

# The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Inc.

*\*\*\*Dispatches from Downunder\*\*\**

March 2024 edition



The start of 2024 turned out to be a very busy period for the executive group of our Mayflower Society. Our Treasurer David, had negotiated our access to free copies of the Microsoft 365 suite of products, which is now being made available for not-for-profit Corporations in Australia and elsewhere in the world. One of the pluses was that we could move to teams for meetings, rather than a Zoom for which we were paying around \$300 a year. Also Zoom only gave us one member who could initiate meetings where teams allows anyone who has a Microsoft team's account to initiate online meetings.

As well as establishing our meeting processes we are attempting to build a cloud-based central repository of information on The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Inc. (AUSMD).



For our historian it provides a storage resource that is not likely to be exceeded for a very long time. And of course, it provides copies for all users of the online versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and other apps such as Trello, which is a planning tool now widely used by the BOA and many committees. All members of the BOA now have access, plus others such as the Historian, Assistant Historian, and other members of committees. For around eight weeks over the normal break, for summer, our executive members had weekly meetings to train and become familiar with this new software which is now thoroughly integrated throughout our operations.

While a lot of the last few months has been focused on reorganisation and documentation of our activities, we are hoping that in the coming months, there will be some opportunities for more general meetings and the use of a program called Pilgrim 101 which has been put together by the Mayflower societies of Oregon and Washington state's two educate us on our pilgrim ancestors. That had hoped to be available by now, but is now likely to be available from June. It will probably be run as a series of online meetings, once a month for an hour or so each time. All members will be able to access the information and presentation.

With the resignation of our Membership and Juniors Chair in early January, as well as his resignation from the BOA, please send membership inquiries to me as Governor or to the historian for new membership inquiries.

A milestone in our society may shortly be reached with our first Junior member applying for full membership in the society. Once her application is approved by Plymouth, we can celebrate the achievement. But we hope that there will be an ongoing feed of junior members into the AUSMD from now on and it will provide an important source of membership growth.

A great source of ideas and advice is our Member at Large (MAL) Beth Lambright, who lives in Oregon and is the immediate past Governor of that society. There are three members at large appointed to cover all 54 societies, and they are our link to the executive committee on which they also sit.

Beth is a real ideas person, and as well as being MAL, chairs the Education Committee for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. We are fortunate to have her taking an interest in our society in Australia and providing regular and energetic support.

**Bill Elliott - Governor & Deputy Governor General**





## Member profile

**Name:** David Baker

**Suburb / Town, State:** Townsville, Queensland

**Position held in AUSMD:** Board Member, Publicity Committee

**Approved Mayflower Ancestor/s:** John Billington

**Other Memberships:** General Society of Mayflower Descendants

**About:** I'm an Australian-Canadian historian currently living in Townsville, Queensland. I've lived in Australia for a total of 14 years. I write non-fiction books for Black Inc and edutainment videos for Youtube. I have a PhD and I spent nearly two decades teaching at Macquarie University, University of Amsterdam, and University of Calgary. I am a visiting lecturer at the University of Paris-Sorbonne. I wrote 25% of curriculum materials for the Bill Gates "Big History Project". I once gave a keynote address at the National Museum of Australia. I enjoy bushwalking, fishing, hunting, and overusing my barbeque. I have a little dog named Milo after the hot chocolate mix.

**Genealogy and my Mayflower Journey:** My paternal great-Aunt Sheila Baker researched our Mayflower connection to John Billington in the 1980s, and signed herself and her extended family up for the Mayflower Society. In 2020, she informed me about the newly established Australian Mayflower Society. I wrote them and was provided with excellent assistance navigating the paperwork in applying. I also wrote a profile of my ancestor, John Billington, for Youtube in 2022. At time of writing, it has been viewed 348,000 times.

If you would like to share your Member Profile please complete the template, located in the link below, and forward to [secretary@mayflowersociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@mayflowersociety.org.au).



