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**BRIEF  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
PILGRIMS**

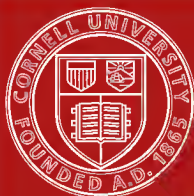


# BRIEF HISTORY *of the* PILGRIMS

*A Continuous History*

**Their  
Formation in England  
Life in Holland  
Experiences  
Throughout the Years of  
The Establishment  
At Plymouth**

Taken from Bradford's History and Contemporaneous Writings of Bradford and Winslow



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# A Brief History of the Pilgrims

*Compiled from the writings of Governor Bradford  
and Governor Winslow, and largely in their  
own words. With alphabetical list  
of Mayflower passengers*

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## FOREWORD

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There has long been need of a short history of the Pilgrims — something between the short sketchy outlines of Pilgrim History that every one knows, and the more exhaustive and scholarly histories which few people have the time or inclination to read. This booklet gives a fairly comprehensive account of what the Pilgrims did during the most interesting period of their history, and their reasons for so doing.

No scholarship or literary merit is claimed or intended. The most valuable book we have on this subject is "Bradford's History," written by the Governor himself. This booklet is largely composed of selections from that history, with Bradford's own language used so far as advisable. Bradford's book is rather brief as to the daily doings and incidents of the first year or two at Plymouth, probably because several pamphlets had been distributed in England dealing in more detail with this period. The most valuable of these are the so-called *Mourt's Relation*, written either by Governor Bradford or Governor Winslow, but more probably in collaboration, and *Winslow's Narrative*. These two latter valuable manuscripts, together with others, are included in *Young's Chronicles of the Pilgrims*. Anyone wishing to read more fully will get practically all of Pilgrim History from "Bradford's History"

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and *Young's Chronicles*. From the latter book, the day-to-day activities of the Pilgrims during the first winter, and some of the happenings of the first few years, have been taken.

Any merit in this booklet is simply that of selection. The above-mentioned books abound in so many incidents showing the intense human nature and commonsense of the Pilgrims, and their attitude toward life that it is very difficult for one who intensely admires and respects them (as all must who read more fully) to leave out as many as are necessary to keep within the limits imposed by this booklet.

No effort has been made to comment upon the facts, but it is hoped that the reader will appreciate for himself their fortitude, forbearance, patience and persistence; the peculiar preparation that this band had for this special work, leaving England a band of religious enthusiasts, trusting in God, and, through the hard years in Holland, learning to take up new work and make their own way under strange surroundings, until, when they came to a new country, they had added to their trust in God a confidence in themselves backed by experience and ability; and the wonderful providence that was shown leading them to probably the only place on the American coast where the ground had been cleared for planting by the Indians, and yet where there were no Indians to dispute possession with them except one, who had been in England, learned the English language, and wished to be their friend.



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The language of the participants has been used as largely as is consistent with a continuous and brief history. The spelling has been modernized, and all dates changed to accord with the modern calendar. For the sake of easy reading, liberty has been taken of making no note of elisions from the text in quotations. These have nowhere changed the meaning.

The reader can probably derive more actual information and facts concerning the Pilgrims from this booklet than from anything heretofore published which can be read in the same length of time, and it is hoped that more busy people will be enabled to know the salient points of Pilgrim History, and that there will, therefore, be a more widespread appreciation of their character and influence.



## A Brief History of the Pilgrims

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**A**FTER the long contest between Protestantism and Catholicism in England had been won by the Protestants, and the Church of England became the recognized Church, a great controversy still existed concerning the power of Bishops and church ceremonials.

“The one side labored to have the right worship of God and discipline of Christ established in the Church, according to the simplicity of the gospel, without the mixture of men’s inventions, and to have and be ruled by the laws of God’s word, dispensed in those offices and by those officers of Pastors, Teachers and Elders, etc., according to the Scripture.”

“The other party endeavored to have the episcopal dignity (after the popish manner) with their large power and jurisdiction still retained.”

“As in other places in the land, so in the North parts, many became enlightened till they were occasioned to see further into things by the light of the word of God. How not only these base and beggarly ceremonies were unlawful, but also that the lordly and tyrannous power of the prelates ought not to be submitted unto, which thus, contrary to the freedom of the Gospel, would by their compulsive power make a profane mixture of persons and things in the worship of God.”

1606

One congregation of these independents was formed at Scrooby near the junction of Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

“But they could not long continue in any peaceable condition, but were hunted and persecuted on every side. For some were taken and clapt up in prison, others had their houses beset and watched night and day.”

“Seeing themselves thus molested, and that there was no hope of continuance there, they resolved to go into the Lowlands, where they heard was freedom of Religion for all men, which was in the year 1607 and 1608.”

“But to go into a country they know not (but by hearsay), where they must learn a new language, and get their living they knew not how, was by many thought a venture almost desperate. Especially seeing they were not acquainted with trade nor traffic, but had only been used to a plain country life, and the innocent trade of husbandry.”

“But these things did not dismay them (though they did sometimes trouble them), for their desires were set on the ways of God, but they rested on His providence, and knew whom they had believed.”

“Though they could not stay, yet were they not suffered to go, but the ports and havens were shut against them, so as they were fain to seek secret means of conveyance and to bribe the mariners, and give extraordinary rates for their

passages, and yet were they oftentimes betrayed, and both they and their goods intercepted."

"And in the end, notwithstanding all these storms of opposition, they all got over at length, some at one time and some at another, and some in one place and some in another, and met together again with no small rejoicing."

1609

After living in Amsterdam a while and finding that city a hotbed of religious controversy they "thought it was best to remove before they were any way engaged with the same, though they well knew it would be much to the prejudice of their outward estates as indeed it proved to be."

"For these and some other reasons they removed to Leyden. Being now here pitched, they fell to such trade and employment as they best could, and at length they came to raise a competent and comfortable living, but with hard and continual labor."

1620

"After they had lived in this city about some eleven or twelve years, the grave mistress Experience having taught them many things, at length they began to incline to this conclusion, of removal to some other place. Not out of any new-fangledness or other such like giddy humor, by which men are oftentimes transported to their great hurt and danger, but for sundry weighty and solid reasons."

They felt that they were getting older, and were gradually being absorbed with the life of

Holland, and being broken up without having established anything of permanence. Their children were drifting away from them "so that they saw their posterity would be in danger to degenerate and be corrupted. Lastly (and which was not least) a great hope and inward zeal they had of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way thereunto, for the propagation and advancing of the gospel of the Kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world; yea, though they should be but even as stepping-stones unto others for the performing of so great a work."

America was proposed and many objections were made as to the difficulties in the way both of getting there and living afterwards.

"It was answered, that all great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties, and must be both enterprised and overcome with answerable courages. It was granted the dangers were great but not desperate; the difficulties were many, but not invincible. For though there were many of them likely, yet they were not certain, it might be sundry of the things feared might never befall; others by provident care and the use of good means, might in a great measure be prevented; and all of them, through the help of God, by fortitude and patience, might either be borne or overcome."

"It was finally concluded by the major part to put this design in execution and to prosecute it by the best means they could."

Considerable was known about America by this time. Several attempts had been made to settle there by the English, but all were very short-lived, except the settlement at Jamestown, which flickered along for a number of years. Hundreds of vessels had fished along the coast and traded with the Indians, all bringing back more or less information. At first North America from Jamestown to Maine was called Virginia, and the northern part North Virginia.

In 1614, Capt. John Smith visited North Virginia, explored the coast fairly thoroughly and drew a map, calling this section New England. This map was shown to Charles I., then a prince, and he gave the names of English towns to points along the coast; among the points so named by him was Plymouth.

The Leyden congregation also knew of the Dutch trading-posts about the mouth of the Hudson River, so that while they contemplated a part of the country where no permanent settlement had been made, it was country concerning which much was known, and for which various patents had been granted by King James.

Having decided to go to the New World they sent two of their number to England to take the business up with the Virginia Company as to a patent, and to obtain from the King a confirmation, under his seal, of their religious liberty. The King finally agreed to "connive at them, and not molest them, provided they carried themselves peaceably. But to allow or tolerate them by his

public authority, under his seal, they found it would not be."

The lack of the desired official document from the King caused some apprehension. "But some of the chiefest thought otherwise, and that they might well proceed hereupon, and the King's majesty was willing enough to suffer them without molestation, though for other reasons he would not confirm it by any public act. And furthermore, if there was no security in this promise intimated, there would be no great certainty in a further confirmation of the same; for if afterwards there should be a purpose or a desire to wrong them, though they had a seal as broad as the house floor, it would not serve the turn, for there would be means enough found to recall or reverse it. Seeing, therefore, the course was probable, they must rest herein on God's providence, as they had done in other things."

