



# NUTMEG GRATINGS

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut

Founded in 1896

September 2024

[www.CTMayflower.org](http://www.CTMayflower.org)

Volume 45, Number 2

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Hello, Mayflower Cousins,

After six years, it is time for me to pass the baton to a new governor. In October we will elect a new governor, a new Deputy governor and two board of assistants' positions.

I have been very fortunate to have been the governor of the CT Society of Mayflower Descendants for two terms. I hope that I have represented you well and have made you proud to be a member of our Pilgrim family. It has been both enjoyable and a nice way to get to know our members.

During my first term, we were hit with the Covid Virus and it caused everything to come to a standstill. We were not able to have our meetings, we had to wear masks, and we lost several of our members to Covid. But we pulled ourselves together and dealt with the many challenges that were caused by this horrible pandemic. We had a change of venue for the meetings twice, and things have settled down so that we could get back to business.

During my two terms, we had visits from the Governor General, and had many interesting presentations and events. We have increased our Scholarship Fund and increased the amount of the awards. We created a new challenge coin to help with the renovation of the Pilgrim Meetinghouse in Plymouth, Massachusetts and I have represented our society at all GSMD Board of Assistant's meetings over the last six years. We hosted the New England Governor's Council in Plymouth, Massachusetts and have hosted several member events including overnights on the Mayflower II, a day at the Mystic Seaport where we saw first hand how the Pilgrims survived that terrible winter on their long journey to America. We revamped the newsletter and moved to a more up to date electronic format. And I have added talented board members including a new treasurer, and a new secretary who has brought us into the technology age and updated how the newsletters are formatted.

I would like to thank my Deputy Governor Kerry Comisky for her help in keeping the society going and for all her work

during the last six years. As well as I'd like to thank my talented board of assistants who without their help, it would have been impossible to run the society. I am leaving you with a very dedicated and talented board of assistants and thank them for all of their service during the last six years.



The October 19th meeting will be the last meeting that I will conduct, and a new slate of officers will begin their administrations. I am confident that this new administration will move the society even more into the future with fresh, new ideas and new energy.

We will be visited by the new Governor General, Lisa Pennington, at this meeting and she will share her ideas and vision on completing the Pilgrim Meetinghouse in Plymouth, a very important way to educate the public on the truth about the Pilgrims. She and I both share the love and dedication of this important project, and I am on the committee to get this accomplished.

Financially, I am leaving our society in excellent shape and the scholarship fund is well-endowed where we are able to award two five-thousand-dollar scholarships on an annual basis.

I thank all of the members for their support during the last six years, and just so you know, I am not going anywhere, I will still be on the Board of Assistants and will be representing the membership as Deputy Governor General for the GSMD and see all of you at future meetings and events. Please plan to attend the October Meeting at Woodwinds in Branford, CT so that I can thank you personally for your support.

Sincerely,  
Gregory Evan Thompson, Governor

**We hope to see everyone on Saturday October 19, 2024 at the Membership Luncheon Meeting, 11:15 am–2:00 pm at The Woodwinds in Branford. Be sure to make your reservation by no later than October 4. We will host the General Society Governor Lisa Pennington.**

## OFFICERS & BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

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## GENERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

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### Assistant General for CT

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## COMMITTEES

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Vacancy

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**CALL FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:** Share your knowledge and stories with fellow members through a newsletter article of your own: your genealogical journey in search of Mayflower and colonial ancestors, a book review, whatever. If you don't feel comfortable writing a piece yourself, send your suggestions to: Katherine Simmons, Newsletter Editor at [kmsartwrk@cox.net](mailto:kmsartwrk@cox.net) and we'll take it from there.

## Welcome New Members to the CT Mayflower Society!

### JOHN ALDEN

Elizabeth V. R. McKenna, New Canaan CT  
Jackson R. Schipke, South Glastonbury CT  
Alice G. Snyder, Wilton, CT  
Thomas C. Williams, New Canaan CT  
Fiona K. Wilson, Westlake Village CA

### ISAAC ALLERTON

Andrew M. Dunn, Avon CT  
Dianne C. Dunn, Louisville KY

### WILLIAM BRADFORD

Robert H. Carter, Guilford CT  
Sherry A. C. Krepps, Uncasville CT

### JAMES CHILTON

Brian M. Gaugler, Los Angeles CA  
Dean H. Gaugler, Fairfield CT

Geoffrey K. Gaugler, New York NY  
Rachel Y. Gaugler, Pittsburgh PA  
Russell P. Maxwell, Middletown CT

### FRANCIS COOKE

Charles A. Hyres, Torrington CT  
Nancy R. Kellett, New Haven CT  
Doris J. E. Yates, Ridgefield CT

### EDWARD DOTY

Blaine C. Gerson, Greenwich CT

### STEPHEN HOPKINS

Nicholas A. Collins, Bristol CT  
Amanda P. B. Goodro, Old Greenwich CT

### JOHN HOWLAND

Lilla J. Bishop, Suffield CT  
Michael P. Coppola, Nashville TN

Bruce P. Fogwell, Jr., Greenwich CT  
Patricia B. May, Medina WA

### RICHARD WARREN

Martha B. G. Andronaco, New Canaan CT  
Linda L. Bedini, Columbia CT  
Ellen M. Carey, West Hartford CT  
Thomas S. Carey, West Hartford CT  
Deborah G. Hanna, Storrs CT

