PILGRIM HOPKINS HERITAGE SOCIETY



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The Mysteries of Caleb — Part One by Susan Abanor and Judith Brister

First, the scant information available from the records:

Caleb Hopkins was born in Plymouth ca. 1622, the third child of Stephen Hopkins and Elizabeth (Fisher?). The first child of this marriage, Damaris, was born in England in 1618/19 and died some time after 1627. The second child, Oceanus, was born on the Mayflower in 1620 but lived only a few years. Caleb's halfsiblings, Constance (bp. 1606) and Giles (bp. 1607/8), children of Stephen Hopkins first wife, Mary (Kent?), were teenagers when Caleb was born, and his birth was followed quickly by that of four younger sisters: Deborah, Damaris (the second), Ruth and Elizabeth (Johnson 1998, 161-171; Neal 2012, 38-53).

Caleb was one of the 13 persons included in the seventh lot of the Plymouth Colony 1627 Division of Cattle List, comprised of Stephen Hopkins and his "companie" (PCR 12,11)

At about the age of 15, he was



among some 40 Plymouth men to volunteer service in the 1637 Pequot War, along with his 56 year old father, his 28 year-old brother Giles and 19 year-old Jacob Cooke (later to

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Richard Ligon's 1657 map of Barbados.

marry Damaris Hopkins) (PCR 1:61). They never saw action, however, as the Pequots had been defeated by Connecticut and Massachusetts Bay contingents by the time the Plymouth men were organized.

The 1643 Plymouth list of men between 16 and 60 "able to bear arms" includes the then 20 year-old Caleb (PCR 8,188).

The next Plymouth Colony record to refer to Caleb Hopkins is his father's will. The references are in fact extensive. Caleb is designated in this will, dated June 6, 1644, as "heire apparent" as well as executor, and jointly with Captain Myles Standish, "supervisor" of the will (PCPR 1:1:61).

While it might seem unusual for Stephen Hopkins to name his second son his heir, first son Giles was at that time 35 years old, well-established and living in Yarmouth, having "...already taken possession of Stephen's house and lands..." there and having "... received full satisfaction as the eldest son..." (Johnson 2007, 142). Perhaps trying to give his 21 year-old son Caleb a start in life, Stephen bequeathed him his house and lands in Plymouth, a pair of oxen, all the debts owed to him, and very importantly, the right to the land on Cape Cod which Stephen was entitled to as a "First Comer" (see Atlantic Crossings Vol. 2, Issue 2, December 2008).

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Message from the Governor

This has been a busy six months. As reported in the last Atlantic Crossings, the cruise to Bermuda was so successful that another cruise is being planned for this year. Look for further details in this issue and on our website.

I am pleased to report that the excellent press coverage of the Bermuda cruise earned the PHHS an award from The General Society of Mayflower Descendants, which we report on here. You can also read about the award given to Stephen Hopkins descendant Kia Taylor-Riccio by the Stephen Hopkins Colony of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants.

An interesting article on Stephen Hopkins' wife Mary's origins, focusing on the Kent family, was published in *Mayflower Descendant* 61:38-59(Spring 2012). Another article on the Machell side of Mary's family will appear in the Autumn 2012 issue of the *Mayflower Quarterly*. Both articles are written by Simon Neal.

Our annual meeting was held September 8, 2012 in Mount Laurel, NJ. We were one member short of a quorum, so we quickly enlisted a new member in the person of Ren Cushing, husband of member Muriel Cushing. We then proceeded to have a very interesting and productive meeting, which you can read about here also. Thanks to Ren for being such a good sport!

In July, your editors spent an enjoyable afternoon at the Hopkins Vineyard in Warren, Connecticut for the 225 year celebration of that family's ownership of the property, which we have duly documented for you. Going further afield, in October we went to Barbados to delve into the many mysteries surrounding Stephen Hopkins' son Caleb. We certainly didn't solve all the mysteries, as you will see by reading the first part of our article published here, but we did make the happy discovery that hurricanes usually travel north of Barbados, and the last one to hit the island was in 1955. True to form Sandy missed Barbados and we

flew over the hurricane on our return to New York Cityonly to have it hit us with a vengeance a few days later. Judith Brister and I live at opposite ends of this particular island, so while she was lucky and didn't lose power, my eleventh floor apartment was without power for four days.

