Plantation Covenant

Written by Jennifer Nodwell Wednesday, 21 January 2009 15:11 - Last Updated Tuesday, 24 August 2010 22:30

Settling in Connecticut

After arriving in America, <u>John Parmelee (1584-1659)</u> and the other members of the Rev. Henry Whitfield's expedition entered into the Plantation Covenant, a contemporary copy of which is housed at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Jim Walters interprets it to read:

"We whose names are herein written, intending by God's gracious permission, to plant ourselves in New England, and if it may be in the southerly part, about Quinpisac [Quinnipiac, later named New Haven], we do faithfully promise each for ourselves and families and those that belong to us, that we will, the Lord assisting us, sit down and join ourselves together in one entire plantation and to be helpful to the other in any common work, according to every man's ability and as need shall require, and we promise not to desert or leave each other on the plantation but with the consent of the rest, or the greater part of the company, who have entered into this engagement.

"As for our gathering together into a church way and the choice officers and members to be joined together in that way, we do refer ourselves until such time as it shall please God to settle us in our plantation.

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"In witness whereof we subscribe our hands, this first day of June 1639.

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