

Pilgrims: The First Thanksgiving

A Standard of Learning
Enrichment Program

Cedar Forest Elementary School,
Fredericksburg, Virginia 2008

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Upon completion you will meet the requirements for the

History and Social Science Standards of Learning

for

Virginia Public Schools, adopted in March 2001 by the Board of Education.

Specifically you will better understand :

United States History to 1877

Exploration to Revolution: Pre-Columbian Times to the 1770s

USI.5 The student will demonstrate knowledge of the factors that shaped colonial America by:

Describing the religious and economic events and conditions that led to the colonization of America.

THE BIBLE TRANSLATED LATIN TO ENGLISH 1611

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, King James authorized a translation of the Bible into English, which still bears his name [The King James Version].

- Until these English versions came into being, the common man was not able to read or understand the Scriptures.
- Ministers and church officials to tell the worshippers what was in the Bible and interpret the Scriptures.
- People were able to read the Scriptures for themselves.
- Controversies over the interpretation of many passages in the Bible.
- Other controversies over rituals of the church service.

King of England

King James I



THE STATE CHURCH

When the Pilgrims lived in England there was only one church approved by the English King.

- Everyone was required to attend only that church - every week. All religion in the kingdom was strictly dictated by the government. This is what we call a "State Church."
- There was no freedom to choose what a person believed or how he could worship.
- Anyone who objected to the beliefs of the state church or the forms of the church services could be arrested, questioned and thrown into prison.

TWO TYPES OF PILGRIMS

There were two major groups of believers who disagreed with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

- One group did not believe the state church could be changed: This group was called "Separatist" because they wanted to separate completely from the Church of England.
- The other group wanted to stay in the church, but hoped to change its forms of worship: This group was called "Puritan" because they wanted to "purify" the church.
- At the beginning of the 1600s, a group of Separatists began to gather at Scrooby in the northeastern county of Nottingham.

Separatists Pilgrims



The Separatists wanted to worship in a very simple manner without all of the ritual and symbols which were used in the Anglican Church.

They believed there were so many changes needed that the only possibility for them was to "separate" completely from the state church.

Separatists Pilgrims

Their pastor, Richard Clyfton, had guided this religious community into a form of democratic self-government.

Various points of view were tolerated, but the will of the majority ruled in decision-making. The members of this group believed in equal rights and equal duties for members of its congregation. Our modern concepts of a democratic system of government began with Pastor Richard Clyfton.

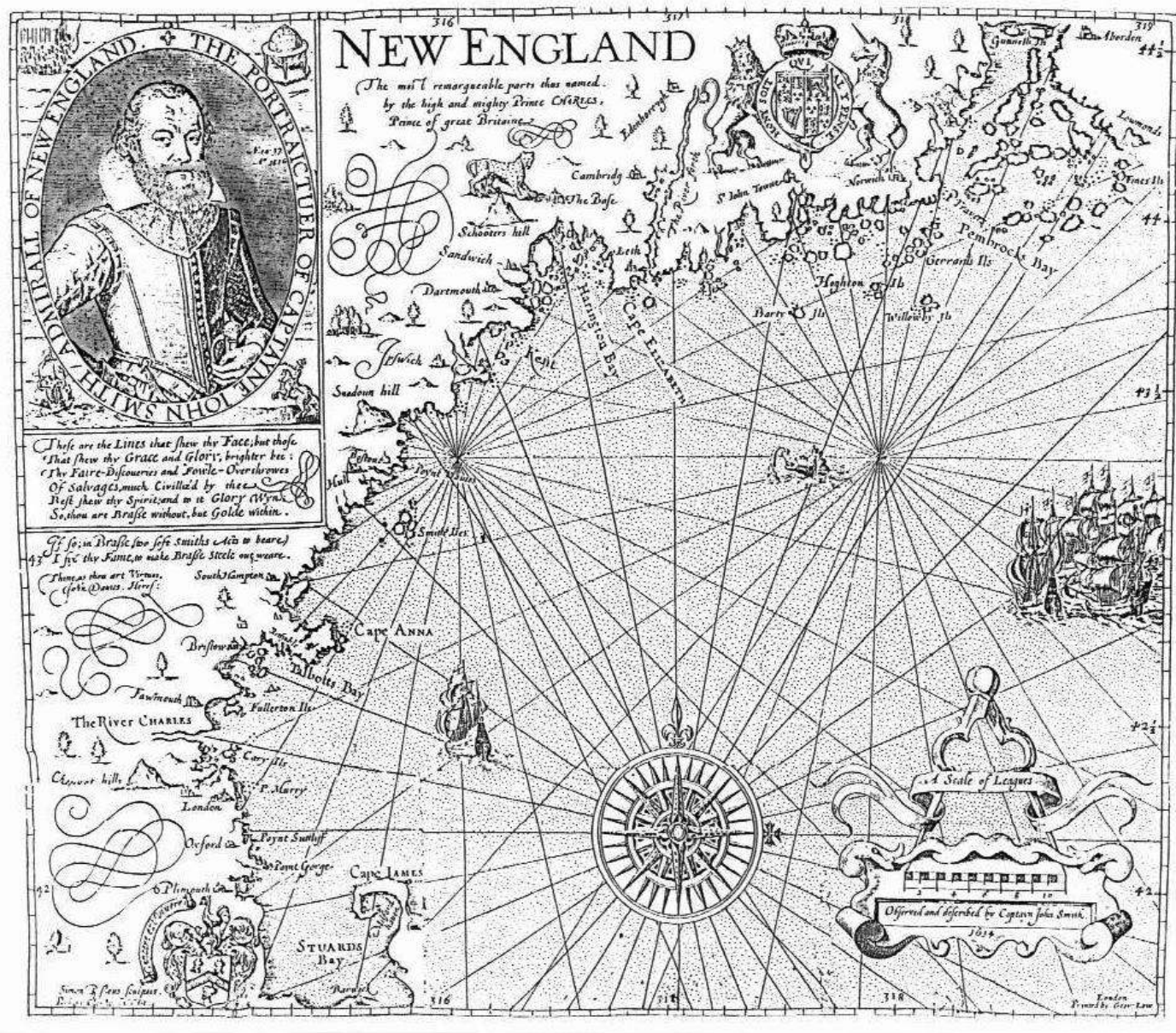
The Pilgrims were warm, generous and thoughtful in their dealings with their fellow citizens and with the Indians they met in America.

