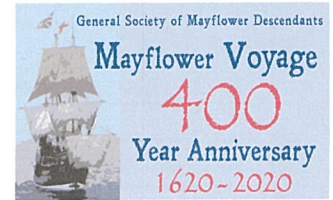




Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Arrival of the Mayflower Mayflower Chronicles Albany Colony

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York



~ THE NOVEMBER 7, 2020, COMPACT DAY LUNCHEON MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED ~

Colony Governor's Message

This year, we celebrate the historic 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* voyage along with the signing of the Mayflower Compact in Provincetown Harbor, Cape Cod.

From Nathaniel Philbrick's book *Mayflower*, we discover that "they awakened very early on the morning of November 11, 1620. Sunrise was at 6:55 am, and the passengers probably assembled in the *Mayflower's* great room...Only nine adult males did not sign the compact—some had been hired seamen for only a year. (p.43).

"In his farewell letter, [Pastor John] Robinson had anticipated the need to create a government based on civil consent rather than divine decree. With so many Strangers in their midst, there was no other way. They must 'become a body politic, using amongst yourselves civil government' " (p.41). Of the 102 *Mayflower* passengers, 41 were separatists, the others were strangers. Most of the separatists lived in Leiden, Holland, and their minister was Rev. Robinson, while most of the strangers boarded the *Mayflower* in England. Along with sharing the cost of the voyage, the separatists wanted people to join them with a variety of talents needed for their new community. Strangers consisted of merchants, craftsmen, skilled workers and indentured servants. "

The context of the document signed by the Saints & Strangers follows:

"Having undertaken, for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our King and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in northern parts of Virginia, do these present 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."

Trusting that the current public health crisis will be under control by next spring, I look forward to seeing each of you at our Annual Luncheon Meeting on May 1, 2021. The Albany Colony Membership Directory link has been emailed with this issue of the *Mayflower Chronicles*. The Membership Directory is available and the link can be mailed to members who normally do not receive the *Mayflower Chronicles* electronically.

NEXT MEETINGS:

May 1 and Nov. 6, 2021



Dave Morton

Colony Governor

"The *Mayflower* pushed on . . . Seagulls began to appear in the sky, and the color of the water changed from deep blue to pale green. And then, at daybreak on Thursday, November 9, 1620, after sixty-five days at sea, they saw land."
Nathaniel Philbrick "*Mayflower*"

**Colony
Officers:**

**Colony Governor —
David W. Morton, Ed.D**

**1st Dep. Col. Gov. —
Walley G. Francis**

**2nd Dep. Col. Gov. —
Douglass (Tim) M. Mabee**

**Secretary —
Sandra A. Zerrillo**

**Treasurer —
Betty-Jean (B-J) Haner**

**Asst. Treasurer --
Walley G. Francis**

**Co-Captain —
Douglass (Tim) M. Mabee**

**Co-Captain —
Priscilla S. Davis**

**Historian —
Paul S. Johnson**

**Elder —
Arthur F. Young, Jr.**

**Archivist —
Kristen L. Moore**

**Chronicles Editor —
Sylvia Story Magin**

Email: SylviaSMagin@aol.com

**Webmaster —
James A. Pratt**

Albany Colony websites:

<https://www.nyacsmd.org>

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/NYACSMO](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NYACSMO)

Meet Some of Your Celebrity Cousins

JOHN ALDEN—President John Quincy Adams, President Calvin Coolidge, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Marilyn Monroe, Orson Welles, Dick Van Dyke, Christopher Lloyd, Vice President Dan Quayle, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, William Cullen Bryant

ISAAC ALLERTON—President Zachary Taylor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Joanne Woodward

JOHN BILLINGTON—President James A. Garfield

WILLIAM BRADFORD—Clint Eastwood, Noah Webster, Christopher Reeve, General George McClellan, George Eastman, Hugh Hefner, Sally Field, Julia Child, Frederick Edwin Church, Charles Dana Gibson, John Lithgow, Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney

WILLIAM BREWSTER—President Zachary Taylor, Sarah Palin, Bing Crosby, Cokie Roberts, Ashley Judd, Julia Child, Katherine Hepburn, Archibald MacLeish, Wilbur and Orville Wright

PETER BROWNE—Dick Van Dyke

FRANCIS COOKE—President Franklin D. Roosevelt, President George H.W. Bush and President George W. Bush, Dick Van Dyke, Richard Gere, Anna Mary Robertson “Grandma” Moses

