

American Studies 335
New England
M, TH 3:30 - 4:50
GHH 109
Roger Williams University
Spring Semester 2010

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Week of February 8, 2010

News Flash!!

A version of [New England's Prospect](#) is now available online courtesy of Google Books. (Google does everything, doesn't it?) The version is the version published by the Prince Society in 1865, which is a facsimile of the original publication. Take a look at it, and enjoy it for the old style printing and spelling, as well as for the woodcuts which decorate it. You'll see what a favor Dr. Vaughan has done for you. I'd be curious whether you're recommend relying on this version in future offerings of the course, or whether I should continue using the Vaughn edition. What do you think?

For *Monday, February 8*

Read, in *Wood*,

Part I, Chapters 10-12, pp. 57-74

Note the number of "plantations" Wood mentions. This will become significant as you begin to investigate town formation in early New England in the next unit of the course. In fact, why not make a list of them. (Lists help focus the mind).

The link takes you to the website of a private wildlife sanctuary. Prowl around the website to see what kinds of information it contains (and what it doesn't contain) which surprises you.

It was established by a private individual and you will want to think about the motivation behind its establishment.

For *Thursday, February 11*

Download

Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth .

READ. *Chapter I. A Relation or Iornall of the Proceedings of the Plantation Settled at Plimoth in New England.* pp. 1 - 40 (p. 159-as Adobe Acrobat counts them.)

It is more difficult for me to explain what I want you to do than it will be for you to do it. This reading actually constitutes the first forty pages of the actual Mourt's Relation, minus its dedication and original introduction. (Read those, if you want. It will be good for you.) The place where all this starts in the Adobe

version is on p. 62. All the material previous constitutes covers, the frontispieces and various editors introductions.

Pages 62-159, covers a lot more than forty pages. Yes it does. BUT most of the extra length is made up of extensive--VERY extensive footnotes added by the nineteenth century editors. The notes are longer than the actual text. you'll be able to tell the difference: the notes are in double columns, the text in single columns. You're responsible for the single column materials only.

For years I provided a version of Mourt's Relation provided by Caleb Johnson, a descendant of the Pilgrims who came over on the Mayflower. He had his own website provided by AOL, and provided there a mammoth collection of materials related to the first New England Settlement. Alas, AOL no longer hosts websites, and I haven't found where Mr. Johnson is currently hiding. Google to the rescue!

Much as Google provides the facsimile version of Wood to which I point you above, it also provides a facsimile version of Mourt. So you're going to have a chance to read those long esses and other strange typography after all. Lucky you. Mourt's Relation is a compound effort, written by several Pilgrims, among them William Bradford and Edward Winslow, and it records events at Plymouth from the Mayflower's arrival in November 1620 through the First Thanksgiving in October 1621. The download is a long one. Unfortunately the book isn't divided. The first section is a series of introductions--you can skip these nineteenth century editors' remarks unless you have a special interest in that sort of thing.

We're going to spend some time comparing the way the Pilgrims of Plymouth and the Puritans of Boston encountered their new environments. The two places are not far apart as distance is concerned, and about a decade separates the dates of the first organized settlements. So what differences and similarities can we note about the way these two English groups encountered their new environments