### WILLIAM WHITE

Blyse A. N. Soby, Colchester CT

## In Remembrance of CT Mayflower Society Members Who Have Recently Passed

*Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.* Matthew 5:4

Nancy D. Carey, 3/21/2024, age 58	William J. Hewett, 2/2/2024, age 88	Susan S. Vencent, 12/18/2023, age 78
Martha H. Cotiaux, 4/6/2024, age 96	Deborah S. Link MD, 4/21/2023, age 90	William A. Weiblen, 2/27/2024, age 85
Stephen R. Ferriss, 3/19/2024, age 85	Robert R. Newell, 2/8/2024, age 81	David G. Worthington, 6/11/2024, age 92
Carolyn P. Fontaine, 3/11/2022, age 89	Barbara A. C. Panciera, 8/10/2024, age 87	Diane E. Wright, 8/18/2023, age 68
Sandra J. Herman, 7/5/2024, age 88	Norma J. Sandford, 2/6/2024, age 93	

## Office and Board of Assistants Nominations

The Nominating Committee recommends the following individuals to serve as Officers and Assistants. If elected, they will serve three-year terms (2024–2027).

Governor.....	Louise Wagner
Deputy Governor .....	Sara Champion
Recording Secretary.....	Katherine Simmons
Corresponding Secretary .....	Nancy Merwin
Treasurer .....	Michael Pollock
Historian .....	Marjorie Hurtuk
Edler .....	Sandra Bullock
Captain .....	William Lane
Archivist.....	Kenneth Roach
Assistant .....	Judi Thompson Paige
Assistant .....	Joan Prentice

*Nutmeg Gratings* is published twice per year news and articles to educate members and the general public about the Mayflower Society, and historical/genealogical material with supporting bibliographies. The fact that an article appears in *Nutmeg Gratings* does not in any way guarantee the historical accuracy of the information provided by newsletter contributors, volunteers, or the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants.

# CT Mayflower Scholarship Program

*Do you have a qualified applicant in your family? If so, please encourage them to apply. Each year, we award two \$5,000 scholarships. We select the two scholarship winners prior to our spring membership meeting each year. All 2025 applications and supporting documentation must be received prior to March 1, 2025. For more information on the scholarship program and how to apply, go to our website - [www.CTMayflower.org](http://www.CTMayflower.org).*

## DONATE AND BECOME A PATRON

*You can keep our scholarship program growing and vibrant with an outright donation or the donation of an item to be raffled off at an upcoming luncheon meeting. We hope you will do both.*

We must maintain and increase our endowed funds so that we can continue to provide scholarships to more students. For an initial donation of \$500 and an annual donation of \$100, you will receive our newly designed Patron lapel pin and bars to show your dedication to assisting our youth in pursuing higher education.

The bars on our Connecticut Scholarship Scholarship Patron pin indicate ranks of the Mayflower crew. Begin with the Boatswain bar, earn the Pilot bar, then the Master Mate bar and finally the Master bar to complete your roster.



Your initial donation of \$500 can be made in installments during the first year. You will receive your pin when you complete the initial donation. You have the option to pay the \$100 annual donations in one lump sum and receive all your bars at one time. If you care to donate more, please do so with our sincerest thank you. The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent the IRS will allow.

**Please accept my donation of:**  \$500    \$800    \$100    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE : \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and your check, payable to CT Mayflower Society, to David L. Grant, 4 Holly Farm Ln, Simsbury, CT 06070. Write CT Mayflower Scholarship Fund in the memo line of your check.

## SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND WITH A DONATION TO OUR SEMI-ANNUAL RAFFLES

These raffle donations leverage hundreds of dollars as luncheon meeting attendees purchase tickets in the hope of winning one – or more – of the raffle items. Look at that table of goodies from a recent meeting. *Let's keep it going!*

What to donate? New or well-cared for books; knitted, quilted, or needlework items; candles; note cards; seasonal plants; seed and/or bulb packets; table decorations - the options are really endless. Please be sure that donated items are in new or well cared for and clean condition. Consummable items like candy, maple syrup, jams, etc. must be sealed and unopened.

*Bring raffle items to the next membership meeting on April 20, 2024. Bring your check books or extra cash because we are planning a silent auction at the next meeting, in addition to the raffle.*



More questions about the Scholarship Program?

Contact Scholarship Chair Mike Pollock.  
[mikepollock8039@comcast.net](mailto:mikepollock8039@comcast.net)

## Meet our 2024 Connecticut Mayflower Society Scholarship Winners

*Governor Gregory Thompson and Scholarship Committee Chair Michael Pollock were proud to present this year's scholarship winners at the April 2024 Luncheon meeting, Haleigh Miller and Molly Ann Nichols, two very impressive individuals and we wish them well as they embark on their college years.*

**Haleigh Miller of East Lyme CT** will attend the University of Toledo in the Fall pursuing a degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences in Cosmetic Science and Formulation Design. She will minor in Chemistry and Entrepreneurship and then will turn her sights on a Master of Science In Business Administration, all in the service of launching her own company, formulating products for skin care, hair care, and makeup.

Her academic accomplishments include French and U.S. History awards and the College Board African American National Recognition Award. She was a member of the French National Honors Society, the History Club, and National Honors Society.

Her extracurricular activities included membership on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to improve the school environment for marginalized students. She was a member of the East Lyme High School Junior Varsity and Varsity Volleyball teams and was recognized as an Eastern Connecticut Conference All Star for Sportsmanship.