Their manner of dress was typical of the ordinary fashions in England at that time. Some even wore breeches of red, green or violet.

The dark, somber clothing of the Puritans are most often depicted in Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims were a good-natured, fun-loving people who loved life and insisted on the freedom of choice.

Separatists Pilgrims Move to the New World

- In 1608 the Separatists moved to Leiden, Holland, where they were able to practice a simple form of religion. When the conditions in Holland became unfavorable, the Leiden Separatists looked to the New World for a new home.
- The Leiden Separatists succeeded in getting a Patent from the London Virginia Company, which was a group of merchants who were investing their money in new settlements in America in hopes of financial gain.
- As part of the agreement, the Pilgrims became indentured for seven years before they would be free to take any profits for themselves.
- The *Mayflower* - along with its master and part-owner, Christopher Jones - was engaged in London to carry the Leiden group to America.



Captain
John Smith

Captain
John Smith
had been
to the New
World and
made
surveys of
New
England.

THE *MAYFLOWER'S* DEPARTURE

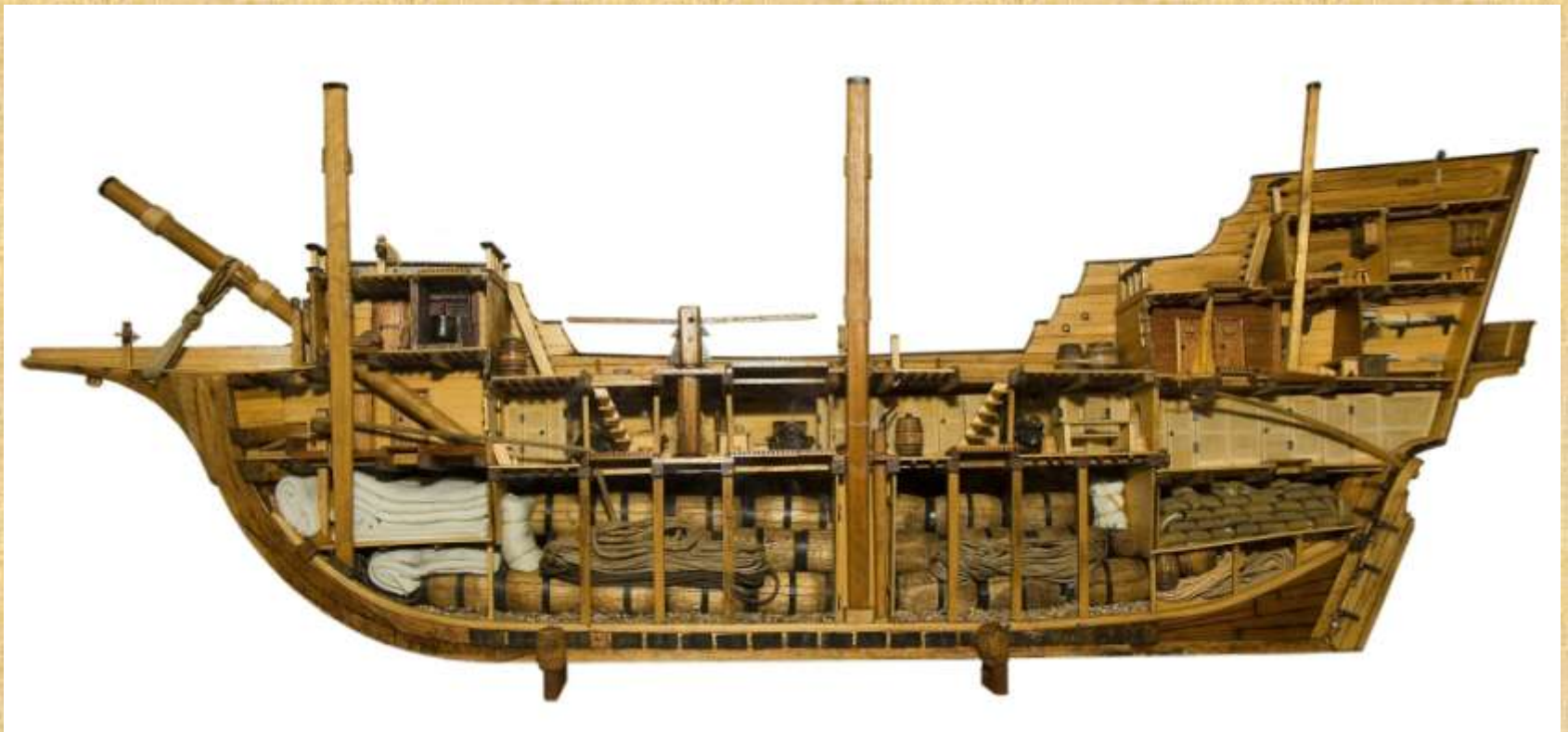
- A group of non-Separatist people was enlisted to fill out the required number of passengers for the voyage.
- The *Mayflower* made her final departure from Plymouth, England, on September 16, 1620, with 102 passengers aboard.
- Of this number only 41 were members of the Leiden church.
- The remainder of the passengers were hired men, paid servants, or "strangers" who wanted to make a new life in America.

