

## The Interlacing of History and Fiction in *To Have and to Hold* (1900), by Mary Johnston

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### Abstract

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The fictionist Mary Johnston, in the literary piece *To Have and to Hold* (1900), approaches the theme of the insertion of white European women during the colonization process in the United States of America in the seventeenth century. According to the historiographic discourse, these women had the duty of marrying white colonists and bearing their children as well. The North American Literature took advantage of such event and recreated the fact in fiction. In the novel, the story is told by a first-person narrator, the settler represented as Ralph Percy, who finds himself a maid coming from England in the seventeenth century, around 1620s. Based upon this context, we propose an analysis that emphasizes the coming of these women to marry unknown settlers and to present the portrayed image of such women, who were sometimes called "tobacco wives", observing if the fictional discourse follows the historiographical one or if it differs from it in any way.

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**Keywords:** American Colonization; Traditional Historical Novel; Mary Johnston; Tobacco Wives; North American Literature.

### Introduction

As it is recorded in History, the colonization in the "New World" became possible because many colonizing metropolis used to send men to start the settlements. However, as time went by, many of them wished to return to their homeland due to the fact that they felt alone and were living in harsh conditions, which made a huge difference since they had come from more developed places. A measure taken by the Monarchs to try to keep the settlers in the land to be conquered was to send women overseas to raise a family and develop roots in that location. The preferable women to come to the new land were generally white, virgins and had European background, and the men, who were rewarded with such possibility of a wife, were usually at the king's service. Literature benefited from such events and, in many narratives, blended History with fiction, what ended up giving shape to the hybrid narratives known as historical novels. Through this blending, we are able to find novel categories that support the perspectives set by History or others which go totally against it and deconstruct the point of view presented by the hegemonic historical discourse. Some literatures, like the Brazilian, the Canadian and also the one from the USA recreated the historical fact of the coming and the insertion of white European women in the "New World" in traditional views – which corroborates the vision presented by History – and also in critical and deconstructive ones – which destabilizes the historical discourse, modalities explained by Fleck (2007). In the Brazilian Literature, for example, we can present the novel *Desmundo* (1996), by Ana Miranda, which is an example of such historical theme recreated by a very critical fictional point of view.

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In this literary piece, the author presents the coming and the insertion in the colony of the characters that represent the "orphans of the Queen" who were, historically, sent from Portugal to Brazil in the beginning of the sixteenth century, fact reread in the novel.

The protagonist of this novel is a young woman called Oribela de Mendo Curvo who is forced to leave her homeland and marry an unknown man abroad in a distant land. The fictionist exposes, through a female first-person narrator, her tough journey as well as her impressions of the "New World". She also narrates Oribela's marriage with the nobleman Francisco de Albuquerque, mentions her two attempts to escape to return to Portugal, talks about her affair with the moor Ximeno Dias, and approaches the birth of the illegitimate child and the abandonment by her husband, who returns to Portugal with the baby. According to the literary discourse, the insertion of the protagonist Oribela in the Brazilian colony happened against her will and in a shocking way as it is shown in the hybrid literary piece, which elucidates a different point of view from the one presented by History. Oribela's narrative configuration differs from the female model expected during the sixteenth century and she is presented as an insubordinate woman who tries to face the masculine superiority, runs away from home and has a love affair.

