

# Mayflower Descendants in Cape May County

## Pilgrim Descendants

“The Lost Colony of Mayflower Descendants in Cape May County” would be a fitting title for this reverent attempt to show the genealogical connection between the Old Colony of Plymouth, where the author was reared, and the County of Cape May, where the author is now a resident pastor. And in truth for many years the Pilgrim ancestry of our County of Cape May was unknown to the outside world, and long forgotten by the descendants within the County itself. Doubtless, in the early days, letters passed from Hannah Gorham Whilldin of Cape May to her brothers and sisters, of whom there were ten, in the Old Colony, and it is even possible that such letters could be found, as Goodwin says in his Pilgrim Republic of like letters in Plymouth County, in old garrets and out of the way places where they are not looked for. How long the memory of the early home remained, we cannot say, but we can be certain Barnstable, the home of the Gorhams, and Yarmouth, the home of the Whilldins and Eldredges, were not immediately forgotten. As far as the older documents relate, no mention is made of the Plymouth ancestry of the settlement, and by the third generation it is probable no memory of it was left—the settlers were too busy, and perhaps too practical, to think of ancestry.

The several writers upon the subject of the history of Cape May have all overlooked and seemed to have no knowledge of the most interesting fact in our history—a fact of the greatest interest to the student of peoples and their migrations, namely, that the early settlers of the County brought with them the stock of the Pilgrim Fathers of Plymouth and that the majority of the older families are, by intermarriage, of Pilgrim descent. Here in Cape May a grand daughter of

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the Pilgrim John Howland was buried—the grave unknown, probably washed away by the encroaching sea—here she lived and reared her family, and her descendants are many, both here, as well as among the many hundreds who have gone out into other parts of our country—some in distant States, who do not suspect their Pilgrim ancestry.

The most complete published genealogical record of the county is the work of the Rev. Daniel Lawrence Hughes, D. D., entitled “The Divine Covenant Fulfilled in Pious Households, from 1711-1891.” It contains an account of the author’s ancestors on both sides, the several collateral lines of descent, and his family and descendants to the year 1891, yet Dr. Hughes does not show the slightest knowledge of his own Pilgrim ancestry, or that of his wife, whose family history he writes out in detail. Descended from the Pilgrim John Howland in two lines, and his wife in still another, he was utterly unconscious that he was providing for the student and investigator one of the most important contributions to the subject of Pilgrim ancestry ever written. In attempting this work, I acknowledge my great indebtedness to Dr. Hughes’ valuable record. Necessarily all the genealogical material of “The Divine Covenant Fulfilled in Pious Households” is included in this book, the connection with the Pilgrim ancestor being indicated and traced out and, as far as possible, the several lines being brought down to date, making double the material of the original work. In the additional notes at the end of the volume, other names and dates are given, including the notice of the Lawrence Family, as given by Dr. Hughes, although not, as far as known, of Mayflower ancestry. Thus all the genealogical material of Dr. Hughes’ work, now out of print, is included in the records following.

Miss Eleanor Harris, of Philadelphia, has given me valuable assistance in the history of the Whilldin-Edmunds line, and Mrs. Joseph C. Eldredge, of Cold Spring, and Mr. Joseph Linerd Eldredge, of Philadelphia, have given valuable aid. The unpublished work of the late Charles Welsh Edmunds

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has been at my disposal, through my membership in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, where Mr. Edmunds' priceless work is deposited.

Stillwell's "Leamings of Cape May" shows the same lack of information as to the intermarriages of the family the author is describing, and there is no hint that the first Thomas Leaming married into the Pilgrim stock, Hannah, his wife being fourth in descent from John Howland. On this three hundredth anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, when all things pertaining to the Pilgrims and their descendants are in the thought of the whole nation, I express this belief, that there are more descendants of the Mayflower in Cape May County, New Jersey, than in Plymouth County, Massachusetts, the landing place.

The connecting link between the settlement in the Old Colony of Plymouth and the settlement at Cape May is the manuscript known as the "Wast Book" of Colonel John Gorham, written during the Louisburg expedition, 1745, a part of which document first appeared in the January, 1898, number of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, that publication having printed notes of it with other interesting records relating to the Gorham family in the April and October numbers of 1897. In April 1898, the New England Historical and Genealogical Register printed a facsimile of the complete document, which is given in this volume in so far as it pertains to the subject of Mayflower ancestry in Cape May County.

By the Peace of Utrecht in 1713, Cape Breton Island was given to the French, who at great expense had erected a powerful fortress, enclosing and commanding the ample harbor, furnishing a rendezvous for French fleets and privateers—an increasing danger to the New England fishermen on the Banks. The overthrow of the stronghold was proposed in 1745, Governor Shirley of Massachusetts having induced the legislative body of that Colony to undertake the reduction of the threatening fortress.

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A force of some three thousand six hundred men, mostly from Massachusetts under Colonel William Pepperell, accompanied by a fleet of one hundred New England vessels and a British squadron under Commodore Warren, carried the undertaking through to a triumphant conclusion. The investment began April 30, 1745, and the garrison of sixteen hundred men surrendered forty-nine days later. The part of Colonel John Gorham, the author of the "Wast Book," in the capture of Louisburg is related by himself in a letter to Sir William Pepperell, Parson's Life of Pepperell, page 240 (quoted in New England Historical and Genealogical Register, April, 1898).

## Letter of Colonel John Gorham to Sir William Pepperell, and the "Wast Book"

Halifax, July 5, 1751.

"I did your message to our Governor, who since tells me he has wrote your honor. I take the freedom to remind your honor how I came to be in that glorious expedition against Louisburg. I was sent up to recruit from Annapolis Royal, by Governor Mascarene, as that fort was then in great danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, and this expedition being then in embryo, I was importuned by Governor Shirley, and desired by your honor and many more of the council, to raise a number of men, and purchase whale boats and proceed in the expedition, as I did, upon condition of my having the liberty of going home (to England) with your honor's packet in my sloop, as soon as the English flag should be hoisted at Louisburg. But I was disappointed in this, and received no commission in his royal regiment. My father died, and most of his regiment at Louisburg. But I thank you for giving me the Commission of Colonel of my father's regiment and now I solicit a letter of recommendation abroad, and assistance to carry through my memorial to the Legislature of Massachusetts."

In 1752 Colonel Gorham's widow wrote a letter to Governor Cornwallis, dated Boston, June 8, in which she says: "My dearly beloved husband in his loyal service to the King has expended his entire fortune." (Bourne Papers, Harvard College Library.)

While still at Louisburg, in the leisure moments following the victory, Colonel Gorham wrote out the history of his family, beginning with the ancestor who first came from Eng-

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land, and continuing the line down to the marriage of Hannah Gorham and Joseph Whilldin, and their removal to Cape May. The manuscript is entitled:—

The Rise of the Family of Gorhams (Louisburg February 7, 1745-6) taken from Captain George Gorham.

My Great Great Grand Father and family came out of some part of England and lived at Marshfield and had one Son Nam'd aftr him John Gorum, alias Gorham—Which Son aftr Having Marryed With an Howland and had Severall Children Went home to England and Returnd Soone again to his family—

His Father Lived & Died att Marshfield and whats Remarkable He was a Joiner and Made his Coffin himself for Severall Years before he Died and Used to Keep apples in It as a Chest Untill He died & used it.

The Son John that marrid Desire Howland and Went to England Moved from marshfield to Barnstable and Settled there In order to begin a Township afterward Called Barnstable. Built mills—tan fatts etc.

Children—Namly—Sons James—John—Joseph—jabez and Shubell now Living.

Daughters—Elzebeth—maryd a Hallet att Sandwich. Temperance maryd Thomas Baxter an old England man. Liyed at Yarmouth— Desire Gorham—maryd Capt. Haws Yarmouth—having his Leg Cut off Died with it.

Lydia-Gorham Maryd Coll John Thacher.

Hannah—maryd a Wheelding boath movd to Cape-may.

The last line in this extract from Colonel Gorham's "Wast Book" is the connecting link between the Old Colony of Plymouth and Cape May.

*WAST BOOK BELONGING TO JNO GORHAM  
Began in Louisburg August 28th, 1745*

The Rise of Family of Gorhams <sup>Louisburg Feb 27 1715</sup>  
 Capt George Gorham taken from  
 my Great Great Grand Father & Family Come out  
 of some part of England and lived at Marshfield  
 and had ones son named after him John Gorham  
 John Gorham, alias Gorham, -- which son after some  
 & ~~assident~~ <sup>assident</sup> ~~Married~~ <sup>Married</sup> ~~England~~ <sup>England</sup> ~~and they~~  
 Having Married with an Howland and several Children  
 Went home to England and Returned soon again to  
 his Family --  
 His Father lived & died at Marshfield and what's  
 remarkable He was a Joiner and Made his Profession  
 himself for several Year before he died and used to  
 keep apples in it as a Chest until he died & used  
 the son John that married <sup>Desire</sup> Howland and went to England  
 Moved from Marshfield to Barnstable and settled  
 there first to begin a <sup>after which called Barnstable</sup> ~~township~~ <sup>built</sup> Mills - ten father's  
 Children - Names - John James - John Joseph  
 Isaac and Shubell now living <sup>and several</sup>  
 Daughters - Elizabeth - Mary a Hallakatt <sup>and several</sup>  
 Temperance married Thomas Dexter an England man  
 Lived at Barnstable --  
 Desire Gorham married Capt Hays Barnstable --  
 having his Leg Cut off died with it  
 Lydia Gorham Married Col John Thacher  
 Hannah - married a Wheeling boat to mood to  
 Cape May

## **The "Wast Book" of Colonel Gorham**

The "Wast Book" was for many years among the papers of Eben Parsons of Byfield, Massachusetts, who married in May, 1767, Mary Gorham, and became the possession of his son, Gorham Parsons, upon whose death in 1844, the book was handed down through several generations of the family, until it came into the possession of Mr. John Gorham of Cleveland, Ohio. (See New England Historical and Genealogical Register for April, 1898).

The "Wast Book" contains one error—Captain John Gorham was the son of Ralph, not of John, as Colonel John states. This is proved by the record of Plymouth Colony.

The three facts upon which the Pilgrim ancestry of Cape May County rests are stated in this record.

(1.) Captain John Gorham married Desire Howland, daughter of John Howland of the Mayflower. From the records of Plymouth Colony and other sources we find that Desire Howland, daughter of the Pilgrim, was born at Plymouth in 1624, died at Barnstable, Plymouth Colony, 13 October, 1683; married at Plymouth in 1643 to John Gorham. Desire came of a large family, the children of her parents, John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland, being ten in number. There are four John Gorhams named in the "Wast Book," which of course must be distinguished. (1) The Colonel John Gorham of the Louisburg expedition of 1745, the author of the "Wast Book." (2) His great-great-grandfather, whose son was named for him. (3) The son, Captain John Gorham; but here we find a mistake, Captain John Gorham was as has been said the son of Ralph, not of John. (4) John Gorham, the son of Captain Gorham, brother of Hannah Whilldin, of Cape May.

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Colonel Gorham's mistake is not surprising. It is what we find everywhere when an attempt is made to record a family history from memory, or hearsay, which means relying upon the memory of some one else. The Rev. Dr. Daniel Lawrence Hughes makes a similar error when he says his great-grandfather was Jeremiah Eldredge instead of the actual ancestor, Aaron Eldredge, an error which has confused many, and will be referred to later in this introduction. Through a similar error it was formerly supposed that John Howland married Elizabeth, daughter of Governor Carver. The venerable John Howland (descendant of John Howland the Pilgrim) president of the Rhode Island Historical Society, contributed to Thacher's History of Plymouth, published in 1835, an account of his family, beginning in the formal style of the time:—"Unaccountable as it may appear, it is unhappily true that very few of those men who first arrived from England, and commenced the settlement of the New England Colonies, left any memorials for the information of their descendants respecting the place of their birth or residence in the country they left, or any account of those branches of their respective families which they left behind." (Thacher's History of Plymouth, page 129.) The venerable head of the Rhode Island Historical Society then gives for the benefit of posterity the genealogy of his family, stating that his ancestor, the Pilgrim, married Elizabeth, daughter of Governor Carver. When Governor Bradford's manuscript was recovered in 1855, after its disappearance for eighty years and discovery in the Library of the Bishop of London, it was found that John Howland the Pilgrim married Elizabeth, daughter of John Tilley, and not Elizabeth, daughter of the first Pilgrim governor, and we have the interesting illustration of a president of a historical society who did not know his own ancestry. Furthermore, the supposed descendant of the first governor of Plymouth Colony placed a stone at the grave of the Pilgrim with the inscription:—"Here ended the Pilgrimage of John Howland. He married Eliza-

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beth, daughter of Governor Carver," and for a generation the stone stood, a monument to John Howland the Pilgrim, and also a monument to the fact that tombstones do not always tell the truth. President Howland died a year before Bradford's manuscript was recovered, believing himself to be a descendant of Governor John Carver.

Captain John Gorham was baptized at Benefield, Northamptonshire, England, 28 January, 1621, and died of a fever after taking part in King Philip's War, 5 February, 1675-6. A part of the "Wast Book," not included in the fac-simile given, states that, "Captain John Gorham was a Captain of a Company of English and Indians and Went to the Fight of King Philip—or Swamp Narraganset fight and there Was Wounded by having his powder Horn Hit and Split against his Side and Wounded—and Dyed att Swansey."

He married, as has been said, Desire Howland, daughter of John of the Mayflower, in 1643, and had eleven children:—

(1) Desire Gorham, born at Plymouth 20 May, 1644, married, as the "Wast Book" shows, Captain John Haws of Yarmouth, who "having his Leg Cut off Dyed with it;" she was an ancestor of the writer of this volume.

(2) Temperance Gorham, born at Marshfield 5 May, 1646, married Thomas Baxter, "an old England man."

(3) Elizabeth Gorham, born at Marshfield 2 April, 1648, "maryd a Hallett att Sandwich."

(4) James Gorham, born at Marshfield 28 April, 1650.

(5) John Gorham, born at Marshfield 20 February, 1651.

(6) Joseph Gorham, born at Yarmouth 16 February, 1653.

(7) Jabez Gorham, born at Barnstable 16 August, 1656.

(8) Mercy Gorham, born at Barnstable, 20 June, 1658, (name omitted in Wast Book).

(9) Lydia Gorham, born at Barnstable, 11 November, 1661, "maryd Coll John Thacher."

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(10) Hannah Gorham, born at Barnstable 28 November, 1663, "maryd a Wheelding boath movd to Cape-may"—Wast Book. (11. Shubell also mentioned in Wast Book.)

(II.) The marriage of Hannah Gorham and Joseph Whilldin, "Wheelding," in the Wast Book, and so spelled in some of the early Cape May records, was before 1683, and was in Plymouth Colony before the migration to Cape May. The Yarmouth Whilldins were numerous—the name appearing repeatedly in the early history of the town. The "yarmouth Regester for marriages & burialls," preserved in the Plymouth Colony Records, gives under the date of 1647 the name of "henery Wilden married to Eed—the twentyfift of Janu—," and in 1650 in "yarmouth Regester of ye beirthes of children," there is recorded the birth of "Sara Whilden born the twenty one of June." In the same register the next entry is the record of the birth of Nicolas Eldred (Eldredge), August 18, followed by "Sara Eldred (Eldredge) born october the tenth." Undoubtedly the Eldredges of Cape May County as well as the Whilldins are of the same Yarmouth origin. The record of the birth of a daughter to William Eldred is in the Yarmouth Register of Births of the date 1648, "about the sixteenth" of January.

(III) The third fact established by the "Wast Book" makes that manuscript the most important record in the genealogical history of Cape May County. "Hannah (Gorham) maryd a Wheelding boath movd to Cape-may." The exact date of their arrival at Cape and the mode of transportation are unknown, and cannot be determined with certainty—whether they made the journey directly from Yarmouth in the Old Colony of Plymouth, sailing with other families and children, a distance of some three hundred miles, requiring three to five days in the sailing boats of the time; whether they were a part of the preceding migration to Long Island and Connecticut—all this is uncertain. It is certain, however,

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that the whaling industry brought the New England emigrants here. Dr. Maurice Beesley in his "Sketch of the Early History of the County of Cape May" says: "The original settlers or those who were here previous to the year 1700 were principally attracted (as authors heretofore quoted sufficiently corroborate) by the inducements held out by the whale fishery; and Long Island supplied the principal proportion of those who came prior to that time. The names of those who were known to be whalers (collected from the secretary's office, Trenton and Cape May records, given in note) were: Christopher Leamyeng (Leaming) and his son Thomas, Caesar Hopkins, Samuel Matthews, Jonathan Osborne, Nathaniel Short, Cornelius Skellinks, (Schellenger), Henry Stites, Thomas Hand, and his sons John and George, John and Caleb Carman, John Shaw, Thomas Miller, William Stillwell, Humphery Hewes (Hughes), William Mason, John Richardson, Ebenezer Swain, Henry Young; and no doubt many others." The following act was passed by the Assembly of 1639: "Whereas the whaling in Delaware Bay has been in so great a measure invaded by strangers and foreigners, that the greatest part of oyl and bone received and got by that employ, hath been exported out of the Province to the great detriment thereof: Be it enacted, that any one killing a whale or whales in Delaware Bay, or on its shores, to pay the value of one tenth of the oyl to the governor of the Province." This was perhaps the first game law of the County.

