



Pilgrim Hall Museum

America's museum of Pilgrim possessions

Stephen Hopkins in the Records of the 17th Century

Stephen Hopkins : Mayflower passenger

"The names of those which came over first, in the year 1620, and were by the blessing of God the first beginners, and in a sort the foundation of all the Plantations and Colonies in New England; and their families...

"Mr. Stephen Hopkins and Elizabeth his wife, and two children called Giles and Constanta, a daughter, both by a former wife. And two more by this wife called Damaris and Oceanus; the last was born at sea. and two servants called Edward Doty and Edward Lester."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York : Knopf, 1991), p. 441-3.

Stephen Hopkins : Signer of the Mayflower Compact

"I shall ... begin with a combination made by them before they came ashore ; being the first foundation of their government in this place. Occasioned partly by the discontented and mutinous speeches that some of the strangers amongst them had let fall from them in the ship: That when they came ashore they would use their own liberty, for none had power to command them, the patent they had being for Virginia and not for New England... And partly that such an act by them done, this their condition considered, might be as firm as any patent, and in some respects more sure.

"The form was as followeth : IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc. Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini 1620."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed.

Samuel Eliot Morison (New York : Knopf, 1991), p. 75-76.

Stephen Hopkins & Encounters with Native People

The story of the "First Encounter" appears both in Mourt's Relation, published in London in 1622, and (in a condensed version) in William Bradford's Of Plymouth Plantation.

"Wednesday, the sixth of December [1620]. It was resolved our discoverers should set forth ... So ten of our men were appointed who were of themselves willing to undertake it, to wit, Captain Standish, Master Carver, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, John Tilley, Edward Tilley, John Howland, and three of London, Richard Warren, Stephen Hopkins, and Edward Doten, and two of our seamen, John Alderton, and Thomas English. Of the ship's company there went two of the

master's mates, Master Clarke and Master Coppin, the master gunner, and three sailors ...
Mourt's Relation, ed. Jordan D. Fiore (Plymouth, Mass. :
Plymouth Rock Foundation, 1985), p. 27-28.

" ... the 6th of December [1620] they sent out their shallop again with ten of their principal men and some seamen, upon further discovery, intending to circulate that deep bay of Cape Cod. The weather was very cold and it froze so hard as the spray of the sea lighting on their coats, they were as if they had been glazed. Yet that night betimes they got down into the bottom of the bay, and as they drew near the shore they saw some ten or twelve Indians very busy about something. They landed about a league or two from them ... they made themselves a barricado with logs and boughs as well as they could in the time, and set out their sentinel and betook them to rest, and saw the smoke of the fire the savages made that night. When morning was come they divided their company, some to coast along the shore in the boat, and the rest marched through the woods to see the land, if any fit place might be for their dwelling. They came also to the place where they saw the Indians the night before, and found they had been cutting up a great fish like a grampus ...

"So they ranged up and down all that day, but found no people, nor any place they liked. When the sun grew low, they hasted out of the woods to meet with their shallop ... of which they were very glad, for they had not seen each other all that day since the morning. So they made them a barricado as usually they did every night, with logs, stakes and thick pine boughs, the height of a man, leaving it open to leeward, partly to shelter them from the cold and wind (making their fire in the middle and lying round about it) and partly to defend them from any sudden assaults of the savages, if they should surround them; so being very weary, they betook them to rest. But about midnight they heard a hideous and great cry, and their sentinel called "Arm! arm!" So they bestirred them and stood to their arms and shot off a couple of muskets, and then the noise ceased. They concluded it was a company of wolves or such like wild beasts, for one of the seamen told them he had often heard such noise in Newfoundland.

"So they rested till about five of the clock in the morning; for the tide, and their purpose to go from thence, made them be stirring betimes. So after prayer they prepared for breakfast, and it being day dawning it was thought best to be carrying things down to the boat ...

"But presently, all on the sudden, they heard a great and strange cry, which they knew to be the same voices they heard in the night, though they varied their notes; and one of their company being abroad came running in and cried, "Men, Indians! Indians!" And withal, their arrows came flying amongst them. Their men ran with all speed to recover their arms, as by the good providence of God they did. In the meantime, of those that were there ready, two muskets were discharged at them, and two more stood ready in the entrance of their rendezvous but were commanded not to shoot till they could take full aim at them. And the other two charged again with all speed, for there were only four had arms there, and defended the barricado, which was first assaulted. The cry of the Indians was dreadful, especially when they saw their men run out of the rendezvous toward the shallop to recover their arms, the Indians wheeling about upon them. But some running out with coats of mail on, and cutlasses in their hands, they soon got their arms and let fly amongst them and quickly stopped their violence ...

