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 - Summer Newsletter 2026

Dear Stephen Hopkins Colony Members, Prospective Members and Friends,



As I approach the final quarter of my three-year term as your Governor, I am thankful that it has been a true honor and a pleasure to serve the Stephen Hopkins Colony of Mayflower Descendants. Team spirit is the key, and I appreciated your willingness to participate and contribute both time and treasure for the successes that we have enjoyed. It warms my heart to see the framed Stephen Hopkins Colony Charter from November 13, 2001 with 24 names and know that we now have 154 members from the same 5 counties of the Space Coast and the Treasure Coast!

As we prepare for the future and move into the next term with a new slate of Officers for 2026-2029, I encourage you to get involved and offer assistance on committees and support events that satisfy your interests and talents. Make an effort to attend meetings, meet new friends, and share our common interests and love of our Pilgrim stories.

Warmest regards,

Lynne Jensen, Governor

Stephen Hopkins Colony – Vero Beach

Stephen Hopkins Colony Calendar
2026-27

For 2026, our General Membership Luncheon Meetings are by invitation only and will be held on 4 times a year on: **February 9, April 13, September 14 and November 9, 2026.** For 2027, our four General Membership meetings will be held on **February 8, April 12, September 13 and November 8, 2027**. Note these are all on the 2nd Monday of those months and start 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 is fortunate to have two of the four 2026 Florida Mayflower Society Scholarships awarded to students sponsored by members of our Colony.

How Having a Mayflower Ancestry Impacted My Life

by Aubrey Reese Stickney

Edward Sullivan Scholarship Award

Being a descendant of Miles Standish has impacted my life in many ways. It has built resilience within me to overcome hardships. Further, it has built my self-esteem to possess the confidence that I am capable of high achievement even in times of stress. It has also fostered a strong connection to history and pride in our country.



Aubrey Stickney with her grandfather Stephen Crapo

This special ancestry has built resilience in me academically and personally. Myles Standish displayed great resilience as the military leader of Plymouth Colony. Despite losing his wife during their brutal first winter, he remained their dedicated military leader, fulfilling military and civil duties. As I read about the hardships of the Pilgrims, where disease and hunger killed about half of the settlers, I imagine the events that took place and am in awe of the strength they had. They put the greater good ahead of themselves. Having a father who did 4 combat tours flying the F/A-18 for the Navy, it occurred to me that my family was making a sacrifice for our country much like Myles did. I reminded myself that Myles is somewhere within me, therefore I have the strength to get through the hardship of having my father in combat.

Owning my resilience during challenges has contributed increasing my feeling of self worth. Myles Standish was not only a fierce military leader, but a kind person who helped the sick during their first winter and served the common good of the colony.

The fact that I share even a speck of DNA with a man who was so capable has helped me to believe in my capabilities. Further, academic rigor also became manageable as my perspective on hardship was influenced by my connection to my ancestors. On long nights of studying, I have often considered that my challenges are nothing compared to what he endured. I'm not afraid to go through discomfort in order to push myself to achieve my goals. I have pushed myself to take the hardest math and science classes offered at my high

school. Currently, I am the only female in Advanced Placement BC Calculus at my large high school. Thinking back to middle school when my teachers identified me as a student to be placed in advanced mathematics, I remember feeling confident that I could be successful. I took on the challenge and now mathematically perform at the top of my class of almost 600 students.

My personal link to the establishment of American democracy through Myles Standish signing the Mayflower Compact fills me with pride. I will never take for granted the freedoms I hold today that were initiated by the Pilgrims. My mother grew up on Cape Cod which enabled me to spend a lot of time there. When I first saw the Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown, stepped foot onto First Encounter beach in Eastham, and visited the town of Plymouth, I was filled with emotion. I imagined the arrival of the Pilgrims on that narrow tip of Cape Cod, interactions with the Natives, and the establishment of Plymouth Colony on land that had been cleared by the Patuxet before they were hit by plague. It all felt so personal to me. When I see all the places named after Myles Standish, I feel pride in all that he overcame and accomplished. This pride has fueled me to give my best to my work so that I can contribute to society in a way that would make my ancestors proud. Recently, I earned a spot on the competitive Clemson Honors College as a Health Science Pre-professional Health Studies major on a pre-dental track.

My ancestry has been a significant gift building resilience, self-esteem and pride within me. This rich heritage pushes me to be my best as I prepare to serve my community as a dentist.

Aubrey Reese Stickney of Lexington, South Carolina, is sponsored by Stephen Reese Crapo of the Stephen Hopkins Colony and will be attending Clemson Honors College, where she aspires to a career in dentistry.