For those of you with good walking legs and a sense of adventure, we are organizing a 40-mile, two-day historic walk this spring. The intent is to retrace the steps of Stephen Hopkins, Edward Winslow and Squanto when in 1621 they visited Massasoit for the first time. Details are in this newsletter. If you'd like to join us, just let our Corresponding Secretary, Linda Hart, know and she can put you on the contact list.

If you are interested in DNA testing for the Hopkins family, there is a new test called Family Finder at Family-tree DNA, <u>familytreedna.com</u>. I have been tested and was able to see which of my chromosomes match some of my cousins. I suggest that the older generations get tested as well as yourself and your children. More information about this test will appear in the next newsletter.

Please note that the PHHS has new contact information, so check before mailing in your dues. Our Corresponding Secretary has recently moved and is now settled into her new home.

We are still waiting to get an approval from the IRS for non-profit status. The PHHS is most grateful to Rod Fleck for all he has been doing toward getting this approved. I would also like to thank Ed Flaherty for his continued work as treasurer and for assisting Rod with the IRS. And a special thanks to Linda Hart for agreeing to wear a second hat and taking on the challenging job of web administrator. We are fortunate in that she brings exceptional skills and extensive experience to this position.

Very best wishes to you and your family this Holiday Season, Susan Abanor

Our Team

Governor	Susan B.W. Abanor
Deputy Governor	Rick Denham
Treasurer	Edward P. Flaherty
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Munroe Hart
Historian	Kenneth Whittemore

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Signage	Helen McLaren
Web Administrator	Linda Munroe Hart
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September Meeting

The meeting took place September 8, 2012 in Mount Laurel, NJ. There were 11 members present: Sarah Abanor, Susan Abanor, Judith Brister, Muriel Cushing, Ren Cushing, Rick Denham, Linda Hart, Thomas Kellogg, Ephraim Lasar, Kenneth Whittemore and Harold Woolley.

Two items of New Business were brought up at the meeting. Our Corresponding Secretary, Linda Hart, proposed that funds be raised to support the research for the publication of the forthcoming *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* Volume 6. Approval was given at the meeting for a donation of \$1,000 by PHHS. In addition, members will be invited to make a special donation towards this research.



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Hopkins Family Heritage Festival

n a warm summer afternoon, Atlantic Crossings editors attended the Hopkins Family Heritage Festival celebrating 225 years of Hopkins family ownership of the farm which now includes the Hopkins Vineyard in Warren, Connecticut. The well-attended July 7, 2012 festival on the shores of Lake Waramaug was a themed Colonial Era event with music and costumes representing the year 1787, when Elijah Hopkins founded the farm after returning home from serving in the Revolutionary War. Activities included an American Revolution Color Guard parade and Proclamation of the Anniversary, honoring American Patriot Elijah Hopkins, 18th century music, children's theater, and demonstrations of quilting, spinning and weaving, candlemaking, rope-making, a working black-smith shop, kettle corn and open fire cooking. Colonial era arts and crafts were for sale and food was catered by the Hopkins Inn.



Hilary Hopkins, President of the Hopkins Vineyard, presiding over ceremony at the festival, accompanied by family members and friends.



The public was given hands-on lessons in rope making.



Quilt-making was one of the crafts demonstrated.

September Meeting

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The treasurer's report was given by Harold Woolley. It stated that PHHS has over \$16,000 in the bank and that current dues more than covered expenses. Our Historian, Kenneth Whittemore, spoke about researching the DAR database, working on an MtDNA from his own line, documenting notable descendants of Stephen Hopkins, and linking into an organization that provides discounted software for 501c3 organizations. He noted that his goal for next year is to provide a monthly report on his accomplishments. PHHS Secretary Linda Hart reported that our society now has 181 regular and 49 associate members.

Governor Susan Abanor presented her report. She mentioned that she had attended the Hopkins' Family Heritage Festival at the Hopkins Vineyard on 7 July 2012 in Warren, Conn., and distributed photos of the event. The winery owners, direct male line descendants of Stephen Hopkins, would be interested in having two plaques, one for the winery and one for the B&B run by their family, and that they could contribute to the plaques' cost. Members agreed to this proposal. Governor Abanor also stressed the need to form a membership team. She also shared information about a new DNA test, Family

Finder, by Family Tree DNA, and encouraged older PHHS family members to be tested. Finally, she noted that there had been 131,093 hits to the PHHS website since January 2008.

