

America's Quadracentennial – 1610-2010
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This year marks the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' first year in Leyden, Holland. William Bradford was 20. During 1610, Jamestown was going through its most terrible "starving time." It was nearly abandoned. The Pilgrims were attempting, during the entire year, to bring peace to the various factions of reformed churches in Amsterdam. Though they were not completely successful in keeping the first or "ancient church" together, the process itself helped them solidify their own expression of the Christian faith to every area of their lives, including civil affairs. It was this application to civil government, in particular, that became the germ of American self-government when they arrived in 1620. We can be thankful that 400 years ago the seed of self-government was being formed in Holland that would, a decade later, be planted in the soil of Plymouth, and eventually impact the United States!