

ICMA | conference

GIVING NEW LIFE TO OLD RECORDS IN PLYMOUTH, COUNTY MA

AVENU INSIGHTS & ANALYTICS

October 22, 2019



OCTOBER 20–23, 2019



MUSIC CITY CENTER, NASHVILLE, TN



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TODAY'S SPEAKERS



JOHN BUCKLEY
Register of Deeds
Plymouth County, MA



ANN KIRKBRIDE
Senior Product Manager
Avenu



Agenda

- History of Plymouth Colony to Plymouth County
- Challenges Faced by Cities and Counties
- Plymouth County Case Study
- Tackling Funding Resources
- The Path to Digital Transformation
- Q&A Session



HAPPY 400TH BIRTHDAY TO
PLYMOUTH COLONY

Transition of Plymouth Colony to Plymouth County

- Plymouth Colony was Found in 1620
- Town of Plymouth: Known as “America’s Hometown”
- Landing site of the Mayflower 1620
- Home to the First Thanksgiving Feast
- Plymouth County Founded: 1685

In y^e name of god Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord King James by y^e grace of god, of great Britaine, France, & Ireland King, defender of y^e faith, &c.
Having undertaken, for y^e glorie of god, and advancemente of y^e Christian faith, and honour of our king & countrey, a voyage to plant y^e first Colonie in y^e Northern parts of Virginia. God by these presents solemnly & mutually in y^e presence of god, and one of another, Covenant, & combine our selves together into a Civill body politick; for our better ordering, & preservation & furtherance of y^e ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof, to enacte, constitute, and frame such just & equall Lawes, ordinances, Acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete & convenient for y^e generall good of y^e Colonie: unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witnes whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cap Codd y^e 11. of November, in y^e year of y^e raigne of our sovereign Lord King James of England, France, & Ireland y^e eighteenth, and of Scotland y^e fifth. fourth. An^o. Dom. 1620.]

Mayflower Compact





CHALLENGES FACED BY CITIES AND COUNTIES

Why Safeguard, Preserve and Provide Access to Public Records

1. Public Records define what we own and who we are as a country
2. Legal requirements
3. Provide Transparency, Access, available for research as they are the Official Public Record.
4. Preserve and Celebrate History!

Records Management Challenges

- **Access, Accuracy & Authenticity** for citizens and staff
- Risk of fire, water damage, mold, theft – **Disaster Recovery**
- **Deterioration** from continuous usage, sunlight, oxidation, improper storage
- Costs of archiving paper records – **insufficient storage**
- Need to comply with changing **legislative/regulatory requirements** for documents
- Many schools have dropped **cursive writing** from curriculum

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- 
- Types of documents to preserve?
 - Where and how to store documents securely?
 - Index everything?
 - How to evaluate budget and time needs?
 - What about fragile documents?
 - What if state law requires film as document of record?

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PLYMOUTH COUNTY CASE STUDY⁷

PLYMOUTH'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MODERN-DAY RECORD KEEPING NEEDS



1

COUNTY INDEXING PROJECT

Indexed 1,024,027 documents spanning
1686 to 1944, linked images to index.
and loaded for online searching

2

TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT

Transcribing original handwritten
documents of Plymouth County
from **1686** – Book 1 – Page 1