Atlantic Crossings editor Judith Brister reported that she and co-editor Susan Abanor were carrying out research for an article on Caleb, son of Stephen Hopkins and wife Elizabeth. It was suggested that the PHHS request Caleb Johnson for permission to reprint his article on Mary, wife of Stephen Hopkins in a future issue of Atlantic Crossings. Judith asked members to contribute stories about their families that could be of interest to Hopkins cousins. Rick Denham reported that the cruise to Bermuda in June was a great success. He said Dr. Cook, a Bermuda based historian, would like to place another plaque at St. Catherine's Beach. Dr. Cook was concerned about future development at the beach and such a plaque would help to identify it as an historic site. Rick explored the possibility of future trips, including one next year to Bermuda and one to England in 2014. He also shared information on a new technology, the QC Squared Memory Medallion, which could be attached to the plagues. Anyone with a smart phone could scan the medallion and information on a web page could be available about Stephen Hopkins and the significance of the location.

Mysteries of Caleb

From page 1

At the same time, the will gives Caleb specific responsibilities in relation to his four younger sisters, given that his mother had predeceased his father. Although Caleb was given the Hopkins house, his sisters had the right to live there while single. Apparently none of the sisters were living there by 1652, when the Plymouth Court claimed the Hopkins family home as a common storehouse for powder and shot and meeting place for committees and juries (see *Atlantic Crossings*, Vol. 5, Issue 1, June 2011). As joint supervisors of the will, Caleb and Standish were asked to:

...Advise devise and dispose by the best wayes & meanes they cann for the disposeing in marriage or other wise for the best advancnt of the estate of the forenamed Deborah Damaris Ruth and Elizabeth Hopkins....

On August 20, 1644, Caleb presented the inventory of his father's estate:

Captaine Miles Standish & Mr. Willm Bradford deposed to the last will & testament of Mr. Stephen Hopkins, deseased. Caleb Hopkins, constituted executr therof, exhibited an inventory of all his goods & cattels upon his oath (PCR 2, 75).

Caleb took two last actions documented in Plymouth records. On October 28, 1644 he "conveyed" to his brother Giles 100 acres which their father had been entitled to as an Old Comer. The land was in "Satuckquett," located in what

was then the town of Harwich (now Brewster), on Cape Cod.

Finally, on November 30, 1644, in line with their responsibilities in relation to the Hopkins sisters, Caleb and Standish drew up an agreement with neighbor Richard Sparrow for the latter to take in 12 year- old Elizabeth Hopkins "as his owne child" until she married or turned 19 (see Atlantic Crossings Vol. 2, Issue 1, June 2008). The agreement stipulated that if Elizabeth were to die, her estate would revert to Captain Standish and Caleb, for them to distribute it among the remaining sisters (Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories, Vol. I, folios 65-66).

The final mention of Caleb from a Plymouth source is by William Bradford, writing in 1651 on "decreasing and increasing" in the colony. Referring to the son of Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins born in Plymouth, Bradford states simply that:

"Ther sone became a seaman, and dyed at Barbadoes..." (Bradford, *History of Plymouth*, 2,406-7).

From the time of his father's death to his own death some time before 1651, Caleb's life is a matter of conjecture.



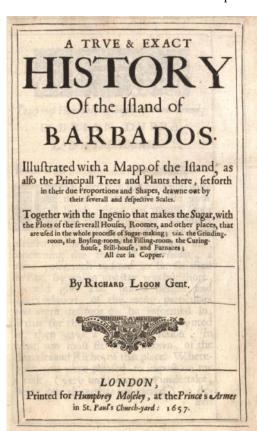
Camels, as depicted in this detail from Ligon's map, were among Barbados' imports in the 1640s.

It can be assumed he went to sea soon after he had tidied up his affairs in Plymouth. The placement of Elizabeth with the Sparrows, and the marriages of his sister Deborah to Andrew Ring on 23 April, 1646, and of Damaris to Jacob Cooke shortly thereafter, on 10 June 1646, relieved Caleb of his responsibilities towards them. Ruth had probably died sometime between Stephen's death in 1644, when she was mentioned in his will, and Bradford's 1651 reference to the fact that one of the daughters of Stephen and Elizabeth "... dyed here...". Ruth was not mentioned in the 1659 settlement of her sister Elizabeth's estate. It should be recalled, as noted in a previous article on Elizabeth (*Atlantic Cross*-

ings Vol. 2, Issue 1, June 2008), that the estate settlement was qualified by the phrase, "...incase Elizabeth Hopkins Doe Come Noe more...". Intriguingly, Elizabeth was not presumed dead.

