



Mayflower

# ATLANTIC CROSSINGS

ENGLAND ~ BERMUDA ~ JAMESTOWN ~ ENGLAND ~ PLYMOUTH



Sea Venture

## Grand Opening of Hopkins Blacksmith Shop

*This article was prepared with kind assistance from Brenda and Barry Oliver.*

Those in search of sites with historic links to the family of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins have a new place to visit in the town of Brewster, Massachusetts. Last May 1, as part of the "Brewster in Bloom" weekend, townsfolk gathered for a ceremony marking the restoration and relocation of a blacksmith shop built by descendents of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins and his son

Giles. PHHS member Brenda Oliver (whose mother Fran Shonio was featured in our June 2009 issue) and her uncle Leo Cummings led the dedication ceremony of the reopened shop originally built by Moses Hopkins Jr. and his son Henry in about 1867.

Photo by Barry Oliver



*The May 1 Grand Opening of the Hopkins blacksmith at the Drummer Boy Park in Brewster, Massachusetts drew a good crowd.*



Photo by Barry Oliver

*Hopkins descendents Brenda Oliver and Leo Cummings watch Peter Hirst demonstrate 19th century blacksmith techniques.*

In her speech, Brenda Oliver explained that once her great-grand father Henry Hopkins and his father Moses Jr. had built the blacksmith shop, they realized that the town also needed a wainwright, to make wagons and buggies. Henry used

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This family's line from Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins is: Stephen Hopkins<sup>1</sup>, Giles<sup>2</sup>, Stephen<sup>3</sup>, Samuel<sup>4</sup>, Moses<sup>5</sup>, Edward<sup>6</sup>, Moses<sup>7</sup>, Moses Jr.<sup>8</sup>, Henry<sup>9</sup>. From the time of Giles' son Stephen, the family has lived in what is now Brewster.

## Message from the Governor

On 10 September 2010 the Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society will be holding its annual meeting in San Diego, California. This meeting will be our first gathering on the West Coast. Hopefully members who live out West will take advantage of this opportunity to get together with their Hopkins cousins. Many members from other parts of the country will join us in San Diego as well as part of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants meeting taking place at the same location. Details about our meeting can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Looking ahead, in September 2011 the PHHS will be holding its triennial meeting in Plymouth, MA. At this time we will be electing new officers and members to the Board of Assistants. If you are interested in holding an office, don't hesitate to contact Ruth Freyer our Deputy Governor, [deputygovernor@pilgrimhopkins.com](mailto:deputygovernor@pilgrimhopkins.com). Don't be shy. We welcome new blood!

As usual, this latest issue of Atlantic Crossings has been posted on our website, [www.pilgrimhopkins.com](http://www.pilgrimhopkins.com). Now that the newsletter has dealt with Elizabeth, Damaris and Giles, future issues will look at the lives of the three remaining children of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins: Constance, Deborah and Caleb. We would also like to begin exploring the migration patterns of the Hopkins family around the country and beyond. Perhaps you could share with us the story of how your family moved away from

Massachusetts and ended up in Alaska, Montana or Georgia. What were the pushes and pulls behind those moves? Are there sites related to these migrant Hopkins that might be of interest to your Hopkins cousins?

In addition, we hope to follow up the story in this issue about Mercy Lavinia Warren (Bump) Stratton (wife of "Tom Thumb") with other stories about notable members of the Hopkins family. Do you have a notable ancestor who was a Hopkins descendant? Send us their story and we can share it with our very extended Hopkins family. Remember also that the newsletter is a place to note the birth, marriage and passing of Hopkins descendants.

Finally, at last count we have had 48,685 visits to the PHHS website. It seems there are plenty of people interested in the Pilgrim Hopkins family. If you have specific ideas on how we can reach our audience more effectively, please let us know. Even better, if you have some expertise in this area and a bit of time, we would very much welcome help in developing and maintaining the website.

Thank you all for participating in our joint Pilgrim Hopkins descendant adventure. I hope to see lots of familiar faces, and even more new ones, in San Diego. 

