Stephen Hopkins of the *Mayflower*

Stephen Hopkins and Mary > Giles Hopkins and Catorne “Catherine” Weldon > Abigail Hopkins and William Merrick > Nathaniel Merrick and Alice Freeman > Sarah Merrick and Abner Leigh > Mary Lee (Leigh) and Richard Sears > Orange Sears and Annis Bissell > Amanda Sears and Merritt Purdy > Maria Bissell Purdy and Washington Freeman Peck > Jessie Allen Peck and Henry Vollmer > Dorothea Vollmer

Note: When quoting ancestors and documents, the original spelling and punctuation have been maintained.

Stephen Hopkins was one of the most interesting Pilgrims to set foot on American soil. He is the only Pilgrim who sailed to and lived in both permanent colonies in America—Jamestown and Plymouth Colonies. His extraordinary adventures led him to be shipwrecked during a hurricane in the Bermuda Triangle, condemned to death for mutiny and tyranny, pardoned and lived to sail again—next time on the *Mayflower* in 1620. Stephen Hopkins’ shipwreck episode was the basis for William Shakespeare’s play, *The Tempest*. Stephen’s dealings with the Indians included him participating in the marriage of Pocahontas, befriending and housing the famous Squanto and participating in the first Thanksgiving. Stephen Hopkins played a most significant role in strengthening Jamestown Colony and the development and governing of Plymouth Colony.

Stephen Hopkins was born about 1581 in Upper Clatford, a village in Hampshire, England. His parents were John Hopkins and Elizabeth Williams. John Hopkins was first married to Agnes Borrow who was the mother of Stephen’s half-siblings, William and Alice. Agnes died in 1578. John Hopkins married Elizabeth Williams in July 1579, shortly after the death of Agnes. Their only son, Stephen Hopkins, was born in 1581. A daughter Susanna was born in 1584.

Stephen Hopkins was baptized in 1581 in the parish Church of All Saints in Upper Clatford. Since it was the Church of England’s custom that babies were to be baptized soon after their birth, it would be likely that Stephen Hopkins was born in 1581.

When Stephen was about six his family left the countryside and moved six miles south to the busy, trading center of Winchester, once the capital city of England. The Hopkins family attended the St. Thomas Church in Winchester.

All Saints Church in Upper Clatford, England where Stephen Hopkins was baptized in 1581 and where his parents were married.
Stephen Hopkins’ father, John Hopkins, died in 1593 leaving Elizabeth with little money and with young children to support. It is believed that since Stephen was only 12 years old that he was probably apprenticed out to someone to work for his livelihood—possibly with his older brother William who was married. William’s wife name was Constance which was a very unusual name. Later Stephen would marry and name his daughter Constance. For this reason it is believed Stephen was cared for in the home of William and Constance Hopkins.

In March 1605 when Stephen would have been 24 years old, he was found in the All Saints Parish records in Hursley, Hampshire, a short distance from Winchester. The event was the baptism of his daughter Elizabeth (after his mother), the first child of Stephen and Mary Hopkins. Mary’s lineage is unknown at this time. A little over a year later Stephen and Mary had another daughter, Constance (after his sister-in-law) who was baptized in May 1606. On January 30, 1608, a son named Giles Hopkins was baptized.

In May 1608, when Giles was only four months old, the lease on the Hopkins family home was given over to someone else. The Hopkins family moved. This event coincided with a time of economic growth and overseas exploration. Stephen joined the adventurous men seeking better lives in America. He contracted with the Virginia Company to be an indentured servant for seven years in the new settlement at Jamestown. In exchange, he would be given transportation, food, clothing and lodging. He would also receive 10 shillings every three months. At the end of his seven-year obligation, he would be given 30 acres of land in Jamestown Colony. This appeared to be the opportunity for Stephen to establish himself financially. Stephen left Mary and the children behind in Hursley, England.
Sea Venture Voyage and Shipwreck in the Bermuda Triangle

Stephen joined a group of investors and colonists who were headed to the new colony in Jamestown, Virginia which was established in May of 1607 under a charter issued by King James I. The hope of the King was to establish a colony which would send gold and silver and other goods back to England. The colony barely survived. The settlement of 100 men faced harsh conditions, disease, starvation, and Indians. The next year Captain John Smith brought more supplies and more men to the settlement.

