

JOHN HOWLAND

OF THE

MAYFLOWER

Volume 1

THE FIRST FIVE GENERATIONS

Documented Descendants Through

his first child **Desire² Howland**

and her husband **Captain John Gorham**

by

Elizabeth Pearson White

Assisted by Roberta G. Bratti for Barnstable County, Mass.; Edwin W. Coles for Nantucket, Suffolk, Worcester and Barnstable Counties, Mass., Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York and North Carolina; the late H. L. Peter Rounds for Rhode Island and Stonington, Conn.; Barbara L. Merrick for Plymouth and Barnstable Counties, Mass.; Marilyn R. Landry and Kendall P. Hayward for Eastern Connecticut; Winfield S. Weer for New Jersey; and Ralph V. Wood, Jr. for Middlesex, Suffolk and Plymouth Counties, Mass.



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of which are documented. 12. Plymouth Co. Prob. 3:348 (Samuel Fuller). 13. Ibid. 14. *MD* 3:73; Barnstable VR 1:352. 15. Otis, *Barnstable Fams.* 1:172. 16. Ibid. 1:176. 17. *MD* 3:72; 4:226; Otis, *Barnstable Fams.* 1:172, 176.

5. James Gorham³ (*Desire*² *Howland, John*¹) was born in Marshfield, Mass., 28 April 1650,¹ the son of Capt. John and Desire (Howland) Gorham. He died in Barnstable, Mass., in November or December 1707.²

James Gorham married in Barnstable 24 February 1673 Hannah Huckins,³ who was born in Barnstable 14 October 1653,⁴ the daughter of Thomas and Rose (—) (Hillyer) Huckins. Hannah died in Barnstable 13 February 1727/8.⁵

James Gorham was a farmer. On 1 June 1675 he was a member of the Grand Inquest. In June 1689 he was admitted as a Freeman of Barnstable.⁶

When his father, Capt. John Gorham, died intestate, James, with his mother, Desire, and his brother, John, was named a joint administrator of his father's estate, which was divided 7 March 1675/6. As the eldest son he received a double share.⁷ When his mother's estate was divided 5 March 1683/4, James again received a double share as the eldest son.⁸ His mother's servant, Tooto, in his will dated 27 December 1691, probated in Barnstable 2 January 1691/2, gave James one cow and the increase of his cattle. James and his brother-in-law, Thomas Baxter, were named joint administrators of Tooto's estate.⁹

In his will dated 4 November 1707, proved 7 January 1707/8, James Gorham named his loving wife, Hannah, his seven sons, John, Thomas, James, Joseph, Jabez, Silvanus and Ebenezer, who were all living, and his three daughters, Desire Springer, who received £20, Experience Lothrop, who was given £5, in addition to what she had already received, and Mehitable Gorham, who was also given £5. He bequeathed twenty shillings to each of his five grandchildren, not named. Son James Gorham was appointed sole executor. Witnesses were John Thacher, Jabez Fuller and Lydia Thacher. A codicil dated 14 November 1707, disposed of one more piece of land not mentioned in his will. The inventory was taken 9 December 1707 by John Gorham and John Bacon.¹⁰

The five unnamed grandchildren who were born before 4 November 1707, the date James Gorham made his will, and whom we know were living then, were Mary, James, Thomas and Ancel Lothrop, children of his daughter Experience Lothrop, and Matthias Gorham, eldest son of John Gorham. Thus the two children that daughter Desire Springer may have had, would have died before 1707.

Children (Gorham), born in Barnstable, Mass., fifth through eleventh baptized in Barnstable:¹¹

- +34 i. Desire⁴, born 9 February 1674.
- +35 ii. James, born 6 March 1676/7.
- +36 iii. Experience, born 28 July 1678.
- +37 iv. John, born 2 August 1680.
- +38 v. Mehitable, born 20 April 1683, bapt. 17 September 1683, mistakenly called "of James and Sarah."
- +39 vi. Thomas, born 16 December 1684, bapt. 26 July 1685, called "of James and Hannah."
- vii. Mercy, born 22 November 1686, bapt. in 1687, died in Barnstable 12 June 1689.
- viii. Joseph, born 25 March 1689, bapt. 2 June 1689, called "of James"; died in Barnstable 1762, unmarried; mentioned in probate records of his brother, Silvanus in 1747; bequeathed all of his estate to his youngest brother, Ebenezer, in his will probated 4 January 1763.¹²
- +40 ix. Jabez, born 6 March 1690/1, bapt. 10 May 1691, called "of James," given name missing.
- x. Silvanus, born 13 October 1693, bapt. 17 June 1694, died unmarried in Stamford, Conn., before 24 September 1747; his estate was distributed 11 January 1750/1 to his brothers and sisters or their heirs, named as the heirs of brother James Gorham; the heirs of brother John Gorham; to brother Joseph Gorham; to the heirs of brother Jabez Gorham; to brother Ebenezer Gorham; to the heirs of sister Experience Gorham; to the heirs of sister Mehitable Gorham; and to his cousin George Gorham of Stamford, who was named administrator.¹³
- +41 xi. Ebenezer, born 14 February 1695/6, bapt. 26 April 1696.

REFERENCES

1. MD 5:72; 12:221-22; Barnstable VR 1:371.
2. Barnstable Co. Prob. 3:256 (James Gorham).
3. Barnstable VR 1:371; MD 5:72.
4. Barnstable VR 1:385; MD 6:139.
5. Gorham MS 1:16.
6. Ibid. 1:17; *Plymouth Colony Records* 5:166; 6:124.
7. MD 4:153-58; *Plymouth Colony Recs., Wills* 3:1:162-64 (John Gorham).
8. MD 4:217-20: Records of the Colony of New Plymouth 6:124 (Desire Gorham).
9. Barnstable Co. Prob. 1:50 (Tooto); MD 12:188-89.
10. Ibid. 13:51-52; Barnstable Co. Prob. 3:254, 256, 674 (James Gorham).
11. MD 5:72; Barnstable VR 1:371 (first six), 372 (seven through eleven); *Mayflower Source Recs.*, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615.
12. Mead, "Stamford Prob. Recs." 1:44 (microfilm); Stamford Prob. Dist. 2:327-28 (Silvanus Gorham); Barnstable Co. Prob. 12:394; 13:89, 90, 91, 176; 15:66 (Joseph Gorham); Gorham MS 1:73, 76; Otis, *Barnstable Fams.* 1:418.
13. Stamford Prob. Dist. 2:327-28 (Silvanus Gorham) [brother Thomas Gorham apparently was omitted]; Gorham MS 1:76-77.