She was also very active in the community at large, donating her time to the East Lyme Food Pantry, the Visiting Nurse Association Community Healthcare and Hospice, and the East Lyme Middle School Volleyball Club.

Haleigh proudly traces her ancestry to Mayflower passengers Francis Cooke and Richard Warren. Equally important to her is her ancestry from Deacon Romeo Blackburn, Sr. who was born into slavery. Following emancipation and, against all odds, Romeo was literate, secured employment, reassembled his scattered family members, and played a pivotal role in establishing the Holly Springs Missionary Baptist Church in Romulus, Alabama. "Both sides of my family tree embody the spirit of overcoming adversity and achieving goals through hard work."

**Molly Ann Nichols of Prospect CT** will attend the University of New Hampshire at Durham pursuing a degree in Business Administration and Statistics and plans to pursue post graduate studies. Her academic accomplishments include the National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award, the Excellence in Math and Social Studies Awards. She was a member of the Mathematics, Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, the Science Honor Society, the National Junior Honor Society where she served as President of the Denis F. Broderick Chapter, and the National Honor Society where she served as Secretary.

Her extracurricular activities included membership on the high school swim team, the Woodland Worldwide Club, and the school's Hawk Wings and Deca Clubs. She served as a Senator on the Student Government Recognition & Spirit Committee, Journalist for the Hawk Headlines, Buddy in her school's Best Buddies Program, President of the Kindness Krew, and Secretary of the Student Council.

Her community activities included service as Member, State Chair, and Local Society President of the Children of the American Revolution, and Summer Camp Counselor for both Camp Invention and the Church of St. Anthony Bible School. She volunteered at the St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen and the Home of the Brave, Valentines for Veterans. She was a CCD Teacher at the Church of St. Anthony parish and a recipient of the DAR Good Citizens Award, Lady Fenwick Chapter. Working part-time since her Junior year, she was promoted to head cashier at her job, no small accomplishment while maintaining such a busy schedule of academic, extracurricular, and community pursuits.

"In retrospect, my Mayflower ancestor Richard Warren who was traveling without his family, was among the homeless population of people adventuring across the Atlantic. I see the symbolism and I strive to serve others who are less fortunate and to persevere when I am faced with my own tribulations."



Left to right: Haleigh Miller, Michael Pollock, Molly Ann Nichols, and Gregory Thompson.



### **Attention Richard Warren Descendants and Cousins!**

**Plimoth Patuxet Museum has exciting plans to construct a 1670 Warren House on the Museum grounds dedicated to Elizabeth Warren.**

**Richard Warren's wife, Elizabeth, was an accomplished business-woman in an age of men.**

**This project presents opportunities for groundbreaking new educational material and online e-books, podcasts, and a web series.**

**For full details and how to donate, contact <https://plimoth.givingfuel.com/the-1670-warren-house>.**

## **Who Was Elizabeth Warren?**

Elizabeth Warren crossed the Atlantic in the summer of 1623 with her five daughters, Mary, Ann, Sarah, Elizabeth and Abigail who were aged between four and 13. She was joining her husband, Richard Warren, who had travelled alone to America on the *Mayflower*. Richard was one of the few merchant venture financial backers who signed on to make the *Mayflower* voyage in 1620.

Sadly, only four years after Elizabeth was reunited with Richard, he died in 1628. "This year died Mr. Richard Warren, who ... was an useful instrument; and during his life bore a deep share in the difficulties and troubles of the first settlement of the plantation of New-Plymouth," wrote Nathaniel Morton. Elizabeth was left a widow with 7 children, five young women, ranging from teenagers to early twenties, and two boys under the age of 5.

Elizabeth never remarried, remaining a widow for 43 years. We don't know why she didn't remarry but she certainly knew that if she did remarry, she would have lost all legal identity and control of her property. Elizabeth proved to be a formidable woman, entirely competent to fulfill her role as the head of the household.

Unlike the majority of Plymouth Colony women, Elizabeth Warren's name appears regularly in the records of Plymouth Colony during her widowhood. She appeared as executor of her husband's estate and she paid taxes owed by all heads of household.

On 7 March 1636/7, in a startling break with tradition, "it is agreed upon, by the consent of the whole Court, that Elizabeth Warren, widow, the relict of Mr. Richard Warren deceased, shall be entered, and stand, and be purchaser instead of her husband, as well because that (he dying before he had performed the said bargain) the said Elizabeth performed the same after his decease as also for establishing of the lots of lands given formerly by her unto her sons-in-law Richard Church, Robert Bartlett and Thomas Little, in marriage with their wives, her daughters."

The bargain referred to in this excerpted record was made in 1626 whereby the Plymouth Colony's 53 "Purchasers" (all men, of course) underwrote some of the Colony's debt in a complicated arrangement with their financial backers.

At the end of her life, Elizabeth Warren had one of the largest land holdings in the colony—13 miles of coastline from what is now the town of Plymouth to the town of Sandwich on Cape Cod. She also had vast holdings in the western territory that is now the border region of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. When she died in 1673, this remarkable woman received the tribute of a eulogy in the Records of Plymouth Colony.

"Mistress Elizabeth Warren, an aged widow, aged above 90 years, deceased on the second of October, 1673. Who, having lived a godly life, came to her grave as a shock of corn fully ripe."