Caleb's resolve to seek his fortune outside the confines of the Plymouth colony was evidenced by his willingness to hand over his sizeable inheritance of land to Giles. Encumbered with neither possessions nor responsibilities in Plymouth, he was now entirely free to try his luck elsewhere.

Just why he would do so, however, relinquishing his comfortable situation in Plymouth, remains a mystery. He may have just been his father's son, a fiercely independent spirit and brave adventurer. He may have simply succumbed to the irresistible lure of the sea, as have so many young men throughout the ages. Or he may have been seduced by the very particular charms of Barbados, known at the time as "Little England."



Richard Ligon wrote a widely quoted account of Barbados as he saw it in the 1640s.

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Mysteries of Caleb

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Barbados, 1640s

According to historian Hilary Beckles, by the mid-1640s, about the time Caleb would have set out, Barbados had become "...perhaps the most attractive colony in the English New World..." .(Beckles 1990, 13). He goes on to note that:

By the early 1650s. Barbados was described as the richest spot in the New World, and colonial officials boasted that the island's value, in terms of trade and capital, was greater than all the English colonies put together..." (Beckles 1990, 21).

While in 1643 houses in Barbados were described as "... mean, with things only for necessity..." by 1666, the island had buildings "fair and beautiful," houses "like castles," which overall, made the colony of New England look like "..a very poore country..." (Beckles 1990, 22).

Barbados' prosperity during the second half of the 17th century was the result of a number of factors. One was the favorable geographic position of the 166 square miles island. Lying off the coast of Venezuela, just east of the Lesser Antilles, it was:

...the first port of arrival for English ships sailing to Caribbean and a preferred stopover port for Dutch ships traveling between Brazil and the Caribbean. For these reasons Barbados soon became the most populated of the English colonies, as it drew large numbers of colonists and workers due to the great demand for manual laborers...(Moya Pons 2007, 58).

While the Portuguese and Spanish conquistadoes visited Barbados in the 16th century, dubbing the island "Los Barbudos," after the beard-like appearance of its fig trees, and raided it for Amerindian slaves, the English were the island's first European settlers. Like the English who landed at Plymouth in 1620, the 170 colonists who arrived in Barbados in 1627 encountered an uninhabited land, just as empty of its native population as had been Plymouth seven years earlier. Barbados' population had been wiped out by slave raids and contagious European diseases, and as in early Plymouth, the newcomers could establish their settlement without local opposition.

With uneven success, the Barbados colonists focused on producing one cash crop for export after another. Their initial labor force was white indentured servants, who comprised over half the whites to arrive during the 1630s and 1640s. For the first five years the colonists grew to-bacco, then "...the most profitable New World agricultural staple on the European market...". In fact, Henry Winthrop (1608-1630), the second son of Massachusetts Bay Colony Governor John Winthrop, was one of these colonists, but his tobacco venture failed and by April 1629 he had returned to England to marry his first cousin. By the early 1630s, in part due to competition from Virginia planters, the London tobacco market became glutted, prices tumbled, and the Barbados planters turned to cotton production, in great demand in Europe at that time. Other

planters in the Eastern Caribbean were also exporting cotton, however, and by 1639 there was an oversupply of cotton, and again prices collapsed. Barbados' next cash crop was indigo, from 1640 - 43, when over-production dealt yet another blow to the island's economy (Beckles 1990, 13-15).

In the mid-1640s the island had finally found the commodity that was to bring it enviable prosperity until the early 1700s: sugar. Dutch merchants, many of them Jewish, who had been defeated by and dislodged from Brazil by Portuguese settlers in the 1640s, sought new opportunities in Barbados. With the exception of arable land, which was readily available on the island, they offered just about everything needed to create a thriving sugar industry: capital, technology, markets, and credit lines. In addition, as the leading suppliers of African slaves to the New World, they also offered this new source of labor power for plantation work (Beckles 1990, 35). By law and custom, English anti-Semitism precluded the Dutch Jewish merchants from contracting white servants, so it was in both their economic and social interests to replace the white indentured servants with the slaves they imported from West Africa (Beckles 1990, 20-21).

