

The Pilgrims and Thanksgiving

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However, they did not bring enough food with them and when winter set in, they did not have enough food to eat. They also did not have proper shelter from the harsh winters and nearly half the settlers perished of disease and starvation.

William Bradford – became governor after the first governor dies that winter. He governs Plymouth for 36 years.

Following the hard winter, the Pilgrims begin to clear land and plant crops in the Spring and received help from local Native American tribes. **Squanto** helped them the most and brought them seeds of native plants (corn, beans, pumpkins) that would grow well. He taught them how to tread water and catch eels in the rivers. This led to a strong harvest that Fall and they set aside a day to give thanks for this great harvest and continued to do so for years to come. This is now known as “Thanksgiving.”

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