

Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants



Stephen Hopkins Colony, Vero Beach

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

<https://stephenhopkinscolonyflmayflower.com/>

hopkinscolonyvero@gmail.com

GOVERNOR'S GREETINGS – FALL 2025

Dear Stephen Hopkins Colony Members, Prospective Members, and Friends,



Many festive activities and events are coming up for you to celebrate as we navigate into autumn toward our Pilgrim Heritage and the traditional joys of Thanksgiving! You can look forward to the Stephen Hopkins Colony Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Monday, November 10 at Point West Country Club in Vero Beach, when we will enjoy the traditional Thanksgiving menu AND celebrate the 24th Anniversary of our Stephen Hopkins Colony chartered on November 13, 2001!

The program at the September meeting, “Sharing Our Mayflower Treasures,” was very successful and enjoyed by all. We were able to share ten treasures, so please bring *your* special keepsakes to the November 10 meeting, and you will have an opportunity to tell us about them.

For celebrating America’s 250th Anniversary on July 4, 2026, I am very excited to report success with my quest to participate in The Mayflower Society program ***Pilgrims to Patriots***. I have two Revolutionary War patriots who were direct descendants of several of my Mayflower ancestors: my 4th great-grandfather Lemuel Fish and his son, my 3rd great-grandfather, Simeon Fish. I am in the process of completing DAR supplemental applications so that my two patriots can be added to the official Mayflower Pilgrims to Patriots List. HUZZAH!

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and joyful holiday season in 2025!

With warmest regards,

Lynne

Carolyn “Lynne” Jensen, Governor
Stephen Hopkins Colony, FSMD
H: 772.781.4257 or C: 609.709.5681 Email: lynne.jensen1620@gmail.com

Stephen Hopkins Colony Membership Meeting Calendar 2025-26

For 2025, our final General Membership Luncheon Meeting is by invitation only and will be held **November 10, 2025**. Check-in begins at 11:00 AM, and the meeting begins at 11:30 AM.

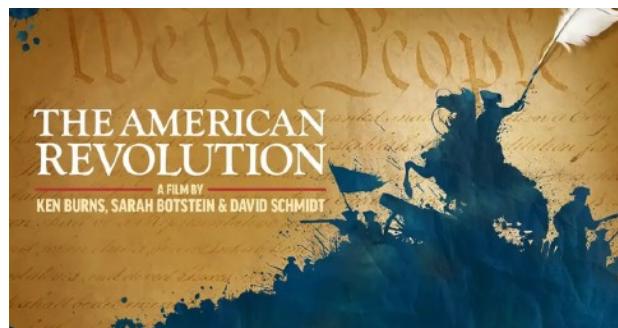
For 2026, our four meeting dates are **February 9, April 13, September 14 and November 9**. These dates are all the 2nd Monday of those months. Check-in begins at 11:00 AM, and the meeting begins at 11:30 AM.

Our meeting location is Pointe West Country Club, 7500 14th Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32966-1200. Reservations are required.

Revolution 250

The PBS documentary series *The American Revolution*, premieres on Sunday, November 16, 2025. Directed by filmmaker Ken Burns, this is a six-part, 12-hour miniseries that explores the eight-year war for independence and the founding of the United States of America. An effort was made to include perspectives from diverse groups of the era, including indigenous people, women, slaves, Loyalists, and Caribbean influences.

The broadcast will air over six consecutive nights (November 16 - 21) from 8-10:00 ET (check local listings) on PBS stations. The full series becomes available to stream beginning Sunday, November 16 at PBS.org and on the PBS app. The program, in development for eight years, has been timed to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the war's start in 1775 (over a year before the Declaration of Independence).



The script is by Geoffrey C. Ward, a longtime collaborator of Ken Burns. A companion book, *The American Revolution An Intimate History* by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns, published by Alfred A. Knopf on November 11, 2025, includes essays from established historians plus timely artwork, pamphlets, and maps.