In the Canadian Literature, we have the novel *The King's Daughter* ([1974] 2011), by Suzanne Martel, who addresses the insertion theme of the "King's daughters" in New France, actual Canada, in the seventeenth century. The fictional characters, who represented the women sent overseas, had the duty of getting married and raising children so that the colonists stayed in the land to be colonized and did not return home. Through this measure, also set in the narrative, the French King, Louis XIV, assured the land, prevented mixed racial unions and had a lot of labor force through the births. The protagonist of the novel, Jeanne Chatel, who lived in an orphanage after her grandfather's death, is selected to make part of the crew that is going to New France, actual Canada, to marry figures who represented the French settlers in the novel. Along the plot we can see that, once the ship arrives in Quebec, the character chooses to marry Simon de Rouville, configured as a colonist who was destined to marry her friend Marie du Voyer, but since this one had fallen in love with a young businessman during the journey and the women had the choice of selecting their husband, Marie changed her mind. The narrator shows then that Jeanne got married to a man who was a widower and had two small children, Isabelle and Nicolas. With his first wife and the youngest child killed in an attack by the native people called Iroquois, he needed a second wife to help him to survive in the colony. After going through quite a few experiences, such as living in a burned house, facing a very cold winter and some native attacks, the characters Jeanne and Simon fall in love with each other and she becomes pregnant. Even though this female character went through a couple of difficult years during her arrival in the French colony, she is happy with her husband and plans to live there as long as possible, providing many children to the King. To her, living in the "New World" was a pleasant experience and it changed her life to the best. Following the protagonist experiences along the novel, the readers are presented to a romantic and praised perspective about the perseverance and the dedication such women and men faced to build up a civilized nation in the New France.

Regarding this theme, in the United States of America, we have the novel *To Have and to Hold* (1900), written by Mary Johnston. The fictionist addresses in it the theme of Jamestown colonization during the early seventeenth century. The diegesis sustains itself in the fact that the British government sent ninety young women to marry colonizers and bear their children because they wanted the country to be populated, according to Zug (2016). The presence of these women would make sure the men would not abandon the land to be colonized. When they disembarked, based on Zug's studies (2016), they had the option of choosing their future husbands, who paid for the journey from the United Kingdom to Jamestown. On average each one of the brides cost between 120 and 150 pounds of good tobacco leaves, which made them sometimes receive the name "tobacco wives", stated Zug (2016). In Johnston's novel we are presented to Ralph Percy's story. He was pictured as a lonely settler and, because of that, decided to get married and have children in order to have a more comfortable life in the colony. It is through his voice, as a first-person narrator, that the story is told. Among his actions we learn he became fond of the character Jocelyn Leigh, who accepted him as husband. This female figure is portrayed as a fugitive from England who had no intention of marrying her suitor Lord Carnal, a nobleman that was chosen by the King. Along the sequence of actions presented in the plot, the abandoned fiancé shows up in Jamestown looking for his fiancée. After an array of fights and quarrels between the two masculine characters, Ralph and Lord Carnal, plus a series of fictional events related to the great attack of the natives over the British settlers in the year of 1622 that decimated a third of the English population, the protagonist Ralph Percy and the main female character Jocelyn are able to live together as husband and wife in the "New World", the actual territory of the United States of America.

Based upon the theme of the insertion of white women in the “New World”, we intend to make an analysis of the hybrid narrative *To Have and to Hold*<sup>3</sup> (2016) highlighting the coming of the white European woman to marry unknown settlers in the land to be colonized, and we also intend to present the image of the “tobacco wives” portrayed in this literary piece, observing if the narrative follows the historiographical discourse about this past event or if it differs from it in any way.

### 1. The “tobacco wives” through a literary perspective

Mary Johnston is a writer who was born in 1870, in Buchanan, state of Virginia, in the United States of America, and passed away in 1936. She was an activist and writer whose novels usually blended History with fiction. One of her most famous novels is *To Have and to Hold* which was originally published in 1900. In it, the novelist mixes Virginian regionalism and historical traits. According to Dekker (1987, p. 100), the regionalism and historical romance tend to go together and they act like a fate for some novelists. Mary Johnston, for instance, is remembered for being a Virginian writer because she worked well with the themes she found in Virginia. He also mentions the fact that “the regional novel is a getaway to the ampler world of the historical novel, since it represents whole societies and conceives of individual characters as composing societies.” (DEKKER, 1987, p. 100). In this line of thinking, Mary Johnston represented fictitiously a society under development and how a group of women, who came to the “New World” to fulfill the duty of becoming wives and mothers, had an essential role. In the narrative, the maid who was chosen, Jocelyn, is the main female character in the novel we selected for our analysis. She is the figure who represents the group of maids coming to the colony presented throughout an especial point of view. The story is told by a male first-person narrator. The author names him Ralph Percy, and as it is shown in the plot he has been living for thirteen years near Jamestown, a Virginia Colony, in the actual United States of America. This male character has no family at all in the “New World”. As the representation of a settler, he is introduced to the reader as a friend of the well known historical character John Rolfe, who had been previously married to the famous native called Pocahontas. This recreated character is the one who in the novel tells Ralph he should find himself a wife among the women sent by the King of England.

