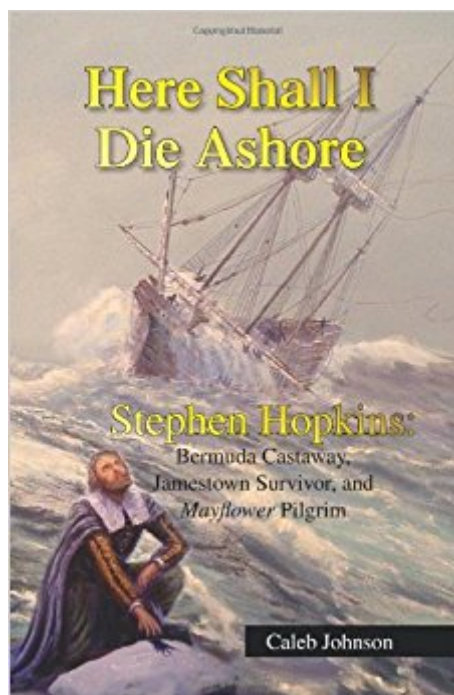




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Here Shall I Die Ashore: STEPHEN HOPKINS: Bermuda Castaway, Jamestown Survivor, And Mayflower Pilgrim.



Synopsis

In the spring of 1621, Plymouth Colony sent STEPHEN HOPKINS to make the first visit to Wampanoag sachem Massasoit to present a red horseman's coat as a gift and sign of friendship. For most ordinary Englishmen, venturing off into the depths of unexplored

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Customer Reviews

I loved this book! I read it because Stephen Hopkins is on my family tree. It's the most exhaustive collection of information about him that I've ever come across. I could have saved myself a lot of pointing and clicking if I'd just found this book first. Since I read the book, I've learned that "Here Shall I Die Ashore" is the go-to book for genealogists on this subject. There are several appendixes in the back that add to the knowledge of the reader. It's easy to read, not boring at all.

I enjoy history and am old enough to have benefited from school systems that actually included history in their curriculums. Caleb Johnson did a wonderful job wrapping the adventures of Stephen Hopkins in historical fact. I never actually thought of him as anything but one of the survivors of the Mayflower crossing. As it turns out he was shipwrecked in Bermuda a decade earlier, worked in Jamestown VA for 6 or 7 years before returning to England and ultimately signing on for the Mayflower expedition. Descriptions of the hardships endured by the Pilgrims, their interactions with the native populations and their struggle to establish a colony were riveting. The somewhat defiant nature of Stephen in spite of strict Pilgrim rules served to both amuse and amaze at the life of this adventurer. .

As a genealogist I was thrilled to find this is a detailed and very readable review of Johnson's landmark research, with detailed nods to the work of others who helped him, and complete citations from some relevant original sources as well. Very convincing research, including suggested areas for further pursuit. Thank you!

The definitive book on Stephen Hopkins. Mr. Johnson has actually done the research himself in Stephen Hopkins' home town, dispelling previous claims as to his parentage, marriages, etc. well written and enormously appreciated by descendants such as myself.

This is a very readable biography of Stephen Hopkins, one of the more interesting passengers on the Mayflower, but beyond that, it's an account of the earliest days of Plymouth Colony that would help even the most casual reader understand what really happened and what life was like for the Pilgrims. Despite its very casual style, it is quite thoroughly referenced to scholarly sources. It's a fresh, new look at something we all learned in school but probably don't remember..

Any one who is researching the events surrounding the Mayflower Pilgrims should definitely read this book. It has so much detail backed by extensive research. The story of Stephen Hopkins starts in England, where he left his wife and children in search of new land. After being shipwrecked and stranded for a period of time, the castaways were able to construct two small ships and leave the Island they were stranded on, and headed for their original destination. When they arrived in Jamestown they found complete disaster. After helping to do what he could in Jamestown, he returns to England only to find that his wife had died. This is just the beginning of his adventures. You must read to book to find out more!

I read this book as a part of a reading binge on Early American Settlements. So, much of Stephen Hopkins' life were familiar to me. Caleb Johnson adds some recently discovered and well documented aspects of Hopkin's origins in England. He fleshes out the character, but is almost too hesitant to draw inferences from the primary documents. Did Hopkins in fact keep a tavern or run a boarding house in England? However, I was repeatedly asking myself, "where was the editor?" My high school English teacher would have marked up this manuscript. I finally figured out that the book was self-published. That being said, I still found it to be a good read and would recommend it to those interested in Early American History.

I recently found through genealogy research that Stephen Hopkins is my husband's 8th great grandfather. Another family researcher told me that before Stephen's Mayflower voyage, he was aboard the Sea Venture on the way to Jamestown when it shipwrecked at Bermuda, but after 10 months he did make it to Jamestown. I wanted to learn more. While researching Stephen's name on the internet, I found this book about it all. I thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Johnson's book and appreciate his research. I also purchased his other book "The Mayflower & Her Passengers" then just had to have William Bradford's "Of Plymouth Plantation." Purchased them all at . All 3 are now full of my highlighting and research notes. I have a new appreciation for those at Jamestown and Plymouth Plantation. Can't wait to hear what the relatives say when I share before our Thanksgiving dinner that Squanto stayed in the Hopkins house. We always include a reading about the Pilgrims and Squanto. You don't have to be a descendent to enjoy these books, just a lover of history.

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