



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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Pilgrim Hall Museum's Major Exhibit – Second Term
Written, Printed & Drawn: *Rarities from Plymouth's Past*
February 1 – December 31, 2012
Sponsored as part of NorthEast Community Bank's general donation to
Pilgrim Hall Museum

The second group of rare books, documents and maps is now on display in Pilgrim Hall Museum's temporary exhibit for 2012, *Written, Printed & Drawn: Rarities from Plymouth's Past*. This exhibit features a careful selection of rarely seen pieces of history.

On display now through September 1st are a letter from John Hancock to his wife from 1778, a document with the extremely rare signature of Capt. Myles Standish from 1647 and a letter written by Rhode Islander founder Roger Williams when he was in Plymouth in 1633. A Revolutionary War recruiting and enlistment book from 1776 to 1781 is on display along with a complete transcription of its handwritten pages, so that visitors can examine for themselves the names, ages, and appearances of the soldiers. It is displayed alongside the original 1819 muster roll of the Standish Guards, Plymouth's local militia company of the 19th century. The last original document is an extremely rare 1693 listing of the members of Thomas Tupper's Native congregation 1693 from the Plymouth, Bourne and Sandwich area.

The Rare Books from the Museum's Library collection now on display include first editions of Mercy Otis Warren's *Poems Dramatic and Miscellaneous* (1790) and Alexander Young's *Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers* from 1841 with the earliest known depictions of some of Pilgrim Hall Museum's furniture pieces. Also displayed is an original 1619 edition of *Purchas, His Pilgrimage*, a compilation of travel stories and narratives of explorations that was read by the Pilgrims before their *Mayflower* journey. George Bishop's 1703 book, *New England Judged by the Spirit of the Lord*, was highly critical of New England's, including Plymouth's, treatment of the Quakers in the 1650s and 1660s. And also displayed is one of Pilgrim Hall Museum's three copies (out of an estimated 60 known to still exist) of Nathaniel Morton's *New England's Memorial* published in Cambridge, Mass., in 1669. Morton's *Memorial* is the first history of New England, mostly Plymouth, published in New England.

The map chosen for display this term is the *Map of Plymouth* surveyed and drawn by Sylvanus Bourne and printed in 1830. It shows every house in town, topographical details like ponds, farms, fields, roads, and heights above sea level for what was then a sparsely-populated, heavily-wooded town.

Highlighting some of the genuine treasures from the Museum's Library and Archival collections, many of these pieces are rarely seen because of their fragile nature. This exhibit gives visitors the chance to return later in the year for the third group of documents, books and maps, which will be put on display from September 2 to December 31.

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

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

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

Admission: Adults \$8.00; seniors (62+) \$7.00; AAA members \$6.00; Children (5-17) \$5.00; Families (2 adults with their children aged 5-17) \$25.00. Residents of Plymouth, Massachusetts are admitted free.