### PILGRIM HOPKINS HERITAGE SOCIETY



# ATLANTIC CROSSINGS



ENGLAND ~ BERMUDA ~ JAMESTOWN ~ ENGLAND ~ PLYMOUTH

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# In Search of Damaris by Sarah and Susan Abanor

A central debate surrounding the figure of Damaris Hopkins concerns whether there were two daughters born to Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins, both with the first name Damaris. If there were two, one child would have come over on the Mayflower as a two year old and died at nine, sometime after 1627. The other would have been born around 1628 and died between 1666 and 1669. The likelihood of the existence of two daughters seems high based on a number of factors.

First, in colonial times it was common practice to name infants after siblings who had died. Keeping first names in the family was a way of retaining a connection between the different branches and generations of a large family. Thus it would not have been unusual for the Hopkins



Rocky Nook site (now Kingston, MA) where Damaris and Jacob raised their family.

### Also in this issue:

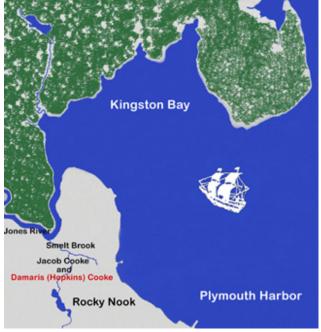
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family to have named a second child Damaris after a deceased first child of that name.

Second, in his will Stephen Hopkins lists his unmarried daughters Deborah, Damaris, Ruth and Elizabeth three times, in this order. Given the traditions of the period, this order would probably have been chronological. If there had been only one child named Damaris, she would have been older than her sister Deborah and listed before Deborah in the will. This is the

same order used by Stephen's son Caleb and Myles Standish when they divided up Stephen's estate among his daughters.

George E. Bowman makes the above points in his article Stephen Hopkins and His Descendants (MD 5: 47). In addition, he notes that in Bradford's 1651 account of the "decreasings & Increasings" of Mayflower passengers, all the children on the Mayflower are mentioned except Damaris and Oceanus Hopkins, suggesting they both died young. At the same time, Bradford does not take into account as an "increasing" of a Mayflower passenger the child of the Damaris Hopkins (because presumably she was not a Mayflower passenger) who as the wife of Jacob Cooke had at least one child by 1651.



There are many unanswered questions regarding Stephen Hopkins' children, not least because the vital records of Plymouth prior to 1648 have been lost, as Bowman notes. For instance, in the Plymouth Colony records Damaris is not listed with the rest of her family in the 8th lot of the "1627 Division of Cattle." She was instead listed as the last person in the 7th lot, with the Samuel Fuller family. Her age and the reason for this separation are not given.

This article presumes that there was a second Damaris born ca. 1628 and attempts to capture the rough contours of her life, taking

### Message from the Governor

We have much to celebrate with our women descendants of the Mayflower and I hope you enjoy hearing about some of them in the current copy of our newsletter.

As you all know the General Society of Mayflower Descendants now accepts three women's line for Membership. You may now join through our ancestor Elizabeth (Fisher?) Hopkins if your line is through daughters Deborah or Damaris. Your governor has completed that paperwork and was able to stand up for Elizabeth at the latest annual meeting for New York State. The other two women that applications can be submitted through are, Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland and Mary (Norris) Allerton.

This year there is an exhibit that will perhaps be of interest to your family. The exhibition features more than two dozen artifacts from the *Sea Venture* underwater archaeological site and objects associated with early government and the Church of England in Virginia and Bermuda. It will be there from March 1 through October 15, 2009. For more information please visit:

http://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-and-bermuda.htm

We would like to welcome all the new members to The Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society. Bonnie Conant was kind enough to suggest and then send our applications out to her mailing list for all the Stephen and Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins members of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. She has mailed over 1200 applications for us. You Officers have been hard at work processing this mailing, which brought in 70 new applications. We now have a total of 219 members! A big thank you to Bonnie, Ruth Freyer for processing and mailing the packets to Bonnie and to Kenneth Whittemore, Judith Elfring and Edward Flaherty, all who have given so much time to make sure that we are growing as a society.

Please make sure to let Kenneth Whittemore know if you are coming to the next meeting.

Reservations are required by 28 August 2009. Please see the box at the end of the newsletter for details.

Have a lovely summer and hopefully we will meet at the September gathering.

Susan B. W. Abanor, Governor

#### **Damaris**

From page 1

into account available public records and events that may have had an impact upon her.

