

THE MAYFLOWER CONNECTION 1620

One hundred and two passengers were aboard the ship *MAYFLOWER* that landed first at Provincetown on the tip of Cape Cod and then a few weeks later landed at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts to establish the first English Colony north of Virginia. Of the 102 people only 51 survived the first winter in *New England*. We are related to six of the original passengers and two of the survivors, John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley, who married a year or so after arriving in the *New World*.

Our connections to these lines are as follows:

JOHN HOWLAND and ELIZABETH TILLEY

DESIRE HOWLAND and JOHN GORHAM

SHUBAEL GORHAM and PUELLA HUSSEY

DEBORAH GORHAM and BERIAH FITCH

EUNICE FITCH and BENJAMAN BARNARD

MATILDA BARNARD and HENRY CANADAY

This is a fairly unique feat as of the 51 survivors only 42 had any offspring at all. This connection allows membership in the Mayflower Society for those who are so inclined.

The following is what I know about our two Mayflower-Pilgrim families.

THE HOWLAND FAMILY

The Howland family is English. A descendant, Charles Howland, checked a great many parish register and other depositories and it seems for centuries the Howland family was found only in a thirty mile area surrounding Cambridge, England in the counties of Cambridge, Huntingdonshire, Suffolk and Bedfordshire.

John Howland, the one who came on the *Mayflower*, was a son of Henry and Margaret Howland. The elder Howlands remained in England while their son set sail to new lands. Henry Howland died at Fenstanton, County Huntingdonshire on May 17, 1635, and his wife died there on July 31, 1629.

Henry Howland had at least four sons and one daughter. While John came to Plymouth in 1620, two of his brothers came later. Arthur Howland and Henry Howland, Junior arrived in the late 1620s or early 1630s and after a short stay in Plymouth, Henry moved to Duxbury where he died in 1671. Arthur continued north and settled in Marshfield where he died in 1675.

Henry Howland Junior married Mary Newlands. Their children, all born in Duxbury, were: Joseph who married Rebecca Hussey, Zoch, John, Samuel and Sarah. Henry died in Duxbury on January 17, 1671. Arthur Howland married Margaret Reed. Their children were: Arthur who married Elizabeth Reed, Deborah who married John Smith, Mary who married Timothy Williamson and then Robert Sanford, Martha who married John Damon and Elizabeth who married John Low. Arthur remained in Marshfield until his death in 1675.

Another brother, Humphrey Howland, remained in England. Humphrey was a member of the Draper's Company that had stock and other interests in the Virginia Company and were quite influential in getting '*people of quality*' to travel to the new English Colonies in America. It was probably he that encouraged young John to sail to Plymouth on the first boat to go. The only daughter mentioned was Margaret Howland who married Richard Phillips of Fenstanton, a shoemaker.

I will give what I know of John Howland and his family.

JOHN HOWLAND, Pilgrim

John was born in Huntingdonshire, England in about 1590-2, based on the statement he was 'above eighty years' when he died in 1672. He was about twenty-eight or nine when he arrived in America. He was an assistant to a wealthy Londoner, John Carver, who was to become the first governor of the *New Plimoth Colony* in Massachusetts.

While at sea on the voyage to America, he was washed overboard in a storm, but held onto a line and was pulled from the sea. We came that close to not being related to a Mayflower passenger.

During the first winter exactly half of the passengers died. Both Governor Carver and his wife died the following spring. As they had no children of their own, John Howland became head of the household and is thought to have inherited Carver's estate. At any rate, he became a freeman that year.

John was the first person to sign the Mayflower Compact after the first twelve aristocrats had done so. It seems he was John Carver's business manager and was quite well educated. He was one of the key business people in the new colony.

He married Elizabeth Tilley on about March 25, 1622/3 when she was about sixteen years old. Elizabeth had come to America with her parents and her father's brother and his wife. All four of the elder Tilleys died during the first winter in Plymouth. She was taken in by the Carver family as she had no other relatives. More about Elizabeth and her family follows this Howland history.

John remained in Plymouth until the late 1620s when he helped to establish a trading post near what is now Augusta, Maine. He remained there some four or five years and some of his children may have been born there. He returned to Plymouth in about 1633 when he was made a freeman there.

