

THE THANKSGIVING STORY

by ALICE DALGLIESH



illustrated by HELEN SEWELL

AUTHOR'S NOTE

In writing the text and making the pictures for this book, Helen Sewell and I have kept them both very simple—so they tell the story of one family and of the changing seasons.

The Pilgrims and settlers were chiefly a group of country people—farmers, weavers, and other workmen. They wore the clothes of the time—perhaps less elaborate—and they wore colors. The wide, tall hats were expensive, so the men and boys had knitted and cloth caps for ordinary occasions.

The plan of the *Mayflower* (which is a plan of a typical ship of the period) and the map are by Rafael Palacios.

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TWO SHIPS AND A BIG ADVENTURE

It was a summer day in England. Giles, Constance, and Damaris Hopkins were on their way to America.

As they waited, with their father and mother, on the ship, they could see a great deal going on around them.

They were in the harbor of the town of Southampton. Many ships were in the harbor. Two of them were taking on food and water and all the things needed by people going to a new country.

The larger ship was the *Mayflower*. The smaller one was the *Speedwell*.

Men, women, and children were on the ships, with their bundles and their boxes. To the children, it was a great adventure. Anything might happen on a ship.

Something special would happen to the Hopkins family on the long voyage.

The passengers on the *Mayflower* and the *Speedwell* were of many different kinds.

All of them were settlers, going to settle or make homes in a new land.

Some of them were the people that we call Pilgrims. A pilgrim is a person who travels to a far-off place because of his religion. In England at that time everyone had to go to the same church. The Pilgrims wanted to be free to have their own church, to worship God in their own way. So they had left England and gone to live in Holland. Now they had come back from Holland to sail for America.

Some of the people on the ships were servants and a few were hired workmen. A carpenter, like John Alden, would be useful in the new land.

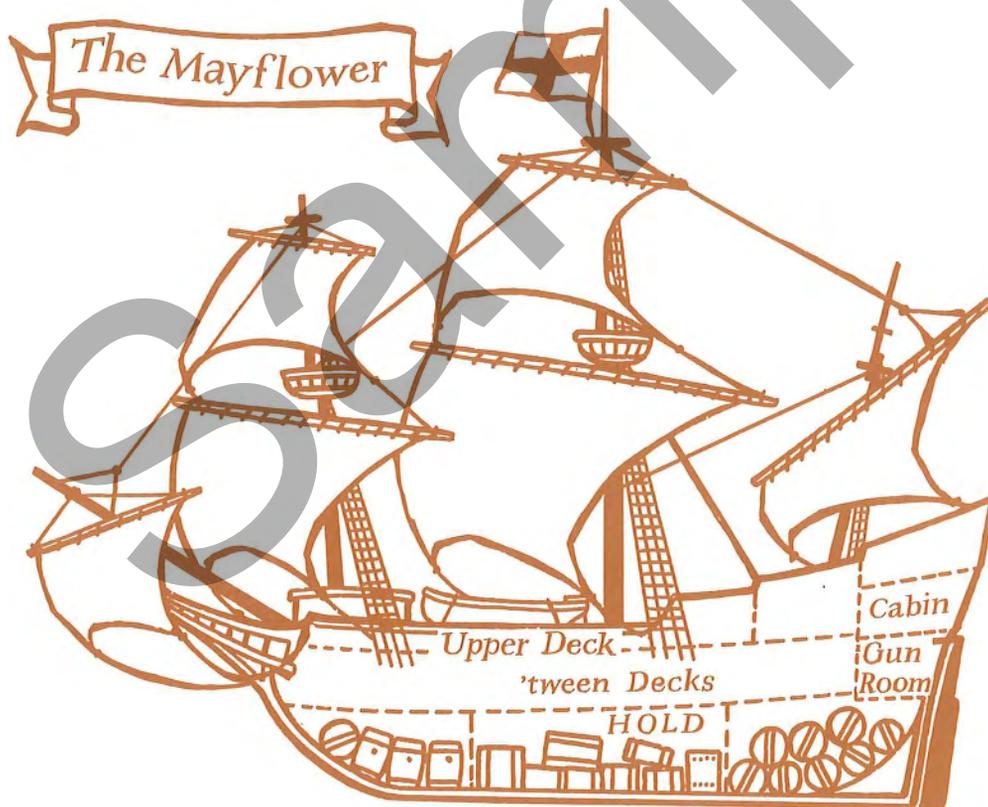
Some people were going just for adventure. Others were going because they thought England was crowded. There would be more room to farm in America.

Between the decks there was a room or space for the passengers. The sailors called this 'tween decks.

In the lower part or hold of the ship were barrels of water and of food.

There were seeds to plant and tools for planting them. There were saws, axes and hammers for building houses.

Some of the barrels held things for trading with Indians. There was bright-colored cloth. There were beads and knives and little mirrors—all things that they had heard the Indians liked to have.



Now the time had come for the ships to start on the great adventure. The children would have liked to be on deck, to see the land as they sailed away from it.

But the sailors were very busy. The captain gave orders for the passengers to stay down below until the ships were out of the harbor. Only the sailors could be on deck while the sails were being set.

How crowded it was below decks! Passengers had small mattresses on the floor, each close to the next one. There were some wooden bunks or ship's beds. A few people had cabins.

In their cabin, Giles, Constance, and Damaris listened. They heard the rattle of the chain as the anchor was raised. They heard the sailors singing. They heard the creak, creak of the ropes as the sailors worked with the sails. The big white sails would fill with wind and move the ship across the ocean.

“May we go on deck now?”

“Not until the sails are set.”

More strange noises and more time to wait. Then the ships were out in the ocean.

THE THANKSGIVING STORY

"This much-needed Thanksgiving picture book tells the story of one family during their first year in the Plymouth Colony. . . . The climax is, of course, the first Thanksgiving feast, with ninety Indians as guests.

"The familiar story is told simply enough for beginning readers, but without loss of significance or dignity. Helen Sewell's brightly colored pictures, done in the manner of American primitives, bring the scenes and characters to life and add a note of childlike gaiety."—
The New York Times



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