WHO WERE THE PILGRIM FATHERS?

The accompanying maps and legends tell the story of the founding of Plymouth colony in Massachusetts, trace the movements of the Pilgrims from the time they left England until they reached the shores of the new world, and locate the principal sites of colonization not only in New England but in other sections along the eastern coast of North America.

Their Flight to Freedom in New World

By JOHN A. MENAUGH

The Pilgrims who founded Plymouth colony in Massachusetts on Dec. 26, 1620, and who observed America's first Thanksgiving day in the following autumn, 316 years ago, were members of a sect known as Separatists, or Brownists. They are not to be confused with the Puritans, who subsequently settled in Massachusetts in relatively large numbers.

The Puritans favored reformation within the Church of England, while the Separatists, as their name implies, advocated complete separation from the church, an idea which they put into practice and which eventually led to the establishment of the first English colony in New England.

The Separatists were poor, hard-working folk from lowly stations in life, most of them being farmers and day laborers, and few having any knowledge of the skilled trades. They were stern in their religious beliefs, were absolutely opposed to joy except in a spiritual way, and adhered to the idea that each congregation of their sect should be an authority unto Devout, Uncompromising, Joyless People

itself, accepting no orders from higher churchmen or higher church bodies. Although they usually are grouped among the nonconformists, of whom the Puritans represented the largest number, theirs was a crowd that set them aside from all other dissenters from the established church. The Puritans only desired to remove all vestiges of pomp and ceremony from the Church of England, but the Separatists wanted no part of the church, a position that brought upon them considerable persecution during the time of James, the first Stuart king.

Largely responsible for the Separatist movement of the early seventeenth century was one Robert Browne, in his early life an uncompromising enemy of the devil and an arch-enemy of the episcopal form of government. A former student of Cambridge and a man with a gift tongue, he preached Separatism and frequently was cast into jail. In 1592 he led a group of co-religionists in a migration to Holland, and while in self-imposed exile wrote several books, among them "A Book which sheweth the life and manners of all True Christians." Browne in old age returned to the Church of England, became a clergyman, and finally died in Northampton jail after a brawl with a parish constable, the sect that he was largely instrumental in founding continued to exist in out-of-the-way places here and there in England, despite efforts to suppress it.

About the year 1602 a small... (Continued on page four)