## New England's Serial Colonialists

by Glenn S.K. Williams,

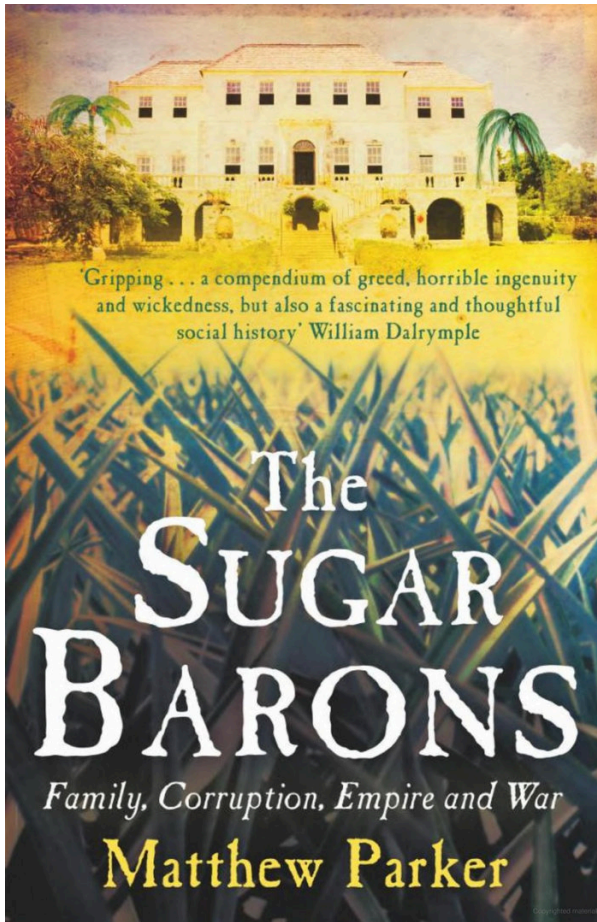
Member of AUSMD and Jamestowne Society

Before arriving in Plymouth on the Mayflower, Stephen Hopkins appeared to have a decent life outside London. Before boarding the Mayflower, he seemed to have accumulated some wealth. He arrived in Plymouth with a healthy family and men servants Edward Doty and Edward Leister (MF 6).

As many know, Hopkins' trip on the Mayflower was not his first visit to America. He was one of Jamestown's early settlers after shipwrecking in Bermuda and escaping capital punishment for mutiny. He arrived in Virginia a year late, in 1610, and remained there until 1614. While living in Virginia, he was an indentured servant. At the time, it was customary for indentured servants to work under a contract that, when completed, would entitle them to land.

Others can discuss why Hopkins boarded the Mayflower with his family to return to Virginia. The fact is that he did, and he became a founder of two successful English colonies in North America. Accordingly, confirmed descendants of Stephen Hopkins are entitled to join the Mayflower and Jamestowne societies.

It turns out that Hopkins was not the only serial colonialist among Mayflower passengers. Edward Winslow left Plymouth to join General Venable and Admiral Penn in the Caribbean (MF 25). Oliver Cromwell needed more colonies in the Caribbean region and sent General Venable and Admiral Penn to convert existing Spanish colonies to English control forcefully. They failed miserably in their first effort at controlling Hispaniola. They succeeded in Jamaica. But before their Jamaica success, Winslow died on one of Penn's ships of a tropical disease.



Matthew Parker, *The Sugar Barons: Family, Corruption, Empire and War* [London: Windmill Books, 2012], 90-1, 92, 96) offers details:

“The two military commanders also had to factor in the guidance of three civilian ‘commissioners’ who secretly reported to Cromwell on their performance and loyalty. One was Daniel Searle, the [English] Governor of Barbados; another was Edward Winslow, who had sailed on the *Mayflower* in 1620 and had been Governor of the Plymouth Colony and was now a highly trusted expert on colonial affairs.”

“Commissioner Winslow, his heart apparently broken by ‘the Disgrace of the Army on Hispaniola,’ sickened and died on 7 May. As he was ‘thrown overboard,’ the expedition lost the one man in the force with experience of setting up a new colony.”

Winslow was not alone. Parker also points out that William Vassell, a Massachusetts Bay Company founder member who had “been on the Winthrop fleet in 1630,” relocated from the Massachusetts colony to the Barbados colony to seek his fortune (p 37). After arrival, he engaged in the servant trade and subsequently “switched operations to dealing in slaves (p 57).

Governor John Winthrop of the Massachusetts Bay Colony expanded traditional colonialization methods to form a family dynasty. Before the Winthrop fleet arrived in Massachusetts, Henry, John Winthrop’s son, had already established himself as one of the first settlers of Barbados (p 17). His brother, “John the Younger,” founded Agawam, Saybrook, and New London colonies and subsequently became the governor of the Connecticut Colony. John Winthrop’s other son, Samuel, built plantations in Antiqua, St. Kitts, and Barbados (p.130).

We learn from Matthew Parker’s descriptions that there were early and frequent interactions between the older English colonies in the Caribbean and the Virginia and New England colonies. In fact, before 1700, thousands of families moved between the Caribbean and what became the United States and Canada. A motivation to move was the possibility of accumulating wealth, land ownership, and sustainability. Because if the head of a family was living in England and he was not the first son of a wealthy family or independently wealthy, there was almost no chance of his family enjoying a comfortable life. Even if land-owning families were living comfortable lives, they could lose everything in the event of war, which was ongoing during colonial times.

Having this knowledge as background may help in researching family lines. Consider the other English/British colonies when an ancestor appears out of nowhere.

