



# Mayflower Chronicles

## Albany Colony

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York



### The Spring Luncheon Meeting is Cancelled ~ and Replaced with a "Zoom" Social Meeting 1:00 - 3:00 ~

#### Colony Governor's Message

In "*Of Plymouth Plantation*" Governor William Bradford referenced the exploration of Thomas Hunt in 1615 and the kidnapping of Squanto, how he avoided the plague of 1616-1619, and Captain Thomas Dermer's 1619 exploration of Cape Cod and his letter of June 30th 1620.

#### Early Explorations of Cape Cod & the Epidemic of 1616-1619:

1602	Bartholomew Gosnold	1612	Captain Holson
1603	Martin Pring	1614-1615	Captain John Smith & Captain Thomas Hunt
1605	Captain George Weymouth	1614	French Ship ran aground
1605-1606	Samuel de Champlain	1616-1619	New England's Epidemic
1611	Edward Harlowe	1619-1620	Thomas Dermer & Squanto

Our **May 1<sup>st</sup>** Zoom Social Meeting presentations will feature: "**Mayflower, Voyage of Hope**," a series of videos by Jim Pratt, Webmaster, and "**Early Explorations of Cape Cod and the Native American Epidemic of 1616-1619**," a Power Point program by your Colony Governor. Details on how to access the Zoom program are being emailed separately to members since the information is a bit complicated. Colony members without email access may want to connect on this occasion with members who do have it.

After attending our Zoom Social Meeting, you will be inspired by the "**Mayflower, Voyage of Hope**" videos, and you will also know who named Cape Cod and Plymouth before 1620, and why Squanto spoke English. New research findings will be shared regarding the causes of New England's Epidemic of 1616-1619 and why the Wampanoags called it "The Great Dying."

At the Albany Colony Executive Committee meeting on 02/02/21, it was decided that our officers will remain in their current positions until our next anticipated face-to-face Annual Meeting on May 7, 2022.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our "Zoom" Social Meeting on **May 1st**.

#### NEXT MEETINGS:

Nov. 6, 2021

May 7, 2022



*Dave Morton*

Colony Governor

"There is no creature so perfect in wisdom and knowledge but may learn something for time present, and to come, by times past."

*John Robinson*





## 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](mailto:SylviaSMagin@aol.com)**

**Webmaster —**  
**James A. Pratt**  
**Albany Colony websites:**  
<https://www.nyacsmd.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NYACSMID>

## *The Challenge*

".....There is no ship in the harbor now. The Mayflower has sailed for England after staying five months to see the little group settled. The tiny village of Plymouth--nothing more than a few miserable huts of wattle and daub with thatched roofs and wooden chimneys lined with clay--fronts a wilderness of ocean with England two or three hazardous months away. Behind it stretches a wilderness even less known and explored, full of imagined perils and unimagined wonders. Except for a few thin trails of exploration, it is a wilderness no European has seen.

"Wilderness, then, before and behind; weakness within. Of the hundred and two people who had arrived with the *Mayflower* the previous November, only fifty-six left alive. Only nineteen men, of whom again a mere handful are entirely well. (Only three couples remained unbroken after the first sickness. Four families were entirely wiped out.).....

"Coming to the beach, he (Gov. William Bradford) makes sure that the shallop is secure, stands a moment looking at the ocean, then turns toward the few little huts that are Plymouth....The urgency of what waits to be done strikes him with sudden force.....He begins to run over in his mind the things he must see to....mentally assigning the proper men to each job. Chiefest of duties, of course, is the planting, and everyone must work now at that.....

"After planting, homes must be built. They must be sturdy English houses of plank, not these miserable huts of clay and reeds and grass.....Then there must be defenses against the Indian.....Though they have signed a treaty of peace with Massasoit which has been not only preserved but carried out with an excess of fraternizing which severely gnaws into their food supplies, still there will be no reasonable safety until they have a fort and a stockade.

"There is the fishing to be so organized that they can both feed themselves and send salt fish to the merchant adventurers in London. Already this plan has sadly miscarried by the failure of the *Speedwell* to make the voyage, for she was to have been the foundation of their economy--in fishing, in trading with the Indians along the coast, in carrying their produce back to London for credit and for needed manufactures and supplies. It was no plan of the Leyden people to subsist on the labor of their own hands. They had planned to be merchants, trading and selling for profit.

