

Pilgrims' Progress

ON CAPE COD

By W. Van Northcross

Site #2 – Plimoth Plantation

In 2020, the nation will recognize the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims. Cape Cod owns a big part of that story, and today there are sites you can visit to remember the determination and conviction of these early European settlers, who first landed in Provincetown, settled in Plymouth and eventually founded what today is the United States of America.



Site #1 The *Mayflower II* on her 1957 maiden voyage from England to Massachusetts.

PLYMOUTH PLANTATION

First, a bit of background gleaned from *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, a first-person account written by Mayflower passenger and future Governor of Plymouth Colony William Bradford. *Follow the numbered footnotes within for a list of sites on page 112 to add to your itinerary!*

In the 1500s, the King of England broke with the Catholic Church and established the Church of England with him at its head. A persecuted group known as Separatists who did not want to follow the Church of England under their monarch emigrated to Holland, and in 1617 began plans to move to the New World. The Separatists (eventually called Pilgrims) put up some of their own money, but were dependent on a business deal to finance their pilgrimage. They contracted with a

group of investors known as the Adventurers, to return ships laden with the riches of America.

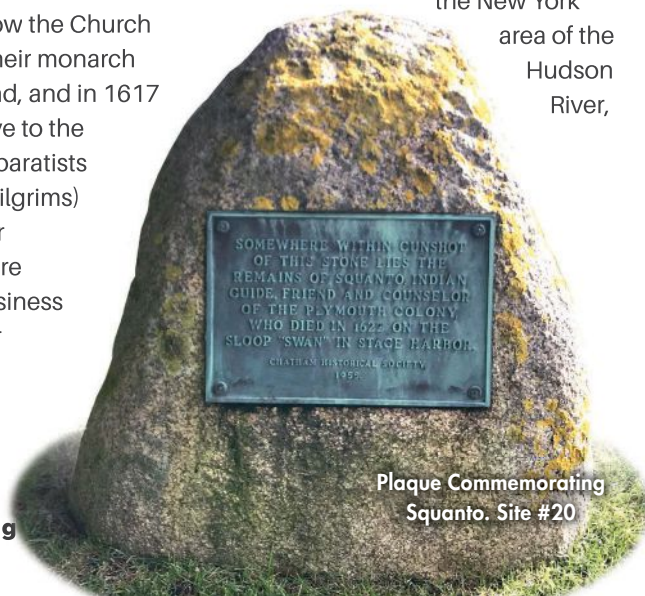
During this same time in America, the native Squanto (20) had been captured by English explorers, where he learned English. Squanto escaped in 1618 only to learn he was the sole survivor of his village. He later became instrumental in helping the Pilgrims survive their first hard years.

The Pilgrims intended to settle in the New York area of the Hudson River,

where they had a land grant. In early November 1620, after two grueling months at sea, the Mayflower approached the tip of Cape Cod, farther north than intended. For two days they tried to sail south (21), but the treacherous waters, the graveyard of hundreds of ships along the Cape's outer coast off the present-day Cape Cod National Seashore (24), forced them to return to the Cape tip's safe harbor. It was November 11, 1620, when they anchored in what is now Provincetown Harbor (27 & 28). They remained on Cape Cod for five weeks.

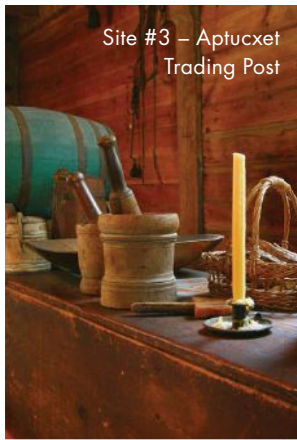
To establish legal order and to quell growing unrest among the Pilgrims, they wrote and signed the Mayflower Compact (29). They could not know it at the time, but that governing document would become a basis for our country.

