

Lesson 1

Discovery and Early Planting

(1492 to mid-1600s)

The recorded story of America begins with the European discovery of the New World in the late fifteenth-century by Christopher Columbus. Even though the Vikings had come inland in America as far as Minnesota hundreds of years earlier, it was the announcement of Columbus' landing that opened up the Western Hemisphere to European interest and colonization.

Columbus eventually made four voyages from Europe to the new western lands, but few today know what inspired him to do so—a motivation he clearly revealed in a book he wrote in 1502 after his third voyage. That work, called his *Book of Prophecies*, contains his collection of scores of Scriptures addressing the propagation of the Christian Gospel in distant lands that he, Christopher (which means “the Christ bearer”), believed he was fulfilling.

Also included in his *Prophecies* is the letter he wrote to the King and Queen of Spain (Ferdinand and Isabella, who financed his voyage), in which he explained:

[I] have seen and put in study to look into all the Scriptures....Our Lord opened to my understanding (I could sense His hand upon me), so that it became clear that it was feasible to navigate from here to the Indies....All those who heard about my enterprise rejected it with laughter, scoffing at me....Who doubts that this illumination was from the Holy Spirit? I attest that He [the Spirit], with marvelous rays of light, consoled me through the holy and sacred Scriptures....No one should be afraid to take on any enterprise in the name of our Savior, if it is right and if the purpose is purely for His holy service.¹

Not only do Columbus' writings affirm his strong Christian faith, so do the choice of names for the new lands he visited. For example, the massive painting of the *Landing of Columbus* permanently on display in the Rotunda of the US Capitol shows him arriving at an island in October 1492 in what today is the Bahamas. After coming ashore, he knelt, kissed the ground, led the men in prayer to God for their safe arrival, and christened that new land “San Salvador,” meaning “Holy Savior.”² Another island he named “Trinidad” after the Christian Holy Trinity of God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.³



Columbus said it was the Lord who inspired him in his life work.



Landing of Columbus displayed in the US Capitol

For almost five centuries, Columbus was celebrated as a hero, with over 600 monuments being erected to honor him.⁴ In fact, the city of Washington, DC was named after him (DC stands for District of Columbia, or Columbus).⁵ But in recent years, he has been portrayed as a villain because of his so-called atrocious “treatment” of Native Indians. But sadly, too many of today’s narratives fail to give the true factual story of his encounters and relationships with those peoples.

Columbus was involved with two principal Indian tribes. The first, the Taíno, was a very kind and gentle people, and Columbus repeatedly praised them as “*the best people in the world.*”⁶ He wrote Spain, advocating for their full equality, citizenship, and civil rights. The second tribe, the Caribs, was the mortal enemy of the Taíno, raiding their villages, enslaving their people, and especially cannibalizing them. When Columbus arrived on his first journey, the Taíno told him about these atrocities, so on his second voyage Columbus journeyed to the Carib lands to see if the reports were true.⁷

Arriving there, he discovered slave camps where the Caribs housed Taino captive women who were raped for the purpose of producing children for the Caribs to eat. The stories of the barbaric cannibalism were confirmed by the abundance of human remains found boiling in the cooking pots as well as the gnawed bones throughout the camps.⁸ Columbus liberated the enslaved women and proceeded to fight against the Caribs whenever they engaged him (and the Caribs had attacked and murdered dozens of his men).⁹

So Columbus was largely just and kind with the Taíno tribes but did indeed war against the horrific cannibal Caribs. Yet claims abound today that Columbus sought to destroy and pillage all Indians, without discussing who he fought or even why he was fighting them. Modern critics also fail to mention the good relations he had with many tribes.

Another modern claim is that Columbus enslaved Natives and forcibly carried them back with him. But nearly all those he forcibly brought to Spain were cannibalistic Carib murderers, captured in open war. Some of the friendly Indians had *volunteered* to travel back to Spain with Columbus, including an important local chieftain and his entire family, but Columbus urged him to stay in his own kingdom.¹⁰ One Indian who chose to go with Columbus after his first voyage actually became



Columbus' Return to Spain

a member of the royal Spanish court; another took Columbus' last name and traveled with him as his interpreter for his various visits to native tribes.¹¹

But returning to Columbus' "discovery" of the New World, it is significant that while Columbus is credited with opening the western hemisphere to European colonization, neither he nor Spain (the nation for which he sailed) actually colonized what would eventually become the United States. This is fortunate, for at that time, civil and religious tyranny were common in Spain and numerous other nations of Europe.

This Spanish tyranny was not Columbus' practice, however, for he was Italian, not Spanish. He sailed under the banner of Spain simply because they funded his voyages, not because he agreed with their people or practices. In fact, on numerous occasions, he openly denounced the atrocious behavior of many of the Spaniards who had been assigned to him as his crew.¹²

Fortunately, it was nearly a century after Columbus' discovery of the new western lands before permanent colonists began arriving in America. Why the long wait? Nineteenth century historian B.F. Morris explained:

[G]od held this vast land [America] in reserve as the great field on which the experiment was to be made in favor of civil and religious liberty. He suffered not the foot of a Spaniard, or Portuguese, or Frenchman, or Englishman to come upon it until the changes had been wrought in Europe which would make it certain that it [America] would always be a land of [Biblical] freedom.¹³

Those "*changes wrought in Europe*" refer to what today is called the Reformation—a religious movement that birthed both civil and religious liberty in several nations. That movement began in the 1300s and for the next two centuries steadily spread across Europe and then into other parts of the world.

The movement began with several Catholic priests urging a return to the teachings of the Bible—teachings that had been largely ignored by both State and Church over the previous thousand years. This back-to-the-Bible movement (that is, the Reformation) began a reform of the Catholic Church and also birthed the Protestant Church.

One particularly strong emphasis of that movement was to make the Bible available to the average person in his own language. Over previous centuries, the Bible had been largely unavailable to the ordinary individual and was nearly always written in a foreign language that only a handful of the elite and most highly-educated could read. But with the Reformation, Bibles became available for all citizens in their own language; and when the people began to read and apply the Bible and its teachings, their personal lives and practices changed. This had a direct beneficial impact on both State and Church, for as Biblical principles of liberty became known and adopted, both civil and religious tyranny began decreasing.

With the gradual return to Biblical teachings, key theological ideas were recovered by the Church, including *Sola Scriptura* ("by Scripture alone"), *Sola Fide* ("by faith alone"), *Sola Gratia* ("by grace alone"), *Solus Christus* or *Solo Christo* ("Christ alone" or "through Christ

alone”), and *Soli Deo gloria* (“glory to God alone”). Many new Christian denominations were built upon these ideas, and they impacted the society at large in a positive manner.

America, perhaps more than any other country at the time, was directly shaped by the Reformation, for the early colonists who settled here (including the Pilgrims, Puritans, and others) were a direct product of Reformation teachings. In fact, many of them had been driven from Europe simply because they sought to live out their faith according to Bible precepts, and in America they found the freedom to openly live their lives by its teachings on government, economics, law, family, education, and much else.

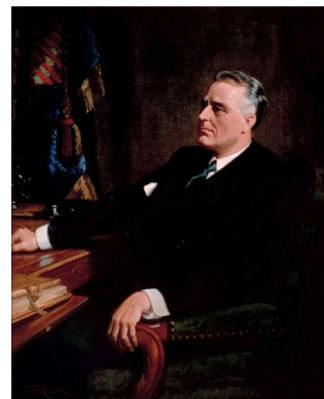
As a result, the Biblical concepts of religious freedom, representative government, individual enterprise, jurisdictional authority, limited government, and private property began to appear in many of the civil documents that came forth in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (such as the Mayflower Compact, the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, the Massachusetts Body of Liberties, the Frame of Government of Pennsylvania, the Declaration of Independence, and the United States Constitution). Personal liberty as well as religious, civil, political, and economic liberty was the result of applying the Bible’s teachings to all areas of life.

In fact, the Bible became so influential in the birth, growth, and development of the United States that even modern publications such as *Newsweek* affirm that “*historians are discovering that the Bible, perhaps even more than the Constitution, is our founding document.*”¹⁴ Without God and the Bible, there would be no free and prosperous America as we have come to know it today.

The Bible: The Rock of Our Republic

Interestingly, one group of American leaders that repeatedly affirmed the historic impact of Bible teachings in shaping America was US Presidents. For example:

In the formative days of the Republic, the directing influence the Bible exercised upon the fathers of the Nation is conspicuously evident...We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a Nation without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic.¹⁵ I suggest a nationwide reading of the Holy Scriptures...for a renewed and strengthening contact with those eternal truths and majestic principles which have inspired such measure of true greatness as this Nation has achieved.¹⁶ **PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT**



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

[T]he teachings of the Bible are so interwoven and entwined with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally—I do not mean figuratively, I mean literally—impossible for us to figure to ourselves what that life would be if these teachings were removed. We would lose almost all the standards by which we now judge both public and private morals—all the standards toward which we, with more or less resolution, strive to raise ourselves. Almost every man who has by his life-work added to the sum of human

achievement of which the [human] race is proud—of which our people are proud—almost every such man has based his life-work largely upon the teachings of the Bible.¹⁷

PRESIDENT TEDDY ROOSEVELT



Ronald Reagan

Of the many influences that have shaped the United States of America into a distinctive Nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible....The Bible and its teachings helped form the basis for the Founding Fathers' abiding belief in the inalienable rights of the individual—rights which they found implicit in the Bible's teachings of the inherent worth and dignity of each individual.¹⁸ **PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN**

It was for the love of the truths of this great Book [the Bible] that our fathers abandoned their native shores for the wilderness. Animated by its lofty principles, they toiled and suffered till the desert blossomed as the rose [Isaiah 35:1].¹⁹ The Bible is the best of books and I wish it were in the hands of everyone. It is indispensable to the safety and permanence of our institutions; a free government cannot exist without religion and morals, and there cannot be morals without religion, nor religion without the Bible. Especially should the Bible be placed in the hands of the young. It is the best school book in the world....I would that all of our people were brought up under the influence of that Holy Book.²⁰ **PRESIDENT ZACHARY TAYLOR**

Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet-anchor of your liberties. Write its precepts in your hearts, and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.²¹ **PRESIDENT U.S. GRANT**



Ulysses S. Grant

[The Bible] is the best gift God has given to men. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it, we could not know right from wrong.²² **PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture.²³ **PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON**



Harry Truman

The fundamental basis of this Nation's law was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings which we get from Exodus and St. Matthew, from Isaiah and St. Paul. I don't think we emphasize that enough these days.²⁴ **PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN**

But long before our Presidents stressed the importance of the Bible, our Founding Fathers (the early leaders largely responsible for the birth and establishment of America as an independent nation) had already done so. For example:

[T]he Bible is the best book in the world.²⁵ Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited.... What a Utopia—what a Paradise would this region be!²⁶ **JOHN ADAMS**, SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, PRESIDENT



John Adams

[T]he Bible contains more knowledge necessary to man in his present state than any other book in the world.²⁷ By renouncing the Bible, philosophers swing from their moorings upon all moral subjects....It is the only correct map of the human heart that ever has been published.²⁸ **BENJAMIN RUSH**, SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

[The Bible] is a book worth more than all the other books that were ever printed.²⁹

PATRICK HENRY



John Quincy Adams

[N]o book in the world deserves to be so unceasingly studied and so profoundly meditated upon as the Bible.³⁰ The first and almost the only book deserving such universal recommendation is the Bible.³¹ **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**, PRESIDENT

[W]ere you to ask me to recommend the most valuable book in the world, I should fix on the Bible as the most instructive both to the wise and ignorant. Were you to ask me for one book affording the most rational and pleasing entertainment to the enquiring mind, I should repeat, it is the Bible. And should you renew the inquiry for the best philosophy, or the most interesting history, I should still urge you to look into your Bible. I would make it, in short, the alpha and omega of knowledge.³² **ELIAS BOUDINOT**, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, FRAMER OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS

The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the Word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts.³³ **JOHN JAY**, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, AUTHOR OF *THE FEDERALIST PAPERS*, ORIGINAL CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE US SUPREME COURT



John Jay

I believe the Bible to be the written Word of God and to contain in it the whole rule of faith and manners.³⁴ **ROBERT TREAT PAINE**, SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

[T]he Holy Scriptures....can alone secure to society order and peace, and to our courts of justice and constitutions of government, purity, stability, and usefulness....Bibles are strong entrenchments [lines of defense]. Where they abound, men cannot pursue wicked courses and at the same time enjoy quiet conscience.³⁵ **JAMES MCHENRY**, SIGNER OF THE CONSTITUTION

All of the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war, proceed from them despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.³⁶ **NOAH WEBSTER**, EARLY EDUCATOR, “SCHOOLMASTER TO AMERICA”

There are similar declarations from countless other noted national leaders.