Having come to this conclusion they sent Robert Cushman and John Carver back to England to make arrangements with the Virginia Company and to finance the venture. The patent was obtained and issued in the name of John Wincob, a religious man in England, who intended to join them.

"But God so disposed as he never went, nor they ever made use of this patent."

The matter of finance was more complicated and discouraging and led to many recriminations between the agent, Robert Cushman, and the congregation at Leyden. A Mr. Weston was found



who undertook to raise the funds in connection with others, and finally, after much cross pulling the following agreement was signed by Robert Cushman and the adventurers (as those who were to remain in England and venture their money were called, and shall be referred to hereafter by that name).

1. The adventurers and planter do agree, that every person that goeth being aged 16 years and upward, be rated at ten pounds, and ten pounds to be accounted a single share.

2. That he that goeth in person, and furnishes himself out with ten pounds, either in money or other provisions, be accounted as having twenty pounds in stock, and in the division shall have a double share.

3. The persons transported, and the adventurers shall continue their joint stock and partnership together the space of seven years, (except some unexpected impediment do cause the whole company to agree otherwise), during which time, all profits and benefits that are got by trade, traffic, trucking, working, fishing, or any other means of any person, or persons, remain still in the common stock until the division.

4. That at their coming here, they choose out such a number of fit persons, as may furnish the rest in their several faculties upon the land; as building houses, tilling and planting the ground, and making such commodities as shall be most useful for the colony.

5. That at the end of seven years, the capital and profits, viz.; the houses, lands, goods and chattels, be equally divided betwixt the adventurers and planters; which done, every man shall be free from other of them of any debt or detriment concerning this adventure.

6. Whosoever cometh to the colony hereafter, or putteth any into the stock, shall at the end of the seven years be allowed proportionately to the time of his so doing.

7. He that shall carry his wife and children, or servants,

shall be allowed for every person now aged 16 years and upward, a single share in the division, or if he provide them necessaries, a double share, or if they be between ten years old and sixteen, then two of them to be reckoned for a person, both in transportation and division.

8. That such children as now go, and are under the age of ten years, have no other share in the division, but 50 acres of unmanured land.

9. That such persons as die before the seven years be expired, their executors to have their part or share at the division, proportionately to the time of their life in the colony.

10. That all such as are of this colony, are to have their meat, drink, apparel and all provision out of the common stock and goods of the said colony.

In answer to the charge that the Pilgrims believed in communism is the fact that they never attempted it in Holland, and that these terms were forced on them by the adventurers for their own protection, and were very unsatisfactory to the Pilgrims.

Their real opinion, after very few years of trial, we will find clearly expressed later.

Finally a small vessel, the *Speedwell*, was secured in Holland to carry those to England who were going from Leyden, and a larger vessel, the *Mayflower*, of 180 tons burden, was secured in London.

They had a day of service and prayer at Leyden, their pastor, John Robinson, who was to remain, delivering a sermon, and then went to Delft-Haven to take ship. "So they left that goodly and pleasant city, which had been their resting place near twelve years, but they knew they were Pilgrims, and looked not much on

those things, but lifted up their eyes to the heavens, their dearest country."

They soon reached Southampton and met the *Mayflower* there. A dispute arose between them and the adventurers concerning the division of houses in Article 5 of the agreement, which they said they would not abide by, as Mr. Cushman had not been authorized to agree to it.

"And this was the first ground of discontent between them."

Both vessels finally being ready, they put to sea, and had gone but a short way when the *Speedwell* sprung a leak and both vessels put back to Dartmouth. Here the *Speedwell* was looked over thoroughly and repairs made, and they set out the second time, and again after going a short distance they came back to Plymouth on account of the *Speedwell*, and it was finally decided that she was not strong enough for the voyage. They then decided to go ahead with what passengers the *Mayflower* could carry, and on September 16th they set sail for the third and last time with a total passenger list of 102, men, women and children.

The voyage lasted a little over two months, during which they encountered a great deal of severe weather. Only one of the passengers died on the trip, William Butten, a servant. A son, Oceanus, was born to Steven Hopkins on the voyage.

"After long beating at sea, they fell with that land which is called Cape Cod. They were not a

little joyful. After some deliberation had amongst themselves and with the master of the ship, they tacked about and resolved to stand for the southward (the wind and weather being fair) to find some place about the Hudson River for their habitation. But after they had sailed that course about half the day, they fell amongst dangerous shoals and roaring breakers, and they were so far entangled therewith as they conceived themselves in great danger; and the wind shrinking upon them withal, they resolved to bear up again for the Cape, and thought themselves happy to get out of those dangers before night overtook them, as by God's providence they did. And the next day they got into the Cape Harbor, where they rode in safety."

This was Provincetown Harbor, where they arrived on November 21st, 1620.

While in Provincetown Harbor, they made "the first foundation of their government in this place; occasioned partly by the discontented and mutinous speeches that some of the strangers among them had let fall in the ship, that when they came ashore they would use their own liberty, for none had power to command them, and partly that such an act might be as firm as any patent."

This compact was as follows, and stands as the corner-stone of our present democracy.

In the name of God, amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc., 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 the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents 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. In witness whereof, we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord, King James, of England, France, and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domino. 1620.

“After this they chose, or rather confirmed, Mr. John Carver their governor for that year.”

From the date of arriving at Provincetown Harbor until the following spring it will probably be more interesting to follow them, so far as possible, day by day.

It was Saturday, Nov. 21st, when they sailed into Provincetown Harbor, and on that day they sent a party of fifteen or sixteen men ashore to spy out the land, and bring back wood.

Monday, Nov. 23d, they started repairs on the shallop, a large boat they had brought in the Mayflower, but which they had been obliged to cut down in order to stow between decks. This day they all went ashore, the women to do their washing.

Wednesday, Nov. 25, a party of sixteen men, under the command of Myles Standish, set out on foot to explore along the Cape, saw their first

Indians, and following their tracks until dark, camped in the woods for the night.

Thursday, Nov. 26, they went as far as Pamet River in Truro, and returned to the Pond in Pond Village to spend the night. During this day they found Indian graves, and a cache of Indian corn, of which they took all they could back to the *Mayflower*.

Friday, Nov. 27, they returned to the rest of their party, and for the ensuing days they busied themselves with cutting wood, making handles for their tools, and pushing the repairs on the shallop. This being finally ready, a party of thirty-four, including Capt. Jones, of the *Mayflower*, and some of his sailors, set out on Monday, Dec. 7, to go along the shore, using both the shallop and the long boat. The wind was so strong that they soon had to put to shore for the night.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, they went as far as Pamet River, where they landed for further exploration, but on account of rough travelling did not get far, and camped.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, they went to the place where the former party had found the corn. The balance of the original cache, and two others, yielded about ten bushels of corn and some beans, all of which they took to use as seed in the spring. It was well they did, as it was the only opportunity they had to obtain any. They determined to make reparation as soon as possible to the Indians, which about six months later they did.

That night all but eighteen went back to the ship.

Thursday, Dec. 10, the remaining eighteen explored further, finding other graves and some Indian houses or tepees, and at night met the shallop, which had returned to take them back to the ship.

While at Provincetown, Peregrine White was born.

Tuesday, Dec. 15, Francis Billington, a boy, got hold of a loaded gun and some gunpowder, and nearly set the ship afire.

Wednesday, Dec. 16, a party of eighteen, composed of Myles Standish, John Carver, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Tilley, Edward Tilley, John Howland, Richard Warren, Steven Hopkins, Edward Dotey, John Allerton, Thomas English, the two mates of the *Mayflower* (Mr. Clark and Mr. Choppin), the master gunner and three sailors, set out in the shallop to make more extended exploration around Cape Cod Bay. It was so cold that the water froze on their clothing. They started to land at Wellfleet Bay, but saw ten or twelve Indians on the shore and kept along as far as Eastham, where they landed, built a barricade, put out sentinels and camped for the night.

Thursday, Dec. 17, the company divided, eight staying in the shallop, and the rest exploring the surrounding country. They found no place they liked for a permanent settlement, and at night rejoined the shallop, and erected their barricade, probably not far from where they had spent the

previous night. On this day at Provincetown, Dorothy Bradford, wife of William Bradford, who was on the exploring party, fell overboard and was drowned.

