**The New England Colonists  
 The Pilgrims and Puritans**

In the month of September in 1620 a ship called the Mayflower, that was docked at the English for the compliment loaded and supplies for a long voyage, had to be ready to carry 102 people across the Atlantic Ocean to America. These people were religious rebels. Why did the Pilgrims were into travel to such a far distant land? The answers is they were need to find where they could freely practice their religion. The pilgrims belonged to a group called the separatists who felt they needed to separate themselves from the church's England to worship God as they saw. Ten years after they started the Plymouth Colony in New England the Pilgrims were joined in America by another religious group called the Puritans. The Puritans weren't at the church of England to be purer and simpler than it was but they didn't were at two separate from. The Puritans and the separatist pilgrims had many of the same ideas about religion but they were all so different from one to another. Still both groups were very important to the history of the united deeds because their ideas and ways of doing things helped shape our country develop. Now let us return to the European five hundred years ago and learn about the great changes in religion that brought about the strict beliefs have puritans and pilgrims. The first thing to know about the Puritans and pilgrims is that they were protestants but five hundred years ago all the Christians in western Europe were Roman Catholics. But some Roman Catholics wanted to change their church. These people became known as protestants and the changes they brought about came to be called the protestant reformation. The protestants thought the Catholics were wrong about a lot of things. For instance Catholics believe that their leader could make important religious laws but the protestants didn't believe that only the Bible could be trusted for such things. English Protestants belong to the church in this religion was quite a bit like the old Roman Catholic and later earned some people thought this was in the 1530 or around the same time. King Henry VIII started the church's England a Frenchman named. Calvin was busy creating protestant and it was Calvin's ideas on religion that had the most to do shaping the believes up the Puritans. John Calvin started what were called the reformed churches. In these churches were found people who joined the reform churches. They thought that the Roman Catholics were not following the plan that Christ had in mind for his believers. That was why they destroyed religious objects such as statues, stained glass windows and alters because they believe that Christ weren't in True Religion to the plane simple in very strict England. Certain people really liked Calvin's ideas on religion and they decided they wanted to follow his example and purify the church's England by getting rid of all traces of the Catholic faith. This is the reason why they started to be called puritans. Most puritans didn't want to leave the Church of England. Instead they hope that by working as church members they could change all the things they found wrong with it such as religious artwork priests in Catholic ceremony. But one group of Puritans felt they had to separate from the Church of England to follow their religious beliefs. They were called separatists. The people who later became known as the pilgrims and many as separatists, including most of those who started the Plymouth Colony in what is today the state of Massachusetts, came from a few tiny farming towns. Not far from here in the misty northern part the England in fact William Brewster, the man who led the congregation at the Plymouth Colony, attended this church in a tiny village. Its crew be fifty years before he let his first religious services in New England and the man who became the second governor, the Plymouth Colony William Bradford, was baptized in this church in a village near. In 1603 after the Queen died the English people got a new ruler King James. James ordered all private religious services to stop and made it a crime not to belong to the Church of England. The Puritans and separatists begged the key to allow freedom religion but he swore he would drive them outliving if they didn't obey his command. This many separatists were forced to leave their churches and meet secretly in houses such as this one in the English carotenes poem but after they got caught having an illegal religious service. Many separatist decided to sell off their homes and move to Holland where they could worship God as they saw. So in 1607 the pilgrim set off on foot across 60 miles over open countryside beginning an amazing journey that finally ended up thirteen years later in America. First they headed here to Boston and the English seacoast worship was supposed to take them across the North Sea to Holland but the ship's master turn them over to the police. They were jailed in this building the Boston Guildhall and their leaders were kept here for one month before being released but the programs did not give up easily so they tried again and in 1608 started to Holland. They felt really nervous at home here and so after only nine years the pilgrims decided to move to England's new American colony, Virginia, where they could have more freedom to follow their religious ideas and speak their own language. They have a chance to gain economic security and soon the pilgrims got a company of merchants from here in London to give them the money they needed to start their new community.