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THIS BOOK
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
TO ALL DESCENDANTS
OF THE
PILGRIM JOHN HOWLAND

JOHN HOWLAND
A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM



“There is a moral and philosophical respect for our ancestors which elevates the character and inspires the heart.”— DANIEL WEBSTER.

Edited and Compiled
By WILLIAM HOWLAND *for*
THE PILGRIM JOHN HOWLAND SOCIETY
[*Incorporated*]
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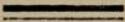
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FOREWORD

IN HIS *Genealogical and Biographical History of John Howland and his Descendants*, Franklyn Howland made mention of the fact that "the high moral and religious element which was the foundation on which the early Howlands in America built their lives, has largely entered into the lives of their posterity."

He notes with pleasure "the freedom of their characters from crime and moral degradation. They are found to have been, as a people, thrifty, economical, and good managers of finance. It is shown that most of them have had a fair share of the temporal things of this world." He adds, "In my researches, the Howlands are found to be a family of great respectability generally. Its members are found in the United States Senate, in the Governor's chair, on the Judges' bench, adorning all the professions, and well represented in the higher walks of life."

It is a natural element of human nature to recall and record the Christian virtues, wisdom, benevolence and noble achievements of those who are of our own blood, and those whom we hold dear by ties of relationship.

To learn and cherish a knowledge of what these have done in the settlement of our country, towards the achievement of our national independence, in overcoming the rebellion—wiping out human slavery, in educating, Christianizing and lifting up the people, is indulging in an instinct that is both beneficial and useful.

To honor and applaud the noble acts and successes of one's kindred, is an incentive to the living to make a record that will merit the respect of and be cherished by generations to come.

Someone has truly written that "those who look upon our nation as composed of its honorable and patriotic families will feel bound together by a sacred tie, and communities will no longer be regarded as an incongruous mass of adventurers, but as a brotherhood animated by a kindred spirit."



JOHN HOWLAND A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JOHN HOWLAND
BY HENRY R. HOWLAND

“THE 23rd of February, 1672, Mr. John Howland, Senir, of the towne of Plymouth, deceased. Hee was a godly man and an ancient professor in the wayes of Christ: Hee lived untill hee attained above eighty yeares in the world. Hee was one of the first comers into this land, and proved a useful instrument of good in his place and was the last man that was left of those that came over in the shipp called the May Flower that lived in Plymouth: He was with honor interred att the towne of Plymouth on the 25th of February 1672.”

These simple but suggestive words which appear in the ancient records of Plymouth Colony in the handwriting of its Secretary, Nathaniel Morton, tell the ending of an honorable and useful life; a life which had reached beyond the allotted span and had been marked by strange and severe vicissitudes; the life of a man who was honored as “one of the first comers into this land,” a Pilgrim in the Mayflower, who being himself a leading spirit in that devoted band, had shared in all its perils and with untiring zeal for the common good, had borne a manly part in all the struggles which marked the effort to plant the first colony in New England.

He had lived to see, in the lapse of more than half a century, those small beginnings grow and prosper and by his acknowledged influence had contributed in no small measure to their success.

He had lived to see those other New England Colonies, which had been planted on these shores as a result of the Mayflower experiment, expand into large and numerous settlements confederated with Plymouth in the "United Colonies of New England" and rewarded thus for trials and strivings, honored for a godly and for a manly life, his earthly pilgrimage ended in peace.

From this record of John Howland's death, we learn that he was born in 1592 or 1593 and was therefore about 28 years of age at the time of the Mayflower voyage, at which time Governor Bradford describes him as a "lusty young man."

*A Clue to
His Ancestry*

The place of his birth we do not know. The investigations made by Mr. Louis M. Howland through Col. Chester and others show that at the time of Elizabeth there were several families of the name living in County Essex and in London, apparently in some way connected, though representing various gradations of wealth; the only clue to that of the Pilgrim thus far found appearing in the will of Humphrey Howland, a citizen and draper of London, proved July 10, 1646, which names four brothers, viz.: George Howland of the Parish of St. Dunstan's in the East and Arthur, John and Henry, to each of whom in the order named, small legacies were given out of the debt due to the said Humphrey, by "Mr. Ruck of New England." This furnishes a reasonable ground for believing Arthur and Henry Howland, who came later into Plymouth Colony to have been brothers of the Pilgrim, and for identifying these three as members of the respectable and well connected family in London represented there prior to 1646 by Humphrey and George Howland and by a sister then living, named in this will as "my sister Margaret Phillips."

In 1618, 1619 and 1620 John Carver, acting as agent for the Leyden Separatists, spent much of his time in England and especially in London, carrying on the negotiations with the Merchant Adventurers and it seems probable that here he met young Howland and recognizing in him the man of affairs that he soon became, succeeded in attaching him to the Separatist cause and to his own person and at the time of the migration defrayed for him the expenses of the journey, receiving in return such services as John Howland could render him.

It is believed (Dr. Winsor) that Carver was the oldest of the Pilgrims and doubtless he leaned much upon this trusty young man whom he had taken into his family and whom he kept by his side, for when Carver died John Howland became the head of his benefactor's household and if tradition could be true, these two were joined together by a still nearer and dearer tie.

The first mention of John Howland's name occurs in Governor Bradford's account of the stormy voyage of the Mayflower on her way to this new world wilderness. "In sundrie of these stormes the winds were so fierce and ye seas so high as they could not beare a knote of saile, but were forced to hull for diuerce days together. And in one of them, as they thus lay at hull in a mighty storme, a lustie yonge man (called John Howland) coming upon some occasion above ye grattings, was, with a seale of ye shippe, throwne into ye sea; but it pleased God yt he caught hold of ye tope-saile hallards which hunge over-board and rane out at length; yet he held his hould (though he was sundrie fadomes under water) till he was hald up by ye same rope to ye brime of ye water, and then with a boat hooke & other means got into ye shippe again & his life was saved; and though he was something ill with it, yet he lived many years after, and became a profitable member both in church and comonewealthe."

*"Throwne Into
Ye Sea"*

When, after sighting the wooded hills of Truro and attempting to pass around Cape Cod towards the Hudson, the Mayflower narrowly escaped the dangerous shoals and currents south of Chatham, the leaders of that little band decided to abandon their purpose of settling within the limits of the Virginia Company's Patent and put back into the harbor (at Provincetown) where the Mayflower anchored November 11, 1620.

*A Signer of
the Compact*

Their first proceeding upon that first day in the New World was of supreme importance, for they were now outside the limits of any established territorial authority and of necessity self-dependent. Some of those who had joined the Leyden Company in England had asserted the belief that authority was now ended, so in the cabin of the Mayflower where all the adult males were called together that the true situation might be explained to them, the leading spirits drew up the famous Compact which has been called the first foundation of our civil and religious liberty, by which they combined themselves into a "civil body politic," with the right to command obedience, putting into simple and effective form the ancient and abiding feature of Anglo Saxon freedom—a government by the consent of the governed.

On this remarkable document the name of John Howland appears as the thirteenth signer. At the same time John Carver was chosen to be their first Governor.

*Exploring for
a Landing*

Their first exploration by land and the second by twenty-four of their men in their shallop, a sloop rigged craft of twelve to fifteen tons, explored the coast as far as the mouth of the Pamet river without finding any adequate supply of fresh water. No list of names is preserved of those who shared in this toilsome work but it is probable that John Howland accompanied each of these explorations.

On Wednesday, December 6th (O.S.) the third exploring party set out with the shallop, as Bradford states, "with ten of their principall men and some sea men." These "ten principall men," who, according to "Mourt's Relation" "were of themselves willing to undertake it," were Captain Standish, Master Carver, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Tilley, Edward Tilley and John Howland" (these being apparently from the Leyden Company) "and three of London, Richard Warren, Steven Hopkins and Edward Dotte, and two of our sea men John Alderton and Thomas English; of the ship's company there went two of the master mates, Master Clarke and Master Copin, the master gunner and three saylors."

The story of that third and last exploration with its vicissitudes is familiar to all students of Pilgrim history; the hard weather that made the spray freeze upon their clothing making them "like coats of iron;" their own weakness from previous exposure so that some of the number were very sick and almost succumbed to the terrible cold; their terrors when beset by wolves and their deliverance from the savages in their "first encounter" on Friday morning; the frightful storm of that weary day with ever increasing violence, disabling their rudder and their narrow escape from destruction when as they neared the entrance to Plymouth harbor their mast and sail were carried away and their pilot whom they trusted proved ignorant of his whereabouts and a vain reliance; then finally reaching a sheltered anchorage under the lee of Clark's Island where they landed and where worn out with their perilous voyage, as their written record so simply states, "on the Sabbath day wee rested," offering up their thanksgivings to Almighty God who had wrought their great deliverance.

It was on Monday morning (December 11th O. S. or 21st N. S.)

Plymouth Rock that according to Bradford "they sounded the harbor and founde it fitt for shipping" and bringing their boat alongside a great glacial boulder, the only rock to be seen for miles, which gave them the only opportunity in those shallow waters to land dry shod from their heavȳ shallop, they, first of all the Pilgrim band, stepped upon Plymouth Rock, and by the touch of their weary feet consecrated it to all succeeding generations; thus fixing the date which we yearly celebrate as "Forefathers' Day," when this little party of "ten principall men" made the first landing of the Pilgrims on the Plymouth shore, where soon after their settlement was made.

The identity of Plymouth Rock as their place of landing has been fully verified. In 1741, when Elder Thomas Faunce, then aged ninety-five, learned that the Rock was about to be covered with a new wharf, he came from his home at Eel River, three miles distant, to Plymouth, and having been borne to the spot in a chair, he told with tears, its story to the concourse of people who had gathered. He was twenty-seven years old when he followed to the grave John Howland, who was the last survivor of this exploring party and he described their landing as he had often heard the event described by the Pilgrim Fathers themselves.

The First Winter Acting upon their favorable report the Mayflower with its precious company anchored in Plymouth Harbor Saturday, December 16th, but it was a week before such of the men as could go ashore began felling timber for building and it was on Christmas Day they began to erect the "common house," about twenty feet square, built of rudely squared logs, with a thatched roof, on what is now the south side of Leyden Street near the declivity of Cole's Hill, and this was nearly finished January 9th when the women and children still remained on shipboard, but on Sunday,

January 21st, the entry appears in their journal, "we kept our meeting on land."

They had divided themselves into nineteen families, allotting the single men to the different families as most convenient for all, and drawing lots for the measured plots of land, determined to build the settlement in two rows of houses "for more safety," building the platform for their fort at the upper end of the street on what is now Burial Hill. So the toilsome days of the first winter wore away in these labors. The long voyage and their great exposures brought sickness and death among them and in February we are told that at one time there were to care for the helpless but seven sound persons who "spared no pains night nor day" to do this, "but with abundance of toyle and hazard of their own health, and all this willingly and cheerfully without any grudging in ye least, showing their own true love unto their friends and brethren."

Long years afterward, Governor Bradford in writing of this sad time names Elder Brewster and Captain Standish among these and speaks of "others yet living, that whilst they had health, yea or any strength continuing, they were not wanting to any that had need of them." As John Howland still lived when these lines were penned, we may feel assured that his strong arm and sturdy frame failed not in acts of mercy in the service of his brethren.

By the sixth of May, 1621, there remained alive but fifty-six of their number and already in April had fallen their severest blow in the death of Governor Carver to whom as their wisest, most experienced counsellor, they had been indebted for all that his great prudence, faithful integrity and firmness of character had accomplished for them. To whom could this loss bring greater cause for heaviness than to John Howland, who now

*Death of
Governor Carver*

became as circumstances seem to show, the head of the surviving remnant of Carver's family.

Of those who had accompanied the first Governor from England, Jasper More, the little boy "who had been put to him" had died on December 6th on the Mayflower in Cape Cod Bay; Roger Wilder had died in the winter; Katharine Carver survived her husband only five or six weeks; Desire Minter remained for the present in the colony, though soon afterwards she returned to her friends in England where she died. This left only a boy named William Latham and a maid-servant whose name is unknown, who later married Francis Eaton.

Elizabeth Tilley

Until 1895 it had been supposed that John Howland had married a daughter of Governor Carver, such having been the family tradition, but the discovery in that year of the long lost manuscript of Bradford's History showed that Governor Carver left no children and further, that John Howland married Elizabeth, the daughter of John Tilley.

John Tilley with his wife and daughter were Mayflower passengers. The wife's name is not known for it has been clearly shown that the marriage record at Leyden in 1615 of "John Telley, silkworke of Leyden" and "Bridget Van-der Velde" has no reference to these members of the Pilgrim company. Both father and mother died in the first sickness "a little after they came ashore." Their daughter Elizabeth who was thus left an orphan, was then in her fourteenth year, (she died Dec. 21, 1687, in her 81st year) and it is more than probable that she had been at once taken into the friendly household of the first Governor and that being received by them as a child whom Providence had entrusted to their care, the tradition that she was their daughter thus arose.

*The little log houses built by the settlers and protected by

*See picture, page 26

palisades were for greater safety placed near together on either side of the street laid out from the Fort Hill to the Bay, now known as Leyden Street. Of the oldest manuscript record of these but a fragment remains, but we learn from a deed dated 1677 that the homestead lot of John Howland was upon the north side of Leyden Street and that it joined on the east side of the land assigned to Steven Hopkins.