In a smaller boat, a group went ashore to do laundry. After months



Plaque Commemorating Squanto. Site #20

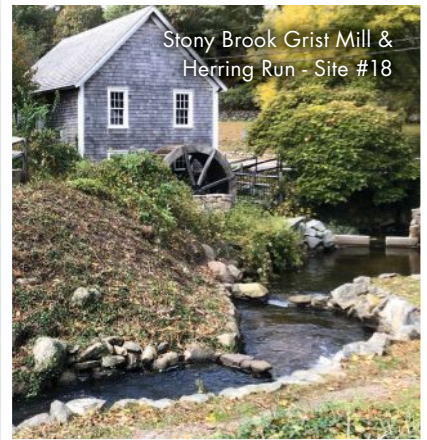
ERIC BRUST-AKDEMIR



Site #3 – Aptucxet Trading Post



Site #6 – Wing Fort House



Stony Brook Grist Mill & Herring Run - Site #18

ERIC BRUST-AKDEMIR

COURTNEY WITTENSTEIN



Site #9 – Mashpee Wampanoag Museum



Site #2 – Plimoth Plantation

PLIMOTH PLANTATION

at sea, things were in great need of a good washing. They found clean water at Pilgrim Springs **(30)**. It was a Monday. From that first Provincetown washing and drying on the beach, Mondays became known as “laundry day” in New England.

Exploring the snow-covered area, they discovered an empty native village, now known as Corn Hill in Truro **(25)**. Some accounts say they stole Indian corn they found. William Bradford records only that the Pilgrims took “some” of the corn and beans of various colors to show to others back at the boat, leaving the rest. They later took what they needed from another store of grain, but paid the natives back in six months, and there was no resulting conflict.

However, conflict did occur when Myles Standish and his exploratory party suddenly came upon members of the Wampanoag natives. Both were surprised to see the other. Arrows flew and shots were fired, but no one was hit and there were no injuries. Ever since, the Eastham beach has been known as First Encounter Beach **(23)**.

During the winter of 1620-21, the Pilgrims and crew remained onboard the *Mayflower* **(1)**, where over half of them died. When the weather finally allowed, they built huts ashore. The passengers disembarked on March 21, 1621, to occupy their Plimoth Plantation **(2)**.

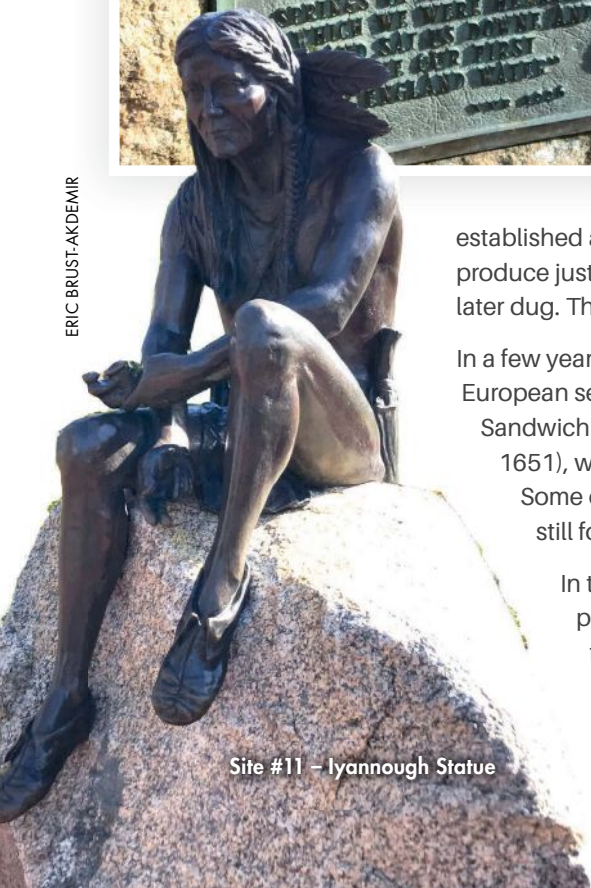
The Pilgrims later established profitable trade with the Dutch from New York. To avoid the treacherous waters off the Outer Cape, the Aptucxet Trading Post **(3)** was



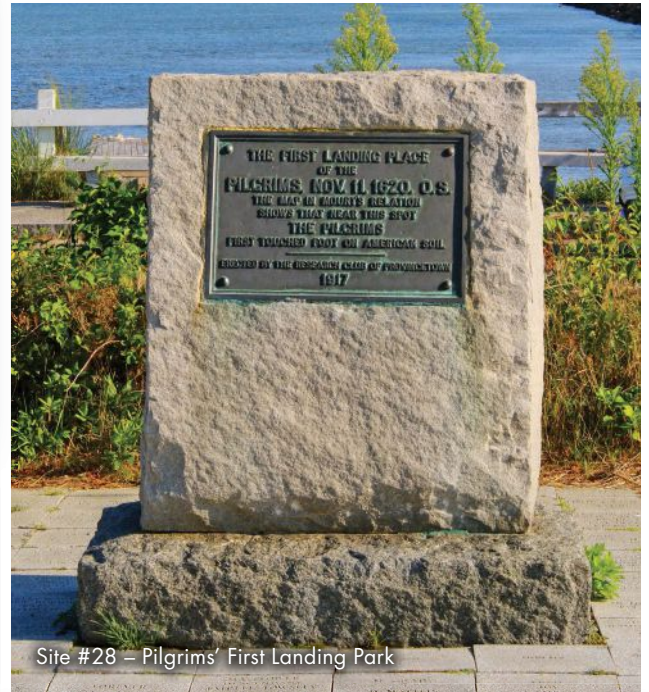
Site #15 – Sturgis Library –
home of Rev. Lothrop



