



The Stephen Hopkins Colony  
Of the  
Society Of Mayflower Descendants  
In the state of Florida

Newsletter January 2019

The Stephen Hopkins Colony  
serves the Treasure and Space Coasts of Florida, which includes  
Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Martin Counties



Florida Mayflower Society

<http://flmayflower.com/>



## **GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE**

Happy New Year, I hope everyone had a good holiday season. This is the second newsletter the Hopkins Colony has sent out in hopes to keep you updated on happenings within the Mayflower Society. Our next meeting is Feb. 14 and I hope to see you there, as at this meeting we will be voting on the by-law changes that were sent out and discussed at the Nov. meeting.

At the state meeting in Nov. the historians, Including our Kurt Bressner were recognized for their outstanding service to the society, see the below. The state board of assistants authorized three scholarships this year, with one of them going to a person who is going to a trade or vocational school, see below.

The General Society has raised the \$3 million to own the First Parish Meetinghouse a full two years before the deadline, see below.

We have lots of new members, thanks to Kurt's effort, and I want to ask everyone to introduce yourself to make to new members welcome and part of our Colony. I want to thank Etta Ocker for her effort in putting together this newsletter. If you have any information that you would like to include in the newsletters that are sent out each quarter, please contact any of the board members.

Brian

## MEETINGS FOR 2019

We meet 5 times a year on the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 at C.J. Cannon's Restaurant at the Vero Beach Airport. Announcements for the meeting are sent out about three weeks in advance letting you know the meal choices and the speaker. You need to let John Hillhouse know you are coming and what meal choice you want. Currently meals cost are \$17.

Thursday, Feb 14, 2019 – 11:30 AM

Thursday, April 11, 2019 – 11:30 AM

Thursday, July 11, 2019 – 11:30 AM

Thursday, Sept 12, 2019 – 11:30 AM

Thursday, Nov 14, 2019 - 11:30 AM



The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 14, 2019. If you plan to attend, please contact John Hillhouse with your menu choice at [hillhousej@att.net](mailto:hillhousej@att.net) please remember that if you have to cancel, let John know so that the Colony does not have to pay for your meal.

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**Our February 14th meeting speaker is  
Janice Sly (our Colony Member and on the Board)  
The Program is “Mayflower Trivia”**



## 2019 Indian River Genealogy Conference

Mark Your Calendar for Saturday, April 13, 2019 for the 2019 Indian River Genealogy Conference. IRGS and the Family History Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Vero Beach are sponsoring the third annual Indian River Genealogy Conference. This free one-day event will offer a wide range of speakers with topics to appeal to beginning to advanced genealogists and family historians. As in the past, the Stephen Hopkins Colony will be participating in the conference by hosting a booth in the exhibition hall and **Kurt Bressner, Colony Historian will be presenting a program about membership in the General Society and how to provide “genealogical proof” when regular vital records may not be available.** We will need Colony members to help staff the Colony booth for about an hour or two. It’s a great way to show our Mayflower roots and acquaint others with our organization. This conference offers an excellent variety of genealogical information in the exhibition area and at short 45-minute presentations offered during the day. **The conference will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Vero Beach, located at 3980 12th Street, Vero Beach. The hours are tentatively 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

FamilySearch is a genealogy organization operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

<https://www.familysearch.org/>



Members of the Stephen Hopkins Board attending the Florida Mayflower Society fall state meeting in Fort Lauderdale.

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The Florida Society is very fortunate to have Historian Muriel Cushing and the four co-historians, Kurt Bressner, Louise Rumnock, Linda Anderson and Grace Knight. They continue to do an outstanding job of assisting potential members in the tedious application process. Governor Preston recognized Muriel and each of the Co-historians for their efforts with Certificates of Appreciation. Thanks to their continuing efforts we have dozens of new members this year all across our state. The Florida Society is third in total membership behind Massachusetts and California. We are also first in Junior Membership by several hundred, thanks to all the grandparents living in Florida.

## **Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida offers Scholarships to High School Seniors**

Do you know that one benefit of your Stephen Hopkins Colony membership is to make available a scholarship opportunity to that special high school senior? The deadline for the 2019 Scholarship is April 1, 2019. Here is the information from the FSMD website:

<http://www.flmayflower.com/programs.html>

Under the Scholarship Committee, the state BOA voted to increase our annual scholarships to three scholarships of \$2,000 with two of the scholarships being traditional college bound high school seniors and a new vocational/trade school scholarship who are a citizen of the United States and a descendant from a Mayflower Passenger. The applicants must have a proven ancestry to a Mayflower passenger, and the sponsoring relative must be a member of the Florida Society. An unweighted GPA of at least 3.0 and the completion of a 400-600-word essay on the Pilgrims are required. No financial information is requested.

The application and essay need to be submitted to Alvene Watson and postmarked by April 1, 2019.

