



0. LIFE IN LEIDEN - Story Preface

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When the Leiden Separatists (later known as "The Pilgrims") lived in the Dutch town of Leiden, they would have seen people skating on iced-over canals during the winter months. Anthony Beerstraten created this painting, depicting the frozen town of Leiden, circa 1665. Image online via Wikimedia Commons.

The Pilgrims received permission to reside in Leiden on February 12, 1609 and arrived there on May Day of that year. A university town (then and now), the city provided a rich intellectual environment for the Englishmen. They remained in Leiden until 1620.

Walking through the city today, we can still see many of the places which were important to the future American colonists:

- Continuously since the 13th century, Dutch people in Leiden have bought and sold goods in a marketplace near today's Koornbrug (Corn Bridge).
- A block from the bridge is the Stadhuis (Town Hall) where William Bradford (the Pilgrim's future governor and adopted son of William Brewster) reportedly married his wife, Dorothy May. (Actually, historical records tell us that Bradford married his wife in Amsterdam where she was living with her English parents.)
- Because they were poor, the English families likely bought their meat at the Penshal, across the street from the Stadius.
- Miles Standish, a soldier who joined the Pilgrims on their Mayflower crossing, was treated at St. Catherine's Hospital in 1601. Today the chapel of that hospital is known as the Waalse Kerk (Walloon Church).
- The Pieterskerk (Peter's Church) was a significant place for the Mayflower Pilgrims. Their pastor in Leiden, John Robinson (who had intended to join the settlers later) is buried there.
- While he was alive, John Robinson lived near the Pieterskerk. Although his house is gone, another home (the Jean Pesijnshofje almshouse, built in 1683) stands in its place. A plaque commemorates Robinson's time there while a map from 1600 (made by Pieter Bast) gives us a contemporary view of the area around the church.
- The Pilgrims built 21 houses near the home of their pastor and lived in a garden area called "The Green Close." Although their houses are also gone, one can see the location where they lived.
- Some of the Pilgrims left families in Leiden when they crossed the Atlantic on the Mayflower. Thomas Rogers,

one of those individuals (who took a son - Joseph - with him on the crossing), died the first winter in America. While he was away, his family lived in Leiden. (They later joined Joseph in the "new world.")

- While living in Leiden, William Brewster (the author of the *Mayflower Compact* and chief elder for Pastor Robinson) wrote (and, with the help of Edward Winslow, published) books about his religious beliefs. (Writing such things would have been illegal had Brewster still lived in England.) Today, only a wall remains of the Brewster home, but the alleyway in which the house stood is called *William Brewstersteeg* (William Brewster Alley).

It was those books which, at least in part, forced the Pilgrims to leave Holland.

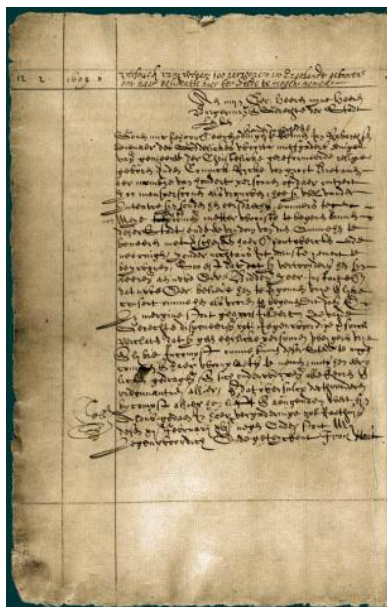
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LIFE-IN-LEIDEN-Pilgrims-to-America-A-Pictorial-History>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/LIFE-IN-LEIDEN-Pilgrims-to-America-A-Pictorial-History>

Media Stream



Pilgrims - Letter Approving Move to Leiden

Image, courtesy Pilgrim Archives in The Netherlands.

Information and translated passage, courtesy The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pilgrims-Letter-Approving-Move-to-Leiden>



Leiden - Map at Time of Pilgrims' Residence

Courtesy Pilgrim Archives in The Netherlands.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leiden-Map-at-Time-of-Pilgrims-Residence>

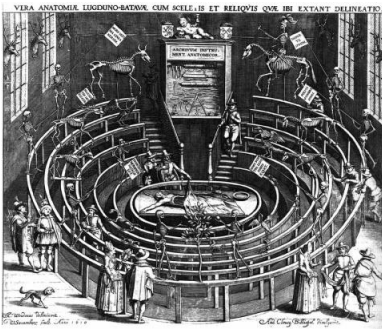


Leiden - Location in The Netherlands

Image online, courtesy the turkey-visit.com website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leiden-Location-in-The-Netherlands>



Leiden University - Dissection Hall, 1610

Anatomical Theater in Leiden (1610), Engraving by W. Swanenburg.

Courtesy, Yale University

View this asset at:

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Leiden University - Academy Building

Image online, courtesy Wikipedia.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leiden-University-Academy-Building>



Leiden - University Town

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leiden-University-Town>



Fish Market - Leiden

Image online, courtesy the dbnl.org website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Fish-Market-Leiden>



Leiden - Flower Market

Image online, courtesy the dbnl.org website.

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Leiden - Corn Bridge

Image online, courtesy the dbnl.org website.

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Leiden - Market Area

Image, described above, by Kate and Tony Calvert. Copyright, Kate and Tony's OE, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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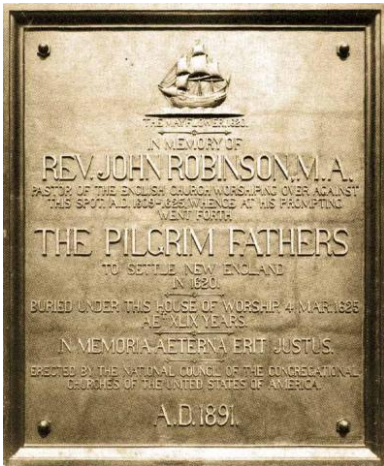


Leiden - Stadhuis, William Bradford Wedding

Image online, courtesy the dbnl.org website.

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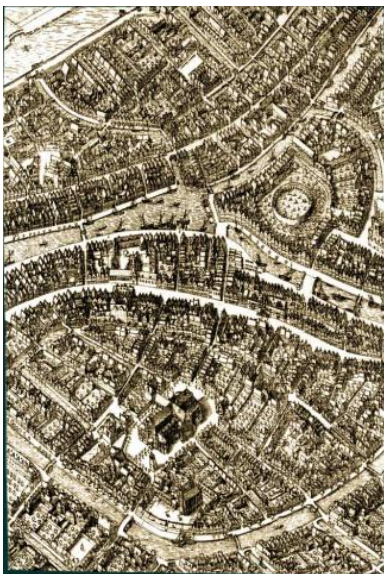
John Robinson - Pilgrim Fathers' Pastor

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/John-Robinson-Pilgrim-Fathers-Pastor>



Leiden - Map from 1600

Image, courtesy Pilgrim Archives in The Netherlands.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leiden-Map-from-1600>



Leiden - Pieterskerk, Pilgrims' Church

Image online, courtesy the pieterskerk.com website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leiden-Pieterskerk-Pilgrims-Church>



Leiden - Place of Pilgrim Homes

Image online, via Wikimedia Commons.

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Leiden - Town of Bridges

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Leiden - William Brewster Alley

Image online via Wikimedia Commons.

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Miles Standish - Treated in Leiden

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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LIFE IN LEIDEN

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