

## Welcome Aboard *Mayflower II*

The original *Mayflower* set sail from Plymouth, England in September 1620. There were 102 passengers aboard the 180-ton ship. The beginning of the Atlantic crossing was pleasant, though many were seasick. Then followed a period of storms and crosswinds that cracked a main beam 'tween decks and caused the upper works to leak badly. The conditions raised questions about *Mayflower's* capacity to finish the voyage. Christopher Jones, the ship's master and part owner, felt the ship was fundamentally sound and pressed on.

Cape Cod was sighted on November 9, 1620, and two days later, after 66 days at sea, *Mayflower* anchored in what is today Provincetown Harbor. That day, most of the male passengers signed the famous agreement now known as the *Mayflower Compact*. In April 1621 *Mayflower* left for England with none of the colonists choosing to return home.

Built between 1955 and 1957, *Mayflower II* is a reproduction of a late 16th-century English merchant ship of the same size as the original *Mayflower*. She sailed to Plymouth, Massachusetts from Plymouth, England in 1957. Over 50 years old, she continually undergoes maintenance and restoration by the Museum's Maritime Artisans. Thanks to this care, *Mayflower II* is seaworthy and sets sail every few years as a special event.

While aboard *Mayflower II*, explore the three decks of the ship and talk to costumed role players, modern Museum Guides, and Maritime Artisans about the history surrounding both the 1620 and 1957 voyages. Enjoy the dockside exhibits that tell the stories of *Mayflower* and *Mayflower II*. And be sure to visit our newest exhibit – the Plimoth Grist Mill – just a brief walk through Brewster Gardens, as well as Plimoth Plantation's 17th-Century English Village, Wampanoag Homesite and Craft Center located 2½ miles south on Route 3A.

### Why did the Pilgrims create the *Mayflower Compact*?

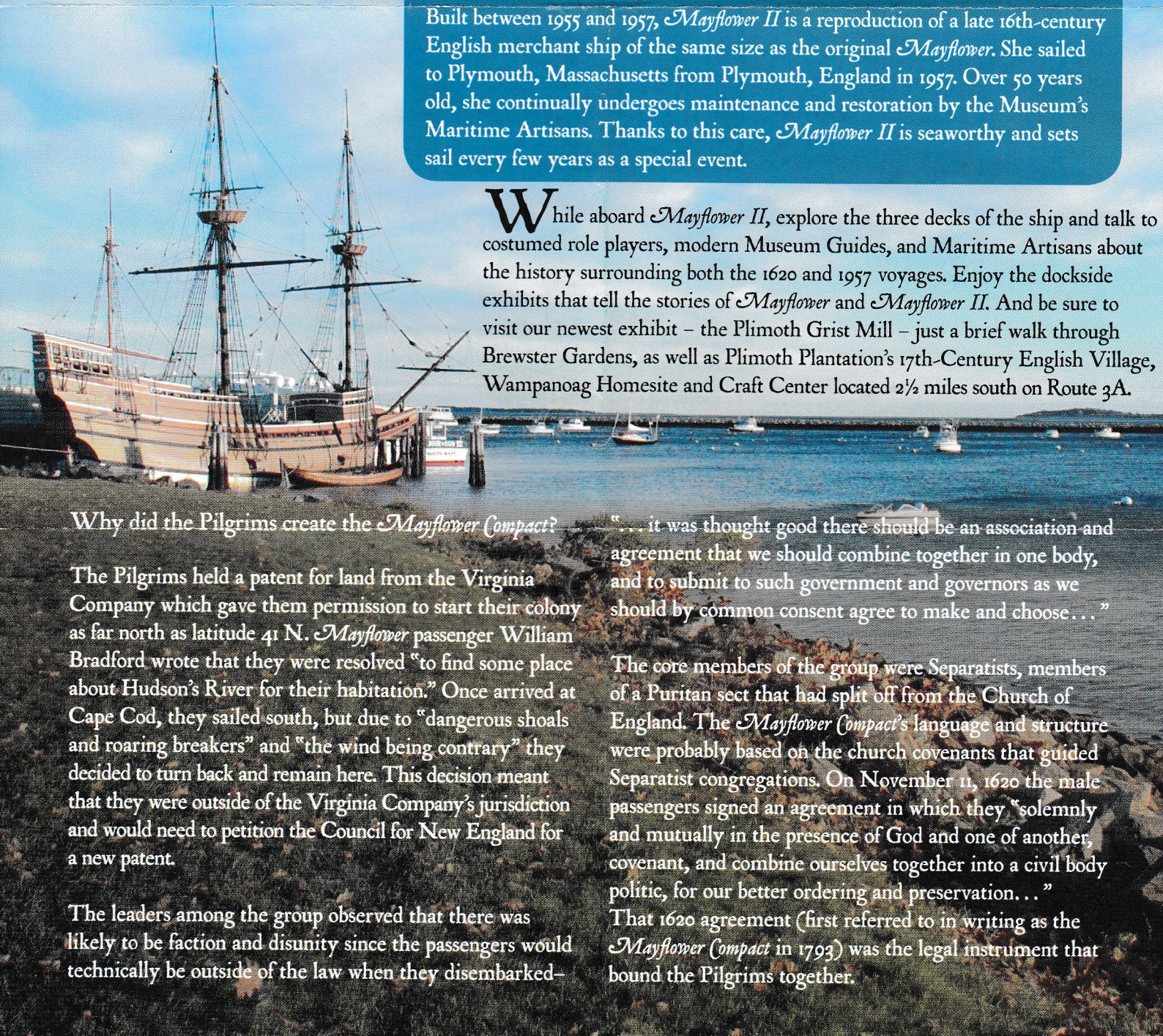
The Pilgrims held a patent for land from the Virginia Company which gave them permission to start their colony as far north as latitude 41 N. *Mayflower* passenger William Bradford wrote that they were resolved "to find some place about Hudson's River for their habitation." Once arrived at Cape Cod, they sailed south, but due to "dangerous shoals and roaring breakers" and "the wind being contrary" they decided to turn back and remain here. This decision meant that they were outside of the Virginia Company's jurisdiction and would need to petition the Council for New England for a new patent.