The Virginia Colony

Many of the early explorers who had been influential in the growth and development of America were inspired by a love of God and His word. One such example was Richard Hakluyt (1558-1603), a Gospel minister and the greatest English geographer of America’s early colonization period. For decades he advocated for America to become a safe haven for those being persecuted for their desire to live by God’s Word. As he explained in his 1584 *Discourse on Western Planting*:

We shall, by planting there [in America], enlarge the glory of the Gospel, and from England plant sincere religion and provide a safe and a sure place to receive people from all parts of the world that are forced to flee for the truth of God’s Word.³⁷

The Rev. Hakluyt was a member of the governing body of Virginia—America’s first successful colony. And not surprisingly, the original charter of Virginia (1606) openly declared its Christian beliefs, affirming that the colony was being started to propagate the “*Christian religion to such people as yet live in darkness and [unhappy] ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God.*”³⁸

Jamestown, 1607

The first Virginia settlers landed in America in April 1607. They erected a wooden cross at Cape Henry, where they came ashore. At the foot of this cross, the Rev. Hunt led the 149 men of the Virginia Company in prayer, thanking God for their safe journey and recommitting the group to God’s plan and purpose for the New World.

John Smith and Pocahontas

Those settlers sailed up a nearby river and chose a site for their new colony. They named the waterway up which they journeyed the “James River,” and their new settlement “Jamestown”—both in honor of King James of England.

The initial reaction of the neighboring Indians to this unexpected but friendly arrival was fear, suspicion, and outright hostility. In fact, only two weeks after their arrival, 200 Indians made a surprise attack on the settlement, killing two and wounding ten others. But this hostile beginning eventually changed, thanks in large part to Pocahontas, the young daughter of Powhatan, chief of the neighboring Indians.

Pocahontas befriended the colonists from the beginning, causing John Smith (who would later become governor of the Virginia Colony) to state that it was the “*ordinance of God thus to make her His instrument.*”³⁹ According to Smith, she was “*next, under God, ...the instrument to*

preserve this colony from death, famine, and utter confusion."⁴⁰ His initial meeting with Pocahontas, however, was certainly unplanned.



Carved relief in the US Capitol Rotunda showing Pocahontas saving John Smith's life.

Smith and a small group were exploring the region around their settlement when they were captured by a band of Indians and taken to Powhatan's village. Those with him were tortured and killed, and Smith was held captive for weeks. Eventually, the Indians ordered him killed as well. They placed his head on a large stone, preparing, as Smith himself reported, "*with their clubs, to beat out his brains.*"⁴¹ At that moment, Pocahontas intervened. She took Smith's "*head in her arms and laid her own [head] upon his to save him from death.*"⁴² She pleaded for his life, which her father granted.

Powhatan declared they were now friends and that Smith could go back to Jamestown. Smith did so, but fearfully, "*still expecting, as [I] had done all this long time of [my] imprisonment, every hour to be put to one death or other....But Almighty God, by His Divine Providence, had mollified [softened] the hearts of those stern barbarians with compassion.*"⁴³ Pocahontas saved Smith from death, and over the coming months she also saved many others of the Jamestown settlers as well.



The painting of the *Baptism of Pocahontas* in the US Capitol Rotunda

For example, during their first winter, their food ran out; but Pocahontas was instrumental in getting Indians to bring them supplies. She brought food to the starving colonists at other times as well, and also helped them secure peace treaties with surrounding tribes. Early historian John Fiske writes of Pocahontas: "*But for her friendly services on more than one occasion, the tiny settlement would probably have perished.*"⁴⁴

The colony survived and slowly began to grow, openly espousing Christian principles. For example, between 1609 and 1612, their code of civil laws (called their *Lawes Divine, Morall, and Martiall, etc.*) was penned, and it succinctly affirmed the intent of the colonists to live according to God's commands.⁴⁵

In 1619, civic elections were held in Jamestown, and the result was the first elected representative body of the New World. It opened with prayer, and then met in the choir loft of the church.⁴⁶ One of the early acts of this body was to encourage colonists to open their homes to Indian youth with the purpose of teaching them the precepts of the Bible.⁴⁷

Significantly, many Native Americans became Christians, including Pocahontas, who was brought to a knowledge of Jesus Christ by the ministry of the Rev. Alexander Whitaker and others. In fact, a massive painting hanging in the US Capitol Rotunda (near that of Columbus' landing) shows the baptism of Pocahontas by the Rev. Whitaker. After her baptism, Pocahontas adopted the Christian name Rebecca, by which she was called the remainder of her life.

Governor John Smith, like so many others in the Virginia Colony (including Rebecca) was an outspoken Christian. His personal faith was reflected in many open acknowledgments of God throughout his life, including his *Last Will and Testament* (1631):

[I] commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Maker, hoping through the merit of Christ Jesus my Redeemer to receive full remission of all my sins and to inherit a place in the everlasting kingdom.⁴⁸



The painting of the *Embarkation of the Pilgrims* shows them on the ship the *Speedwell* observing a time of fasting and prayer before leaving Holland to come to America.

The Pilgrims and the Plymouth Colony, 1620

Another of the massive paintings that hangs in the US Capitol Rotunda (each is 14 feet high and twenty feet wide) is the *Embarkation of the Pilgrims at Delfts Haven, Holland, July 22nd, 1620*, painted by Robert Weir and placed in the Capitol in 1843.⁴⁹



Painted on the sail is the phrase, "God with us," which was the heart cry of the Pilgrims.

This painting shows leading Pilgrims in prayer (including Pastor John Robinson, Governors John Carver and William Bradford, military leader Miles Standish, and others). In the center of the painting, Elder William Brewster has an open Bible upon his lap on which are written the words: "*The New Testament of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" On the sail of the ship can be seen the phrase, "*God with Us,*" which accurately describes the lifestyle of these men and women.

The version of the Bible being held by Brewster (and the version used extensively by the Pilgrims) was known as the Geneva Bible. It was the primary Bible of the English Reformation and was the favorite Bible of the Dissenters—those who largely settled America. (They were called Dissenters because they objected to—that is, dissented from—the corrupt European practices of both State and Church).

The Geneva Bible was first published in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1560 by English reformers (and their followers) who had fled there to escape severe religious persecution at the hands of the state-established churches in their various home countries. That Bible went through 140 editions from 1560 to 1644.⁵⁰ It was the first Bible to add numbered verses to each chapter. It was also the first Bible to be taken to America, having been carried first by the Virginia colonists and then by the Pilgrims.



William Brewster is holding an open Geneva Bible with the words, “*The New Testament of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*”

One factor that made the Geneva Bible distinctive from all other Bibles at the time was its unique marginal commentaries. Penned by prominent reformers, these commentaries regularly challenged the corrupt European culture of the day, especially criticizing practices that violated God’s Word, whether in government, judiciary, education, law, culture, or elsewhere.

The Dissenters, by their study of the Geneva Bible and its commentaries, saw how flawed the civil and religious system was at that time in most countries across Europe. When the Dissenters in England publicly pointed this out, they received vigorous persecution from the state-established national church. (This same pattern of ill-treatment by state-established churches was common across Europe.)

After years of enduring this government persecution, the Pilgrims (according to their governor and historian, William Bradford) finally “*shook off this yoke of anti-Christian bondage, and as the Lord’s free people joined themselves (by a covenant of the Lord) into a church estate, in the fellowship of the Gospel, to walk in all His ways.*”⁵¹ They left England and went to Holland, where they finally found religious freedom.

But after twelve years in the secular culture of Holland, they became concerned for the faith of their children. They also preferred the overall English culture to that of the Dutch, so they decided to move to the new land of America, where they could (1) freely worship God, (2) raise Godly children, and (3) share the wonderful truths of the Christian Gospel with others. Concerning this third point, Bradford affirmed that the Pilgrims had: “*a great hope and inward zeal...for the propagating and advancing the Gospel of the kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world [i.e., America].*”⁵²

When they set sail for America in 1620 aboard the ship *Mayflower*, it bore 102 “*Pilgrims and strangers*” (which they called themselves—a quote from 1 Peter 2:11 in the Bible). But the ship also carried much more: it carried the Bible-based principles they had learned—principles that were to become the seeds of the greatest and freest nation the world has ever known.

After sixty-six days at sea, including sailing through some treacherous storms, the *Mayflower* finally reached America. The Pilgrims had intended to settle in the northern parts of the existing Virginia Colony and had tried diligently to reach that region, but despite their best efforts, fierce winds providentially blew them far north to a region completely outside Virginia’s jurisdiction.

They finally put ashore at Cape Cod in the Massachusetts area, and after some searching they found an empty and uninhabited location in which to settle.

Significantly, had the Pilgrims arrived at that same place some years earlier, they would have been met by the fierce Patuxet Indian tribe, which likely would have attacked and killed them all. But in 1617, a plague had mysteriously wiped out all of the tribe except one man: Squanto. He had been in England at the time of the outbreak and returned to the area just before the Pilgrims arrived, finding his entire tribe gone. Due to the devastating nature of the epidemic, the neighboring tribes were afraid to come near the place; they believed that some great supernatural spirit had destroyed the people there and might also kill them as well. So the land was left abandoned and open—a perfect situation for the Pilgrims.

Having arrived in an area not under the authority of the Virginia Colony, the Pilgrims drew up their own governmental compact before leaving the *Mayflower*, which declared:

Having undertaken for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith, and the honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents [that is, by this legal document and charter] solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic.⁵³

That document, known as the *Mayflower Compact*, was the first civil governing document written in America and the New World. It placed the Pilgrim’s civil government on a firm Christian basis and was the beginning of American constitutional government.

When the Pilgrims came ashore, they fell to their knees and thanked God, reaffirming their continuing reliance upon Him. Squanto later met them and would become instrumental in their survival. (For more on this part of the story, see the article in the Appendix at the end of Lesson 1, “Why We Celebrate Thanksgiving”).



Signing of the *Mayflower Compact*

The Pilgrims’ Colony became known as Plymouth Plantation, or the Plymouth Colony. It was built on land purchased from the Indians—at the price set by the Indians.⁵⁴ In fact, the longest-lasting treaty in American history between Anglos and Native Americans was that of the Pilgrims. (For more on the relations between the Pilgrims and Indians, see “No, Revisionists, Thanksgiving is not a Day of Mourning,” also at the end of this Lesson).

In the beginning, life in that colony was very difficult. In fact, in the first winter alone, half the Pilgrims died. But despite that hardship, the next spring when the *Mayflower* returned to

England, not one Pilgrim chose to go back. They all stayed, for they had come neither for personal convenience nor reward but rather that they might walk in religious and civil liberty and became what they called “*stepping stones*”⁵⁵ for others after them to follow and do the same. At the end of the first year, the Pilgrims celebrated the thanksgiving festival that has become the national holiday we still celebrate each year today in November.

