

Frances Cooke Society Newsletter

Fall 2010

Vol. 8 No. 2



About the Frances 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:

I hope you had a great summer and you are looking forward to this Thanksgiving season. Our country continues to experience dramatic challenges as Francis Cooke and his fellow Plymouth Colony members did when they celebrated that first Thanksgiving in Plymouth Colony .

While our ancestors faced different types of challenges than we encounter today, both are still very real. There are no hostile Native Americans lurking in the forest but we do have those who lurk in the shadows of our present day environment wanting to destroy our way of life. Just as Francis Cooke, Hester Mahieu , their immediate and extended family and other Plymouth Colony citizens came together to form a self governing community so must we continue to preserve the principles of freedom they initiated in 1620.

Please take time this year to tell your family and friends about our family's Plymouth Colony struggles to establish a new country ; let all know they came together that first Thanksgiving to give thanks for food and peace with their potential enemies.

In the picture above you can not see weapons with either the Plymouth Colony men or with their Native American guests, but they were there. Constant vigilance is a major component of freedom for us today just as it was with our Plymouth colony ancestors.

We wish for each of you a great Thanksgiving celebration with your family and friends and that you remind your family of our ancestors and the first Thanksgiving.

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

In Memory of Beverly Pierce Stroebel

By Judd Taylor

I was sad to learn that one of our members, Beverly Pierce Stroebel, passed away this past February 2010. You can read about her and her last book, “Full Sail...” in the book review section below, as well as on the Full Sail web link listed below.

Listed is an online tribute to Mrs. Stroebel I am posting for your review.

In loving memory Beverly Pierce Stroebel 1931-2010

**Beverly Pierce Stroebel went to be with our Lord and Savior on February 5, 2010. She was a passionate woman of God who impacted many with her desire for knowledge of the Mayflower ...
read more on this link:**

www.mayflowerfullsaillogbook.com/

To read please paste the above web site in your browser and then click find.

BOOK REVIEWS

"Full Sail ~ A 21st Century Spiritual Cruise On Board The Mayflower."

By Beverly Pierce Stroebel

Edward D. Sullivan invited passengers on board Full Sail this way: Using her genealogical calendar, Beverly Pierce Stroebel found proof to document the credibility and fulfillment of the Mayflower Compact goals to advance the Christian faith and glorify God from the seventeenth

to the twenty first centuries. I found that joining ancestors on board the Mayflower, in a spiritual way, is rewarding and meaningful.

Once again, steadfast and courageous 'pilgrims' have the opportunity to follow a scriptural course. The difference between our first Pilgrims and

now is that twenty-first-century passengers can bathe America and other nations in prayer and participate in activities to preserve, protect, and strengthen our liberties. As a concerned citizen, a father, a retired military man, a leader in the Mayflower descendant community, and a man of faith, I say that the need is great. Therefore, I invite all liberty lovers and spiritual and physical Mayflower descendants to join me on board the Mayflower in the twenty-first century. Working together to fill sails, we can continue to fulfill the Mayflower Compact goals. As

you prepare to board *Full Sail*. Welcome aboard. My best wishes and prayers are with you.

—Edward Delano Sullivan, Mayflower Society Governor General
2005–2008

Read more about *Full Sail - A 21st Century Spiritual Cruise On Board The Mayflower* by going to this link:

www.mayflowerfullsaillogbook.com/

“Full Sail...” is available online at these stores:

Amazon

Barnes and Noble

CBD

I am reading *Full Sail...* now and if you love family history, you will enjoy reading this book. I purchased two copies, one to read and one I plan to use as a gift to our local library’s genealogy collection.

Another great book I have read several times; it is that good!

Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims First Year in America

This issue of The FCS Newsletter is mainly devoted to all things about our American Thanksgiving Holiday. This holiday started with the fall harvest celebration Pilgrim Francis Cooke and his son John celebrated 389 years ago in what became Plymouth, MA, U. S. A.

They and 138 others (ninety of whom had table manners very different from their English Pilgrim hosts did not intentionally plan for this harvest feast to become our first Thanksgiving. But this celebration of giving thanks to God did become America's national Thanksgiving Celebration.

