

People to Know / Vocabulary

Lessons 3 & 4

As You Read

Who:

- *What did this person do for a living?*
- *Where are they from?*

Importance:

- *What did this person accomplish that made a difference then and/or now?*
- *How did they affect others then and/or now?*

William Bradford

William Bradford (1590-1657) was born in England to a fairly prosperous family. He developed into a nonconformist and questioned the teachings of the Church of England. Bradford joined the Separatists, who opposed the Catholic influences remaining in the English church, and became a reluctant political and religious leader. The Separatists (Pilgrims) moved to Holland and then to America in search of religious freedom.

The Separatists founded the colony of Plymouth. Bradford was elected governor of the colony thirty times. He helped write the legal code of the colony and encouraged private ownership of land and religious tolerance.

Anne Hutchinson

Anne Hutchinson (1591-1643) was born in England and immigrated to Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1634 to avoid religious persecution. In the city of Boston, she worked as a healer and midwife.

Anne Hutchinson's religious beliefs differed somewhat from other Puritans. She began to hold sermons in her home where she preached to the audience that to get into heaven one only had to believe in God. This differed from the Puritan belief that a person could only get into heaven by following the laws made by the Puritan church. Hutchinson's point of view made church officials less important.

Many high ranking Puritans felt threatened by Hutchinson since she was gaining influence in the community. Most Puritans believed that a woman should not be outspoken or be in a leadership role. When Hutchinson refused to be silent on her religious views and challenged Puritan authority, leaders put her on trial, found her guilty of heresy, and threw her out of the church and out of Massachusetts.

Hutchinson eventually moved to Long Island where she and many members of her family were killed in an American Indian raid. Some historians point to Hutchinson as one of the first defenders of women's rights and religious freedom.

William Penn

William Penn (1644-1718) grew up in an influential family. However, as a young man, Penn questioned the religious and political ideas of his time. In 1666, Penn joined the Quakers—a religious sect that believed in peace, equality, and the goodness of all people. For writing and

speaking about his beliefs, Penn went to jail for a short time.

Through political connections, Penn managed to get a huge tract of land in America from King Charles II. Penn wanted to create a colony with religious freedom. Penn believed religious freedom was an important civil right. To protect rights, Penn created a democratic system that set up elections and fair trials. Given his belief in the goodness of people, Penn's relationships with American Indians were very good.

Problems in England, political issues, and bad business decisions left Penn broke and out of power in America and in England. The founders of the United States adopted many of Penn's reforms.

John Winthrop

John Winthrop (1588-1649) was born into a wealthy family. Winthrop studied and became a justice of the peace (judge) and served as a government attorney. John Winthrop became very religious as a young man and supported the Puritan movement to banish all Catholic practices from the Church of England.

King Charles I thought the Puritans caused too many problems and began persecuting them in 1624. Believing England too corrupt to fix, Winthrop joined the Massachusetts Bay Company and sailed to the New World in 1630 with thousands of other Puritans. As governor of the new Puritan colony called Massachusetts Bay Colony,

Winthrop set out to create the perfect religious society.

Winthrop helped build and guide Massachusetts allowing for thousands of people to arrive and live. His intolerance of other religious beliefs led many Puritans to leave Massachusetts and set up other colonies such as Rhode Island that supported more religious freedom and more democratic governments.

VOCABULARY

monarch: a person usually born to rule over a territory or country as a king, a queen, or an emperor

Example: The monarch George III was the last king to rule over the American colonies.