

THE DODGE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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*From the desk of Faith Dorothy Dodge Nelson
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Finally, fall has arrived in Kansas City. We were using our air conditioner until about ten days ago, but we had the inevitable cold snap. The air is off, the doors are open, and we are basking in the clement weather. Of course at our house, fall means back to school, or rather, school back in the house. So my desk is covered with papers, pencils, and books.

We are studying American history this year; we began with reading about those first Americans who came here, most likely across a land bridge which now lies under the Bering Strait. Our overview of Native Americans included becoming acquainted with the Iroquois, the Athapascan, the Cherokee, the Plains Indians, the Inuit, and the Chumash, to name a few. We are now turning to explorers, such as Leif Eriksson and Columbus, and I am working on lesson plans about the arrival of the European settlers. Of course, that study is going to include one of my favorite topics, the Pilgrims. In fact, that stack of books on my desk includes titles such as, *Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims, If You Sailed on the Mayflower in 1620, Pilgrim Stories, and The First Thanksgiving*. I find that it works nicely into the calendar that we will be reading these books in early November. It will make our Thanksgiving holiday all the more meaningful.

I like to encourage gratitude in myself and my children. Living in America, we certainly have much to be thankful for. It's true that my children don't have their own cell phones, they won't receive a car on their 16th birthday, and we hardly ever go out to eat. But we have a roof over our head, hot and cold water on tap, and more than one car in our driveway. My children never have to worry if they will have a bed to sleep in. They can come to the table at every meal in confidence that there will be something to eat. Our clothes are certainly not the latest fashion, but there are plenty of them in the closet. And although I wish I could afford to replace my outdated windows (they always stick and I have a battle trying to keep them clean) I have a picturesque house much larger than many people enjoy, and two acres of land for my children to roam. Compared to most people in the world, my family is wealthy, and I try engender in my children and myself, hearts of thankfulness.

We also enjoy freedoms that are not common throughout our planet. Beside freedom from want, we have freedom to speak our mind and express our thoughts without fear of government retribution. If I disagree with the government in power, I can say so. And we have freedom of religion.

In fact, those Pilgrims who came to Massachusetts were Separatists. They had been persecuted in England because their religious conscience dictated worship of God which differed from the Anglican church protocol. After escaping to Holland, they enjoyed religious freedom, but feared the absorption of their children into Dutch culture. So they risked their possessions and lives to venture to an unknown continent, facing the dangers of travel, disease, and starvation. God's providence supplied Samoset and Squanto who could speak English. Squanto befriended the Pilgrims and taught them essential skills which enabled them to survive in the New World. Through wise counsel, the Pilgrim fathers in turn befriended Massasoit, the Wampanoag chief; the treaty of peace they signed was kept for over 50 years.

This November, as we once again read about William Bradford, William Brewster, and Squanto, I will be thankful, not only for the abundance I have, but also for the sacrifice, courage, fortitude, and faith of our Pilgrim forbears, as well as for the countless Americans before me who have paved the way for the peace and prosperity that we now enjoy.

Faith

P.S. On the opposite side of this letter you will find drawings of a number of buildings from early New England. Also, pictures of the various types of stone walls they ade with all those stones found in the New England soil.

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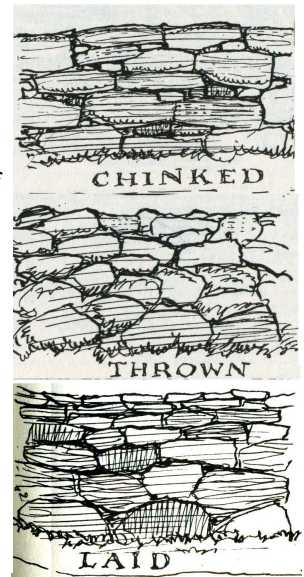
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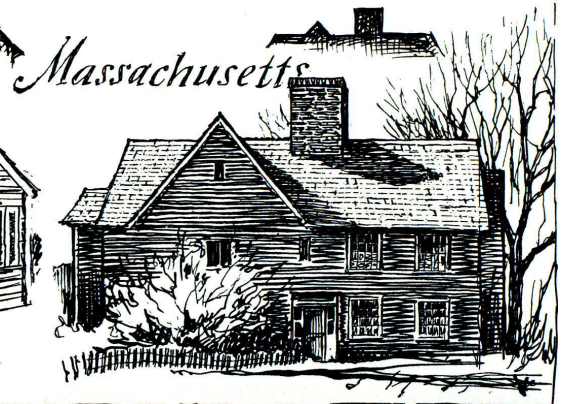
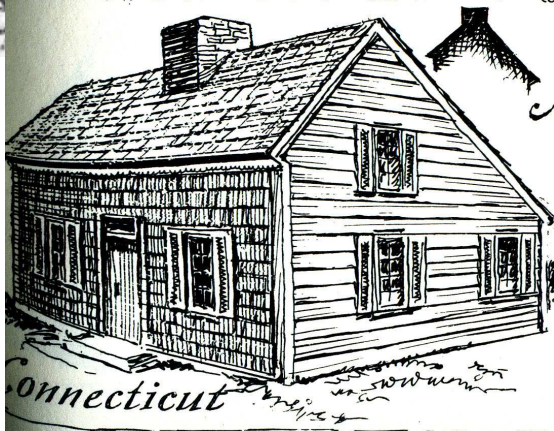


Thinking of the story on the founding of Harvard College, (now Harvard University), on the left is a drawing of what the 'campus' and surrounding area looked like in 1668.

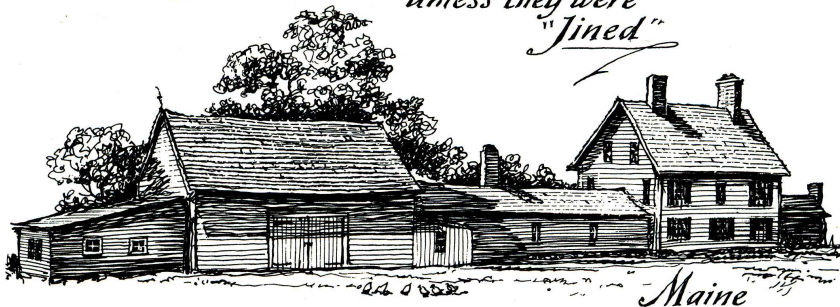
What do you do with lots of stones ... On the right are 3 types of stone walls used in N.E.



Pictured on the right are two very good representations of early Massachusetts homes. Early homes were made of wood with clapboard sides. The earlier the home, the shorter the clapboards, and on side with a peak, such as the one on the extreme right, the clapboards at the top were narrower than those at the bottom.



The old farms "Rambled" unless they were "Jined"



On the left: Farms in New England usually started with one house, added on as necessary and as money allowed. We have seen a farm on the North Shore that was built by a Dodge, and it looked much like the one in the bottom photo.

On the right are pictured several components of early New England...A well with bucket, clothesline with clothes, and outhouse in the back. Outhouses did not stay long before being replaced by something better... indoor plumbing

