

HOMES IN THE WILDERNESS

A PILGRIM'S JOURNAL OF
PLYMOUTH PLANTATION IN 1620



by William Bradford and Others
of the Mayflower Company
edited by Margaret Wise Brown



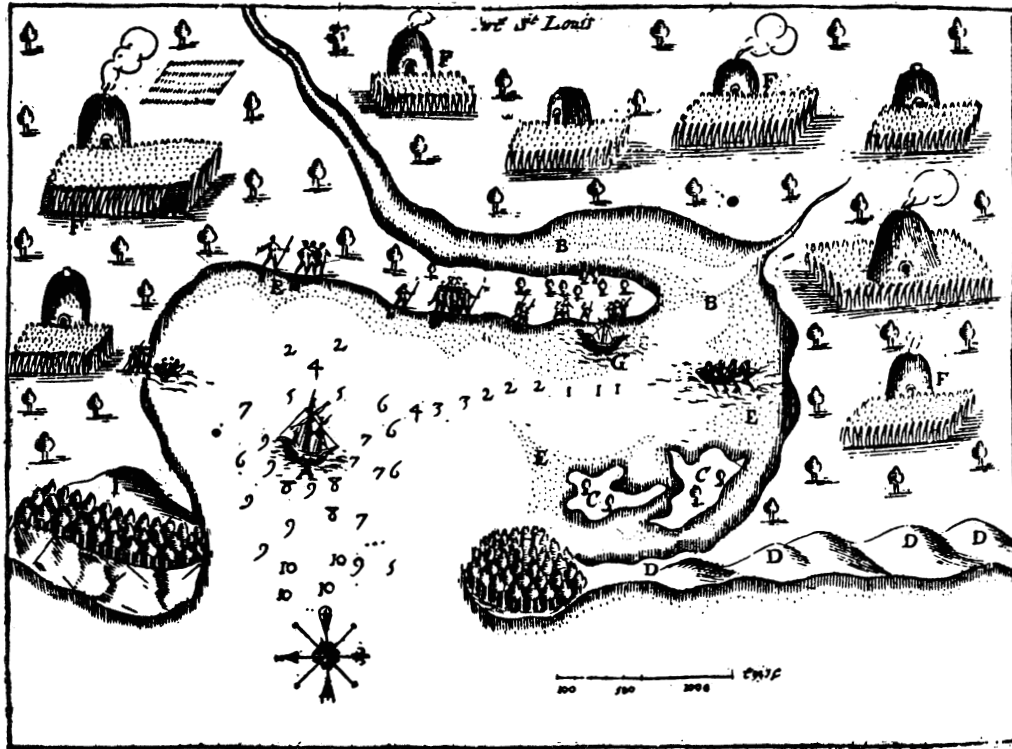
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CHAMPLAIN'S MAP OF PLYMOUTH HARBOR IN 1605

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Written by William Bradford and others in 1620 and 1621
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Illustrated by Mary Wilson Stewart in 1939
Cover map of New England in 1685 from the David Rumsey Map Collection
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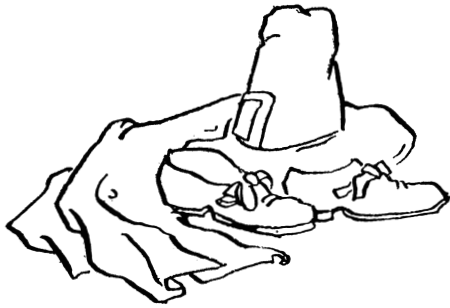
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Homes in the Wilderness was first published at London in 1622 as *A Relation or Journal of the Proceedings of the Plantation settled at Plymouth in New England*. The book is commonly called *Mourt's Relation* because the preface is signed G. Mourt., and no other indication of authorship is given. There was, however, no such person as Mourt or Morton among the Mayflower's company, and it is now believed that Governor Bradford, Edward Winslow, and others of the colonists kept this journal.

