

They argued with the Dutch Arminians, tried to keep their children out of the Dutch culture, and worried about their relatives in England. They saw some defection and, as noted, some theological diversity in their numbers. They yearned for England but their dislike of episcopacy was such that they could not bear the thought of an actual return. But hearing that James was allowing some (or would allow some) to leave for the new world, the Scroobyites applied for such permission, received it, and determined to go to the new world. They were supposed to go to the royal colony in Virginia--Jamestown--but they never seem to have had that in mind and due to "faulty navigational instruments" eventually came to New England.

The move came in 1620 when about 150 persons sailed aboard the Mayflower and the Speedwell..both poorly named in light of performance and the latter having to release its passengers and return quickly due to excessive leaking. They were financed by commercial houses who expected a return on the investments and the understanding was that it should be repaid in 7 years. Technically the group would be under the watchful eye of Jamestown but that was before the compass trouble. While the trip was a good one (only one death at sea), they arrived in New England on the 21st of December and faced a bleak winter on their boat. Only 50 persons survived to face the spring. A frightful beginning.

But a number of highly providential events in their coming made the expedition successful. They arrived at a time of relative peace among the Indians with an absence of local warriors following war and disease. They came into contact with Squanto, an Indian who had been enslaved in Europe, escaped to England, lived in London, and had been brought home by English explorers. He had a high opinion of the English and was something of an alien himself, his people having perished in the plague during his absence. That the colonists could adapt to a new way of life so readily was certainly providential. They very literally changed worlds but in spite of it were able to adapt themselves to a new environment and established a community of far-sighted importance. (If you have opportunity: Dr. MacRae gives a fine talk on this point and subject.)

The Plymouth plantation was founded on the ideas set forth in the Mayflower Compact, a governmental agreement for the control of the colony to which all had agreed while on ship. The "common storehouse" soon