"Lacking capital, they had bound themselves to labor in the interest of the merchants who financed them, until their debt was paid. To accomplish this the product of their labor was poured into a common storehouse, their needs doled out from a common supply. Plymouth, therefore, began as a communist society. There is nothing more instructive in our history than the changes that took place in this little....village as it shaped itself to become, unknowing, the pattern for a great democracy."

*"Bradford of Plymouth," by Bradford Smith*

**Serendipity**—Last October Colony members who still rely on print copies of the *Chronicles* received a partially colored version for the first time when the technician at Staples made a mistake in the print job on the 2020 Fall issue.

Since color is more costly, Staples always gets printed instructions that specify black and white, but for some reason this time the results were partly in color, so the people who usually see our newsletter in black and white were treated to just a taste of color. Of course we were charged only for black and white. Thank you, Staples!



## Historian's Report

*Albany Colony's Membership as of February 28, 2021*  
Regular Members **281**, Life Members **13**, Total Membership: **294**

### New Members - Welcome to Albany Colony!

<u>Name</u>	<u>NY Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Timothy C. Bejian	6515	12/15/2020	John Alden
Jaci A. Bettiol	6519	01/22/2021	John Billington
Betty-Jean S. Carroll	6518	01/28/2021	Richard Warren
Derin B. Gumustop	6440	05/22/2020	William Bradford
Jay B. Harris	6507	10/10/2020	John Howland
Brian D. Holmes	6448	06/02/2020	Edward Fuller
Marylou VanD. Jones	6522	01/26/2021	George Soule
Julie-Ann Preston	6449	06/02/2020	Edward Fuller
Doriann Y. Elizabeth Salisbury	6506	11/03/2020	William White
Richard S. Soule	6498	10/06/2020	George Soule
Doris H. Waldron	6501	10/20/2020	Stephen Hopkins

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Resigned ~ Leona Cross

*Paul S. Johnson, Historian*

*"History is a kind of introduction to more interesting people than we can possibly meet in our restricted lives; let us not neglect the opportunity."*

*Dexter Perkins*

### The Greeting

"In early March, (1621) there were several days of unseasonably warm weather, and 'birds sang in the woods most pleasantly.' At precisely one o'clock on March 3, they heard their first rumble of American thunder. "It was strong and great claps,' they wrote, 'but short.' They later realized that even though temperatures had been bitterly cold during their explorations along the Cape the winter had been, for the most part, unusually mild--a respite that undoubtedly prevented even more of them from dying . . . .

"On Friday, March 16, they had yet another meeting about military matters. And as had happened the last time they had gathered for such a purpose, they were interrupted by the Indians. But this time there was only one of them adopt Watson's Hill, and unlike the previous two Indians, this man appeared to be without hesitation or fear, especially when he began to walk toward them 'very boldly.' The alarm was sounded, and still the Indian continued striding purposefully down Watson's Hill and across the brook. . . .He walked past the row of houses toward the rendezvous where the women and children had been assembled in case of attack. It was clear that if no one restrained him, the Indian was going to walk right into the entrance of the rendezvous. Finally, some of the men stepped into the Indian's path and indicated that he was not to go in. Apparently enjoying the fuss he had created, the Indian 'saluted' them and with great enthusiasm spoke the now famous words, **Welcome, Englishmen!**"

*Nathaniel Philbrick, "Mayflower"*





## Arrival

"Landfall was made at daybreak, November 9, when a lookout sighted the Cape Cod Highlands. Mayflower then sailed southward, to find a suitable place for settlement near the mouth of 'Hudson's River.'" But after traveling half a day from the tip of Cape Cod, 'Mayflower fell amongst dangerous shoals and roaring breakers', and it was deemed advisable to turn back to Cape Cod Harbor—now Provincetown. The 'rough place' Mayflower had encountered was Pollock Rip Shoals, a dread place even to mariners of today. . . .

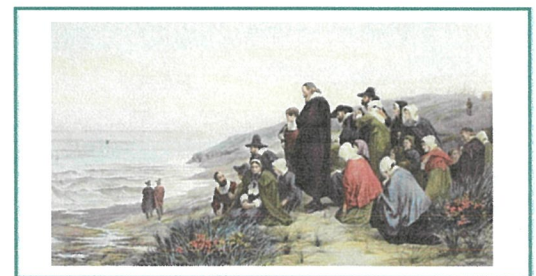
"The Pilgrims were anxious to get settled ashore quickly because the weather was cold and stormy and they wanted to erect shelters against the worst of the winter. Captain Jones was anxious to get rid of his passengers and return to England, but agreed to see them settled in before leaving.