Stephanie Rubin, Education Committee Chair



FOREFATHER'S DAY IN PLYMOUTH: CELEBRATED EACH YEAR ON DECEMBER 22 SINCE 1769

Have you heard of the Old Colony Club? This organization has kept the importance of December 22 foremost in Mayflower history for 250 years. Before the nation-wide celebration of our traditional Thanksgiving Day (begun about 1863), Old Colony Club members honored their forefathers in a special salute on the day the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth. This tradition continues today.

The Old Colony Club, reported to be the oldest men's club in the western hemisphere, was formed in January 1769 by Isaac Lothrop, Pelham Winslow, Thomas Lothrop, Thomas Mayhew, Elkanah Cushman, John Thomas, Edward Winslow, Jr., and John Watson. On December 22 of that year, they first commemorated the landing of eighteen Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock via a ferry shallop from the Mayflower. This celebration, known as "Old Colony Day" (and later as "Forefathers Day") was erroneously established on December 22 instead of December 21 when the group inaccurately adjusted the landing date to the Gregorian calendar implemented in 1752. [Edited from *Wikipedia*]



The tradition continues. Each year on December 22, Colony Club Members conduct an early (6 a.m.) celebratory parade, marching to Cole's Hill to give speeches honoring the Pilgrims' faith, courage and fortitude. At the conclusion, they shoot a cannon three times over Plymouth Rock, shouting "Hip, Hip Hurrah!" as they raise their hats to remember our precious Pilgrims.

Submitted by Janice Sly

The Book Corner 2025

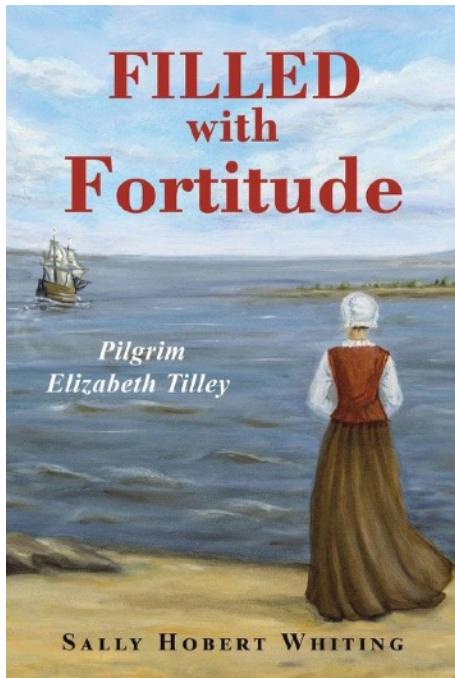
FILLED with Fortitude: Pilgrim Elizabeth Tilley

by Sally Hobert Whiting

Although you may think your library is filled with Mayflower history books of all kinds, you may still have many unanswered questions about the challenges of the preparations and struggles involved in the actual voyage and settlement of the Plymouth Colony in New England.

Sally Hobert Whiting spent six years of research using her personal life experiences in farming, sailing, teaching, writing, publishing, and gathering history to write this fascinating historical fiction novel about Elizabeth Tilley. The definition of “fortitude” is courage and strength in the face of pain, adversity, or hardship. Elizabeth Tilley, a passenger on the Mayflower voyage in 1620, was the epitome of fortitude! Through her strong faith and by pure necessity, she learned to nurse and give comfort to others. Orphaned at 13 years old, Elizabeth Tilley went on to marry Pilgrim John Holland, eventually having 10 children and 88 grandchildren.

Filled with Fortitude is a book for the millions of her cousins today — and for anyone who recognizes the courage and strength of the Pilgrims — to read and enjoy!



Reviewed by Lynne Jensen, Cousin

It's About Time That Little Brother Did Something Useful

Proving a family line for a lineage society is often a challenge, especially when vital records for your target person are lacking. Here are the basic three rules I follow for all Mayflower applications. These rules are also can be used with other lineage societies:

Three goals or proofs are needed for each generation in an application:

1. One or more documents (birth, marriage, or death records, etc.) must name parents in a way that connects each generation with the next.
2. One or more documents must show that it is the same person at marriage who is listed as a child of the parents.
3. Places and dates are supported in the documents.

