



John Howland: Mayflower passenger

"The names of those which came over first, in the year 1620, and were by the blessing of God the first beginners and in a sort the foundation of all the Plantations and Colonies in New England; and their families ...

"Mr. John Carver, Katherine his wife, Desire Minter, and two manservants, John Howland, Roger Wilder."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.
Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 441.

During the Atlantic voyage of the Mayflower in 1620, the Pilgrims encountered many storms. William Bradford tells of one of these:

"In sundry of these storms the winds were so fierce and the seas so high, as they could not bear a knot of sail, but were forced to hull [lay-to] for divers days together. And in one of them, as they thus lay at hull in a mighty storm, a lusty young man called John Howland, coming upon some occasion above the gratings was, with a seele [roll] of the ship, thrown into sea; but it pleased God that he caught hold of the topsail halyards which hung overboard and ran out at length. Yet he held his hold (though he was sundry fathoms under water) till he was hauled up by the same rope to the brim of the water, and then with a boat hook and other means got into the ship again and his life saved. And though he was something ill with it, yet he lived many years after and became a profitable member both in church and commonwealth."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.
Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 59.

John Howland: Signer of the Mayflower Compact

"I shall ... begin with a combination made by them before they came ashore; being the first foundation of their government in this place. Occasioned partly by the discontented and mutinous speeches that some of the strangers amongst them had let fall from them in the ship: That when they came ashore they would use their own liberty, for none had power to command them, the patent they had being for Virginia and not for New England ... And partly that such an act by them done, this their condition considered, might be as firm as any patent, and in some respects more sure.

"The form was as followeth: IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc. Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the

year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini 1620."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 75-76.

John Howland & the "First Encounter"

This story appears both in Mourt's Relation, published in London in 1622, and (in a condensed version) in William Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation*.

"Wednesday, the sixth of December [1620]. It was resolved our discoverers should set forth ... So ten of our men were appointed who were of themselves willing to undertake it, to wit, Captain Standish, Master Carver, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Tilley, Edward Tilley, John Howland, and three of London, Richard Warren, Stephen Hopkins, and Edward Doten, and two of our seamen, John Alderton, and Thomas English. Of the ship's company there went two of the master's mates, Master Clarke and Master Coppin, the master gunner, and three sailors ... Mourt's Relation, ed. Jordan D. Fiore (Plymouth, Mass.: Plymouth Rock Foundation, 1985), p. 27-28.

" ... the 6th of December [1620] they sent out their shallop again with ten of their principal men and some seamen, upon further discovery, intending to circulate that deep bay of Cape Cod. The weather was very cold and it froze so hard as the spray of the sea lighting on their coats, they were as if they had been glazed. Yet that night betimes they got down into the bottom of the bay, and as they drew near the shore they saw some ten or twelve Indians very busy about something. They landed about a league or two from them ... they made themselves a barricado with logs and boughs as well as they could in the time, and set out their sentinel and betook them to rest, and saw the smoke of the fire the savages made that night. When morning was come they divided their company, some to coast along the shore in the boat, and the rest marched through the woods to see the land, if any fit place might be for their dwelling. They came also to the place where they saw the Indians the night before, and found they had been cutting up a great fish like a grampus ...

"So they ranged up and down all that day, but found no people, nor any place they liked. When the sun grew low, they hasted out of the woods to meet with their shallop ... of which they were very glad, for they had not seen each other all that day since the morning. So they made them a barricado as usually they did every night, with logs, stakes and thick pine boughs, the height of a man, leaving it open to leeward, partly to shelter them from the cold and wind (making their fire in the middle and lying round about it) and partly to defend them from any sudden assaults of the savages, if they should surround them; so being very weary, they betook them to rest. But about midnight they heard a hideous and great cry, and their sentinel called "Arm! arm!" So they bestirred them and stood to their arms and shot off a couple of muskets, and then the noise ceased. They concluded it was a company of wolves or such like wild beasts, for one of the seamen told them he had often heard such noise in Newfoundland.

"So they rested till about five of the clock in the morning; for the tide, and their purpose to go from thence, made them be stirring betimes. So after prayer they prepared for breakfast, and it being day dawning it was thought best to be carrying things down to the boat ...

"But presently, all on the sudden, they heard a great and strange cry, which they knew to be the same voices they heard in the night, though they varied their notes; and one of their company being abroad came running in and cried, "Men, Indians! Indians!" And withal, their arrows came flying amongst them. Their men ran with all speed to recover their arms, as by the good providence of God they did. In the meantime, of those that were there ready, two muskets were discharged at them, and two more stood ready in the entrance of their rendezvous but were commanded not to shoot till they could take full aim at them. And the other two charged again with

all speed, for there were only four had arms there, and defended the barricado, which was first assaulted. The cry of the Indians was dreadful, especially when they saw their men run out of the rendezvous toward the shallop to recover their arms, the Indians wheeling about upon them. But some running out with coats of mail on, and cutlasses in their hands, they soon got their arms and let fly amongst them and quickly stopped their violence ...

"Thus it pleased God to vanquish their enemies and give them deliverance; and by his special providence so to dispose that not any one of them were either hurt or hit, though their arrows came close by them and on every side [of] them; and sundry of their coats, which hung up in the barricado, were shot through and through. Afterwards they gave God solemn thanks and praise for their deliverance, and gathered up a bundle of their arrows and sent them into England afterward by the master of the ship, and called that place the FIRST ENCOUNTER."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 68-72.

John Howland & the 1623 Division of Land

The 1623 Division of Land marked the end of the Pilgrims' earliest system of land held in common by all. Governor Bradford explains it in this way:

"And so assigned to every family a parcel of land, according to the proportion of their number, for that end, only for present use (but made no division for inheritance) and ranged all boys and youth under some family. This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use, and saved him a great deal of trouble, and gave far better content. The women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 120.

Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds, &c, Vol. I 1627-1651 is the oldest record book of the Plymouth settlement. It begins with the 1623 Division of Land, recorded in the handwriting of Governor William Bradford. The lands of John Howland were among those designated as "their grounds which came first over in the May Floure, according as thier lotes were case" and described in this way "These lye one the South side of the brook to the woodward opposite to the former."

A further division of land was accomplished in 1627. The allotments of land were laid out by six men: William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Howland, Francis Cooke, Joshua Pratt, and Edward Bangs. (PCR 11:4-5).

John Howland & the 1627 Division of Cattle

Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds, &c, Vol. I 1627-1651 also tells of the 1627 Division of Cattle: "At a publique court held the 22th of May it was concluded by the whole Companie, that the cattell wch were the Companies, to wit, the Cowes & the Goates should be equally devided to all the psonts of the same company ... & so the lotts fell as followeth, thirteene psonts being pportioned to one lot ...

"The fourth lot fell to John Howland & his company Joyned to him (2) his wife Elizabeth Howland (3) John Howland Junor (4) Desire Howland (5) William Wright (6) Thomas Morton Junor (7) John Alden (8) Prissilla Alden (9) Elizabeth Alden (10) Clemont Briggs (11) Edward Dolton (12) Edward Holdman (13) Joh. Alden. To this lot fell one of the 4 heyfers Came in the Jacob Called Raghorne."

John Howland: a 1626 "Undertaker"

In 1621, King James I authorized the Council for New England to plant and govern land in this area. This Council granted the Peirce Patent, confirming the Pilgrims' settlement and governance of Plymouth. Peirce and his associates, the merchant adventurers, were allotted 100 acres for each settler the Company transported. The Pilgrims had a contract with the Company stating all land and profits would accrue to the Company for 7 years at which time the assets would be divided among the shareholders. Most of the Pilgrims held some stock. The Pilgrims negotiated a more favorable contract with the Company in 1626. In 1627, 53 Plymouth freemen, known as "The Purchasers," agreed to buy out the Company over a period of years. In turn, 12 "Undertakers" (8 from Plymouth and 4 from London) agreed to pay off Plymouth's debts in return for trade benefits.

John Howland was one of the 8 Plymouth "Undertakers," along with William Bradford, Myles Standish, Isaac Allerton, Edward Winslow, William Brewster, John Alden and Thomas Prence. Howland had also been involved in the negotiations with the Merchant Adventurers that led to the more favorable contract. Governor William Bradford wrote in his letter book:

"This next year being Anno. 1626, we sent Mr. Allerton into England, partly to make some supply for us, and to see if he could make any reasonable composition with the adventurers and because we well knew that nothing can be done without money, we gave him an order to procure some, binding ourselves to make payment thereof as followeth:

"Know all men by thee presents, that whereas we William Bradford, Governour of Plymouth in New England, and William Brewster, Capt. Miles Standish, Isaac Allerton, Samuel Fuller, Edward Winslow, John Jeney, John Howland, and John Alden; being all inhabitants of Plymouth, aforesaid, are for ourselves, and divers others, our associates, &c. And whereas the said Isaac Allerton (by God's providence) for the necessary occasions of the colony abovesaid, is bound for England; and whereas divers of us above named, have acquainted divers of our worthy and approved friends (by our letters) with our raw and weak estate, and want of ability of ourselves to manage so great an action, as the upholding of the plantation aforesaid. If therefore God shall move the heart or hearts of any of our friends, in compassion of our wants and present straits, to lend us above named, the sum of one hundred pounds sterling, for the space of two years, upon any such terms as shall be agreed upon, between him or them and the said Isaac Allerton, our partner and agent, and deliver the same into his hands for our use; that we, the said William Bradford, William Brewster, &c together with the said Isaac Allerton, do bind ourselves, our heirs, &c. jointly and severally, for the faithful performance of such obligations, conditions, or covenants, as shall be agreed on,&c.

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 5, p. 198-199.

This "Undertaking" appears again in the Plymouth Colony Records of 1645:

"Vpon the ending of all the differrences vpon a demaund of foure hundred pounds betwixt Mr John Beauchamp of London merchant on the one pt And Mr Willm Bradford Mr Edward Winslowe Mr Thomas Prence Mr Miles Standish Mr John Alden Mr John Howland & Mr Isaack Alerton and the heires of Mr Willm Brewster deceased of thother pte these lands ensuing were seually acknowledge the sxij'th day of March Anno Dni 1645 ..."

[The records contain several pages of rather complicated and legalistic exchanges of land, etc., among the various Undertakers and John Beauchamp.]

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 128-131.

John Howland in Maine

John Howland was also involved in an unfortunate incident in 1634 when the Plymouth Colony's territorial grant of the trading rights on the Kennebec River in Maine were contested by others. John Howland was in command at the Plymouth Colony trading post at the time of the incident:

"I am now to enter upon one of the saddest things that befell them since they came; but before I begin, it will be needful to premise such part of their Patent as gives them right and privilege at Kennebec ...

"Now it so fell out that one Hocking, belonging to the Plantation of Piscataqua, went with a bark and commodities to trade in that river [the Kennebec], and would needs press into their limits. And not only so, but would needs go up the river above their house, towards the falls of the river, and intercept the trade that should come to them. He that was chief of the place [John Howland] forbade them, and prayed him that he would not offer them that injury nor go about to infringe their liberties which had cost them so dear. But he [Hocking] answered he would go up and trade there in despite of them and lie there as long as he pleased. The other [Howland] told him he must then be forced to remove him from thence or make seizure of him if he could. He [Hocking] bid him do his worst, and so went up and anchored there. The other took a boat and some men and went up to him, when he saw his time, and again entreated him to depart by what persuasion he could. But all in vain; he could get nothing of him but ill words. So he considered that now was the season for trade to come down, and if he should suffer him to lie and take it from them, all their former charge would be lost and they had better throw up all. So consulting with his men, who were willing thereto, he resolved to put him from his anchors and let him drive down the river with the stream, but commanded the men that none should shoot a shot upon any occasion except he commanded them. He spoke to him again, but all in vain. Then he sent a couple in a canoe to cut his cable, the which one of them performs, but Hocking takes up a piece which he had laid ready, and as the bark sheered by the canoe he shot him [Moses Talbot] close under her side, in the head (as I take it) so he fell down dead instantly. One of his fellows which loved him well could not hold, but with a musket shot Hocking, who fell down dead and never spake word. This was the truth of the thing ..."

"The bruit of this was quickly carried all about, and that in the worst manner, and came into the Bay to their neighbors there ... But they were so prepossessed with this matter and affected with the same as they committed Mr. Alden [John Alden] to prison, who was in the bark, and had been at Kennebec, but was no actor in the business but went to carry them supply."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 264-5.

An even more detailed account of the Maine incident is given in a 1634 deposition:

"This deponent saith that upon the day of APRill John Hocking Riding at ankor w'th in our limitts above the howse mr John Howland went up to him w'th our barke and charged the said Hocking to waye his Ankcors and depart who answered hee would not w'th foule speeches demaunding whie he spake not to them that sent him fourth: answeere was mad by John Howland that the last yeare a boat was sent haveing no other busines to know whether it was theire mind that hee should thus wrong vs in our trade who returned answer they sent him not thether and therefore mr Howland tould him that hee would not now suffer him ther to ride, John Hocking demaunded what he would doe whether he would shout ; mr Howland answered no but he would put him from thence John Hocking said and swore he would not shoot but swore if we came aboard him he would send us thus passing by him we came to an ankor sumthing nere his barke mr Howland bid three of his men goe cutt his Cable whose names weare John Irish Thomas Savory and William Rennoles who p'rsently cut one but were put by the other by the strength of the streme mr Howland seeing they could not well bring the Cannow to the other cable caled them aboard and bad Moses Talbott go w'th them who accordingly went very reddyly & brought the Canow to Hockings cable he being upon the deck came w'th a carbine & a pistole in his hand & p'rsently pr'sented his peece at Thomas Savory but the canow w'th the tide was put nere the bow of the barke w'ch Hocking seeing pr'sently put his peece almost to Moyses Talbotts head, w'ch mr Howland seeing called to him desiering him not to shut his man but take himselfe for his mark saying his men did but that w'ch hee commaunded them and therefore desiered him not to hurt any

of them if any wrong was don it was himselfe that did it and therefore caled againe to him to take him for his marke saying he stod very fayer but Hocking would not heare nor looke toward our barke but pr'sently shooteth Moyses In the head, and pr'sently tooke up his pistell in his hand but the lord stayed him from doing any further hurt by a shot from our barke himselfe was presently strooke dead being shott neare the same place in the head wher he had murderously shot Moyses."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 2, p. 10-11.

John Howland in the Records of Plymouth Colony

The Plymouth Colony Records list the names of the freemen of the Colony. John Howland is in the list for 1633 (PCR 1:3 and PCR 8:173), 1636-7 (PCR 1:52), 1643 (PCR 8:187), c.1658 (PCR 8:197) and 1670 (PCR 5:274).

John Howland was elected to government positions in Plymouth Colony and the town of Plymouth:

1 Jan 1632-3: "At a Court held the first of January, 1632 ... Mr William Bradford, Capt Myles Standish, John Howland, John Alden, John Done, Stephen Hopkins, & William Gilson were chosen for the Councell ..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 5.

1 January 1633-34: "At this Court, Mr Thomas Prence was elected Gov'r for the yeare following ... At the same time, Edw: Wynslow, Mr Will Bradford, Mr Isaack Allerton, Mr John Alden, Mr Joh Howland, & Mr Stephen Hopkins chosen to the office of Assistants to the said Gov'r."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 21.

John Howland also served as an Assistant in 1634-5 (PCR 1:32-33). Some authorities conjecture that he may have also served as an Assistant between 1629-32.

John Howland also served on the Committees for the General Courts or as a Deputy for the Town of Plymouth in 1641 (PCR 2:16), 1645 (PCR 2:94), 1646 (PCR 2:104), 1647 (PCR 2:117), 1648 (PCR 2:123), 1649 (PCR 2:144), 1650 (PCR 2:154), 1651 (PCR 2:167), 1652 (PCR 3:8), 1653 (PCR 3:31), 1654 (PCR 3:49) and 1655 (PCR 3:79), 1656 (PCR 3:99), 1657-8 (PCR 3:129), 1658 (PCR 3:135), 1661 (PCR 3:214), 1663 (PCR 4:37), 1666 (PCR 4:122), 1667 (PCR 4:148) and 1670 (PCR 5:34). He served as a "Celect" man for Plymouth in 1666 (PCR 4:124).

John Howland is listed in the Records (PCR 8:94) for 1658 as being owed 1 pound by the Treasury.

25 March 1633: "According to an order in Court held the 2d of January, in the seaventh yeare of the raigne of o'r soveraigne lord, Charles, by the grace of God King of Engl., Scotl., France, & Irel., defendor of the faith, &c, the psons heere under menconed were rated for publike use by the Govr, Mr Will Bradford, Capt Myles Standish, Joh: Alden, Joh: Howland, Jone Done, Stephen Hopkins, Will Gilson, Sam Fuller, Senior, John Genny, Godbert Godbertson, & Jonathon Brewster, to be brought in by each pson as they are heere under written, rated in corne at vis p bushell ...

"John Howland, ... [18 shillings]."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 9.

On 26 March 1634, he was also "rated": "John Howland, ... [1 pound, 4 shillings]."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 26.

5 November 1638: "Mr John Howland, of Plymouth, ... x [shillings]."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 101.

6 June 1643: "Mr John Howland, of Duxborrow, acknowledgeth to owe the King xx [pounds]."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 57.

2 March 1635-6: "That the Gov'r, Mr Prence, Mr Collier, Mr Alden, Mr Browne, & Mr John Howland view that porcon of ground on the north side the Sowth River, and if they find it more beneficiall for farmes to Scituate then to these pts, then to allot it them; if not, to reserve it." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 39.

14 March 1635-6: [Regarding allotments of land] "To Mr Joh. Howland, where he mowed last yeare, and the quantity of two loade or jaggs of hey at the Iland Creeke." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 40.

Again on 20 March 1636-7: "To Mr Howland, where he got hey the last yeare, at Iland Creeke Pond." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 56.

14 March 1635-6: "At this meeting, after much conference about the neerer uniting of Plymoth & those on Duxburrough side, divers were apointed to view Jones his river & Mortons Hole, w'ch were thought the fittest places, & to render a reason for their judgement. The pties for Duxburrow side were Mr William Collier, Stephen Tracy, Mr Joh. Howland, Edm. Chandler, Josuah Pratt ; for the other side, Capt Myles Standish, Manasseh Kempton, George Kenrick, John Jenny, & Edward Bangs. All these but Edw. Bangs went & conferred together, and on the 21th of the s'd moneth of March brought in their opinion & rendred their reasons for the same, w'ch are many & still extant ; seaven of the said nine holding Jones River to be the fittest place for the uniting of both pts into a neere society, & there to build a meeting howse & towne; and the two preferred the other, w'ch is Mortons Hole, before Jones River ...

"And after long debating of the thing, it was at length referred to the two churches on each side, as churches to agree upon & end the same."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 41.

7 June 1636: "an action of slander was tried between John Done, plaintiffe, & Helin Billington, defendant, wherein the defend't was cast in fiue pownds starling to the plaintife, and adjudged to be sett in the stocks & be whipt.

"...an accon of battery was tried between John Tisdale, yeoman, plaintiffe, & Stephen Hopkins, Assistant to the governm't, def't, wherein the def't, Stephen Hopkins, was cast in fiue pownds starling to our sov. lord the King, whose peace he had broken, w'ch he ought after a speciall mannuer to haue kept, and also in forty shillings to the plaintiffe, both w'ch he was adjudged to pay.

"The jewry that served upon these trialls [included] ... Jon. Howland."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 42.

4, 5 October 1636: "Joh. Gardner, the serv't of George Kenrick, taken from his master, & placed w'th John Howland, to serue the said John Howland one yeare more then specified in his formed indenture ; the said Joh. Howland giving his master aforesaid three pownds starling."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 44-5.

7 June 1637: "It is concluded and enacted by the Court, that the colony of New Plymouth shall sned forth ayd to assist them of Massachusetts Bay and Conectacutt in their warrs against the Pequian Indians, in reveng of the innocent blood of the English w'ch the s'd Pequians have barbarously shed, and refuse to giue satisfacon for...

"It is also enacted by the Court, that Mr Hopkins and John Winslow for the towne of Plymouth, Mr Howland and Jonathan brewster for the town of Ducksborrow, and Mr Gilson and Edward Forster for the towne of Scituate, shalbe added to the Gounor and Assistant to assesse men towards the charges of the souldiers that are to be sent forth for the ayde of the Mattachusetts Bay and Conectacutt...

"Whereas, according to the order of the Court, the Gounor and Assistant, w'th the help of Mr Hopkins and John Winslow for the towne of Plymouth, Mr Howland and Jonathan Brewster for the towne of Ducksborrow, and Mr Gilson & Edward Foster for the towne of Scituate, haue mett together & considered of the charge in setting forth the souldiers, and fynd that it will amount vnto the sume of two hundred pounds, the w'ch is appoynted & concluded to be payd in manner following, viz: one hundred pounds by the towneship of Plymouth & the liberties thereof, fifty pounds by the towneship of Duckborrow, and thother fifty pounds by the towneship of Scituate." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 60-62.

7 June 1637: "Whereas the trade of beaver, &c, is now likely to goe to decay, in regard that they w'ch have had it will not any longer hold yt, the Court hath referred it to the Govnor and Assistants to advise and consider of a way and course how the said trade may be upholden for the good of the whole collony ; and for the better advisement therein haue joyned to the Gounor and Assistants Mr Hopkins, Mr Atwood, Mr Done, Thomas Willet, & John Winslow for Plymouth, Mr John Howland and Jonathan Brewster for Ducksborrow, and Josias Winslow for Scituate ; and what way and course they shall agree and conclude vpon, the whole colony doth consent vnto." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 62.

4 December 1637: "Fourty acres of lands are graunted to Mr John Howland, lying at the lland Creeke Pond at the western end thereof, w'th the marsh grownd that he vseth to mow there." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 70.

6 November 1638: "The iland called Spectacle, lying vpon Greens Harbor, is graunted to Mr John Howland."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 102.

And again, on 7 January 1638-9: "Ann iland lying at Greenes Harbor, called Spectacle lland, is graunted to Mr John Howland.

"Whereas a part of the marsh ground lying by Spectacle lland, on the south side, was graunted to Mr Thomas Prince, to bee meadow belonging to Mr Albertons farme, the said Mr Prence hath relinquished the same to Mr John Howland, prouided he be allowed meddowing elsewhere in lue thereof."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 110.

4 December 1638: "John Wakefeild, p'sented for liueing out of service, hath tyme giuen him to puid [provide] him a master, after he hath serued a month w'th Mr John Howland."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 106.

6 December 1638: "That Leiftennant Willm Holmes for & in consideracon of the sume of fifteene pounds tenn shillings sterl to him in hand payd hath freely and absolutely bargained & sould vnto Mr John Howland all that lott & half of lands lying on Duxborrowe side betweene the lands of Joseph Biddle and Constance Sowthworth containe thirty acres be it more or lesse together with three acres of meadow thereto belonging and all his right title & interrest of and into the said p'rmisss & euery pt & pcell thereof To have & to hold the said Lands w'th all & singuler thapp'rntces therevnto belonging vnto the said John Howland his heires & Assignes for euer & to the onely proper use and behoofe of him the said John Howland his heires and Assignes for euer."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 40.

2 February 1638-9: That Mr. John Jenney doth acknowledge that for and in consideracon of the sume of fourescore and two pounds sterl to him paid by Mr John Howland and also for three acres of lands of the said John Howland lying at Caughtaughcanteist hill on the south side of the towne of Plymouth hath freely and absolutely sould vnto the said John Howland All that his house

barnes & outhouses at Rockey Nooke together w'th all the lands therevnto belonging layd forth for the said Mr Jenneys shares w'th that w'ch was Phillip Delanoy's allowed him for want of measure and the fiue acres of meadow adjoyneing vnto the said lands And all his right title and interrest of and into the said p'rmisses and all the fenceing wood tymber & trees in and vpon the same w'th all & euery the app'rtences therevnto belonging To haue and to hold the said dwelling house barnes & outhouses lands and meadowes & p'rmisss w'th all & singuler their app'rtences therevnto belonging vnto the said John Howland his heires and Assignes foreu to the only pper use and behoofe of him the said John Howland his heires and assignes for euer."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 41.

2 April 1640: "That Mr John Howland doth acknowledge That for & in consideracon of the sume of seauenscore pounds sterl to him in hand payd by Mr Wm Kempe of Duxborrow hath freely and absolutely bargained and sould vnto the said Wm Kempe all that his messuage & outhouses situate in Duxborrow aforesaid and fourescore acres of vpland and fiue acres of meddow three whereof lying at the west end of Iland Creek pond and thother two in the Marsh before the said house e'th all and singuler thapp'rtences to the said p`rmisss & euery of them belonging together w'th the fenceing in & about the said p`rmisss and all his right title and interrest of and into the said p`rmisss & every pt & pcell thereof To haue and to hold the said Messuage outhouses fourscore acres of vpland and the fiue acres of meddow & all and singuler the p'rmisss w'th all & euery their app'rtences therevnto belonging vnto the said Wm Kemp his heires & Assignes foreu to the onely pper use and behoofe of him the said Willm Kempe his heires & assignes foreu."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 56.

2 July 1640: "that the above named Daniell Salmon did acknowledg before Nathaniell Sowther & John Winslow that he hath receiued of Mr John Howland full satisfaccon for the legacy aforesaid due to the said Richard ffrancis Deacon & desire the same might be recorded."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 63.

6 July 1640: "Memorand: that John Winslow, for --- in consideracon of the sum of twelue pounds sterl, hath bargained and sould all his interrest and right in the service of Joseph Grosse, w'th & by the consent of the said Joseph, w'ch is for fiue yeares from the thirteenth of August next after the date herof, vnto Mr John Howland, the said John fynding his said servant, Joseph Grosse, meate, drinke, & apparell during the said terme, & in thend thereof to giue him two shuits of apparell, one for working dayes & another for Lords dayes, and shall also giue him xij bushells of Indian corne, in thend of the said terme."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 158.

5 October 1640: "The Court doth order, that Mr John Howland, Francis Cooke, Josuah Pratt, and Thom Cushman shall range the bounds of the lands betwixt Mr Thom Prence & Clement Briggs at Joanes Riuer, and to set them forth according to the auncient bounds & markes formly made betwixt them."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 163.

30 November 1640: "Whereas there is no meddow ground vpon the iland, or neck of land, formly graunted to Mr John Howland, the Court doth graunt that if there by any meddowing lying betwixt Mr Bradford iland there & the said neck, that the said meddowing shalbe reserued to the said John Howland, or what meddow there abouts shalbe found vpon view."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 168.

7 December 1641: "That if any man be disposed to take the trade for a yeare, or some yeares,

that they bring in their names to the next Court of Assistants in February next, and that the Gounor, Mr Winslow, Mr Collyer, Mr Prence, Mr Wm Thomas, Mr John Howland, Mr John Atwood, Mr John Jenney, & Jonathan Brewster shall treat w'th them about yt that will then adventure any thing therein, and that those that haue the trade shall take their corne that makes their biskett w'thin this collony, and that the skins had by the trade shalbe vented for the collonys use."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 29.

7 December 1641: "Mr John Howland complns ag'st the s'd James Luxford, in an act of trespas vpon the case, to the dam of v [pounds]."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 7, p. 27.

31 December 1641: "At a townes meeting ... before Wm Bradford, gent, Gou, Thomas Prence, gent, John Atwood, John Jenney, John Howland, and Willm Paddy, comittees authorized to graunt lands ..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 29.

7 September 1642: "The differrences betwixt Mr Willm Hanbury and Abraham Perse, about the lugin and killing Mr Hanburies swine, are by mutuall consent referred to be ordered and ended betwixt them, and all things concerning the same, by Mr Willm Paddy and John Howland for the sd Mr Hanbury, and Stephen Tracy and John Cooke the yeong'r for the sd Pearse ; and if they cannot agree, then the foure to choose a fift man, and so to end the same."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 44.

17 October 1642: "These seuall psons following are graunted these seuall pporcons of meddow at the North Meddow by Joanes Rive ... Mr John Howland, ... to eich of them six acrees a peece, if it be there to be had ..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 49.

20 August 1644: "Mr John Howland and John Cooke for Plymouth, Joseph Rogers and John Rogers for Duxborrow, are appoynted to lay forth the heigh way psented by Mr Bradfords farme into the Bay, and to be donn forthw'th, and if they cannot agree, then to choose a fift man to them."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 75.

21 November 1644: "The Townes men agreed that five men should be chosen to make the Rate for the payment of the publike officers and the lott fell upon Mr Wm Paddy Mr John Howland Manasseh Kempton John Dunhame and Thom Cushman, the Rate they made was for v L v S."

Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, p. 19.

Howland was chosen a "Rater" in 1650 (RTP 1:31) and 1651 (RTP 1:32).

3 March 1645-6: "...the Court is constrayned to nominate and authorize a committee to lett forth the same [land] to the best advantage of the gouerment ... haue therefore nominated and authorized the Gounor and Assistants, w'th Mr John Alden, Mr Willm Thomas, Mr John Howland, Jonathan Brewster, and Josias Winslow, as a committee to lett forth the same vnto them the first Tewsday in May next."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 96.

28 May 1645: "In the name of God Amen I Robert hicks of Plymouth this xxviiiith day of may Anno dm 1645 being full of Infermities of body and considering the brevity of this mortall life but of very good and perfecte memory doe ordaine and make this my last will and testament in maner and

forme foloing ...

"And I doe Entreat Mr John howland Mannasses Kemton and Thomas Cushman to bee my overseers to see this my last will and Testem'nt performed giveing and bequeathing unto the sd John Howland and Manasses Kemton x s[hillings] apeece to buy them som thing to keepe in Remembrance of mee lastly I give and bequeath unto Joshua prat a suit of my wearing clothes with a payer of shoos and stockings to bee delivered him by my executrix within one month next after my dessease..."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 8, p. 144-6.

31 July 1646: "That whereas Leiftennant Willm Holmes the twenty sixt day of Decembe`r 1638 by his deed acknowledged as appeares vpon Record sould vnto mr John Howland one lott of Land lying on Duxborrow side containeing thirty acrees be it more or lesse lying betweene the lands of Joseph Biddle and Constant Southworth w'th three acrees of marsh meddow And whereas the said John Howland hath since exchaunged the said lott of Land w'th Joseph Rogers of Duxborrow aforesd for a lott of land of twenty acres bee it more or lesse and three acres of marsh meddow lying at Joanes Riuer Bridge and on the north side of the said Riuer the comon heigh way lying on the West side thereof ..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 136.

8 March 1648: "Mr William Bradford Governer doth acknowldige yt for and in concideration of fifty pounds to him allredy payed in Cattell and worke by Mr John howland of plymouth aforsaid and his asignes hath freely and absoleutly barganed and Sould vnto the said Mr John howland a certaine tract of land lying within the limits of Marshfeild Commonly called the great yland with all the marsh meadow lyeing before the sd yland lying on the weast syde from the Ceader tree to the weast point therof containing about thirteene acars bee it more or lese with all the sd Mr William Bradford his Right title and Enterest of and into the sd premises with all the purtenances apertaning vnto the said premises to haue and to hold vnto the said Mr John howland his heaires and asynes for euer vnto the onely p'rper vse and behoof of him the said mr John howland his heaires and asynes for euer."

"And I the said John howland seni the day and year aboue written doe acknowldig yt for and in concideration of the sum of twenty fiue pound sterling to mee all Redy payed haue ffreely and absoleutly barganed and Sould vnto my sooninlaw John Gorum the one halfe of the aforsaid yland and marsh meadow belonging therunto to bee equally deuided betwixt my selfe and him the one halfe of the aforsd yland and marsh meadow to belong vnto the said John Gorum his heaires and asynes for euer vnto the only p'rper vse and behoofe of him the sd John Gorum his heaires and asynes for euer."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 164-5.

1 August 1648: "These sheweth, that on July the 22cond, 1648, wee, whosse names are vnderwritten, were sworne by Mr Bradford, Gouener, to make inquiry of the death of the child of Allis Bishop, the wife of Richard Bishope.

"Wee declare, yt coming into the house of the said Richard Bishope, wee saw at the foot of a ladder w'h leadeth into an vpper chamber, much blood; and going vp all of vs into the chamber, wee found a woman child, of about foure yeares of age, lying in her shifts vppon her left cheeke, with her throat cut ... and a bloody knife lying by the side of the child, with w'h knife all of vs judg, and the said Allis hath confessed to fiue of vs att one time, yt shee murdered the child with the said knife. [Signed]: John Howland, James Hurst, Robert Lee, John Shawe, Francis Cooke, John Cooke, James Cole, Gyells Rickard, Richard Sparrow, Thomas Pope, Francis Billington, William Nelson."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 132.

6 March 1649: "An Inventory of the estate of Ephraim Hicks Latly Deceased ... Mr Howland thirds of 65 [pounds] 11 [shillings] is 21 [pounds] 17 [shillings]..."
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 9, p. 226-228.

14 March 1649-50: "Mr. John Howland doth acknowledge yt hee hath bargained and sould vnto Georg Partridg of Duxburrow Tayler three acars of meadow ground or therabouts lying at Muskeeto hole in Duxborrow aforsaid And That the said Gorg Partridg hath fully satisfied him for the same according to a wrighting vnderneath entered ; Wherin M^{is} Elizabeth Howland his wife hath according to Order giuen her free Consent vnto the sale therof ; the said three acars of meadow bee it more or les to haue and to hold vnto the said Gorg Partridg his heaires and assignes for euer.

"Mr Howland and his wife haue both acknowledged the sale of three acars of meadow land or therabouts bee it more or lese att Muskeeto hole before mee Miles Standish September the third 1649."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 183.

10 June 1650: "Wheras a comission was giuen to Captain Humphry Autherton and Captaine Eliezer Lusher by the Generall Court of the Massachusetts ... giueing them full power and authoritie to treat, debate, and determine with the Generall Court of Plym about the controuersie concerning the title to the lands called Shawwamett and Pautuxet, and the protexion of the English and Indians, &c ...

"The aforsaid Generall Court of Plym, the sixt of June, 1650, chose Willam Bradford Goue'r, Mr Tho Prence, Mr Willam Collyar, Assistants, and Mr Howland, Mr Dimack, Mr Cudworth, Mr Josiah Winslow, freemen, for a comittie, and gaue them full power and authoritie in their names, and on their behalfe, to treat with the aforsaid comissioners, and to determine and conclude the abouesaid controuersye, and to put a full end thereunto in any way yt should seem best vnto them

...
"That they doe fully and foreuer relinquish, yeild vpp vnto the gouerment of the Massachusetts aforsaid all their right, title, or claime whatsoever the said gouerment or jurisdiction of Plym haue or might haue had ..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 158-160.

10 June 1650: "According to our order, wee [the jury] haue found out and marked a new way from the Joaneses Riuer to the Massachusetts Path through John Rogers his ground, and are all agreed the said way by us marked out to bee most convenient and least preiudiciall.

"Witnes our hands heere vnder written. [Signed] "John Howland, Francis Cooke, Joshua Pratt, [et al.]." All sworne."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 160.

1650: "A record of the bounds of a Certaine adition of land graunted vnto John Cook Juni at Rockey nooke in the yeare 164i and sence viewed and layed forth according to order by Mr John Howland Joshua Prat and Samuell Sturtivant ...

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 206.

22 February 1650-51: "Att a meting held att plimouth the 22th of february 1650 by Mr Howland Mr Willett John Dunham John Cook William Paddy & Thomas Clarke. Wee grant to mr howland Elder Cushman John Cook John Dunham senior Twelve Acres Apece of meddow ground at Wennituxett To take it on both sides of the River so as others that shall have more grants there be not prejudiced"

Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, p. 206.

March 1651-2: "'The Names of those that have Interest and proprieties in the Townes land att Puncateesett over against Road Iland ... Mr. John howland."

Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, p. 36.

1653: "Wheras capt: Standish and mr John Winslow were appointed and Deputed by the court to biew and sett out the meddow Land formerly graunted to Mr Edward Winslow att Marshfeild ; which accordingly they Did ; and It is bounded as followeth ... soe ending att a marked tree standing on a point of Land opposite to Mr Howlands Little Iland"

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 2, p. 95.

1653: "Wheras sundry proportions of meddow were graunted unto sundrey psons att the Meddow commonly called Joanes River Meddow in the woods and the measirers appointed to lay it out this Done as followeth ...

"3 The third is Mr howlands which is to run from a stake upon the edge of the marsh by the said Island west norwest and soe to butt upon Mr hanberries"

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 6, p. 102.

6 February 1654-5: "Wee, whose names are vnderwritten, being appointed a jury by Mr John Alden to view the dead body of John Walker, seruant to Robert Latham, of this towne, and to find the cause how hee came to his vntimely end. -

"Wee, vpon due serch and examination, doe find that the body of John Walker was blackish and blew, and the skine broken ... and wee find, by the testimony of John Howland and John Adams, that heard Robert Latham say that hee gaue John Walker some stripes that morning before his death...and therefore in respect of crewelty and hard vsuage hee died."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 71-2.

[Latham was indicted for cruelty leading to the death of his 14-year-old servant John Walker and found guilty of manslaughter. He was sentenced to be burned on the hand and have his land and goods confiscated.]

7 August 1655: "Mr. John Howland and Constant Southworth are appointed and requested by the Court to take order and agree with workmen for to mend Joanes Riuer bridge with all conuenient speed."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 87.

1656: "Wheras there was a Diference fell out betwixt John howland seni'r Thomas Bourne and John Dingley about the Range of a pcell of marsh meddow lying in Marshfield and not eazye to bee knowne ;

"These are therefore to put an end to the aforsaid Diference ; It is agreed by and between the said John howland seni'r Thomas Bourne and John Dingley seni'r: that the line or Range shall begin att the beach next the sea upon a west line sett by a compas to a homacke in the marsh where there lyes an old Ceader tree there being noe other nor no more trees neare next to the great Iland but that onely And from the aforsaid homacke and tree to Run upon the aforsaid west line to the Basse creeke To which agreement all the aforsaid pties have freely assented unto as abovesaid ; alsoe that this agreement bee put upon Record both att Marshfeild and the court booke att Plymouth to avoid all further Diference for time to Come about the prmises ; in witsesse wherof wee the said John howland seni'r: Thomas Bourne and John Dingley have put to our hands this fourth of May 1655.

in the pr'sence of Myles Standish

John howland, Thomas Bourne, John Dingley"

5 March 1657: "Memorandum that mr John howland seni'r of the Towne of Plymouth in the

Jurisdiction of New Plymouth in New England in America ; Doth acknowledge that by way of exchange hee hath freely and absolutly bargained allianeted and made over enfeofed and confeirmed ; and by these pr'sents Doth bargaine allianate make over and confeirme unto Christopher Winter of Plymouth aforsaid in the Jurisdiction aforsaid planter all the Right title and Interest hee the said John howland hath of and Into the one halfe of the great lland (comely soe called) lying and being in the Townshipp of Marshfeild in the Jurisdiction aforsaid with all and singulare the appurtenances belonging thereunto ; To have and to hold the one halfe of the said lland ... In lue of a farme of land lying in the townshipp of Barnstable in the Jurisdiction aforsaid which was comonly Called the Gov'rs farme Containing fourscore and ten acres of upland according to the bounds bee it more or lesse and twelve acres of meddow according to the bounds bee ir more or lesse ; which said farme of land the said Christopher Winter Doth by these pr'sents bargaine allianate make over enfeofe and Confeirme unto the said John howland hee his heires and assignes for ever ; To have and to hold the said farme of land Comonly Called the Governors farme lying in the Township of Barnstable next unto the land of willam Crocker ; viz both upland and meddow Containing fourscore and ten acres of upland bee it more or lesse and twelve acres of meddow bee it more or less ; with all and singulare the appurtenances privildges and emunities belonging therunto or to any pte or pcell therof unto the said John howland hee his heires and assignes for ever ; the said pr'mises with all the said Christopher Winter his Right title and enterest of and into the same or to any pte or pcell therof to belonge unto the onely proper use and behoofe of him the said John howland hee his heires and assignes for ever ; in Lue of the one halfe of the lland Comonly called the great lland lying in the township of Marshfeild according to the species above expressed.

"This exchange was acknowledged by Mr John howland and Christopher Winter before the court holden att Plymouth the Day and yeare first above written ; and ordered to bee recorded"
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 12, p. 81-82.

2 August 1659: "Wheras there is a controuersy depending betwixt Thomas Pope and Willam Shirtlife, conserning the bounds of the lands of the said ptyes lying att Strawberry Hill, or the Reed Pond, in the township of Plymouth, the Court naueing heard what can bee said on both sides, and finding an issue can not bee put to it att ths psent Court, doe order and request Mr John Howland, Francis Cooke, and John Dunham, Seni'r, to take a convenient time as soon as may bee to repaire to the said lands, and alsoe such of the ancient inhabitants as giue any testimony or light towards the clearing of the case, and that they, the said John Howland, Francis Cooke, and John Dunham, shall measure the said lands and set the bounds therof vnto the said pties according to the true and ancient bounds, as neare as may bee, and soe a finall end to bee put therby vnto the said controversy"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 169.

5 September 1659: "Wee whose Names are underwritten being Deputed by the Court have Ranged the grounds betwixt Willam Shirtliffe and henery Wood and Thomas Pope and have layed out the bounds of Willam Shirtlifs land begining att a Rocke which lyeth att the Corner of his outside ffence by the highway northward above and soe to a smale green oake that is marked by the hieghway ...

"John Howland, John Dunham, ffrancis Cooke."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 14, p. 17.

3 October 1659: "Wheras by a former order of Court the seuerall townes in this jurisdiction were required to send in for each towne a man vnto this court, and to envest them full power in their behalfe, to treat and conclude about leting of the trad att Kennebecke, - accordingly they did send those whose names are vnderwritten.

"For Plymouth, ...Mr. John Howland.

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 170.

24 May 1660: "A pcell or Tract of land was graunted unto Mr John howland lying att a brooke within two miles or therabouts of Winnatuxett meddow lying att or about the said brooke ; the said pr'mises with all and singulare the appurtenances belonging therunto was graunted by the towne unto the said John howland hee his heires and assignes for ever."

Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, p. 39.

8 June 1660 re the Purchasers of Dartmouth: "Att a generall meeting of the Purchasers att Plymouth the seaventh of march 1652 It was ordered and fully agreed unto and Concluded by the whole that all that Tract and tracts of lands lying from the Purchassers bounds on the wst side of Acoughcusse to a river called Accusshaneck and three miles to the Eastwards of the same ; with all llands meddows woods waters rivers Creekes and all appurtenances therunto belonging should bee given to those whose names are heerunder written Containing thirty four shares and was then given allotted Assigned and sett over to them by the whole to have and to hold to them and their heires and Assignes for ever ; to Devide and Dispose of the same as they should see good ; and they are to Satisfy the Indians for the Purchase therof and to beare all other Due Charges that shall any way arise about the same According to their severall proportions ... The one halfe of John Crackstones land which was mr Willam Bradford seni'r: his land was pased over by the said Willam Bradford to mr John howland.

"Wheras these Purchasers whoe by agreement of the whole had their proportions of Purchase land falling unto them in the places above mencioned whoe by agreement had their severall names entered into a list (together with some other old Comers) under the hand of the honored Gov'r: late Deceased they Did Desire that the list of their Names might bee recorded ; but the above written originall list of Names and the agreement Could not bee found in some yeares ; soe that it was Judged lost These purchasers notwithstanding still Desiring that what was their right might bee recorded ; wherupon order was given by the aforsaid Gov'r that it might bee Done ...

"The names of those whoe by order of the Purchasers mett att Plymouth the seaventh Day of march 1652 whoe by Joynt consent and agreement of the said purchasers are to have their prt'es shares or proportions att the place or places commonly called and knowne by the names of Acushena alias acquessent which enteresth in att the western end of Neckatay and to Coaksett alias acoakius and places adjacent ; the bounds of which Tracy fully to extend ... The said Tract or tract[s] of Land soe bounded as abovesaid which is purchased of the Indians which were the right propriators therof ; as appeers by a Deed under their hands with all the mershes meddows rivers waters woods Timbers ; and all other profitts priviledges emunities comodities and appurtenances belonging to the said Tract or Tracts above expressed or any prte or pcell therof to belonge unto the prt'ies whose names are underwritten (whoe are in number thirty four whole prt'es or shares and noe more) to them and their heires and assignes for ever ... Mr howland and Willam Bassett one whole prte or share."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 4, p. 185-188.

1 April 1661: "To all people to whom these presents shall Come Quachatasset Kesepitt and Webcawett Indian Sagamores sendeth Greet &c

"Know yea that wee the said Quachatasset Kesepett and Webcawett Doe acknowledge that for and in Consideration of the sume of fifty pounds to us in hand payed by mr John howland seni'r: of Plymouth Anthony Anable Isacke Robinson Samuell ffuller Peter Blosome of Barnstable ; Capt: Nathaneel Tomas of Marshfeild and Abraham Peirse of Duxburrow all in the Jurisdiction of Plymouth in New England in America wherwith wee the said Quachatasset Kesepett and Webcawett Doe acknowlidg ourselves Satisfyed Contented and fully payed ; and therof and of every pte therof Doe exownarate acquitt and Discharge the aforsaid John howland Anthony Anable Isacke Robinson Samuell ffuller Peter blosome Nathaneel Thomas and Abraham Peirse

them and every of them their and every of their heirs and assigns for every by these presents ; have freely and absolutely bargained alienated and sold enfeoffed and Conferred ... all that Tract of land bounded from a place called Saconquahunkanett on the west side and upon a straight line to a tree marked by us the said Quachatasett Kesepett and Webcawett ; which said line is from the head of the pond as we the said Sachems have marked it with our own hands which said place is Called by the Name of Tataquett ; and the lower bounds extend etc itself unto the sea ; To have and to hold the aforesaid Tract of land with all and singular the meadows Marshes woods waters Rivers and Rivoletts hereditaments profits privileges & appurtenances belonging therunto or to any part or parcel thereof unto the said John howland Anthony Annable Isack Robinson Samuell fuller Peter Blossome Nathaneel Thomas and Abraham Peirse to them and every of them their and every of their heirs and assigns for ever ; excepting a parcel or Tract of land within the above said Tract of land which is bounded on the westward side by a brooke and on the Eastward side by a Cedar Swamp and soe to the head of the pond the Generall Name of this above said Tract of land is Called and knowne both by English and Indians by the Name of Saconeesett ; The said premises with all the singular the appurtenances belonging therunto to be holden as of his Ma'tie his manor of Eastgreenwich in the Countey of Kent in free and comon Socage and not in Capite nor by Knight service ... furthermore we the said Quachatasett Kesepett and Webcawett Doe hereby Covenant promise and graunt that we will make sale of Certaine meadows and upland of a place that is neare to the abovementioned Tract of land which said place is Called by the Name of Oungowam ; and in the mean time Doe hereby promise and graunt That the aforesaid John howland Anthony Annable Isack Robinson Samuell fuller Peter Blossome Nathaneel Thomas and Abraham Peirse shall and may have free libertie ; they their heirs or assigned to Improve the the meadows and Timbers thereon for their use ... In witness whereof we the said Quachatasett Kesepett and Webcawett have hereunto sett our hands and seales This first of Aprill Anno: Dom: 1661 Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us, Thomas Clarke, Thomas howes The marke of Quachatasett And a (seale)

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 16, p. 76-78.

4 June 1661: "Whereas at the Court held at Plymouth in March the fifth 1660, libertie was given unto Mr John Howland, Anthony Annable, [etc.] ...to purchase lands at Saconeesett and places adjacent, on condition they should take in sundry others with them, to have equall interest in the said lands, and to beare equall charges with them"

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 216.

10 June 1661: "Mr. John Howland, Nathaneel Warren, and Benjamine Bartlett are appointed by the Court to procure a workman or workemen to view and serch the bridge at Joanses Riuer ; and whatsoever shalbee found necessary to be done about the repairing thereof, they have power to agree with workmen to doe it, and to be payed by the countrey."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 219.

14 December 1661: "An agreement made between us John howland and John Cooke for our selves and heirs for ever ; Concerning the Range of our lands in Rocky nooke ; finding that upon a west south west line ; that it is very prejudiciall to the said John howland It is therefore now absolutely agreed and Concluded betwixt us the aforesaid John and John as aforesaid that the said Range betwixt us is not Joyntly bounded by us personally ; and soe ever to Remaine ; viz: on the east side of the nooke next the bay neare high water marke there is a heape of stones by us Joyntly made ; and from the said stones the line to stretch to a green whiteoake tree standing about the middle of the said line ; and is from the stones nearest west southwest ; and from the now Dwelling house of the said John howland East northeast nearest ; and from the said whiteoake tree the line to Run unto a Ridoake tree which lyeth from the said whiteoake tree

nearest southwest ; and from the now Dwlling house of the said John howland nearest south southeast ; and from the said Rid oake tree the line Runeth unto a lone Rocke that lyeth on the west side of the nooke upon the meddow side ; and is on the south side of a Creeke that Runeth up to a little Swamp the said Rocke hath an hole in the topp of it ; and beareth from the said Rid oake tree west and by south nearest The land surrounded with the white and Rid oake trees and the Rocke is freely given by mee John Cooke unto the said John howland as aforesaid ; and this writing to bee Recorded according to the usuall manor in the Collonie ; Witnes our hands the Day and yeare above written

The land bounded this agreement made and Signed in the pr'sence of us, Samuell hickes, Willam Nelson, Willam Crow, John Cooke, John howland"
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 16, p. 184-185.

5 February 1665-6: "Capt: Southworth, Leift Morton, Mr John howland, Gorg Watson and Robert ffinney were chosen by the Towne to bee the select men for the Towne of Plymouth ; and Impowered by the towne to call Towne meetings as the occations of the towne may Require and to take Course about Idle and extravigant psons and to graunt lands either upland or meddow as occations of the yeare may Require within our Township"
Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, p. 82.

16 June 1668: "Measured unto Mr John howland and Joseph howland ten acres of land graunted by the Towne unto Jonathan Bosworth att the southeast end of sixty acres hee then lived on att a place comonly Called Colchester the said ten acres is bounded on the Northwest syde with a white oake tree which is one of the bounds of the aforesaid sixty acres and with the brooke when it goes into the said sixty acres on the southeast syde of the said land att the northeast end is bounded with a young white oake and att the southwest end with a great Cleft Rocke haveing a little Rocke standing close to him.
June 13th 1668. p'r William Crow Surveyor.

"New Plymouth. Measured unto Mr John howland fifty acres of upland att a place Comonly Called Colechester and it adjoynes unto the land that the said howland and his son Joseph bought of Jonathan Bosworth being measured and graunted for his Lott belonging to his Winnatuxett Meddow the length therof extending Northeast nearest one halfe easterly from the aforesaid bought land bounded at the Northeast end and southeast syde with a maple tree standing by or neare a spring and on the said syde att the southwest end with a white oake tree neare the meddow ; att the northeast end and northwest syde bounded with a maple tree being on the westward syde of a swamp on the said syde ; and southwest end is marked a white oake neare the line of the aforesaid bought land. June 13th 1668. prme William Crow Surveyor."
Records of the Town of Plymouth, Vol. 1, p. 104.

5 July 1669: The Court haue graunted vnto Anthonie Annible a competent accomodation of land, where Mr John Howland, John Chipman, and Jonathan Sparrow are graunted land lying on Taunton Riuer neare Teticutt ..."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 5, p. 24.

John Howland: 1650

"And seeing it hath pleased Him to give me to see thirty years completed since these beginnings, and that the great works of His providence are to be observed, I have thought it not unworthy my pains to take a view of the decreasings and increasings of these persons and such changes as hath passed over them and theirs in this thirty years ...

"His [John Carver's] servant John Howland married the daughter of John Tilley, Elizabeth, and they are both now living and have ten children, now all living, and their eldest daughter hath four

children; and their second daughter one, all living, and other of their children marriageable. So 15 are come of them."

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Knopf, 1991), p. 443-5.

John Howland: His Death

"The 23th of February, 1672/3, Mr John Howland, Seni'r, of the towne of Plymouth, deceased. Hee was a godly man and an ancient professor in the wayes of Christ; hee liued vntill hee attained aboue eighty yeares in the world. Hee was one of the first comers into this land, and proued a vsefull instrument of good in his place, & was the last man that was left of those that came ouer in the shipp called the May Flower, that liued in Plymouth; hee was with honor interred att the towne of Plymouth on the 25 of February, 1672/3."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 8, p. 34.

John Howland was also a member of what is now known as the First Church in Plymouth. John Howland's participation in church events is noted in 1669 when John Cotton was installed as pastor:

"Elder Thomas Cushman gave the charge & the aged mr John Howland was appointed by the ch[urc]h to Joyne in imposition of hands ..."

His death is also recorded in the Church Records of Plymouth:

"On February, 24: dyed Mr John Howland in his eightieth yeare, he was a good old disciple, & had bin sometime a magistrate here, a plaine-hearted christian"

Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Volume

XXII, Collections: Plymouth Church Records 1620-1859, Part I

(Boston: The Society, 1920), p. 144, 147.

4 March 1672-3: "Att this Court, Mistris Elizabeth Howland, the relict of Mr John Howland, Seni'r, deceased, came into the Court, and did freely giue and surrender vp all her right that shee hath in the lands of the said John Howland, Seni'r, lying and being att Namassakett, in the township of Middleberry, vnto Mr John Gorum, of Barnstable ..."

"Letters of adminnestration was graunted vnto Mistris Elizabeth Howland to adminnester on the estate of Mr John Howland, Seni'r, of Plymouth, late deceased."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 5, p. 108-110.