The Laws of the Pilgrims

The Pilgrims believed the Bible was a complete guidebook for how to live *all* of life, and their code of laws clearly reflected this belief. Significantly, much of what they instituted (as early as 1623) became standard in America, including trial by jury and private property rights.⁵⁶ They also elected their civil leaders separately from their religious leaders⁵⁷—a practice quite different from what had become customary for Europe.

By 1636, the Pilgrims had compiled what historians describe as “*the first comprehensive body of law in North America.*”⁵⁸ That legal code served as a model for future American codes of laws, and while the original *Laws of the Pilgrims* were revised over subsequent years, they always remained rooted in the Bible. In fact, the preface to the 1658 *Book of Laws* specifically states that “*laws...are so far good and wholesome as by how much they are derived from and agreeable to the ancient platform of God’s Law.*”⁵⁹ Reflecting this, many of their individual laws directly cited specific Scriptures as their basis.

The Puritans and Massachusetts, 1630

Jamestown was the first English colony in America; and in 1620 the Pilgrims founded the second English colony, but the first one in the northern parts of America. Over the next decade, other settlers occasionally arrived in the area, but in 1630 came the “Great Puritan Exodus” that left England, resulting in the founding of America’s second northern colony, and its third overall.

Those Puritans in that Exodus had spent years attempting to purify the tyrannical Church of England (from which they received their name “Puritans”), but with little result. In fact, they were severely persecuted by the king for their attempts to clean up the corrupt church. Finally deciding they could not purify that Church, they came to America and set up their own model Church of England to be an example of a true uncorrupted Church.

The Puritans (like the Pilgrims before them) were committed to God and His Word, wanting to share the good news of the Christian faith with others. Their original charter (1629) affirmed their desire to be...

so religiously, peaceably, and civilly governed, as their good life and orderly conversation [that is, their Godly lifestyle] may win and incite the natives of country to the knowledge and obedience of the only true God and Savior of mankind, and the Christian faith, which...is the peaceful end of this plantation [colony].⁶⁰

In the spring of 1630, some 1,000 Puritans (which was more than the total number of inhabitants living in the then ten-year old Pilgrim Plymouth Colony) left England and sailed to America, establishing the Massachusetts Bay Colony. (Their new colony adjoined the Pilgrims’

Plymouth Plantation Colony, and in 1691, the two merged to become Massachusetts.) During their voyage from England, the Puritans “*constantly served God, morning and evening, by reading and expounding a chapter [in the Bible], singing, and prayer.*”⁶¹

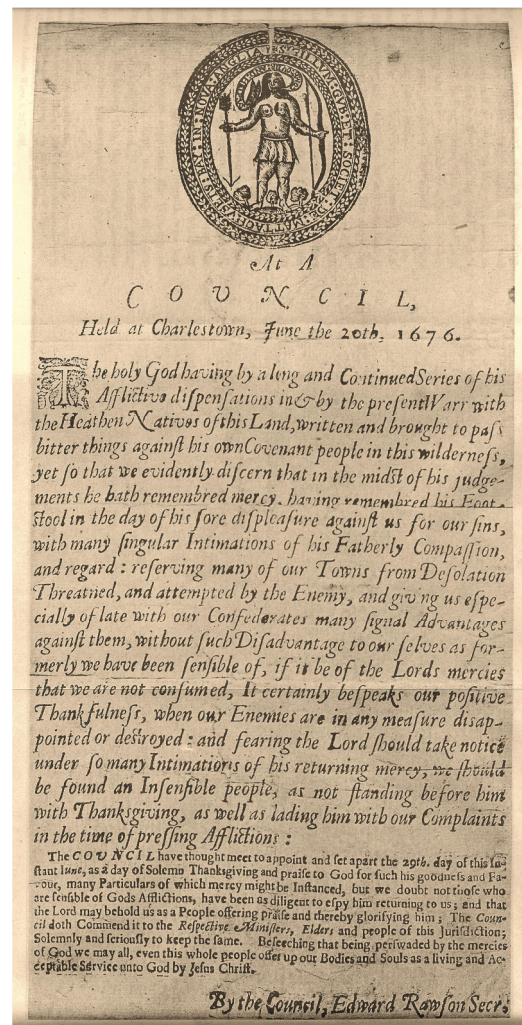
While at sea, their leader, John Winthrop (who for many years after their arrival served as their governor) penned “*A Model of Christian Charity,*” setting forth the Puritan’s reasons for starting the new colony. Winthrop affirmed their desire to be “*as a city upon a hill*” (quoting from Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:14), where all the people of the earth could see their uncorrupted colony as a model (which they called the “New” England) and would say, “*The Lord make [us] likely that of New England.*”⁶² But Winthrop warned those with him that, “*If we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword [an example of something very bad] through the world.*”⁶³ (Interestingly, more than three centuries later, President Ronald Reagan also spoke of America as being a “*city upon a hill*” for the rest of the world to see and copy,⁶⁴ just as our Pilgrim and Puritan Fathers had long before envisioned.)

Massachusetts Body of Liberties

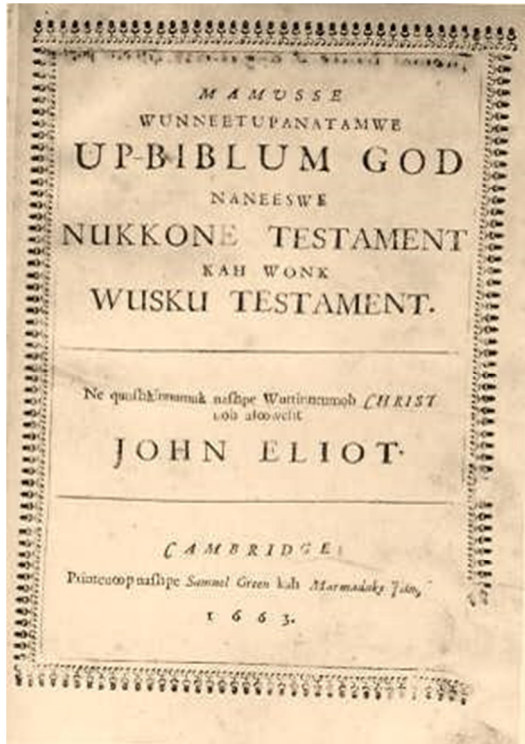
When the Puritans arrived, they, like the Pilgrims, lived on land purchased from the Indians, at the price set by the Indians.⁶⁵ They then began building their system of civil governance. Their legal code, known as the Massachusetts Body of Liberties, was written in 1641 by the Rev. Nathaniel Ward. The Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) was the basis for that legal code. In addition to listing specific Bible verses as the basis for many of its laws,⁶⁶ it further affirmed that “*in case of the defect [lack] of a law*” the general standard to be what was in “*the Word of God.*”⁶⁷

Sharing the Gospel

The official seal of the Massachusetts Bay colony was an Indian speaking the words, “*Come Over And Help Us.*”⁶⁸ (This was a quote from Acts 16:9, where the Apostle Paul saw a vision of the neighboring people asking him to come over and preach the Gospel to them.) By this official colony seal, these early settlers yet again openly affirmed their desire to bring the Gospel to those who had never heard it before, including Native Americans.



A 1676 broadside of a proclamation for a Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving, with the seal of Massachusetts Bay at the top and an Indian speaking the words, “*Come Over and Help Us.*”



Title page of John Eliot's Algonquin Bible

Typical of the Puritans' efforts in this regard was the work of the Rev. John Eliot (known as the "Apostle to the Indians") and Daniel Gookin, a civil magistrate. These two men worked over forty years to evangelize and civilize the Algonquin tribe of Massachusetts. Eliot constantly traveled to Indian villages to teach them the Bible. Many Native Americans converted to Christianity, and Eliot set up fourteen self-governing and self-supporting "Praying Towns" where these Christian Indians could live out their new life as believers. A number of these Indians became ministers in order to carry on the work of the Gospel among their own people.

Eliot believed that for the Indians to fully enjoy the complete benefits of the Bible, they needed it in their own language. He therefore learned the Algonquin, or Massachusetts Indian language and then created a written language for them since none existed at that time. He worked twelve years in translating the Bible

into their language, while simultaneously continuing his pastoral duties in his own church. In 1658, he completed the new Indian-language Bible, and it was published in 1661-1663. This was the first Bible ever printed in America, and it was printed in the Algonquin, or Massachusetts language.

Another way the Puritans' sought to reach Native Americans with the Gospel was the founding of Harvard in 1636—America's first successful university (an earlier college had been started in Virginia, but it was wiped out in a surprise attack by a nearby Indian tribe). The Puritans started Harvard not only to train ministers but also to evangelize and educate Indians. Many other early American colleges had the same dual purpose.

For example, the College of William and Mary (founded in Virginia through the efforts of the Rev. James Blair in 1693) was started so that "*the Church of Virginia may be furnished with a seminary of ministers of the Gospel, and that...the Christian faith may be propagated among the western Indians to the glory of Almighty God.*"⁶⁹ The college of Dartmouth in New Hampshire began in 1770 when Congregational pastor Eleazar Wheelock (1711-1779) secured a charter from the governor of New Hampshire to establish a college to train young men for missionary service among the Indians. Its Latin motto means: "*The voice of one crying in the wilderness*" (quoting from John 1:23 and Isaiah 40:3) and it became known as "the Indian College."⁷⁰

Rhode Island, 1636

In 1631, a brilliant young minister, Roger Williams, came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony as a refugee from the tyranny of England's King Charles I and the corrupt British state-established church. For a time, Williams served as minister in Plymouth (home of the Pilgrims), and then by



Roger Williams obtained land from the Narragansett Indians to start the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation.

mutual agreement left to pastor in Salem (in the Puritans' colony).

His outspoken manner and firm convictions regarding liberty of conscience brought him into conflict with the sometimes intolerant Puritan leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. After failing to comply with the edicts of those civil leaders, he was tried and banished from the Colony. In 1636, he purchased land from the Indians and founded the Providence Plantation Colony (later to become Rhode Island).⁷¹

Williams believed strongly that civil authorities should have no jurisdiction over the religious beliefs of any individual's conscience and he incorporated this conviction into the laws of the new colony. With this official policy of religious tolerance, those who had been persecuted for their religious convictions began settling in Rhode Island.

Religious principles remained central to the colony—as affirmed by the 1663 Royal Charter of Rhode Island. It not only announced the colonists' intentions both of “*Godly edifying themselves, and one another, in the holy Christian faith and worship*” but also of converting the Indians to Christianity.⁷² It further declared that:

[The colonies are to pursue] with peaceable and loyal minds their sober, serious, and religious intentions...in holy Christian faith...[A] most flourishing civil state may stand and best be maintained...with a full liberty in religious concernments; and that true piety, rightly grounded upon Gospel principles, will give the best and greatest security to sovereignty and will lay in the hearts of men the strongest obligations to true loyalty.⁷³



Seal of Rhode Island Colony

Maryland, 1633

In 1633, Cecil Calvert, a Catholic (known as Lord Baltimore), established the colony of Maryland. The Charter of Maryland describes him as “*being animated with a laudable, and pious zeal for extending the Christian religion.*”⁷⁴ In 1634, he established a policy of religious toleration that welcomed both Protestant and Catholic settlers. (At that time in world history, it was common that Catholics and Protestants alternately persecuted each other; but this colony welcomed any who were fleeing persecution, whether Catholic or Protestant—a policy very rare at that time.)

In 1649, the famous Maryland Toleration Act was passed, declaring that “*No...persons... professing to believe in Jesus Christ shall [be] troubled, molested, or discountenanced for or in respect of his or her religion, nor in the free exercise thereof,*”⁷⁵ thus further protecting both Catholic and Protestants. That Act provided the broadest protection of religious freedom that had been offered in the world in the 1600s.