For this edition the old language has been somewhat modernized, but every effort has been made to preserve the flavor of the original vigorous King James English. The book has been retitled *Homes in the Wilderness* because the old title is unwieldy and fails to suggest the dramatic struggle of this gallant company of a hundred who made their homes in the wilderness.





THE MAYFLOWER'S PASSENGERS

John Carver (8).
 Catherine, his wife.
 Desire Minter.
 John Howland, } men-
 Roger Wilder, } servants.
 William Latham, } boys.
 Jasper More, }
 A maid-servant.

William Bradford (2).
 Dorothy, his wife.

Edward Winslow (5).
 Elizabeth, his wife.
 George Soule, } men-
 Elias Story, } servants.
 Ellen More.

William Brewster (6).
 Mary, his wife.
 Love, } sons.
 Wrestling, }
 Richard More, } boys.
 — More, }

Isaac Allerton (6).
 Mary, his wife.
 Bartholomew, }
 Remember, } children.
 Mary, }
 John Hooke, boy.

Miles Standish (2).
 Rose, his wife.

John Alden (1).

Samuel Fuller (1). [His servant,
 William Butten, died at sea.]

Christopher Martin (4).
 —, his wife.
 Solomon Prower, } men-
 John Langemore, } servants.

William Mullins (5).
 —, his wife.
 Joseph, } children.
 Priscilla, }
 Robert Carter, servant.

William White (5).
 Susanna, his wife.
 Resolved, son.
 William Holbeck, } men-
 Edward Thomson, } servants.

Richard Warren (1).

Stephen Hopkins (8).
 Elizabeth, his wife.
 Giles, }
 Constance, } chil-
 Damaris, } dren.
 Oceanus, born at sea. }
 Edward Doten, } men-
 Edward Leister, } servants.

Edward Tilley (4).
 Ann, his wife.
 Henry Samson, } children in
 Humility Cooper, } their care.

John Tilley (3).
 —, his wife.
 Elizabeth, daughter.

Francis Cook (2).
 John, his son.

Thomas Rogers (2).
 Joseph, his son.

Thomas Tinker (3).
 —, his wife.
 —, son.

John Ridgdale (2).
 Alice, his wife.

Edward Fuller (3).

Ann, his wife.
 Samuel, son.

John Turner (3).
 —, } sons.
 —, }

Francis Eaton (3).
 Sarah, his wife.
 Samuel, son.

James Chilton (3).
 —, his wife.
 Mary, daughter.

John Crackstone (2).
 John, his son.

John Billington (4).
 Ellen, his wife.
 John, } sons.
 Francis, }

Moses Fletcher (1).

John Goodman (1).

Digory Priest (1).

Thomas Williams (1).

Gilbert Winslow (1).

Edmond Margeson (1).

Peter Brown (1).

Richard Britteridge (1).

Richard Clark (1).

Richard Gardiner (1).

John Allerton (1).

Thomas English (1).

LIST OF OLD WORDS AND THEIR MEANINGS

ado: commotion	minion: a great gun or cannon, seven or eight feet long
anon: immediately	neat: cow
antic: clown	occasionally: accidentally
base: a small cannon about four and one-half feet long	pale board: stockade post
beck: stream	piece: gun
betimes: early	plain: level
broach: a spit or spike for holding roast- ing meat over a fire	pole: sixteen and a half feet
compassed: encircled	presently: immediately
ell: about a yard	rand: strip
fain: forced	rive: split
fathom: a man's arm spread or six feet	saker: a great gun or cannon, eight or ten feet long
fowling piece: shotgun for shooting fowl	seat: settle
furlong: a furrow's length or an eighth of a mile	seethe: boil
furniture: equipment	snaphance: a kind of gun
hart: deer	sounded: swooned, fainted
helving: putting wooden handles on metal tools	spit's depth: depth of the blade of a shovel
impaled: surrounded by a stockade	squibs: paper rolled up around gunpowder, to make a home- made firecracker
Irish trousers: long, tight-fitting trousers	towards: near at hand, advancing
league: about three miles	truck: trade
let: hinder	want: lack
listed: liked	whelmed: turned upside down
matches: slow-burning fuses for setting off matchlock guns	wood gale: bayberry

