

PLYMOUTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL REDISCOVERY PROJECT

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Pilgrim

Common Myths

- 1) The Pilgrims called themselves Pilgrims
- 2) They came to the New World only for religious freedom
- 3) They starved the first winter
- 4) They meant to settle in Virginia and not here
- 5) They wore black clothes with white collars
- 6) They forbade music and games
- 7) They killed all the Native people that were in New England
- 8) They did not care about the land and freely destroyed it
- 9) They wore hats and shoes with buckles
- 10) They died before reaching the age of 35
- 11) They would have died without the Natives help
- 12) They stepped on Plymouth Rock
- 13) They lived in log cabins

A Timeline for the Colonists at Plymouth (the Pilgrims) 1606-1627

1606

After meeting with other separatists at Gainshorough under John Smyth, a separate congregation was formed at Scrooby.

1607

The colony at Jamestown was founded.

Late Fall

The Scrooby congregation made their first attempt to get into Holland.

1608

Spring

The Scrooby congregation made their second attempt to get into Holland.

1608/9

12 February

An application for the congregation to move from Amsterdam to Leyden was granted.

May

The movement of the congregation from Amsterdam to Leyden was completed.

1610

Robinson's Justification for Separation was published.

1611

5 May

Robinson and four others completed purchase of the Groenepoort in Leyden.

1617

Fall

Cushman and Carver negotiate for the first time with the Virginia Company, and present them with the seven articles.

1618/9

9 June

First patent for Virginia granted to the Leyden congregation.

1620

The New Netherlands Company offered to settle the congregation on the Hudson.

31 July (dated by Dexter)

The congregation left. Leyden for Delftshaven.

6 September

The Mayflower left Plymouth England, and the Speedwell returned to London.

9 November

The Mayflower made landfall on Cape Cod.

9 December

The first encounter with the natives.

10 December

First exploration of New Plimoth.

23 December

Felling of timber for building was begun.

1620/1

14 January

A fire in the common house.

16 March

Arrival of Samoset in New Plimoth.

22 March

First meeting with Massasoit. Peace was made.

5 April

The Mayflower left New Plimoth for England.

Mid-April

John Carver died, and Bradford was elected governor with Allerton as his assistant.

12 May

First marriage in New Plimoth between Susannah White and Edward Winslow.

14 May

Frederick V fled to the Netherlands, and the Protestant Union was dissolved.

11 June

Ten men were sent to Nauset to find John Billington.

18 June

Duel between Edward Doty and Edward Lester.

July

At the beginning of the month, the Fortune left London but was held back by crosswinds.

14 August

Ten men went to Nemasket to rescue Squanto.

Fall

A three-day feast was celebrated with the natives.

13 September

The natives made a document of subjection to King James.

18 September

The shallop went to Massachusetts for discovery and trade.

11 November

The Fortune arrived in New Plimoth with Robert Cushman.

13 December

The Fortune left for England with Robert Cushman.

1621/2

January

A threat from the Narragansett was received.

Spring

A letter was received from John Huddleston telling of the Virginia massacre.

March

The palisade was finished.

May

At the end of the month, the men from the Sparrow arrived.

Squanto was left under the protection of the Governor after a confrontation with Massasoit.

Summer

At the end of the summer, Weston's men finally left for Wessagussett.

June

Work was begun on the fort at New Plimoth.

July

Some of Weston's men arrived with the Charity and the Swan, and various letters were delivered.

August

The Sparrow and the Discovery arrived with trade goods, bringing with them John Pory.

Fall

A joint trading expedition was undertaken with men from Wessagussett.

16 October

The Paragon left London for the first time.

November

Squanto died at Cape Cod.

1622/3

1 January

The Paragon left London for the second time.

February

A letter came from Wessagussett asking advice and telling of their needs.

27 February

Massacre of English by the Dutch at Amboina.

Spring

Wessagussett hung a corn thief.

Planting by particular was begun.

Winslow cured Massasoit's illness.

Standish left for Wessagussett with eight men.

Weston arrived seeking help.

26 April

The Little James sailed from Portsmouth.

May

A drought began late in the month.

2 May

The Anne sailed from Portsmouth.

June

Late in the month the Patent arrived.

