

The Cambridge Agreement (1629)

In August 1629 the Puritan stockholders of the Massachusetts Bay Company met in Cambridge, England, agreeing to go to Massachusetts only if they could take the company charter with them. In this manner, the control of the company shifted from the stockholders in England to the signers of the Agreement in the colony, as all but two signers went to Massachusetts.

The True Coppie of the Agreement at Cambridge, August 26, 1629

Upon due consideration of the state of the plantation now in hand for New England, wherein wee (whose names are hereunto subscribed) have engaged ourselves: and having weighed the greatnes of the worke in regard of the consequence, God's glory and the churches good: As also in regard of he difficultyes and discouragements which in all probabilityes must be forecast upon the execution of this businesse: Considering withall that this whole adventure growes upon the joynt confidence we have in each other fidelity and resolution herein, so as no man of us would have adventured it without assurance of the rest: Now, for the better encouragement of ourselves and others that shall joyne with us in this action, and to the end that every man may without scruple dispose of his estate and afayres as may best fitt his preparation for this voyage, it is fully and faithfully agreed amongst us, and every of us doth hereby freely and sincerely promise and bind himselfe in the word of a christian and in the presence of God who is the searcher of all hearts, that we will so really endeavour the execution of this worke, as by God's assistance we will be ready in our persons, and with such of our severall familyes as are to go with us, and such provision as we are able conveniently to furnish ourselves withall, to embarke for the said plantation by the first of March next, at such port or ports of this land as shall be agreed upon by the Companie, to the end to passe the seas (under God's protection) to inhabite and continue in New England. Provided always, that before the last of September next the whole government together with the patent for the paid plantation be first by an order of court legally transferred and established to remain with us and others which shall inhabite upon the said plantation. And provided also that if any shall be hindered by such just and inevitable lett or other cause to be allowed by 3 parts of foure of these whose names are hereunto subscribed, then such persons for such tymes and during such letts to be discharged of this bond. And we do further promise every one for himselfe, that shall fayle to be ready through his own default by the day appointed, to pay for every day's default the sum of 3l. to the use of the rest of the Companie who shall be ready by the same day and time.

This was done by order of court the 29th of August, 1629.

Richard Saltonstall Tho: Dudley William Vassall Nicko: West Isaack Johnson John Humfrey Tho: Sharp Increase Nowell John Winthrop Will: Pinchon Kellam Browne William Colbron