
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/>

hopkinscolonyvero@gmail.com

Greetings from Lynne Jensen, Governor

It has been both an honor and a privilege to have completed my first year as Governor of the Stephen Hopkins Colony in Vero Beach. Our membership has grown to over 150 members, including 8 Life Members, and 93 Juniors. We usually meet at Pointe West Country Club in Vero Beach on the 2nd Mondays of February, April, September, and November at a Board of Assistants Meeting followed by a General Luncheon Meeting. It has been gratifying to serve with an enthusiastic team and to welcome many new members who have come forward to accept officer and committee chair responsibilities.

Our Colony has embraced the GSMD goals to celebrate Revolution 250 with programs to support the Semiquincentennial of the USA (250th Anniversary) on July 4, 2026! Members and Juniors are encouraged to read and write about those times when ancestors may have served in the American Revolution which make interesting Cyclopedia stories and the basis for our program of the September 2024 meeting which was a Revolution 250 Trivia game. Kudos to our Colony Archivist and FSMD Co-Historian, Kurt Bressner, who arranged for the donation of the new Rogers Silver Book to Vero Beach Library Genealogy Department.

At our Fall Annual Colony Meeting on November 11th, Elder Lorne Coyle conducted a Memorial Remembrance Ceremony for Colony member, Cheryl Bowden, who was deceased on August 22, 2024. We welcomed Marsha Adams to the Office of Vice Governor and Kurt Bressner to the Office of Membership. The Colony made annual donations to two local charities. We celebrated the luncheon with a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner! The program called "Thanksgiving Through the Eyes of a Pilgrim" by J. Lenora Bresler in costume was outstanding and well-received.

I sincerely send wishes for a blessed New Year 2025 to all members of the Stephen Hopkins Colony-Vero Beach and to the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida!

Lynne Jensen, Governor
Stephen Hopkins Colony, FSMD

GSMD and FSMD Scholarship Programs for 2025

Attention High School Seniors and Mayflower Society Sponsors!

General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD)

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Scholarship Program offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are Mayflower descendants and will be attending a four-year college or university or two-year community college. In 2024, the GSMD's added a Native American Scholarship for graduating high school seniors with proven descent to a Native American ancestor.

ANCESTRY REQUIREMENTS

For an applicant to be considered for a Mayflower Scholarship, the Application Form must include a valid GSMD membership number for either the applicant or for a parent, grandparent, or great grandparent of the applicant. Please note that the membership number supplied must be for a living and currently active GSMD member.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Each scholarship recipient:

1. must be a graduating senior
2. must provide the information requested for the application
3. must enter a four-year college or university or two-year community college

In the spirit of the Mayflower settlers seeking to better themselves by moving to a new and uncharted world, special consideration will be given to applicants who have demonstrated a commitment to bettering themselves.

Applicants are required to include a "Letter of Recommendation" from a teacher and a person in the community.

HOW TO APPLY

The 2025 scholarship program will begin in January 2025.

There were 5 scholarships awarded in 2024:

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants 1st Prize – \$6,000

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants 2nd Prize – \$5,000

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants 3rd Prize – \$4,000

The GSMD Native American Scholarship – \$2,600

The Mary Chilton Winslow Scholarship – \$2,400

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize scholarship winners, along with the Mary Chilton Winslow scholarship winner are all descendants of a Mayflower passenger. The scholarships were awarded based on the student's class standing and GPA, extracurricular activities, sports, awards and community involvement. Additionally, each applicant had to submit one character reference and one academic reference as well as a two-part essay on the Mayflower Compact.

Here is the link to the 2025 program:

<https://themayflowersociety.org/about/about/scholarship-information/>

2025 Mayflower Scholarship Program Cont.

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida (FSMD)

The 2025 Scholarship Program will be announced soon. It is expected that applications will be accepted from February 1st to April 1st, 2025.

There are four annual scholarships of two thousand dollars each available to be awarded.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants are current high school seniors or returning military members who are or will be attending an accredited college/university, trade or vocational school.

All applicants must be sponsored by a biological relative (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or cousin) who is a current member in good standing of the FSMD.

Applicants are not required to live within the borders of the State of Florida or the United States of America.

Here is the link to the program:

<http://www.flmayflower.com/programs/>

Note: While this is the 2024 Program, it is expected the 2025 Scholarship Program details will be announced in January 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kurt Bressner, Archivist, Stephen Hopkins Colony

kbressner@gmail.com

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.

