

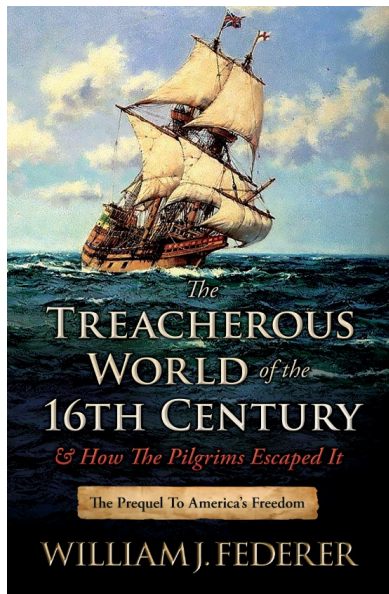
American Minute with Bill Federer Star Chamber Persecution of Christians; Pilgrims Fled to Holland, then New England

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Britain's **William Laud** sent **spies** to listen to **pastors' sermon** to see if they said anything against the King's ordinances ... [continue reading ...](#)



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[The Treacherous World of the 16th Century and How the Pilgrims Escaped It: The Prequel to America's Freedom](#)

If any **pastor** violated the **government's mandates**, they were **arrested**.

The rigged trials were held in a secret government room called the "**Star Chamber**."



These arbitrary and oppressive inquisitions did not allow those who were arrested to have defense attorneys, or meet their accusers.

No witnesses were allowed.

Though the secret hearings started with the intention of cutting through the red tape of bureaucracy, **Britain's Court of Star Chamber** proceeded to usurp power.

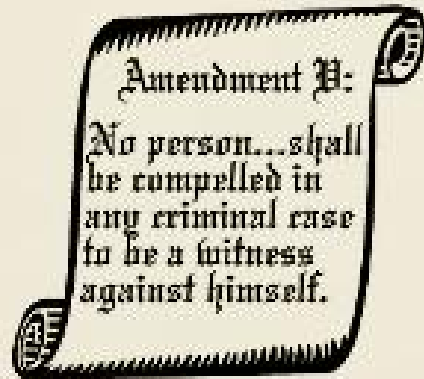
It became a **political weapon** for auditing, intimidating and punishing opponents to the King's policies, **similar to modern-day IRS audits or partisan secret special counsel investigations.**

Individuals were subject to **hostile questioning**, and if they gave unsatisfactory answers, they were charged with perjury.



If they did not answer for fear of self-incrimination, they were held in contempt of court.

I reserve the right...



...to remain silent.

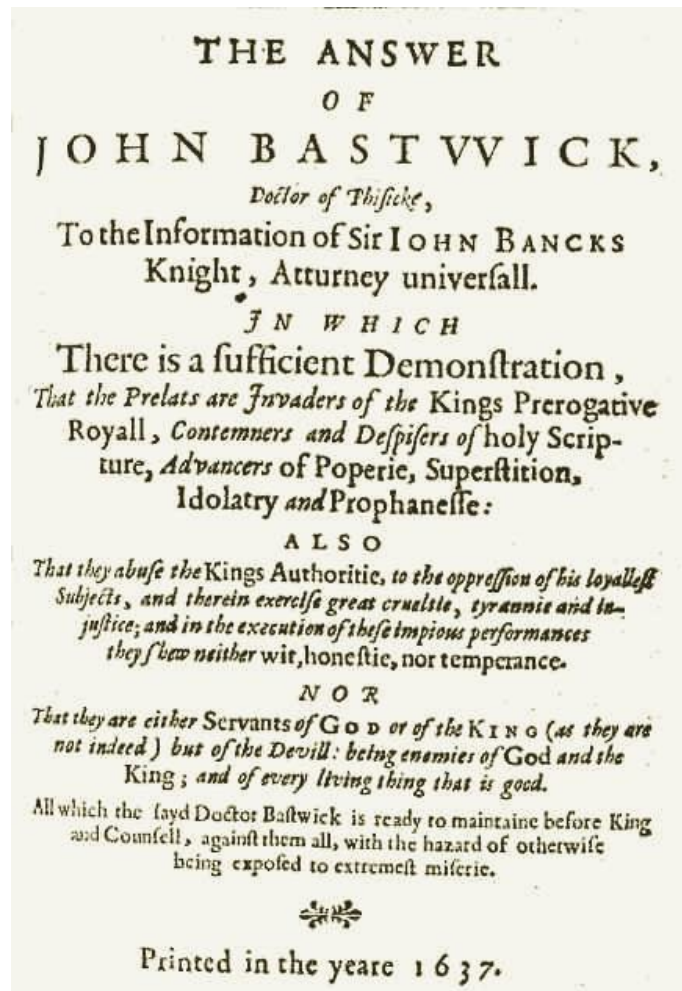
The **abuses** of England's **Star Chamber** led America's founders to include the **Fifth Amendment** in the U.S. Constitution.

