
Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants



Stephen Hopkins Colony, Vero Beach

Serves the Treasure and Space Coast of FL, which includes Brevard, Indian River, St Lucie, Okeechobee and Martin Counties

<https://stephenhopkinscolonyflmayflower.com/>

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GOVERNOR'S GREETINGS – SPRING 2025



Dear Stephen Hopkins Colony Members, Prospective Members and Friends,

Welcome to Spring 2025 in beautiful, warm, sunny Florida! Your Board and I have been working hard to offer you some new and different opportunities for you to enjoy and share your Mayflower Pilgrim heritage.

I am happy to announce that our Director of the Education Committee, Stephanie Rubin, is ready to assist Juniors and their Sponsors with their Hopkins Cyclopedia Stories. I am available to help you with your quest to find Patriot to Passenger Ancestors for the GSMD Revolution 250! Project.

I also suggest that you can find expert help in the Genealogy Department of the Indian River County Main Library in Vero Beach. Of course, Archivist and Membership Director,

Kurt Bressner, knows you and your family history better than anyone! We have many new members and Bobbi Mallett will take orders for name tags. Kudos to these dedicated members for all that they do.

Florida Society Mayflower Descendants Governor Brian McWaters invites you all to attend the FSMD Spring Meeting in Lakeland, Florida on April 25-26! Reservation and Registration information can be found in this Spring 2025 Newsletter. Please contact me for any information about the Hopkins Colony events and activities. Enjoy the Newsletter!

Sincerely yours,

Lynne Jensen

Carolyn "Lynne" Jensen, Governor Stephen Hopkins Colony, FSMD
lynne.Jensen1620@gmail.com
H: 772.781.4257 or C: 609.709.5681

Stephen Hopkins Colony Calendar 2025

For 2025, our General Membership Luncheon Meetings are by invitation only and will be held on 4 times a year on: **February 10 (Monday) April 15 (Tuesday), September 8 (Monday) and November 10 (Monday)** starting at 11:00 AM for check-in with the meeting at 11:30 AM. The meeting location is Pointe West Country Club, 7500 14th Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32966-1200, reservations are required.

Mayflower Keepsakes

We all are so proud of our Mayflower heritage! Rightly so, and I suspect in each of our member's home there is at least one piece of memorabilia that reflects the importance and pride we have for our Pilgrim families. Honoring our Mayflower heritage through collecting keepsakes is not a new phenomenon.

Well over a century ago in the late 1800's in Duxbury, Massachusetts --- established by Pilgrim fathers John Alden, Captain Myles Standish, William Brewster and George Soule---there was a huge rise in sales of numerous souvenirs of the Mayflower fathers. The Duxbury Rural and Historical Society on its website devotes several pages to this phenomenon entitled Collecting in a Pilgrim Town. In addition to printed booklets and postcards the

“ town capitalized on its own tourist trade by selling keepsakes for visitors during the post-Civil war tourism boom. Souvenir china was particularly popular during the 1890s until the 1930s and typically made in Germany, England, and France. The overall designs were fairly uniform, but they came with a customizable center image ordered by the shops with the design they thought most marketable. Usually the images came from well-known postcards or popular engravings. For Duxbury, many of these... include its Pilgrim predecessors.”

