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He had eight siblings, including William Brattle and Catherine Winthrop. After the death of his father, Thomas was appointed administrator of the estate on April 12, , leaving him with a large sum of money and a healthy plot of land. Although the two men agreed on many social and political ideologies later in life, they did not see eye to eye during their time at the Boston Latin School. It is documented that Thomas Brattle and other schoolmates enjoyed picking on Cotton Mather to the point where he wrote to his father, Increase Mather , and requested to come home early. At Harvard, Brattle developed marked skill in mathematics and science. He used whatever books that were available and studied with John Foster and Dr. Brattle wrote a letter to John Flamsteed , a mentor of his, stating that no one at Harvard could teach him mathematics so he took it upon himself to do so. Thomas and a group of other prominent colonists studied several comets that appeared in the late seventeenth century. He wrote several essays on these comets. Brattle later travelled abroad and then settled in Boston in , where he pursued a short business career and gave several gifts to Harvard. During his time as treasurer, the finances of the college grew exponentially. Brattle was a member of the intellectually elite Royal Society. The Royal Society was a new group of scientific thinkers that practiced a more intense and rational thought process. This group grew much larger in the eighteenth century when it was headed by Sir Isaac Newton. In an attempt to obtain them, Newton tried to make his brother, William Brattle, a member of the Society, however William declined. Although he failed, it can be seen that Brattle was heavily involved in education and scientific discovery. There he taught and trained students in return for their assistance in his research. His work was directly influenced by the ideas of Robert Boyle and John Flamsteed , which he communicated to his students. In addition to being a professor, he became the treasurer of Harvard College after numerous donations. There he was involved in both scientific communities which can "help us understand a good deal about the progress of scientific expertise in colonial New England," since he was able to communicate information to both communities. This sparked an intense dispute between Brattle and famous Puritan minister, Cotton Mather. Rather than being similar to the Puritans, his church was more like the Church of England. He was buried in Boston, MA. The letter was circulated widely in Boston at the time, and it continues to be studied for its reasoned attack on the witchcraft trials in Salem. The "highly literate" and "satirical tone" of the letter was seen as writing beyond its time, leading Perry Miller to call it a "milestone in American literature. Brattle presents a compelling argument against the legal premises and procedures involved in the afflictions, accusations, and executions, with a particular focus on the invalidity of spectral evidence in proceedings. He was careful to not critique the "Salem Gentlemen", which he referred to as the judges and ministers, but rather focused on critiquing the methods they used. Phips dissolved the court entirely within the same month. Six months later, the Superior Court of Massachusetts took over the remaining witchcraft cases and no one was found guilty. Church Reformation[edit] As a result of the reaction toward theological, political, and cultural transformations that affected the whole of New England in the later half of the 17th century, the Brattle Street Church was formed as a result of radical development in the evolution of colonial congregationalism - bringing reason and religion together in a new church. The Congregational Church was broadly catholic, but used conservative principles of congregationalism that just liberty and privilege should be allowed to all, while imposing nothing upon an individual. Outside of his involvement in the Salem witch trials, Brattle and his younger brother William provided new radical ideas that the Puritan Church did not agree with. Brattle preached some of these more liberal ideas in the church he founded, the Brattle Street Church, which led to an argument with Puritan minister Cotton Mather. Also, both Thomas and William improved Harvard College. Thomas donated money many times, served as treasurer of the college, and was an unofficial professor of astronomy and mathematics. Other Achievements[edit] Brattle is also credited as being the first person to import an organ to the colonies. An Account of Some of the Descendants

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