In some cases, I've been able to prove a Mayflower line using vital records of siblings when the vital records of the target Mayflower line carrier were either lost in a fire or never collected. Consider looking for sibling records, especially birth and marriage records that show parent information. I prefer birth and marriage records over death records because death records often contain mistakes by grieving relatives.

As an example, let's take a little brother who was born in 1858 in New York and the target person, also a male was born in 1856. The 1860 Federal Census listed members of a household by their names, ages, and sex, also showing the state in which the household members were born. Although this information is not as good as the 1880 Federal Census — which was the first national census that included the relations of the household members to each other — it's a starting point. In the case of New York and several other states around the 1860's, state census records reveal relations among the household members and the county in NY where the family members were born. Birth Records in New York were not generally available until 1880 so it is unlikely we will find the little brother's birth record, either. However, the two censuses we have for them (1860 Federal and 1865 New York) show them living in the same household with their parents (and maybe, with some luck, with grandparents).

The little brother's marriage record becomes important, especially if he stayed in New York. Let's assume he did and married at age 23 in 1881. Happily, in New York, marriage records became generally available by 1880. If this record were found, it would include the couple's ages, places of birth, dates of birth, and full parent names. Remember to look also at the witnesses on the marriage record: perhaps the older brother is listed, as well. The marriage record of the younger brother, tied with census records, is a good way to "back into" birth information for the target older brother.

In the case of Mayflower applications, I also include a "Historian Note" in the birth line of the Mayflower carrier to demonstrate the relationship of the brothers using the two census records and the younger brother's marriage record.

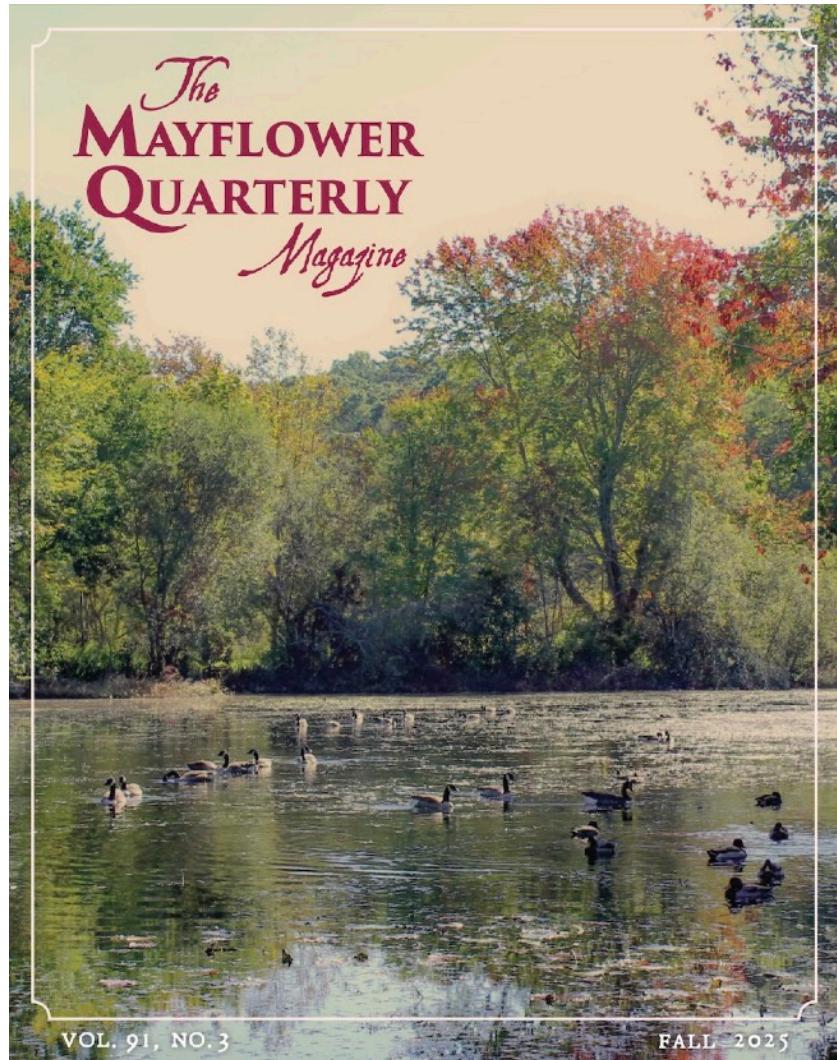
Although a sibling's death certificate can also be used to help identify and prove parentage of a Mayflower line carrier, information about parents and birth on that document is often in error. Concentrate on looking for a sibling's marriage record, or, if available, a sibling's birth record. In short, consider "asking" that younger brother for assistance in ancestry proof, since he may not have done much else besides being a pest!

