

## PILGRIM HOPKINS HERITAGE SOCIETY



Mayflower

# ATLANTIC CROSSINGS

ENGLAND ~ BERMUDA ~ JAMESTOWN ~ ENGLAND ~ PLYMOUTH



Sea Venture

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2007

## The English Origins of Stephen Hopkins

With its eighteenth century brick porch, its twelfth century blocked doorway and sixteenth century tower, the All Saints Church lies in a meadow on the River Anton in Upper Clatford, Hampshire, England. The parish register of this church contains what is very probably the baptismal record of *Mayflower* passenger Stephen Hopkins:

1581: Stephen the son of John Hopkins the last of April

This record was unearthed by Hopkins descendant Ernest Martin Christensen of Florida.



The parish register of the All Saints Church, Upper Clatford, Hampshire County, England contains Stephen Hopkins' baptismal record.

His research results, published in *The American Genealogist* 79 (October 2004), indicate that Stephen and his sister Susanna Hopkins (baptized in 1584) were the children of John Hopkins and his second wife Eliza-

beth (Williams) Hopkins. By his first wife, Agnes (Borrowe) Hopkins, John had two other children, William Hopkins (1575) and Alice (1577/8), Stephen's older half brother and half sister respectively.

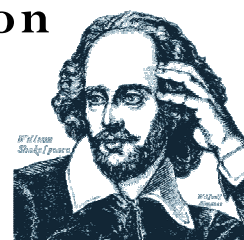
Christensen spent seven years researching 137 parish records and other sources in Hampshire to come up with these and additional findings. His work builds on that of Caleb Johnson (see p. 7). In *The American Genealogist* 73 (July 1998), Johnson publishes baptismal entries of Stephen's first three children

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## The Hopkins/Shakespeare Connection

It is widely thought that the ill-starred voyage of the *Sea Venture* inspired Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*. The real Stephen Hopkins, aboard the *Sea Venture* when it sailed from Plymouth for Jamestown on June 2, 1609, might even have had something to do with the character "Stephano, a drunken Butler", in this famous play.

The *Sea Venture*, carrying some 150 crew and colonists, was the flagship of a fleet of seven ships and two pinnacles owned by the Virginia Company of London. This was the "Third Supply Relief Fleet", whose mission was to bring fresh supplies and additional colonists from England to the Jamestown settlement. On



board was the "admiral of the flotilla", Sir George Somers. Sir

Thomas Gates, also on the *Sea Venture*, had been appointed Governor of the colony of Virginia. The boat was commanded by Captain Christopher

*continued on page 5*

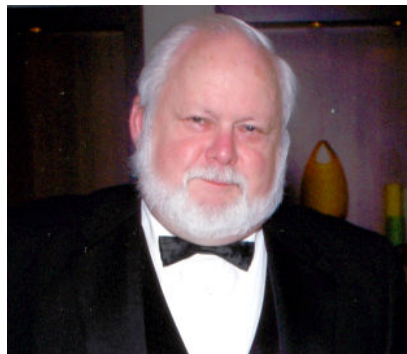
## Message from the Governor

The last 18 months has been a rocky start for our association.

Our Historian Loren Somes has had health issues and has moved back to New England but is still not on line yet. Jackie Sheldon, our Corresponding Secretary has submitted her resignation for personal reasons and my wife Catherine has agreed to act as interim secretary until we can find a replacement for Jackie. (All correspondence should be addressed to Catherine Hopkins at 80 Keene Woods Rd. Damariscotta, ME 04543; e-mail [cfh1939@hotmail.com](mailto:cfh1939@hotmail.com)) Susan Abanor and Judith Bris-

ter have agreed to be co-editors of our newsletter.

Hopefully now with the assistance from our primary founder Susan we are back on track. We are, however, still looking for someone who can take over the position of Corresponding Secretary.



Governor Chester I. Hopkins

## Positions Available

In September 2008 we will elect new officers for the PHHS. Positions available include that of Governor, Deputy Governor, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Historian, and three assistants. The duration of office is three years.