3

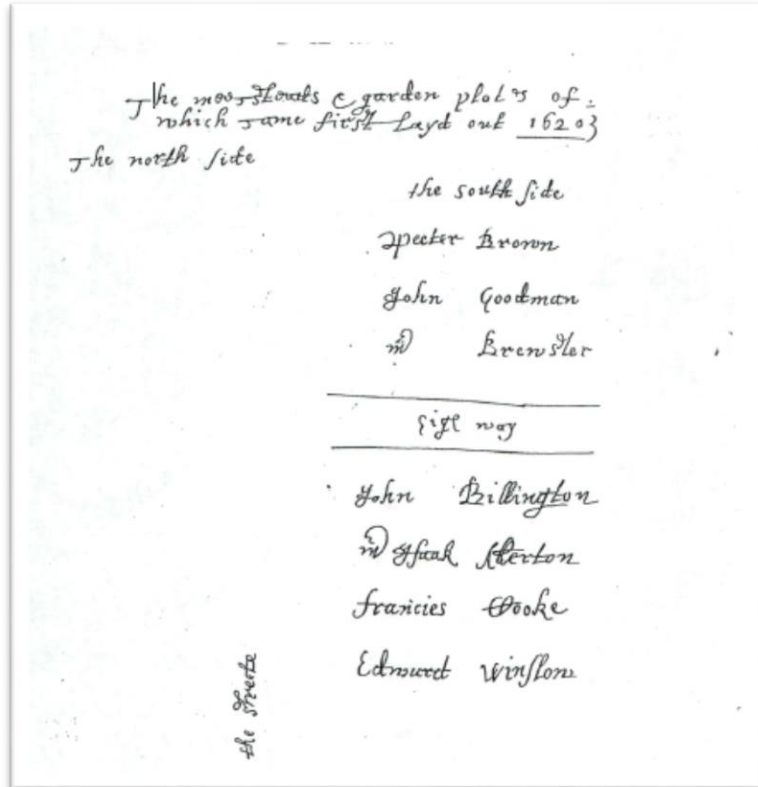
PLYMOUTH COLONY RECORDS

Linking 11 volumes of colony land
records to its indexing information
from **1620**

“ The Plymouth County Registry of Deeds is the guardian of historical
and modern land records from the Pilgrims to the present. ”

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Case Study: Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts



Book 1, Page 1 Plymouth Colony Records
"Beginning of Land Records in America"



Leyden Street Today, "The Street" Plymouth, MA

Transcription

- Provide text version of documents written in 18th century cursive
- Provide anywhere online access
- Preserve heritage, unlock history, discover new stories
- Instantly view and compare the original handwritten document to text transcription

5)
To all People to whom these Presents shall come John White
of the Town of Marshfield in the County of Plymouth in the
Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Boatman Sendeth
Greeting, Know ye that I the sd John White for and in Consider-
ation of the sum of twenty eight Pounds currant money
of this Province to me in hand paid Elize the Decealing Person
By Thomas Foord of Marshfield aforesd Husbandman The Re-
ceipt whereof I do hereby Acknowledge, my self therewith
fully satisfied, Contented & said, Have Given, Granted Bargain-
ed Sold, Aliened, Conveyed & Confirmed, And by these Presents
Do freely fully & absolutely Give, Grant, Bargain, Sell, Alien-
Convey & Confirm to him the sd Thomas Foord, his Heirs and
Assigns forever, Two whole Lots of Land, excepting one seven
penny right in each Lot, Situate lying & being in the lower
Part of Marshfield, commonly called & known by the name
of the Common Land, being in Number the 60, & 22. Lots
the 60. Lot containing fifteen acres by Dimention And the
22 Lot, twenty six, a doth or may appear by the Records
of the sd Land, being in Number the 60, & 22. Lots
for the Bound thereof. To have, & to Hold, the sd Grants
& Bargained Premises with all the appurtenances, Priviled-
ges and Commodities to the same belonging or in any wise
appertaining to him the sd Thomas Foord his Heirs & Assigns
forever To his & their only proper Use, and Behoof forever
And I the sd John White for me, my Heirs Execs & Adminrs Do
Covenant, Promise & Grant to and with the sd Thomas Foord his
Heirs & Assigns that before the Ensealing & Delivery hereof I am the
sole & lawfull Owner of the above Bargained Premises And am
lawfully Seized & Possessed of the same in mine own proper
Right as a good perfect & absolute Estate of Inheritance in
fee simple, and Have in my self, good Right, full Power &
lawfull authority to Dispose of the same, in manner as above
Furthermore I the sd John White for my self my Heirs Execs
and Adminrs Do Covenant & Engage the above demised Pre-
mises to him the sd Thomas Foord his Heirs & Assigns against
the Lawfull Claims & Demands of any Person or Persons w-
soever forever hereafter to Warrant, Cure & defend from
Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal the
tenth day of March in the Eleventh Year of the Reign
of our Sovereign Lady Anne Queen of Great Britain Defender
of the faith &c And in the Year of our said Lord one
thousand seven Hundred and Eleven or 1712
Signed sealed & delivered } John White (seal)
In ye Presence of } Plymouth ss On the tenth day of March
John Carvar }
Arthr Howland junr } Anno Domi 17 11/2 The abovenamed
John White acknowledged the above
Entered April 7: 1713 and } written Instrument to be his act & Deed
Recorded per Josiah Cotton Regr before me Nathan Thomas Justice of Peace

