

THE HOWLANDS IN AMERICA



THE MAYFLOWER

"Next to the fugitives whom Moses led out of Egypt, the little ship load of outcasts who landed at Plymouth are destined to influence the future of the world."

—JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

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Rhode Island only, the savages in this section were doubtless full of revenge, and Zoeth was one of their victims.

- (3) JOHN, born —; died, —.
- (4) SAMUEL, born in Duxbury, moved to Freetown (1662) and was chosen assessor November 24, 1694. He was prominent there in civil affairs and during his life a large landholder. He died in 1716.
- (5) SARAH, married November 16, 1672, Robert Dennis, of Portsmouth, R. I., "att the house of Joshua Coggeshall before the people of God."
- (6) ELIZABETH, married Jedediah Allen in 1691. He was probably a son of "Georg Allen, Senier, burried at Sanawidg the 2nd of May 1648." Sandwich town records.
- (7) MARY, married James Cudworth of Duxbury.
- (8) ABIGAIL, married John Young September 2, 1678. He was probably a son of John Young, who "was married vnto . . . the 13th of December 1648." Plymouth Colony records.

JOHN HOWLAND is the only one of the three brothers who came to this country in the Mayflower in 1620, thereby being one of the original Pilgrims who landed on Plymouth Rock. His was the thirteenth name on the list of forty-one persons who signed the memorable compact in the cabin of the Mayflower in "Cape Cod Harbor" on the 21st of November, 1620. At this time he was 28 years of age. That he possessed sound judgment and business capacity is shown by the active duties which he assumed, and the trust which was reposed in him in all the early labors in establishing a settlement.

He had a grand part to perform in the sublime work of laying the foundation of a government which has stood for more than 300 years, and has had no equal since governments existed. For this the Everlasting Arm was underneath him in the hour of danger, when he came near drowning on his voyage to the New World.

The first mention made of John in the old Plymouth colony records is in a list of "freemen", and the third in number in the governor's "cowncell" of seven members. In 1633 he was an assessor, and his tax amounted to 18 shillings; in 1634 an assessor, and tax one pound and four shillings. In 1635 the council of Gov. Bradford was composed of such eminent persons as "Mr. Thomas Prentice, Mr. Edward Winslowe, Mr. John Alden, Mr. Steuen Hopkins, Captayne Miles Standish, Mr. William Collier," together with "Mr. John Howland," who had occupied the same honorable position two previous years.

(Hutchinson, in his History of Massachusetts Bay, says: "The first settlers of the Old Colony, like those of Massachusetts, were very careful that no title or appellation should be given where it was not due. Not more than a half dozen gentlemen in the Massachusetts colony took the title of Esquire; and in a list of 100 freemen, not more than four or five were distinguished by a Mr., although they were generally men of substance. Goodman and Goodwife were the common appellations.")

In 1636 we find John Howland serving on a "jewry", which he frequently did. He was "select-man" of Plymouth in 1666, and chosen deputy of the same town in 1652 to 1656, '58, '61, '63, '66, '67, '70. His election in 1670, June 2nd, was the last time he permitted his name to be used in a candidacy for public office, being nearly eighty years of age.

Besides these public positions of honor and trust bestowed upon him, he was very often selected to lay out and appraise land, to run out highways, settle disputes arising from various causes, and on committees of every description. He was not only full of zeal for the temporal welfare of the colony, but gave powerful encouragement to a high standard of morals and religion; so much so that he is recorded as a "godly man and an ancient professor in the ways of Christ."

It is shown that he was active in this work, for Gov. Bradford writes that he became "a profitable member both in church and common wealth"; and it appears that at the ordination of John Cotton, Jr., in

1667, John Howland "was appointed by the church to join in the imposition of hands."

John Howland married Elizabeth, daughter of John Tilley, who with his wife died the first winter. This sad circumstance, together with the death of her uncle Edward Tilley that first winter, left Elizabeth an orphan. She and her parents were passengers on the Mayflower.

Elizabeth Howland was a woman of superior natural ability and earnest Christian faith, and was a helpmeet for her sturdy husband, the Pilgrim John Howland.

In 1638 they moved from Plymouth to what was called Rocky Nook, buying the home of John Jenny, built in 1628, where they lived until the death of John Howland in 1672. Rocky Nook was at that time a part of the Plymouth colony but is now within the borders of Kingston, Massachusetts.

(An account of the homestead may be found on page 26.)

Elizabeth passed the closing days of her life with her daughter Lydia Brown in Swansey, Rhode Island, where she died, according to the Swansey records, "December 22, 1687, aged 80 years."

It is probable that John and Elizabeth were married towards the close of 1623 or early in 1624 and was the fifth or sixth marriage in the Plymouth colony.

They had four sons and six daughters, six of the children being born in Plymouth and the last four at Rocky Nook.

(A list of the children and grandchildren may be found on page 20.)