"Thus it pleased God to vanquish their enemies and give them deliverance; and by his special providence so to dispose that not any one of them were either hurt or hit, though their arrows came close by them and on every side [of] them; and sundry of their coats, which hung up in the barricado, were shot through and through. Afterwards they gave God solemn thanks and praise for their deliverance, and gathered up a bundle of their arrows and sent them into England afterward by the master of the ship, and called that place the FIRST ENCOUNTER."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed.
Samuel Eliot Morison (New York : Knopf, 1991), p. 68-72.

Later encounters :

January 1621 : "Saturday, the 17th day, in the morning, we called a meeting for the establishing

of military orders among ourselves; and we chose Miles Standish our captain, and gave him authority of command in affairs. And as we were in consultation hereabouts, two savages presented themselves upon the top of a hill, over against our plantation, about a quarter of a mile and less, and made signs unto us to come unto them; we likewise made signs unto them to come unto us. Whereupon we armed ourselves and stood ready, and sent two over the brook, towards them, to wit, Captain Standish and Stephen Hopkins, who went towards them. Only one of them had a musket, which they laid down on the ground in their sight, in sign of peace and to parley with them. But the savages would not tarry their coming. A noise of a great many more was heard behind the hill; but no more came in sight."

Mourt's Relation, ed. Jordan D. Fiore (Plymouth, Mass. : Plymouth Rock Foundation, 1985), p. 44.

12 July 1621 : "Having in some sort ordered their business at home, it was thought meet to send some abroad to see their new friend Massasoit, and to bestow upon him some gratuity to bind him the faster unto them; as also that hereby they might view and country and see in what manner he lived, what strength he had about him, and how the ways were to his place, if at any time they should have occasion. So the second of July they sent Mr. Edward Winslow and Mr. Hopkins, with the foresaid Squanto for their guide; who gave him a suit of clothes and a horseman's coat, with some other small things, which were kindly accepted; but they found but short commons and came both weary and hungry home. For the Indians used then to have nothing so much corn as they have since the English have stored them with their hoes, and seen their industry in breaking up new grounds therewith.

"They found his place to be forty miles from hence, the soil good and the people not many, being dead and abundantly wasted in the late great mortality, which fell in all these parts about three years before the coming of the English, wherein thousands of them died. They not being able to bury one another, their skulls and bones were found in many places lying still above the ground where their houses and dwellings had been, a very sad spectacle to behold. But they brought word that the Narragansetts lived but on the other side of that great bay, and were a strong people and many in number, living compact together, and had not been at all touched with this wasting plague."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York : Knopf, 1991), p. 87.

Stephen Hopkins & the 1623 Division of Land

The 1623 Division of Land marked the end of the Pilgrims' earliest system of land held in common by all. Governor Bradford explains it in this way:

"And so assigned to every family a parcel of land, according to the proportion of their number, for that end, only for present use (but made no division for inheritance) and ranged all boys and youth under some family. This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use, and saved him a great deal of trouble, and gave far better content. The women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York : Knopf, 1991), p. 120.

Plymouth Colony Records, Deeds, &c, Vol. I 1627-1651 is the oldest record book of the Plymouth settlement. It begins with the 1623 Division of Land, recorded in the handwriting of Governor William Bradford. The lands of Stephen Hopkins were among those designated as "their grounds which came first over in the May Floure, according as thier lotes were case" and described in this

way "these lye on the South side of the brook to the woodward opposite to the former... Steuen Hopkins."

The name of "Steuen Hopkins" is followed by the names of 2 Edwards, no last name given, possibly representing Edward Dotey and Edward Lester.

Stephen Hopkins & the 1627 Division of Cattle

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. I also tells of the 1627 Division of Cattle:

"At a publike court held the 22th of May it was concluded by the whole Companie, that the cattell wch were the Companies, to wit, the Cowes & the Goates should be equally devided to all the psonts of the same company ... & so the lotts fell as followeth, thirteene psonts being pportioned to one lot...

"the seauenth lott fell to Stephen Hopkins & his company Joyned to him (2) his wife Elizabeth Hopkins (3) Gyles Hopkins (4) Caleb Hopkins (5) Debora Hopkins (6) Nickolas Snow (7) Constance Snow (8) William Pallmer (9) ffrances Pallmer (10) Willm Pallmer Jnor (11) John Billington Senor (12) Hellen Billington (13) ffrancis Billington.

