

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter

MARCH 2010

Vol. 8, No. 1

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 Cousins and Fellow Francis Cooke Society Members:

As reported in the last 2009 newsletter we are in the process of making improvements to our Francis Cooke Mayflower Family Society organization and we want to have your input. A final plan for reorganization is still under review.

If you have suggestions for any changes you want considered, please E-mail them to the following: Scott McKay <scottsfamilytree@aol.com> ; Judd Taylor<TranFarms@aol.com> ; Jeff Northrup <jeff.northrup@comcast.net> or Dianna Saario <dsaario@comcast.net> or simply post your comments on our Yahoo! Discussion Group. Information on this site is listed below.

Sincerely,
J. Scott McKay, President
1298 SW 15th Street
Boca Raton, Florida 33486

Website Spotlight

Please note that your need to right click the links listed below then click open hyperlink to open each one listed.

Has anyone participated in a Cooke DNA project? If so would you let Judd Taylor know about that DNA experience. I would like to know & I hope you would be willing to share your knowledge with your cousins.

As reported in December 2009, Bill (Howard) & Sandra Ihrig of The Dalles, OR; were trying to locate a male Cooke descendant from Frances Cooke who would be willing to share his DNA markers to their research. The cost of the DNA test would be at their expense. Both individuals are members of the Mayflower Society. Dianna reported that the interested parties got together. I hope Bill & Sandra will let us know about your experience and the results. Just E-mail Judd Taylor-<TranFarms@aol.com> .

The results of this DNA test could be beneficial in building a Frances Cooke DNA data base to prove which Francis Cooke came on the Mayflower ship in 1620. The Y chromosome of a male is handed down from father to son, unchanged, from generation to generation.

Bill and Sandra were actively trying to find a male Cook who directly descends from Frances Cooke to obtain a sample of his DNA. Then they can compare the DNA Y chromosome sequence of a proved direct Cooke ancestor against the DNA sequence of the direct male descendant of others who are trying to prove descent from Frances Cooke.

I recently watched a History Channel program titled "Unwrapping King Tut". In the program, 3,500 year old (approximately) DNA from King Tut was used to identify his ancestors & even his still born children that had been buried in his tomb.

Our help in the Francis Cooke DNA data base has the potential to be of tremendous help to all. New types of DNA tests used in the King Tut documentary were also able to identify the causes of his death & other health conditions that he and his ancestors had in common.

Additional information can be found at these web sites:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/photo51/> &

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/sci_tech/2000/human_genome/timeline/default.stm

NOTE:

I do not understand DNA testing but I am fascinated by the potential and applaud GSMD for recognizing this method as a legitimate proof of direct descend from one of the Mayflower passengers. Please note that the unsung discovery of DNA is **Rosalind Elsie Franklin**

see <http://www.sdsc.edu/ScienceWomen/franklin.html> & other sites that detail the life of this extraordinary person who happen to have female DNA building blocks.

From The Trunk
By Judd Taylor

As mentioned above the Francis Cooke Society is experiencing change. Change is invariable and can be very positive, if properly handled.

We have enjoyed a free ride, so to speak, in that we have never asked for or collected dues to use in paying for such basic things as the domain name, this web site and it's maintenance. Scott McKay has paid these costs from his personal funds. We need to raise money in 2010 to pay for these services.

How do we do this? How do we modify our organization so that we become self-supporting? These questions plus how we choose officers and how do we fill the offices that are now vacant?

The results of the poll conducted by Jeff Northrup showed that those that responded wanted membership dues. See Jeff's report below.

Please keep in mind Francis Cooke descendants, we are descended from a special group of people that stayed one step ahead of the civil & state church officials of their English Queen & King. Many moved to Holland and then back to the land and culture they loved so they could set sail to the place they named Plymouth after the port city they sailed from to the new land they named the New England.

God Willing, we, the descendants of Francis and Hester (Mahieu) Cooke and other Mayflower families, will survive as a Mayflower family society beyond 2010. You, of the Francis Cooke Society, can make our society a reality for many years to come.

I continue to write family stories as did Chris Chirokas did in the 2008 Holiday Season for her family; I hope you will start or continue this practice. When we are no longer in the earth who will pass on these stories to our children's children?

Why should we care that the memory of our Mayflower and patriot ancestors be remembered? Because it is the same reasons I am working with fifth graders in doing the Americanism Poster contest for our Sons of the American Revolution Society. We do this by perpetuating the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy and triumph of the men and women who worked to establish this country in New England & in the original colonies. These stories are universal ones of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, and I hope the knowledge of each will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation in your family and mine. Our families may be called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefields and in our public institutions.

