

English Colonization, Part 2: New England Colonies

Differences in Colonizing

- The New England colonies were very different from the Chesapeake colonies from the very beginning...
 - The New England colonies were established for the purpose of religious freedom, not profit
 - New England settlers were middle class whole families, not upper class gentlemen or indentured servants

A Better Environment

- The New England region offered a much more hospitable environment for settlers
 - The climate was not as volatile and the region was not susceptible to insects and disease
- Whole family units offered a greater chance of survival
- The life expectancy of settlers in the New England colonies was comparable to today (70+ years)
 - In comparison, the life expectancy in the Chesapeake region was around 40 years

The First Settlers of New England

- The Separatists were a religious group of England who wanted to reform the Church of England, and who believed the best way to do this was by separating from the Church
 - Pilgrims – wanted a complete separation from the Church of England
 - Puritans – wanted to move away from the Church of England and make a new example for it to follow

The Pilgrims Begin Their Journey...

- In 1607 a group of Pilgrims fled England and moved to Holland
 - After a while the Pilgrims longed to return to English ways, but they knew they would not be welcomed back to England
 - The next best thing was to move to the New World of the of the English colonies
 - In 1619 they were granted the right to move to the Virginia territory

Establishing Plymouth

- The Pilgrims would be blown north off-course and in 1620 they landed in Cape Cod and established the colony of Plymouth
 - They had no legal right to this land, but they would later receive a royal charter
- Mayflower Compact
 - Before going ashore the men of *The Mayflower* agreed that their government would be based upon democratic, majority rule
- For decades Plymouth was dominated by William Bradford, a fair and very religious leader who served as governor for over 30 years

Early Years of Plymouth

- Though times were tough the early settlers of Plymouth were able to survive
 - They were helped by Native Americans who taught them to farm crops like corn, to fish, and to also use fish for fertilizer
 - By 1621 the settlers had stored enough crops to survive the winter seasons
 - Squanto – and English-speaking Native (he had earlier been kidnapped by English settlers) who greatly helped the Plymouth settlers in the early years

Plymouth

- The Plymouth colony would never be force in the New World
 - Many were turned off by its very strict social and religious codes
- In 1691, the year in which the colony would be absorbed by Massachusetts Bay, there were only 7,000 settlers in its territory

Another New England Colony

- A group of Puritans who did not want to live in Pilgrim Plymouth received their own charter for a colony in 1629
 - It was a joint stock charter for the Massachusetts Bay Company
 - The charter itself was unique in that there was an error in its making; usually there was a clause in charters that stated that the home office had to be in England; this was accidentally left out of the MA charter so the settlers were able to bring their charter with them and therefore be self-governing

A Successful Colony from the Beginning

- Within the first year over 1,000 settlers would populate MA Bay
 - This obviously held many advantages for the colony
 - Whole middle class families made the journey together
 - Whole towns were uprooted from England, meaning that all necessary trades for a colony's survival (metal smiths, cobblers, millers, etc.) were found in the colony

Massachusetts Bay

- John Winthrop
 - Was the leader of the establishing of MA Bay, he served in the governor's role for 19 years
 - Was a very capable leader and lawyer
 - His legal skills protected the early colony from political attacks from England in its early history
 - Was a devout religious leader as well
 - Was famous for stating that MA “would be as a city upon a hill”... meaning that the colony would set such a wonderful example for all Christians that all would follow its lead...

Early Massachusetts Government

- Though Winthrop would dominate the MA Bay government throughout its formative years, there were some significant democratic developments
 - Within the first 14 years the colony's government would evolve from a court of appointed officials to a bicameral general assembly with elected officials
 - All male members of the church were allowed to participate in government

The Great English Migration

- The establishment of MA would touch off a decade of migration from the country of England to its colonies
- From 1630-1640 over 80,000 English would leave the mother country for its colonies
 - Most were headed for the Chesapeake and Southern colonies, but 25,000 of them did arrive in MA Bay

Disagreements and New Colonies

- Though the Puritans themselves were fleeing religious persecution, they themselves were not tolerant of other religious ideas
- Most of the other New England colonies would be formed by those not agreeing with the dominant Puritan beliefs

Rhode Island

- In 1636 Roger Williams was banished from MA Bay for disagreeing with religious and political leaders on a number of issues
 - He believed that God was to be found within each person, not within the church
 - He advocated a complete separation of church and state
 - He believed it was wrong to take advantage of Native Americans by taking their lands

“The Waste Can of the Colonies” ...

- With his family and a number of his followers Williams settled with the Narragansett Indians and established Providence, the first settlement of Rhode Island
- He allowed for complete religious toleration and formed a government completely separate from the church
 - The colony would quickly come to be viewed by the others as the ‘waste can’ for anyone who could not fit into proper society

A Woman Rebel...

- Anne Hutchison
 - Was unique in her time for the simple fact she was a female religious leader in a male-dominated society
 - Preached the belief of antinomianism (if God has already determined who is saved and who is not then man is not subject to man or God's laws)
 - Was banished from MA Bay and fled to Rhode Island
 - She would later move to New Amsterdam where she and her family were killed by Native Americans
 - Winthrop and MA saw this as a sign from God that they were correct in banishing her

Connecticut

- In 1636 Thomas Hooker led three whole congregations from MA to settle three new river towns in what would become Connecticut
- The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
 - Were established in 1639 and established a representative government open to all property owning males, not just church members

Maine and New Hampshire

- The first settlements north of MA began in the 1630's under lands granted to Sir Fernandino Gorges (Maine) and Captain John Mason (New Hampshire)
- These lands and settlements would later be claimed by MA, but court settlements would later establish the colonies of Maine and New Hampshire

Hostilities with Native Americans

- Mistrust grew between settlers and Natives, mainly over land disputes
- The Pequot War, 1636-38
 - The New England colonies would form an alliance with the Narragansett tribes
 - They would attack the Pequot tribes, a powerful force in the Connecticut and MA regions
 - By 1638 the Pequot peoples were virtually wiped out

King Philip's War

- Though the peace following the Pequot War would last for a number of decades, by 1675 King Philip (Metacom) had formed the New England tribes into a cohesive alliance
- In 1675 King Philip launched a full-scale attack against all white settlers of the region
- The New England colonists were pushed all the way back to Boston and a large portion of the entire population was killed
- The Natives could not hold up the attack and, due to a lack of supplies and devastation from disease, the resistance was crippled and the Natives were pushed permanently from the region