Upon the death of Carver, William Bradford was chosen as his successor and as he was severely ill Isaac Allerton was made his assistant and for three successive years by annual election these two continued in office, consulting with the Elder (Brewster) and the other leading men. In 1624 this plan was changed by giving the Governor a council of five assistants or magistrates, the number being increased to seven in 1633. From the beginning, however, all affairs of public interest were settled in the general town-meeting, forming a court of the whole, over which the Governor presided, reference being made to him and to the magistrates to enforce the people's orders. Such laws as were framed were enacted in the same way and the Governor acted in early years as Secretary and Treasurer of the Colony. Following the teachings of John Robinson, their liberal-minded pastor at Leyden, the Plymouth Pilgrims admitted to their church fellowship all Protestant Christians who professed piety and gave evidence of sincerity therein and to citizenship all who obeyed their civil laws without regard to church membership. Through the summer of 1621 there had been no want, for there had been an abundance of fish; they had planted 20 acres of Indian corn and the autumn brought them game so that they thought themselves provided for winter's needs, but unexpectedly on the 11th of November the ship Fortune arrived bringing from England thirty-five passengers to add to their numbers. Through

*Bradford Chosen
Governor*

the parsimony of the Merchant Adventurers these new comers brought no provisions and were unprovided with bedding or clothing, so that of necessity all in the settlement were put upon half allowance of food and in this straitened condition entered upon their second winter.

Facing Famine

Now famishing for want of food their days were but dark and comfortless, but even darker days were in store for them, for despite their entreaties for help sent by the "Fortune" when it returned, no supplies were ever sent for their succor. The Merchant Adventurers heartlessly abandoned them and they were left to their own resources. The scanty supplies obtained by Winslow in June, 1622, from the fishing fleet off the Maine Coast, with the shell fish they could secure, scarce sufficed to keep them alive until the harvest. There was but bread enough to give each one four ounces daily and this was securely kept and doled out by the Governor from day to day. When harvest time came the crop proved very light and inadequate for a year's supply; a little was bought from those Indians with whom the Colony had established friendly relations but the time soon came when again gaunt famine stared them in the face.

When seed time came in the spring of 1623 it was decided to assign to each family for present use a portion of land for separate tillage, instead of continuing their work in common under their seven years' agreement with the Merchant Adventurers, but when their corn was planted their provisions were exhausted and to save themselves from starvation they divided the men into companies of six or seven persons, each taking the boat in turn for net fishing and not returning till something was caught for the famishing company, their only other reliance being the shellfish they could dig at low water. Their forms became gaunt and their faces pinched and pale and Winslow mentions the men

at noonday staggering for want of food. In July the ship "Anne" and the pinnace "Little James" arrived bringing about one hundred new persons to the Colony, many of them from the Leyden flock. These had their own provisions and when harvest time came the outcome was plentiful and the time of famine ended.

It is probable that the marriage of John Howland occurred towards the close of this year (1623) or early in 1624 and was the fifth or sixth marriage in the Colony. The ship "Anne" had brought Mrs. Alice Southworth, who was married to Governor Bradford, August 14, 1622, and this is named as the fourth marriage among the settlers, the others having been:

*Marriage To
Elizabeth Tilley*

1. Edward Winslow and Mrs. Susanna White, May 12, 1621.
2. Francis Eaton and Mrs. Carver's maid.
3. John Alden and Priscilla Mullins.

The next marriage may have been either that of Myles Standish to Barbara —————, one of the passengers on the "Anne," or that of John Howland to Elizabeth Tilley.

In the early spring of 1624 (1623-4 O. S.) the division of land for temporary individual use which had been begun in the previous year, was confirmed by lot, one acre being assigned to each member of a family and in this division four acres were assigned to John Howland. Of those who had been left to his care when Governor Carver died, but two were left,—the "boy" William Lapham and probably Desire Minter, who had not yet "returned to England;" so that these two with John Howland and his wife make up the tally of four persons for whom land was thus provided. It is probable that Desire Minter "returned to England" not long thereafter, and when (probably in 1625) their first child was born to John and Elizabeth Howland, she was in loving memory named "Desire." The lots given to John How-

land were on "the south side of the brooke to the woodward," opposite those whose fields lay "to the bay-ward" and it is interesting to note that the faithful Indian Hobomok who had come to live with the Pilgrims was given ground between John Howland and Stephen Hopkins. The abundant harvest of 1623 and the coming of the ship "Anne" with the large addition which she and the "Little James" brought to its members, marked an important change in the little colony which had thus far struggled sorely for existence.

Captain John Smith, writing to England in 1624 says: "At New Plimouth there are now about 180 persons, 32 dwelling-houses; the town is impaled about half a mile in compass. On a high mount in the town they have a fort well built with wood, lime and stone and a fair watch tower."

*The Puritan
Conspiracy*

Among the Merchant Adventurers in London who had advanced the money for the first colonists there was a strong Puritan faction that soon displayed hostility to these Separatists from Leyden and among those English recruits sent over by the Adventurers in the "Fortune" and the "Anne" were a number who had but little sympathy with those who had first founded the Colony. One direct result of this hostile feeling was the so-called "Puritan Conspiracy" which in 1624 threatened the life of the Colony. This attempt was fostered by one John Oldham, who with nine of his especial associates came in the "Anne," and by a minister of the Puritan section of the Church of England and an arrant hypocrite and knave, who came in the "Charity" in 1624. Both began to stir up discontent and strife, sending calumnious letters to England full of falsehoods and revealing their preconcerted design to form a new congregation among the disaffected and so to effect a radical change in church and commonwealth. Their plots were discovered and averted and both were banished from Plymouth.

Such hostile designs against the peace of the Colony on the part of those who should have been its warmest friends strengthened the feeling of the leaders that it would be wise to take such steps at once as should make them independent of their associates in England and give them the undisturbed control of their own affairs even at a great risk and at the cost of much self-sacrifice.

By their original agreement with the Merchant Adventurers in London, July, 1620, they had formed with them a seven years' partnership and during that time all lands, goods and gains were to be a common possession; at its end all capital and profits, houses, lands, goods and chattels were to be equally divided between the adventurers and the planters, each adult person among the colonists to be counted as owning a single share in the division, rated at £10.

The Merchant Adventurers had but poorly complied with their part of the agreement and had failed to send such necessary supplies as should save the infant colony from starvation. The Pilgrims had been compelled to rely upon their own unaided efforts and had been forced to borrow money from other sources at usurious interest. Their fisheries had been unprofitable, but the abundant crops of 1623 and subsequent years had enabled them to barter successfully for beaver and other furs and so to reduce their London accounts. Already in 1625 they had sent Captain Standish to London to open negotiations with the Adventurers for the purchase of all their rights in the Colony and in 1626 Isaac Allerton was sent to conclude the bargain. Returning he brought the draft of an agreement by which the Adventurers consented to sell all their interest in the common stock of the Colony for the sum of £1800 in six annual payments of £300. To accomplish this, "though they knew not well how to raise ye payment and discharge their other engagements and

*Buying Out the
London Backers*

supply the yearly wants of ye plantation, yet they undertook it and 7 or 8 of ye cheefe of ye place became joyntly bound for ye paiments of the £1800, at ye severall days, in which they rane a great adventure as their present state stood, having many other heavie burthens allready upon them."

These eight "of ye cheefe of ye place" were, William Bradford, Myles Standish, Issac Allerton, Edward Winslow, William Brewster, John Howland, John Alden and Thomas Prence, who were thus courageous to assume not only this "heavie burthen" but other and yet greater responsibilities for the Colony's good. The entire company was called together and it was proposed to them that all who were heads of families or that were single young men of discretion and also freemen should be admitted to equal partnership in the Colony's profits, each of such persons to have a single share and that each head of a family should be allowed to purchase one share for each member of his family; that the cattle should be divided equally by lot and that in addition to the single acre fields already distributed, each shareholder should have twenty acres of tillable land, five acres broad on the water frontage and four acres in depth, mowing lands being reserved for common use. These free-holders thus enrolled were called "purchasers" and numbered 156 in all.

*Debt Free
in 1646*

So large a body, however, could not carry on the financial business of the Colony advantageously, so the eight leaders resolved as Bradford says, "to run a high course" and hired from the "purchasers" the trade of the Colony for six years, assuming to pay all debts, there being over and above the £1800 to the London Merchants, further debts amounting to £600. They further agreed to certain annual expenditures for the good of the Colony and at the end of six years to return to the settlers all privileges of trade thus conceded to them. This formal agreement

was made in July, 1627, by which the eight "Undertakers" as they were now called, of whom John Howland was one, became the owners of the entire outside trade of the Colony. Their agreement was most honorably and faithfully performed. Not only did they within those six years pay off all the Colony's debts but in 1629 and 1630 brought over two companies of their friends from Leyden at a cost for transportation of over £550, and paid the expense of their maintenance for more than a year until these new comers could plant and reap a harvest of their own. In all of this they stood the brunt of many misfortunes; their confidence was betrayed by Isaac Allerton and their London agents; they were defrauded and their funds embezzled and it was not till 1646 that all matters between them and the London Adventurers were finally closed and the courageous "Undertakers" freed from their self-imposed burden of debt and responsibility.

On May 22nd, 1627, the fifteen cattle then belonging to the Colony were assigned by lot, the 156 "purchasers" being divided into twelve groups of thirteen persons each; one cow or heifer being allotted to each group to have its use for ten years, the care of the bull and two steers being given to certain of these groups.

*Division of
the Cattle*

This record is important as giving a reliable list of all the individuals at that time in each family. The fourth lot (one of the four heifers which came in the "Jacob," called "Raghorn") fell to John Howland and his Company; joined to him, his wife

Elizabeth Howland,	John Alden,
John Howland, Jr.,	Priscilla Alden,
Desire Howland,	Elizabeth Alden,
William Wright,	John Alden, Jr.,
Thomas Morton, Jr.,	Clement Briggs,
Edward Doten,	Edward Holman.

By this we learn that two children had been born to John and Elizabeth Howland at this time and in a somewhat curious way we are enabled to determine the priority of birth. In 1869 a fragment was found of Judge Samuels Sewall's diary during his judicial circuit in the old Colony in 1702. In this he states—"Saturday April 4th saw Lieut. Howland upon ye roade, who tells me he was born February 24, 1626, at our Plymouth." This would be 1627 by our present method of reckoning the year as beginning January 1st instead of March 25th as at that time. This would show that "Lieut. Howland" mentioned by Judge Sewall, must have been John Howland, Jr., who is named in his father's will as his eldest son, but the date of his birth being just ten days less than three months before the date of the division of cattle, proves quite conclusively that the eldest child of the Pilgrim was his daughter Desire.

Plymouth Colony was beyond the northernmost bounds of the Virginia Company under whose grant the Pilgrims had sailed; the Pierce Patent issued by the North Virginia or New England Company in 1621 never reached them and they remained charterless until 1630 when the Council for New England sent over what is known as the "Warwick" patent, bearing date January 13, 1629, defining their boundaries and conveying plenary powers. This patent ran to William Bradford, his heirs and associates and the Council appointed Captain Standish or in his absence, Edward Winslow, John Howland or John Alden, to take possession in its name and to deliver full "possession and seizen" to Bradford or his representatives. The record states that Alden performed this ceremony, probably by the old English form of cutting a turf and clipping a twig, giving these to make the delivery complete.

In 1624 when William Bradford was re-elected Governor a

council of five magistrates or "Assistants" were added for his relief and during the nine years that followed no record is preserved of the "Assistants" names, though it would appear that Allerton and Winslow thus served and, at different times, Standish, Fuller, Alder and Prence. It is probable that John Howland was one of these earliest magistrates, and in 1633 when the record is for the first time complete, Winslow was chosen Governor and Myles Standish, William Bradford, John Howland, John Alden, John Done, Stephen Hopkins and William Gibson were made Assistants, the number of the Council being increased to seven. In 1634 Thomas Prence was elected Governor, John Howland being named as one of the Assistants to which office he was again chosen in 1635 when Bradford once more became Governor. His election in that year is of especial interest as a mark of the continued confidence and respect of the Colony, in view of an occurrence in the previous year which created much stir throughout New England, in which he bore the leading part.

*Howland as
Magistrate*

In 1628 a territorial grant on the Kennebec River had been obtained by the Colony for the protection of their fur trade with the Indians; and the eight "Undertakers" at once built a fortified trading house at the spot where now stands the city of Augusta. The Warwick Patent confirmed their rights, giving them exclusive jurisdiction over the river within a limit of thirteen miles down the river from the falls near which stood their trading house. This grant occasioned much jealousy among their Puritan rivals at Piscataqua and elsewhere who coveted that trade and in April, 1634, when John Howland was in command of the Kennebec trading post and the spring trade with the Indians was just beginning, one John Hocking, agent for Lords Say and Brooke and others who were owners of the Piscataqua plantation,

*The Kennebec
River Episode*

came in a barque laden with commodities for trade and boldly entering the Plymouth grant, anchored near the falls above their trading house to intercept the canoes as they came down.