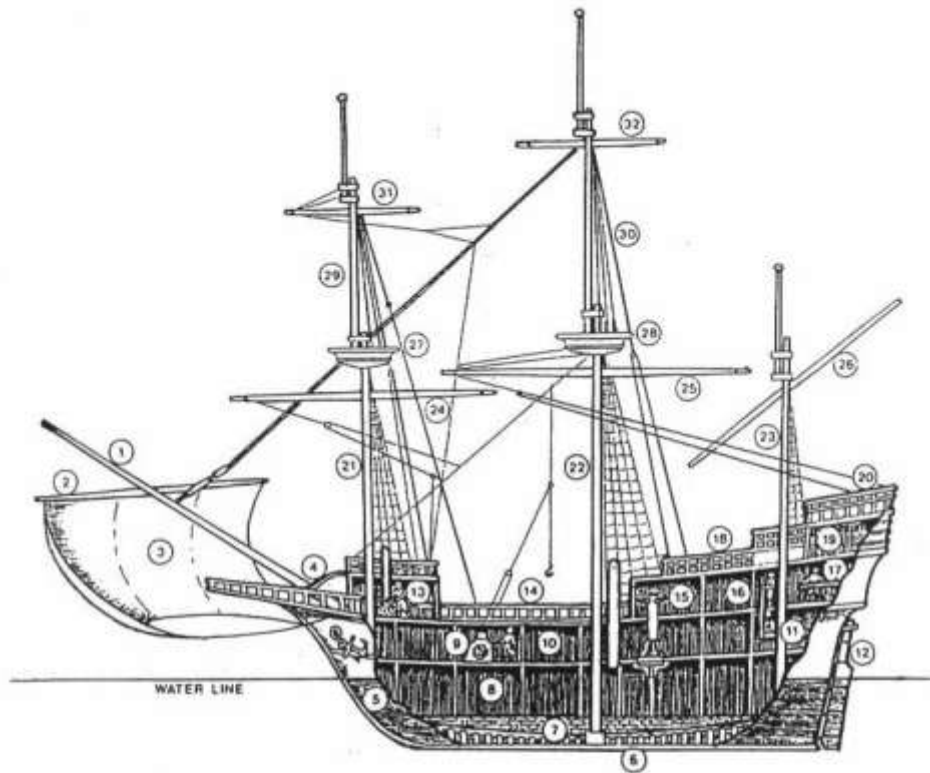
THE *Mayflower*



THE *Mayflower*

We are told the *Mayflower* was a ship of 180 tuns. A tun was a large barrel or cask for wine equal to double hogsheads (or 265 gallons). The size of a merchant vessel such as the *Mayflower* was measured in terms of how many of these barrels could safely be carried in the hold. The *Mayflower* was capable of carrying 180 of these large barrels fully loaded. In fact, she would have been one of the larger merchant vessels of her day.





MAYFLOWER

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. BOWSPRIT. | 17. GREAT CABIN. |
| 2. BOWSPRIT YARD. | 18. QUARTER DECK. |
| 3. SPFRITSAIL. | 19. CHART HOUSE. |
| 4. BEAKHEAD. | 20. POOP DECK. |
| 5. HULL. | 21. FOREMAST. |
| 6. KEEL. | 22. MAINMAST. |
| 7. BALLAST. | 23. MIZZEN MAST. |
| 8. MAIN HOLD. | 24. FOREYARD. |
| 9. ANCHOR WINDLASS. | 25. MAIN YARD. |
| 10. THE 'TWEEN DECK. | 26. MIZZEN YARD. |
| 11. TILLER FLAT. | 27. FORE TOP. |
| 12. RUDDER. | 28. MAIN TOP. |
| 13. FORECASTLE (FO'C'SLE). | 29. FORE-TOPMAST. |
| 14. MAIN DECK. | 30. MAIN-TOPMAST. |
| 15. CAPSTAN. | 31. FORE-TOPSAIL YARD. |
| 18. STEERAGE (WHIPSTAFF). | 32. MAIN-TOPSAIL YARD. |

The *Mayflower* made the crossing in 68 days, averaging about 2 miles per hour.

Coming from England to Cape Cod the *Mayflower* sailed against the strong currents of the Gulf Stream as well as the stormy winds of the North Atlantic.

CHRISTOPHER JONES: MASTER OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

We refer to Jones as master of the ship - not the captain. In those times the skipper of a naval ship carried the rank of captain. The skipper of a merchant ship such as *Mayflower* was called the master.

LIFE ABOARD *MAYFLOWER*

It is a puzzle how *Mayflower* managed to accommodate 102 passengers and a crew of about 30. She was a merchant ship, not a passenger ship. Therefore, she was not equipped to take many passengers. Some passengers, we know, slept in the shallop, a large ship's boat which was stowed on the gun deck.

Double or triple tier bunks must have been built, or hammocks slung on the gun deck. Here they had their beds or hammocks, cooking pots, clothing and items they would need during the crossing. Their other goods were stored in the hold. There could have been little privacy.

FOOD ON THE *MAYFLOWER*

The foods they ate on board-salted meat and fish, peas, beans, beer, and hard cheese-were not very different from what the country folk in England ate in winter or early spring.

There were 32 children or young people on the *Mayflower*. Of all the passengers, they were probably the most bored. They could play games or listen to someone read to them. When the weather was good, the sailors probably allowed them to go up on deck. In stormy weather they probably spent their time praying, being seasick, and trying to keep from being bruised and battered against the beams and walls of the ship, a common injury of passengers during a storm.

Activities on Ship

- Wake up, put away the bedding
- Prayers
- Breakfast
- In good weather, activities like reading, games, exercise on deck
- Cooking by the women in good weather
- Dinner (noon meal)
- Activities similar to the morning
- Supper
- Prayers
- Sleep

Mayflower Classroom Activity

Mark out an area 68 feet long and 22 feet wide -- in the shape of a ship -- pointed in the front and narrow at the back.

This will be the approximate size of the lower deck where most of the Pilgrims would have been located. Remember the shallop was also stored in this area between decks. That quickly removes some 30 feet in length and 6 to 8 feet in width. Boxes loaded on the ship made the space very small with about 90 people crowded together in the remaining room with all their personal belongings.

