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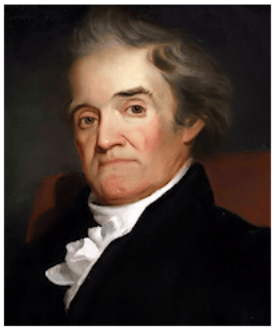
It's essential to understand primary resources and the definitions used at the time of our Forefathers and Founding Fathers. Both have to do with context.



Noah Webster

Appertain

APPERTA'IN, *verb intransitive* [Latin ad and pertineo, to pertain, of per and teneo, to hold. Pertineo is to reach to, to extend to, hence to belong. See Tenant.]

To belong, whether by right, nature or appointment.

Give it to him to whom it appertaineth. Leviticus 6:5.

[See Pertain.]

When a word can be substituted for a related word Noah Webster indicates it by saying "See [other word]." Observe this with "See Tenant" and "See Pertain" in the definition of "Appertain."

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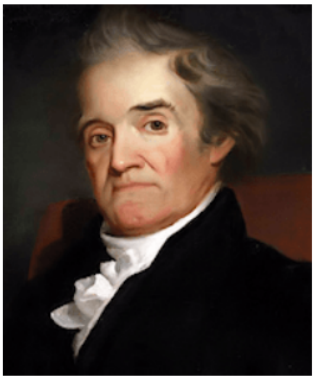

Noah Webster

Hero

HE'RO, *noun* [Latin heros; Gr. a demigod.]

1. A man of distinguished valor, intrepidity or enterprise in danger; as a *hero* in arms.

2. A great, illustrious or extraordinary person; as a *hero* in learning. [*Little Used*.]

Webster also highlights when a definition for a word is “little used,” as in entry 2 for “hero.”

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CONSECRATE, *adjective* Sacred; consecrated; devoted; dedicated.

They were assembled in that *consecrate* place.

[This word is now seldom used, unless in poetry.]

Webster also lets us know when a word is seldom used. Not just a definition of a word, but a word. Like with the word “consecrate” . . .

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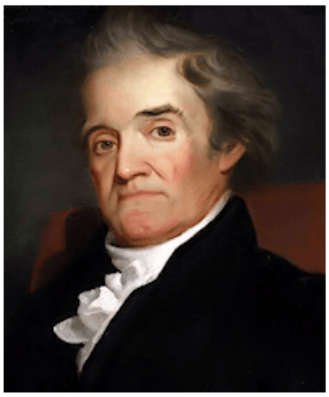

Noah Webster

Populosity

POPULOS'ITY, *noun* Populousness. [*Not used.*]

. . . and like the word “populosity.”

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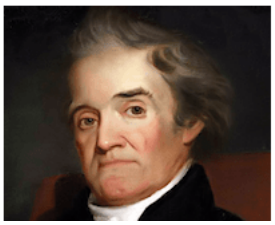
So, when we consider the specific wording the Pilgrim's used in the Mayflower Compact it reveals to us their hearts, mindset, and intentions.



Savage

SAV'AGE, *adjective* [Latin silva, a wood, or silvicola, an inhabitant of a wood, or silvaticus.]

SAV'AGE, *noun*

1. A human being in his native state of rudeness; one who is untaught, uncivilized or without cultivation of mind or manners. The savages of America, when uncorrupted by the vices of civilized men, are remarkable for their hospitality to strangers, and for their truth, fidelity and gratitude to their friends, but implacably cruel and revengeful towards their enemies. From this last trait of the *savage* character, the word came to signify,

2. A man of extreme, unfeeling, brutal cruelty; a barbarian.

3. The name of a genus of fierce voracious flies.

SAV'AGE, *verb transitive* To make wild, barbarous or cruel. [Not well authorized and *Little Used*.]

A verb transitive sentence example:
" Years of brutal warfare savaged the once-peaceful tribe, turning them into hardened warriors."

Observe: Webster does not make a note to "See Salvage." This is extremely important when understanding the context of the Mayflower Compact.

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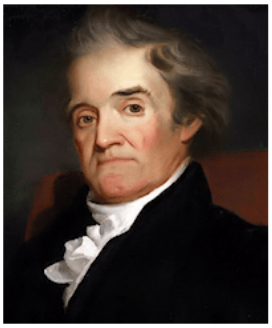
Noah Webster

Salvage

SALV'AGE, *noun* [Latin salvus, salvo.]

In commerce, a reward or recompense allowed by law for the saving of a ship, or goods from loss at sea, either by shipwreck or other means, or by enemies or pirates.

SALV'AGE, for savage, not used. [See Savage.]

Webster makes a significant note that “salvage, for savage, is not used.” After that note, he points us to “See Savage” for the purpose of comparing and contrasting these two words and how they differ.

The word “salvage” was intentionally used by the Pilgrims because their worldview was that the natives were equals, made in God’s image, and that they were “salvageable” . . . meaning that they could be saved by Jesus Christ as well.