Sincerely,  
Susan B. W. Abanor, Governor PHHS

## Hopkins Blacksmith Shop

From Page 1

his blacksmith's skills to make the wagon and buggy parts needed. He had a steam driven lathe and a scroll saw made from a treadle sewing machine. "He was able to make the hubs and spokes for wheels and metal parts himself," Brenda noted. "His wife, Keziah, was a seamstress and did the upholstery and finish work. So together they were a team."

A man of many talents and great creativity, Henry had everything he needed to produce his different products on his own property. In addition to the blacksmith shop, he had harness and machine shops and a post-windmill that rotated 360 degrees to catch the wind and turned a wood lathe. He hoisted wagons and buggies up to the open second story of his wagon shop to make floor space using block and tackle pulleys he crafted in the blacksmith's shop, Brenda noted. He also made furniture, toys, weather vanes, fancy shelves and duck decoys, and owned and worked cranberry bogs. Brenda's uncle Leo has inherited his grandfather's talents, and is a renowned craftsman in his own right, making and selling miniature spinning windmills in the

neighboring town of Orleans.

At the Grand Opening, blacksmith Peter Hirst demonstrated techniques that might have been used by Moses Jr. and Henry Hopkins. The Hopkins Blacksmith Shop, which in 1973 moved from the Hopkins property on Long Pond Road to Brewster's now closed Fire and History Museum, was recently relocated to the Drummer Boy Park, on route 6A just west of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. There it can be visited by the public as part of the Brewster Historical Society's growing "historic village." 



Ribbon cutting of the restored and relocated blacksmith shop by Leo Cummings and Brenda Oliver, with Brenda's daughter Jen looking on.

Photo by Barry Oliver

## Glimpses of Giles, Part II by Judith Brister

*This is a continuation of the article begun in the previous issue (Vol. 3, Issue 2) about the eldest son of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins. Comments and/or additional information about Giles from readers are welcome.*

Giles Hopkins married Catherine Whelden on 9 October 1639, in Plymouth. He was 31 at the time. Catherine (also rendered Katherne and Catorne) was the eldest daughter of Gabriel Whelden and Jane (?), and she was baptized on 6 March 1616/17 at Leodegarius Church in Basford, England (Porter and Stramara 2009, 254).

Recent research suggests that Gabriel Whelden was a blacksmith as well as a miller. His wife was mentioned as one of two religious “sectarians” in Basford (i.e., a dissident from the Church of England), which may have prompted the Wheldens to migrate to New England. The family probably arrived in 1638 or 1639 (ship unknown), and settled first in Dedham, Mass.

It was from Dedham that Catherine wrote a letter to a Mr. John Shanvat of Nottingham on April 29, 1639 regarding the death by drowning of her younger sister Martha. Their mother Jane was alive in August 1637, but after 1639 Gabriel had married Margaret (?) (Porter and Stramara 2009, 253-261).

There is much intriguing speculation that Margaret was a Wampanoag princess (see Franklyn BeArce’s “From Out of the Past, Who Our Forefather Really Were”). This theory was challenged by Donald Lines Jacobus (see “The American Genealogist”, Vol XV, 1938-9). Alternatively, she may have been Margaret Matthews, daughter of Yarmouth’s first pastor, the Rev. Marmaduke Matthews.

In September 1638 Gabriel and Gregory Armstrong were the first two heads of household given permission to actually settle in Yarmouth “by the committee of the place.” Gabriel was a Surveyor of Highways in 1642 and 1647 (Swift 1884, 68). In 1648 he sold his property in Yarmouth to Edward Sturgis and left for Malden, Massachusetts, where he died in January 1653/54 (J.W. Hawes).

In November 1640 Giles and Catherine had their first child, Mary, probably named after Giles’ mother. Stephen followed in September of 1642. In 1643 John was born, but died at three months, followed by Abigail (b. Oct. 1644).