Friday, Dec. 18, at five o'clock in the morning, while preparing to start off for the day, they were attacked by thirty or forty Indians with bows and arrows. After a sharp encounter, although there do not seem to have been any casualties on either side, the Indians ran away. The Pilgrim party pursued them for about a quarter of a mile and then returned to the shallop. They coasted the shore all that day, during which it began to storm. The storm increased in fury until, as they were about off Rocky Point at Manomet, both their rudder and mast broke, and they were being swept into Saquish Cove, which was full of breakers. By dint of extraordinary effort with the oars, they managed to round Saquish Head, and land in the lee of Clark's Island, where they spent the night, during which "the wind shifted to the northwest, and it froze hard."

Saturday, Dec. 19, "God gave them a morning of comfort and refreshing (as usually he doth to his children) for it was a fair, sunshiny day, and they found themselves to be on an island secure from the Indians, where they might dry their stuff, fix their pieces, and rest themselves, and gave God thanks for his mercies, in their manifold deliverances."

Sunday, Dec. 20, they kept the Sabbath on Clark's Island.



Monday, Dec. 21, "they sounded the harbor, and found it fit for shipping, and marched into the land,<sup>1</sup> and found divers cornfields and little running brooks, a place fit for situation; at least it was the best they could find, and the season, and their present necessity made them glad to accept of it. So they returned to their ship<sup>2</sup> again with the news to the rest of their people, which did much comfort their hearts."

Friday, Dec. 25, they weighed anchor in Provincetown Harbor to go to Plymouth, but the wind was such that they had to put back.

Saturday, Dec. 26, they had a fair wind and the *Mayflower* sailed into Plymouth Harbor, where they spent the Sabbath on the ship.

Monday, Dec. 28, they went ashore and explored the coast for several miles. They saw no Indians, but signs of where they had been and where the land had been cleared for planting corn.

Tuesday, Dec. 29, they explored further, both on land and in the shallop. They went as far north as Jones River, where they had a strong inclination to settle. Others favored Clark's Island.

Wednesday, Dec. 30, they determined to make their final decision as to the actual site of their settlement. "After our landing and viewing of the places, as well as we could, we came to a conclusion, by most voices, to set on the main land, on the first place, on a high ground, where there

<sup>1</sup> This was the first landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and is the day that is celebrated.

<sup>2</sup> The "Mayflower", with all these eighteen, was still at Provincetown.

is a great deal of land cleared, and hath been planted with corn three or four years ago, and there is a very sweet brook runs under the hill-side."

Thursday, Dec. 31, was so stormy that it was eleven A. M. before they could send the shallop with provisions from the ship for those that were left on shore, and it was so bad that the shallop could not return to the ship.

1621

Friday, Jan. 1, the storm continued.

Saturday, Jan. 2, as many as could went on shore and cut timber for houses.

Monday, Jan. 4, they continued work on lumber for building, and started to erect the common house.

Tuesday, Jan. 5, was so stormy that they could not go ashore.

Wednesday, Jan. 6, they resumed work.

Thursday, Jan. 7, they planned for the fort on Burial Hill, and decided how many houses it was necessary to build to hold all their company. By assigning the single men to different families they comprised their number into nineteen families, and allotted plots to each family according to its size.

Friday, Jan. 8, and Saturday, Jan. 9, were stormy and cold.

Monday, Jan. 11, they resumed work on shore, continuing during the week.

All this time the greater number were living on board the ship, which was probably anchored in the Cow Yard, that being about as near as she

could float at low tide, and were going back and forth in the long boat and the shallop. In fact, a great number lived on the ship until the last of March.

Monday, Jan. 18, was fair and they continued their work. Francis Billington and one of the mates went to Billington Sea, which the boy had seen several days before from the top of a tree on a hill.

Tuesday, Jan. 19, the common house was all finished but thatching. Some were detailed to make mortar, and others to gather thatch, and in four days the roof was half done. On this day they divided the land by lot to the different families, "after the proportion formerly allotted." "We agreed that every man should build his own house, thinking by that course, men would make more haste than working common."

Sunday, Jan. 24, the new roof of the common house caught fire from a flying spark, but no damage was done beyond the burning of the thatch.

Monday, Jan. 25, it rained all day.

"Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were very fair, sunshiny days, as if it had been in April," what we call a January thaw, and they got ahead with their work.

Friday, Jan. 29, it rained from noon on and interrupted their work.

Saturday, Jan. 30, they erected a shed for their common goods.

Sunday, Jan. 31, they held their meeting ashore.

Monday, Feb. 1, was fair, and they were able to continue their work during the week.

Monday, Feb. 8, both boats brought their common goods ashore.

Tuesday, Feb. 9, and Wednesday, Feb. 10, were so inclement that they could not work.

Sunday, Feb. 14, was one of the stormiest days they had had, and blew out much of the clay packing in their houses.

Friday, Feb. 19, was still cold and they could do little work. The roof of the small hospital they had built caught fire, but little harm was done.

Friday, Feb. 26, was fair, but the cold still continued. One of their number, gunning in the woods, saw twelve Indians coming toward the settlement, and thought he heard others in the woods. He hurried home with the alarm, and all others were called in. They saw no more of the Indians, but when Myles Standish and Francis Cook went back to work they found that their tools had been stolen.

Saturday, Feb. 27, Myles Standish was chosen Captain, and given authority in military affairs. While engaged in consultation two more Indians were seen on Watson's Hill, but when Myles Standish and Steven Hopkins approached them, endeavoring to make signs of peace, they fled.

Wednesday, Mar. 3, the captain of the ship with his crew brought a cannon ashore, and helped the colonists draw it, together with ordnance previously landed, to the top of Burial Hill, where they mounted them.

Saturday, Mar. 13, it turned fair and warmer and they heard the spring birds singing. In the afternoon a thunder-storm came up which was the first they had experienced.

Wednesday, Mar. 17, was cold but fair, and they planted some of their garden seed.

“In two or three months’ time half of their company died, especially in January and February, being the depth of winter, and wanting houses and other comforts being infected with the scurvy and other diseases which this long voyage had brought upon them; so as they died sometimes two or three of a day; that of the hundred and odd persons, scarce fifty remained. And of these in the time of most distress, there was but six or seven sound persons, who spared no pains, night nor day, but with abundance of toil and hazard of their own health, fetched them wood, made them fires, dressed their meat, made their beds, washed their loathsome clothes, clothed and unclothed them; in a word, did all the homely and necessary offices for them which dainty and quesie stomachs cannot endure to hear named; and all this willingly and cheerfully, without any grudging in the least. Two of these seven were William Brewster their Reverend Elder, and Myles Standish. And yet the Lord so upheld these persons, as in this general calamity they were not at all infected either with sickness or lameness. And what I have said of these, I may say of many others who died in this general visitation, and others yet living, that whilst they

had health, yea, or any strength continuing, they were not wanting to any that had need of them, and I doubt not but their recompense is with the Lord."

All that died the first winter they buried on Cole's Hill, levelling the ground, and planting corn over the graves in the spring. This was done that the Indians, whom they still feared, might not see the signs of how much their company had been weakened.

Friday, March 26, while they were holding a further conference concerning military orders, a single Indian walked boldly down the street and would have walked right into the house had he not been stopped. Much to their amazement, he said, "Welcome," and told them that his name was Samoset, that his home was in Maine, where he had become acquainted with, and could call by name, the captains of many of the vessels that had fished along that coast for years. He was a fine-appearing Indian, and very free and friendly in his manner. He gave them a great deal of information concerning the Indian tribes and their chiefs. He told them that the Indian name for Plymouth was Patuxet, and that four years before all the local Indians had died of an epidemic, which had taken great toll of all the Indians along the New England coast. He said that he knew another Indian who could speak better English than he, and that he would get him.

Saturday, Mar. 27, Samoset left, promising to

bring back with him some of the neighboring tribe of Indians. These were the Wampanoags, who lived in the territory between Taunton and Middleboro. Massasoit, their sagamore (or chief), was also overlord of the Indians on Cape Cod and around Massachusetts Bay.

Sunday, Mar. 28, Samoset reappeared with five of these Indians, who returned all the tools that had been stolen, and brought three or four skins. The Pilgrims would not trade for these on Sunday, but urged them to return with more later. They gave them some presents, and dismissed them. Samoset was not so easily gotten rid of. He pretended to be sick and remained till Wednesday, when they sent him away.

Monday and Tuesday were fine days, and they worked in their gardens, planting seed.