In his history of West Jersey, 1698, Gabriel Thomas tells us of the whaling and other industries of the County: "The commodities of Cape May County are oyl and whale bone, of which they make prodigious quantities every year having mightily advanced that great fishery, taking great numbers of whales yearly. This County, for the general part of it, is extraordinary good and proper for the raising of all sorts of cattell, very plentiful here, as cows, horses, sheep and hogs, &c. Likewise, it is well stored with fruits which make very pleasant liquors," (quoted by Dr. Beesley).

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The manuscript of Thomas Leaming, born 9 July, 1674, died 31 December, 1728, married 18 June, 1702, Hannah Whilldin<sup>4</sup> (Hannah Gorham<sup>3</sup>, Desire Howland<sup>2</sup>, John Howland<sup>1</sup>), gives us a still further account of the whaling fishery of the early days:— “In July, 1674, I was born at South Hampton on Long Island. When I was eighteen years of age (1692) I came to Cape May and that winter had a sore fit of the fever and flux. The next summer I went to Philadelphia with my father Christopher who was lame with a withered hand, which held him till his death. The winter following, I went whaling, and we got eight whales, and five of them we drove to the Hoarskills (near Cape Henlopen), and we went there to cut them up, and stayed a month. The first day of May we came home to Cape May, and my father was very sick, and the third day, 1695, departed this life at the house of Shamgar Hand, Then I went to Long Island, stayed that summer and in the winter went whaling again, and got an old cow and a calf. In 1697, I went whaling again and made a great voyage; and in 1697, I worked for John Reeves all summer, and in the winter went whaling again.”

David Pieterse De Vries entered Delaware Bay in 1631, evidently for the purpose of engaging in the occupation of whaling, and left a small colony near Cape Henlopen, on Lewes Creek, naming the settlement Swaanendale. Within a few months the infant colony was destroyed by the Indians, and De Vries, who had been chosen governor or director, found on his return the following year, “only the ruins of the house and its pailsades, half consumed by fire, and here and there the bones of the colonists.” (Bancroft.) He left a portion of his party there while he himself spent some time in Virginia; but concluding that the undertaking would not be a financial success, he carried the latter party back to Holland in 1634. Nevertheless, De Vries found some whales and in his diary makes mention of them: “March 29th, 1633, found that our people had caught seven whales; we could

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have done more if we had good harpoons, for they had struck seventeen fish and only saved seven."

But a more skillful race of followers of the sea were being trained in the difficult and hazardous calling of whale fishing, and to them and their descendants, some of the old stock of the Colony of Plymouth, we owe the discovery of the possibility of a successful prosecution of the occupation in these waters, and the permanent settlement of the County.

As early as the 9th century the Norwegians sailed as far as Greenland in pursuit of whales, and between the 14th and Fifteenth centuries whaling was an important industry of the Bay of Biscay and adjoining waters. We read that whales' tongues were a considerable article of commerce, and in 1261 were subjected to a special tax. Upon the decline of the industry in the Bay of Biscay, the activities of the whalers were transferred to the northern waters—the coast of Spitzbergen becoming the center of an extensive fishery, conducted mainly by the Dutch, who, it is said, supplied all Europe with oil during the latter half of the Seventeenth century, employing in 1680 as many as 260 ships and about 14,000 men in the occupation. From this date the Dutch undertaking began to decline, and the business was then taken up in the Eighteenth century by Great Britain, and encouraged by a generous bounty. In time New England became the center of the occupation.

On April 2nd, 1668, an agreement was entered upon the records of Easthampton binding certain Indians of Montauket in the sum of 10 pounds sterling to accompany a whaling expedition on account of Jacobus Skallenger and others of Easthampton. The Indians engaged "to attend dilligently with all opportunitie for ye killing of whales or other fish, for ye sum of three shillings a day for every Indian: Ye sayd Jacobus Skallenger and partners to furnish all necessarie craft and tackling convenient for ye designe."

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The town of Southampton, Long Island, was settled in 1640, by colonists who came from Lynn, in Massachusetts Bay. Here the ancestors of many of the Cape May County families first came—the name of Jacobus Skallenger mentioned above, Stephen Hand, James Loper and John Foster appearing on the records of the vicinity.

We see, then, that the early history of Cape May is associated with the whaling occupation, and the first settlers came here in pursuit of that calling.

By 1690, Joseph Whilldin and Hannah Gorham his wife with their children were settled here. In 1705, and for three years following, Joseph was sheriff of the County, and repeatedly held the office of justice of the peace—evidently he became a man of prominence from the first.

Unlike the early history of the Pilgrim settlement at Massachusetts, the beginnings of history in Cape May County are involved in obscurity. No chronicler, like Governor Bradford, gives a complete history of the times, and the facts we are able to gather from diaries and records are fragmentary and disconnected. Until 1857 no attempt was made to write a history of the early days of the County, and to Dr. Maurice Beesley we owe the first outline—his careful work is still our authority for the period. Hudson visited Delaware Bay August 28, 1609, “but finding the water shoal, and the channel impeded by bars of sand he did not venture to explore it.” Captain Cornelius Jacobese Mey visited our shores and explored Delaware Bay in 1623, and to him the County of Cape May is indebted for a name. He built Fort Nassau, at Timber Creek, the site of which is now unknown, Dr. Beesley says, but we now know it was near Gloucester. The first record of a transfer of lands from the Indians is of the date 5th of May, 1630, when on behalf of the Dutch West India Company, Samuel Godyn and Samuel Bloemart purchased through agents a tract of land sixteen miles square. The purchase was made of nine resident chiefs. Early settlements of Swedes were made along the shore of the Delaware Bay,

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and Campanius, the Swedish pastor, paid a visit to the scattered members of the flock as early as 1648, making the following entry in his diary: "On the 16 May, 1648 having obtained a proper passport from the Governor and Council, I sailed in the Lord's name, with my family from Elfsborg, in New Sweden on board the ship Swan, and on the 18th came into the bay. The distance between Elfsborg and the bay is nine miles; and on account of the numerous banks in the river, we were three days descending into the bay. On the 19th we came to Cape May."

In 1665, the Dutch under the command of Peter Stuyvesant sailed from New York in seven vessels with six to seven hundred men. Entering the Delaware Bay, they captured all the Swedes, took possession of their forts, and carried the officers and principal men as prisoners to New York. Some afterwards were taken to Holland. The remaining Swedish settlers escaped disturbance because of their obscure condition, and submitted to their conquerors. Dr. Beesley's conjecture that upon the downfall of New Sweden, some of the Swedes, chagrined and mortified at a defeat so bloodless and unexpected, fled from the arbitrary sway of their conquerors, and sought an asylum where they could be free to act for themselves, without restraint or coercion, as the provincial power of New Sweden had perished forever, is hardly sustained by the facts, and the presence of scattered Swedish settlers on these shores antedates Stuyvesant's expedition, as the pastoral visit of Campanius, eight years before, shows.

## Early Titles to Land

By the theory of the English law of the 17th century, the discoveries of the Cabots gave to the British Crown the title to all the lands on the eastern coast of North America, the Dutch claims upon the Hudson and the Delaware never being expressly recognized by the British government. In 1606 the London Plymouth Companies acquired a patent to the territory now included in New Jersey, in which zone either company might claim land, although neither affected or attempted to erect permanent colonization. In 1634, King Charles I granted New Albion, including the territory of New Jersey, to Sir Edmund Ployden, but no permanent settlement was accomplished. The first separation of the land of New Jersey from the English crown was on March 12, 1664, when Charles II granted to his brother James, Duke of York, certain territories in New England and Long Island "lying and being toward the west of Cape Cod," and all the mainland from the west bank of the Connecticut to the east side Delaware Bay. All this territory was to be held in free and common socage as of the manor of East Greenwich, subject to the annual rent of 40 beaver skins should they be demanded. The Duke never came into actual possession of his lands, and while the Dutch were still in possession, executed, on June 23 and 24, 1664, deeds of lease and release to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret by which they acquired "all that tract of land lying and being to the westward of Long Island and Manhitas Island, and bounded on the east part by the main sea and part by Hudson's river, and hath upon the West Delaware Bay or River and to the northward as far as the northermost branch of the said Bay or River of Delaware, which is 41 degrees 40 minutes of latitude, and crosseth over thence in a straight line to Hudson's River in 41 degrees of latitude, which said tract of land is

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hereafter to be called by the name or names of Nova Cesarea or New Jersey. (Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. XXX, The Province of New Jersey, Edwin P. Tanner, Ph. D.)

Through the reconquest of the Dutch and the subsequent return of the territory to the British crown, the title again fell into the hands of the king and was again granted to his brother, the Duke of York, including the land of New Jersey. (Leaming and Spicer—Grants and Concessions). In the meantime Berkeley had sold his interest in New Jersey to two members of the Society of Friends, John Fenwick and Edward Byllenge, for the sum of 1,000 pounds. Carteret received a new conveyance to a portion of the former province of New Jersey, including all the land north of a line drawn from Barnegat to a certain creek on the Delaware next below Rankokas Creek, giving Carteret more than one half of the territory which was again called New Jersey. Both Fenwick and Byllenge lost control, through debt, of the land acquired by them, the interest of the Society of Friends being cared for by William Penn and other friends associated with him.

Carteret then consented to a new division of the province, a line beginning at Little Egg Harbor and running to a point on the Delaware in 41 degrees north latitude having been settled upon as a boundary between the two portions, now called East and West Jersey. The document effecting this division was signed by Carteret and four representatives of the Quakers' interests, and is called the Quintipartite Deed.

Through the powerful influence of William Penn, the doubtful title of the Quaker settlement was finally established by a definite grant from the Duke of York, who thereby relinquished title to the entire territory of New Jersey.

The beginning of proprietary rights in West Jersey, in which division our interest from this time centers, was in March, 1676, when by the "Concessions" a definite arrangement was made by which these rights could be obtained (New Jersey Archives, first series, Vol. I, p. 241, and Columbia Uni-

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versity studies in History, etc., quoted above.) The entire province of West Jersey was divided into 100 equal parts to be known as "properties," and these were to be grouped into ten larger divisions known as "tenths." Repeated divisions and subdivisions of properties followed—the interests of the Quakers predominating, until the time of the death of Byllenge in 1687, when four years later his entire holdings passed by purchase into the hands of Dr. Daniel Coxe, who had been physician to the Queen of Charles II and also to Anne. "He was an energetic and ambitious man whose object at this time was apparently to imitate the achievements of William Penn," (Columbia University Studies in History, etc., vol. XXX, p. 16). Dr. Coxe's ambition went to the extent of claiming full jurisdiction over the whole extent of West Jersey, and on September 5, 1687, he wrote to the proprietors stating that though the concessions might be binding upon others, he had been assured upon the highest legal authority, they were in no way binding upon him. Further, he declared that his power of government was as absolute as that of Penn over Pennsylvania, that he had assumed the title of governor, and would exercise its duties with diligence. Dr. Beesley says of Dr. Coxe and his holdings:—"In April, May, and June, 1691, John Worlidge and John Budd, from Burlington, came down the bay in a vessel, and laid a number of proprietary rights, commencing at Cohansey, and so on to Cape May. They set off the larger portion of this county, consisting of 95,000 acres, to Dr. Daniel Coxe, of London, who had large proprietary rights in West Jersey. This was the first actual proprietary survey made in the county. In the copy of the original draft of these surveys, and of the county of Cape May, made by David Jameison, in 1713, from another made by Lewis Morris, in 1706, (which draft is now in my possession, and was presented by William Griffith, Esq., of Burlington, to Thomas Beesley, of Cape May, in 1812,) Egg Island, near the mouth of Maurice River, is laid off to Thomas Budd, for three hundred acres. Since this survey was made,

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the attrition of the waters has destroyed almost every vestige of it scarcely enough remaining to mark the spot of its former magnitude. Upon this map likewise is laid down Cape May Town, at Town Bank on the Bayshore, the residence of the whalers, consisting of a number of dwellings and a short distance above it we find Dr. Coxe's Hall, with a spire, on Coxhall Creek, a name yet retained by the inhabitants. As no other buildings or improvements are noted on this map, than those above mentioned, it is to be presumed that there were few, if any, existing except them, at this day. The only attraction then was the whale fishery; and the small town of fifteen or twenty houses marked upon this map, upon the shore of Town Bank, in close contiguity, would lead us to infer that those adventurous spirits, who came for that purpose, preferred in the way of their profession to be near each other, and to make common stock in the operations of harpooning, in which, according to Thomas, they seemed to be eminently successful."

Dr. Coxe was a speculator to large extent in colonial land claims, but his attempted operations did not find sympathy in West Jersey. His claim to governmental control over the province met with opposition, and he decided to withdraw from the undertaking in that territory, and in 1691 sold out the greater part of his interest to a company known as the West Jersey Society. By deeds of lease and release, about 20 properties in West Jersey, together with interests in East Jersey and Pennsylvania and New England, passed over to the new investors in consideration of 4800 pounds. Sir Thomas Lane was its first president, Edmund Harrison its vice-president, and Robert Hackshaw treasurer. The purpose of the Society as stated in the articles of agreement was "our mutual benefit, profit, and advantage" and "the better and more orderly managing and improving of the said hereditary government, lands and tenements." The stock was divided into 1600 equal shares, and the holder of two of these was entitled to the privilege of voting at the annual meeting for the

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election of officers. The actual business management rested in the hands of a committee, which had power to sell and dispose of all lands. The operations of the Society were directed from London, and the Quakers were no longer a controlling majority (Columbia University Studies in History, etc., vol. XXX, pages 17, 18).

From this time the new settlers were able to obtain title to the land necessary for the development of the slowly increasing community.

"This sale," says Dr. Beesley, who makes the consideration 9,000 pounds and the date the 20th of January, 1692, "opened a new era for the people of Cape May. As no land titles had been obtained under the old regime of the proprietors, except five conveyances from George Taylor, as agent for Dr. Coxe, the West Jersey Society became the medium through which they could select and locate the choice of the lands, at prices corresponding with the means and wishes of the purchaser."

From Trenton and Cape May records Dr. Beesley gathered the following lists of purchasers of land, mostly previous to 1696, some few (of Dr. Coxe) as early as 1689:—

Acres		Acres	
Christopher Leamyeng	204	William Mason	150
William Jacoks	340	Henry Stites	200
Abigail Pine	200	Cornelius Skellinks	134
Humphrey Hughes	206	John Richardson	124
Samuel Matthews	175	Arthur Cresse	350
Jonathan Osborne	110	Peter Causon	400
Nathaniel Short	200	John Causon	300
Caesar Hoskins	250	John Townsend	640
Shamgar Hand	700	Wm. Golden and Rem Gar-	
Joseph Wheldon (Whilldin)	150	retson	1016
Joseph Houlding	200	William Johnson	436

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Dorothy Hewit _____	340	John Page _____	125
Thomas Hand _____	400	John Parsons _____	315
John Taylor _____	220	William Smith _____	130
John Curwith _____	55	George Taylor _____	175
John Shaw, 2 surveys_____	315	Dennis Lynch _____	300
Timothy Brandreth _____	110	William Whitlock _____	500
John Crawford _____	380	Jacob Spicer, 2 surveys____	1000
Ezekiel Eldridge _____	90	Benjamin Godfrey _____	210
Oliver Russel _____	170	Randal Hewit _____	140
Samuel Crowell _____	226	Elizabeth Carman _____	300
John Carman _____	250	John Reeves _____	100
Thomas Gandy _____	50	Benjamin Hand _____	373
Caleb Carman _____	250	James Stanfield _____	100

The list is of the greatest genealogical interest, and the continuation of the same family names in the County to the present time is remarkable as contrasted with some parts of the County of Plymouth of the Pilgrims, where in many towns the names of the first comers have entirely disappeared. These persons had settled in the County previous to 1700, and the same authority (Dr. Beesley) gives an additional list of those who at that date were residing in the County, many of whom had acquired land by secondary purchase:—

Thomas Leamyeng	Thomas Hand
Alexander Humphries	Joseph Ludlam, Sen.
John Briggs	Anthony Ludlam
Abraham Hand	Jonathan Pine
Shamgar Hand, Jr.	John Wolredge
Benjamin Hand, Jr.	John Jervis
Daniel Johnson	Jonathan Foreman
Oliver Johnson	Thomas Goodwin
William Harwood	Jonathan High
Jacob Dayton	Edward Howell
Richard Haroo	George Crawford
Jonathan Crossle	Joseph Babcock
William Lake	William Dean
Theirs Raynor	Richard Jones
Thomas Matthews	John Howell
William Stillwell	Thomas Stanford
John Cresse	George Noble
Morris Raynor	John Wolly
Joshua Howell	Peter Cartwright
Arthur Cresse, Jr.	Abraham Smith
William Blackburry	John Hubard
Daniel Carman	Thomas Miller

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Joseph Knight	Robert Crosby
John Stillwell	John Fish
John Else	Lubhart Gilbertson
John Steele	Edward Marshall
James Cresse	Thomas Bancroft
William Simpkins	Edward Summis
Thomas Goodwin	Henry Gray
Thomas Clifton	Abraham Weston
Joshua Carman	Thomas Going
William Duboldy	Jonathan Edmunds
James Marshall	Nicholas Martineau
John Baily	John Garlick
William Richardson	Samuel Matthews, Jr.
Thomas Foster	William Shaw
Thomas Hewit	Robert French
George Taylor, Jr.	Jeremiah Miller
John Dennis	Zebulon Sharp
Isaac Hand	William Sharwood
Daniel Hand	John Story
Jeremiah Hand	Richard Townsend
Joseph Hand	Robert Townsend

It is quite possible we have in these lists New England ancestors of hitherto unsuspected interest. Whether "Lubbard Gilbertson" is a corruption of some New England name which appears early in the history of Plymouth County, or whether the name Raynor is of the same family as that of the Plymouth pastor, are matters of speculation which we have not place to consider. Jacob Spicer's son of the same name married first Judith Hughes and second Deborah Hand, widow of Christopher Leaming, who was the son of Thomas and the Hannah Whilldin mentioned below. In the second list, Thomas Leamyeng (Leaming) married Hannah Whilldin<sup>4</sup> (Hannah Gorham<sup>3</sup>, Desire Howland<sup>2</sup>, John Howland<sup>1</sup> the Pilgrim), and had a family of seven children, from whom many in Cape May County are descended.