EDWARD DOTY—President Calvin Coolidge

FRANCIS EATON—Richard Gere

SAMUEL FULLER—Richard Gere, Amelia Earhart

STEPHEN HOPKINS—Sarah Palin, Norman Rockwell, Richard Gere, Gov. Bill Richardson, Senator Warren Hatch

JOHN HOWLAND—President Franklin D. Roosevelt, President George H.W. Bush and President George W. Bush, Humphrey Bogart, Alec Baldwin, Benjamin Spock, Christopher Lloyd

WILLIAM MULLINS—President Calvin Coolidge

DEGORY PRIEST—President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Richard Gere

HENRY SAMSON—President George Bush and Barbara Bush, Sarah Palin

GEORGE SOULE—Dick Van Dyke, Richard Gere

MYLES STANDISH—Vice President Dan Quayle, Dick Van Dyke

ELIZABETH TILLEY—President Franklin D. Roosevelt, President George H.W. Bush and President George W. Bush, Ralph Waldo Emerson



The Mayflower II, a replica of the ship the Pilgrims used to sail to Massachusetts in 1620, as it was seen in Plymouth in 2016. —David L. Ryan/Boston Globe

“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”

George Orwell

Thank you! — More than sixty members of Albany Colony rely on printed copies and regular mail to receive the *Chronicles*, but this past spring, due to my risk of the coronavirus I was apprehensive about going into Staples for the print job, or into the post office for the postage and mailing. However, my good (younger) friend, prospective Colony member Colleen Harris of Catskill, did not hesitate to volunteer for both tasks, which she then handled promptly and efficiently. Colleen, a health care professional and former surgical nurse, as well as a member of the National Guard, performed multiple tours of duty in New York City this past spring, serving both at the temporary hospital at Javits Center and on the hospital ship “Comfort.” She also made over three hundred face masks to give away. If you attended the fall 2019 luncheon meeting you may remember her contribution of little jars of her apple butter and mini loaves of her homemade bread for everyone there. Many thanks again, Colleen!

Chronicles Editor Sylvia Story Magin

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Albany Colony's Membership Totals as of September 30, 2020
Regular Members 271, Life Members 13, Total Membership: 284

New Members - Welcome to Albany Colony!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Linda Gail (Houghton) Dingman	NY 6496	09/25/2020	Francis Cooke
Philip Gordon Freeman	NY 6473	08/14/2020	William Mullins
Robert Russell Logan	NY 6464	07/17/2020	Francis Cooke
Everett A. Mayhew, Jr.	NY 6446	05/27/2020	George Soule
Winona Jayne Mathers McGarry	NY 6475	08/18/2020	Myles Standish
Jane Marie Stiner Morrow	NY 6458	06/26/2020	Richard Warren
Marilyn Arlene (Bowles) Nejman	NY 6465	07/17/2020	Francis Cooke
Robert Clark Potter, Jr.	NY 6481	09/01/2020	William White
Margaret Rose (Stewart) Valletta	NY 6474	08/14/2020	Stephen Hopkins
David J. Wicks	NY 6462	07/14/2020	John Alden

Reinstated ~ Dolly J. Drown

Paul S. Johnson, Historian

New Coins—In honor of the historic 400th Anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower, the United States Mint and The Royal Mint (England) have collaborated and produced a joint two-coin gold proof set and a silver coin and medal proof set that will be released for sale this fall. The coin and medal designs come together to tell the story of the Pilgrims, the *Mayflower's* journey, and the impact the Pilgrims' arrival had on the native Wampanoag people. The 24-karat gold set features a one-quarter ounce proof U.S. \$10 coin and a one-quarter ounce proof U.K. £25 coin. The silver ounce-proof £2 coin and medal set are struck in .999 fine silver. The story of the *Mayflower* is one that connects multiple communities, cultures, and countries. This transatlantic voyage brought 102 Pilgrims and migrants from Europe across the Atlantic and established a new foundation for governance in the New World.



And a New Stamp—The United States Postal Service has issued a beautiful new “Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor” 55-cent “forever” postage stamp. The first day of issue was September 17. Artist Greg Harlin created it using a combination of watercolor, gouache, and acrylics, with some digital refining. The stamp also features a stylized hawthorn flower printed in intaglio. In England the hawthorn is sometimes called a mayflower, as it blooms in May.

From the U.S. Postal Service

The obverse (heads) design depicts a Wampanoag family watching from the border of the design as the *Mayflower* arrives from foreign shores. A young boy steps on the border, representing the intersection of the Wampanoag people in their Patuxet homeland and the *Mayflower* passengers. The reverse (tails) depicts portraits of a Pilgrim man and woman, representing the beginnings of a transition from monarchy to democracy. The dual portraits symbolize a democratic organization, with their resolute expressions focused on a self-determined future. A pair of mayflower blossoms flanks the design.

