

The Reverend Robert & Sarah (Winter) Jordan Foundation, Inc.



The Jordan Baptismal Font has been preserved for future descendants. This is the surviving artifact that Rev. Robert Jordan is known to have owned. It has been professionally conserved.

Thanks to several Jordan Family donors who raised the \$825 for the conservation project. Ronald S. Harvey, of Tuckerbrook Conservation LLC from Lincolnville, Maine did the work in July 2019 at the Maine Historical Society Museum lab. The goal was to reduce or remove old polish residue. The relic showed signs of corrosion and discoloration. The copper alloy (brass) font is now stored in a protective anti-corrosion enclosure within its acid free storage box.

The result is magnificent! The cleaning has revealed so much detail and it is so bright and warm looking compared to seeing it in the past.

The story of the Jordan Baptismal Font:

This is a surviving artifact that Rev. Robert Jordan is known to have owned and used. It was probably brought from England when he arrived in 1638. It is not listed with other chapel furnishings during Rev. Gibson (prior to Rev. Robert arriving on Richmond Island) or Rev. Robert's time on Richmond Island. It can be inferred it was personal property.

Rev. Robert was an Anglican and so practiced his ministry. The Massachusetts government of Puritans was always at odds with the Anglicans but somewhat tolerated their services. Rev. Robert and other Anglicans were forbade to baptize children and conduct marriages in the Anglican tradition. Rev. Robert conducted services as he saw fit and was imprisoned more than once for his stance. The Puritans would have preferred no baptisms of children than to have them baptized as Anglicans.

After Anglican services at the home of Mrs. Mackworth, a devout Anglican, Rev. Robert baptized the three children of Nathaniel Wallis. For this baptism, presumably using the Jordan Baptismal Font, he was imprisoned in Boston. The court in Boston implored Jordan "desist from any such practices in the future."

The font was first found in the inventory of Rev. Robert's grandson, Robert, the oldest son of John, Rev. Robert's oldest and first son. It was handed down to subsequent first sons and ended up in Harpswell, Maine. It was tracked down by one Seth Storer, Esq. of Scarborough, a descendant of Rev. Robert. In 1853, Storer went to Harpswell and found the widow Jordan who had two sons who were away fishing. She claimed the sons would not be interested in the baptismal font as a historic relic and agreed to sell it to Storer as she was in need of the money. Her express wishes however would be that the basin would not ever go out of the possession of Robert Jordan's descendants. Before Mr. Storer died, he committed the font to the Maine Historical Society and the society now owns it.

The font is brass, 19" in diameter, 3" deep. It dates to 1640.