Stephen Hopkins Colony – Class of 2024

In 2024, the following new member, transfers and life member applications have been approved:

Nina Greenberg – William Brewster – New Member

James Shaw – John Alden – New Member

William Cannell – Edward Doty – New Member

Walter Guptill - Transfer in from Alden Colony

Nancy Caldwell - Transfer in from Allerton Colony

Debbie Graham - Transfer in from Allerton Colony

Marianne Graham - Transfer in from Allerton Colony

Martha Hunt – Dual Member with New Hampshire

Benjamin Quinn – Richard Warren – New Member

Lori Swaby – James Chilton – New Member

Emmett Stine – Stephen Hopkins – New Member

Louise Wickles – Francis Eaton – New Member

Mark Ryder – Richard Warren – New Member

Lynette Graff – Richard Warren – New Member

Jack Frazier – John Tilley – New Member

Lynne Jensen - New Life Member

Congratulations and welcome!

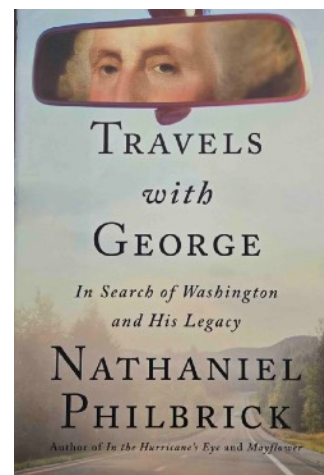
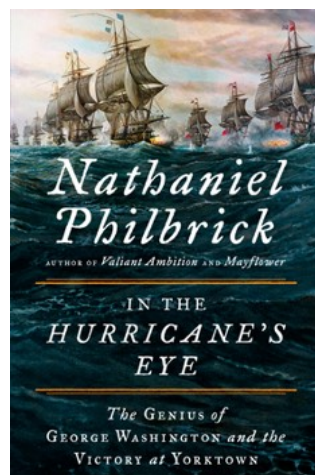
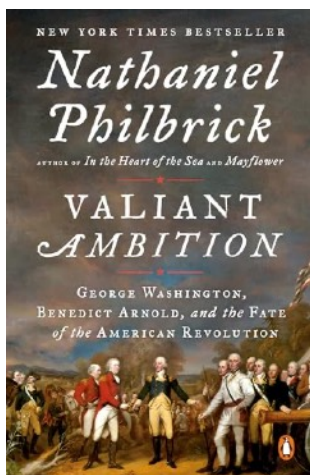
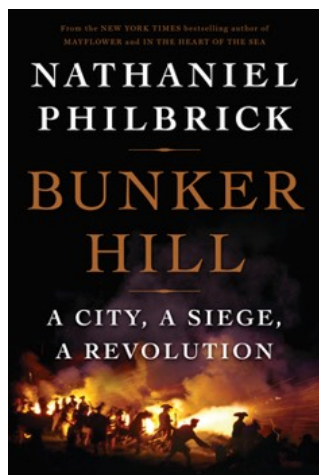
Revolution 250 and Books by Nathaniel Philbrick

By Lynne Jensen

I hope you share with me the joy of personalizing American history by connecting Mayflower ancestors with the American Revolution! As Mayflower Descendants, our family trees were “rooted” in British Colonial Massachusetts in 1620. A lot happened in the years leading up to the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773 until peace was declared in 1783. You may find ancestors in your tree who contributed to the cause of freedom in America. You may simply find joy in reading about that fascinating time in history.

Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick was first published in 2006. In anticipation of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America on July 4, 2026, Nathaniel Philbrick has written four books showing the connection from the Mayflower Compact to the American Revolution in 1776. His narrative nonfiction style brings the heroes and villains to life for his readers in historical context. Most can be found in your local libraries and I recommend that you read them in chronological order.

1. Bunker Hill: A City, a Siege, a Revolution
2. Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution
3. In the Hurricane's Eye: The Genius of George Washington and the Victory of Yorktown
4. Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy

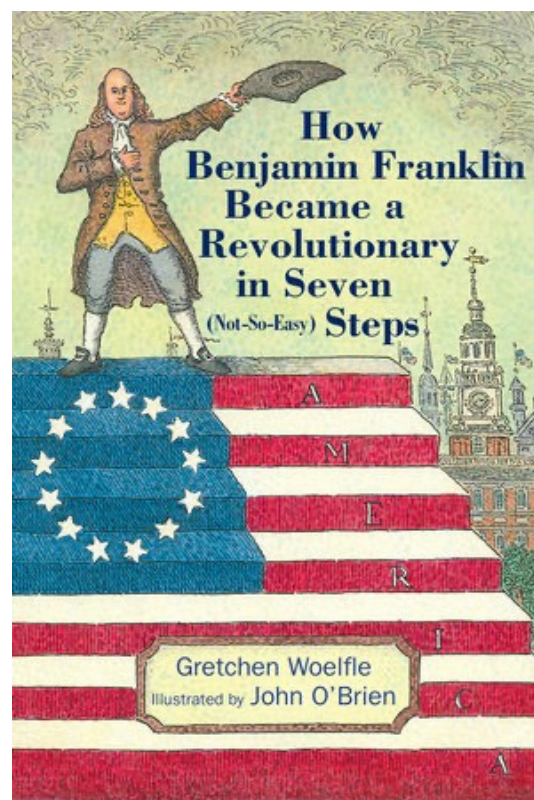


Revolution 250

Since next year will be the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolutionary War, it would be an ideal time to teach younger generations in our families about our history and pass along information about our legacies. In this regard, may I suggest a well written and cleverly illustrated little book entitled How Benjamin Franklin Became a Revolutionary in Seven (Not-So-Easy) Steps. This book is very suitable reading for adults and children.

