

**1290. Documentation for John Howland**  
**(About 1592 to 23 February 1672/3)**  
**father of Desire Howland**  
**(About 1625-26 to 13 October 1683)**

(The following was taken from *John Howland of the Mayflower Volume I The First Five Generations Documented Descendants through his first child Desire Howland and her husband Captain John Gorham* by Elizabeth Pearson White.)

John Howland of Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire, England, a passenger on the famous ship *Mayflower*, which sailed from Plymouth, England, in the autumn of 1620, was the indentured manservant of Mr. John Carver, a wealthy Londoner, who became the first governor of New Plimoth Colony in Massachusetts. On 11 November 1620, as the ship lay at anchor in Cape Cod Bay, John Howland was the thirteenth man to sign the *Mayflower Compact*, the agreement which laid the foundation for the new town that the able-bodied men on board the *Mayflower* planned to create when the group landed in what was to become Plymouth, Massachusetts.(1)

The son of Henry and Margaret Howland, John Howland was born about 1592 and grew up in Fenstanton, a town nine miles northwest of Cambridge on the old Roman Road. No baptismal record has been found for John Howland but he was said to have been "above eighty years" when he died in Rocky Nook, Kingston, near Plymouth, 23 February 1672. His father, Henry Howland, yeoman, died in Fenstanton 17 May 1635, and his mother, Margaret, was buried there 31 July 1629. The identity of this family is proved by the probate records of John's brother, Humphrey Howland, a draper, who settled in St. Swithin's Parish in London. Humphrey Howland, in his will written in London 28 May 1646 and proved 10 July 1646 by his second wife, Anne, mentioned his brothers, Arthur, John, and Henry, his sister, Margaret, wife of Richard Phillips of Fenstanton, shoemaker, his "nephew," Simon Howland, and his "niece," Hannah Howland, Simon's sister. Additional information about John Howland's family is found in the records of the intestate estate of another brother, George Howland, a merchant of St. Dunstan's East London, who had died two years earlier, 10 February 1643/4. His estate was administered by Humphrey Howland's wife, Anne, 11 July 1646. Simon Howland was baptized in Fenstanton 19 August 1604, called "son of Henrye," and was probably the Simon Howland who was apprenticed 19 March 1622, to Humphrey Howland, "citizen and draper of London."(2)

Two of John's brothers followed John to Plymouth. Henry Howland, the youngest brother, was apprenticed to his brother, Humphrey Howland, in London and his name is found there on the Roll of the Drapers Company, 1 October 1623. But less than ten years later, Henry arrived in Plymouth where he was taxed 25 March 1633. John's oldest brother, Arthur Howland, soon followed his younger brothers to New England and was listed by Thomas Lechford 28 August 1640 as "of Duxbury in New England, Planter."(3)

Thus the progenitors of three separate Howland families arrived in Plymouth Colony during the first twenty years of its existence, making it difficult to sort out and identify their many descendants.

John Howland of the *Mayflower* was called by Governor William Bradford "a lusty younge man." He was one of the hired hands among the *Mayflower* company,

being neither a "Saint," as the Pilgrims were called, nor a "Stranger," engaged for a specific duty, as was the soldier, Captain Myles Standish.(4)

During the voyage across the North Atlantic, the Mayflower was buffeted by severe autumn storms during which she was forced to drop her sails and head into the wind, wallowing in the mountainous waves. John Howland ventured on deck and was washed overboard into the boiling sea. In Governor Bradford's words, "as they lay at hull in a mighty storm, a lusty young man called John Howland, coming upon some occasion above the gratings, was, with a seele of the ship, thrown into the sea; but it pleased God that he caught hold of the topsail halliards which hunge over board and rane out at length; yet he held his hold, though he was sundry fathoms under water, till he was hauled by the same rope to the brime of the water, and then with a boat-hook and other means got into the ship again, and his life saved.(5)

It was this tenacity of purpose, perseverance, and the ability to deal with unexpected emergencies that helped John Howland to become a successful leader in the Plymouth community.

The Carver family with whom John lived, survived the terrible sickness of the first winter, during which many Pilgrims died. But the following spring, on an unusually hot day in April, Governor Carver, according to Bradford, came out of his cornfield feeling ill. He passed into a coma and "never spake more." His wife, Katherine, died soon after her husband.(6)

Since the Carvers had no children, John Howland is thought to have inherited their estate. It has been said that he immediately "bought his freedom" but no record has survived.(7)

On or about what was then New Year's Day, 25 March 1623 (old style), John Howland married his fellow Mayflower passenger, Elizabeth Tilley. Elizabeth was baptized at Henlow, Huntingdonshire, England, 30 August 1607, the fifth and youngest child of a silk-weaver named John Tilley, and his wife, Joan (Hurst) Rogers. She was the only child of her parents recorded as coming with them to America.(8)

At the time of her marriage she was not quite sixteen years of age.

The early records of the Colony of New Plymouth contain an account of the Division of Land in 1623, in which John Howland, as head of a household, received four acres "on the Sothside of the brook to the woodward." According to one researcher, John Howland was given one share (or acres) in his own right and three shares for his wife, Elizabeth Tilley, and her deceased parents, John and Joan Tilley.(9)

But Franklyn Howland, author of *The History of Arthur, Henry and John Howland and Their Descendants*, states that Governor Carver's family consisted of John Carver, himself, his wife, Kathrine, John Howland, Desire Minter, a man servant named Roger Wilder, a boy, Jasper More, a boy, William Latham, and an unnamed servant maid. When Elizabeth Tilley's parents, John and Joan Tilley, and her uncle Edward Tilley, died the first winter, Elizabeth became part of the Carver household. Roger Wilder died the first winter. Governor Carver died a few months later, in April 1621, and his wife died in May 1621. The boy, Jasper More, died 6 December 1621, and the servant maid died soon after. That left John Howland as the head of the household containing four people, the other three being Elizabeth Tilley, Desire Minter and the lad, William Latham.(10)

Desire Minter, one of the members of John Howland's household, had come in the Mayflower with the Carvers. Desire must have been no more fifteen years of age when she arrived in Plymouth. She was the daughter of William and Sarah (Willet) Minter, members of the group of Separatists living in Leiden. Her father, William

Minter, died before 1618 and her mother, Sarah, married Roger Symondsen in Leiden 18 August 1618. Roger was accompanied to his wedding by his friends, Daniel Fairfield and John Carver.(11)

It was this same John Carver in whose care Desire Minter sailed in the Mayflower for Plymouth in 1620. Desire's mother was widowed a second time and, before 10 May 1622, she married her third husband, Roger Eastman. On that date Roger and Sarah Eastman signed an agreement with Thomas Brewer, the philanthropist who had supported Elder William Brewster's printing press in Leiden. In the agreement Thomas Brewer of Leiden was entrusted with 1,900 guilders to be invested, out of which he was to pay 120 guilders annually for the benefit and support of Desire Minter, Sarah's child by her first husband. Payment was to continue until the child reached the age of twenty-one. The contract was drawn up in the presence of John Kebel and William Jepson.(12)

Thomas Brewer returned to England where he was arrested for his support of the Pilgrim Separatists. On 20 October 1623, Roger Eastman, Sarah's third husband, authorized John Kebel and William Jepson to collect Desire Minter's money from Thomas Brewer, who was in prison at this time.(13)

This would seem to indicate that Desire Minter was about fifteen years old when she traveled to Plymouth with John Carver and his wife, Kathrine, in 1620. She was still a minor when her mother and step-father, Sarah and Roger Eastman, signed the second contract in Leiden in 1623. Therefore she was still under twenty-one, when she was living in the household of the newly married John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland at the time the Division of Land was made in 1623.