The transformation of Barbados' labor force did not occur overnight. Between 1627 and 1650, white laborers were cheaper than slaves and preferred by Barbadian planters. Between 1645 and 1650, at least 8,000 white workers arrived, "...a mixture of voluntary servants, political refugees and transported convicts and rogues..." (Beckles 1990,

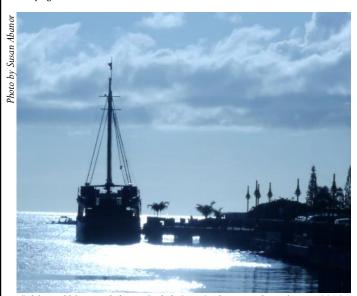


Barbados' transition from white servants to black slave labor was taking place just as Caleb reached the island.

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Mysteries of Caleb

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Caleb would have sailed into Carlisle Bay, Bridgetown, shown here in 2012.

29). Some white workers were kidnapped during the 1640s and 1650s, and:

..."Barbadosed" took on the same meaning that "Shanghaied" has today. After the English Civil War ended, captives from Cromwell's expeditions to Ireland and Scotland were forcibly brought over between 1649 and 1655. But fewer criminals entered the islands as servants than were sent either to British America or later to Australia...(Rogozinski 2000, 73).

As the slave trade grew more "efficient" between 1650 and 1660, slaves became less expensive than servant labor, and black slaves began to replace white workers. This dramatically changed the island's demographics.

In the early 1640s there were some 37,000 whites and 6,000 black slaves in Barbados (Encyclopedia Britannica, 1992, Vol. 29, 763). By 1655, when Barbados had become the most densely populated area in the New World, it had 23,000 whites and 20,000 black slaves, while in 1712 there were 12,528 whites to 41,970 blacks. (Beckles 19, 29-32). If Caleb had indeed visited the island before he died, he would have seen this demographic transformation in its initial stages.

Before departing from Plymouth, enticing stories about the potential of the island's nascent sugar industry may have reached his ears. He may also have heard that land values were relatively low, although after 1643, prices began to rise rapidly, until by 1670 all the island's arable land was devoted to sugar cultivation (Beckles 1990, 22).

On the political front, word may have reached him that the island had not escaped the impact of the English Civil War of 1642-49. While in 1652, after a three-month blockade, the Cromwell forces eventually took control of the island by force, until then the Barbadian planter class, about evenly divided between supporters of the "Roundheads" (Parliamentarians led by Cromwell) and the "Cavaliers" (Royalists), tried maintain the island's neutrality in this conflict. To maintain the peace, Barbadians on both sides of the political divide went so far as to ban the use of the terms "Roundheads" and "Cavaliers."

A fascinating first-hand account of this period in Barbados was written by Englishman Richard Ligon, a Royalist who came to Barbados in 1647 hoping to escape the turmoil in his country and make his fortune. With several partners, he purchased half of a sugar plantation and spent three years in Barbados before returning to England and landing in debtors' prison. There he wrote his "True and Exact History of the Island of Barbadoes," published in 1657 and 1673. Regarding the efforts of the Barbadian planters to keep the peace, he noted that they:

...made a law amongst themselves, that whosoever nam'd the word Roundhead or Cavalier should give to all those that heard him a shoat [young hog] and a turkey, to be eaten at his house that made the forfeiture...(Ligon, 1657, 57-8).

Part Two of this article, the latest in a series on the children of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins, will appear in our next issue. We are most grateful to the Barbados Department of Archives staff, and especially to archivist Stacia Adams, for their invaluable assistance in its preparation. Harriet Pierce, librarian at the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, was also most responsive to our queries. Finally, many thanks to Caleb Johnson, author and editor of "The Mayflower Descendant," for pointing us in the right direction and for encouraging our research trip to Barbados. As a follow-up, we invite readers to send us stories of their Hopkins ancestors who may have lived in Barbados, or resided there and then moved to the Carolinas and Virginia. We would also like to hear about Hopkins ancestors who migrated to other parts of the world. Together, we have many more mysteries to explore.

Second Cruise to Bermuda

Given the success of the first Hopkins-themed cruise to Bermuda held last June, a second cruise is planned for next summer. Speakers will be Caleb Johnson and Simon Neal. Sign up while there is room!

Time: June 14-21, 2013 **Ship:** NCL "Dawn"

Price: Round trip Boston-Bermuda ranges from

\$2,000 for an interior cabin to \$2,900 for a balcony cabin. Mini-suites available for

around \$3,300 per couple.

