



Stephen Hopkins Luncheon 2/6/20223 Pointe West Country Club, Vero beach

**The Stephen Hopkins Colony
Of the
Society of Mayflower Descendants
the state of Florida Newsletter
March 2023**

**The Stephen Hopkins Colony
serves the Treasure and Space Coasts of Florida, which includes.
Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, and Martin Counties**



Stephen Hopkins Colony Newsletter

Spring - 2023

Governor's Welcome

I am so grateful, and I welcome our beautiful Florida Springtime! I am looking forward to seeing those of you that will be able to join me at our Monday, April 10, 2023, luncheon meeting and to those that are unable to join us, we will miss seeing you.

Highlights of our upcoming April 10th meeting are an introduction to the NEW Education Project, voting on bylaw updates and the nominating committee for the new slate of officers for 2023-2026!

I was hoping to hear from members with their ideas and how-to for fundraisers, however I have not received any to date! I want to hear from you!

Sharon Paugh, Governor

Stephen Hopkins Colony Name Tags are Available to Members

Stylish Mayflower name tags are available to all Colony members at a delivered cost of \$12.35 each plus postage of \$9.65 (Priority Mail) for as many name tags in your order.

(Total per tag is \$22.00 Please see the sample photo of the name tag design. If you are interested in ordering a name tag please contact **Kurt Bressner, Hopkins Colony**

Historian at: kbressner@gmail.com Information needed:

1. The name you wish to have on the name tag
2. Whether you prefer a magnetic clasp or pin type (do not order magnetic if you have a pacemaker or other medical device that is affected by magnets).
3. Your full mailing address where you wish the name tag to be mailed.

When I receive enough requests for at least five name tags, I will place the order and

When received, send you the tag with your bill.



Florida Mayflower Junior Program

This is a program where Colony members may register your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, grandniece and grandnephews who are under 18 as Junior Mayflower Members. The child must be related to you by blood. The cost is a one-time charge of \$30.00 for each child. Your Junior will receive a beautiful certificate representing your Pilgrim(s) and recognition by the Florida Society. The Junior Membership is ceremonial and does not confer adult membership. When the Junior reaches 18, they may submit a regular adult membership. Currently, the Florida Society pays the Application fee for Junior members converting to adult membership. The fee waiver program is reviewed periodically and is subject to change without notice. If you are interested in registering as your Junior, please contact me and I will coordinate a membership application. Your Junior need not be a resident of Florida but must be a blood relative. Our Colony currently has 92 Junior Members and is one of the most active Colonies in Florida.

The current Florida Junior Mayflower Application may be found at the Florida Society website here: <http://www.flmayflower.com/programs/> or contact me and I will send you a copy.

To proceed, a completed application should be filled out and returned to me at:

Kurt Bressner
5721 Riverboat Cir SW
Vero Beach, FL 32968-7524

You DO NOT need to provide vital records such as birth certificates.

Questions? Please contact me at kbressner@gmail.com or 561-436-2328.

Kurt Bressner, Junior Chair, Stephen Hopkins Colony

New Member Applications and Supplementals Approved 2022 (Class of 2022)
New Members/Supplementals 2023 as of March 2023

New Members (14)

Cobb, Serenity - George Soule
Dewey, Elizabeth (Beth) - William Brewster
Sessoms, Danyelle - Thomas Rogers
Haight, Emily - John Howland
McHale, Melaney - George Soule
Petersen, Beverly - Francis Cooke
Whiting, Macauley Jr - John Alden
Whiting, Macauley III - John Alden
Whiting, Correll - John Alden
Oehmann, Katherine (Bennett) - John Alden
Olin, Daniel - John Alden
Butler, Leonard - John Howland
Garland, Barry - Resolved White
Martin, Susan - Edward Fuller

Supplementals (7)

Haight, Denise - Elizabeth Tilley, John Tilley. Joan (Hurst) Tilley
Cook, Mickie - Constance Hopkins
Whiting, Macauley Jr - Priscilla Mullins, William Mullins
Adams, Marsha - James Chilton