Damaris was born to a well respected household, surrounded by siblings, half siblings and by nephews and nieces her own age (such as Mark, the eldest child of Damaris' half sister Constance). Her father Stephen was the owner of an ordinary (tavern) and perhaps a general store, and was a freeman and assistant to the governor. As a member of this household, Damaris would probably have been abreast of colony news and gossip. The Hopkins home was also centrally located in Plymouth, close to the fort and across the street from the governor's house, enhancing Damaris' knowledge of and perhaps participation in the colony's day to day activities.

In Damaris' early years, some of the more poignant news circulating throughout the colony would have concerned the 1630 execution of John Billington for murder, when she was three, the outbreak of smallpox, which killed 20 colonists and many Native Americans, when she was six, and the 1637 Pequot War when she was about ten. The household would have also been affected by Stephen's 1632 appoint-

ment to the Council of War and by his 1636 admission as a freeman, with rights to vote and hold office.

The years 1636-39 would have been difficult ones in the life of the pre-teen and teenage Damaris. It may have been during this period that her mother Elizabeth became ill and died. In any case, there is no further mention made of her mother in any record, including in Stephen Hopkins' will of 1644.

It was also during these years, and perhaps associated with his wife's health, that Stephen Hopkins began to have run-ins with the law. On 7 June 1636, 55 year old Stephen was accused of "battery" by John Tisdale, a young man of about 21, a "yeoman" and recent arrival in Plymouth. Stephen was found guilty and fined five pounds sterling to the King for having broken the peace, and forty shillings to the plaintiff. In 1637 he was brought before the grand jury three times for allowing drunkenness in his home, and in 1638 he was cited on several occasions for selling alcoholic beverages and goods at usury rates.

An event that may have been particularly upsetting to the young Damaris occurred in 1638, when the Hopkins family's unmarried indentured servant, Dorothy Temple, became pregnant with the child of the convicted and subsequently executed murderer, Arthur

### The Packet Signaler by Judith Brister

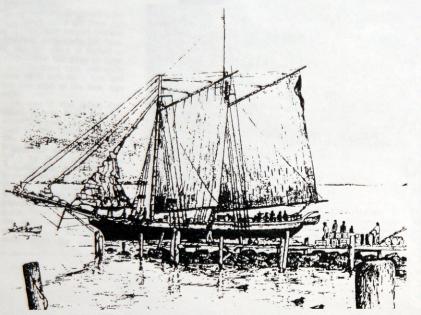
Elizabeth Hopkins Baker was among the female descendants of Stephen Hopkins (Stephen, Giles, Stephen, Samuel, Moses, Edward, Moses, Moses Jr.) who played key roles in their communities, but whose contributions are less well known than those of their male relatives. Her story has been kindly shared with us by her grandniece, Frances Shonio, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

lizabeth "Eliza" Hopkins, born in L Brewster in 1835, grew up among a cluster of Hopkins families who lived in South Brewster. Her father, Moses Jr., and her brother, Henry, were well known blacksmiths, builders and wheelwrights (more on them in a forthcoming issue of Atlantic Crossings). When she was twenty, Eliza married Barnabas G. Baker, son of Joshua and Margaret Baker. Their life together was short. At the outset of the Civil War, Barnabas volunteered in the Massachusetts Regiment No. 58. He was captured and held at the Salisbury prison in North Carolina, and died in Baltimore in 1865, two days before the surrender of Richmond. Eliza got permission to visit him during the last few days of his life, and brought his body back to Brewster for burial.

Besides being a devoted and brave Civil War wife, however, as a girl Eliza had wielded great power over the lives of townsfolk all over the Cape. At a sign from her, farmers from miles around would stop in their tracks, walk away from their fields, rig up their horses and wagons, and head for Cape Cod Bay. Eliza was a packet boat signaler.

Before the railroad came to Brewster in 1865, the town had two "signal hills" from which Cape Codders were alerted to the arrivals and departures of the packet boats. One was in the Red Top area of West Brewster (see Robert Finch's *The Primal Place*, p. 97). The other was behind Eliza's house. The rough schedule of the packets was known, but someone had to be on the lookout for the actual arrival and give the critical signal. In South Brewster, for a number of years this someone was Eliza, as recorded in 1974 by her grandniece (and Frances Shonio's first cousin), the late Marion Carlson:

"At the top of the hill in South Brewster, about where the water tower now stands, there used to be, many years ago, a pole 70 feet in height upon which signals were hoistered [sic] to announce the arrival or the departure of the Packet.