HOMES IN THE WILDERNESS

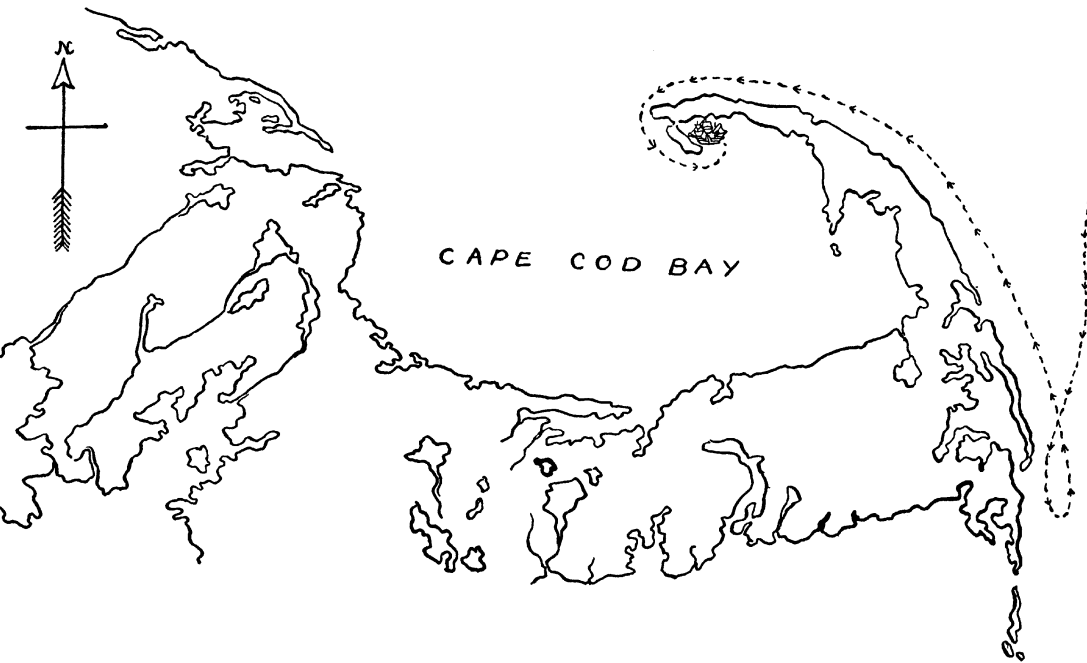
Publisher's note: Divers is not a misspelling of diverse—it is a word in its own right, meaning an unspecified quantity when used before a plural noun.



September 6, 1620. Wednesday, the wind coming E.N.E. a fine small gale, we loosed from Plymouth, having been kindly entertained and courteously used by divers friends there dwelling.

November 9th. After many difficulties in boisterous storms, at length by God's good providence we espied land, which by break of the day we deemed to be Cape Cod. And so afterward it proved. The appearance of it much comforted us, especially seeing so goodly a land and wooded to the brink of the sea. It caused us to rejoice together and praise God that had given us once again to see land.

And thus we made our course S.S.E., purposing to go to a river ten leagues to the south of the Cape. But at night, the wind being contrary, we put round again for Cape Cod Bay.

