

STEPHEN HOPKINS OF THE *MAYFLOWER*

Among those on board the ship *Mayflower* when it finally arrived in New England in November, 1620 was Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins. Stephen was born about 1579. He married first to Mary (----). But she died in Bursley, Hampshire, England in 1613. He married his second wife, Elizabeth Fisher, in 19 February 1617/18.

Stephen served as a clerk on the *Sea Venture*, which sailed from London in 1609. They went through a hurricane and were shipwrecked in Bermuda. He instigated a mutiny and was court-martialed and consequently sentenced to death, but he managed to talk himself out of the situation and was pardoned.

In 1621, Stephen and Edward Winslow were chosen by the governor to approach the Indians and did so frequently thereafter. He kept an "ordinary" in Plymouth on the north side of Leyden Street from the earliest days of the Colony. An "ordinary" is another word for a tavern where set mealtimes and prices were offered. These "ordinaries" were also called inns, alehouses, or taverns.

Hopkins apparently had problems with the Court over his tavern. Plymouth records indicate that Hopkins let "men drink in his house upon the Lords day" .. "for suffering servants and others to sit drinking in his house" (contrary to Court orders). Also to play games "& such like misdemeanors, is therefore fined fourty shillings." The Court had several charges against him "for selling wine, beere, strong waters, and nutmeggs at excessiue rates, is fyned."

He died in Plymouth between 6 June 1644 and 17 July 1644. He made his will 6 June 1644 and requested that he be buried next to his deceased wife Elizabeth. The burial place of Stephen Hopkins is unknown.

Children of Stephen and Mary (----) Hopkins:

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| 1. Elizabeth | 3. Giles |
| 2. Constance | |

Children of Stephen and Mary (----) Hopkins:

- | | |
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| 4. Damaris (died young) | 8. Damaris |
| 5. Oceanus (died young) | 9. Ruth |
| 6. Caleb | 10. Elizabeth |
| 7. Deborah | |

Which child of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins is your *Mayflower* ancestor?

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