Let us be prepared; I pray for Peace on Earth and Good Will for all mankind,

Judd

Special Poll Results:

The results of the Yahoo! Group poll regarding dues are in and it looks like the vast majority of those who voted approved of a dues structure for the Francis Cooke Society.

Here are the results:

38 votes were cast on line (it was possible to vote for more than one choice). We also had two votes cast outside of the poll (sent to Jeff by email). Only three people rejected the idea of dues altogether.

By far the most popular choice (18 votes) was a \$10 a year dues structure. Seven people voted for a \$5 annual amount. Thus, 25 members voted in favor of paying dues with only three opposed.

The possibility that there would be annual dues with a life membership option received

13 votes, almost all of them a second vote from those who voted either for the \$10 or the \$5 option,

Annual expenses for the operation of the website alone run nearly \$150 (web hosting plus domain name registration). If we are to continue building our library, which is needed for the research we do to help members and others with establishing their family lines, additional funds must be collected.

As a result of an appeal for donations earlier, this year's bill for the domain name registration (nearly \$35) was paid by one member, and other members have sent in \$60 in checks. We also received \$9 from the New London Librarian, representing a \$3 per book commission on sales of the Thanksgiving book. We do have a \$200 bill outstanding for two years' worth of web hosting (2009 and 2010). An additional \$75 would get us 2011 at a discounted rate.

One last chance to make your desires known. Email Jeff Northrup Treasurer address listed below

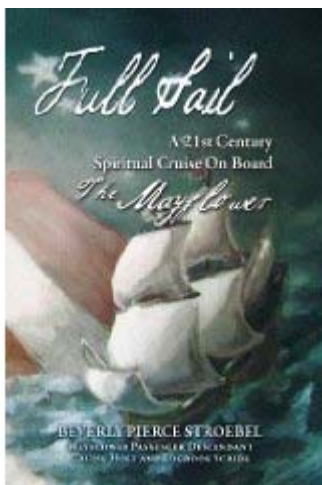
Jeffrey Northrup' <northrup@comcast.net>.

The officers of the Society will now consider the results of the poll and, shortly, announce our proposal for funding and reorganizing the Society's operation. We need your \$10.00 dues now!

Book Review

Beverly Pierce Strobel's *Full Sail* is a great book we have mentioned before. Please keep her book in mind for your book purchases this year.

Go to her web site: <http://www.vmipublishers.com/servlet/ProductView?command=cp&supplierID=485&commodityID=40052>



Full Sail: A 21st Century Spiritual Cruise On Board the Mayflower

Beverly Strobel is a member of our F C Society

Mayflower Quarterly * Diamond Jubilee Edition

During the past 75 years the General Society has issued a quarterly newsletter starting with four pages in 1935 and now a magazine with a 100 pages. The editors have been responsible for providing information four times a year to the general membership of the activities of the Mayflower Society with interesting historical and genealogical data. To celebrate these achievements, the Mayflower Quarterly has compiled the best of the MQ articles, many of which our current members have never seen, and put them in a book.

It is a hard cover book 8 1/2 " x 11" with 288 pages with 16 pages in color. The book sells for \$50.00 plus \$12.00 shipping.

Make check payable to GSMD and mail to GSMD- Jubilee; PO Box 3294, Plymouth, MA 02361

Research Methods & Procedures For Mayflower Applications

Cousins: Here are a few notes & sites you may want to review.

http://genealogy.about.com/cs/free_genealogy/a/free_sites.htm

Middleboro Public Library is home to the Sylvia Trust Genealogy and Cranberry Collections

<http://www.midlib.org/>

Google books has complete copies of many vital records and New England & other town history information.

<http://books.google.com/>

A lot of this Google books information can be downloaded to a CD or a computer. Check out these web sites for your genealogical research:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/cook/default.aspx?section=news>

http://genealogy.about.com/od/dna_genetics/gr/roots.htm

Who Do You Think You Are? An NBC TV special that premiered on March 5, 2010. Great show that mentions our Mayflower & New England ancestors

<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=7805>

This presentation will have additional programs; check your area for the NBC TV station in your area.

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/cook/default.aspx?section=news>

http://genealogy.about.com/od/dna_genetics/gr/roots.htm

Below is a picture & caption that is inspirational to me.



Society member and professional genealogist Richard Herbert Tivey introduces one of the New Hampshire Mayflower Society's newest members, Barbara Hurley of New London, age 92, who joined in May, 2008, and became a Life Member in May, 2009.

Mr. Tivey assisted Ms. Hurley in researching her ancestry to Mayflower passenger Francis Cooke in a matter of only several months. All Ms. Hurley had to go on initially was a family legend that she was related to a Mayflower Pilgrim.

I hope you will consider joining the Francis Cooke Society if you are not currently a member
Congratulations Ms. Hurley.