"It would be a month before the shallop would lead the Mayflower to Plymouth—and five months before Captain Jones would be on his way to England . . . The Pilgrims were painfully deliberate in picking a site . . . They explored for weeks, rejecting site after site, until they finally selected Plymouth."

*"Pilgrim Times"*

*"The search for knowledge is in our genes. It was put there by our distant ancestors who spread across the world, and it's never going to be quenched."*

*E.O. Wilson*



**Note of Appreciation:** We are honored that an article from the Fall 2020 *Mayflower Chronicles* ("Modern Medicine Would Have Saved Many") was selected to be reprinted in the Fall 2020 newsletter of the New York State Mayflower Society. Thank you, Editor Robin Weaver!

## It's Not Too Late

Due to the severe restrictions and limitations caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, we've had to forego so many of the usual events and activities that bring us pleasure, including, once again, the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of our Pilgrim cousins and friends at the Luncheon Meeting of the Albany Colony.

But there's a way to celebrate a bit of your Pilgrim pride anyway, and that's to wear and display your Albany Colony Mayflower lapel pin whenever you have occasion to be out and about. If you missed out when this attractive item (shown at the right) was offered for sale last spring, you still have an opportunity to own and wear one.

Simply send your check for **\$45.00**, which amount includes sales tax and postage, to **Colony Co-Captain Tim Mabee**, 17 Kilarney Court, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-7501, and your lapel pin will be on its way to you without delay.

