

A Genealogical Profile of Stephen Hopkins

Birth: Stephen Hopkins was born about 1576 in England, possibly in Hampshire.

Death: He died in Plymouth between June 6 and July 17, 1644.

Ship: *Mayflower*, 1620

Life in England: Stephen Hopkins lived in Hursley, Hampshire by May 1604, when his daughter Mary was baptized. He apparently left there, leaving his family behind, in 1608. He might have been the Stephen Hopkins who went to Bermuda aboard the *Sea Venture* in 1609, and was away for some years. His wife, Mary, died in Hursley in 1613, and her inventory referred to a shop. By February 1617/8, Stephen was living in London.

Life in New England: Stephen Hopkins was active in the first year of Plymouth Colony, serving as emissary to Massasoit several times. He was a freeman of the colony and served as assistant to the Governor from 1633–1636. He was also presented in court and fined for allowing drinking and playing “shovell-board” at his house.

Family: Stephen Hopkins married (1) Mary _____ about 1603 in England and had three children. She was buried on May 9, 1613. He married (2) Elizabeth Fisher on February 19, 1617/8, at St. Mary Matfellow, Whitechapel, London and had six children. Elizabeth died in Plymouth in the early 1640s.

Children of Stephen and Mary Hopkins, born in Hursley:

- Elizabeth was baptized on May 13, 1604. She was alive at her mother’s death, but there is no further reference.
- Constance was baptized on May 11, 1606. She married Nicholas Snow in Plymouth by May 22, 1627, and had twelve children. She died in Eastham in mid-October 1677.
- Giles was baptized on January 30, 1607/8. He married Catherine Whelden in Plymouth on October 9, 1639, and had ten children. He died in Eastham between March 5, 1688/9, and April 16, 1690.

Children of Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins:

- Damaris was born about 1618 in England, and died young in Plymouth.
- Oceanus was born in the fall of 1620 aboard the *Mayflower*. He had died by May 22, 1627.
- Caleb was born in Plymouth about 1624. He became a seaman and died at Barbados between 1644 and 1651.

- Deborah was born in Plymouth about 1626. She married Andrew Ring in Plymouth on April 23, 1646, and had six children. She died probably before 1674.
 - Damaris was born in Plymouth about 1627–8. She married Jacob Cooke after June 10, 1646, and had seven children. She died in Plymouth between January 1665/6 and November 18, 1669.
 - Ruth was born about 1630. She died in Plymouth between November 30, 1644, and spring 1651, unmarried.
- Elizabeth was born in Plymouth about 1632 and probably died before October 6, 1659, unmarried.

For Further Information:

Robert C. Anderson. *The Great Migration Begins*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995.

Robert C. Anderson. *The Pilgrim Migration*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2004.

Timothy Hopkins. “Stephen Hopkins of the *Mayflower* and Some of His Descendants.” *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. Vols. 102–5 (1948–1951).

Caleb Johnson. “The True Origin of Stephen Hopkins of the *Mayflower*.” *The American Genealogist* 73(3): 161–171. July, 1998.

Ernest Martin Christensen, “The Probable Parentage of Stephen Hopkins of the *Mayflower*.” *The American Genealogist* 74(4): 241–49. October 2004.

Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Vol. 6: Stephen Hopkins. John D. Austin. Plymouth: General Society of *Mayflower* Descendants, 1992.



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Where do I go from here?

Researching your family's history can be a fun, rewarding, and occasionally frustrating project. Start with what you know by collecting information on your immediate family. Then, trace back through parents, grandparents, and beyond. This is a great opportunity to speak to relatives, gather family stories, arrange and identify old family photographs, and document family possessions that have been passed down from earlier generations.

Once you have learned all you can from family members, you will begin to discover other sources. A wide variety of records can help you learn more about the lives of your ancestors. These include birth, marriage, and death records; immigration and naturalization records; land records; census records; probate records and wills; church and cemetery records; newspapers; passenger lists; military records; and much more.

When you use information from any source — an original record, a printed book, or a website — always be careful to document it. If you use a book, you should cite the author or compiler, the full title, publication information and pages used. Also be sure to record the author's sources for the information. If the author's sources aren't provided, you will have to try to find the original source. Many genealogical works contain faulty information, and the Internet also contains many inaccuracies. In order for your work to be accepted — by lineage societies and other genealogists — it must be properly documented.

IMPORTANT GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

New England Historic Genealogical Society

Founded in 1845, NEHGS is the country's oldest and largest genealogical society. The library contains over 200,000 books, plus significant manuscript and microfilm collections, and a circulating library by mail. NEHGS members receive two periodicals, the *Register* and *New England Ancestors*, and can access valuable genealogical data online.

NEHGS, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116;
888-296-3447; www.NewEnglandAncestors.org.

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RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

- www.PlymouthAncestors.org
- www.CyndisList.com
- www.FamilySearch.org
- www.USGenWeb.org



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GENEALOGICAL LIBRARIES IN PLYMOUTH

General Society of Mayflower Descendants Library

A collection focused principally on the genealogies of the descendants of the *Mayflower* passengers.

4 Winslow St., Plymouth; 508-746-3188; www.mayflower.org

Plymouth Collection, Plymouth Public Library

Over 1200 items relating to the descendants of the Pilgrims, as well as the many other immigrants who settled in the area.

132 South St., Plymouth; 508-830-4250;
www.plymouthpubliclibrary.org

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy by Christine Rose and Kay Germain Ingalls, Alpha Books, 1997.

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research by Marcia Melnyk, NEHGS, 1999.

Shaking Your Family Tree: A Basic Guide to Tracing Your Family History by Ralph J. Crandall, NEHGS, 2001.

Unpuzzling Your Past by Emily Croom, Betterway Books, 2003.

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