



WOMPATUCK NEWS

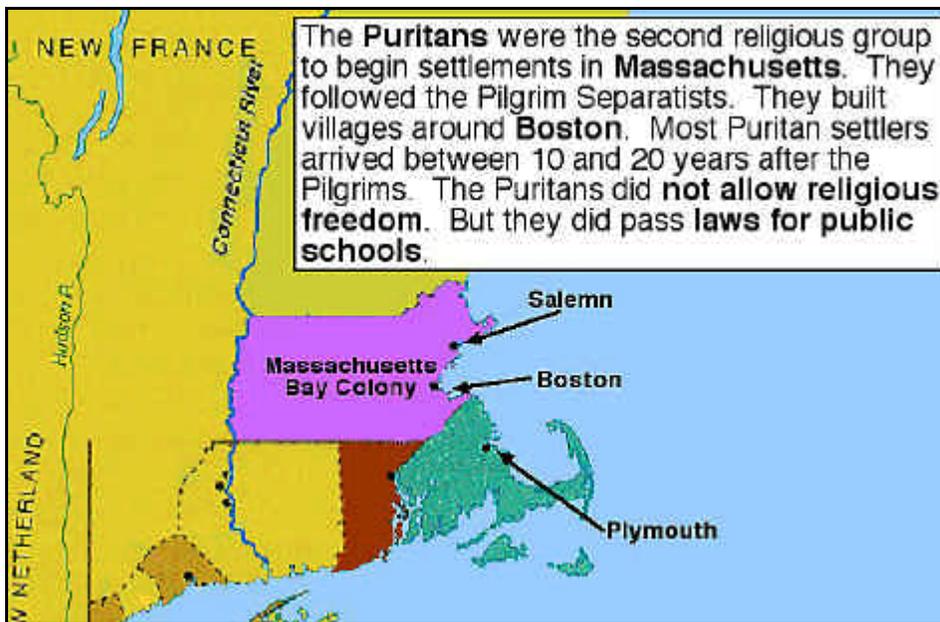
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Friends of Wompatuck State Park

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|  |  |
| William Bradford | John Winthrop |
| Pilgrims | Puritans |
| Few | Many |
| Early (1620) | Later (1629-30) |
| Poor class | Upper middle class |
| Uneducated | Educated |
| Separatists from state church | Loyal |
| Settled in Plymouth | Salem, Boston |
| William Bradford, William Brewster | John Winthrop, John Endicott |

Pilgrim and Puritan traits.



Map showing the territory of the Puritans and Pilgrims. The border separating the two was established in 1630. Remnants of the rock wall border are still standing in the park today.

Puritans, Pilgrims and the Wall

By Jim Rose, FOW News Editor and Historian

With President Trump promising to build a “big, beautiful wall” at the Mexican border, Wompatuck State Park holds a far different variety in its back woods. It’s a stone wall built in the 1600s that separated the Puritans and the Pilgrims.

Pilgrims and Puritans played a significant role in American history. The Pilgrims landed first in 1620, following a journey from Holland aboard the Mayflower. They settled in Plymouth after a hard journey across the ocean. Of the 102 original passengers, half didn’t survive the first winter.

On the other hand, the Puritans arrived around 1629 and settled in Massachusetts Bay, mainly in and around Boston. They came in many ships and outnumbered the Pilgrims. They were better fed, clothed and ed-

ucated.

Both Puritans and Pilgrims originated from the Anglican Church of England. They are part of Puritanism, an activist movement after the English Reformation of the 16th century.

Puritanism teaches strict religious disciplines, the simplification of religious rituals, belief that salvation is by grace alone, Christ is the center of faith, and looking to the Scriptures as the final authority on religious matters and behavior.

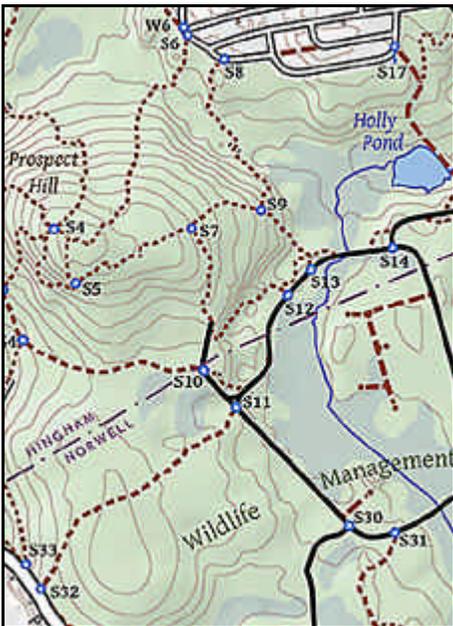
Both groups look into the Scriptures as a guide in their lives through reading, examining, and interpreting the Bible. As a result, this encouraged education and knowledge via reading, comprehension, and at times, preaching.