To this lott fell A black weining Calfe to wch was aded the Calfe of this yeare to come of the black Cow, wch pueing a bull they were to keepe it vngelt 5 yeares for common vse & after to make there best of it. Nothing belongeth of thes too, for ye companye of ye first stock: but only half ye Increase. To this lott ther fell two shee goats: which goats they posses on the like terms which others doe their cattell."

Stephen Hopkins : a 1626 Purchaser

In 1621, King James I authorized the Council for New England to plant and govern land in this area. This Council granted the Peirce Patent, confirming the Pilgrims' settlement and governance of Plymouth. Peirce and his associates, the merchant adventurers, were allotted 100 acres for each settler the Company transported. The Pilgrims had a contract with the Company stating all land and profits would accrue to the Company for 7 years at which time the assets would be divided among the shareholders. Most of the Pilgrims held some stock. The Pilgrims negotiated a more favorable contract with the Company in 1626. In 1627, 53 Plymouth freemen, known as "The Purchasers," agreed to buy out the Company over a period of years. In turn, 12 "Undertakers" (8 from Plymouth and 4 from London) agreed to pay off Plymouth's debts in return for trade benefits.

The list we have of the 1626 Purchasers comes from the Plymouth Colony Records. It lists the names of "Stephen Hopkins."

Stephen Hopkins & the Plymouth Records

1 January 1632 : "At a Court held the first of January, 1632, in the eighth Yeare of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord, Charles, by the Grace of God, King of Engl., Soct., Fr., & Irel., Defender of the Faith, &c...

"At the same Court Edward Wynslow was chosen Govr, & held and was sworne to administer justice in that place for the yeare to come.

"Likewise Mr william Bradford, Capt Myles Standish, John Howland, John Alden, John Done, Stephen Hopkins, & William Gilson were chosen for the Councell the same yeare at the same court, who held & received the oath."

Plymouth Colony Records Vol. 1, p. 5.

10 January 1632 : "The Acts of the Cowncell between the Court held the 2d of Jan., 1632, & the

of Aprill, 1633...

"Thomas Brian, the servt of Samueel Eedy, was brought before the Govr, & Mr Will Bradford, Mr Jone Done, Steph Hopkins, & Will Gilson, Assistant, because the said Thomas had runne away & absented himsefe fiue daies from his masters service, and being lost in the wood, and fownd by an Indian, was forced to returne; and for this his offence was privately whipped before the Govr and Councell aforemenconed."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 7.

1633 : "The Names of the Freemen of the Incorporacon of Plymoth in New England, An: 1633. Edward Wynslow, Govr. Capt Myles Standish, William Bradford, John Howland, John Alden, John Done, Stephen Hopkins, William Gilson..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 3.

1 January 1633 : "At this Court, Mr Thomas Prence was elected Govr for the yeare following, and to enter upon the place the first of March or the 27 of the same, and to execute the office of Govr for one whole yeare from the time of his entry.

"At the same time, Edw: Wynslow, Mr Will Bradford, Mr Isaack Allerton, Mr Joh Alden, Mr Joh Howland, & Mr Stephen Hopkins chosen to the office of Assistant to the said Govr, & to enter therupon with the said Govr elect as foresaid."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 21.

2 January 1633 : "An Inventory of the goods & Chattels of Samuel ffuller thelder as they were prised by Stephen Hopkins & Joh. Jenny & presented in Court Jan. 2d An. 9 Dom..."

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 2, p. 8.

25 March 1633 : "According to an order in Court held the 2d of January, in the seaventh yeare of the raine of or soveraigne lord, Charles, by the grace of God King of Engl., Scot., France, & Irel., defendor of the faith, &c, the psons heere under menconed were rated for publike use by the Govr, Mr Will Bradford, Capt Myles Standish, Joh: Alden, Joh: Howland, John Done, Stephen Hopkins, Will Gilson, Sam Fuller, Senior, John Genny, Godbert Godbertson, & Jonathan Brewster, to be brought in by each pson as they are heere under written, rated in corne at vi8 p bushel, at or before the last of November next ensuing, to such place as shall be heereafter appointed to receiue the same. And for default heereof, the value to be doubled, & accordingly leavies by the publick offier for yt end

"Edward Wynslow, Govr, 02:05:00, Mr. Will Bradford, 01:16:00 ... John Jenny, 01:16:00, Stephen Hopkins, 01:07:00, Jonathan Brewster, 01:07:00..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 9.