Contact: Rick Denham at Caribbean Sunset Cruises

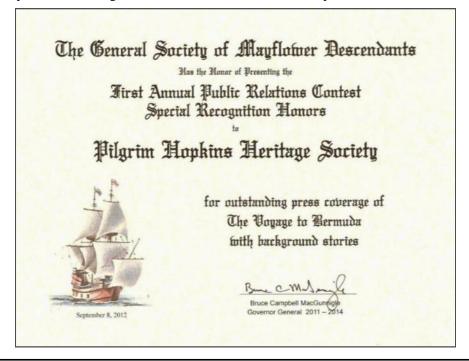
Email: rick@caribbeansunsetcruises.com

Phone: 432-697-9503 or 432-664-5680

Award to the PHHS

n September 8, 2012, a special award was presented to The Pilgrim Hopkins Society from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants for the outstanding public relations coverage of the cruise to Bermuda from 8-15 June 2012 organized by our Deputy Governor, Rick Denham. The award was presented by the Governor General, Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle, and cited the

"outstanding press coverage of the voyage to Bermuda with background stories." Coverage included several articles in local newspapers from the home states of some cruise passengers (e.g., Senora, California; Springport, Michigan; Gloucester, Virginia; Oakland Country, Michigan), and two articles in "The Bermuda Sun". Rick Denham accepted the award on behalf of the PHHS.



Recognition to Hopkins descendant Kia Taylor-Riccio

The Stephen Hopkins Colony of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants presented Hopkins descendant Kia Taylor-Riccio with an award for her accomplishments as an outstanding high school student in the field of American history. The award presentation took place on 12 April 2012, at the

Colony's Spring Meeting in Vero Beach, Florida, details of which were forwarded to *Atlantic Crossings* by PHHS member Loretta M. Riccio, Kia's proud grandmother. Congratulations to Kia! We hope she continues her love of history and celebrates her Hopkins Heritage by contributing articles to our newsletter.

Historic Walk

Stephen Hopkins and Edward Winslow were sent by Governor William Bradford to the Pohanoket Village to meet with Massasoit Sachem (Ousamequin). In the published account of this journey, (see: tauntonriver.org/pokonoket.htm), Winslow states the reasons for the meeting:

"...partially to know where to find them, if occasion served, as also to see their strength, discover the country, prevent abuses in their disorderly coming to us, make satisfaction for some conceived injuries to be done on our parts, and to continue the league of Peace and Friendship between them and us...."

Governor Abanor, Chris Messier and Chris Hall from Plimoth Plantation, thought it might be fun to retrace the steps of Hopkins, Winslow and Tisquantum (also known as Squanto) in a two-day trek over their 40-mile route on roughly the same days of the year they walked it: April 12-13, 2013. We are currently exploring this possibility with friends at the Plimoth Plantation. If you and/or your younger family members would be like to join us on this caper, please contact us at:

Linda Munroe Hart, Corresponding Secretary Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society 115B Ridgefield Circle Clinton, MA 01510 secretary@pilgrimhopkins.com ATLANTIC CROSSINGS www.pilgrimhopkins.com

Membership Dues



A reminder: our membership year is October 1 through September 30. If you have not already renewed, or if you have a question on your membership, or would like to join, please email or write our Corresponding Secretary, Linda Munroe Hart (see contact information below).

Dues are \$15.00 a year for regular and associate members. For regular members (those who have proved descent from Stephen Hopkins and are members of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants), there is a one-time application fee of \$10.00. We also have life membership available for \$200. Many members choose to join for multiple years. Please consider this as an option when you join or renew.

Also, when you do renew, consider making a special donation to our publication fund. We are undertaking support of the writing/editing/updating of the genealogy of Stephen Hopkins that is being managed by the Mayflower Society. This series of books is known to us as "Mayflower Families through Five Generations", Volume 6, Stephen Hopkins. It is planned that as the current edition is out of print that the new edition will include more generations and will possibly be broken into parts. This is a huge undertaking that will benefit all descendants of Stephen Hopkins.



Contact Us

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secretary@pilgrimhopkins.com

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PHHS will be held in New Orleans in September 2013.

More information will be posted on the website and in next June's *Atlantic Crossings*.



Atlantic Crossings



Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society 115B Ridgefield Circle Clinton, MA 01510



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