

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter
Vol. 1, #2
July 2003

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 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.

Contact Information

Members of the FCS are in communication through an e-mail group at Francis_Cooke_Society@yahoo.com.

The FCS Website address is: <http://www.familytrail.com/franciscooke/>.

Acting president J. Scott McKay may be contacted by e-mail at Scottsfamilytree@aol.com or by mail at P.O. Box 1048, Leland, Michigan 49654.

Please Get Involved!

We know everyone is busy with many other interests and commitments, but if every member can help out in one area, it will go a long way in helping FCS move forward. Some opportunities for members to help are: publicity, newsletter publication, Yahoo discussion website moderator, act as the Cooke family historian, developing bylaws, investigate possibility of placing a memorial marker at Burial Hill in Plymouth, plan a FCS get-together to coincide with the Mayflower Society meeting at Plymouth in 2005, or search the Internet for Cooke lineages to recruit new members. Decisions also will need to be made concerning electing officers and directors and whether to charge a membership fee or conduct a fundraiser to pay for FCS expenses. Please contact Scott McKay if you can help.

Sub-committee Updates

Membership: The FCS currently has 61 members living all across the United States, from Massachusetts to California. If you are interested in joining, or need to supply your address and other vitals, please contact membership chair Judy Hughes at judyh@dnnet.net or 828-524-7740

Publicity: An announcement of the formation of the Francis Cooke Society was published in the June issues of *Mayflower Quarterly*, *New England Ancestors*, and *the Howland Quarterly*. If you have other publicity ideas please contact Chris Chirokas at Chirokas@tiac.net or 978-692-9699.

The Will and Inventory of Francis Cooke

Francis Cooke died 7 April 1663 at Plymouth and his will and inventory were recorded in the Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories, Volume II, Part II, folios 1 and 2.

[1] “The last Will and Testament of ffrancis Cooke of Plymouth late Deceased: exhibited before the Court held att Plymouth aforsaid the fift day of June 1663 on the oathes of mr John Aldin and mr John howland;

The Last Will and Testament of ffrancis Cooke made this seaventh of the tenth month 1659

I being att present weake and Infeirme in body yett in prfect memory throw mercy Doe comitt my soule unto god that gave it and my body to the earthe; which my will is should bee Intered in a Decent and comly manner;

As for such goods and lands as I stand possessed of I Doe will and bequeath as followeth;

1 My will is that hester my Dear and loveing wife shall have all my moveable goods and all my Cattle of all kinds; viz: neat Cattle horsekind sheep and swine to be att her Dispose

2 my will is that hester my wife shall have and Injoy my lands both upland and meddow lands which att present I possesse During her life

3 I Doe ordaine and appoint my Deare wife and my son John Cooke Joynt exequitors of this my said will

Witnes ffrancis Cooke

John Aldin

John howland

An Inventory of the estate of ffrancis Cooke Deceased taken and Aprised the first Day of May 1663 by Ephraim Tinkham and Willam Crow.”

The inventory consisted of household goods and furniture, farming equipment and animals, clothing, muskets and totaled 85 pounds, 2 shillings and one pence. After adjustments for debts owed by and due do the estate the total was 86 pounds 11 shillings and 1 pence. It did not include real estate. The inventory “was exhibited before the Court held att Plymouth the fift of June 1663 and Attested unto Upon oath by hester Cooke widow.”

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