Packet Rounding the Breakwater · Brewster, Mass. drawing by Steve Pope

Because of this high spot and the clear view for miles around, the people, even in Chatham, could see the barrel at the top of the pole which announced the arrival of the Packet. It was by this means they were able to get their supplies.

When Elizabeth (or Eliza) Hopkins was a young girl she had full charge of hoistering [sic] the signal for all to see. One would imagine it gave her much pleasure to send the important message. It was by way of the Packet the people received their mail as well as provisions.

Elizabeth was born in 1835, so it was probably in the 1850s that she was given the privilege of signaling. Previously it had been done by Moses Hopkins Jr., her father.

From the signal pole site one could see across the bay any boat that sailed the blue, and so allowed enough time for the people to come and meet its arrival and get their provisions. Perhaps it was also an occasion to visit with others and exchange news.

When the Packet was about to depart a flag was hoisted in place of the barrel."

(reproduced with permission from Robert Carlson, Marion Carlon's son)

#### ATLANTIC CROSSINGS

#### **Damaris**

From page 2

Peach. Stephen was jailed for evicting Dorothy from his home and ordered to retain Dorothy and her child unless he paid the town for her maintenance. Hopkins finally relieved himself of his obligation in 1639 by paying John Holmes the sum of three pounds sterling to take on Dorothy's indenture.

The next event of note in Damaris' life was the addition of Jonathan Hatch to the Hopkins household in 1642. When Hatch moved in he and Damaris would have been about the same age, 15 years old. Hatch was a troubled youth, a runaway apprentice, placed with Stephen Hopkins by the court (see Atlantic Crossings, June 2008).

In 1644 Stephen Hopkins died, leaving Damaris two and a half cows (one called the Damaris heifer), a fourth of the movable goods of the household, and free recourse to Stephen's house until marriage.

Two years after their father's death, in April 1646, Damaris' older sister Deborah married Andrew Ring, and in short order, on 10 June of the same year, 19 year old Damaris married Jacob Cooke. Jacob's father Francis had arrived on the Mayflower with his Jacob's older brother John. Jacob, born in Holland about 1618, had arrived a few years later with his mother Hester (Mahieu) and sisters Jane and Hester (Dawes-Gates 2:240).

It was a match that seemingly pooled good genes. The Hopkins and the Cooke households were among just four of the 24 households of Mayflower passengers who had no deaths during the harsh first winter after their arrival. The match also pooled material assets that gave the couple a solid start. Damaris came to

the marriage with her inheritance from her father's estate. As a prenuptial gift, Jacob's father had given him "...land at North River, an ox, cow, calf, and colt, assistance in building a house at "Rocky Nooke," where the father lived, and after the death of both parents, "the teame with all the furniture belonging thereunto..." (Dawes-Gates 2:245).

As a married woman, therefore, Damaris would have likely had a social status at least equal to that which she had enjoyed in childhood. Jacob Cooke, referred to as a "planter," was made freeman and supervisor of highways soon after they were married in 1647, and continued throughout their married life to acquire and sell tracts of land, increasing the family's wealth.

At Rocky Nook, Damaris would have no longer have been privy to the latest colony news and gossip, and her life would probably have been centered around her immediate family.

While married life may have been more insular than her early years, it is still possible that Damaris, who came from and married into families that owned books, could read and write. In 1660 it is estimated that some 30 per cent of English women in the colony were literate (as opposed to 60 per cent of the men) (Lepore 1999: 37). There is no conclusive proof of her literacy, however. On 9 April 1650, when Damaris was about 23, Jacob sold the land at the North River he had been given by his father at the time of his marriage to Moris Truant for a sum of 16 pound sterling. This was the only land sale Jacob made during Damaris' lifetime, and she neither signed nor made her mark on the deed.

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## **Preliminary Results of MtDNA Project**

The MtDNA line below from Elizabeth (Fisher?), Stephen Hopkins' second wife, through their daughter Damaris, has been brought down to living descendants. For reasons of privacy, we are only printing this line to Emma Trow (b. 1846) and James Averill (b 1842), who were born in Vermont and migrated to Michigan.

Elizabeth Fisher	m. Stephen Hopkins
Damaris Hopkins	m. Jacob Cooke
Elizabeth Cooke	m. John Doty
Elizabeth Doty	m. Joshua Morse
Elizabeth Morse	m. Japhet Turner
Hannah Turner	m. James LeBarron
Abigail LeBarron	m.Isaac Doty
Sally Doty	m. John Chandler
Mary Chandler	m. Dexter Trow
Emma Trow	m. James W. Averill



James and Emma (Trow) Averill, married March 4th, 1867.