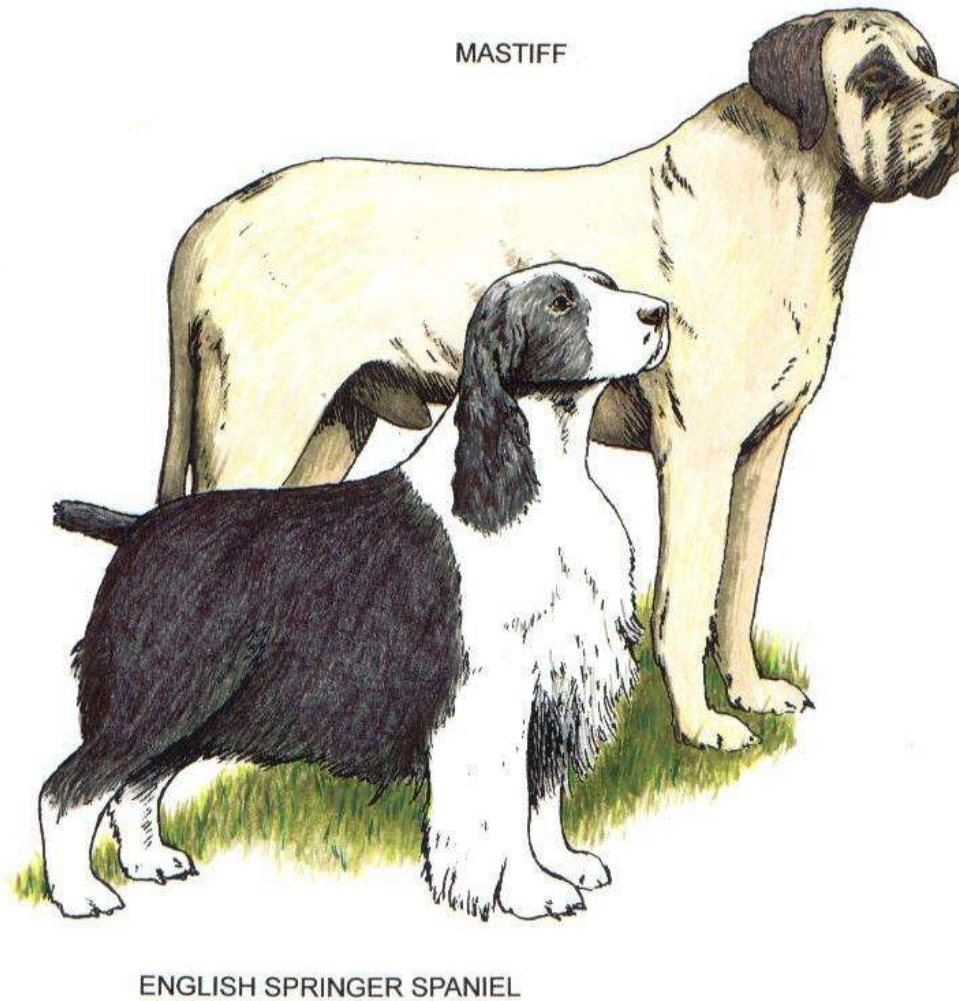


ANIMALS ON BOARD

There was no livestock aboard *Mayflower*. Edward Winslow, who said, "If we have but once kine, horses and sheep, I make no question but men might live as contented here, as any part of the world."

Some of the passengers brought their pets. They used a mastiff and a spaniel to hunt deer the first winter ashore. Ships in those days had cats to cope with the numerous rats that always found their way on board while ships were moored at the docks.

PURITAN ANIMALS



L. V. '99

Provisions

When the *Mayflower* sailed from Plymouth, England on September 6/16, 1620, she carried a large cargo in addition to the 132 or more passengers and crew.

[from Capt. John Smith's *A Sea Grammar*, 1627]

"A Commander at sea should provision himself and company at sea with bedding, linen, arms and apparel; and keep his table aboard, and his expenses at shore, and provide his petty Tally, which is a component proportion according to the number of these particulars following:

Fine wheat flour, close and well packed.

Rice.

Currants.

Sugar.

Prunes.

Cinnamon.

Ginger.

Pepper.

Cloves

Green Ginger.

Oil.

Butter.

Holland Cheese, or "old cheese."

Wine Vinegar

Canarie Sack (wine).

Aqua Vitae.

Fine Wines.

Pure water.

Lemon Juice [for Scurvy].

White Biscuit

Oatmeal.

Gammons (hog thigh) or Bacon.

Dried Neat's Tongues (Ox).

Beefe, packed in vinegar.

Legs of Mutton (sheep), minced and stewed, close-packed with tried sewet or butter in earthen pots.

CLOTHING

The clothing supplies of the Pilgrims included hats, caps, shirts, neck-cloths, jerkins, waistcoats, breeches (cloth and leather), stockings, shoes, boots, belts, cloth, piece-goods (for dresses), etc. By the will of William Mullins, it appears he had twenty-one dozen pairs of shoes and thirteen pairs of boots on board. Undoubtedly, he intended to use these as a medium of exchange or barter. By the terms of the contract with the Pilgrims, the Merchant Adventurers were to supply all their actual necessities of food, clothing, etc., for a full term of seven years.