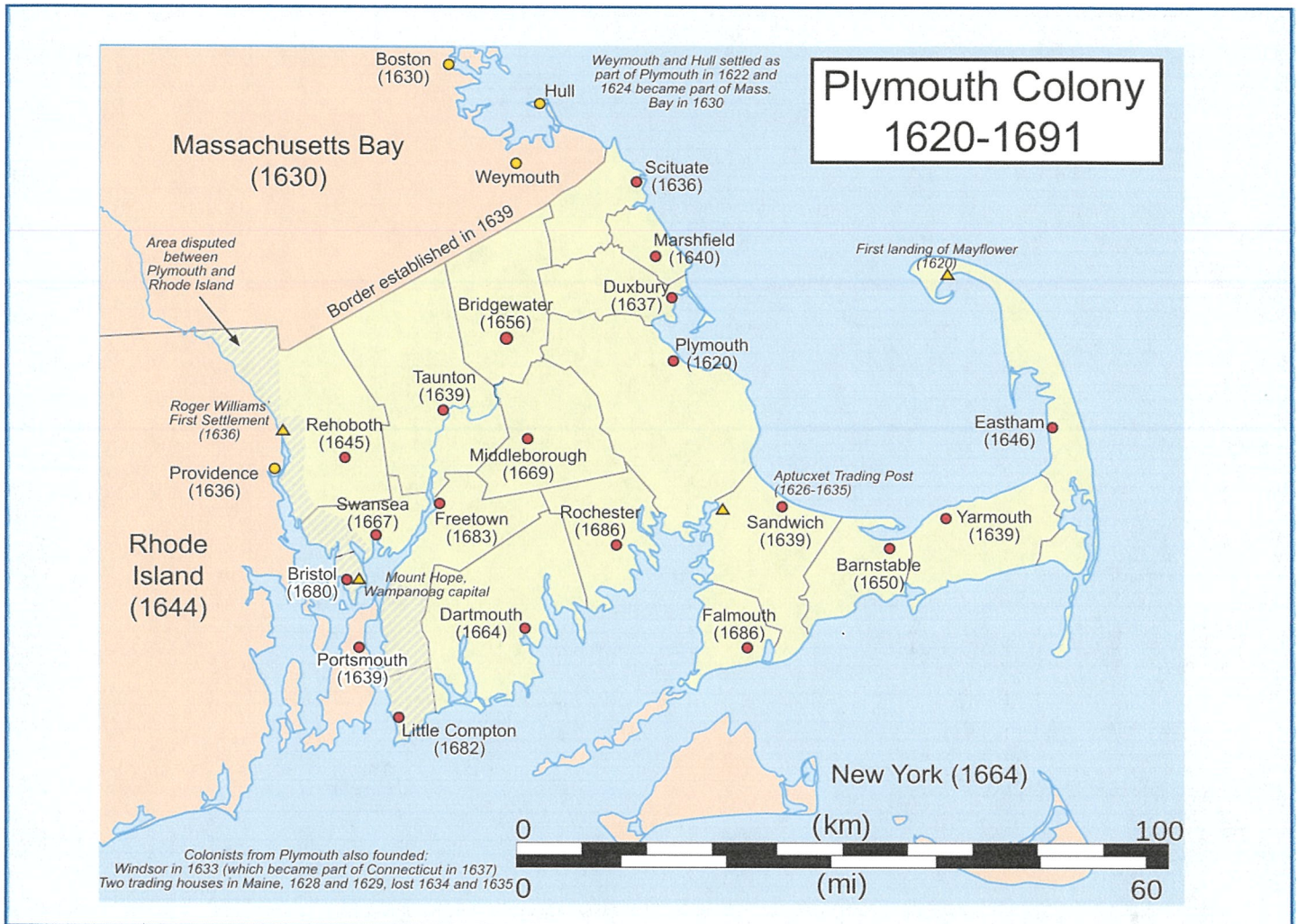




## Shifting Sands

"Though the Pilgrims did not know it, they were landing on a unique piece of the earth's surface. Nowhere else is there an annex to a continent like Cape Cod. Other peninsulas are rocky and rugged but this one is frail and sandy, a shifting heap of glacial remains where no bedrock has ever been found. Perhaps, with their trust in the Bible, it is as well they did not know they would be building on sand. In climate, soil and vegetation the area they were to claim is different from all the rest of New England, for geologically Plymouth is one with the Cape."

*"Bradford of Plymouth" by Bradford Smith*



"Thursday, December 28, the layout of the town was fixed, lots measured out, and work started on the fort. It was decided to build the town in the shape of a cross, with two intersecting streets, to make defense easier. The hill commanded a wide view across the surrounding plain and the bay right across to Cape Cod. Nineteen houses were planned, single men asked to join families so that fewer houses would be needed.

~

"They came to America looking for peace, not fame. They did not think of themselves as heroic, only 'not as other men.' Moral courage was part of their daily existence. Without looking back, with no return ticket, without any idea that they could always come home if the great design did not work, an utterly dedicated group intent on spiritual survival, they went with no intention to move on westward, or to make quick profits. The central hope was to create a new life in a new land for themselves and their children's children. The most impressive fact is that when the *Mayflower* sailed back, after those first dreadful weeks, not one member of the community asked to return with Captain Jones. . . .By any standards the Pilgrims accomplished a heroic achievement."

*"The Mayflower," by Kate Caffrey*



## The Pilgrims Built English-Style Cottages

"Monday, the 25th day (December 25, 1620). We went on shore, some to fell timber, some to saw, some to rive... (**'Mourt's Relation'**)

"This short passage indicates that the Pilgrims had thought out the division of labor in advance, which would mean that they were to follow familiar English building procedures. Also, to 'rive' meant to split timber into planks or boards, and that wouldn't have been necessary if they were going to build log cabins." (**"Pilgrim Times, Vol. 1, No. 2, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts"**)

"It was Christmas Day, (a Monday) before the Pilgrims could begin to build their village. Believing that Christmas was a manmade institution nowhere decreed in the Scriptures, they held no holiday but made a start on temporary huts of turf, thatch and branches while others began to fell timber for permanent buildings. Those who stayed ashore that night were visited with another storm of driving wind and rain which came through their flimsy shelters and left them drenched, miserable and cold. This was the first Pilgrim Christmas." (**"Bradford of Plymouth," by Bradford Smith**)

"Gradually the buildings began to rise. From the harbor a road was marked out to the foot of 'The Mount,' known today as Burial Hill. Narrow lots were laid out along this street (now Leyden) and cottages built...More important even than the cottages was a storehouse to which their goods could be removed from the *Mayflower*...A building of wattle and daub twenty feet square was put up, its roof thatched. It was not, as generations of schoolchildren were taught to believe, a log cabin, nor were any of the other buildings. Construction at Plymouth was after the fashion the Pilgrims had been acquainted with in their English homes—of wattle and daub, [woven lattice of wooden strips called wattle is daubed with a sticky material usually made of some combination of wet soil, clay, sand, animal dung and straw], then when time permitted of frame and boards." (**"Bradford of Plymouth"**)

"Our planners [of modern Plimoth Plantation]...could not find a single example of log cabin construction...Almost all English cottages of the Pilgrims were of wooden, frame construction...Of *Mayflower* passengers whose trades were recorded, the only carpenter was Francis Eaton. John Alden was a barrel-maker, and there was a sawyer. Soldier Myles Standish would have received training in construction of fortifications. All of the Pilgrims would have lived in English frame-type houses, and the farmers among them would have known much about the practical arts, as farmers do today.