A few years later, Desire Minter returned to England, perhaps to claim her inheritance. She may have rejoined her mother and stepfather there for, on 1 December 1623, Roger and Sarah Eastman obtained a notarized statement of good character from Thomas Nashe and William Jepson, when they were planning to leave Leiden.(14)

John and Elizabeth Howland were very fond of Desire Minter and named their first child "Desire," in her honor.

In 1626 John Howland became one of the forty-two colonists who assumed Plymouth Colony's debt of £1800 owed to the Merchante Adventurers of London. In order to pay off this mortgage, a monopoly in the Colony's trade was granted to William Bradford, Isaac Allerton and Myles Standis, who chose John Howland as one of their partners, or undertakers, in the project. Later they established a trading post far to the northward, on the Kennebec River, at the present site of Augusta, Maine. John was put in charge of the trading post and a brisk trade developed there in beaver, otter and other furs gathered by the Indians.(15)

John's family may have spent some time with him in Maine, and some of his children may have been born there.

When the Division of Cattle was made 1 June 1627, (new style), only forty-two of the original group of ninety-nine people who reached Plymouth in the Mayflower were still living there. All of the members of each family were listed in the records, including John and Elizabeth Howland, who now had two children, Desire and John, Jr.(16)

Eight more children were born to them in the ensuing years, whom they named Hope, Elizabeth, Lydia, Hannah, Joseph, Jabez, Ruth and Issac.(17)

In 1633 John Howland was made a freeman of Plymouth. During his lifetime he was appointed or elected to many public offices. In 1641, 1645, 1647 and 1648 he represented Plymouth at the General Court. In August 1643 he and his son, John, Jr., were listed among the men in Plymouth, aged 16 to 60, who were able to bear arms. In

1641 and 1644, and from 1647 to 1651, John Howland was one of the assessors of Plymouth. In 1650 he was a surveyor of highways. In 1652 and 1659, and from 1661 to 1668, and again in 1670, he was a Deputy to the General Court. In 1655 and 1666 he was a selectman in Plymouth.(18)

In 1639 the Old Comers were given a choice of several additional plantations for themselves and their heirs, around Yarmouth, Dartmouth and Rehoboth. Part of the land which John Howland chose was in Yarmouth, out on Cape Cod, where his son, John, Jr., and daughters Desire (Howland) Gorham and Hope (Howland) Chipman, settled. It was also in the early part of 1639 that John paid £82 for John Jenny's land and dwelling house at rocky Nook, now in Kingston but then part of Plymouth, which had been built in 1628. And there he lived with his family for the rest of his life.(19)

John Howland also owned a tract of land in Marshfield. among the deeds that have survived the vicissitudes of time is one that settled an argument between John Howland, Sr., Thomas Bourne and John Dingley, concerning the boundaries of a "parcel" of marsh meadow there. It was agreed that "the line or Range shall begin att the beach next the sea upon a west line sett by a compas to a homacke in the marsh where there lves an Old Ceader tree there being noe other nor no more trees next to the great lland but that onely And from the aforesaid west line to the Basse creek To which agreement all the aforesaid parties freely assented unto as aforesaid: alsoe that this agreement bee upon Reocrd both att Marshfield and the court booke att Plymouth to avoid all further Diference for time to Come about the prmises; in witness whereof we the said John Howland senir: Thomas Bourne and John Dingley have put to our hands this fourth of May 1655." This document was signed in the presence of Myles Standish and recorded in 1656.(20)

The following year, on 5 March 1657, John Howland exchanged land in Marshfield for a "farme of land" in the Township of Barnstable owned by Christopher Winter, described as "the Govrs farmes," since it had belonged to Governor Bradford. It contained "fourscore and ten acres of upland according to the bounds be it more or less and ten acres of meddow . . . lying next unto the land of William Crocker." The exchange was acknowledged by Mr. John Howland and Christopher Winter in Plymouth.(21)

The ownership of this land was confirmed by deed to John Howland, Jr., 10 January 1667/8, when John, Sr., made a gift to him of "upland and meadows at Barnstable being late in possession of John Howland, Jr."(22)

John Howland, Sr., died in Rocky Nook 23 February 1672/3. In his will dated 29 May 1672, John mentioned his beloved wife, Elizabeth, and his children, named as John, called "eldest son," Jabez, Isacke, and Joseph, and his married daughters, Desire Gorum (sic), Hope Chipman, Elizabeth Dickinson, Lydia Browne, Hannah Bosworth and Ruth Cushman. John Howland also mentioned his grandchild, Elizabeth Howland, "daughter of son John." The inventory of his estate included his dwelling house in Rocky Nook, meadow at the Jones River, half of a house and meadow in Colchester, a meadow near the Jones River bridge in Duxborrow, a house and land in Middlebury, and land near Nemassakett Pond. Also listed among his possessions were "one great Bible and Annotations on the five books of Moses," as well as "Mr. Tindall's workes, Mr. Wilson's workes and seven more books."(23)

John's widow, Elizabeth, died in Swansea, 21/31 December 1687, at 80 years of age, in the home of her daughter, Lydia Browne. Three of her daughters Desire Gorham, Hope Chipman and Ruth Cushman had already died, leaving heirs. In her will dated 17 December 1686, Elizabeth Howland named her sons, John, Jabez, Joseph and

Isaac, her son-in-law James Browne, her surviving daughters Lydia Browne, Elizabeth Dickason (sic), and Hannah Bosworth, her granddaughters Elizabeth Bursley, Dorothy Browne and Desire Cushman, and her grandsons Nathaniel Howland and James and Jabez Browne. She charged her children to "walke in ye Fear of ye Lord, and in love and peace toward each other."(24)

Children (**Howland**), first three probably born in Plymouth, Mass., next three possibly born in Maine, last four born in Rocky Nook, now Kingston, Mass.(25):

- i. Desire, born probably in 1625.
- ii. John, born 24, 2, 1627 [24 April 1627].
- iii. Hope, born 30 August 1629.
- iv. Elizabeth, born about 1631.
- v. Lydia, born about 1633.
- vi. Hannah, born about 1637.
- vii. Joseph, born about 1640.
- viii. Jabez, born about 1644.
- ix. Ruth, born about 1646.
- x. Isaac, born 15 November 1649.

#### **ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL to support the RELATIONSHIP between JOHN HOWLAND and his daughter DESIRE HOWLAND**

1) White, Elizabeth Pearson, *John Howland of the Mayflower*, Volume 1, The First Five Generations Documented Descendants Through his first child Desire Howland and her husband Captain John Gorham, pages 30-33.

2) *Nantucket Vital Records to 1850*, Marriages, 555, Gorham, Shubael, b. Yarmouth, s. Capt. John of Plymouth (b. England, s. Ralph of Benefield, Northhampshire, Eng.) and Desire (d. John Howland of the Mayflower and Elizabeth (Tilley)), and Puella Hussey, d. Stephen and Martha (Bunker), May \_\_, 1695,\* P.R.38.

3) Mayflower Descendant 2:70-77; Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories 3:1:49-54 (John Howland).

4) Mayflower Descendant 1:148-54. When the Division of Cattle was made 1 June 1627, (new style), all of the members of each family were listed in the records, including John and Elizabeth Howland, who now had two children, Desire and John, Jr.