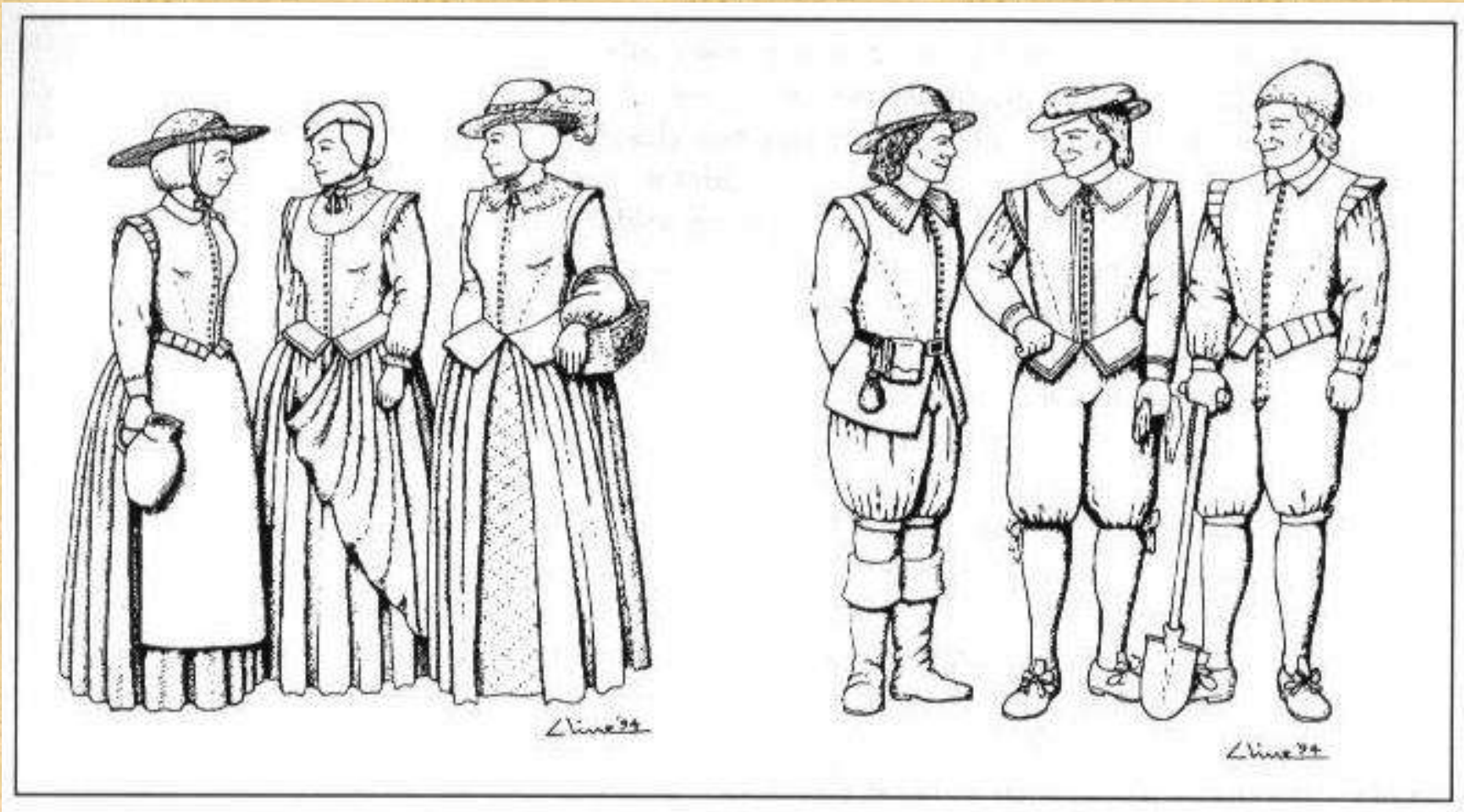
FURNITURE

Among the furniture brought on *Mayflower* may be enumerated: chairs, table-chairs, stools and benches, tables of several sizes, table-boards, trestles, beds, bedding, cradles, cupboards and cabinets, chests, boxes, trunks, andirons, fireplace tools, shovels, cushions, rugs, blankets, etc.

Among the household utensils were spits, bake-kettles, pots, kettles, lamps, candlesticks, snuffers, buckets, tubs, baskets, sand-glasses, pewter-ware including platters, plates, tankards, and porringers. There would have been wooden-ware such as trenchers, trays, noggins, spoons, ladles and scoops. The earthenware would have included jugs, crocks, bowls, etc.

TOOLS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

The Pilgrims would have need of a number of other pieces of equipment in order to build their homes, plant their crops, fish and protect themselves against attack. Such equipment would have included hoes, shovels, rakes, several kinds of axes, hatchets, sickles, adzes, hammers, mallets, nails, rifles, armor, lead for bullet-making, and barrels of gun powder.



Arrival in the New World

Before *Mayflower* anchored off the tip of Cape Cod, there was a near mutiny. The passengers had hired themselves out as indentured servants, promising to work for seven years to pay for their passage. Some of these passengers thought they could do as they pleased since they were outside the bounds of English law. So they threatened to take their freedom as soon as they got on land.

The Pilgrim leaders knew it would take a lot of hard work to survive that first winter. They would have to cut down trees and haul logs and thatch to build houses. They knew they would need all the help they could get.

THE MAYFLOW COMPACT

To solve the problem, the Pilgrims wrote the Mayflower Compact. The Compact was an agreement signed by all the men on board—including the indentured servants—promising to abide by laws that would be drawn up and agreed upon by all male members of the community.

The women were not allowed to participate in the governing process.

The Compact states that they would choose their own leaders and make their own laws. It also stated there was to be equal justice for all. This Compact became the constitution of the Plymouth Colony. It was the first document of American democracy to establish "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

THE CONCEPTS OF DEMOCRACY

The Compact, which was to be the official Constitution of Plymouth Colony for over 70 years, is the first American State Paper. It is also the first statement of the principles of democracy as we now know and understand them. For the first time in the history of the world, a group of men --of their own will--agreed to be governed by themselves according to the will of the majority. The Mayflower Compact is the first document of American Democracy.

In y^e name of god Amen. We whose names are underwritten,
the loyal subjects of our dread soueraigne Lord King James
by y^e graco of god, of great Britaine, franc, & yreland king,
defondor of y^e faith, &c

Haueing undertaken, for y^e glorio of god, and aduancements
of y^e christian^{faith}, and honour of our king & countrey, a voyaige to
plant y^e first Colonie in y^e Northernd parts of Virginia. Doe
by these presents solemnly & mutually in y^e presence of god, and
one of another, Couenant, & combine our selues together into a
Ciuill body politick; for ~~our~~ better ordering, & preservation & fur-
therance of y^e ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof, to enacte,
constitute, and frame such just & equall Lawes, ordinances,
Acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought
most meeete & conuenient for y^e generall good of y^e Colonie: vnto
which we promise all due submission and obedienc. In witness
whereof we haue hereunder subscribed our names at Cap-
Codd y^e 11. of Nouember, in y^e year of y^e raigne of our soueraigne
Lord king James of England, franc, & yreland y^e eighteenth
and of scotland y^e fiftie fourth. An^o. Dom. 1620.]