John and Elizabeth remained in Plymouth until 1639 when they moved inland to Rocky Nook, which is now in the neighboring town of Kingston, Massachusetts, but was part of Plymouth at the time. He held various town offices and was a member of the Puritan Church. His two brothers had joined the Quaker Church when it was formed. John was a selectman, deputy to the General Court in Boston and an assessor.

In 1639, as an *'Old Comer'*, he received lands in Yarmouth on Cape Cod. He never settled there, but it went to two of his daughters, Desire Howland and Hope Chipman. He also obtained land in Barnstable on Cape Cod in 1657 and here his son, John Howland Junior, lived.

John died in the Plymouth Colony, in Rocky Nook, Kingston on February 23, 1672/3. Elizabeth, his widow, moved to Swansea, Massachusetts where her daughter, Lydia Browne, was living. She died there at age eighty on December 31, 1687.

John and Elizabeth had ten children all probably born in the new Plymouth Colony, although Hope and Elizabeth may have been born in Augusta, Maine, which was then a part of the Massachusetts Colony.

Desire Howland

Desire was born about 1624. She married John Gorham of Barnstable, Massachusetts on January 8, 1643/44. He died in King Phillip's War at Swansea on February 5, 1675/76. She died in Barnstable October 13, 1683.

They had eleven children:

DESIRE, born May 20, 1644 and died June 30, 1709. She married John Howes.

TEMPERANCE, born May 2, 1646 and died March 12, 1714/15. She married Edward Sturgis and then Thomas Baxter.

ELIZABETH, born April 2, 1648 and married Joseph Hallett.

JAMES, born April 28, 1650 and died in 1707. He married Hannah Huckins.

JOHN, was born February 20, 1650 and died December 9, 1716. He married Mary Otis.

JOSEPH, born February 16, 1654 and died June 9, 1716. He married Sarah Sturgis.

JABEZ, born August 3, 1656. He married Hannah Stugis.

MERCEY, born January 20, 1658. She married George Denison.

LYDIA, born November 16, 1661 and died August 2, 1744. She married Col. John Thatcher.

HANNAH, born November 28, 1663 and died in Cape May, New Jersey in 1728. She married John Weldin (Wheldin).

SHUBAEL, born October 21, 1667 and died in 1750. He married Puella Hussey. Shubael is our line. A full set of details was found in the **GORHAM FAMILY HISTORY** earlier in this work. Puella's family is covered in the **HUSSEY FAMILY HISTORY**.

John Howland Jr.

John was born April 24, 1627. He married Mary Lee of Barnstable on December 26, 1651. She was a daughter of Robert Lee. They resided in Barnstable where he was a Lieutenant in the Militia and a selectman in the town in 1689. He died in Barnstable on October 26, 1691.

They had ten children:

MARY, born 1652. She married John Allen.

ELIZABETH, born May 17, 1655. She first married John Bursley and then married Isaac Hamblin.

ISAAC, born November 25, 1659 and was married to Ann Taylor.

HANNAH, born May 15, 1661. She married Jonathan Crocker on May 20, 1686.

MERCEY, born January 21, 1663. She married Joseph Hamblin.

LYDIA, born January 9, 1665. She married Jeremiah Thomas on February 25, 1684/5.

ANNE, born September 9, 1670. She married Joseph Crocker.

EXPERIENCE, born July 28, 1668. She married James Bearse.

SHUBAEL, born September 30, 1672. He married Mercy 'Mary' Blossom.

JOHN, born December 31, 1674. He married Joanna Shove and after her death married Mary Crocker.

Hope Howland

Hope was born in Plymouth on August 30, 1629. She married John Chipman about 1646 and they lived in Yarmouth where their first child was born. They then moved to what is now West Barnstable in about 1649 and the rest of the children were born there.

John Chipman was probably born in 1614 in Bryan's Piddle near Dorchester in England. He was a selectman and a leader of the church.

Hope died in Barnstable on January 8, 1683/84. John remarried to Ruth Sargent, the widow of both Jonathan Winslow and Rev. Richard Bourne. John died in Barnstable on April 7, 1708. His will was dated November 12, 1702 and was proved May 17, 1708 in Barnstable, Massachusetts.