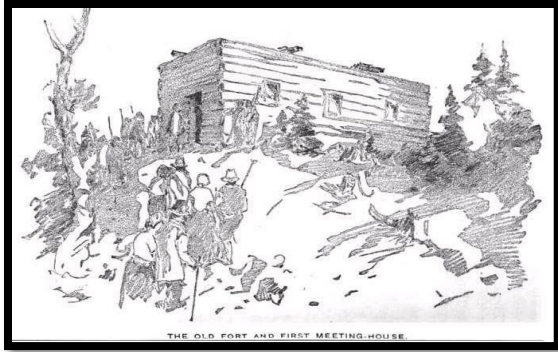
New Members and Supplementals Approved 2023 (Class of 2023) - as of March 1, 2023

New Members - 2

Rubin, Stephanie - Richard Warren
Garland, Angela - Resolved White

Supplementals (0)

Kurt Bressner, Historian Stephen Hopkins Colony



Mayflower Tidbits

Burial Hill Fort was originally constructed about 1621 and originally served as First Parish Church and a colony meeting house. Religious services were held on board the Mayflower until this building was completed. It has been reconstructed and is located within the living history village now known as Plimoth Patuxent. The old fort provided a place for religious services from 1621 to 1648 as well as meetings for the Plymouth General Court.

French explorer Samuel de Champlain first sailed to what we now know as Plymouth Harbor and named it Port St. Louis for the then current king of France, Louis XIII. He founded Quebec and New France and made between 21-29 trips across the Atlantic before he was called back to France to become a statesman.

Nan Ball

HISTORICAL INTEREST

Thomas Prence, an Important Leader in Plymouth Colony

John Carver was selected by the Pilgrims as the first Governor of Plymouth Colony on November 11, 1620, the date the Mayflower Compact was signed. Sadly in April 1621 he died. William Bradford was then elected as the Colony's second Governor. He admirably served for 30 of its first 35 years and proved to be an outstanding, respected leader. In the Colony's early history, during those five years when Bradford declined to be Governor, the leadership position was held either by fellow Pilgrim Edward Winslow (Governor: 1633, 1636, 1644) or by Thomas Prence (Governor: 1634, 1638).

Thomas Prence, however, was not a passenger on the Mayflower. At age 21 in 1621 he arrived on the ship Fortune but rapidly rose to be a leader earning both prominence and respect. He served as the Colony's Assistant Governor to Bradford for 20 years. When Governor Bradford died in 1657, Prence then became the most important person in Plymouth Colony winning unanimous election to succeed Bradford as Governor. For the next 15 years he held this leadership position until his death in 1673. In his lifetime he also served as a member of the Council of Assistants and as colonial treasurer. Historical records also report he successfully helped solve numerous boundary disputes and fairly treated the Native Americans in treaties/negotiations.

Thomas Prence was one of the wealthier Pilgrims. He was one of the "Undertakers," those eight men of Plymouth Colony who paid off the Colony's debt in 1627 with the understanding that the Pilgrims would pay them back when able to do so. He acquired considerable land. He first married Patience Brewster, the daughter of William Brewster. They had several children and after her death he married three additional times and had more children, but records indicate he left no male heirs. Thomas Prence, though not a Pilgrim who arrived on the Mayflower in 1620, faithfully served his beloved Plymouth Colony throughout his adult life.

Janice Sly - Director

Let's Spring Into~~

THE BOOK CORNER

by Lynne Jensen

In our recent edition of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, Spring 2023, p 49, you will find featured as a book sale item: ***Made in America – The Pilgrim Story and How It Grew*** by James W. Baker, a well-known Pilgrim historian. It is a compilation of essays about the Pilgrim legacy and can be ordered on the General Society Website: <https://themayflowersociety.org>.

Baker addresses the historical significance of the Pilgrim stories in relation to the cultural context of today. Pilgrims are considered spiritual ancestors of all Americans. Thanksgiving is uniquely an American holiday. At some point we might have questioned how much of our shared history is myth, fact, or conjectures. It is enlightening to scrutinize those myths and legends to find the truths of stories like Plymouth Rock, the First Landing, and the love triangle of the Alden's and Miles Standish.

It seems to be a trend these days to appreciate and relate our own current stories and experiences to those of our ancestors and their families. The recent Indian River Genealogy Conference in Vero Beach on March 25th focused the conference presentations on "The Art of Storytelling - Connecting Ancestors Through Family History." Would you like to learn and share more about *your* Pilgrim ancestors?