Charles F. Swift paints a remarkably rosy picture of the life led by Giles Hopkins and the other early Yarmouth settlers:

...they must have lived in the enjoyment of good health and rude comfort. The old fields at once yielded a crop of corn and vegetables. The coves



*Giles Hopkins' property in what is now Orleans, MA included Hopkins Island in Town Cove.*

Photo by Judith Brister

and ponds swarmed with fowl and fish, the shores were stocked with shell-fish, and the forests abounded with game. With an unfailing supply of food, and abundance of fuel close at hand, there could have been but little occasion for any privation of the necessaries of life...(Swift 1884, 24-25).

There is, of course, a flip side to this picture. As land passed into the control of early English migrants such as Giles Hopkins, the impact on the region’s environment was significant:

The English not only wrought demographic, political, and social changes among the Indians of southern New England, but altered the very environment on which the natives depended. The growing number of colonists cut deeply into the forests; trees were felled for fuel, shelter, and export, and an increasing amount of land was taken for farms. The cows and pigs not only destroyed Indian crops and shellfish beds, but also consumed foods needed by deer and other native herbivores hunted by the natives. Cattle also required much more land than food crops, multiplying the colonists’ demand for more territory. Plants and animals brought by the settlers crowded out native flora and fauna... (Mandell 1996, 13).

Continuing with the record trail, we catch an unusual glimpse of Giles, and of the mores of the times, from the *Diary* of Rev. Lothrop. This source asserts that in 1641 William Carsley, constable of Barnstable, was excommu-

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## Giles

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nicated from the congregation of Rev. John Lothrop for having made homosexual advances to Giles on three occasions (King 1994, 131).

On 7 March 1642, Giles Hopkins and Andrew Hallet, [Hallet] Jr. are listed as surveyors in Yarmouth (PCR, Vol.2, 53), and on 3 May 1642 Giles waged a successful suit against Walter Devell for the non-payment of a debt of nine bushels of corn. On the same date, the records indicate that Giles sold Andrew Hallet Jr. 10 acres of “upland” in Yarmouth (PCR Vol. 7, 29, 30). Giles was not included in the list of male residents of the town able to bear arms in 1643, mostly likely because he had moved to Barnstable by that time (Barnard 1975, 21).

Between 6 June and 17 July of 1644, a few months before his daughter Abigail’s birth, Giles lost his father. Although he was the oldest son, Giles was not the heir in his father’s will. The “heire apparent” was his younger brother Caleb, who with Myles Standish were executors of the will. Giles was, however, bequeathed his father’s “great bull which is now in the hands of Mrs Warren.” The bull’s value was no doubt considerable. Moreover, on 28 October, 1644, Caleb deeded Giles “of Yarmouth Planter” one hundred acres of the lands that Stephen Hopkins, as an “Old Comer or Purchaser” (see *Atlantic Crossings* Vol. 2, Issue 2), had left to Caleb. This land was in “Satuckquett,” now West Brewster (PCR, Vol. 12., 104).

Unlike Giles, Caleb was interested in the sea, not land, and he made Giles the beneficiary of his will when he went to sea shortly after their father’s death. Caleb died in or near Barbados between 1644 and 1651, leaving all of Stephen Hopkins’ lands and entitlements as a “Purchaser or Old Comer” to Giles. This was in addition to Giles’ and his sister Constance’s own entitlements. As

*Mayflower* passengers between the ages of 10 and 16, they received a half share of the joint stock company which had financed the Pilgrim’s voyage and settlement - each share having an initial par value of 10 pounds (Johnson 2007, 63).

### The final move to Eastham

In 1643 Plymouth Colony joined with the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Connecticut and New Haven in the United Colonies of New England. Shortly thereafter, sometime between 1644 and 1650, Giles and his family moved to Eastham. He and Catherine had six more children there: Deborah (b. June 1648), Caleb (b. Jan. 1650/51), Ruth (b. June 1653), Joshua (b. June 1657), William (b. Jan. 1660), and Elizabeth (b. Nov. 1664, d. one month later). He lived there, becoming a very large landholder, until his death in 1690 (see *Atlantic Crossings* Vol.2, issue 2, 8 for his will).