John and Hope had these children:

ELIZABETH, born June 24, 1647 and died after 1712. She married Hosea Joyce.

HOPE, born August 31, 1652 and died July 26, 1728. She was married twice, first to John Huckins and second to Jonathan Cobb.

LYDIA, born December 25, 1664 and died March 2, 1730. She married John Sargent.

JOHN, Born March 2, 1656/57 and died May 29, 1657.

HANNAH, born January 14, 1658 and died November 4, 1696. She married Thomas Huckins.

SAMUEL, born April 15, 1661 and died in 1723. He married Sarah Cobb.

RUTH, born December 31, 1663 and died April 8, 1698. She was married to Eleazer Crocker.

BETHIA, born July 1, 1666 and died before 1699. She was married to Shubel Dimock.

MERCY, born February 6, 1668 and died June 12, 1724. She was married to Nathan Skiff.

JOHN, born March 3, 1669 and died January 4, 1756. He was married twice. First to Mary Skiff, and then to Elizabeth Hadley.

DESIRE, born February 26, 1673 and died March 28, 1705. She married Col. Nelathia Bourne.

Elizabeth Howland

Elizabeth was born about 1630 or 1631. She married twice. On September 13, 1649 she married Ephraim Hicks. Ephraim died three months later on December 2, 1649. On July 10, 1651, she married Capt. John Dickinson of Plymouth. John was a widower. His first wife was Elizabeth Hicks, Ephraim's sister.

John and Elizabeth moved to Oyster Bay on Long Island, New York.

Their children were:

ELIZABETH, born October 11, 1652. She married Caleb Wright.

JOSEPH, born December 24, 1654. He was married to Rose Townsend.

MERCEY, born February 23, 1657.

JABEZ, born in July 1660.

LYDIA, born August 5, 1662.

SAMUEL, born January 26, 1665.

MEHETABLE, born in February 1667.

HANNAH, born January 6, 1671.

JAMES, born May 27, 1675.

Lydia Howland

Lydia was born in Plymouth about 1633. She married James Browne, son of John Browne of England. They moved to Swansea, Massachusetts where James was one of the first trustees of the town. It was here that her mother, Elizabeth, died.

James died in Swansea on October 29, 1710. I do not know when Lydia died.

Their children were:

JAMES born May 4, 1655 and died April 15, 1718. He married Margaret Dennison.

DOROTHY born August 29, 1666 and died November 12, 1727. She married Joseph Kent, Junior.

JABEZ born July 9, 1668 and died before July 1747. His wife was named Jane.

Jabez Howland

Jabez was born in Plymouth about 1634. He married Bethia Thatcher in about 1655. She was a daughter of Anthony Thatcher of Salisbury, England. She was born in Yarmouth, Massachusetts in about 1640. He lived in Plymouth and Duxbury and in about 1680 moved to Bristol, Rhode Island where he ran a tavern and a blacksmith and cooperage business. He was a representative to the General Courts in both Plymouth and Bristol. He was in the war with King Phillip.

He died in Bristol, Rhode Island in 1712 and Bethia died there on December 19, 1725.

They had eleven children, the first five born in Plymouth, the others in Bristol:

JABEZ, born November 15, 1669 and died October 17, 1732. He married Patience Stafford.

JOHN, was born January 15, 1673 and died two months later.

BETHIA, born June 3, 1674 and died two years later in 1676.

JOSIAH, born August 6, 1676 and died February 8, 1717. He was married to Yetmercey Shove.

JOHN, born July 16, 1679.

JUDITH, born May 5, 1683 and died in November of that year.

SETH, born January 5, 1683 and died June of that year.

SAMUEL, born May 24, 1686 and died May 15, 1748. He was a Deacon and was married three times. His wives were Abigail Cary, Rachel Allen and Dorothy Hunt.

EXPERIENCE, was born May 19, 1687 and died soon afterwards.

JOSEPH

ELIZABETH, who married Nathan Townsend.

Hannah Howland

Hannah was born about 1637 probably at Plymouth. She married Jonathan Bosworth of Swansea on July 6, 1661.

They lived in Swansea where he was appointed school master for the town.