STAY TUNED! At the Stephen Hopkins Colony Meeting on April 10th, I will be introducing a NEW Education Committee Project for all Hopkins Colony families!

Lynne Jensen, Vice Governor
Stephen Hopkins Colony
Education Committee, Co-Chair

New Pilgrim Videos Available

Hopkins Colony Member Russell Alden Rockwell notes:

“I would like to draw your attention to a film I helped produce. It's entitled ‘John and Priscilla Alden: An American Family.’” You can find it on <http://www.alden.org/> or on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vh7ItpWilq0&t=3s>

A Four-Part Series on Elizabeth Tilley

Produced by the Sowams Heritage Area in East Bay Rhode Island and Nearby Massachusetts. The home website is at: <https://sowamsheritagearea.org/wp/> and contains a good deal of early colonial and Pilgrim information. I'm planning on visiting this area on our next trip to the Plymouth area. <https://sowamsheritagearea.org/wp/four-part-cable-tv-series-on-elizabeth-howland-airs-in-sowams-heritage-area/>

YouTube video about Constance Hopkins: This is a 14-minute film made by Patricia McCamish Donohoe and her granddaughter for the Eastham Historical Society's YouTube channel portraying Constance Hopkins Snow at two stages of her life. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEPh-dKqcZ0>

Finally, released in November 2020 is a video about George Soule. The video is offered by Mayflower History (<http://mayflowerhistory.com/>), which is an excellent Mayflower information source as well. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLURYMFS130>

Kurt Bressner, Historian, Stephen Hopkins Colony

Handy Online Collection Links

Many times, you may have better luck looking at specific on-line collection for family information.

Family Search has many collections that are not yet indexed. They put images online but, in many cases, they must be manually searched. It takes a bit of patience, and each collection is organized differently as these represent scans of vital records, church collections, etc. as they were originally prepared. Examine the collection and see how it is organized, usually in chronological order to find the record you need.

Family Search All Collections:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list>

In the case of Ancestry, however, sometimes doing a search for an individual does not trigger a “hit” in some of their collections. If you have a location and date of a life event of an ancestor, you may have better luck using the Ancestry Card Catalog and finding a collection that matches the location or event you are looking for, then do a search from within that collection.

Ancestry Card Catalog:

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog>

The remainder of the databases are fully indexed and can be searched. Still, I often go to a particular collection and search from within the collection. Global searches sometimes don’t look at all the collections at a genealogical website.

American Ancestors All Data Bases:

<https://www.americanancestors.org/search/advanced-search>

American Ancestors - A to Z Listing of All Databases

<https://www.americanancestors.org/browse-database>

New York Genealogical & Biographic Society (NYG&B)

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/browse-catalog>

Finally, don't forget about the Family Search Wiki! It's location, location, location so use this link to start with the country of your ancestor and follow successive links that may go all the way to a specific county or city! Often the Wiki will point you to collections at Family Search or other sources where you may find records or information about your ancestors. Start here:

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Browse by Country](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Browse_by_Country)

In conclusion, direct search via collections may yield excellent results in your ancestor hunt.

Kurt Bressner, Historian Stephen Hopkins Colony



Stephen Hopkins Colony Website

Stephen Hopkins Colony Website: <https://stephenhopkinscolonyflmayflower.com/>

Kurt Bressner

Historian, Stephen Hopkins Colony

COLONY BOARD AND OFFICERS 2020-2023

Colony Governor: Sharon Paugh

Vice-Governor: Carolyn "Lynne" Jensen

Corresponding/Membership Secretary: Marsha Adams

Recording Secretary: Susan "Sue" Hunt

Treasurer: Elizabeth "Beth" Dewey

Historian: Kurt Bressner

Elder: Lisa Tompson

Captain: Jeffrey "Jeff" Rogers

Director: Brian McWaters, Past Governor

Director: Janice Sly

Director: Etta Ocker

OTHER COLONY POSITIONS

Education Director: Lynne Jensen and Candi Byers

Junior Chair: Kurt Bressner

Assistant Historian: Carol Robinson

Newsletter Editor: Etta Ocker

Webmaster: Debbie Dalrymple