A John Garlick married Phebe Leaming, daughter of Thomas, and the name "Isacer Crafford (Crawford) appears among the grandchildren of Joseph Whilldin the second.

The first settlement was on the bay, and was called Cape May Town, the site of which, Dr. Beesley says, with adjoin-

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ing land, has been washed away by the attrition of the water. Aaron Leaming the second gives a description of the first village, beginning with an account of his family.

“My father's father, Christopher Leaming, was an Englishman, and came to America in 1670, and landed near or at Boston; thence to East Hampton. There he lived till about the year 1691, and then leaving his family at Long Island, he came himself to Cape May, which, at that time, was a new county, and beginning to settle very fast, and seemed to promise good advantages to the adventurers. Here he went to whaling in the proper season, and at other times worked at the cooper's trade, which was his occupation, and good at this time by reason of the great number of whales caught in those days, made the demand and pay for casks certain. He died of a pleurisie in 1696. His remains were interred at a place called Cape May Town, was situated next above now New England Town Creek, and contained about thirteen houses; but, on the failure of the whale fishery in Delaware Bay, it dwindled into common farms, and the graveyard is on the plantation now owned by Ebenezer Newton. At the first settlement of the county, the chief whaling was in Delaware Bay, and that occasioned the town to be built there, but there has not been one house in that town since my remembrance. In 1734 I saw the graves; Samuel Eldredge showed them to me. They were then about fifty rods from the Bay, and the sand was blown to them. The town was between them and the water. There were some signs of the ruins of houses.”

It is probable the first graves were not marked by stones, and the first village of the settlers of Cape May has long been swallowed up by the encroaching sea.

Before the death of the last survivor of the Pilgrim band descendants of the Mayflower had built homes and established themselves in Cape May County. Mrs. Mary Allerton Cushman,

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the last of the Pilgrims, died in 1699, at the age of 90. She was the wife of Elder Thomas Cushman, the second of the three succeeding ruling elders of the Pilgrim Church, namely, Elder Brewster, Elder Cushman, Elder Faunce, the office becoming extinct in the Pilgrim Church with the death of the last named in 1745, aged 99. Mary Allerton, afterward Mrs. Cushman, was eleven years of age when the Mayflower came to anchor in Plymouth Harbor. Her memory reached back to the first steps in the proposed migration from Holland, and she lived to see the union with Massachusetts Bay in 1692, when the Pilgrim Colony came to an end. By 1685 descendants of the Mayflower were settled on the coast of Maine and in Connecticut. Hannah Gorham, the granddaughter of John Howland with her husband, Joseph Whilldin, had settled in Cape May by 1690, and it is probable this was the most distant point colonized (in part) by Pilgrim descendants at this time.

## Manuscripts, Deeds, Wills and Family Bibles of the Early Days

Joseph Whilddin<sup>4</sup> (Hannah Gorham<sup>3</sup>, Desire Howland<sup>2</sup>, John Howland<sup>1</sup> the Pilgrim) made his will 16 March, 1748, naming his wife, Abigail; sons, Matthew, James and David; daughters, Hannah, Rachel and Loes; also deceased daughter Mercy's children, Ellis and Judith; grandsons, "Memukin" Hughes, Willman, and "Isecar" Crafford. Joseph Whilddin died two days after making the will and the instrument was proved 30 March, 1748, the inventory 26 April, and the accounting 19 May of the same year. Abigail, Joseph's second wife, was not the mother of the children named. His first wife was Mary Wilmon, born 1698, died 8 April, 1743. Hannah married Ellis Hughes, whose will names five children, Ellis, Memucan, Jesse, Constantine, David. The Rev. Daniel Lawrence Hughes, D. D., in an article on the "Hughes of Cape May," states that Ellis Hughes, whom he calls Ellis the first, and Memucan were the sons of John and Martha. The following deed shows that Ellis was the father of Jesse, that Jesse's wife was Mary or Molly, that at the time of the making of the deed, 20 August 1768, the Ellis who was living signed his name Ellis Hughes "Junior," and that Ellis Senior made a will of the date 9 May, 1751. The deed is in the possession of Mrs. Aaron W. Hand, of Cape May, who has kindly placed it in my hands for examination.

### DEED OF JESSE HUGHES AND MARY HIS WIFE TO MEMUCAN HUGHES

"This Indenture made this Twentieth Day of august in the Eighth year of Reign of George the third King of Great Britain and in the year of our Lorde one thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Eight Between Jesse Hughes of the

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County of Cape May of the one part and moley his wife the Same and Memucan Hughes of the other part Witnesseth That the Said Jesse Hughes and moley his wife for and In Consideration of the Sume of Seventy two Pounds in hand paid By the Said Memucan Hughes the Receipt Where of they the said Jesse and his Wife Mary doth her By (acknowledge) themself fully Satisfied—and By these presents doth Grant Bargain and sell Alien Enfeaf and Confirm unto the said Memucan Hughes his heirs and assigns for Eaver All that Messuage tenement which was Given him by the Death of his father Ellis Hughes whose will Baireing Date the Ninth day of May one thousand Seven Hundred and fifty one among other things Gaive unto his son Jesse Forty Eight Acre of upland and mash Which he Bought at Public Sale of the Estate of Levi Eldredge Late of Cape May deceased adjoining his other Land and to Land of James Whilldin Esquire to have and to hold to him the said Jesse his heirs and assigns for Eaver A Recital Being had to the said will Will more fully appear and By Vertue of a write drected to Jeremiah Hand high Sheriff he did take and Sell the Saime forty Eight acres of upland and mash Beginning at James Whilldin corner  
————— Containing forty Eight acres of upland and mash Be the same more or Less With in the Above Boun- derys and the said Jesse haith Sold and the Right and Estate title Interest Claime and Demand Whatsoever of them that the Said Jesse Hughes and mary his Wife of in and to the same premises of in and to Every parte and parcel their of to have and hold unto the Said Memucan Hughes his heirs and assigns for eaver together with all the mines Woodsunder Woods Hunting Hawking Fowling fishing Ways and Waters Watercourses in any ways Belonging their to and also they

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Jesse Hughes Now haith Good right full power and Lawful authority in his own Right to Grant Bargan and sell and Convey the Above premises unto Memucan Hughes his heirs and assigns————

Signed Sealed and Delivered

in the presence of

Silas Hand

Ellis Hughes Junior

Jesse Hughes (seal)

heir

Mary X Hughes (seal)''

marke

The following is an abstract of the will of Ellis Hughes. The contention that Mary, sister of Hannah, was the mother of Ellis Hughes will be further discussed in the genealogical notes at the end of this volume. That Memucan and Ellis Hughes were grandchildren of Joseph Whilldin 2nd and are of Mayflower descent cannot be disputed.

1751, May 16.—Hughes, Ellis, of Cape May, New Jersey, will of. Wife, Hannah. Children—Mecuman, Jesse, Ellis, Constant, David. "The plantation whereon I dwell, Lower Precinct of Cape May, near a place called New England." Witnesses—Mary Ross, Ellen Hand, Jacob Spicer, Nathan Eldredge.

Proved, Feb. 4, 1752.

Inventory—£149-11-5. Appraisors—John Eldredge, and James Whilldin. Cape May Wills, 160 E.

Samuel Eldredge, "Esq., of Cape May, yeoman," made his will 23 September, 1742, mentioning his wife, Mercy Leaming<sup>5</sup>, (Hannah Whilldin<sup>4</sup>, Hannah Gorham<sup>3</sup>, Desire Howland<sup>2</sup>, John Howland<sup>1</sup> the Pilgrim); his eldest son, Samuel, to whom he gives the plantation on which he lived, also one hundred acres of land, "and my negro man York." He further gives direction that ten pounds is to be paid to his

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youngest daughter, Sarah Eldredge, "when she will be 17." To sons Aaron and Jacob large tracts of land are given, and provision is made for an unborn child. Dr. Hughes was mistaken when he stated at the beginning of the Eldredge genealogy that his grandfather, Aaron Eldredge was the son of Jeremiah Eldredge, and the whole genealogy of the family has been upset by this error, copied and repeated by others. The Jeremiah Eldredge whom Dr. Hughes supposed to be his great-grandfather never had children. He was the brother of Aaron Eldredge (1st), and the son of Samuel Eldredge and Mercy Leaming, and married his first cousin, Lydia Leaming. The father of Aaron Eldredge who married Hannah Langdon was Aaron Eldredge 1st and not Jeremiah Eldredge, as stated in Dr. Hughes' work; in fact, Dr. Hughes later acknowledged the error, and in a letter says: "Samuel Eldredge and his wife, Mercy Leaming Eldredge, are said to have come to Cape May with his father-in-law, Thomas Leaming, (date uncertain). Aaron Eldredge, their oldest son, who married Elizabeth Stillwell the daughter of Richard Stillwell, (an elder of Cold Spring Presbyterian Church,) and Sarah Hand Stillwell, was my great-grandfather and not Jeremiah Eldredge, their second son, who married his first cousin Lydia Leaming, the daughter of Thomas Leaming, and had no children."

In another letter Dr. Hughes says: "It is plain—Aaron Eldredge 1st is our great ancestor." He further writes: "Samuel Eldredge, our ancestor married Mercy Leaming. They had three sons—Aaron 1st, Jeremiah (a Colonial Judge, who married his first cousin, Lydia Leaming) and Eli Eldredge." It will be observed that the error of Dr. Hughes in his "Divine Covenant Fulfilled in Pious Households" does not affect the ancestry of the Eldredge family, as far as the Mayflower line is concerned. It does not matter whether the father of Aaron 2nd was Jeremiah, as Dr. Hughes first gave it, or Aaron 1st as corrected by Dr. Hughes' later letter—in either case Aaron 2nd was the grandson of Mercy Leaming,

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but there was no third Aaron, as Dr. Hughes supposed at first.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Irvin Eldredge, of Cape May, I have made an examination of the Eldredge Bible, now in her possession. The date is "London 1773," (first date before the Book of Common Prayer and administration of the Sacraments, bound up with the Bible in the same volume). The Holy Bible is of the date 1783, Clarendon Press, Oxford. The birth of Aaron Eldredge 2nd and that of his wife are the first entries:

"Aaron Eldredge was born the 13th day of June 1771.

"Hannah Eldredge was born December 22nd, 1774.

"Jeremiah Eldredge the first son of Aaron and Hannah Eldredge was born the 14th day of July, Sunday, 1793.

"Aaron Eldredge was born June 6th, Saturday, 1795.

"Aaron Eldredge and Hannah Langdon were married on the 17th day of October 1792. Joseph Eldredge and Ann West were married on the 22nd day of September 1830 —By the Rev. Israel Townsend at Cape May."

Then follows the record of the death of Aaron and Hannah Eldredge:

"Aaron Eldredge departed this life on August 21st, 1819.

"Hannah Eldredge departed this life 6 June 1836."

The earlier entries are evidently made by a quill pen, and are remarkable illustrations of the good penmanship of the forefathers.

The other entries agree with the record given in Dr. Hughes' work, and are included in the genealogical tables of this work.

That Aaron Eldredge, husband of Hannah Langdon, was the son of Aaron the first is proved by a deed of Parsons Leaming, Charlotte (Eldredge) his wife, Aaron Eldredge and Sarah Eldredge to Aaron Edmunds and Lydia

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(Eldredge) his wife, dated August 30, 1792, of which the following is an extract (Recorded at Cape May Court House):—

To all persons to whome these presents shall come or may concern.

Know ye this thirtieth day of August in the year of Our Lord One Thousand seven hundred and Ninety two Between Persons Leaming Charlotte his wife Aaron Eldredge and Sarah Eldredge all of the County of Cape May and State of New Jersey of the one part and Aaron Edmunds and Lydia his wife of the same place of the other part. Whereas Aaron Eldredge of the Lower Precinct of the County of Cape May and Elizabeth his Wife, late deceased, both Dying Intestate, and being Posessed of Lands in their own fee Simple Right Situate in the Lower Precinct of the County aforesaid (to say) the said Aaron Eldredge now Deceased was in his lifetime Posessed of the plantation whereon he lived at the time of his Death Situate at Cold Spring \* \* \* \* which his Heirs agreed mutually to sell, and the said Elizabeth his Wife died Posessed of a Plantation Situate \* \* \* \* all which said Land Descended to their four Children, viz., to Charlotte the wife of Persons Leaming, to Lydia the wife of Aaron Edmunds, to Aaron Eldredge and Sarah Eldredge agreeable to a Law of New Jersey \* \* \* \*.

Aaron Edmunds married first Lydia Eldredge, date of marriage, 25 June, 1790; he married second Sarah, older sister of Lydia, date of marriage, 3 June, 1798.

Mrs. Dr. Meecray has kindly permitted the author to examine the following record from a family Bible in her possession. The Bible was printed in Worcester, Mass., by Isaiah Thomas, and the date is 1801. At the foot of the first page of the New Testament the following note of the death of Thomas Eldredge is written: "Thomas Eldredge died January 29th, A. D. 1849, aged 51 years 8 days old."

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On the following page the record proper begins, with a list of births: "William Eldredge was born November the 1st day, in the year of Our Lord A. D. 1759.

"Judith Corson was born August, the 8th day—A. D. 1759."

"Births of the Children:

"Enoch Eldredge was born on Monday the 22nd day of March, A. D. 1779. Jeremiah Eldredge was born on Saturday, December the 16th, 1780. Mary Eldredge was born on Friday, the 25th day of February, 1785. Hannah Eldredge was born on Saturday, the 20th October—1787. Judith Eldredge was born on Saturday, the 1st day of May—1790. William Eldredge was born on Sunday, the 25 day of December 1791. Elizabeth Eldredge was born May the 21st day—1794. Thomas Eldredge was born January the 21st—1798. John Bennett was born Friday, September the 7th—1798."

On the opposite page of the beginning of St. Matthew's Gospel the following is written: "Harriet W. Eldredge was born Thursday December 20, 1857;" and a note pinned to the page reads: "Married, Hannah, daughter of William and Judith Eldredge to John Mecray, April 2nd, 1805." A note at the side of the same page reads: "Judith Eldredge died August 26, 1831."

As seen from the above record, John Mecray married Hannah Eldredge; 2 April, 1805. James Mecray, their son, married Mary Ann Mulford; their son, James, married 8 November, 1865, Elizabeth Schellenger Hughes, who was born 4 April, 1844, her husband, Dr. James Mecray, was born 21 February, 1842. Elizabeth Schellenger Hughes is a descendant of John Howland, the Pilgrim, the line run-

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ning back to the Mayflower through the generations following: The mother of Elizabeth Schellenger Hughes was Elizabeth Schellenger, born 7 May, 1817, died 14 April, 1844, married 9 March 1839, to Albert Henry Hughes, who was born 8 January, 1812. The last named was the son of Humphrey Hughes and Hetty Williams, the Pilgrim ancestry running back through the mother of Humphrey Hughes, Jane Whilldin (widow of Humphrey Hughes, Sr.), Jane Whilldin<sup>6</sup>, James Whilldin<sup>5</sup>, Joseph Whilldin<sup>4</sup>, Hannah Gorham<sup>3</sup>, Desire Howland<sup>2</sup>, John Howland the Pilgrim.