Notoriously **biased** in favor of the King, the **Star Chamber** was used in 1637 by **William Laud** to punish **religious dissenters**, such as **William Prynne** who objected to the state's control over religious matters.



William Prynne was tied to a pillory - a public pillar - where he had his **ears cut off** and was **branded on the cheeks** with the letters "**S.L.**" for **sedition libel**, which Prynne called the "**Sign of Laud.**"

William Laud approved of the **Star Chamber's** sentence of dissenting **Pastor Henry Burton** for his "**sedition**" sermons, resulting in his **ears cut off** and imprisonment.



When **John Bastwick** published religious opinions which opposed government mandates, he was brought before the **Star Chamber**.

He, too, had his ears cut off and was thrown in prison.

Dr. Marshall Foster, of the World History Institute, co-produced with **Kirk Cameron** the 2012 film ***Monumental: In Search of America's National Treasure.***



Marshall Foster wrote in "**A Shining City on a Hill**" (February 27, 2013):

"When King James died in

1625, his son Charles I ascended to the throne with the arrogance of a Roman emperor.

He was the quintessential 'divine right' monarch. He **declared martial law** and **suspended the rights of the individual** ...

The king's inquisitors at his '**Star Chamber**' in the tower of London used **torture techniques** to 'discover the taxpayer's assets' ..."

Dr. Foster continued:



"A turning point in public opinion took place on January 30, 1637.

Three prisoners were locked down in the pillory in London before a huge crowd ...

... These men included a Puritan minister, a Christian writer and **Dr. John Bastwick**, a physician.

What was their crime? They had written pamphlets disagreeing with the king's religious views.

The sheriff began by **branding the men with red hot irons on the forehead** with an SL for seditious libel."

The **Star Chamber** forced similar fates on religious dissenter **Alexander Leighton**, and **John Lilburn**, who had coined the term "**freeborn rights**," a term often cited by **Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black**.

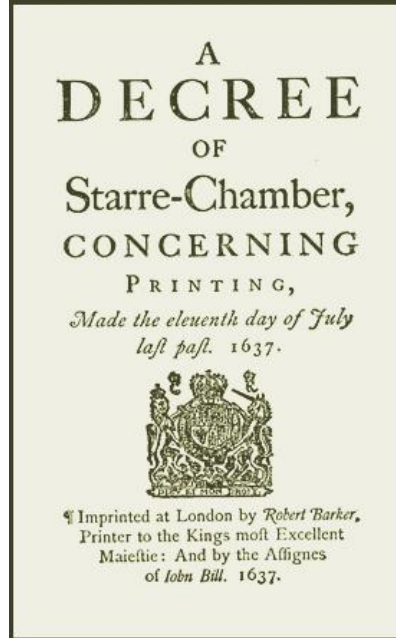
American biographer **Edgar Lee Masters** (1868-1950) wrote:

"In the **Star Chamber** the council could **inflict any punishment** short of death, and frequently sentenced objects of its wrath to

the **pillory**, to **whipping** and to the **cutting off of ears** ...

With each embarrassment to **arbitrary power** the **Star Chamber** became emboldened to undertake further **usurpation** ...

The **Star Chamber** finally summoned juries before it for verdicts disagreeable to the government, and fined and **imprisoned them**.



It spread **terrorism** among those who were called to do constitutional acts. It imposed **ruinous fines**."

