



Mayflower

ATLANTIC CROSSINGS

ENGLAND ~ BERMUDA ~ JAMESTOWN ~ ENGLAND ~ PLYMOUTH



Sea Venture

A Hopkins Tour of England: A Trip Summary by Caleb Johnson

On Thanksgiving week 2015, I availed myself of the exciting opportunity to travel to England, partially with a PBS film crew shooting an episode of “Hit and Run History” focusing on Stephen Hopkins and, tangentially, Squanto as well. I toured other Pilgrim sites in England as well, including a wonderful tour by Pilgrim historian Sue Allan up in Nottinghamshire (Scrooby manor, etc.), and an inside-the-house tour of the privately-owned William Mullins house in Dorking (including a visit to the horse wall-art inside the house, not available for public viewing). But this report will focus on the two

Stephen Hopkins-related days of my first trip to the U.K.

Having spent the day with my England-based records researcher, Simon Neal, up at the Huntingdon Archives (looking for new material on Henry Howland, the father of John Howland), we headed that eve-



Wampanoag Chris Wessling (left) and Caleb Johnson (right) in front of Upper Clatford church entrance



Exterior of Upper Clatford church, Hampshire

ning to the Mayflower Pub in Rotherhithe, London, where Master Christopher Jones moored the *Mayflower* when it was not actively engaged in a trading voyage. Here Simon and I met up with the documentary crew, which consisted of the producer Andrew Buckley, a Wampanoag tribal member

Chris Wessling, and a cameraman. Also joining us for awhile were authors James and Michelle Nevius. We had a nice table next to the fire reserved for us, and we discussed the day’s activities and what our plans were for the next couple days.

Earlier that day, the documentary team had followed up on a discovery I had made just a couple weeks prior. Using records from the Merchant Taylors guild, I was able to pinpoint the exact location in London where Squanto had lived with Master John Slaney from about 1615-1617—on a piece of land now encompassed within the Merchant Taylors Hall in London. The documentary team wanted to take Wampanoag Chris Wessling back to the very site where Squanto resided, but the Merchant Taylors’ had refused all requests to visit or film. So, they just showed up anyway. Luckily, the on-the-ground staff were more accommodating, and with some persistence he got in to see the actual site.

continued on page 4

Also in this issue:

- Governor’s Message..... 2
- Where we are 3
- The Garden Walkway 6
- Nova Scotia Descendants 7

Message from the Governor

Greetings, Cousins.

It has been over a year since I was elected to serve as your Governor. I have quickly learned that participation by our members is so important to the growth of our society. I admire the work of past Governor Abanor and all her contributions. I often have read her articles published in the *Atlantic Crossings*. Her travels and stories about research on the Hopkins' life have made me proud to be a descendant.

Many things are happening that are drawing attention to Stephen Hopkins' story. PBS has broadcast a program and there is an independent production underway called "Stephano" that should be out soon. Caleb H. Johnson continues to provide wonderful revelations about Pilgrim Hopkins' life prior to the Mayflower voyage.

The General Society Mayflower Dependents is exploring ways to work with all the family societies on mutually beneficial programs. I will pass the info on to everyone once details are available. Many of the ideas that have been presented to the GSMD Executive Committee will assist the Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society in public relations and member benefits.

We did not have enough members attending the Sept. 2015 General Board Of Assistants Conference

in Connecticut to meet the quorum requirements, so the members present met without conducting official society business. Our next meeting will be held at the September 2016 GBOA Conference in Indianapolis. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Regretfully, the June 2016 cruise to Bermuda with Caleb Johnson did not reach the necessary number of bookings needed to fund the voyage. Hopefully we can plan a future event at a later date.


If anyone has an interesting story or article that they wish to share, please submit it to the newsletter editor: editor@pilgrimhopkins.com. 



