

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter

July 2006

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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 Corner

Dear Members:

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the summer months.

Nathaniel Philbrick's new book, "Mayflower," mentions Francis Cooke's grandson Caleb for his involvement in King Philip's War. Please don't miss the article on the book in this newsletter.

We at FCS enjoy keeping track of famous descendants of Francis Cooke. It recently came to my attention that the actor Richard Gere is a cousin. We have a list of Famous Descendants on our website that is a work in progress. If you have others to add, please contact me.

We are very fortunate to have Dianna Saario as a member of FCS. In addition to serving as interim membership chair, she is compiling information for the 6th and 7th generation project, which will eventually result in a published book. If you have not submitted your ancestral line(s) to Dianna, please consider doing so.

Thought this was good for a chuckle on a hot summer day:

Why Did Pilgrims' Pants Always Fall Down?
Because They Wore Their Belt Buckle On Their Hat.

Sincerely,
Scott McKay, scottsfamilytree@aol.com

Website Spotlight

Submitted Christine Chirokas

If you are unable to go to Plymouth and visit Pilgrim Hall Museum in person, they have a website with photos of some things in their collection. One part of the website I found interesting is the description of arms and armor with accompanying photos.

<http://www.pilgrimhall.org/ArmsIntro.htm>

Book Spotlight

By Christine Chirokas

"Mayflower A Story of Courage, Community, and War," by Nathaniel Philbrick, c. 2006. Philbrick is well-known for his previous award winning work "In the Heart of the Sea," which tells the compelling story of the Nantucket whale ship Essex.

Philbrick's book on the Mayflower has drawn some criticism as having a misleading title as the voyage of the Mayflower voyage is not covered in-depth. Much of the book covers the relationship of the Pilgrims with the local Native American tribes, specifically King Philip's War.

Personally, I found the book a good read, although it did not provide much by way of new information for me. Our Francis Cooke (which Philbrick spells Cook) is only mentioned for an event when he was working in the woods with Miles Standish when an alarm was sounded that Natives were in the area. They dropped their tools and when they returned the tools were gone. On another page he is mentioned as one of just four families that were untouched by disease or death that first winter.

The book includes more information on Francis' grandson Caleb, who had an active part in King Philip's War. It is said that Caleb, age 25 at the time, had the opportunity to kill King Philip but that his gun would not fire. A Pocasset named Alderman then fatally shot Philip aka Metacom.

To read an excerpt from the book:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/30/AR2006033001548.html>

Some reviews of the book:

http://www.boston.com/ae/books/articles/2006/05/16/author_seeks_balance_in_pilgrims_story/

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/04/books/review/04shorto.html?ex=1307073600&en=3ff4700633a5d05c&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

http://www.capecodonline.com/cctimes/edits/cctblogs/ss/archives/2006/05/philbricks_mayf.htm

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12555219/site/newsweek/>

A Cooke Detective Story

By Donna Potter Phillips of Spokane, Washington

I first ambled up to this large white tombstone in Fairmount Cemetery in the 1980s when I would "escape life" and go walking in that beautiful cemetery to recapture perspective on things. Being a Mayflower descendant myself, through Gov. William Bradford, I felt a real interest in this particular tombstone.

Charles Orren Hook
Nov. 19, 1883 – Jan 5, 1903
In the 10th Generation
From Francis Cooke of
The Mayflower 1620

In early 2006, I took on the pleasant task to ferret out Charles Orren Hook's story. How did he come to be buried in Spokane, Washington?

At the Fairmount Memorial Park Association office, I learned that Charles was buried in Lot 75, Section C, Block 4. While there were other Hook burials in that cemetery, none were close to him. The record stated that he had lived at 1020 Indiana Avenue and that he died of pneumonia. Smith Funeral Home took care of the arrangements.

The Spokane Public Library, Genealogy Section, has the index to the Smith Funeral Home Records and I did find Charles Orren Hook's record. He was age 19, died on 5 Jan 1903, and was buried in Fairmount Cemetery. The informant was Amos DESLEK of Rossland, British Columbia.