Dr. Marshal Foster concluded:

"**The tyranny of the king** ... finally aroused the Christian sensibilities of the people. They would no longer tolerate **burnings** or **mutilations** for **matters of conscience on religious views** ...

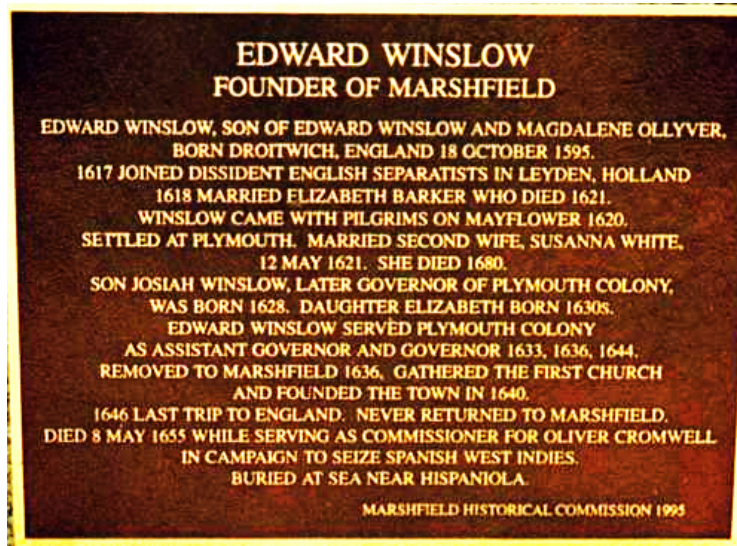
The **persecutions** drove tens of thousands of liberty loving believers to follow the **Pilgrims** to **New England** where they laid the foundation for the **world's most biblically based nation**."

One of those thrown in prison by **William Laud** during this time was **Edward Winslow**, one of the Pilgrim settlers.



Edward Winslow was the agent for the Pilgrim colony in America and would sail back and forth bringing supplies.

His wife had died in the first winter of the Plymouth Colony and he remarried widow **Susanna White**, whose husband had died that same winter.



On one of his trips back to England, **Edward Winslow** was thrown in jail for 17 weeks because **he had performed marriages** in the Plymouth colony without being ordained.

The **Pilgrims** had sought to return to the simplicity of the early church.

They used the **Geneva Bible**, which translated the Greek word "**ekklesia**" as "**congregation**" or "**assembly**" instead of "**church**."

Pilgrims believed that **marriage** was only between a **man and a woman**, being created by God for the benefit of their natural and spiritual life: procreation of children to increase Christ's flock; and to avoid the sin of adultery.

The **Pilgrims** with an open **Geneva Bible**, is portrayed in the painting "**Embarkation of the Pilgrims**" hanging in the **U.S. Capitol Rotunda**





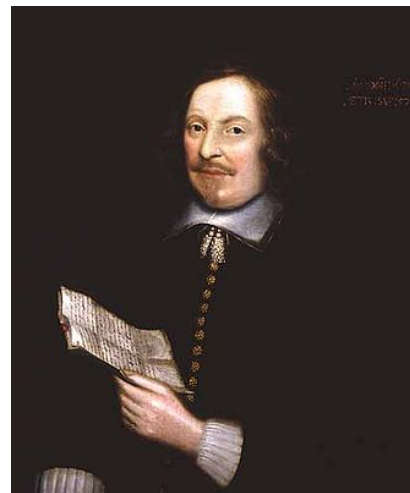
The **Geneva Bible** gives the words of Jesus in the Book of Matthew 19:4-6:

"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning, made them **male and female**,

And said, For this cause, shall **a man** leave father and mother, and cleave unto his **wife**, and they **twain, shall be one flesh**. Wherefore they are **no more twain, but one flesh**.

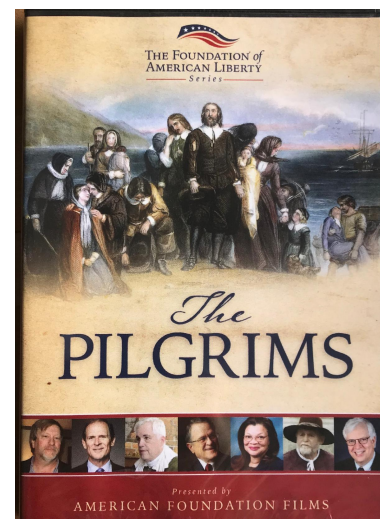
Let not man therefore put asunder that, which God hath coupled together."