27 March 1633 : "According to an order in Court held the 2d of Jan., in the ninth yeare of the raigne of our sov. Lord, Charles, by the grace of God King of Engl., Scot., fr., & Ire., defendr of the faith, &c, the psons heerunder menconed were rated for publick use by the Govr & Mr Tho. Prence, Mr Will Bradford, Capt Myles Standish, John Howland, Stephen Hopkins, John Done, Will Gilson, Will Collier, Joh. Jenny, Robt Heek, Jonathan Brewster, Kenelm Wynslow, & Stephen Deane, to be brought in by each pson as they are heerunder written, rated in corne at vj ss p bushell, at or before the last of Novbr next ensuing, to such place as shall be heerafter appointed to receiue the same; and for default heerof, the value to be doubled, & accordingly levied by the publick officer for that end.

"Edw: Wynslow, 02:05:00, Mr Will Bradford, 01:07:00, capt Myles Standish, 00:18:00, Mr Will Brewster, 01:07:00, Isaack Allerton, 01:16:00, Joh Howland, 01:04:00, Joh Alden, 01:04:00, Steph Hopkins, 01:00:00, Mr Will Collier, 02:05:00..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 26-27.

1 July 1633 : "These things following were determind and enacted..."

"That Capt Myles Standish, John Done, Stephen Hopkins, Josuah Prat, Edward Bang, Jonathan Brewster, & Robt Heek devide the medow ground in the bay equally, according to the proporcon of shares formerly devided to the purchasers at or before the last of Aug. next ensuing."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 13-14.

1 July 1633 : "Orders about the mowing of Grasse for the prnt Yeare, 1633.
"It. That Mr Hopkins & Tho. Clarke where they mowed last yeare, except George Sowles cow, as before appointed."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 14-15.

11 November 1633 : "At this Court, Phineas Prat appointed to take into his possession all the good & chattels of Godbert Godbertson & Zarah, his wife, & sfely to preserue them, according to an inventory presented upon oath to be true & just by Mr Joh. Done & Mr. Steph. Hopkins."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 19.

25 November 1633 : "Joh. Thorp debtor to ... To mrs ffuller 01:16:00, To mr Hopkins for divers ptics 05:07:00, To Will. Richards 00:05:06"
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 1, p. 60.

25 November 1633 : "It was ordered..
"That whereas John Thorpe, carpenter, late of Duxburrow, in the liberties of Plymouth aforesaid, deceased, dyed indebted far more than the estate of the said John would make good, insomuch as Alice, his wife, durst not administer, it was ordered, that Capt Myles Standish, Gent., & Stephen Hopkins should enter upon his estate, according to an inventory presented upon oath by the said alice, his wife, in the behalfe of the Court, that so the creditors might be satisfied, so far as the estate will make good, and the widow be freed from & acquitted of all & all manr of claime or claimes or demand by all & every his creditors whatsoever."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 19-20.

1 January 1634 : "Mr. William Bradford was elected gouvernour, & to enter vponit the first Tuesday in march next ensueing, & to serue from the same time one whole yeare.
"At the same time wer elected for Asistants, to enter with the Gouvernour the day aboue mentioned, and to continue the whole yeare, -- Mr Tho. Prince, Mr Edward Winsloe, Mr John Alden, Mr Steuen Hopkins, Captayne Miles Standish, Mr John Houland, Mr William Collier."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 32.

3 March 1634 : "At a Courte held ye 3 of March, an 1634, William Bradford elected Gouer, & Mr Winslow, Mr Prence, Capten Standish, Mr Howland, Mr Alden, Mr Hopkins, & Mr William Collier, Assistants, entered vpon their places."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 3..

1 October 1634 : "Ovtober the 1, 1634. At a Court holden before the Gouvernour & Assistants, it was determined concerning the trade that it to continue in the hands of the parteners till the next Court, all other persons excluded as formerly; and for furthering for a course for hereafter, were made choyse of seuerall persons to treat with the now parteners. The persons made choyce of wer Mr St. Hopkins, Mr. william Colier, Mr Will Gilson, Antony Anible, Jonathan Brewster, John Winsloe, Manaseh Kempton, John Dunham, they hauing concluded to mete together about the midle of Nouember."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 31.

