A large, multi-masted sailing ship, likely a three-masted vessel, is shown from a low angle, sailing on the open sea. The ship's sails are fully deployed and billowing, catching the wind. The ship is dark in color, possibly black or dark brown, and has a complex rigging system. The sea is dark and choppy, with whitecaps visible. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The overall tone is historical and dramatic.

# Meet The Pilgrims

**Bob Alford**

# The First Thanksgiving

We all know about the Pilgrims, the Mayflower, the first Thanksgiving, etc.

But how much do we really know?

The story has been retold and rewritten so many times that we have to question “what we KNOW:”

- Who were these people?
- Where did they come from?
- Why did they immigrate?
- What was their world like?
- What happened to them (and to Plymouth)?



Some of the answers may surprise you.



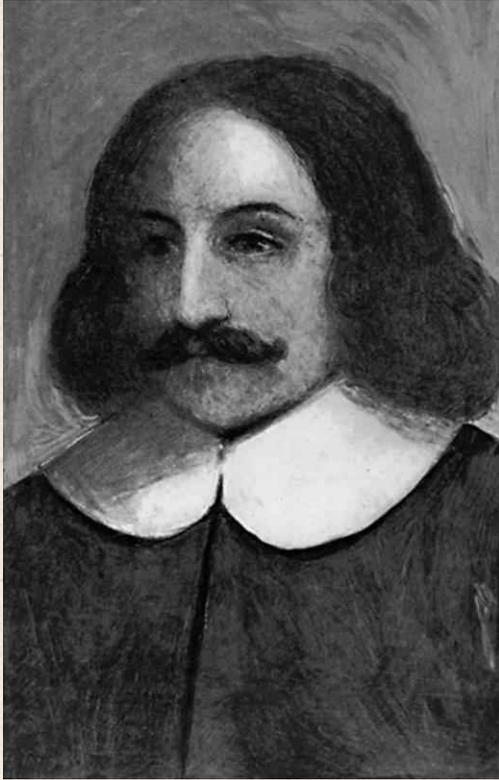
Fortunately for us:

- There were numerous well-educated people among them;
- They left written records and personal accounts of what occurred;
- Those accounts have now been digitized and transcribed;
- Those accounts are freely available online.
- We also have good documentation on earlier events.

The Two Most Important men among the Pilgrims were

- William Bradford
- John Winslow

Let's begin our journey by meeting these two men.



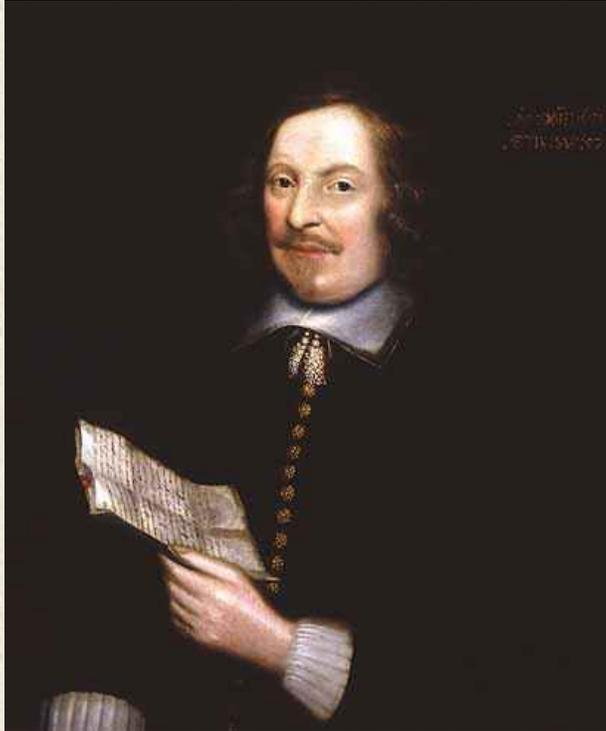
William  
Bradford

William Bradford was born to Alice Hanson and William Bradford in Austerfield, West Riding of Yorkshire, and was baptized on 19 March 1590.

He became the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> Governor of Plymouth Colony.

His writings include *Of Plymouth Plantation*

We will reference this document often and learn more about William Bradford as we go.



**Edward  
Winslow**

Edward Winslow was born on 18 October 1595 and baptized two days later, on 20 October, at St Peter's Church, Droitwich, Worcestershire, England. He was the eldest son of Edward Winslow Sr. of Droitwich, Worcestershire, by his wife Magdalene Oliver.

He became the 3rd, 6th, and 10th Governor of Plymouth Colony.

His writings include:

- *A Relation or Journal of the Proceedings of the English Plantation Settled at Plymouth*
- *Good News from New England*. These are the Pilgrims' journals for the second and third years at Plymouth.

There are some today who claim the First Thanksgiving is a myth.

**From Edward Winslow:**

“Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after have a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others.”

Now that we have established that Thanksgiving took place and the Pilgrims and Wampanoag celebrated together, let's back up and see how this small group of English men and women came to be in what is now eastern Massachusetts.

Following the collapse of the Roman Empire, the Roman Catholic Church rose to power in partnership with regional Royal Families.

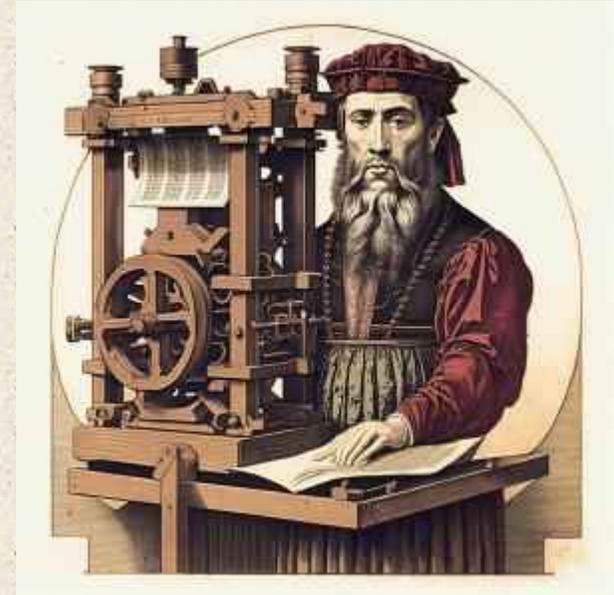
The church taught that the Kings and Queens were ordained by God and obedience was required by God's law. The Royalty built massive castles for themselves and supported the church, allowing the accumulation of massive wealth for both parties while most people were locked in poverty, required to pay the King's taxes and tithe to the church.



The palace of Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp Franz Schönborn In Würzburg, Germany.

If you have ever toured the great cathedrals of Europe, the palaces of the Hapsburgs in Vienna, or the Vatican in Rome, you have witnessed the results of the massive accumulation of wealth firsthand in the hands of a privileged few.

- The partnership between the Royalty and the Church held tight control over the masses for 800-1,000 years.
- Charismatic leaders made numerous attempts at reformation, but they could not reach the masses..
- Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1439 and printed the Bible in 1455. By 1500, the Bible was available in several different languages.
- incentivizing people to learn to read.
- This also gave evangelists a means to spread their message.