Some notable descendants of Richard and Elizabeth Warren include former U.S. Presidents Ulysses S Grant and Franklin D Roosevelt, astronaut Alan Shepard Jr, and pop star Taylor Swift.

**Sources:** Nathaniel Morton, *The New-England's Memorial*, Boston: Congregational Board of Publication (1855). Robert Charles Anderson, *Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony, 1620 to 1633*, Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society (2004). [www.PilgrimHall.org](http://www.PilgrimHall.org), Peggie M. Baker, A Woman, Director Emerita, Pilgrim Society & Pilgrim Hall Museum, *A Woman of Valor: Elizabeth Warren of Plymouth Colony*. [www.TheMayflowerSociety.org](http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org).



No, that is the *Susan Constant II*, a replica of the ship that brought the first settlers to Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. The ship will remain in Mystic for the next couple of years as repairs are performed before the ship returns to Jamestown. The four-month trans-Atlantic voyage that ultimately resulted in the settlement at Jamestown was made by 105 passengers and 39 crew members traveling on three ships, (71) people were aboard *Susan Constant*, 52 aboard *Godspeed* and 21 aboard *Discovery*.

The 120-ton *Susan Constant* is the largest of the three re-created ships at Jamestown today and was constructed in 1990. The ship was commissioned by the Commonwealth of Virginia at a cost of \$2.1 million for research, architectural design, materials, and construction. Today, the *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed* and *Discovery* serve as “floating classrooms.”

The *Susan Constant* is slightly smaller than the *Mayflower II* but is configured in a similar fashion having three masts, a main deck, a ‘tween deck for cargo or passengers, and a hold. Both the main deck and the ‘tween deck, which is six feet from floor to ceiling, are accessible to visitors when the ship is on display at Jamestown. As shown in the image upper right, the *Godspeed* and *Discovery* are much smaller vessels and were, perhaps, used in 1607 to investigate the area before finally choosing to establish a settlement about 50 miles up the James River.

The settlement site chosen met the criteria of the Virginia Company, who provided financial backing for the venture. It was surrounded by water on three sides (it was not fully an island yet) and was far inland making it easily defensible against possible Spanish attacks. The water was also deep enough that they could anchor their ships at the shoreline and the site was not inhabited by the Native population.

Sources: [www.jamestown.org](http://www.jamestown.org). [www.nps.gov/history-of-jamestown](http://www.nps.gov/history-of-jamestown). [www.tallshipsamerica.com](http://www.tallshipsamerica.com). [www.jyfmuseums.org](http://www.jyfmuseums.org). [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org).



*Susan Constant*, in the foreground, anchored at Jamestown with her sister ships, *Godspeed* and *Discovery*.

Comparison of the <i>Mayflower</i> and <i>Susan Constant</i>		
	<i>Mayflower</i>	<i>Susan Constant</i>
Sparred Length:	136’	116’
Length Overall:	106’	96’
Length on Deck:	84’	83’
Draft:	12’ 6”	11’ 6”
Beam:	25’ 5”	24’ 10”
Rig Height:	100’	95’
Freeboard:	12’	11’
Tons:	194	180



## Jamestown and Plymouth - Contemporary Settlements – Katherine Simmons

*Settled only 13 years apart, the Jamestown and Plymouth offer stark differences. The stories of three individuals offer some insight into these differences, Captain John Smith, Sir Edwin Sandys, and Stephen Hopkins, the only Mayflower passenger who inhabited both Jamestown and Plymouth.*

**CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH** was an adventurer, soldier, explorer, map maker, and author. He was a strong leader and fiercely independent, a blunt man who spoke his mind and didn't suffer fools lightly. The 27 year-old Smith was part of the party that set sail for the New World on the *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed*, and *Discovery* in order to establish a colony in the territory claimed by the Virginia Company of London. The Virginia Company claimed territory that stretched from Long Island Sound to Cape Fear in present-day North Carolina.

During the voyage, Smith was charged with mutiny, most likely for challenging the authority of others. Captain Christopher Newport, who was captain of the *Susan Constant* and in overall charge of the fleet of three ships, placed him under arrest for most of the trip with plans to execute him. However, when the ships arrived at Cape Henry, gateway to Chesapeake Bay, he opened sealed orders from the Virginia Company that designated Captain Newport as a member of the governing Council of the Colony and assigned Smith to a leadership position. Close call for Smith.

The colony was governed by a council of seven, with one member serving as president. The settlers established several small industries – glassmaking, wood production, and pitch and tar and potash manufacture – with the goal of turning a profit for the Virginia Company. However, until the introduction of tobacco as a cash crop, none of the colonists' efforts to establish profitable enterprises were successful.

Moreover, right from the start, both the investors and the settlers of Jamestown held onto unrealistic expectations of finding 'gold in them thar hills' based on the experience of Spanish explorers in the south America.

Many of the first settlers at Jamestown were upper-class Englishmen leaving the colony with insufficient laborers and skilled farmers. When Smith was elected president of the governing council in 1608, he implemented a policy of, "... *he that will not work shall not eat...*"

Under Smith's leadership the death toll dropped dramatically, the fort was repaired, crops planted, a well dug, trees cut into clapboards, and products such as pitch, tar, and soap ash were produced for shipment back to England. Even during times of food shortages, Smith sent colonists to live with the Powhatan Indians confident of their safety as he believed Chief Powhatan and his people feared him and English weapons.



Bronze statue of Captain John Smith stands within the outlines of the original fort at Jamestown.