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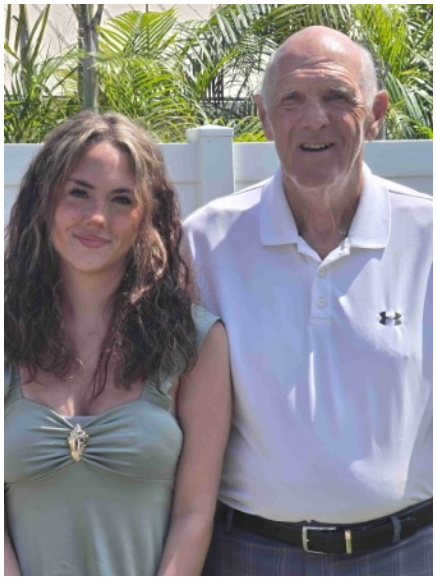
How Having a Mayflower Ancestry Impacted My Life

by Emily Nicole Derby

Pilgrim Legacy Scholarship Award

When I was a little girl, my grandmother was researching my grandfather's ancestry and would tell me stories about my Mayflower Passenger ancestors. She told me not to look at the profiles as gray and white but as people of strength, determination, and courage. I didn't think too much about it at the time, but when I started to learn the history of our country, I

began to appreciate my Mayflower ancestors. I understood the risks they took when they made the decision to leave the familiar behind and head off to an unfamiliar place where they could start a new life defined by their values without the fear of persecution. Their decision took courage, strength, bravery, determination, and perseverance.



Emily Derby with her grandfather Ronald Derby

Their story of their perseverance beginning with the day they set sail on the Mayflower, the adversities and struggles they endured, and how they came together as a colony by working hard and helping one another has been the motivation that has guided my decisions along the way.

My Mayflower ancestors showed me that with determination, bravery and courage, anything is possible, even in the face of adversity and struggle. It is these values and strengths that have helped shape my journey through life.

Their determination showed me that hardship is not an ending but a beginning. My personal challenge came from a series of concussions and medical conditions that sidelined me from sports and disrupted my focus in school. For weeks I struggled with headaches and memory issues, wondering if I would ever be myself again. Each time doubt crept in, I reminded myself that I am a Mayflower descendant and I have the determination, strength, and courage to persevere through physical setbacks, to remain resilient and brave enough to travel the long and sometimes tiring road to recovery. I worked hard, I stayed strong. It took courage, strength, determination and perseverance. I made that voyage to recovery.

Learning about their early days in Plymouth Colony, motivated me to help others whether it be volunteering at various PTO events at school, assisting lower grade teachers with after school clubs, helping friends, or through community service.

Overall, being a Mayflower descendant has become my source of motivation to work hard, stay strong, during struggles and challenges, and not let fear of the unknown keep me from succeeding.

Determination, courage, strength and bravery in the face of adversity, and perseverance have shaped my personality. As I look ahead to my future and begin new chapter in my life, I will continue to carry those values with me.

Thanks to my Mayflower ancestors, I am brave enough to try new things, strong enough to handle new challenges, kind enough to make a positive difference in the lives of others, and make choices and decisions that I can be proud of.

I am proud to be a descendent of a Mayflower passenger, and proud to be an American.

Emily Noble Derby of Bear, Delaware, is sponsored by Melissa L. Derby of the Stephen Hopkins Colony and will be attending Indian River State College, after which she aspires to become a psychiatrist.

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Meet Our "Downunder" Cousins

More than 30,000 members of *Mayflower* descendants belong to 54 societies across the world. Last summer in our colony newsletter I encouraged you to learn about our Canadian cousins. This summer I think you will find learning about our relatives "Down Under" in Australia equally interesting.

The Australian Mayflower Society website is www.mayflowersociety.org.au. Our Downunder cousins started their society just six years ago. The Mayflower Society in Australia was officially chartered by the *General Society of Mayflower Descendants* on Australia Day (Jan. 26) 2020. Their current Governor is Bill Elliott, who earlier was a Mayflower Society member in the United States. The group regularly meets together online in what they call "Cousins Coffee" to convey news, educate members, and enjoy camaraderie. Their desire to reach out, to meet and greet to get to know their cousins everywhere, is obvious. For example, in March the topic for discussion was "How can we better our links with our current day Pilgrim cousins around the world?" Also, in addition to these live sessions, the Australian Mayflower Society publishes informative quarterly newsletters ("Dispatches from Downunder"), available to read on their website.