To indicate your interest in filling any of these positions or to find out more about them, contact Susan Abanor at [Stephenhopkins1@verizon.net](mailto:Stephenhopkins1@verizon.net) or write to her at:

Susan Abanor  
14 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St., Apt. 11-S  
New York, NY 10011

## From the Editors

With genealogy and family history, you never know what you'll find. We might wish we could control who our ancestors were or what they did, but we can't. Very often they surprise us. This is especially so with Stephen Hopkins. The more we learn about him, the more unexpected twists and turns of his life we discover.

We go to press with this inaugural issue of *Atlantic Crossings* in the hopes that, with your help, it will become a useful networking and information-sharing tool as we broaden our knowledge of our Pilgrim

Stephen Hopkins heritage.

First, a word about the newsletter's name. *Atlantic Crossings* was chosen to highlight one of Hopkins' distinguishing attributes. When he reached Plymouth in 1620, Hopkins was among just a few aboard the *Mayflower* and the only passenger to step on American soil for the second time. In 1609 he had already landed in Jamestown, following a voyage across the Atlantic from England on the *Sea Venture*, a shipwreck, a sojourn in Bermuda, and a final voyage to Virginia on a small vessel built by the castaways (see Hopkins/

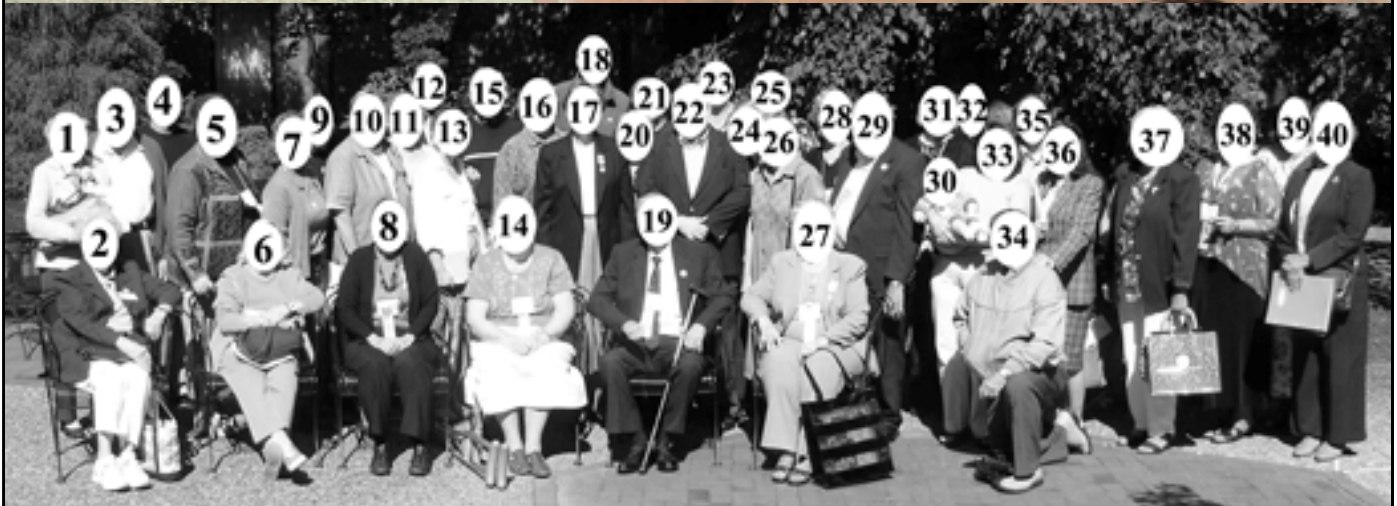
Shakespeare page 1). It was after returning to England a few years later and remarrying that he arranged for passage for himself and his family on the *Mayflower*.

