

In North America, some of the first migrants which could be considered kinsman of the family name Rowland and their spelling variants were Francis Roland, settled Virginia in 1656;John Rollands arrived in Virginia in 1653; Daniel Rowland settled in Virginia in 1653; John Rowland and Richard Rowland, settled in Virginia in 1635; Lewis Rowland settled in Virginia in 1663.

IV. JOHN ROWLAND, (II), was born about 1614, he is reputed to have immigrated to James City Co., VA, reputedly aboard the vessel "DORCHESTER", (according to Nugent-"Cavaliers and Pioneers", Abstracts...1623-1666) in 1635 at age 21. Note; I have never seen a copy of the above document attributed to Nugent, but I have seen reports listed under "American Plantations and Colonies, and Ships to America. These reports, which are on the WEB, purport to quote from the actual ships documents. These sources do mention a ship to the Colonies called "DORCHESTER" but, I have not been able to find a list of passengers for this vessel. These sources also mention a vessel named the "DORSET". These sources quote from Hotten's List of Persons of Quality, 1600-1700.

The vessel DORSET, is mentioned as departing the British Isles for Bermuda or Bormodos. The manifest for this vessel reportedly lists a passenger as John Rowland age 21. The DORSET, embarked/ or arrived on Sept. 3, 1635, its destination was not Virginia. It may be that most of the ships departing England for Bermuda continued to Virginia and, since it is listed as arriving in VA, it is possible this John Rowland continued on this ship to Virginia or perhaps he only finished the trip from Bermuda on a vessel with the name DORCHESTER. Or perhaps some researcher mistakenly wrote down the name as Dorchester instead of Dorset. You must remember that Dorchester is a city in Dorset.

So, which is it, the Dorchester or the Dorset? RLH-copyright@2000as an immigrant in 1635. He was found to be sponsored by John Motley of Northumberland County, Virginia.

Hotten shows a "Richard Rowland" as a pax on the vsl. "SPEEDWELL", which arrived in VA on May 28, 1635, age 20.

The researcher must consider that reported immigrants, to VA, were;

John Rowland to James City Co., VA in 1635. Did he come on the vsl. Dorchester?

John Rowland to Northumberland Co., VA in 1635. Did he come on the vsl Dorset?

Richard Rowland, 1635, came on the vsl. Speedwell.

James Rowland, 1651, sponsored by Phillip Hunley. The county of the sponsor is unknown.

John Rollands, 1653.

Daniel Rowland, 1653

Thomas Rowland, 1655, he was sponsored by Lt. Colonel Anthony Ellyott.

Francis Rowland, 1656.

Lewis Rowland, 1663.

All of these Rowlands may have been brothers or nephews or cousins to the John Rowland of James City Co., VA, or, no relation at all.

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