Getting along with the actions narrated in the novel, the reader is lead to know that the ship named *Bonaventure* has arrived with the maids and the character Ralph Percy lets himself be convinced by John Rolfe, because, after all, according to him, that place is their new home and some company will make them good. Rolfe believed “the land is new and must be peopled” (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 13), which was a good reason to marry. At this moment of the plot, by the means of the character’s memories, the narrative presents a flash-back through which the readers can go along with Ralph Percy previously adventures in the New World once he remembers all the difficult times he went through, for example, the Starving Time, between 1609 and 1610, and how sad it is to feel alone in a place that is going under development, but does not have much to offer. At the end of this recovering of past events, the character goes up to Jamestown to implement his purpose. In this hybrid narrative, which brings History and fiction mixed up in a convincing sequence of actions, readers are presented with the coming of ninety women to fulfill the purpose of marriage in the “New World”. Ralph Percy, the first-person narrator, says there were “ninety slender figures decked in all the bravery they could assume; ninety comely faces, pink and white, or clear brown with the rich blood showing through; ninety pair of eyes, laughing and alluring or downcast with long fringes sweeping rounded cheeks; ninety pair of red lips.” (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 20).

In regard to the narrator’s description, readers realize they are beautiful and good looking, definitely not any piece of ugly or marginalized women. Added to this, they were healthy because the narrator presented them with round cheeks, which makes anyone consider the fact they were not sick or went through lack of food during the trip. They also seemed to be carefully chosen to adventure into a new land and into unknown men’s lives. Once we consider, on another hand, such a reality registered by the historiographical discourse we can realize that – according to Zug (2016), whose research explains about the immigration process during the colonization period in the USA and Canada – sending women from England and France to the “New World” was a common measure and it was much desired by the colonists. Zug (2016) also points out that “wives were needed to create stable family units, produce and care for children, and cement America’s racial and cultural hierarchy.” (ZUG, 2016, p. 11).

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<sup>3</sup> For our analysis, we are going to use the edition published in 2016 of the novel that was originally published in 1900.

If we consider the expression “cement America’s racial and cultural hierarchy”, it is not difficult to understand that having a mixed race, religion and culture was not part of England’s dream for the new found land. They really hoped to be sovereign of the land to be colonized and have it cemented with their traditions. The recreation of this past period imagined by Johnston in her novel has as main point the clear purpose to show once again by fiction that it was necessary to provide the brave men of Virginia some company because it would also help to keep them in the new land to be colonized in the same way History had already done for centuries. Considering that the ideology presented in the novel is also the one that the lack of women could put the development of the colony into danger, as stated by Zug (2016), we observe the confluence of both discourses, the historiographical and the fictional one along the events narrated in *To have and to Hold*. The historical event recreated by Mary Johnston is also reported by Yalom (2002), when she mentions “the first settlers of Jamestown, in Virginia, in 1607 had no women at all” (YALOM, 2002, p. 141), and, even some years later, Berkin (1997), explained that “between 1621 and 1651, there were four single men for each single woman.” (BERKIN, 1997, p. 25). During the first years of the colonization period the amount of men outnumbered women, and, since England had in mind to make that land theirs, more women were always needed. As informed by Zug (2016), the Virginia Company’s treasurer, Sir Edwin Sandys, one of the founders of Virginia Company of London, and the man responsible for running the treasury department of this organization, recommended the sponsoring of single women because he believed the women’s presence would make men more settled and less moveable. So, after his request, women started being recruited.