As to the newsletter's specific purposes, it will strive to bring you news of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins Heritage Society activities, past and planned. It should also become a vehicle for sharing lineage information and questions, as well as research projects, findings and controversies (your contributions welcome!). A regular

*continued on page 4*

# First Gathering Photograph\*

11 September 2005, Plymouth, MA



- |                           |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1.                        | 15.                      | 29. Art Young          |
| 2. Annette Sechen         | 16. Eleanor Johnson      | 30. Ryan Tobin         |
| 3. Jay Ceran              | 17. Carole Dilley        | 31.                    |
| 4. John H. Nardoizzi      | 18. Peter Johnson        | 32 .                   |
| 5.                        | 19. Loren E. Somes       | 33. Jenny Vittum Tobin |
| 6. Margery Ceran          | 20. Catherine Hopkins    | 34.                    |
| 7. Tracy Dielman          | 21                       | 35.                    |
| 8. Susan B. W. Abanor     | 22. Chester I. Hopkins   | 36. Shirley Vittum     |
| 9.                        | 23. Harold S. A. Woolley | 37. Susan P. Baker     |
| 10. Elizabeth A. Mac Lean | 24.                      | 38. Faith Edwards      |
| 11.                       | 25.                      | 39.                    |
| 12.                       | 26.                      | 40. Barbara Dillon     |
| 13. Judith Brister        | 27.                      |                        |
| 14. Bea Brown             | 28.                      |                        |

\*If your name was missed, please help us fill-in the blanks by contacting Susan Abanor

## English Origins

From page 1

found in parish registers of Hursley, Hampshire, some fifteen miles from Upper Clatford. Hopkins had these children with his first wife, Mary, who died in 1613 (presumably while Hopkins was in Virginia). The three Hursley-born children were Elizabeth (1604), Constance (1606), and Giles (1607). By his second wife, Elizabeth after his return to England, he had seven additional children: Damaris, Oceanus, Caleb, Deborah, Damaris, Ruth, and Elizabeth.

Johnson's article also reproduces the estate inventory from the probate record of Mary Hopkins in 1613. Some of the inventory items make clear that Mary and Stephen were shopkeepers. The estate inventory also indicates that Mary was a widow, which Johnson attributes to the fact that at this time Hopkins was in Virginia but presumed dead. Johnson speculates that, "...the court or parish might well have found it expedient to assume he was dead in order to make the property available for his children's support..."

For those who want the latest research on Hopkins's English roots, the above two articles are "must reads". And for the really dedicated Hop-



Location of town where Stephen Hopkins was baptized.  
Courtesy of Google Maps

kins descendants, they may even inspire a sojourn into the Hampshire countryside.

## From Editors

From page 2

feature will be "Letters from readers". Another will be "Increasings and Decreasings" (i.e., births and deaths) of Society members. Finally, we invite you to submit brief stories that shed light on the lives and times of Hopkins and his descendants. This material should serve to flesh out the social history of the Hopkins family, both in New England and as members spread out into the rest of the country – and beyond. We suspect these stories will prove to be a fascinating slice of our country's social history.\*

In terms of style and tone, we'd like the newsletter to be as far from the staid and stuffy as was our colorful common ancestor. Stephen Hopkins, it bears remembering, led a mutiny in Bermuda. He was not among the "saints" on the Mayflower,

but was a "stranger". In Plymouth, he had several brushes with the law. Over the years, he did apparently gain respect for his courage and for his diplomacy with the Native Americans, and became a community leader. It is our guess, however, that he remained an independent-minded maverick to the end. In keeping with Hopkins' character, we'll do our best to keep this newsletter lively.

These are our initial thoughts on the aims and the shape of *Atlantic Crossings*. We're always open to your suggestions on improvements. Your feedback and contributions are vital to making *Atlantic Crossings* a success.

Susan Abanor and Judith McLoud Brister, Co-editors

\*Send contributions to:

Susan Abanor, 14 West 17th Street, New York, NY 10011 or [stephenhopkins1@verizon.net](mailto:stephenhopkins1@verizon.net)

## Hopkins/Shakespeare

From page 1

Newport, who had led the first expedition to Jamestown two years before. Twenty-eight year old Hopkins was clerk to the ship's chaplain.