Connecticut, 1636

In 1633, English minister Thomas Hooker, like the Pilgrims and Puritans before him, was driven from England by the corrupt state-established national church. He came to the Puritans' Massachusetts Bay Colony and became pastor of the Church at Newtown (now Cambridge). After observing the workings of the colony, he noticed some intolerance among Puritans there and attempted to correct it. Having little success, he asked the Bay Colony leaders and was granted permission to migrate to the Connecticut Valley.

In June 1636, he and most of his Newtown congregation (about 100 people) settled in what would become the Connecticut Colony, on land they had purchased from the Indians, at the price set by the Indians.⁷⁶ Other settlers followed, and by May 1637, 800 people had moved into the valley. In May 1638, Hooker presented an influential sermon preached before the General Court (that is, the Connecticut legislature). Three of the key principles he laid out included:

- The foundation of civil authority is based on the willing consent of the people;
- The choice—that is, the public election—of civil officials belongs to the people by God's own permission;
- The people not only have power to appoint officers and magistrates but also to set the bounds and limitations of the government.⁷⁷

As a result of that sermon, in January 1639, the *Fundamental Orders of Connecticut* was penned and adopted as the colony's first constitution. Significantly, it was the first constitution ever written in America. Early historian John Fiske wrote that "*the government of the United States today is in lineal descent more nearly related to that of Connecticut than to that of any of the other thirteen colonies.*"⁷⁸ (This is why Connecticut is known as "the Constitution State.") The Christian basis of that constitution was readily apparent.

For example, it began with the inhabitants covenanting together under God "*to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, which we now profess.*"⁷⁹ And the oath taken by civil officials required them "*to administer justice according to the laws here established, and for want [lack] thereof, according to the rule of the Word of God.*"⁸⁰ The oath taken by the governor (and the magistrates) ended with these words: "*I...will further the execution of justice according to the rule of God's Word, so help me God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*"⁸¹ Some of the key



Rev. Thomas Hooker



In 1636, Rev. Thomas Hooker led a company from his church in Massachusetts to settle in Connecticut.

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principles found in that Bible-based constitution included the rule of law, popular elections, representative government, freedom of speech, local self-government, and taxes levied on the people—but only through representatives elected by the people, which certainly was not the general practice of Europe at that time.

More than a century later, Noah Webster (a soldier in the American War for Independence, and then a judge, legislator, and teacher afterwards) used Connecticut’s constitution as a model for his 1785 work *Sketches of American Policy*—one of the first works in America to call for a federal constitution.⁸² Webster said that Connecticut’s early constitution was “*the most perfect on earth*” and that it provided an excellent example to the American nation of the proper balance of power between local and state governments.⁸³

In 1637, the year after Rev. Hooker had founded Connecticut, Puritan minister John Davenport founded the New Haven Colony, which adjoined the Connecticut Colony. He, too, purchased the land from the Indians,⁸⁴ and his motivations for starting that Colony were similar to those of Hooker. The New Haven Colony rested its frame of government upon the idea that “*the Scriptures do hold forth a perfect rule for the direction and government of all men in all duties...in families and commonwealths,*”⁸⁵ thus making (as famous historian George Bancroft noted) “*the Bible its statute-book.*”⁸⁶ (In 1665, the New Haven Colony united with the Connecticut Colony to form Connecticut.⁸⁷)

The New England Confederation, 1643

In 1643, the four separate colonies of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth Plantation, Connecticut, and New Haven agreed to form an association known as the New England Confederation. This was the first attempt to unite several colonies in mutual cooperation (such as later happened with the thirteen colonies during the American War for Independence). The governing document for that Confederation clearly states the Christian nature of the early settlements:

Whereas we all came into these parts of America with one and the same end and aim, namely, to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and to enjoy the liberties of the Gospel in purity and peace....The said United Colonies...[do] enter into a firm and perpetual league of friendship...for preserving and propagating the truth and liberties of the Gospel and for their own mutual safety and welfare.⁸⁸

The New England Confederation lasted until 1684.

America’s First Schools

The colonists of all the early colonies believed that every child should be educated—a belief very different from that in England and Europe at the time. While many children in America were educated at home, the colonists also started public schools as well and then later added colleges to provide higher education for students. Significantly, the concept of education for every individual was developed first in Christian and Biblical civilization.

Early Massachusetts School Laws

In 1642, the General Court of Massachusetts (that is, its legislature) enacted an education law requiring each town to see that children were taught “to read and understand the principles of religion and the capital laws of this country.”⁸⁹ Five years later, the laws of 1647 noted education and schools were necessary because it was the “one chief project of that old deluder, satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scripture”⁹⁰—that is, Satan wanted to keep people from knowing the Bible, but Massachusetts was not going to let this happen: it would establish schools for every child so they would be able to know and read the Bible. (This law became known as “The Old Deluder Satan Act.”)

This Massachusetts law was America’s first public education law, and it was the direct result of the horrific persecutions experienced by so many of the early settlers who had arrived in America. Those colonists were acutely aware of the civil atrocities that had earlier occurred across Europe, such as the tortures during the Inquisition and other similar purges often wrongly perpetrated under the banner of Christianity. They knew of these atrocities because many of them had personally experienced harsh persecution simply for practicing their Biblical faith.

The colonists and their leaders were convinced that a widespread lack of Biblical knowledge lay at the root of these barbarities. If people had been literate and able to read the Scriptures and judge the accuracy of what the leaders of both State and Church were telling them, they would not have blindly believed and followed, thus abetting the commission of that savagery.

The American Witch Trials

On rare occasions, even these early Christians fell into the same bad behavior from which they had fled. One example of this is seen in the Witch Trials of 1691-1692 in which twenty-seven individuals died at the hands of the Puritans in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.⁹¹

While this behavior is indefensible, an appropriate question to ask is, “Why were only twenty-seven put to death in America?” After all, witch trials were also occurring across the world at that time, with 500,000 put to death in Europe,⁹² including 30,000 in England, 75,000 in France, and 100,000 in Germany.⁹³

Significantly, the American trials lasted eighteen months, while the European trials lasted for years and even decades.⁹⁴ The difference was that the American trials were brought to a close when Christian leaders such as the Reverend John Wise, the Reverend Increase Mather, and Thomas Brattle confronted civil leaders, pointing out that Biblical rules of evidence and due process were not being followed in the courts, thus convincing officials to end those trials.⁹⁵



A colonial hornbook. *The Lord's Prayer* was the first reading lesson.

What are some of the Biblical rules of evidence? An answer comes from Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer—one of the most secular-minded justices in Supreme Court history. Yet even he openly acknowledges that *“The right of an accused to meet his accusers face-to-face is mentioned in, among other things, the Bible.”*⁹⁶ In proof of this, Breyer cites *Federal Practices & Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence*, which devotes more than twenty pages to show the ways in which the Bible directly shaped numerous of the individual Due Process protections for citizens now found in the Fourth through the Eighth Amendments of the Bill of Rights.⁹⁷

When Biblically-informed Christians pointed out these basic rights to Puritan leaders:

The trials were stopped by Governor Phipps in October, 1692, and five years later the Massachusetts Court publicly repented and set apart a special day of fasting and prayer, that prayers might be offered asking for forgiveness for the “late tragedy raised amongst us by Satan,” while the twelve jurors published a declaration of sorrow for accepting insufficient evidence against the accused; and Judge Sewall rose in his pew in the South Church and made public confession of his sense of guilt.⁹⁸

Sadly, modern texts are quick to emphasize the twenty-seven deaths that occurred under the Puritans but ignore the hundreds of thousands committed in Europe. But as an early historian pointed out, a knowledge of the actual facts *“should moderate our denunciations and charges of severity, brutality and narrow-mindedness against the colonial forefathers, who, it clearly appears, were much in advance of their times.”*⁹⁹ And offering even more evidence to prove his point, he noted:

When the Mayflower left England [in 1620], thirty-one offenses were punishable with death in the mother country. By the middle of that century [the 1650s], the black list had enlarged to 223, of which 176 were without the benefit of the clergy [i.e., there were no exceptions]. How far in advance the New England colonies were is evident from the fact that not a single colony code [in New England] recognized more than fifteen capital crimes.¹⁰⁰

It is undeniable that some missteps were made in early America; but because of the significant positive influence resulting from a widespread knowledge of the Bible, we had less atrocities and more that was positive than any other nation at that time.

Recognizing the positive difference a knowledge of the Bible could produce, those early settlers therefore passed America’s first education law, which required:

After the Lord hath increased [the settlement] to the number of fifty householders, [they] shall then forthwith appoint one within their town to teach all such children as shall resort to him, to write and read....And it is further ordered that where any town shall increase to the number of one hundred families or householders, they shall set up a grammar school...to instruct youths, so far as they may be fitted for the university.¹⁰¹

The fact that the purpose of public education was to equip students to know the Bible and thus better know the limits the Bible placed on governing authorities was confirmed by numerous foreign visitors to America. One such was Edward Kendall of Britain. While in Connecticut, he found the state's illiteracy law of interest—particularly the opening declaration of that law:

This [legislature] observing that notwithstanding the former orders made for the education of children...there are many persons unable to read the English tongue, and thereby incapable of reading the Holy Word of God or the good laws of this [State]...¹⁰²

Notice that the Connecticut legislature was concerned about illiteracy because if a child could not read, then he would not know the Word of God or the laws of the state, and thus might not prevent the passage of a bad law.

America's First Colleges

Henricus College (1619)

In 1618, the Virginia Company obtained a charter from King James I for a college in Virginia. Its purpose was to train both the children of the settlers and the children of the Indians.¹⁰³ By 1622, a teaching staff had been chosen and construction at the college begun. But while it was being built, Native Americans led an unexpected surprise attack against the settlers (who had long been their neighbors) resulting in what is called the "Great Massacre." This stopped further efforts for a college in Virginia until seventy years later, with the establishment of the College of William and Mary in 1693.

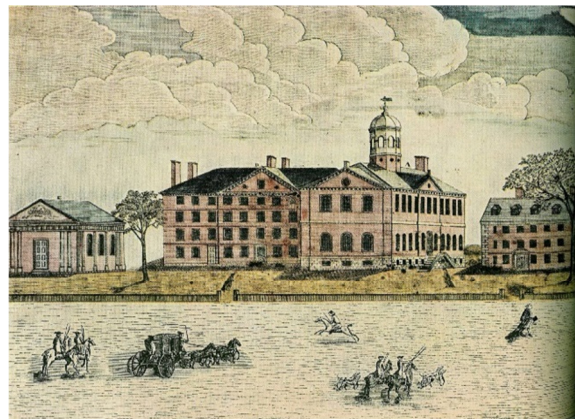
Harvard College (1636)

As noted earlier, Harvard (started in 1636 by the New England Puritans) was the first successful college in America. Some of its rules and precepts included:

Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well [that] the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life (John 17:3), and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning.

And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of him (Prov. 2:3).

Everyone shall so exercise himself in reading the Scriptures twice a day that he shall be ready to give such an account of his proficiency therein...seeing the entrance of the Word giveth light, it giveth understanding to the simple (Psalm 119:130).¹⁰⁴



Harvard College

Harvard, with its motto “*Christo et Ecclesiae*” (For Christ and the Church),¹⁰⁵ was typical of almost all of the early American colleges. In fact, over the next two centuries, some 246 colleges would be started, with 226 (ninety percent) of them directly founded on the Christian faith.¹⁰⁶



So...

- America was founded on the teachings of the Bible.
- Our colonies were founded and populated largely by people who desired to freely worship the God of the Bible.
- Our common schools were begun so that every young person would be able to read, study, and understand the Bible for themselves.
- Our universities were founded to train civil and religious leaders who would be knowledgeable in the Scriptures.
- Our civil laws and constitutions were routinely based on specific Biblical verses and ideas.

