

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/>

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GOVERNOR'S GREETINGS — WINTER 2026

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



Since retiring and becoming a Florida resident in 2000, I have spent the last 25 years exploring genealogy and chasing down ancestors. I found great success and the best results after joining various lineage societies which kept specific goals attached to my “Tree.” I researched records and documented each generation, as is required. Fortunately, applications also are limited to *direct* ancestors (i.e., you, to your parents, to your grandparents, etc.).

My interest in ancestry began with my father, Phillips Lovering Morrison, who had learned from his parents that he was descended from Joseph Lovering, who participated in the Boston Tea Party at the age of 15. When my older sister went to Simmons College in Boston, my father asked her to check on this information at the Harvard Library. She found the proof in *Tea Leaves of 1773* by Francis S. Drake. I also learned that Joseph’s father, Joseph Mayo Lovering, Sr., is listed on the names of those comprising the watch on November 29, 1773. HUZZAH! I have established both Joseph Loverings as proven DAR Patriot Ancestors and have recently been accepted as a Lineage Member to the Boston Tea Party Descendants Program of American Ancestors/NEHGS.

You may have read recently in *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* Winter 2025 the article “Tracing a Line to Charlemagne, Magna Carta Barons, and Plantagenet Kings” by Bonnie Wade Mascia, AG and Silver Books Director (pp.33-34). I have done that tracing and have been able to establish memberships in those lineage societies through my 7th great-grandmother, Mary (Gye) Maverick (1600-1666), who came over from Devon, England with her husband, the Rev. John Maverick on the ship “Mary and John” to Dorchester, Massachusetts Colony in 1629-30. Basically, I only needed to prove that my entry ancestor is Mary Gye

and that I am a direct descendant because her extensive official royal lineage before her migration has previously been proven.

On p.35 of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* Winter 2025, our Governor General Lisa Pennington has written a follow-up article, “PLANTAGENET PILGRIMS Do You Have Royal Ancestors?” which encourages GSMD members to seek royal connections through **marriages**. You, too, may be interested in that goal, and you, too, may find success.

Also, as we celebrate America’s 250th Anniversary on July 4, 2026, I encourage you to join The Mayflower Society Pilgrims to Patriots Program. I can testify that a close examination of the marriages in your Mayflower lineage may uncover Patriots for you to document and enjoy! I have found Revolutionary War Patriots Lemuel Fish (1727-1812) and his son, Simeon Fish (1758-1833) through my Pilgrim Ancestor, 7th great-grandfather Thomas Rogers (1638-1678).

These descendants are through my Morrison line. I also have Revolutionary War Patriots through my Phillips line and my Lovering line. My father would be so proud!

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 2026

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.

Annotated List of Mayflower Passengers, Crew and Servants

Did you ever wonder which of the Mayflower’s 101 passengers, crew, and servants survived the first winter of 1620-1621 at Plymouth? Would you like to know which passengers (survivors and non-survivors) had descendants? To help answer those questions, I have 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 email you the list. I think you will find that this interesting report underscores how close Plymouth Colony came to extinction that first year.

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

Allerton Colony Fundraiser

On December 6, 2025, six members and three guests of the Stephen Hopkins Colony traveled to Boynton Beach to attend a fundraiser sponsored by the Issac Allerton Colony of Palm Beach. The money raised will benefit the renovations for the Pilgrim Meeting House in Plymouth, MA. The highlight for us was meeting and chatting with Lisa Pennington (see photos), Governor General of The Mayflower Society. Lisa gave an interesting, informative slide presentation showcasing plans for the meeting house and the new second floor museum. The renovations will be a welcome addition to future Plymouth visits. The bidding on a full week's stay at the Mayflower House (which also included additional perks) was active and fun.

Congratulations to the winning bidders, who held on during the fast and furious bidding. During the ride from Vero Beach, we discovered we were all cousins. Of course, many of us are!

