



AmericasFoundationMT
Presents

The Mayflower



Compact (1620)

The Mayflower Compact (1620)

Introduction

On September 16th, 1620 a ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth England carrying 101 passengers bound for Virginia in the New World. These passengers consisted of 41 separatists of the English church seeking religious freedom, these separatists settlers would not be commonly referred to as Pilgrims until 1793 when Reverend Chandler Robbins used the term at a Forefather's Day celebration. The remainder of the passengers referred to as "Strangers" by the "Pilgrims" were made up of merchants, craftsmen, skilled workers, indentured servants and even several young orphans. After more than two months at sea, land was finally sighted and the captain of the Mayflower immediately knew that they had been blown off course and were far north of their destination, he attempted to head southward, but this proved too dangerous and was forced to anchor in Provincetown Harbor near Cape Cod. This caused unrest among the "Strangers" who started to make mutinous remarks and formed the opinion that they did not need to follow any rules because they had not arrived at their intended destination and therefore were no longer bound by the contract they had signed. The leaders of the "Pilgrims" were determined to establish a new colony and decided that a temporary governing authority was needed. While still aboard the Mayflower leaders of both groups wrote an agreement among themselves that would establish "just and equall laws" and form a governing body that would be elected by the colonists, this agreement was called the Plymouth Combination or better known as the Mayflower Compact. This was a revolutionary concept that established the powerful idea of self-government in what would become colonial America. The document was signed by the 41 male passengers, these signers believed that covenants were to be honored not only between God and man but between men as well and the Mayflower Compact was regarded as law as late as 1686. Unfortunately, the original document has been lost to time but the Mayflower Compact first appeared in Mourt's Relation which was a pamphlet retelling the story of the first year of the Plymouth settlement. It was again reprinted in William Bradford's nephew Nathaniel Morton's 1669 book New England's Memorial which included a possible list of names of the men who signed the Mayflower Compact. Even though the Mayflower Compact had been forgotten for several generations, it would help serve as an inspiration and foundation for the United States Constitution and in 1802 John Quincy Adams hailed it a great charter of freedom. With the modern attempts to rewrite and destroy American history like the New York Times "1619 Project", the Mayflower Compact deserves to be remembered.

The Mayflower Compact (1620)

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereigne Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc., 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 Northerne parts of Virginia, doe, by these presents, solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politick, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enacte, constitute, and frame such just and equall laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete and convenient for the generall good of the Colonie unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cap-Codd the 11. of November, in the year of the raigne of our sovereigne lord, King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fiftie-fourth. Anno. Dom. 1620.

<i>John Carver</i>	<i>Edward Tilley</i>	<i>Digery Priest</i>
<i>William Bradford</i>	<i>John Tilley</i>	<i>Thomas Williams</i>
<i>Edward Winslow</i>	<i>Francis Cooke</i>	<i>Gilbert Winslow</i>
<i>William Brewster</i>	<i>Thomas Rogers</i>	<i>Edmund Margeson</i>
<i>Isaac Allerton</i>	<i>Thomas Tinker</i>	<i>Peter Browne</i>
<i>Miles Standish</i>	<i>John Ridgdale</i>	<i>Richard Britteridge</i>
<i>John Alden</i>	<i>Edward Fuller</i>	<i>George Soule</i>
<i>Samuel Fuller</i>	<i>John Turner</i>	<i>Richard Clarke</i>
<i>Christopher Martin</i>	<i>Francis Eaton</i>	<i>Richard Gardiner</i>
<i>William Mullins</i>	<i>James Chilton</i>	<i>John Allerton</i>
<i>William White</i>	<i>John Crackstone</i>	<i>Thomas English</i>
<i>Richard Warren</i>	<i>John Billington</i>	<i>Edward Doty</i>
<i>John Howland</i>	<i>Moses Fletcher</i>	<i>Edward Leister</i>
<i>Stephen Hopkins</i>	<i>John Goodman</i>	