When Hocking entered the Plymouth territory John Howland forbade his proceeding and urged him by peaceable persuasion not to infringe upon their liberties which had cost them so dearly, but Hocking defiantly answered that he would go as he intended in despite of them and would "lye there as long as he pleased." John Howland told him that he would be forced to remove him or make seizure of him if he could, whereupon Hocking bade him do his worst and coolly proceeded to his anchorage.

*Howland's
Forebearance*

Upon this bold defiance of their rights, John Howland at once took the Plymouth barque and attended by his men went up the river to where Hocking's vessel lay and ordered him to weigh anchor and depart peaceably. Hocking answered him with foul speeches, referring him to the Piscataqua owners, to which John Howland replied that in the previous year a message had been sent them remonstrating against the attempts to wrong their trade and again ordering Hocking to depart warned him that he would not suffer his remaining longer.

Hocking asked whether he would fire upon him to which John Howland replied that he would not do that but would certainly put him from thence, Hocking's only answer being defiance and much foul abuse.

Anchoring near Hocking's vessel John Howland sent three of his men in a canoe to cut the other's anchor cables so that the vessel should drift down the river and ordered his men that no shot should be fired upon any occasion except by his command. One of the cables was then cut but the force of the current driving the canoe past the other they were recalled and John Howland ordered another man, Moses Talbott, to go with them

for their assistance. While these men were cutting the other cable Hocking with carbine and pistol in his hands threatened them and presently as the canoe came over aimed his carbine at Talbott's head. John Howland, seeing this, jumped upon the rail of the barque and called to Hocking telling him not to shoot his men who "did but that which he commanded them, and therefore desired him not to hurt any of them; if any wrong was done it was himself that did it, and therefore called again to him to take him for his mark, saying that he stood very fair."

The reckless Hocking, however, paid no heed to him or to his gallant appeal, but shot Talbott in the head killing him instantly, but as he raised his pistol for further bloody work, one of the men on the barque, a friend of Talbott's "that loved him well" disregarding Howland's order, seized his musket and shot Hocking in the head even as he had killed Talbott. *Bloodshed*

As the bruit of this affair was quickly carried about among the other New England Colonies, the story colored by misrepresentation and by the old time dislike on the part of the Puritans for the Plymouth Separatists, much acrimonious feeling was aroused; the Magistrates of Massachusetts Bay went so far as to arrest John Alden who had been present though not participating; Standish was sent to Boston to demand Alden's release and was put under bonds by Dudley, the Puritan Governor, to appear before the Court at the Bay in a fortnight's time, a fresh indignity to which Plymouth answered by a letter so energetic that Dudley did his best to keep it secret but the choleric Standish demanded an answer in open court and the letter was read. It took no little time for the feeling of righteous indignation felt at Plymouth towards their self-assertive neighbors at the Bay to cool down, but it was finally agreed that representatives of all the Colonies should meet at Boston, but none came except those from Ply-

mouth and those of the Bay and in their discussion it was decided that the blame rested wholly upon Hocking, and Winthrop and Dudley wrote to Lords Say and Brooke in such effectual manner as to satisfy them of the justice of the Plymouth claims and of John Howland's action in their defense.

*A Delegate
for 28 Years*

Through the whole course of his life John Howland was most active in the affairs of the Colony and most earnest for its welfare. In its preparations for the Pequot War he was one of those appointed to arrange for Plymouth's share and in the same year was one of the six appointed to take measures "for the good of the whole Colony" to uphold the trade in beaver.

Meadow land was granted to John Howland in 1636 at Island Creek within the limits of Duxbury whither many of his early associates including Standish, Alden, and Brewster had removed from Plymouth. Numerous other grants of land in that vicinity were from time to time given him.

In 1641 he is named as one of the four delegates to represent Plymouth in the General Court, a plan of government adopted in 1638-39, made up of the Governor and his Assistants and of elected town representatives, all acting together with the Governor presiding. In this General Court John Howland sat as a representative of Plymouth for twenty-eight years. His name appears constantly as serving upon special committees; the leasing and protection of the Kennebec trade, the appointment of land grants, the settlement of boundary disputes, the laying out of the "Massachusetts Path" the road which led to the Bay Colony—such were the matters given to his supervision, and when in 1650 controversy had arisen between Plymouth and the Bay over their respective rights at Shawomet (now Warwick, R. I.) Howland, Bradford and Prence were the Plymouth Commissioners approved to settle the dispute with those sent by the Bay Colony.

When the Quaker invasion of Massachusetts came in 1657 and 1658, among those who early became sympathizers with and protectors of the first Quakers were John Howland's elder and younger brothers, Arthur Howland of Marshfield, who first appears in the Old Colony records in 1640 and Henry Howland of Duxbury, who first appears in the tax roll of 1633. As a consequence both found themselves under the ban of Governor Prence, a rigid man, who lacked Bradford's policy and gentleness and the record of their fines, disfranchisements, and their frequent arraignments for harboring Quakers or for permitting Quaker meetings in their houses is a long one.

*Howland and
the Quakers*

With the Quakers, who were contemners not only of any church organization but of Civil government as well, it is probable that John Howland had nothing in common, but he was at that time a member of the General Court and undoubtedly used his influence on behalf of his brothers and for their protection, as is stated in George Bishop's "New England judged by the spirit of the Lord" and the records show that his eldest son, John Howland, Jr., was himself arraigned for giving his uncle notice of the constable's coming and for conniving at the escape of his Quaker guest. One result of the strong but ill-guided influence of the Governor was that John Howland, who had sat in the General Court continuously from 1645, but who was too liberal for Prence's illiberality, was like Timothy Hatherly and James Cudworth dropped as a deputy to the Court in 1659 and 1660.

When the reaction came in 1661 against the Governor's policy, and toleration became once more effective, he was again sent to the General Court as Plymouth's representative, and continued as such until 1670, the last year of his public service.

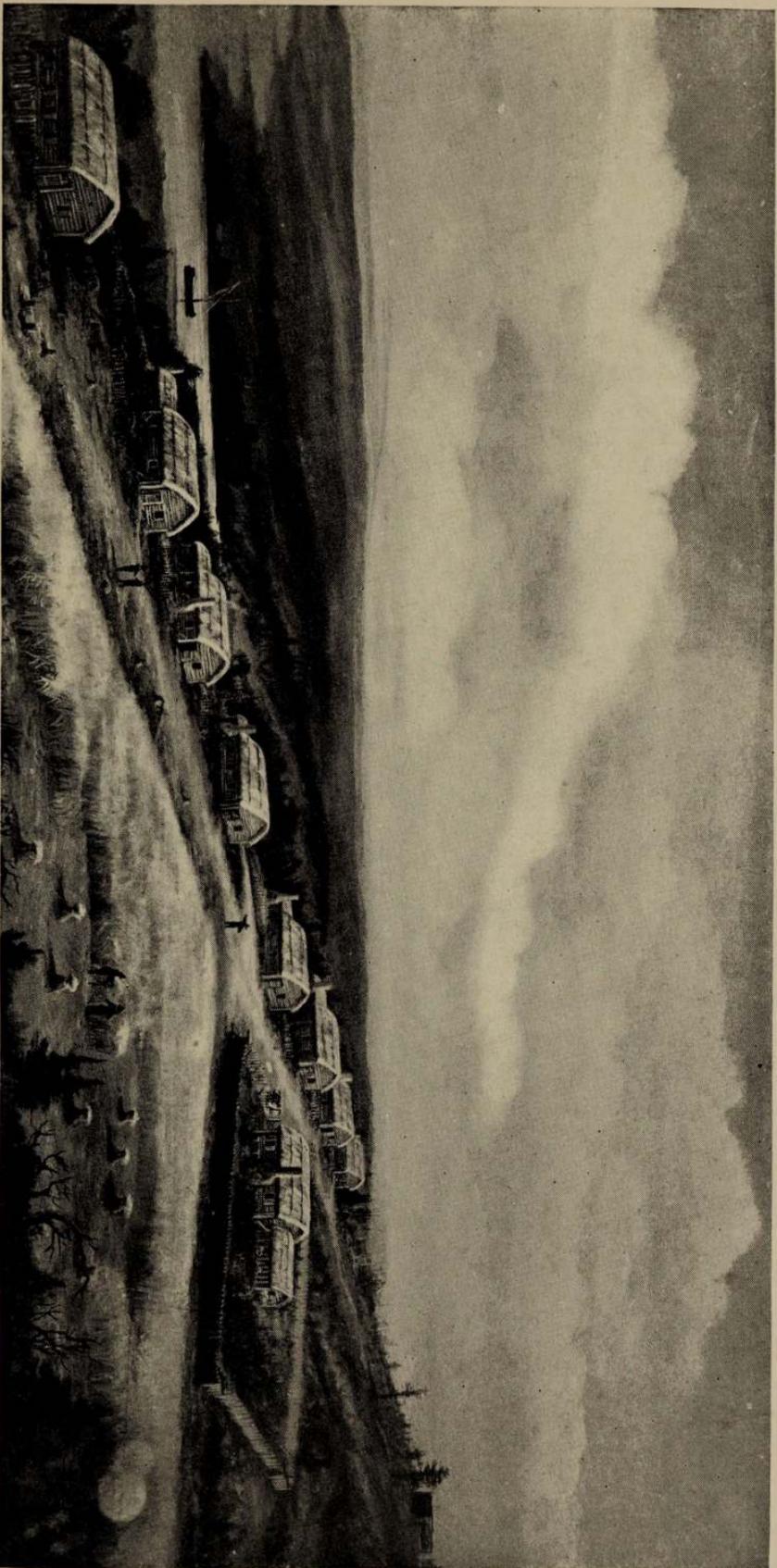
For many years it would appear that John Howland lived on Leyden Street as before noted, or sometime after 1623 on the

four acre plot which came to him and his family at the land division of 1623 which was on what is now called Watson's Hill where Massasoit camped with his followers in April, 1621. February 2nd, 1637-8, he exchanged with John Jenney three acres of this land lying north of the recent line of Jefferson Street, paying him £82 besides, for the house, barn and out house at Rocky Nook with its uplands and five acres of adjoining meadow. This which is now a part of Kingston was then within the limits of Plymouth and in 1638 John Howland took up his residence on this farm where he spent the remainder of his days. At the ordination of the Rev. John Cotton, Jr., in 1667, the church records state that "the aged Mr. Howland was appointed by the church to join in the imposition of hands."

Death at Rocky Nook So at his home at Rocky Nook on the 23rd of February, 1672-3, there came the quiet ending of his days who was the last man left in Plymouth "of those that came over in the shipp called the May Flower" and on the 25th of February his remains were reverently carried to their last resting place. The Fort Hill had already become a place of interment and it is believed that John Howland's grave was one of those upon that beautiful "Burial Hill" which looks down upon the Rock of the first landing and the Bay where the Mayflower with her precious lading lay anchored after her long and bitter voyage.

Here ended his pilgrimage, and here, in later years, although the precise location of his grave could not be identified, the hands of his descendants have placed the stone erected to his memory, at the spot where are clustered together the graves of three generations of his grandchildren.

His life had been one of rare usefulness, of much sacrifice, of no little heroism and of unceasing devotion to the common weal. Like the lives of all those strong-hearted, God-fearing and God-



Store House

P. Brown J. Goodman W. Brewster J. Billington

I. Allerton F. Cooke E. Winslow

Gov. Bradford Old Fort

PLYMOUTH IN 1622

© A. S. Burbank, 1891



HOWLAND MEMORIAL PULPIT, FIRST CHURCH, PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

JOHN HOWLAND: A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM

loving men and women who made up the number of the Mayflower Pilgrims, its details were simple and homely, but the principle which inspired them and led them to their pilgrimage and to the manly endurance of all the trials and sufferings which they had encountered in their great endeavor, sustained them to the end and with the blessing of a Divine Hand led to such results as were far beyond their vision or their dearest hopes, so that today their names are honored and blessed from ocean to ocean throughout that great land wherein the seeds of civil and religious liberty were first planted by their hands.

Buffalo, N. Y.,
April, 1912.

CHILDREN OF JOHN HOWLAND AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH TILLEY HOWLAND

- (1) DESIRE, b. —; d. 13, 10, 1683, in Barnstable; m. 1643, Capt. John Gorham (who was in command of a company in the King Philip war, and d. at Swanzey, aged 54.)
- (2) JOHN, b. 24, 2, 1627 in Plymouth; m. 26, 10, 1651, Mary, dau. of Robert Lee, of Barnstable. He possessed a great deal of energy, was a systematic business man, and highly respected in the colony. In 1674 he was appointed by the court "Ensigne of the Milletary companie of Barnstable." In 1689, he was chosen one of the selectmen of that town.
- (3) JABEZ, b.—, in Plymouth; m. Bethiah, dau. of Anthony Thatcher who came from Salisbury, England. In 1667 Jabez bought what is now known as the Old Howland

House. He did good service in the King Philip war. In 1680 he moved to Bristol, R. I. The first town-meeting of Bristol, R. I., for the transaction of general business, was held 10, 11, 1681, when Jabez Howland was chosen town clerk, and the following June he was elected Selectman.