- In 1515, Pope Leo X started using the proceeds of indulgences to build St. Peter's Basilica.
- Parishioners began to claim they no longer needed to repent for their sins as they had purchased an indulgence from the Pope's representative.
- The Reformation is usually considered to have started in 1517 with Martin Luther's publication of the 95 Theses.
- He accused the church of abuse and corruption for selling indulgences.
- Luther's ideas began to spread. John Knox brought them to Scotland and founded the Presbyterian Church.



1517 printing of Ninety-Five Theses

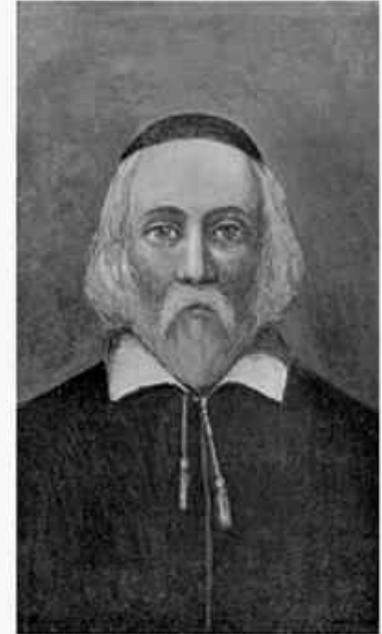
- King Henry VIII and Queen Catherine were coronated on June 24, 1509. He was a large man, especially in the 1500s.
- At the time of his coronation, he was a loyal Catholic who opposed the Reformation in Europe. On October 11, 1521, Pope Leo X awarded him the title *Fidei Defensor* (Defender of the Faith) for his opposition to Martin Luther.
- By the late 1520s, Henry and his wife had failed to produce a male heir. He appealed to Pope Clement VII for an annulment from his wife, Catherine, so he could marry Anne Boleyn.
- Henry was infuriated when the Pope denied the request.
- Henry broke from the Church in Rome and formed the Church of England, seizing all property of the Church and appointing Thomas Crammer as Archbishop and the religious head of the Church of England.



- Henry revolted against the church in Rome to obtain more power, not to reform it.
- Much to the dismay of the reformers, the Church of England adopted a lot of the structure, rituals, and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Reformers initially worked hard to reform and “purify” the Church of England, and they became known as Puritans.
- Many realized that the Church of England would not adopt what they sought and broke off to form their own small congregations, usually following a charismatic preacher.

- The story of the Pilgrims begins in 1605 in Nottinghamshire, England. This shire is the site of the medieval Scrooby Manor House, home to William Brewster, one of the Mayflower Pilgrims.
- He was among a group that, upset with the corruption within the Church of England, broke away to establish their own church under the ministry of John Robinson. They wanted to live a simple life guided by biblical scriptures.
- In this setting, he met William Bradford, a young teenager.
- William Brewster invited the congregation to meet at the Scrooby Manor House.

William Brewster



Published in *The Romantic Story of the Mayflower Pilgrims: And its place in the life of to-day, 1911*

<b>Born</b>	circa 1568 Scrooby, Nottinghamshire
<b>Died</b>	April 18, 1644 (aged 77-78) Duxbury, Plymouth Colony
<b>Nationality</b>	English subject
<b>Occupation</b>	Postmaster and English teacher of Scrooby, preacher of Plymouth
<b>Known for</b>	Pilgrim
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Mary Brewster
<b>Children</b>	Jonathan Brewster · Patience Brewster Prence · Fear Brewster Allerton · Love Brewster · Wrestling Brewster
<b>Parent(s)</b>	William Brewster

- The building goes back to at least the early 1200s when it was the home of the Archbishop of York.
- Cardinal Woolsey spent time there in 1530 when he was out of favor with King Henry the Eighth.
- The Scrooby Manor House became the Church of England's property when Henry seized all Catholic Church assets in England. King Henry spent some time there in 1541.
- William Brewster's father, William Brewster Senior, occupied the house as Receiver and Bailiff of the Archbishop's and Master of the Queen's Post (postmaster).
- When he died in 1590, the title and the Manor House fell to his son.



**Scrooby Manor House**

- King James the First was on the throne at the time. He allowed some reforms in the Church, including creating an English Bible (The King James Version).
- In 1603, he declared that he would end the Puritan movement.
- In 1604 Richard Bancroft became the Archbishop of Canterbury, the head of the Church of England, reporting to the King. He began a campaign to drive the Puritans out of the church.



**King James I**

- The Church and the King quickly banned meetings at Scrooby House, and the congregation decided they must leave England.
- The group attempted to reach Holland in search of freedom to practice their religion. Still, the authorities stopped them and suspected the Scrooby group was planning to go to the colonies.
- The King proclaimed that emigration from England to the Virginia Colony required a royal license.
- The Virginia Colony referred to all of the land from the deep south to the Hudson River.

- In the Spring of 1608, the Pilgrims escaped to Amsterdam. After arriving in Amsterdam, they applied to the City of Leyden, stating that:
  - *“John Robinson, minister of the divine word, and some of the members of the Christian reformed religion, born in the Kingdom of Great Britain, to the number of one hundred persons, or thereabouts, men and women, were desirous of going to live in that city, and to have the freedom thereof in carrying on their trades without being a burden in the least to anyone.”*
- The city fathers granted permission for the Pilgrims to come live in Leyden.
- Young William Bradford was part of that group.
- The Pilgrims did well in Leyden and initially intended to make Leyden their permanent home and refuge. The town fathers commended them for their peaceful and industrial ways.

- By 1617, however, wars were raging across Europe, and the Pilgrims felt a threat from the Spanish King, who, if he had conquered the area where they lived, would have forced them all to give up their beliefs and become Catholics.
- They were also concerned that their children were assimilating and becoming Dutch. The Pilgrims, who had grown in number to something closer to three hundred, decided to leave Holland and emigrate to the new world.
- However, the King's government tightly controlled emigration, so the Pilgrims sent two agents to England to seek a patent from the King for a settlement in Virginia.
- They encountered numerous obstacles and difficulties, but in 1620 finally obtained a patent for a settlement in northern Virginia.

