

Text of Plaque Commemorating Metacomet (King Philip) in Plymouth Massachusetts' Post Office Square

After the Pilgrims' arrival, Native Americans in New England grew increasingly frustrated with the English settlers' abuse and treachery. Metacomet (King Philip), a son of the Wampanoag sachem known as the Massasoit (Ousamequin), called upon all Native people to unite to defend their homelands against encroachment. The resulting "King Philip's War" lasted from 1675-1676. Metacomet was murdered in Rhode Island in August 1676, and his body was mutilated. His head was impaled on a pike and was displayed near this site for more than 20 years. One hand was sent to Boston, the other to England. Metacomet's wife and son, along with the families of many of the Native American combatants, were sold into slavery in the West Indies by the English victors.

Text of Plaque on Cole's Hill, Plymouth Massachusetts

Since 1970, Native Americans have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native Americans do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers. To them, Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of their people, the theft of their lands, and the relentless assault on their culture. Participants in a National Day of Mourning honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native Americans continue to experience.

<https://mayflowermavericks.wordpress.com>

@MayflowerM1620

Mayflower Mavericks



Mayflower 400 : Stop Sanitising History

The English colonisation of North America involved

Wars

Enslavement

Slave Trading

Genocide

Land Grabbing

'The Doctrine of Discovery'



Sanitising History in Plymouth

'Every child in Plymouth will know the story of the Mayflower'

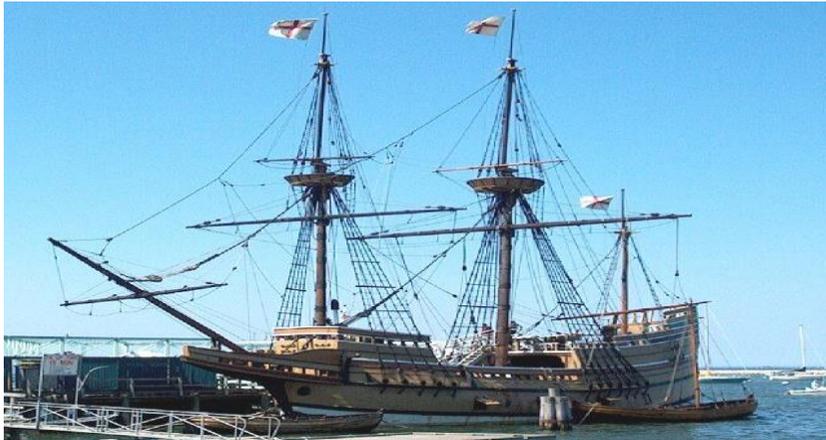
(Plymouth Council Scrutiny committee, 16/03/2016)

But it should be the FULL story of the founding of New England

The Caribbean Connection – Feeding the slaves

The colonies of New England were founded on land forcibly taken from the Indigenous Nations of the region.

The land they seized was used to establish a successful economy through trade with the British Caribbean slave colonies.



Write a letter; pass a motion 2019

I/We am/are writing to you to express my/our grave concern over the school education programme of Mayflower 400, which appears to be presented on your website as now finalised. As the commencement date of the 28th November 2019 for Mayflower 400 Commemorations approaches, hardly anything of substance has been done to ensure that issues of colonialism and slavery in North America and the Caribbean are to be covered by teaching and subject guidance and educational materials.

As you will be aware, large scale land appropriation, war, slavery and slave trading are central not marginal issues to the teaching of British colonial history in the Americas.

Starting with the Plymouth Mayflower Museum in 2015, and continuing with documents posted on your website, the preparations for the Mayflower 400 commemorations are conspicuous by the absence of slavery and the Caribbean and the marginalisation of 300 years of colonial massacres and land grabbing. These omissions and acts of sanitisation, coupled with the misleading and obsessive focus on the 'Pilgrim Fathers', act to de-contextualise events. This is not what history education should be.

Though you have chosen to adopt the colonial narrative about the Mayflower journey for your education project, perhaps you are not aware of how controversial and excluding this approach is as you have also expressed a wish to have inclusive commemorations.

I/we am/are writing to you to propose that you suspend your education project as a matter of urgency, until the views and narratives of Indigenous American, African American, and Caribbean groups in relation to Mayflower are sought. I/we would be grateful if you could address our concerns.

Write to: <https://www.mayflower400uk.org/about/contact-us/>
Heather.Ogburn@plymouth.gov.uk; Tom.Cox@plymouth.gov.uk;
Judith.Harwood@plymouth.gov.uk; amanda.lumley@plymouth.gov.uk

Buy a copy of "Telling the Mayflower Story: Thanksgiving or Land Grabbing, Massacres & Slavery?"

£4 including p&p [£5 outside UK] Email s.cushion23@gmail.com

You will be able to pay by cheque or by PayPal

A Socialist History Society publication
