



0. BACK TO ENGLAND - Story Preface

1. A PERSECUTED PEOPLE

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4. LIFE IN LEIDEN

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**6. BACK TO ENGLAND**

7. TO AMERICA

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10. THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

Because the *Speedwell* kept leaking, the Leiden Separatists (later called "The Pilgrims") had to return to England for repairs. Ships of the day were cramped and uncomfortable. A transatlantic crossing, in such a vessel, could take up to two months.

The Leiden Separatists did not have financial resources to support their trip to America. In order to make the journey, they would have to work for investors (Merchant Adventurers) wishing to make profits in the New World. As such, the Pilgrims agreed to become indentured servants for seven years.

Captain John Smith (who had returned to England from the "New World" and, in 1624, would write *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles*) was willing to sail with the Pilgrims as an advisor. Unfortunately, they did not have enough money to hire him. They bought a copy of his map instead.

Leaving the Dutch port of Delfshaven on the *Speedwell*, the group reached the British port of Southampton (in July of 1620) where they planned to join up with a larger ship called the *Mayflower*. Both vessels would sail for America (where the smaller craft would later be used for fishing purposes). That, at least, was the plan ... until the *Speedwell*, while still in the English Channel, started to leak.

Needing *Speedwell* repairs, the Pilgrims sailed to the English port of Dartmouth. (See the *ship's log*, August 10/20.) An overhaul of the leaking ship took approximately ten days. (See *log*, August 22/September 1.)

Believing both vessels were now seaworthy, the Pilgrims left England on a west-southwest course. About three hundred miles into their journey, the *Speedwell* was leaking - dangerously - again. The *Mayflower's log*:

*SATURDAY, Aug. 26/Sept. 5*

*Observations showed ship above 100 leagues W.S.W. of Land's End.*

*SPEEDWELL signalled and hove to. Reported leaking dangerously. On consultation between Masters [captains of non-military ships were called "masters" in the 17th century] and carpenters of both ships, it was concluded to put back into Plymouth--Bore up for Plymouth. Consort [the *Speedwell*] in company.*

The English town, which would give its name to the Pilgrim's colony, was an unintended stop.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/BACK-TO-ENGLAND-Pilgrims-to-America-A-Pictorial-History)

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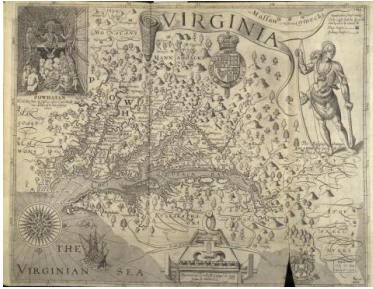
### Captain John Smith - Portrait and Bio

Image, U.S. National Archives.

Information and quoted reference, National Park Service - *Captain John Smith Chesapeake* web site.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Captain-John-Smith-Portrait-and-Bio>



### John Smith - Map of Chesapeake Bay

*Virginia, Discovered and Discribed by Captayn John Smith.*

Image, U.S. Library of Congress.

Information, and quoted passage, from the Library of Congress - *American Treasures of the Library of Congress.*

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### Captain John Smith - First Map of New England

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### Pilgrims in England - 1st Stop, Southampton

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### Pilgrims in England - 2nd Stop, Dartmouth

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### Westward Sailing - Land's End, Last Sight

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