July

A Day of humiliation was observed in New Plimoth.

26 July

A Day of Thanksgiving was observed in New Plimoth.

27 July

The Anne arrived in New Plimoth.

5 August

The Little James arrived in New Plimoth.

14 August

Governor Bradford's wedding was celebrated.

September

Captain Robert Gorges arrived in New Plimoth and called Weston to account.

10 September

Winslow left for England on the Anne.

5 November

A fire in New Plimoth burned several buildings.

1623/4

Spring

Weston left for Virginia and Gorges returned to England bringing with him some of the discontented settlers.

Lyford's letters were intercepted by Bradford.

March

Winslow returned on the Charity with the Lyfords and cattle.

Summer

Lyford and Oldham were called to court and Oldham was expelled. The ship carpenter died.

22 August

Winslow left for England on the Little James, with another of Lyford's letters being discovered on the ship and given over to the Governor.

1624/5

Spring

Winslow returned on the Jacob with news of the company's break-up.

Death of Robert Cushman.

1 March

Death of John Robinson in Leyden.

Summer

Standish left for London in the White Angel, accompanied by the Little James, which was later taken by

Turks.

1625/6

April

Standish returned from England, with news of the deaths of John Robinson, Robert Cushman, and others.

Summer

Allerton left for England to negotiate with the Adventurers.

Winter

The Sparrowhawk was wrecked off the coast of Cape Cod.

1626/7

March

Bradford received a letter from Issack de Rasieres.

Allerton returned from England at about this time.

What We Know About The Mayflower

The Master

- The master (not the captain, that's a military and not a nautical term) of the Mayflower in 1620 was Christopher Jones, he was also the co-owner
- Jones was born about 1570 in Harwich, Essex, England
- In 1609, he became the master of the *Mayflower*, owning a quarter of the ship.
- He returned from the New World, did a few more quick trading runs with his ship, died and was buried on 5 March 1621/2.6

The Ship

- was employed transporting goods such as wine, spices, and furs
- had a burthen of 180-tons (could carry 180 tons of goods)
- merchant vessel
- about 113 feet long from the back rail to the end of the bowsprit beak. The keel was about 64 feet and a board width of about 25 feet.

The Crew

- John Clarke: Master's Mate
- he had been to the American coast on several prior occasions.
- made several trips to Jamestown, Virginia, as well as to New England.
- Robert Coppin: second Master's Mate/ pilot
- had been to America before and was hired for his knowledge of the coastline
- Giles Heale: surgeon
- died 1653
- plus another approximately 25-30 crew who we have no names for

The Trip

- Left England on September 6, 1620
- Arrived at Cape Cod November 9, 1620
- Distance from Plymouth England to Plymouth, Massachusetts about 2,750 miles
- Voyage took 66 days
- Return Voyage took one month
- Left with 102 passengers arrived with same number with 1 dying and one being born

Fate of the Mayflower

- Inventory of the *Mayflower* 1624
- ship was described as being "in ruinis" and was being appraised for scrap hull, maste, yarges, boate, winles and Capsten estimated at £50
- five ankors weighing valued £25
- Item. one set of sailes more than half worn £15
- 3 Cables, 2 hawsers, the shrowdes and stayes more then half worne £35
- 8 muskitts, 6 bandealers, and 6 pikes 50 s
 - pitch pott and kettle 13s, 4p
- ten shovells 5s
- Total* 128.08-04

Pilgrim Clothing

Myth is that the Pilgrims wore black clothes with white collars and buckles on their hats and shoes

Reality:

Pilgrims from middling social class in England of artisans and yeomen farmers their clothing represented this status which was the commonest in England

Styles

English style was originally French, Spanish, Dutch or German and was adopted

Fabric

wool, linen and leather most common
some silk

Leather used by countrymen because of its durability, pretty common

Color

colored using vegetable dyes

colors not as bright as our chemical colors today but were not drab and dull

colors not colorfast so they faded in the sun and ran in the rain

Clothing

Men

Shirt: made of linen, loose with long sleeves, ties and hooks and eyes at collar and wrist, gathered into bands at cuffs and neck

Bands: at neck and cuffs

Waistcoat: undergarment worn over a shirt for warmth, knitted sweater type, quilted vests, may or may not have sleeves

