury Accounts]: "Samuell Shiffericke, of Taunton, this siluer [was fined], for abusive carriages. This was deliuered to Mr Alden, 00 [pounds] 15 [shillings] 00 [pence]."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 8, p. 151.

7 July 1682: "John Alden, Esqr, aged 83 yeers, or therabouts, testifyeth and saith, That I, this deponent, being one of the first comers into New England, to settle att or about Plymouth, which now is about 62 yeer since, doth know and vnderstand by Osamequine, the great sachem of these ptes, that then was, and alsoe from diuers other psons, both English and Indians, that the little iland lying neare the southerly point of Mount Hope neck, called by the Indians Chessawanucke, by the English Hoge Island, did then belonge and appertaine to the said Sachem Osamequin, as the other lands adjacent vpon the maine then did, and that the said iland was called by the English att the trading house att Sowamsett, then belonging to the Companie of Plymouth Collonie, Hog Iland, vpon this occation, that the said companies people att the said trading house had then the possession and improuement of the said iland by keeping hoggs for their vse theron; and further, I, this deponant, doe testify that both the said Sachem Osamequin, and Wamsitta, his reputed eldest son, did giue, graunt, allianate, infeoffe, and confeirme the iland aforsaid vnto Richard Smith, now of Narragansett, the said iland being thus possessed and improued att the pleasure of the collonie of New Plymouth aforsaid, a long longe time before Rhode Island was possessed or improued by any English.
"Plymouth, the sixt of July, 1682. Mr John Alden, aboue named, made oath in Court to the truth of the testimony aboue written, as attesteth."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 7, p. 256.

5 March 1683-84: "The within named John Alden, authorised as attorney for the within mencioned councell, haveing in their name and stead entered into the within named or menconed tracts of land and other premises, in the name of the whole, and for them, and their names taken possession and seasen therof, did, in the nam of the said councell, deliver the full and peacable possession and seazen of all and singulare the within mencioned to be ground pmisses vnto William Bradford, for him, his heires, associates, and assignes, secundum formam cartae. Nathaniel Morton, Secretary."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 6, p. 126-127.

21 May 1683: "In the year 1659. At a town meeting the 19th day of January. The town granted to Mr. John Alden Sen, all that piece of common land, from the south of Phillip Dillano's, that is to say on the south side of his land, and from the westerly bounds of said side upon a south, and so along the head of the above said John Alden's lot until it coms to a point, not running the whole breadth of his lot.
Recorded by order of the town,
21st May, 1683,
By me,

Rhodolphus Thacher, Clerk."
Records of the Town of Duxbury, p. 54.

1685: "On the motion & request of the principle men amongst the Indians comonly called the South Sea Indians, liueing about Satuite Pond, Marshpey, & places adjacent, that the tracts of lands formerly giuen by Tookenchosen & Weepquch, Indians, as p deed, vnder their hands & seales, bareing date the 11th of Decembr, 1665, & acknowledged before John Freeman, Assistants, the 7th of the 4th, 1667, may apeare, & confirmed vnto them by Quachatesett, sachem of Mannomett, acknowledged befor Mr John Alden, Assistants, the 31st of the 8th, 1872, might by this Court be confirmed to them, & secured to said South Sea Indians & their children for euer..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 6, p. 159.

11 June 1685: "To the Chief Marshall of the Colony of New Plimouth, or to the Constables of Scituate, or either of them, greeting. Whereas at his majesties Court held at Plimouth, the first Tuesday of this instant July, Capt John Williams, of Scituate, prossecuted an action of review of a former action against Thomas Waid and Timothy White, both of sd Scituate, and at sd Court obtained a verdict & judgment against said Waid and White of sixteene pounds and seven shillings, silver money, damage, and the cost of suit, which cost allowed by the Court is thirty six shillings & six pence, money, as pr Court records may appear. Wherefore these are in his majesties name to require you, or either of you, on receipt hereof, to go to the said Waid and White, or to the place of the abode of one of them, and demand the said sum of damage and cost, which is in all eighteen pounds three shillings and six pence, in money..."
John Alden, Assist."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 6, p. 173-174.

1687: "On 19 August 1687, only three and one half weeks before his death, John Alden, Sr., of Duxbury, cooper, conveyed to his sons Jonathan and David Alden, by deed of gift, `unto ym the said Jonathan and David joyntly And likewise to their heirs males and in extinction of their heirs males unto their heirs ffemales for ever Two parcels of land hereafter expressed ... The lands are Imprimis A parcell of Salt marsh lying in Duxborough abovesaid being in Quantity five Acres more or less & bounded wth Indian Creeke River the mill Creeke & Phillip Delano's land vizt upland & meadow Secondly my whole proportion in the Majors Purchase Commonly so called being ye Thirty fifth part of said purchase be it more or less To Have and to HoldAll which notwithstanding two exceptions are to be observed vizt first that if either of ye sd Jonathan & David Dye and leave a widdow his widdow shall during her Widdowhoode enjoy her husbands proportion in ye premises Secondly if Either Jonathan or David Remove himself & family out of Duxborough the whole premises shall be in ye Possession & Remaine to ye onely use & profit of him that abideth.'
"Witnessed by Ichabod Wiswall and Joseph Chandler."
"Acknowledged 19 August, 1687, and Recorded 12 September, 1701, in Plymouth County Deeds, IV: 65."
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 9, p. 145.