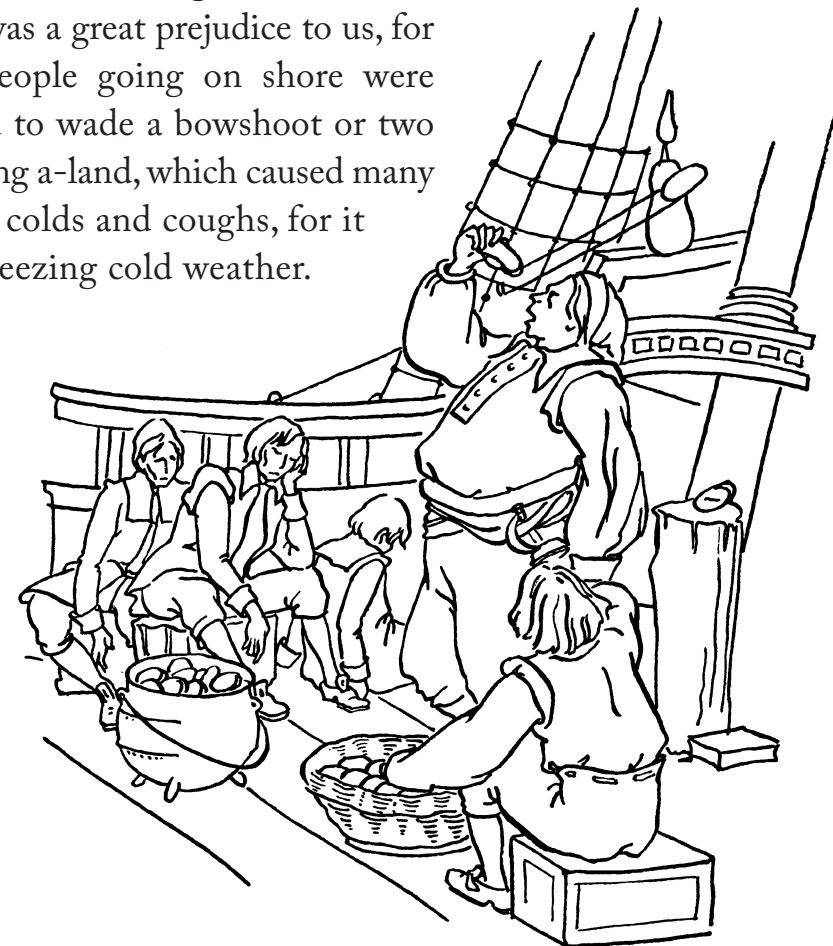


November 11th. We came to an anchor in the bay, which is a good harbor and pleasant bay about four miles over from land to land, wherein a thousand sail of ships may safely ride. It is circled round except in the entrance and compassed about to the very sea with oaks, pines, juniper, sassafras, and other sweet wood. There we relieved ourselves with wood and water and refreshed our people, while our shallop was fitted to coast the bay in search of an habitation. There was the greatest store of fowl that ever we saw.

