

PASSAGE TO THE NEW WORLD

The voyage itself was not without incident. The passage in those days took 6 to 12 months depending on the ship and weather encountered.

Toward the end of the long journey it is said that Grace Bulkeley “apparently died and her husband, supposing land to be near and unwilling to consign the beloved form to a watery grave, urgently entreated the Captain that the body might be kept one day and yet another day”. On the third day, symptoms of vitality were observed, and before the ship reached Boston, Grace had amazingly recovered. Grace’s trance-like state was probably due to the fact that she was early into her first pregnancy.

The ship arrived in mid-summer of 1635 and that fall the Reverend Peter and his family tracked through the rugged wilderness where they, along with other settlers, had purchased a six mile square tract of land

from the Indians, and there they founded the town of Concord, Massachusetts.

Some months later Grace gave birth to her first child, a son named Gershom, a biblical name meaning “an exile”.

