



**PILGRIM SOCIETY &
PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM**
75 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360
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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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New Exhibition at Pilgrim Hall Museum, “Here Lyes the Body”

Pilgrim Hall Museum is pleased to announce the opening of a new temporary exhibition, *Here Lyes the Body: Burial Places of the Pilgrims*. The exhibition will run from June 5 to December 30, 2015.

More than 200 people arrived in Plymouth Colony aboard the first four ships, the *Mayflower*, the *Fortune*, the *Anne* and the *Little James*, between 1620 and 1623, yet only three of these people have original, carved gravestones to mark their burial locations. The majority of the individual Pilgrim gravesites were left unmarked and their exact locations now unknown.

This surprising pattern is explained and investigated in Pilgrim Hall Museum’s exhibition *Here Lyes the Body: Burial Places of the Pilgrims*. The burial customs and burying grounds of the Plymouth colonists will be explored through their cultural, economic, and religious practices. Descriptions of early funerals and elegies for some of the Pilgrims will be displayed alongside of how burials were conducted. The exhibit will show how bodies were prepared for burial, how coffins were made, the cost for digging a grave, and the ways graves were marked. Historic images of gravestones will be used to illustrate seventeenth century ideas about death and burials while images of later memorials will show how Pilgrim descendants in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have made up for the lack of original markers by placing monuments in many locations.

On display in the exhibit will be the original will of Peregrine White, born in 1620 aboard the *Mayflower* while at anchor in Provincetown Harbor, who wrote that he committed “my Body to decent Buriall when it Shall Please him to take me hence,” before he died in 1704 at the age of 83. Also on display will be remnants of the coffins of both Governor William Bradford and Captain Myles Standish recovered during the nineteenth century and pieces of the original burial cloth that was used as a shroud for the body of Capt. Standish when he was buried in 1656.

This exhibit is generously sponsored by Eastern Bank.

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Pilgrim Hall Museum is located at 75 Court Street (Route 3A), Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360.

Information: 508-746-1620; Web site: www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Christmas Day, New Years Eve and the month of January.

Admission: Adults \$8.00; seniors (62+) \$7.00, Children (5-17) \$5.00; Families (2 adults with their children aged 5-17) \$25.00. Residents of Plymouth, Massachusetts are admitted free.