Wednesday, Mar. 31, they started another meeting to confirm their military orders, and for the third time were interrupted by Indians. Three of them appeared on Watson's Hill. They made certain shows of defiance, but when Captain Standish and three others went toward them, they ran away.

This day the carpenter, who had been sick, fixed up the shallop to bring everybody ashore.

Thursday, April 1, Samoset reappeared, bringing with him Squanto, the Indian concerning whom he had spoken, and who appeared to have been the only living native of Plymouth.

He had been taken away by an Englishman named Hunt, who, under pretense of trading, had

lured a lot of Indians on his ship, and had them carried off to be sold as slaves. Squanto had found his way into the home of John Slany, an English merchant much interested in the Newfoundland Company, who had treated him kindly.

Mr. Dermer, an explorer, employed by Sir Ferdinando Gorges, who had been very prominent in the early companies for the exploration and settlement of Northern Virginia, brought Squanto back to his native place, not very long before the Pilgrims arrived.

Squanto reported that Massasoit, their great sagamore, was nearby with all his men. Parleys were had with Massasoit, and a treaty was made between him and the Pilgrims as follows.

“1. That neither he nor any of his, should injure or do hurt to any of their people.

2. That if any of his did hurt to any of theirs, he should send the offender, that they might punish him.

3. That if anything were taken away from any of theirs, he should cause it to be restored; and they should do the like to his.

4. If any did unjustly war against him they would aid him; if any did war against them, he should aid them.

5. He should send to his neighbors confederates to certify them of this, that they might not wrong them, but might be likewise comprised in the condition of peace.

6. That when their men came to them, they should leave their bows and arrows behind them.

Lastly, that doing thus, King James would esteem of him as his friend and ally.”

This treaty was scrupulously observed on both sides as long as Massasoit lived, and was in force until broken by Philip, his successor, in 1675.

Massasoit returned to his home, and Samoset



and Squanto remained. How long Samoset stayed we do not know, probably not long, as this is the last mention we have of him in connection with this colony, but he appears later in the early history of Maine, where he still proved a kindly and helpful friend to the white settlers.

“But Squanto continued with them, and was their interpreter, and was a special instrument sent of God for their good, beyond their expectation. He directed them how to set their corn, where to take fish, and to procure other commodities, and was also their pilot to bring them to unknown places for their profit, and never left them till he died.”

He taught them how to fertilize their cornfields with the herring which run up Town Brook in great numbers every spring, by putting two or three in each hill.

Friday, April 2, they concluded their military regulations and made such civil laws as seemed necessary, and re-elected John Carver governor for the ensuing year. Their year under the old calendar began on April 4th (March 25th, old style).

“The first offence since our arrival is of John Billington, who came on board at London, and is this month convented before the whole colony for his contempt of the Captain’s lawful command with opprobrious speeches, for which he is adjudged to have his neck and heels tide together; but upon humbling himself and craving pardon, and it being the first offence, he is forgiven.”

On April 15th, the *Mayflower* sailed back to England.

“In this month of April while they were busy about their seed, their Governor (Mr. John Carver) came out of the field very sick, it being a hot day; he complained greatly of his head and lay down, and within a few hours his senses failed, so as he never spoke more till he died, which was within a few days after.

“Shortly after William Bradford was chosen Governor in his stead, and being not yet recovered of his illness, in which he had been near the point of death, Isaac Allerton was chosen to be an assistant unto him, who,<sup>3</sup> by renewed election every year, continued sundry years together, which I here note once for all.”

“May 22 was the first marriage in this place<sup>4</sup> which, according to the laudable custom of the Low Countries, in which they had lived, was thought most requisite to be performed by the magistrate, as being a civil thing, upon which many questions about inheritance to depend, and most consistent to the scriptures (Ruth 4), and nowhere found in the gospel to be laid on the ministers as a part of their office. And this practice hath continued amongst not only them, but hath been followed by all the famous churches of Christ in these parts.”

<sup>3</sup> William Bradford. He is the writer of this, and does not wish to report his election every year. He was elected continuously until 1633, when he begged to be relieved, and Edward Winslow was elected. With the exception of this year and five others, he was elected governor every year until 1657, when he died.

<sup>4</sup> Edward Winslow, whose wife had died in March, to Susanna White, whose husband, William White, had died in February.

June 28, "The second offence is the first duel fought in New England, upon a challenge at single combat with sword and dagger, between Edward Dotey, and Edward Leister, servants of Mr. Hopkins. Both being wounded, the one in the hand, the other in the thigh, they are adjudged by the whole company to have their head and feet tied together, and so to lie for twenty-four hours, without meat or drink; which is begun to be inflicted, but within an hour, because of their great pains, at their own and their master's humble request, upon promise of better carriage, they are released by the Governor."

On July 12, Edward Winslow and Steven Hopkins were sent to visit Massasoit and further cement their friendship with him.

The latter part of the month John Billington, Jr., lost himself in the woods, and finally struck an Indian settlement near Sandwich. These Indians took him farther down the Cape to the Nauset Indians, near Orleans. The Governor received word through Massasoit as to his situation, and the shallop was sent with a party of ten men to bring him home. Squanto went with the party as interpreter. The first day they went as far as Barnstable, where they met Iyanough, the sachem of that section. He and two of his men accompanied them the next day and they went to the Nausets. Aspinet, the sachem of this tribe, delivered the boy to them. This was the tribe that had attacked the exploring party in the morning of Dec. 18, 1620. On this trip they

made peace with them and finding one of the owners of the corn they had taken when on Capt Cod, arranged compensation.

During this summer another Indian, Hobamack, came to live with them, and remained with them as a friend until this death.

On Sept. 28, they sent an exploring party of ten men, with interpreters, to visit and trade with the Indians around Massachusetts Bay. They also made peace with these Indians.

“They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength, and had all things in good plenty. All the summer there was no want. And now began to come in store of fowl, of which this place did abound when they came first. And beside water fowl, there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides they had about a peck of meal a week to a person.”

The *Fortune*, a small vessel of 55 tons, arrived Nov. 19, 1621. She brought over Robert Cushman, and thirty-five additional members for the colony. On the arrival of the *Fortune* there were fifty of the *Mayflower* passengers left alive. At this time Edward Winslow wrote a letter to England to be taken back in this ship, from which the following are extracts:

“In this little time that a few of us have been here, we have built seven dwelling houses, and

four for the use of the plantation and have made preparation for divers others.”

“We set the last spring some twenty acres of Indian corn, and sowed some six acres of barley and peas.” “Our corn did prove well, and, God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn.”

“Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might, after a special manner, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors.”

“So that there is now great peace amongst the Indians themselves, which was not formerly; neither would have been, but for us; and we, for our parts, walk as peacefully and safely in the wood, as in the highways in England.”

In England it had been growing very difficult to raise funds for this colony, as shown in a letter from Mr. Weston, brought in this ship:

“That you sent no lading in the ship<sup>6</sup> is wonderful. I know your weakness was the cause of it, and I believe more weakness of judgment, than weakness of hands.” “If you mean, bona fide, to perform the conditions agreed upon, do us the favor to copy them out fair, and subscribe them with the principal of your names.” “And consider that the life of the business depends upon the lading of this ship.”

Following Robert Cushman’s recommendation, they yielded to all the conditions of the adventurers, including the one they had refused to accept

<sup>5</sup> This was the first New England Thanksgiving.

<sup>6</sup> The “Mayflower”, when she returned. Knowing the situation of this little band all the time the “Mayflower” was at Plymouth, this criticism seems cruel and unjust

before leaving England, and sent the *Fortune* away, "laden with good clapboards as full as she could stow, and two hogshead of beaver and otter skins, which they got with a few trifling commodities, being altogether unprovided for trade. The freight was estimated to be worth near 500 pounds."

Mr. Cushman returned on the ship, which on the way home was captured by the French and all her cargo taken.

Funds being so low in England, the *Fortune* did not bring any food to leave for her thirty-five passengers. "Neither had they any bedding, nor pot, nor pan, nor over many clothes."

What had looked like reasonable provision for fifty people assumed a new aspect with thirty-five additional mouths to feed, especially as they had given some food to the crew of the ship.

"The Governor took an exact account of all their provision, and found that it would not hold out above six months at half allowance, and hardly that."

The Narragansetts were a powerful tribe of Indians, occupying a large part of what is now Rhode Island. They were not friendly with Massachusetts, and as they had lost very few men in the great plague, "thought to domineer and lord it over the rest, and conceived the English would be a bar in their way."