The following year on Friday, June 2, 1609 a fleet of seven ships and two pinnaces (smaller boats) left Plymouth, England and sailed towards Virginia. The ships contained a new governor for Jamestown (Sir Thomas Gates), 500 new settlers, and an abundance of food, clothing, arms, and other goods to resupply the struggling new colony. Stephen signed on to be the minister’s clerk for Reverend Buck (the colony’s minister). Other prominent people included Sir George Somers (the fleet’s admiral) and Christopher Newport (the ship’s captain). Stephen was on the lead ship Sea Venture.

Aboard the Sea Venture Stephen Hopkins and the Reverend Buck led morning and evening worship services with singing of psalms and offering of prayers. Things were going smoothly for all. After the seven-week, uneventful journey, the seven ships and two pinnaces had managed to stay within sight of each other. Using trumpets, they communicated with each other.

While only a week from Jamestown, the fleet encountered a terrible hurricane. The Sea Venture became separated from the other ships. The storm-battered ship began to leak. Although the ship seemed doomed, the passengers worked nonstop in shifts to pump and bail the water. Cargo and personal possession were thrown overboard. On the night of the fourth day of the storm, July 28, 1609, land was sighted by Sir George Somers. Captain Newport guided the ship in toward the land and, unable to anchor, wedged it between two large rocks. All 140 men and 10 women survived the storm. The ship had wrecked in the Isle of Devils (later named Bermuda). This area of islands became known as the “Devil’s Triangle” or later the Bermuda Triangle because of the mysterious loss of many vessels.

They explored the island, built themselves shelter and found there was abundant food and water. The island was occupied by many wild hogs which had survived other shipwrecks. By late August, knowing that rescue was not likely, a plan was laid for them to leave the island. A group of eight sailors attempted to reach Jamestown in the pinnace. On their second attempt, they made it out to sea and were never heard from again. The decision was made that they would build two ships to provide a means to leave the islands and continue on to Jamestown. Using what could be salvaged from the Sea Venture and the cedar trees on the island, the shipbuilding began.
Over the ten months that the *Sea Venture’s* passengers were marooned, several people challenged who actually had authority over the group. Sir Thomas Gates had authority given him for Jamestown. Sir George Somers had authority while they were at sea. It was decided that Sir Thomas Gates would be in command since they were on land.

Several attempts were made at mutiny. One group was banished to another island, but allowed to return. The leniency allowed others to challenge the authority of the governor. Stephen Hopkins, although very religious, became very discontented and contentious. By mid-January, Stephen had decided that the scriptures justified disobedience to authority that was unrighteously imposed. He gave arguments that the governor’s authority did not exist, therefore he was not obligated to follow his orders or anyone’s orders. On January 24th Stephen Hopkins’ mutiny was reported and that evening he was put on trial. The penalty for mutiny was death. He was sentenced to death. According to Willam Strachey’s eye-witness account, “… Our Governour passed the sentence of a Mariticall Court upon him, such as belongs to Mutinie and Rebellion. But so penitent hee was, and made so much moane, alleadging the ruine of his Wife and Children in this his trespasse, as it wrought in the hearts of all the better sorts of the Company, who therefore with humble entreaties, and earnest supplications, went unto our Governor, whom they besought (as likewise did Captaine Newport, and my selfe) and never left him untill we had got his pardon.” Stephen Hopkins begged for his life and became compliant. A month later another man, Henry Paine, led a mutiny and was sentenced to death. He was executed.

By the end of March the two small ships, *Deliverance* and *Patience*, were almost completed. On May 10, 1610 the 140 castaways boarded the ships and set sail for Jamestown. (Two survivors were left behind to claim Bermuda for England.) The ships arrived at Jamestown on May 24, 1610, almost a year after their departure from England.

**Jamestown Colony**

Upon their arrival at Jamestown, the anxious new settlers found that only 50 out of the 500 colonists survived the “Starving Time” and the Indian attacks. Their fort lay in ruins. Houses, left empty due to the owners’ deaths, had been torn down and the wood used for firewood. The colonists who were still alive were weak, sick and discouraged. Realizing the terrible conditions and no food supply, it was decided save all those who were still alive. They
would abandon the settlement and head back to England. Everyone gladly boarded the ships and they began sailing down the James River. As they were sailing, a longboat approached announcing that Lord De La Warr (Delaware) was approaching with three ships full of settlers and a year’s worth of food. They colonists reluctantly turned around.

