

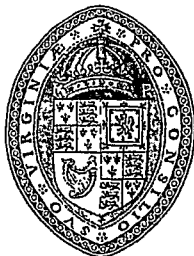
Adventurers
of Purse and Person
VIRGINIA
1607-1624/5

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HOPKINS

Stephen Hopkins, a passenger on the ill-fated *Seaventure*, flagship of a fleet of nine vessels which left England, 9 June 1609, for Virginia, was among the 150 persons cast ashore on the Somers Islands [Bermuda] following the shipwreck and marooned there for nine months. During the sojourn Hopkins undertook to persuade others that "it was no breach of honesty, conscience nor religion to decline from the obedience to the Governor since the authority ceased when the wracke was committed." His arguments prevailed little and he was placed under guard, brought before the company in manacles and the governor passed "the sentence of a Martial Court upon him and such as belongs to *mutiny* and rebellion. But so penitent he was and made so much moane ... that the whole company besought the Governor and never left him until we had got his pardon." This contemporary account of events is included in William Strachey's record of the voyage and the wreck of the *Seaventure*, which also noted that while Hopkins was very religious, he was contentious and defiant of authority and had enough learning to undertake to wrest leadership from others.¹

Although the possibility was suggested as early as 1768 and many have since assumed as fact that Stephen Hopkins of the *Seaventure* was the same Stephen Hopkins who subsequently sailed in 1620 aboard the *Mayflower* to Plymouth, Mass., only recently has the identification of Stephen Hopkins' residence before 1608 at Hursley, Hampshire, when considered in conjunction with circumstantial evidence, including the Plymouth Stephen's knowledge of native practices and his prominence in that colony's dealing with the Indians, made this identification most likely.²

There is no complete list of the shipwrecked party which eventually reached Jamestown in the two pinnaces *Patience* and *Deliverance*, built on the Islands. Hopkins did not, however, remain on the Somers Islands and the conclusion is

¹ "A True Reportory of the Wracke and Redemption of Sir Thomas Gates, Knight; Upon and from the Islands of the Bermudas; his Coming to Virginia and the Estate of the Colony Then and After under the Government of the Lord de la Warr," in Samuel Purchas, *Purchas His Pilgrimes* (Glasgow, 1906), XIX, pp. 1-41.

² Caleb Johnson, "The True Origin of Stephen¹ Hopkins of the *Mayflower* With Evidence of His Earlier Presence in Virginia," *The American Genealogist*, LXXIII, pp. 161-71. See also Ernest North Christensen, "The Probable Parentage of Stephen¹ Hopkins of the *Mayflower*," *The American Genealogist*, LXXIX, pp. 241-49, which identifies him as probably the Stephen, son of John and Elizabeth (Williams) Hopkins, who was baptized "last of April" 1581 at Upper Clatford, Hampshire.

that the recalcitrant came to Virginia despite his known wish to return to England. In view of his past disturbances the authorities could not have been loth to part with him and "it is reasonable to suppose that he was allowed to return to England on one of the first ships and thus passed out of the history of Virginia."³

³ *NEHGR* XXXIII, p. 303.