

## EPITAPHS FROM BURIAL HILL

### Transcription of the portion of page 3 regarding John Howland

A few years since Hon. John Howland, who died November 5th, 1854, at the age of ninety-seven years and five days, President of the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, R. I., and a descendant in the fifth generation from John Howland, the Pilgrim, caused a grave-stone to be erected over the remains of his ancestor, consisting of a large slate-stone, upon which is the following inscription:

*Here ended the Pilgrimage of | JOHN HOWLAND and ELIZABETH his | wife. She was the dau'tr of Gov. Carver | They arrived in the Mayflower Dec. 1620; | they had 4 Sons & 6 Dau'trs from whom | are descended a numerous posterity | "1672 Feb'y 23rd JOHN HOWLAND of | Plymouth deceased, he lived to the age of 80| yr's. He was the last man that was left of those | that came over in the Ship called the Mayflo- | wer that lived in Plymouth," [Plymouth Records.]*

There is a painted sign beard at the side of this gravestone containing the following inscription:

The grave of | JOHN HOWLAND | died | Feb. 25, 1672. |

it has been frequently published that Mr. Howland married a daughter of Governor Carver. This we think is a mistake. In Bradford's History we "find that John Howland married Elizabeth, the daughter of John Tillie. Mr. "Howland was a distinguished man, and devoted to the interests of the Colony, both in relation to its civil and religious institutions. He was Deputy and Assistant for several years. His early residence was on Summer street, but afterwards removed to Rocky Nook, where he died. The remains of his cellar are visible a short distance north of the residence of the late Hezekiah Ripley.

The colonial records say, "He was a godly man and an ancient professor in the ways of Christ, and proved a useful instrument of good in his place." His descendants are quite numerous. The late Reverend John Howland of Carver, Mass., was grandson of Mr. Howland. He was the last man of them that came over in the Mayflower, who settled in Plymouth. On the passage to this country in the Mayflower the weather was tempestuous, and in a severe storm Mr. Howland fell overboard and came near ne his life. The following is a record of the accident in Bradford's own words.:

"And in one of them as they thus lay at hull, in a mighty storme, a lustie yonge man (called John Howland) coming upon some occasion above ye grattings, was, with a seele of ye shipe throwne into [ye] sea; but it pleased God yt he caught hould of ye tope-saile halliards, which hunge over "board,& rane out at length; yet he held his hould ('hough he was sundrie fadomes underw ater) till he was hald up by ye same rope to ye brime of ye water, and then with a boat hooke & other means got into ye shipe againe, & 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 comone wealthe."