- The journey to the new world was no small undertaking. It required significant financial investment, a lot of organization and logistics, and a great deal of courage.
- On July 31, 1620, a small group of them left Holland on the Speedwell, headed to Southampton, where they planned to meet the Mayflower. According to William Bradford:

*“They left the goodly and pleasant citie which had been their resting place near 12. years, but they knew they were **pilgrims**, and looked not much on those things but lift up their eyes to the heavens, their dearest countrie, and quieted their spirits.”*



- On the way to Southampton, the Speedwell leaked quite a bit, so there was a delay while they repaired the ship.
- In Southampton, additional passengers joined the group from Leyden.
- On August 21, 1620, the two ships set out for the New World.
- When they were about 300 miles out to sea, the Speedwell started to leak again.
- *“...it was resolved to dismiss her [the Speedwell] and part of the company and proceed with the other ship [the Mayflower]. Which (though it was grievous and caused great discouragement) was put into execution. So after they had took out such provision as the other ship could well stow, and concluded both what number and what persons to send back, they made another sad parting; the one ship [the Speedwell] going back for London and the other [the Mayflower] was to proceed on her voyage. Those that went back were, for the most part, such as were willing so to do, either out of some discontent or fear they conceived of the ill success of the voyage, seeing so many crosses befall, and the year time so far spent.*

- The Mayflower finally departed England on September 6, 1620, with 102 passengers on board. They arrived in Cape Cod on November 9, 1620.
- Due to all the delays, they were late arriving. They had planned to arrive in early summer to have time to plant crops. New England was in the middle of the mini-ice age, and they were in the wrong place. Their charter was for northern Virginia.
- They hadn't missed by much. Northern Virginia at the time was New Jersey, near the mouth of the Hudson River.
- They tried to sail around the Cape, but that area of the North Atlantic is very choppy and dangerous in the winter, so they turned back, sailed around the tip of Cape Cod, and dropped anchor near where Provincetown is today.



## The Mayflower Compact

- Many were unhappy with the decision to settle in Massachusetts instead of northern Virginia.
- There was talk of rebellion among some of those on board.
- William Bradford and William Brewster, possibly with the help of John Carver, drafted the Mayflower Compact.
- The signers agreed to form a body politic for the common good and to obey the rules and laws of the to be established government.
- After they signed this document, they elected John Carver as their first Governor. He was a good choice to lead them through all the troubles that lay ahead.

In y<sup>e</sup> name of god Amen. We whose names are underwritten,  
the loyal subjects of our dread soueraigne Lord King James  
by y<sup>e</sup> grace of god, of great Britaine, France, & Ireland King,  
defendor of y<sup>e</sup> faith, &c  
Hauing undertaken, for y<sup>e</sup> glorie of god, and aduancements  
of y<sup>e</sup> christian faith, and honour of our king & countrey, a voyage to  
plant y<sup>e</sup> first Colonie in y<sup>e</sup> Northern parts of Virginia. God  
by these presents solemnly & mutually in y<sup>e</sup> presence of god, and  
one of another, Couenant, & combine our selues together into a  
Ciuit body politicke; for y<sup>e</sup> better ordering, & preservation & fur-  
therance of y<sup>e</sup> ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof, to enacte,  
constitute, and frame such just & equal Lawes, ordinances,  
Acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought  
most meete & conuenient for y<sup>e</sup> generall good of y<sup>e</sup> Colonie: vnto  
which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness  
whereof we haue hereunder subscribed our names at Cap-  
codd y<sup>e</sup> 11. of Nouember, in y<sup>e</sup> year of y<sup>e</sup> raigne of our soueraigne  
Lord King James of England, France, & Ireland y<sup>e</sup> eighteenth  
and of Scotland y<sup>e</sup> fifth. fourth. An: Dom. 1620.

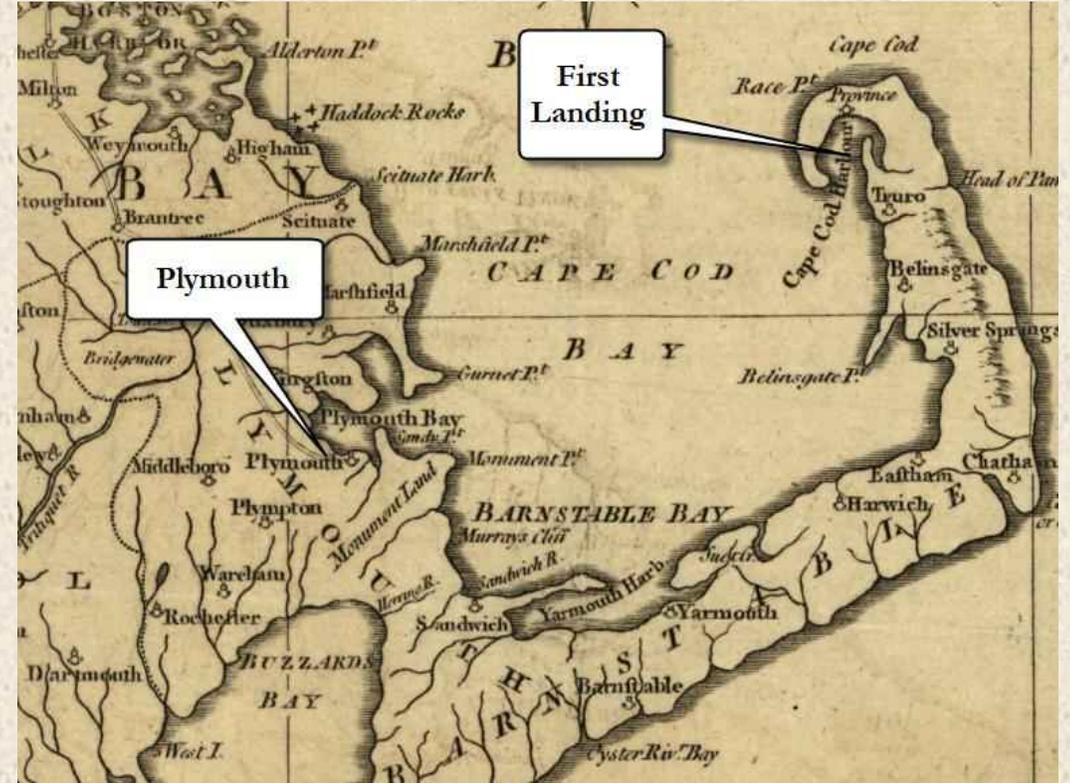


On Wednesday, December 6th, 1620, they decided that a party led by Captain Miles Standish would set out to explore what is now called Cape Cod Bay. In addition to some of the ship's company, ten men were chosen to go.

1. Captain Miles Standish
2. Master Carver
3. William Bradford
4. Edward Winslow
5. John Tilley
6. Edward Tilley
7. John Howland
8. Richard Warren (My Ancestor)
9. Stephen Hopkins
10. Edward Doten

After scouting the area inside Cape Cod Bay, they selected an Area on the other side of the Bay. On December 16, 1620, they sailed the Mayflower across the Bay, dropped anchor in Plymouth Harbor, and used their skiffs to ferry everyone to shore. The following is from William Bradford.

*“After some hours sailing, it began to snow and rain, and about the middle of the afternoon, the wind increased, and the sea became very rough, and they broke their rudder, and it was as much as two men could do to steer her with a couple of oars. But their pilot bade them be of good cheer for he saw harbor, but the storm increasing, and night drawing on, they bore what sail they could get in while they could see. But therewith, they broke their mast in three pieces, and their sail fell overboard in a very grown sea, so they had like to have been cast away. Yet, by God’s mercy, they recovered themselves, and having the flood [tide] with them, struck into the harbor, and though it was very dark and rained sore, they, in the end, got under the lee of a small island and remained there all night in safety”.*



Today we refer to all Mayflower passengers as Pilgrims, but this is incorrect.

