

MYSTERY SHIP ARRIVES



Winter Moon, 1620

ONE MORE SHIP has come to our shores, but it is very different this time. Women and children are among the group, and the men have begun to build on the grounds of Patuxet. Runners are reporting their movements to the sachems, who express their concern at this recent occurrence.

Our nations on the coast, as well as those along the river ways, have seen many, many ships come and go over the last 100 years. They have fished in our waters, sought out those who would trade furs and goods with them, and they have wandered about our lands, noting the different kinds of animals, plants, and locations of springs, ponds, and rivers. While we watched and remained aware of the places they traveled, we also realized that they would be returning to their own countries.

Then the day came that their visits were not so seemingly benign, but took a darker turn. This was with the kidnappings of

so many of our young men from coastal villages. With the exceptions of Tisquantum and Epenow from Aquinnah, there was never even one report of any who returned home. They were gone forever, leaving their families coldly without their loved ones.