



For Immediate Release
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Plimoth Plantation Announces **Reward For Information** **Museum Hopes To Recover Stolen Goods**

Plymouth, MA, Plimoth Plantation – August 7, 2008 –

Plimoth Plantation is offering a reward for anyone who can provide information leading to the return of items stolen and the arrest and conviction of vandals who broke into the living history museum last weekend.

On August 1st vandals rampaged the 1627 English Village, which was hastily restored for visitation and remains open to the public with no visible sign of the incident. However, valuable museum reproductions stolen by the vandals are still among the missing.

“It is incredibly disheartening when an institution dedicated to learning and cultural understanding falls victim to such an ignorant and destructive act,” said John McDonagh, Plimoth Plantation Executive Director, “On behalf of the entire staff at Plimoth Plantation, I would like to extend our appreciation for the support we have received from the public during this challenging period, and encourage anyone who has information about the vandalism to please come forward and assist in settling this issue.”

The museum takes careful inventory of the contents of every house at the beginning of the season and has therefore been able to document which items were removed from each residence. Bedding, including pillows and a blanket, hatchets, a vinegar bottle, and a basket were among some of the smaller items reported missing. The most disconcerting of the disappearances are the thefts of more substantial items such as assorted furs and pieces of armor. The furs are described as smaller beaver and muskrat pelts, and the two missing pieces of chest armor are made of blackened steel, with a black leather strap.

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Plimoth Plantation hopes that the descriptions and photographs now being distributed of these items will be helpful in facilitating their speedy return.

With the limited financial resources of a non-profit organization, the museum is offering a \$1,000 reward and a



Wampanoag Homesite



Mayflower II



1627 English Village

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Smithsonian Institution
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lifetime membership to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators, which will hopefully lead to the return of the artifacts. Additionally, in response to many ardent inquiries from its patrons, the museum will be setting up an account for receiving monetary donations, to be put towards a cash reward for fruitful information.

Museum staff is currently cooperating with local officials investigating this incident, and any information regarding the crime or missing items should be directed to the Plymouth Police Department. Moving forward, the museum is reviewing security measures to ensure that all of its properties are adequately protected in the future. In the meantime, Plimoth Plantation continues its normal hours of operation (9am-5pm, daily) and invites visitors both new and old to come learn about the history of the Native Wampanoag and Colonial English people firsthand.

About Plimoth Plantation

Plimoth Plantation is a bicultural, 17th-century living history museum located an hour south of Boston in Plymouth, (Exit 4, Route 3 south) and 20 minutes north of Cape Cod. The museum is open daily from 9 am, to 5 pm, 7 days a week, from March 22 through the end of November. Plimoth Plantation is a private, non-profit educational institution supported by admission fees, contributions, memberships, function sales and revenue from our varied dining programs/services/special events and museum shops. Plimoth Plantation is a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate and receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Federal Institute of Museums and Library Services, The National Endowment for the Humanities, private foundations, corporations, and local businesses. For more information visit: www.plimoth.org.