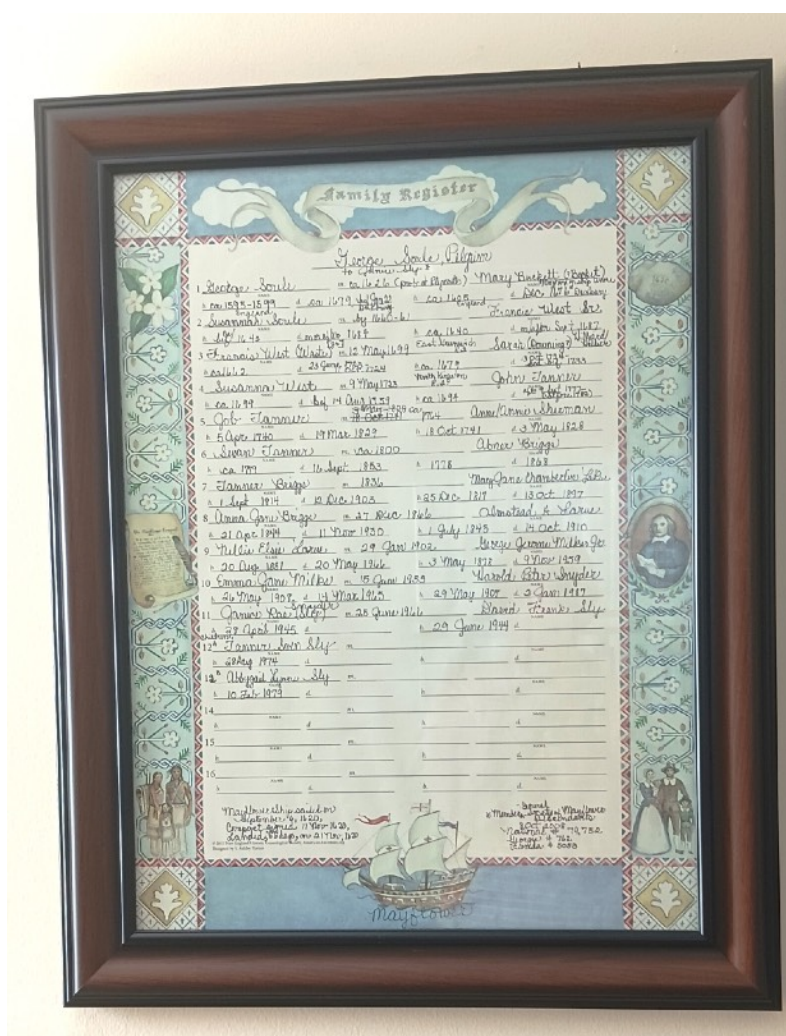
Popular items were a cup showing the Standish Monument, a pitcher depicting the John Alden House, and colorful blue & white plates showing scenes of the Signing of the Mayflower Compact and Thanksgiving. Today collectors of Pilgrim memorabilia have even more choices. Books are still the most popular along with wall size prints and charts. The United States Mint published gorgeous coins to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Plymouth, and five years ago we all could purchase the “Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor” postage stamps. All kinds of jewelry and Pilgrim center pieces remain popular. Today, like in the 1980's, some collectors elect to assemble model kits of the Mayflower ship.

What memorabilia do you have? Perhaps a future meeting of our Colony should be a show-and-tell program about our own cherished keepsakes of the Pilgrim fathers.

PS: Don't forget to visit our very own Mayflower Society's store online!

<https://themayflowersociety.org/shop/>

Janice Sly, Spring 2025



Juniors and Sponsors...WE NEED YOU!!!

REVOLUTION 250!

By Stephanie Rubin

With the approach of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America on July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was signed by our forefathers, it is the perfect time to explore and appreciate our heritage. It is also a great opportunity to share *your* family history and lore with younger family members. The Stephen Hopkins colony has 92 Juniors. It is the primary goal of the Education Committee to develop an interest and participation in our Mayflower ancestors with potential academic rewards and scholarships.

In addition to creating individual “Cyclopedia Stories” in our ongoing project that connects members and Juniors to a Mayflower passenger, there is now a chance to link your lineage to an ancestor who contributed service during the American Revolution from 1776-1783 (when peace was declared with the Treaty of Paris). To get started, you might check your Mayflower applications and family trees for ancestors who lived during those years.

For more information, please contact Stephen Hopkins Colony Education Committee Chair, Stephanie Rubin, at stephrubin@msn.com.



REVOLUTION 250!