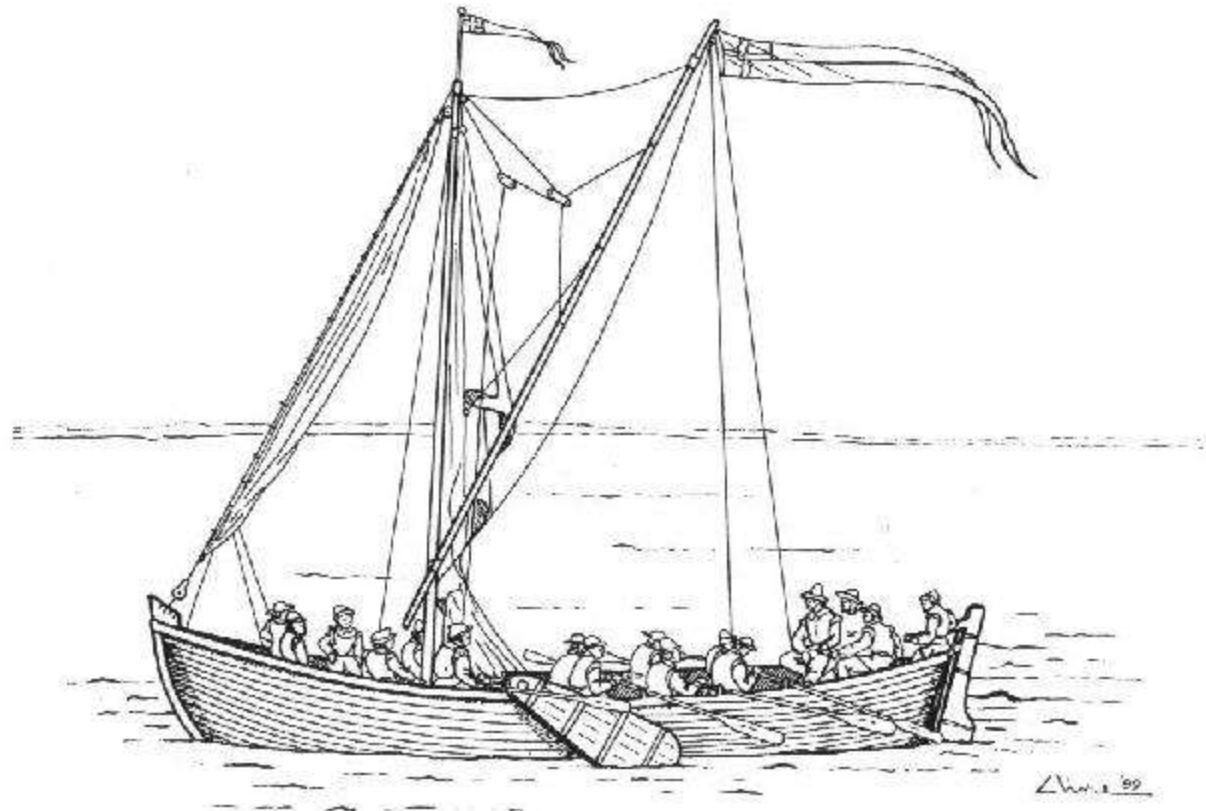
THE FIRST EXPLORATIONS

The *Mayflower* first anchored in safe harbor at the tip of Cape Cod, near the Indian site of Paomet (present-day location of Provincetown). After signing the Mayflower Compact, fifteen or sixteen of the colonists went ashore in the long-boat. The Pilgrims needed wood for cooking, and they were eager to see what would be their new home. They were greeted by sandy beaches with wild grasses and shrubs that ran all the way to the water-line in places.

CAPE COD BAY

The next day on the Sabbath was spent aboard the ship in rest and prayers of thanksgiving for their safe arrival in the New World. On Monday, they unloaded and assembled the shallop, which had been stored below on the waist deck.

On land, the children could run as they wished without the confinement to which they had been subjected during the sixty-eight day crossing. The women found ponds of fresh water among the sandy dunes where they could do their much needed laundry. The carpenters went to work on the shallop, while some of the men explored the surrounding area.



THE SHALLOP, WHICH THE PILGRIMS BROUGHT WITH THEM ON THE MAYFLOWER.

CAPE COD

The exploring party discovered this to be a narrow neck of land with a bay on one side, and the ocean on the other. The ground was all sandy dunes; but, the earth about a foot down was an excellent black soil. It was wooded with oak, pine, sassafras, juniper, birch and holly with some ash and walnut. On Wednesday, they sighted a few Indians on the shore; but, as the exploring party approached, the Indians and their dog ran away and vanished into the woods. The men camped on the beach overnight.

CORN HILL

Marching south through the sandy hills and valleys, the men moved along the western shore of Cape Cod, finding heaps of sand here and there, which they supposed to be Indian graves. In one place they discovered more heaps of sand so freshly made that the hand prints were still visible. Digging down, they found two baskets of corn. This area is now called Corn Hill. A small bronze tablet now marks this historic spot.

The next morning they discovered two Indian dwellings, which had recently been occupied. Returning to their boats by way of Corn Hill, they picked up more corn to take back to the ship. In all they had taken about ten bushels.



FIRST ENCOUNTER BEACH

Several days later, the colonists decided to make a third exploration along the western coast of Cape Cod Bay where they saw ten or twelve Indians.

When the colonists approached, the Indians ran into the woods. The men camped overnight on the beach. The next morning, they found four or five Indian dwellings with no mats. **These were summer dwellings.**

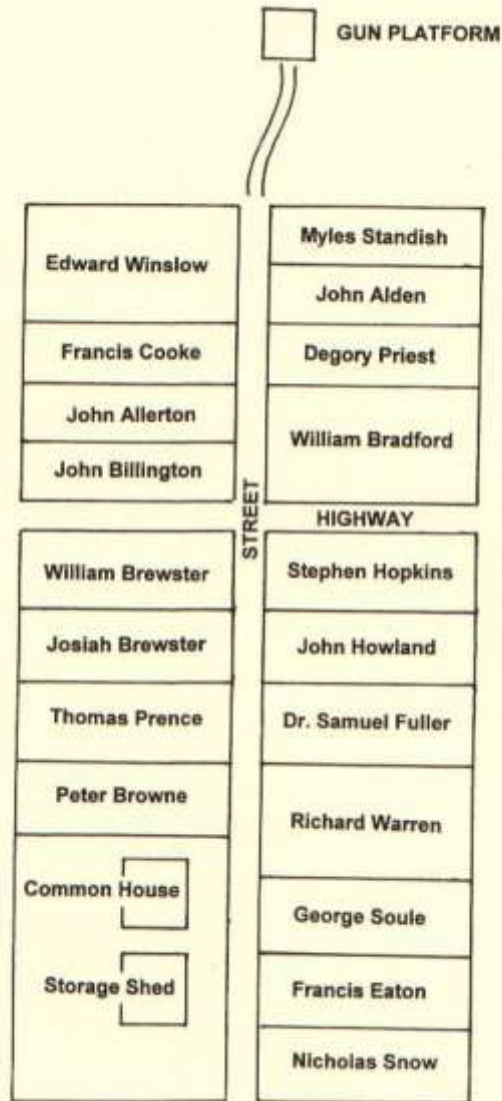
When the Indians moved to their winter quarters, they removed all of the mats and took them with them.

About five o'clock the next morning they heard hideous cries and suddenly the Indians began to attack with arrows. When the Indians were repelled by gunfire, the explorers picked up eighteen arrows around the area, which is now called First Encounter Beach.

