

Colonial Possessions

Introduction

The early Plymouth colonists brought with them most of the furnishings, clothing, tools and other items they would need in their new homes. A few of these belongings have been preserved and handed down within the family for generations. Museums such as Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth now hold many of these objects. Here are some of the objects and houses associated with early Plymouth colonists.

Damask Napkin

Associated with Richard Warren and Robert Bartlett

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

This damask napkin was passed down through generations of *Mayflower* passenger Richard Warren's descendants. It is now on display in the Pilgrim Hall Museum. It measures three feet by two feet and depicts a scene in Amsterdam with buildings and a bridge over a canal. One woman from each generation signed the napkin as it was handed down through the family.

Wooden Cup

Associated with Isaac Allerton and Thomas Cushman

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

This beautifully carved wooden cup is made of walnut. The date "1608" has been carved on the bottom of the bowl. Family tradition traces the cup back to the Allertons, and has it passed down the female line to daughters named Mercy. The earliest woman thought to have owned the cup was Mercy Soule Cushman. She was descended from Plymouth colonists John and Patience (Morton) Faunce, John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden, and Alice (Carpenter) (Southworth) Bradford. Mercy's husband, Noah, was descended from Thomas and Mary (Allerton) Cushman and Robert and Mary (Warren) Bartlett. It is possible that the cup was originally the possession of Elizabeth Warren, as she received a "footed cup" as a bequest from Mary Ring in 1633.

Bible

Associated with William Bradford

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

The English-language Bible originally created in Geneva, Switzerland in 1560, was a very popular version, with more than 150 editions. Commonly known as the Geneva Bible, this translation was the first to have the text divided into verses as well as chapters. It also had explanatory notes in the margins. This copy of the Geneva Bible, owned by Plymouth Colony governor William Bradford, was printed in London in 1599.

Sword Hilt

Associated with Edward Doty, Richard Warren and Edward Winslow

In the collection of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, MA

This sword hilt of an English sword, made circa 1600, was found in 1898 during an excavation of the Edward Winslow House in Plymouth, now owned by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The house lot originally belonged to *Mayflower* passenger Edward Doty. In 1703, the property passed to his granddaughter, Sarah, and her husband, James Warren, grandson of *Mayflower* passenger Richard Warren. Proof is lacking, but the sword may have belonged originally to a member of the Doty or Warren family.



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Colonial Possessions

Sword

Associated with John Carver

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

The ownership of this sword has been attributed to Plymouth Colony's first governor, John Carver. It is on loan to the Pilgrim Society from the Massachusetts Historical Society. The sword was donated to the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1795 by Ichabod Shaw of Plymouth. The decoration and workmanship are typical of English swords of the early 17th century.

Chair

Associated with William Bradford

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

This chair of black ash was made in Plymouth Colony and has been dated to 1630-1670. It may have been one of the two "great wooden chairs" listed in William Bradford's 1657 inventory. The chair was originally taller, with the bottom rung standing several inches above the floor. It passed down through the Bradford and Hedge families, and was donated to the Pilgrim Hall Museum in 1953.

Hat

Associated with Constance Hopkins Snow

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

The ownership of this beaver-felt hat has been attributed to *Mayflower* passenger Constance Hopkins, who married Nicholas Snow circa 1626. Hats such as this, with its wide brim and high crown, were popular with both men and women in the early 17th century. Beaver furs were sent from New England to England, where the underfur was processed into felt for hats.

Razor and Case

Associated with Myles Standish

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

The razor and case were found at the site of the Myles Standish house in Duxbury, MA. The razor was probably made in Toledo, Spain about 1612. It may have come over with Standish aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620. The case is made of pasteboard which was painted and stamped to look like leather.

Cradle

Associated with the family of William White

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

This woven wicker cradle is typical of those made in Holland in the 17th century. According to tradition, William and Susanna White brought the cradle with them on the *Mayflower* in anticipation of the birth of their son, Peregrine. These cradles were also imported into Plymouth Colony throughout the 1600s, and may have been purchased later by another member of the family.

Chest

Associated with William Brewster

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

This six-board chest was made of Norway pine and iron, probably in Holland in the early 17th century. It has traces of dark reddish-brown paint, which is probably original. According to tradition, William Brewster brought this chest over from Holland in 1620.

