

**Volume 10**

**Number 040**

**Mayflower Compact - I**

**Lead: One of the icons of American democracy is the Mayflower Compact, the Pilgrim's signed commitment in November 1620 to justice and equality in local government. The chance to govern themselves and pursue their religious impulses was a long time coming.**

**Intro. : *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: When the tiny square-rigged *Mayflower* delivered its human cargo of 102 settlers out of their long, difficult Atlantic crossing into what would become the Cape Cod harbor**

**of Provincetown in late 1620, the leaders of the expedition, later called Pilgrims, were nearing the end of a long sojourn. They were Separatists and represented a tiny radical outgrowth of the English puritan movement, an informal network mostly worshipping within the Church of England. Puritans were vigorous proponents of the doctrines articulated by John Calvin and wished to “purify” and remove all remaining vestiges of Roman Catholicism within the Anglican structure.**

**Most of the puritans in the early 1600s were content to remain in the Church of England and work for reform, though sometimes they**

**considered themselves, with some justification, as being under duress at the hands their more traditional opponents within the Church and the government of Kings James I and his son Charles I. The Separatists, or non-conformists, could not even abide remaining within the Anglican Church at all, and worshipped separately.**

**Hounded in England because of their practices, a group of them settled in the Dutch town of Leyden in 1609, but were discouraged by the lack of business opportunities. They returned to England in 1620 and helped organize an expedition to establish a commercial colony north of the Jamestown settlement already**

**planted in Virginia. They ended up much farther to the north at Plymouth, on Massachusetts Bay. Next time: a just and equal covenant.**

**Research assistance by Michael B. Holt, at the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

## Resources

- Adler, Mortimer J., Ed., *The Annals of America*, vol. 1. Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1968.
- Bainton, Roland H. *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1956.
- Baym, Nina, Ed., *Norton Anthology of American Literature, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Volume A*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2003.
- Bradford, William. *Of Plymouth Plantation*, Samuel Eliot Morrison, ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1952.
- Brinton, Crane, John B. Christopher, Robert Lee Wolff, *A History of Civilization*, 3<sup>d</sup> ed.. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1967.
- Clarke, John J. *A History of Local Government of the United Kingdom*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1978.
- Knox, John. "Exegesis of The Epistle to the Romans," in George Arthur Buttrick et. Al., Eds., *The Interpreter's Bible, Volume IX*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1954.
- Langdon, George D., Jr. "The Franchise and Political Democracy in Plymouth Colony," *The William and Mary Quarterly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series* 20 (4, October 1963): 513-526
- Marsh, Daniel L. *The American Canon*. New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1939.
- Morison, Samuel Eliot. "New Light Wanted on the Old Colony," *The William and Mary Quarterly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series* 15 (2, July, 1958):359-364.
- Osgood, Herbert L. *The American Colonies in the Seventeenth Century*. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd, 1904.
- Sargent, Mark L. "The Conservative Covenant: The Rise of the Mayflower Compact in American Myth," *The New England Quarterly* 61 (2, June, 1988): 233-251.
- Smith, Lacy Baldwin. *This Realm of England 1399-1688*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001.
- "The Mayflower Compact," n.d.,  
<<http://www.pilgrimhall.org/compact.htm>> (1 October 2003)
- "The Seven Articles of Leyden," n.d.,  
<<http://www.apuritansmind.com/Creeds/SevenArticlesLeyden.htm>> (12 October 2003)

**Copyright by Dan Roberts Enterprises, Inc.**