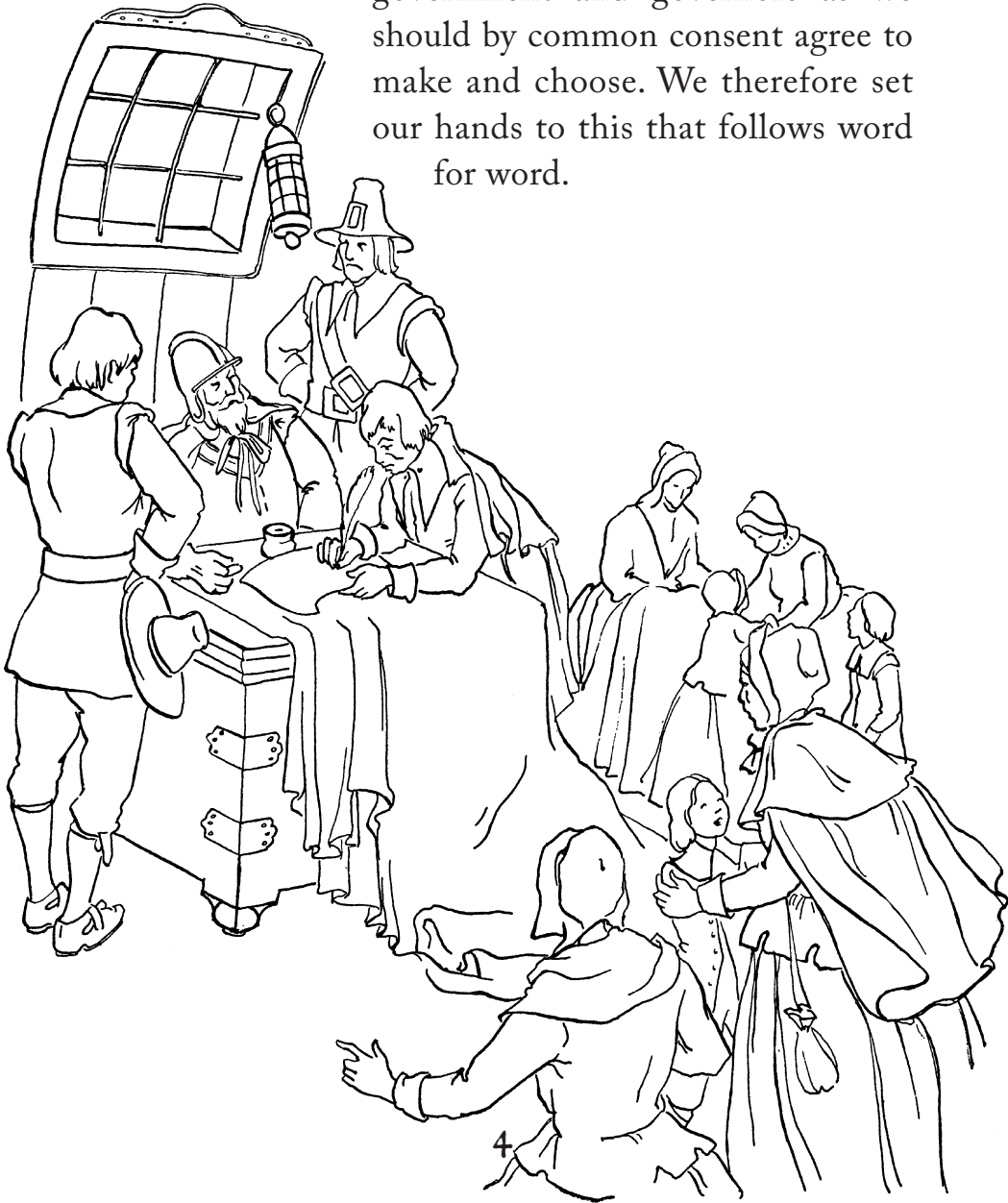
And every day we saw whales playing hard by us in that place. Had we had instruments and means to take them (which to our great grief we wanted) we might have made a very rich return. Our master and his mate and others experienced in fishing professed we might have made three or four thousand pounds' worth of oil.

They preferred it before Greenland whale-fishing and purpose to fish for whale here the next winter. For cod we essayed but found none, though no doubt there is good store in their season; neither got we any fish all the time we lay there but some few little ones on the shore. We found great mussels, very fat and full of sea pearl, but we could not eat them. They made us all sick that did eat, sailors as well as passengers, causing us to cast and scour. But all were soon well again.

The bay is so round and circling that before we could come to anchor we went round all the points of the compass. We could not come near the shore by three quarters of an English mile because of shallow water. This was a great prejudice to us, for our people going on shore were forced to wade a bowshoot or two in going a-land, which caused many to get colds and coughs, for it was freezing cold weather.



This day before we came to harbor, observing that some were not well affected to unity and concord but gave appearance of faction, it was thought good that there should be an association and agreement, so that we should combine together in one body and submit to such government and governors as we should by common consent agree to make and choose. We therefore set our hands to this that follows word for word.



In the name of God Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal Subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

Having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian Faith, and honor of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, acts, constitutions, & offices from time to time as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord, King James, of England, France, and Ireland the 18th and of Scotland the 54th, Anno Domino 1620.