## Descendants of Priscilla Leaming

On the Sugar Company's property, facing Holly Beach, between Taylor's Creek and Wildwood bridge, beyond Bennett station, near Rio Grande, there is near the meadows, surrounded by the scrubby second growth, a grave and a stone bearing the inscription:—

### MARGARET LEAMING

OCTOBER 22ND, 1764

AGED 24

The mother of Margaret was Priscilla Leaming, whose ancestors run back to the Pilgrim John Howland as follows: Hannah Whilldin<sup>4</sup>, mother of Priscilla, who married the first Thomas Leaming, born at South Hampton, L. I., 9 July, 1674, died 31 December, 1723, Hannah Gorham<sup>3</sup>, Desire Howland<sup>2</sup>, John Howland<sup>1</sup>. Priscilla Leaming, mother of Margaret, married twice, first John Stites, second Jacob Hughes, the ancestor of Dr. Daniel Hughes, and many now living in the county. By her first marriage (to John Stites) she had a daughter, Margaret Stites, who on the 3rd of March, 1763, married Jonathan Leaming, son of Aaron the 2nd, as shown the Diary of Aaron Leaming the 2nd, 1770:—

“My oldest child married March 3rd, 1763, to Margaret Stites, the only child of John and Priscilla Stites (both deceased) by her he had a daughter Priscilla, born the 9th of October, 1764 at 45 minutes past ten o'clock in the night and the 22nd of October, 1764 about 3 in the morning the said Margaret died.”

This is the history of Margaret Leaming, who lies in the neglected grave. How remarkably the names of the early settlers are repeated through the intermarriages of the few families of the first years evidently without injury to the

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stock is shown by the marriage of Margaret's daughter, Priscilla, whose marriage to Humphrey Stites, in three generations, brings the family name back to the starting point.

From an earlier entry in the diary we have the following account of the family of Thomas Leaming:—

“Thomas Leaming married Hannah daughter of Joseph Whilldin the Elder, and had—

Esther, married William Eldredge.

Mercy, married Samuel Eldredge.

Jane, married William Doubleday.

Phebe, married John Garlick.

Priscilla, married first John Stites, and after his death, Jacob Hughes.

Christopher, married Deborah Hand.

Thomas, Mary Elizabeth Leaming.”

But the interesting fact we have discovered is this, that the grandmother of Priscilla, who married Humphrey Stites, married as her second husband Jacob Hughes, the great-grandfather of the Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Hughes. Mrs. Priscilla Hughes, wife of Jacob Hughes, was buried in Cold Spring Cemetery, the inscription on her tomb reading: “Died September 21, 1758, aged 48.” Dr. Hughes reckoned back from the date of her death, making her birth in the year of 1710.

In Thomas Leaming's *Anecdotes*, printed in Stillwell, 432 (Vol. 3) we find the date of the birth of Priscilla, daughter of Thomas and Hannah Leaming, confirming our conclusions as to the identity of the two Priscillas, Priscilla Leaming was born 15 June, 1710, and is the Mrs. Priscilla Hughes who lies in Cold Spring Cemetery, the ancestress of Dr. Hughes and many of that name now living in Cape May County.

Jacob Hughes, son of Jacob and Priscilla Leaming Hughes, born 9 August, 1746, died 20 March, 1796, married Ann Lawrence (daughter of Rev. Daniel Lawrence) who was born in August 1753. She married second Jeremiah Edmonds, and died 27 November, 1817.

## The Wife of Ellis Hughes

The author has received the following note accompanying a copy of the record of the family Bible of Franklin Davenport Edmunds and Ann Marshall Edmunds, his wife:

“Rev. Dr. Howe:—

“The following is written on a fly-leaf between the old and new Testaments of the family Bible of Franklin D. and Ann M. Edmunds, in front of the Registry of ‘Marriages,’ ‘Births,’ and ‘Deaths’; it is written in the hand of my grandfather, Franklin D. Edmunds.

“The Bible is not dated, but was published by Joseph N. Lewis, at Baltimore. After the marriage of Mary Jane Edmunds, daughter of Franklin D. and Ann M. Edmunds, to Joel Cook, Jr., the family records are in the handwriting of the latter, up until the last two years when I have made the entries.

Very truly,

FRANKLIN D. EDMUNDS,  
son of Henry Reeves and Ann (Welsh) Edmunds; grand-  
son of Franklin D. and Ann M. Edmunds.”

The following is the memorandum referred to above:—

“Ellis Hughes departed this life  
on the 16th day of April, 1817,  
in his 72nd year.

His father's name was Ellis  
and his mother's name was  
Hannah, of Welsh descent.

I have understood they  
first settled on Long Island and

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finally on Cape May at 'New  
England'' on what is now better  
known as 'Town Bank.'

Memo of

Thomas H. Hughes,  
grandfather to

F. D. Edmunds."

The involved problem of the genealogical interpretation of the will of Joseph Whilldin<sup>2</sup> will be further discussed in the genealogical notes at the end of this volume; briefly the facts of the record, agreeing with the conclusions of the late Major Charles Welsh Edmunds, whose careful work has been consulted, are as follows, resting upon the foregoing documents:—Joseph Whilldin<sup>4</sup>, (Hannah Gorham<sup>3</sup>, Desire Howland<sup>2</sup>, John Howland<sup>1</sup>), names in his will (see page 27) his daughter Hannah and his grandson Memucan (Memukin) Hughes. The will of Ellis Hughes (page 29) names his wife Hannah and his son Memucan Hughes. Hannah survived her husband, and Ellis, born after Memucan, and expressly called by Rev. Dr. Hughes the brother of Memucan, was also the son of Hannah.

## **The Will of Jacob Hughes, 2nd**

Jacob Hughes 2nd was born on the 9 of August, 1746, and died on the 20 of March, 1796, and was buried in Cold Spring Cemetery. Through the courtesy of Mr. Harry Hughes the writer has been permitted to examine Jacob Hughes' will, an instrument of great interest in confirming the Pilgrim genealogical record. (See page 36.)

The will begins: "The Will of Jacob Hughes of the County of Cape May," and the date is 1795, but the last page is missing. Mention is made of his wife Ann (Lawrence), his sons, Jacob, Jeremiah, James R., Daniel; and of his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. The testator was a man of large wealth and influence in the community, as shown by the disposition of his several plantations, and the evident extent of his household. Except in the case of his son Daniel, the several plantations are given to the son named and his male heirs forever, to daughters and heirs. The following extracts show the unusual wealth of the testator and throw light upon a little known fact in the domestic life of the ancestors:

"I give unto my daughter Mary Hughes a Legacy of One Hundred and Fifty Pounds and my negro wench Patience.

"I give unto my daughter Elizabeth Hughes a Legacy of Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds, and my negro wench Dinah.

"I give unto my son Daniel Hughes One Hundred and Fifty Pounds and my negro boy Julius.

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“I give unto my son Jacob Hughes my negro man Zedebiah (Zebediah).

“I give unto my son James R. Hughes a Legacy of One Hundred and fifty pounds and my negro Toney.”

The mother of Jacob Hughes 2nd was Priscilla Leaming, daughter of Hannah Whilldin<sup>4</sup> (Hannah Gorham<sup>3</sup>, Desire Howland<sup>2</sup>, John Howland<sup>1</sup> the Pilgrim), as already given. (See page 36).

Ann Lawrence, wife of Jacob Hughes 2nd was born in August, 1753, died 27 November, 1817, (tombstone in Cold Spring Cemetery). She was the daughter of the Rev. Daniel Lawrence and his wife Sarah, whose tombstones are in the above named cemetery. A biographical history of the family is given on page 14 of “The Divine Covenant Fulfilled in Pious Households” by the Rev. Daniel Lawrence Hughes, and in the notes following the genealogical record of the family will be given.

## **The Session Book of the Lower Township of Cape May, New Jersey**

On the occasion of the one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the origin and founding of the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, Cape May County, New Jersey, on September 26th, 1889, the Rev. Daniel Lawrence Hughes, who delivered the historical address said:—

“Unfortunately we cannot tell exactly the date of the origin or founding of the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church. It is greatly to be regretted that no church or sessional records can be found for over one-third of a century from its beginning until the installation there of the Rev. Daniel Lawrence in 1754. We are told that the first records of the church available date from this period and that after 1808, the church records were preserved; but where they are with others that have been misplaced or consumed, I know not.”

The historical address was afterwards published with “A Chronological List of Persons Buried at Cold Spring Cemetery”, and in a footnote on the sixth page we read: “On May 12th, 1804, under the pastorate of Rev. David Edwards, he having accepted a call presented to him from the Cape May Church in 1804. The session was composed of Rev. David Edwards and Messrs. Matthew Whilldin, James Whilldin, Robert Edmunds, John Stites, and John Yates, Elders.

“The minutes in this small ‘copy book’ closed with some baptisms on May 19th, 1804, and the session unanimously agreed to procure another book, better fitted for the purpose, which was done, said to be ‘quarto bound with parchment’.

Signed by David Edwards.

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“There has been no knowledge of this ‘quarto bound with parchment,’ since the death of Mr. Edwards in 1813, but that it was faithfully kept is now known, for in the winter of 1903 the workmen who were moving the house formerly occupied by the Rev. Moses Williamson, for forty-four years a beloved pastor of the church, found the book with others, under the eaves where it had lain many years.

“It was my privilege to see this book in February 1904, and recognizing at once its value to the Presbyterian Church, and also to all descended from the people mentioned therein, I made a literal copy of the entire book so it could be published and reach a larger number of those interested.

“Mr. Edwards wrote in a clear flowing hand, no blots nor erasures marring the entire book.

“The entry of marriages and his own signature vary but little until the year 1812, when there is so much variety that one may suspect that the warlike times affected even Session Books.

“He recorded three deaths in December, 1813, including his wife’s on December seventh: and his own death on December thirtieth of the same year, was recorded by another hand.”

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Lawrence Hughes failed in his evident purpose of publishing this valuable genealogical record and did not suspect that the material contained therein was largely a record of Pilgrim descendants in the County, but the importance of the Session Book was recognized by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, and in 1906 published at Boston in the official quarterly magazine of that Society, having been contributed by Mrs. Annie Crowell Rand. It is now for the first time printed in this State.

## The Record of Marriages

DAVID EDWARDS, Pastor.

The record of marriages solemnized by David Edwards in the Lower Township of Cape May. And this record has peculiar reference to those belonging to his own congregation—directly or indirectly, that is to say, that one or the other of the parties belonging to, and resided within the bounds of the congregation.

- 11 Married by D. E. Feby 2nd 1804 Stephen Pierson Jun  
to Elizabeth Reeve.
- 12 March 15th Married Robert Hanley to Ella Bradford  
—D. E.
- 13 May 16th Married Zacheus Ray to Ann Pierson—D. E.
- 14 May 17th Married Joseph Smith to Ronami Shaw—D. E.
- 15 July 30th Married Robert Corgie to Phebe Schellenger  
—D. E.
- 16 August 17th Married George Cresse to Judith Swain  
—D. E.
- 17 Nov 4th Thos Hand (Married) to Laviza Hand—D. E.
- 18 Nov 12th Married Dr. Dl. Hughes to Charlotte Bennet  
—D. E.
- 19 Nov 20th Married Reuben Foster to Nancy Edmunds  
—D. E.
- 20 Nov 21st Married Samuel Thomas to Sarah Swain—D. E.
- 21 Feby 9th, 1805, Married Enoch Eldridge to Elizabeth  
Eldridge—D. E.
- 22 Feb 24th Married Elisha Hand to Phebe Willis—D. E.
- 23 March 18th Married George Hand to Experience Smith  
—D. E.
- 24 April 9th Married John Marcay (sic) to Hannah  
Eldredge—D. E.
- 25 July 3rd 1805 Married Ezra Hand to Mary White—D. E.

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- 26 Nov 30th Married Phillip Bennet to Susannah Weithman  
—D. E.
- 27 Dec 24th Married Elijah Hays to Hannah Foster—D. E.
- 28 Janry 29th Married John Church to Elizabeth Hughes  
—D. E.
- 29 Febry 1st 1806 Married Glasco Wms to Emy Frederick  
—D. E.—Colored People.
- 30 Ditto Married Wm Coachman to Bina Almer—D. E.
- 31 Feb 8th Married Nathl Hand to Rachel Hughes—D. E.
- 32 May 15th Married Caleb Woolson to Nancy Reeve—D. E.
- 33 Jan 28th 1807 Married Dd Russel to Sarah Robinson  
—D. E.
- 34 Feb 13th Married John Shaw to Hannah Wicks—D. E.
- 35 March 10th Married Dd Yates to Elizabeth Hughes  
—D. E.
- 36 Oct 9th Married George Taylor to Naomi Hughes—D. E.
- 37 Nov 28th Married Wm Hughes to Elizabeth Buck—D. E.
- 38 Jan 14th 1808 Married Isaac Vanmeter to Sarah Buck  
—D. E.
- 39 Feb 17th Married Jacob Hand to Laviza Clark—D. E.
- 40 March 22nd Married James Schellinger to Lydia Whill-  
din—D. E.
- 41 April 13th Married Thos. Pierson to Sarah Reeve—D. E.
- 42 April 22nd Married Jacob Epler to Mary Clark—D. E.
- 43 April 26th Married Downs Edmunds to Elizabeth Stil-  
well—D. E.
- 44 June 10th 1808 Married Joseph Ware to Harriet Whill-  
din—D. E.
- 45 Aug 24th Married John Ames to Sarah Connell—D. E.
- 46 Oct 20th Married Dd Reyons to Nancy Almer—D. E.
- 47 Jan 16th 1809 Married Gideon Palmer to Ruth Hand  
—D. E.
- 48 Feb 2nd Married Harvey Teal to Sarah Bacon—D. E.
- 49 March 7th Married Isaac Whilldin to Mahala Edmunds  
—D. Edwards

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

- 50 May 14th Married Stephen Stimpson to Sophia Corgee
- 51 June 18th Married James Thompson to Mary Swain  
—D. Edwards
- 52 Ditto Married David Swain to Elizabeth Corson—D. E.
- 53 Aug 5th Married Saml Richardson to Elizabeth Eldridge  
—D. E.
- 54 Dec 5th Married Lieutenant Joshua Townshend to Sarah  
Schellenger—
- 55 Dec 12th Married by D. Edwards James Townshend to  
Elizabeth Schellenger.
- 56 Dec 17th 1809 Married Jonathan Crawford to Hannah  
Crowell—D. E.
- 57 Feb 10th 1810 Married Capn James Swain to Elizabeth  
Swain—D. E.
- 58 March 10th 1810 Married Enos Schellenger to Eliza Mills  
—D. E.
- 59 April 1st, 1810 Married Peter Humphreys to Marriah Cox  
—people of colour
- 60 May 15th 1810 Married John Ross to Rachel Hand—D. E.
- 61 June 21st 1810 Married Stevens Stimpson to Phebe Cor-  
gee—D. E.
- 62 July 11th 1810 Married Harvey Hand to Catherine Swain  
—D. E.
- 63 Aug 20th 1810 Married Evin Edmonds to Anna Hand  
—D. E.
- 64 Nov 13th 1810 Married Thos Pierson to Nancy Bancroft  
—D. E.
- 65 Nov 20th 1810 Married John Steward to Harriet Hand  
—D. E.
- 66 Dec 18th 1810 Married Robert Parsons to Elizabeth Ed-  
munds—D. E.
- 67 April 8th 1811 Married Thomas Buck to Luzinda Gilbert  
—D. E.
- 68 Sept 24th, 1811, Married Reuben Swain to Sarah Reeds  
(sic)—D. E.

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- 69 March 16th 1812 Married Isaac Smith Esq to Miss Judith Hand—D. E.
- 70 April 8th 1812 Married John Baneroft, Junr to Deborah Kent—D. E.
- 71 May 6th 1812 Married Jacob Corson to Lois Yates—D. E.
- 72 May 18th 1812 Married Jesse Crammer to Sarah Rankins—D. E.
- 73 June 25th Married John Church to Mary Taylor—D. E.
- 74 Married Ezekiel Stevens on Monday the 15th of June 1812 to Lois Higgins—D. E.
- 75 Married Matthew Hand on the 21st of July 1812 to Rhodda Hughes,—D. E.
- 76 Married by the subscriber Rd Schellenger to Hannah Buck on the 24th of Oct 1812.
- 77 Married on the 24th of Dec 1812 Stephen Pierson to Christiana High—D. E.
- 78 Dec 25th 1812 Married John Shaw to Martha Clark—by me David Edwards.
- 79 Married Dec 31st 1812 Richard Edmonds to Lydia Hughes—by me D. E.
- 80 Jan 8th 1813 Married Virgil Davis to Elizabeth Crowell—by me D. E.
- 81 Jan 19th 1813 Married Bat to Emy—people of colour—by me D. E.
- 82 Married Black Abraham to Susan—people of colour—D. E.
- 83 July 11th 1813 Married Thos J. Curtis to Philomela Shaw—D. E.
- 84 Oct 9th 1813 Married John Shaw to Mary Swain—D. E.
- 85 Oct 16th 1813 Married Ellis Hughes Junr to Sarah Higgins—D. E.

Quarto 2nd.

[A continuance of quarto 1st]

The Records of marriages are to be found at the close of this Quarto.

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

The asterisk mark is for the dead. \*

The obelisk for dismissed by certificate. ‡

[P 1] September 24th 1808. The session of the Presbyterian church of Cape May met at the Parsonage house, according to appointment and constituted with prayer.

Members present Messr Matthew Whilldin, John Stites Jr, Robert Edmunds, Elders.

David Edwards, minister.

John Bencroft, Mary Buck, ‡Ann Ways, Elizabeth Edmunds, Martha Thomas, and Abigail Schellenger applied for admission into the church [who being examined were admitted to the sealing Ordinances of the church of Christ.