"Shortly after the departure of the *Fortune*, their chief, Canonicus, in a braving manner, sent a messenger unto them with a bundle of arrows

ties about with a great snake skin which their interpreters told them was a threatening and a challenge. Upon which the Governor sent them a round answer, that if they had rather have war than peace, they might begin when they would. And by another messenger sent the snake skin back with bullets in it."

"But this made them the more carefully to look to themselves, so as they agreed to inclose their dwellings with a good strong pale, with gates to shut which were every night locked, and a watch kept. This was accomplished and the town impaled round by the beginning of March."

Considering Christmas a man-made ceremonial, the Pilgrims did not observe it. Evidently some of the arrivals on the *Fortune* were not of their faith, and the following episode will show the broad tolerance, shrewd common sense and dry humor of the Pilgrims.

"On the day called Christmas, the Governor called them out to work (as was used), but the most of this new company excused themselves and said it went against their conscience to work on that day. So the Governor told them that if they made it a matter of conscience, he would spare them till they were better informed. So he led away the rest and left them; but when they came home at noon from their work he found them in the street at play, openly; some pitching the bar, and some at stool-ball, and such like sports. So he went to them, and took away their implements, and told them that was against his conscience,

that they should play and others work. If they made the keeping of it matter of devotion, let them keep their houses but there should be no gaming or revelling in the streets. Since which time nothing has been attempted that way, at least openly."

1622

"They began to see that Squanto sought his own ends, by putting the Indians in fear, and drawing gifts from them to enrich himself; making them believe he could stir up war against whom he would. Yea, he made them believe they kept the plague buried in the ground, and could send it among whom they would, which did much terrify the Indians, and made them depend more on him."

"They also made good use of the emulation that grew between Hobamack and him, which made them carry more squarely. And the Governor seemed to countenance one, and the Captain the other, by which they had better intelligence, and made them both more diligent."

This spring they made another trading trip to Massachusetts Bay. The latter part of May a shallop came into the harbor. This was from the *Sparrow*, a fishing vessel sent out by Mr. Weston. They brought seven passengers for the colony, and some letters, but no supplies of any kind.

In July two more ships of Mr. Weston's came into the harbor. They were the *Charity* and the *Swan* and brought fifty or sixty men for a separate plantation under Mr. Weston's auspices.



These ships also brought letters advising the Pilgrims that Mr. Weston had sold all his interest in the Plymouth plantation to the other adventurers.

This was a rather hard lot of men, between whom and the Pilgrims there could be no sympathy, but still, in spite of Mr. Weston's desertion of them, "they received them and gave housing for themselves and their goods; and many being sick, they had the best means the place could afford them. They stayed here the most part of the summer. Then they removed into the Massachusetts Bay. Yet they left all their sick folks here till they were settled."

"That little store of corn we had was exceedingly wasted by the unjust and dishonest walking of these strangers; who spared not day or night to steal the same, it being then eatable and pleasant to taste."

"Amid these straits, and the desertion of those from whom they had hoped for supply, and when famine began now to pinch them sore, the Lord (who never fails His) presents them with an occasion."

They received a friendly letter from the Captain of a fishing boat, advising them of the great Indian massacre that had occurred in Virginia. They sent their boat out to his ship, and procured from him and other fishing boats a supply of provisions.

"But what was got, being divided amongst so many came but to a little, yet by God's blessing it upheld them till harvest. It arose but to a quarter

of a pound a day to each person; and the governor caused it to be daily given them, otherwise, had it been in their own custody, they would have eaten it up and then starved."

This summer they built a fort, which they also used as a meeting-house.

"Now the welcome time of harvest approached. But it arose to a little, in comparison with a full-year's supply, partly by reason they were not yet well acquainted with the manner of Indian corn, also the many other employments, but chiefly their weakness for want of food, to tend it as they should have done. Also much was stolen, before it became scarce eatable, and much more afterwards. So, as it well appeared, famine must still ensue the next year also, if not some way prevented."

About this time the *Discovery* came into the harbor, on the way to Virginia, under command of Captain Jones, probably the one who had commanded the *Mayflower*.

"This ship had store of English beads, and some knives, but would sell none but at dear rates. Yet they were glad of the occasion, and fain to buy at any rate, and pay away coat-beaver at three shillings, which in a few years after yielded twenty shillings. By this means they were fitted again to trade for beaver and other things, and intended to buy what corn they could."

Mr. Weston had left the *Swan*, a small ship, with his settlement at Weymouth, and in October and November they made a joint trading trip in

her, under command of Governor Bradford, as far as Chatham, where Squanto died of an Indian fever.

They bought on this trip about 27 hogsheads of corn and beans.

“Afterward the Governor took a few men and went to the inland places, to get what he could, and to fetch it home at the spring, which did help them something.”

### 1623

In the spring of 1623 word was brought that Massasoit was dangerously sick, and Edward Winslow and one other with Hobamack as guide and interpreter were sent to pay him a friendly visit, and see if they could help him any. They probably saved his life, as they took his case out of the hands of the Indian medicine men, and restored him to health and strength. He told them of an Indian conspiracy, which he had been unable to stop, although he had refused to countenance it. The Indians around Weymouth, where Weston's colony was seated, had started it and brought in all the Indians on Cape Cod. Their idea was to wipe out all the whites. Weston's colony, although better provided for the winter than the Pilgrims, had not shown the same sturdy self-control. They had consumed all their provisions, and had stolen from the Indians, and then, so low had their self-respect fallen, they worked for the Indians to obtain food, and humbled themselves before them, going so far as to execute one of their

number to appease the Indians. These actions changed the attitude towards the English which the Pilgrims had inspired. The Indians lost their respect for the whites, and thought they could easily be suppressed.

Captain Standish and eight men were sent to Weymouth to break up this conspiracy and do what they could for Weston's people. The Pilgrims had been denying themselves corn that they might have enough for seed, but to aid a colony in distress, although they had been very unfriendly to them, they gave Standish part of their hardly saved seed-corn for this relief expedition. Standish found things in very bad shape, with the Indians openly defiant and insolent. One of their leaders, Pecksuot, a large Indian, told Standish that though he might be "a great captain, yet he was but a little man." Later, when Standish had decided that violence was the only possible means, he killed this Pecksuot, in single-handed combat, with the Indian's own knife, which was specially sharpened for this occasion, but which Standish wrested from him. Several others of the leaders were killed, and a due respect for the English instilled into the remaining Indians.

Most of Weston's colony decided that they would prefer to take their small ship, the *Swan*, and go to the fishing grounds off Maine, where they would fall in with other ships and find their way back to England. Standish gave them corn,

and saw them sail away, and brought the smaller part of the colony, which preferred it, back to Plymouth.

“This was the end of these that sometime boasted of their strength (being all able, lusty men), and what they would do in comparison of the people here, who had many women and children and weak ones amongst them. But a man’s way is not in his own power; God can make the weak to stand.”

“All this while no supply was heard of, neither knew when they might expect any. So they began to think how they might raise as much corn as they could. At length the Governor gave way that they should set corn, every man for his own, and in that regard trust to themselves. In all other things to go on in the general way as before. This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been.”

“The experience that was had in this common course and condition, tried sundry years, and that amongst godly and sober men, may well evince the vanity of that conceit of Plato and other ancients, applauded by some of later times — that the taking away of property, and bringing in community into a commonwealth, would make them happy and flourishing, as if they were wiser than God. For this community was found to breed much confusion and discontent, and retard much employment that would have been to their benefit. For the young men that were most able

and fit for labor did repine that they should work for other men's wives and children. The strong had no more in division than he that was weak. This was thought injustice. The aged and graver men to be ranked in labor with the younger sort, thought it some indignity and disrespect unto them, and for men's wives to do service for other men, as dressing their meat, washing their clothes, etc., they deemed it a kind of slavery. And so, if it did not cut off those relations that God hath set, yet it did at least much diminish the mutual respects that should be preserved. And would have been worse if they had been men of another condition."

"After this course settled, and their corn planted, all their victuals were spent, and they were only to rest on God's providence; at night not many times knowing where to have a bite of anything the next day."

After the planting they had a drought for six weeks that nearly spoiled their whole crop. A day of prayer was had which was very successful, "for though in the morning when we assembled, the heavens were as clear as ever, yet (our exercise continuing some eight or nine hours) before our departure, the clouds gathered together, and on the next morning distilled such soft, sweet and moderate showers, continuing some fourteen days, as it was hard to say whether our withered corn or drooping affections were most revived."

Deer being hard to kill with their muskets, and

fowl not coming in until fall, they lived almost entirely until harvest on fish and shell-fish.