In 1620, ninety mail-order brides arrived in Jamestown and it was considered a success, stated Zug (2016). Even though the Virginia Company was going under financial difficulties, Edward Sandys requested more women, for they were essential. Due to his efforts, fifty more brides were sent a year later. A total of one hundred and forty women were sponsored by the Virginia Company, mentioned Zug (2016). On the other hand, for Blumenthal (1962), it was in 1619 that ninety maids “had been shipped to Virginia by the heartless London Company on the *Jonathan*.” (BLUMENTHAL, 1962, p. 54). When comparing the number of brides mentioned in the novel by the character Ralph Percy and data informed by Zug (2016) and Blumenthal (1962), we understand that the hybrid literary piece brings a similar number of brides, ninety, and almost a similar date. While Blumenthal (1962) says the shipping took place in 1619 and Zug (2016) says it happened in 1620, in the fictional narrative it is stated it happened in 1621. The coincidence and approximations of such specific data in History and in the artistic recreation of the past enables us to classify *To have and to Hold* as a model of traditional historical novel, and along this analysis some more evidences of it will be given. According to historiography, during the beginning process of colonization in the United States of America, there were some families, but a few women. Plus, the majority of men were single colonists. They were fortune hunters and “came to profit from America’s abundant land and natural resources and then return home.” (ZUG, 2016, p. 12). Also, a large number of these colonists began taking Indian wives.

The desertions were hard to stop, which caused a great deal of shock. Some thought that intermarriage would lead men to abandon their “civility”. As a measure, the racially mixed relationships were religiously prohibited. About interracial marriages, Zug (2016) states the most famous one happened between the colonist John Rolfe and the native daughter of Powhatan, Pocahontas. As the author exposes, he argued that converting Pocahontas to Christianity would actually be a sign of God’s work and it would benefit Rolfe’s salvation. All his arguments were favorable to him and he had his marriage accepted. Unfortunately, the most well-known female native in the USA History passed away in 1617. In the hybrid narrative created by Mary Johnston, John Rolfe already appears as a widower because the plot takes place around 1621. This fictional character behaves like the real historical figure did before. Both were married with a native called Pocahontas, and both were tobacco businessmen. Based upon his behavior, we clearly understand his historical image is not altered or distorted along the narrative by the narrator’s perspective, and it confirms the version exposed by historiography as a successful tobacco businessman. So, we can affirm that the literary discourse in this case corroborates the historiographical one, establishing one of the main characteristics of the traditional model of historical novels. In this sense, the Spanish scholar Fernández Prieto (2003, p. 150) mentions “las novelas históricas que continúan el trayecto iniciado por Scott mantienen el respecto a los datos de las versiones historiográficas en que se basan, la verosimilitud en la configuración de la diégesis, y la intención de enseñar historia al lector.”<sup>1</sup> Such aspects are visible in *To Have and to Hold* (2016).

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<sup>1</sup> Our free translation: The historical novels that follow the path established by Scott keep the official records of the historiographic versions in which they are based on, the verisimilitude in the configuration of the diegesis, and the intention of teaching History to the reader.