Concluded with prayer.

[P 2] Martha Thomas and Mary Buck having not been baptized in their infancy were baptized the 1st of October, the day preceding the Sacrament.

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At different Sessions appointed on Nov 12th 1808. March 24th 1809—May 5th 1809—And met at the Parsonage house.

Members present, Matthew Whilldin, John Stites, Robert Edmunds, Elders.

David Edwards.

Constituted with prayer.

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

The following persons applied for admission to the sealing ordinances of the church.

[P 3] Thomas Stillwell	Jane Eldridge ‡
Lavisa Bennet	Levi Eldridge
Judith Hughes	Elizabeth Eldridge
Abigail Bencroft ‡	John Clark
Ester Rankins	Patience Clark *
Rachel Crawford	Laviza Schellenger
Amelia Eldridge	Sarah Ames
Henry Stevens [to be restored]	Philomela Stevens
Abigail Hughes	Charlotte Stites
Tryphena Edmunds	James Smith ‡
George Baker	Tabitha Whilldin ‡
Martha Baker	Abigail Stites
Uriah Hand	Harriet Beyers ‡
Edmund Ireland	Stephen Stimpson
Mary Bennet	Samuel Watson read by
Samuel Eldridge	Catherine Watson letter

[P 4] Who being examined were considered as worthy objects of admission and accordingly were admitted.

Concluded with prayer.

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Thomas Stilwell, Laviza Bennet, Judith Hughes, Abigail Bencroft, Esther Rankins, Rachel Crawford, Uriah Hand, George Baker, Edmund Ireland, Laviza Schellenger, Sarah Ames, Philomela Stevens, James Smith, Charlotte Stites, Abigail Stites, Stephen Stimpson, having not been baptized in their infancy were introduced into the church by the Ordinance of Baptism—16.

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

[P 5] November 20th 1808 were baptized

1 John Edwards	Children of
2 Alexander Edwards	DI & Jane Edwards
3 Elizabeth Bencroft	
4 Phebe Bencroft	
5 Roberts Edmunds Bent	Children of
6 Thos Hand Bencroft	Miller & Abigal Bencroft.
7 Miller Bencroft	
8 Abigail Bencroft	
9 Joseph Ways	
10 William Ways	Children of
11 Harriet Ways	Joseph & Ann Ways.
12 John Ways	
13 Hetty Schellenger	
14 Washington Schellenger	Children of
15 Samuel Schellenger	DI & Abigal Schellenger
16 Daniel Schellenger	
[P6] 17 William Buck	Son of Wm & Mary Buck.
18 Daniel Bencroft	A child of John and Elizabeth Bencroft.

Until April Presbytery 1809.

May 7th 1809, Baptized—

1 John Beyers	Children of
2 Joseph Beyers	——— and Harriet Beyers

May 14th 1809, The sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered and the above name Thos Stilwell, Laviza Bennet were received into the full communion of the Church. Total 32.

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

[P. 7.] June 4th 1809. Were baptized the following children.

3 Elizabeth Eldridge	
4 Levi Eldridge	The children of
5 Ester Eldridge	Levi & Elizabeth Eldridge
6 Jeremiah Edmunds Ege	
7 George Schellenger	A child of
	James & L. Schellenger.
8 Jonathan Whilldin	A child of
	Jon & Tabitha Whilldin.
9 George Bennet	
10 William Bennet	The children of
11 Mary Ann Bennet	John and Mary Bennet.
12 Hannah Stites	
13 Rachel Stites	The children of
14 Wm Stites	Nathan & Charlotte Stites
15 Lois Stites	

[P. 8.] Baptized Sept 10th 1809

16 Richard Smith	
17 Martha Smith	The children of
18 Judith Smith	James Smith.
19 Anna Foster	A child of
	Dd Foster & his wife.
20 Joseph Hays	The children of
21 Hannah Hays	Elijah & Hannah Hays
22 Elizabeth Schellenger	A child of Jn Schellenger

At the different Sessions held on August 4th, October 8 & 13 1809. The following persons applied for admission into the church thro its sealing ordinances.

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

—who being examined were received and admitted into full communion Octr 15th, Viz;

[P 9] 1 Hannah Foster *	20 Judith Cresse
2 Sarah Schellenger	21 Jane Edwards
3 Tabitha Buck	22 Stilwell Shaw
4 Mary Miller	23 Sarah Crowell
5 John Ames *	24 Sarah Smith *
6 Judith Hand	25 Sarah Hand
7 Hannah Hays ‡	26 Sarah Vanmeter
8 Mary Hughes	27 Rebecca Merret
9 Harriet Ware	28 Elizabeth Hand
10 Ester Edmunds	29 Hannah Eldridge
11 Richd Edmunds	30 Martha Stites *
12 Sarah Leaming *	31 Aaron Schellenger
13 Phebe Hand	32 Isaac Vanmeter
14 Daniel Crowell	33 John Crowell
15 Daniel Andrew	34 Fany Schellenger
16 Hannah Andrew	35 Ann Hand
17 Frederick Buck	36 Johanna Bencroft
18 Rebecca Weithman	37 Emi Williams
19 Zereviah Schenck	

[P. 10] The following of the above named persons (adults) were baptized, October 14th 1809.

1 Hannah Foster	13 Elizabeth Hand
2 Ester Edmunds	14 Martha Stites
3 Richard Edmunds	15 Hannah Eldredge
4 Tabitha Buck	16 Isaac Vanmeter
5 Daniel Crowell	17 John Crowell
6 Hannah Andrew	18 Stilwell Shaw
7 Phebe Hand	19 Sarah Smith
8 Zereviah Schenck	20 Sarah Crowell
9 Judith Cresse	21 Sarah Vanmeter
10 Hannah Hays	22 Fany Schellenger
11 Mary Hughes	23 Ann Hand
12 Harriet Ware	24 Johanna Bencroft

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

On the same day October 14th the following children were dedicated unto the Lord by baptism.

[P. 11.] 23 Hannah Stevens

24 Wm Stevens

25 Rebecca Stevens

26 Henry Stevens

27 Daniel Stevens

28 Stilwell Stevens

The children of  
Dl & Philomela Stevens.

29 Margaret Buck

30 Isaac Buck

31 Frederick Buck

32 Hannah Buck

33 Mary Buck

The children of  
Frederick Buck.

34 Art Hughes

35 Mary Ann Hughes

The children of  
Israel & Mary Hughes.

36 Tryphene Edmunds

A child of  
Downs & Elizath Es.

37 David Edwards

A child of  
Dd & Jane Edwards.

38 Richard Crawford

39 Joseph Crawford

The children of  
Richd & Rachel Crawford.

[P 12] On the aforesaid day, October 14th, three ruling elders were also set apart to said office having been chosen and propounded at a suitable season before hand—Namely Stephen Pierson Samuel Watson and Ephriam Kent. On October the 15th, 1809 the Sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered to upwards of 100 communicants.

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

[P. 13] Novr 5th 1809 were baptized

40 Aaron Eldredge	
41 Eliza Eldredge	The children of
42 Joseph Eldredge	Aaron & Hannah Eldredge
43 Wm Eldredge	
44 Stilwell Eldredge	
45 Sarah Schellenger	
46 Mary Schellenger	The children of
47 Judith Schellenger	Aaron Schellenger.
48 Aaron Schellenger	
49 John Vanmeter	A child of
	Isaac & S. Vanmeter.
50 Anna Merret	The children of
51 Elizabeth Merret	John & Rebecca Merret.
52 Zabitha Hand <sup>1</sup>	
53 Zabbiah Hand <sup>3</sup>	The children of
54 Jacob Stites Hand <sup>2</sup>	Thos & Sarrah Hand.

[P. 14] Novr 12th 1809 Were baptized

55 Catherine Hughes Andrew	The children of
56 Jesse Hughes Andrews	Dl & Hannah Andrew
57 Lois Andrews	
58 Mary Ann Taylor	Under the care of H. Ware
59 Saml Fithian Ware	The children of
60 Deborah W. Ware	Joseph & Deborah Ware.
61 James Whildin Ware	
62 Joseph Ware	of Joseph & Harriet Ware.
63 Nathan Moestander	Under the care of
	Dl & Lydia Crowell.

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

Novr 19th 1809

64 Franklin Williams	The children of
65 George W. Williams	Glasco & Emi Williams.

[P. 15] Dec 12th 1809 Baptized.

66 Charlotte Stites	The children of
67 Mary Stites	Thos & Martha Stites.
68 Smith Stites	

Deer 17th 1809

69 John Crowell	A child of
	John & Abigal Crowell.

March 16th 1810

70 Thomas Clark	The children of
71 James B. Clark	John & Patience Clark.

Ending April 1810

Dismissed by letters 5 of those adults received into the communion of the church between April 1809 & 1810—Namely, Harriet Beyers, James Smith, Samuel Eldredge, Jane Eldredge and Tabitha Whilldin, April 1810.

[P. 16] March 30th 1810. The Session met according to appointment at the parsonage-house and was constituted with prayers. Members present

Messrs Matthew Whilldin, John Stites, Robert Edmunds, Stephen Pierson, Samuel Watson, Ephriam Kent, Elders.  
David Edwards, Pastor.

The following applied for admission into the church, thro' its sealing ordinances, Viz, Lydia Corgie, Drusilla Schellenger, Pryssilla Schellenger, Hannah Leaming.

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

[P. 17] Rhoda Teal, Silas Matthias, Eleanor Matthias, Sarah Woolson, Abigail Crowell, Gyls Cox, Rheum (the two last people of color)—All the above were baptized by adult baptism, except Eleanor Matthews & Abigail Crowell who had been baptized in their infancy. And all were returned as above described at the last stated meeting of Presbytery April 1810. Concluded with prayer.

May 3rd 1810. Baptized.

1 Robert Corgie	Children of
2 Anna Sophia Corgie	George Corgie & his wife.

[P. 18] May 15th 1810. Baptized.

3 ————— Weithman	The children of
4 ————— Weithman	Mrs. Weithman.
5 Bennet Weithman	
6 Sarah Williams	A child of
	Glasco & Emi Williams.

May 16th the session met according to appointment and was constituted with prayer.

Members present, Messrs Matthew Whilldin, John Stites, Robert Edmunds, Stephen Piersons, Samuel Watson, Ephriam Kent, Elders.

David Edwards, Pastor.

[P.19] The following persons applied for admission into the church; Viz,

Pena Shaw, Mercy Foster, Debro Isard, Sarah Teal, Lazinda Gilbert, Deborah Borney, Sarah Brown, Richd Croford\*, Joel Brown, Jeremiah Ewing, Joan (a woman of colour)—11. Who were after examination received. Concluded with prayer. 9 of the above were baptized on Saturday, 26,

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY* —

Viz, Deborah Barney, Deborah Isard, Pena Shaw, Lazinda Gilbert, Sarah Brown, Richd Crawford, Joel Brown, Jeremiah Ewing, Joan. In all 9.

The sacrament of the Lord's supper was [P. 20] administered unto the church.

The number of communicants in all, 131.

Between April 1809 & 1810, 5 were dismissed by certificates; Viz, Herriet Beyers, James Smith, Samuel and Jane Eldredge & Tabitha Whildin.

Hannah Hays an absentee!!!

[P. 21] Baptized, May 20th.

7 Ann Eliza Ways	A child of Joseph & Ann Ways.
8 Mary Mills	A child of Ephriam & Mary Mills.
Baptized, June 17th.	
9 Jane White Eldridge	A child of Levi & Elizth Eldredge.
10 Wm Bacon Teal	A child of Harvey & Sarah Teal.
11 Charlotte Swain	of Samuel & Judith Swain
12 George Cresse	of George & Judith Cresse.
13 John Hand Cresse	
14 Art Bencroft	The children of
15 Samuel Swain Bencroft	Miller Bencroft.

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

[P. 22] 16 Wm Matthews

17 Eleanore Matthews

18 Hannah Matthews

19 Thos Matthews

The children of

Silas &amp; Eleanr Matthews.

20 Swain Shaw

21 Mary S. Shaw

22 Parsons E. Shaw

23 William Shawe

The children of

Stillwell and Phena Shaw.

24 Jacob Teal

25 Clarissa Teal

26 Jeremiah Teal

27 David Teal

28 Levi Teal

The children of

Eli and Rhodda Teal.

29 James Hand

A child of Abi Bencroft.

October 1, 1810.

30 Isaac Vanmeter

A child of

Isaac &amp; Sarah Vanmeter.

[P. 23] 31 James Hand

32 Martha Hand

The children of

George &amp; Elith Hand.

33 Charlotte Bennet

A child of

John &amp; Mary Bennet.

October 12, 1810. The session met according to appointment. Members present

Matthew Whilldin John Stites, Robert Edmunds, Stephen Pierson, Ephriam Kent, Samuel Watson, Elders.

David Edwards, Minister, constituted with prayer.

The following persons applied for [P.24] admission into the church, Viz, Miller Bencroft, Elizabeth Church (Daniel Church's wife), Elizabeth Church (John Church's wife, a pilot), and Theti, a black woman, the wife of James Lively. Who after being examined and the session having obtained satisfaction of their experience, knowledge and motives were admitted into full communion of the church on the 21st of

*MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN CAPE MAY COUNTY*

October, being the day appointed for the celebration of the Lord's supper. The Rev. Nathl Irvin assisted on said day. [P. 25] Theti Lively, having not been baptized in her infancy, was introduced into the church privileges thro' the ordinances of baptism on Oct 20th the day preceeding the administration of the Lord's supper.

Novr 13th 1810. Died, Richard Crawford a communicating member of this church. March 15th 1811, The session of this church met according to appointment and constituted with prayer. Members present, Matthew Whilldin, John Stites, Robert Edmunds, Stephen Pierson, Ephriam Kent, David Edwards.

[P. 26] Priscilla Ireland and Thomas Hand applied for admission to the full communion of the church, who after being examined, were accordingly admitted. Concluded with prayer.

Baptized on Sunday March 17th 1811, the following children.

34 Priscilla	A child of Thos & Sarah Hand.
35 Daniel Crowell	A child of Joseph & Harriet Ware.
36 Memuean	A child of Israel & Mary Hughes.
37 George	A child of Aaron & Hannah Eldredge
38 Thomas	A child of Thos & Martha Stites.
39 —————	A child of Frederick & Tabitha Buck.
40 Samuel	
41 Seth	The children of
42 Constant	Aaron and Mary Miller.
43 Mary	

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[P. 27] 44 Sarah	The children of
45 Aaron	Aaron & Mary Miller.
46 Henry	
47 Elizabeth	
48 Sarah	The children of
49 Mary	Henry & Deborah Isard.
50 Isaac	
51 _____	

March 24th 1811. Baptized Thos Hand and Pricilla Ireland, adults; and also the following infants

Susie Bennet *	The children of
Phebe Smith	Jerh & Martha Thomas.
Sarah	
52 Mason	A child of
	John & Abigal Crowell.
[P. 28] 53 Elizabeth	Children of
54 George	Jacob & Nancy Foster.
55 Rachel	
56 Lucy Beamet	Children of
57 Phebe Smith	Jeremiah & Martha Thos.
58 Sarah	

Regularly returned and recorded in the minutes of Presbytery.

April 17th 1811.

May 10th 1811. The Session met according to appointment and constituted with Prayer. Members present, Robert Edmunds, Stephen Pierson, Samuel Watson, Elders, & D. Edwards, Minister. Absent Matthew Whilldin, John Stites & Ephriam Kent.

[P. 29] The following named persons applied for admission into the church, namely, Naomi Taylor, Mary Hand,

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and Hannah Leaming, the last one named although having been examined & received about a year past, Did not come forward to the Lord's supper now applied de Novo and is admitted as well as the other two to the ordinances of God's house. Concluded with prayer.

Adjourned to meet the 18th of May, at the Parsonage-house, at 10 O'Clock, A. M.

[P. 30] May 18th 1811. Met according to adjournment. Present, Messrs. John Stites, Robert Edwards, Stephen Piersons, Ephrim Kent & Samuel Watson, Elders and David Edwards, pastor.

Rachel Hughes and Elizabeth Hughes, applied for admission into the church which was granted.

May 19th 1812. Were baptized, Mary Hand & Elizabeth Hughes. 2 were baptized and also,

1 Alfred	The children of
2 Ruth	Henry Pierson & wife.
[P. 31] 3 _____	Children of
4 _____	Dnl and Elizabeth Church.
5 _____	
6 Abigal Stites	A child of
	Downs & Elizth Edmunds.
7 Charlotte	A child of
	Nathn & Charlotte Stites.
July 21st Baptized by Revd James K. Birch.	
8 Anna Robertson Edwards	A child of
	E. D. & Jane Edwards.
9 Rhodda Corgie	Children of St Stimpson &
10 Robert Corgie Stimpson	Phebe, his wife.
11 Nancy	Children of
12 Joanna	James & Theter Lively.

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[P. 32] Patience Clark, a member of this church died. Lios Higgins, a member of a long standing in this church died triumphant in the Lord on the 5th of Sept 1811. John Ames also a member of this church was removed from time into eternity on the 15th of Sept 1811. Went to bed as well as usual, and in one hour after any indisposition was perceived, was a breathless corpse !!!