From the U.S. Mint



The Mayflower Compact

"In the end, the Mayflower Compact represented a remarkable act of coolheaded and pragmatic resolve. They were nearing the end of a long and frightening voyage. They were bound for a place about which they knew essentially nothing. It was almost winter. They were without sufficient supplies of food. Some of them were sick and two had already died, Still others were clamoring for a rebellion that would have meant the almost instantaneous collapse of their settlement and, most likely, their deaths. The Leideners might have looked to their military officer Miles Standish, and ordered him to subdue the rebels. Instead, they put pen to paper and created a document that ranks with the Declaration of independence and the United States Constitution as a seminal American text."

Nathaniel Philbrick "Mayflower"

"The Mayflower Compact, which sowed a seed of democracy on American soil, would never have been written if the Pilgrims had reached their original destination on this continent. The patent they held from the Virginia Company of London had no validity in New England, as the voyagers found themselves outside the jurisdiction of existing laws when they were turned back by the treacherous waters of Pollock Rip shoals and decided to make their landing on the Massachusetts coast.

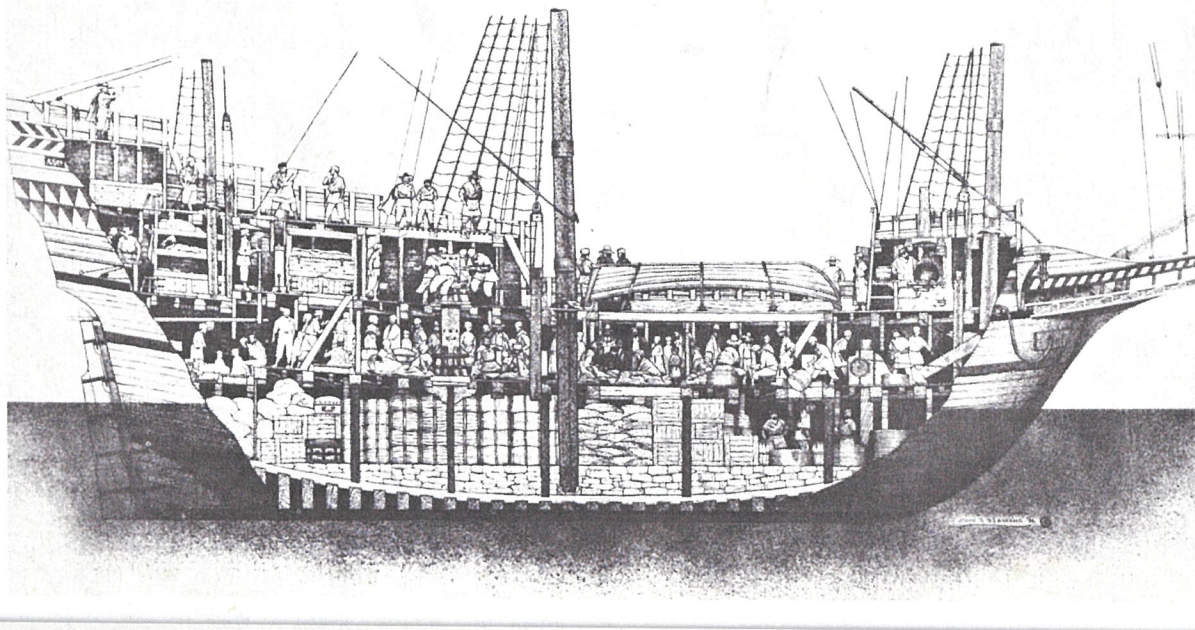
"The Compact was a preamble to the code of laws which the Pilgrims built up, little by little as need arose. By declaring and establishing a 'civil body politic', the Compact signers planted the seeds of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, recognizing the fundamental precept of American democracy:—that ours is a 'government of laws, not men.'

"In light of the freedoms we accept as our born due this may not seem like a very spectacular action, but in the early 1600's it showed extraordinary political maturity."

From the "Pilgrim Times, Vol. 1, No. 2, Copyright 1963, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts"

(Copy purchased at Plimoth Plantation Gift Shop about the year 2000. Now out of print.)

ARRANGEMENT OF PASSENGERS, CREW AND CARGO ABOARD MAYFLOWER



Drawing from the "Pilgrim Times, Vol. 1, No. 2, Copyright 1963, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts"

(Copy purchased at Plimoth Plantation Gift Shop about the year 2000. Now out of print.)