Edward Winslow, born October 18, 1595, was **the only Pilgrim** to have his **portrait painted**.



His original career was a **printer**, when he joined a group of **Christian Separatists** who **fled to Holland** in 1608 to escape religious persecution.

[DVD The Pilgrims, The Foundations of American Liberty Series, Presented by American Foundation Films](#)



During this period, known as the **Dutch Golden Age**, Holland was the center of the world's foremost economic maritime power.

Dutch Reformed was Holland's predominant faith, but the country led the world in **extending religious toleration** to other Christian denominations.



Settling in 1609 in Leiden, Holland, **Edward Winslow** helped the Pilgrim Separatist leader **William Brewster** print illegal religious pamphlets which were smuggled back into England.

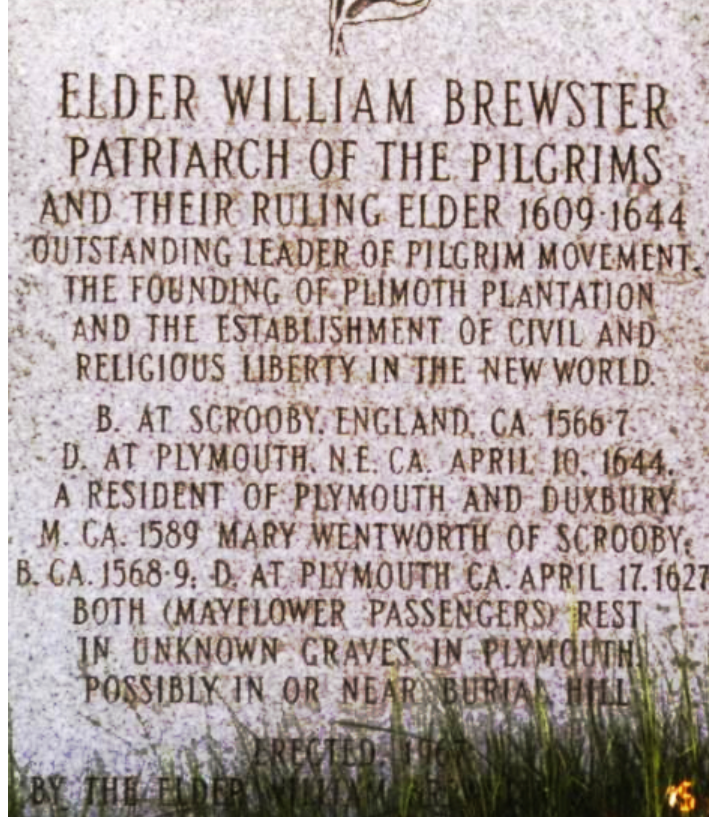
William Brewster taught University of Leiden students.

The **University of Holland** also taught **Hebrew**, as did England's Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, since 1549 and 1575, respectively.

The **King of England** sent **spies** and police to Holland where they **raided and confiscated the printing press** used by **Winslow** and **Brewster**.

After years of hardship, **Edward Winslow**, at the age of 25, departed

with 102 Pilgrims for the New World.



In 1622, **Winslow** cured Indian **Chief Massasoit** of an illness, resulting in the **Indians and Pilgrims making a peace treaty** which lasted over 50 years. If the chief had not recovered, the Indians would have killed **Winslow**.

Accompanying **Winslow's** meeting with **Massasoit** was **Stephen Hopkins**.

Hopkins had been the minister's clerk on the vessel **Sea Venture** headed to Virginia in 1609.



