

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter

**April 2007
Vol. 5, No. 2**

About the Francis Cooke Society (FCS)

The FCS was formed in 2003 when it came to the attention of several founding members that there was no existing family society named in Pilgrim Francis Cooke's memory. In addition to honoring Francis Cooke's contributions to Plymouth Colony, FCS serves as a forum for members to exchange information and assists descendants of Francis Cooke in acquiring acceptable proofs of eligibility for membership in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

President's Message

In looking at the list of new members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan's spring publication, I noticed that 16 of the 33 new members listed were Cooke descendants. This got me to thinking that some of these cousins might be interested in our society. If any of you are active in your state societies, maybe you could mention us at a meeting. We have been listed in some of their publications, but that can't replace meeting someone and having a conversation. Let me know if you need any of our Francis Cooke Society pamphlets. Thanks!

We were saddened to hear that member Valeria Reckert recently lost her father. Val is a very important part of our society, helping others with their genealogical journey.

If you have any suggestions for our society or want to get more involved, please contact me or one of the others listed at the bottom of this newsletter.

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable spring!

J. Scott McKay, President
scottsfamilytree@aol.com

Google Digitized Books

By Christine Chirokas

Google book search has digitized copies available on-line of a vast amount of books that were published before 1922, which are not copyright-protected and therefore in the public domain. It's an ongoing project, so check frequently for books you are interested in viewing.

To conduct a search, go to <http://books.google.com/bkshp?ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en&tab=wp&q=> and enter the key words you are looking for. You can then conduct a search within a digitized book.

A search for Francis Cooke turned up a large number of results, including:

1. William Bradford's "History of Plymouth Plantation," 1908, C. Scribner's Sons.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=tYecOAN1cwwC&pg=PA1&dq=bradford%27s+plymouth+plantation>

2. “An Historical Memoir of the Colony of New Plymouth” by Francis Baylies. Volume 1 from 1620-1641. Published 1830 by Hilliard, Gray, Little and Wilkins.

http://books.google.com/books?vid=0IRTMx4RccdejODykFWkc3&id=_VzBFjuEKv0C&dq=francis+cooke

3. “Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers of the Colony of Plymouth, from 1602 to 1625,” by Alexander Young, 1841, CC Little and J. Brown.

This book discusses the involvement of French Walloons with the Separatists, mentioning “the wife of Francis Cooke, being a Walloon, holds communion with the Plymouth Church...”

http://books.google.com/books?vid=05lkXIW_HI9xvscFS9cQB5&id=VDSdy_t1pDMC&dq=francis+cooke

4. “Records of the Colony of New Plymouth, in New England,” by NB Shurtleff, published by W. White, 1856.

http://books.google.com/books?vid=0IRTMx4RccdejODykFWkc3&id=_VzBFjuEKv0C&dq=francis+cooke

5. “Ancient Landmarks of Plymouth” by William Thomas Davis, 1883, WH Mallory and Co.

<http://books.google.com/books?vid=0MyVpY-tnSHzxnA3lwAyCer&id=99xBsJjXfpcC&dq=plymouth+colony>

6. “History of the Pilgrims and Puritans: Their Ancestry and Descendants,” by Joseph Dillaway Sawyer, 1922, Century History Co.

<http://books.google.com/books?vid=0MyVpY-tnSHzxnA3lwAyCer&id=99xBsJjXfpcC&dq=plymouth+colony>

“Pilgrim Memorials, a Guide for Visitors to Plymouth Village,” by William Shaw Russell, 1851, CCP Moody.

http://books.google.com/books?id=DOxf0ikU_WAC&vid=0Zf4ni_oRWvN9ZGvzhW19d&dq=isaac+allerton&q=cooke

50th Anniversary of the Mayflower II

by Christine Chirokas

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Mayflower II's arrival in Plymouth. Many organizations in town are involved in the season-long schedule of activities to commemorate the occasion, including a re-enactment of the Mayflower's arrival on the shores of Plymouth, a 4th of July Parade, a waterfront festival in August, a film festival in July, and ongoing exhibits and lectures at the museums and historic homes in town.

To view the schedule of events, go to www.seeplymouth.com.

If you are interested in the 50th anniversary but cannot visit, you can view the Captain's Blog at <http://www.plimoth.org/captns-blog/index.php>. The blog gives a first-hand account of the goings on aboard the Mayflower II.

For those planning a trip to Plymouth this summer, Plimoth Plantation has a variety of interesting programs, including "Sleep in the 17th Century" where guests chose either a Wampanoag or English colonial experience to spend a night living as they did in the 17th century, even wearing reproduction clothing for the colonial experience. See www.plimoth.org for more information.

Membership Information

If you are interested in joining the Society (there is currently no fee charged) or you are a member who has not filled out the membership form, please contact Dianna Saario at dsaario@comcast.net.

The 6th and 7th generation project

One of our current projects is publishing a book with the 6th and 7th generations of Francis Cooke descendants, continuing where the GSMD Silver Book left off. Dianna Saario is managing this project and has received over 150 submissions from members who are kind enough to share their research with us. Dianna is hoping to reach 200 submissions before going to print, so if you want to have your line included please contact her soon.

Anyone with approved Mayflower Applications that connect to Francis Cooke are acceptable. Example: Stephen Hopkins' daughter Damaris and Jacob Cooke. A copy of the application with the connection is appreciated.

If you want your ancestors to be included, please contact Dianna at dsaario@comcast.net. She will gladly send you submission guidelines or answer any questions you may have about the project.

Contact Information

Members of the FCS are in communication through an e-mail group at **Francis_Cooke_Society@yahoogroups.com**. Please go to our website for instructions

on how to subscribe. This is our primary means of communication, so it is important to subscribe!

The FCS Website: <http://www.FrancisCookeSociety.org>

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Back issues of the FCS Newsletter are available for viewing at www.franciscookesociety.org.