The leaders among the group observed that there was likely to be faction and disunity since the passengers would technically be outside of the law when they disembarked—

"... it was thought good there should be an association and agreement that we should combine together in one body, and to submit to such government and governors as we should by common consent agree to make and choose..."

The core members of the group were Separatists, members of a Puritan sect that had split off from the Church of England. The *Mayflower Compact's* language and structure were probably based on the church covenants that guided Separatist congregations. On November 11, 1620 the male passengers signed an agreement in which they "solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant, and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation..."

That 1620 agreement (first referred to in writing as the *Mayflower Compact* in 1793) was the legal instrument that bound the Pilgrims together.



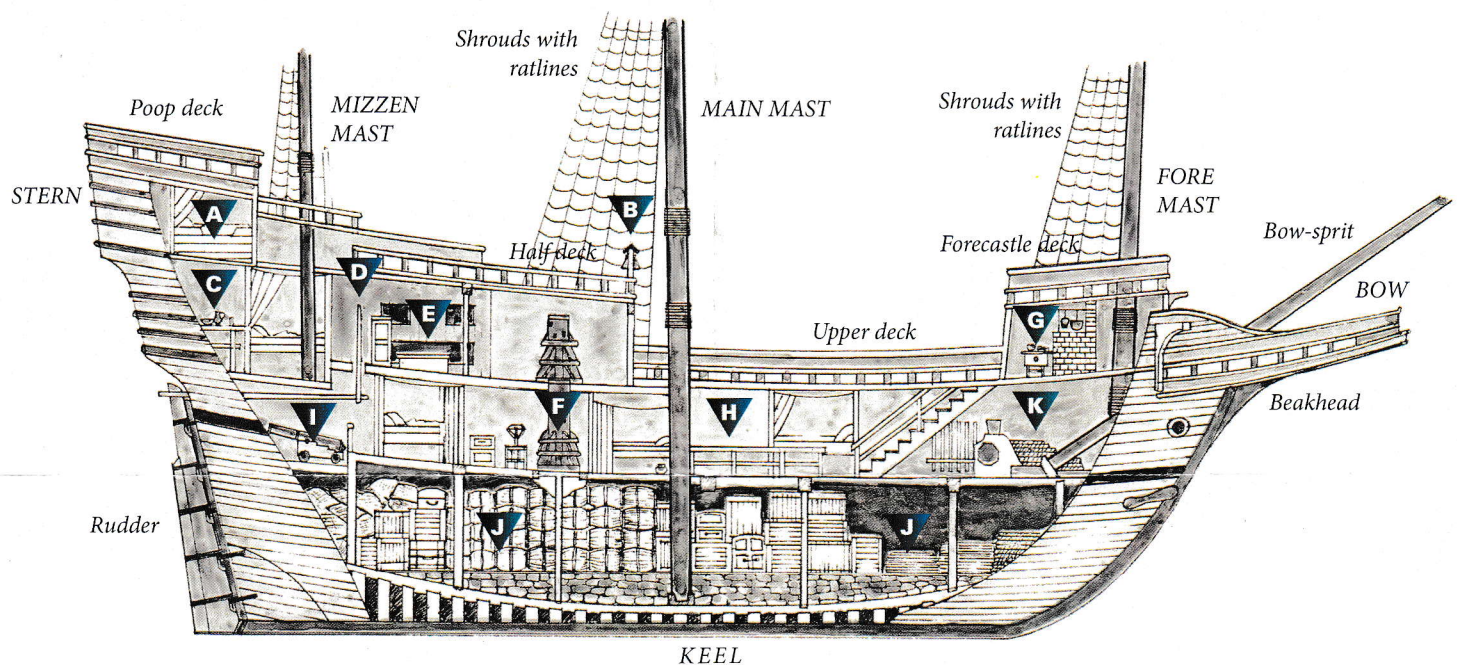
# Mayflower II

## DIMENSIONS OF MAYFLOWER II:

Length Overall = 136 feet

Length on Deck = 90 feet

Beam = 25½ feet



- A.** The Round House or chartroom where the ship's progress was planned and plotted.
- B.** The Ship's Bell was rung to mark the time of the watch, with one to eight strokes at each half-hour of the four hours. It was also used to signal an emergency.
- C.** The Great Cabin housed the Master (commander) of the ship.
- D.** The Whipstaff or the ship's helm, located on the main deck, was a long lever used to move the tiller below, which in turn moved the rudder to steer the ship. The helmsman steered by the compass according to the orders from an officer on the Half Deck above.
- E.** Steerage housed the whipstaff and some of the officers. The hatch and ladder forward of the binnacle—a wooden box that holds a compass—provided access to the lower decks.
- F.** The Capstan was a type of winch used to hoist cargo and other heavy loads. It was fitted with holes into which long bars were inserted. By pushing on the bars, sailors hauled in a rope wound around the capstan, moving the load up or down.