Photo by Franklin Smith

Rick Denham, PHHS Governor

Contacting Us

If anyone is looking to contact someone on the PHHS Team, below is our contact information:

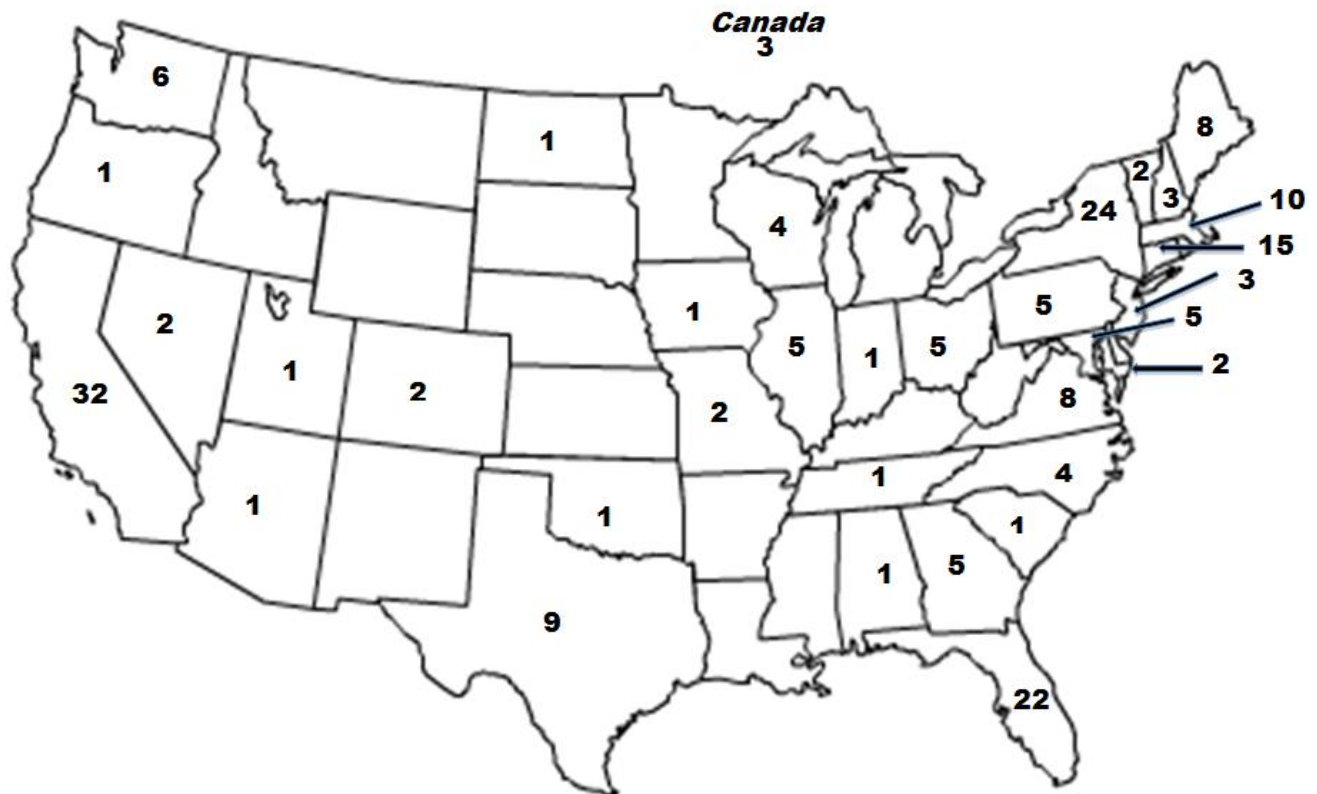
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Where we are... by Jacqueline Sheldon

Since the formation of Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society, and my earliest position as corresponding secretary, I have been fascinated as to “from whence” all the membership now hails. For that reason I have populated a map (current a few months ago) as to where our mailing addresses are. For privacy sake, I am not sharing names but if a locale is interested in finding nearby Hopkins cousins, I will ask permission to put you in touch!



A few additional Hopkins stats:

- 11 of us can claim at least two of Stephen's offspring as ancestors
- 2 of us have found links to 3 of his children
- Constance and Giles, from mother Mary, appear to have been the most prolific
- Damaris, from mother Elizabeth, has the third most descendants among us.
- Only 1 of us have traced lineage to Deborah, another daughter of Elizabeth

In future editions, I would like to feature your stories about your heritage. Has your family always known your history? If not, how did you uncover your links? Do you have other of the Pilgrims in your up lines? As we all know, names and dates without the details that bring them to life can be pretty dry! Our Governor Denham is sharing a project with us in this edition that he launched initially as a tribute to his mother's painstaking research. 📖

Will you contribute for the next newsletter?

We would love to hear from you!