- (4) HOPE, b. 30, 8, 1629; d. 8, 1, 1684; m. 1646 to John Chipman, of Plymouth, afterwards of Barnstable, who came in 1630 from Barnstable, England, where he was born in 1614, and who died 7, 4, 1708. Their son Samuel had a son John, who graduated at Harvard college, and was a clergyman. Samuel's son Thomas had a son Samuel, who was the father of Judge Nathaniel Chipman, a lieutenant in the Revolutionary war, a United States senator, and Chief Justice of Vermont.
- (5) ELIZABETH, b. —; d. —; m. 1st 13, 9, 1649, Ephriam Hicks, of Plymouth, who d. 2, 12, 1649; m. 2nd, 10, 7, 1651, John Dickarson, of Plymouth, who m. 1st, Elizabeth, sister of Ephriam Hicks.
- (6) LYDIA, b. —; d. —; m. James, son of John and Dorothy Brown, who was b. 1623, d. 10, 10, 1710. They settled in Swanzey.
- (7) RUTH, b. —; d. —; m. 17, 11, 1664, Thomas, son of Thomas Cushman and grandson of Rev. Robert Cushman, of Plymouth.
- (8) HANNAH, b. —; d. —; m. 6, 7, 1661, Jonathan Bosworth.
- (9) JOSEPH, b. — in Plymouth; m. 7, 12, 1664, Elizabeth, only dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth Southworth, of Plymouth. He lived and died in Plymouth, where he was always closely identified with the welfare of the people. He was

JOHN HOWLAND: A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM

commissioned a lieutenant of militia in 1679 which position he held many years. He was a large real estate owner, and he and his son Thomas, his grandson, Consider, and his great grandson, Thomas, successively held the land on which Pilgrim Hall, in Plymouth, now stands. Joseph d. 1st mo. 1704.

- (10) ISAAC, b. 15, 11, 1649; in Plymouth, d. 9, 3, 1724; m. Elizabeth, dau. of George Vaughn, of Middleborough, b. 1652, d. 29, 10, 1727. He was an earnest, active citizen, and was very prominent in the early settlement of Middleborough, where he married, and ever after resided on the land willed him by his father.. He was surveyer of highways in 1672, selectman in 1674, 1684-86, constable in 1674, member of the "Grand Enquest" in 1682, and a deputy in 1689-91. He partook of the military spirit of the family, and acted as lieutenant to Col. Benjamin Church in his raids for King Philip, in August, 1676.

II

THE HOWLAND COAT OF ARMS

THE thought has been cherished by many of our name in America that we descended from a family made royal by having been granted a coat of arms by Queen Elizabeth. It appears on English records that there was born at Newport Ponds, probably between 1515 and 1518, early in the reign of Henry VIII, a John Howland who afterwards was a "citizen and salter" of London.

He married Agnes, daughter of John Greenway, of Clay, Norfolk county. The issue of this marriage was eleven sons and one daughter.

The eldest son, Richard, was a doctor of divinity, and was made Bishop of Peterborough. To him was granted family arms, a fac-simile of which is reproduced in this book on next page.

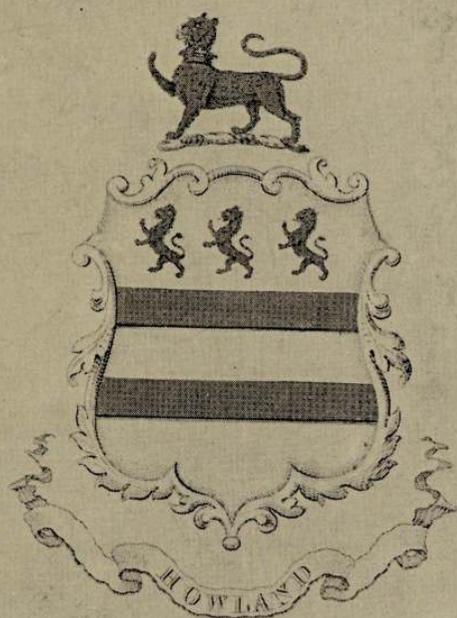
The original painting from which the engravings of the Howland coat of arms in this country were made is in water colors, highly ornamented, and the following description of it is handsomely engrossed under the arms:

"He beareth Sable, two bars Argent, on a chief of the second three Lions rampant of the first, and of his Crest on a wreath of his colors a Lion passant Sable,
By the name of Howland."

Tradition says this was brought from England soon after the Mayflower came. In 1865 it was in possession of the Rev. T. Howland White, of Shelburne, Nova Scotia, who was a grandson of Gideon White, whose wife was Joanna, daughter of John Howland, son of the Pilgrim. From writing found on back of the painting, it was disclosed that the coat of arms was once in possession of Gen. Winslow, a descendant of Pilgrim John Howland.

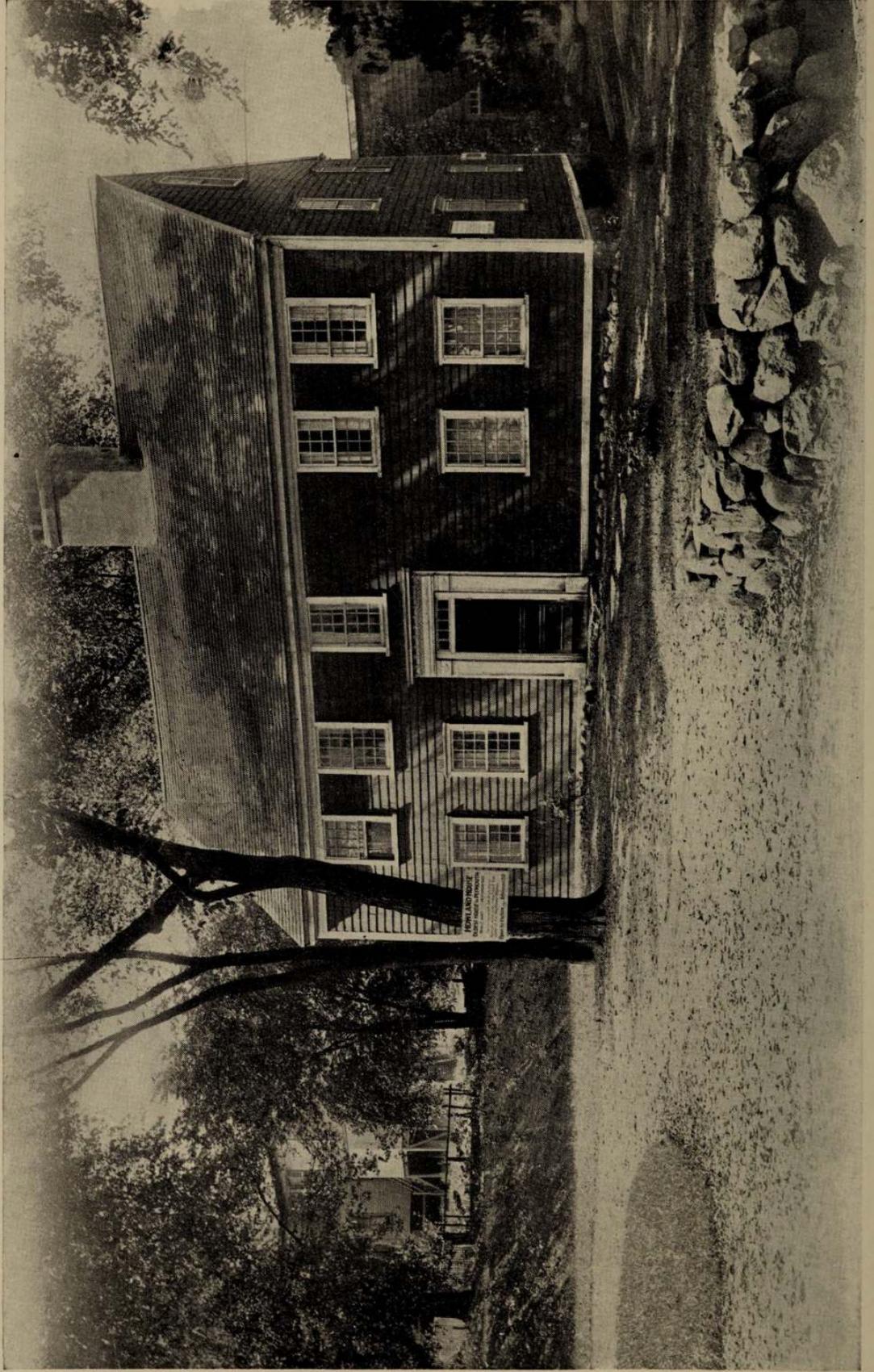
*Copy from the ancient records in the Heralds College,
Bennetts Hill London.*

(These Arms were confirmed to RICHARD HOWLAND, D. D. son & heir of JOHN HOWLAND of London, Gent. and allowed to him, and all the posterity of JOHN HOWLAND, Father of the said Richard, under the hand and seal of ROBERT COOKE. Clarencieux King of Arms. by patent, dated 10th June 1584. Act 27. Elizabeth.)



An ancient Copy of this Coat of Arms, is in possession of some of the decendants of Gideon White of Shelburne, Nova Scotia. whose Mother was Joanna Howland, great grand Daughter of John Howland the Pilgrim, who came over in the May flower in 1620.

THE HOWLAND COAT OF ARMS



THE OLD HOWLAND HOUSE

III

THE HOWLAND HOUSE

THE quaint town of Plymouth, Massachusetts, is indeed the shrine of all patriotic Americans who year after year seek to review the scenes which mirrored the early struggles of the Pilgrims, who, more than three hundred years ago did so much to shape the destinies of our beloved country.

To drink from the spring where our Forefathers quenched their thirst; to gaze on the many relics carefully preserved in Pilgrim Hall—the very chairs in which Elder Brewster and Governor Carver sat, the wonderful sword of Captain Myles Standish, the Dutch cradle in which was lulled to sleep the first white child born in New England—Peregrin White; to see that impressive memorial, the “National Monument to the Forefathers;” to stand on the gentle slopes of Burial Hill and read the quaint, old-world epitaphs on the crumbling tombstones—hallowed ground surely; to go down to the shore and stand reverently by the Rock on which the Pilgrims landed, now glorified as our National doorstone; and then to have the privilege of visiting the old Howland House, the last House now standing in Plymouth under whose roof the Pilgrims visited, these are the things that lure Americans to make pilgrimages to Plymouth where civil and religious liberty had their beginnings.

The old Howland House was erected in 1666 by Thomas Mitchell, who built the big chimney, the north room and attic above, with probably a lean-to over the large fireplace in the kitchen. It is now one of the oldest houses in America. It was

Built in 1666

originally a six or eight-post house, but the old rafters indicate that the roof has been raised three times.

Thomas Mitchell and his wife were killed by the Indians in 1667, and Jabez Howland, son of the Pilgrim John Howland, and a well-to-do man, came into possession of the house. He finished building around the chimney and eventually raised the roof higher and widened it to cover the whole house as it now is.

The main room in the house remains in nearly its original condition, and if its walls could speak, they would repeat the words of John Howland and his good wife Elizabeth Tilley Howland.

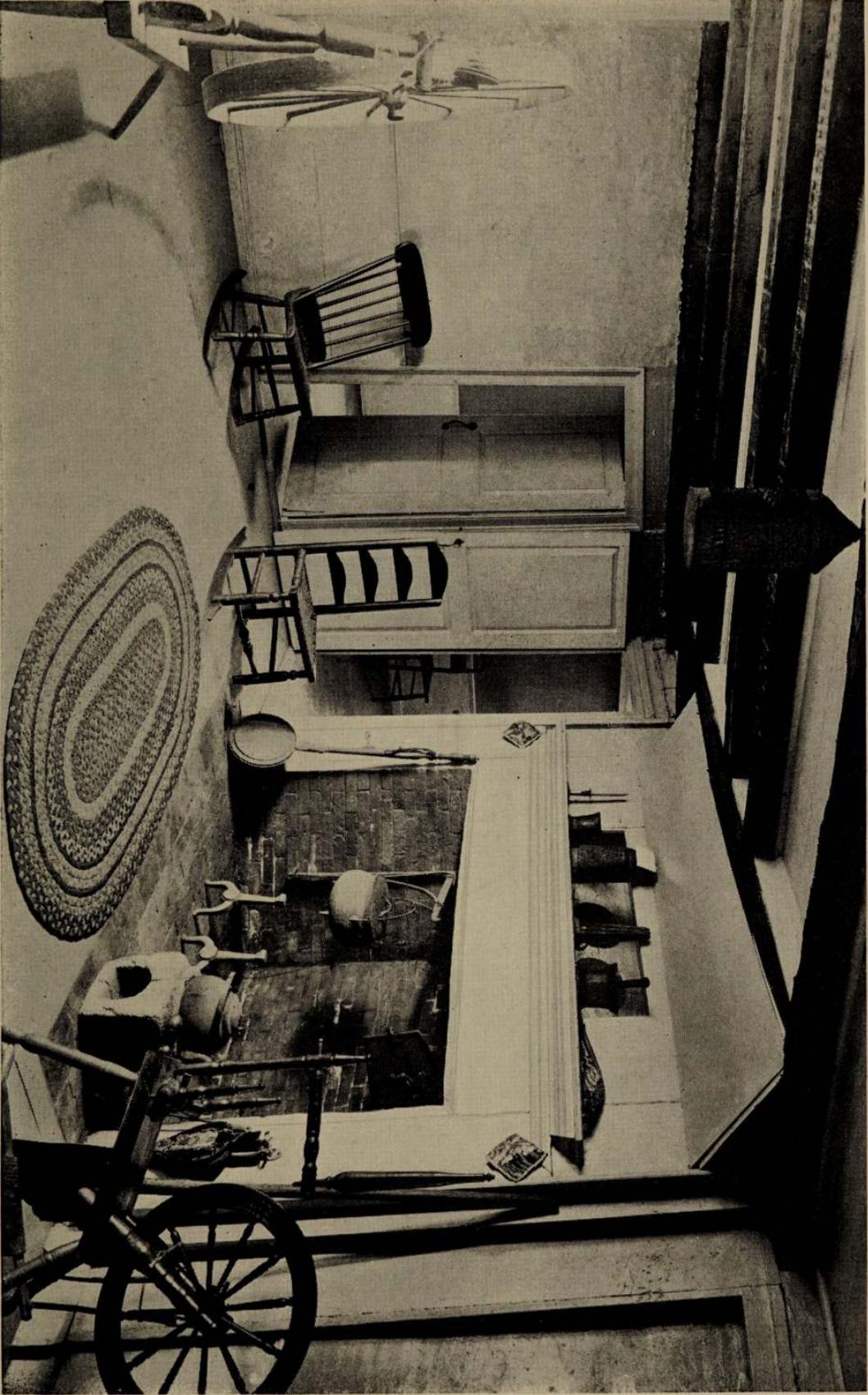
The upstairs is a replica of downstairs, even to an oven in the back of the chimney over the kitchen.