### **Preparing Pottage**

Damaris (Hopkins) Cooke must have prepared pottage, a mainstay of colonial New England cuisine, countless times. The complete recipe for this stew, known by the Wampanoags as "Sobaheg" can be found at: <a href="http://www.plimoth.org/discover/recipes/sobaheg.php">http://www.plimoth.org/discover/recipes/sobaheg.php</a> (Corn for this pottage was grown by Hopkins' descendant Thomas Ballam. Photos by Susan Abanor).



The corn was hand ground in a large mortar pestle.



In colonial times it was cooked over an open fire.



These vegetables were probably available in the 1600's.



This thick and delicious pottage was served in a wooden trencher.

#### **Damaris**

From page 4

The year after her marriage Damaris began her own family, and had seven children in quick succession, from 1647/46-1665/66. The first was Elizabeth, born on 18 January 1647/1648.

March of 1651/52 was an eventful month in the life of the Cooke family. It was in this month that Damaris, pregnant with her second child, was mentioned in the records as having been a witness in a court action of slander and defamation. She was highly compensated for her role in the case, receiving 3 shillings, almost half again as much as her sister Elizabeth, another witness in the trial. Also in this month Jacob is mentioned as having "... Interest and proprieties in the Townes land att Punckateesett over against Road lland...," suggesting he had previously acquired land in the Punckateesett area. Finally, on 29 March 1651/52, when Damaris was about 25, her first son Caleb was born, probably so named for her recently deceased older brother. Just a year later, on 26 March 1653, Damaris gave birth to her second son, Jacob.

Husband Jacob continued to buy land. In 1653 he acquired holdings next to his brother, and near his Rocky Nook home at the location "... commonly called Joanes River Meddow...". On 10 October 1657 Elizabeth Hopkins, Damaris' sister, sold him 10 acres of land at Joanes River Meddow, in the area commonly called the Great Meddow, giving him substantial holdings in the area. The following year, on 12 January 1657/1658, Damaris' second daughter, Mary, was born.

On the 10 April 1659 Jacob acquired yet more land "... three acres bee it more or lesse lying in green harbour Mersh att a place Called the pyny point over against Woodlland...," On 6 October of this same year a record of an inventory of the estate of Elizabeth Hopkins, Damaris' sister, reveals that the estate is in the joint control of Elizabeth's brothers-in-law Jacob Cooke and Andrew Ring. This inventory was done because Elizabeth had disappeared (see Atlantic Crossings, June 2008, p.1). Closely following Elizabeth's disappearance, on 16 March 1659/1660, Damaris' third daughter, Martha, was born.

Francis, Damaris' third son, was born on 5 January 1662. Three months later, on 22 March 1662/63, Jacob

### **Packet Signaler**

From page 3

The centrality of packets to the economy and the social life of 19<sup>th</sup> century Cape Cod has been noted by various historians. In the *History of Barnstable County*, edited by Simon L. Deyo (1890), for example, Charles F. Swift devotes a full chapter to these small schooners that regularly ferried cargo and some 25-50 people to and from Cape towns and Boston. Calling the packet a "great social leveler ... where all sorts of topics were discussed, from original sin to the price of codfish," he provides the following snapshot of their impact:

"Great was the excitement on land when the packet was signaled in the offing back of the bar. The shores were swarmed long before her arrival, the wharf was crowded, and scores of expert hands were ready to catch the warp as it was tossed ashore from the approaching vessel. Then came eager inquiries for "the news," and an exchange of greetings between reunited friends, or works of regret because of the non-arrival others...The pas-

sengers landed and order restored on the cluttered decks, bulk was broken and the freight briskly passed ashore. There were innumerable barrels, hogsheads, boxes, sides of beef, carcasses of mutton or pork and jugs in infinite variety, and not all of them filled with vinegar or molasses...From the summits of the highest hills signals had been hoisted on staffs to apprise the people on the south side that the packet was in. Ample notice was given in the same way of her intended departure... There was a good deal of rivalry between these vessels in the matter of speed. The Barnstable, Yarmouth and Dennis packets, and those from the towns below, used to put forth their best efforts to make the quickest trips, and the regattas of modern times were anticipated by these rival crafts. A good many five dollar bills changed hands on some of these occasions between the betting friends of the different vessels..." (Deyo, 111).

When young Eliza Hopkins climbed the hill behind her home to do her job, this is what it was all about.