Original Mayflower Voyager Previously Shipwrecked at St. George's, Bermuda

With the arrival of the "Mayflower" at Plymouth, this week, we think of the courage of those who thus, the first Englishmen to land left a known world to face the dangers of the unknown, sailing through raging seas in a frail vessel, crossed the Atlantic later in the month than the "Sea Venture" had not yet sailed home to the English coast. One of the company had seen George Somers and Sir Thomas The oldest born in Bermuda, 1418, and the other, Stephen Hopkins, the "Sea Venture" carrying shipwreck with a number of men, had seen one of a group of shipwrecked men who were on the island, but the ship had not yet to bring any supplies, and what to do was left to the Governor, prohibiting the ship from sailing to Jamestown in Virginia's True Bermuda, and the first victims of the ship were the seven vessels and their crew, and the ship was the first century's greatest disaster, and their provisions were saved to mine.



The ship was caught in a **hurricane** and the 150 survivors were shipwrecked on **Bermuda**.

Hopkins took part in fomenting a **mutiny**, for which he

was sentenced to death, but his friends procured a pardon from the Governor, the account of which became the basis of **Shakespeare's play *The Tempest***, 1610.

He served as an **indentured servant** till he was **deported back to England** in 1614.

In 1620, he was a passenger on the ***Mayflower*** with the **Pilgrims** and signed the ***Mayflower Compact***.

Beginning in 1621, **Hopkins** served several times as an **emissary to Chief Massasoit**.

Edward Winslow served three times as the Plymouth Colony's Governor.



He kept the finances and often sailed back to England for business with the Colony's adventurers (investors), bringing back the colony's first cattle.

On one trip to England in 1625, as described in **Governor William Bradford's *History of the Plymouth Settlement***, **Edward Winslow** encountered **Muslim Barbary Pirates** expanding the Islamic State on the sea:



"The adventurers (investors) ... sent over two fishing ships ...

The pinnacle (light sailing ship) was ordered to load with corfish ... to bring home to England ... and besides she had some 800 lbs. of beaver, as well as other furs, to a good value from the plantation.

... The captain seeing so much lading wished to put aboard the bigger ship for greater safety, but **Mr. Edward Winslow**, their agent in the business, was bound in a bond to send it to London in the small ship ...

The captain of the big ship ... towed the small ship at his stern all the way over.

So they went joyfully home together and had such fine weather that he never cast her off till they were well **within the England channel**, almost in sight of Plymouth.

... But even there she was unhappily taken by a **Turkish man-of-war** and carried off to Saller (Morocco) where the **captain and crew were made slaves.**



Thus all their hopes were dashed and the joyful news they meant to carry home was turned to heavy tidings ..."

Bradford added:

"In the big ship **Captain Myles Standish** ... arrived ... in London ...

The friendly adventurers were so reduced by their losses ... and **now by the ship taken by the Turks ... that all trade was dead."**

Edward Winslow sailed back to England after the **English Civil War**.



He published pamphlets defending the New England colonies, such as:

- "Hypocrisy Unmasked" (1646);
- "New England's Salamander Discovered" (1647);
- "Introduction to Glorious Progress of the Gospel Amongst the Indians in New England" (1649).

Winslow served in briefly in **Oliver Cromwell's army** during **England's Civil War**, 1642-1651.

Edward Winslow sailed with **Admiral Sir William Penn**, father of Pennsylvania's founder, in an attempt to capture Santo Domingo, Hispaniola, from Spain.

They were unsuccessful.

Admiral Sir William Penn then sailed to the Island of **Jamaica** and captured from the Spanish in 1655.



On the way, **Winslow** contracted the deadly disease of yellow fever and **died**.

Andrew Young's *Chronicles of the Pilgrims* recorded a spiritual quote of

Edward Winslow's, who wrote of the Pilgrims response during a time of crisis:



"Drought and the like ... moved not only every good man **privately** to enter into examination with **his own estate between God ...**

but also to **humble ourselves together before the Lord by fasting.**"

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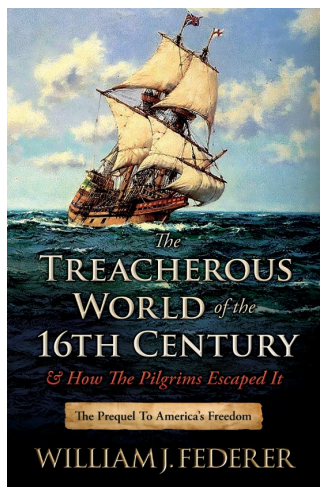
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