Site #30 – Pilgrim Springs



Site #11 – Iyannough Statue




Site #28 – Pilgrims' First Landing Park



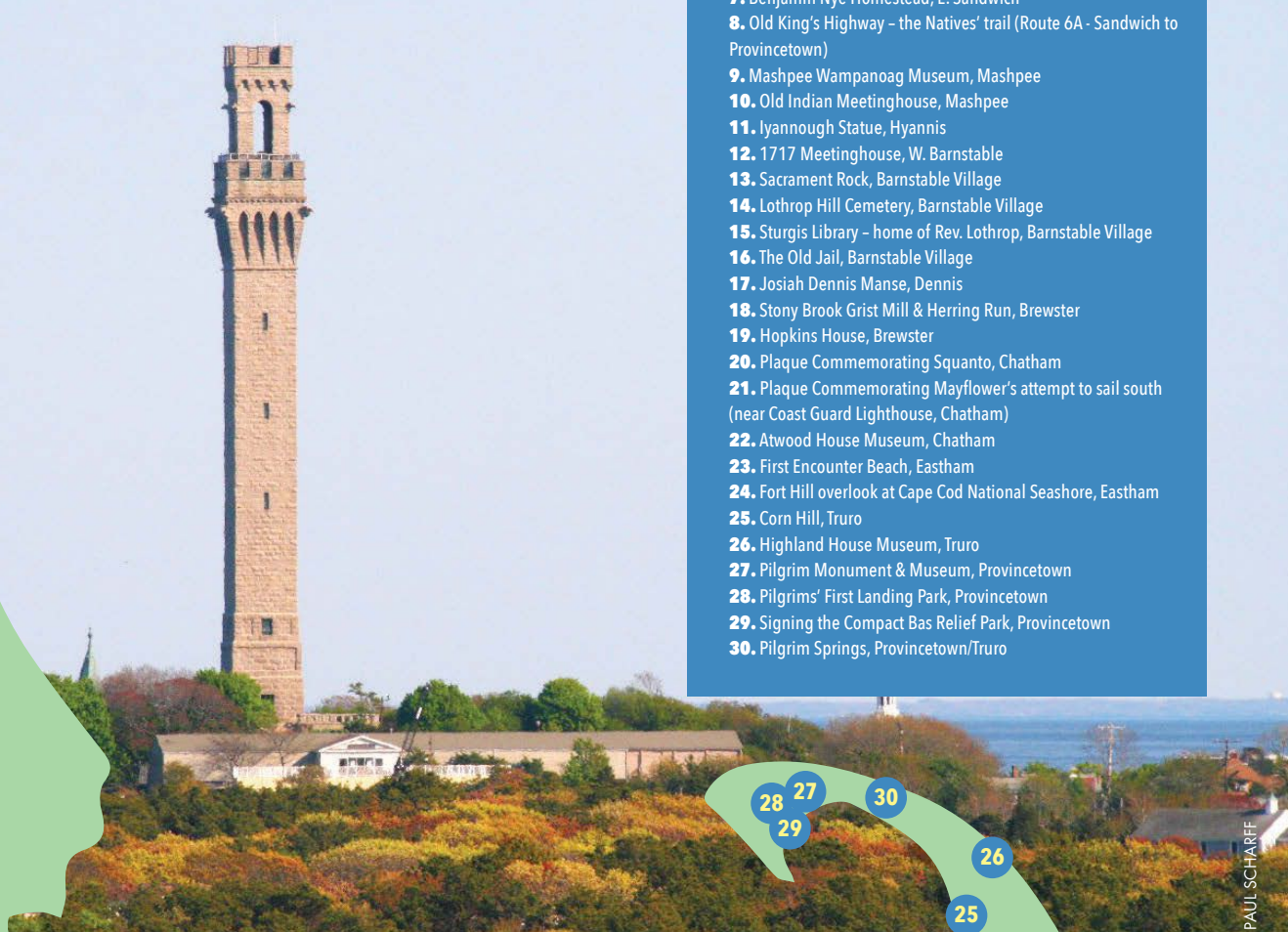
Site #22 – Atwood House & Museum

established at Manomet on Buzzards Bay. The Pilgrims could bring their goods and produce just 20 miles overland. also using the creek where the Cape Cod Canal (4) was later dug. The Dutch could easily sail up from New York to trade.