Puritans are a group of people

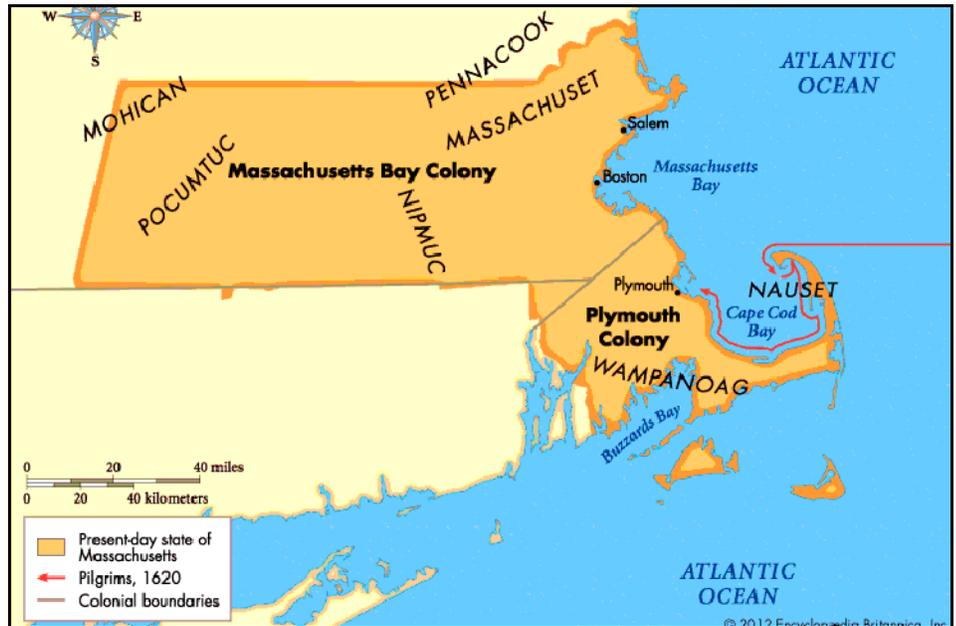
formed under the leadership of John Foxe. He authored a book entitled “*Book of Martyrs*” that urges one to live the virtues of Christianity. This notion is propagated after the famous actions of Reverend Martin Luther and King Henry VIII’s declaration as the Supreme Head of the Anglican Church.

Puritans are inherently reformers. Their aim is to reform the Anglican Church from within. They believed in a theocratic relationship in Church and State matters. Some of their many ideal reforms never materialized and resulted in the creation of the Pilgrims.

The Pilgrims are Puritans who believe that they should not compromise in the definite separation of Church and State affairs.



Rock wall follows Hingham border at S10.



Native American tribes in the 1600s.

Puritans, Pilgrims and the Wall (cont.)

Due to conflicting interests and beliefs, these Puritans, who called themselves Pilgrims, were discontented and decided to leave England and form their own churches.

Pilgrims are also commonly referred to as Separatists. They were led by Robert Browne, who also authored a book called *“Reformation Without Tarrying for Any.”*

As people, Pilgrims and Puritans are also different. Puritans stressed education and religion. They are slightly higher in the social standing with a good academic education. Meanwhile, Pilgrims are working people or yeomen.

In the area of governance and community, there is also a major difference. The Pilgrims practiced and lived a form of democracy in their community. They developed a covenant that resembles today’s democracy. Leaders and members are equals, and there is the strict separation of Church and State.

This is opposite of the Puritan system which is a form of theocracy. They retained the English system wherein leaders have a divine right to rule with authority. The Church and State issues overlapped each other.

Pilgrims and Puritans left different legacies in United States history. Pilgrims started Thanksgiving, a tradition that commemorates camaraderie, cooperation and thankfulness, while Puritans are renowned for witch trials, hangings and burning people at the stake on suspicion of witchcraft or heresy.

In summary, Pilgrims and Puritans have a similar ancestry, shared history, and goals. The Puritans are the original group which strived to bring back simplicity and virtue in Christianity. They believed the Church of England should be purified. On the other hand, Pilgrims are the Separatists who were once Puritans but were discontent at reforms. They wanted to leave the



Puritan/Pilgrim wall at junction marker S10.

Church of England. Both groups look to the Scriptures as their final authority on religion and not the clergy.

Pilgrims practiced a form of democracy in their community comprised of working men. On the other hand, Puritans are higher in the social and economic status with their theocracy of being accountable ultimately to God as their form of governance.

Chief Wompatuck was probably educated by the Puritans since he was of the Massachuset tribe situated around Boston.

The rock wall in the park that separated the Puritans from the Pilgrims can be seen at the foot of Prospect Hill at junction marker S10. It basically follows the town lines of Hingham, Norwell and Scituate.

An excellent book that covers the period is Nathaniel Philbrook’s *“Mayflower, a Story of Courage Community and War.”*

For a dramatization of the Puritan mentality, the play *“The Crucible”* by Arthur Miller is a compelling semi-factual account of the Salem witch trials. It was also made into a movie in 1996 starring Daniel Day-Lewis. ■