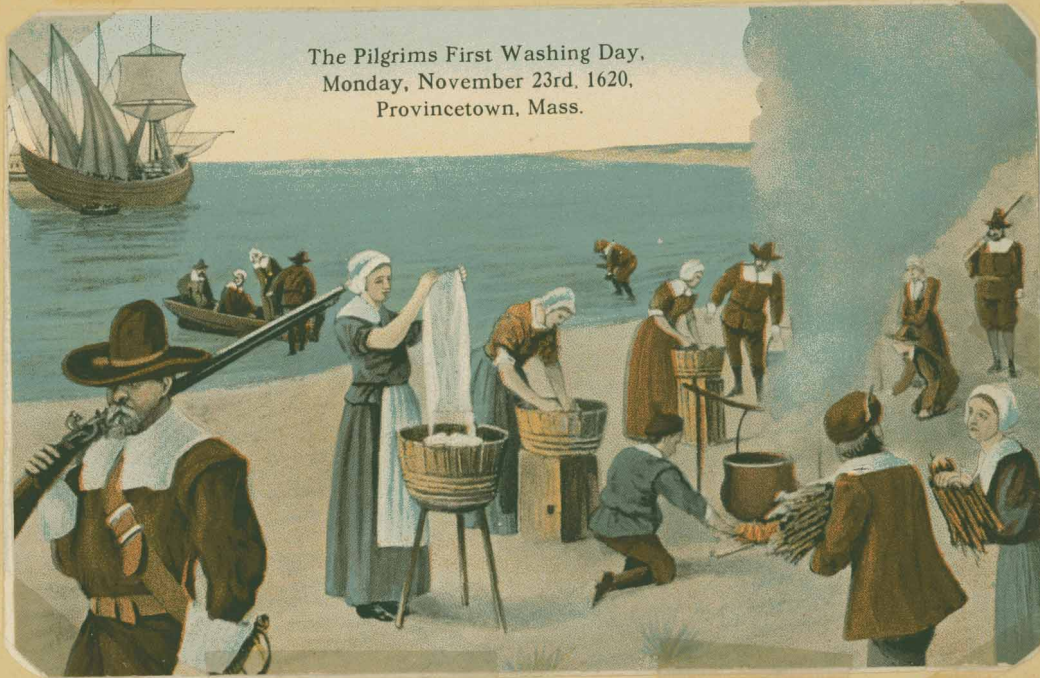


ORIGIN OF WASHDAY

The Monday washday custom of America started at Provincetown. The Pilgrim women on the Mayflower did their first washing on the Provincetown shore in November, 1620.



The Pilgrims First Washing Day,
Monday, November 23rd, 1620,
Provincetown, Mass.

It is said that the Pilgrims did their first washing in a pond that was once on the spot Town Hall is now located on; see notes around Tablet there, on back street.

Pilgrims Signing the Compact on Board the Mayflower, Nov. 11, 1620, Provincetown Harbor, Mass.



Some Important Dates in Pilgrim History before the arrival of the Mayflower at Plymouth.

- (The dates of events enumerated have been changed from the old to the new style calendar by the addition of ten days.)
- Sept. 16, 1620. Sailed from Plymouth, Eng. Oceanus Hopkins, son of Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins, born on the voyage.
- Nov. 16. William Button died on passage.
- Nov. 19. Saw Cape Cod.
- Nov. 21. Anchored in Provincetown harbor, signed compact, and went ashore. Carver confirmed as Governor at Provincetown.
- Nov. 23. Unshipped the shallop, and went on shore to wash.
- Nov. 25. Started on first expedition inland, camped at Stout's Creek.
- Nov. 26. Found the Truro Springs; made fire; went to Pond Village, Pamet River, and Cornhill; dug up corn, etc.; and went back to Pond Village for the night.
- Nov. 27. Sunk the kettle in the pond and went back to ship.
- Dec. 7. Large exploring party started in the shallop and got to E. Harbor Creek.
- Dec. 8. Went on to Pamet River and inland from it.
- Dec. 9. Revisited Cornhill, and Master Jones and a part returned.
- Dec. 10. Found the wigwags, graves, etc., and got back that night and found Peregrine White had been born in their absence.
- Dec. 10. Peregrine White born at Provincetown.
- Dec. 14. Edward Thompson, in employ of William White, died at Provincetown.
- Dec. 15. Francis Billington nearly blows up the Mayflower.
- Dec. 16. The third exploring party started in the shallop and got as far as Eastham. Jasper Moore died at Provincetown.
- Dec. 17. Explored up toward Wellfleet Bay, and inland, and slept at Great Meadow Creek. Dorothy May Bradford drowned at Provincetown.
- Dec. 18. First encounter with the Indians; then coasted around, and ran in under the lee of Clark's Island, in Plymouth Harbor, in a north-easter, in the evening. James Chilton died at Provincetown.
- Dec. 19. Staid on the Island, probably refitting their broken masts, etc., etc.
- Dec. 20. Kept the Sabbath on Clark's Island.
- Dec. 21. Forefather's Day. Landed on the rock and explored the coast.
- Dec. 22. Started back for the Mayflower and probably reached her.
- Dec. 25. Weighed anchor for Plymouth, but could not fetch the harbor, and were obliged to put back toward Cape Cod.
- Dec. 26. Mayflower arrived at Plymouth.



On November 21st, 1620, the Mayflower cast anchor in the harbour of Provincetown. The same day a civil body politic established and maintained a state without a king, a church without a bishop; a commonwealth, the members of which were "straightly tied to all care of each other's good and of the whole by everyone." Thus was begun, on the edge of a vast wilderness, the greatest democracy the world has ever known.