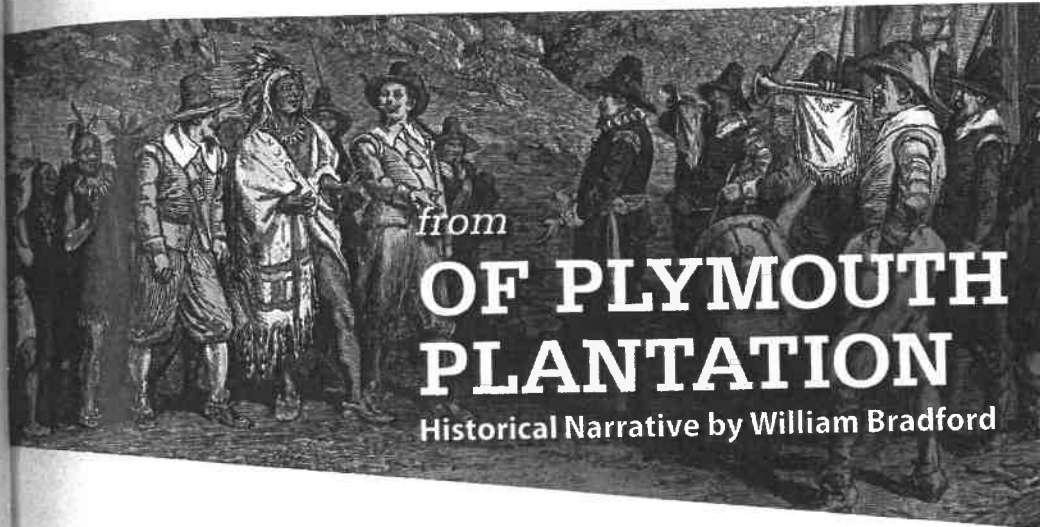




BACKGROUND

Born in England in 1590, **William Bradford** became involved in the Protestant Reformation while still a boy. He joined the Puritans, reformers who wanted to purify the Church of England and eventually separated from it. With other Puritans, he migrated to Holland in search of religious freedom. He helped organize the journey on the Mayflower in 1620 that brought about 100 people—half of them his fellow “Pilgrims”—to the New World. His *History of Plymouth Plantation, 1620–1647*, describes this journey and provides a glimpse of the settlers’ life in what became New England.



PREPARE TO COMPARE

As you read, pay attention to how the relationship between the colonists and Native Americans changed over time. Note details that help you understand how individuals were able to negotiate a peaceful relationship between the two groups. Identifying these details will help you compare this text with “Coming of Age in the Dawnland.”

The Second Book

- 1 **T**he rest of this history (if God give me life and opportunity) I shall, for brevity’s sake, handle by way of annals, noting only the heads of principal things, and passages as they fell in order of time, and may seem to be profitable to know or to make use of. And this may be as the Second Book.

Chapter XI

The Remainder of Anno 1620
[The Mayflower Compact]

- 2 I shall a little return back, and begin with a combination made by them before they came ashore; being the first foundation of their government in this place. Occasioned partly by the

Notice & Note

Use the side margins to notice and note signposts in the text.



NOTICE & NOTE

patent

(păt 'nt) *n.* an official document granting ownership.

ANALYZE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Annotate: Mark three phrases in paragraph 4 that suggest a formal tone.

Infer: What can you infer about the author's purpose based on his tone thus far? Cite text evidence in your response.

discontented and mutinous¹ speeches that some of the strangers amongst them had let fall from them in the ship: That when they came ashore they would use their own liberty, for none had power to command them, the **patent** they had being for Virginia and not for New England, which belonged to another government, with which the Virginia Company had nothing to do. And partly that such an act by them done, this their condition considered, might be as firm as any patent, and in some respects more sure.

The form was as followeth:
In the Name of God, Amen.

- 3 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.
- 4 Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour 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 Domini 1620.
- 5 After this they chose, or rather confirmed, Mr. John Carver (a man godly and well approved amongst them) their Governor for that year. And after they had provided a place for their goods, or common store (which were long in unlading for want of boats, foulness of the winter weather and sickness of divers) and begun some small cottages for their habitation; as time would admit, they met and consulted of laws and orders, both for their civil and military government as the necessity of their condition did require, still adding thereunto as urgent occasion in several times, and as cases did require.
- 6 In these hard and difficult beginnings they found some discontents and murmurings arise amongst some, and mutinous speeches and carriages in other; but they were soon quelled and overcome by the wisdom, patience, and just and equal carriage

¹ **mutinous:** rebellious.



of things, by the Governor and better part, which **clave** faithfully together in the main.