Much can be learned not only about our Thanksgiving holiday's history from reading, *Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims First Year in America* by Glenn Alan Cheney, but also about the history of our ancestors before they immigrated to New England in Glenn Chaney's book listed below.

It is so much more than the title suggests; the book explains how and why our ancestors came together to sail on the Mayflower to the land that became America. Once I began reading, I could not stop reading until I had finished it. Mr. Cheney states he had to walk a fine line between factual truth and implied truth. He choose to stick with the facts and left imagination to the reader.

*“This book is dedicated to every immigrant who has come to America and to every American who has welcomed them with grace and assistance.” **

****Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims' First Year in America***
by Glenn Alan Cheney (details listed below)

****Thanksgiving....***

ISBN:

978-0-9798039-1-8 [paperback]

978-0-9798039-0-1 [hardcover]

Hardcover, paperback and audio book editions available at
www.NLLibrarium.com

This book should be required reading for every American.

The settlement of New England began when the Mayflower landed in 1621 and when it left in the spring of 1621, not one of its passengers returned with it to England.

Francis Cooke and his fellow Plimoth Plantation neighbors learned how to build their houses and how to sustain a life for themselves in the wildness of Plymouth Colony. Their work combined with the knowledge and survival skills learned from the Wampanoag Native Americans were the models used by other English immigrants that followed them to that region. A new society & culture developed in New England that was very different from the planters of the coastal Atlantic seaboard and the mainly Scots-Irish families that settled in the American interior territory along the Appalachian mountain range.

One has to continue to remember that when the Mayflower pulled up anchor and sailed back to England, not one Englishman elected to return to their old homeland in England.

When the Mayflower sailed back to England, our Forefathers became English American immigrants who became allied with their Native American Wampanoag neighbors.

Today, we remember Francis Cooke and his neighbors as Pilgrims who thanked God for a bountiful harvest and peace with their Native American neighbors. Their harvest celebration started our American Thanksgiving.

The Mayflower Quarterly

Vol. 76 No. 3 September 2010

This edition has many interesting & informative articles. If you currently are not a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) or you do not receive this publication consider purchasing a subscription. One year, \$15 for non members in U.S.A. ; \$18 to countries outside the U.S.A. Please send orders with a check payable (U.S. Funds) to General Society of Mayflower Descendants, P O Box 3297, Plymouth, MA 022361-3297. Back issues are \$6.00 each.

MAYFLOWER SOCIETY GARDEN WALKWAY PROJECT

See September 2010 Vol. 76 No. 3 Mayflower Quarterly publication and

www.TheMayflowerSociety.com for details.

Page 221: The Mayflower Children by Peggy M. Baker - a very interesting and well written, informative article with photos. Examples are: “John Cooke, 13 who was traveling with his father Francis.” is mentioned as well as all the other children including my other Mayflower ancestor, Francis Billington who discovered a great sea which is actually a large lake that is still called “Billington Sea”.

Another interesting fact from this current MQ issue : At the time of the first Thanksgiving in the fall of 1621 there were 53 Pilgrims, 27 of whom were under the age of 21. These young people of the Mayflower journey developed bonds aboard ship that stayed with them for the next decade in Plymouth Colony.

Arizona Mayflower Society This article relates how “the 66 day transatlantic Mayflower voyage of 1620 was commemorated by Arizona Mayflower member Maura (Phillips) Mackowski.” “NASA astronaut & Mission Specialist John L. Phillips, Maura’s brother, took her GSMD certificate on his third space ship Discovery mission to the International Space Station this past March 15, 2009.” Francis Cooke of the Mayflower could have never imagined that one of his descendents would someday be orbiting high above him 400 hundred years hence. If he could have looked up at the night sky this past spring he might have seen a speck of light in the sky “traveling from west to east with one of his descendants in a new type of ship that was helping America and her partner nations build yet another new world, this time in outer space.”



Plymouth, MA aerial view in 2010
Note: Billington Sea lower left hand corner.
Photo by 21st century Francis Cooke descendant.