Cradle

Associated with Samuel Fuller

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

This cradle was made of maple and white pine, probably in Duxbury, MA between 1680-1720. It has descended in the family of Samuel Fuller. The maker used solid pine boards and nailed strips of wood over them in imitation of joined work. He was most probably a carpenter rather than a joiner.



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Colonial Possessions

Fire Back

Associated with Robert Bartlett

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

This fire back was made of iron, and has been attributed to the Saugus Ironworks of Massachusetts. The date on its front, 1660, was probably the date of its manufacture. Fire backs were placed in the rear of a hearth both to protect the bricks and to reflect heat back into the room. This fire back came from the house of Joseph Bartlett in Manomet (South Plymouth).

Chest with drawer

Associated with the family of George Morton

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

This chest with drawer was made of red and white oak, probably in Plymouth between 1650-1700. It has descended in the Morton family of Plymouth. The chest has some of its original painted decoration: a bright red tulip with green leaves. The design would have stood out dramatically when the chest was new and the wood pale.

Tankard

Associated with Peter Brown

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

This tankard was made of oak staves and birch hoops, probably in England or the Baltics, around 1620. It has descended in the family of *Mayflower* passenger Peter Brown. It was probably made by a cooper, or barrel-maker.

Chair

Associated with Thomas Prence

In the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA

This chair of maple and ash was made in Plymouth Colony in the late 1600s. It has descended in the family of *Fortune* passenger Thomas Prence, who served Plymouth Colony as assistant governor or governor every year between 1634 and his death in 1673.

Pewter Plate

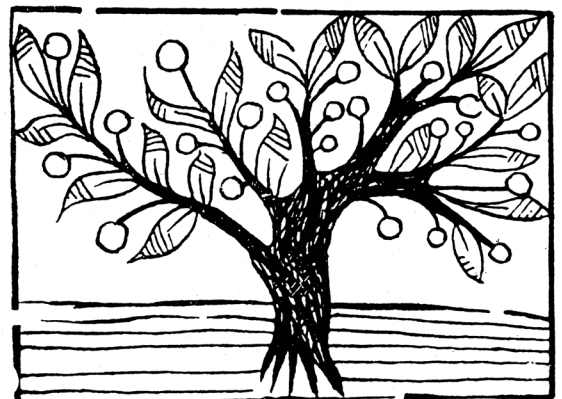
Associated with William Collier

In the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

This large pewter platter, or charger, descended in the family of William Collier, who arrived in Plymouth Colony by 1633. It was probably made in 17th-century Scotland, about 1650-1670. It is currently owned by the Museum of the Fine Arts in Boston. The charger was a bequest of Mrs. Andrew W. Lawrie, number 47.1559.

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PLYMOUTH ANCESTORS

Colonial Possessions

Alden House Historic Site

Associated with John Alden

Property of the Alden Kindred of America, Inc., Duxbury, MA

The Alden property in Duxbury is notable for being in the same family since its original allotment to John Alden in the 1620s. The property has been owned by the Alden Kindred of America since 1907. While the original house only survives as an archaeological site, the oldest section of the Alden House is believed to date back to 1653.

Isaac Winslow House

Associated with the family of Edward Winslow

Property of the Historic Winslow House Association, Marshfield, MA

The original house, known as Careswell, was built in 1699 by Colonel Isaac Winslow, grandson of Edward Winslow. It has been remodeled and added to over the 300 years years of its existence, most notably by General John Winslow about 1750. After passing out of the Winslow family in 1827, the house was bought in 1919 by three men who formed the Historic Winslow House Association in 1920. The Association has owned and operated the house as a museum since that time.

Jabez Howland House

Associated with the family of John Howland

Property of the Pilgrim John Howland Society, Plymouth, MA

The Jabez Howland House is the only existing house in Plymouth in which *Mayflower* passengers actually lived. John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland spent winters in the house with their son Jabez and his family. The oldest part of the house was built about 1667, but was extensively modified in the 17th and 18th centuries. The house was privately owned until 1912 when it was purchased for a museum by the Pilgrim John Howland Society.



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