In the diegesis of the novel we can read that when the character Ralph Percy decides to go down to Jamestown and find a wife, he lays his eyes on “a pearl amidst glass beads.” (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 25). She is wearing a “dress of dark woolen, severe and unadorned, her close ruff and prim white coif.” (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 25). Later on in the narrative the reader gets to know that, after the religious service was done, men were allowed to talk to the maids and know each other a little bit. The protagonist, Ralph Percy, actually saves “this pearl” from a man who was trying to kiss her against her will. Impressed by her beauty, he proposes to her, which she accepts immediately when he informs her that he lives up the river in Weyanoke Hundred, some miles from there. She says her name is Patience Worth. Following the plot, the readers are informed that the wedding ceremony took place right away and was performed by Ralph’s new friend, Master Jeremy Sparrow. At this moment of the narrative, he learns his future wife’s name is Jocelyn Leigh. Confused, he does not mention anything. He is just happy he has a wife now and someone to care for him when he comes home at the end of the day. Speaking of caring for someone, we can realize, by reading Williams (1976), that “men complained bitterly that they had no wife or woman servant to wash their clothes or to care for them in illness.” (WILLIAMS, 1976, p. 20). In this way, marrying during the colonial times just made life easier for the colonists because they could count on their wives for support after a long day of work, exactly how it is pictured in Johnston’s novel. In the literary piece *To Have and to Hold* (2016), we can see that Jocelyn Leigh had her choice of husband. The character was not forced to marry a specific type of man, but instead, she had the freedom of choosing. This is another point in which the novel corroborates the historiographical discourse once the studies made by Zug (2016) report that “they were free to marry whomever they wished, even men too poor to reimburse for the company.” (ZUG, 2016, p. 21) On the other hand, this poor man had to have enough money to pay back the treasurer for the journey from England to the colony of his wife to be, as we can also see in Zug’s (2016) research about this topic.

The historical fact recreated in the novel is clearly these mail order-brides to Jamestown, who were referred as ‘tobacco wives’ (ZUG, 2016, p. 21). The designations “Jamestown brides” and “brides for Virginians” are also possible, but the last one is less known. As it is established in History, although the government provided free tickets and personal items like clothes, shoes, rugs and sheets, the “male colonists marrying the Jamestown brides were required to reimburse the company 120 (later 150) pounds of ‘good leaf tobacco’ to cover the cost of the women’s passage.” (ZUG, 2016, p. 21) In the hybrid narrative, this information fact about the cost of having a bride is also visible. First, the readers are taken by surprise when the character Jocelyn asks how much she is valued because she has money and intends to pay for her traveling ticket to the Virginia Colony. She seems to be somehow financially independent and has no fear of the man she has just married. Then, the male protagonist, Ralph Percy, replies: “At one hundred and twenty pounds of tobacco.” (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 31). According to the hegemonic version of History, after the decision of getting married was made, the colonist had to pay the proper amount to the treasurer responsible for bringing the European women to the colony. In Johnston’s novel this situation is shown when the main male character, as the head of the house, did not accept her money and paid for the shipping himself. Even though he did not question the woman about the way she got that money, he had doubts about it and became very curious. Zug (2016), through a historical view, declares that the Virginia Company “promised that the women would be married to freemen, not servants, that their husbands would be wealthy.” (ZUG, 2016, p. 21). As far as this is concerned, the fictional narrative also presents as male characters free men who were very healthy, worked hard to become wealthy people and have a comfortable life.

For example, the male character Ralph Percy had plenty of money to acquire a wife which means the women would not go under very difficult moments in the colony because they would provide for them. Another historical vision about this past event is given by Blumenthal (1962) who explains that many criminals, indentured servants and hapless felons were transported to the colony, and even convicted women were part of the shipping. They were expected to work a certain amount of years, usually seven, and after that they would become free people. For this author, “the white population of Virginia, instead of being composed of the best elements of English society, was composed to a considerable extent of the worst.” (BLUMENTHAL apud FAULKNER, 1962, p. 53). As he informs, after this servitude period, many of the servants and convicts turned themselves into respectable people and helped the nation thrive.

This is the good side of History which is also portrayed in the novel. It is hard to imagine a clean and pure society after Blumenthal's words, but, nowadays, with other people's views exposed, we learned not to trust only the official History records. So, Blumenthal's (1962) perspective brings another part of a story that may have been hidden for a while, but it is possible to have happened.

