

JOHN HOWLAND OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it finally arrived in New England in November, 1620 was Pilgrim John Howland.

John was born in Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire, England about 1592. He was an indentured servant and in later years, the executive assistant and personal secretary to Governor John Carver and accompanied the Separatists and other passengers when they left England to settle in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

During a particularly bad storm on the crossing, John went above deck and was swept overboard. He was able to catch hold of the topsail halyards which hung overboard until sailors were able to grab hold of him with a boat hook and pull him back in.

He married Elizabeth Tilley about 1624 and died in Plymouth on 3 February 1672/3. After her husband's death, Widow Elizabeth went to live with a daughter in Swansea and died there on 22 December 1687.

Though not an original member of the Separatist group, John served on special committees and was an important lay leader of the Plymouth Church and an upstanding citizen of the Community.

His headstone inscription reads, "He was a godly man and an ancient professor in the ways of Christ. Hee was one of the first comers into this land and was the last man that was left of those that came over in the Shipp called the Mayflower that lived in Plymouth. *Plymouth Records*"

Children of John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland:

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| 1. Desire | 6. Hannah |
| 2. John | 7. Joseph |
| 3. Hope | 8. Jabez |
| 4. Elizabeth | 9. Ruth |
| 5. Lydia | 10. Isaac |

Which child of Pilgrim John Howland
is your Mayflower ancestor?

Sources:

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