The same day, so soon as we could, we set ashore fifteen or sixteen men, well armed. With them we sent some to fetch wood, for we had none left, and also to see what the land was and what inhabitants they could meet with. They found it to be a small neck of land; on the side where we lay is the bay and on the further side the sea. The ground or earth is sand hills like the downs in Holland but much better, the crust of the earth being excellent black earth for a spit's depth. It is all wooded with oaks, pines, sassafras, juniper, birch, holly, vines, some ash, and walnut. The wood for the most part is open and without underwood, fit either to go or ride in. At night our people returned but found not any person nor habitation. They laded their boat with juniper, which smelled very sweet and strong. This we burnt the most part of the time we lay there.

November 13th. Monday, we unshipped our shallop and drew her on land to mend and repair her, having been forced to cut her down in bestowing her betwixt the decks. She was much opened with the people's lying in her, which kept us long there, for our carpenter made slow work of it. It was sixteen or seventeen days before he had finished her. Our people went on shore to refresh themselves and our women to wash, as they had great need.

But whilst we lay thus still, some of us, impatient of delay, desired for our better furtherance to travel by land into the country to see whether it might be fit for us to

seat in or no. This was not without appearance of danger, not having the shallop nor means to carry provision but on our backs. The willingness of the persons to go was liked, but because of the danger the thing itself was rather permitted than approved.

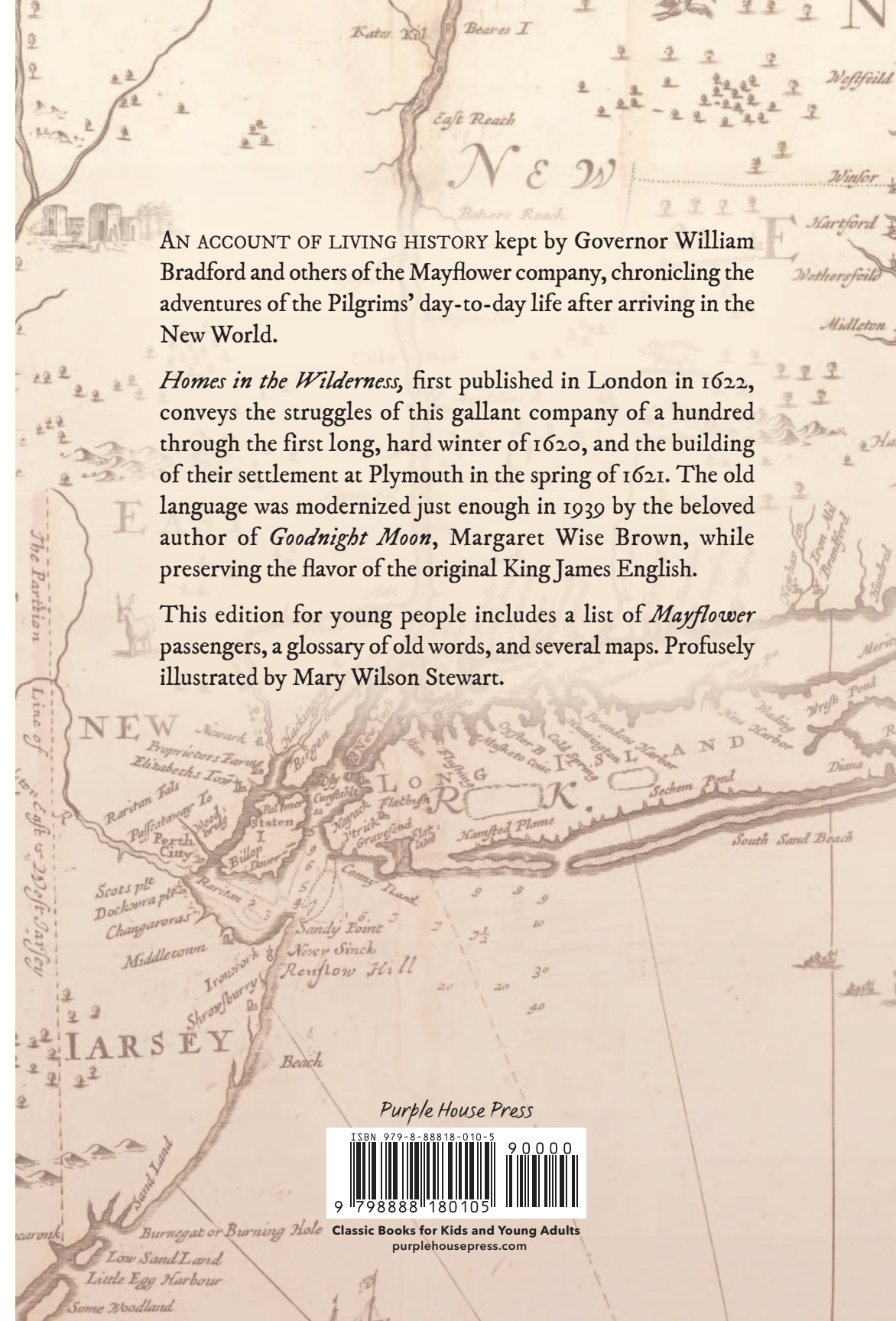
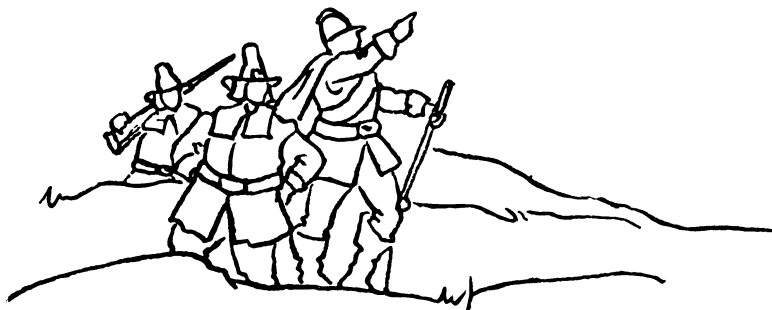
So with cautions, directions, and instructions, sixteen men were set out, with every man his musket, sword and corslet under the conduct of Captain Miles Standish, unto whom were adjoined for counsel and advice, William Bradford, Stephen Hopkins, and Edward Tilley.



