

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter
Vol. 2, #3
July 2004

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 named in 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: www.FrancisCookeSociety.org

President: J. Scott McKay, scottsfamilytree@aol.com

Membership Chair: Judy Hughes, judyh@dnet.net

Secretary and Genealogy Coordinator: Valeria Reckert, LadyGenes@comcast.net

Cooke Historian: Richard Worthington, rlworthi@wisc.edu

Publicity Coordinator and Newsletter Editor: Christine Chirokas, chirokas@tiac.net

President's Corner, J. Scott McKay

Dear Members: I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer and finding some time for genealogy. My house here in Michigan is on the market and I may be moving to Florida, so things will be busy for me the next few months. I'll continue to work on creating new ideas, organizing people's ideas, and moderating the Cooke Yahoo e-mail list, as time allows.

Member Ginny Core is taking on compiling information on the famous descendants of Francis Cooke. If anyone has information they would like to share with Ginny, please contact her at vcore@tctwest.net or 500 8th Ave N, Greybull, WY 82426.

If anyone can administer the Francis Cooke 6th and 7th generation of descendants project, please contact me. Please don't send any lineages to me at this time, as they are likely to get lost in the shuffle of my upcoming move.

Since we do not charge a membership fee, we are funding the monthly fee (\$5.95) for the Francis Cooke website through member donations. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know.

Sincerely, Scott McKay

Scott may be contacted by e-mail at scottsfamilytree@aol.com or by mail at P.O. Box 1048, Leland, Michigan 49654.

Committee Updates

Charter and Bylaws: We are very fortunate to have member Michael Cook at work on developing a charter and bylaws for our organization. We will keep members informed on the status of this endeavor and resulting activities, such as election of officers.

Membership: Judy Hughes is compiling membership information that includes e-mail and snail mail addresses. If you have not given this information to Judy, or are interested in joining, please contact her at judyh@dnet.net or 295 Young Cove Road, Franklin, NC 28734, and she will send you a brief membership form.

Publicity: If you have ideas on how to spread the news about FCS, please contact Chris at Chirokas@tiac.net.

Society Library: What you need to know about the Francis Cooke Society Library and how to make it work for you. We have quite a few resources at our disposal. These books and CDs are privately owned by members of the Society. At the library link on the FCS website, each person has listed what they have in their personal library. If you see something you would like a lookup in, please e-mail that person and put in the subject line what book, CD, etc. you would like them to reference and in the body of the text what you are looking for. Please make sure that you cc, LadyGenes@comcast.net, on the e-mail as we are trying to keep track of requests. If it is a look-up referring to a possible Francis Cooke line, please e-mail me the line. Since Judy Hughes and I are trying to keep track of the files on the different lines, this will allow us to easily cross-reference lines.

When you submit a request for a line search to Francis Cooke, please be aware that we get several requests a day and you may not get an immediate response. Please also put in your request: the line as you have it, especially the dates and places and add your questions next to what you want done. If you do not put in dates and places it makes it VERY hard for us to help. Please also include BOTH spouses' names and use the maiden names for the females, when known. If you submit just a partial line with no dates and no places we can not know what time period to start looking in, so these types of requests will be rejected. So please make sure that your whole line is submitted with dates and places.

We do not charge for this service. Everything is done by volunteers and at our pace. Please remember we do have other things going on in our lives and sometimes it takes a day or two to get back to you. We will do our very best to assist you in any way we can. We will also do look-ups for any family that was located in the New England area.

I look forward to serving you and helping you find your line back to Francis Cooke.

Sincerely,

Valeria Reckert

Head of the Francis Cooke Library

LadyGenes@comcast.net

or

Snail mail requests to:

Valeria Reckert

11613 Glenn Abbey Lane

Indianapolis, IN 46235-9717

Society Minister

Richard Worthington, our group Historian, will also act as our society Minister. He is ordained by Saint Luke Evangelical Christian Ministries, and he plans to serve the society in two ways, i.e.

1st, by providing words of comfort and support to members who are suffering illness, loss, or emotional distress, and to encourage members who have had similar afflictions to share their experiences with those members who are currently troubled.

2nd, to share with members, through the newsletter, the ideas and events that helped form the church of the pilgrims, and how their church evolved over time.

You can contact Rich directly at rlworthi@wisc.edu

He is usually in his office Tuesday through Thursday.

Summertime Reading Recommendations, from Richard Worthington

These are some of my favorites:

1. *Mourt's Relation* (A Relation or Journal of the Proceedings of the Plantation settled at Plymouth in New England). 1622 account of the Pilgrim's first year. Great reading...read it to your kids. Online at <http://members.aol.com/calebj/mourt.html> or Amazon, \$9.95 (<http://www.mayflowerhistory.com/BooksGifts/booksgifts.php>)

2. *Saints and Strangers* by George F. Willison, 1945 . Out of print but not hard to find used. This is a very complete record of the Pilgrims, from William Brewster's early life in England to the end of the Plymouth Colony. Extensive information about the Pilgrim's stay in Holland and the evolution of their church. Includes passenger lists, biographies, etc. A "must have."

3. *Of Plymouth Plantation* by William Bradford. A bit long but still a good read (especially after reading *Saints and Strangers*). This is "THE" book about the Plymouth Colony, but contains a lot of accounting information, etc. which I find a bit dull. <http://www.mayflowerhistory.com/BooksGifts/booksgifts.php>

4. *Good News From New England*. A sequel to #1. Get it online from <http://www.mayflowerhistory.com/PrimarySources/primarysources.php>

5. *Mayflower Families through Five Generations, Volume 12: Francis Cooke of the Mayflower: The First Five Generations* by Ralph V. Wood. The Mayflower Society genealogy of Francis Cooke. This is the only secondary source of genealogical information you can rely on.

Check out all of the online texts at MayflowerHistory.com
<http://www.mayflowerhistory.com/PrimarySources/primarysources.php>

Now, get reading!

Website Recommendations, from Chris Chirokas

Ray Brown's New England History, <http://www.rays-place.com>. An interesting and extensive website loaded with information for the New England researcher, with a focus on Connecticut and Massachusetts. Includes some histories of New England states, various biographical sketches and cemetery listing including some from Barnstable County, some census listings and vital records, and more.

Barnstable County Libraries and Bookstores, http://www.rootsweb.com/~mabarnst/Barnstab_Libraries.htm, lists many local libraries and bookstores on the Cape, offering a great resource for those going on researching trips.

Plymouth County US GenWeb site, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~maplymou/>. Hosted by Susan Taylor and Dale Cook, it is a must-see for Plymouth County researchers. Includes information on town histories, genealogies, various records, a query page, maps and links.

Newsletter editor: Christine Chirokas, Chirokas@tiac.net