2 October 1634 : "An Inventory of the goods of Steven Deans Deceased taken the 2 of October 1634 By Steven Hopkins & Robert Hicks..."
Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 2, p. 87.

5 January 1635 : "Mr. ed: Winslow was chosen Gouer, and William Bradford, Tho: Prence, John Alden, Wm Collier, Steuen Hopkins, Tim: Hatherly, John Browne, Assistants...
 "At ye same Courte, Jane Waren sued Weekes for 50 li, which she had lent him, to be paid vpon demand. He was ordered to put so much goods into ye hands of Mr Hopkins & Kenelemne Winslowe as should contrauele ye money, & had 3 months time alowed to sell them, or other good, to make her paymente."
 Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 36.

1 March 1635 : "Edward Wynslow entred upon the place of governmt, & rd the oath to administer justice in yt place for the prnt yeare.
 "Likewise, Mr William Bradford, Mr Tho: Prence, Mr Joh: Alden, Mr William Collier, Mr Stephen Hopkins, Mr Tymothy Hatherly, & Mr John Browne being chosen to assist the Govr in case of justice, as the Councill of this corporacon, rd the oath."
 Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 37-38.

14 March 1635 : "The placs heerafter menconed were assigned to the severall psons, or their prnt use the year 1636, vizt. : ...
 "That Mr Hopkins mow the marsh between Thomas Clarke and George Sowle, as aforesaid.
 "That Mr Hopkins & Tho. Clarke haue that up the river, as formerly."
 Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 39-41.

7 March 1636 : "At a Genall Court holden at New Plymouth, for the whole Gourment, the vijth Day of March, 1636, in the xijth Yeare of the Raigne of our Souraigne Lord, Charles, by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland, King, Defendor of the Fayth, &c.
 "The Names of the Freeman: Mr. Bradford, Cournor, Edward Winslow, gen., William Bradford, gen., Thomas Prence, gen., Willm Collyer, gen., Capt Standish, John Alden, gen., Tymothy Hatherly, gen., John Jenney, gen., Steephren Hopkins, gen., John Browne, gen..."
 Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 52.

7 March 1636 : "Concerning the trade of beaver, corne, & beads, &c., with the Indians, it is agreed, by the consent of the Court, that they that now haue yt shall hold yt vntill the next Court, the beginning of June; and then further conference to be had for the mannageing thereof, that such further course may be taken therein as shalbe thought fitt. And in the meane season, Mr Hopkins, Mr Atwood, Mr Done, & Jonathan Brewster shalbe added to the gounor and Assistant, to aduise vpon such pposicons and wayes so as the said trade may be still continued to the benefit of the collony."
 Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 54.

20 March 1636 : "At a Genall Meeting the xxth of March, 1636, according to the Order of the Court, these Hey Grownd were assigned to the Inhabitants of Plymouth, Eele riuier, & Ducksbury.
 "To eich pson as followeth, for there vse this prnte yeare following, vizt, 1637 ; and then were psons also appoynted to veiwe all the hey grounds wthin the limitts seually followinge, before the next Court, that eich man may be assigned a porcon as shalbe thought conveyent.
 "The Messenger, Mr Hopkins, Manasseh Kempton, Edward Banges, were appoynted to veiw the hey grounds betwixt the Eele Riuer and the towne of Plymouth...
 "The pticular psons assigned this yeare as followeth for hey: ... To Mr Hopkins & Thomas Clark, the hey ground they had the last yere..."
 Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 55-57.

7 June 1636 : "John Tisdale, yeoman, entreth an accon of battery against Steven Hopkins, Assistant to the govmt, by whom the said John was dangerously wounded, as he affirmeth."
 Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 41.

7 June 1636 : "At the same Court an accon of battery was tried between John Tisdale, yeoman, plaintiffe, & Stephen Hopkins, Assistant to the government, deft, wherein the deft, Stephen Hopkins, was cast in fiue pownd starling to our sov. lord the King, whose peace he had broken, wch he ought after a speciall manner to haue kept, and also in forty shilling to the plaintiffe, both which he was adjudged to pay."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 42.

7 November 1636 : "The land at the fishing point, neer Slowly Field, being viewed and fownd too little for Tho. Pope, Rich. Clouch, & Rich. Wright, at fiue acres p pson, by consent was equally divided between them. Memorand. That a way was left between them & the land of Stephen Hopkins next adjoyning."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 46.