What took Giles from his comfortable situation in Yarmouth and Barnstable to Eastham? One important pull may have been the presence in Eastham, since the town’s founding, of his sister Constance and her husband Nicholas Snow. Unlike Sandwich, Barnstable and Yarmouth, Eastham was settled exclusively by families from Plymouth. Its establishment reflected a wrenching break away from the mother colony by a small group of determined Plymouth families, led by Thomas Prence. It occurred only after a lengthy period of consultations and difficult debate that began in 1640.

To have made this move Giles was probably as enthusiastic about the economic potential of this new Cape Cod frontier as were its determined founders. By 4 June 1650 he had settled in and been appointed a surveyor of the highways (PCR, Vol.2, 155). He was reappointed to this post in 1662 (PCR, Vol.4, 15) and in 1671 (PCR Vol. 5, 57-58).

Most of the other references to Giles in the records refer to land acquisitions. A useful summary of his extensive holdings has been provided by the historian Josiah Paine:

“...In 1672, with Jonathan Sparrow and Thomas Mayo of Eastham, he purchased Sampson’s Neck, in what is now Orleans, which the Indians called “Weesquamseutt.” It was a valuable tract. It embraced all the neck of land between Higgin’s river and pond on the north, and Potonumecot river on the south, including the pond that has the island in it. As a “purchaser or



Photo by Judith Brister

A stone placed by his descendants marks Giles Hopkins’ grave in Eastham’s Cove Burying Ground.

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## Notable Kin: The Tom Thumb Connection

**M**ercy Lavinia Warren Bump, (James Bump, Patience, Simeon, Newberry Morse, Elizabeth Doty, Elizabeth Cooke, Damaris, Stephen Hopkins) is one of many famous descendants of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins. She was born in Middleboro, Massachusetts, in 1842. At the age of 20 Lavinia married Mr. Charles Sherwood Stratton. The wedding took place on February 10, 1863, at the Grace Church in New York City. It was a major social event, and front page news. President Lincoln greeted the newlyweds at the White House shortly thereafter.

Lavinia's husband was an international celebrity, having toured Europe and performed twice before Queen Victoria. His stage name was General Tom Thumb, and he worked for the circus magnate P.T. Barnum. Lavinia was also hired by Barnum, to be exhibited at his museum. When he died from a stroke at age 45, Stratton measured 3 foot 4 inches. Lavinia Warren measured 32 inches tall. She died on November 25, 1919 at the age of 77 or 78. 



*Mercy Lavinia Warren Bump, a descendent of Stephen Hopkins, married Charles Sherwood Stratton ("Tom Thumb") at Grace Episcopal Church on February 10, 1863.*

## The Eight Lost Granddaughters of Stephen Hopkins by Susan Abanor

**F**inding lost women has been a challenge for genealogists, but now there is a new tool. MtDNA, mitochondrial DNA, connects mothers to daughters and granddaughters and so on all the way back to the beginning of time. If MtDNA is used in conjunction with verified documents it can help prove the lineage of some of the women who have been lost in history. Even if verified lineage is not available in the future it may still be possible to trace lost women with MtDNA alone.

Stephen Hopkins had 18 and possibly 20 granddaughters. Of these, there were eight whose stories are not known. Three of the eight missing granddaughters are thought to have married and had children, some of whom were daughters. For these three granddaughters, it may be possible to trace their lineage using a combination of MtDNA and documents.

Identifying these women starts with two proven lineages that trace back to the wives of Stephen Hopkins, Mary and Elizabeth, and the wife of Stephen's son Giles Hopkins, Catherine. Verifying these lines is an ongoing project of the Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society lineage and migration team. Once these lines have been verified, the researcher must locate a living female descendant. If the end of the line is a male whose mother had an MtDNA lineage that goes back to one of the two wives, this would also provide a source of MtDNA. The re-

searcher must now test the MtDNA of the living relative on the verified line.

Now it is necessary to trace the lineage of the women suspected to be the lost granddaughters of Stephen Hopkins. If there are any living descendants that might carry the MtDNA of one of the granddaughters, they must be tested to see if they are a match to the MtDNA of the verified lines of Mary (?) Hopkins, Elizabeth (Fisher?) Hopkins or Catherine (Wheldon) Hopkins.