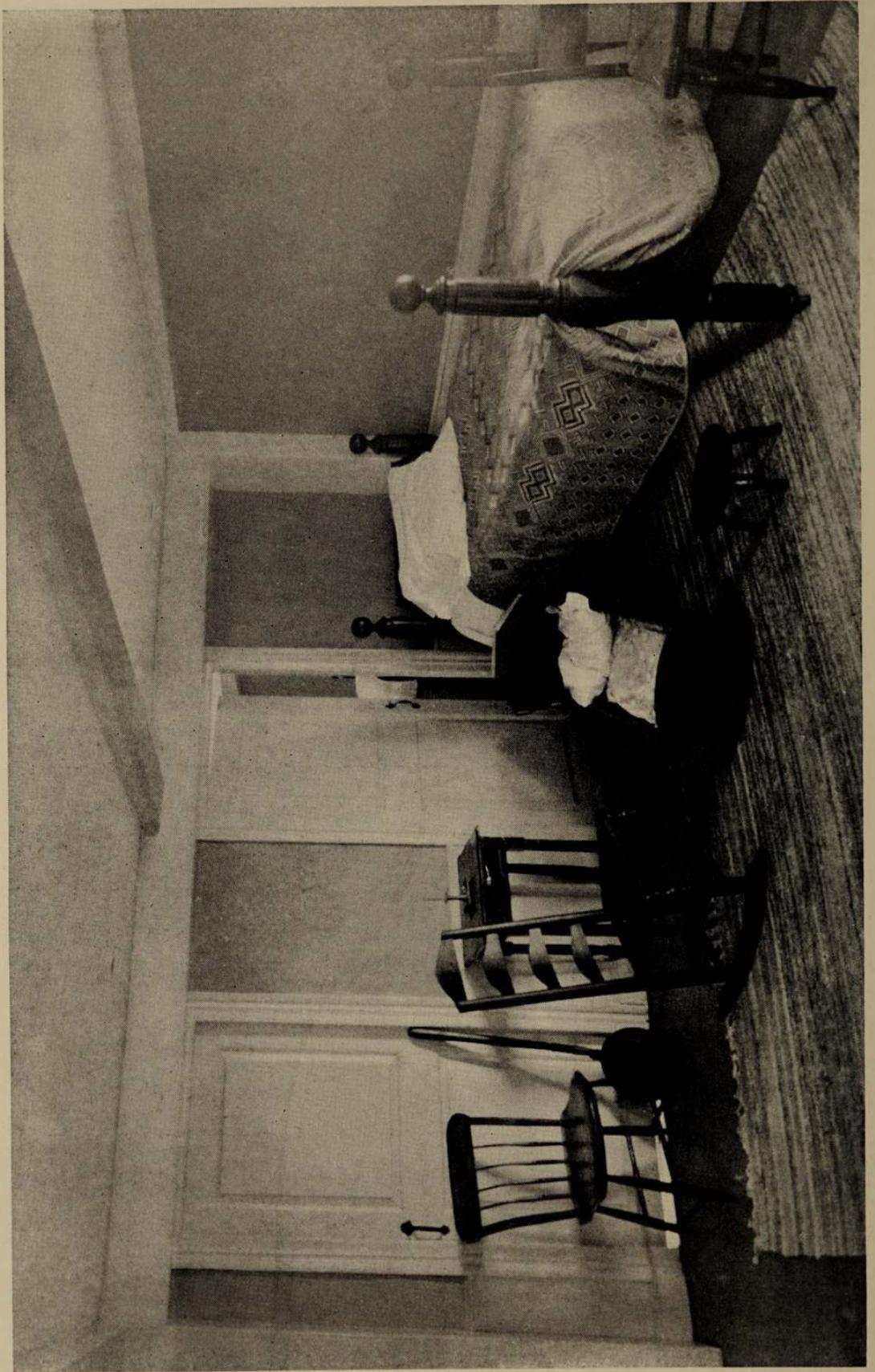
The room upstairs with a hole in the door, is where the women and children were placed in case of an Indian attack, and where they could not only see but shoot in case Indians came upstairs.

The floors in the bedrooms upstairs are supposed to be the original; they have hand-made nails in them, one board in the small room facing the street is worn by constant wear of feet from the big fireplace in the middle room or kitchen to the window where a fine view of the Bay was obtained, as there were no houses on the other side of the street at that time, or until about one hundred years ago. There is a tradition handed down that this board was worn by the wives of the various sea captains, who have lived in the House and trod to the window looking for the ships they longed to see coming home.

The plaster on the north room downstairs, has been found to be made of sea sand, ground clam shells and goats' hair. The first plaster was made thus because of the lack of limestone in this section of the country. It is therefore, in all probability, the original plastering.

KITCHEN IN HOWLAND HOUSE





GUEST ROOM IN HOWLAND HOUSE

JOHN HOWLAND: A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM

The bricks of the chimney and the tiles of the hearth are the original, with the exception of about one dozen which had to be added to replace the broken ones. These were obtained from another old Plymouth house not far from the Howland House. These bricks and tiles in the chimney and hearths were brought from across the sea as bricks were not made in America at that time.

Thomas Mitchell probably had oil paper for windows and a ladder to the attic, both common in those days. The part he built has never sagged, while the other has sagged some; probably he did the work himself and did it well.

It is interesting to note the H & L door hinges (Holy Lord), and the double cross on the front door panels, which signified security from witchcraft. The Pilgrims and their children for several generations were very superstitious.

When Jabez Howland removed to Bristol, R. I., in 1680, he sold the house to Elkanah Watson. Then it was sold by his son, John Watson, to Stephen Churchill. Mr. Churchill sold a portion of it to Ephriam Little in 1716. Benjamin Churchill became its owner in 1775 and in turn sold it to Joseph Thomas and Ephriam Spooner in 1784. Six years later Mr. Thomas sold the house to Nathaniel Carver, and it remained in the Carver family until 1867, when it was purchased by Joseph E. Sherman. Barnabas H. Holmes was its next owner, conveying the property to his daughter, Miss Helen R. Holmes, of Washington, D. C.

The Pilgrim John Howland Society bought the home from her in 1912.

In 1913 it was necessary to do much carpentry and mason work to preserve the old house. New stone foundations and new sills were put in, also some new floors; in some rooms you will find the old wide boards, so different from the narrow ones of

*The Howland
House Bought by
Society in 1912*

today, and wherever we could we adhered to the old style.

Several of the rooms have been furnished by members of the Society with furniture as near to the old style as could be had. A list of these gifts follows:

LEFT FRONT ROOM—This room was furnished by Mrs. Mary J. S. Moore, of Haddonfield, N. J.

RIGHT FRONT ROOM—This room was furnished by one of our former Presidents, Mr. John Crocker Foote, of Belvidere, Illinois, in memory of his mother, Mrs. Mary Crocker Foote, a descendant of John Howland who passed away in 1907; his son, John Garvin Foote who passed away in 1903; and his sister, Mrs. Mary Annette Foote Clarke who passed away in 1912.

SECOND LEFT ROOM—This room was furnished by Mrs. L. B. Titus and Mrs. Lucy E. Wallace in memory of their grandfather, Captain James Huckins.

SECOND RIGHT ROOM—This room was furnished by Mrs. Cynthia Hathaway. The bedspread is more than one hundred and twenty-five years old.

KITCHEN—Articles were given or loaned by various members. The pewter in glass cases is the gift of the Misses Jewett, Chicago, Illinois.

The late William T. Davis, Historian, said of Howland House: "It is fair to presume that its floors have been trodden by these two passengers of the Mayflower (John Howland and his wife); let this ancient structure be added to the list of Pilgrim Memorials and share with the Rock our veneration and respect."

IV

THE FAMOUS COMPACT

WHEN on November 21, 1620, the passengers of the Mayflower finally sighted land and found refuge in Provincetown Harbor, there was great joy as well as the offering of fervent prayers to God for safe deliverance from the many dangers of the nine weeks' voyage.

On that same day, the far-seeing leaders of the expedition, drew up a formal Compact which was signed by forty-one adult males in the cabin of the famous ship. John Carver was declared the first governor at this time.

As we recall this famous Compact—signed in the cabin of the Mayflower, November 11th (O.S.), November 21st (N.S.), 1620, which has been called the corner-stone of the civil and religious liberties of the United States—let us not forget the high aims, the pure motives, the severe trials, the exhausting labors, the noble characters of the fathers of New England, and let them govern our lives.

As will be seen from the list of signers, our ancestor John Howland, was the thirteenth member of that little band of Pilgrims to affix his signature to the Compact.*

The Compact—the first charter of self-government and as someone has described it, “one of the most important documents in American history”—follows with its list of signers:

“In ye name of God, Amen—We whose names are under-written, the loyall subjects of our dread soveraigne Lord King James, by ye grace of God of Great Britaine, France & Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

“Haveing under-taken for ye glorie of God, and advancements of ye Christian

*See Frontispiece

JOHN HOWLAND: A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM

faith, and honour of our King & Countrie, a voyage to plant ye first colonie in ye northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly & mutually in ye presence of God and one of another, covenant, & combine our selves together into a civill body politick, for our better ordering and preservation, & furtherance, of ye ends aforesaid; and by vertue hearof to enacte, constitute and frame such just & equall lawes, ordinances, acts, constitutions & offices from time to time, as shall be thought most meete & convenient for ye generall good of ye Colonie; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

“In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Codd ye 11 of November, in ye year of ye raigne of our soveraigne Lord King James of England, France & Ireland ye eighteenth, and of Scotland ye fifty-fourth, Anno Dom. 1620.”

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. John Carver, | 2. William Bradford, |
| 3. Edward Winslow, | 4. William Brewster, |
| 5. Isaac Allerton, | 6. Myles Standish, |
| 7. John Alden, | 8. Samuel Fuller, |
| 9. Christopher Martin, | 10. William Mullins, |
| 11. William White, | 12. Richard Warren, |
| 13. John Howland, | 14. Stephen Hopkins, |
| 15. Edward Tilley, | 16. John Tilley, |
| 17. Francis Cooke, | 18. Thomas Rogers, |
| 19. Thomas Tinker, | 20. John Rigdale, |
| 21. Edward Fuller, | 22. John Turner, |
| 23. Francis Eaton, | 24. James Chilton, |
| 25. John Crackston, | 26. John Billington, |
| 27. Moses Fletcher, | 28. John Goodman, |
| 29. Degory Priest, | 30. Thomas Williams, |
| 31. Gilbert Winslow, | 32. Edmond Margeson, |
| 33. Peter Brown, | 34. Richard Britterige, |
| 35. George Soule, | 36. Richard Clarke, |
| 37. Richard Gardiner, | 38. John Allerton, |
| 39. Thomas English, | 40. Edward Doty, |
| 41. Edward Leister. | |

V

THANKSGIVING DAY

THANKSGIVING Day is a national holiday peculiarly our own. It is the happiest sort of combination of sober and sincere gratitude to Divine Providence, of feasting and jollity and of home and state.

In its historical associations it is a century and a half older than even Independence Day.

The first American Thanksgiving Day was celebrated December 13, 1621, within a few days of the first anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock. During the first terrible winter of 1620-21 nearly half of the Mayflower company had died. But the fall of 1621 had assured them of an abundant harvest. Moreover, the ship "Fortune" had arrived in November with thirty-five more colonists. So there was every reason why Governor William Bradford should set apart a day for Thanksgiving.