Drawers: can be brays- short, close-fitting breeches of linen or stockings of linen, wool or leather worn over finer stockings for protection (these are probably the most common types in Plymouth)

Stockings: of wool or worsted cloth covering legs to mid-thigh, also had Irish Stockings of cloth with "stirrups" that fitted under foot

Garters: narrow bands tied or buckled below the knee to hold up stockings

Doublet: worn over a shirt, a close fitting, padded and lined garment with a high neck and sleeves

Jerkin: similar to a doublet but not padded to be worn over the doublet for warmth

Breeches: pants that reach to the knees, they can be very tight to loose and baggy (called slops)

Cassock: loose thigh length pull over garment like a sweatshirt to us

Horseman's Coat/ Gabardine: loose overcoat with wide sleeves one was given to Squanto and one to Massasoit

Cloak: knee-length with no collar, could be part of a suit

Gown: ankle-length fairly loose, fur-lined garments suitable for older men, scholars and men in authority

Hat/ Cap: most expensive were made of beaver felt, some straw hats, caps have no brims, knitted caps were called Monmouth caps, shaggy topped thrum caps for sailors, close fitting linen caps worn by scholars or as bed caps

Shoes/ Boots: leather with low or no heel, boots went to mid-thigh

Belts: narrow, used to hold swords or knives, or purses

Purse: small leather or knitted wool bag used for carrying small items

Gloves: knitted or leather

Mittens: knitted or leather

Women

Smock/ Shift: female version of a shirt.

Bands: same as men's

Corset: funnel-shaped garment of leather or linen supported with whalebone

Underpetticoat: wool, like a skirt to make a woman look fashionably bulky, servants may have none, a fashionable woman may have 5-7 on at once

Bum Roll: sausage-shaped pad tied around the hips to create an upside down tulip shape

Skirt: may be ankle length or have a train depending on ones station as servant or matron

Waistcoat: like men's, or like a jacket

Gown: open gown loose fitting worn over a waistcoat and skirt and a fitted gown, closer fitting

Doublet: Like a man's

Coif: close-fitting linen cap that covers the top, back and sides of head

Coats/ Cloaks: same as men's

Shoes: same as men's, no boots for women

Stockings: same as men's

Apron: of wool or linen

Infants

Swaddling: squares of cloth and bands wrapped around the baby, probably used at a minimum for 4 weeks up to a year

Tailclouts: square diapers of wool or linen

Baby

Shirt: miniature version of adult one

Gown: long shirt

Biggin: cap made of wool or linen tied under the chin for warmth

Toddler

Gown/ Short Coat: ankle-length loose garment worn when child begins to crawl, often with leading strings attached to back to help child maintain balance

Pudding: a sausage shaped protective headgear roll with chin straps worn for protection from falls

Muckinder: child's handkerchief

Shoes/ Stockings: same as adults

Apron: usually with a bib, for both boys and girls

Cloak: like adults

Girls wore back-closing gowns until about 10 years old then wore mini-adult women's clothes

Boys wore fashions similar to girls until age 6 or 7 when they went through the celebration of breeching, at this time they give up the gown for mini-adult male clothes.

Plymouth clothes: provided by the company in the first few years, individuals could buy their own as well

Pilgrim Family

- every family had one house, no multiple families living together
- average family size in England 6 persons
- average family size in Plymouth 4.5-5 persons

Men

- majority of men in England were agricultural laborers
- men tend fields
 - fish
 - hunt
 - trade
 - do woodworking, metal working
 - harvested crops
 - killed animals
 - tended livestock
 - collected shellfish
 - served in militia
 - served in public office
 - build houses and fences

Women

- women cook
 - sew
 - clean house
 - preserve food
 - tend gardens
 - harvested crops
 - butchered animals
 - tended chickens
 - tended livestock close to home
 - did all dairy work
- if family had a business, wife was a partner to her husband in work just like life

Children

- average of 8-9 children born to each family
- mortality rate of up to 25% kept family size smaller though
- learned jobs by either being apprenticed to a craftsman or watching parents
- no schools
- jobs were similar to parents with boys doing male things and girls doing female activities