“A Far More Complex and Sinister Plot”

So sayeth Nathaniel Philbrick in his book *“Mayflower”* [2006]. We’re all familiar with the story of how the Pilgrims set out toward the New World in two ships, *Mayflower* and *Speedwell*, and how the smaller ship failed them, prompting some of their number to turn back and forcing the others to continue on, crowded into just one vessel. But Mr. Philbrick describes a considerably more devious scenario, a seriously condensed version of which appears below.

“By the beginning of the seventeenth century, it had become apparent that the colonization of North America was essential to England’s future prosperity. France, Holland, and especially Spain had already taken advantage of the seemingly limitless resources of the New World. But the British government lacked the financial wherewithal to fund a broad-based colonization effort of its own. Seeing it as an opportunity . . . two groups of noblemen were eager to underwrite British settlements in America, and in 1606, (King) James created the Virginia Company. . . (they) realized that they, too lacked the resources required to colonize America. They then resolved to franchise future settlements by issuing subsidiary . . . patents to those interested in beginning a plantation. . . By June 1619, Carver and Cushman had succeeded in securing a patent from the Virginia Company. . .but had not, as of yet, figured out how they were going to finance the endeavor. . .

“(R)epresentatives from Holland . . . ‘made them fair offers’ concerning a possible settlement. But the Pilgrims declined. It would have been impossible to reassert their English identity in a Dutch colony. What they do not seem to have taken into account was the possible danger of spurning this particular overture. The Dutch, still several years from funding a colony at Manhattan, appear to have begun to work covertly to block the Pilgrims’ subsequent attempts to settle in this strategic location. . . Instead of looking to Holland, the Pilgrims threw in their lot with a smooth-talking merchant from London named Thomas Weston. . .

“In June they discovered that, incredibly, Weston had not yet arranged any transportation to America. If they had any hope of reaching the mouth of the Hudson River before winter, they must depart as soon as possible. While Weston hunted up a ship in London, the Pilgrims decided to purchase a small sailing vessel of their own in Holland . . .useful for both fishing and exploring the coast once they were in America. . .

“When it finally came time to leave Southampton, Cushman. . .soon found that the *Speedwell* was anything but speedy. . . as they watched the water spout through the gaps in the planking. . . ‘leaky as a sieve’. . . Several days after. . .they must put in for repairs, and both vessels sailed for Dartmouth, a port only seventy-five miles to the west. . .

“They departed from Dartmouth and were more than two hundred miles beyond the southwestern tip of England . . . when the *Speedwell* sprang another leak. It was now early September, and they had no choice but to give up on the *Speedwell*. It was . . . devastating. Not only had the vessel cost them a considerable amount of money, but she had been considered vital to the future success of the settlement.

“They put in at Plymouth, about fifty miles to the west of Dartmouth. If they were to continue, they must crowd as many passengers as would fit into the *Mayflower* and sail on alone . . . It was later learned that the *Speedwell’s* master, Mr. Reynolds, had been secretly working against them. In Holland, the vessel had been fitted with new and larger masts—a fatal mistake that was probably done with Reynolds’s approval, if not at his suggestion. As any mariner knows, a mast crowded with sail not only moved a ship through the water, it acted as a lever that applied torque to the hull. When a ship’s masts were too tall, the excess strain opened up the seams between the planks, causing the hull to leak. By overmasting the *Speedwell*, Reynolds had provided himself with an easy way to deceive this fanatical group of landlubbers. He might shrug his shoulders and scratch his head when the vessel began to take on water, but all he had to do was reduce sail and the *Speedwell* would cease to leak. Soon after the *Mayflower* set out across the Atlantic, the *Speedwell* was sold, refitted, and, according to Bradford, ‘made many voyages . . . to the great profit of her owners.’

“Bradford later assumed that Reynolds’s ‘cunning’ and deceit had been motivated by a fear of starving to death in America. But the Pilgrims appear to have been the unknowing victims of a far more complex and sinister plot. [Emphasis added.] Several decades later, Bradford’s stepson Nathaniel Morton received information from Manhattan that indicated that the Dutch had worked to prevent the Pilgrims from settling in the Hudson River region ‘by [creating] delays, while they were in England.” Morton claimed it was the *Mayflower’s* master, Christopher Jones, who was responsible for the deception, but there is no evidence that Jones was anything but a loyal and steadfast friend to the Pilgrims. It was Reynolds, not Jones, who had kept them from sailing.”