Those who were members of the congregation from Leiden were Puritans who referred to themselves as Pilgrims.

Some of them brought servants with them (not slaves).

There were also paying passengers who boarded in Southampton

Some of them brought servants with them.

For our purposes, I will use the modern-day definition and refer to anyone who came on the Mayflower as a passenger, not a crew, as a Pilgrim. The ship left England with 102 passengers on board. A little over half of them came from Leyden.

With that in mind, **Let's Meet the Pilgrims.**



## Members of the Leiden, Holland Congregation

Allerton, Isaac (probably Suffolk). Businessman/Merchant/Trader later moved to Connecticut

Mary (Norris) Allerton, wife (Newbury, Berkshire)

Bartholomew Allerton, 7, son (Leiden, Holland). Later moved back to Suffolk, England

Remember Allerton, 5, daughter (Leiden).

Mary Allerton, 3, daughter (Leiden). She died in 1699 as, the last surviving Mayflower passenger.

Bradford, William (Austerfield, Yorkshire). The future Governor of Plymouth Colony

Dorothy (May) Bradford, wife (Wisbech, Isle of Ely, Cambridgeshire).

Brewster, William (possibly Nottingham). (The William Brewster from Scrooby Manor House)

Mary Brewster, wife.

Love/Truelove Brewster, 9, son (Leiden)

Wrestling Brewster, 6, son (Leiden).

Carver, John (possibly Yorkshire). The first Governor of Plymouth

Katherine (Leggett) (White) Carver, wife (probably Sturton-le-Steeple, Nottinghamshire).

Chilton, James (Canterbury, Kent). At age 64 was the oldest Pilgrim on the Mayflower

Mrs. (James) Chilton, wife.

Mary Chilton, 13, daughter (Sandwich, Kent).

Cooke, Francis. Joined in Leiden. His wife and second child came in 1623 on the Anne

John Cooke, 13, son (Leiden).

## Members of the Leiden, Holland Congregation

Cooper, Humility, 1, (probably Leiden) baby daughter of Robert Cooper, in the company of her aunt Ann Cooper Tilley, wife of Edward Tilley (see below)

Crackstone/Crackston, John (possibly Colchester, Essex). His wife had died. He also had a married daughter in Leiden.

John Crackstone, son.

Fletcher, Moses (Sandwich, Kent). A Blacksmith and long-term separatist.

Fuller, Edward (Redenhall, Norfolk). Brother to Samuel Fuller (below)

Mrs. (Edward) \_\_\_\_\_ Fuller, wife.

Samuel Fuller, 12, son.

Fuller, Samuel (Redenhall, Norfolk), (brother to Edward).

Goodman, John (possibly Northampton). A linen weaver who was 25 in 1620. probably single.

Priest, Degory. A hatmaker from London. He married Isaac Allerton's sister in Leiden.

Rogers, Thomas (Watford, Northamptonshire). Left his wife and three other children in Leiden. The children came later.

Joseph Rogers, 17, son (Watford, Northamptonshire).

Samson, Henry, 16, (Henlow, Bedfordshire) child in the company of his uncle and aunt Edward and Ann Tilley.

Tilley, Edward (Henlow, Bedfordshire) a sailmaker.

Ann (Cooper) Tilley (Henlow, Bedfordshire), wife of Edward and aunt of Humility Cooper and Henry Samson.

## Members of the Leiden, Holland Congregation

Tilley, John (Henlow, Bedfordshire). Edward Tilley's older brother.

Joan (Hurst) (Rogers) Tilley, wife (Henlow, Bedfordshire).

Elizabeth Tilley, 13, daughter (Henlow, Bedfordshire).

Tinker, Thomas (possibly Norfolk). Wood Sawyer. The names of the wife and son are unknown.

Mrs. Thomas Tinker, wife.

boy Tinker, son.

Turner, John (possibly Norfolk). A merchant. He traveled with two sons, names unknown.

boy Turner, the son.

boy Turner, younger son.

White, William - His sister Bridget was John Robinson's wife.

Susanna White, wife

Resolved White, son

Peregrine White, son. Born on board the Mayflower in Cape Cod Harbor in late November 1620.

First European born to the Pilgrims in America.

Williams, Thomas – came alone but had a twin sister who stayed in Leiden

Winslow, Edward (Droitwich, Worcestershire). 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> Governor.

Elizabeth (Barker) Winslow, wife.

## Servants of the Leiden Congregation

The pilgrims from Leiden brought their servants with them. These were not slaves but indentured servants, a common practice in Europe.

- Poor parents, especially those with large families that they couldn't properly clothe and feed, often sold some of their children into indentured servitude.
- Indentured servitude was also an ingrained part of the trade apprenticeship process.
- Some people sold themselves into servitude to pay for passage to the new world.

Servitude involved a contract between the servant and the master. It was for a fixed period of time, often five to seven years, which could be extended by the court for misbehavior. The master agreed to shelter, clothe and feed the servant, and the servant agreed to follow the master's orders. In the case of an apprenticeship, the master agreed to teach the servant his trade.

Indentured servitude was abolished in the U.S. immediately following the Revolutionary War.

Many of the indentured servants were not from Leiden. The English government in London forced them onto the settlers as a price for allowing their departure. Many were young orphans, and the government was getting rid of them.

## Servants of the Leiden Congregation

Butten, William (possibly Nottingham), "a youth", indentured servant of Samuel Fuller, died during the voyage. He was the first passenger to die on November 16, three days before Cape Cod was sighted.

\_\_\_\_\_, Dorothy, teenager, the maidservant of John Carver.

Hooke, John, (probably Norwich, Norfolk) age 13, apprenticed to Isaac Allerton

Howland, John, (Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire), about 21, manservant and executive assistant for Governor John Carver.

Latham, William, (possibly Lancashire), age 11, servant and apprentice to the John Carver family.

Minter, Desire, (Norwich, Norfolk), a servant of John Carver whose parents died in Leiden

More, Ellen (Elinor), (Shipton, Shropshire), age 8, assigned as a servant of Edward Winslow.

More, Jasper, (Shipton, Shropshire), age 7, indentured to John Carver.

More, Richard, (Shipton, Shropshire), age 6, indentured to William Brewster. He is buried in the Charter Street Burial Ground in Salem, Massachusetts. He is the only Mayflower passenger to have his gravestone still where it was originally placed sometime in the mid-1690s. Also buried nearby in the same cemetery were his wives Christian Hunter More and Jane (Crumpton) More

More, Mary, (Shipton, Shropshire), age 4, assigned as a servant of William Brewster.

## Servants of the Leiden Congregation

Soule, George, (possibly Bedfordshire), 21–25, servant or employee of Edward Winslow.

Story, Elias, age under 21, in the care of Edward Winslow.

Wilder, Roger, age under 21, a servant in the John Carver family.

## Passengers recruited by Thomas Weston, of London Merchant Adventurers

James Strong

Mary Strong, wife

Billington, John (possibly Lancashire). A family of troublemakers. John was hanged for Murder in 1630.