NEW PLIMOTH [PLYMOUTH]

After their first encounter with the Indians, the colonists explored further west along the coast in the Plymouth area, they decided upon Plymouth as the most favorable location -- because it had a fair brook that ran under a high hill on which they could build a gun platform for their protection.

PLYMOUTH VILLAGE PLOT LAY-OUT



HOME-BUILDING BEGUN

The Pilgrims agreed that each man should build his own house, but they would cooperate in building the common-house where their supplies would be stored.

By mid-January the common-house was completed, and the little village began to take shape.

The "Great Sickness" raged through the winter months. Half of the colonists would soon be dead. Even the crew of the *Mayflower* was not spared. Nearly half of her crew would not survive to make the return trip to England in the spring.

Captain Myles Standish
c. 1584 – October 3, 1656

Captain Standish was an English born military officer hired by the Pilgrims as military advisor for Plymouth colony. Arriving on the Mayflower, he worked on colonial defense. On February 17, 1622, he was appointed the first commander of Plymouth colony. Later, he served as Plymouth's representative in England, and served as assistant governor and as the colony's treasurer. He was also one of the founders of the town of Duxbury, Massachusetts (named after his ancestral seat at Duxbury Woods, Chorley) in 1632. In January 2008 in Chorley a new road was opened called the Myles Standish Way and sometime this year or next year a Myles Standish visitor centre will be opened in Chorley.

Capt Standish was one of the members to sign the Mayflower Compact at Cape Cod November 11, 1620. After the voyage, Standish was elected Military Captain of the colony by the leadership of the Pilgrims, with Lieutenant William Holmes as his second in command, both to be paid 20 pounds sterling in corn or beaver pelts.





THE WAMPANOAG NATION

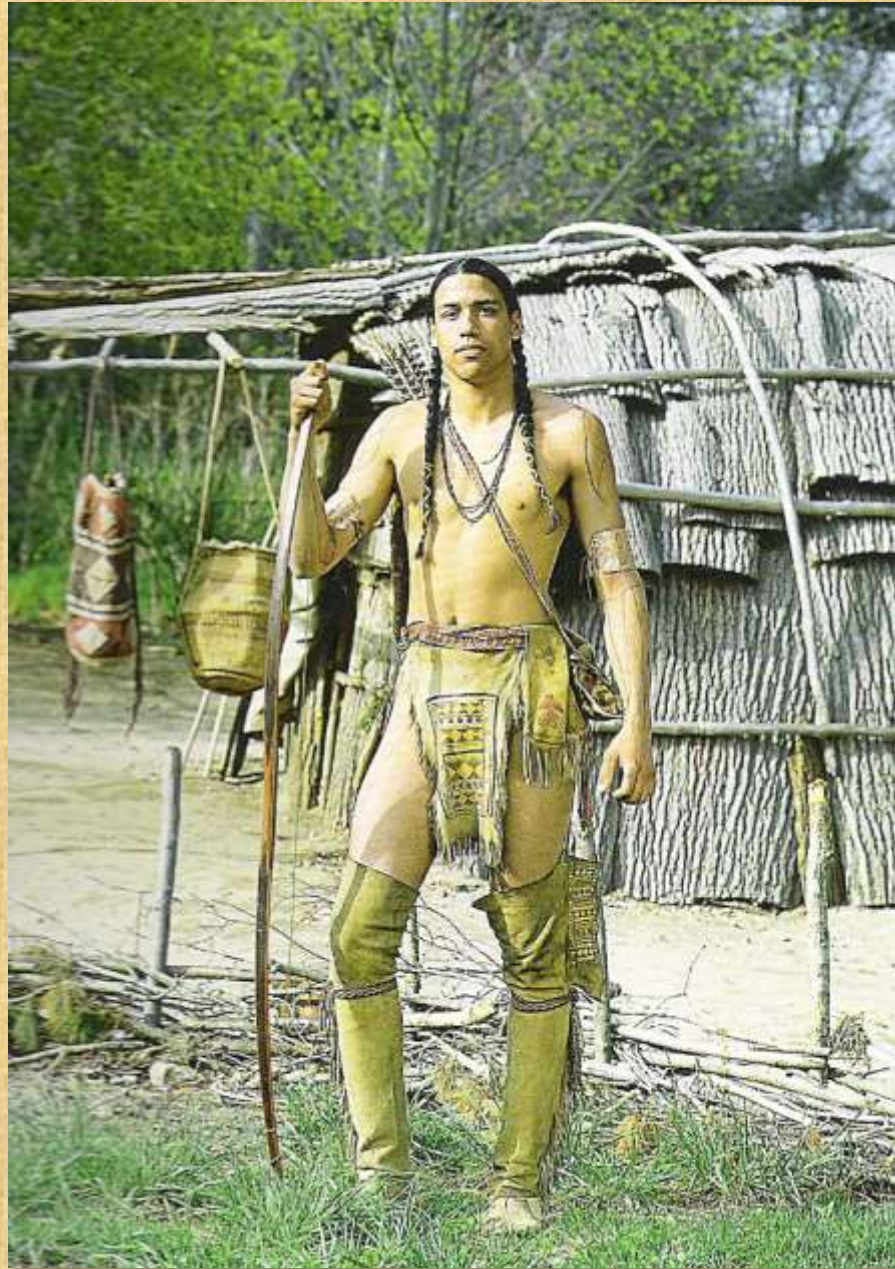
The Wampanoag were known to their neighbors as the *Pokanoket*, which means "place of the cleared land."

Wampanoag means "People of the East" or "People of the Early Light."

It is composed of two Algonquin words: *wampa*, meaning dawn, and *noag*, meaning people.

These Indians along the eastern coast were the first to see the dawn each day.





Educational Living History Interpretations
2008



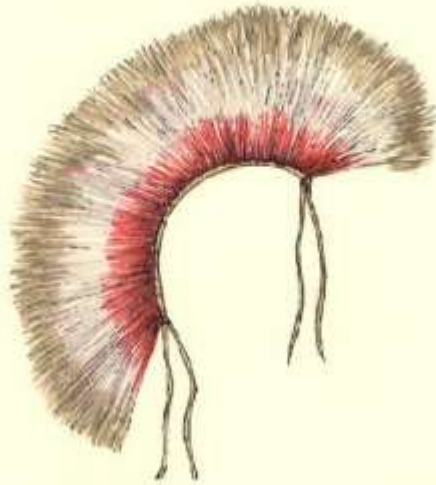
Their territory contained forests of oak, maple and pine, as well as rivers, streams and wetlands.

