

FOUR JOURNAL ENTRIES MADE ON IMPORTANT DATES BY A PILGRIM

By Amy Cook

1608 – Holland

Praise God that at last we have arrived! After much trial He has brought us from England into a new land. Though unsure of what will happen next, we are safe for a time and are now able to freely, without fear of persecution, worship the Almighty. I look out and see clear skies, free of religious dissention, pure air free from the pride of the Church of England, and a new and brighter future in which true Godliness is not just tolerated, nay, warmly, whole-heartedly embraced by leader and layman alike.

1620 – Mayflower

We are now leaving the city of Leyden. The worldly, ungodly, and materialistic society are stealing children from our little band of devout believers. In an effort to rescue them, one hundred-two of the strongest and most fit for travel, are leaving on the Mayflower for the New World. A very dangerous and tiring journey is ahead of us, but by God's grace and blessing, we will arrive sometime. A very hard parting indeed has just passed, as we are leaving many behind. But because of our need to worship God, now free from worldliness, we are leaving to begin a new country – and that for God.

1620 – two months later – Winter in the New Land

“Land in sight” informed us our long, hard voyage was almost ended. But ahead still lay a vast, wild, unsettled land – and we were to live there. Providence has brought us thus far, and Providence will see us through. Last fall we hurriedly built homes for families. But winter arrived. We are running out of food, warmth is almost unheard of, and our people are growing ill and dying. Only God knows how many will live ‘till spring. Do we regret what we’ve done? No! May it never be! Is warmth and food worth forsaking God and losing our children to the world? Absolutely not! With God’s protection and mercy we will remain and continue in this new land.

1621 – Thanksgiving

“Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good, his love endureth forever”! Truly this is the prayer of all here today. An abundant harvest due to God’s providence in bringing Squanto and Samoset to us, and of course causing things to grow that are fit for our use. We have now set aside a time for giving thanks to the Almighty for His abundant goodness and greatness. Surely he has blessed exceedingly. We feel now that with God’s continued help, we will make it through the coming winter. God truly has given us a “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over”!