The fort was rebuilt and conditions slowly began to improve for the Jamestown Colony. Relations with the Indians improved as the colonist began trading with them. It is believed that Stephen Hopkins interacted with them and befriended them during his couple of years with the colony.
On April 5, 1614 John Rolfe, a *Sea Venture* survivor, married Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Powhatan. It is likely that Stephen Hopkins accompanied Reverend Buck in performing the wedding. John Rolfe planted some tobacco seed and began the first cash crop of the colony.

William Strachey was a writer and kept a detailed account of the *Sea Venture’s* shipwreck and Bermuda adventures. His account reached England and fell into the hands of William Shakespeare, who shortly thereafter wrote a play entitled *The Tempest*. The play tells of a ship that wrecked and its passengers were stranded on an enchanted tropical island. It included a drunken, mutinous passenger named Stephano. The play was performed in November 1611 for the English people who were fascinated with the stories they heard about sea explorations.

**Return to England**

In 1613 while Stephen Hopkins was away and presumed dead, Stephen’s wife Mary died. She was in her early thirties. Mary was buried in May 1613 in Hursley, England. Her small estate was liquidated by the Church to provide for their children. The items that were inventoried indicated she may have run a small shop or business. The inventory included a “beerhouse, a shopboarde & a plank” (likely a sales counter and plank to sit on). The children were still young—Elizabeth was nine, Constance was seven and Giles was five. They were placed in the care of Thomas Syms whose relationship to the family has not been determined.

In about 1616 or 1617, Stephen Hopkins returned to England. He may have been on the ship that brought his fellow survivor John Rolfe and wife Rebecca (Pocahontas’ Christian name) to England in 1616. About a dozen other Indians accompanied John and Rebecca Rolfe. It is not clear whether this is when Stephen Hopkins returned.
On February 19, 1618 Stephen Hopkins’ name again appeared in London. This time it is in the St. Mary Whitechapel Church Register when he married Elizabeth Fisher. A year later the birth of their first daughter, Damaris, was recorded. Stephen must have located his other surviving children by this time, his daughter Elizabeth had died sometime after the death of her mother.

While Stephen Hopkins was living in England, he found himself in the midst of the growing protests over England’s break with the Roman Catholic Church and the formation of the Church of England. The Separatists denounced the Church of England and sought to separate themselves completely from it and complete the Reformation. Persecution of the dissenters had driven many to Leiden, Holland around 1608 where there existed an atmosphere of religious tolerance. Those fleeing their homeland in pursuit of religious freedom were called Pilgrims.

**Mayflower Voyage**

Seeking even greater religious freedom, many of the Leiden Separatists decided to go to America—far from the persecution. The congregation of Pilgrims was led by William Brewster and William Bradford. Many of them were poor, uneducated farmers without social standing, so a few men went back to England to get merchant investors from the Virginia Company to back them. An agreement was made. The merchants agreed to finance the voyage and settlement in exchange for seven years of labor in the colony. Everything was to be owned in partnership. At the end of seven years, the Pilgrims would be free, the assets divided and land grants given.

In order to fill the ships, people sympathetic to the Separatist cause were sought. Stephen Hopkins was one of those. He was sympathetic to the cause and was interested in returning to the New World for economic reasons. Stephen realized again that he would eventually own more in American than he could ever own in England. With his experience from Jamestown, he would be an asset to the new colony.

Stephen decided to take his family with him—wife Elizabeth and three surviving children, Constance, Gliles (Giles) and Damaris. (Daughter Elizabeth had died.) He also brought two young men-servants.

The group of Pilgrims obtained provisions and passage on the small ship *Speedwell* which sailed from Holland to England to meet other Separatists sailing on the *Mayflower*. The *Speedwell* took on water and could not make the journey. Most of her passengers had to stay behind. Eleven Separatists from the *Speedwell* were able to board the *Mayflower*, making a total of 32 Separatists out of the 102 passengers. All these people were crammed into a living space of 50 feet by 25 feet.
After a two-month delay, the *Mayflower* left Plymouth, England on September 16, 1620.

The long delay created a difficult situation for the Hopkins family. Elizabeth was six months pregnant when they joined the voyagers. Now after the two-month delay, Elizabeth began the journey eight months pregnant and giving birth during the voyage became inevitable. When their son was born upon the ocean, they named him Oceanus Hopkins.