On two separate voyages in 1608, Captain Smith and several of his fellow colonists explored 2,500 miles of the Chesapeake Bay and many of its tributaries such as the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. From these trips Smith created a very accurate map of the area replete with locations of various Indian villages and other vital information. If anyone knew, he knew that the quest for gold was a dream. If the native population held gold, he would have known about it.

Smith suffered serious injuries from an accidental explosion in 1609. He sailed back to England and never returned to Virginia. In 1614, Smith returned to America as part of another commercial venture, this time exploring and mapping the coasts of Maine and Massachusetts Bay.

Smith published the map shown above in 1616 based on the expedition and renamed the area "New England." He replaced Native American place names with the names of English cities at the request of Prince Charles. Smith named the Charles River (marked as The River Charles) and Cape Ann (Cape Anna).

Smith also published an account of his voyages as *A Description of New England* which he described as ripe for colonization. He was straightforward with his readers about the unrealized possibilities of colonization, insisting that there was abundant opportunity for the accumulation of land and wealth but that only those with a strong work ethic would succeed in the face of existing dangers.

Continued on page 10.

**SIR EDWIN SANDYS** was a very different man from Captain John Smith, a lawyer, diplomat, Member of Parliament, and, significantly, he was the son of Edwin Sandys Sr, the Archbishop of York whose ecclesiastical seat was Scrooby, Yorkshire, England.

The Bishop was an intellectual and an obstinate and conscientious prelate who was not just at odds with Catholic priests but differed with his fellow Anglicans and did not approve of secular meddling in church business. The Bishop famously said, “*when God’s cause cometh to hand, I forget what displeasure may follow.*”

Sir Edwin Sandys the younger was a principal in the Virginia Company of London. He advocated free trade, and believed that colonization of America was essential to that issue. He knew that the English lagged far behind their enemy, the Spanish, in terms of exploration and colonization and was deeply committed to the success of Jamestown.

He played a major role in keeping Jamestown going, including calling for the first elected representative body in Jamestown and conceived the idea of sending 100 “maidens” to Jamestown to help stabilize the colony. Because Sandys was so worried that Jamestown might “fall to nothing,” he devoted his energies to that enterprise, including preparation of a reform of Virginia Company procedures, the so-called Great Charter of 1618, which created a representative “general assembly” in Virginia. Finally, in 1619, Sandys took over as treasurer (essentially chairman) of the Virginia Company.

His plan to diversify Jamestown’s economy failed, but his transportation of settlers over the next five years was probably the single most important reason that England’s foothold at Jamestown survived. Although he shipped about 4,000 people across the Atlantic Ocean in these years, attrition was so intense that the colony was only a few hundred people larger in 1624 than it had been in 1618. Without the emigration, the Indian attack of 1622 might well have destroyed the young settlement.

Sir Edwin knew William Brewster and his family who lived at Scrooby. In 1617, Brewster wrote to Sandys for help in transporting the separatists to the New World. Sandys played a huge role in the negotiations, going as far as lending the separatists £300. He also helped to arrange an agreement between the separatists who were antagonistic to the Church of England, and King James I, which enabled the grant of a patent for colonization. That patent allowed them to establish a colony on land controlled by the Virginia Company of London near the mouth of the Hudson River.

Unfortunately, bad weather and the lateness of the season caused the Pilgrims to abandon their original plans and return to their original landing at Cape Cod where they believed that they would find a suitable place to settle. This decision presented a real issue with their original patent agreement but through some creative negotiations, they obtained patents to pursue the settlement at Plymouth.

Meanwhile at home, Sandys’ policies and chronic lack of funds antagonized investors although he managed to remain in control of the Virginia Company. In 1622, he negotiated a contract that gave the Virginia Company a monopoly over tobacco imports, but this very achievement triggered a confrontation. When the terms of the contract became known, it appeared that Sandys and his allies would receive handsome salaries while the company continued to have financial problems. In 1623, the tobacco contract was dissolved, and the Privy Council launched an inquiry into Sandys’ administration discovering that conditions in Virginia were also bad. Sandys did manage to secure the tobacco monopoly for Virginia in the 1624 Parliament—a gift that was to be crucial to the colony’s future—but his own role in the effort was at an end.

In later life, Sandys likely took consolation from a large family. He had lost three wives, and several children, but his fourth wife, who outlived him, gave birth twelve times, and more than half of her children survived to adulthood. Sandys himself died in October 1629 and was buried in the parish church near his home at Northbourne in Kent.



Portrait of Sir Edwin Sandys, Virginia Historical Society

The various “Companies” and “Councils” during this period illustrates the competition for New World settlements. The Virginia Company was a commercial trading company, chartered by King James I of England in April 1606 with the object of colonizing the eastern coast of North America between latitudes 34° and 41° N., roughly from Long Island Sound to Cape Fear in present day North Carolina.

The Plymouth Colony was also chartered by the English crown in 1606 to colonize New England and shared territory north of the 38 degree parallel with the Virginia Company with the understanding that neither company would found a colony within 100 miles of each other.

The Council for New England was a joint stock company organized in 1620 with authority to colonize and govern the area now known as New England. Drawing from landed gentry rather than merchants, the company was dominated by its president, Sir Ferdinando Gorges, who intended to distribute the land as manors and fiefs among the council’s 40 members with the idea of establishing a monolithic, aristocratic, Anglican province. This plan was unsuccessful, and New England colonization was dominated by the Pilgrims (1620) and the Massachusetts Bay Company (1629-1630). To untangle confused land titles under the council and to resolve conflicting lines of political authority, the Massachusetts Bay Company took possession of its charter directly from the king, thus eliminating the Council for New England as an intermediary.