5) *Genealogical Notes of Barnstable Families, being a reprint of the Amos Otis Papers*, originally published in *The Barnstable Patriot*, revised by C. F. Swift, Volume 1, Barnstable, Mass.: F. B. & F. P. Goss, Publishers and Printers. [The "Patriot" Press.] 1888.

6) Starbuck, *Nantucket*, 743, 807, 827; Lydia S. Hinchman, *Early Settlers of Nantucket*, 2d ed. (Philadelphia: Ferris and Leach, 1901).

7) Henry Barnard Worth, "Nantucket Genealogies. 1608-1910" (MS, Nantucket County Historical Association, Nantucket, Mass.); microfilmed by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints and available as Family History Library [FHL] film 906,499. This work is helpful for clues but must be used with discretion and in conjunction with court records.

8) Wm. C. Folger, "A Record of Births, Deaths, and Marriages on Nantucket, Beginning in 1662," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 7 (April 1853); reprinted in *Mayflower Source Records*.

## REFERENCES

- (1) Mayflower Descendant, [hereafter MD] 1:9; Franklyn Howland, History of Arthur, Henry and John Howland and Their Descendants (New Bedford, Mass. 1885), 315.
- (2) "English Research," The Howland Quarterly (January-April 1964) 28:6-7, and "Fenstanton," (July 1968) 32:2-4, include a brother, Simon, in this family, but Simon Howland is called "nephew" in Humphrey Howland's will as stated in "The Will of Humphrey Howland," (July 1964) 28:2-3.
- (3) National Genealogical Society Quarterly [hereafter NGSQ] (June 1983) 71:84; (June 1987) 75:105.
- (4) George F. Willison, Saints and Strangers (NY 1945), 443.
- (5) William Bradford, History of Plimoth Plantation (Boston 1898), 92-93.
- (6) Ibid., 121-22.
- (7) Willison, 443.
- (8) MD 1:11-14; Robert Leigh Ward, "English Ancestry of Seven Mayflower Passengers," The American Genealogist [hereafter TAG] (Oct. 1976) 52:203.
- (9) MD 1:227-28; Mayflower Quarterly [hereafter MQ] (Feb. and May 1974) 40:8-13, 55-62.
- (10) Franklyn Howland, 321-22.
- (11) Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, "The Pilgrims and Other English in Leiden Records: Some New Pilgrim Documents," New England Historical and Genealogical Register [hereafter NEHGR] (July 1989) 143:209.
- (12) Ibid.
- (13) Bangs, "Jonathan Brewster in Leiden Documents," MQ (Feb. 1986) 52:13.
- (14) NEHGR (July 1989) 143:209.
- (15) Franklyn Howland, 317-18; Bradford, 278, 280, 452-56, 478-79; Willison, 263, 278, 286-88; MQ (May 1981) 47:57-65.
- (16) MD 1:148-54.
- (17) Ibid. 2:70-77.
- (18) Franklyn Howland, 16-17.
- (19) HQ (July 1966) 30:4:4-6.

(20) MD 10:72-73.

(21) Ibid. 12:81-82.

(22) HQ (July 1966) 30:6.

(23) MD 2:70-77; Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories 3:1:49-54 (John Howland).

(24) MD 3:54-57; Bristol Co. Prob. 1:13-14 (Elizabeth Howland).

(25) MD 2:70-77; 3:54-57; 10:66 where the date of John's birth, as given in Judge Sewall's Diary in "old style" (before September 1752), is incorrectly interpreted as 24 February 1627.

## From Ancestry.com, The Great Migration Begins:

### JOHN HOWLAND

*ORIGIN:* Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire

*MIGRATION:* 1620 on *Mayflower*

*FIRST RESIDENCE:* Plymouth

*FREEMAN:* In the "1633" list of Plymouth freemen John Howland is near the head of the list, among the councillors [[PCR](#) 1:3]. In the 6 March 1636/7 list of Plymouth Colony freemen [[PCR](#) 1:52]. In the Plymouth section of the 1639, 1658 and 29 May 1670 lists of Plymouth Colony freemen [[PCR](#) 5:274, 8:173, 197].

*EDUCATION:* His inventory included "1 great Bible and Annotations on the 5 Books of Moses" valued at £1 and "Mr. Tindall's Works, Mr. Wilson's Works, 7 more books" valued at £1.

*OFFICES:* Plymouth Colony Assistant, 1 January 1632/3, 1 January 1633/4, 1 January 1634/5 [[PCR](#) 1:5, 21, 32]. Deputy for Plymouth to General Court, 1 June 1641, 28 October 1645, 1 June 1647, 7 June 1648, 8 June 1649, 4 June 1650, 5 June 1651, 3 June 1652, 7 June 1653, 7 March 1653/4, 6 June 1654, 1 August 1654, 8 June 1655, 3 June 1656, 1 June 1658, 4 June 1661, 1 June 1663, 1 June 1666, 5 June 1667 [[PCR](#) 2:16, 94, 117, 123, 144, 154, 167, 3:8, 31, 44, 49, 63, 79, 99, 135, 214, 4:37, 122, 148].

In charge of the fur trading post at Kennebec, 1634 [[MD](#) 2:10-11]. Committe on the fur trade, 3 October 1659 [[PCR](#) 3:170]. In the Plymouth section of the 1643 Plymouth Colony list of men able to bear arms (as "John Howland Sen.") [[PCR](#) 8:187].

*ESTATE:* In the 1623 Plymouth division of land John Howland received four acres as a passenger on the *Mayflower* [[PCR](#) 12:4]. In the 1627 Plymouth division of cattle John Howland, his wife Elizabeth Howland, John Howland Junior and Desire Howland were the first four persons in the fourth company [[PCR](#) 12:10].

In the Plymouth tax list of 25 March 1633 John Howland was assessed 18s., and in the list of 27 March 1634 £1 4s. [[PCR](#) 1:9, 27]. John Howland was a Purchaser [[PCR](#) 2:177].

On 4 December 1637 "forty acres of land are granted to Mr. John Howland, lying at the Island Creeke Pond at the western end thereof, with the marsh ground that he useth to mow there" [[PCR](#) 1:70]. On 5 November 1638 the "island called Spectacle, lying upon Green's Harbor, is granted to Mr. John Howland" [[PCR](#) 1:102, 110, 168]. Granted six acres of meadow "at the North Meadow by Jones River" [[PCR](#) 2:49].

In his will, dated 29 May 1672 and proved 6 March 1672/3, "John Howland Seni[o]r of the town of New Plymouth ... being now grown aged,



having many infirmities of body upon me," bequeathed to "John Howland my eldest son besides what lands I have already given him, all my right and interest to that one hundred acres of land granted me by the court lying on the eastern side of Taunton River"; to "my son Jabez Howland all those my upland and meadow that I now possess at Satucket and Paomett"; to "my son Jabez Howland all that my one piece of land that I have lying on the southside of the mill brook"; to "Isaac Howland my youngest son all those my uplands and meadows ... in the town of Middlebery and in a tract of land called the Major's Purchase near Namassakett Ponds which I have bought and purchased of William White of Marshfield"; to "my said son Isacke Howland the one half of my twelve acre lot of meadow that I now have at Winnatucsett River"; to "my dear and loving wife Elizabeth Howland the use and benefit of my now dwelling house in Rockey Nooke in the township of Plymouth ... with the outhousing lands ... uplands and meadow lands ... in the town of Plymouth ... excepting what meadow and upland I have before given to my sons Jabez and Isacke Howland during her natural life"; to "my son Joseph Howland after the decease of my loving wife Elizabeth Howland my aforesaid dwelling house at Rockey Nooke"; to "my daughter Desire Gorum 20s."; to "my daughter Hope Chipman 20s."; to "my daughter Elizabeth Dickenson 20s."; to "my daughter Lydia Browne 20s."; to "my daughter Hannah Bosworth 20s."; to "my daughter Ruth Cushman 20s."; to "my grandchild Elizabeth Howland the daughter of my son John Howland 20s."; "these legacies given to my daughters [to] be paid by my executrix"; to "my loving wife Elizabeth Howland my debts and legacies being first paid, my whole estate," she to be executrix [[MD](#) 2:70-73, citing [PCPR](#) 3:1:49-50].

