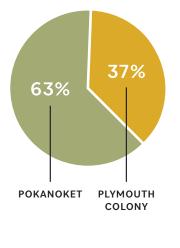


## THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

Edward Winslow notes "many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men..." Who were the *many* Indigenous People in addition to Ousamequin (Massasoit) and his 90 Pokanoket men? They may have been representatives of other communities within Ousamequin's sphere of diplomatic influence. Only a few weeks before, on September 13, several *sachems* (probably also accompanied by trains of men) came to Plymouth for diplomatic talks and treaty agreements. Did any return for the feast?

Indigenous women and children may also have been part of the group. Following the March alliance, Ousamequin informed the English that their wives and women "would come and set corn on the other side of the brook, and dwell there all summer." Because farming is traditionally women's work in Wampanoag culture, perhaps these families were still in the area following the harvest.



Of the 102 *Mayflower* passengers, about half were alive at the First Thanksgiving. This group, listed on the previous page, included 24 men, five women, and 24 children and teenagers. Survivors ranged in age from Peregrine White, born in December 1620 aboard *Mayflower* in Cape Cod Bay, to Elder William Brewster in his fifties.



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