In a few years, the founding Pilgrim families grew and they were joined by other European settlers. Many of them moved back to Cape Cod, establishing the towns of Sandwich (est. 1637), Barnstable and Yarmouth (both est. 1639) and Eastham (est. 1651), where they traded or purchased land from the natives like Iyannough (11). Some of the oldest buildings and homes (See key on next page) in the country are still found in Cape towns, as is the story of how our country grew.

In the coming years, many events and 400th Anniversary commemorations are planned. We invite all to explore our nation's history and perhaps your own family roots. Find a full schedule at Plymouth400inc.org. 

Pilgrim Monument & Museum – Site #27



1. The Mayflower II, Plymouth
2. Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth
3. Aptuxet Trading Post, Bourne
4. Cape Cod Canal (Visitor Center), Sandwich
5. Hoxie House, Sandwich
6. Wing Fort House, Sandwich
7. Benjamin Nye Homestead, E. Sandwich
8. Old King's Highway – the Natives' trail (Route 6A - Sandwich to Provincetown)
9. Mashpee Wampanoag Museum, Mashpee
10. Old Indian Meetinghouse, Mashpee
11. Iyanough Statue, Hyannis
12. 1717 Meetinghouse, W. Barnstable
13. Sacrament Rock, Barnstable Village
14. Lothrop Hill Cemetery, Barnstable Village
15. Sturgis Library – home of Rev. Lothrop, Barnstable Village
16. The Old Jail, Barnstable Village
17. Josiah Dennis Manse, Dennis
18. Stony Brook Grist Mill & Herring Run, Brewster
19. Hopkins House, Brewster
20. Plaque Commemorating Squanto, Chatham
21. Plaque Commemorating Mayflower's attempt to sail south (near Coast Guard Lighthouse, Chatham)
22. Atwood House Museum, Chatham
23. First Encounter Beach, Eastham
24. Fort Hill overlook at Cape Cod National Seashore, Eastham
25. Corn Hill, Truro
26. Highland House Museum, Truro
27. Pilgrim Monument & Museum, Provincetown
28. Pilgrims' First Landing Park, Provincetown
29. Signing the Compact Bas Relief Park, Provincetown
30. Pilgrim Springs, Provincetown/Truro

PAUL SCHARFF



MAYFLOWER II

As part of the 400th Anniversary celebration of the Pilgrims' landing, **Mayflower II** will be sailing into Provincetown Harbor in early September 2020! The iconic ship is a full-scale reproduction of the sailing vessel in which the English colonists arrived in 1620.

During the visit (tentatively scheduled for September 7-14, 2020), *Mayflower II* will be the setting for a historical re-enactment of the signing of the Mayflower Compact in Provincetown Harbor in 1620. The ship will also be open for public viewing before returning to its permanent berth at State Pier on the Plymouth waterfront.

Mayflower II is a major exhibit of **Plimoth Plantation** (plimoth.org), a living history museum based in Plymouth. Plimoth Plantation provides powerful, personal encounters with history built on thorough research about the Wampanoag and English communities in the 1600s. Visitors can step back in time while exploring and interacting in a 17th-Century English Village, a Wampanoag Homesite and the working Plimoth Grist Mill. 🐟

PLIMOTH® PLANTATION

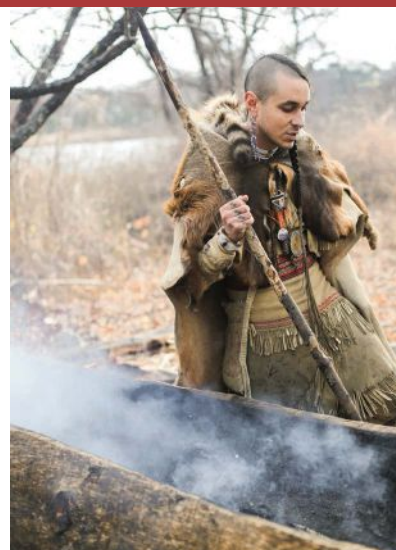
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