The inventory of "Mr. John Howland lately deceased" was taken 3 March 1672/3 and totalled £157 8s. 8d. [[MD](#) 2:73-77, citing [PCPR](#) 3:1:51-54]. After the inventory, the appraisers noted that "the testator died possessed of these several parcels of land following:" "his dwelling house with the outhousing, uplands and meadow belonging thereunto lying at Rockey Nooke in the town of New Plymouth," "a parcel of meadow at Jones River meadow," "the one half of a house and a parcel of meadow and upland belonging thereunto lying and being at Colchester in the aforesaid township," "a parcel of meadow and upland belonging thereunto lying near Jones River bridge in the town of Duxburrow," "one house and 2 shares of a tract of land and meadow that lyeth in the town of Middleberry that was purchased by Captain Thomas Southworth of and from the Indian Sachem Josias Wampatucke," and "2 shares of a tract of land called the Major's Purchase lying near Namassakett ponds" [[MD](#) 2:77, citing [PCPR](#) 3:1:54]. (See also [PCR](#) 5:108, 110, 127.)

In her will, dated 17 December 1686 and proved 10 January 1687/8, "Elizabeth Howland of Swanzey ... being seventy nine years of age" bequeathed to "my eldest son John Howland the sum of £5 ... and my book called *Mr. Tindale's Works* and also one pair of sheets & one pair of pillowbeers and one pair of bedblankets"; to "my son Joseph Howland my stilliards and also one pair of sheets and one pair of pillowbeers"; to "my son Jabez Howland my featherbed & bolster that is in his custody & also one rug & two blankets that belongeth to the said bed & also my great iron pot & pothooks"; to "my son Isaack Howland my book called *Willson on the Romanes* & one pair of sheets & one pair of pillowbeers & also my great brass kettle already in his possession"; to "my son-in-law Mr. James Browne my great Bible"; to "my daughter Lidia Browne my best featherbed & boulder two pillows & three blankets & a green rug & my small cupboard one pair of andirons & my lesser brass kettle & my small Bible & my book of Mr. Robbinson's Works called *Observations Divine & Moral* & also my finest pair of sheets & my holland pillowbeers"; to "my daughter Elisabeth Dickenson one pair of sheets & one pair of pillowbeers & one chest"; to "my daughter Hannah Bosworth one pair of sheets & one pair of pillowbeers"; to "my granddaughter Elizabeth Bursley one pair of sheets and one pair of pillowbeers"; to "my grandson Nathanael Howland (the son of Joseph Howland) ... my lot of land with the meadow thereto adjoining ... in the township of Duxbury near Jones River Bridge"; to "my grandson James Browne one iron bar and one iron trammell now in his possession"; to "my grandson Jabez Browne one chest"; to "my granddaughter Dorothy Browne my best chest & my warming pan"; to "my granddaughter Desire Cushman four sheep"; "my wearing clothes linen and woollen" and the residue to "my three daughters Elisabeth Dickenson, Lidia Browne and Hannah Bosworth to be equally divided amongst them"; "my loving son-in-law James Browne and my loving son Jabez Howland" executors [[MD](#) 3:54-57, citing [BrPR](#) 1:13-14].

**BIRTH:** Say 1592, son of Henry and Margaret (\_\_\_\_) Howland of Fenstanton.

**DEATH:** Plymouth 23 February 1672/3 "above eighty years" [[PCR](#) 8:34].

**MARRIAGE:** Plymouth by about 1624 Elizabeth Tilley, baptized Henlow, Bedfordshire, 30 August 1607, daughter of [JOHN TILLEY](#). She died at Swansea 22 December 1687, aged eighty [[SwVR](#) 27].

**CHILDREN:**

i DESIRE, b. say 1624; m. by 1644 John Gorham (eldest child b. Plymouth 2 April 1644 [[MD](#) 5:72]).

ii JOHN, b. Plymouth 24 April 1627; m. Plymouth 26 October 1651

Mary Lee [[PCR 8:13](#)].

iii HOPE, b. Plymouth 30 August 1629; m. by about 1646 John Chipman.

iv ELIZABETH, b. say 1631; m. (1) Plymouth 13 September 1649 Ephraim Hicks [[PCR 8:8](#)]; m. (2) Plymouth 10 July 1651 John Dickerson [[PCR 8:13](#)].

v LYDIA, b. say 1633; m. by about 1655 James Brown.

vi HANNAH, b. say 1637; m. Swansea 6 July 1661 Jonathan Bosworth [[SwVR 23](#)].

vii JOSEPH, b. say 1640; m. Plymouth 7 December 1664 Elizabeth Southworth [[PCR 8:25](#)], daughter of [THOMAS SOUTHWORTH](#).

viii JABEZ, b. about 1644 (deposed on 19 July 1680 aged 36 years [[SJC #1915](#)]); m. by 1669 Bethiah Thatcher, daughter of Anthony Thatcher (eldest child b. Plymouth 15 November 1669 [[PVR 668](#); [NYGBR 42:154-57](#)]).

ix RUTH, b. say 1646; m. Plymouth 17 November 1664 Thomas Cushman [[PCR 8:25](#)], son of Thomas Cushman.

x ISAAC, b. Plymouth 15 November 1649; m. by 1677 Elizabeth Vaughn, daughter of George Vaughn [[TAG 23:24-26](#)].

*ASSOCIATIONS:* Brother of [HENRY HOWLAND](#) and Arthur Howland.

*COMMENTS:* In his list of passengers on the *Mayflower* Bradford tells us that John Howland was one of the "manservants" of [JOHN CARVER](#) [[Bradford 441](#)]. During a particularly bad storm on the crossing John Howland (characterized by Bradford as "a lusty young man") went above deck and was swept overboard, but it pleased God that he caught hold of the topsail halyards which hung overboard and ran out at length. Yet he held his hold (though he was sundry fathoms under water) till he was hauled up by the same rope to the brim of the water, and then with a boat hook and other means got into the ship again and his life saved. And though he was something ill with it, yet

he lived many years after and became a profitable member both in church & commonwealth [[Bradford](#) 59].

In his 1651 accounting on the family of John Carver, Bradford reported that "[h]is servant John Howland married the daughter of John Tilley, Elizabeth, and they are both now living, and their eldest daughter hath four children; and their second daughter one, all living, and other of their children marriageable" [[Bradford](#) 444].