The first national observance of Thanksgiving Day took place 160 years after the first celebration at Plymouth.

It is generally stated that the first national observance was November 26, 1789, in accordance with a proclamation by President Washington. That, however, is an historical error.

In the proceedings of the Second Continental Congress, it is recorded that Sept. 13, 1781, "on motion of Mr. Roger Sherman, of Connecticut, seconded by John Witherspoon, of New Jersey, it was resolved that Thursday, Dec. 31, 1781, be appointed as a Day of Public Thanksgiving throughout the United States, and

that a committee be appointed to prepare and report a proclamation suitable to the occasion."

In the first session of the first Congress, organized April 3, 1789, we find Mr. Sherman one of a committee of three to request President Washington "to recommend to the people a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording an opportunity peaceably to establish a Constitution of Government for their safety and happiness."

It was in accordance with this request that President Washington by proclamation set apart November 26, 1789, as a day of public thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Day, as a recurrent national holiday by Presidential proclamation, had its beginning in 1863. In October of that year, President Lincoln by proclamation so recommended the day to the people and set aside the last Thursday in November for its observance.

"On Thanksgiving Day the good American should give thanks to the Divine Providence which has so often aided the progress of this one nation dedicated to liberty, to equality of rights and opportunity, and to the pursuit of happiness.

"Never before has a people enjoyed such material comfort, and the nation is the wealthiest and most powerful on earth. With power comes responsibility; such is the unwritten law. Also prosperity tries the soul of man quite as much as does adversity; such is human nature.

"And so it is with nations. The good American should therefore add dignity and importance to Thanksgiving Day by taking stock of the past and the present and by making resolves for the future."—JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN.

VI

ROCKY NOOK

THE Pilgrim John Howland Society, through the generosity of some of its loyal members, purchased in 1920 about four acres of land which had been the site of the home where John Howland and his wife Elizabeth lived from 1638 until his death in 1673.

This property, known as Rocky Nook, was at that time a part of Plymouth but is now within the borders of Kingston, Massachusetts.

John Howland exchanged four acres of land on Watson's Hill, which was originally granted to him, and eighty-three pounds for this tract of land.

On the hill top, where the foundation walls of the dwelling house and the farm buildings are still traceable, the Society has erected as a memorial a large block of roughly squared Quincy granite, seven feet high, five feet broad and three feet thick, bearing on one polished surface, a finely carved representation of the Mayflower, and the inscription:

HERE STOOD THE HOME OF JOHN HOWLAND
AND HIS WIFE

ELIZABETH TILLEY HOWLAND

FROM 1638 UNTIL HIS DEATH FEB. 23, 1673.

BOTH WERE PASSENGERS IN THE SHIP "MAYFLOWER"

In grateful remembrance this land has been bought by their descendants, and this memorial erected upon the 300th anniversary of their landing at Plymouth, Mass.
1620 - 1920

A steel flag pole, firmly set in a concrete foundation, was placed behind it.

On the top of the hill stands a very large English Hornbeam tree, said by experts to be three hundred years old.

The house and farm buildings were burned in the last part of the seventeenth century.

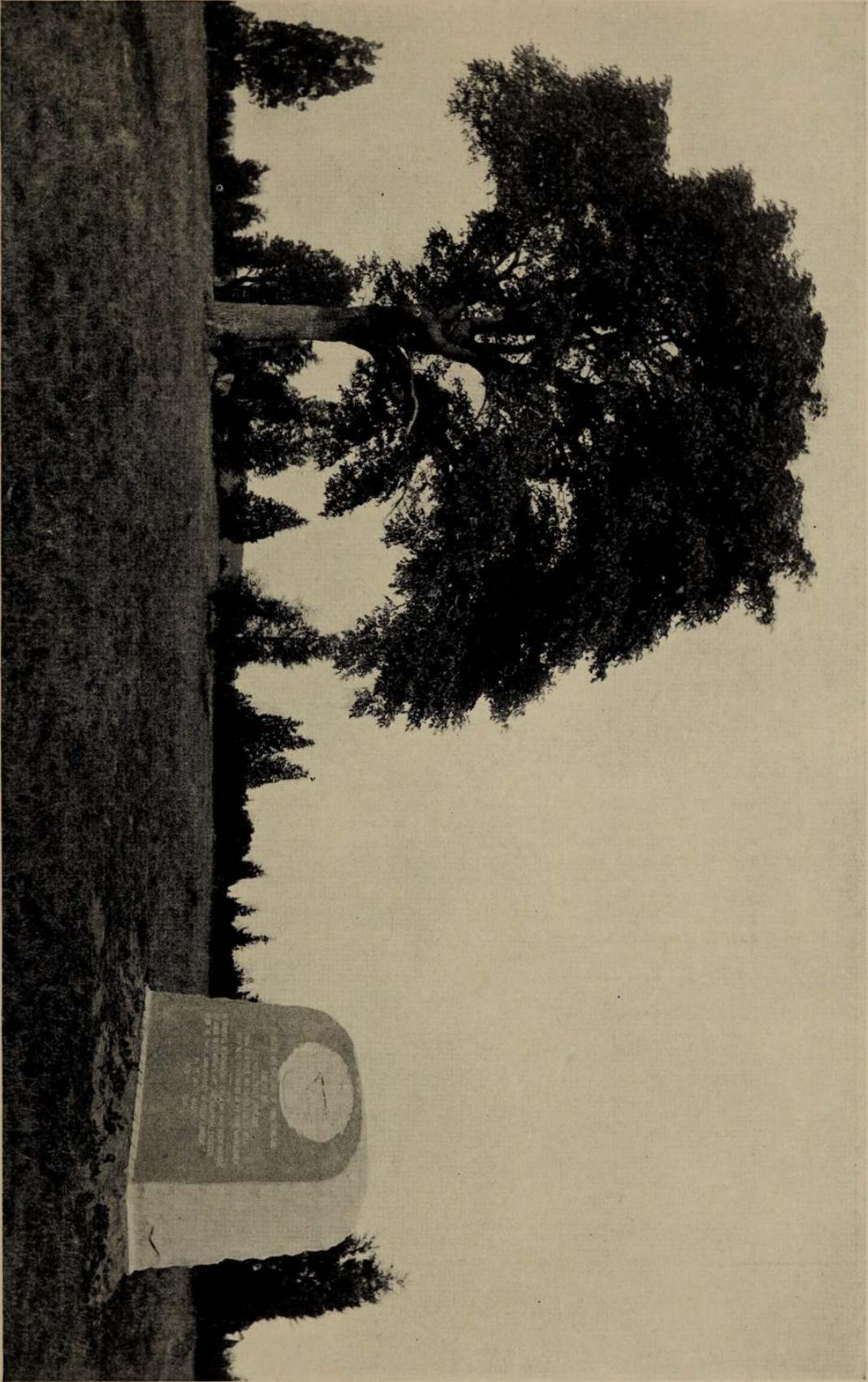
On Wednesday, August 17, 1921, the annual meeting of the Society was held at Rocky Nook, the occasion being a tercentennial memorial meeting.

Fortunately the day was a very beautiful one. The memorial exercises were simple and dignified. At 11 o'clock the bugler sounded the call to the colors, and the American flag was raised by Joseph Moore Tatem, of Haddonfield, N. J., and as it unfurled, the band played the national anthem.

The prayer of invocation was given by the Rev. Ernest Pugh, Rector of Christ Church, Plymouth, Mass. Then followed the memorial Address by the President of the Society, Mr. Henry R. Howland, of Buffalo, N. Y., a descendant of John Howland in the sixth generation.

The simple words of dedication were spoken, and the memorial monument unveiled by Joseph Moore Tatum, Miss Silvia Tatum, of Haddonfield, N. J., and Barnard Howland, of Detroit, Mich.

The exercises closed with the benediction by the Rev. Dr. Theodore E. Busfield, of the Church of the Pilgrimage of Plymouth.



ROCKY NOOK

Society of the Descendants
of
Pilgrim John Howland, of the Ship "Mayflower"
(INCORPORATED)

Officers and Executive Committee

WILLIAM HOWLAND
237 FREDERICK AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN
President

FRANK P. COMSTOCK
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
Vice President

J. S. HATHAWAY
930 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASS.
Treasurer

BARNARD HOWLAND
BOSTON, MASS.
Historian



*Howland House, Plymouth, Mass.
Built 1667 - Restored 1913*

EDWIN J. HOWLAND
27 MAPLE AVENUE, EVERETT, MASS.
Secretary and Registrar

Executive Committee

JOHN G. HOWLAND
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

MRS. CHARLES G. JEWETT
CHICAGO, ILL.

MRS. W. D. SHERRERD
HADDONFIELD, N. J.

MRS. GEORGE R. WALLACE
FITCHBURG, MASS.

MRS. THEODORE P. LYMAN
BUFFALO, N. Y.

HERBERT L. CHIPMAN
SANDWICH, MASS.

Detroit, Michigan
January 14th. 1925

Honorable Calvin Coolidge,
President of the United States, Washington, D.C.
Dear Mr. President :

As President of the "Society of the Descendants of Pilgrim John Howland of the Ship Mayflower", I wish to express to you the deep sense of gratitude we have that our country is so fortunate as to have a man of your ability as our Executive.

We feel today that it is our privilege as well as our duty not only to perpetuate the memory of our Pilgrim Fathers, but to maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Compact of the Mayflower, of which our beloved ancestor John Howland was one of the signers.

Realizing that a great danger confronts our country, not only among the so-called "Pacificists", but from those who are constantly trying to undermine the Constitution of the United States, we appreciate that with a man of your poise and force, as well as statesmanship and New England conscience, this country can enjoy that safety and prosperity that is our heritage.

It is to let you know that Historical Societies such as ours, are squarely back of you and uphold the sane and wise course you are pursuing that I am sending you this letter.

It was my privilege to attend the Centennial Celebration at Amherst College in 1921 and anyone who heard you then could not but realize that you were a man of determination, unusual self-reliance and unquestioned ability.

Wishing you not only the happiness you deserve but the strength and health to carry on your wonderful task as actual leader of the peoples of these United States, believe me Honored President,

Most faithfully yours,

William Howland

A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

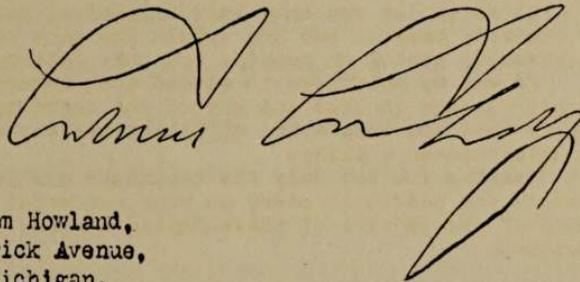
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 16, 1925.

My dear Mr. Howland:

I have received with great pleasure your letter of the 14th, advising me of your very generous approval of my course and I want you in turn to know of my deeply sincere appreciation. I have been not only gratified but heartened by your expression of confidence and support and am more than grateful for it.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Calvin Coolidge". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Mr. William Howland,
237 Frederick Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan.

A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE

VII

PASSENGERS ON THE MAYFLOWER

ON ASCENDING the throne, King James I. of England, who subscribed to the divine right of Kings, proceeded to enforce obedience to one sovereign church. There were, however, serious-minded men who were not in sympathy with many of the church services and ceremonials.

They formed separate congregations of their own and came to be known as Separatists. At Scrooby, an obscure little village in the old historic county of Nottinghamshire, each sabbath saw little groups of earnest people from the surrounding countryside wending their way toward the Manor House, there to listen to the eloquent sermons of John Robinson, who was their pastor.

It was at Scrooby Manor House about 1566 that William Brewster, the moving spirit of the Pilgrim Fathers, was born.

As far back as 1607 there began the movement out of England of the Pilgrims—persecuted for their desire for freedom of worship—which was to culminate in the historic landing at Plymouth Rock.

One of the earliest attempts at an exodus came when a band of Separatists men and women went aboard a Dutch ship at Boston, England, planning a flight to Holland. The English authorities descended upon them, captured all on board, and it was dreary months before they were released from their prison cells at Boston and permitted to return to their homes, there to be jeered at for their faith and their failure.

However, by the end of 1608, realizing how little hope there

was of peaceful living in their own land, the Separatists, later called Pilgrims, on account of their wanderings, had practically all found safe harborage in Holland. *The Pilgrims in Holland*

On their arrival in Amsterdam, the Pilgrims discovered two other Separatist communities that had preceded them to Holland. But these brethren were unhappily torn with dissension, and the Scrooby Pilgrims after a year's residence in Amsterdam moved on to Leyden. Here, notwithstanding the conditions of life which were if anything harder than in Amsterdam, they spent eleven peaceful years.

As time went on the Pilgrims found it difficult to keep to English customs in a foreign land. The Dutch were a pleasure-loving people and the Pilgrims feared that their religious convictions would suffer more from the Sunday pastimes of the Dutch people than it had ever suffered in England under the wrath of James. And so they decided to establish an English colony in the New World.