Baptized the same fall John Macray and Mrs. Lydia Hughes.

[P. 33] Sept 25th 1811. Died Sarah Smith, the consort of Isaac Smith, Esqr. a member of this church. Be ye therefore ready for the hour ye know not, the Son of man cometh. May the memory of this worthy woman be perserved.

Andrew Higgins, the husband of Lois Higgins whose de-  
cease is noticed on the opposite page, died the 26th of Dec 1811,  
and left after him 3 protectless daughters. A member in full  
communion. Sarah Leaming, died a member of this church.

[P. 34] October 29th 1811. The Session of this church  
met according to appointment. Members present, Matthew  
Whilldin, Robert Edmunds, Stephen Pierson and John Stites,  
Elders & David Edwards, pastor.

The following persons applied for admission into the priv-  
ileges of the church, which upon an examination was granted,  
namely, Judith Eldredge, Hannah Macray, Nancy Foster.

April 5th 1812. Baptized.

13 Franklin Lively	A child of James & Hetty Lively.
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13 children, 5 adults—18. Reported to Presbytery.

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[P. 35] May 8th 1812 The Session met according to appointment. Members present Matthew Whilldin, Rbt Edmunds, Stephen Pierson and E. D. Edwards.

The following persons applied for admission into the full communion of the church. Mrss Jeremiah Ewing Senr and Clarissa Foster.

May 17th Baptized, Clarissa Foster. 1 adult, Clarissa Foster.

Infants.

1 Jeremiah Eldredge Foster	Children of
2 James Macray	John & Hannah Macray.

[P. 36] 3 _____	Children of
4 _____	John & Elizth Church.
5 _____	

10 O'clock A. M. May 23rd 1812. The Session met at the Parsonage-house agreeably to adjournment when and where Mrs. Jacob Foster applied for admission into the church, which was granted. On the ensuing day, May 24th the Sacrament at the Lord's supper was administered to about a hundred & fifty communicants in the presence of a numerous assembly.

[P. 37] Died June the 10th 1812. Mary Pierson the consort of Stephen Pierson, Senr.

The Session of the church met agreeably to appointment, the 30th of October 1812. The following persons applied for admission into the full communion of the church, Viz; Lydia Hughes, Eliza Richardson, and Rhodda Hand, to be readmitted after being a wandering Methodist.

In the month of October 1812, Martha Stites, a communicating member of this church, departed this life. Also Hannah Foster, 71 years old, died on the 29th October, 1812.

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[P. 38] Adjourned to meet at the Parsonage house on the 6th of Novr 1812, 10 o'clock when and where Elijah Eldredge, Martha Hand applied for admission into the church, which request was granted. Elizabeth Richardson and Mrs. Hand were baptized on the date above written and also 6th, Isaac Merret, a child of Jn & Rebecca Merret.

Elijah Eldredge, departed this life on the 11th of Novr 1812, after a standing of only 5 days in the fellowship of the church.

[P. 39] Departed this life Henry Stephens, a member of this church in full communion, a sensible and worthy man.

May 13th 1813. Died Major Joseph Hughes, who altho' not a member of this church, was a useful member of the congregation having been a member of the corporation for a great many years, and a clerk and treasurer for seven years past, which office he discharged with fidelity and satisfaction to the church and congregation. Dd Edwards.

[P. 40] May 14th 1813. The Session of this church met according to appointment. Members present, Matthew Whilldin, John Stites, Robert Edmunds, Ephraim Kent, Stephen Pierson, Elders, Dd Edwards, Pastor.

May 14th, 1813. Applied for admission into the full communion of the church the following persons, Viz; Isaac Whilldin, Mahalla Whilldin, Amelia Ewing, Elizath Parsons, Catherine Schenck, and Judith Eldredge.

[P. 41] May 22nd 1813. The Session met agreeably to adjournment at the Parsonage house; members present as before. The following persons applied for church privileges, namely, David Hughes, Phebe Stimpson, William Hughes, Elizath Eldredge, Mary Bennet. In all 16. Mary Bennet,

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By certificate 6—22. Sarah Mulford, Hannah Thos. Last fall 5—27. Ruenni Foster, Hannah Crawford.

[P. 42] May 22nd 1813. Baptized the following,

Named adults.	Infants on the same day.
Amelia Ewing	7 Albert Henry, Cap Huhges.
Elizabeth Parsons	8 Johanna Edmunds
Wm Hughes	9 Sarah Hand
Mary Bennet	10 Jane Edmunds
Nancy Bennet	11 Silas Matthews
Sarah Mulford	12 Caroline Hughes
Catherine Schenck	14 Ester Wms Hughes
Reuemmi Foster	15 Aaron Teal
Hannah Thos	16
Judith Eldridge	

[P. 43] December 7th 1813. Died, Jane Edwards the consort of David Edwards, the pastor of the church to which this session book belongs, aged 34, abruptly taken from time into eternity, leaving behind her a disconsolate husband and 4 helpless children!!! A communicating member—102.

December 10th died David Whilldin a promising young man, (the son of Matthew Whilldin, Esqr. a ruling elder of this church for many years) indisposed. Alas! the brittle thread of life.

[P. 44] Died on the 17th Charlotte Hughes, the consort of Dr Daniel Hughes, in the bloom of life, aged 33.

Received into full communion since the Death of Rev. David Edwards, Sarah Edmunds, October 1814.

Jesse Hughes	
Hannah Hughes	May 19th Day, 1815.
Sarah Hughes	
Aaron Teal, Senr	

Children Bin Baptized.

Lot Buck, sun of Th Buck.

Thomas Stites, sun of T. Hand.

Elizabeth Edmunds, Dautor of T. Hand.

Elizabeth Parsons. The above was baptized by the Rev. Mr Reeves.

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[P. 45] Thursday, August 24th 1815. The Session met agreeably to appointment at the house of Daniel Crowell and constituted with prayer by George W. Janvier, Pastor of the church in Pitts Grove, who being appointed to supply the church here on the ensuing Sabbath moderated the meeting of session.

Thomas Ross, Jonathan Crawford & Aaron Shaw, applied for admission into the full communion of the church & the two last for Baptism. And on Saturday Aug 26th 1815, the said Jonathan Crawford & Aaron Shaw were upon profession of the Faith baptized by the said George W. Janvier, after devine service. At the same time the following children were baptized, Viz;

[P. 46] Jonathan, William and Elizabeth the three infant children of Jonathan Crawford above named and Hannah his wife. Also John Schellinger infant child of John Schellinger and Catharine his wife.

[P. 47] The sessional Records.

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## John Howland, the Pilgrim

The general history of the men who founded Plymouth Colony in New England begins with the events described in Bradford's manuscript History of Plymouth Plantation, pages 11 to 14, ending with the words, "Seeing they could no longer continue in yt condition they resolved to get over into Holland as they could which was in ye year 1607 & 1608." The sufferings of the Pilgrims in England is a part of general history which it is not the purpose of this introduction to discuss. The general history of the colony comes to an end with the last meeting of the Board of Assistants, April 15, 1692. From this time Plymouth is merged with Massachusetts Bay and ceases to exist as an independent colony.

The word "Pilgrim" is often used to include the early settlers who came to Plymouth in the three ships, the Mayflower, 1620, the Fortune, 1621, and the Ann, 1623. The word is here limited to those men, women and children who came in the Mayflower in 1620. The high resolution of the colony of Separatists from the Church of England to leave Holland and seek a home for themselves and their children in the New World made them pilgrims from that time.

The history of the Pilgrim Fathers properly begins early in 1620 with the visit to the band of Separatists at Leyden of Mr. Thomas Weston, of London, who offered to furnish funds for the proposed migration to the New World. Mr. Weston associated with him some seventy merchants who, as a matter of speculation, offered to take stock at ten pounds per share for the purpose of promoting the enterprise. (Bradford's Manuscript, page 54.) This offer made the migration possible.

The account of the life at Scrooby, the escape to Amsterdam and the removal to Leyden, is preliminary to the great drama whose epic period is the subject of this short outline. Briefly, the introductory facts are as follows: In 1607 a large

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ship was hired by members of the congregation at Scrooby, which was to take a portion of the company to Holland. They embarked during the night, but in spite of caution, were forced to return, and their leaders were imprisoned. (Bradford, pages 16, 17.) In the spring of 1608 another attempt was made; Bradford and a few others landed at Flushing at this time. By August, 1608, the whole company were in Amsterdam. After about a year, according to Bradford (nine months, actually), one hundred removed to Leyden, "A fair & bewtifull citie and of sweete situation, but made more famous by ye Universitie."

Their pastor, John Robinson, was honored by the University, and the congregation grew to "not much fewer than three hundred communicants." (Young's Chronicles; but Goodwin, in *The Pilgrim Republic*, page 35, where Young is quoted, places the number at not less than five hundred.) It is remarkable that neither Bradford, Mourt or other manuscripts mention the exact place of residence in England. That this was Scrooby was the discovery of the Rev. Joseph Hunter, whose work, "*The Founders of New Plymouth*," was published in 1849.

The Pilgrims did not leave Holland because of persecution or disability, civil or religious. Under the wise policy of Prince Maurice, civil and religious liberty was granted all, and the salaries of the clergy of all religions were paid in part by the state, with the exception of the Separatists, whom the Dutch ignored out of deference to the King of England, while personally respecting and honoring them. (Bradford, page 26; Goodwin, page 34.)

The agreement between the Merchant Adventurers and the expectant Pilgrims was signed July 1, O. S., 1620, and was on the basis of an equal division of the colony's possessions at the end of seven years between the Adventurers and the colonists. This included all the property of the colonists, houses and garden plots, and the hardness of the terms imposed was immediately a cause of controversy. As a matter

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of fact, this division was never made; in 1627 the colonists bought out the Adventurers. (Bradford, pages 56, 57, 75.)

On or near the last day of July, the younger and stronger of the congregation left Leyden for Delft-Haven, the place of embarkation. Robinson's famous sermon on the text, Ezra 8:21, was preached at this time; "And there at the river by Ahava I proclaimed a fast, that we might humble ourselves before our God, and seek of him a right way for us, and for all our children, and all our substance." So affecting was the scene of the parting of old and young, of husbands and wives, that the people of Delft-Haven held it in memory twenty-five years later. (Goodwin, page 59.)

"So they lefte yt goodly & pleasante citie which had been ther resting place near 12 years; but they knew they pilgrims & looked not much on those things, but lift up their eyes to ye heavens, their dearest cuntrie and quieted their spirits."

The next morning the colonists embarked on the Speedwell, a ship of sixty tons burden, and proceeded to Southampton. Here Weston, representing the Adventurers, declined to make further advances, alleging that the Pilgrims had broken their agreement in insisting upon the right to retain their houses and garden plots at the division, and to have a part of the working days of the week for their own improvement. This was a part of the original contract which, without the consent of the Pilgrims, had been modified by their agent, Thomas Cushman. They remained at Southampton one week for the purpose of securing the necessary stores, but, Weston having failed them, it was necessary to sell provisions brought from Holland to obtain money for port dues. On August 15, the emigrants proceeded in two ships, the Speedwell and the Mayflower, the latter of one hundred and eighty tons burden. When four days out of port, the Speedwell began to leak, and it was decided that the two ships should put in at Dartmouth, where sixteen days were spent in making repairs.

Again the voyage was begun, but when three hundred miles beyond Lands End, the Speedwell showed such signs of

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unseaworthiness that the passengers were compelled to abandon hope of continuing the voyage with her, and both ships returned to harbor at Plymouth—the exact date is not known. The Speedwell returned to her owners at London, carrying with her eighteen of her thirty passengers, who now abandoned the undertaking, through fear or discontent, among them Robert Cushman. The twelve remaining were added to the ninety of the Mayflower list, making the total number one hundred and two at the time of sailing. The final departure of the Mayflower was on September 16, O. S. The ship came to anchor at Cape Cod sixty-seven days after the final embarking at Plymouth, ninety-nine days after leaving Southampton, one hundred and thirty-three days after leaving Delft-Haven, and it was many months before the last of the passengers were released from the ship.

A great storm beset the ship in the middle of the ocean, and it is at this time that the chronicler of the voyage, William Bradford, afterward governor of the colony, makes the first mention of John Howland the Pilgrim:—

“After they had injoyed faire winds and weather for a season, they were incountred many times with crosse winds, and mette with many feirce stormes, with which ye shipe was shroudly shaken, and her upper works made very leakie; and one of the maine beames in ye mid ships was bowed & craked, which put them in some fear that ye shipe could not be able to perform ye vioage. So some of ye cheefe of ye company, perceiueing ye mariners to feare ye suffisencie of ye shipe, as it appeared by their mutterings, they entred into serious consultation with ye mr. & other officers of ye ship, to consider in time of ye danger; and rather to returne then to cast them selves into a desperate & inevitable perill. And truly ther was great distraction & differance of opinion amongst ye mariners them selves; faine would they doe what could be done for their wages sake, (being now half the seas over), and on ye other hand they were loath to hazard their lives too desperately. But in examening of all opinions, the mr. & others affirmed they knew ye ship to be stronge & firme under water; and for the buckling of ye maine beame, ther was a great iron scrue ye passengers brought out of Holland, which would raise ye beame into his place; ye which being done, the carpenter & mr. affirmed that with a post put under it, set firme in ye lower deck, & otherways bounde, he would make it sufficiente. And as for ye decks & uper workes they would calke them as well as they could, and though with ye workeing of ye ship they would not longe keep

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stanch, yet ther would otherwise be in no great danger, if they did not overpress her with sails. So they comited them selves to ye will of God, & resolved to proseeede.

In sundrie of these stormes the winds were so feirce, & ye seas so high, as they could not beare a knote of saile, but were forced to hull, for divorce days together. And in one of them, as they thus lay at hull, in a mighty storme, a lustie yonge man (called John Howland) coming upon some occasion above ye gratings, was, with a seele of ye shipe throwne into ye sea; but it pleased God yt he caught hould of ye top-saile halliards, which hunge over board, & rane out at length; yet he held his hould (though he was sundrie fadomes under water) till he was hald up by ye same rope to ye brime of ye water, and then with a boat hooke & other means got into ye shipe againe, & his life saved; and though he was something ill with it, yet he lived many years after, and became a probtable member both in church & commone wealthe."

This is the first mention in history of the Pilgrim John Howland.

## **The Number and Character of the Mayflower Passengers**

The number of passengers is variously given—one hundred, one hundred and one, one hundred and two. In computing the number who are entitled to be enrolled in the list of Mayflower passengers, it must be remembered that five of those who sailed on the Mayflower did not land at Plymouth, and two landed at Plymouth who did not sail in the Mayflower. The ages of the passengers, as far as known, and the dates of death have been collected from records, deeds, wills, depositions and other documents, and are given in Goodwin, page 183. It was a migration of families—men, women and children—and not a mere fishing expedition or commercial undertaking, as some have attempted to show. (Note, quoting error of Hutchinson in Young, page 81.) Jones, captain of the ship, and the crew were no part of the Pilgrim band; but two seamen, under contract to remain a year, were included in the number of colonists. Of the total number, eighteen were women; nine were servants, probably minors; thirty-three were children, of whom twenty-two were boys and eleven girls. Two dogs—a spaniel and a mastiff—were brought over in the ship. For genealogical qualifications, William Batten, who died on the voyage; Oceanus Hopkins, who was born on the voyage; Peregrine White, who was born while the ship lay at anchor at Cape Cod; as well as the two seamen, who were considered by the Pilgrims a part of the colony (Bradford, page 534), must be included in the list of Mayflower passengers.

Prince, in his *New England Chronology*, makes the mistake of excluding the two seamen, while rightly retaining the names of William Batten and Oceanus Hopkins, thus making the number one hundred and one. Young says the servant of

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William White, who died at Cape Cod before the ship came into Plymouth Harbor, should be excluded, making the number one hundred (page 122, where quotation from Prince is given in note). This further error is repeated by Russell in *Pilgrim Memorials*, page 43, and is widely copied in popular histories.

All of the histories, including Bradford's list, omit the name of Peregrine White, yet the child of Pilgrim parents, born on the Mayflower, is surely entitled to be included in the Pilgrim band. Furthermore, the two seamen who undertook the hardships of the first year, as well as the unfortunate servant of William White, are in the number of those "who for an undefiled conscience and the love of pure Christianity, first left their native and pleasant Land and encountered the Toils and Hazards of the tumultuous Ocean." (Prince.) The exact number of the Pilgrims is, therefore, one hundred and four, and the full list of names is given in *Pilgrim Notes and Queries*, a publication of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. It is interesting to note that of the whole number of one hundred and four, only fifty are known to have left descendants.

The high character of the Pilgrims is shown by their ability to attract to their number men of the type of Standish, who was not a member of the congregation, and the aristocratic Winslow. During the sojourn at Leyden, the townsmen gave them credit freely and were never defrauded. Their peaceful, upright life was publicly acknowledged by the magistrates of the city. They lived after the pattern of the early church, and the Communion was celebrated each Sabbath. (Bradford, pages 26, 27 and 194—in answer to objections to Pilgrims.)

## **Manuscripts and Sources of Pilgrim History for the First Two Years and Preceding Events**

(1) First of all in importance is Bradford's Manuscript History of Plymouth Plantation, sometimes called "The Log of the Mayflower."