In an undated deposition we learn that in April 1634 John Hocking came to Kennebec and challenged the rights of the Plymouth men to their exclusive trade in that place. Mr. John Howland, in charge of the trading post, went out in their bark with several other men and warned Hocking off, but was taunted and defied. Howland "bid three of his men go cut his cable [Hocking's anchor]," but the flow of the stream was too strong and Howland called them back and added Moses Talbot to the crew. Hocking, seeing that their intent was to cut the cable, "presently put his peice almost to Moyses Talbott's head, which Mr. Howland seeing called to him desiring him not to shoot his man but take himself for his mark saying his men did but that which he commanded them and therefore desired him not to hurt any of them, if any wrong was done it was himself that did it and therefore called again to him to take him for his mark saying he stood very fair, but Hocking would not hear nor look towards our bark, but presently shooteth Moyses in the head, and presently took up his pistol in his hand but the Lord stayed him from doing any further hurt by a shot from our bark himself was presently struck dead being shot near the same place in the head where he had murderously shot Moyses" [[MD](#) 2:10-11].

*BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE:* Because of the multitude of descendants of John Howland, through all ten of his children, the publication of the first five generations of descent from John Howland will occupy many volumes. Elizabeth Pearson White has prepared the first two volumes in this series: *John Howland of the Mayflower: Volume 1, The First Five Generations, Documented Descendants Through his first child Desire Howland and her husband Captain John Gorham* (Camden, Maine, 1990) and *John Howland of the Mayflower: Volume 2, The First Five Generations, Documented Descendants Through his second child John Howland and his wife Mary Lee* (Camden, Maine, 1993).

In her first volume White argued that John Howland lived for several years in Maine, and that three of his children were born there. Robert S. Wakefield has gathered the evidence that this could not have been the case [[MD](#) 42:15-16].



- GORHAM, Lois (Goreham) and Jonathan Macy, 6th, 10 mo.,  
"called December," 1744, C.R.4.†
- Lydia (see Lydiah).
- Lydia and William Swain, Feb. 14, 1750. [Lydiah, N.C.R.  
Lydia (first w.), d. Stephen and Elizabeth (Gardner),  
and William Swain Jr., s. William and Jemima (Coffin),  
P.R.38.]
- Lydia B. and Phineas Fish, Sept. 10, 1848.†
- Lydiah (Goarham) and Joseph Worth, both of N., Sept. 8,  
1720.\*†
- Mary, d. Stephen of Barnstable, and Andrew Gardner, s. Na-  
thaniel of N., 1st, 7 mo., "called September," 1721, in N.,  
C.R.4. [Mary, d. Stephen and Elizabeth (Gardner), and  
Andrew Gardner, s. Nathaniel and Abigail (Coffin), Jan.  
—, P.R.38.]
- Mary and Prince Gardner, 10th, 11 mo. 1803, C.R.4.†
- Mary Ann and Charles F. Alley, Aug. 27, 1848.†
- Mary G. and William Mckeel, 18th, 6 mo. 1849, C.R.4.†
- Nathaniel, s. Stephen and Elizabeth (Gardner), and Mary  
Soley, d. John of Charlestown and Dorcas (Coffin), —,  
1736, in Boston,\* P.R.38.
- Nathaniel and Betsey Baker, Nov. 24, 1814. [Nathaniel, s.  
Josiah and Eunice, and Betsy Baker, d. Lemuel and Abial  
(Pinkham), P.R.38.]
- Parnell and Matthew Barney, 7th, 10 mo. 1801, C.R.4.†
- Phebe C., 22, of N., b. N., d. Edw[ar]d and Susan, and Charles  
H. Dunham, single, 26, mariner, of N., b. N., s. Geo[rge]  
F. and Diana, int. Feb. 13, 1848. "This publishment taken  
down by request of Phebe C. Gorham."
- Phebe C. and John Ray, May 21, 1848.†
- Polly and Obed Wyer 3d, int. Oct. 5, 1811. [m. Oct. 6, C.R.2.  
Polly, d. Jonathan and Mary (Davis), and Obed Wyer,  
s. Obed and Polly, m. —, P.R.38.]
- Priscilla (Goreham) and E[li]phaz Folger, 20th, 9 mo., "called  
November," 1735, C.R.4.†
- Sarah and Daniel Hussey, Feb. 13, 1734-5.\* [Sarah, d.  
Stephen and Elizabeth (Gardner), and Daniel Hussey, s.  
Sylvanus and Abial (Browne) (first w.), P.R.38.]
- Shubael, b. Yarmouth, s. Capt. John of Plymouth (b. England,  
s. Ralph of Benefield, Northhampshire, Eng.) and Desire  
(d. John Howland of the Mayflower and Elizabeth (Til-  
ley)), and Puella Hussey, d. Stephen and Martha (Bun-  
ker), May —, 1695,\* P.R.38.

\*Intention not recorded. †For detailed information see record of consort.

## **John Howland is an ancestor of President George Bush**

John Howland is an ancestor to President George Bush, and to First Lady Edith (Carrow) Roosevelt (Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt). Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford are descendants of John Howland's brother Henry. Winston Churchill is descended from John Howland's brother Arthur.

# Inventory of John Howland Estate

John Howland

3 March 1672/1673

Plymouth Colony Wills 3(1):49-54

Mayflower Descendant 2(1900):70-77

#P204

[p.51] A trew Inventory of all the goods Cattles and Chattles and Lands of Mr John howland lately Deceased taken and aprised by Elder Thomas Cushman Serjeant Tinkham and Willam Crow the third of March Anno Dom 1672 and exhibited to the Court held att Plymouth the fift of March 1672/73 on the oathe of mrs Elizabeth howland widdow as followeth

In the outward or fier Rome L s d

Impr I muskett 1 long Gun 1 Cutlas 1 belt, att 02 10 00

Item 1 Chimney Iron barr 2 paire of pot hangers 00 09 00

Item 1 fier shovell 1 paire of tonges 1 paire of Cob irons 00 07 00

Item 1 frying pan 1 smoothing box and Irons 00 05 06

Item 1 adds 2 axes 1 mortising axe 1 hoe 00 11 06

Item 3 augers 1 pikaxe 00 05 00

Item 1 hammer 1 paire of Pincers 1 Drawing knife 1 spliting kniffe 00 02 00

Item 2 Cow bells 1 old Chaine, and Divers peeces of old Iron Aules & a box 00 05 00