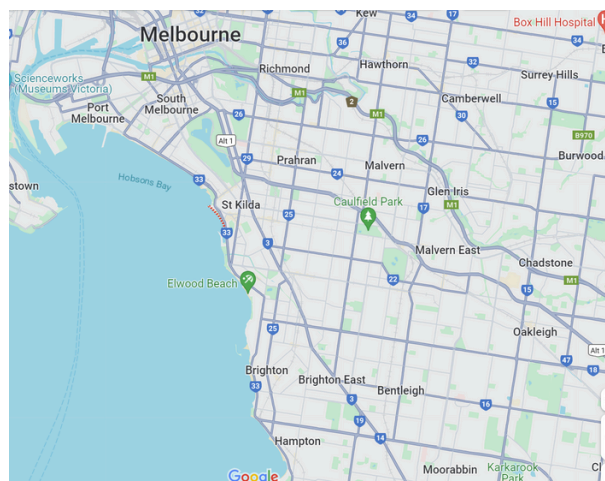
Also, consider that the ancestor may not have voluntarily landed in an English colony. Colonials like the Winthrop family sought forced labor from their fellow Englishmen. As Matthew Parker points out, servants were treated as enslaved people. Many died of starvation and disease. Others fled to other colonies, Virginia, New England, and elsewhere.

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October 2024 - AUSMD Annual AGM -  
will be held on 12 October 2024 in Melbourne,  
Australia with additional activities being planned  
before and after the AGM.

We are targeting holding the AGM in the  
Williamstown, St. Kilda, Elsternwick and  
Gardenvale areas of Melbourne.

More details on venue and exact locations will be  
advised shortly.





Recently our Member At Large (MAL) -  
Beth Lambright shared some previous  
newsletters from the  
Oregon Society of Mayflower Descendants.  
You might enjoy this one from  
March 2021 - 16 Mar 2021 - 400 years ago,  
the first meeting with Samoset.  
Click on the below link -

### **March 2021 Newsblast - Oregon Society of Mayflower Descendants**

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#### **Mayflower related Children's Book!**

There are many picture books that tell the story of the Pilgrims from their voyage on the Mayflower to their survival through the first year. The following list is provided by [The Juniors Committee](#) from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Books for early elementary students:

Sarah Morton's Day: A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Girl by Kate Waters

Samuel Eaton's Day: A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Boy by Kate Waters

Tapenaum's Day: A Wampanoag Indian Boy in Pilgrim Times by Kate Waters

On the Mayflower by Kate Waters

Three Young Pilgrims by Cheryl Harness

Giving Thanks - the 1621 Harvest Feast by Kate Waters

Thank you Sarah - The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving by Laurie Anderson

The Story of the First Thanksgiving by Elaine Raphael

The Thanksgiving Story by Alice Dalglish

Stories of the Pilgrims by Margaret Pumphrey

Pilgrim Voices: Our First Year in the New World by Connie and Peter Roop

John Billington, Friend of Squanto by Clyde Robert Bulla

Squanto, Friend of the White Man by Clyde Robert Bulla

Pilgrim Stories by Margaret Pumphrey (was once named Stories of the Pilgrims)

If I were a Pilgrim: Our First Thanksgiving by Liz Rich

The Story of the Pilgrims by Dover Publishing – A coloring book with period correct clothing and an accurate story of the Pilgrims through the voyage to the first feast with the Native Americans.

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## Juniors membership news

Don't forget to check out all the resources on our [AUSMD website](#) or through the [General Society of Mayflower Descendants](#)

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### Members celebrations this quarter

#### Birthdays

Hayden Granger - 1st January  
Glenn S.K. Williams - 3rd January  
Kylie Moore - 16th January  
Scott Granger - 17th January  
Bob Granger - 20th January  
Barry McGlinchy - 20th January  
Sean Newlin - 22nd January  
Yoko Bottlinger - 28th January  
A.J. Granger - 1st February  
Bev Granger - 12th February  
David Magee - 12th February  
James Bottlinger - 13th February  
Jane Schleinzer - 17th February  
Chris Elliott - 17th February  
Somwang Keeslar - 18th February  
Greg Thompson - 27th February  
Nami Bottlinger - 8th March  
Bill Elliott - 9th March  
Joan Joans - 10th March  
Marc Curyer - 11th March  
Pat Magee - 20th March  
Patrick Morgan - 30th March



#### Anniversaries

Jeanne and Colin Harrison  
Hayden and Matti Granger  
David and Pat Magee  
congratulations to all!





## Quarterly Membership Overview as at 31 March 2024

<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>58</b>		
Regular Members:	58	Australian Residents	34
Associate Members:	17	USA Residents:	21
Junior Members:	9	Overseas Residents:	3

Members by Family Groups			
Isaac Allerton	1	Priscilla Mullins	1
John Billington	2	Thomas Rogers	3
William Bradford	4	David Sampson	1
William Brewster	3	George Soule	9
James Chilton	2	Myles Standish	1
Edward Fuller	3	Richard Warren	10
Stephen Hopkins	3	William White	2
John Howland	13		

Welcome to New Members for 1st quarter 2024		
AU-072	Sean Newlin	January 2024
AU-J009	Kay Newlin	January 2024





The Australian Society of Mayflower  
Descendants, Inc.  
AUSMDGovernor@gmail.com  
<https://www.mayflowersociety.org.au/>

Proudly Affiliated with:

- Federation of Australian Historical Societies - <https://www.history.org.au/>
- History Queensland - <https://www.historyqueensland.org.au/>
- The Royal Historical Society of Queensland - <https://www.queenslandhistory.org/>

please check out their websites for information and news on upcoming events.

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