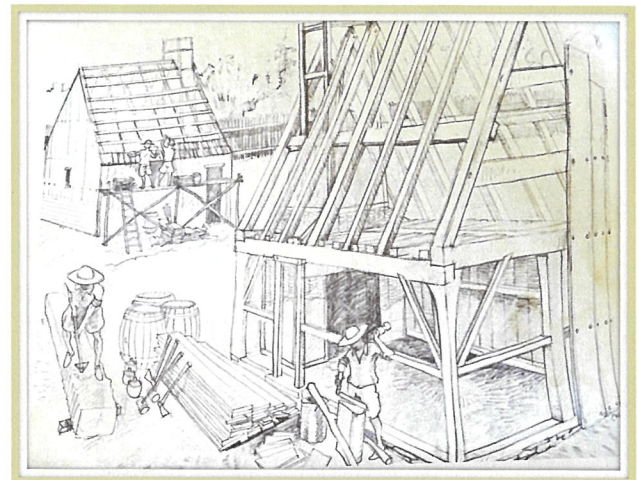
"The dwellings could have had as many as three rooms, with considerable variety in the dimensions of the houses. They were one and one-half stories high, with enclosed sleeping lofts above the main rooms for children and servants, with hatches and ladders for access. A fireplace took up all or most of one wall.

"It was learned by archaeologists at Plymouth and elsewhere that the early houses did not have cellars under their main rooms. The common practice for foundations was to lay one course of stones on the ground."

(**"Pilgrim Times"**)



