

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter  
Vol. 1, #1  
April 2003

This is the first issue of the Francis Cooke Society's newsletter, which we plan to expand to include more detailed information pertaining to Francis Cooke and his descendants, activities of the Society and contributions from members.

About the Francis Cooke Society (FCS):

The newly formed society was formed in 2003 when it came to the attention of several founding members that there was no existing group perpetuating his memory. In addition to honoring Francis Cooke's contributions to Plymouth Colony, we also plan to be a forum for members to exchange information and assist descendants of Francis Cooke in acquiring acceptable proofs of eligibility for membership in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Activities Underway:

Members of the FCS are in communication through an e-mail group at [Francis\\_Cooke\\_Society@yahoo.com](mailto:Francis_Cooke_Society@yahoo.com). We are currently working on:

- Developing Bylaws
- Publicizing the new society to attract members
- Designing a Web site
- Gathering information from members for the Web site, such as lineages and names of those willing to do look-ups in relevant books and CDs they own.
- Publishing a newsletter

If you can help with any of these areas or have some new ideas, please contact President Scott McKay at [scottsfamilytree@chartermi.net](mailto:scottsfamilytree@chartermi.net).

Mini-sketch on Francis Cooke:

Francis Cooke was a passenger on the Mayflower in 1620. He married Hester Mayhieu at Leiden, Holland 30 June 1603, the record describing him as a woolcomber, unmarried, from England (MD 8:48). He was probably born no earlier than 1583, as he was under 60 in 1643 when he was on the list of Men Able to Bear Arms at Plymouth, but not much later than that year if he married in 1603. He appears frequently in Plymouth records on juries, as a surveyor of highways, on various committees, and in a number of land transactions (see Bowman's "Francis Cooke and His Descendants, MD 3:95). He came to Plymouth with son John; his wife and children Jane and son Jacob arrived on the Anne in 1623. Two more children, Hester and Mary, were born at Plymouth. John married Sarah Warren, daughter of Mayflower passenger Richard Warren; Jane married Experience Mitchell; Hester married Richard Wright; Mary married John Thompson; Jacob married first Damaris Hopkins, daughter of Stephen of the Mayflower, and second Elizabeth

Lettice. (See Ralph Wood's "Silver Book" *Francis Cooke Family, Through Five Generations, Volume 12*). Francis died 7 April 1663 (PCR 8:23).

#### Genealogy Sources:

Some good sources for research on Francis Cooke and his descendants are:

Wood, Ralph V., *Francis Cooke Family, Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Volume 12*, Published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, MA, 1996.

Anderson, Robert Charles, *The Great Migration Begins, Immigrants to New England 1620-1633*, published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, MA, 1995.

Stratton, Eugene A., *Plymouth Colony It's History & People 1620-1691*, Ancestry Publishing, Salt Lake City, UT, 1986.

Susan Roser's books: *Mayflower Births and Deaths, Vol I and II; Mayflower Increasing; Mayflower Marriages; and Mayflower Deeds and Probates*.

Various issues of the *Mayflower Descendant* and *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*.

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