Eleanor Billington, wife. Sentenced to the stocks and whipped.

John Billington, 16, son.

Francis Billington, 14, son.

Britteridge, Richard (possibly Sussex). A simple man who traveled alone. The first to die in Plymouth.

Browne, Peter (Dorking, Surrey). Boarded the Mayflower in the company of the Mullins Family.

Clarke, Richard – Mentioned by Bradford and signer of the Compact, but little else is known.

Eaton, Francis (Bristol, Gloucestershire/Somerset). House Carpenter

Sarah Eaton, wife.

Samuel Eaton, 1, son.

Gardiner, Richard (Harwich, Essex). Seaman later returned to England

Hopkins, Stephen (Upper Clatford, Hampshire) – Merchant, Assistant to the Governor

Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins, wife.

Giles Hopkins, 12, son by first marriage (Hursley, Hampshire).

Constance Hopkins, 14, daughter by first marriage (Hursley, Hampshire).

Damaris Hopkins, 1–2, daughter.

Oceanus Hopkins was born on board the Mayflower en route to the New World.

## Passengers recruited by Thomas Weston, of London Merchant Adventurers

Margesson, Edmund (possibly Norfolk) Came alone, signed the Compact

Martin, Christopher 38 (Great Burstead, Essex). Mayflower Governor & Purchasing Agent.

Mary (Prower) Martin, wife.

Mullins, William (Dorking, Surrey). A shoemaker who brought a large stock of boots and shoes with him.

Alice Mullins, wife.

Priscilla Mullins, 18, daughter. She is the Priscilla of Miles Standish, John Alden fame.

Joseph Mullins, 14, son.

Solomon Prower (Billericay, Essex) came with his stepfather, Christopher Martin, and his mother, Mary Prower.

Rigsdale, John (possibly Lincolnshire). Little is known about this couple.

Alice Rigsdale, wife. There is some evidence that they were married in 1577.

Standish, Myles (Standish, Wigan, Lancashire). Hired as the Military Expert for Colony.

Rose Standish, wife.

Warren, Richard (Hertford, England). He came alone, leaving his wife and four daughters to join him later.

Winslow, Gilbert (Droitwich, Worcestershire), brother to Pilgrim Edward Winslow but not known to have lived in Leiden.

## Servants of Merchant Adventurers Passengers

Carter, Robert, (possibly Surrey), teenager, servant or apprentice to William Mullins, shoemaker.

Doty, Edward, (possibly Lincolnshire) age probably about 21, servant to Stephen Hopkins.

Holbeck, William, age likely under 21, servant to William White.

Langemore, John, age under 21, servant to Christopher Martin.

Leister, Edward also spelled Leitster, (possibly vicinity of London), aged over 21, servant to Stephen Hopkins.

Thompson (or Thomson), Edward, age under 21, in the care of the William White family, first passenger to die after the *Mayflower* reached Cape Cod.

Some things that may surprise you:

1. Only slightly more than half of the passengers (not including the crew) were Puritans seeking to start a new religious-based community in America.
2. Miles Standish was not one of the Puritans. He was hired in London to join the group as their military leader.
3. John Alden was not one of the Puritans, either. He is not shown on the previous lists because he was a crewman—the ship's cooper.
4. Some of the “others” became some of the most valuable citizens of Plymouth.

## Is the Story About John Alden, Priscilla Mullins, and Miles Standish True?

The Courtship of Miles Standish, written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1858, is based on real people. While there are many historical records about them, there is no record of John Alden approaching Priscilla on Miles Standish's behalf. Many historians believe that was creative storytelling. Longfellow was a descendant of John Alden and Priscilla and claimed it was based on oral history passed down through his family.

Here are some things we know to be true:

1. In 1621, all three were in Plymouth when this supposedly occurred. Standish's first wife had passed away, and the other two had never married.
2. Standish and Alden were likely roommates. Priscilla was the only single woman of marrying age in Plymouth.
3. Priscilla and John married, probably before 1623. Miles Standish married his second wife, Barbara, in 1623.
4. The Standish and Alden families were close friends, and in the late 1620s, both moved to Duxbury, just north of Plymouth.
5. When Miles Standish died in 1656, his wife, Barbara, appointed John Alden to inventory the estate.

So, while it seems a bit too poetic for reality, it is possible—you be the judge.

They were worn down, and many were ill from their long journey. The weather was bitter cold, and the ground was frozen and covered with snow, yet they had no choice but to start building. Their initial plan was to build a common house for meetings and prayer and seven houses, which they would share until personal homes could be constructed. The following are credited to Edward Winslow and William Bradford.

***Thursday, the 28th December,** so many as could went to work on the hill where we purposed to build our platform for our ordnance, and which doth command all the plain and the bay, and from whence we may see far into the sea, and might be easier impaled, having two rows of houses and a fair street. So in the afternoon we went to measure out the grounds, and first we took notice how many families there were, willing all single men that had no wives to join with some family, as they thought fit, that so we might build fewer houses, which was done, and we reduced them to nineteen families. To greater families we allotted larger plots, to every person half a pole in breadth, and three in length [8'3" by 49'2"], and so lots were cast where every man should lie, which was done, and staked out. We thought this proportion was large enough at the first for houses and gardens, to impale them round, considering the weakness of our people, many of them growing ill with cold, for our former discoveries in frost and storms, and the wading at Cape Cod had brought much weakness amongst us, which increased so every day more and more, and after was the cause of many of their deaths*

***Tuesday the 9th of January,** was a reasonable fair day, and we went to labor that day in the building of our town, in two rows of houses for more safety. We divided by lot the plot of ground whereon to build our town. After the proportion formerly allotted, we agreed that every man should build his own house, thinking that by that course men would make more haste than in working in common. The common house, in which for the first we made our rendezvous, being near finished wanted only covering, it being about twenty feet square. Some should make mortar, and some gather thatch, so that in four days half of it was thatched. Frost and foul weather hindered us much, this time of the year seldom could we work half the week.*

The area where the Pilgrims settled was on land previously claimed by the Wampanoag, who called it Patuxet after the Wampanoag Patuxet tribe that lived there.

There were an estimated 69 villages in the Wampanoag nation, of which Patuxet was one. Massasoit was the leader or Sachem of all the Wampanoag, a position he inherited. Massasoit was not his name but his title, which confused the English, who called him Massasoit. His name was Ousamequin. He was born about 1581 and died in 1661. He lived in Sowams, a Wampanoag village at Pokanket in Warren, Rhode Island.

In the early 1600s, Massasoit's leadership was marked by his ability to maintain a balance of power. He was a formidable Chief, capable of holding his ground against the Narragansett, who lived directly to the west, and the Massachusetts tribe, who resided to the North. This dynamic added a layer of complexity to the early American history.

Tisquantum was a Wampanoag who lived in the village of Pawtuxet. In 1614, he and other natives (about twenty-five) were captured by Captain Thomas Hunt, a notorious English ship captain and explorer, and taken to Europe. Tisquantum was sold into slavery in Spain.