The Merchant Adventurers of London pointed out the advantages of settling in New England and to this end offered to finance and equip the expedition. After much bickering and argument, arrangements were finally completed for the long and perilous journey across the seas. *Bound for the New World*

Two vessels were engaged—the Speedwell, a vessel of sixty tons, lying at Delfshaven, and the Mayflower, a bark of one hundred and eighty tons, which was then taking on supplies at Southampton, England.

Pastor Robinson, and those members of the congregation who it was thought were little fitted to withstand the hardships of that first voyage, remained behind until settlement on the new continent should be thoroughly established.

And so one sunny July morning, in 1620, they resolutely set

sail for Southampton, there to join the Mayflower which they found waiting for them.

After a solemn and impressive parting from their friends, they set sail from Southampton on the 5th of August, 1620, in two ships, the Mayflower and the Speedwell. The latter was soon found to have sprung a leak, necessitating their putting in to Dartmouth for repairs. These, however, proved of little avail for she had gone but a short distance further when her captain declared her unseaworthy, and again they turned back, this time entering the port of Plymouth.

It was finally decided to send the Speedwell back to London with eighteen of the thirty passengers she carried. The remaining twelve crowded into the Mayflower, swelling the total to one hundred and two souls, besides her crew.

On September 16 the ship's prow once more turned to the westward, on its eventful journey to the new world. Bravely they out-rote the tempest and the gale, and when on the 21st day of November, nine weeks out from Plymouth the low sandy peninsula of Cape Cod was sighted, all gave thanks to God.

More than a month was spent searching for the right locality for settlement, which at last was found on Monday, December 21st and named Plymouth, after the port from which the Pilgrims embarked on their voyage to the New World.

Though one man died during their trip across, the count was kept good by the birth of a child, Oceanus Hopkins, named for his birthplace—the ocean.

The following list of passengers who came to Plymouth in the Mayflower on her first trip in 1620, was prepared by the Historian of "Society of Mayflower Descendants" in the State of New York:

JOHN HOWLAND: A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM

JOHN CARVER, Deacon of Church in Holland, First Governor; elected on the Mayflower; re-elected Mar. 22, 1621; taken sick Apr. 5, 1621; d. either the next day or a few days after.

*Mayflower
Passengers*

KATHARINE, his wife, some think sister of Robinson; d. May or June, 1621.

JOHN HOWLAND, b. 1592; m. after Aug. 14, 1623, the orphan daughter of John Tilley; d. Feb. 23, 1673, aet. 80.

JASPER MOORE, a boy, d. Dec. 6, 1620.

DESIRE MINTER, a maid, returned to England and d. there.

ROGER WILDER, servant, unm; d. a few days after landing.

WILLIAM LATHAM, a boy, went to England about 1640, thence to Bahamas and d. there; some think Robert was his son.

— — —, a maid, m. perhaps Francis Eaton 1624-5, and d. soon after.

WILLIAM BRADFORD, b. 1588; bapt. Mar. 19, 1590; he was of Robinson's church, Scrooby, Holland; elected Governor 1621, and often until his death May 9, 1657. aet. about 69.

DOROTHY MAY, his wife, m. Nov. 30, 1613; drowned off Cape Cod Dec. 7, 1620; first recorded death in New England.

EDWARD WINSLOW, b. Oct. 18, 1595; elected Governor 1633, '36 and '44; died at sea near Hispaniola, May 8, 1655, while Cromwell's commissioner to the West Indies.

ELIZABETH BARKER, of Chester, England, his wife, m. at Leyden, May 16, 1618; d. Mar. 24, 1621.

GEORGE SOULE, in service; taxed after 1633; m. Mary Becket, who d. 1677; he d. 1680.

ELIAS STORY, in service; d. unm. first winter.

ELLEN MORE, in service; d. unm. first winter.

WILLIAM BREWSTER, b. 1566-7 at Scrooby; ruling Elder at Leyden and Plymouth, till his death Apr. 18, 1644.

MARY, his wife, d. at Plymouth Apr. 17, 1627.

RICHARD MORE, only survivor of his family, d. 1690. Bradford says had family. Some claim he was afterward called Richard Mann.

LOVE BREWSTER, son, m. Sarah Collier, 1634; d. soon after Oct. 6, 1650.

WRESTLING BREWSTER, youngest son, d. unm. before his father.

— MORE, brother of Jasper, Richard and Ellen; d. in the Spring of 1621.

ISAAC ALLERTON, chosen Deputy Governor 1621; removed to New Haven, Conn.; d. 1659.

MARY NORRIS, m. Nov. 4, 1611; d. Feb. 25, 1621.

BARTHOLOMEW, their son, b. Holland, 1612, returned to England and d. there after 1650.

JOHN HOWLAND: A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM

- REMEMBER, their daughter, m. Moses Maverick; d. after 1652.
- MARY, daughter, b. 1616, m. Thos. Cushman; d. 1699; the last survivor.
- JOHN HOOKE, servant, d. soon after arrival.
- MYLES STANDISH, b. about 1586; chosen Captain Feb. 17, 1621. He was at Leyden, but not a member of the church; often assistant; d. Oct. 3, 1656.
- ROSE, his wife, d. Jan. 29, 1621. (His second wife was Barbara Standish, who came on the "Ann," 1623.)
- JOHN ALDEN, not of Leyden church, but hired at Southampton; signed "Compact" and remained; was the last survivor of the signers; d. Sept. 12, 1687, aged between 84 and 89.
- SAMUEL FULLER, the first physician, deacon at Leyden; his wife Bridget came later with a young child; d. 1633.
- WILLIAM BUTTEN, servant, d. Nov. 6, 1620; the only passenger who died on the voyage.
- CHRISTOPHER MARTIN, of Billerica, Essex, Eng., agent to England and treasurer of the company; d. Jan. 8, 1621.
- , his wife, died in the first sickness, 1621.
- SOLOMON PROWER, servant, d. Dec. 24, 1620.
- JOHN LANGEMORE, servant, died the last of Dec. 1620.
- WILLIAM MULLINS, of Dorking, Surrey, Eng., joined them at Southampton; d. Feb. 21, 1621.
- , his wife, died about the same time.
- JOSEPH MULLINS, their son, d. first winter.
- PRISCILLA MULLINS, their daughter, m. 1623 John Alden (the second or third marriage in the colony); d. after 1650.
- ROBERT CARTER, servant, d. first winter.
- WILLIAM WHITE, m. Leyden, Feb. 1, 1612; d. Feb. 21, 1621.
- SUSANNA, his wife; sister of Samuel Fuller; mother of PEREGRINE (the first child b. in New England, Provincetown Harbor, Nov., 1620. He d. 1704); also the first bride; m. May 12, 1621, Gov. Winslow; d. 1680.
- RESOLVED WHITE, their son, b. 1615; last male survivor but one; d. between 1690 and 1694.
- WILLIAM HOLBECK, servant, d. first winter.
- EDWARD THOMPSON, servant, d. Dec. 4, after leaving Cape Cod and before reaching Plymouth.
- RICHARD WARREN, not of Robinson's church, but from London; left his wife Elizabeth, who came with five daughters in the "Ann;" they had two sons after her arrival. He d. 1628.

JOHN HOWLAND: A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM

STEPHEN HOPKINS, also from London, not of Leyden church; d. 1644, between June 6 and July 27.

ELIZABETH, his second wife, d. between 1640 and 1644.

GILES, child by a former marriage, d. between March 16, 1689, and April 26, 1690.

CONSTANCE, also by a former marriage, m. Nicholas Snow; d. Oct. 1677.

DAMARIS, their daughter, m. 1646 Jacob Cooke; d. between 1666 and 1699.

OCEANUS, their son, born on the voyage and d. 1621.

EDWARD DOTY, hired by Hopkins; not of Leyden church; had family; died Aug. 23, 1655.

EDWARD LEISTER, hired by Hopkins; not of Leyden church; went to Virginia.

EDWARD TILLEY, perhaps a brother of John; d. first winter.

ANN, his wife, died first winter.

HENRY SAMSON, a nephew or cousin; m. Ann Plummer 1636; d. 1684.

HUMILITY COOPER, a niece or cousin; she returned to England after 1627.

JOHN TILLEY, d. "a little while after they came ashore" (Bradford).

— —, his wife, probably not B. Van de Velde, of Amsterdam. She died before April 21, 1621.

ELIZABETH, his daughter, b. 1607; m. John Howland, 1623, after August 14; d. Dec. 21, 1687, aet. 80. Until recently she was supposed to have been a daughter of Gov. Carver; for this reason many now believe her to have been his grand-daughter.

FRANCIS COOKE, left his wife Esther, who followed on the "Ann" with three children. She was a native of the Netherlands. He d. April 7, 1663, aged over 80.

JOHN COOKE, their son, m. 1634; Sarah Warren. He was the last male survivor; did not d. till 1694 or 5.

THOMAS ROGERS, brought their son; the rest of his children came afterwards; d. early in 1621.

JOSEPH ROGERS, his son, d. Dec. 25, 1678.

THOMAS TINKER, d. first winter.

— —, his wife, d. first winter.

— —, their son, d. first winter.

JOHN RIDGDALE, or RIGDALE, d. before Apr. 1621.

ALICE, his wife, d. first winter.

EDWARD FULLER, brother of Samuel, d. early in 1621.

— —, his wife, d. early in 1621.

JOHN HOWLAND: A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM

- SAMUEL, their son, lived with his uncle 1621; m. Jane Lothrop; d. Oct. 31, 1683.
- JOHN TURNER, left a daughter, who is said to have come later.
- —, son, d. abt. same time as father, the first winter.
- —, son d. about same time as the father, the first winter.
- FRANCIS EATON, had a second wife, probably Mrs. Carver's maid, before Aug. 14, 1623; he m. third, Christian Penn (who came in the "Ann," 1623), before 1627, had children by each wife; d. 1633.
- SARAH, his wife (they were a young couple), d. early in 1621.
- SAMUEL, their son, "a suckling child" (Bradford); m. Martha Billington, 1661; d. abt. 1684.
- JAMES CHILTON, left one daughter in England, who m. and came later; never landed; d. Dec. 8, 1620, Provincetown Harbor, on the "Mayflower."
- —, his wife, d. "in the first infection" (Bradford).
- MARY, their daughter, m. 12 Oct., 1624, John Winslow, brother of Edward; d. 1670, before May.
- JOHN CRACKSTON, or CROXTON, d. the first part of March, 1621.
- JOHN CRACKSTON, his son, was living June 1, 1627; d. 1628.
- JOHN BILLINGTON, was hanged, 1630, for murder of Jno. Newcomen.
- ELEANOR, his wife, m. again, 1638, Gregory Armstrong; d. Nov. 5, 1650.
- JOHN, their son, d. after 1626, but before his father.
- FRANCIS, another son, b. abt. 1606, m. 1634, Christian Penn, widow of Francis Eaton; d. Dec. 3, 1684.
- MOSES FLETCHER, m. Leyden, 1613, Sarah, widow of Wm. Dingby; d. within four months after arriving.
- JOHN GOODMAN, d. March, 1621, according to Prince. Soon after arrival (Bradford).
- DEGORY PRIEST, m. at Leyden, Nov. 4, 1611, Sarah, wid. John Vincent, sister of Isaac Allerton; she came with her third husband, Cuthbert Cuthbertson, and two of Priest's daughters on the "Ann." He d. January 1, 1621.
- THOMAS WILLIAMS, a single man, d. soon after landing.
- GILBERT WINSLOW, bapt. 29 Oct., 1600, was b. the Sunday preceding his baptism; a brother of Gov. Winslow; returned to England abt. 1626; d. 1650.
- EDMOND MARGESON, single man, d. early 1621.

JOHN HOWLAND: A MAYFLOWER PILGRIM

RETER BROWN, single man, afterwards m. twice, and had two children by each wife; d. 1633.

RICHARD BRITTERIGE, d. Dec. 1620; the first death after landing.

RICHARD CLARKE, unm., d. soon after landing.

RICHARD GARDINER, became a mariner and left the colony after a few years; probably died in England.

JOHN ALLERTON, a sailor on the "Mayflower," who decided to join the colony; signed the "Compact," but d. before the vessel set sail to return.

THOMAS ENGLISH, a sailor who was hired to remain with the Pilgrims.

— ELY, a sailor hired for a year; at its conclusion returned to Europe.

WILLIAM TREVORE, or TREVOUR, a sailor.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PILGRIMS AND PURITANS

EVERY good American should know the difference between the Pilgrims who came to this country in 1620 and the Puritans who came ten years later.

The Pilgrims—frequently called "Separatists" withdrew from the established church of England in order to have the right to choose their own ministers, then appointed by Bishops. They held church and state to be separate. They were not concerned about the religion of others; they asked only religious freedom for themselves.

The Puritans did not separate from the established church. They undertook to make formal changes to suit themselves. They held church and state to be one; only church members had the right of freemen and the power to vote.

All other creeds were anathema. The Puritans under Gov. John Winthrop came in 1630 in a fleet of ten ships with goods and livestock and settled in Massachusetts Bay.