Games

Blind Man's Bluff

-one person is blindfolded, spun around three times and has to find the others

Hunt the Slipper

Marbles

Blow-Out: first player tosses a marble the second player tosses a marble and tries to hit the first to win it

Ring Taw: Two circles drawn, inner one about two feet in diameter, each player puts four to six marbles in the inner circle. Outer circle, called the "taw," is drawn about seven feet in diameter. The players take turns to roll their marble from the outer circle (taw) into the inner circle. The object is to touch one of the marbles in the inner circle

Fox and Geese

- draw large wheel on ground (20 to 30 feet across)
- Fox starts in the middle and the "geese" on the outside.
- Players can only run on the spokes or outside circle of the wheel.
- Geese try and make it to the middles of the wheel.
- Fox tries to tag the geese, and protect the middle of the wheel.
- If goose gets tagged, they are out of the game.
- First goose to make it to the middle gets to be the fox for the next round
- If the fox gets all the geese, they get to be fox again

Nine Men's Morris

- Each player has nine merels and places them alternately on the board at intersecting line points.
- After all merels are in place, if you have three merels in a row, it is called a mill.
- With three in a row, a mill, you can then take one of the opponent's pieces.
- When a player is down to two men and can no longer make a mill, the game is over.

Pilgrim Material Culture

Now because I expect your coming unto us, with other of our friends, whose company we much desire, I thought good to advise you of a few things needful. Be careful to have a very good bread-room to put your biscuits in. Let your cask for beer and water be iron-bound, for the first tire, if not more. Let not your meat be dry-salted; none can do it better than the sailors. Let your meal be so hard trod in your cask that you shall need an adze or hatchet to work it out with. Trust not too much on us for corn at this time, for by reason of this last company that came (the Fortune in 1621), depending wholly upon us, we shall have little enough till harvest. Be careful to come by some of your meal to spend by the way; it will much refresh you. Build your cabins as open as you can, and bring good store of clothes and bedding with you. Bring every man a musket or fowling-piece. Let your piece be long in the barrel, and fear not the weight of it, for most of our shooting is from stands. Bring juice of lemons, and take it fasting; it is of good use. For hot waters, aniseed water is the best; but use it sparingly. If you bring any thing for comfort in the country, butter or sallet oil, or both is very good. Our Indian corn, even the coarsest, maketh as pleasant meat as rice; therefore spare that, unless by the way. Bring paper and linseed oil for your windows, with cotton yarn for your lamps. Let your shot be most for big fowls, and bring store of powder and shot. I forbear further to write for the present, hoping to see you by the next return. So I take my leave, commending you to the Lord for a safe conduct unto us, resting in him.

Your loving friend

E.W.

Plymouth, in New England, this 11th of December, 1621

Massachusetts Bay "Provision List" - 1630
PROPORTION OF
PROVISIONS NEEDFVLL FOR
SVCH AS INTEND TO PLANT
themselves in New-England, for
one whole yeare.

Collected by the Adventurers, with the advice of the Planters.

These things thus marked # the pooere sort may spare, and yet finde provisions sufficient for supplying the want of these.

*Of which the poorer sort may spare to thr greater part, if they can content themselves with water in the heat of summer, which is found by much experience to bee as wholesome & healthful as beere.

*Which for the poorer sort may be of blew Callico; these in Summer they use for bands.

As for bedding, and neceszary vessels for kitchin uses, men may carry what they have; lesse serving the turne there than would give contentment here.

Victuall

Meale, one Hogshead.
Malt, one Hogshead.
Beefe, one hundred waight.
Porke pickled, 100. or Bacon 74 pound.
Pease, two bushells.
Greates, one bushell.
Butter, two dozen.
Chese, half a hundred.
Vinegar, two gallons.
Aquavita, one gallon.
Mustardseed, two quarts.
Salt to save Fish, halfe a hogshead.

Apparell.

Shoes, six payre.
Boots for men, one payre
Leather to mend shoes, foure pound.
Irish stockings, foure payre.
Shirts, six.
Handkerchiefs twelve.
One sea Cape or Gowne, of course cloth.
other apparell, as their purses will afford.

Tooles which may also serve a family of foure or five persons.