So it would seem that it was less likely due to Fate and more likely that deliberate machinations were involved in the failure of the *Speedwell*. Happily, for *Mayflower* descendants, the ship’s crew were equal to the challenge!

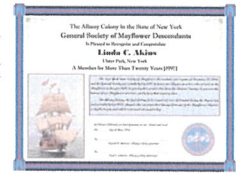


This decal proudly honoring our Pilgrim ancestors is available from the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 175 Derby Street, Unit 13, Hingham, MA 02043-4036. Putting one or two on your car windows is a great way to demonstrate your Pilgrim pride.

Longevity Honors Delayed

Since our both our spring and fall 2020 Luncheon Meetings have fallen victim to the coronavirus pandemic, the seven Colony members who were entitled to presentation of membership longevity certificates this year by Colony Governor David Morton and Colony Secretary Sandra Zerrillo have again been deprived of the opportunity. Assuming that our spring Luncheon Meeting scheduled for May 1, 2021, will take place as planned, the certificates will be presented at that time, together with certificates to members who will become eligible for recognition in 2021.

Members who are unable to attend the spring luncheon meeting will receive their certificates by mail.



"A life that is not documented is a life that within a generation or two will largely be lost to memory. What a tragedy this can be in the history of a family. Knowledge of our ancestors shapes us and instills within us values that give direction and meaning to our lives.

Dennis B. Neuenschwander

The Greatest Glory

"The coming of the Pilgrims and their establishment of the Plymouth Plantation is one of the great adventures in the American experience. . . It is a story full of glory, and of tragedy, which deserves a wider public. . . .

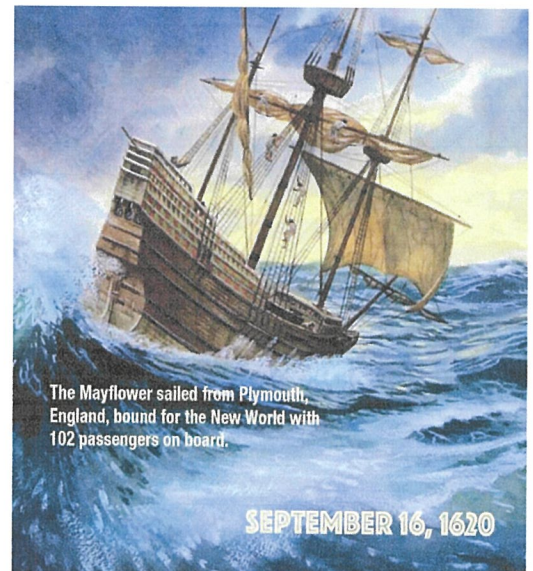
"The Separatists had already shown the courage of their convictions in defying both Church and State by worshiping in their own way in England. They had finally been driven to take refuge in Holland, the only European nation where they could then enjoy complete religious tolerance. After twelve years of poverty and social isolation in Amsterdam and Leyden, the . . . Saints sought the New World largely as a land of economic opportunity where they hoped to start afresh. . . .

"The fact that the Pilgrims enjoyed warm relations with some Indians is much to their credit, but it may reflect the charity of the Indians at least as much as their own benevolence. Still one cannot belittle the achievement of these simple people. They consistently showed resourcefulness in coping with new problems, and courage in the face of danger. The greatest glory of the Pilgrims may well have been the ardent faith and dogged persistence which saw them through great tragedy. . . .

"The(y) quietly suppressed an impending mutiny, even before they landed. While exploring the unknown wastes of Cape Cod, they conducted archeological excavations before they had a roof over their heads. They were attacked by Indians, and yet persisted, built their homes in a foreign land, and soon traveled freely among the natives. This is high adventure indeed! . . .

"Within less than a week of their first conversation with an Indian, the Pilgrims signed an enduring peace treaty with Massasoit, a leader of the neighboring Wampanoags. A year later, they enjoyed trading relations and military alliance with many other Indian groups."

Excerpt from Editor's Introduction to "Mourt's Relation"



History ought to be a source of pleasure. It isn't just part of our civic responsibility. To me, it's an enlargement of the experience of being alive, just the way literature or art or music is."

David McCullough

Plimoth Plantation

“ ‘As one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many, yea in some sort to our whole nation.’

“These were the words of William Bradford, Governor of Plymouth Colony for most of its first critical 36 years, while the Pilgrims were proving that ordinary Englishmen could govern and sustain themselves in the New World.