Their children were:

MERCEY, born May 30, 1662.

HANNAH, born November 5, 1663. She married Nathaniel Jenks.

ELIZABETH, born June 6, 1665 and died July 16, 1676.

JONATHAN, born December 24, 1666 and died July 16, 1676.

DAVID, born September 15, 1670 and was married to Mercy Sturdevant.

JOHN, born April 6, 1671. He married Elizabeth Toodood.

JABEZ, born February 14, 1673. His wife was named Susannah.

ICABOD, born March 18, 1676.

JONATHAN, born September 22, 1680. He married Sarah Rounds.

Joseph Howland

Joseph was born in 1640 to 1642. He was born and lived all his life in Plymouth. He was a member of the militia and a large landholder.

He married Elizabeth Southworth of Plymouth on December 7, 1664. She was a daughter of Thomas and granddaughter of Edward Southworth.

Joseph died in Plymouth in January 1703/04.

Their children were:

LYDIA, born in 1665 and died June 7, 1717. She married Jeremiah Thomas.

ELIZABETH, married Joseph Hamblin.

MARY, married to George Conant.

THOMAS, married Joanna Cole and died December 7, 1739.

JAMES, married Mary Lothrop.

NATHANIEL, married Martha Cole. He died December 29, 1746.

SARAH, born in 1687 and died before 1703 when her father's will was made.

BENJAMIN, born in 1688 or 1689 and died September 7, 1689.

JOSEPH, died July 8, 1689.

Ruth Howland

Ruth was born in the mid 1640s and married Thomas Cushman on November 17, 1664. Thomas was the son of Thomas Cushman Senior and Mary Allerton. He was born on September 16, 1637 in Plymouth.

They moved to Plympton, some ten miles inland and remain there all their lives. They were members of the church there.

Thomas and Ruth had two children, both born in Plympton:

ROBERT, born October 4, 1664 and died September 7, 1757. He first married Persis (?) and then Prudence Sherman.

DESIRE, born in 1668 and died February 8, 1763. She was married to Samuel Kent.

Ruth died sometime around 1675. Thomas married Abigail Fuller of Rehobeth, Massachusetts on October 16, 1679. He died in Plympton on August 23, 1726.

Isaac Howland

Isaac was born in Plymouth on November 15, 1649. He moved to Middleboro, Massachusetts and lived on lands willed to him by his father. He married Elizabeth Vaughn of Middleboro in about 1675. She was a daughter of George Vaughn. Elizabeth was born in 1652 and died in Middleboro on October 29, 1727 at age seventy-five.

Isaac was active in both the Militia and in town government. He died in Middleboro on March 9, 1723/24.

Their children were:

SETH, born November 26, 1677 and died October 26, 1729. He married Elizabeth Delano.

ISAAC, born March 1679. He married Sarah Thomas.

PRISCILLA, born August 22, 1781. She married Peter Bennett.

ELIZABETH, born December 2, 1682 and died April 1, 1685.

NATHAN, born October 13, 1687. He married Frances Combs.

JAEL, born October 13, 1688 and died November 1743. She married Nathaniel Southworth.

SUSANNAH, born October 14, 1690 and died in November, 1743. She married Ephraim Wood.

HANNAH, born October 16, 1694 and died March 25, 1792. She married John Pinkham.

THE TILLEY FAMILY

I was fortunate to find a rather complete history of the Tilley family in the AMERICAN GENEALOGIST, October 1976, by Robert Ward. Mr. Ward pieced together a series of wills filed in Bedfordshire, England to establish a chain of descent of the Tilley Family through the generation that included the *Mayflower Pilgrims*, Edward and Agnes Cooper Tilley and John and Joan Hurst Tilley and their daughter, Elizabeth Tilley.

This is basically all information obtained from this article with a few odd bits taken from other sources.

I will begin with the earliest member of the family determined, one Henry Tilly. From the earliest time the family lived in the parish of Henlow in the County of Bedfordshire in England. They remained there until they came to America in 1620.

HENRY TILLY

Henry Tilly was born in Henlow, Bedfordshire, England in the late 1460s. His will was dated September 1, 1520 and was proved on December 4, 1520. The will mentions his wife, Joan, as still living and mentions two sons, William who was unmarried and Thomas.