On July 25, the fleet ran into a hurricane and the ships were separated. After three days of being buffeted by the storm, the *Sea Venture*, a new boat whose timbers had not yet set, had sprung serious leaks. At this point, and within site of the Bermuda coast, Somers wedged the ship between two reefs to prevent it from sinking. Everyone on board and many of the supplies were saved. The castaways then spent ten months in Bermuda. All but three departed on May 10, 1610 on two smaller new ships, the *Patience* and the *Deliverance*, built with parts salvaged from the *Sea Venture* and native cedar trees.

*The Tempest* was performed in 1613, as part of the marriage festivities of King James' daughter, Elizabeth. It is thought that Shakespeare drew upon at least two accounts of the *Sea Venture* voyage in writing this play. The first was a long letter written by *Sea Venture* passenger William Strachey, the secretary-elect of the Virginian Company, to an unnamed noble lady. This letter was taken to London by Sir Thomas Gates in 1610. The second and shorter account, published in London in 1610, was by another passenger, Silvester Jourdain.

These two accounts have been compiled into a book edited by Louis B. Wright, *A Voyage to Virginia in 1609, Two Narratives*, Strachey's "True Repertory" and Jourdain's "Discovery of the Bermudas" (U. Press of Virginia, 1964). In his introduction, Wright speculates that Strachey's letter had been sent to Sara, wife of Sir Thomas Smith, treasurer of the Virginia Com-

pany. He notes that Shakespeare's patron, the Earl of Southampton, was one of the promoters of the Virginia Company, and that Strachey moved in Shakespeare's literary circles. Strachey had in fact been a shareholder in an acting company that had rented the Blackfriars playhouse from Shakespeare's colleague Richard Burbage.

Strachey's account, not published until 1625, describes in detail the various unsuccessful mutinies which challenged the leadership of this expedition. Hopkins led one of these mutinies, only narrowly escaping execution for his pains. Jourdain's account makes reference to the desperation of some of those aboard the storm-tossed boat who, after days of pumping and bailing:

...having some good and comfortable waters in the ship, fetched them and drunk one to the other, taking their last leave one of the other until their more joyful and happy meeting in a more blessed world...

Echoes of the above passage and of the mutinies, as well as other allusions to the *Sea Venture* saga, can be found in *The Tempest*.