November 15th. Wednesday, we were set ashore. When we had ordered ourselves in the order of a single file and marched about the space of a mile by the sea, we espied five or six people with a dog coming towards us. First, we supposed them to be Master Jones, since he and some of his men were ashore and knew of our coming. But when they saw us they ran into the wood and whistled the dog after them, and so we knew them to be savages.

We marched after them into the woods, lest other Indians should lie in ambush. But when the Indians saw our men following them, they ran away with might and main. Our men turned out of the wood after them, for it was the way they intended to go, but they could not come near them. We followed them that night about ten miles by the trace of their footings and saw how they had come the same way they went. At a turning we perceived how they ran up an hill to see whether we followed them.

At length night came upon us, and we were constrained to take up our lodging, so we set forth three sentinels, and some of the rest fetched wood while others kindled a fire, and there we held our rendezvous for the night.



AN ACCOUNT OF LIVING HISTORY kept by Governor William Bradford and others of the Mayflower company, chronicling the adventures of the Pilgrims' day-to-day life after arriving in the New World.

Homes in the Wilderness, first published in London in 1622, conveys the struggles of this gallant company of a hundred through the first long, hard winter of 1620, and the building of their settlement at Plymouth in the spring of 1621. The old language was modernized just enough in 1939 by the beloved author of *Goodnight Moon*, Margaret Wise Brown, while preserving the flavor of the original King James English.

This edition for young people includes a list of *Mayflower* passengers, a glossary of old words, and several maps. Profusely illustrated by Mary Wilson Stewart.

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