At the beginning of the 17th century, between 21,000 and 24,000 Wampanoag inhabited the southeastern portion of present-day Massachusetts, the islands off its shores, and the eastern part of Rhode Island.

When the Pilgrims met them in 1620, the Wampanoag were competent farmers, fishers, hunters and gatherers. All of these occupations provided them with a generous supply and variety of foods.

The Wampanoag had an established system of government and religion. Children learned from their parents about their future adult roles as individuals and their responsibilities to the community.

THE ROACH HEADDRESS FOR MEN



A stay like those above is used to hold the roach in place. A forelock of hair is pulled through the top hole, braided and a pin inserted through the braid to hold the roach in place.

NEW ENGLAND INDIAN FAMILY



L. V. 2000

SAMOSET

In March, three months after the Pilgrims arrived, a tall Indian walked boldly into the plantation crying out, "Welcome! Welcome, Englishmen!" The Pilgrims were startled when the Indian named Samoset introduced himself to the Pilgrims in English. Samoset, an Abnaki Indian from Maine, had been kidnapped by explorers and taken to England.

Samoset was the first Indian with whom the Pilgrims had spoken since they arrived in New England.



INTERVIEW OF SAMOSET WITH THE FLORIDMS.

SQUANTO

Squanto was born about 1585 near what is now known as Plymouth, Massachusetts. He was a Pawtuxet Indian

In 1615, Captain Thomas Hunt, who sailed under Smith's command, visited the Elizabethan Islands and mingled with the tribes on Martha's Vineyard in the year 1615. While in the area, Hunt captured 20 native people from Patuxet (including Squanto/Tisquantum) and 7 men from Nauset to sell as slaves in Spain.

Squanto was taken to England on a Bristol ship.

As a result the Wampanoag became hostile towards Europeans.



SQUANTO VISITS THE COLONY

Samoset visited the colony with Squanto who amazed the Pilgrims with his almost flawless command of English.

In 1619, Squanto returned to his home and found most of the people of his tribe had died of disease. He joined the Wampanoag who were living near Plymouth, and in 1621, he met the Pilgrims.

It was Squanto who would teach the Pilgrims how to find herring, a kind of fish, and to use it as a fertilizer when planting corn, pumpkins and beans.

Squanto also showed them how to find clams and eels in the rivers and how to hunt for deer, bears and turkeys. The children also learned where to find nuts and berries of all kinds.

THE INDIAN PEACE TREATY

Gradually, Squanto and Samoset reassured the Wampanoags that their new neighbors were peaceful and meant them no harm. He told them of the Pilgrims' desire to make a treaty of peace with them.

On March 22/April 1, 1621, Samoset and Squanto appeared in the little colony with three other Indians. They brought with them a few skins and some red herrings newly taken and dried to trade. They told the Pilgrims that their great sagamore (chief), the Massasoit, was nearby with Quadequina his brother and about sixty men. They were able to arrange a meeting between the Massasoit and the first governor of Plymouth Colony, John Carver.

Following introductory ceremonies, Carver and the Massasoit agreed upon the terms of a peace treaty between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags.

CONTINUING PEACEFUL RELATIONS

During the next few months, the Native Americans and the colonists worked together to till and plant the first successful crops.

The first feast of Thanksgiving, in October of 1621, was a harvest festival filled with fellowship, good food and games.

The Indians and the colonists shared the fruits of their labor: venison, duck, turkey, corn and pumpkin. For three days the Pilgrims and their Indian guests ate venison, roast duck, goose and turkey, clams and other shell-fish, succulent eels, corn bread, hasty pudding, leeks and water-cress and other "sallet herbes," with wild plums and dried berries as dessert, all washed down with wine made of the wild grape.

The gathering was enlivened by contests of skill and strength: running, jumping, wrestling. Also, there were games of various kinds.

The Indians performed their dances and struck up their singing.

They competed in marksmanship, muskets performing against bows and arrows.

First Thanksgiving

- In their first ten months at Plymouth, the Pilgrims erected seven dwellings, a Common Meeting house and three small store houses for food, clothing and other supplies.
- They managed to survive on the edge of an inhospitable continent.
- They were well recovered in health and strength.
- They were making the best of a hard life in the wilderness.
- They had proved that they could sustain themselves in the new, free land.
- They were assured of the success of their purpose of establishing freedom.
- They had made friends with the Indians, who had been so kind to them.



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2008

Continued Survival

The first Pilgrim Thanksgiving in the fall of 1621 was a bountiful feast, but the inventory taken afterwards in preparation for winter proved the Pilgrims had grossly overestimated their harvest.

The only way they could possibly get through the winter was to cut in half the already weekly rations of food.

To make matters even worse, the ship *Fortune* arrived shortly thereafter with 35 new settlers. Only three were women. They came empty-handed and poorly clothed.

The colonists struggled through the winter. By May 1622 their food supply was completely gone and the harvest was four months away.

1622 SUMMER HARVEST FAILS

The long awaited harvest of 1622 was a dismal failure. The Pilgrims had not yet perfected the art of growing corn. They had been busy building the fort and their lack of food that summer had left them too weak and weary to tend the fields properly. It seemed they now faced the prospect of another year with little food.

Again their hopes rested on a good fall harvest. A six-week drought began in June and the crops turned brown and were slowly withering away.

They turned to the only hope they had - intervention by God, and appointed a solemn day of humiliation and prayer. They assembled one July morning under a hot, clear sky and for nine hours prayed. Their prayers were answered by the next morning, and for the next two weeks they were greeted, in the words of Winslow with "such soft, sweet and moderate showers . . . As it was hard to say whether our withered corn or drooping affections were most quickened and revived."

It turned out to be a double blessing from above. That same month arrived the ships *Anne* and *Little James* with 60 new settlers which came loaded with provisions. The harvest in the fall of 1623 proved to be the best yet. It also promised a new beginning for the Pilgrim colonists, and they never starved again.

THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC COLONY HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED SUCCESSFULLY IN THE NEW WORLD .

THE END



HAPPY THANKSGIVING