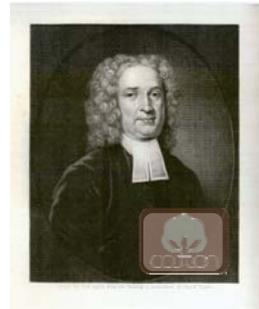


#641 The Cotton Saints vs. the Linen Saints – The original prominent Puritan families of Cotton saints were the foundation of the church in America

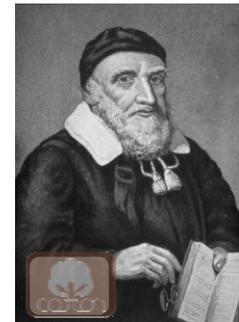
Key Understanding: *The Cotton saints.* For the purpose of illustrating the theme of the sword-carrying Cotton Saints, who reflect the spirit of ruling and reigning before the return of Jesus Christ, vs. the cross-carrying Linen Saints, who reflect ruling and reigning with the Lord *after* the return of Jesus Christ, the Lord ordained the early sword-carrying Puritan church in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in America to be wrapped around the *Cottons*.

An outline of the Cotton Saints is *below*. A similar (but not identical) rendition was in Unsealing [#597 Salem Rebellion, Salem Witchcraft – The Cottons and the Mathers](#).



The Cotton Saints: John Cotton – John Cotton (*left*) was the Church of England minister who was greatly responsible for the birth, naming, and growth of Boston, Massachusetts, the hoped-for *City Upon a Hill*. He arrived there in 1633 from Boston, Lincolnshire, England, pastoring the First Church in Boston, Massachusetts. In the eyes of many, John Cotton was the most prominent theologian of early colonial America and was the face of the early saints in America. **He is the root figure in the theme of the Cotton Saints.**

The Cotton Saints: Sarah Hawkredd – Sarah Hawkredd was the second wife of John Cotton. According to one source, she was the daughter of Anthony Hawkredd, the mayor of Boston, Lincolnshire, England. After John Cotton died, she married Richard Mather, after his wife’s death. (Sarah Hawkredd’s surname is sometimes said to have been “Hawkridge,” or even other variant spellings depending upon the historical source.)



The Cotton Saints: Richard Mather – After his first wife died, Richard Mather (*right*) married Sarah Hawkredd, the widow of John Cotton, in 1656.



The Cotton Saints: Increase Mather – Increase Mather (*left*), pastor of the Second Church (North Church, or Old North Church) in Boston, married Maria Cotton, the daughter of John Cotton and Sarah Hawkredd, in 1662. Furthermore, as unlikely as it seems, later in life, after Maria Cotton died in 1714, Increase Mather married Anne Lake, a widow of John Cotton, just as his father Richard Mather had married a widow of John Cotton, except the John Cotton whose widow Increase Mather married was the original John Cotton’s *grandson* of the same name.

The Cotton Saints: Cotton Mather – Cotton Mather (*right*) was the son of Increase Mather and Maria Cotton and the grandson of John Cotton. His name epitomized the historical joining together of the two families.



The 'Clothed in Linen' Saints

Revelation 19:11-15 (KJV) *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

*14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, **CLOTHED IN FINE LINEN, WHITE AND CLEAN.***

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.



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