

Source: Contract of Indenture, 1619

That the said Robert does hereby covenant [pledge] faithfully to serve the said Sir William, Richard, George, and John for three years from the day of his landing in the land of Virginia, there to be employed in the lawful and reasonable works and labors of them and to be obedient to such governors as they shall from time to time appoint and set over him. In consideration whereof, the said Sir William, Richard, George, and John do covenant with the said Robert to transport him (with God's assistance) with all convenient speed into the said land of Virginia at their expense, and there to maintain him with convenient diet and apparel suitable for such a servant; and in the end of the said term to make him a free man of the said country, thereby to enjoy all the liberties, freedoms, and privileges of a freeman there; and to grant to the said Robert thirty acres of land within their territory.

William Bradford, *On Plymouth Plantation*, *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Third Edition, Shorter, W. W. Norton and Company, New York, 1989, pages 46-47

From Book II, Chapter XXXII, Anno Dom: 1642

[A HORRIBLE CASE OF BESTIALITY]

And after the time of the writing of these things befell a very sad accident of the like foul nature in this government, this very year, which I shall now relate.

There was a youth whose name was Thomas Granger. He was servant to an honest man of Duxbury, being about 16 or 17 years of age. (His father and mother lived at the same time at Scituate.) He was this year detected of buggery, and indicted for the same, with a mare, a cow, two goats, five sheep, two calves and a turkey. Horrible it is to mention, but the truth of the history requires it. He was first discovered by one that accidentally saw his lewd practice towards the mare. (I forbear particulars.) Being upon it examined and committed, in the end he not only confessed the fact with that beast at that time, but sundry times before and at several times with all the rest of the forenamed in his indictment. And this his free confession was not only in private to the magistrates (though at first he strived to deny it) but to sundry, both ministers and others; and afterwards, upon his indictment, to the whole Court and jury; and confirmed it at his execution. And whereas some of the sheep could not so well be known by his description of them, others with them were brought before him and he declared which were they and which were not. And accordingly he was cast by the jury and condemned, and after executed about the 8th of September, 1642. A very sad spectacle it was. For first the mare and then the cow and the rest of the lesser cattle were killed before his face, according to the law, Leviticus XX 15 and then he himself was executed. The cattle were all cast into a great and large pit that was digged of purpose for them, and no use made of any part of them.