In Johnston's (2016) hybrid narrative, the readers understand she portrays majority of the male characters as good and sensible men, and a proof of this along the plot is the way she presents the ones Jocelyn Leigh, and also other female characters, got married to. The colonists portrayed, Ralph and Corydon, were figured as very decent males and were not involved with any illegal activities. In the narrative sequence established by Johnston the readers can notice that the character Jocelyn Leigh, after having arrived at Ralph Percy's house, questioned him if he went to the village intentionally to buy a wife, which meant he had hoped to find a skilled woman who was willing to take care of the house, do the cooking, have children and watch his needs. He answers he really had in mind to find such a person. According to the character's words: "I intended to do the best I could for myself; one hundred and twenty pounds of tobacco being a considerable sum, and not to be lightly thrown away. I went to look for a mistress for my house, a companion for my idle hours, a rosy, humble, docile lass, with no aspirations beyond cleanliness and good temper, who was to order my household and make me a home. I was to be her hand and her law, but also her sword and shield. That is what I went to look for." (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 41- 42). This is a discourse that elucidates a lot about the way men expected women to be and to serve them pretty well.

Following the plot, after Ralph had explained what he hoped to find in his wife, Jocelyn tells him she is not "of that crew that came to marry." (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 43). She had changed places on the ship with her waiting woman, Patience Worth, who was coming to the New World with the hope of finding a good husband, but Jocelyn had expected to die during the journey because she was being forced to marry a man she was not fond of and decided to run away from her suitor. The hybrid narrative exposes then how Ralph feels devastated by his choice of woman, but that is what he has now. The novel, by this way, is able to show that not only women but also men knew nothing about each other or what they had done in the past. They married total strangers. Concerning the historical background of these mail order-brides recreated by the fictional narrative elaborated by Johnston (2016), the research made by Zug (2016) explains that "they were not prostitutes, criminals or beggars. In fact, eight out of the thirty-eight women whose social status is known, eight had links to the gentry." (ZUG, 2016, p. 17). This author also expresses that the Virginia Company "sought voluntary immigrants who came from good homes and families" (ZUG, 2016, p. 21), which helped the colony to provide a good image of colonial wives, and that they were young because they "averaged just twenty." (ZUG, 2016, p. 23). On the other hand, we have the perspective of this historical fact given by Blumenthal (1962) who believes they did not come from such a good environment and points out the women "were lured from city slums and rural areas by unscrupulous agents. [...] they were not felons, but were, to all intents, shanghaied, as 'breeders' for the colony." (BLUMENTHAL, 1962, p. 54). Both scholars, Zug (2016) and Blumenthal (1962), seem to present similar backgrounds concerning the fact they were not criminals, yet Blumenthal (1962) believes they came from poor city parts and were deceived.

In Johnston's (2016) fictional recreation of these past events the character Jocelyn Leigh has no idea on how to perform the tasks her husband mentioned before and he does not know why once those were the expectations of all men in his situation. The novel presents Jocelyn as a woman who is only able to pull the roses that were planted by Ralph's slave, Diccon. Once followed the plot, the readers already know she did not come on the crew to marry and that she ran away from her suitor, but nobody knows why she is unable to perform the actions around the house that she was expected to. As a representation of a woman from those times, the reader also expects that she should have received some education and advice on how to behave with her husband and what to do in the house after she got married.

The architecture of the plot provides the reader with some surprises, once in the following actions we can see that some days later the character Lord Carnal, the new King's favorite, arrives in Jamestown. He recognizes his fiancée, Jocelyn Leigh, who had fled from England. She is then forced to tell her husband she "was the King's ward" (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 91). In fact, this explains a lot of things. One of them is that "she does not cook" (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 46) and she does not know how to use a needle. Basically, she is not skillful. Another one is that the character John Rolfe remembers having seen her face somewhere else. He even says: "Mistress Percy's face is not to be forgotten. I have surely seen it before, though where." (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 49). But when the character recalls where he had seen her, he reveals: "I remember now: 'it was at my lord Bishop's dinner.