How does the Australian Mayflower Society educate Australians about their Pilgrim ancestors? They offer a course titled "Pilgrim 101: A Cornerstone of Learning." This series, one of the Society's most valued resources, draws upon primary sources, historical records, timelines, and maps to offer an exploration of Pilgrim life, the English Reformation, the Leiden years, the journey to the New World, and the early years in Plymouth Colony. Noted Mayflower historians and educators Beth Lambright and Bruce Harrington developed this 10-month series of lectures. The society also encourages its members to view Mayflower Society's youtube.com

videos developed by Governor General Lisa Pennington, an informative contribution and resource to *Mayflower* cousins all over the world.

The Australian Mayflower Society also encourages activities for Junior Members! Juniors online can learn about their Pilgrim ancestors through puzzles, coloring pages, and online craft directions (for example, how to make quill pens, Pilgrims hats, and bracelets). An extensive bibliography of age-level appropriate history books is included, as well.

How did Mayflower descendants end up so far away in Australia? Their society has begun special new research they have titled the "Goldfields Project" to track migration in the mid-19th century to Australia from North America. Read about this initiative in their September 2025 "Dispatches from Downunder" newsletter.

Submitted by Janice Sly, Board Member

Meet the *Mayflower* Passengers: Stephen Hopkins

While on the road and in search of an interesting book this summer, I visited a remote, small-town library (undergoing a major renovation) in Wyoming, hoping to find an interesting book to share. I uncovered a limited collection of *Mayflower Families in Progress* books, published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1988. I hadn't yet spent any time perusing the more up-to-date Silver Books, and though the book about my ancestor John Howland was not among this 1988 collection, information about Stephen Hopkins was in *Mayflower Families in Progress: Stephen Hopkins of the Mayflower and His Descendants for Four Generations.* I soldiered on to discover who Stephen Hopkins was. I knew a bit about my ancestors, the Tilleys and John Howland, but had no real understanding of our colony's namesake. I requested access to the library's sequestered history room despite the on-site renovation chaos.

This publication, which details the lineage of the first four generations, is also filled with interesting tidbits about Stephen Hopkins. Here's what I gleaned about his personal life: Stephen had two wives. The first, Mary Kent, passed years before the *Mayflower* set sail. She bore him three children. His second wife, Elizabeth Fisher, who bore a total of six children, was the mother of Oceanus, born at sea on the journey.

In addition to the genealogy lines, his will was included. Some items he bequeathed include the following:

to his son Giles, a house in Yarmouth, and "the great bull now in the hands of Mrs. Warren;"

to grandson Stephen Hopkins, twenty shillings;

to daughter Constance, his mare;

to daughter Deborah, a "brodhorned black cowe and calf, and half of a cowe called Motley;"

to daughter Damaris, "the cowe called Damaris heifer, the white-faced calf, and half of the cowe called Mottley;"

to daughter Ruth, a “cowe called Red cole and her calf and bull at Yarmouth” (in possession of her older brother Giles) and “half the curled cowe;”

to daughter Elizabeth, a “cowe called Smykins and his calf,” the other “half the curled cowe” and a yearling heifer without a “tayle.”

to his second son Caleb, his Plymouth house, although his daughters had the right to live there as unmarried women. Caleb also inherited his father’s debtors, which amounted to seventeen pounds owed to him.

The will was interesting, but since I wanted to learn more about Stephen Hopkins himself, I began searching for more details. I dove into the http://mayflowerhistory.com and the http://themayflowerhistory.org websites, as well as Nathaniel Philbrick’s *The Mayflower* in search of answers. These sources provided the information below.

An adventurous man, Hopkins had already crossed the Atlantic twice before boarding his second family on the *Mayflower*. He had been a passenger aboard the *Sea Venture* along with Governor Sir Thomas Gates, heading for the Jamestown Colony in 1609. The unfortunate voyage ended in a shipwreck on the shores of Bermuda. This story apparently became the underpinning of Shakespeare’s *The Tempest.* Stranded for ten months, Hopkins led a mutiny against the governor’s leadership, saying his only power was while at sea. Though sentenced to death, he pled his case passionately and won his life back. The crew eventually reconfigured a vessel and went on to Virginia. At some point Hopkins returned to England. While away for seven years (seven years!) his wife Mary had died. By the time the *Mayflower* set sail, he had a new wife, Elizabeth, and more children.

In Plymouth, Hopkins received six acres (including the land his now-deceased in-laws were granted). Hopkins functioned as ambassador to the natives as negotiations developed, and it was his house in which Samoset first stayed. According to Philbrick, the Hopkins family was one of only four fortunate families that was “left completely untouched by disease.”

Hopkins established an “ordinary” (alehouse) in the 1630’s and was assistant governor through 1636.