Alvene Watson, Scholarship Chairman

685 Hurst Road NE

Palm Bay, FL 32907-1439

Phone: (321) 724-8181

Email: [fhwaew@mindspring.com](mailto:fhwaew@mindspring.com)

[The scholarship application can be downloaded here.](#)

## Mayflower Junior Program

As a member of the Stephen Hopkins Colony a grandchild, grandniece or grandnephew, son, daughter, niece or nephew are eligible for the Florida Junior Mayflower Program. Our Colony currently has 59 Mayflower Junior Members. Florida residency is not required. Information about the program and the application form may be found here:

<http://www.flmayflower.com/programs.html>

### **Clara Waterman Powell is Chair of the Florida Junior Members**

**program.** To participate in the program, please contact Kurt Bressner, Hopkins Colony Junior Chair at [kbressner@gmail.com](mailto:kbressner@gmail.com) or at 561-436-2328. There is a one-time fee of \$30.00 for participation for each child. You will receive the child's membership certificate and a wonderful packet about their Mayflower Pilgrim. **You may mail your completed application with the \$30.00 check payable to "State Treasurer" to Kurt Bressner at 5721 Riverboat Cir. SW, Vero Beach, FL 32968.** Kurt will complete the form and mail to the State Mayflower Chair.

Florida has over 900 Junior Members. Applicants must not have reached their 18th birthday. They are sponsored by a regular member of the Mayflower Society (parent, grandparent, etc.). Junior Members may remain in the Junior Members Program up to age 24. They may then convert to regular membership *before* they age out on their 25th birthday. ([Download application here.](#))

### **Hopkins Colony Name Tags Available**

Beautiful metal name tags for our Colony members are available for purchase at a cost of \$10.00 each, if hand-delivered to you at a Colony meeting or \$14 if mailed to you. If you are interested in obtaining a name tag, contact Colony Historian Kurt Bressner at [kbressner@gmail.com](mailto:kbressner@gmail.com) or at 561-436-2328. Name tags are available to members of the Hopkins Colony only.





## Mayflower Descendants Join Wampanoag Descendants to Ask Support from Congress for Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Land

Society will send formal letter of support to legislators asking them to vote in favor of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act

Plymouth, MA (December 12, 2018) – Past partners that helped found America are joining hands to aid one another, just as they did in 1620. Today, the 30,000 strong Mayflower Society is reaching out to extend support to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in its quest to pass the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act, now pending in Congress.

"The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) is made up of lineal descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims. The Mashpee Wampanoag Nation is made up of lineal descendants of the Wampanoag Tribe. In 1621, our ancestors together signed a 54-year peace agreement that allowed both to survive and protect one another," said GSMD Governor General George P. Garmany. "In light of the fact that this agreement between Europeans and Native Americans is the only example of cooperation in what was followed by a sad chapter in American history, and in light of the fact that our ancestors collectively chose to live in peace for 54 years, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants fully supports today's Mashpee Wampanoag tribe and joins in support of legislation known as the Mashpee Wampanoag Reservation Reaffirmation Act."

The Mayflower Society voted on December 8, 2018 to contact legislators and urge them to preserve the Tribe's reservation land in Mashpee and Taunton, which today makes up only a fraction of its original reservation.

During the Pilgrims first winter, the Wampanoag Tribe kept the Pilgrims alive by teaching them how to plant crops. Without the support of the Wampanoag people, the descendants of the Pilgrims would not be here today, which includes some ten million Americans. When the Mayflower Pilgrims landed in what would become America, the Pilgrims and Wampanoags brokered a peace agreement that called for protecting one another. The peace agreement was faithfully kept by both sides for 54 years.

“This is a truly historic moment in which descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us as descendants of the Wampanoag people who broke bread and brokered a long-lasting peace with their ancestors,” said Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell.

The Mayflower Society has drafted a letter of formal support that has been sent to members of Congress urging the bill’s passage.

The Mayflower Pilgrims were separatists from England that sailed to America in 1620, bringing with them religious and civil liberty that became the basis of American democracy. They signed the Mayflower Compact before coming ashore, which later influenced the U.S. Constitution.

Contact: Lea Filson, 504-492-5330, [fggfilson@themayflowersociety.org](mailto:fggfilson@themayflowersociety.org) George Garmany, 720-470-2608, [governorgeneral@themayflowersociety.org](mailto:governorgeneral@themayflowersociety.org)

Connect with the GSMD : [www.theMayflowerSociety.org](http://www.theMayflowerSociety.org)  
[Instagram.com/themayflowersociety](https://www.instagram.com/themayflowersociety) [twitter.com/gsm�](https://twitter.com/gsm�) [Facebook.com/GSMD](https://www.facebook.com/GSMD)

### **For More Information on the Wampamoags**

<https://www.plimoth.org/learn/just-kids/homework-help/who-are-wampanoag>

[www.indians.org/articles/wampanoag-indians.html](http://www.indians.org/articles/wampanoag-indians.html)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0IYAx5T5-c>

<https://plymouth400inc.org/OurStory>

<https://binged.it/2Ftu6t0> **Wampanoag homesite virtual field trip**



**Stephen Hopkins Colony Mayflower Society**  
**General Meeting November 8, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Governor Brian McWaters. Elder Lisa Tompson gave the Invocation, Captain Charles Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the Pilgrim Pledge.