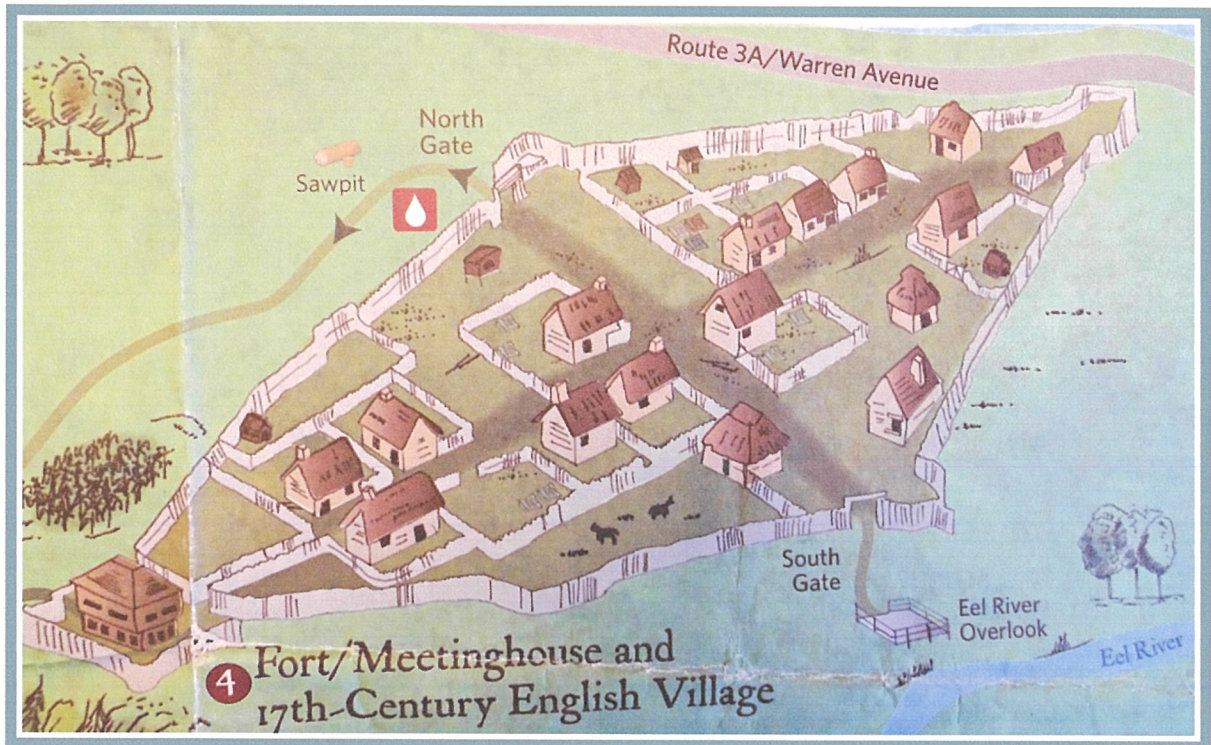
Modern Plimoth Plantation



Drawing from *Pilgrim Times*

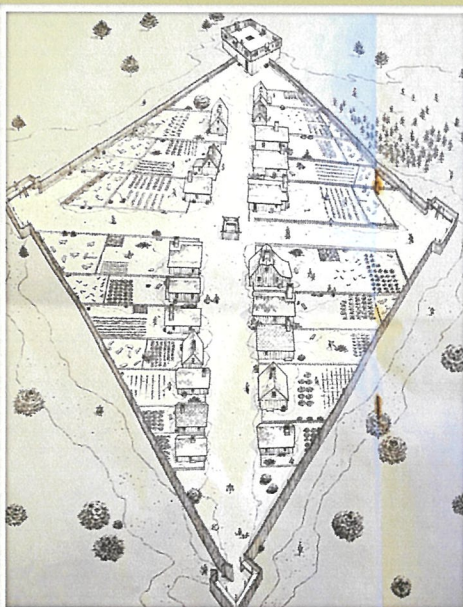


## Plimoth Plantation



The illustration above appears in a visitors' brochure from modern Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The exact site where the Pilgrims built their original settlement in 1620 is, of course, now modern-day Plymouth, so this reconstructed replica of that village was built just a few miles to the south. The site was purposely selected because the topography of the area is very similar to that of the Pilgrims' original home.

Unfortunately this diagram is a bit misleading, because it depicts the Fort/Meetinghouse at the bottom left corner of the picture, making it look as though it is physically situated below the rest of the village, while the building actually stands guard at the top of the hillside overlooking the settlement, and the houses, gardens, animal pens, and other structures are set in rows slanting downhill toward the water, where you see Route 3A Warren Avenue at the upper right corner.



The drawing at left, taken from the *"Pilgrim Times, Vol. 1, No. 2, Copyright 1963, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts,"* makes it a little easier to visualize the actual layout of Plimoth Plantation, as it shows the Fort/Meetinghouse at the top of the hill overlooking the village and the other structures arranged on streets below it, slanting down the hillside toward the water.

The Pilgrims' original plan was to build nineteen houses with the single individuals assigned to live with the various families, but so many of their number did not survive the first winter that that many homes were not needed to house them all.

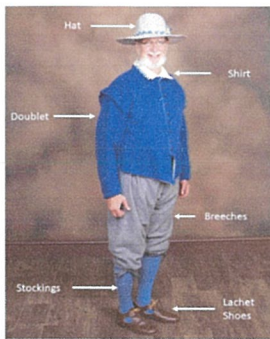
"Men can know more than their ancestors did if they start with a knowledge of what their ancestors had already learned. That is why a society can be progressive only if it conserves its traditions."

Walter Lippman



## What Did They Really Wear?

"As James Baker, noted Pilgrim historian, points out in his recent article in the *Mayflower Journal*, there is a major image problem associated with what clothing and apparel the Pilgrims wore. The image of black clothing, buckles and blunderbusses persist in the public mind. To overcome this misperception and to assist in this effort to change public perceptions, the donning of appropriate garments representing what the Pilgrims actually wore is a major objective for the commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*. . . . So, what did Pilgrim men and women wear?



Pilgrim Male Clothing

The basic clothing for men would be:

- Shirt
- Doublet
- Breeches
- Stockings
- Latchet shoes
- Hat either broad brimmed or flat hat

"The basic apparel for Pilgrim Men would have consisted of 1) a shirt which also served as underwear; 2) doublet; 3) breeches or slops; 4) stockings; 5) latchet shoes, and 6) a hat (brimmed, flat, or Monmouth cap). Slops were commonly used in addition to breeches in the 1620's. Slops were full, with lots of gathered fabric around the waist and legs, and ended just above the knee. Both breeches and slops were worn high; your waist size should be measured at the bellybutton. The seam of the doublet (not including the skirting) should sit at the bellybutton.



