

JOHN DUNHAM JR. (abt. 1615-1692)  
 MARY \_\_\_\_\_ ( - 1698)

John's father, John, left England as a young lad at the time of the escape made by the Pilgrims to Holland. They were seeking to avoid the oppressions of the established Church of England. Holland was their first refuge. John Sr. married Susannah Kenny while in this land and their first child, John, was born there about 1615. A younger sister, Humility, and a brother, Thomas were also children of Susannah. Susannah died about 1622 leaving the father and three small children. John's father married Abigail Barlow (Bailliou) and this couple had nine children. According to the DAR report there were twelve children in all (7-39).

John came to Plymouth, Mass., with his father, John, and step-mother, Abigail, his brother and sister, a half-brother and two half-sisters, on the ship "Hope" in 1630. They went first from Holland to England then left England from Lancashire, probably Liverpool. This port was some 85 or 90 miles west and north of the homes of many of the Dunham relatives in Nottinghamshire, England. (map 1 #s 5, 9). John Jr. was a young lad of about 15 years of age. They arrived in 1630, just ten years following the arrival of the Mayflower.

"When the Pilgrims had found a welcome but unsatisfactory haven at Provincetown on Cape Cod, they sent out the shallop they had carried on the Mayflower's deck to explore the area until its crew should find a sheltered harbor, with fresh water and promising land around it. Coasting along the inner shore of the Cape, they were struck by a snowstorm, not bad enough to turn them back but opaque enough to veil from their eyes the entrance to a fine sheltered harbor, bordered by marsh and good fertile land. (The place here referred to was what later became the town of Barnstable. This place became the home of John's daughter, Mary, who married James Hamlin Jr. (7-36). So the shallop kept on coasting until the crew found Plymouth. Barnstable people, with some complacency, think that snowstorm was positively providential." <sup>1</sup> (see map #27)

The natives at Plymouth had fairly deserted the area when, shortly before the arrival of the Pilgrims, they had been sorely afflicted with a plague of smallpox that killed off the Indians by the hundreds. Their fear, aggravated by suspicion, kept those who still remained alive at a distance for some time. Still it is estimated that when the Pilgrims arrived there were about 20,000 Indians within fifty miles of Plymouth. They had vacated the immediate area, however, and fields that had been cultivated for corn and out-lying meadows were there ready for the taking and pasturing of stock. <sup>2</sup>

By the time John and his parents arrived in 1630 in the ship "Hope", Plymouth was a thriving settlement and it served as the home of our Dunham ancestors, giving us our Pilgrim heritage on a second count. (Clement Briggs (7-8) was an earlier arrival in 1621, one year after the Mayflower, who later moved to Weymouth, Mass.) (see map #2)

A short review written by the DAR is specific on points of important data as stated:

"John Dunham was born 1615/16, at Leyden, Holland, son of John Dunham and Susannah Kenny. He died Apr. 6, 1692, Plymouth, Mass. He married about 1640, Mary \_\_\_\_\_ who died Mar. 20, 1698, also at Plymouth, Mass." <sup>3</sup>



TYPICAL PURITAN PLANTATION

Though the Plymouth colony was small, it managed to become modestly prosperous. The Pilgrims shared their meager accommodations and victuals with each new wave of English immigrants. Usually families moved on to other outposts in order to acquire the acreage needed to sustain themselves and to be with friends or relatives that had preceded them to New England.

Brainard Peck, noted Connecticut genealogist, established the marriage date of John's parents at 1614 and his birth as 1615 in Leydon, Holland.<sup>4</sup>

"He (John) married about 1640, Mary \_\_\_\_\_ who died Mar. 20, 1698, Plymouth, Mass. . . . He was granted land by an Act of the General Court, 1662 - 'to give to the first born of the early comers.' Became a freeman in 1641 and through the years following, secured several holdings of land; was granted 30 A of land Mar. 7, 1645; also 6 A. by his father, Jan. 19, 1647; 4 A by the General Court in 1659 of his own selection at Scansett; was appointed surveyor 1661; granted 30 A west of Nansket in 1660 and 30 A more in 1675."<sup>5</sup>

The children of John and Mary Dunham are listed in the foregoing reference as:

- "1. Mary Dunham, b. 1642, Plymouth, Mass., d. 19 Apr. 1715; md. 20 Nov. 1662, Barnstable; James Hamlin, Jr. (7-35)
2. Patience Dunham, b. 1645
3. John Dunham, III b. 11 Oct 1649; d. 2 Jan. 1696, md. in Barnstable, 1 Mar. 1680, Mary Smith, dau. of Rev. Henry Smith and Susannah Hinkley.
4. Jonathan Dunham, b. 12 Aug. 1650; d. 16 Aug. 1650
5. Samuel Dunham, b. 25 Feb. 1651-2; d. 24 Jan. 1687-8, unwed

6. Susannah Dunham, b. about 1654; md. 20 Jan. 1673, Bartholomew Hamlin, son of James Sr.
7. Hannah Dunham, b. 1657; d. 1659.
8. Lydia Dunham, b. 1658; d. 1717-18; md. abt. 1684, Robert Barrow, son of John Barrow.
9. Mercy Dunham, b. 25 July 1662; md. Nov. 1701, Joseph King of Plymouth, Mass." 6

John and Mary lived their lifetime at Plymouth. Their experiences were those of our Pilgrim fathers of America. Their children had a close association with their grandfather and they knew many of those early people who had founded a new colony in the wilderness of a new land.

From the first the Indians were generally friendly. Only on sporadic occasions did misunderstandings arise and tragedy result in the sacrifice of lives. John and Mary, however, lived to see the extermination of thousands of Indians in the King Philips War of 1675-6. Metacom, the Indian chief, called King Philip by the English, was successful in exciting and uniting the Indian tribes of New England in an 'all-out' effort to rid the land of English intruders. It meant a mobilization of troops to meet the challenge of extinction facing the settlers but meet it they did in a terrible slaughter of lives. What was left of the conquered tribes became peaceful, out of fear, and gave little trouble to the advances of colonization until the French and Indian Wars of the mid 1700s.

John Dunham and his wife, Mary, lived to see their children grown to maturity. The line of our progenitors is carried on by the oldest daughter, Mary, who married James Hamlin Jr., of Barnstable, Mass (7-35).

John Dunham died shortly after making his Will, Feb. 2, 1691-2, at Plymouth, "he being now sick" in which his wife Mary and living children received considerations. He died April 6, 1692, six years prior to Mary's death on Mar. 20, 1698. Both were buried at Plymouth. 7

1. #138 p. 27
2. #44 preface pp, xi, xii
3. # 71 p. 61
4. #2 Vol 2 (17-348)
5. #71 p. 61
6. ibid pp. 61, 62
7. ibid