A very courtly company it was. You were laughing with my Lord Rich. You wore pearls in your hair." (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 49). Jocelyn tries to convince him and Ralph otherwise: "'Memory plays us strange tricks at times' she told him in a clear, slightly raised voice, 'and it hath been three years since Master Rolfe and his Indian princess were in London. His memory hath played him false.'" (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 49).

By setting this scene in the novel, relating Lord Carnal's arrival in the colony, Jocelyn finds herself in a position where she has to reveal her true story to the man who paid for her journey, informing him she was part of the King's ward and was under His protection. Based upon this information, the readers realize the background of the character was not of a simple maid in search of a husband. Instead, she belonged to the bourgeoisie, which also made it clear her disability in taking care of the house because she had always had someone to perform tasks for her. Even though she was not part of those maids who came to marry unknown men in a faraway land, she was also neither a criminal nor a prostitute. In a very romantic way, the fictional narrative shows that, due to Jocelyn's inability around domestic tasks, her husband Ralph Percy hires old Goody Cotton to cook. Alongside, he buys a waiting woman to Jocelyn: "It is the negress, Angela [...] Mistress Percy wished a waiting damsel." (JOHNSTON, 2016, p. 47). It was not every colonist who could afford a slave at this time, which shows the readers once again that Mr. Percy was a man of assets. In this way, *To have and to Hold* also elucidates some other historical aspects once, regarding the matter of slaves in the United States of America colony, Williams (1976) remarks: Black slavery made its appearance in the English colonies in 1619, twelve years after the settlement of Jamestown, when the Dutch sold twenty Negroes to Virginians. By 1625 there were twenty-three, classified by contemporaries as twelve men and eleven women. (WILLIAMS, 2016, p. 64).

The romantic way Mary Johnston (2016) configures her character Jocelyn Leigh gives the reader a vision of a woman, inserted in the American reality of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, who was lucky to have a maid to serve her and a husband to provide one servant for her in the middle of the colonization period of Virginia. The hybrid narrative has portrayed the male character Ralph Percy not as a demanding husband or a poor colonist at all, but as a man who respected his wife's wishes once he had never imposed himself upon her, a very sweet, docile and idealized figure of a colonist. Following historical actions of that specific time, the plot of *To have and to Hold* tells the readers that while the character Lord Carnal had the King's support to take Jocelyn Leigh back to England, Ralph Percy tried hard to maintain his wife in Jamestown. The two characters saw themselves as enemies and one of them had to die. They fought a duel, which was interrupted by the governor of the colony. Battles between foes were a common action in the colonial times. For example, Berkin (1997) says that men in the Chesapeake, Virginia and Maryland area, "showed a marked preference for aggressive, public confrontation of their foes." (BERKIN, 1997, p. 12). It was a way of solving matters and expressing superiority. In the case of the characters Lord Carnal and Ralph, the one who survived would keep Jocelyn for himself.

The fictional discourse tries to show that the marriage life of the characters Jocelyn Leigh and Ralph Percy's was not easy. An array of events took place along the narrative, such as: they moved to Jamestown after Lord Carnal's arrival; Lord Carnal tried to kidnap Jocelyn; Jocelyn and the husband ran away from the colony, and Master Jeremy Sparrow went with them to protect the couple; Lord Carnal was hidden in the boat that the couple used to escape; all of them were forced to live together in a lost island; they found a ship, Ralph played the role of the famous pirate Kirby and became the captain of the ship; they traveled up to Bahamas; and came across a British ship that was bringing the new governor, Sir Francis Wyatt. The male characters, Ralph Percy and Jeremy Sparrow, were considered criminals, arrested and put in a separate room in the ship. Meanwhile, some other women took care of Jocelyn Leigh and Lord Carnal was seen as a hero. Back in the colony, the protagonist Ralph Percy was still kept as a prisoner and awaited his judgment day. He received a message written by Jocelyn saying she was in danger. He then bribed the jailer with some gold pieces he had in his pocket and ran into the forest looking for his wife, along with Diccon, now a free slave. Unfortunately, it was Lord Carnal's trick to kill him. Natives turned up and Ralph and Diccon were taken as prisoners. They smoked with the natives Pamunkeys and Paspaheghs, and spent days with Openchancanough, the leader of the Powhatans. Both characters were released from their captivity and, at the same time, informed by a native woman that three natives would accompany them back home to Jamestown, but also that the colony would be attacked by a large group of natives. During the journey back, Diccon and Ralph stabbed the indigenous figures, and Diccon died because he was shot by someone.