PLIMOTH PLANTATION

Web Site: www.plimoth.org

From The Plimoth Plantation web site:

Please note for all who teach about the American Thanksgiving, see their web site for more details.

“Plimoth Plantation and Scholastic, two of the most trusted names in education, invite you to a Free Live Virtual Field Trip from Plimoth Plantation on Nov. 16 at 1 p.m. ET to bring Plimoth Plantation into your classroom! Sign up on the web site.

Vocabulary for: DAYBREAK AT PLANTING TIME

Break Our Fast	To eat the first meal of the day. To breakfast.
Chamberpot	A container to go to the bathroom in during the night or during bad weather. In the days before indoor plumbing, people usually went to the bathroom outside.
Cod	A kind of ocean fish.
Curds	A soft cheese, like cottage cheese.
Courtesy	Or curtsy. A show of respect made by bending the knees and lowering the body.
English Corn	Grains that were grown in England, such as wheat, rye, and oats.
Flint and Steel	A piece of hard stone called flint, and a piece of metal that are struck against each other to make a spark.

Fortnight	Two weeks.
Goodwife	A title of address used like we use "Mrs." A child would call a married woman "Goodwife" to show respect. A married man would be called "Goodman."
Harvest	To cut and gather a plant.
Hearth	A place on a house floor where the fire is. Used for cooking, warmth and light.
Husband - men	Men who make their living through agriculture, or farming the land.
Indian Corn	The kind of corn found in the new world. Maize.
Kindled	Set fire to.
#Marjoram	An herb (plant) used for cooking and medicine.
Master	A title of address given to someone respected like the Governor. Also, the wife of the Governor would be addressed as "Mistress."
Oxen	An ox is a neutered (or "fixed") male cow, which has been carefully trained to pull heavy loads and follow commands. Two working together is called a team or pair of oxen. Oxen are often used to turn over the soil or "plow" to prepare the ground for planting.
Persecuted	Punished with pains and penalties for holding a certain belief or opinion.
Physic	Medical treatment.
Pottage	A thick stew made with indian corn or some other kind of grain, like oatmeal. Sometimes herbs and bits of meat, chicken or pork were added to give it flavor.
Sabbath	A day of rest and worship; for the Pilgrims it was Sunday.

(to) Salt To dry and preserve meat or fish by rubbing salt into it.

Look at the Thanksgiving celebration information on their web site & other interesting Plimoth Plantation information. If you can join them for a Harvest Feast this season, please do.

Plimoth Plantation IS Thanksgiving! If you can, join them for your holiday dinner! Several dates are available; go to their web site for details.

FROM THE TRUNK

By Judd Taylor

For several years I have encouraged you to share your knowledge of your individual families with your family and to encourage them to pass on the family stories & history to future generations.

My formal name is “Judson” and this family name was given to my oldest son & in turn my son gave the Judson name to his son. My grandson is the fifth Taylor to carry this family name, a fact that I have repeated to him many times.

While visiting with him at Plimoth Plantation, we visited the 1627 reproduction homes of our Francis Cooke & John Billington ancestors. Joshua Judson’s comments at that time: “They sure were poor!” At Thanksgiving, his mother tried to

get him to eat some Pilgrim food, to which he replied , “I’m no Pilgrim, I’m an Indian!”

I am determined he will remember our family history & he knows why I keep telling him about our Mayflower & other family histories. So, it was both amusing and gratifying when I gave my six year old descendant a baby kitten and asked him to name it. Several days later’ I called to ask him what he named the kitten. “ Spiky Judson the 6th ! ”, he replied with a six year old laugh.

I am not sure if he was digging at me or if my efforts to teach family history are working with him.

From Plimoth Plantation’s booklet, “ You can’t change history but it can change you! “

Please note Judson the 5th , your cousins and all our young & old Mayflower cousins, we can’t change our family history but we can continue to pass that history on to future generations not only at Thanksgiving, but throughout the year .

Pass it on !

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, franciscooke559@att.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. All in depth research is for members of the Francis Cooke Society only. Join now!

As mentioned above, membership is only \$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 pre-colonial 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

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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.

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>

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