**STEPHEN HOPKINS** was baptized at Upper Clatford, Hampshire, England on 30 April 1581, the son of John and Elizabeth (Williams) Hopkins. Stephen’s father died intestate around 1693 when Stephen was about 12 years old, leaving his mother with a small estate of about £37, insufficient to support her family.

Stephen’s youth is pretty much an unknown until he appears in the record living with his first wife, Mary, and his three children, Elizabeth, Constance, and Giles all baptized in Hursley, Hampshire, England in 1604, 1606, and 1607/8, respectively. Just four months after Giles was born, Stephen lost his home at Hursley’s Merdon manor for reasons that are not clear. It is likely that the opportunity to possess land for his family and posterity was the incentive for Stephen to seek out a new place for his family in Virginia.

In any event, on 2 June 1609, Hopkins boarded the 300-ton *Sea Venture* as a minister’s clerk, part of a 9 ship fleet headed for Jamestown, leaving his family behind until he could return for them. Stephen had signed onto the voyage as minister’s clerk for Rev. Richard Buck, Jamestown’s future minister.

*Sea Venture* was the flagship of a fleet of nine ships carrying new colonists and provisions to Jamestown. Passengers on the *Sea Venture* included Jamestown’s next governor Sir Thomas Gates, the fleet’s admiral Sir George Somers, and ship’s captain Christopher Newport who had led the first ships to Jamestown in 1607.



Upper Clatford Church, Hampshire England

For over a month, the fleet enjoyed smooth sailing until a massive hurricane scattered the fleet, leaving *Sea Venture* alone, and leaking like a sieve. Everyone aboard took shifts bailing water as the pumps were inadequate to the task. It appeared hopeless until after several days the weather finally cleared, and they saw land. Given the ship’s condition, they ran the sinking ship aground on the rocks off Bermuda and then used the ship’s longboat and skiff to bring ashore passenger, crew, and what was little was left of the ship’s cargo. Fortunately, they did such a good job of wedging the ship on the rocks they were later able to return and salvage wood, iron, rigging, and the like.

*Continued on page 12.*

The ship's 150 passengers and crew of the shipwrecked *Sea Venture* soon learned that Bermuda wasn't such a bad place to be shipwrecked. The island had no indigenous population at that time - hence no danger from hostile natives - and a surprisingly endless supply of wild pigs, descendants of swine that had been released, intentionally or not, by Spanish visits to the island. There were sea turtles, fish, and nesting migratory birds, and an abundance of fresh water collected from the frequent rain showers. Still, there they were.

Six months into their shipwreck at Bermuda, Stephen Hopkins and several others mutinied against Sir Thomas Gates who advocated building a ship and pressing on to Jamestown. Their experience in Bermuda was growing on them. The mutiny was discovered, and Stephen was sentenced to death. "So penitent he was, and made so much moan, alleging the ruin of his wife and children in this his trespass, as it wrought in the hearts of all the better sorts of the company". A close call.

Eventually the castaways built a small ship and left Bermuda sailing to Jamestown early in 1610. Inexplicably, they loaded their ship with only enough provisions to make the voyage. They were probably hopeful that the rest of their fleet had fared better and made it to Jamestown with most of their ample provisions intact. It was a rude awakening to find that was not the case, finding Jamestown in chaos, starving, and under continual danger of Indian attack. Some pork and turtle eggs would have been a welcome addition to the diet of the starving colonists.

It isn't known how long Hopkins remained in Jamestown, but he finally made his way back to England. During his absence of several years, his wife Mary had died in 1613, leaving behind a small estate which mentions their children Elizabeth, Constance, and Giles. On 19 February 1617/18, Stephen married his second wife, Elizabeth Fisher, at St. Mary Matfellow, Whitechapel, London. In 1620, Stephen brought his second wife Elizabeth and their first child Damaris, his three children by his first marriage, and his servants Edward Doty and Edward Lester with him on the *Mayflower*; Elizabeth gave birth to a son whom they named Oceanus during the voyage.

In his accounting of the Hopkins family in 1651, Bradford reported that "Mr. Hopkins and his wife are now both dead, but they lived above twenty years in this place and had one son and four daughters born here. Their son became a seaman and died at Barbados, one daughter died here, and two are married; one of them hath two children, and one is yet to marry. So their increase which still survive are five. But his son Giles is married and hath four children. His daughter Constance is also married and hath twelve children, all of them living, and one of them married."

Stephen was an active member of the Pilgrim group shortly after arrival, perhaps a result of his being one of the few individuals who had been to the New World previously. He was a part of all the early exploring missions and was used as an "expert" on Native Americans for the first few contacts. While out exploring, Stephen recognized and identified an Indian deer trap. And when Samoset walked into Plymouth and welcomed the English, he was housed in Stephen Hopkins' house for the night. Stephen was also sent on several of the ambassadorial missions to meet with the various Indian groups in the region. In June 1621 Steven Hopkins and Edward Winslow were chosen by the governor to approach Massasoit, and Hopkins repeated this duty as emissary frequently thereafter.