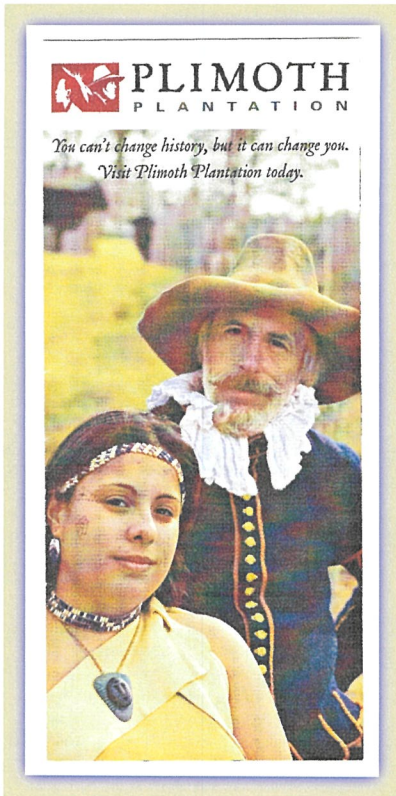
“Bradford’s candle has cast a long shadow down the years, and while the Pilgrims didn’t perfect democracy, they did establish government by consent of the governed with just and equal laws for all.

“George L. Haskins, Professional of Law at the University of Pennsylvania, credits them with ‘. . . Extraordinary political maturity, and they achieved something that no other American colony achieved.’

“Yet in a modern world it is difficult to visualize exactly what the Pilgrim world was like. The pace at which they lived, the scale of their world, their everyday problems of life, even the shortness of life itself: these things must be seen in the context of their own times to be properly understood.

“This, simply stated, is the purpose of the re-creation of the Pilgrims’ first settlement at Plimoth Plantation.”

Article by The Editors, *Pilgrim Times*, Vol. 1, No. 2, Copyright 1963, Plimoth Plantation.
Copy purchased at Plimoth Plantation Gift Shop about the year 2000. Now out of print.



The Dutch Influence

“Ask any well-informed person where America got its ideas of government, the secret ballot, religious liberty, freedom of the individual and the rights of man and he will name England. He was taught this in school, and learned errors die hard . . . Yet the fact is that many of the basic political and social benefits which we think of as characteristically American came to us not from England but from the Netherlands. American history was shaped by the flight of a little group of persecuted Christians from England into Holland. And Holland (as well as the Netherlands generally) until long after the Pilgrims had come to America was England’s guide and teacher in almost everything which has made her great.

“The Netherlands led all of Europe in commerce and manufacture . . .The wealth resulting from her skill and energy made her cities the jewels of the continent. Yet this wealth was not spent upon idle show, but on schools, on hospitals, and on charity in the fine, warm original sense of that word.

“The children of these fortunate provinces went to schools supported by the state. There was hardly a Netherlander who could not read and write—and this at a time when few even of the ruling class knew their letters in England. Even the modestly well-to-do knew mathematics and the classics and could speak several European languages. The Netherlands were far ahead of the times with their hospitals, their orphan asylums, their homes for the aged and for invalided soldiers. They dressed plainly, but adorned their homes with choice paintings and cultivated the art of music. Their fields were the richest, their cattle the finest in the world. They were industrious enough to lead Europe in business, resourceful enough to have snatched their very earth from the sea, and brave enough to have fought the greatest power of the age, mostly single-handed, over a period of forty years. Their successful revolt against tyranny marks the beginning of the political and social world we know today. In fact, the Netherlanders of the seventeenth century were two hundred years ahead of the rest of Europe, not only in culture and commerce, but in their concept of government and of the rights of men. From such a country the Pilgrims came to Plymouth in New England. There is scarcely a fact in American history of more consequence, as there is scarcely one whose significance has been more neglected.”

Bradford Smith, “Bradford of Plymouth” [1951]

“Modern Medicine Would Have Saved Many”

Surprisingly apropos of the coronavirus pandemic which is causing a great deal of illness, misery, and unnecessary deaths, and which has prevented both Albany Colony’s 2020 Spring Luncheon Meeting and now the fall Compact Day Luncheon Meeting as well, the following excerpts from an article from *“Pilgrim Times”* (Plimoth Plantation, 1963) seem to highlight the unmistakable parallels between the plight of the Pilgrims for the first several months in the New World and our own current situation. While sparing Colony members the article’s more specific and unsavory medical details, the following includes some very intriguing information about the customary practice of medicine in the world of our Mayflower forebears.

“Plimoth Plantation, January 28: . . . dies Rose, the wife of Captain Standish . . . This month 8 of our number die.