Please consider what and how you did your genealogical Mayflower Research, please submit them to Jeffrey Northrup' <northrup@comcast.net>

Many who have successfully obtained Mayflower Society membership have been able to do this by the suggestions of our group & by the free advise that Dianna has offered.

The poll conducted on our Yahoo Discussion group gave the results (reported above) that we should have an annual membership dues of \$10 dollars.

Your dues payment should be sent to the Francis Cooke Treasurer now. He is:

Jeff Northrup
122 Humphrey Street
Lowell, MA 01850

Please make out checks to Francis Cooke Society

New Members

If you have not joined our Yahoo.com discussion group, please do so; this is our prime means of communicating with each other. Directions for joining the discussion group are found at the bottom of this Newsletter.

According to the Yahoo Discussion group FCS now has 295 members. Not all are active. Discussions are ongoing on type of memberships we will have and benefits of each type.

New members are:

Thomas Mick-	Kansas City, MO
Linda Aker-	Coralville- Iowa
Ricard Allen Hardesty-	Seffner, FL
John D. Calaway-	Charlotte, NC
James E. Welch-	Jersey Shore, PA
Robert K. Trittschuh-	Youngstown, OH
Nancy Hopkins-	Leesbury, VA
Bill Cooke-	not listed
Chester Cook-	not listed

The Sixth and Seventh Generation Project

Dianna Saario is completing a project that will result in publishing a book of the sixth and seventh generations of Francis Cooke descendants. The publication of the book will continue where the current GSMD Silver Book leaves off. Dianna needs genealogy books & papers to aid her research. Information on the CT & ME genealogy is especially needed now. If you have any material, please consider donating it to our Research Library. Send to Dianna, address below.

If anyone has copies of wills or probate for their family from the 6th and 7th generation Cooke descendants, please consider sending copies to Dianna for inclusion in the book. Dianna not only manages this project but she also puts an amazing amount of time into checking the genealogy of all new members who join our family society generation by generation, line by line.

Dianna, **thank you** for your efforts and all the time you give to the FCS and it's members.

Send any material to Dianna at the address below.
Dianna Saario

Francis Cooke Society
Membership Chairwomen & Genealogist
Francis Cooke 6th & 7th Generations Project Compiler
1449 east Vassar Drive
Visalia, CA 93292

dsaario@comcast.net

11th Generation from Francis Cooke
Alden (Mullins), Allerton, Brewster, Cooke, Eaton, Hopkins, Priest, Rogers, Soule, Standish (Possible Warren)
Registrar, Newsletter editor, Historian and Past Treasurer
Mayflower Society of CA Descendants
San Joaquin Colony

FCS Membership Information

If you are interested in joining the FCS or if you are a member who has not filled out the membership form, please contact Dianna Saario, dsaario@comcast.net
All persons are eligible. Help with your line is available from Dianna for members only.
Fill out the form found on our web site and send it to Dianna. Please let Dianna know which generation needs research so she can focus her attention on that part of your lineage.

Please consider a donation and suggestions on how FCS can continue to offer genealogical research; we can no longer offer this service for free to all who ask. We need not only your donation & membership but your suggestions.
Thank you for your interest in the Francis Cooke Society.

<http://www.franciscookesociety.org>

We also have a discussion group (email communication group) at http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/Francis_Cooke_Society/ This is where you can post messages, read others messages, ask for help from the group, see the listings of members who have submitted their lineage or chat. This Newsletter is posted there as well. In the near future all in depth research will be for members of the Francis Cooke Society only. Join now!

As mentioned above membership from now on will be \$10 per year. ;Remember you do not have to prove lineage to Francis Cooke to belong to the Society. We want everyone to know about our country's precolonial history & those men and women who made this country the great nation it is today.

If you would like to make a donation to help keep our website going, please mail all donations to:

Jeff Northrup
122 Humphrey Street
Lowell, MA 01850

Please make out checks to Francis Cooke Society

Any amount will be appreciated; our membership base is scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific and beyond the North American continent.

www.themayflowersociety.org If you are an approved member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, we are asking you to consider sending copies of your material from your 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th generation documentation of Francis Cooke to Dianna Saario. Details and Dianna's contact information is found above in this Newsletter. Dianna is including this information with the 8th generation child and their spouse. She will not include any living persons for this publication.

If you are interested in membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants, please see their web site listed above and here. www.themayflowersociety.org

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

President J. Scott McKay, scottsfamilytree@aol.com

Genealogist, Dianna Saario, dsaario@comcast.net

Treasurer Jeffery Northrup, northrup@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor Judd Taylor, TranFarms@aol.com

Cooke Historian, Vacant

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