The remains of the *Sea Venture* still lie off St. Catherine's beach in Bermuda

## Founding Members of Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society

Sarah C. W. L. Abanor	Linda Edwards	Roberta, E. Jones	Kenneth Linwood Shaw III
Susan B. W. Abanor *	Winifred Edwards *	Steve Jones	Jackie Sheldon
Joan Allen	Judith Elfring *	Patricia D. Jorgenson	Richard L. Siemens
John D. Alley	Enid Emerson	Barbara Karford	Linda L. Smith
Donald Baker	Patricia J. Erwin	Thomas Kellogg	Susan Hutchens Smith
Sarah Baker *	Rebecca Everett	Diane Cook Klarich	Loren E. Somes *
Diane Martin Bailey	Roger Finch	Douglas Knight	Linda Spencer
Donald Frederick Ballam	Edward P. Flaherty	Bill (William) Leary	Ruth de Treville Spieler
Eunice Poland Ballam	Cheri Fleck	James R. Livingstone	Bob Steere
Charles Bennett	Rod Fleck	Char Livingstone	Karen Sullivan
Joseph A. Betz	Carol Frazier	Cynthia Hamilton Mackay	Hugh T. Sutherland *
Mary Birch	Ruth Freyer	Elizabeth MacLean *	Ruth C. Sutherland *
Adam Boyce	Ruth P. Fuss	Doris Mahaney	Karen A. Taylor
Doug Bradley	Carol A. Gagnon *	John Mahaney	Page Teer
Margie Bradley	Andrea Gonzalaz	Sharon A. Matyas *	Sarah Tiberi
William G Bradley	John Green	Terry McKane *	Jenny Vittum Tobin *
Bette Innes Bradway	Marilyn Cole Green	Kathy McMahan	Ryan Tobin *
Judith Brister *	Betty Griffin	Ben Millar *	Robert Trapp
Bea Brown *	Amollia H. Grossman *	Mary Lou Scott Millar *	Becky Vittum *
Linda Burke	Mac E. Hadley	Debbie Mina *	Dale Vittum *
Edward C. Bush	Kelly Haines	Ina A. Mish	Paul Vittum *
Michael Cairn *	Nancy Haines	Mary Ames Mitchell	Shirley Vittum *
Marge Ceran *	Priscilla Haines	Willard S. Moore	Alden F. Wagner
David Jay Chapin	Roberta (Bobbie) Hall *	Sarah C. Morse *	Pat Stroud Walker
Marion Chester	Gloria B. Harper	Ann Munsey *	Donald Watson *
Rebecca Chin	Chuck E. Healy	Everard Munsey *	Kenneth Whittemore
Christine Chirokas	Joan Henry	John Hopkins Nardozzi *	Robert J. Williams
Jane Stratford Clayson *	Millie Vander Hoeven	Donald N. Nichols	Edward Winslow
Irene Cotell *	Harry Hollien	Karen Nickerson	Natalie L. Wilson
Robert D. Cotell *	Ann Hopkins	Ron Nickerson	Carol Weeks Wister
Deena Cross	Catherine Hopkins *	Ruth Olsen	Ann Greene Woodruff
Muriel Cushing	Claude Hopkins	Emily Palmer	Evan B. A. Woolley
Robert (Bob) Davis	Chester I. Hopkins *	Ted (Edward A.) Parker	Harold S. A. Woolley *
Louise Davis	Susan A. Hopkins	Gini Cooper Patterson	Arthur F. Younge *
Tracy Dieselman *	Mark Hoppe	Shirley R. Payne	
Carole Jackson Dilley *	Bonnie House	Mary J. Peterson	* Present at first meeting
Barbara Dillon *	Shirley Howell	Lynn Phifer	
Barb Dobbertin	Candy Hughes	Terryl Whitaker Pilon	Sunday, 11 September
John Dobbertin	Florence Hunstein	Laurette M. Riccio *	2005, 9 AM, Board Room,
Thomas Doty	Chester Johnson	Betty Green Richmond	Radisson Hotel, Ply-
Sandra Studley Duggan	Edwin D. Johnson	Dave Richmond	mouth, MA
Ruth Elizabeth Duquet	Eleanor Johnson *	Sharron Russell *	
Janice L. Eaton	Peter Johnson *	Donald E. Scott	
Faith Edwards *	Lewis A. Jones	Annette Sechen *	

## New Book on Stephen Hopkins

Historian Caleb Johnson has kindly sent us a “heads up” about his new biography of Hopkins, due out at the end of this year. It is tentatively titled, “Here Shall I Die Ashore: Stephen Hopkins, Bermuda Castaway, Jamestown Survivor, and Mayflower Pilgrim”. Incorporating recent research he and others have done on the life of Hopkins, this book updates Margaret Hodges’ 1972 biography (*Hopkins of the Mayflower*, New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

The preliminary “back of the book” text for this forthcoming book reads:

In the spring of 1621, the Plymouth Colony sent STEPHEN HOPKINS out to make the first visit to the Wampanoag leader MASSASOIT, to present a red horseman's coat as a gift and sign of peace and friendship. One might think this to be the adventure of a life-time for an ordinary English shopkeeper and husbandman. But not for Stephen! He had already been in a hurricane, survived a shipwreck, was a castaway for ten months on an island in the Bermuda Triangle, was sentenced to death for mutiny (but managed to avoid execution), survived and witnessed the great famine and abandonment of the Jamestown Colony, saw and participated in the re-founding of Jamestown, got his persona written into a Shakespearean play, and witnessed the marriage of Pocahontas. He then returned to England, where he became acquainted with the Pilgrims, joined onto the voyage of the Mayflower, and brought his pregnant wife and three children onboard. What stories he must

have been able to tell on the long and tedious voyage to America! He later signed the "Mayflower Compact," helped the Pilgrims explore Cape Cod, housed Plymouth's first Indian contacts Samoset and Squanto, led the first expedition inland to visit Massasoit at Pokanoket, and participated in the legendary Thanksgiving. These are his adventures.