The autographic manuscript, the most precious historical document in the United States, is in the Massachusetts State Library at Boston, and with proper care may be seen by the historical investigator. The famous manuscript is a folio 7½ inches by 12, backed with parchment. In scope, the history extends from 1602 to 1646, with a list of Mayflower passengers at the end, under the date 1650.

Prince, in his New England Chronology, thus describes the manuscript: "The manuscripts I have opportunity to search (1736)—In folio, Gov. Bradford's History of Plimouth People and Colony from 1602 to 1646, in 270 pages, with some account of the Increase of those who came over with Him, from 1620 to 1650, and all in his own handwriting." Preface to Chronology, Vol. I, vi, Boston, 1736. (Copy in library of author of this volume.)

Governor Hutchinson also used the manuscript in the preparation of the second volume of his history, 1657. From that time the manuscript disappeared; no trace of it was left behind, and after nearly a century, to the despair of investigators, the mystery was as great as ever. In 1855, a lover of antiquities, John Wingate Thornton, while lounging in a London book-shop, chanced to pick up a book by Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford, published in 1844, entitled, History of the Episcopal Church in America. On page 56 he found a reference to a "Ms. History of the Plantation of Plymouth,—in Fulham Library." Thus the long-lost manuscript was recovered and identified from the description of Prince. The stu-

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dent of Pilgrim history must begin by mastering this manuscript—a task of some years. A working copy has been issued by the State of Massachusetts (1898), and the references in this introduction are to this official copy. On a fly-leaf there is written by the grandson of the Governor:

“This book was rit by govener William Bradford and given to his son mager (major) William Bradford and by him to his son mager John Bradford. rit by me Samuel bradford, mach 20, 1705.”

The great struggle of the early colonists was not against Indians, famine or “muskeetos” (Bradford, 196), but against illiteracy. The Bradford of 1705 was inferior in education to the Bradford of 1620.

(2) Mourt’s Relation, including:

(a) A daily journal of Governor Bradford extending from November 20, 1620, to April 2, 1621.

(b) Four narratives of Winslow, detailing chief events of the colony to the return of the Fortune, December 21, 1621. This ship carried the manuscript to England, where it was published in 1622. From the signature in the preface, “G. Mourt” (probably George Morton), the publication took its name.

(3) Winslow’s Brief Narration, containing Robinson’s Farewell Address to the Pilgrims, printed in London, 1646.

These documents, Mourt’s Relation and Winslow’s Brief Narration, are included in Dr. Young’s *Chronicles of the Pilgrims*, 1844. The references are to this collection. Thus, Mourt, page 209, refers to page 209 in Young’s *Chronicles*.

(4) Plymouth Colony Records, printed by the State of Massachusetts.

(5) Bradford’s Letter Book, a fragment of a collection of letters pertaining to the early days of the colony. This complete collection was at one time in the possession of Prince. Lost at the time of the Revolution (probably), a fragment was found in a grocer’s shop in Halifax, N. S., in 1793. The text used here is that of the *Massachusetts His-*

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torical Society Collections, Vol. III, 1794, pages 27 to 76, the whole reprinted by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1906.

(6) Founders of New Plymouth, by Rev. Joseph Hunter, 1849. This work identifies the place of residence of the Pilgrims in England.

(7) Pilgrim Memorials and Guide to Plymouth, Russell, 1855 (containing errors as to the number of Mayflower passengers).

(8) History of Plymouth, Thacher, 2nd edition, 1835, (containing errors as to the ancestry of John Howland).

(9) Goodwin's Pilgrim Republic. This is the most complete work on the subject to the date of the death of the author, 1884 (published 1888). The fact that Goodwin admits that he has found nothing new makes him absolutely reliable. He was of Pilgrim stock, and had access to all the sources.

(10) The publication of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, edited by G. E. Bowman. Here new matter has been found, and the editor is the greatest authority on the subject of Pilgrim history and genealogy. The twenty volumes of the publication, *The Pilgrim Descendant*, have been used in preparing this introduction. *Pilgrim Notes and Queries* is an additional publication of this society.

## Cape Cod and Plymouth

The Mayflower came to anchor at what is now called Provincetown, Cape Cod, on Saturday, November 21 (11, O. S.), 1620. On the next day the Sabbath was observed on the ship, and on Monday the life in the New World began. Some, in their eagerness to land, jumped from the landing boat into the shallow surf, and contracted coughs and colds, laying the foundation for the severe mortality of the following winter. On Saturday preceding, the Compact had been signed, forming the Pilgrim band into a body politic, with authority to make and execute laws. That this coast was not the intended destination of the colonists, and the legal significance of the compact, are matters of general history, too lengthy to be discussed here. John Carver, who had been appointed governor of the ship, continued, by election, in that office.

Immediately an exploring expedition was organized, and now appears for the first time one of the most famous of the Pilgrim band, Captain Myles Standish. That, having a commission under Elizabeth, he had served in Flanders, and was of distinguished family, so much we know, but how he became associated with the Pilgrims is unknown. He was not, and never was, a member of the Pilgrim church. (Young, page 125, note.) Under the command of Standish, with Bradford, Stephen Hopkins and Edward Tilley, brother of John Tilley, as advisers, the exploring party set out on Wednesday, November 25. When they had proceeded along the shore a mile, they saw five or six Indians with a dog. Seeing the party, the Indians whistled the dog after them, and ran away. The explorers followed ten miles, without overtaking them, but the next day made a discovery which saved the life of the colony, namely, a cellar of Indian corn. The ethical question in-

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volved in appropriating a part of the corn will be referred to later. A number of Indian graves were also found.

On the return the next day, Bradford became entangled in a deer trap baited with acorns. The identification of the trap by Hopkins, and his knowledge of Indian skill, confirms the belief that he had been in this part of the world before. (Goodwin, pages 76, 435.) Thomas Snell Hopkins, Esq., governor general of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, said to the author: "Hopkins was an all-round adventurer." He was a lay minister of the Church of England; a leader of insurrection; a member of Governor Bradford's Council; a trusted ambassador to Massasoit; a tavern-keeper who more than once was fined, as shown by the colony records.

Ten days later, a large boat called the shallop had been put together, and in company with the ship's long boat, began the second exploring expedition under the command of Jones, the captain of the ship, with nine sailors. A cold, blustering snowstorm compelled them to put in at East Harbor and wade ashore in the freezing weather. "Some of our people that are dead took the original of their death here." (Mourt.)

The following day, Tuesday, December 8, the party rejoined the shallop and sailed to the mouth of a supposed river, which they named Cold Harbor. Landing here, the party proceeded along the shore, the shallop following. (The vagueness of Bradford in writing here, "4 or 5 miles," is especially illustrated in the list of Mayflower passengers given at the end of his manuscript, page 534: "These being about a hundred sowls, came over in the first ship." He did not take the pains to add up his own figures.)

For supper that night they had three fat geese and six ducks, which they ate with "soldiers' stomachs." The next day they revisited the corn cellar, now covered with snow and ice, and Bradford notes the "spetiall providence of God and great mercie to this poore people," that the corn was discovered before the fall of snow. (Bradford, 100.)

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Those who were sick from exposure were now sent back in the shallop. The remaining members, eighteen in number, made an interesting discovery the next day. A grave, covered by a board carved and painted with three tynes like a crown, containing the body of a blond-haired man and the bones of a little child, a little bow and child's trinkets. The wreck of a French ship on this coast four years before, and the probable marriage of a European and a native, seem to explain this grave. (Bradford, 119.)

After finding an Indian village, the party returned to the ship. The question was now discussed as to whether they should settle here or make further explorations. It was necessary to make haste, as disease had broken out in the narrow quarters of the ship; Edward Thompson, servant of William White, had died, and the orphan boy Jasper Moore, adopted by the Pilgrims, was dying. The question of the future site of the colony was settled by Robert Coppin, pilot of the Mayflower, who said that there was a good harbor and a navigable river on the other headland, and that he had been there.

The third exploring party set out in the shallop late in the afternoon of Wednesday, December 16. The party was composed of eighteen men, and the names are given by Mourt: Captain Myles Standish, Governor Carver, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Tilley, Edward Tilley and John Howland, all from the Leyden congregation, the following from those who joined the emigrants in England: Richard Warren, Stephen Hopkins, Edward Doty. John Allerton and Thomas English, seamen of the Pilgrims, accompanied them, and Jones sent six of his men, including Clark, the mate, Coppin, the pilot, and the master-gunner of the Mayflower. This is the second time the name of John Howland appears.

It was such freezing weather that the spray froze on their garments, making them like coats of iron. Edward Tilley, brother of John, became insensible from cold; the master-gunner was sick unto death (neither survived the winter). The shallop put in at the place afterward known as

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First Encounter, on the interior side where the arm of the Cape begins to widen out. Here they saw ten or twelve Indians busy over the carcass of a grampus which had washed up on the shore. That night, as they were encamped, they saw the fires of Indian camps. Thursday, December 17, the bay and adjoining land were explored, and graves and corn fields discovered. Their rest that night was disturbed by great cries, which at the time they supposed to be wolves.

Friday, December 18, was a memorable day in Pilgrim history. The party rose at 5, beginning the day with the accustomed prayer. Some, fearing no danger, carried their arms down to the boat, but at breakfast the strange cry of the night was heard again, and the men ran to recover their arms. Then occurred the First Encounter with the Indians, in which no one was killed, and the Indians ran away, badly frightened. Some of the arrows shot by the Indians were tipped with eagles' claws, some with deers' horn, and some with brass. Bradford relates, as an incident of the affray, that a certain lusty Indian was wounded by one of the Pilgrims. Edward Johnson, in his *Wonder-working Providence* (London, 1624), says that "the lustie man" was the stoutest sachem of the Indians, and that Standish struck the sachem's right arm with a shot from his fowling piece. (Young, 158, note.) There is no authority for this statement, and it is an illustration of the mythological element which early appears in Pilgrim history. They now set sail for the good harbor, which Coppin assured them they would reach before night, "of which they were glad, for it begane to be foule weather," and by afternoon a heavy storm of snow and rain settled upon them; the rudder was broken by the force of the waves, and two men had difficulty in steering with a "cupple of oares." As the night drew on, Pilot Coppin bade them be of good cheer, for he saw the harbor. The storm increasing, the mast fell down, broken in three pieces, but having the flood tide with them, they rowed by the point, called the Gurnet, at the entrance to Plymouth Harbor. As they rounded the

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point, Pilot Coppin exclaimed: "Ye Lord be mercifull unto us, for my eyes never saw yt place before." With difficulty, as it became dark, they rowed along the stretch between the Gurnet and Saquish, coming to safe anchorage between the latter point and Clark's Island, where later, as it grew colder, the whole company spent the night around the watch fire.

Saturday, December 19, was a "faire sunshining day," and as the equipment was wet, the day was spent in drying and putting it in order. "And this being the last day of ye weeke they prepared to keepe ye Sabbath." (Bradford.) "On the Sabbth day we rested." (Mourt.)

Monday (Forefathers' Day) was the date of the landing on Plymouth Rock, yet no account of the exact place and manner of landing is given in the original manuscripts. The words of Bradford and Mourt are the same, Bradford in the third person, Mourt in the first.

"On Munday they sounded ye harbor, and founde it fitt for shipping; and marched into ye land, & found diverse cornfeilds, & litle runing brooks, a place (as they supposed) fitt for situation; at least it was ye best they could find, and ye season, & their present necessitie, made them glad to accepte of it. So they returned to their shipp againe with this news to ye rest of their people. which did much comforte their harts."

To Elder Faunce, the third and last of the ruling elders, we owe the identification of the famous rock as the landing place of the Pilgrims. It must be understood that the popular belief that the passengers landed directly from the ship on the rock is mistaken; there was no general landing of the passengers in a body. The Mayflower never came nearer than one and one-half miles of the rock, and the landing was made in the shallop, or the ship's boat. Only eighteen in all landed on the rock on Forefathers' Day, and the names are given in Mourt. (See ante, page 78). Elder Faunce was born in 1646, and was ten years old when Standish died, eleven when Bradford died, forty-one when Alden died, fifty-three when Mary Allerton died, in 1699, at the age of ninety. John Soule and Priscilla Mullins were still living when he

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was approaching early manhood. In 1741, four years before his death at the age of ninety-nine, hearing that a wharf was to be built over the rock, Elder Faunce visited the landing place for the last time, and in the presence of many hearers declared that to his certain knowledge this was the rock on which the Pilgrims landed. (Russell, page 31.)

Five days later the Mayflower came to anchor in the harbor.

### **THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR 1620.**

From November 21, the date of the landing on the rock, the time was spent in making explorations of the new country, and on December 30, urged on by the increasing sickness, it was decided by common vote to settle at the "first place." On Monday following the work of the settlement was under way, and Mourt takes pains to tell us that, though it was Christmas Day by the old reckoning, "no man rested that day." Bradford says: "And ye 25 begane to erecte ye first house for common use and to receive them and their goods." The workmen returned to the ship at night, and it was many days before the little village was ready for the families of the infant colony. Not only was there no general landing of men, women and children, as represented in popular pictures, but some died on the ship, among others William Mullins, father of Priscilla, who afterward married John Alden, and this fact, established by the recent discovery of Mr. Mullin's will, is an important contribution to our knowledge of Pilgrim history. (Mayflower Descendants, 1916, Vol. 1, page 13.)

On the first page of the Colony Records a plan of the settlement, with the explanation, "The meersteads & garden plotes of those which came first layd out 1620", gives us an idea of the location and form of the village. Seven houses only are indicated on this plan, and it is possible that the loss by death was so great that the families into which the

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colony was divided were, for a time, crowded into these buildings, little more than one-story huts.

From now on to the end of the year (March 24, O. S.) the history of the settlement is a record of sickness and death, with exploring parties intervening. January 11, Degory Priest, died; January 18, Mr. Cristopher Martin, treasurer of the ship, died; February 9, Rose, wife of Myles Standish, died; March 5, Mr. William White, Mr. William Mullins, "with two more," died; "March 5, dies Mary, the wife of Mr. Isaac Allerton." Two—Dorothy, wife of Bradford, and James Chilton—had died at the Cape, in addition to those already mentioned. "This month 17 of our number died."

With distressing lack of particularity, Bradford tells us that in two or three months half of the company died, through exposure and "seurvie," so that "ther died sometimes 2 or 3 of a day." So severe was the infection that at the time of greatest distress but six or seven sound persons were left to care for the sick, of whom Standish and Elder Brewster are honorably mentioned by both Bradford and Mourt.

The first building completed was the Common House, a structure twenty feet square, in which religious services were held Sunday, January 31. Saturday, February 17, Standish was elected captain, with authority of command, a step hastened by the appearance of Indians, on one occasion twelve in number.

The winter on the whole was mild, and the great mortality was due to lack of proper food rather than to extreme cold. Monday, January 8, was a fair day, and during the week Bradford worked out of doors without discomfort. The next week began with rain, but Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were bright and mild "as it had been April." A week later it was fair (but cold and frosty weather in the middle of February). On March 3 the wind was south, and toward noon it was warm and fair, and the birds sang in the woods most pleasantly. In the afternoon it thundered. (Mourt, 181.)

## **The First Communication With the Indians**

On March 26, "a fair warm day," the Pilgrims were astonished at the appearance of a naked Indian, who fearlessly walked down the street of the new village, and addressed the colonists in broken English, one word being unmistakable in its import, "Welcome." The "Welcome Englishmen" of the text books is an amplification of history, and without authority. The story of Samoset, the sachem who had learned English from fishermen on the Maine coast, and the subsequent visit of Massasoit, Grand Sachem of the Pokanoket Confederacy, is narrated in all works on American history. There are three overlooked facts in this first friendly contact of the colonists and the Indians which throw side-lights upon the Pilgrims and their character.

(1) Samoset appears abruptly in Pilgrim history, and after eight days as abruptly disappears, yet his service to the colonists as the peaceful intermediary between them and the Sachem Massasoit was of incalculable value. He was, nevertheless, a troublesome visitor, fond of eating and strong drink, and when the night of March 26 came, his entertainers were in a quandary as to the disposal of their guest, in whom they did not have full confidence. An attempt was made to row out to the ship with him, but the roughness of the sea made this impossible. Finally, he was foisted upon the hospitality of Stephen Hopkins. This is further evidence that Hopkins had previous experience with the Indians. (See ante, page 77.)

(2) Samoset brought to the colonists an Indian, Tisquantum, who henceforth becomes their adviser and spends the two remaining years of his life with them, hoping as he dies to go to the white man's heaven. He was the sole surviving member of the Patuxets that formerly inhabited the territory of Plymouth, and had been enticed on shipboard by Captain Hunt, 1614, who intended to sell him with divers

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others into slavery. (Bradford, 116.) Somehow he "got away for England, and was entertained by a marchant in London—& lastly brought hither to into these parts by one Mr. Dermer." The great plague of 1617-18 had swept away his tribe, and he readily joined the white men whom he found, after six years, occupying the territory of his race. He who most of all might object to the presence of the Pilgrims became their friend from the first.