We may know much about the life of Benjamin Franklin, but most will learn more. He began as a loyal British subject, however, as the British Parliament began taking away the colony's rights to self government, he found himself questioning his beliefs. "The goodwill of the governed will be starved, if not fed by the good deeds of the governors." The book is filled with inspirational quotes from Franklin, all of which we can learn from today.

Stephanie Rubin
Education Committee Chair
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stephrubin@msn.com



MAYFLOWER MARRIAGE BY ARMINAL DARE

Review by Jackie Jette

Immersed in modern life as we cannot help but be, it's often beyond our abilities to imagine real life in the early 1600s. Reading the *Mayflower Marriage*, though historical fiction, is a terrific way to learn of daily trials which the early Plymouth inhabitants endured. Told mostly from the perspective of Priscilla Mullins, the author lends insight into the specific, endless work that was necessary to survive during those incredibly challenging years on Cape Cod - away from all they knew, in a wilderness surrounded by Indigenous people - sometimes helpful, sometimes not.

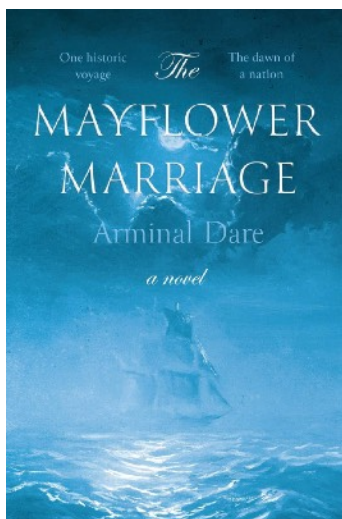
As with earlier, I found myself taking notes so I could match the storyline with the facts that were unknown to me. For example, did the local natives shriek at night near the early settlement? Did the pigeon infestation really occur? Was Mistress Brewster so stern and unforgiving? And as always, I was curious to learn specific terms - what is a sawpit, and what is a mattock, and what does one do when "hoicking?"

Other curiosities included questions about memory holes, and was there a special relationship between Priscilla Alden and Roger Williams? Did the Mayflower Compact require all non-believers to participate in their religious practices?

In telling the story, the author developed interesting personalities for Priscilla and John Alden, Mistress Brewster, Thomas Prentice, and others, weaving complex story lines, enmeshing actual events with plausible dialog and graphic details. The result is enthralling and emotional and encompasses every facet of their lives - death and the hereafter, spirituality, relationships, legal and moral issues, as well as the struggle to meet their financial obligations back in England. Though brand new and at first, full of optimism, their world was complicated, dangerous, and fragile.

From our historical perspective, war with the native tribes would be inevitable, and that if the colony survived, newcomers would bring needed skills and tools, along with ideas and unrest. From their perspective, could they possibly survive all these tragic event's year after year, and continue their dauntless quest? It is a fascinating story that kept my attention from beginning to end.

Do not be put off by the eight hundred plus pages of this book! The story lines flow smoothly, kept my interest, and helped me better understand the incredible hardship and heartache that affected the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of this struggling community.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: CRANE-BERRY OR CRANBERRY?

Did you know one of the traditional dinner staples for our Thanksgiving celebration was once called crane-berry, not cranberry? Early settlers described the flowers of this gorgeous red fruit as resembling the head of a crane so for many years the traditional holiday fruits were called “crane-berries.” However, as the language changed slightly through the centuries, they became known as our “cranberries.”

Fortunately, cranberries were native to North America. Cranberry “experts” <https://www.uscranberries.com/about-cranberries> state that Native Americans used cranberries as a staple as early as 1550. “They ate cranberries fresh, ground, or mashed with cornmeal and baked into bread. “They also mixed cranberries with wild game and melted fat to form pemmican, a survival ration for the winter months. Maple sugar or honey was used to sweeten the berry’s tangy flavor.”

Native Americans also had other uses for this native fruit. “They brewed cranberry poultices to draw poison from arrow wounds, used cranberry in tea to calm nerves, as well as using the juice as a dye for fabrics.”

The Wampanoag people likely shared these survival tips with our Pilgrims. Neither the Native Americans nor the Mayflower families would have known that the crane-berry or cranberry was a rich source of antioxidants, vitamins C, K and E, and minerals, but these colorful berries were plentiful in nature. They were a fruit to be thankful for during those early years in Plymouth!

Janice Sly



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 bw.mallett@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 93 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