One English Spade.
One Steele Shovell.
Two Hatchets.
Axes 3. one broade axe, and two. felling axes.
One Wood hooke.
Howes 3. one brad of nine inches, and two narrow of vive or six inches.
One Wimble, with six piercer bits.
One hammer.
Other tooles as mens occupations require, as Hand saws, Whip-sawes, thwart-sawes, Augers, Chissells, Frowes, Grinde Stones, &c.

For Building

Nayles of all sorts.
Lockes for Doores and chests.
Gimmowes for Chests.
Hookes and twists for doores.

Armes

One Musket, Rest and Bandeliere.
Powder, ten pound.
Shot, sixteene.Match, six pound.

One Sword.
One Belt.
One Pistoll, With a mould.

For fishing.

Twelve Cod hookes.
Two Lines for fishing.
One Mackrell line, and twelve hookes.
28. pound of Lead for bullets and fishing lead.

The totall 17 07 9

Out of which take that which the poore may spare, hauing sufficient in that which the country affords for needfull sustentation of nature. 7 04 8

Remaines for their charge besides Transportation 10 3 2

Though for the more convenient and pentifull accomodation of each planter it were to be desired that they carried the provisions of victualls above said, if their estates would reach thereunto, yet they may (having meanes to take fish and fowle) live comfortably that want all the rest, Meale for bread onely excepted, which is the stafe of life.

Printed at London for Fvlke Clifton. 1630

WYNSLOW GOVR.

1633

{EW}

An Inventory taken the 10th of October 1633 of the goods & Chattels of Peter Browne of new Plymouth deceased as they were prised by Capt Myles Standish & mr Will Brewster of the same & presented upon oath in Court held the 28th of Oct. in the ninth yeare of the Raigne of our Soveraigne Lord Charles &c.

Inpr Come 130 bushels	32	16	00
it Six meich (<i>milk</i>) goats prised at	18	00	00
it ffive young lambs	07	10	00
it 2 wether lambs & a Ram	02	00	00
it 4 Barrow hoggs at	9	15	00
it 3 sowes at	2	10	00
it 4 barrow Shotes	4	00	00
it 2 young sowes & a Bore	3	00	00
it 1 heyfer (<i>heifer</i>) at	16	00	00
it 1 fowling peece (<i>piece</i>)	1	10	00
it 1 mortar & pestle	00	15	00
3 wedges at	00	10	00
it 1 felling axe	00	1	6
it 1 other felling axe	00	2	0
it 1 handsaw	00	1	6
it 2 awgers (<i>augers</i>) & 1 chisell	00	1	6
it 1 how (<i>hoe</i>) at	00	1	00
it 1 sute of Cloathes & 1 Cloake	00	3	00
it 1 flock bed in a fetherbed tick	00	16	00
it 1 bolster ticke	00	04	00
it 1 Covelet & a blew (<i>blue</i>) blancket	01	11	00
t it 1 old blancket & one old pillow	00	08	00
it 2 pr of sheets	00	18	00
it 1 Iron pott	00	03	00
it 1 pr of pott hangers	00	02	00
it 1 Iron kettle at	00	12	00
it 1 pr of Cob Irons at	00	02	0X
it 2 Reape hookes at	01	00	0X
it 1 Twart saw	00	03	00
it 5 peeecs (<i>pieces</i>) of pewter at	00	09	00
it 2 brasse Candlesticks at	00	03	00
it 1 quart pott of latten	00	08	00
it 1 latten pan & a dripping pan	00	04	00
it 1 brasse skellet (<i>skillet</i>)	00	01	00
it 2 old brasse kettles at	00	04	00
it 1 chamber pott	00	01	00
it 1 pewter cupp	00	00	06
it 3 old chestes at	00	07	00
it 1 boxe at	00	06	00
it 1 Cradle	00	03	00
it an hogshhead. a barrell & an harness bar	00	10	00
it 1 brush	00	00	02
it 1 Butt	00	05	00
it 1 bedsteed (<i>bedstead</i>)	00	10	00
it I pillowbeer of blew (<i>blue</i>) stuffe	00	01	04
it 2 pr of Irish Stockings	00	03	00
it 2 pr of shoes	00	08	00