Strong storms and turbulent seas threw the *Mayflower* so far off course that it sailed into Cape Cod Bay. After 66 days and 2,700 miles, the storm-battered *Mayflower* anchored in Cape Cod Bay on November 11, 1620. They were well north of their intended target of the Hudson River where they held a patent authorizing them to settle. Since the settlers did not have the authority to settle outside of the Virginia Colony, it became apparent that they needed to draw up their own governing document for the colony. Stephen Hopkins was among the signers of the new document—the Mayflower Compact. Stephen Hopkins, thinking back to his experiences on the island of Bermuda, was no doubt a strong supporter of the decision to establish authority. (For other family lines that contain Mayflower Compact signers see Gregory Chapter 10, Sears Family and Ellis Chapter 5, Elizabeth Capen).

On December 26, 1620 following weeks of scouting for a suitable location for their settlement—likely under the direction of the experienced Stephen Hopkins—the colonists began their settlement and named it “New Plymouth.”

Winter was in full force in December and January and the settlers were unable to build shelters. The *Mayflower* passengers remained within the ship. The Hopkins family boarded the ship in July and remained there as the men attempted to lay out the settlement. Conditions were bad inside the ship. In November one person died. In December six died. Twenty-five died

Stained-glass picture in Plymouth, Massachusetts represents the Pilgrims’ arrival in Plymouth Bay. Photo taken in 2011 at Plymouth.
during the construction period of January and February. When March had passed, half of the passengers were dead, including two Hopkins children—Damaris and Oceanus Hopkins. Originally there were 18 women aboard, but only four survived the winter. Elizabeth Hopkins was among the survivors.

During the weeks of exploring, Indians had been observed. A party of men was sent out to locate the Indians. Stephen Hopkins and Captain Myles Standish were among the group. Stephen had previous experience with Indians in Jamestown and Myles Standish had military experience. They came upon some Indians and laid down their weapons as a symbol of peace. The Indians ran off. This was the beginning of their efforts to befriend them.

On March 16th an Indian walked right into the settlement and said, “Welcome Englishmen.” This man was Samoset, a chief of one of the tribes in the area. He spoke in broken English which he had learned from traders who had come to the area. Samoset had been staying with the nearby Wampanoag tribe which consisted of 60 led by Chief Massasoit. That night Samoset stayed around the settlement. Samoset showed no sign of leaving, so Stephen Hopkins was given the responsibility to house him for the night. Uncertain about Indians, guards were placed around the Hopkins’ house to protect them. Nothing happened. In the morning Samoset left for the Wampanoag promising to return in a couple of days with some Indians who might do some trading. Samoset returned, but since it was the Sabbath the Pilgrims refused to trade with them. This caused much confusion and fear in the natives who backed away out of the settlement. Samoset stayed and spent another night with Stephen Hopkins.

A few days later Samoset returned with the Chief of the Wampanoag, Tisquantum (nicknamed Squanto by the English). Squanto had been kidnapped in 1614 and taken to Europe by an Englishman who planned to sell the Indians into slavery. While there, Squanto learned English. Five years later he was able to return to America as part of an exploratory expedition along the New England coast. When he was finally able to return to his tribe, he found them all dead from the plague. Squanto had gone inland and joined with the surviving Wampanoag tribe. (His tribe’s land was left vacant and that was where the Pilgrims chose to settle.)

Squanto helped form a treaty of friendship and peace between the settlers and Chief Massasoit.
Without Squanto’s help the Plymouth Colony may not have survived. In the following months Stephen was sent out on several missions to meet the leaders of various other tribes in the area. His friendship with Squanto and his ability to relate with the native Indians proved to be one of Stephen Hopkins’ greatest contributions to Plymouth Colony. Squanto became a good friend and spent the night with the Hopkins family on occasion.

On April 5, 1621 the *Mayflower* set sail for England with no cargo except a beaver skin or two, a few letters full of sorrowful messages, and a few Indian artifacts. The sponsoring Virginia Company was disappointed, but realized that the new settlement would need more manpower and supplies in order to survive. Other ships were organized to go to New England.

**The First Thanksgiving**

As spring and summer passed, conditions in Plymouth Colony improved. Only two more people had died—Governor John Carver and his wife. Eleven buildings had been built, seven of them homes.