There is much additional historical documentation available from this early period of America’s history, and it affirms that America was founded on Christian principles and that the Bible was instrumental in shaping our institutions and securing our individual rights and liberties. The evidence overwhelmingly supports the conclusion reached by President Andrew Jackson that “*It [the Bible] is the rock on which our Republic rests.*”¹⁰⁷

Lesson 1: Appendix A

Why We Celebrate Thanksgiving

(And a Lesson in Economics)

Innumerable blessings have been bestowed upon the United States of America. Concerning these, President Abraham Lincoln affirmed, “*No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God.*”¹⁰⁸ In 1863, he therefore set apart the last Thursday of November as “*a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father, Who dwelleth in the heavens.*”¹⁰⁹ President Lincoln thereby established America’s official Thanksgiving holiday; but it was the Pilgrims’ 1621 Thanksgiving celebration over two centuries earlier that originally started the tradition observed annually by the nation over succeeding years.

The Pilgrims had arrived in America in November 1620. As they gathered their harvest in autumn of 1621 and looked back over the preceding year, they knew they had so much for which to be thankful. It was a miracle they had not only survived their first year in the wilderness of



The Pilgrims are going to church.

New England but also that they had reaped a good harvest the following fall. And they had also found a home where they could freely worship God—a place for “*propagating and advancing the Gospel of the kingdom of Christ.*”¹¹⁰ The Pilgrims were grateful for these blessings.

Their early days had been very difficult. Coming to America, they had spent sixty-six perilous days at sea; and the storms were so ferocious that their ship, the *Mayflower*, was blown literally hundreds of miles north of its intended destination. Their captain continued attempting to sail south to Virginia, but the weather didn’t permit, so the

Pilgrims were forced to settle in New England.

Because of the long voyage, lack of provisions, and harsh conditions, numerous diseases afflicted the settlers when they reached land. Making the situation worse, the Pilgrims arrived in December, so winter had already set in, and they had no homes in which to take shelter. In their weakened physical condition, and in the unrelenting cold, they started to build houses to protect themselves. Under these extreme hardships, within only three months, half of the original 102 Pilgrims were dead.

During the height of the sickness, there were only six or seven persons strong enough to move about, but they worked hard on behalf of all the rest. As Governor Bradford affirmed, those few...

spared no pains night nor day, but with abundance of toil and hazard of their health, fetched them wood, made them fires, dressed them meat, made their beds, washed their loathsome clothes, clothed and unclothed them; in a word, did all the homely and necessary offices for them which dainty and queasy stomachs cannot endure to hear named; and all this willingly and cheerfully, without any grudging in the least, showing herein their true love unto their friends and brethren. A rare example and worthy to be remembered.¹¹¹

With only half of them surviving that first winter, the prospects of the coming year were bleak. They were surrounded by Indians (some hostile), short of food and supplies, and knew little of how to live in the American wilderness. But to their astonishment, an English-speaking Indian named Squanto unexpectedly came among them (from where they knew not) and took them under his care, teaching them how to survive in the new land.

He showed them how to plant corn (assuring its growth by setting it with fish) and he taught them how to catch fish during the times when they could find the creeks well stocked with fish (in the four months before Squanto’s arrival, the Pilgrims had caught only one cod). He also taught them to stalk deer, plant pumpkins, find berries, and catch beaver (whose pelts proved to

be their economic deliverance). Additionally, Squanto was helpful in securing a peace treaty between the Pilgrims and the neighboring Wampanoag tribe. (It became the longest-lasting treaty in American history between Anglos and Native Americans.) Pilgrim leader and governor William Bradford properly affirmed, “*Squanto...was a special instrument sent of God for [our] good.*”¹¹²

Squanto was indeed key to their survival, and he helped shape the story of America. But his own life story is amazing as well. In 1605, long before the arrival of the Pilgrims, he had been captured and taken to England. He remained there nine years, during which time he learned to speak English. In 1614, he came with Captain John Smith of Virginia back to New England, but shortly after Squanto’s return Captain Thomas Hunt took him and sold him into slavery in Spain. Thankfully, some local friars bought and rescued him.

Being freed in Spain, he went to England, where he remained until 1619, when he obtained passage back to his home in New England. As Squanto went ashore at his former home (which eventually became Plymouth, the Pilgrims’ home), he found his entire tribe (the Patuxets) had been wiped out by a plague. He was the only survivor; and had he been there instead of in Spain and England, he, too, surely would have died. Joining himself to a nearby tribe, he remained there until the spring of 1621, when he took the remaining half of the Pilgrims under his tutelage, determined to see them survive at the place where his tribe had not.¹¹³

With Squanto’s help, the Pilgrims harvested sufficient food for their upcoming second winter. They had no surplus, but things definitely looked much better than they had the preceding winter when they arrived. With this definite improvement over the previous years’ situation, Pilgrim Governor William Bradford appointed a Day of Thanksgiving and invited the nearby Wampanoag Indians (Squanto’s adopted tribe) to celebrate with them and give thanks to God.

Chief Massasoit and ninety of his men came and feasted with the fifty-one Pilgrims. They ate deer, turkey, fish, lobster, eels, vegetables, corn bread, herbs, berries, and pies; the Indians even taught the Pilgrims how to make popcorn. The Pilgrims and Indians also engaged in athletic competition, including running, wrestling, and shooting. Chief Massasoit enjoyed himself so much that he and his men stayed for three days.¹¹⁴

Historically, there had been thanksgivings in America prior to the one by the Pilgrims, including in Texas in 1541,¹¹⁵ El Paso in 1598,¹¹⁶ St. Augustine, Florida in 1564,¹¹⁷ Jamestown, Virginia in 1607,¹¹⁸ and Berkley Plantation, Virginia in 1619,¹¹⁹ but these were primarily times



The Pilgrims “*set a part a solemn day of humiliation to seek the Lord by humble and fervent prayer in this great distress. And He was pleased to give them a gracious and speedy answer.*”

of prayer. The Pilgrim thanksgiving certainly included prayer, but it also added feasting and athletic events, thus birthing the tradition that has become our modern Thanksgiving holiday.

Shortly after the Pilgrims' Thanksgiving celebration, thirty-five new settlers unexpectedly arrived. They were family and friends of the Pilgrims, who gladly welcomed them. The new group had brought no provisions with them, so the Pilgrims freely shared with them their own food, clothing, and homes. But with the new arrivals, their supplies were cut to half allowance for each person. Several died.

The following spring their provisions were almost completely exhausted when they spied a boat approaching on the horizon. The Pilgrims hoped that the English Company (which had sponsored their colonization of Plymouth) was sending them provisions, but the boat did not bring any food. To the contrary, it brought seven more hungry people to stay in Plymouth.

Early that summer, sixty more men, many of whom were sick, also showed up seeking help. The Pilgrims gladly took care of them all. The sixty men stayed nearly all summer and eventually left, expressing no gratitude for the help they had received; and their stay had further depleted the Pilgrim's meager supplies. Yet the Pilgrims continued to put their trust in God. Significantly, no one starved to death, although, understandably, they had many days when, as Governor Bradford described it, they "*had need to pray that God would give them their daily bread above all people in the world.*"¹²⁰

The following year (1623), the Pilgrims considered how to produce a larger harvest beyond what they predicted to be their immediate needs. After all, the previous year had presented to them many unexpected surprises that had depleted their scarce resources. So how could they produce enough to meet their own needs as well as others that might arise? Applying Biblical principles, the Pilgrims chose to replace the collective socialistic style of farming they had practiced in the two preceding years with an early free-market individual approach to farming, assigning to every family its own personal parcel of land.¹²¹

Of the new free-market system they began implementing, Pilgrim Governor Bradford reported:

This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use...and gave far better content. The women now went willingly into the field and took their little ones with them to set corn, which before would allege [fake, or pretend] weakness and inability.¹²²

When the Pilgrims abandoned economic socialism and adopted the individual free-enterprise model, their productivity dramatically increased and abundance actually began to emerge among the people. In fact, because the Pilgrims' were able to directly benefit from their own hard work and the fruit of their own labors, they planted about seven times more than they had only two years earlier.¹²³ The Pilgrims finally had great hopes for a large crop. But as is often the case in life, things did not go as planned, for according to Bradford:

[T]he Lord seemed to blast [plague] and take away the same, and to threaten further and more sore famine unto them by a great drought which continued from the

third week in May till about the middle of July without any rain and with great heat (for the most part) insomuch as the corn began to wither away.¹²⁴

In response to this unexpected spring drought, Bradford reported that:

[T]hey set a part a solemn day of humiliation to seek the Lord by humble and fervent prayer in this great distress. And He was pleased to give them a gracious and speedy answer both to their own and the Indians' admiration that lived amongst them. For all the morning, and greatest part of the day, it was clear weather and very hot and not a cloud or any sign of rain to be seen, yet toward evening it began to overcast, and shortly after to rain with such sweet and gentle showers as gave them cause of rejoicing and blessing God. It came without either wind or thunder or any violence, and by degrees in that abundance as that the earth was thoroughly wet and soaked therewith, which did so apparently revive and quicken the decayed corn and other fruits as was wonderful to see, and made the Indians astonished to behold.¹²⁵

An Indian named Hobamak who witnessed this event said to a Pilgrim:

Now I see that the Englishman's God is a good God, for He hath heard you and sent you rain, and that without storms and tempests and thunder, which usually we have with our rain, which breaks down our corn; but yours stands whole and good still. Surely your God is a good God.¹²⁶

The rains rejuvenated the dying crops and the harvest of 1623 brought plenty to each person, with the more industrious Pilgrims even having excess to sell to others. The Pilgrims once again set aside a time of Thanksgiving to God.

Significantly, from the time the Pilgrims adopted a Biblical economic system, no general want ever again existed among them.

This is the story of the Pilgrims' thanksgivings that became the model for our modern national Thanksgiving celebrations.

Lesson 1: Appendix B

No, Revisionists, Thanksgiving is not a Day of Mourning

When a modern college professor presented to his students the traditional view of the Thanksgiving holiday as a time for gratefulness and thankfulness a student objected and sent him eleven articles she found on the internet purporting to show that the Pilgrims actually killed and oppressed the Indians, and that Thanksgiving Day was thus not to be celebrated or honored.¹²⁷

Of those articles and their claims, some referred to an encounter with the Indians in 1623, some referenced the Indian war of 1637, and others King Philip's War of 1675 (the three early conflicts between Indians and the Pilgrims). So what is the truth? Did the Pilgrims indeed kill and oppress Indians?

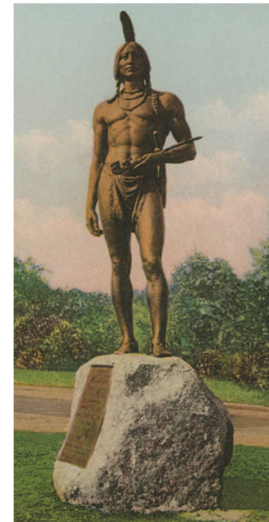


Of the three major conflicts between the Pilgrims and the Indians, King Philip's War of 1675 was by far the biggest and most serious. It finally broke the official 1621 peace between the Pilgrims and the Indians. No other treaty with Native Americans lasted longer than the 54 years of the Pilgrim treaty (1621–1675); and significantly, when the treaty was eventually broken during King Philip's War, it was the Indians and not the Pilgrims who violated it.

Here is a brief overview of three conflicts, including the one that led to the breaking of the decades old treaty between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags.

