

MAYFLOWER COMPACT 1620

In the name of god Amen. We whose names are underwritten the loyal subjects of our dread soueraign Lord King James by the grace of god, of great Britaine, France, & Ireland King, defender of the faith, &c. Having undertaken, for the glory of god, and advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Countrey, a Voyage to plant the first Colonie in the Northern parts of Virginia; Do by these presents solemnly & mutually in the presence of god, and one of another, Couenant, & combine our selues together into a Ciuill Body politick; for our better ordering, & preservation & furtherance of the 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 meete & conuenient for the generall good of the Colonie: vnto which we promise all due submission and obedienc. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Codd the 11. of Nouember, in the year of the raigne of our soueraign Lord King James of England, France, & Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fiftie fourth. An: Dom. 1620.

In the Name of God, Amen. We whose Names are under-written, 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, &c. Having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Countrey, 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 another, Covenant and Combine our selves together into a Civil Body Politick, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid: and by virtue hereof do enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Officers, 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 hereunto subscribed our Names at Cape Cod, the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fity fourth, Anno Dom. 1620.

This was the first Foundation of the Government of New-Plinouth.

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| John Carver. | Samuel Fuller. | Edward Tilly. |
| William Bradford. | Christopher Martin. | John Tilly. |
| Edward Winslow. | William Mills. | Francis Cook. |
| William Brewster. | William White. | Thomas Rogers. |
| Isaac Allerton. | Richard Warren. | Thomas Tinker. |
| Miles Standish. | John Howland. | John Ridgdale. |
| John Alden. | Steven Hopkins. | Edward Fuller. |
| John Turner. | Digery Priest. | Richard Clark. |
| Francis Eaton. | Thomas Williams. | Richard Gardiner. |
| James Chilton. | Gilbert Winslow. | John Allerton. |
| John Craxton. | Edmond Margefon. | Thomas English. |
| John Billington. | Peter Brown. | Edward Duten. |
| Jofes Fletcher. | Richard Bitteridge. | Edward Liefster. |
| John Goodman. | George Soule. | |

GOVERNOR BRADFORD'S COPY OF THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT
Preserved in his handwriting in his History of Plymouth Plantation,
OVER 300 YEARS AGO!

The "Compact", with the signers, as first printed in "Morton's Memorial" at Cambridge, Mass., in 1669, an official publication of the Plymouth Colony. The order of signing the original manuscript is not known.

Isaac Allerton
Francis Eaton
John Cook

Samuel Fuller
Edward Winslow

William Bradford
William Brewster
George Soule Sen.

Myles Standish
John Alden
Edward Fuller

ABOVE ARE THE KNOWN SIGNATURES OF SOME OF THE SIGNERS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A small ship, — the "Speedwell," — of some sixty tons burden, was bought and fitted out in Holland, and early in July those who were ready for the formidable voyage, being "the youngest and strongest part," left Leyden for embarkation at Delft-Haven, nearly twenty miles to the southward, — sad at the parting, "but," says Bradford, "they knew that they were pilgrims." About the middle of the second week of the month the vessel sailed for Southampton, England. On the arrival there, they found the "Mayflower," a ship of about one hundred and eighty tons burden, which had been hired in London, awaiting them with their fellow-passengers, — partly laborers employed by the merchants, partly Englishmen like-minded with themselves, who were disposed to join the colony. Mr. Weston, also, was there, to represent the merchants; but when discussion arose about the terms of the contract, he went off in anger, leaving the contract unsigned and the arrangements so incomplete that the Pilgrims were forced to dispose of sixty pounds' worth of their not abundant stock of provisions to meet absolutely necessary charges.

The ships, with perhaps one hundred and twenty passengers, put to sea about August 5/15, with hopes of the colony being well settled before winter; but the "Speedwell" was soon pronounced too leaky to proceed without being overhauled, and so both ships put in at Dartmouth, after eight days' sail. Repairs were made, and before the end of another week they started again; but when above a hundred leagues beyond Land's End, Reynolds, the master of the "Speedwell," declared her in imminent danger

of sinking, so that both ships again put about. On reaching Plymouth Harbor it was decided to abandon the smaller vessel, and thus to send back those of the company whom such a succession of mishaps had disheartened. Those who withdrew were chiefly such as from their own weakness or from the weakness of their families were likely to be least useful in the hard labor of colonization; the most conspicuous desertion was that of Cushman, smarting under criticism and despairing of success. The unexpected parting between those who disembarked and those who crowded into the "Mayflower" was sad enough. It was not known till later that the alarm over the "Speedwell's" condition was owing to deception practised by the master and crew, who repented of their bargain to remain a year with the colony, and took this means of dissolving it.

At length, on Wednesday, September 6/16, the "Mayflower" left Plymouth, and nine weeks from the following day, on November 9/19, sighted the eastern coast of the flat, but at that time well-wooded, shores of Cape Cod. She took from Plymouth one hundred and two passengers, besides the master and crew; on the voyage one man-servant died and one child was born, making 102 (73 males and 29 females) who reached their destination. Of these, the colony proper consisted of 34 adult males, 18 of them accompanied by their wives and 14 by minor children (20 boys and 8 girls); besides these, there were 3 maid-servants and 19 men-servants, sailors, and craftsmen, — 5 of them only half-grown boys, — who were hired for temporary service.