Kurt Bressner, Archivist

Stephen Hopkins Colony "On the Road"



Marsha Adams and Lynne Jensen representing the Stephen Hopkins Colony at The Mayflower Society display table at the Martin County Genealogical Society Family History Fair in Palm City, FL on Saturday, October 18, 2025.



Have You Seen Me?

The General Society mails the Mayflower Quarterly to all current members of the Stephen Hopkins Colony. This is a benefit of membership since your colony membership also includes membership in the Florida Society and the national General Society. However, if you've changed your mailing address, there's a good chance you are missing out on receiving the Mayflower Quarterly. Please contact me to make sure we have your current contact information. I'll check that your contact information is updated so you continue to receive the Mayflower Quarterly and other mailed information from Plymouth.

Kurt Bressner, Archivist and Membership Secretary at hopkinscolonyvero@gmail.com or 561-436-2328.

GSMD and FSMD Scholarship Programs for 2026

Attention High School Seniors and Mayflower Society Sponsors!

General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) — THIS IS PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

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.

HOW TO APPLY

The 2026 scholarship program is expected to begin in January 2026.

There were 5 scholarships awarded in 2025:

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

Two GSMD Native American Scholarships – \$1,300 each

The Mary Chilton Winslow Scholarship – \$2,400

Here is the link to the 2025 program:

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

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida (FSMD) — THIS IS PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

The 2026 Scholarship Program will be announced soon. It is expected that applications will be accepted from February 1 through March 31, 2026. This means the envelope with application documents must be postmarked by midnight, March 31, 2026.

Winners are expected to be announced on May 1, 2026.

In 2025 four annual scholarships of \$2,000 were available and awarded.

Here is the link to the program:

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

Note: While this information refers to the 2025 Program, it is expected the 2026 Scholarship Program details will be announced in January 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kurt Bressner, Archivist, Stephen Hopkins Colony

kbressner@gmail.com

Annual Dues Notice 2026

*Stephen Hopkins Colony
Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida*

Hello Mayflower Members,

I would like to talk to you about the dues (**Dollars Usually Expected Soon**) for 2026.
The Annual Dues amount has not changed (\$54):

Stephen Hopkins Colony	_____	\$10.00
FSMD State Dues	_____	\$ 9.00
GSMD National Dues	_____	\$35.00
		\$54.00

In order to meet increased expenses, the Stephen Hopkins Colony Board has proposed an *optional donation* “No Bake Sale of \$10.” Please consider this addition when making your payment and write your check for \$64.00 payable to “Stephen Hopkins Colony” by November 15, 2025.

You may either save a stamp and bring your dues check to the meeting on November 10 or mail it to me:

Beth Dewey
1245 Seminole Drive
Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937

One last item for you to know: You have the option of using Zelle to pay your Annual Dues. The address is treasurer.stephenhopkins@gmail.com .

Remember: The deadline for your 2026 dues is November 15, 2025.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Beth Dewey
Treasurer
321-777-4065
edewey@bellsouth.net

Stephen Hopkins Name Tag 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. your 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) at the next colony meeting after I have received your name tag
 - b) in-person at a convenient location in greater Vero Beach
 - c) mailed to you (Include your full mailing address. There is an additional cost for postage.)



Name tags may be ordered for members only.

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

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

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. In the past three years, five Hopkins Colony junior members have become full adult members taking advantage of the application fee waiver. If you are interested in registering your junior, please contact me, and I will coordinate the junior membership application. Your junior need not be resident of Florida but must be a blood relative to you. With 91 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.

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

Kurt Bressner, Junior Chair, Stephen Hopkins Colony

Officers and Board Members 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