After two nights without sleep, one day without food and walking, Ralph arrived in Jamestown and warned the colonists about the attack. British colonists and natives fought against each other, hence a large number of the settlers and natives died. Whatever was left of the natives backed off to the forests and the surviving colonists remained in the colony of Jamestown. The whole saga of the characters recreated by Mary Johnston (2016) is based upon historical facts once in the official version of history this event of the native attack to the Settlers of Virginia became known as the 'Indian Massacre of 1622', which led to the Second Anglo.

Powhatan War, between the years of 1662 and 1632. In accordance with Rice (2015), the coordinated attacks upriver of Jamestown killed nearly a third of the English population. We can verify the hybrid narrative confirms the historical event and it also exalts and praises the colonists as winners and not losers. In *To Have and to Hold* (2016), the readers are confronted to a situation in which, after the attack had been over, the English colonists felt shaken, but at the same time proud of themselves because they defeated the natives, who had gone back into the forest. The fictional narrative shows that due to Ralph Percy's warning, the people in the colony were able to prepare for the attack and they survived it. The colonist regained his trust from the settlement and, then, he was seen as hero. The plot planed by Johnston (2016), in the end, also solves the protagonists' problems, once Lord Carnal, their greatest enemy, drank poison and killed himself. Jocelyn Leigh, who had ran into the forest looking for her husband, was safe from the attack and reunited with Ralph Percy. At the end of the narrative, the couple appears happily together, makes future plans and is even welcomed back in England, if they wished so.

## Conclusions

The novelist Mary Johnston (2016) offers the readers, in *To have and to Hold*, a hybrid narrative that exposes many historical facts concerning the colonization process in the seventeenth century along with the insertion of the women in Jamestown. She recreated in fiction the "tobacco wives" who were an essential part to help keeping the colonists in the newfound land to be colonized. Through this hybrid literary piece, the readers are able to revive the theme and learn how the insertion of these women took place in a very confident way, following, by fictional strategies, the historical discourse, as it is common in the traditional model of historical novels. Alongside, the readers could also compare the fictional and historical discourses and come to the conclusion that the fictional corroborates the historical one. Even though some date information differs, they tend to be very much the same, being apart for just a question of a year or two. The "tobacco wives", as registered in historical records we have presented, came to Virginia in the early seventeenth century with the purpose of marrying and bearing colonist's children in the colony, faced harsh moments in a developing place and became founding women of a nation.

Once all the historical discourse of the settlers' exaltation is presented in *To Have and to Hold*, we clearly understand the fictionist presents the theme through a literary view supporting history perspectives, producing a traditional model of historical novel, as defended by Fernández Prieto (2003). The character Ralph Percy, who is also the first-person narrator, shows us that besides the adversities faced by him and his wife, Jocelyn Leigh, the sponsoring of the women was a successful program because they ended up together in Jamestown and planned to build a family. With their union, they were one of the couples responsible for the growth of the population in that land. All in all, the coming of women overseas made men feel not so lonely in the colony and helped to keep them from blending with the native women forming a mixed racial people, collaborating, in this way, to fulfill the wish of the British colonial power, which, in Mary Johnson's (2016) literary piece of work, receives indeed the fictional avail.

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