Hints to Find a Patriot to Passenger in YOUR Tree

By Lynne Jensen

1. Find generations by name and date on your approved GSMD Mayflower applications.
2. Find male ancestors who lived and may have given service during the Revolutionary years 1776-1783 (i.e., born about 1750). For example, if you have 12 generations, check GEN 6-7.
3. Look up and note those names, dates and their spouses in the **Silver Books**.
4. Now, check those names on your Trees for military service on various websites: SAR, DAR, Fold3, Family Search, etc.
5. Be sure to go to **GSMD.org** (General Society Mayflower Descendants).

Log in.

Click: **Research**.

Click: **Patriot to Passenger** - here is the link: <https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/patriots-to-passengers/>

Check to see if your **Patriot** is listed.

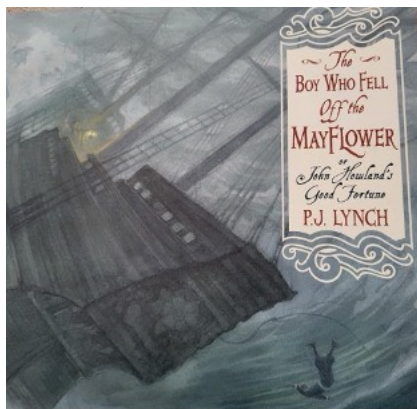
If so, celebrate and thank Muriel Cushing at 1620flash@gmail.com.

What to Do Next?

- *Preserve what you have learned.
- *Research your Patriot: Go to the Genealogy Center near you. Seek pension applications, Court and Land Records, google names and places of interest.
- *Share with your family by writing and seeking keepsakes, photos, other historical findings.
- *Travel to the explore the places and events where your ancestors lived.

THE BOY WHO FELL OFF THE MAYFLOWER

BY P.J. LYNCH



Review by Jackie Jette

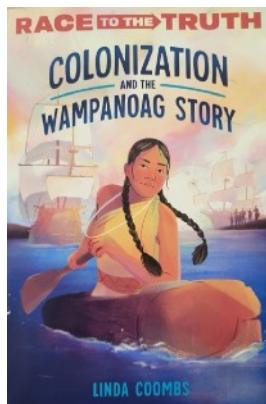
In hopes of encouraging my grandniece and nephew to become Junior Members of the Mayflower Society, I went in search of good books about early Plimoth for their ages (8 and 11). I came across two newer publications I had not seen before. The first one I found is this picture book published in 2015. *Kirkus*

Reviews recommends it for a wide range of ages, 6-14 years. The story, told from the perspective of John Howland, one of my Mayflower ancestors, was a great match, both for its connection to my family, and the ages of my prospective Junior Members.

John Howland speaks to the reader in the very first sentence, immediately drawing you into his daily life in London. Though the language of the text contains expected historically accurate descriptions (“the foul stench ’tween decks” and “We loaded in salted fish, sassafras timber and two hogsheads of beaver pelts”), the author finds a balance with more modern narration, including believable conversations between John and other key members of the colony. The story flows from event to event, enhanced by beautiful pictures using muted colors and softly lit scenes that draw you in. This is a wonderful choice for both young and older readers, and you might enjoy reading it together!

COLONIZATION AND THE WAMPANOAG STORY by Linda Coombs

Review by Jackie Jette



The second book I found was written by Linda Coombs, a member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah (previously known as Gay Head) on Martha's Vineyard Island in Massachusetts. She has worked in the Wampanoag Indigenous Program of Plimoth Plantation for many years. The book is part of a series called Race to the Truth, "The true history of America from the perspective of different communities."

The presentation is like that of a graphic novel, and most likely a good fit for middle school students. Interestingly organized, it begins with a chapter called "When Life Was Our Own," printed on dark gray paper with white print. The story of Little Bird begins, her family life, and the life of her tribe in spring, known as the "New Year" and the new growing season.