Marsha Adams, Vice Governor, Stephen Hopkins Colony



Left to Right: Sharon Paugh, Karen Kovarik, Grace Nola, Janice Sly, Marsha Adams, Lynne Jensen, Jann Zermenno, Pauline Saucier Murray and Bob Murray



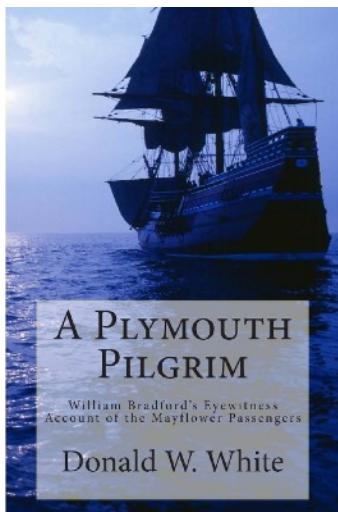
Janice Sly, General Society Governor General Lisa Pennington, Jann Zermenio and Marsha Adams

The Book Corner 2026

A Plymouth Pilgrim:

William Bradford's Eyewitness Account of the Mayflower Passengers

by Donald W. White



Why read another book about the Mayflower voyage and the Plymouth settlement? The issues and challenges the inhabitants faced continue to be the issues of our time. The audience for this book is all those who struggle to decipher the writings of William Bradford. It is a good match for adults as well as middle and high school learners. The old English words used by Bradford have been altered for modern readers, and each chapter ends with questions for reflection. The narration is mostly first person, "paraphrased so as to sound as if Governor Bradford is sitting near your fireplace, sharing his gripping story over hot tea and biscuits."

Starting with religious prosecution, the author gives a broader picture of the insecurity and unsafe practice of their chosen sect. Unable to stay in or leave England, they had to secretly escape to Holland. Bradford tells of the harrowing foiled attempts, separations, and imprisonment that must have been heartbreak. Due to the aging of the group in harsh living

conditions, the children's exposure to "unrestrained immorality," and their desire to "spread the Gospel of Christ," they were impelled to move on.

Unsuccessfully petitioning King James for religious freedom, they were granted permission to partner with the Virginia Company of London. The author includes several letters between their representatives (John Robinson and Robert Cushman) with the leaders of the Company for further understanding. The Company itself was in turmoil, with conflicts created by William Blackwell's faction in Amsterdam and the loss of many passengers crossing to Virginia.

The obstacles to their migration continued. Details in letters between leaders and investors lend an understanding of the complexities of negotiation that took place. It is a wonder they ever boarded a ship at all!

The narration continues with the story of the Atlantic crossing, establishment of the settlement, and well-known facts that most of us know. Bradford also made note of the irascibility of the Mayflower crew continuing into the winter of death, treating each other poorly even as they were dying. Also of note were events prior to the Mayflower landing that impacted the Pokanets' wariness of the new arrivals. New to me was the story of Thomas Dermer.

There are appendices that are helpful, as well. Included is an alphabetical list of all the passengers, noting those that died the first winter; a timeline of events that help the reader understand the big picture; and an excerpt of Bradford's writing in his original words for you to try to read.

Review by Jackie Jette

Stephen Hopkins Name Tag Information 2026

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.

USING AI TO TELL MY STORY

For my Thanksgiving note to family members this past November, I decided to try using Claude Artificial Intelligence* to summarize our history. In less than *four* minutes using basic facts I inputted, this poem was generated. Admittedly, this AI result is not classical literature; nevertheless, it got the story told! I encourage you to try utilizing Artificial Intelligence to create your own heritage story.

*Claude is a next generation AI assistant built by Anthropic.