According to tradition, Tisquantum was ransomed by some Franciscan Monks, who evangelized him and educated him in European languages.

Between 1616 and 1618, a pandemic occurred along the eastern side of New England, devastating the Wampanoag and other native tribes in the area.

The Wampanoag refer to it as the “Great Killing” and claim that as much as 75-90% of the native population was lost. Its symptoms were severe headache, nose bleeding, muscle pains and cramping, yellowing of the skin, lung congestion, hemorrhaging, and lingering pockmarks. It is still not known exactly what the disease was or where it came from other than it was most likely imported from Europe by a fisherman, explorer, or early settler. It was not smallpox, as many claim.

The Narragansett were not affected. The pandemic had swept down from Maine, along the eastern seaboard and turned inland in the southern part of Wampanoag territory but had stopped before reaching the Narragansett.

Massasoit was left with very weakened people and powerful enemies to the west. He needed allies.

Pawtuxet was devastated, and the population that did not escape early to other villages to the west was completely wiped out.

In 1619, Tisquantum was sent to Newfoundland to serve as an Indian guide for English explorers. There, he met Thomas Dermer and convinced him there were great riches to be had in Eastern Massachusetts.

When Tisquantum returned to his home village of Pawtuxet. He was shocked to see the village where he grew up in ruins. All that was left on the surface were the bones of the last to die, who had no one to take care of their remains.

Thomas Dermer wrote a letter describing what they saw:

*“We passed along the coast where we found some ancient [Indian] plantations, not long since populous now utterly void. In other places a remnant remains, but not free of sickness. Their disease [is] the plague, for we might perceive the sores of some that escaped, who decried spots of such as usually die. When we arrived at my savage’s native country, [we found] all dead.”*

Tisquantum was distraught over what he saw, but he decided this could be an opportunity. The old regime was devastated, and he could use the skills he learned in Europe to help him rise in power over what would come next.

Tisquantum, taking charge of the situation, deemed it necessary to assess the condition of Massasoit and his council. He guided Dermer to Nemasket, a native village roughly fifteen miles from Patuxet, and then convinced him of the need to press on to the Sachem’s village.

After an eight-day walk, they arrived in Pokanoket, where they met Massasoit and his brother, surrounded by fifty warriors. Massasoit, whose power had been greatly diminished by the plague, greeted them warmly.

After the meeting, Dermer and Tisquantum returned to Nemasket, where Tisquantum remained when Dermer returned to England.

There is a lot more to this history, but as you have probably guessed, Tisquantum was the Indian that the Pilgrims knew as Squanto. Now you know how he learned English and how he became allied with Massasoit.

The hardships of the first winter (1620-1621) resulted in many deaths among the Pilgrims. It was bitter cold and many of them were in a weakened state when they arrived. There was initially no shelter, and food supplies were limited.



The death toll was very high. They had left England with 102 passengers. By Spring of 1621, 50 had died.





## Members of the Leiden, Holland Congregation

Allerton, Isaac (probably Suffolk). Businessman/Merchant/Trader later moved to Connecticut

**Mary (Norris) Allerton**, wife (Newbury, Berkshire)

Bartholomew Allerton, 7, son (Leiden, Holland). Later moved back to Suffolk, England

Remember Allerton, 5, daughter (Leiden).

Mary Allerton, 3, daughter (Leiden). She died in 1699 as , the last surviving Mayflower passenger.

Bradford, William (Austerfield, Yorkshire). The future Governor of Plymouth Colony

**Dorothy (May) Bradford**, wife (Wisbech, Isle of Ely, Cambridgeshire).

Brewster, William (possibly Nottingham). (The William Brewster from Scrooby Manor House)

Mary Brewster, wife.

Love/Truelove Brewster, 9, son (Leiden). As

Wrestling Brewster, 6, son (Leiden).

Carver, John (possibly Yorkshire). The first Governor of Plymouth

Katherine (Leggett) (White) Carver, wife (probably Sturton-le-Steeple, Nottinghamshire).

**Chilton, James** (Canterbury, Kent). At age 64 was the oldest Pilgrim on the Mayflower

**Mrs. (James) Chilton, wife.**

Mary Chilton, 13, daughter (Sandwich, Kent).

Cooke, Francis. Joined in Leiden. His wife and second child came in 1623 on the Anne

John Cooke, 13, son (Leiden).

## Members of the Leiden, Holland Congregation

Cooper, Humility, 1, (probably Leiden) baby daughter of Robert Cooper, in the company of her aunt Ann Cooper Tilley, wife of Edward Tilley (see below)

**Crackstone/Crackston, John** (possibly Colchester, Essex). His wife had died. He also had a married daughter in Leiden.

John Crackstone, son.

**Fletcher, Moses** (Sandwich, Kent). A Blacksmith and s long-term separatist.

**Fuller, Edward** (Redenhall, Norfolk). Brother to Samuel Fuller (below)

**Mrs. (Edward) \_\_\_\_\_ Fuller**, wife.

Samuel Fuller, 12, son.

Fuller, Samuel (Redenhall, Norfolk), (brother to Edward).

Goodman, John (possibly Northampton). A linen weaver who was 25 in 1620. probably single.

**Priest, Degory**. A hatmaker from London. He married Isaac Allerton's sister in Leiden.

**Rogers, Thomas** (Watford, Northamptonshire). Left his wife and three other children in Leiden. The children came later.

Joseph Rogers, 17, son (Watford, Northamptonshire).

Samson, Henry, 16, (Henlow, Bedfordshire) child in the company of his uncle and aunt Edward and Ann Tilley.

**Tilley, Edward** (Henlow, Bedfordshire) a sailmaker.

**Ann (Cooper) Tilley** (Henlow, Bedfordshire), wife of Edward and aunt of Humility Cooper and Henry Samson.

## Members of the Leiden, Holland Congregation

**Tilley, John** (Henlow, Bedfordshire). Edward Tilley's older brother.

**Joan (Hurst) (Rogers) Tilley**, wife (Henlow, Bedfordshire).

Elizabeth Tilley, 13, daughter (Henlow, Bedfordshire).

**Tinker, Thomas** (possibly Norfolk). Wood Sawyer. The names of the wife and son are unknown.

**Mrs. Thomas Tinker**, wife.

**boy Tinker**, son.

**Turner, John** (possibly Norfolk). A merchant. He traveled with two sons, names unknown.

**boy Turner**, the son.

**boy Turner**, younger son.

**White, William** - His sister Bridget was John Robinson's wife.

Susanna White, wife

Resolved White, son

Peregrine White, son. Born on board the Mayflower in Cape Cod Harbor in late November 1620.

First European born to the Pilgrims in America.

Williams, Thomas – came alone but had a twin sister who stayed in Leiden

Winslow, Edward (Droitwich, Worcestershire). 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> Governor.

**Elizabeth (Barker) Winslow**, wife.

## Servants of the Leiden Congregation

**Butten, William** (possibly Nottingham), "a youth", indentured servant of Samuel Fuller, died during the voyage. He was the first passenger to die on November 16, three days before Cape Cod was sighted.