Squanto helped the desperate Pilgrims find good places to fish and hunt. He helped them plant crops of corn, beans and pumpkins. He taught them important things about planting their crops—planting in mounds and using fish as fertilizer. Twenty-six acres of land were planted. As harvest time approached, the new governor, William Bradford, was determined to maintain the peaceful relations with the Indians. He decided that since the Colony had been so blessed by God that a time of thanksgiving was needed. The men hunted and fished. The gardens were harvested. Massasoit and his men came to the celebration carrying deer they had killed. The celebration lasted three days. This was the first Thanksgiving.

**Plymouth Colony Grows**

Enough food had been put away for the winter to feed the small settlement through their second winter. But, in November a second Pilgrim ship, *Fortune*, arrived with no supplies and 33 more people, mostly men. Among the passengers were Separatist friends from Leiden, Holland. *Phillip De la Noye (Delano)* was one of the *Speedwell* passengers who was left behind when the ship began leaking. Nineteen year-old Philip Delano had sailed to Plymouth Colony to live with his uncle, *Francis Cooke*, who had arrived on the *Mayflower* the year before. (See Ellis History Chapter 3, Cynthia Irish Crommett: Philip Delano and Francis Cooke.)
The next Pilgrim ship, *Anne*, arrived the summer of 1623 bringing laborers and women. Elizabeth Warren, Richard Warren’s wife, arrived with their five daughters. (See Ellis History, Chapter 3, Cynthia Irish Crommet: Richard Warren.) Francis Cooke’s wife Hester and their two daughters were among the passengers. (See Ellis History, Chapter 3.)

In 1626 the Plymouth Colony shareholders decided to buy the outstanding shares held by the Virginia Company that had sponsored them in 1620. These colonists would take on the debt. Stephen Hopkins was among the 50 men who took on the debt to free the Colony of its indentuership.

All the animals in the colony had been held for common use. In the 1627 Division of Cattle, the settlers were divided into 12 groups and the animals were divided into 12 groups. Each group of settlers was allotted specific animals. Stephen Hopkins was in a group consisting of his family and friends. They were allotted a black weaning calf, to which was added the calf of this year to come of the black cow, which fell to John Shaw and his company, with … a bull they were to keep it ungelt 5 years for common use and after to make their best of it. He also received two “shee goats.”

The Plymouth Colony Record has many references to Stephen Hopkins. In 1623 he was given six acres of land. In 1637 he was granted land at Six Mile Brook and later 12 acres in the meadow. In 1636 he was “appoynted to view the hey grounds betwixt the Eele River and the towne of Plymouth … that each man may be assigned a porcon as shalbe thought convenent.”

In 1633 Stephen Hopkins was listed in “The Names of the Freemen of the Incorporacion of Plymoth in New England, 1633.” He was in the “Councell” with seven other men, including Governor Winslow, Captain Myles Standish, and William Bradford. Over a period of several years Stephen Hopkins was reelected to serve on the Governor’s Council. Stephen was also appointed to the committee that assessed taxes to the settlers. His name was on the list of those who were taxed. Only five others were taxed more than he was taxed. This fact indicated he
owned a lot of land. Stephen was also appointed to committees to help improve the Colony’s trade. His strong leadership helped Plymouth Colony in many areas.

Stephen Hopkins’ name was also in the Plymouth Colony Record for reasons other than his service to the colony. He was in Court cases as a juror, plaintiff and defendant. As time went on he was in Court accused of more frequent wrongful acts.

The name Stephen Hopkins, “assistant to the government,” appeared in the General Court Records also. As was seen in Bermuda, Stephen had a mind of his own. In June 1636 Stephen was in a fight with John Tisdale a yeoman. He was accused of battery by Mr. Tisdale and had to pay a fine of “five pounds starling to our sov. Lord the King whose peace he had broken.”

Evidently, at age 55, Stephen Hopkins beat up 21 year-old Mr. Tisdale.

In January 1632 Stephen Hopkins’ man-servant ran away for a few days and was found in the woods by an Indian. He was brought before the Court and found guilty of the charge and whipped before the Governor and his Council.