The three lost granddaughters who could possibly be traced in this way are Constance, granddaughter of Mary (?) Hopkins and daughter of Constance (Hopkins) Snow, Ruth daughter of Catherine Wheldon, and Susannah, granddaughter of Elizabeth (Fisher?) Hopkins and daughter of Deborah (Hopkins) Ring.

In the case of Constance, granddaughter of Mary (?) Hopkins, she was presumed to be the wife of Daniel Doane. In order to prove this, a lineage from Daniel Doane and his wife Constance must be proven and a living descendant's MtDNA must be tested and compared against MtDNA taken from a verified line of her grandmother Mary. If there is a match, it can be proven that the Constance who was married to Daniel Doane was indeed the lost granddaughter of Stephen Hopkins and his wife Mary.

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## Giles

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old comer” he had rights in large tracts of land in the old township of Harwich. He owned tracts at Paomet, now Truro, and had acres of land in which is now Orleans. He seems to have taken pleasure in holding land for the wants of his descendants...” (Paine 1992, 5).

Details on the precise location of his house are provided by Orleans historian Ruth L. Barnard:

“The present Tonset Road was the lane to his home which sat two-thirds of the way up the incline. His boundary on the Main Street met the eastern bound of the Knowles property – about half way to the end of the Cove. The island in Town Cove is Hopkins Island and was in his grant” (Barnard 1975, 21).

It would seem that Giles spent the second half his life reaping the benefits of his ever-expanding landholdings, which he left to his male heirs. The two non-land related references to Giles in the records raise more questions than they answer.

The first involves a successful suit against William Leverich (also spelled “Leveridge”), for defamation on 3 October 1654. (PCR, Vol.7, 71-72). The nature of the defamation is not explained. There is little doubt that William Leveridge was the Reverend William Leveridge whom Sandwich pioneer Edmund Freeman had met, perhaps in Duxbury, and persuaded to join Freeman and others from the town of Saugus (now Lynn) to establish a settlement in Sandwich (King, 45). In October 1639 Leveridge was made responsible by the colony for the

admission of new settlers to Sandwich (King, 70), but by 1654 he had to resign his pastorate, “having lost both the moral and financial support of the town (King, 70,110). In the 1650s, Leveridge had begun to work as a missionary to Cape Indians, learning their language, and was compensated for these efforts by the Commissioners of the United Colonies (King 228-9). Indians traveled several miles to listen to his sermons, delivered in a wigwam in Sandwich. His difficulties with his white parishioners, however, and perhaps with Giles Hopkins, led him to move to Long Island in 1654, where he continued to work with Indians (King 1994, 227-8).

The second non-land related reference to Giles identifies him as one of the jury members who, on 1 January 1667, determined that a child of about six or seven, “... which was kept by John Smalley, Senir, of Eastham,” and who was found dead in the woods about six or seven miles from Smalley’s house, had strayed away, gotten lost, and was “killed by the cold.” (PCR Vol.4,177). There is an untold story here, clearly, beginning with what was meant by a child “kept” by Smalley.

These, then, are a few glimpses of Giles we have been able to compile. While not enough to make him come alive as a person, hopefully they shed some light on his involvement in the initial push by the English to make Cape Cod their own. 

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## Lost Granddaughters

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A second line that can be investigated is Ruth, daughter of Giles Hopkins and his wife Catherine Wheldon. Ruth Hopkins is thought to have married either Samuel Mayo, son of Nathaniel and Hannah (Prince) Mayo or Job Winslow, son of Kenelm and Eleanor Newton. There are several articles written about these possible marriages but still no real proof. Both of these men married a Ruth, so if the MtDNA can be found for both through the daughters and compared to a verified MtDNA line, then this mystery may be solved.

The third possible granddaughter that can be looked at is Susannah, daughter of Andrew and Deborah (Hopkins) Ring. Susannah is thought to have been the wife of William Walker, son of William and Sarah (Snow) Walker. Again there is no record of this marriage, but there are several daughters born to this couple that could be followed on the MtDNA line so that a comparison can be made.