“Plimoth Plantation, February 28: The 53rd day the ship (the Mayflower) has lain in this harbor and from the present rate of sickness and death aboard, no present capacity or prospect of getting away, those better being yet weak.

“Plimoth Plantation, March 24: Many still sick, more on the ship than on the shore . . . dies Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Edward Winslow . . . this month 13 of our number die. And in 3 months past, dies halfe our company . . . Of a 100 persons, scarce 50 remain, the living scarce able to bury the dead.’

“Thus wrote William Bradford . . . By the time the epidemic that raged in ‘Plimoth Plantation’ in the Year of Our Lord 1621 had spent itself, whole families among the Pilgrims had been wiped out. Only 3 married couples escaped a death. Only 5 out of 18 wives survived. Over half the heads of households had perished. Only the very young were apparently spared.

“No one will ever know for certain what was the disease that came very near to destroying our young colony. It is very probable that the Pilgrims’ poor diet, the unsanitary conditions aboard the Mayflower and later in the Common House, the constant exposure to cold and chronic fatigue—all lowered the Pilgrims’ resistance and they fell easy victims to a virulent infection.

“It may have been typhoid or typhus fever; it may very well have been influenza or some other virus infection complicated by pneumonia. Whatever it was, it’s pretty certain that if our present day medical knowledge and drugs had been available, there would have been more Pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving Dinner. . .

“The health—and lives—of the Pilgrims had been entrusted to Dr. Samuel Fuller, a person much admired and respected in the young colony. Dr. Fuller was kept too busy practicing medicine in the New World to write about it. Nonetheless, it’s pretty safe to assume that—as far as circumstances permitted—he practiced medicine in much the same as it was practiced in London in the days before the sailing of the Mayflower.

“In those days . . . bloodletting . . . was a popular—if rather drastic—remedy. Dr. Fuller was known to have cured ‘diverse of ye scurvie, and others of other diseases by letting blood and other means.’ The ‘other means’ were mostly herbs. Disease was believed to be due either to a disorder or disturbance of the ‘humors’ . . . or of the ‘tempers’, manifested by either a hot, cold, dry, or moist state of the body—or a combination of disturbed humors and ‘distempers’. Herbs, consequently, were used either to eliminate the disturbed ‘humors’ or to counteract excesses or defects of ‘tempers.’

“‘Hot diseases’, for example, were treated by the ‘cool herbs’—i.e., ‘barley, roses, violets, peares, apples.’ Very hot diseases required still more cooling herbs such as cucumbers, melons, gourds, egg whites. The hottest diseases called for the most drastic measures—‘hemlock and poppie.’ For ‘cold diseases’, on the other hand, the ‘hot herbs’ were prescribed: Mild cases were expected to respond to flaxseed and marrow’ severe cases required garlic and mustard, at least!

“Finally, dry diseases would be treated with moist herbs such as ‘mallowes, turnaps, endive, violets, water-Lillie and lettuce.’ Disturbed humors required more energetic measures (the descriptions of which your editor will spare you) . . . Besides treating the proper ‘heat’ of the disease . . . herbs were used as tonics to strengthen the parts that were diseased. A ‘diseased’ head, for example, was made strong through ‘aniseedes, lavender, bayes, piony, sage, lettuce, roses.’ A weak heart was strengthened with buglosse, saffron, basil, rosemary, roses.’ A sick liver needed ‘fenell, endive, liver worte.’ . . . Very often an herb was believed to be of value because it bore resemblance to the diseased organ or because its color was similar to that of the disease. Yellow-coloring saffron, was indicated in curing jaundice. Wormwood, it was believed, would rid the body of worms. Finally, perhaps the vague glimmerings of our modern immunization methods can be seen in the 17th century ‘sympathy cures’. As an example, the liver of the ‘madd dogge’ was used to cure the bite of a mad dog.

“Such was the ‘Practice of Medicine’ and the ‘medicinals’ used at the time of the landing of our Pilgrim Fathers. The wonder is that any survived the rigors of that first winter of cold, hunger and disease. Had our present medical knowledge and drugs been available then, early American history would be written differently.”





Could You ?

By Sylvia Story Magin

Could you leave behind the world you know, and all of civilization?

Would you embark on a journey so unassured of your destination?

Could you turn your back on your former life, your home, your friends, your career,
To travel in dangerous waters away from all that you hold dear?

Could you leave for a strange, formidable place that you barely understand,

With no guarantee of survival in a primitive, hostile land?

The Pilgrims did that very thing when they left on their memorable trip

For that agonizing voyage in that overburdened ship.

They were surely aware of the dangers, but they managed to face their fears,

And they must have known that in going they were truly pioneers.

