

The Mayflower Compact and the Pilgrim Memorial

Report on a section of Descendants of Thomas Margeson: Our Family History (1970s family history book). Book pages: pp. 3, 5-6 (reprinted text). Topics: Mayflower Compact; Plymouth memorial.

The family history reproduces Governor Bradford's copy of the Mayflower Compact as preserved in his History of Plymouth Plantation, together with a list of the known signatures. The Compact, signed on November 11, 1620, bound the signers into a civil body politic to frame just and equal laws for the general good of the colony.

The book also reproduces the inscription of the Pilgrims' Memorial at Plymouth, Massachusetts, beneath which the Pilgrims who died the first year were buried at night so that the Indians would not learn how many had died. A second inscription names Edmund Margeson as one of the signers who did not live to see his dreams realized, and says that his remains rest with the others beneath the memorial sarcophagus.

The page is presented as a keepsake for the family, with the reminder to give thanks to God and to the Pilgrims when visiting the site. The editor's own comment is that the Margeson story, though it begins with Edmund, is carried forward by descendants of later immigrants.

This report is a summary written for Holden's Archive (holdens-archive.org) from the family history book. Names, dates and places follow the book as printed; the book's OCR text contains some unclear figures, so verify key facts against the original.