Governor Brian McWaters introduced the board members, prospective members and guests. Past Colony Governor Aline Scott was in attendance as was welcomed.

**Call of Ancestors** – Director Janice Sly.

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Governor McWaters to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2018 meeting as distributed. The motion was seconded and the vote carried.

**Unfinished Business:** - Governor Brian McWaters

Looking for volunteers to serve as Assistant Treasurer and as Webmaster.

**Officer Reports:**

Historian - Kurt Bressner reported that there are 14 applications and three supplementals in process. His full report is filed. Name tags can be ordered by contacting Kurt.

Treasurer – John Hillhouse reported \$3,803.50 currently in the account. Dues are payable now and must be paid before the end of the year. Annual dues are \$34. There is \$142 in the education fund from the 50/50 raffle.

Secretary – Janice Sly asked that all membership contact changes be reported to her directly. She also extended an invitation to attend the Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century, on January 19, 2019. Please contact her for more information.

**Committee Reports:**

Junior Chairman – Kurt Bressner reported that there are 29 new junior members.

Audit Committee - Carol Robinson, Bonnie Dobbs and Marsha Adams met and have approved the Treasurer's Report.

Bylaw's Committee - Governor McWaters reminded membership that they have been sent the proposed bylaw amendments. Most are updates to bring colony bylaws in line with state bylaws, but also include a division of colony secretarial duties.

**Legend of Five Kernels of Corn** – Recited by Elder Lisa Thompson.

**Blessing of the Food** – Elder Lisa Tompson gave the Blessing at 12:04. Edward Winslow's recounting of the Thanksgiving Feast.

## **General Meeting November 8, 2018 – Page 2**

**Speaker** – Vice Governor Sharon Paugh introduced the speaker, Candi Byers, who spoke of “The Naturals”, the indigenous people of New England at the time of the Pilgrims. Vice Governor, Sharon Paugh, presented Ms. Byers with a thank you gift.

**New Business:** Governor Brian McWaters

1. Marge Fuller-Supple, a CT Mayflower member, displayed a wooden heart made from timber reclaimed from Mayflower II. Mrs. Fuller is a member of the 2020 Mayflower Committee and reported these hearts are available for sale.
2. Mayflower has a DNA Project which can be downloaded.
3. Fund raising for the First Church project is continuing.

**50/50 Raffle** - \$138 was collected in raffle ticket sales and \$69 was awarded to the winner.

**Mayflower Linen Raffle** - Elder Lisa Tompson sold voices for a three-piece Mayflower linen set from London. \$155 was raised for the education fund.

The next general meeting will be on February 14, 2019 at CJ Cannon’s Restaurant.

The benediction was given by Elder Lisa Tompson.

The meeting was adjourned by Governor Brian McWaters at 1:18 PM.

Nan Baker  
Recording Secretary



On Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the representatives of First Parish Meetinghouse symbolically resigned from the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse Charitable Trust, making the General Society of Mayflower Descendants sole owner of the deed (upon approval by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) during an emotional service, thoughtfully titled "Forward Through the Ages" and lead by Rev. Authur Lavoie.

The morning started with a warm welcome from Rev. Art, who introduced Woullard Lett, Acting Regional Lead for the New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Members of the congregation shared a brief history of Meetinghouses to grace this hallowed spot since 1620, and warm, powerful remarks were made by Jan Blanchard - Chair of the Friends of First Parish Meetinghouse. Deborah Rudolph led the transfer between Anne-Marie Harnett, President of the Parish Committee of First Parish Plymouth and GSMD's representative, FGG and NPMM Charitable Trust President Lea Sinclair Filson, as seen below.

As sole owner of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse, GSMD will now begin raising \$8 to \$10 million to restore the interior and begin operating its education center.





<https://plymouth400inc.org/>

Click through Plymouth with Google Street View

Visit America's Hometown: Plymouth, Massachusetts

<https://www.themayflowersociety.org/visit/visit-plymouth>

Mayflower II Preservation <http://plimoth.org/mayflowerII-blog/>

Jamestowne Rediscovery <https://historicjamestowne.org/>



**Click for Florida Mayflower Society on FB**

### **COLONY BOARD AND OFFICERS 2018-2019**

Colony Governor:	Brian McWaters
Vice-Governor:	Sharon Paugh
Secretary:	Janice Sly
Treasurer:	John Hillhouse
Historian:	Kurt Bressner
Elder:	Lisa Tompson
Captain:	Charles Moore
Director:	Nancy Baker
Director:	Marsha Adams
Recording Secretary:	Nancy Baker
Education Director:	Janice Sly
Junior Chair:	Kurt Bressner
Assistant Historian	Carol Robinson
Assistant Historian	Cora Sjogren-Welch
Newsletter Editor	Etta Ocker