They set out on an endless ocean hardly knowing how to proceed,

Jammed in together for weeks on end, surely doubting that they'd succeed.

The trip was certainly miserable for all with no privacy anywhere,

And no respite from the heaving waves; they must have approached despair.

But they prevailed, and they conquered fear, and they built a community.

They remain a shining example of what humanity can be.

And our lives were immeasurably altered by that voyage so long ago.,

Thus today we appreciate them more than they could ever know.

We're indebted for their courage, and they deserve great admiration;

They faced tremendous obstacles, yet they created for us a nation.

We'll never know how they truly felt when the Mayflower came to shore,

We can only guess, but we certainly all should be grateful forevermore.

Because of them, we're Americans, with that we must agree;

So we salute the Pilgrims, whose courage gave birth to the Land of the Free!

Symbolic Ascendancy: The Evolving Historical Significance of the Plymouth Pilgrims

"We all know how the story began, but . . .the Pilgrims tend to disappear from American History. Now, you are all living proof that the Plymouth colonists did not in fact evaporate, that their little community continued to grow and prosper. . . But their lasting influence is not necessarily what children are learning in school or what the media emphasizes today. It is what happened after 1620 and the role of the Pilgrims in contemporary American culture that I would like to touch on. . .

"This one date is so embedded in the public consciousness that everything that occurred in Plymouth has become a single event like a battle. . . Schools cover the first year and then jump forward to the American Revolution, leaving a great gap in time between. Even when the Pilgrims are lovingly traced from Scrooby . . . Their progress beyond the little palisaded settlement might as well never happened.

"It is important for people to realize that the Pilgrims did not simply disappear after 1620. Plymouth Colony grew and broke the bounds of Plymouth Village. New towns appeared—Duxbury, Scituate, Sandwich, Marshfield and others. A decade or so after 1620 Plymouth Plantation encompassed all of the territory between Cape Cod Bay on the east and Narragansett Bay on the west, Cape Cod on the south and the Old Colony Line on the north . . . between Hingham and the Providence Plantations. But the Pilgrims did not stop there.

"The first attempt to expand . . .was at Cape Ann on the North Shore of Massachusetts Bay. In 1624, the Pilgrims got a patent or charter from the Council of New England for land at Cape Ann and built a fishing stage or wharf there. This effort was plagued from the beginning with problems and disasters—an unfortunate but accurate presage of their later ventures. The master of their fishing craft, the *Charity*, was a drunk and their salter incompetent. In 1625, some fishermen . . .seized the fishing stage and equipment. Standish and his men were sent down to recapture it but were unable to do so . . . The Pilgrim contingent had to build a new stage at Naumkeag (Salem).

"The next move is of particular interest to us . . . Settlement in 'Virginia,' as the entire English claim in North America was originally called, required legal permission from the Crown. . . You couldn't just go and set up a community wherever you pleased. The colonization of Virginia had been entrusted to . . . the Virginia Company of London and the Virginia Company of Plymouth (England). . . Overlapping jurisdictions originally extended only a hundred miles inland but later patents modified the boundaries. The southern colony would later reach . . .Manhattan and much of Long Island . . .while the 1520 patent for the Council for New England stretched . . . west to the Pacific.

"When the Pilgrims landed, they . . .were about 65 miles north of where they should have been. They drew up the *Mayflower Compact* as a temporary measure to keep the settlement together until they could get a new charter. . . After considerable expense and bother . . .they duly received a . . . Charter from the new Council . . .in 1621. This meant that although they were now legal residents of New England, they did not actually own the property they were on. It wasn't until they received their confirming charter signed by the Earl of Warwick in 1630 that they became the lawful owners of Plymouth Colony.

"The 1630 Warwick Patent gave the Pilgrims . . .title to a block of territory 15 miles wide on each side of the Kennebec river . . .about halfway between Augusta and Waterville. The lure of Main was furs—the single most profitable commodity that New Plymouth found to pay down their debts and buy supplies for the colony. Plymouth established a trading post at Cushenoc (Augusta) and . . .another at Penobscot (Castine).. . .Up the Kennebec, the Cushenoc post was very profitable, and became the primary source for the profitable furs that eventually paid off the colony's stubborn debts.

James W. Baker, Senior Historian, Plimoth Plantation, "The Mayflower Quarterly", GSMD, Vol. 67 No. 4, December 2001

"When you trace your genealogy, you find connections to many of the people and events that shaped history. History is not the story of some old irrelevant strangers. No. History is your story."

Laurence Overmire