Late in July or early in August came the *Anne*, and about ten days later the *Little James*, a ship of about 44 tons, which had been sent over to stay with the Pilgrims.

“They brought about sixty persons, some being very useful persons, and some were the wives and children of such as were here already. And some were so bad they were fain to send them home next year.”

Their old friends that came on these boats were much distressed when they saw how poor a condition the colonists were in. “And truly it was no marvel they should be thus affected, for they were ragged in apparel, and some little better than half naked.”

“The best dish they could present their friends with was a lobster, or a piece of fish, without bread or anything else but a cup of fair spring water.”

These were the first additions to the colony who had brought provisions for themselves. It being so near harvest, the arrangement was made that those from the ship should divide amongst themselves what they had brought, and that the former colonists should struggle along until harvest, when each would have the corn he had raised.

The *Anne* went back on September 20th, laden with clapboard, and all the furs they had. Edward

Winslow went to England in this ship upon the Pilgrims' business.

"By this time harvest was come, and the effect of their particular planting was well seen, for all had pretty well to bring the year about, and some of the more industrious had to spare, and sell to others, so as any general want or famine hath not been amongst them since."

1624

The individualistic arrangement for raising corn had proved a success. "They began now highly to prize corn as more precious than silver, and those that had some to spare began to trade for small things, for money they had none, and if any had, corn was preferred before it."

Therefore this year, "to every person was given one acre of land, as near the town as might be, that they might be kept together both for more safety and defense, and the better improvement of the general employments."

In the spring Edward Winslow returned from England. He brought three heifers and a bull, which were the first cattle they had. A ship carpenter and saltmaker were also sent in this ship. The first proved a very useful man, and built them two shallops and a lighter. He had hewn timber for two larger boats, when he was taken with a fever and died that summer. The salt-maker was "an ignorant, foolist, self-willed fellow," who put the colony to great trouble and expense with no results.

Edward Winslow brought reports of further



dissensions among the adventurers, some wanting to withdraw, and others wishing to continue aid to the colony. One faction sent over Mr. Lyford, a minister, who was evidently intended to act as a spy, to give them information that might be used against the Colonists in England. He became a member of the Church in Plymouth, but was never elected minister. He associated himself with one John Oldham, who had come in the *Anne*, and who also apparently was a representative of the dissatisfied adventurers. They started a faction of the malcontents in the colony, and when the ship returned to England Lyford sent away many letters. The Governor, under his authority as a magistrate, accompanied the ship to sea for a few miles and opened these letters, and found them full of scurrilous and untrue statements, all to the detriment of those in authority. He took copies of all these letters, in the case of some of the worst retaining the originals and forwarding copies. Upon his return he made no comments upon what he had done. "The reason was to let things ripen, that they might the better discover their intents, and see who were their adherents." When their faction later became more insolent and open, "the Governor called a court and summoned the whole company to appear, and then charged Lyford and Oldham with such things as they were guilty of." They denied everything and demanded proof. When the letters were produced Lyford was struck mute. But Oldham took a high tone and called

upon his followers for support, which none gave him. Lyford, who was afterwards found to be a very immoral man, who had a bad reputation before he was sent over, made the fullest confession and most abject apology. "After their trial and conviction, the court censured them to be expelled from the place; Oldham presently, though his wife and family had liberty to stay all winter. Lyford had liberty to stay six months. It was indeed with some eye to his release, if he carried himself well, and that his repentance proved sound." But within a month or two they found him again writing letters, justifying his former ones.

This fall Edward Winslow again went to England.

1625

"At the spring of the year, Oldham came again amongst them, and though it was part of his censure not to return without leave, yet, in his daring spirit, he presumed without any leave at all and not only so, but suffered his unruly passion to run beyond the limits of all reason and modesty. He called them all to nought, in this his mad fury, and a hundred rebels and traitors, and I know not what. But in conclusion they committed him till he was tamer, and then appointed a guard of musketeers which he was to pass through, and every one was ordered to give him a thump with the butt end of his musket, and then he was conveyed to the water side, where a

boat was ready to carry him away. Then they bid him go and mend his manners.

“Whilst this was a-doing, Mr. William Pierce and Mr. Winslow came up from the water side, being come from England; but they were so busy with Oldham, as they never saw them till they came thus upon them.”

Winslow reported that the past life of Lyford had been aired, and that he was discredited with the adventurers. His reprieve having elapsed, he was also sent from the colony. He and Oldham went to Nantasket with some of their friends.

This year the company of adventurers in England broke in pieces, and the general conditions are shown in a letter from some of their friends in the company who wanted to stand by them.

“To our loving friends, etc.

Though the thing we feared be come upon us, we cannot forget you. The former course for the generality here is wholly dissolved from what it was, and whereas you and we were formerly sharers and partners in all voyages and dealings this way is now no more, but you and we are left to bethink ourselves what course to take in the future, that your lives and our moneys be not lost.

The reasons and causes of this alteration have been these: First and mainly, the many losses and crosses at sea and abuses of sea men, which have caused us to run into so much charge, debts and engagements, as our estates and means were not able to go on. Secondly, as here hath been a faction and siding amongst us now more than two years, so now there is an utter breach and sequestration amongst us, and in two parts of us a full desertion for forsaking of you. And though we are persuaded the main cause of this their doing is want of money (for need whereof men use to make many excuses) yet other things are pretended. Now what use you or we ought

to make of these things, it remaineth to be considered. And although it be now too late for us or you to prevent or stay these things, yet it is not too late to exercise patience, wisdom and conscience in bearing them, and in carrying ourselves in and under them for the time to come.

And as we ourselves stand ready to embrace all occasions that may tend to the furtherance of so hopeful a work, rather admiring of what is, than grudging for what is not; so it must rest in you to make all good again.

Now we think it but reason that all such things as there appertain to the general be kept and preserved together and rather increased daily, than any way be dispersed, and after your necessities are served, you gather together such commodities as the country yields, and send them over to pay debts and clear engagements here, which are not less than 1400 pounds. Let us all endeavor to keep a fair and honest course and see what time will bring forth, and how God in his providence will work for us. We still are persuaded you are the people that must make a plantation in those remote places when all others fail and return.

We have sent you here some cattle, cloth, hose, shoes, leather, etc., but in another nature than formerly. We have committed them to the charge and custody of Mr. Allerton and Mr. Winslow, as our factors, at whose discretion they are to be sold, and commodities to be taken for them, as is fitting."

The adventurers sent over two ships for fishing, the smaller of them the *Little James*, which had once been in the colony. The larger one lost the advantageous sale of her fish on account of the war, and the smaller one in which the Pilgrims had sent 800 lbs. of beaver and some other valuable furs, was captured by a Turkish man-of-war. On the larger ship, Capt. Standish went to England to make more definite arrangements with the remaining adventurers.

"After harvest this year, they sent out a boat

load of corn forty or fifty leagues to the eastward, up a river called Kennebec; it being one of those two shallops which their carpenter had built for them the year before. They had laid a little deck over her midships to keep the corn dry, but the men were fain to stand it out all weathers without shelter, and that time of the year begins to grow tempestuous. But God preserved them, and gave them great success, for they brought home 700 lbs. of beaver, besides some other furs, having little or nothing else but this corn, which themselves had raised out of the earth."

1626

Capt. Standish returned on a fishing vessel, and in April a boat was sent to bring him home. He brought news of the death of their old pastor, John Robinson, and of Robert Cushman.

Fishing, of which they had expected much, had been very unfortunate for the colony, so "they set themselves to follow trading and planting with the the best industry they could." "The planters, finding their corn to be a commodity, used great diligence in planting the same. And the Governor and such as were designed to manage the trade (for it was retained for the general good) followed it to the best advantage they could."

They bought the stock of a plantation that broke up at Monhigan, and the cargo of a French ship that was cast away. They enlarged one of their shallops, by cutting it in the middle and lengthening it out, and laying a deck on her.

"But now they began to be envied, and others

went and filled the Indians with corn, and beat down the price, giving them twice as much as they had done, and under traded them in other commodities also."

"This year they sent Mr. Allerton to England, and gave him order to make a composition with the adventurers, upon as good terms as he could (upon which some way had been made the years before by Capt. Standish) ; but yet enjoined him not to conclude absolutely till they knew the terms."

1627

"At the usual season of the coming of ships, Mr. Allerton returned and brought some useful goods with him." He had also made the following agreement with the adventurers: All partnership between them was to cease. The Pilgrims were to own all goods in the general stock at the colony, and were to pay in full settlement of all claims 1800 pounds, at the rate of 200 pounds a year, beginning in 1628.