The Pilgrims, after arriving in the New World December 1620, survived a difficult beginning with the help of Indians who befriended them.¹²⁸ Intending to live in the area where they had landed, the Pilgrims approached the local tribe, seeking to purchase land. The price was set by the Indians, and written documentation of sale was received for those purchased lands.¹²⁹

The policy of purchasing land from the Indians came to characterize the general practice of New England and portions of the mid-Atlantic regions, being mirrored not only by the Puritans in the Massachusetts Bay Colony¹³⁰ but also by the Rev. Roger Williams with Rhode Island,¹³¹ the Rev. Thomas Hooker with Connecticut,¹³² and William Penn with Pennsylvania.¹³³ (On one occasion, Penn actually purchased some of the same tracts multiple times because at least three tribes claimed that specific land, having taken and retaken it from each other in conquest; so Penn secured it from each.¹³⁴) The practice of purchasing land from the Indians was also followed* in New Hampshire,¹³⁵ New Jersey,¹³⁶ and New York.¹³⁷



Chief Massasoit

The Pilgrims and their Indian neighbors (the Wampanoag) had entered into a peace treaty in 1621. Two years later in 1623, Chief Massasoit

* WallBuilders (www.wallbuilders.com) owns one of the nation's largest private collections of Founding Era materials, containing over 100,000 originals, or copies of original documents that predate 1812. Among these holdings are multiple original signed deeds in which Indians willingly and voluntarily sell their land to settlers. One example is an Indian deed dated February 9, 1769, and signed by four Indian leaders from the Aughquageys tribe, selling 300,000 acres—or nearly 470 square miles of land—to settlers in New York. The land-area sold by the Indians in just this one transaction was the equivalent of modern Los Angeles or San Antonio, was larger than modern New York City, and seven times larger than modern Washington DC. Another deed from March 12, 1664 transfers 1000 acres of land from eight Wappinger leaders to two English settlers in New York, in the area that is now the Bronx. There are hundreds of such deeds, legitimately transferring land by mutual agreement and purchase from various Indian tribes to colonists/settlers.

informed his friends, the Pilgrims, of a treacherous surprise assault to be made against them by the Massachusetts tribe, which was gathering other chiefs for an unprovoked attack.¹³⁸ Facing potential extermination, Pilgrim Miles Standish led a preemptive strike against the Algonquin, thus saving the colonists. Without this, the Pilgrim story could have been as short-lived as that of the colonists in the failed colonies of Roanoke, Virginia, or Popham, Maine. But despite the conflict with some hostile tribes, good relations continued between the Pilgrims and Wampanoag. The next period of tensions between the Pilgrims and other tribes occurred in the 1637 Pequot War.

The Pequot tribe was warlike and aggressive, not only against colonists but also against their Indian neighbors on every side, including the Wampanoag (allies and friends of the Pilgrims), Narragansett, Algonquian, and Mohegan tribes. The warring Pequot tribes had established an exclusive trading monopoly with the Dutch, and they believed the arrival of English colonists threatened that monopoly. They therefore determined to strike and kill the English, completely ridding the area of them. After the Pequot murdered a number of English settlers, the colonists responded and organized strikes against the Pequot.¹³⁹ The war spread across much of Connecticut, and also threatened the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colonies. The conflict ended when Sassacus, the chief of the Pequot, was pursued and killed by the Mohegan and Mohawks tribes, against whom the Pequot also warred.¹⁴⁰

One of the aforementioned articles provided by the student specifically claimed that it was during this war that Pilgrims killed Indians;¹⁴¹ but this claim is wrong. The Pilgrims' participation in this conflict was limited to a skirmish at Manisses Villages, where no Indians were killed.¹⁴² Some of the other articles provided by the student claimed that the Thanksgiving of 1637 was to give thanks that Indians were killed,¹⁴³ but this was also wrong. It was called to give thanks for the end of the Pequot War and a restoration of peace to the region.¹⁴⁴



King Philip

The Pilgrims lived in harmony with the Wampanoags from the time of their 1621 treaty, through the 1623 and 1637 conflicts, and until the long-lasting peace finally collapsed in 1675 with King Philip's War. Today, revisionist scholars such as James D. Drake, Daniel R. Mandell, and Jill Lepore claim that this conflict was the result of Indians pushing back against greedy land-grabbing colonists, with the Indians simply trying to regain territory that was rightfully theirs,¹⁴⁵ but such a portrayal is inaccurate.

In fact, at the outbreak of the war Pilgrim Governor Josiah Winslow avowed:

I think I can clearly say that before these present troubles broke out, the English did not possess one foot of land in this colony but what was fairly obtained by honest purchase of the Indian proprietors.¹⁴⁶

So, if King Philip's War was not retaliation for the unjust seizing of Indian land by colonists, then what was its cause? The answer is simple: Christian missionaries. Metacom—who took the

English name King Philip, and was chief of the Wampanoag Indians and the grandson of Massasoit, the friend of the Pilgrims—recognized that missionaries were converting Indians to Christianity, which was changing some Indian behaviors and “traditions.”

For example, Indians often engaged in prolonged barbarous and sadistic torture of their captives,¹⁴⁷ but missionaries sought to end those horrific practices by converting Indians and teaching them Christian morals.¹⁴⁸ Such missionaries, including John Eliot, Thomas Mayhew, and Andrew White, worked extensively with various tribes and had great success in converting Indians to Christianity. By 1674, Eliot’s Christian villages of “praying Indians” in Massachusetts numbered as many as 3,600 converts.¹⁴⁹ It was in the following year (1675) that Metacom, fearing that Christianity would change “traditional” Indian “culture,”¹⁵⁰ launched ferocious surprise assaults against settlers throughout the region.¹⁵¹ *All* English colonists in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts were to be exterminated—no exceptions.

Colonists were indeed murdered and their belongings burned or destroyed.¹⁵² This included even the town of Providence, where Roger William’s own home was burned.¹⁵³ Significantly, Williams had always been on the best of terms with the Indians, not only having purchased his colony from them¹⁵⁴ but also having championed Indian rights and claims.¹⁵⁵ Yet, regardless of how well Christian settlers had previously treated Indians, all Christians were all to be exterminated; their very existence was perceived as a threat to Indian practices.

But King Philip’s War cannot be accurately characterized as Indians versus the English, for many of those who were attacked by the Indians were themselves Indians—but they were *Christian* Indians. They, too, were targeted, hurt, or killed by their unconverted brethren,¹⁵⁶ and many of the converted Christian Indians fought side-by-side with the colonists throughout the conflict.¹⁵⁷ In fact, the war eventually ended when Metacom was killed—by an Indian, not a settler.¹⁵⁸

Returning to the objections raised by the student, it is true that in this war Pilgrims and Puritans killed Indians—but in the context of a just and defensive war. The war lasted about fifteen months, and early in the war more settlers died than Indians—largely because of the surprise attacks. (Of the ninety towns in Massachusetts and Plymouth Colony, twelve were totally destroyed and forty more attacked and partially destroyed.¹⁵⁹) But eventually the colonists organized local militias and fought back, finally gaining the upper hand. By the conclusion of the war, 600 settlers and 3,000 Indians had been killed—the highest casualty rate by percentage of total population of any war in American history.¹⁶⁰

This information about King Philip’s War is not to suggest that the amount of land owned by Indians was not decreasing; it was. But the diminishing land holdings in this region during this time was definitely *not* for the reason we are often told today. Indian land in this period, especially in New England, was routinely purchased by settlers, not stolen.¹⁶¹ Early historian George Bancroft (1800-1891), known as “The Father of American History” for his systematic approach to documenting the story of America,¹⁶² confirmed that Indian lands were shrinking because the Indians’ own “*repeated sales of land has narrowed their domains*” to the point

where “*they found themselves deprived of their broad acres, and by their own legal contracts driven, as it were, into the sea*”¹⁶³ (emphasis added).

This is not to say that land was never stolen from Indians. Some definitely was. For instance, during the heyday of westward expansion that began in the early nineteenth century, the Indian removal policies of Andrew Jackson certainly violated private property rights,¹⁶⁴ and such policies became the rule rather than the exception, forcibly driving Indians from their lands in Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, and elsewhere across the Southeast.[†] By 1845, the term “Manifest Destiny” was coined to describe the growing notion that it was America’s “destiny” to spread westward, and that nothing—including Indians—should be allowed to stand in the way. As a result, the Biblical view of purchasing private property from its owner was replaced with the anti-Biblical notion that “*possession was nine-tenths of the law*” and therefore whoever could take and hold the land was its “rightful” owner.¹⁶⁵

But the 19th century deterioration in relations between Americans and Indians over unjust land seizures occurred most commonly two centuries after the Pilgrims. The original treaty the Pilgrims negotiated with the Indians lasted for 54 years—until the Indians broke it. In general, the Pilgrim and Puritan killings of Indians occurred first in their own self-defense against the perfidious unprovoked attacks from Metacom’s Indians, and then in ending the war he had started. There is no historical basis to support the claim that the Pilgrims oppressed the Indians. ■

¹ Kay Brigham, *Christopher Columbus’s Book of Prophecies, Reproduction of the Original Manuscript with English Translation* (originally written 1501-1505; published Fort Lauderdale, FL: TSELF, Inc., 1992), pp. 178-183.

² Ferdinand Columbus (son of Christopher Columbus), *The Life of the Admiral Christopher Columbus*, Benjamin Keen, translator (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1992), p. 59.

³ Ferdinand Columbus (son of Christopher Columbus), *The Life of the Admiral Christopher Columbus*, Benjamin Keen, translator (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1992), p. 180.

⁴ “Columbus Monument Pages,” *Peter van der Krogt* (at: <http://vanderkrogt.net/columbus/index.php>) (accessed August 28, 2018).

⁵ *The Papers of George Washington. Presidential Series*, Mark A Mastromarion, editor (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999), Vol. 8, pp. 506-508, from Thomas Jefferson, September 8, 1791.

⁶ Christopher Columbus, *The Journal of Christopher Columbus During His First Voyage, 1492-93*, Clements Markham, translator (London: Hakluyt Society, 1883), entry dated December 16, 1492, p. 112.

⁷ A.M. Fernandez De Ybarra, *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections* (Washington: Smithsonian Institutions, 1907), Vol. XLVIII, p. 436, letter of Dr. Diego Alvarez Chanca, 1494.

⁸ A.M. Fernandez De Ybarra, *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections* (Washington: Smithsonian Institutions, 1907), Vol. XLVIII, p. 436, letter of Dr. Diego Alvarez Chanca, 1494.

⁹ A.M. Fernandez De Ybarra, *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections* (Washington: Smithsonian Institutions, 1907), Vol. XLVIII, p. 439-440, letter of Dr. Diego Alvarez Chanca, 1494.

¹⁰ Samuel Eliot Morison, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus* (New York: MJF Books, 1970), p. 476.

¹¹ Samuel Eliot Morison, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus* (New York: MJF Books, 1970), pp. 257, 360.

[†] Among the other original documents in the WallBuilders collection are land deeds from the state of Georgia selling parcels in Cherokee-held lands directly to settlers, seeking to drive the Cherokee from their homelands.

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¹³ B.F. Morris, *Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions of the United States* (Philadelphia: George W. Childs, 1864), p. 69, quoting *The Protestant Quarterly Review*, Benjamin J. Wallace, editor (Philadelphia: Presbyterian House, 1858), p. 393, No. XXIII, “Article II. The Settlement of Maryland,” December 1857.

¹⁴ Kenneth Woodward and David Gates, “How the Bible Made America,” *Newsweek*, December 27, 1982, p. 44.

¹⁵ Franklin D. Roosevelt, “Statement on the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Printing of the English Bible,” *American Presidency Project*, October 6, 1935 (at: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/209257>).

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⁸⁹ *Public Documents of Maine: 1902, Being the Annual Reports of the Various Departments and Institutions for the Year 1901* (August: Kennebec Journal, 1902), pp. 29-30, “History of Education and the Evolution of the Present School System in Maine.”

⁹⁰ *The Code of 1650, Being a Compilation of the Earliest Laws and Orders of the General Court of Connecticut* (Hartford: Silas Andrus, 1825), p. 90.