it 1 Coate	00	08	00
it 12 oz of shott	00	02	00
it 1 Iron pot & pot hangers & pot hookes	00	10	00
it 2 brasse kettles at	00	04	00
it 1 ffrying panne at	00	02	05
it 1 Gredyron (<i>gridiron</i>) & a trevet (<i>trivet</i>)	00	02	00
it 1 Brush	00	14	00
it 1 ffetherbed & bolster & 3 pillowes	02	00	00
it 1 Chest	00	04	00
it 1 box	00	00	08
it 1 Smoothing iron	00	01	00
it 1 Spade	00	02	00
it 1 Axe	00	01	06
it 1 howe (<i>hoe</i>)	00	01	00
it 1 Bible	00	03	00
it 4 pr of pillowbeers	00	16	00
it 1 pillow	00	02	00
it 6 table napkins	00	02	00

GLOSSARY

- awgers (*augers*):** an iron tool used for making holes in wood
- Barrow hogs:** a type of male pig
- barrow Shots:** a type of young male pig
- bedstead (*bedstead*):** the wooden framework of a bed
- bolster:** a long pillow used to support ones back when they are sleeping
- bolster ticke:** a covering that goes over the bolster, like a pillowcase
- Bore (*Boar*):** a male pig
- Butt:** a large barrel holding 108 gallons of liquid
- Cob Irons:** iron stands used in the hearth for holding logs
- Covelet (*coverlet*):** a bedspread
- chamber pot:** usually ceramic pot used in place of a toilet and then dumped outside
- chisell (*chisel*):** a sharp ended tool used for woodworking
- dripping pan:** a long ceramic or metal pan used in a hearth for catching the fat drippings from roasting meat
- felling axe:** a moderatley wide bladed axe used for chopping down trees
- fetherbed tick:** a cover for a feather mattress
- flock bed:** a mattress stuffed with wool
- fowling peece (*piece*):** a kind of firearm with a long barrel used for shooting birds (fowl)
- Gredyron (*gridiron*):** a grate for broiling food in a hearth
- handsaw:** a smaller saw operated with one hand
- harness bar:** a bar located just behind the animal to which elements of the harness is attached
- heyfer (*heifer*):** a young female cattle that has not had any calfs yet
- hogshead:** a large barrel holding 34-104 gallons
- how (*hoe*):** a tool used for gardening and planting fields
- Irish Stockings:** leggings worn over stockings on a man's lower leg that were common in Ireland
- latten:** a metal that is a mixture of brass and tin often used for cooking and eating utensils
- meich (*milk*) goats:** goats used to produce milk in the years before the colony had many cows
- peces (*pieces*) of pewter:** pewter is a metal that is a mixture of lead and tin, pieces of pewter included plates, dishes and jugs
- pillowbeer:** pillowcase
- Reap hookes:** a hand implement with a hook shaped blade used in reaping grain
- shott:** lead balls used in firearms as ammunition
- Smoothing iron:** an iron heated and used for smoothing clothes
- sowes:** a female pig
- Spade:** a digging implement used by pushing it into the ground with your foot
- stuffe:** material, usually scrap cloth, that was palced or stuffed inside of mattresses and pillows
- sute of Cloathes:** a pair of pants and a coat that are sew together and worn as one
- trevet (*trivet*):** a three legged stand used in cooking
- Twart saw:** a carpenters saw used for cutting across the grain of wood
- wether:** a type of male sheep

Pilgrim Houses

Two types: square and long

Square

- measured 20 x 20'
- probably most common type in Plymouth

Long

- measured approximately 20 x 40'
- more common as storehouses or houses for people dealing in trade

Construction

- houses built around a minimum of 4 posts buried in ground at corners (earthfast/ post-in-ground construction)
- Used oak primarily for timbers
- wattle and daub wall and chimney construction- basically interwoven vertical sticks in walls between posts with clay mixed with dung and straw plastered over it on the outside and inside
- outside covered with split oak clapboards to keep the weather out
- roofs thatched with marsh reeds or straw, after 1627 they were covered with clapboards in town to lessen fire hazard
- usually few windows with either glass panes or oil paper over the opening
- hearth located in 1 corner with door nearby
- dirt, clay or boarded floors