Another event created a problem for Stephen Hopkins. His maid servant, Dorothy Temple, was pregnant by Arthur Peach, who had recently been executed for murder and robbery. (Mr. Peach had killed an Indian and stolen wampum [traditional sacred shell beads] and clothing from him.) Dorothy’s term of indenture still had two years remaining. The Court in February 1638 ordered Stephen Hopkins to “keepe her and her child, or shee may be kept with food and raiment during the said terme; and if he refuse so to doe that then the colony pai de for her & Mr Hoopkins to pay it.”

Stephen refused to have her in his home and was arrested for “his contempt to the Court, and shall so remayne committed until hee shall either receive his servant Dorothy Temple, or els pvide for her elsewhere at his owne charge during the terme shee hath yet to serve him.” He was in jail four days before he convinced John Holmes of Plymouth to take her and her child. He paid
him three pounds sterling and “other considerations.” Dorothy was required to “serve all the residue of her tyme with the said John Holmes, according to her indenture.”

When Mary Hopkins died in England, an inventory was made of the couple’s belongings. Among other things, they owned “beerhouse, a shopboarde & a plank.” Stephen and Mary may have owned a tavern in Hursley. Now in Plymouth Colony, Stephen Hopkins went before the Court and asked to be allowed to sell liquor from his home (a tavern of sorts). In 1634 there was listed an Account of the Liquors in which Stephen Hopkins had one gallon of liquor. In 1637 he was in trouble for “suffering men to drink in his house upon the Lord’s day.” And again in 1637 Stephen was before the Court “for suffering excessive drinkeing in his house.” Again in 1637 he was charged “for suffering servants and others to sit drinkeing in his house, (contrary to the orders of this Court) and to play a shovell board, & such like misdemeanors, is therefore fyned fourty shillings.” The next year in 1638 Stephen was before the Court for several complaints concerning his sale of liquor and nutmeg at excessive prices. “Mr. Stephen Hopkins, upon two psentments against him the last Court, and three psentment this Court, for selling wine, beere, strong waters, and nutmegs at excessive rates.” For his offenses, he was fined.

Stephen’s problems continued. For his earlier offenses his liquor license must have been revoked. In 1639 he was accused of “selling strong water without lycence, proved & confessed in Court, s fyned.” The same day “Mr. Steephen Hopkins, upon psentment for selling a lookeing glass [mirror] for 16 d, the like whereof was bought in the Bay [Massachusetts Bay Colony] for 9 d.” Not only did he continue to sell liquor, he sold other commodities at excessive prices.

Realizing the difficulties he was having in Plymouth was probably Stephen Hopkins’ motive for selling some of his land in Plymouth. In 1638 he asked the Court for approval to build a house in Mattacheese (later called Yarmouth) on Cape Cod which was several miles from the town of Plymouth. “Liberty is graunted to Mr. Steephen Hopkins to erect a house at Mattacheese, and cutt hey there this yeare to winter his cattle, pvided that it be not to withdraw him from the towne of Plymouth.” The Court may have understood his true motive.

The life of Stephen Hopkins improved after his year away. In 1641 he was 60 years old and he invested in part ownership of a fishing vessel. He went before the Court seeking permission to build a fishing “stage” [possibly a pier] on an island in Plymouth Harbor. He also took in another
servant to hel—a young boy of 15 who had a list of offenses against him, including slander and running away. Stephen helped this boy turn his life around. As an adult the young man helped found the town of Falmouth. It was also about this time that Stephen’s wife Elizabeth died.

On June 6, 1644 Stephen Hopkins wrote his will. “I Stephen Hopkins of Plymouth in New England being weake yet in good and prefect memory, blessed be God yet considering the fraile estate of all me I do ordaine and make this to be my last will and testament.” He requested to “be buryed as neare as conveyenently may be to my wyfe Deceased.” Stephen’s son Caleb was appointed executor of his estate, and his friend, Captain Myles Standish, was a supervisor of it. The will was witnessed by Miles Standish and Governor William Bradford.