Turning to the Internet, I clicked to the Washington State Digital Archives and the online death records. There I found Charles Orren Hook's death certificate. He died at age 19; he was a candy maker; he was

born 5 Jan 1903 in Pennsylvania; he was the son of Moses Hook and Josephine Arthur, both of Pennsylvania. He died of “double lobar pneumonia and cynaosis” after an illness of nine days. Bringing up FamilySearch.org and the 1880 U.S. Federal Census, I found this household in Corydon, Warren County, Pennsylvania:

Brison ARTHUR, head, age 55, b. PA
Josephine ARTHUR, dau, age 23, b. PA
Rebaro ARTHUR, son, age 14, b. PA
Fred ARTHUR, son, age 11, b. PA
Margaret SNYDER, sister, age 58, b. PA
Moses HOOK, other, age 27, b. PA, laborer

Looked pretty obvious to me that Moses Hook was a boarder or lodger in the Arthur home, where he met and then married the daughter, Josephine Arthur.

Looking for the Hook family in the 1900 U.S. Federal Census, I found only the children of Moses and Josephine listed on 4 Jan 1900 in a home in Delaware Precinct, Spokane, Spokane County, Washington:

Clyde A. HOOK, b. Nov 1881, age 18, b. PA fa/mo b. PA
Charles O. HOOK, b. Nov 1883, age 16, b. PA fa/mo b. PA
Ruby E. HOOK, b. Apr 1887, age 13, b. PA fa/mo b. PA

The children were enumerated in the household of Almond and Sophronia Fletcher.

The 1903 Spokane City Directory lists Clyde A. Hook as a sign painter, boarding at 1020 Indiana Avenue. (Brother Charles Orren had died in January of that year.)

Turning again to the Internet, and clicking to Ancestry.com, I found a listing for this family:

Moses Latimer HOOK, b. 7 Jun 1853, Warren, Warren County, PA
d. 22 Aug 1887, Glade, Warren County, PA
m. 6 Mar 1881 in Kinzua, Warren County, PA to
Josephine Hall ARTHUR, b. 6 Jan 1856 in Corydon, Warren County, PA
d. 7 Dec 1923 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
1. Clyde Arthur HOOK, b. 24 Nov 1881 in Glade, Warren County, PA
2. Charles Orren HOOK, b. 19 Nov 1883 in ditto.
3. Opal Phebe HOOK, b. 28 Apr 1887 in ditto.
4. Ruby Electa HOOK, b. 28 Apr 1887 in ditto.

Clyde Authur HOOK died 8 Apr 1949 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He married 24 Dec 1904 in Spokane, Spokane County, WA to Iva Grace POORE, who was born 27 Mar 1882 in Sheridan, MT.

Opal Phebe HOOK m. Amedee Amos DESILETS. He was born 28 Aug 1861 in Canada, and died 5 Dec 1925 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. (Remember the informant on Charles Orren’s funeral home record: Amos DESLEK.)

Ruby Electa HOOK, died 15 Nov 1918 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She married 23 Nov 1905 in Edmonton to Grant Angus McALPINE, born 8 Jan 1874 in Prescott, Ontario, Canada, and died 14 Nov 1929 in Edmonton.

Wondering about the truth of the “Mayflower” claim, I contacted Dianna Saario of the Francis Cooke Society (June 2006). She gave me Charles Orren Hook’s lineage:

1. Francis COOKE m. Hester MAHIEU.
2. Mary COOKE m. John TOMSON/THOMPSON
3. Mary TOMSON m. Thomas TABER
4. Joseph TABER m. Elizabeth SPOONER
5. Sarah TABER m. Preserved MERRIHEW
6. Amos MERRIHEW m. Elizabeth SPOONER
7. John MERRIHEW m. Phoebe WRIGHT

8. Electa Ann WRIGHT m. Brison G. ARTHUR
9. Josephine Hall ARTHUR m. Moses HOOK
10. Charles Orren HOOK.

Would like to, could perhaps, learn where parents Moses and Josephine died. I would guess it was before 1900 when at least three of their children show up in Spokane boarding with the Fletcher family, but without Ruby's twin sister, Opal. Where was she? Checking the British Columbia online death index, I did not find any of these people listed.

The young Hook brothers, Clyde and Charles, had come to Spokane with at least one sister, Ruby, perhaps on the train from Pennsylvania. Clyde became a sign painter while Charles became a candy maker. After Charles died of pneumonia, it appears as if his siblings migrated north to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

But the claim on his tombstone of being "In the 10th generation from Francis Cooke of the Mayflower 1620" was correct.

Membership Information

If you are interested in joining the Society (there is currently no fee charged) or 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 the goals of FCS is to compile and publish 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 139 submissions from members who are kind enough to share their research with us.

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>

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

Interim Membership Chair and head of the 6th and 7th Generations Project: Dianna Saario, dsaario@comcast.net

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