Despite his social standing and his early public service, Stephen Hopkins managed to run afoul of the authorities several times for a variety of reasons: in 1636, he was fined for battery of John Tisdale; in 1637 and 1638 he was fined for allowing drinking on the Lord's day, the playing of "shovell board," and suffering excessive drinking in his house; in 1638 he was "presented for selling beer for 2d. the quart, not worth 1d. a quart," and in 1639 he was presented for selling a looking glass for 16d. when a similar glass could be bought in the Bay for 9d."

Stephen died in Plymouth between 6 June 1644, the date of his will and 17 July 1644 when his will was probated and asked to be buried near his wife Elizabeth who had died earlier in the 1640s.

**Sources:** [www.Britannica.com](http://www.Britannica.com). [www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org). *Here Shall I Die Ashore: Stephen Hopkins: Bermuda Castaway, Jamestown Survivor, and Mayflower Pilgrim*, by Caleb Johnson, 2007. [www.Jamestown.org](http://www.Jamestown.org). [www.JYFMuseums.org](http://www.JYFMuseums.org). [www.MayflowerHistory.com](http://www.MayflowerHistory.com). [www.Mayflower.AmericanAncestors.org/Stephen-Hopkins-biography](http://www.Mayflower.AmericanAncestors.org/Stephen-Hopkins-biography). [www.NPS.gov](http://www.NPS.gov). [www.SMPlanet.com](http://www.SMPlanet.com). [www.Wikipedia.com](http://www.Wikipedia.com). [www.WorcesterCathedralLibrary.wordpress.com](http://www.WorcesterCathedralLibrary.wordpress.com).



Jamestown Re-Enactors

## From the Bookshelf

*While the early settlers of Jamestown shared some of the same challenges as our Mayflower ancestors, the Jamestown settlement faced their own unique challenges which the first three books explore in detail. The fourth selection offers an engaging, easy to read, and well-researched biography of Mayflower passenger, Stephen Hopkins.*

**Love and Hate in Jamestown: John Smith, Pocahontas, and the Start of a New Nation** by [David A. Price](#). Available in paperback at [Amazon.com](#). A *New York Times* Notable Book.

The Jamestown colony is one of the great survival stories. Drawing on extensive original documents, David A. Price paints compelling portraits of the major figures from the formidable Chief Powhatan to the resourceful leader Captain John Smith to the spirited Pocahontas, who twice saved Smith's life. He also gives a rare balanced view of relations between the settlers and the natives and debunks popular myths about the colony. This is a superb work of history, reminding us of the horrors and heroism that marked the dawning of our nation.

**Jamestown, the Truth Revealed** by [William M. Kelso](#). Available in hardcover at [Amazon.com](#).

Refuting the now decades-old stereotype that attributed the high mortality rate of the Jamestown settlers to their laziness and ineptitude, *Jamestown, the Truth Revealed* produces a vivid picture of the settlement that is far more complex, incorporating the most recent archaeology and using twenty-first-century technology.

William Kelso takes us literally to the soil where the Jamestown colony began, unearthing footprints of structures that reveal evidence of the lives and deaths of the first settlers, of their endeavors and struggles, and provides new insight into their relationships with the Virginia Indians.

He also recounts how researchers confirmed the practice of survival cannibalism from the cleaver-scarred remains of a young English girl. CT scanning and computer graphics have even allowed researchers to put a face on this victim of the brutal winter of 1609–10, a period known as the “starving time.”

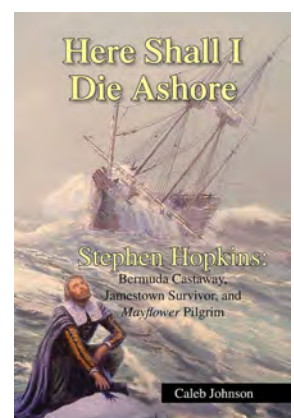
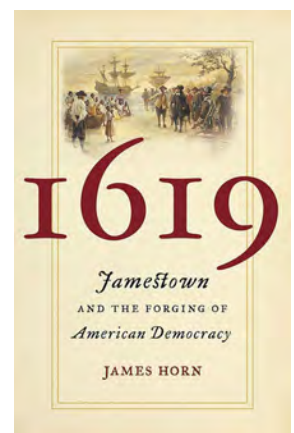
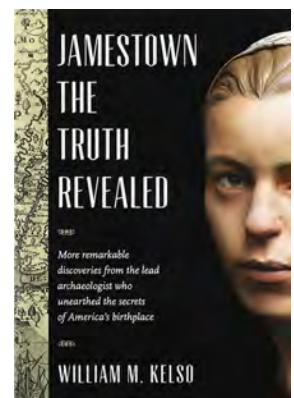
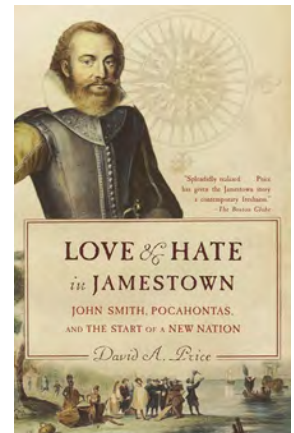
**1619: Jamestown and the Forging of American Democracy** by [James Horn](#). Available in hardcover at [Amazon.com](#).

In 1619, historian James Horn sheds new light on the year that gave birth to the great paradox of our nation: slavery in the midst of freedom. This landmark year marked the first gathering of a representative governing body in America at Jamestown and the arrival of a privateer ship carrying the first African slaves to mainland English America, the corrosive legacy of racial inequality that has afflicted America since its beginning.