The second chapter, printed on white paper with black ink, is entitled "Creating Colonies: More Than a New Place to Live." Using more of a textbook type of format, it describes the historical background that existed before 1620 and presents three main perspectives – "The Doctrine of Discovery, The Impact of Christopher Columbus, and the Pre-Pilgrim Patterns (PPP) along the New England Coast. "

The chapters continue in this manner, alternating between Little Bird's narration of Wampanoag seasonal experiences, and the influx of European settlers, the impact of their beliefs, behaviors, and diseases on the native communities. Following every second chapter is a page entitled "Let's Think About This" that presents several thoughtful questions or ideas for the reader to ponder and discuss. These topics point out the differences between the two clashing cultures such as their relationship with the land, the raising of children, and educational practices.

The chapters told from Little Bird's perspective are filled with loving, sensory details of the seasons, and specific instructions for how to do tasks essential for the tribe's survival. The "textbook" chapters present tough topics such as "The Great Dying," "Slavery," "Fences" and "Praying Towns." Carefully explained, these outcomes definitely challenge the reader to reflect. The author states, this book "is about readers gaining an understanding of what actually happened in the past," not only in southern New England, but in tribal locations across the continent, and that "we can go forward in a better way, where there is equality and equity for all people.

(Side note: My father lived at the Gay Head Lighthouse in the 1930s and attended the Gay Head School on Martha's Vineyard with the Wampanoag children. He was the only non-Wampanoag student at the school and maintained these friendships until he passed in 2009.)

Stephen Hopkins Name Tag Ordering Information 2025

If you are interested in obtaining a Colony name tag, please provide the following information.

1. The name you wish to have on the name tag.
2. Preference for clasp type: magnetic or pin type (do not order the magnetic clasp if you have a pacemaker or other medical device that might be affected by magnets)
3. How you would like to receive your name tag.
 - a) delivered to the next meeting after I have received your name tag
 - b) meet at a convenient location in greater Vero Beach
 - c) full mailing address for shipping - additional cost for postage



Name tags may be ordered for members only.

For information on cost and delivery options please contact Bobbi Mallett srskier@aol.com or 970-376-5186 - mobile.

Florida Mayflower Junior Program

DYK that as a Colony member, you may register your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and grandnieces 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 Juniors reach 18, they may submit regular adult membership applications. Currently, the Florida Society pays the application fee for Junior members converting to adult membership; however, the fee waiver program is reviewed periodically and is subject to change without notice. If you are interested in registering your Junior, please contact me, and I will coordinate a Junior membership application. Your Junior need not be resident of Florida but must be a blood relative to you. With 92 Junior members, our colony has one of the most active Junior Member Programs in Florida.

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

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

Return the completed application to me at

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

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

Kurt Bressner, Junior Chair, Stephen Hopkins Colony

Annotated List of Mayflower Passengers, Crew and Servants

Did you ever wonder which of the Mayflower 101 passengers, crew and servants survived the first winters of 1620 and 1621 at Plymouth and who had descendants? To help answer that question, I prepared a four-page list that can be downloaded from our Colony Website at this address:

<https://stephenhopkinscolonyflmayflower.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/mayflower-passengers.pdf>

If you prefer, contact me and I will be happy to email you the list. I think you will find the report to be of interest and a way to underscore how close the Colony came to extinction that first year.

Kurt Bressner, Archivist, Stephen Hopkins Colony
kbressner@gmail.com

Officers and Board Members for 2023-2026

Governor – Carolyn “Lynne” Jensen

Vice Governor – Marsha Adams

Treasurer – Elizabeth “Beth” Dewey

Membership/Corresponding Secretary – Kurt Bressner

Captain – Jeffrey “Jeff” Rogers

Archivist – Kurt Bressner

Elder – Rev. Donald “Lorne” Coyle

Recording Secretary – Jacquelyn “Jackie” Jette

Past Governor – Sharon Paugh

Director – Janice Sly

Director - Brian McWaters

Director - Sharon Paugh

OTHER COLONY POSITIONS

Education Committee Chair - Stephanie Rubin

Junior Chair- Kurt Bressner

Newsletter Editor - Vacant

Webmaster - Debbie Dalrymple

Member Name Tag Coordinator - Bobbi Mallett