

First Place Scholarship Winner

TYLER WILSON

Dear Mayflower Society:

I am deeply honored to have received the first place scholarship award for Orange County, CA. I am very thankful for the award and for the help it will give me in college. Since a young age, my grandmother, Dorothy Wilson, has included all aspects of the Mayflower and our Pilgrim heritage into our family. I know it was great fun to dress up and to tell kids at school that I was a real Pilgrim but as time as gone on, I have progressed in my knowledge from my grandmother about what the Pilgrims stood for and what Thanksgiving really means; beyond a great big feast and a happy relationship with Native Americans, my appreciation for what this great heritage means to me, to our country and what it has stood for, has also grown.

I think about what Grandma Dotty or Deda as we call her, has explained, what my parents have injected and also what I have read and viewed, as in the movie, Monumental, I have clearly come to understand that much of what this great country has stood for came from my ancestors and yours. This nation came from much hard work, from blood, sweat and many tears; from years of planning and from much sacrifice on the parts of individuals and families to make this journey to America happen. The ideals from our forefathers set the standard for our American Constitution; that much of our beginning government came from what our ancestors stood for, believed in, and were willing to die for. Many great Presidents believed what this country was founded on, and although times have changed, there are still Americans here that believe in the true standards set by the Pilgrims. There is more to us than Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of



Happiness. I believe that America can stand on what was true then and what is true now; first and foremost, faith in the One True God, strong ideals in loyalty, hardwork and faith that He will see us through.

This scholarship will help me with books for the year which hold invaluable keys to learning. I do regret that I will not be able to join in the Compact Day Celebration as I will be studying abroad for 4 months in Costa Rica. There I will be doing intensive study in the Spanish language as well a medical class and general education credits. I also hope to include some lifesaving work as a volunteer for surf rescue/lifeguarding. Upon my return, I will continue working on my major in Kinesiology at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, CA and beginning my clinical hours towards graduate school as a physician assistant as well as continuing in my lifeguard capacity the following summer.

Again, my thanks to the Mayflower Society and to my Grandma Deda for what this means to my future and my further studies.

Sincerely,

Tyler Wilson

Tyler Wilson's Essay

JAMESTOWN AND PLYMOUTH

The colonies of Jamestown and Plymouth were among the first to develop in the New World.

The original settlers of Jamestown sailed into the Chesapeake Bay area in three ships, the Susan Constant, the Discovery and Godspeed. The settlers of Plymouth came on the Mayflower. The settlers of Plymouth were originally bound for the Hudson area in New York, but due to the upcoming winter and being blown off course, were forced to stay in the area we now call Plymouth. The two settlements developed in very different ways. They were different from each other in terms of objectives, types of settlers, and early problems.

First Jamestown and Plymouth do share notable similarities. Jamestown and Plymouth were the first two successful (in terms of surviving the first year despite the hardships) English colonies in North America. Jamestown had the first legislative assembly among the Western Hemisphere in 1619.

Plymouth had the Mayflower Compact, which was cited as one of the foundations of the US Constitution. It consisted of a general court and they also had a Governor. The government made laws and also levied taxes. Another similarity between the two is neither of the colonies was funded by the royal family.

Colonists at Jamestown and Plymouth suffered greatly when they first arrived in the New World. For example the colonists at Jamestown weren't used to the hard labor they had to do and suffered from illness while the colonists at Plymouth arrived at a bad part of the year and suffered from an extremely harsh winter.

Although these early colonies shared some similarities, the objectives and types of settlers for the settlements of Jamestown and Plymouth were very different. The settlement of Jamestown was founded to gain wealth and to expand English trade. Tobacco was their main crop once they were established. All the first settlers were men and boys and the majority were "gentlemen" not farmers or laborers used to hard labor. No women went to Jamestown because the London Company had no interest in creating a family centered community. They were only interested in establishing a profitable colony. The initial colonists fought and were not willing to put in the hard work and therefore ran into some major problems.

Plymouth was established for religious freedom from England. Puritan Separatists settled to escape from religious persecution and to establish a true Christian commonwealth that would serve as a model for the rest of the Christian world.

Tyler Wilson's Essay continued

JAMESTOWN AND PLYMOUTH

The Separatists that moved to the new world were looking to spread the gospel of the Kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world and have the freedom to worship as they wished. Before ever setting foot on soil, the pilgrims formed the Mayflower Compact which spelled out the dictates of how the land would be settled and that it was established for the good of the colony and all would be under its authority for the betterment of the whole. Their age structure and sex ratio was very different than Jamestown. The 102 settlers that came were a mix of men, women and children. They came over as more of a nuclear family unit. Whole communities were transplanted to make a better life with freedom to practice religion without the rules of the Church of England. Plymouth didn't have much luck with farming due to their thin, rocky soil. They traded fur to the natives and found an industry in fishing.

Both settlements also faced early problems. Jamestown had inexperienced men, an unwillingness to work and a lack of wilderness survival skills. All these led to bickering, disagreements and inaction at Jamestown. Accompanied with poor Indian relationships and constant fighting, disease and the initial absence of the family unit, all compounded their problems. While cooperation, hard work and family units founded to honor God were the Pilgrims lifestyle, nevertheless, they too were plagued with hunger, disease, and the environmental hazards from the first harsh winter.

Although after many disasters, of famine and fire, starvation, disease, gross mismanagement and Indian raids, Jamestown did have some success in turning tobacco into a cash crop although by then slave ships had arrived and slavery began in the colonies. The King did eventually revoke the charter in 1624.

At Plymouth, their success came from hard work and using resources such as fishing and trading. Also the creation of the Plymouth Plantation was a key achievement in the success of the early settlement. The family unit was a very important part as established by God's rule. Another part of their success was due to Governor William Bradford who played an important role in the Mayflower Compact and was a great leader.

In conclusion, Jamestown and Plymouth were the first two English colonies in the New World. Although they shared some similarities in government and some hardships, the differences were big. Jamestown was established for wealth and to expand trade and the fall was mighty while Plymouth was established for religious freedom and families in cooperation building a strong foundation which continues today and which I am proud to be a part of. Without the work of these early settlers, the United States would not have become a great nation.