This method of searching will become easier as people test the DNA of all their relatives and document it so that this information is shared by all. Then there will eventually be a DNA map that will connect most of the people to each other. This is now possible on the direct lines of the Y for the men and on the MtDNA for the women, but progress is being made and it may be possible to test the whole DNA and make matches in the future.

Having a policy of testing all known Hopkins descendants would be interesting and would perhaps show the common bond though our gene pool. If we could compare and find common genes, then we might have a better idea of what we all share through the Hopkins cousin connection.

You can join the research effort by volunteering for the lineage or the migration teams. Just contact the team leaders at:

[lineage@pilgrimhopkins.com](mailto:lineage@pilgrimhopkins.com)

[migration@pilgrimhopkins.com](mailto:migration@pilgrimhopkins.com)

Other teams to join can be found on the Contact Us page of our website:

[www.pilgrimhopkins.com](http://www.pilgrimhopkins.com) 

## The Hopkins House in Brewster



The newly reopened Hopkins Blacksmith Shop is not the only site in Brewster, Massachusetts whose origins can be traced back to direct descendents of Giles Hopkins. The Hopkins House, on the north side of 6A near Ellis Landing, is another live presence in town which could be visited by PHHS members or others interested in finding connections to Giles. The Hopkins House is no longer owned by the family, but operates as a bakery on summer weekends and is then open to the public.

The land where the house stands was no doubt part of the holdings originally owned by Caleb Hopkins and left to his brother Giles when he died, around 1650.

Giles never lived in what is now Brewster, but his son Stephen (1642-1718), who married Mary Merrick in 1667, in 1700 moved to Brewster (then Harwich). According to the Old King's Highway Regional Historic Committee, which drew its information from the Brewster Historical Commission, the land where the Hopkins House now stands passed from Stephen to his son Joseph (1688-1771), who in 1712 married Mary Mayo, daughter of John and Hannah (Freeman) Mayo, a descendent of Elder William Brewster. Joseph deeded the property to his son Prince or Prence Hopkins (1731-1800) in 1765. The above sources indicate that Prince and his wife Patience (Snow), a third cousin once removed, lived "in a little, single house...back of the house afterwards erected by their son, Dr. Nathaniel Hopkins." It is the house built by Nathaniel that is the Hopkins House one can see today on 6A (Main Street).

Dr. Hopkins, married to Anna Armstrong of Franklin, Connecticut, was a leader in the fledgling Baptist Church, and his house was the Baptists' first meeting place in Brewster. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Hopkins owned large tracts of land, and extensive salt works, and was part owner of a trade schooner. His son Samuel B. Hopkins, who according to the 1850's tax records owned 1800 feet of salt works and about 115 acres of land, inherited the house after his parents' deaths. In the mid-1900s the house was sold out of the family. 

### Giles

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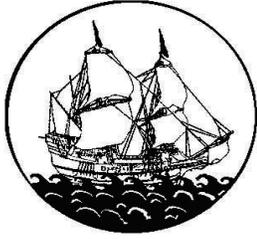
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### *In Memoriam*

Frances Shonio

January 31, 1925 — January 18, 2010



### Contact Us

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### Next Meeting

Friday, 10 September 2010  
Handlery Hotel  
950 Hotel Circle North  
San Diego, CA 92108  
7:00 - 10:00 PM

Anyone related or interested in the Pilgrim Hopkins family is invited.

Reservations are required by 27 August 2010. The dinner will be \$40.00 per person. There will be a sticker given out at the meeting for \$3.00 parking for the evening.

R.S.V.P. to [secretary@pilgrimhopkins.com](mailto:secretary@pilgrimhopkins.com) and send your check made out to PHHS to Corresponding Secretary, Kenneth Whittemore. (see address at right)

Please call hotel directly for your room reservation. There is a special room rate for the Mayflower Society.

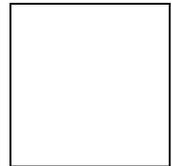
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