**Here Shall I Die Ashore: Stephen Hopkins: Bermuda Castaway, Jamestown Survivor, and Mayflower Pilgrim** by [Caleb Johnson](#). Available in paperback at [Amazon.com](#).

By the time he turned forty, Stephen Hopkins had made three trans-Atlantic voyages, survived a hurricane, been shipwrecked in the Bermuda Triangle, been written into Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, witnessed the famine at Jamestown Colony, and participated in the marriage of Pocahontas. He was once even sentenced to death! These are the extraordinary adventures of an ordinary man.

*Do you have favorite books to share? Novels or non-fiction, poetry or cooking tips, colonial gardening, life in colonial New England? Send your suggestions to Kathy Simmons, Newsletter Editor. Not comfortable writing a book recommendation yourself? Send suggestions to Kathy, with bullet points on why you recommend the book – we'll take it from there.*



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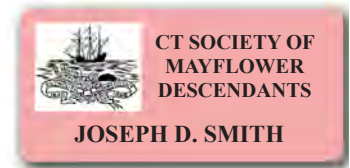
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**Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants  
Annual Meeting, Saturday October 19, 2024  
11:15 am–2:00 pm**

*We are honored to welcome Lisa Pennington, Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants to our 2024 Annual Meeting. Governor General Pennington will give us an overview of General Society goals and projects and will swear in our new slate of officers and assistants.*



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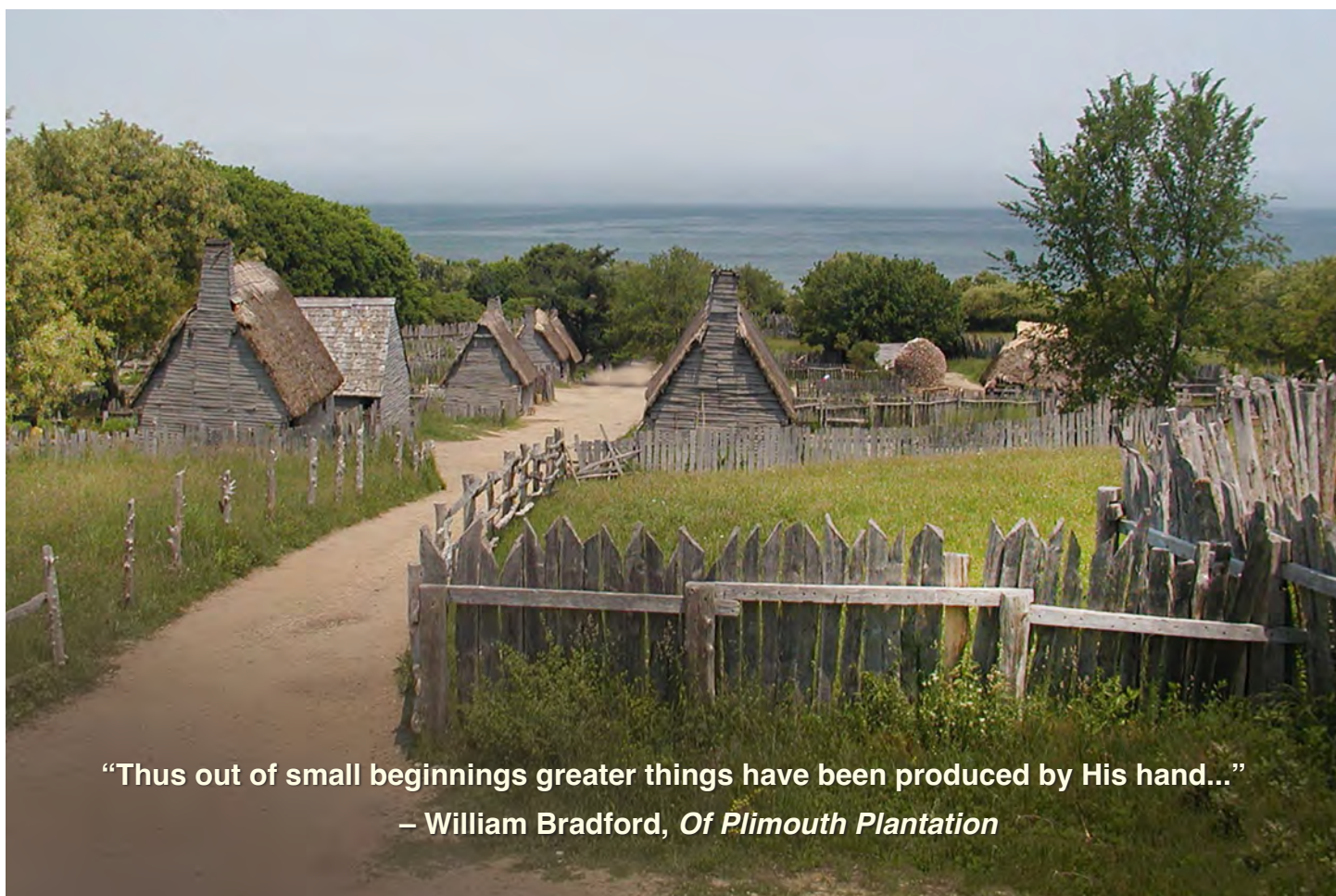
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