THOMAS TILLY

Thomas was probably born in the early 1490s. Again, all we know is what was contained in his will. It was dated August 21, 1556 and proved October 6, 1556 in Henlow. His wife Margaret was still living at the time of his death. He also mentions two children, Agnes who was married and William.

WILLIAM TYLLE

William used a different spelling in his will, but like most people of the time was probably not able to write and the scribes wrote names as they heard them. He was born in Henlow about 1515 and died in January 1578/9. His will was dated January 1, 1578/9 and was proved January 28, 1578/9. He was buried January 21st and probably died a day or two earlier.

His wife was named Agnes. Her will was dated June 1, 1582 and proved on July 13, 1582.

The children were (as mentioned in both wills):

ELIZABETH who married Richard Huckle.

ROBERT who is our line.

MARY who first married William Ward and then in 1579 married Thomas Younge. She was buried in Henlow on May 5, 1585.

ALICE married William Sheffield.

ROBERT TILLEY

Robert Tilley was born about 1540 in Henlow, Bedford. He married a woman named Elizabeth in the late 1560s. His will was dated December 31, 1612 and proved on April 6, 1613. He was buried in Henlow on February 21, 1612/3. Elizabeth was buried in Henlow on March 27, 1614.

Their children were:

JOHN TILLEY was our line and is covered in the next section.

ROSE TILLEY was baptized in Henlow May 8, 1574. She married John Goods.

GEORGE TILLEY was baptized January 26, 1576/7. He was a live in 1582, but had died by 1612 when his father wrote his will.

AGNES TILLEY was baptized March 6, 1579/80, but as she was not in her father's will, she must have died before 1612.

ELIZABETH TILLEY was baptized January 26, 1582/3. She married Richard Austin on December 15, 1608 and was buried in Henlow on February 20, 1624/5. Their children were: **Elizabeth, Ann and Agnes Austin.**

WILLIAM TILLEY was baptized in Henlow on September 1, 1585 and was buried there on January 18, 1624/5. He married Elizabeth Peppitt there on November 11, 1612. After his death she remarried Robert Goare. The children were: **Ann, Edward and Elizabeth Tilley.**

EDWARD TILLEY was baptized in Henlow on May 27, 1588 (as Edmond Tilley) and there married Agnes Cooper on June 20, 1614. They came to America on the *Mayflower* along with his brother John (our line) and Agnes' cousins Henry Sampson and Humility Cooper. Both Edward and Agnes died during the first winter in Plymouth in 1620/1. There were no children.

ALICE TILLEY was baptized in Henlow on February 28, 1590/1 and was buried there on July 29, 1597 at age six.

JOHN TILLEY

John was baptized at Henlow, Bedfordshire on December 19, 1571. He married Joan Hurst there on September 20, 1596.

Joan was the widow of Thomas Rogers. She was a daughter of William and Rose Hurst and was baptized in Henlow Parish on March 13, 1567/8. She had married Thomas Rogers in Henlow on June 18, 1593. He died in 1595. They had one daughter, Joan Rogers, baptized May 26, 1594.

John and Joan Tilley came on the *Mayflower* to Plymouth with their daughter, Elizabeth Tilley. The parents died with so many others during the first winter at Plymouth.

They had five children, one died young, the three eldest remained in England and the youngest, Elizabeth, accompanied the parents to America.

ROSE TILLEY was baptized in Henlow on October 23, 1597 and died as an infant in Henlow.

JOHN TILLEY was baptized on August 26, 1599. He was captured and killed by Indians.

ROSE TILLEY was baptized on February 28, 1601/2.

ROBERT TILLEY JR. was baptized on November 25, 1604.

ELIZABETH TILLEY was baptized at Henlow Parish on August 30, 1607. She accompanied her parents and uncle to America on the *Mayflower* arriving in Plymouth, Massachusetts on November 20, 1620. Her parents died, as did all her other relatives, during the first winter. She was taken in by Governor Carver and lived in his home. There she met John Howland. They were married in about 1624. Their lives were covered in the HOWLAND FAMILY HISTORY, which preceded this section.