\_\_\_\_\_, Dorothy, teenager, the maidservant of John Carver.

**Hooke, John**, (probably Norwich, Norfolk) age 13, apprenticed to Isaac Allerton

Howland, John, (Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire), about 21, manservant and executive assistant for Governor John Carver.

Latham, William, (possibly Lancashire), age 11, servant and apprentice to the John Carver family.

Minter, Desire, (Norwich, Norfolk), a servant of John Carver whose parents died in Leiden

**More, Ellen (Elinor)**, (Shipton, Shropshire), age 8, assigned as a servant of Edward Winslow.

**More, Jasper**, (Shipton, Shropshire), age 7, indentured to John Carver.

More, Richard, (Shipton, Shropshire), age 6, indentured to William Brewster. He is buried in the Charter Street Burial Ground in Salem, Massachusetts. He is the only Mayflower passenger to have his gravestone still where it was originally placed sometime in the mid-1690s. Also buried nearby in the same cemetery were his wives Christian Hunter More and Jane (Crumpton) More

**More, Mary**, (Shipton, Shropshire), age 4, assigned as a servant of William Brewster.

## Servants of the Leiden Congregation

Soule, George, (possibly Bedfordshire), 21–25, servant or employee of Edward Winslow.

**Story, Elias**, age under 21, in the care of Edward Winslow.

**Wilder, Roger**, age under 21, a servant in the John Carver family.

## Passengers recruited by Thomas Weston, of London Merchant Adventurers

James Strong

Mary Strong, wife

Billington, John (possibly Lancashire). A family of troublemakers. Jon hanged for Murder in 1630.

Eleanor Billington, wife. Sentenced to the stocks and whipped.

John Billington, 16, son.

Francis Billington, 14, son.

**Britteridge, Richard** (possibly Sussex). A simple man who traveled alone. The first to die in Plymouth.

Browne, Peter (Dorking, Surrey). Boarded the Mayflower in the company of the Mullins Family.

**Clarke, Richard** – Mentioned by Bradford and signer of the Compact, but little else is known.

Eaton, Francis (Bristol, Gloucestershire/Somerset). House Carpenter

**Sarah Eaton**, wife.

Samuel Eaton, 1, son.

Gardiner, Richard (Harwich, Essex). Seaman later returned to England

Hopkins, Stephen (Upper Clatford, Hampshire) – Merchant, Assistant to the Governor

Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins, wife.

Giles Hopkins, 12, son by first marriage (Hursley, Hampshire).

Constance Hopkins, 14, daughter by first marriage (Hursley, Hampshire).

Damaris Hopkins, 1–2, daughter.

Oceanus Hopkins, born on board the Mayflower en route to the New World.

## Passengers recruited by Thomas Weston, of London Merchant Adventurers

**Margesson, Edmund** (possibly Norfolk) Came alone, signed the Compact

**Martin, Christopher** 38 (Great Burstead, Essex). Mayflower Governor & Purchasing Agent.

**Mary (Prower) Martin**, wife.

**Mullins, William** (Dorking, Surrey). A shoemaker who brought a large stock of boots and shoes with him.

**Alice Mullins**, wife.

Priscilla Mullins, 18, daughter. She is the Priscilla of Miles Standish, John Alden fame.

**Joseph Mullins**, 14, son.

**Solomon Prower** (Billericay, Essex) came with his stepfather, Christopher Martin, and his mother, Mary Prower.

**Rigsdale, John** (possibly Lincolnshire). Little is known about this couple.

**Alice Rigsdale**, wife. There is some evidence that they were married in 1577.

Standish, Myles (Standish, Wigan, Lancashire). Hired as the Military Expert for Colony.

**Rose Standish, wife.**

Warren, Richard (Hertford, England). He came alone, leaving his wife and four daughters to join him later.

Winslow, Gilbert (Droitwich, Worcestershire), brother to Pilgrim Edward Winslow but not known to have lived in Leiden.

## Servants of Merchant Adventurers Passengers

**Carter, Robert**, (possibly Surrey), teenager, servant or apprentice to William Mullins, shoemaker.

Doty, Edward, (possibly Lincolnshire) age probably about 21, servant to Stephen Hopkins.

**Holbeck, William**, age likely under 21, servant to William White.

**Langemore, John**, age under 21, servant to Christopher Martin.

Leister, Edward also spelled Leitster, (possibly vicinity of London), aged over 21, servant to Stephen Hopkins.

**Thompson (or Thomson), Edward**, age under 21, in the care of the William White family, first passenger to die after the *Mayflower* reached Cape Cod.

Throughout the harsh winter, the Pilgrims demonstrated remarkable resilience, steadfastly enduring their hardships and forging ahead with the construction of their community. Despite the challenges, they remained vigilant, often spotting Indians in the surrounding woods. However, these indigenous people would vanish at the slightest attempt to approach them. Even when patrols were dispatched to locate them, the Indians remained elusive.

Massasoit's men maintained a watchful eye on the Pilgrims, providing regular updates to their Sachem as he pondered over how to handle these unfamiliar arrivals. Massasoit's initial inclination, a sentiment echoed by many of his advisors, was to eliminate them. However, he observed a striking dissimilarity in this group. They were accompanied by women and children, a sight that was entirely novel to the natives, sparking a shift in his perspective.

English, French, and Spanish explorers, traders, and pirates had been in the area for some time. These encounters did often not end well. The Europeans considered the Native Americans to be savages and often slaughtered them or captured them to sell as slaves in Spain. The Natives had learned to hate the Europeans.

Massasoit kept Squanto on a short leash. He didn't completely trust him but knew Squanto had much more experience dealing with the English than his other advisors.

Squanto advised making allies with the English. The English had much more powerful weapons than the Natives and could be used against Massasoit's numerous enemies and competitors, including the Narragansett. Squanto pointed to the guns and cannons but claimed the Plague was an English weapon and the pilgrims had barrels of it stored under one of their buildings.

After much careful consideration, Massasoit decided to engage with the British and try to establish an alliance. Squanto saw this as an opportunity, but Massasoit didn't trust him, and very few Wampanoags spoke English. Instead, he sent Samoset, a visiting sachem from another Wampanoag village, to make first contact.

On the significant date of March 16, 1621, Samoset strode into Plymouth village, his demeanor calm and composed. He introduced himself in a language foreign to his tongue, his first words echoing with a sense of welcome, 'Welcome English'. Samoset stayed overnight, and before he left, he promised to return soon and bring others with him.

On March 22, 1621, Samoset returned with four other natives, including Squanto. They told the Pilgrims that their great Sachem Massasoit was nearby with his warriors and would arrive shortly.

Massasoit arrived with much fanfare, and the English did their best to return the pageantry and show their peaceful intent. Squanto acted as interpreter, but Samoset stood close to ensure the translation was accurate.

After the formalities were completed, Massasoit and Governor Carter moved to a house under construction that had been prepared for the event. The house had a carpet on top of the dirt floor and cushions to sit on. There, they negotiated a peace treaty that initiated peace between Plymouth Colony and the Wampanoag.