(3) The legal significance of the famous treaty between Massasoit and the Pilgrims cannot be discussed here. The important fact for us to note is that the treaty was not forced upon the Indians, but was a willing alliance made by Massasoit to assure the assistance of the colonists for himself and his tribes, decimated by the plague, under him, against the Narragansetts, his powerful and dangerous neighbors. (Bradford, 123-4.)

The first year of Pilgrim history ends with the re-election of Governor Carver on March 23, O. S. Here the first division of Mourt's Relations, written by Governor Bradford, ends. The remainder of this important collection of documents is the work of Winslow. On the very last day of the year, Mrs. Winslow died—the year ending by Old Style reckoning on March 24th.

*THE SECOND YEAR.*

Winslow's Relations, contained in Mourt down to December 21, 1621, and Bradford, are our authorities for this period, "yet many historians neglect their writings, and by relying on Morton, Hubbard, Baylies, Bancroft, the second Freeman, and so on, are led into many errors of detail, and the setting forth of an amount of false history that is amazing." (Goodwin, 127.)

Cushman's Discourse in Young and one letter in Bradford's Letter Book, are documents to be read in connection with this year.

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The Mayflower sailed out of Plymouth Harbor April 5, O. S., and reached England in thirty-one days. In spite of sickness and hardship, no one of the colonists accepted the opportunity to return.

"The spring now approaching, it pleased God the mortalitie begane to cease amongst them, and ye sick and lame recovered apace, which put as it were new life into them; though they had borne their sadd affliction with much patience and contedness, as I thinke any people could doe." (Bradford, 119.)

After the departure of the ship, with the aid of Tisquantum, who showed them the use of fish as a fertilizer, twenty acres of corn were planted. Governor Carver, being taken suddenly ill as he was working in the fields, died shortly after, and Bradford was elected governor, in which office he continued, with the exception of five years, until his death thirty-five years later.

We now come to the important embassy of Winslow and Hopkins to Massasoit in the early summer. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the alliance between the colonists and the Indians, to pay for the corn taken at the Cape, and furthermore, the Pilgrims had the prudence to wish to know more of their ally, his strength and influence. The two Pilgrims, with Tisquantum as guide, set out on Tuesday, July 3. (Goodwin, 163, for date, the Mss. do not agree.) The first resting place was Nemasket, now Middleborough, a distance of fifteen miles, where they were cordially entertained by the natives. Proceeding, the night was spent at the present village of Titicut, four or five miles further on. The next afternoon they arrived at Massasoit's principal seat, Sowams, the present Warren, Rhode Island, a distance of forty miles from Plymouth.

The ambassadors saluted the great chief with the discharge of their muskets, and having been received by him, declared the purpose of their visit. Massasoit was requested to find the owner of the corn taken from the cellar in the

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Cape, and to make known the wish of the Pilgrims to make payment. An exchange of seed corn was also arranged, and an agreement to open up trade in skins.

The Sachem arrayed himself in the red coat and copper chain and medal brought by the Pilgrims as presents, "and was not a little proud to see himself so bravely attired." The Sachem having just returned from a journey, there was no food in the larder, and as Winslow and Hopkins had generously given their stock to importunate natives, the problem of supper became pressing. Neither the Chief nor his retainers regarded this requirement of hospitality, and they slept supperless that night on the Sachem's own bed of planks, a foot above the ground, with a mat upon them. The royal bed was also occupied by Massasoit, his wife, and two of the chief men who pressed in upon them, "So that we were worse weary of our lodging than of our journey." (Mourt, 210.)

Thursday there were games and shooting exhibitions, but no breakfast or dinner, until at one o'clock, Massasoit himself shot with bow and arrow two fish, and of the forty who partook of this meal, not the least hungry were the two Pilgrims, and this was the only meal they had for two nights and a day, save a partridge which they bought. The proper title of Massasoit and his son, the famous or infamous Philip, is Grand Sachem, the appellation "king" given to the verminous Massasoit is a magnifying of titles.

After another night of discomfort, the Chief pressed them to continue their stay, but the two Pilgrims declined, fearing that the mosquitoes without and the more domesticated insects within would so wear them out that they "should not be able to recover home for want of strength." Furthermore, they wished to keep the Sabbath at Plymouth.

On Friday the messengers took leave, spending the night again at Tuticut, and on Saturday reached Plymouth by night, "though wet, weary and surbated" (footsore).

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The owner of the corn was finally discovered, during an expedition in search of a son of John Billington, who had become lost in the Cape woods. The boy had been well treated by the Indians with whom he had taken refuge. Full payment was made for the corn taken by the Pilgrims, to the satisfaction of the Pilgrim conscience and the claims of the owner.

Hobomok, one of Massasoit's chief counsellors, now joins the colonists and continues to serve them, until at an advanced age he dies at Duxbury, at the home of Standish, cared for in his last days by the Captain, who was kindly as well as valiant.

A report that Tisquantum had been killed by a suspected chief, Corbitant, led to another expedition to Middleborough, and although the report was not true, the severe threat of the Pilgrims that any misconduct on his part would be followed by the overthrow of Corbitant and his followers so impressed the natives that nine sachems signed a document declaring themselves to be loyal subjects of the King of England. (Names given in Morton's Memorials quoted by Young, 232.)

September 28, an expedition in the shallop set out to explore the neighborhood of Boston, and establish trade with the Indians. A considerable stock of beaver skins was secured, and the trade in this commodity became the foundation of the wealth of the colony, a pound of beaver skin being worth in London a pound sterling. (Goodwin, 178, note.)

On November 20, just one year after the Mayflower sighted land at Cape Cod, the ship *Fortune* arrived with thirty-five new colonists, and in their number, Robert Cushman, who came on behalf of the Adventurers. The new colonists had been two months on the ocean and had been detained in the English Channel two more by adverse winds. They brought little food with them, and the added burden made futile the happy anticipation of Thanksgiving Day, celebrated at the return of the harvest.

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Of the one hundred and four who are entitled to be enrolled in the list of Mayflower passengers, fifty were now living. The total number of the inhabitants of Plymouth was therefore eighty-five Europeans and two native Indians.

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We have seen that John Howland is first mentioned on the voyage across the Atlantic and that he was a member of the volunteer party who made the third exploring expedition, ending with the landing on Plymouth Rock on Forefathers' Day.

"The 'lustie young man' whom the Mayflower's people fished out of the sea with a boat-hook soon became a leader. He was an assistant in 1633-4-5, and so late as 1670 served his seventeenth year as deputy from Plymouth. He is credited with a military turn, and at the Hocking affair showed himself a chivalrous commander. As in the height of the Quaker troubles he was dropped from the General Court, there is reason to think that he, like the other Howlands, was found too liberal for the times. Yet his high standing in their church was shown at Cotton's ordination in 1669, when four visiting clergy conducted the exercises and Elder Cushman preached, while the church members appointed Howland as their proxy to join in the laying-on of hands."

"This old Pilgrim died March 5, 1673 (N. S.), at the age of eighty. Two days later he was buried 'with honor,' says the record, which adds that he was 'a godly man' who had proved 'a useful instrument of good in his place.' The graves of his posterity forming a clue to his own, a stone was erected there half a century ago (1888) by his great-great-grandson, John Howland, a soldier of the Revolution, and long the honored president of the Rhode Island Historical Society. Unfortunately, the good man was led by tradition into the misstatement that the Pilgrim's wife was Governor Carver's daughter. It will be remembered that she was the child of John and Bridget Tilley, and was left an orphan when she was fourteen years old, which was thirteen years

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less than Howland's age. She was married before the land-division of 1624, and her son John was born February 24, 1626 (N. S.). She survived her husband, and spent the last of her days with her children, James and Lydia Brown, of Swansea, where she was buried in 1687. Howland was the last signer of the 'Compact' who remained at Plymouth; but at Duxbury, Soule and Alden both survived. \* \* \* The descendants of the Pilgrim pair are many, and not a few of them honorably bear the family name. It has been fondly supposed that they generally show in an usual degree certain genial traits of character which are a legacy from the Mayflower. At all events they are sure that their stalwart ancestor was brave, honorable, cheerful, and godly." (Goodwin's Pilgrim Republic, page 507.)

The circumstances of the "Hocking affair," in which John Howland played an honorable part, are as follows:

In 1630 the Council for New England sent over a new patent of the Pilgrim territory, defining the grant as practically co-extensive with the present counties of Plymouth, Barnstable and Bristol, with a tract of land for trade on the Kennebec River, reaching from the present city of Augusta, thirteen miles down the stream, and extending fifteen miles each side of the river. This patent, in the name of Bradford, known as the "Warwick Patent," is still in the Registry of Deeds at Plymouth. Governor Bradford surrendered the Warwick Patent to the freemen of Plymouth Colony in 1640.

As the spring trade opened in 1634, John Hocking, of Piscataqua, agent for Lords Say and Brook, came into the river and attempted to interrupt the trade of the Pilgrims at this post. John Howland, who was in charge of the business of the territory, directed Hocking to remain outside the limits of the Pilgrim Colony, declaring his intrusion a trespass upon rights which were secured to Plymouth by a formal patent under seal. Hocking refused to acknowledge the Pilgrim claim, and proceeded to interrupt the trade of the post, although twice visited by Howland, with renewed entreaties to

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regard the rights of the colony. Howland, as commander of the post, made a further attempt to persuade the intruder to withdraw, the attempt drawing further abuse and defiance from Hocking. A canoe was then sent out to cut the cable of the intruding craft, which was accomplished by Moses Talbot, one of Howland's men. As the craft began to drift down stream, Hocking, aiming a carbine at Talbot, was hailed by Howland, who demanded that his man should not be hurt, as he had only obeyed orders, and that if anyone was to be shot, it was himself, adding that he would make an excellent mark. Unfortunately, Howland's gallantry did not save his employee, who was shot through the head, and in turn Hocking was killed by one of Talbot's friends, "that loved him well." The whole affair and its sequel is a painful episode in early colonial history, resulting in the arrest and imprisonment at Boston of John Alden, who was present, but took no part in the matter, and Myles Standish, as a member of the Plymouth government, was put under bonds, upon his appearance at Boston on Alden's behalf. Delegates from the plantations, including the clergy, after reviewing the case, formally and fully exonerated the Plymouth men and declared that Hocking alone had been to blame.

The record of the will of the Pilgrim Howland as exhibited to the court held at Plymouth March 5, 1763, is as follows:

**The Last Will and testament of Mr. John Howland of Plymouth late deceased exhibited to the Court held att Plymouth the fifth day of March Anno: Dom. 1672 on the oath of Mr. Samuel Fuller and Mr. William Crow as followeth:**

Know all men to whom these presents shall Come that I, John Howland, senr, of the town of New Plumouth, in the Colony of New Plymouth in New England in America, this twenty ninth day of May one thousand six hundred seventy and two being of whole mind and in Good and Perfect Memory and Remembrance praised be God; being now Grown aged: having many infirmities of body vpon mee; and not Knowing how soon God will call mee out of this world, doe make and ordaine these presents to be my testament containing heerin my last Will in manor and forme following:

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Imp I will and bequeath my body to the dust, and my soule to God that gave it, in hopes of a joyfull Resurrection vnto Glory; and as concerning my temporall estate, I dispose thereof as followeth

Item I doe giue and bequeath vnto John Howland my eldest sonne besides what lands I haue alreddy giuen him, all my Right and interest in that one hundred acres of land granted mee by the Court, lying on the eastern side of Taunton River, between Titicut and Taunton, bounds and all the appurtenances and Priviledges therevnto belonging, to belonge to him and his heires and assignes forever; And if that tract should faile, then to haue all my Rights, title and Interest by and in that Last Court graunted to mee, in any other place, to belonge to him his heires and assignes forever;

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my son, Jabez Howland, all those my vpland and Meadows that I now possesse att Satuckett and Paomett, and places adjacent, with all the appurtenances and priviledges belonging therevnto, and all my right title and interest therein, to belonge to him, his heires and assignes forever,

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my son, Jabez Howland all that my one peece of land that I haue lying on the southsyde of the Mill:brook, in the town of Plymouth, aforesaid; be it more or lesse, and is on the northsyde of a tract that is now Gyles Richards, sen; to belonge to the said Jabez his heires and assignes forever,

Item I giue and bequeath unto Isack Howland my youngest sonne all those my vplands and Meddowes devided and undivided with all the appurtenances and priviledges vnto them belonging lying and being in the towne of Middlebery, and in a tract of Land called the Majors purchase, neare Namaskett Ponds; which I haue bought and purchased of William White, of Marshfield, in the colonie of New Plymouth; which may or shall appear by any deed or writing that is Giuen vnder the said White's hand all such deeds and writings together with the aforementioned peticular & to belonge to the said Isack, his heires and assignes forever.

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my said son, Isack Howland, the one half of my twelve acree lott of Meddow that I now haue att Winnetussett River within the towne of Plymouth aforesaid to belonge to him the Said Isack Howland his heires and assignes forever.

Item I Will and bequeath vnto my deare and louing wif Elizabeth Howland the Vse and benifit of my now dwelling house in Rockey Nook in the township of Plymouth aforesaid, with the outhousing lands, that is vplands and meddow lands, and all appurtenances and priviledges therevnto belonging in the towne of Plymouth and all other lands housings and meddows that I haue in said towne of Plymouth, excepting what meddow and vpland I haue before given to my sonnes Jabez and Isack Howland during her naturall life, to injoy make vse of and improve for her benefit and comfort.

Item I giue and bequeath to my son, Joseph Howland after the decase of my louing wife Elizabeth Howland my aforesaid dwelling house at Rocky Nook together with all the out housing vplands and meddowes appurtenances and priviledges belonging

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thervnto, and all other housing vplands and meddowes that I haue within the aforesaid towne of New Plymouth excepting what lands and meddowe I haue before Given to my two sonnes Jabez and Isack to belonge to him the said Joseph Howland to him and his heires and assignes forever.

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my daughter, Desire Gorham, twenty shillings

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my daughter, Hope Chipman, twenty shillings

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my daughter Elizabeth Dickenson, twenty shillings.

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my daughter Lydia Brown, twenty shillings

Item I giue and bequeath to my daughter Hannah Bosworth, twenty shillings

Item I giue and bequeath vnto my daughter, Ruth Cushman, twenty shillings

Item I giue and bequeath to my grand child Elizabeth Howland the daughter of my son John Howland twenty shillings

Item My will is that these legacies Giuen to my daughters, be payd by my executrix in such space as shee thinketh meet

Item I will and bequeath to my louing wife Elizabeth Howland—my debts and legacies being first payd—my whole estate, viz: lands, houses goods chattels, or any thinge else that belongeth or appertaineth vnto mee, undisposed of be it either in Plymouth, Duxburrow, Middlebery or any other place whatsoever I do freely and absolutely giue and bequeath to my deare and loving wife Elizabeth Howland whom I do by these presents make ordaine and constitute to be the sole executrix of this my Last will and Testament to see the same truely and faithfully pformed according to the tenour therof; In witness wherof I the said John Howland, senior, haue heervnto sett my hand and seale the aforesaid twenty ninth day of May, one thousand six hundred and seventy and two 1672.

JOHN HOWLAND  
and a [Seale]

Signed and sealed  
in the Presence of  
Samuel Fuller  
William Crow

Evidently the Pilgrim had unlimited confidence in his wife's ability to undertake the settlement of his affairs. She spent her last days at the home of her daughter, Lydia Brown, at Swansea, as has been said. What communications passed between the grandmother and granddaughter, Hannah Gorham, as she grew into womanhood, we can only surmise. No record of such communications are found at Cape May. While the granddaughter and her husband, Joseph Whilldin,

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were building their first home at Cape May, two of the Pilgrim band were still living—John Cook, who died in 1694, and Mrs. Mary Allerton Cushman, wife of Elder Cushman, who died in 1699, at the age of ninety. She was the last surviving member of those who sailed from Europe in the Mayflower. The colony of New Plymouth continued its independent jurisdiction and life until after the settlement at Cape May, coming to an end in 1692, when the colonies of Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth became united.

The devout character of Elizabeth Tilley Howland is shown in the beginning and ending of her will, dated at Swansea, 17 December, 1686.

"Being seventy nine years of age, but of good & perfect memory thanks be to Almighty God, and calling to Remembrance ye uncertain Estate of this transitory Life—that all flesh must yield vnto Death when it shall please God to call: Doe make, constitute, etc\_\_\_\_\_ and first being penitent and sorry from ye bottom of my heart for all my sinns past, most humbly desiring forgiveness for ye same, giue & comit my soule vnto Almighty God my Savior and Redeemer in whome & by ye meritts of Jesus Christ I trust and believe assuredly to be saved & to full remission & forgiveness of all my sins, & that my Soule wh my Body at the Generall Day of Resurrection shall rise again wh joy, & through ye meritts of Christ's Death & Passion possesse & inherit ye Kingdom of heaven prepared for his Elect & Chosen; & my Body to be buried in such place as it shall please my Executr\_\_\_\_\_."

Elizabeth had learned her catechism when a child, and was evidently well grounded in Effectual Calling, Assurance, and the familiar words learned in her youth came to her mind when she made her last will and testament. The last item in the will is an admonition that it is her "Will and charge to all the Children that they walke in ye Feare of Ye Lord."