Item 2 presshookes 1 paire of sheep sheers 2 sickles 00 04 00

Item 1 pruning Instrument 1 peece of steele 00 02 00

Item 2 staples 1 peec of a Chaine 00 01 06

Item 2 staples 4 peeces of a chaine 00 01 06

Item 1 Dagger three knives 2 paire of sissers 1 paire of stilliyards 00 06 00

Item 1 padlock 1 thwart saw 3 wedges 1 ploughshare 00 10 00

Item 3 Iron potts 1 paire of pothookes 1 Iron kettle 01 06 00

Item 2 brasse kittles 1 warming pan 01 15 00

Item 1 skimer 1 ladle 1 sawsse pan 1 brasse skillet 00 04 06

Item 6 pewter platters 3 bason 3 smale pewter thinges 01 07 00

Item a quart pot 1 candlesticke 1 beer bowle 00 05 00

Item 3 porringers 1 Dram cupp 1 Tunell 00 03 00

Item 2 salt sellers 2 chamber potts 7 spoones 00 10 00

Item 1 Iron candlesticke 1 latten pott 1 Ironsockettd 00 02 00

Item 1 shove Iron 2 washers 2 old sickles and old Iron 00 02 00

Item 4 earthen potts 1 pan and 1 Jugg and earthen ware 00 02 00

Item 1 hatchell 00 05 00

Item 1 great bible and Annotations on the 5 bookes of Moses 01 00 00

Item mr Tindalls workes mr Wilsons workes 7 more bookes 01 00 00

Item 3 wheeles 1 cherne 1 straning Dish 00 13 00

Item 3 cheesfatts 11 trayes 1 kinnell 00 05 06

Item 3 pailles six tubbs 1 ladle 1 cheese ladder 00 14 06

Item trenchers Roleing pins and some smale things 00 02 00

Item 3 Chaires stooles old barrells 3 Cushens 00 07 00

Items 3 beer vessells 00 04 00 16 06 00

[p.52] In the Inward Rome or bedchamber

his wearing appaarell

Item 3 hatts 00 16 00

Item 3 great coates 02 00 00

Item 1 suite of cloth 03 00 00

Item 1 serge suite 01 10 00

Item 1 homespon suite and wastcoate 00 15 00

Item 1 suite 00 12 00

Item old clothes 00 06 00

Item 2 red wastcoates 01 05 00  
Item 6 paire of Stockens 01 00 00  
Item 1 Jackett and one paire of Mittens 00 13 06  
Item 1 holland shirt 00 12 00  
Item 4 shirts 00 18 00  
Item 4 holland capps 4 Dowlis capps and 4 other capps 00 10 00  
Item 2 silke Neckclothes 00 07 06  
Item 1 paire of bootes 2 paire of shooes 01 00 00 15 11 00  
In the said Rome  
Item 4 remnants of clothe 00 19 00  
Item 2 yards of serge 00 10 00  
Item 3 yards 1/2 of carsey 01 15 00  
Item 4 Dozen of buttons 1/2 10 skines of silke 3 yards of Manchester 00 04 00  
Item 17 yards of fflax and cotton cloth att 02 11 00  
Item 1 peece of fine Dowlis 00 08 06  
Item 1 remnant of lycye woolsey 00 08 00  
Item about 16 yards of several remnants of homade Cloth vallued att 03 10 00 10 05 06  
In the aforsaid Inward Roome  
Item 1 pound of woolen yerne 00 03 00  
Item 1 paire of sheets 01 05 00  
Item 2 paire of sheets 01 10 00  
Item 1 paire of sheets 1 halfe sheet 01 05 00  
Item 1 paire of sheets att 00 10 00  
Item 1 paire of holland pillowbeers 00 08 09  
Item 2 paire of pillowbeers 00 15 00  
Item 3 pillowbeers 00 06 00  
Item 1 Table cloth and 7 napkins 00 13 00  
Item 10 towells 00 07 00  
Item 4 smale Table clothes 00 04 00  
Item 2 smale pillowbeers 00 01 6  
Item 1 Table and 2 formes 00 10 0  
Item 1 cobbert and a framed chaire 00 08 0  
Item 4 chest and 1 settle 01 00 00  
Item 1 bedsted and box and coard 00 12 0  
Item 1 seifing trough and 2 seives 00 04 0  
Item 1 glass 2 glass bottles 2 earthen potts 00 03 0  
Item 1 wineglasse gallipotts and spectacles 00 02 0  
Item 2 paire of coards one bed cord 1 fishing line 00 05 06  
Item some hobnailes & twelvepeny nailes 00 02 00  
Item 5 peeces of Dressed lether one peece of taned lether 00 06 00  
Item a smale pcell of hemp and hopps 00 02 00  
Item 3 or 4 basketts 1 brush 1 file 00 01 00

[p. 53] Item Cotton woole about a Dozen pound 00 12 00  
Item 3 old caske 00 02 00  
Item 1 feather bed and bolster 3 great & 2 smale pillowes 05 00 00  
Item 5 blanketts 03 15 00  
Item 1 rugg and one blankett 01 15 00  
Item 1 blankett att 00 15 00  
Item in reddy mony 01 19 00  
Item a smale pcell of powder shott and bulletts 00 03 00  
Item 1 Inkhorn 00 00 06 24 14 03  
In the uper Roome or Chamber  
Item 1 feather bed bolster and pillow 04 00 00  
Item 2 blanketts and a Rugg 01 05 00



Item 1 woole or fflocke bed 2 feather bolsters and a pillow 02 00 00  
Item 2 blanketts 00 15 00  
Item 1 bedstead cord and box 00 10 00  
Item 1 prcell of sheep woole about fifteen pound 00 15 00  
Item a prcell of feathers about 15 or 16 pound 00 15 00  
Item a cupple of old hogsheds and an old candlesticke 00 02 00  
Item 20 bushells or therabouts of Indian corne 03 00 00  
Item 4 bushells of Mault or therabouts 00 16 00  
Item 4 bushells of Rye or therabouts 00 14 00  
Item 6 bushells of wheat or therabouts 01 07 00  
Item 2 bushells and an halfe or barly or therabouts 00 10 00  
Item 2 ffliches of bacon and 1 third of a barrell of porke 02 00 00  
Item 1 halfe of a barrell of beeff and 2 empty barrells 00 15 00  
Item 15 pound of Tallow and Candles 00 07 06  
Item 34 pound of butter and lard 00 17 00  
Item 14 pound of sugare 00 03 00  
Item 1 halfe hogshed 00 03 00  
Item 1 pad 1 pillian 1 bridle 1 sheepskin 00 05 00  
Item 6 pound of Tobacco 1 pecke of beans 00 04 00  
Item 1 grindstone and handles 1 ffan 00 09 00  
Item 8 baggs 15s old Iron 1 shilling 00 16 00 22 14 06  
Cattle  
Item 2 mares and one colt 03 00 00  
Item 4 oxen 4 coves 24 00 00  
Item 2 heiffers and 3 steers of three years old 12 10 00  
Item 2 two yeare old heiffers 2 yearling calves 03 10 00  
Item 13 swine 04 15 00  
Item 45 sheep young and old 15 00 00  
Item the one halfe of a paire of Iron bound wheeles and cart and 12 bolts 2 shakles 02 02 06  
Item 1 paire of hookes and a staple 00 01 06  
Item 1 bullockes hyde 00 14 00  
Item a cannooe 00 05 00 00 05 00 65 18 00

{p.54} Debts Due to the Testator

ffrom John Branch of Marshfeild att 2 several pay-ments the sume of 08 00 00

Edward Gray 1 barrell of salt 00 12 00

Item a Debt Due from a frind 00 10 00 09 02 00

Brought from the other side 155 09 03

Sume 164 11 03

Debts owing by the Testator

To Elder Thomas Cushman 00 15 00

To Thomas Cushman Junir 00 05 00

To John Clarke 00 10 06

To Edward Gray 00 08 03

To William Crow 00 02 00

To John Gorum 01 12 00

To two or three smale Debts about 00 02 00

ffunerall Charges 03 08 00

Debts Deducted 07 02 02

The totale of the estate prised 157 08 08

Wee find that the Testator Died possessed of these severall parcells of Land following;

Impr his Dwelling house with the outhousing uplands and meddow belonging therunt lying att Rockey nooke in the Towne of New Plymouth

Item a prcell of meddow att Joneses river meddow

Item the one halfe of a house and a pcell of meddow and upland belonging therunto lying and being att Colchester in the aforsaid Townshipp;

Item a pcell of meddow and upland belonging therunto; lying neare Jones river bridge in the Towne of Duxburrow