VIII

THE PILGRIM JOHN HOWLAND SOCIETY [Incorporated]

By BARNARD HOWLAND
Historian of the Society

ACCORDING to the Constitution and By-Laws which were adopted November 22, 1899, and revised August 15, 1925, the objects of this Society shall be:

“To perpetuate the memory of our ancestors, John Howland, and his wife, Elizabeth Tilley Howland, who, braving the perils of the deep were among that little band of Pilgrims, who landed from the Ship Mayflower on Plymouth Rock, December 21, 1620; to preserve and publish any manuscripts relating to the families of John Howland and his wife; to erect and keep in good repair a memorial to their memory in the Pilgrim Church at Plymouth; to assist in prosecuting research in England and Holland to discover their ancestors; to retain possession of and keep in good condition, the properties known as the Howland House at Plymouth, Mass., and Rocky Nook, located at Kingston, Mass.”

The name given to the Society at its organization at Plymouth, Mass., May 18, 1897, was “The Society of the Descendants of Pilgrim John Howland, of the Ship Mayflower,” but in 1925, the present name was chosen as being more convenient and sufficiently comprehensive. Very little is known of the Society’s early history.

On August 4, 1910, a meeting of the Society was held at Ply-

mouth, Mass., and a re-organization took place. At that time the following officers were elected:

Mr. Clarence Stuart Ward, of Boston, Mass., President;
Rear Admiral George C. Remey, U. S. N. of Washington, D. C.,
Vice-President;
Mrs. Nelson V. Titus, of Quincy, Mass., Secretary and Treasurer.

Interest in the Society was aroused and plans were made to raise funds for the purchase of the old Howland House. The old Howland House was purchased February 15, 1912, an account of which may be found elsewhere in this book.

A very beautiful Memorial Pulpit to our ancestors was placed in the Pilgrim Church at Plymouth, Mass., and a silver tablet states that it is the gift of the descendants of John Howland. On September 13, 1911, the Society was incorporated.

A magazine, *The Howland Homestead*, to be issued quarterly, was brought out in November, 1911, with the object of giving Howland descendants throughout the world, accurate information about preservation of the old homestead at Plymouth, personal happenings and general information about the Society. This magazine was edited by Mrs. Titus, the Secretary of the Society, but after two years it was discontinued.

On May 28, 1916, the Society was very much grieved at the death of its President, Mr. Clarence Stuart Ward, who had served faithfully and whose loss has been keenly felt.

At its annual meeting in August, 1916, Mr. John Crocker Foote, of Belvidere, Illinois, widely known for his patriotic spirit and liberality to historical societies in general and the Howland Society in particular, was elected President, and Mr. J. S. Hathaway, of Boston, Mass., Vice-President. Mrs. Titus continued as Secretary and Treasurer. The other members of the Executive Committee included: Mr. Edwin J. Howland,

Everett, Mass., Miss G. M. Prue, Boston, Mass., and Mr. Robert W. Chipman, Medford, Mass.

The Society suffered another great loss on July 12, 1917, when its President, Mr. John Crocker Foote, passed away at his home in Belvidere, Illinois.

We were very fortunate, however, in persuading Mr. Henry R. Howland of Buffalo, New York, to accept the office of President at the annual meeting held in Plymouth, August, 1917. With so able an executive and a man whose knowledge of historical societies so extensive, our development was most encouraging.

Plans were made to purchase the land at Rocky Nook (see article on page 39) and in 1920 this ambition was realized.

The annual meeting of the Society in August, 1921, was held at Rocky Nook, the occasion being the more noteworthy as it was during the ter-centennial being held at Plymouth, Mass.

The old stable which stood within twenty feet of the Howland House on land which was part of the original Howland lot, was purchased by the Society in June, 1923, and the following summer the unsightly building which had always been a fire menace was torn down.

On August 27, 1923, Mrs. Lillie B. Titus was taken from us by death. She had served the Society as its Secretary for many years and it was largely through her untiring efforts that so much was done to preserve the memory of John Howland.

On June 30, 1924, a committee was formed to take over the affairs of the Society and arrange for the annual meeting to be held the following August.

This committee consisted of the following: Our President, Mr. Henry R. Howland, of Buffalo, N. Y.; Mr. Josiah S. Hathaway, of Boston, who was acting as Treasurer; Mr. Edwin J. Howland, of Everett, who was acting as Secretary; Mr. John G. How-

land, of Bridgeport, Conn., Mr. Frank P. Comstock of Providence, R. I., and Mr. Barnard Howland, of Boston.

To these men, who, out of loyalty to the Society gave much of their time and thought to decide how best to place matters on a business-like basis, and make it possible to keep the organization intact, we owe our sincere gratitude.

The annual meeting was held at the Samoset House, Plymouth, August 16, 1924. After seven years of loyal and devoted work for our Society, our President wished to be relieved of the active duties in connection with his office, and it was with genuine regret that his resignation was accepted.

His wise counsel and advice will always be remembered, and words fail to express the love and gratitude felt towards him by his associates and the entire membership.

The following Officers and Executive Committee were elected at this meeting:

William Howland, of Detroit, Michigan, President.
Frank P. Comstock, of Los Angeles, Cal., Vice-President.
Edwin J. Howland, of Everett, Mass., Secretary and Registrar.
Josiah S. Hathaway, of Brookline, Mass., Treasurer.
Barnard Howland, of Boston, Mass., Historian.
John G. Howland, Bridgeport, Conn.
Mrs. E. Mills Jewett, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. William D. Sherrerd, Haddonfield, N. J.
Mrs. George R. Wallace, Fitchburg, Mass.
Mrs. Theodore P. Lyman, Buffalo, N. Y.
Herbert L. Chipman, Sandwich, Mass.

A campaign to increase our membership was organized, the country being divided into five districts:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) New England District | (3) Southern District |
| (2) Middle Atlantic District | (4) Central District |
| (5) Pacific District | |

A General was placed in charge of each. Captains were appointed for each State, with a Committee in charge of the work.

Another important purpose of this campaign was to awaken interest among our members. Everyone was asked to help, and the response was sufficient to encourage those in charge of the Society's growth and development.

The grounds around the old Howland House were greatly improved and beautified by grading the lawn, planting over a hundred shrubs (donated by one of our kind friends, Mrs. Edward Watson, of Plymouth), building rough stone entrances at the driveway, and an appropriate picket fence, etc.

These improvements elicited the praise of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, which took expression in the form of a letter. The message follows:

"The Publicity Committee of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce wishes to express its appreciation to the Howland Descendants for their fine work in improving the grounds about the Howland House, on Sandwich Street.

"The work that has been done is a tremendous improvement to that part of the town as well as to the famous old house itself.

"Very truly yours,

"L. A. BRUCE, Jr., Chairman."

More than six hundred people visited the interesting old Howland House during the season of 1924, and the following year, between June and October, there were over thirteen hundred and fifty visitors, showing an increasing interest in that sacred memorial to our ancestors.

At the annual meeting in 1925, held in Plymouth, the Constitution and By-Laws were revised, and a Junior Membership established whereby children under sixteen years of age who are eligible to membership may join the Society.

The future growth and development of our Society will be

greatly benefitted by interesting the young people, who later will be the standard bearers.

Among the possessions of the Society, besides the old Homestead at Plymouth and the Rocky Nook property at Kingston, we have the authenticated genealogical papers of all present and past members, which constitute very valuable records.

Family pride is naturally awakened when we realize we are descendants from such a notable, honorable and distinguished Pilgrim as John Howland. (If you are so fortunate as to be able to prove you are a descendant of his, then you are eligible to membership in The Pilgrim John Howland Society.)

*Past, Present
and Future*

But were we to emulate only the Past, and have no other purpose as a Society, we would not be able to attract the many who should be interested.

The Present is such a wonderful age. To care for and preserve our possessions is one of the privileges of today. There is also a work of great importance we can accomplish and which is sure to create interest among our members and that is of a patriotic nature along educational lines.

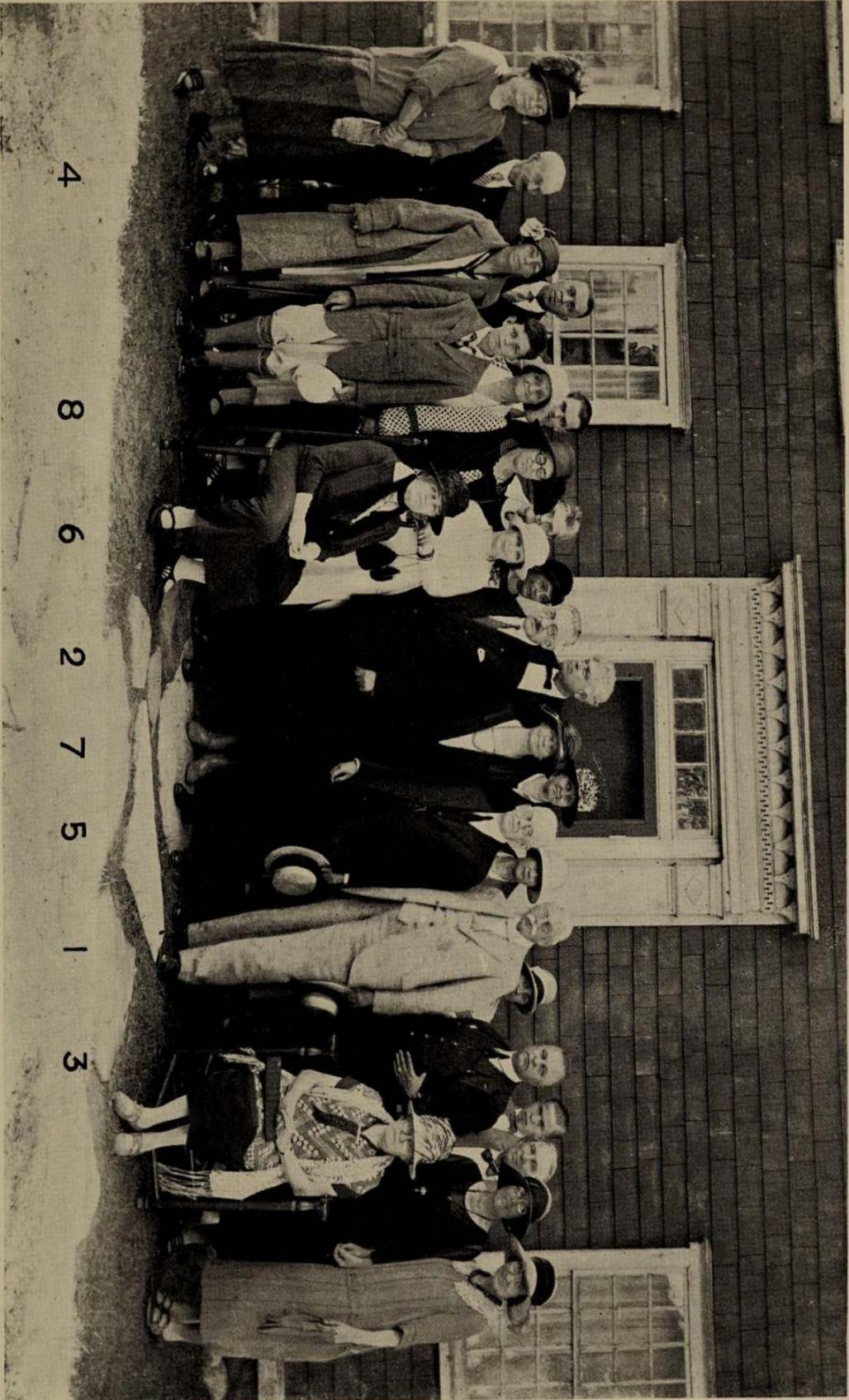
Today there is a greater need than ever before in the history of our country for historical societies such as ours to teach first the young people to have a greater reverence for American ideals and standards, and secondly the many foreigners who come to our shores seeking a knowledge of our early history and a better understanding of what is really meant by the term *Liberty*. In this way we can be a tremendous force for Americanism.

While giving all honor and respect to our revered ancestors, it is our purpose to devote time and thought to the great service we can render to the Future. "We get our inspiration from the

Yesterdays but our hopes are for the Tomorrows." Progress is the duty of life.

To respect and honor the dead is to inspire the living with desire to do something worth while. To make our lives worth while we should regard not the things we get but the inspiration we leave to those that come after us.

There are thousands of his descendants who do not know that such a Society as ours is in existence. We ask your co-operation in sending us the names and addresses of those you know, both relatives and friends.



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GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE PILGRIM JOHN HOWLAND SOCIETY, TAKEN
AUGUST, 1925, IN FRONT OF THE OLD HOWLAND HOUSE
1 Henry Howland; 2 William Howland; 3 J. S. Hathaway; 4 Edwin J. Howland; 5 John G. Howland; 6 George R. Wallace;
7 Theodore P. Lyman; 8 Barnard Howland

IX

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Secretary and Treasurer
from 1899 to 1923)*
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T. A. Wright



Painted by Edwin White

SIGNING OF THE COMPACT IN THE CABIN OF THE MAYFLOWER

Elder Brewster

Edward Winslow

Mr. White

John Howland

Samuel Fuller

Capt. Miles Standish

Governor Carver

William Bradford



GRAVE OF PILGRIM JOHN HOWLAND

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