Janice Sly

A Heritage Poem, 1620 to Today: George Soule

In sixteen twenty came the Mayflower's sail,
Through storms and seas, a harrowing tale,
Pilgrim George Soule arrived, indentured, brave,
Seeking freedom across the wave.
By sixteen twenty-three he wed,
Mary Becket, it is said.
Together they would build and toil,
On Plymouth's hard and rocky soil.
Their daughter Susannah, strong and fair,
Married Francis West with care.
To Rhode Island they did go,
Where their family tree would grow.
Young Susanna (West), Kingston's own,
Wed John Tanner, love was shown.
Hopkinton, Rhode Island knew their name,

Their legacy, and honest fame.
Job, their son, moved north and west,
To Troy, New York, he did his best.
Anne Sherman became his bride,
Through life's journey, side by side.
Then another Susan came along,
Their daughter, faithful, kind, and strong,
She married Abner Briggs one day
From Dutchess County, New York way.
Tanner Briggs, their son so bold,
Left New York for tales untold,
To Fond du Lac, Wisconsin land,
Where farmland stretched on every hand.
With his wife Mary Jane LaRue,
Joseph's daughter, kind and true,
They traveled far
Following the western star
To Milltown, Hutchinson County, South Dakota bound,
By eighteen ninety there they were found,
But Anna Jane, their daughter dear,
Had different dreams to hold so dear.
In Wisconsin she remained,
Where love and hope were not in vain,
Olmstead LaRue, Civil War vet, became her spouse.
Together they built their own log house.
But soon to Michigan they made their way,
Manistee County, there to stay.
Bear Lake Township, homestead ground,
Where peace, good neighbors, and simple life were found.
On Potter Road, just one mile down
From Bear Lake's small and friendly town
They farmed the land with humble pride,
With faith and family by their side.
In eighteen eighty-one was born
A daughter bright as summer morn.
Nellie Elsie was her name,
With red hair like a fiery flame!
Three times married was her fate,
(Milks and Hansen at the gate.
Then Milks again before the end.)
To three children would her love extend.
Bertha Milks Matthews, first to come.
Then Jane Milks Snyder, the middle one.
Jack Hansen, last but not the least,

A family bond that never ceased.
From 1620's distant shore,
Through ten generations or more,
This family tree has grown so wide,
A heritage to hold with pride!
Now, dear relatives who read this rhyme,
It's your turn now to mark the time,
Add your verse, expand it on,
Thus our story will live on!

Who's Your Cousin?

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) recognizes 51 passengers who are known to have had descendants. The GSMD list is here: <https://themayflowersociety.org/passenger-profiles/>



How many of these 51 passengers do we account for as members of the Stephen Hopkins Colony? While we have 150 members, many members have Supplemental approvals for more than one Mayflower Passenger. Of the 51 passengers, we have direct connections to 34, leaving 17 passengers we don't have representation for. Most of these missing passengers are sons or daughters of passengers, but two are more well-known: Richard More and Edward Winslow.¹

I reviewed the January 2026 Hopkins Colony Membership Roster and analyzed passenger counts among our members.

Here is a list of the most prevalent shared Mayflower lines among our Colony members with 10 or more "Cousins" from 10 passengers:

Stephen Hopkins - 29²
Richard Warren - 26
John Alden - 23
William Brewster - 23
John Howland - 14
William Bradford - 11
William Mullins - 11
James Chilton - 10
Thomas Rogers - 10
John Tilley - 10

¹ Richard More had 3 children; only one, Susanna had children who could be traced. (MF 15:157). Edward Winslow had a son with two children who could be traced and a daughter with one child who could be traced. (MF 25: 5, 7).

² Meaning 29 colony members share Stephen Hopkins as their passenger and so forth.

The second group has 4 or more “Cousins” from 14 passengers:

Isaac Allerton - 9
Francis Cooke - 8
Priscilla Mullins - 8
George Soule - 8
Elizabeth Tilley - 8
Joan (Hurst) Tilley - 8
John Billington - 7
William White - 7
Edward Doty - 5
Francis Eaton - 5
Constance Hopkins - 5
Myles Standish - 5
Samuel Fuller - 4
Degory Priest - 4

The smallest group has 3 or less “Cousins” from 7 passengers:

Peter Brown - 3
Henry Samson - 3
Resolved White - 2
Elinor Billington - 1
Francis Billington - 1
Mary Chilton - 1
Joseph Rogers - 1

If you would like a list of your “Hopkins Colony Cousins” send me your target Mayflower passenger, and I’ll send you your cousin list. No matter how many Mayflower cousins you have, know that you are part of a very large and special family.