Item one house and 2 shares of a tract of land and meddow that lyeth in the Towne of Middleberry that was purchased by Captaine Thomas Southward of and from the Indian Sachem Josias Wampatucke

Item 2 Shares of a tract of Land Called the Majors Purchase lying neare Namassakett ponds pr nos Thomas Cushman senr

Ephraim Tinkam senir

William Crow

## Last Will & Testament of John Howland, 1672

The Last Will and Testament of mr John howland of Plymouth late Deceased, exhibited to the Court held att Plymouth the fift Day of March Anno Dom 1672 on the oathes of mr Samuell ffuller and mr William Crow as followeth

Know all men to whom these prsents shall Come That I John howland senir of the Towne of New Plymouth in the Collonie of New Plymouth in New England in America, this twenty ninth Day of May one thousand six hundred seaventy and two being of whole mind, and in Good and prfect memory and Remembrance praised be God; being now Grown aged; haveing many Infeirmities of body upon mee; and not Knowing how soon God will call mee out of this world, Doe make and ordaine these prsents to be my Testament Containing herein my last Will in manor and forme following;

Imp I Will and bequeath my body to the Dust and my soule to God that Gave it in hopes of a Joyfull Resurrection unto Glory; and as Concerning my temporall estate, I Dispose thereof as followeth;

Item I Doe give and bequeath unto John howland my eldest sonne besides what lands I have alreddy given him, all my Right and Interest To that one hundred acres of land graunted mee by the Court lying on the eastern side of Tauton River; between Teticutt and Taunton bounds and all the appurtenances and priviledges Therunto belonging, T belonge to him and his heirs and assignes for ever; and if that Tract should faile, then to have all my Right title and Interest by and in that Last Court graunt to mee in any other place, To belonge to him his heires and assignes for ever;

Item I give and bequeath unto my son Jabez howland all those my upland and Meadow That I now posseste at Satuckett and Paomett, and places adjacent, with all the appurtenances and priviledges, belonging therunto, and all my right title and Interest therein, To belonge to him his heires and assignes for ever,

Item I Give and bequeath unto my son Jabez howland all that my one peece of land that I have lying on the southsyde of the Mill brooke, in the Towne of Plymouth aforsaid; be it more or lesse; and is on the Northsyde of a field that is now Gyles Rickards senir To belonge to the said Jabez his heirs and assignes for ever;

Item I give and bequeath unto Isacke howland my youngest sonne all those my uplands and meddows Devided and undivided with all the appurtenances and privileiges unto them belonging, lying and being in the Towne of Middlebery, and in a tract of Land Called the Majors Purchase near Namassakett Ponds; which I have bought and purchased of William White of Marshfeild in the Collonie of New Plymouth; which may or shall appeer by any Deed or writinges Together with the aformentioned prticulars To belonge to the said Isacke his heirs and assignes for ever; Item I give and bequeath unto my said son Isacke howland the one halfe of my twelve acree lott of Meddow That I now have att Winnatucsett River within the Towne of Plymouth aforsaid To belonge to him and said Isacke howland his heires and assignes for ever,

Item I Will and bequeath unto my Deare and loveing wife Elizabeth howland the use and benefitt of my now Dwelling house in Rockey nooke in the Township of Plymouth aforsaid, with the outhousing lands, That is uplands uplands [sic] and meddow lands and all appurtenances and priviledges therunto belonging in the Towne of Plymouth and all other Lands housing and meddowes that I have in the said Towne of Plymouth excepting what meddow and upland I have before given To my sonnes Jabez and Isacke howland During her naturall life to Injoy make use of and Improve for her benefitt and Comfort;

Item I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph howland after the Decease of my loveing wife Elizabeth howland my aforsaid Dwelling house att Rockey nooke together with all the outhousing uplands and Medowes appurtenances and priviledges belonging therunto; and all other housing uplands and meddowes appurtenances and priviledges That I have within the aforsaid Towne of New Plymouth excepting what lands and meadowes I have before Given To my two sonnes Jabez and Isacke; To belong to him the said Joseph howland To him and his heires and assignes for ever;

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Desire Gorum twenty shillings

Item I give and bequeath To my Daughter hope Chipman twenty shillings

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Elizabeth Dickenson twenty shillings

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Lydia Browne twenty shillings

Item I give & bequeath to my Daughter hannah Bosworth twenty shillings

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Ruth Cushman twenty shillings

Item I give to my Grandchild Elizabeth howland The Daughter of my son John howland twenty shillings

Item my will is That these legacyes Given to my Daughters, be payed by my exequitrix in such species as shee thinketh meet;

Item I will and bequeath unto my loveing wife Elizabeth howland, my Debts and legacyes being first payed my whole estate: vis: lands houses goods Chattles; or any thing else that belongeth or appertaineth unto mee, undisposed of be it either in Plymouth Duxburrow or Middlbery or any other place whatsoever; I Doe freely and absolutly give and bequeath it all to my Deare and loveing wife Elizabeth howland whom I Doe by these presents, make ordaine and Constitute to be the sole exequitrix of this my Last will and Testament to see the same truely and faithfully prformed according to the tenour therof; In witness whereof I the said John howland senir have heerunto sett my hand and seale the aforsaid twenty ninth Day of May, one thousand six hundred seaventy and two 1672

Signed and sealed in the prsence of

Samuel ffuller

John Howland

William Crow And a seale

**From:** Curt L Older <clolder@aaaqa.com>  
**Date:** Sun Oct 27, 2002 01:01:13 PM US/Eastern  
**To:** curtolder@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Mayflower - Desire Howland

White, Elizabeth Pearson. John Howland of the Mayflower: The First Five Generations through daughter Desire. Volume 1. Camden, 1990.

John Howland

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BORN: About 1599\*, Fenstanton, Huntingdon, England, son of Henry and Margaret (---) Howland  
DIED: 23 or 24 February 1672/3, Rocky Nook, Kingston, MA. (the Plymouth Colony Court Records say he died on 23 February, the Plymouth Church Records say he died 24 February).  
MARRIED: Elizabeth Tilley, daughter of John and Joan (Hurst)(Rogers) Tilley of the Mayflower, about 1624.

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\* The traditional date that has been ascribed to John Howland's birth is "about 1592", and this has never really been questioned. However, a birth about 1599 is clearly a better estimate for the following reasons:

John Howland is called a "manservant" in William Bradford's passenger list. Servants were contracted out until the age of 25. Thus, Howland must have been under 25 in 1620, meaning he had to have been born after 1595. Since Howland signed the Mayflower Compact, he must have been born sometime before 1600 to have been legally old enough to sign.

John Howland's wife was born in 1607, and it is most unlikely that he, at the age of 32, married a 17 year old girl as his first wife. Most men married about age 25, and since his marriage occurred about 1624, this would place his likely birth at 1599.

John Howland's last child was born in 1649. If the 1592 date were accepted, he would have fathered a child at the age of 57, a most unlikely circumstance.

William Bradford writes in that John Howland was a "lusty young man" in

1620. It is unlikely that Bradford would call a 28-year old a "young man".  
The only other person Bradford called a "young man" in 1620 was John Alden,  
who was born in 1599.