Those wanting to be notified when the book is published can send their request to: [Caleb.Johnson@MayflowerHistory.com](mailto:Caleb.Johnson@MayflowerHistory.com)

Johnson also wrote, “The Mayflower and Her Passengers” and edited the most recent edition of William Bradford’s “Of Plymouth Plantation”. Both books are available on his website. In addition, as mentioned in the article on p. 1, he unearthed key aspects of Stephen Hopkins’ English origins. For those PHHS members unfamiliar with it, Johnson’s website <http://www.mayflowerhistory.com> is a valuable resource.



*Plimoth Plantation reproduction of Hopkins' house*

## Minutes of the First Meeting

The meeting took place on September 11, 2005 at the Board Room of the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth Massachusetts. The 49 people present, who signed the register, along with people who had registered but were unable to attend, will qualify as Charter Members of the Society. The purpose of the meeting was to establish the Society, approve a set of bylaws, and to elect officers. The meeting was run by Susan B.W. Abanor, the founder of the Society and a Hopkins descendant.

Ms. Abanor called the meeting to order. The gathering observed a moment of silence to commemorate the victims of the winter of 1620 and the victims of September 11, 2001.

The next order of business was to elect a Chairperson and Secretary pro-tem. Susan B. W. Abanor was nominated and elected Chairperson pro-tem and Harold S. Woolley was nominated and elected Secretary pro-tem.

The Chairperson asked for a headcount of descendants of the children of Stephen Hopkins and his two wives, Mary and Elizabeth, which was: Constance 21, Giles 8, Deborah 7, Demaris 2.

A resolution was proposed, seconded, and unanimously passed that a Society should be formed.

The Chairperson outlined the remainder of the agenda for the meeting: to consider and adapt a set of bylaws, a proposed copy of which had been distributed; to nominate and elect officers; to discuss any further business brought before the meeting.

A discussion ensued about the proposed title "Constitution and Bylaws." It was proposed, sec-

onded, and unanimously voted to change the title to "Bylaws of the Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society."

Each Article and accompanying sections of the Bylaws were then read and discussed, and proposed amendments, if any, were moved and voted. The attached "Bylaws" represent the end result, with all but one adopted by unanimous vote and one passed with only two dissenting votes.

Chairperson Abanor announced that there would be a nomination and election, Viva Voce, of officers. She announced the following nominations for officers as follows:

- Chester I. Hopkins III, for Governor
- Carole J. Dilley, for Deputy Governor
- Edward P. Flaherty, for Treasurer
- Jackie Sheldon, for Corresponding Secretary
- Loren E. Somes, for Historian
- Judith Elfring, for Assistant
- Everard Munsey, for Assistant
- Rod Fleck, for Assistant

Chairperson pro-tem Abanor then asked for any further nominations from the floor. There being none, she called for a vote. All officers were unanimously elected. Chairperson pro-tem Abanor announced that the officers would now assume office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Harold S. A. Woolley  
Secretary Pro Tem

### Next Meeting

Sunday, 7 September 2008 (Time: TBA)  
RADISSON HOTEL PLYMOUTH HARBOR  
www.radissonplymouth.com  
180 Water St.  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
(508) 747-4900

*See you there!*

### Membership Dues

1. Annual dues: \$15.00  
2. Life and Associate one time fee: \$200.00  
3. Junior dues one time fee: \$15.00  
(Fiscal year is January 1 – December 31)  
Treasurer: Edward P. Flaherty  
52 Whipple Road, Billerica, MA 01821  
978-663-8302  
Edward.P.Flaherty@FMR.com