"This agreement was very well liked of, and approved by all the plantation, though they knew not well how to raise the payment and discharge their other engagements, and supply the yearly wants of the plantation, seeing they were forced for their necessities to take up money or goods at so high an interest. Yet they undertook it, and seven or eight of the chief of the place became jointly bound for the payment of this 1800 pounds."

As there were now in the settlement a number

of people in whom they lacked confidence, a company was formed, consisting of the reliable members of the community, who were to take over the assets, and assume the liabilities. This company was to have control of the trading, until obligations had been met. "And first accordingly the few cattle which they had were divided, which arose to this proportion: a cow to six persons, and two goats to the same, and swine, though more in number, yet by the same rule." Then they agreed that every person should have twenty acres of land, besides the single acres they had already.

A house was built on the Buzzards Bay Side of the Cape, near where the canal now comes, and a pinnace was built to be used on that side. This saved a trip around the Cape, which had proved a stumbling-block to trading along the coast toward Connecticut. Goods could be taken by boat to within four or five miles of this place, and then carried over land.

"They now sent Mr. Allerton again into England, giving him full power to conclude the former bargain with the adventurers. Also they sent what beaver they could spare to pay some of their engagements, and to defray his charges. Also he had an order to procure a patent for a fit trading place in the river of Kennebec."

1628

Mr. Allerton returned in the spring with a supply of goods. He left things pretty well straightened out in England, the colony now owing 1600 pounds balance of the 1800 pound debt

they had assumed the year before, and 400 pounds to James Shirley, John Beauchamp and Richard Andrews, and between them and the colony a business partnership was formed. Besides these two amounts the colonists owed only a few small bills in this country.

“Hitherto Mr. Allerton did them good and faithful service; and well had it been if he had so continued, or else they had ceased employing him. But of this more afterwards.”

This year they established a trading-post on the Kennebec River. They also commenced trading with the Dutch, from whom they first found the trading value of wampum.

Three or four years before this time Capt. Wollaston had started a colony near Quincy, but not finding conditions as comfortable as he had hoped, he with part of the company went to Virginia.

The remaining colony fell into the control of one Thomas Morton. “They fell to great licentiousness, and led a dissolute life, and Morton became lord of misrule. And after they had got some goods in their hands, they spent it vainly, quaffing and drinking both wine and strong waters in great excess, and, as some reported, 10 pounds worth in a morning. They also set up a May-pole, drinking and dancing about it many days together, inviting the Indian women for their consorts.” They changed the name of the place to Merry-mount. Morton began to sell firearms to the Indians, after instructing them in their use.



This alarmed a number of the smaller and weaker settlements, and they asked Plymouth to interfere. Several letters were written to Morton, to which he returned insolent answers, so that it was finally resolved to send Capt. Standish, with help, to take him by force. "But they found him to stand stiffly in his defense, having made fast his doors, armed his consorts, set powder and bullets ready; and if they had not been overarmed with drink, more hurt might have been done. At length, he and some of his crew came out, but not to yield, but to shoot; but they were so steeled with drink as their pieces were too heavy for them. Himself with a carbine, had thought to have shot Capt. Standish but he stepped to him, and put by his piece, and took him. Neither was there any hurt done to any of either side, save that one was so drunk that he ran his own nose upon the point of a sword. Morton they brought to Plymouth, where he was kept till a ship went for England."

1629

This was the year that John Endicott came over with colonists for Salem, and with them came thirty-five of the Leyden congregation, bound for Plymouth, and strangely enough, they came in the same *Mayflower* that had brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth. The expense of this party added 550 pounds to the obligations of the Plymouth Colony, and they had besides to support them for over sixteen months before they raised a crop of their own. Ralph Smith, the first minister of the colony, came to Plymouth this year.

1630

This was the year that John Winthrop came to Boston with his colonists. With them came more of the Leyden congregation to join the Plymouth Colony. In the two or three years that Isaac Allerton had been their agent in England, he, with the English partners, had so badly handled matters that the financial affairs of the colony were in very bad condition. They started all kinds of expensive deals, such as trading-posts and fishing expeditions, which turned out disastrously. This was always against the protest of the men of Plymouth, but Allerton and the English partners stood upon a power of attorney that had been granted Allerton by the colony. Allerton had been bringing some of the more profitable goods to trade upon his own account, but a great deal had been put up with, because he was the son-in-law of Elder Brewster, whom all loved. They "saw plainly that Mr. Allerton played his own game, not only to the great wrong and detriment of the plantation, who employed and trusted him, but abused them in England also."

"It is like, though Mr. Allerton might think not to wrong the plantation in the main, yet his own gain led him aside; for it came to be known that in the first two or three years of his employment, he had cleaned up 400 pounds."

"With pity and compassion I may say with the Apostle to Timothy, 'They that will be rich, fall into many temptations, etc., for the love of money is the root of all evil.'"

They discharged Allerton from their service, and sent Edward Winslow to England to straighten affairs as well as possible. The accounts were all mixed up, and it was not until the next year that they could get any statement of what they owed. It was then claimed to be 4,770 pounds, besides 1,000 pounds remaining unpaid of the 1,800. "Notwithstanding all beaver and returns they had made, which were not small." Working against this debt they sent over by 1636 about 10,000 pounds worth of beaver, besides other skins, but charges and interest had been so piled up against them that the English partners still held them in debt, and it was not until 1645 that they made their final settlements and freed themselves from all these obligations.

"This year John Billington, the elder, was arraigned, and both by grand and petit jury found guilty of wilful murder, and was for the same accordingly executed."

### 1633

Edward Winslow was chosen Governor. "Mr. Roger Williams (a man Godly and zealous but very unsettled in judgment) came over first to Massachusetts, but upon some discontent left that place, and came hither, and after some time was admitted a member of the church, and his teaching was well approved. He this year began to fall into some strange opinions, and from opinions to practice; which caused some controversy between the church and him, and in the end some

discontent on his part, whereof he left them abruptly."

This year they established a trading-post on the Connecticut River.

"It pleased the Lord to visit them this year with an infectious fever, of which many fell very sick, and upward of twenty persons died, and in the end (after he had much helped others) Samuel Fuller, who was their physician."

In 1640 the boundary-line between the Plymouth Colony and the Massachusetts Colony was agreed upon, and in 1643 the first confederation between the governments of Plymouth, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Haven was formed.

Finding the land at Plymouth not particularly fertile the colonists spread out, starting various settlements on the Cape, and to the north as far as Scituate on the boundary-line. And thus we will leave them, surrounded by self-supporting and permanent colonies, their work as pioneers done, their debts all paid, and having earned the gratitude and admiration of succeeding generations.

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**ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PASSENGERS ON THE  
MAYFLOWER**

- John Alden.** Became one of the prominent men. Came from England as a cooper, married Priscilla Mullins, had eleven children, and died in Duxbury in 1687 at the age of 87.
- Isaac Allerton.** One of the Leyden congregation, and a prominent man in the Colony, assistant Governor and agent to England. After his wife's death, married a daughter of Elder Brewster, and died in New Haven in 1659.
- Mrs. Mary Allerton.** His wife. Died the first winter.
- Bartholomew Allerton.** His son. Returned to England.
- Mary Allerton.** A daughter. Married Elder Thos. Cushman, Robert Cushman's son, and had four children. She was the last survivor of those who left England in the "Mayflower," and died in 1699 in Plymouth.
- Remember Allerton.** Went to Salem, and died there in 1652.
- John Allerton.** (Or Alderton). Probably not related to above, was hired in England as a sailor, and died the first winter.
- John Billington.** Came from London. Was hung for murder in 1630.
- Mrs. Ellen Billington.** Married again and died in 1650.
- John Billington.** His son. Died before 1630.
- Francis Billington.** A son. Married and had eight children, and died in Yarmouth in 1650.
- William Bradford.** Was one of the original congregation at Scrooby. He was Governor from April, 1621, until his death in 1657, at the age of 69, every year excepting 1633, 1634, 1636, 1638 and 1644. A few years after his first wife's death he married Alice Southworth and had four children.
- Mrs. Dorothy Bradford.** Drowned in Provincetown Harbor December, 1620.

**William Brewster.** One of the founders of the Scrooby congregation, was the Elder of the Pilgrim Church until his death in 1643, at the age of 80.