Kurt Bressner, Archivist and Membership Secretary

GSMD and FSMD 2026 Scholarship Programs

If you have a high school senior in your family tree, Mayflower offers two scholarship programs for you to consider, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Scholarship Program and the Florida Mayflower (FSMD) Scholarship Program. Both have very short deadlines, and each has different eligibility criteria and submission requirements

NOTE: The following is a *summary only* of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants (FSMD) 2026 Scholarship Programs. A longer article containing *complete* information on these scholarship opportunities was emailed to Hopkins Colony members on January 21, 2026. Please check the following websites for that information:

GSMD 2026 Scholarship Page

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

GSMD 2026 Pre-Qualification Page

<https://themayflowersociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Mayflower-Society-2026-Scholarship-Application-Information.pdf>

FSMD 2026 Scholarship Page

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

FSMD 2026 Scholarship Application

<https://www.flmayflower.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/FSMD-2026-SCHOLARSHIP-APPLICATION-3a.pdf>

The following is a summary of each Scholarship Program.

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General Society to Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Scholarship Program for 2026

The GSMD scholarship application is a two-step process, pre-qualification and application. Visit the above GSMD links for specific information.

GSMD Submission Deadline: March 2, 2026

GSMD Scholarship Awards:

- Three scholarships in the amount of \$6000, \$5000, and \$4000 for graduating high school seniors
- One scholarship (the Mary Chilton Winslow Scholarship) in the amount of \$2400 for graduating high school seniors
- One Native American Scholarship for graduating high school seniors with proven descent to a Native American ancestor

GSMD Eligibility:

- Graduating high school seniors who are Mayflower descendants (or Native American descendants for the Native American Scholarship)
- Will be attending a four-year college or university or two-year community college

GSMD Ancestry Requirements:

- Provide the name of the Mayflower Ancestor(s) from whom descended
- Provide a valid, active (not deceased, resigned, or dropped) GSMD membership number for either the applicant or for a parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent of the applicant

GSMD Additional Requirements:

- Complete and submit the application form
- Complete and submit the essay
- Submit a recent transcript

- Enter a four-year college or university or two-year community college
- Provide names/emails for two references, a teacher and a person in the community (Note that each reference will need to complete a required form.)

GSMD stresses the importance of completing all required forms, submitting all required information, and *strictly* meeting the time deadline for the scholarship program. In addition to the pre-application form, application form, and essay requirement, other required documents such as transcripts and reference forms may take lead time, so plan accordingly. Failure to submit all the required forms (including references) and documents within the allotted time will result in disqualification.

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Florida Mayflower (FSMD) Scholarship Program for 2026

Visit the above FSMD links for specific information.

FSMD Submission Period and Deadline: February 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026 (Winners announced May 1, 2026)

FSMD Scholarship Awards:

- Four annual FSMD scholarships of \$2,000 each awarded to current high school seniors or returning military members who are or will be attending an accredited college/university, trade school, or vocational school

FSMD Ancestry Requirements

- Sponsored by a biological relative (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or cousin) who is a current member in good standing of the FSMD
- Applicants not required to live within the borders of the State of Florida or the United States of America

NOTE: A new FSMD scholarship application form is currently being developed. However, a summary of scholarship requirements can be found on the old form that is available at the above FSMD link. Completing all required forms and meeting the time deadline for submission of all required information is of utmost importance to remain eligible for this scholarship program.

Sharing Our Mayflower Treasures

Our Hopkins Colony meeting on November 10, 2025 featured members sharing their Mayflower Treasures.



Education Chair Stephanie Rubin and Vice Governor Marsha Adams



Barbara Farrington - the Mayflower



Angela Garland and Barry Garland - "The Map"



Bobbie Mallett's Mayflower Tree w/help from Marsha Adams



Janice Sly with "Historic" Hopkins Colony Photo



Stephanie Sakowski and the Mayflower

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
Webmaster - Debbie Dalrymple
Member Name Tag Coordinator - Bobbi Mallett
Newsletter Editors - Kurt and Diane Bressner