Pilgrim Clothing - Female

The basic clothing for women would be:

- Coif headwear
- Smock or Shift
- Waistcoat
- Apron
- Petticoat also called a skirt
- Latchet shoes

"The basic apparel for Pilgrim Women would have consisted of 1) a smock which, like a man's shirt, served as underwear (today, the smock is often referred to as a shift, or sometimes a chemise); 2) a petticoat or skirt; 3) a waistcoat (some vendors refer to the waistcoat as a bodice); 4) stockings; 5) latchet shoes; and 6) coif or cap. Women also wore brimmed hats, the same as men.

"In 17<sup>th</sup> Century England and in the Netherlands, there were two basic fabrics that were used for clothing: wool and linen. Silk was also available and used for fancy wear. Light leather was used for men's clothing in doublets and jerkins but was not used in women's wear. There was a combination of wool and linen known as fustian corduroy that was also used . . . . Cotton, while available, was very rare and very expensive in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

"We know that the [Pilgrims wore a variety of colors](#) in their clothing from probate records where the color of various clothing items were mentioned, including violet, blue, and green. The color red was also listed; however, the reds that were used in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century were more of a brick red or a madder red, which is a little more orange in nature than modern reds. What was considered black in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century was a little different than what we think of as black today. Very dark greys, greens and blues might count as poor versions of black, and natural black sheep's wool was also available. The deep, rich black was broadly expansive and was the opposite of demonstrating piety in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Thus, a true black would not have been worn by our Pilgrim ancestors."

We are indebted to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants' website for this intriguing look into the wardrobes of our Pilgrim forebears.

"There is nothing that strengthens a nation like reading of a nation's own history, whether that history is recorded in books or embodied in customs, institutions and monuments." *Joseph Anderson*



### URNS OUT IT'S POPPYCOCK, NOT POPCORN

The innate ability of a kernel of corn to explode when subjected to intense dry heat is common knowledge, and generations of moviegoers would consider a tub of hot, fluffy popcorn sluiced with butter and salt an essential component of a visit to the local movie theater. It's traditional.

Popcorn was well known to our earlier ancestors, too, and there are sources which claim that Wampanoag Indian Quadequina, Massasoit's brother, may have introduced the original settlers of Plymouth Colony to that delicacy also. Many people apparently believe this story, but it was an 1889 novel by Jane G. Austen (not that Jane Austen) called "*Standish of Standish*" that introduced what became this recurring myth, and it turns out that the variety of corn that was known to the Wampanoag people in the Seventeenth Century, "flint corn," does not even pop.

Indigenous peoples in Mexico and Peru enjoyed popcorn at least a thousand years or more ago, and French Explorers have written about the Iroquois Indians popping corn. Later New England settlers would have known about it too, but despite popular notions to the contrary, the staff of Plimoth Plantation state emphatically that the earliest settlers of Plymouth Plantation were denied the delicious dish we know and love as popcorn.

While Squanto showed the settlers how to plant seed corn and how to fertilize the crop with fish, and they did prepare the vegetable in various ways, including parched corn and cornmeal mush, they did not actually have the pleasure of eating popped corn. Historians assure us that Squanto's agricultural guidance was certainly vital to their actual survival, but it was for their later descendants to discover that particular treat.

Thanks for this story idea goes to Janet Jones of Poestenkill, wife of my cousin Jerry, a Mayflower descendant, and the information above was gleaned on line from "New England Today", using "Excerpt from 'The New England Sampler,' Yankee Magazine, February 1993."



Since the continuing public health emergency made it necessary to cancel Albany Colony's May 1 2021 Spring Luncheon Meeting, we trust that the November 6, 2021 Compact Day Luncheon Meeting will take place, at which time the honorees named below, along with the members who were entitled to such recognition in 2020, will have the opportunity to be presented with their membership longevity certificates in person.

