

A Genealogical Profile of John Howland

Birth: John Howland was born in Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire.

Death: He died in Plymouth on February 1672/3 “above eighty years.”

Ship: *Mayflower*, 1620

Life in England: John Howland has been identified as the son of Henry and Margaret (____) Howland of Fenstanton. Two of Henry’s sons, Humphrey and Simon, became merchants in London. Humphrey’s 1646 will listed brothers, Arthur, John and Henry, and sister, Margaret.

Life in New England: John Howland came to New England aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620 as servant to John Carver. The Carvers died in 1621 and John was presumably freed from servitude at that time. He was a freeman of Plymouth in 1633 and served the colony in several important capacities, including assistant governor, deputy and as head of the Kennebec trading post. His wife, Elizabeth Tilley, came over with her parents on the *Mayflower* as well, and was left an orphan after the first winter.

Family: John Howland married Elizabeth Tilley in Plymouth about 1624 and had ten children. She died in Swansea on December 22, 1687.

Children of John and Elizabeth Howland:

- Desire was born about 1624. She married John Gorham in Plymouth by 1644 and had eleven children. She died in Barnstable on October 13, 1683.
- John was born in Plymouth on February 24, 1626/7. He married Mary Lee in Plymouth on October 26, 1651, and had ten children. He died in Barnstable after June 18, 1699.
- Hope was born in Plymouth about 1629. She married John Chipman by about 1647 and had twelve children. She died on January 8, 1683, in Barnstable.
- Elizabeth was born about 1631. She married (1) Ephraim Hicks on September 13, 1649, in Plymouth. He died on December 12, 1649. She married (2) John Dickerson in Plymouth on July 10, 1651, and had nine children. She died in October 1683 at Oyster Bay, New York.
- Lydia was born about 1633. She married James Brown about 1655 and had four children. She died after January, 1710/11, in Swansea.
- Hannah was born about 1637. She married Jonathan Bosworth in Swansea on July 6, 1661, and had nine children.

- Joseph was born about 1640. He married Elizabeth Southworth in Plymouth on December 7, 1664, and had nine children. He died in Plymouth in January 1703/4.
- Jabez was born about 1644. He married Bethiah Thatcher by 1669 and had eleven children. He died before February 21, 1711/2.
- Ruth was born about 1646. She married Thomas Cushman in Plymouth on November 17, 1664, and had three children. She died before October 1679.
- Isaac was born in Plymouth on November 15, 1649. He married Elizabeth Vaughn by 1677 and had eight children. He died on March 9, 1723/4, in Middleboro.

For Further Information:

Robert C. Anderson. *The Great Migration Begins*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995.

Robert C. Anderson. *The Pilgrim Migration*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2004.

Franklyn Howland. *A Brief Genealogical and Biographical History of Arthur, Henry and John Howland*. New Bedford, Mass.: The Author, 1885.

Susan E. Roser. *Mayflower Increaseings*. 2nd ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1995.

Elizabeth P. White. *John Howland of the Mayflower*. 2 vols. Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1990–93.



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Where do I go from here?

Researching your family's history can be a fun, rewarding, and occasionally frustrating project. Start with what you know by collecting information on your immediate family. Then, trace back through parents, grandparents, and beyond. This is a great opportunity to speak to relatives, gather family stories, arrange and identify old family photographs, and document family possessions that have been passed down from earlier generations.

Once you have learned all you can from family members, you will begin to discover other sources. A wide variety of records can help you learn more about the lives of your ancestors. These include birth, marriage, and death records; immigration and naturalization records; land records; census records; probate records and wills; church and cemetery records; newspapers; passenger lists; military records; and much more.

When you use information from any source — an original record, a printed book, or a website — always be careful to document it. If you use a book, you should cite the author or compiler, the full title, publication information and pages used. Also be sure to record the author's sources for the information. If the author's sources aren't provided, you will have to try to find the original source. Many genealogical works contain faulty information, and the Internet also contains many inaccuracies. In order for your work to be accepted — by lineage societies and other genealogists — it must be properly documented.

IMPORTANT GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

New England Historic Genealogical Society

Founded in 1845, NEHGS is the country's oldest and largest genealogical society. The library contains over 200,000 books, plus significant manuscript and microfilm collections, and a circulating library by mail. NEHGS members receive two periodicals, the *Register* and *New England Ancestors*, and can access valuable genealogical data online.

NEHGS, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116;
888-296-3447; www.NewEnglandAncestors.org.

Plimoth Plantation: *Bringing Your History To Life*

As a non-profit, educational organization our mission is: to offer the public powerful experiences of history, built upon thorough research of the Wampanoag and Pilgrim communities. We offer multiple learning opportunities to provide a deeper understanding of the relationship of historical events to modern America. Members have access to our Research Library.

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508-746-1622; www.plimoth.org

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

- www.PlymouthAncestors.org
- www.CyndisList.com
- www.FamilySearch.org
- www.USGenWeb.org



PLYMOUTH ANCESTORS

GENEALOGICAL LIBRARIES IN PLYMOUTH

General Society of Mayflower Descendants Library

A collection focused principally on the genealogies of the descendants of the *Mayflower* passengers.

4 Winslow St., Plymouth; 508-746-3188; www.mayflower.org

Plymouth Collection, Plymouth Public Library

Over 1200 items relating to the descendants of the Pilgrims, as well as the many other immigrants who settled in the area.

132 South St., Plymouth; 508-830-4250;
www.plymouthpubliclibrary.org

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy by Christine Rose and Kay Germain Ingalls, Alpha Books, 1997.

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research by Marcia Melnyk, NEHGS, 1999.

Shaking Your Family Tree: A Basic Guide to Tracing Your Family History by Ralph J. Crandall, NEHGS, 2001.

Unpuzzling Your Past by Emily Croom, Betterway Books, 2003.

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