John Alden: 1650

"And seeing it hath pleased Him to give me [William Bradford] to see thirty years completed since these beginnings, and that the great works of His providence are to be observed, I have thought it not unworthy my pains to take a view of the decreasings and increasings of these persons and such changes as hath passed over them and theirs in this thirty years ...
"Mr. Mullins and his wife, his son and his servant died the first winter. Only his daughter Priscilla survived, and married with John Alden; who are both living and have eleven children. And their eldest daughter is married and hath five chldren..."

"John Alden married with Priscilla, Mr. Mullin's daughter, and had issue by her as is before related."
William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed.
Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 443-7.

John Alden: His death

John Alden's death is not recorded in the records of Plymouth Colony or in the records of the town of Duxbury. The only contemporary record of his death is in the diary of Samuel Sewall of Boston: "Monday, Sept. 12 [1687]. Mr. John Alden, the ancient Magistrate of Plimouth, died."
The diary of Samuel Sewall 1674-1729,
ed. M. Halsey Thomas (New York: Farrar,
& Giroux, 1973), Vol. 1 p. 150.

John Alden died intestate (without a will).

Click [HERE](#) for the inventory of his estate, taken after his death.

John Alden was the last surviving signer of the Mayflower Compact.

John Alden (and Priscilla) are both presumed buried in the graveyard of the First Church in Duxbury but the exact location of their graves is unknown. Later commemorative markers now bear their names.

A lengthy broadside on John Alden's death was reprinted in the Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 9, p. 1-3. The original is owned by the Massachusetts Historical Society. A portion is reprinted:
"A Small Testimony of that great HONOUR due to that Honourable Servant of GOD and his Generation, John Alden Esq; Who changed this life for a better, Sept. 12th. Anno Domini 1687. Annoq' Aetatis 89. The memory of the just is blessed. The just shall be had in everylasting remembrance.

"God brought a choice Vine to this desert land
And here did plant it with his own right hand,
And from the heathen's rage did it defend.
The which its root, from east to west did send
This precious Saint who now is gone to rest,
And lie in Jesus bosom to be blest,
A branch was of this vine, God did remove,
Protect, defend, and water from above.
A man to God's commands that had respect,
And by His word he did his course direct.
A lover of God's Habitation.
A servant of his Generation.
He was according to the Will of God,
While in this lower world he had abode.
Sincere & faithful unto God was he,
True Vertue's friend, to Vice an enemy.
Holy and humble, full of Faith, & Love
To Saints on earth, to God & Christ above.
He many years did serve this Colony,
Administring Justice impartially.
He in this desert many changes saw,
Yet closely kept unto Jehovah's Law.

He Served God betimes, even from his youth,
And constantly did cleave unto his Truth...
With length of days God did him satisfy,
He liv'd so long, that he desir'd to die...
His Family and Christian friends he blest
Before he did betake himself to rest.
He to Religion was a real friend
And Justice, till death brought him to his end.
A man for God, and for his Countries Good,
In all Relations wherein he stood.
Let Alden's all their Father imitate,
And follow him till they come to death's state.
And he will them most heartily embrace,
When he shall meet them in that blessed place.
And let New-England never want a Race
Of such as may be fill'd with Alden's Grave.
Printed in the year MDCLXXXVII."

A second lengthy broadside on John Alden's death (reprinted in the Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 9, p. 193-196) is generally attributed to John Cotton. A portion is here reprinted:
"Upon the DEATH of that Aged, Pious, Sincere-hearted CHRISTIAN, JOHN ALDEN ESQ: Late Magistrate of New-Plimouth Colony, who dyed Sept 12th. 1687, being about eighty nine years of age."

"... He came one of the first into this Land,
And here was kept by God's most gracious hand
Years sixty seven, which time he did behold
To poor New-England mercies Manifold:
All God's great works to this His Israel
From first implanting what to them befel:
Of them he made a serious Observation,
And could of them present a large Narration,
His walk was holy, humble, and sincere,
His heart was filled with JEHOVAH's Fear.
He honour'd GOD with much integrity,
God therefore did him truly magnify.
The hearts of Saints intirely did him love,
His Uprightness so highly did approve,
That whilst to choose they had their liberty
Within the Limits of this Colony
Their Civil Leaders, him they ever chose.
His Faithfulness made hearts with him to close.
With all the Governours he did Assist;
His Name recorded is within the List
Of Plimouth's Pillars to his dying day.
His Name is precious to eternal Ay.
He set his Love on God and knew His Name,
God therefore gives him everlasting Fame...
On dying bed his Ailes were very great,
Yet verily his heart on GOD was set.
He bare his griefs with Faith and Patience,

And did maintain his lively confidence:
Saying to some, The work which God begun,
He would preserve to its perfection. His mouth was full of blessings till his death
To Ministers and Christians all: his breath
Was very sweet by many a precious word
He utter'd from the Spirit of his Lord.
He liv'd in Christ, in Jesus now he sleeps:
And his blest soul the Lord in Safety keeps..."