Contact us at editor@pilgrimhopkins.com

Hopkins Tour of England

From page 1



Inside the church of Upper Clatford, Hampshire

That evening we drove to Ampfield, Hampshire, to spend the night and prepare for the Hopkins' related stops the following day.

The next morning we drove to Upper Clatford, but failing to find coffee along the way we continued first into Andover, where supposedly a sizable Hopkins population still lives today. Only in England do you have to pay for parking at a grocery store! Actually, maybe



Inside old thatch-roof barn on the Norman Court Farm

you do elsewhere too, I don't get out of the States very much! Anyway, back to Upper Clatford. The production crew had arranged to meet with some of the church-members to get a full tour of the church and grounds. Upper Clatford has only been known, since about 2004, to have been the church where Stephen Hopkins was baptized—but within the last decade this church has definitely 'adopted' their local *Mayflower* Pilgrim with more enthusiasm than most Pilgrim churches in England. They were excited to have us there. I signed one of my books for them, which they greatly appreciated. They enjoy having Hopkins "tourists" stop by, which they get from time to time; and hoped we'd organize a Hopkins family gathering there one day. We shot a number of interviews and got footage of the church, churchyard, and even a reading of psalms.

On the way into the church at Upper Clatford, we passed a sign that said "Norman Court Farm". I recognized this as the name of the farm that the Hopkins' and Williams' families were recorded as having farmed in the 1550s, in one of the few surviving manorial records from the period. The ladies at the church helped us get in contact with the property owner, who then allowed us onto Norman Court Farm, and took us inside an old thatch-roof wooden barn that was on the property.

For lunch, we headed to Hursley, where we stopped in at the Dolphin Inn, a restored 16th century Inn much like the Star Inn that Stephen Hopkins' wife Mary's family operated just across the street (the Star Inn is no longer standing, but the location is generally known as it appears on some 17th century survey maps).

After lunch we headed a few blocks over to the parish church at Hursley. We had not managed to get in touch with anyone at the church, so we were just planning to shoot exterior footage and take some photos. However, while doing that, our ever-social Wampanoag struck up a



The Anton River that runs through Upper Clatford

continued on page 5

Hopkins Tour of England

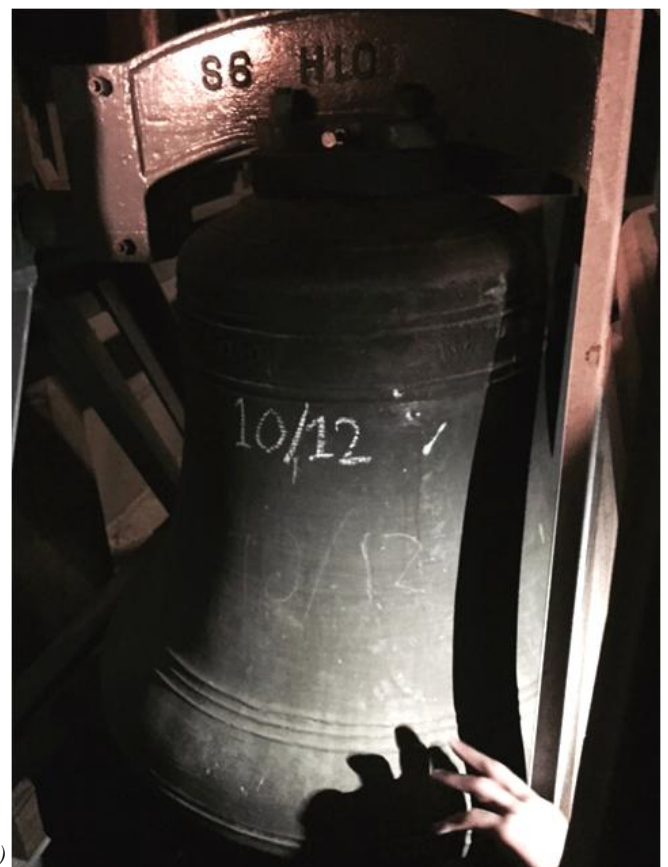
From page 4

conversation with a lady who was walking her dog in the churchyard, and it turned out she knew the churchwarden, who lived just a block away. She introduced us, and we ended up getting to go inside the church, and then up into the bell tower itself. At the top of the bell tower, we learned that several of the bells were made and installed in 1616 from the bell foundry in Whitechapel, London... the same parish where Stephen Hopkins got married in 1617.