Bradford and Winslow both recorded the terms of the agreement.

1. That neither he nor any of his should injure or do hurt to any of our people.
2. That if any of his did any hurt to any of ours, he should send the offender so that we might punish him.
3. That if any of our tools were taken away when our people were at work, he should cause them to be restored, and if ours did any harm to any of his, we would do like unto him.
4. If any did unjustly war against him, we would aide him; if any did war against us, he should aide us.
5. He should send to his neighbor confederates to certify them of this, that they might not wrong us, but might likewise comprised in conditions of peace.
6. That when their men came to us, they should leave their bows and arrows behind them, as we should do our pieces when we came to them.

This simple agreement marked the beginning of a long-lasting relationship that benefitted both sides.



Massasoit agreed to let Squanto stay with the Pilgrims. Patuxet was the home of his birth and he liked and was very comfortable with the Englishmen.

Squanto served the Pilgrims well. He taught them how to plant and grow corn, fish for eels, trap and harvest animals for fur, the best places to fish, and how to hunt like a native. He knew the area well and showed them many places and escorted them when they visited other natives to interpret for them.

In the Fall of 2021, Bradford, who had become Governor following the death of John Carver, declared, "Now that we have gathered the fruit of our labors, it is time to rejoice together." Massasoit was invited and came with 50 of his warriors. The rest is history, and although the Pilgrims didn't call it that, it is what is now Thanksgiving.

William Bradford and Squanto forged a deep friendship, while Edward Winslow developed a lifelong bond with Massasoit. This bond was cemented when Winslow rushed to Massasoit's side, saving him from a fatal illness for which the natives had no cure.

Squanto died in November of 2022 from "Indian Fever." William Bradford stayed with him for three days, but neither the natives or the English had a cure. The following is from Bradford:

*"In this place Squanto fell sick of Indian fever, bleeding much at the nose (which the Indians take as a symptom of death) and within a few days died there; desiring the Governor to pray for him, that he might go to the Englishmen's God in Heaven; and bequeathed sundry of his things to English friends, as remembrances of his love; of whom they had a great loss."*

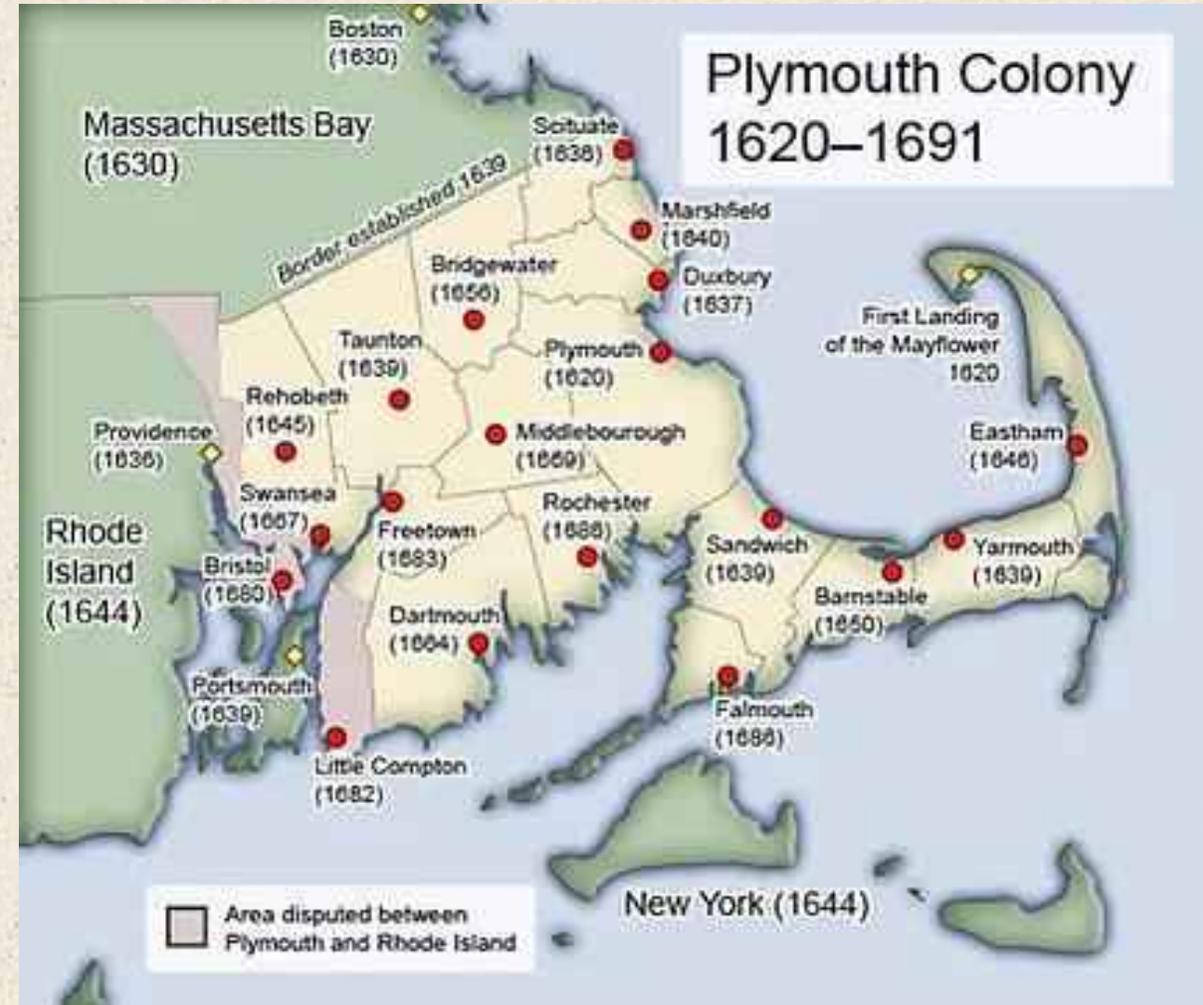
What happened to Plymouth? Where did it go?

Plymouth grew and flourished both as a community and a colony.

Plymouth operated under its own colony government with little interference from England until 1686, when King James combined all New England and most of the Mid-Atlantic colonies into the Dominion of New England in America, abolishing all colony governments.

The Dominion was short-lived. King James was overthrown in 1689 in England, and the colonists revolted in the New World.

The colonies tried to reinstate their old governments, but King William and Queen Mary issued new charters in 1692 that combined Plymouth with the Massachusetts Bay Colony.



There is much more to the history of Plymouth and Plymouth Colony, including many fascinating stories.

The truth about what happened is readily available thanks to the Internet and digital reproductions of historical records.

The following are available for free on the **archive.org**

1. Bradford's History of Plymouth Plantation 1606-1646
2. Edward Winslow's Goods News from New-England
3. Edward Amber The Story of the Pilgrim Fathers 1606-1623 as told by Themselves

For a more modern, very thorough, and well researched, and documented account, read Nathaniel Philbrick's *Mayflower*.

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