- G.** The Forecastle or Fo'c'sle housed the cook-room and the crewmen. Meals were prepared on the furnace. A hatch gave access to the lower deck and doors led forward. (Visual access only.)
- H.** The Lower Deck was where the passengers traveled and where the shallow—a workboat—was stored during the voyage. Animals were kept here as well.
- I.** The Gun Room housed both the Master Gunner and some of the ship's guns.
- J.** The Hold was the main cargo space. It held most of the passengers' household goods, tools and supplies as well as the ship's store of food, cordage, canvas, gunpowder, etc. (Visual access only.)
- K.** The Windlass was a type of winch used for raising anchors.

## Become a Member

Receive unlimited free admission, enjoy members-only programs, and experience savings of historic proportions in our shops and café. Inquire at the Ticket Booth. You may apply today's Museum admission ticket receipt towards your membership.

## Watch Your Step

Please watch your footing and use the handrails when boarding and touring *Mayflower II*. Surfaces may be slippery in cold or wet weather.

## Make Your Memories Last

Feel free to take pictures or make video and audio recordings during your visit. Our guests' pictures and recordings are intended only for personal keepsakes. If you would like to use these images in publications or for commercial purposes, please contact [pr@plimoth.org](mailto:pr@plimoth.org) or call 508-746-1622 ext. 8206.

## Take Home Something Special

The *Mayflower* Museum Shops, located along your walk to Plymouth Rock, feature educational materials related to our mission as well as hand-made 17th-century reproductions and specialty products made locally in New England. We have something for everyone in all price ranges. You can find traditional souvenirs such as postcards and magnets here too.

## Stay Connected

The Museum's website [www.plimoth.org](http://www.plimoth.org) has information about our fun and educational programs, seasonal and themed dining experiences and online shopping. Stay in touch—join our social media community! You can also reach us at 508-746-1622 between 9 am and 5 pm EST.