We started to wonder if somehow, there was a connection there. Did Stephen, perhaps, go to Hursley to recover his 'orphaned' children, and then got assigned by the Hursley church to go to Whitechapel to bring back the church bells? And, perhaps, while there, met Elizabeth, and heard about the plans of the Pilgrims to head back to Northern Virginia? Speculation, of course, but curious timing nonetheless, and certainly not an unreasonable sequence of events. 📷



Hursley church bell tower (above) and inside the Hursley church (above right)



1616 bell from Whitechapel, inside the Hursley bell tower (right)

The Garden Walkway by Rick Denham



When I was finally admitted to the GSMD in February 2011 as a descendant of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins, one of the first actions I took was to memorialize my Mother's research and purchase a brick in her honor in the Mayflower Society Garden Walkway. In September 2011 I attended my first GSMD Congress, participating in the opening ceremonies, which started with "Pilgrim's Progress March" from Mayflower Society Headquarters. After opening ceremonies we returned our costumes to the Mayflower Society headquarters.

I next proceeded to search the "Garden Walkway" looking for my Mother's brick. After over an hour of looking, and with darkness setting in, I surrendered and vowed to return before going home. On Sunday after Congress I returned to look for my Mother's brick. I entered the walkway from the Library parking lot and found my Mother's brick within 5 minutes.



Low overhead shot of the bricks and the GSMD seal tiles.

Overhead photo that shows the different walkway sections

continued on page 7

Garden Walkway

From page 6



The GSMD property including Mayflower Society House, garden, library and offices as well as the harbor.



A great shot that shows Mayflower Society House in relation to Plymouth Rock and Coles Hill.

Four years later, while having breakfast with Governor General Filson I mentioned the "Garden Walkway" and the difficulty that I had encountered when I tried to find my Mother's brick and how nice it would be if members could look at a list and find the location(s) of bricks. Governor General Filson agreed and asked if I would take charge of the project. I agreed and started during the next Executive Committee weekend in June to photograph all the bricks in the walkway.

When I returned home with the photographs I began the process of entering the bricks into a data base. The walkway has several sections; North, Central, South, West and the Octagon. All bricks were identified and listed by Name, Section and Row within the section. It took four months, to enter the data. When the process was complete I realized that it would be nice to have a photo of the entire walkway so that members could identify the different sections and that photo would have to be taken from high above the garden. None were available from GSMD files.

In October I noticed a photo that my younger brother, Denny Denham had taken of his new patio and outdoor

fireplace. It was taken from high above the fireplace and you could actually see down the chimney. I asked him how he had taken the photo and he told me that it was taken with a drone. Denny used to have a pilot's license and loves flying. I asked him if he would be willing to meet me in Plymouth and take a few photos of the walkway. Denny agreed and I got permission from Governor General Filson to allow drone photos to be taken of the society grounds.

In December, before the Executive Committee meeting weekend, Denny and I met with Walter Powell, Executive Director of the GSMD to see if any other photos could be useful to the society. Denny had checked for local ordinances regarding drone use and could use the drone if he maintained the allowable altitudes.

We took several photos and videos of the society grounds, society buildings as well as the Plymouth landmarks around the GSMD Headquarters. The staff at Plymouth has found several of these photos that will be useful in future projects and some will appear in the Mayflower Quarterly soon. 📷

Nova Scotia Descendants by Margaret Dougherty



Photo credit: copyright Bill Curry Photography, Port Maitland NS.

Many Mayflower descendants migrated from New England to Nova Scotia. Today, many Nova Scotians are descended from Stephen Hopkins. At the September 2015 meeting of the Nova Scotia Colony of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants, the guest speaker was Stephen Hopkins, as portrayed by historical interpreter Chris Messier of Plimoth Plantation. Many Colony members are Hopkins cousins and are pictured here with their forefather, Stephen Hopkins. 📷



Contact Us

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Next Meeting

Where:
The Columbia Club TBD
Indianapolis, IN

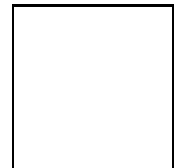
When:
Early September 2016

The Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society will schedule a meeting in September 2016, in Indianapolis when GSMD meeting details are finalized. All those interested in the PHHS are invited. More details will be provided in the coming months for those interested in attending. See our website for updates.



Atlantic Crossings

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