### Congratulations on your Years of Membership in 2021

#### Forty-Five Years (1976)

*Grace C. Nazarian, Latham, NY*

#### Forty Years (1981)

*Richard H. Avery, Constable, NY*

#### Thirty-Five Years (1986)

#### Thirty Years (1991)

*Harriet P. Berard, Warnerville, NY*

*Susan Y. McCormick, Wynantskill, NY*

*Elizabeth Y. Waidelech, Herriman, Utah*

*David A. Young, Ravena, NY*

#### Twenty-Five Years (1996)

*Lynne M. Byron, Mt. Tremper, NY*

*Melissa B. Conniff, Poughkeepsie, NY*

*Anne Jones Hall, Danby, VT*

*Richard C. Saunders, Jr., Glens Falls, NY*

#### Twenty Years (2001)

*Donna P. Reiley, Chatham, NY*

*Richard C. Saunders, Glens Falls, NY*

*Elizabeth Saunders Strader, Glens Falls, NYH*

*June N. Walker, Chaumont, NY*





**Remember** the good old days--before Covid-19? Albany Colony members would gather at the Spring and Fall Luncheon Meetings, greet Mayflower cousins and friends, catch up on the news, and share stimulating tabletalk over a marvelous dinner. We would participate in the introduction of members, welcome new members, share the roll call of ancestors and the business meeting, then enjoy a lively presentation of historical, social, or general interest. Join your Editor now in a brief trip down Memory Lane in observance of the creation of my tenth issue of the *Mayflower Chronicles* as we revisit the program presenters from several of our past Luncheon Meetings, from Spring 2016 through Fall 2019.



1st Deputy Colony Governor Tim Mabee and Colony Governor Dave Morton each shared their tales of belonging to various "Hereditary Societies; the What, How, and Why of Joining." (Spring 2017)



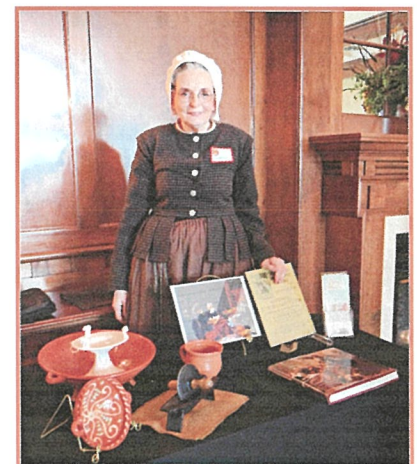
Jack Casey, Troy attorney, author, songwriter, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the creation of the Erie Canal. Then he regaled us with appropriate song and gave away autographed copies of his historic novel on the Canal, *"A Land Beyond the River."* (Spring 2019)



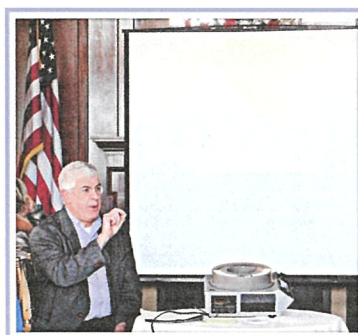
Chuck Imperio, author, radio personality and public speaker from Unadilla, New York, relayed entertaining stories about celebrities interred in *"Great Graves of New York,"* and offered copies of his book for sale. (Fall 2019)



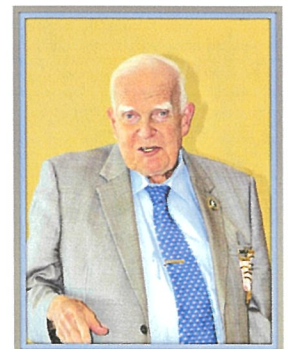
The late Bette Bradway, our long-time Historian, presented some of her *"Comical Reflections While Serving as Historian General in Plymouth."* (Fall 2016)



Shelby Mattice, Curator of the Bronx Museum in Coxsackie, shared information on the *"Dutch Foodways"* of really early America. (Fall 2017)



Ted Hilscher, Catskill attorney, New Baltimore Town Historian, Assistant History Professor at Columbia-Greene Community College, gave us a PowerPoint display and talked on the *"Barns of the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains."* (Fall 2018)



Colony Elder and former Colony Governor Art Young shared with us the highlights of the many *"Genealogical Resources Available at the New York State Library."* (Spring 2018)



Sylvia Hasenkopf, Cairo genealogist, researcher, historian, and newspaper columnist, revealed the details of the *"Hometown Heroes Program,"* honoring a community's veterans of all of our country's wars. (Spring 2016)