# Our Hopkins "Herstories": 150 Years By Frances E. Shonio

The "signaler" was my grandfather's older sister, known as I was growing up as "Aunt Lizzie." My grandfather Henry Hopkins (b. March 2, 1845), son of Moses Hopkins Jr., was a wheelwright and blacksmith, and married Keziah Nickerson Paine on December 29, 1870. After building his barn and shops, my grandfather built a new house across the street where my mother Jennie Louise Hopkins (b. May 3, 1891), the youngest of his seven children, was born.

My mother Jennie grew up in South Brewster. After her schooling she traveled to Maine, New Hampshire and Florida as a waitress in fine hotels, including the Mount Washington in New Hampshire. She met my father, Michael J. Cummings, in Florida while working at the Altamonte Springs Hotel, and was married at her home in Brewster on October 18, 1915. Their children, Leo Henry, Elizabeth ("Betty") Louise, and myself, Frances Evelyn, were born in the little house where my grandfather Henry was born and where Aunt Lizzie had lived all her life.

After graduating from Brewster Elementary School and Orleans High, I attended Morton Hospital School of Nursing as a Cadet Nurse. I met and married Elwyn Shonio on June 4, 1949, in Brockton, Mass., while working at the Moore Hospital in Brockton. We had one daughter, Brenda Louise, born February 17, 1951.

When Brenda was about five we moved from Brockton to Bridgewater. She graduated from Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School in 1969 and from Hartford Hospital School of Radiologic Technology in 1971, and has worked as a dental assistant and nursing assistant. She and her husband Barry Oliver, whom she married



Frances Shonio

in 1972, have two children: Michael (20), a sophomore at Worcester Polytechnic Institute of Technology in Computer Science, and Jennifer (27).

As to the youngest of our line of female descendants of Stephen Hopkins, Jennifer Louise Oliver attended the Lighthouse Charter School and Cape Cod Academy, and graduated from Haverford College with a degree in Cultural Anthropology. She then returned to the Cape for a year as a teaching assistant at the Lighthouse Charter School – the first alumni to teach there. In December 2008 she received her Masters Degree in Mathematics from U. Mass., and lives in Easthampton and teaches. In July she'll marry former Brewster resident Sean Mullin in the rose garden at the family home built by Henry Hopkins.

### New Look at Hopkins' First Crossing by Judith Brister

C tephen Hopkins is by no means the central character of The Shipwreck that Saved Jamestown: The "Sea Venture" and the Fate of America by scholars Lorri Glover and Daniel Blake Smith (Henry Holt and Co., NY, 2008). The focus of this recently released historical narrative is the key role played by the Sea Venture in ensuring the ultimate survival of the Virginia colony and in cementing British control over America. Tapping neglected historical sources, the authors describe the gripping adventure of this boat, the flagship of a seven ship fleet (the "Third Supply Relief Fleet") carrying some six hundred people, that left England on June 8, 1609 with the mission of providing fresh supplies and additional colonists to the desperate Jamestown settlement.

As noted in the first issue of *Atlantic Crossings* (Vol.1, Issue 1, Summer 2007, p. 1), the *Sea Venture* was mercilessly buffeted by a hurricane in this crossing, and then shipwrecked within sight of Bermuda on July 25, 1609. Its 150 passengers remained in Bermuda for 10 months, before finally departing for Virginia on May 10, 1610. Shakespeare's *The Tempest* was thought to be largely inspired by two contemporary accounts of both the stormy passage and the Bermuda sojourn.

Authors Glover and Smith do a good job of explaining the historical context of this expedition, and devote considerable attention to its leaders, Captain Christopher Newport, Admiral George Somers, and Sir Thomas Gates, all of whom sailed aboard the *Sea Venture*. They also do their best to describe others in the 150 cast of characters on the ship, as historical documentation permits. Stephen Hopkins merits a number of references, which provide new insights into the background, psychology and behavior of the pre-Plymouth Hopkins.

For example, the book explores the motivations of those who signed up for this trip. After examining the role of a "flood of religious-based promotional literature" in luring passengers aboard this fleet, the authors dwell on the more practical motivations of those who hoped to improve their status through this voyage, including poor servants and skilled laborers. In the latter category,

Stephen Hopkins, for example, who, in addition to his Puritan sensibilities, belonged to a London woolen guild, hoped to tap into the growing demand for hats and broadcloth in Jamestown (p.80).





"Hog money," Bermuda's first coinage, features a wild boar on one side and the Sea Venture on the other.