⁹¹ Of the 27, 14 women and 5 men were tried, found guilty and hanged; another man was tortured to death by crushing because he refused to cooperate with the court by not answering their questions. To persuade him to talk they took him to a field and put a board on him with rocks, they increased the number of rocks until he would cooperate but he continued to refuse and was crushed to death. He was therefore never convicted but is considered the 20th victim as he was on trial for being a wizard. And 7 individuals died in prison awaiting trial; one was a baby in prison with her mother, who was awaiting trial as a witch. “The Salem Witch Trials of 1692,” *Salem Witch Museum*, January 13, 2011 per the museum’s Department of Education.

⁹² William Warren Sweet, *The Story of Religion in America* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1950), p. 61.

⁹³ Charles B. Galloway, *Christianity and the American Commonwealth* (Nashville: Publishing House Methodist Episcopal Church, 1898), p. 110. Lower numbers are calculated by Brian P. Levack, *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe* (New York: Longmans, 1987), pp. 20-28, but still surpass 100,000. See also Ann Llewellyn Barstow, *Witchcraze: A New History of the European Witch Hunts* (San Francisco: Pandora, 1994), pp. 179-181.

⁹⁴ Charles B. Galloway, *Christianity and the American Commonwealth*, p. 110.

⁹⁵ *Dictionary of American Biography*, Allen Johnson, editor (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1929), s.v. “John Wise,” “Increase Mather,” and “Thomas Brattle.” See also Mark Gribbean, “Salem Witch Trials: Reason Returns,” *Court TV: Crime Library* (accessed on February 28, 2013); David D. Hall, *Witch-Hunting in Seventeenth-Century New England* (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1991), pp. 350, 354 fn25; and Jonathan Kirsch, *The Grand Inquisitor’s Manual* (New York: Harper One, 2008), p. 245.

⁹⁶ See, for example, *Lilly v. Virginia*, 527 U. S. 116, 141 (1999), Breyer, J., (concurring).

⁹⁷ Charles Alan Wright, et al., *Federal Practices & Procedure Federal Rules of Evidence* (New York: West Publishing Co., 2010), Vol. 30, sec. 6342, pp. 200-207, 212-214, 234-246.

⁹⁸ William Warren Sweet, *The Story of Religion in America* (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1950), p. 62.

⁹⁹ Daniel Dorchester, *Christianity in the United States from the First Settlement Down to the Present Time* (New York: Phillips & Hunt, 1889), p. 124.

¹⁰⁰ Daniel Dorchester, *Christianity in the United States from the First Settlement Down to the Present Time* (New York: Phillips & Hunt, 1889), p. 122.

¹⁰¹ *The Code of 1650, Being a Compilation of the Earliest Laws and Orders of the General Court of Connecticut* (Hartford: Silas Andrus, 1825), pp. 91-92.

¹⁰² Edward Augustus Kendall, *Travels Through the Northern Parts of the United States, in the Years 1807 and 1808* (New York: I Riley, 1809), Vol. I, pp. 270-271.

¹⁰³ *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* (Richmond, VA: Virginia Historical Society, 1895), Vol. II, pp. 158-159, “The treasurer and company of adventurers and planters of the first colony in Virginia. To Captain Yeardley, Elect Governor of Virginia, and to the council of state therein being or to be greeting,” November 18, 1618.

¹⁰⁴ *New England’s First Fruits* (London: R.O. and G.D., 1643; reprinted New York: Joseph Sabin, 1865), p. 26, “Rules and Precepts that are observed in the College,” 1642.

¹⁰⁵ Alexander Young, *The Life and Character of John Thornton Kirkland, and of Nathaniel Bowditch* (Boston, Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1840), p. 11; and Josiah Quincy, *The History of Harvard University* (Cambridge: John Owen, 1840), p. 49.

¹⁰⁶ Ellwood P. Cubberley, *Public Education in the United States* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1919), p. 204.

¹⁰⁷ Ronald Reagan, “Proclamation 5018—Year of the Bible, 1983,” *American Presidency Project*, February 3, 1983 (at: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/262128>). See also George H.W. Bush, “International Year of Bible Reading,” *American Presidency Project*, February 22, 1990 (at: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-6100-international-year-bible-reading-1990>); *The American Missionary* (New York: American Missionary Association, 1876), Vol. XX, No. 8, p. 183, Rev. Addison P. Foster, “America’s Experiment with Republican Institutions.”

¹⁰⁸ Abraham Lincoln, “Proclamation 106—Thanksgiving Day, 1863,” *The American Presidency Project*, October 3, 1863 (at: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-106-thanksgiving-day-1863>).

¹⁰⁹ Abraham Lincoln, “Proclamation 106—Thanksgiving Day, 1863,” *The American Presidency Project*, October 3, 1863 (at: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-106-thanksgiving-day-1863>).

¹¹⁰ William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), p. 24.

¹¹¹ William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), p. 91.

¹¹² William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), pp. 94-95.

¹¹³ William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), pp. 94-97; and *Mourt’s Relation, or Journal of the Plantation at Plymouth* (Boston: John Kimball Wiggin, 1865), pp. 90-91; and Nathaniel Morton, *New England’s Memorial* (Boston: Crocker and Brewster, 1826), pp. 55-56.

¹¹⁴ Ashbel Steele, *Chief of the Pilgrims: Or the Life and Time of William Brewster* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott and Co., 1857), pp. 269-270; and *Mourt’s Relation, or Journal of the Plantation at Plymouth* (Boston: John Kimball Wiggin, 1865), pp. 132-133; and Benson Lossing, *Our Country. A Household History of the United States* (New York: James A. Bailey, 1895), Vol. 1, p. 372.

¹¹⁵ “Thanksgiving Timeline, 1541-2001,” *Library of Congress* (at: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/thanksgiving/timeline/1541.html>) (accessed on October 26, 2018).

¹¹⁶ “The First Thanksgiving?” *Texas Almanac* (at: <https://texasalmanac.com/topics/history/timeline/first-thanksgiving>) (accessed on October 26, 2018).

¹¹⁷ “Thanksgiving Timeline, 1541-2001,” *Library of Congress* (at: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/thanksgiving/timeline/1564.html>) (accessed on October 26, 2018).

¹¹⁸ Benson Lossing, *Our Country. A Household History of the United States* (New York: James A. Bailey, 1895), Vol. 1, pp. 181-182; see also “The Reverend Robert Hunt: The First Chaplain at Jamestown,” *National Park Service* (at <http://www.nps.gov/jame/historyculture/the-reverend-robert-hunt-the-first-chaplain-at-jamestown.htm>) (accessed on October 26, 2018).

¹¹⁹ “Berkeley Plantation,” *Berkeley Plantation* (at: <http://www.berkeleyplantation.com/>) (accessed on October 26, 2018).

¹²⁰ William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), p. 136.

¹²¹ William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), p. 134.

¹²² William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), pp. 134-135.

¹²³ Dr. Judd W. Patton, “The Pilgrim Story: Vital Insights and Lessons for Today,” *Bellevue University* (at: http://jpatton.bellevue.edu/biblical_economics/pilgrimstory.html) (accessed on September 6, 2018).

¹²⁴ William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), pp. 141-142n.

¹²⁵ William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), p. 142n.

¹²⁶ Nathaniel Morton, *New England's Memorial* (Cambridge: S.G. & M.J., 1669; reprinted, 1855), pp. 64-65; and Cotton Mather, *Magnalia Christi Americana: Or, the Ecclesiastical History of New England* (London: 1702), p. 11.

¹²⁷ Email received by WallBuilders on November 26, 2016, which listed:

1. Thanksgiving, a day of mourning for Native Americans: <https://www.salon.com/2016/11/23/thanksgiving-a-day-of-mourning-for-native-americans/>
2. American Indian Perspective on Thanksgiving: https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf
3. Do American Indians Celebrate Thanksgiving?: https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf
4. For Me, Thanksgiving Is A "Day Of Mourning": <https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2016/11/130572/day-of-mourning-thanksgiving-protest-native-americans>
5. First Thanksgiving: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/first-thanksgiving/>
6. The REAL Story of Thanksgiving Introduction for Teachers The Plymouth Thanksgiving Story: <https://www.manataka.org/page269.html>
7. For National Day of Mourning, Native Americans highlight their struggles: <https://www.metro.us/boston/for-national-day-of-mourning-american-indians-highlight-their-struggles/zsJpkv---Q2Rg789wZSCBU>
8. National Day of Mourning Reflects on Thanksgiving's Horrific, Bloody History: <https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2014/11/26/national-day-of-mourning-reflects-on-thanksgivings-horrific-bloody-history>
9. Why these Native Americans are spending Thanksgiving marching and mourning, not celebrating: <https://splinternews.com/why-these-native-americans-are-spending-thanksgiving-ma-1793863916>
10. National Day of Mourning: <http://www.uaine.org/>
11. Local Native Americans consider the history of Thanksgiving: https://pilotonline.com/life/article_982d6590-fe10-57c8-b0b3-170e4d743490.html

¹²⁸ For example, Samaset and Squanto are both mentioned in William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), pp. 93-95; Squanto is called Tisquantum in *Mourt's Relation, or Journal of the Planation at Plymouth* (Boston: John Kimball Wiggin, 1865), pp. 102, 106. *Mourt's Relation* also mentions Hobamak (also known as Hobbamock), p. 123.

¹²⁹ James Thacher, *History of the Town of Plymouth, from its First Settlement in 1620 to the Present Time* (Boston: Marsh, Capen & Lyon, 1835), p. 138.

¹³⁰ George Bancroft, *History of the United States* (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1848), Vol. I, pp. 350-351.

¹³¹ William Gammell, *Makers of American History: Roger Williams* (New York: The University Society, 1904), pp. 61-62.

¹³² G.H. Hollister, *The History of Connecticut, From the First Settlement of the Colony to the Adoption of the Present Constitution* (New Haven: Durrie & Peck, 1855), pp. 18-19, 96.

¹³³ Samuel M. Janney, *The Life of William Penn: With Selections from His Correspondence and Autobiography* (Philadelphia: Hogan, Perkins & Co., 1852), pp. 114-115, 427-428; and George Bancroft, *History of the Colonization of the United States* (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1844), Vol. II, pp. 381-382.

¹³⁴ Samuel M. Janney, *The Life of William Penn: With Selections from His Correspondence and Autobiography* (Philadelphia: Hogan, Perkins & Co., 1852), pp. 427-428.

¹³⁵ Jeremy Belknap, *The History of New Hampshire* (Dover, NH: J. Mann & JK Remick, 1812), pp. 16-17.

¹³⁶ John Warner Barber, *The History and Antiquities of New England, New York, and New Jersey* (Worcester: Dorr & Howland & Co, 1841), p. 66.

¹³⁷ W.H. Carpenter and T.S. Arthur, *History of New Jersey* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1853), pp. 25, 27-28.

¹³⁸ William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), p. 131.

¹³⁹ William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), pp. 351-352, 356-357.

¹⁴⁰ William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), pp. 349-361; and John Winthrop, *The History of New England from 1630 to 1649*, James Savage, editor (Boston: Phelps and Farnham, 1825), Vol. I, pp. 222-226.

¹⁴¹ See, for example, Dennis W. Zotigh, “Do American Indians Celebrate Thanksgiving?” *Huffington Post*, November 19, 2012 (at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dennis-w-zotigh/do-american-indians-celebrate-thanksgiving_b_2160786.html).

¹⁴² For an account of the non-involvement of the Pilgrims in the 1837 Pequot War, see: William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation* (Boston: 1856), pp. 355-356; and John Winthrop, *The History of New England from 1630 to 1649*, James Savage, editor (Boston: Phelps and Farnham, 1825), Vol. I, p. 226.

