Of Plymouth Plantation

William Bradford
William Bradford…

• was Plymouth’s governor for more than 30 years. When John Carver, Plymouth Colony's first governor, died suddenly in April 1621, Bradford was unanimously elected to replace him. He was reelected 30 times.

• wrote History of Plymouth Plantation, 1620-1647, first printed in full in 1856
William Bradford...

- traveled with other Puritans on the Mayflower
- provided the strong, steady leadership that kept the tiny Plymouth community alive.
- Established good relations with Native Americans
Grave of William Bradford

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WILLIAM
BRADFORD
of Austerfield
Yorkshire
England was the
son of William
and Alice Bradford.
He was Governor of
Plymouth Colony
from 1621 to 1633;
1635
1637
1639 to 1643
1645 to 1657

Under this stone
rest the ashes of
William Bradford
a zealous puritan &
sincere Christian
Governor of Ply. Col. from
April 1621 to 1657,
(they year he died
aged 69)
except 5 yrs.
which he declined.

Our patres difficilimine
adempitant nobis
turne te reliquere.
Of Plymouth Plantation

- Written in plain, simple style now known as the “Puritan” style.
- Recounts the hardships and triumphs of the Pilgrims in the New World.
- Shows Puritan belief that one should be happy for what one has, regardless of how difficult the circumstances are.
Themes in OPP

- concept of community pervades the entire text
- relationship between sacred and secular history
- cycles of disappointment and success
- resolve, sadness, and humility
The Mayflower

• Sept. 16, 1620 - the *Mayflower* set sail from Holland. Her 102 passengers spent 65 days at sea.

• *Mayflower* dropped anchor near present-day Provincetown on Nov. 21, 1620, and 41 male passengers signed the Mayflower Compact, an agreement to enact "just and equal laws for the general good of the colony." The Pilgrims finally landed at the site of present-day Plymouth, Mass., on Dec. 26, 1620.
The Mayflower Compact

• Document signed by Pilgrim men aboard the Mayflower, on Nov. 21, 1620, before the Plymouth landing. It was modeled after a Separatist church covenant, by which they agreed to establish a temporary government and to be bound by its laws.
Plymouth Colony

• Plymouth Colony, was the first permanent Puritan settlement in America
• During the first winter more than half of the settlers died as a result of poor nutrition and inadequate housing, but the colony survived due in part to the able leadership of John Carver, William Bradford, William Brewster, Myles Standish, and Edward Winslow.