**Mrs. Mary Brewster.** Died before 1627.

**Love Brewster.** A son. Died in 1650, leaving 10 children.

**Wrasling Brewster.** A son. Died a young man.

**Richard Britterige.** Died the first winter.

**Peter Browne.** Married twice, and had two children by each wife. Died in 1633.

**William Butten.** The servant of Samuel Fuller. Died at sea.

**Robert Carter.** A servant of William Mullins. Died the first winter.

**John Carver.** One of the Leyden congregation who was employed as their agent in England. Was the first Governor of the colony until his death in April, 1621.

**Mrs. Katherine Carver.** His wife. Died the first summer.

**Richard Clarke.** Died the first winter.

**James Chilton.** Died the first winter.

**Mrs. James Chilton.** Died the first winter.

**Mary Chilton.** Married John Winslow, a brother of Edward. They had ten children and she died in Boston in 1679.

**Francis Cooke.** Died in Plymouth in 1683.

**John Cooke.** His son, lived till 1698. Next to Mary Allerton, the last survivor of the "Mayflower" passengers.

**Humility Cooper.** A child who came over with Edward Tilley, and was sent back to England.

**John Crakston.** Died the first winter.

**John Crakston.** His son. Lost himself in the woods and died from the exposure in 1628.

**Edward Dotey.** Married and had seven children. Died in Yarmouth in 1655.

**Francis Eaton.** Married twice after the death of his first wife and by the third wife had three children.

**Mrs. Sarah Eaton.** Died the first winter.

**Samuel Eaton.** A baby. Married and had a child. Died in Middleboro in 1684.

- Ely. Hired to remain in the colony a year as a seaman. Returned to England when time was up.
- Thomas English.** Died the first winter.
- Moses Fletcher.** Died the first winter.
- Edward Fuller.** Died the first year.
- Mrs. Edward Fuller.** Died the first year.
- Samuel Fuller.** Their son. Married and had four children. Died in Barnstable in 1683.
- Samuel Fuller.** He was the doctor of the colony. One of the Leyden congregation. His wife came over later, and they had two children. He died in 1633.
- Richard Gardiner.** He became a seaman, and left the colony. Died elsewhere.
- John Goodman.** Died the first winter.
- William Holbeck.** Died the first winter.
- John Hooke.** A servant boy. Joined the party in England. Died the first winter.
- Steven Hopkins.** Joined the party in England. One of the leading men. Had five children. Died in 1644.
- Mrs. Elizabeth Hopkins.** His wife. Died sometime after 1640.
- Constanta Hopkins.** A daughter. Married and had twelve children. Died at Eastham in 1677.
- Damaris Hopkins.** A daughter. Married. Died in Plymouth between 1666 and 1669.
- Giles Hopkins.** A son. Married and had four children. Died in Yarmouth, 1690.
- John Howland.** One of the Leyden congregation. Served at times as assistant to the Governor. Married Elizabeth Tilley, and had ten children. Died in Plymouth, 1673.
- John Langemore.** Died the first winter.
- William Latham.** A boy. Remained here about twenty years. Returned to England, thence to Bahamas, where he starved.
- Edward Lister.** Went to Virginia.
- Edmund Margeson.** Died the first winter.
- Christopher Martin.** A religious sympathizer living in England, who was instrumental in arranging the voyage. Died the first winter.

- Mrs. Christopher Martin.** Died the first winter.
- Desire Minter.** A girl who came with the Carver family, but returned to England.
- Ellen More.** A little girl. Died the first winter.
- Jasper More.** A child. Died in Provincetown Harbor.
- Richard More.** A boy. Married and had four children. Died in Scituate, 1656.
- **More.** His brother. Died the first winter.
- William Mullins.** Died the first winter.
- Mrs. William Mullins.** Died the first winter.
- Priscilla Mullins.** Married John Alden. Died after 1650.
- Joseph Mullins.** A son. Died the first winter.
- Digory Priest.** Probably one of the Leyden congregation. Died the first winter.
- Solomon Prower.** Died the first winter.
- John Rigdale.** Died the first winter.
- Mrs. Alice Rigdale.** His wife. Died the first winter.
- Thomas Rogers.** Died the first winter.
- Joseph Rogers.** His son. Married and had six children. Died in Eastham, 1678.
- Henry Sampson.** A child. Married and had seven children. Died in Duxbury, 1684.
- George Soule.** Married and had eight children. Died in Duxbury, 1680.
- Myles Standish.** Joined the Pilgrims at Leyden. Was a professional soldier and came in charge of military affairs. Two years after death of first wife married again and had numerous children, of whom four lived to maturity. Died in Duxbury, 1656.
- Mrs. Rose Standish.** Died the first winter.
- Elias Story.** Died the first winter.
- Edward Thompson.** Died in Provincetown Harbor.
- Edward Tilley.** One of the Leyden congregation. Died the first winter.
- Mrs. Ann Tilley.** Died the first winter.
- John Tilley.** One of the Leyden congregation. Died the first winter.
- Mrs. John Tilley.** Died the first winter.



- Elizabeth Tilley.** Daughter of John Tilley. Married John Howland. Died in 1687.
- Thomas Tinker.** Died the first winter.
- Mrs. Thomas Tinker.** Died the first winter.
- **Tinker.** A son. Died the first winter.
- William Trevor.** Hired as seaman for a year. Returned to England when time was up.
- John Turner.** Died the first winter.
- **Turner.** A son. Died the first winter.
- **Turner.** A son. Died the first winter.
- William White.** One of the Leyden congregation. Died the first winter.
- Mrs. Susannah White.** Married Edward Winslow. Died in Marshfield, 1680.
- Resolved White.** A son, married and had five children. Died in Salem after 1680.
- Richard Warren.** Joined the party in England, one of the leading men. His wife came over later and they had two children. He died in 1628.
- Roger Wilder.** Died the first winter.
- Thomas Williams.** Died the first winter.
- Edward Winslow.** Joined the Pilgrims in Leyden and was prominent throughout the formation of the colony. Went as agent back to England in 1623, 1624 and several times later. He was Governor in 1633, 1636 and 1644. He did not return to New England after 1646, but entered the service of Cromwell, and died in 1655 on a trip to the West Indies. After his first wife died he married Susannah White and left two living children.
- Mrs. Elizabeth Winslow.** His wife. Died the first winter.
- Gilbert Winslow.** His brother. Stayed here a number of years and then returned to England.
- A maidservant of John Carver.** Married here, but died in a year or two.

#### Born on the Voyage

- Oceanus Hopkins.** Born at sea. Died in 1621.
- Peregrine White.** Born at Provincetown. Married and had two children. Died in 1704.

**LIST OF PASSENGERS ON THE "FORTUNE," THE  
"ANNE" AND "LITTLE JAMES"**

**Fortune**

John Adams	Robert Hicks
William Basset	William Hilton
William Beale	Bennet Morgan
Edward Bumpus	Thomas Morton
Jonathan Brewster	Austin Nicolas
Clement Briggs	William Palmer
John Cannon	William Pit
William Conner	Thomas Prince
Robert Cushman	Moses Simonson
Thomas Cushman	Hugh Statie
Stephan Dean	James Steward
Philip De le Noye	William Tench
Thomas Flavell	John Winslow
Widow Ford	William Wright

**Anne and Little James**

Anthony Annable	Anthony Dix
Jane Annable	John Faunce
Sarah Annable	Goodwife Flavell
Hannah Annable	Edmund Flood
Edward Bangs	Bridget Fuller
Robert Bartlett	Timothy Hatherly
Fear Brewster	William Heard
Patience Brewster	Margaret Hicks,
Mary Buckett	three children
Edward Burcher	Mrs. William Hilton
Mrs. Burcher	William Hilton, Jr.
Thomas Clarke	Edward Holeman
Christopher Conant	John Jenney,
Hester Cooke	wife and three children
Cuthbert Cuthbertson,	Robert Long
wife and four children	Experience Mitchell

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George Morton	Nicholas Snow
Patience Morton	Alice Southworth
Nathaniel Morton	Francis Sprague, wife and child
John Morton	Barbara Standish
Sarah Morton	Thomas Tilden
Ephraim Morton	Stephen Tracey and wife
George Morton, Jr.	Sarah Tracey
Thomas Morton, Jr.	Ralph Wallen and wife
Ellen Newton	Elizabeth Warren
John Oldham	Mary Warren
Francis Palmer	Ann Warren
Christian Penn	Sarah Warren
Joshua Pratt	Elizabeth Warren
James Rand	Abigail Warren
Robert Ratcliffe and wife	







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