As could be expected, most references to Hopkins relate to his mutinous tendencies and to the attempted mutiny he in fact led in Bermuda. The authors on the one hand describe a pious and hardworking clerk to the ship's pastor, Rev. Buck:

With the aid of Stephen Hopkins, Buck held two church services every Sunday. Hopkins, who carried his Bible wherever he went, read the lessons and the psalms, and Buck delivered the sermons...(p.147).

On the other hand, they highlight Hopkins' "strident Protestant faith," and speculate that,

The devout Stephen Hopkins, who helped Rev. Buck lead daily prayers on board the ship, may well have used the many slack moments at sea to discuss some of his intense religious views at length with members of the company (p.88).

The reasoning behind Hopkins' revolt is well known: In Hopkins view, while on the ship Captain Newport and George Somers had to be obeyed; upon arrival in Virginia, Thomas Gates would be the governor with full authority. But after the shipwreck, Hopkins reasoned, a new life commenced on Bermuda, one that none of the leaders rightfully controlled (p.161).

Less well known, perhaps, is the notion that Hopkins' positions were rooted in a radical Puritan strain known as "Brownism," named after the Elizabethan era separatist leader Robert Browne. Glover and Smith assert that, in the eyes of the ship's authorities, Hopkins' dissent was associated with this belief, which "...made conscience the highest law, trusting an individual's private judgment above that of a magistrate and church government" (p.163).

Hopkins' narrow escape from receiving the death penalty for his rebellion was, the authors maintain, due to the sympathy of some of the ship's leaders and of others whom he had comforted with his Bible readings during the voyage and stay in Bermuda.

#### **New Look**

From page 7

Readers should pick up this book if interested in a well-written and researched account of the fascinating *Sea Venture* and Jamestown historical saga; they should not expect it to revolve around Stephen Hopkins. If PHHS members do give the book a try, however, they will be rewarded with a deeper understanding of what took our common ancestor to Virginia and back, what he encountered along the way, and with a few fresh glimpses of Hopkins during this intense, seminal chapter in his long and exciting life.

### **Hopkins Trivia**

In the middle of a blinding snowstorm last February the *Atlantic Crossings* editors took refuge in the library of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth. They waited out the storm reviewing Hopkins family applications to the GSMD and organizing them by the occupations given on the applications, excluding the many that listed "retired" as an occupation. The results are as follows:

110	Homemakers	10	Navy
95	Teachers/Professors	10	Secretaries
34	Bankers	10	Self-employed
30	Nurses	8	Writers
25	Real Estate	7	Bookkeepers
25	Sales	7	Ministers
24	Accountants	7	System Analyst
24	Lawyers	6	Farmers
22	Doctors	6	Genealogists
20	Engineers	6	Police Officers
20	Managers	6	Software Engineers
13	Business Owners	5	Musicians
11	Librarians	5	Postal Workers

### **Next Meeting**

Friday, 11 September 2009

Doubletree Hotel

210 Holiday Court

Annapolis, MD 21401

Lower Ballroom 6:30 - 10:00 P.M.

Anyone related or interested in the Pilgrim Hopkins family is invited. Reservations are required by 28 August 2009. The dinner will be \$34.28 per person.

If you would like to stay overnight there is a special room rate of \$129 if you mention the Mayflower Society. Please call hotel directly for your room reservation: (410)224-3150

R.S.V.P. to <u>secretary@pilgrimhopkins.com</u> and send your check made out to PHHS to Corresponding Secretary Kenneth Whittemore (see address at right)

#### **Damaris**

From page 4

purchased land on Puncateesett Necke, on the Seconnet River (now in Rhode Island).

Damaris' last appearance in public records is the 17 January 1665/1666 birth of her youngest daughter, Ruth. Damaris is presumed to have died between January 1665/1666 and 18 November 1669, the date that her husband Jacob married again, this time to Elizabeth (Lettice) Shurtleff. Damaris would have been between the ages of 38 and 42 when she died. This was not an unusual age for women in the colony to die, as some 30 percent of them died before the age of 50 (Demos 2000:192-193).

These are some of the circumstances of Damaris (Hopkins) Cooke's life. What she made of them, what kind of person she was, and even what she looked like, are for us to imagine.

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Cover photo courtesy of Norman P. Tucker, President of the Jones River Village Historical Society, Kingston, MA, celebrating its centennial (1909-2009) <a href="http://www.jrvhs.org">http://www.jrvhs.org</a>

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