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Do freely fully & absolutely Give, Grant bargain, Sell Aliene
Convey & Confirm to him the sd Thomas Foord his Heirs and
assigns forever, two whole Lots of land, excepting one seven
penny right in each Lot, Situate lying & being in the lower
Part of Marshfield, commonly called & known by the name
of the Common lands being in number the 60, & 22d Lots
the 60 Lot containing fifteen acres by Estimation and the
22 Lot, twenty six, as doth or may appear by the Records
of sd lands be it more or less, Reference being had to sd Records
for the Bounds thereof. To Have and to Hold the sd Granted
& Bargained Premises with all the appurtenances Priviled-
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appertaining to him the sd Thomas Foord his Heirs and Assigns
forever to his & their only proper use and behoof forever
and I the sd John White for me, my Heirs Execrs & Adminrs Do
Covenant, Promise & Grant to and with the sd Thomas Foord his Heirs
& assigns that before the Ensealing & Delivery hereof I am the
sole & lawfull owner of the above bargained premises and am
lawfully paired & possessed of the same in mine own proper
right as a good perfect & absolute Estate of Inheritance in
fee simple, and Have in my self, good Right, full Power &
lawfull authority to Depose of the same in manner as abovesd
furthermore I the sd John White for my self my Heirs Execrs
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Transcription of land documents from
original Plymouth documents.

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LINKING PLYMOUTH COLONY LAND RECORDS TO INDEX

Preparation of
400th anniversary of
colony's founding

Images for 11
volumes provided by
county requiring
2,024 documents
to be indexed
including original
land records
and deeds

Includes first
recorded land
record by William
Bradford, leader of
the settlement

First Deed,
Plymouth MA

First Deed, Plymouth MA

*The moorlands & garden plots of
which were first layd out 1620
The north side*

the south side

Walter Brown

John Goodman

Wm Brewster

Eight way

John Willington

Wm Bradford

Francis Cooke

Edmund Winslow

the street

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FUNDING RESOURCES



“Show Me
the Money”

-Jerry Maguire

Funding Source

- Technology Funds
- Grants Available for Archives / Preservation
- State Grants for Modernization
- Community Preservation Funds
- Revenue Stream from Online Purchase of Record

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The background is a solid teal color with abstract geometric elements. On the left, there are several thin, dark teal lines radiating from the top-left corner. In the center-left, there is a large, semi-transparent circle. To its right, there is a large, semi-transparent arc. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

THE PATH TO DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

OVERVIEW

What are
your goals

Resources

Execution

Inventory/
Objectives

Strategy

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CONSIDERATIONS

Document types, volume and condition

- Vellum paper or wood pulp
- Books (bound or loose documents)
- Page sizes and hand-written vs text
- Film and photostat storage
- Indexing status of existing images
- Paper files in storage cabinets and banker boxes.

Objectives

- Greater online access
- More physical access
- Historical preservation
- Statutory requirements
- Decreased storage needs and costs
- Easy to search, retrieve and send documents.

Digital Transformation Journey

Digital Imaging

Bound books, Case files, Banker boxes with Paper, microfilm, microfiche scanned to digital Images ensures immediate, inexpensive long-term document preservation



Redaction – Protection

Redact PPI data in your records safeguarding SSN's and other personally Indefinable information found in records



Search & Indexing

The ability to search, retrieve and display documents with anywhere access from your phone, tablet or computer.



Transcription

Preserve the meaning and context of history through our word-for-word rendering of original cursive script into searchable computerized text



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Modernization & Preservation Efforts

Image to Microfilm

Protect microfilm originals with an efficient, long-term conversion solution – extending the lifespan of your film by hundreds of years



Film Preservation & Duplication

Do you smell Vinegar? Is your film stored for long term preservation and document integrity? Consider duplicating.



Book Preservation/ Re-Creation

Preserve damaged historical books, or replace damaged book volumes by combining scanning, printing, & document insertion techniques



Archival Storage

Maximize your disaster recovery planning. Establish record retention schedule, meet regulatory requirements, or routinely destroy records in necessary



ONGOING BENEFITS

ORGANIZE, DIGITIZE, AUTOMATE, STREAMLINE, TRANSFORM

1

IMPROVE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Foster trust and
transparency with
constituency when
information is
Easily and more
readily accessible

2

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Preserve future
Generations
understanding of
history

3

PROVIDE ACCESS & AUTHENTICITY

Enable all constituents
to readily access
information
at anytime

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THANK YOU

Questions?

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