2 January 1637 : "Presentment by the Grand Jury.
"1. William Reynolds is psented for being drunck at Mr Hopkins his house, that he lay vnder the table, vomitting in a beastly manner, and was taken vp betweene two. The witness hereof is Abraham Warr, als Hoop, als Pottle, and sayth that there was in company Francis Sprague, Samuelli Nash, & Georg Partrich.
2. Mr Hopkins is psented for sufferinge excessiue drinking in his house, as old Palmer, James Coale, & William Renolds, John Winslow, Widdow Palmers man, Widdow Palmer, Thomas Little, witnesss & Stephen Travy."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 75.

5 February 1637 : "Mr Stephen Hopkins requesteth a graunt of lands towards the Six Mile Brooke."
Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 76.

2 May 1637 : "It was ordered by this Court, that a jury should be empanelled to set forth the heigh wayes about Plymouth, Ducksborrow, and the Eele riuer, wch was according sumoned, and vpon the ninth day of May next after they appeared before the Gounor, and took their oathes to lay forth such heigh wayes about the towns of Plymouth, Ducksborrow, & the Eele Riuer equally & justly without respect of psons, and according as they shalbe directed by informacon of others, & as God should direct them in their discretion for the genall good of the colony, and wth as little pjudice to any mans pticuler as may be, and to marke the treeys vpon the said way, and so it to remayne a way foreuer..." (This continues in the entry for 7 July 1637).

7 June 1637 : "It is also enacted by the Court, that there shalbe thirty psons sent for land service, and as many others as shalbe sufficient to mannage the barque.
"Liefertenant William Holmes is elected to goe leader of the said company.
"Mr Thomas Prence is also elected by lott to be for the counsell of warr...
"The Names of the Souldiers that willingly offer themselues to goe vpon the sd Service, with Mr Prince & the Leiftent.
"Voluntaries. Thomas Clarke, George Soule, Richard Church, Samuelli Jenney ... Willm Paddy, Mr Stephen Hopkins, John Harker...
"It is also enacted by the Court, that Mr Hopkins and John Winslow for the towne of Plymouth, Mr Howland and Jonathan Brewster for the towne of Ducksborrow, and Mr Gilson and Edward Forster for the town of Scituate, shalbe added to Gounor and Assistants to assesse men towards the charges of the souldiers that are to be sent forth for the ayde of the Mattachusetts Bay and Connectacutt...
"Whereas the trade of beauer, &c, is now likely to goe in decay, in regard that they wch haue had it will not any longer hold yt, the Court hath referred it to Gounor and Assistants to advise and consider of a way and course how the said trade may be vpholden for the good of the whole

collony; and for the better advisement therein haue joyned to the Gounor and Assistants Mr Hopkins, Mr Atwood, Mr Done, Thomas Willet, & John Winslow for Plymouth, Mr John Howland and Jonathan Brewster for Ducksborrow, and Josias Winslow for Scituate; and what way and course they shall agree and conclude xpon, the whole colony doth consent vnto...

"Whereas, according to the order of the Court, the Gounor and Assistants, with the help of Mr Hopkins and John Winslow for the town of Plymouth, Mr Howland and Jonathan Brewster for the town of Ducksborrow, and Mr. Gilson & Edward Foster for the towne of Scituate, haue mett together & considered of the charge in setting forth the souldiers, and fynd that it will amount vnto the sume of two hundred pounds, the wch is appoynted & concluded to be payd in manner following, vizt: one hundred pounds by the township of Plymouth & the liberties thereof, fifty pounds by the township of Duckborrow, and thother fifty pounds by the township of Scituate." Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 60-62.

7 July 1637 [The calling of the jury is detailed in the 2 May 1637 entry] : "The Verdict of Order of thabouesaid Jury, pformed by them the tenth Day of May, 1637..."

"To the Eele Riuer, from Plymouth. The wayes now in vse to Wellingsley bridge, and so the creeke, where wee allowe fiftie foote from the banke, & from the corner at Raph Wallens. The vpper way to Thomas Clarkes still; the lower way from Raph Wallens right out to Holmans Rock; allowed fourty foote on the west side, and so straight to Manasseh Kemptons ground, whose fence is to be remoued twenty foote inward, and so passing betweene two rocks at the brooke, straight to Edward Banges, leaueing his house west, and so along, leaueing Nicholas Snowes house eat, & and so to Mr Hopkins house, leaueing it east, and so vp the valley to Thomas Clarkes vper stile, the foote way to be continued from Mr Hopkins, in the old path, belowe Thomas Clarkes to the heigh way. The heigh way from Thomas Clarkes stille to passe between his house and his hoggs coate downe to George Soules, next the riur, and the said Georg to allow a sufficient way from thence on the riuer by a bridge, and so to another heighway allowed for that neighborhood; to the wch neighbourhood we allow a way from mr Hopkins house downe to a p--- that leads to the fishing poynt."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 58-60.