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#### CHILDREN: NAME BIRTH DEATH MARRIAGE

Desire c1625, Plymouth 13 October 1683, Barnstable, MA John Gorham, c1643  
John 24 April 1627, Plymouth after 1699 Mary Lee, 26 October 1651, Plymouth  
Hope 30 August 1629, Plymouth 8 January 1683/4, Barnstable John Chipman,  
c1647

Elizabeth c1631, possibly in Maine 1691, Oyster Bay, NY (1). Ephraim Hicks,  
13 September 1649, Plymouth  
(2). John Dickinson, 10 July 1651, Plymouth

Lydia c1633, possibly in Maine aft. 11 January 1710/11 James Brown, c1654

Hannah c1637, possibly in Maine unknown Jonathan Bosworth, probably on 6  
July 1661

Joseph c1640, Kingston, MA January 1703/4, Plymouth Elizabeth Southworth, 7  
December 1664, Plymouth

Jabez c1644, Kingston, MA between 1708 and 1712 Bethiah Thacher, c1668

Ruth c1646, Kingston, MA between 1672 and 16 October 1679 Thomas Cushman, 17  
November 1664, Plymouth

Isaac 15 November 1649, Kingston, MA 9 March 1723/4, Middleboro, MA

Elizabeth Vaughan, c1676, probably at Marshfield, MA

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#### ANCESTRAL SUMMARY:

The ancestry of John Howland is discussed in "John Howland of the Mayflower  
through Desire Howland for Five Generations", Vol. 1, by Elizabeth Pearson  
White, available from the Mayflower Web Page bookstore. John Howland is the  
son of Henry and Margaret Howland of Fenstanton, Huntingdon, England. Henry  
died on 17 May 1635 in Fenstanton, and Margaret was buried on 31 July 1629.  
Besides son John, who came on the Mayflower, they also had Humphrey, Arthur,  
Henry, George, and Margaret. Henry came to Plymouth sometime before 1633,  
and Arthur came sometime before 1640. For information on Arthur Howland, see  
the National Genealogical Society Quarterly 71:84+, and for information on  
Henry Howland see NGSQ 75:105-116, 216-225.

John Howland is an ancestor to President George Bush, and to First Lady Edith (Carrow) Roosevelt (Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt). Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford are descendants of John Howland's brother Henry. Winston Churchill is descended from John Howland's brother Arthur.

Will of John Howland

Will of Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland

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**BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:**

John Howland came on the Mayflower as a servant to John Carver. He is best remembered for having fallen off the Mayflower during a mighty storm, as recorded by Bradford:

In sundry of these storms the winds were so fierce and the seas so high, as they could not bear a knot of sail, but were forced to hull for divers days together. And in one of them, as they thus lay at hull in a mighty storm, a lusty young man called John Howland, coming upon some occasion above the gratings was, with a seele of the ship, thrown into the sea; but it pleased God that he caught hold of the topsail halyards which hung overboard and ran out at length. Yet he held his hold (though he was sundry fathoms under water) till he was hauled up by the same rope to the brim of the water, and then with boat hook and other means got into the ship again and his life saved. And though he was something ill with it, yet he lived many years after and became a profitable member both in church and commonwealth.

John Howland's wife was Elizabeth Tilley, the daughter of John Tilley and Joan (Hurst) Rogers (all were Mayflower passengers). Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland died on 21 December 1687, in Swansea, Massachusetts.

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**SOURCES:**

Elizabeth Pearson White, *John Howland of the Mayflower through Desire Howland for Five Generations*, vol. 1 (Camden: Picton Press, 1990).

Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins 2:1020-1024* (Boston: New

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Mayflower Web Pages. Caleb Johnson © 1998

English Ancestry of Seven Mayflower Passengers: Tilley, Sampson, and Cooper. *The American Genealogist* 52:198-208. (Robert Leigh Ward)

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Roser, Susan. Mayflower Deeds and Probates. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore.

John Tilley

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BAPTIZED: 19 December 1571, Henlow, Bedford, England, son of Robert and Elizabeth (---) Tilley.

DIED: the first winter, between January and March, 1620/1, Plymouth

MARRIED: Joan (Hurst) Rogers, 20 September 1596, Henlow, Bedford, England, widow of Thomas Rogers (no relation to Thomas Rogers of the Mayflower), and daughter of William and Rose (---) Hurst.

\*Note. Joan (Hurst) Rogers had a daughter Joan Rogers by her first marriage, bp. 26 May 1594, Henlow, Bedford, England. Joan married Edward Hawkins, probably a brother of her half-brother Robert's wife Mary Hawkins.

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CHILDREN: NAME BAPTISM DEATH MARRIAGE

Rose 23 October 1597, Henlow, Bedford, England died young unmarried  
John 26 August 1599, Henlow, Bedford, England unknown unknown  
Rose 28 February 1601/2, Henlow, Bedford, England unknown unknown  
Robert 25 November 1604, Henlow, Bedford, England unknown Mary Hawkins in Bedford, England  
Elizabeth 30 August 1607, Henlow, Bedford, England 21 December 1687, Swansea, MA John Howland, cir 1625, Plymouth

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ANCESTRAL SUMMARY:

John Tilley, his wife Joan (Hurst) Rogers, and daughter Elizabeth came on

the Mayflower. John and Joan died the first winter, but Elizabeth lived, married John Howland, and had eleven children. John's brother Edward Tilley came with wife Ann Cooper on the Mayflower as well.

John Tilley did not marry Prijntgen (Elizabeth) van der Velde in Holland. That was easily disproved in *Mayflower Descendant* 10:66-67, and by the subsequent identification of Joan (Hurst) Rogers. Also note that the article in the *Mayflower Quarterly* 49:16+ entitled "John Tilley Jr, 1599-1636" presents a theory as to what happened to John Tilley's son John, but the article has been criticized as presenting no proof but just speculations (*Wakefield in MD* 43:76; Stratton p. 362).

John's wife Joan is the daughter of William Hurst and Rose (---). William was born c1530, and died before 1571. He lived in Henlow, Bedford, England. Joan Hurst was baptized in Henlow, Bedford, England on 13 March 1567/8. She married first Thomas Rogers (no known relation to Thomas Rogers of the Mayflower), and second John Tilley.

The known ancestry of John Tilley is as follows (from *The American Genealogist* 52:198-208):

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Henry Tilley, b. c1465, d. 1520 === Johan (---)  
|  
Thomas Tilley, b. c1490, d. 1556 === Margaret (---)  
|  
William Tilley, b. c1515, d. Jan. 1578/9 === Agnes (---)  
|  
Robert Tilley, b. c1540, d. Feb. 1612/3 === Elizabeth (---)  
|  
John Tilley, Mayflower passenger

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#### BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:

John Tilley came on the Mayflower with his wife Joan and daughter Elizabeth. John's brother Edward Tilley also came on the Mayflower.

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SOURCES:

Caroline Lewis Kardell, "An English Line from John Tilley", *Mayflower Quarterly*, 65(August 1999):208-209.

Robert Leigh Ward, "English Ancestry of Seven Mayflower Passengers: Tilley, Sampson, and Cooper," *The American Genealogist* 52:198-208.

Robert Leigh Ward, "The Baronial Ancestry of Henry Sampson, Humility Cooper, and Ann (Cooper) Tilley," *The Genealogist* 6:166-186.

Robert Leigh Ward, "Further Traces of John Tilley of the Mayflower," *The American Genealogist* 60(1984):171-173.

George E. Bowman, "Jan Tellij of Leyden was Not John Tilley of the Mayflower," *Mayflower Descendant* 10:66-67.

Elizabeth Pearson White, *John Howland of the Mayflower through Desire Howland for Five Generations*, vol. 1 (Camden: Picton Press, 1990).

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