[*The Starving Time*]

- 7 But that which was most sad and lamentable was, that 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 scurvy² and other diseases which this long voyage and their inaccommodate condition had brought upon them. So as there died some times two or three of a day in the foresaid time, that of 100 and odd persons, scarce fifty remained. And of these, in the time of most distress, there was but six or seven sound persons who to their great commendations, be it spoken, spared no pains night nor day, but with abundance of toil and hazard of their own health, fetched them wood, made them fires, dressed them meat, made their beds, washed their loathsome³ clothes, clothed and unclothed them. In a word, did all the homely and necessary offices for them which dainty and queasy stomachs cannot endure to hear named; and all this willingly and cheerfully, without any grudging in the least, showing herein their true love unto their friends and brethren; a rare example and worthy to be remembered. Two of these seven were Mr. William Brewster, their reverend Elder, and Myles Standish, their Captain and military commander, unto whom myself and many others were much beholden in our low and sick condition. And yet the Lord so upheld these persons as in this general **calamity** they were not at all infected either with sickness or lameness. . . .

[*Indian Relations*]

- 8 All this while the Indians came skulking about them, and would sometimes show themselves aloof off, but when any approached near them, they would run away; and once they stole away their tools where they had been at work and were gone to dinner. But about the 16th of March, a certain Indian came boldly amongst them and spoke to them in broken English, which they could well understand but marveled at it. At length they understood by discourse with him, that he was not of these parts, but belonged to the eastern parts where some English ships came to fish, with whom he was acquainted and could name **sundry** of them by their names, amongst whom he had got his language. He became profitable to them in acquainting them with many things concerning the state of the country in the east parts where he lived, which was afterwards profitable unto them; as also of the people here, of their names, number and strength, of their situation and distance from this place, and who was chief amongst

² **scurvy**: a disease caused by a lack of vitamin C in the diet.

³ **loathsome**: offensive or disgusting.

clave

(klāv) v. past tense of *cleave*: to cling; to adhere

calamity

(kə-lām'ī-tē) n. an event that brings terrible loss or lasting distress.

ANALYZE LANGUAGE

Annotate: Mark words in paragraph 8 that describe the interaction between colonists and Native Americans.

Evaluate: How does Bradford's diction reflect a change in tone? What does this change reveal about his attitude toward the Native Americans?

sundry

(sūn'drē) adj. various or assorted.



NOTICE & NOTE

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

Annotate: Circle the passive-voice verb in item 3 of the list, and underline the active verbs.

Respond: What is the effect of using the passive voice in this item?

divers

(di'vərz) *adj.* various; several.

them. His name was Samoset. He told them also of another Indian whose name was Squanto, a native of this place, who had been in England and could speak better English than himself.

9 Being, after some time of entertainment and gifts dismissed, a while after he came again, and five more with him, and they brought again all the tools that were stolen away before, and made way for the coming of their great Sachem,⁴ called Massasoit. Who, about four or five days after, came with the chief of his friends and other attendance, with the aforesaid Squanto. With whom, after friendly entertainment and some gifts given him, they made a peace with him (which hath now continued this 24 years) in these terms:

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 neighbours confederates⁵ to certify them of this, that they might not wrong them, but might be likewise comprised in the conditions of peace.
6. That when their men came to them, they should leave their bows and arrows behind them.

10 After these things he returned to his place called Sowams, some 40 miles from this place, 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 was a native of this place, and scarce any left alive besides himself. He was carried away with **divers** others by one Hunt, a master of a ship, who thought to sell them for slaves in Spain. But he got away for England and was entertained by a merchant in London, and employed to Newfoundland and other parts, and lastly brought hither into these parts by one Mr. Dermer, a gentleman employed by Sir Ferdinando Gorges and others for discovery and other designs in these parts. . . .

[First Thanksgiving]

11 They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as

⁴ **Sachem:** chief.

⁵ **confederates:** allies; persons who share a common purpose.



ANALYZE LANGUAGE

Annotate: Mark two examples of repetition in the final paragraph of the excerpt.

Analyze: What does this repetition emphasize in the description?

some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides they had about a peck a meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports.⁶

⁶ **reports:** Although the specific day of the Plymouth colonists' first Thanksgiving is not known, it occurred in the fall of 1621. For three days, Massasoit and almost a hundred of his men joined the Pilgrims for feasts and games.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Answer these questions before moving on to the **Analyze the Text** section on the following page.

- 1 Why did the colonists decide to create the *Mayflower Compact*?
 - A King James required them to sign such a document.
 - B Some of them were speaking out against King James.
 - C Their original patent did not extend to establishing a colony in New England.
 - D They were facing extreme hardship and starvation and wanted to elect a new leader.

- 2 Why were Squanto and Samoset able to help make peace between the colonists and the Native Americans?
 - F They spoke English and could help the two groups communicate.
 - G They showed the colonists what foods to eat to avoid scurvy.
 - H They brought the colonists food during the winter so they would not starve.
 - J They planned a three-day festival where both groups could share abundant food.

- 3 How did Squanto help the colonists prepare for the winter?
 - A He showed them how to build fires and cook food.
 - B He showed them how to sew warmer clothing.
 - C He showed them how to make their homes sturdier.
 - D He showed them how to grow and find food to store.