¹⁴³ See, for example, Alli Joseph, “Thanksgiving, a day of mourning for Native Americans,” *Salon*, November 23, 2016 (at: <http://www.salon.com/2016/11/23/thanksgiving-a-day-of-mourning-for-native-americans/>); Susan Bates, “The REAL Story of Thanksgiving,” *Manataka American Indian Council* (at: <https://www.manataka.org/page269.html>) (accessed on September 5, 2018); Matt Juul, “National Day of Mourning Reflects on Thanksgiving’s Horrific, Bloody History,” *boston.com*, November 26, 2014 (at: <https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2014/11/26/national-day-of-mourning-reflects-on-thanksgivings-horrific-bloody-history/>); and others.

¹⁴⁴ John Winthrop, *The History of New England from 1630 to 1649*, James Savage, editor (Boston: Phelps and Farnham, 1825), Vol. I, p. 226, entry for March 15, 1637.

¹⁴⁵ James D. Drake, *King Philip’s War: Civil War in New England 1675-1676* (MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1999), pp. 1, 30-31; and Daniel R. Mandell, *King Philip’s War: Colonial Expansion, Native Resistance, and the End of Indian Sovereignty* (MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010), pp. 27, 30; and Jill Lepore, *The Name of War: King Philip’s War and the Origins of American Identity* (Random House, 2009), “What’s in a Name?” More reputable writers have made similar claims. See, for example, Francis Jennings, *The Invasion of America; Indians, Colonialism, and the Cant of Conquest* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1975), pp. 128, 144-145; and *New England Encounters: Indians and Euroamericans ca. 1600-1850. Essays Drawn from The New England Quarterly*, Alden T. Vaughan, editor (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1999), pp. 61-64, David Bushnell, “The Treatment of the Indians in Plymouth Colony”; and Karen Ordahl Kupperman, *Indians and English: Facing Off in Early America* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2000), p. 239.

¹⁴⁶ James Thacher, *History of the Town of Plymouth, from its First Settlement in 1620 to the Present Time* (Boston: Marsh, Capen & Lyon, 1835), p. 138; and Abiel Holmes, *The Annals of America from the Discovery by Columbus in the Year 1492, to the Year 1826* (Cambridge: Hilliard & Brown, 1829), p. 383.

¹⁴⁷ See, for example, accounts such as:

- Franklin B. Hough, *A Narrative of the Causes which Led to Philip’s Indian War, of 1675 and 1676, by John Easton of Rhode Island* (Albany, NY: J. Munsell, 1863), pp. 143-144, an eyewitness account dated February 25, 1675: “Thomas Warner one of the two that came down from Albany and had been prisoner with the Indians who arrived here this morn, being examined, faith, that he was one of the persons that begin sent out from Hatfield where the English Army lay, to discover the enemy, but a party of Indians waylaid them, and shot down 5 of their company, and took 3 of which he and his comrade are two, the 3rd they put to death, the 9th was an Indian that came with them and escaped away. That the Indians lay still two days after they were taken, and then a party of about 30 with whom he was marched to a river to the north-east from thence about 80 miles called Oasuck, where about a fortnight after the rest of the army came to them, having in the mean time burnt two towns: they killed one of the prisoners presently after they had taken him, cutting a hole below his breast out of which they pulled his guts, and then cut off his head. That they put him so to death in the presence of him and his comrade, and threatred them also with the like. That they burnt his nails, and put his feet to scald them against the fire, and drove a stake through one of his feet to pin him to the ground. The stake about the bigness of his finger, this was about 2 days after he was taken.”
- John S. C. Abbott, *The History of King Philip* (Harper & Brothers, New York, 1857), pp. 317-318, where Abbott, using the words of Cotton Mather, describes Indian tortures: “They stripped these unhappy prisoners, and caused them to run the gauntlet, and whipped them after a cruel and bloody manner. They then threw hot ashes upon them, and, cutting off collops of their flesh, they put fire into their wounds, and so, with exquisite, leisurely, horrible torments, roasted them out of the world.”
- Richard Markham, *A Narrative History of King Philip’s War and the Indian Troubles in New England* (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1883), pp. 241-242, describing an event at the beginning of King Philip’s War: “A little after the middle of April [1676] Sudbury was attacked... Captain Wadsworth with fifty men had been dispatched from Boston that day to strengthen the garrison at Marlborough. After his company reached Marlborough, more than a score of miles from Boston, they learned that the

savages were on their way against Sudbury... A small party of Indians encountered them when about a mile from their destination, and withstood them for a short time, but yielding to their superior numbers retreated into the forest. Wadsworth and his men followed, but when they were well into the woods suddenly found themselves the centre of five hundred yelling demons, who attacked them on all sides. They made their way to the top of a hill close at hand, and for four hours fought resolutely, losing but five men, for the savages had suffered severely in the first hand-to-hand attack, and feared to come to close quarters. As night came on the enemy set fire to the woods to the windward of their position. The leaves were dry as tinder, and a strong wind was blowing. The flames and smoke rolled up upon the devoted band, threatening their instant destruction. Stifled and scorched, they were forced to leave the hill in disorder. The Indians came upon them so like so many tigers, and outnumbering them ten to one in the confusion slew nearly all. Wadsworth himself was slain. Some few were taken prisoners, and that night were made to run the gauntlet, and after that were put to death by torture.”

¹⁴⁸ See, for example, J.W. Barber, *United States Book; Or, Interesting Events in the History of the United States* (New Haven: L.H. Young, 1834), p. 53; and *Methodist Quarterly Review: 1858*, D.D. Whedon, editor (New York: Carlton & Porter, 1858), Vol. XL, pp. 244-245.

¹⁴⁹ Gustav Warneck, *Outline of a History of Protestant Mission from the Reformation to the Present Time* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1903), p. 165.

¹⁵⁰ J.W. Barber, *United States Book; Or, Interesting Events in the History of the United States* (New Haven: L.H. Young, 1834), p. 53n; and John S. C. Abbott, *History of King Philip* (Harper & Brothers, New York, 1857), pp. 171-172.

¹⁵¹ J.W. Barber, *United States Book; Or, Interesting Events in the History of the United States* (New Haven: L.H. Young, 1834), pp. 53-54; and Richard Markham, *A Narrative History of King Philip's War and the Indian Troubles in New England* (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1883), pp. 109-110.

¹⁵² Franklin B. Hough, *A Narrative of the Causes which Led to Philip's Indian War, of 1675 and 1676*, by John Easton of Rhode Island (Albany, NY: J. Munsell, 1863), p. 42, a letter dated June 29, 1675, pp. 176-177, “Record of a Court Martial, Held at Newport, R.I. in August, 1676, for the Trial of Indians charged with begin engaged in Philip's Designs”; and William Hubbard, *A Narrative of the Indian Wars in New-England from the First Planting Thereof, in the Year 1607, to the Year 1677* (Danbury: Stiles Nichols, 1803), p. 64, notes from a meeting of the commissioners of the united colonies held at Boston, Sept. 9, 1675, pp. 77-78.

¹⁵³ National Park Service, “Frequently Asked Questions,” *Roger Williams National Memorial Rhode Island* (at: <https://www.nps.gov/rowi/faqs.htm>) (accessed on October 26, 2018). See also Welcome Arnold Greene, *The Providence Plantations for Two Hundred and Fifty Years. An Historical Review of the Foundation, Rise, and Progress of the City of Providence* (Providence, RI: J.A & R.A. Reid, 1886), p. 42.

¹⁵⁴ William Gammell, *Makers of American History: Roger Williams* (New York: The University Society, 1904), pp. 61-62.

¹⁵⁵ Romeo Elton, *Life of Roger Williams* (New York: G.P. Putnam, 1852), pp. 21, 33-34, 39-41, 44-45.

¹⁵⁶ *Methodist Quarterly Review: 1858*, D.D. Whedon, editor (New York: Carlton & Porter, 1858), Vol. XL, pp. 244-245; and John S.C. Abbott, *The History of King Philip* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1857), pp. 187-190, 216. Some specific accounts recorded by the Rev. John Holmes (*Historical Sketches of the Missions of the United Brethren*, New York: Harper & Brothers, 1857), include p. 210, “With a view to execute their horrid purpose, the young Indians got together, chose the most ferocious to be their leaders, deposed all the old Chiefs, and guarded the whole Indian assembly, as if they were prisoners of war, especially the aged of both sexes. The venerable old Chief Tettepachsit was the first whom they accused of possession poison, and having destroyed many Indians by his art. When the poor old man would not confess, they fastened with cords to two posts and began to roast him at a slow fire.”; pp. 210-211, “During this torture, he [Chief Tettepachsit] said, that he kept poison in the house of our Indian brother Joshua. Nothing was more welcome to the savages than this accusation, for they wished to deprive us of the assistance of this man, who was the only Christian Indian residing with us at that time... We knew nothing of these horrible events, until the evening of the 16th, when a message was brought that the savages had burned an old woman to death, who had been baptized by the Brethren in former times, and also that our poor Joshua was kept close prisoner.”; p. 139, “Their external troubles, however, did not yet terminate. They had not only a kind of tax imposed upon them to show their dependence on the Iroquois, but the following very singular message was sent them: “The great head, i.e., the Council in Onondago, speak the truth and lie not: they rejoice that some of the believing Indians have moved to Wayomik, but now they lift up the remaining Mahikans and Delawares, and set them down also in Wayomik; for there a fire is kindled for them, and there they may plant and think on God: but if

they will not hear, the great head will come and clean their ears with a red-hot iron (meaning they would set their houses on fire) and shoot them through the head with musquet-balls.”

¹⁵⁷ Increase Mather, *The History of King Philip's War* (Albany: J. Munsell, 1862), pp. 49-50, 127-128, 184; and Henry William Elson, *History of the United States of America* (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1904), p. 122; and George Madison Bodge, *Soldiers in King Philip's War* (Boston: 1906), pp. 34, 37, 104.

¹⁵⁸ John S.C. Abbott, *The History of King Philip* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1857), p. 361.

¹⁵⁹ John Fiske, *The Beginnings of New England* (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1890), p. 240.

¹⁶⁰ James David Drake, *King Philip's War: Civil War in New England, 1675-1676* (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1999), pp. 1–15.

¹⁶¹ See, for example, George Bancroft, *History of the United States* (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1848), Vol. II, p. 99.

¹⁶² See, for example, “George Bancroft,” *Encyclopedia Britannica* (at: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/George-Bancroft-American-historian>) (accessed on October 26, 2018).

¹⁶³ George Bancroft, *History of the United States* (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1848), Vol. II, p. 99.

¹⁶⁴ William Garrott Brown, *Andrew Jackson* (New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1900), pp. 130-131; and William Graham Sumner, *American Statesmen: Andrew Jackson* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company, 1899), pp. 224-229.

¹⁶⁵ See, for example, the Cherokee nation in Georgia, the Sioux nation in the Dakotas, and the Apaches in the southwest. Georgia wanted land so passed laws dividing Cherokee land up in various counties and put those lands in control of the state. Andrew Jackson, the president at that time, did not interfere with the Georgia laws and would not enforce or support the Supreme Court's decision that declared this Georgia law unconstitutional. (See William Garrott Brown, *Andrew Jackson* (New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1900), pp. 130-131.) The federal government promised to remain off Sioux land in the Dakota territory but when gold was found on those lands, they reversed this position; the land dispute is still ongoing. (See “Sioux Treaty of 1868,” *National Archives*, September 23, 2016 (at: <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/sioux-treaty>); and “History of the Black Hills,” *National Park Service*, February 16, 2018. The Yavapai and Tonto Apaches were forced to march over 150 miles to another location because settlers wanted their land for development. (See “Yavapai and Tonto Apaches,” *National Park Service*, August 25, 2017 (at: https://www.nps.gov/tont/learn/historyculture/yavapai_and_apache.htm)).