2 October 1637 : "Whereas diuers were appoynted to take a view of the meadow grounds betwixt the Eele Riuer and the South Riuer, that there might be an equall diuision of them to eich man, and fynding the same by estimacon to amount vnto fiue hundred acres, or thereabouts, the Court doth order, that Mr Willm Brewster, Mr Steephen Hopkins, Mr John Done, and John Winslowe, for the towne of Plymouth, Edward Banges for the Eele Riuer, Mr John Browne for Joanes Riuer, and Jonathan Brewster and Edmond Chaundler for Ducksborrow, shalbe added to the Gounor and Assistants, to agree vpon an equall course for the diuision of them, and to depute some certaine psons afterwards to make the said diuision."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 67.

2 October 1637 : "Presentments, for Grand Inquest.

"Mr Stephen Hopkins, first psentment, (for suffering men to drink in his house vpon the Lords day, before the meeting be ended, and also vpon the Lords day, both before 7 after the meeting, servants & others to drink more then for ordinary refreshing) is respited vntill the next Court, that the testimony of John Barnes be had therein.

"Mr Steephen Hopkins, psented for suffering servants and others to sit drinkeing in his house, (contrary to the orders of this Court,) and to play at shouell board, & such like misdemeanors, is therefore fined fourty shillings."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 68.

2 October 1637 : "Georg Clark complaynes agst Edward Dotey in an action vpon the case for denying him liberty to hold land for the terme he had taken yt for, to the damage of xx li. The jury found for the pltiff, and assessed xx s damage, and the charges of the Court. Execucon granted.

"Georg Clarke complains agst Edward Dotey, in an action of assault and battery, (for striking the plt,) to the damage of v li. The jury found for the pltiff, and assessed xii d damage, and the charges of the Court. Execucon granted.

"The jury names were these : Mr Stephen Hopkins, Mr John Done, Josias Winslow... Henry Howland."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 7, p. 6-7.

13 November 1637 : "An exact Inventory of all the mooveable goods of Willm Palmr thelder taken the XIIIth of Novembr 1637 by Jonathan Brewster Edmond Chandler William Basset & John Willis ...

"A records of 2 notes of bils, given in by mr Prence, of Palmers debts

To mr Samuell Maverick 03:03: 3

to John Soutly 03:00:00

To mr Cradocks agente 01:03:02

to mr Hopkins 01:12: 0

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 3, p. 148-151.

4 February 1638 : "Concerning Mr Steephen Hopkins and Dorothy Temple, his servant, the Court doth order, with one consent, that in regard by her couenant of indenture shee hath yet aboute two yeares to serue him, that the said Mr Hopkins shall keepe her and her child, or puid shee may be kept with food and rayment during the said terme ; and if he refuse so to doe, that then the collony pruide for her, & Mr Hopkins to pay it..."

"Mr Steephen Hopkins is committed to ward for his contempt to the Court, and shall so remayne comitted vntill hee shall either receiue his servant Dorothy Temple, or else puid for her elsewhere at his owne charge during the terme shee hath yet to serue him ...

8 February 1638 : "The vijjt of Februar., 1638. Memorand : That whereas Dorothy Temple, a mayde servant dwelling with Mr Stephen Hopkins, was begotten with child in his service by Arthur Peach, who was executed for murther and robbery by the heigh way before the said child was borne, the said Steephen Hopkins hath concluded and agreed with Mr John Holmes, of Plymouth, for three pounds sterl., and other consideracons to him in hand payd, to discharge the said Steephen Hopkins and the colony of the said Dorothy Temple and her child foreuer ; and the said Dorothy is to serue all the residue to her tyme with the said John Holmes, according to her indenture."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 111-113.

5 June 1638 : "Presentments by the Grand Jury..."

"Mr Steephen Hopkins is psented for selling beere for ij d the quart, not worth j d a quart.

Witness, Kenelme Winslow.

"Item, for selling wine at such excessiue rates, to the opressing & impouishing of the colony.

Kenelme Winslow & John Winslow, witnesses."

Plymouth Colony records, Vol. 1, p. 86-87.