Nevertheless, his enterprising personality became a liability at times. He was fined for serving alcohol, playing shuffleboard on Sundays, drinking excessively in his house, wounding John Tisdale in an altercation, and selling beer and goods at two times their value.

In 1638, his maidservant Dorothy bore a child by Arthur Peach, who was executed for murdering a Wampanoag. Hopkins was deemed financially responsible for her and the child for two years, until the end of her servitude. He refused to perform this task and was taken into custody. However, John Holmes purchased the remaining two years of Dorothy’s service, thus releasing Hopkins from the obligation.

Hopkins died in 1644.

I have not yet pursued a genealogical connection to Stephen Hopkins, but this project has taught me to be curious about other individuals on the Mayflower, ancestors or not. You never know where a trail will lead. Happy researching!

Submitted by Jackie Jette, Recording Secretary

Note: *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* for Stephen Hopkins and the other Mayflower passengers are published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth, MA. The current series comprises 25 volumes. The entire set, including the three-volume name index, has been donated to the Indian River County Library Genealogy Room by our Stephen Hopkins Colony. — Kurt Bressner

Commemorative U.S. Stamps of the *Mayflower*: Spotlight: "*Mayflower* in Plymouth Harbor" 2020

The *Mayflower* has been honored in commemorative stamps by the United States Post Office/United States Postal Service on three occasions: 1920, 1970, and 2020.

1920 PILGRIM TERCENTENARY STAMP SERIES

The 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Issue consists of three commemorative stamps released by the United States Post Office Department (the predecessor to today's United States Postal Service) on December 21, 1920, to mark the 300th anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival and the landing of the *Mayflower*. They first went on sale in Plymouth and Provincetown, Massachusetts. So well-known was the story of the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth that the stamps did not include the words "United States" or the U.S. initials.



The green 1¢ postcard rate stamp, "The *Mayflower*," depicts the *Mayflower* on calm waters. It had a print run of roughly 138 million.



The carmine rose 2¢ letter rate stamp, "Landing of the Pilgrims," shows the weary voyagers coming ashore. It had a print run of roughly 196 million.



The deep blue 5¢ heavier letter/overseas/air mail stamp, "Signing of the Compact," illustrates the historic signing of the Mayflower Compact aboard the ship prior to the passengers going ashore. It had a print run of roughly 11 million.



1970 LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS STAMP

The "Landing of the Pilgrims" stamp was issued to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Mayflower's voyage. It was officially printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and released by the United States Post Office Department on November 21, 1970. The Post Office produced a total run of 129,785,000 copies of this specific 6-cent commemorative stamp.

2020 MAYFLOWER IN PLYMOUTH HARBOR STAMP



On September 17, 2020, the United States Postal Service issued the commemorative stamp "*Mayflower* in Plymouth Harbor" to mark the 400th anniversary of the ship's arrival. Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. printed a total of 25,000,000 of this stamp. (The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) stopped producing postage stamps for the federal government in June 2005, ending 111 years of stamp production.)

Intrigued by this stunning 2020 *Mayflower* commemorative stamp and interested in learning its "back story," I contacted Greg Breeding, a graphic designer and the Art Director for Postage Stamps Design at the United States Postal Service, who has written an insightful article about the history of the stamp and his collaboration with the painter of the stamp's *Mayflower* image, Greg Hardin.

Breeding's work on the project began in the spring of 2018. Early in his article "Designing the Mayflower Postage Stamp," Breeding notes, "*I was awarded the art direction of a new stamp commemorating the arrival of the Mayflower in the New World. Every assignment is an honor, but for my baby boomer generation, the story of the first Thanksgiving — when the new settlers from England feasted with the indigenous Wampanoag Tribe — is especially cherished.*"

The project team took a careful look at the many historical paintings of the Pilgrims initial meeting of the Wampanoag. The team concluded that much of what was painted seemed overly romanticized. Since much

doubt has been cast on what really happened, the design team wanted to provide a fresh view. The team focused on an 1882 painting by William Halsall.
[Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mayflower_in_Plymouth_Harbor,_by_William_Halsall.jpg]



Considering the information gathered from the construction of the Mayflower II replication ship and other sources, the 1882 painting may not have been totally accurate, but it was a good start as basic design for a new commemorative stamp.

The team sought historical painter Greg Harlin, who had worked with USPS for a series of stamps commemorating the War of 1812. Harlin eagerly agreed to work on the 400th Anniversary *Mayflower* stamp. [Greg Harlin's portfolio is summarized in a short bio here: http://wrh-illustration.com/greg-harlin.html]

The team worked with Harlin as he developed sketches and perspectives. A color study emerged and was presented to the USPS for their approval.

