

JOHN HOWLAND

(our Mayflower connection)

John Howland 1592 to 1673 was one of the settlers who traveled from England to North America on the Mayflower and helped found the Plymouth Colony. He was the 13th signer of The Mayflower compact signed the 11th of November, 1620.

Howland was born in 1592 to Henry Howland and Fen Stanton of Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire, England. At the age of twenty-one he was employed by John Carver, a Puritan minister who with William Bradford brought his congregation from Leiden Netherlands to the new world. Howland formally was considered a servant but was in fact Carver's assistant in managing the migration.

The voyage across the ocean nearly ended his life, he was thrown overboard, due to turbulent seas. A large mountainous wave washed him overboard, he was saved by grabbing a halyard trailing in the water and was pulled back on board The Mayflower.

The Carver family had John Howland live with them the first year. The new Colony had a lot of sickness the first winter and many of the Pilgrims died. The following spring Governor Carver came out to the cornfield on a hot day and passed out and died. It is thought that Howland inherited the Carver estate at the time and he then bought his freedom.

In 1624 John married Elizabeth Tilley, the daughter of John Tilly and Joan Rogers Tilley. Elizabeth parents had come over on the Mayflower with her but they died the first winter and she became a foster daughter of Governor Carver and his wife. Elizabeth was seventeen year's old when she was married to John Howland. Before then he had prospered enough to bring his brothers, Arthur and Edward to the new colony which solidly establishing the Howland family in the new world.

The following year Howland joined with William Bradford in exploring the Kennebec River, looking for possible trading sites. Then in 1626 John was selected to lead a team building a trading station on the Kennebec River. In 1628 he was elevated to Assistant Governor, Deputy to the General Court, Selectman, Surveyor of Highways and member of the Fur Committee.

John and his wife Elizabeth had ten children, all of whom lived and had children. Their names are 1st John born 24th Feb 1626, 2nd Desire born 22 May 1627 (we come through her) 3rd Jahez born Feb 21st 1644, 4th Joseph born Jan 1703, 5th Isaac born 1649, Hope the 6th born____, the 7th Elizabeth born _____, 8th Lydia born _____, 9th Hannah _____, 10th Ruth _____.

Desire Howland, the child we come through, was married to John Gorham, and they had 11 children.

John Howland died 23rd of February 1673 and was described as a godly man and a follower of the ways of Christ. He was buried with "Honour interred". This honor was given by a squad of soldiers firing a volley of shots over his grave. Just leaders of the Colony would receive this honor.

Some Descendant's of the Howland family that are notable figures are; Franklin D. Roosevelt and both wives of Theodore Roosevelt, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, Jed Bush, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: The Mormon prophet Joseph Smith Jr. The Bush family, the Smith family, and the Longfellow family's are double cousins through a shared ancestor. The Rev. John Lathrop, who arrived in the colony some sixteen years after the original Mayflower group, is the shared ancestor.

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*Family's of Pilgrims (John Howland) compiled by Hubert Shaw, Published by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendant.