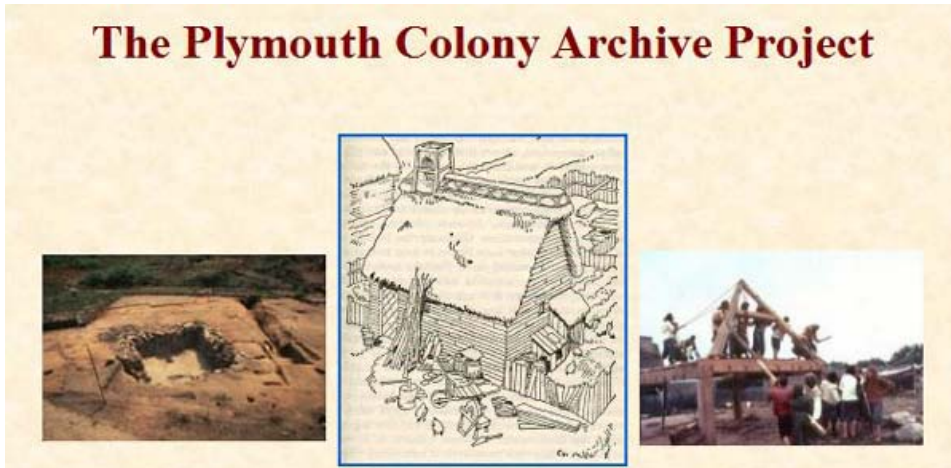


# The Plymouth Colony Archive Project



## Words Paint the Picture

By Ruth Major  
(Tilley/Howland/Mullens/Alden Descendant)

### **John Howland**

*Separatist*

*Plantation Principle*

*Property Owner*

*Undertaker*

*Husband*

*Father*

*Trade House Commander/Entrepreneur*

*Governor's Assistant*

*Farmer*

*Community Leader*

*Militia Captain*

*"Old Comer"*

*Founding Father of Massachusetts and Maine*

For several years I have wondered about our ancestor John Howland and what his life in New England was like. At first I focused on Plymouth's trade house in Maine and was able to paint the post accurately as possible, based on information and photos from Brad Gorham and the archaeological data collected by Leon Cranmer and his team. The resulting painting entitled, "Plymouth Trade House at Cushnoc, 1628," now hangs in our Jabez Howland House in Plymouth. Since then, I have continued my research on John Howland's life and times and want to share my findings, this time painted by others -- in words.

I have kept my comments (**highlighted**) to a minimum. Gail Adams has reminded me that you must back up statements with sources, and primary sources are best. I searched for key information, written in colorful speech from primary

sources and from respected historians, translators and archaeologists. Some of the information will be familiar, some new. My goal is to enhance our common knowledge of John Howland, to lay out the findings chronologically in the voices of John's contemporaries or experts. I believe their words will paint an accurate and honest picture of John Howland as he faced adversity in the New World and grew to be the man we have come to know and admire.

**1620: As a young man, John Howland was a man-servant to John Carver and accompanied him on the “Mayflower” to the New World.**

(William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation, 1620-1647, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison, 441)

This “lustie yonge man” as William Bradford referred to John Howland, was one of the signers of the “Mayflower Compact” and is remembered for holding fast, mid-ocean, “sundry fathomes under water,” to “topsail halyards, which hunge overboard, and rane out at length.” (William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation, J. Franklin Jameson, Editor. 1908. p.94.)

(Note: A “life-line” for sure! As a wooden ship’s master told me, “If you had a top’sl halyard hanging down from any rig, you’d have a big mess on your hands!” (Captain T. A. Canham) It must have been a terrible storm.)

**From the start, John Howland was a leader at Plimoth Plantation. In December of 1620,** John Howland was one of the plantation’s 10 “**Principle Men**” appointed and willing to go out on the first (potentially dangerous) search party. (Mourt’s Relation, ed. Jordan D. Fiore (Plymouth, Mass.; Plymouth Rock Foundation, 1985, p. 27-28.) ([John Howland in Records, Pilgrim Hall Museum Records](#))

**In the spring of 1621, Mr. Carver was chosen Governor, but soon after, both he and his wife died Katherine, presumably leaving John Howland head of the household.**

“In the month of April whilst they were bussie about their seed, their govr (Mr. John Carver) came out of the field very sick, it being a hott day: ... he dyed which was within a few days after...and his wife, being a weak woman, dyed within 5 or 6 weeks after him.”

(William Bradford, History of Plymouth Plantation, ed. J. Franklin Jameson, PH. D., p. 119.)

*(Howland Quarterly Editor’s Note: That Howland became the head of the Carver household is a presumption, but some scholars seem to agree that it is probable)*

**John Howland was a land owner within three years of coming to the New World.**

In the **1623** Division of Land, John Howland was given the land that, “Iye one the South side of the brook to the woodward opposite to the former.” ([John Howland in Records](#))

**Based on the fact that John was given four lots, it is believed that he married Elizabeth Tilley in 1623 when she was 16.** (One lot for himself, one for Elizabeth and two for their children Desire and John. (See 1627 Division of Land)

<http://www.pilgrimhall.org/howlandjohnrecords.htm>)

(“Mayflower Quarterly,” 2/10 and The Pilgrim Migration, by Robert C. Anderson, 2004, p.282.)

*(Howland Quarterly Editor’s Note: Some say the four acres are for John Howland, Elizabeth Tilley, Desire Minter and William Latham – all members of the Carver household. Both Carver’s were deceased and if Howland was the head of the household would be entitled to four acres. There is no record of the Howland/Tilley marriage but given the date of birth for the first two children and the division of land in 1627, it most likely took place between 1623-1625)*

**Following the division of land and allotment of livestock, John Howland continued to be a leader in his community and to strive for economic growth, both for Plymouth Colony and for his family.**

In 1627 - John Howland was chosen to be one of the eight “**undertaker’s**” from Plymouth Colony responsible for payment of Plymouth Plantation’s debt through the profits from trade ventures. They, along with four English partners, “were granted exclusive right’s to the Colony’s trade for six years.”

(Cushnoc: The History and Archaeology of Plymouth Colony Traders on the Kennebec, by Leon Cranmer. p. 20.)

**In 1627 - A further division of land took place at Plymouth and John Howland was one of six community leaders who determined the allotments of land.** “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 in Records](#))

**In 1626-1627, a larger, covered shallop was needed and constructed for the purpose of trading in Maine.**

**1626** - Those working to extend a shallop “tooke one of the biggest of ther shalops and sawed her in the middle, and so lengthened her some 5 or 6 foote, and strengthened her with timbers, and so builte her up, and laid a deck on her; and so made her a conveniente and wholesome vessell...” The extended shallop, was “finished with sayles and anchor the ensuing year.” (1627), and “did them service 7 years after.” (William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation, J. Franklin Jameson, Editor, 1908, p.213.)

**Those at Plymouth constructed a trade house on the Kennebec River.**

**1628**- After receiving a patent for the rights to the Kennebec, “They constructed a house up above in the river in the most convenientest place for trade, and stocked it with goods for that purpose, both for sommer and for winter...”

(Bradford’s History of Plymouth Plantation, J. Franklin Jameson, Editor, 1908, p. 234.)

**When the Plymouth “undertakers” decided to construct the trade houses in Cushnoc and in Aptuxet in 1627, their debt and by the end of 1628 was relatively low.**

“Into these deepe sums had Mr. Allerton rune them in two years, for in the latter end of the year 1628, all their debts did not amount to much more than 400*li*, as was then noted: and now come to so many thousands.” (Bradford’s History Of Plymouth Plantation, Franklin Jameson, Editor, 1923, p.282.)

**1629/30**: a **second** and somewhat **more acceptable patent** was obtained for the trading rights to part of the Kennebec River. This Patent was referred to as the Warwick Patent and the Bradford Patent. Four men from Plymouth, the four most often associated with the trading post, were given **Power of Attorney** with regard to the patent, (Myles Standish, and in his absence, Edward Winslow, John Alden and John Howland.) (Caleb Johnson, “John Howland and the Kennebec Trading House,” “The Howland Quarterly”, Vol.75. No. 2. 2010.)

[Note: The 1629/30 patent is found reprinted in Caleb Johnson's Complete Works of the Mayflower Pilgrims, pp. 1011-1014 and in Lee Cranmer's Cushnoc: The History and Archaeology of Plymouth Colony Traders on the Kennebec, p.113.]

**From 1628-1634, Plymouth's "trade house" (Bradford) on the Kennebec was probably inhabited for extended periods of time throughout the year.** The post may have been inhabited at times during all seasons, in summer and fall when fishing was best, in winter when furs were thickest and indigenous native traders traditionally hunted, and in spring, when they came to Cushnoc to trade pelts for European goods.

"In the month of **January,**" (Father Druillette, a French Jesuit Priest) went with the Indians on their winter hunt to Moosehead Lake, where, "being divided into many bands, they wage war against deer, elk and beaver, and other wild beasts... In the **spring**, "the chase ended, all the savages reassembled upon the banks of this great lake [Moosehead]" (Illustrated History of Kennebec County, Maine; 1625-1799-1892; Edited by Henry D. Kingsbury and Simeon Deyo, Chapter II, "20 History of Kennebec County.")

April was the beginning of the trading season in Maine. John Howland in Records (Hocking affair)

**John Howland was in command of the trading post at Cushnoc for several years, its most profitable years.**

**1628:** "The commander of the post was John Howland, a member of the Plymouth Colony who continued there for several years with a few assistants, known as "the 'family.'" (Pioneers on Maine Rivers, by Wilbur D. Spencer. p. 275.)

"John Howland, agent for the colony at Cushnoc **1630-34...**"  
Pioneers on Maine Rivers, by Wilbur D. Spencer, p. 281.)

"Once established in the Colony, Howland quickly rose to a position of responsibility and respectability... He also served as an Assistant to the governor, as a member of many committees and was placed in charge of the Colony's fur trading post at Kennebec, Maine."

<http://www.pilgrimhall.org/howlandjohn.htm>

**1634** was the year the Hocking Incident took place and John Howland was in command of the Kennebec trading post. John Howland in Records; Mayflower Descendant, 2:10-11.

"The first half of the 1630s were the peak years for Plymouth's fur trade - after that the trade declined rapidly." (Lee Cranmer, Cushnoc: p. 26)

*(Howland Quarterly Editor's Note: The exact number of years Howland was in command or at the Trading Post is a hotly debated topic. The only year with a primary source is 1634 which does not mean that was the only year he was there. For another view please see The Howland Quarterly, Vol. 75, No. 2, June 2010, by Caleb Johnson)*

**Following the “Hocking Affair,” when Mr. Hocking, an intruder and one of John Howland’s men were killed in a skirmish on the Kennebec, Plymouth officials were angered - by the actions of the Bay Colony leaders.**

“The Plymouth Colony leaders were outraged at Boston’s presumption and denied that the Bay Colony had any right to meddle in Maine trade... Though not dissatisfied with the final outcome, Plymouth none the less found Boston’s conduct overbearing and offensive.” (The Pequot War, by Alfred A Cave. p. 79, reference #21, p.198, from “Governor Bradford’s Letterbook”.)

“The court of inquiry found the deceased M. Hocking responsible for provoking his own demise.” (The Pequot War, by Alfred A Cave. p. 79)

**Plymouth traders (John Howland in Maine with his assistants) admitted they had broken the 6th commandment, “Thou shalt not kill,” and determined they would not do it again for such a cause** (defending Plymouth’s fishing/trading rights.)

“Winthrop wrote in his journal that the Plymouth traders ‘acknowledged that they did hold themselves under breach of the sixth commandment’ and therefore in the future resolved not ‘to hazard [a] man’s life for such a cause.’” (The Pequot War, by Alfred A. Cave. p. 79)

**John Howland was not relieved of his duties by Plymouth Colony officials following the “Hocking Affair.” John was appointed and remained an Assistant to the Governor during that time.**

**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 Councill ...” (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; Pilgrim Hall [John Howland in Records](#))

**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 in Records](#)

**3 March 1645-6:** “...the Court is constraigned to nominate and authorize a committee to lett forth the same [land] to the best advantage of the gouernment ... 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. [John Howland in Records](#))

**In the years immediately after 1634, and the Hocking affair, John Howland and his wife Elizabeth attended to the needs of their rapidly expanding household, feeding, clothing and housing their then five or six young children, followed by four more, (10 in all) and indentured servants, increasing their land holdings, clearing and tending fields, cutting hay in the bogs, farming, felling trees, hunting, fishing and building.**

**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. [John Howland in Records](#))

{Note From Eldon Gay: Island Creeke Pond lies in the town of Duxbury near the homesteads of John Howland’s brother Henry, John Alden, and other early Duxbury settlers. }

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. [John Howland in Records](#))

**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. [John Howland in Records](#))

**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. [John Howland in Records](#))

**4 December 1637:** “Fourty acres of lands are graunted to Mr John Howland, lying at the Iland Creeke Pond at the westerne end thereof, w’th the marsh ground that he vseth to mow there.” (Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 70. [John Howland in Records](#))

**John owned land and property in Duxbury as well.**

**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`rmiss & euery of them belonging together w’th the fenceing in & about the said p`rmiss and all his right title and interest of and into the said p`rmiss & 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`rmiss 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  
<http://www.pilgrimhall.org/howlandjohnrecords.htm>)

**In the mid- 1630’s, the decline in Plymouth’s efforts to maintain the Kennebec trading enterprise was due in part to the following factors:**

- 1.) An epidemic which killed many Maine Indian hunters**
- 2.) Plymouth’s efforts to stop the Dutch from monopolizing fur trade on the Connecticut River**
- 3.) The 1737 War With the Pequot Indians of Connecticut**
- 4.) Plymouth’s loss of political power to Boston**

“On **July 12, 1633**, Plymouth officials traveled to Boston to spend a week conferring with their Bay Colony counterparts about matters of common concern. The main item on the agenda, Winthrop noted in his journal, was the establishment of a trading post on the Connecticut River **‘to prevent the Dutch who were about to build one.’**  
(The Pequot War by Alfred A. Cave, p. 80.)

“**In 1634**, (the same year as the ‘Hocking Affair,’) another **epidemic** swept through the Indian population of New England, hitting the Saco and Kennebec Valleys particularly hard. The coastal trade was practically wiped out.” (Lee Cranmer, Cushnoc: p. 26.)

**7 June 1637**: “It is concluded and enacted by the Court, that the colony of New Plymouth shall send forth ayd to assist them of Massachusetts Bay and Conectacutt in their **warrs against the Pequin Indians**, in reveng of the innocent blood of the English w’ch the s’d Pequins have barbarously shed, and refuse to giue satisfacon for...”  
(Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 60-62. [John Howland in Records](#))

**By 1637, John Howland was one of two men responsible for assessing, outfitting, and sending militia from Duxbury to defend both Massachusetts and Connecticut against attacks.**

“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. [John Howland in Records](#))

**In 1637, Plymouth Colony leased the Cushnoc trading enterprise to others.**

“The undertakers declared in 1637 that they would no longer continue the trade and relinquished their monopoly ... But rather than let the trade ‘goe to decay’ the partners continued with it by leasing the trading rights until 1640.

(Cushnoc: The History and Archaeology of Plymouth Colony Traders on the Kennebec, by Leon Cranmer. p. 27.)

**By 1637, Plymouth’s fur trade was in serious decline and those who originally took responsibility for it relinquished it.**

**“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. [John Howland in Records](#))

**On Feb 2, 1638, John Howland purchased, for 82 pounds, the home of John Jenney at Rocky Nook, now Kingston, which was at the time part of Plymouth. The deed for the property included a house, barn, and outbuildings. John and Elizabeth brought up their family at this homestead and lived there for about 35 years until John’s death in 1672/3.**

“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...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...And all his right title and interest 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 meaddowes & p’rmiss w’th all & singuler their app’rtences therevnto belonging vnto the said John Howland his heires and Assignes foreu to the only pper vse and behoofe of him the said John Howland his heires and assignes for euer.” (Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 12, p. 41.[John Howland in Records](#))

**John Howland and the Winslows remained involved in the Cushnoc trading post’s affairs after the original lease at Cushnoc expired and the trading enterprise declined.**

“After the expiration of the first lease (1633-4), trading rights on the Kennebec were relet at decreasing rates, but December 1, 1640, no one had been trading at Cushnoc for more than a year (since the **fall of 1639**) and **the post was deserted.**” (Pioneers on Maine Rivers, Wilber D. Spencer. p. 278.)

**In 1642**, Edward Winslow went to Cushnoc and “made an official inspection of the place.” Thomas Willet was the supervisor at the time. (ibid p. 278.)



**Some interest in the Cushnoc enterprise and trade on the Kennebec was renewed in the 1650s.**

**March 8, 1652-3**, at the suggestion of Bradford, Edward Winslow filed a petition in England which sought further concessions in Maine. It was alleged in the declaration that ‘for many years the plantation had had a grant of a trading place in the river Kennebec, but **not having the whole of the river** under their grant and government, many excesses and wickednesses have been committed, and the benefit for trade and furs, one of the greatest supports of their plantation, had been taken from the inhabitants of New Plymouth.’ The petitioners asked for a **patent for the whole Kennebec region.**

“The request was **granted and May 23, 1654** the straggling Sagadahoc settlers as well as those on the Kennebec submitted to the civil jurisdiction of Plymouth Colony.”  
(Pioneers on Maine Rivers, by Wilbur D. Spencer. p. 278-279.)

**The trading post at Cushnoc was sold in 1661.**

Thomas Brattle “joined Edward Tyng, John Winslow, and Antipas Boyes in purchasing from Plymouth Colony what was known as the Kennebec Purchase.” This transaction terminated Plymouth’s thirty-year attempt to make a profit from the fur trade in Maine and began a proprietorship that in the eighteenth century developed the Kennebec Valley and launched several frontier towns.” (Profits in the Wilderness, by John Frederick Martin, p. 106.)

**John Howland died 23 February, 1672/3 at his homestead in Rocky Nook. He was 70 or 80 years old, depending on which birth date you agree with. (I agree with Caleb Johnson, “About 1599”) John’s remains are interred on “Burial Hill” in Plymouth, MA, and his beautiful headstone sits high on the hill overlooking Plymouth Harbor. It was a gift from our John Howland Society.**

*(Howland Quarterly Editor’s Note: Howland is probably buried on Burial Hill but the exact location is not known. Where the Society placed a headstone is in an area with several other early Howland graves so I imagine it is in the general vicinity. I am working on a story about that...for another time)*

## **Post Script**

### **The John Howland Homestead at Rocky Nook, 1638-1672/3**

The most accurate accounting for the Howland complex at Rocky Nook based on recent archaeological study is as follows:

“Upon acquiring the property in 1638, John Howland occupied the house constructed by John Jenny until he built a more elaborate house (structure 1) about mid-century. **There is no evidence that the house burned.** Whether Joseph Howland ever occupied the house left to him by his father (structure 1) we will not know.” (The Time of Their Lives, James Deetz and Patricia Scott Deetz, p. 244, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2001)

“Oral history states that the house burned down, but archaeologically, we did not find evidence to support that. We re-excavated Structure 1 (dug by Strickland in 1937) and didn’t find any charcoal. If the house had burned, we would have expected to find substantial amounts of charcoal.”

(Derek Wheeler, Research Archaeologist, Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc. [www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org))

### **Plymouth Trading Post at Cushnoc, 1628-1676**

“In 1676, King Phillip’s war resulted in the killing of 53 settlers along the Kennebec River and subsequent abandonment of all homes on the river... All English settlement on the river was destroyed by the Indians and no doubt, if Cushnoc was still standing at the time, it too was burned.” (Lee Cranmer, Cushnoc: p.31.)

*Howland Quarterly Editor’s Note: I would like to thank Ruth for all her hard work and research for this article. She did an excellent job laying out John Howland’s life. There are many more records of buying/selling land and other events in his life but these are many of the more important events. You may learn more about Ruth by visiting her website at: <http://ruthmajor.com/>*

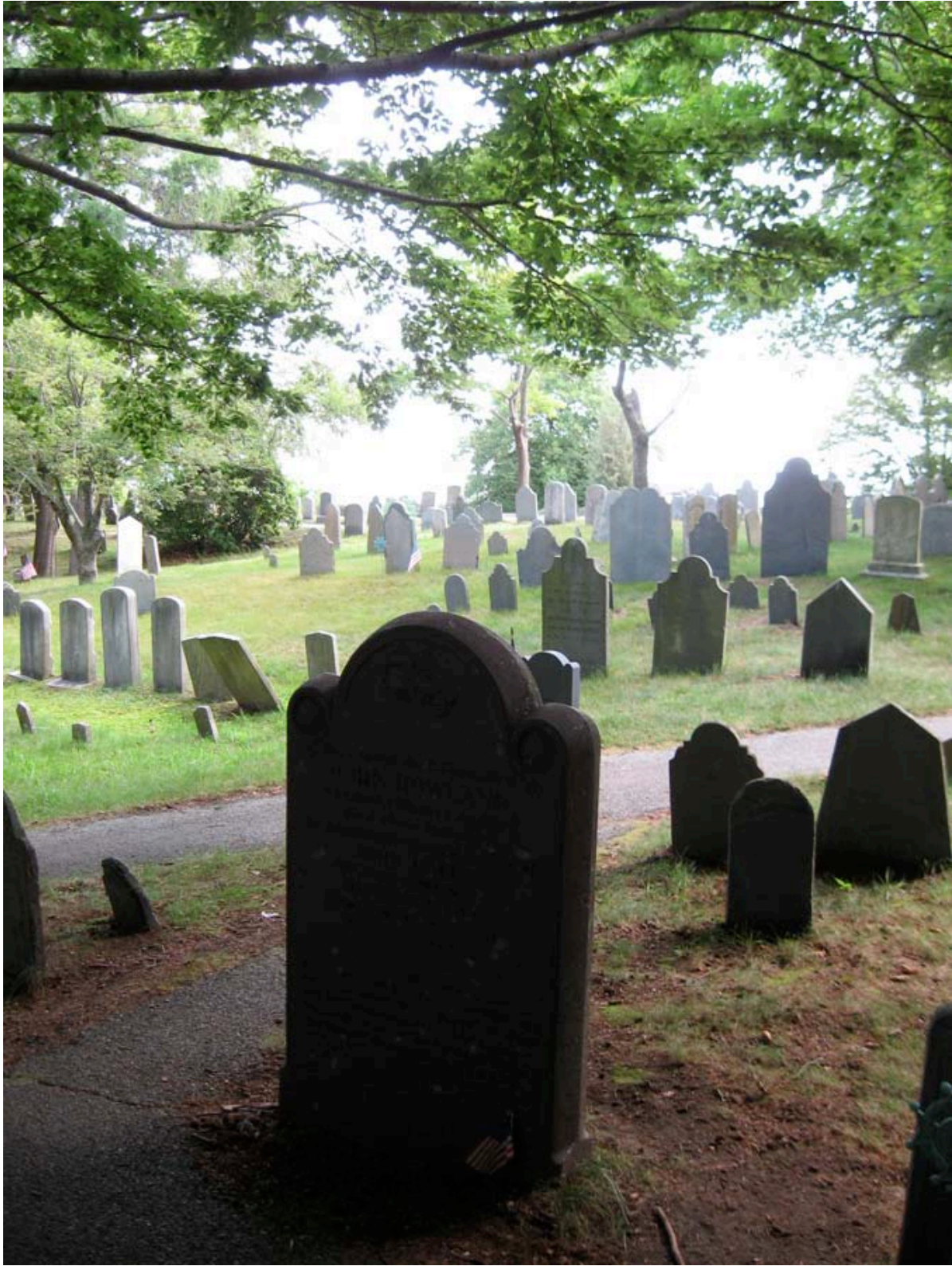


“Plymouth Trade House at Cushnoc, 1628,” 30 x 40, Oil on Canvas, by Ruth Major. This painting is owned by the John Howland Society and exhibited in the Jabez Howland House in Plymouth, MA. The hostesses use it as an educational tool for 17th century life and trade practices. The painting was done in collaboration with archaeologist, Leon Cranmer, author of *Cushnoc: The History and Archaeology of Plymouth Colony Traders on the Kennebec*.



Details of "Plymouth Trade House at Cushnoc, 1628," 30 x 40, Oil on Canvas, by Ruth Major.





John Howland Grave Marker (Photograph by Ruth Major).



John Howland Grave Marker (Photograph by Ruth Major).

This article was originally published in the *Howland Quarterly* Vol. 76, No. 1, 10-19 (March 2011), and reprinted here with permission of the author and *Howland Quarterly*, Gail Adams, editor.