7 August 1638 : "Liberty is graunted to Mr Steephen Hopkins to erect a house at Mattacheese, and cutt hey there this yeare to winter his cattle, puided that it be not to wthdraw him from the towne of Plymouth."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 93.

4 September 1638 : "Fynes & Prsentments ...

"Mr Steephen Hopkins, vpon two psentmnts against him the last Court, and three psentmnts this Court, for selling wine, beere, strong waters, and nutmeggs at excessiue rates, is fyned."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 97.

3 December 1639 : "Mr Steephen Hopkins, vpon his psentment for selling a lookeing glasse for

16d, the like whereof was bought in the Bay for ix d is referred to further informacon.

"Mr Steephen Hopkins, for selling strong water without lycense, proued & confesed in Court, is fyned iij li."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 137.

1 June 1640 : "Mr John Done, Thomas Willett, Mr John reynor are graunted tenn of meddow a peece in the meddow by Joaned Riuer called , and Nathaniell Sowther a pcell of acres, Phineas Pratt fiue acres, Manasseh Kempton acrd, & Mr Hopkins ."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 154.

2 November 1640 : "These seull psons following are graunted meddowing in the North Meddow by Joanes River : To Mr John Done twelue acres. To Mr Thom Willet twelue acres. To John Reynor tenn acres, & a hundred acres of vpland there abouts. To Mr Charles Chancey tenn acres. To Mr Stephen Hopkins twelue acres. To Nathaniell Souther seauen acres. To Phineas Pratt six acres. To Mr Willm Paddy tenn acres."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 1, p. 166.

4 January 1641 : "The Contributors for building a Bark of 40 or 50 Tunn, estimated at the Charge of 200 li. William Paddy, i eight part. Mr. Willm Hanbury, i eight part ... Thomas Willet, i xvith part. Mr Hopkins, i xvith part. Edward Bangs, i xvith part."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 31.

7 December 1641 : "John Dunham, Junior, complns agst the same for v x in John Waits hands, &c."

"Stephen Hopkins for 12 li 10 s."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 7, p. 27.

5 April 1642 : "Jonathan Hatch, by the consent of the Court, is appoynted to dwell wth mr Steephen Hopkins, & the said Mr Hopkins to haue a speciall care of him."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 38.

7 November 1643 : "William Hanbury complns agst Abraham Pearse, in an action of trespas vpon the case, to the dam of x li. the jury fynd for the deffent, & the charges of the Court.

"Abraham Pearse complns agst Wm Hanbury, in an action of trespas, for xviii bushells of corne. The jury fynd for the plttiff xiv-teene bushells of Indian corne, & charges of the Court. Judgmt granted.

"Abraham Pearse complns agst Mr Wm Hanbury, in an action of assault & battery. the jury find for the plttiff iii s iiii d, and charges of the Court..."

"The Juries Names.

"Mr Stephen Hopkins, Xpofer Waddesworth, Josias Winslowe..."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 7, p. 35-36.

20 August 1644 : "Captaine Miles Standish & Mr Willm Bradford deposed to the last will & testament of Mr Steephen Hopkins, deceased. Caleb Hopkins, constituted executr thereof, exhibited an inventory all his goods & cattells vpon his oath."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 2, p. 75.

29 June 1652 : "The Court haue agreed with Captaine Standish about the house that was Mr Hopkinses, in which hee is to see that a convenient place bee made to keepe the common stocke of powder and shott, and the countrie to make vse thereof as they shall haue occation for the meetings of the comitties & juryes and oter such like vses; and it is to bee repaired att the countryes charge, provided, that when the owners doe make vse thereof, they are to make satisfaction for the repairing thereof."

Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. 3, p. 14.

Stephen Hopkins : His Death

Stephen Hopkins died between 6 June 1644, when his will was made, and 17 July 1644, when the inventory of his estate was taken. **For the text of his will and the inventory taken at the time of his death, click [HERE](#).**

William Bradford wrote in 1650 :

"And seeing it hath pleased Him to give me [William Bradford] to see thirty years completed since these beginnings, and that the great works of His providence are to be observed, I have thought it not unworthy my pains to take a view of the decreasings and increasings of these persons and such changes as hath passed over them and theirs in this thirty years...

"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 Barbadoes, 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 nad hath four children.

"His daughter Constanta is also married and hath twelve children, all of them living and one of them married."

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647,
ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York : Knopf, 1991), p. 443-445.

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