A month after the will was written, Stephen Hopkins died. The inventory of his estate was taken on July 17, 1644. Caleb and Captain Standish oversaw the distribution of Stephen Hopkins’ belongings, which Stephen had specifically designated for each of his children. He even named each cow by name (Motley, Red, Symkins, and Curled) and where it would go, including the calf with half a tail. “To my my sonn Giles Hopkins my great Bull wch is now in the hands of Mris Warren. Also I give to my sone Giles twenty shillings in Mris Warrens hands for the hire of the said Bull. [See Chapter 10, Sears Family, Warren line.] Also … to my daughter Constance … my mare … unto my daughter Deborah Hopkins the brodhorned black cowe and her calf and half the Cowe called Motley … unto my daughter Damaris Hopkins [their second child named Damaris] the Cow called Damaris heiffer and the white faced calf and half the cow called Motley … to my daughter Ruth the Cowe called Red Cole and her calfe and a Bull at Yarmouth wch is in the keepeing of Giles Hopkins … and half the curld Cowe. Also … to my daughter Elizabeth [their second child named Elizabeth] the Cowe called Smykins and her calf and theother half of the Curld Cowe wth Ruth and an yearelinge heiffer wth out a tayle in the keeping of Gyles Hopkings at Yarmouth.” He asked that all his moveable goods be divided among his daughters, “And in case any of my said daughters should be taken away by death before they be marryed that then the part of their division to be equally devided amongst the Survivors.”

Elizabeth Hopkins was a young teenager at the time of her father’s death and it appeared that she had some type of handicap or disability. Her father made special provisions for her care. Custody was given to his friend Richard Sparrow to raise Elizabeth as his own child “in consideration of the weakness of the child and her inability to perform such service … that she be not too much oppressed now in her childhood with hard labor.” Elizabeth’s share of the estate was under the supervision of Mr. Sparrow. The home of Richard Sparrow where Elizabeth was raised still stands in Plymouth. It is called the Sparrow House.

Richard Sparrow house built about 1640 in Plymouth. Elizabeth Giles lived with the Sparrow family when her father died. Picture taken in 2011.
**Stephen Hopkin’s Family**

Stephen Hopkins married Mary in about 1603 in Hursley, England and they were the parents of three children: Elizabeth (b. about 1604), Constance (b. in 1606) and *Giles Hopkins* (b. about 1607). Stephen’s wife Mary died in Hursley, England in 1613. His daughter Elizabeth died sometime after her mother’s death and before Stephen came to America on the *Mayflower*.

In 1617 Stephen Hopkins married Elizabeth Fisher in Whitechapel (an area of London), England. They were the parents of seven children: Damaris (a daughter, b. about 1618 in England), Oceanus (a son b. at sea on the *Mayflower* in 1620), Caleb (b. about 1623 in Plymouth Colony), Deborah (b. about 1626 in Plymouth), Damaris (another daughter, b. about 1628 in Plymouth), Ruth (b. about 1630 in Plymouth), and Elizabeth (b. about 1632 in Plymouth). Their first daughter Damais and first son Oceanus appear to have died in Plymouth during the first year.

About the time when Stephen Hopkins was 60 years old, his wife Elizabeth died. Still at home were their six unmarried children: Caleb, Deborah, Damaris, Ruth, Elizabeth, and Giles. Giles was living in the home his father built in Yarmouth a couple of years earlier.

Of the 10 children of Stephen Hopkins, six died before marriage and only four lived to marry and have children: Constance, Giles, Deborah, Damaris (the second).

**Giles Hopkins**

Giles (Egidius) Hopkins was born in 1608 and baptized January 30, 1608 in Hursley, England. He was the son of Stephen and Mary Hopkins. Giles sailed with his father on the *Mayflower*.

Giles was present at the 1627 Division of Cattle with his family. He moved into his father’s home in Yarmouth on Cape Cod, just south of Sandwich which was the first home built by the colonist on Cape Cod.

Giles Hopkins married Catorne “Catherine” Wheldon, and they lived in the home his father built in 1638 in Yarmouth. It was not until 1639 that a permanent settlement was authorized in Yarmouth. Giles was made Constable and Surveyor of Highways there in 1643. After hr moved to Eastham on Cape Cod, Giles was made Surveyor there.

Giles Hopkins died in Plymouth on April 16, 1690. His grave is in the Cove Burying Ground in Eastham, (on the elbow of Cape Cod. A plaque has been placed on a rock in 1966 his descendants. It is in recognition of Giles Hopkins, *Mayflower* passenger.
Giles and Catherine Hopkins were the parents of 10 children including *Abigail Hopkins* (b. in 1644 in Yarmouth). Abigail Hopkins married *William Merrick*—*Mayflower* descendent—in 1667.

See Chapter 10, Richard Sears Family, **Merrick**.