After the initial color study was approved by USPS, painter Harlin sent an email to the team that further emphasizes the connection between art and heart in this project:
"I've been thinking about color and mood a little more. While taking a walk at sunrise this morning I witnessed a slice in heavy dark clouds where a small gash of orange light and a sense of the sun was revealing itself. Something



06 / Color Study.

like that might alleviate the bleakness (without changing much) and add that distant hopefulness the Pilgrims were certainly focused on. Just a thought. I could try a rough version if you still have time today."

After a good deal of back and forth between artist Greg Harlin and the USPS team headed up by Greg Breeding, the finished project emerged: a spectacular perspective that captured the bleak day in December 1620, when the *Mayflower* — and the hopes and dreams of the Pilgrims —arrived in Plymouth.



07 / Diagram of a stamp.

Note: Greg Breeding has provided permission to Hopkins Colony to use his September 9, 2020, article "Designing the Mayflower Postage Stamp." I encourage you to read the full article, which may be found at either of these links:
https://medium.com/journey-group/designing-the-mayflower-postage-stamp-d0e7f013aed7
https://www.journeygroup.com/essays/designing-mayflower-postage-stamp

Submitted by Kurt Bressner, Archivist and Membership Secretary

Revolution 250

As part of this year's meeting programs, Stephen Hopkins Colony has explored "Revolution 250," which was celebrated in July. Peak celebrations have passed; however, numerous events and reenactments are still planned across Florida.

Florida events are coordinated via the events section of america250fl.com. These events emphasize education, exhibits, statues, local lectures, and heritage. For example, St. Augustine Founder's Day on September 12, 2026, will include reenactments, living history, and historical commemorations. In the Florida Keys on October 10, the Old Seven Mile Bridge Sunset Walk begins in Marathon and leads to Pigeon Key, a small historic island which is part of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail. On November 8, 2026, "America 250 in Concert" with the Palm Beach Symphony will be hosted by George Hamilton at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

For the most current local listings, check america250fl.com, as well as local tourism sites and museum calendars, because schedules may change.

Submitted by Stephanie Rubin, Education Committee Chair

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.

Stephen Hopkins Colony Meeting on April 23, 2026
at Point West Country Club, Vero Beach, FL





Stephen Hopkins Colony Governor Lynne Jensen
and Elder Rev. Donald “Lorne” Coyle







Florida Mayflower Governor Brian McWaters and Speaker Linda Anderson





Michael Paul presents at Jane Paul's Memorial



Copies of Approved Mayflower Applications are Available from Plymouth

The Mayflower Society is happy to provide members with copies of their own application(s) and documentation. This service is offered at no fee, and the papers will be sent via email. Proof of identity is required in the form of a driver's license or other government issued ID.

You may request a copy of the approved, signed application form and copies of supporting documents that were submitted with your successful application(s). Here is the link to request this information from Plymouth:

https://themayflowersociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Member-Application-Request-Form.pdf

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

The Mayflower Society
General Society of Mayflower Descendants
MEMBER SOCIETY

FLORIDA SOCIETY OF Mayflower Descendants
1620 1837

MEMBER SOCIETY

Junior Membership

Kids Rock!

The Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants (FSMD) offers a Junior Members program for children blood-related to a regular member in good standing.

PLYMOUTH ROCK

- ONE-TIME FEE $30 per child
- NO FLORIDA RESIDENCY REQUIRED
- ACTIVE UNTIL AGE 25
- COMMEMORATIVE CERTIFICATE INCLUDED

ELIGIBILITY

- Open to children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews from birth through age 17.
- Sponsor must be a regular FSMD member in good standing with a direct line of descent.
- Juniors have to join their sponsor's Colony using their sponsor's original passenger.

BENEFITS

- Members receive a commemorative certificate.
- Eligible for certain state scholarships.
- Can transition to full regular membership at no charge after turning 18.
- Connects youth to their Mayflower heritage and a network of descendants!

FEES

- A one-time application fee of $30 applies to each Junior Member.



HOW TO APPLY

1 LOCATE YOUR NEAREST COLONY
FSMD operates across 17 regional colonies. Find the one closest to you!

2 COMPLETE THE JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Application forms are available on the FSMD Programs page at www.flmayflower.com.

3 SUBMIT TO YOUR COLONY MEMBERSHIP CHAIR OR JUNIOR CHAIR
Submit the application to your local Colony Membership Chair or Junior Chair.



Questions?
KATHERINE L. ADAMO
Florida Junior Membership Chair
juniors@flmayflower.net
(Click to Email)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.flmayflower.com
(Click to Visit)

PRESERVING THE PAST ★ INSPIRING THE FUTURE ★ HONORING OUR HERITAGE