

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter

July 2005

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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.

Contact Information

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

Members of FCS are in communication through an e-mail group at Francis_Cooke_Society@yahoo.com. Please go to our website for instructions on how to subscribe.

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

Interim Membership Chair: Dianna Saario, dsaario@comcast.net

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President's Corner

By J. Scott McKay

Dear Fellow Members: The FCS has come a long way in two years, and we keep striving to make it better for all of you by helping with your genealogy quest and hopefully you are making new friends. I hope you find the Internet links we list in many of our newsletters and on our website to be helpful to your research. They can help us enrich our understanding of the times, the lives, hardships, and customs of the Pilgrims.

As most of you know, I am attending the Mayflower Society Triennial Congress in September and plan to have a meeting of Francis Cooke Society members. I am working on combining a meeting with another group, and if that does not work out perhaps we can meet for dinner at a local restaurant.

Thank you to the generous people who have sent contributions to help with costs. Since we do not charge a membership fee, this money is very helpful in paying for our website. We are not yet incorporated (if you have experience with this process and want to help, please contact me!), so please make the checks out to "J. Scott McKay" and NOT the Francis Cooke Society.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer and the fall season, Scott McKay

Mayflower Society Congress in Plymouth

The GSMD General Congress is in Plymouth, MA, September 9-14. As Scott McKay mentioned above, he will be there, as will other FCS members. If you missed our April newsletter, check it out on our website, www.franciscookesociety.org, for information about the Congress and places to see in the Plymouth area.

Members of the Francis Cooke Society have kindly been invited to attend the Florida Society Social get-together in the Manomet Room at the Raddison Hotel on Water Street in Plymouth, on Saturday evening, 10 September 7-9 p.m. Light food will be served and the cost is \$15.00 per person. If you plan to attend, please contact Ren Cushing at renmur605@comcast.net ASAP and let him know how many people in your party, so he can add your name on the list of attendees.

If you are not a Mayflower Society member, there are still plenty of things to do in the area and will be a great opportunity to meet other FCS members. Please let Chris Chirokas know if you are planning on attending, so we can let those people know the details of an FCS meeting (chirokas@comcast.net).

Member Jo Leiby has another recommendation for things to do in the Plymouth area: Those going to the Plymouth gathering, particularly if you descend from John Cooke (son of Francis Cooke/Warren) might want to make a side trip to Fairview across the river from New Bedford. John Cooke is credited with founding the town and leading the defenses against King Philip, and there is a memorial stone honoring him. Jo visited in 2003 and found it to be a very interesting area. (Source: Mayflower Families, Francis Cooke.)

Celebrating the Birth of Our Country

By Chris Chirokas

The celebration of our nation's independence caused me to wonder how many of Francis Cooke's descendants were a part of the Revolution.

My ancestor Ephraim Lucas was a Revolutionary War soldier. While he isn't a descendant of Francis and Hester, his daughter Mary married Ephraim Washburn who is a direct Cooke descendant (Seth⁶ Washburn and Deborah Wright, Joseph⁵ Wright and Sarah Brewster, Isaac⁴ Wright and Mary Cole, Adam³ Wright and Sarah Soule, Hester² Cooke and Richard Wright, Francis¹ Cooke and Hester Mahieu).

Ephraim was born in Plympton, Massachusetts, 13 March 1763, to Barnabas Lucas and Joanna Pierce. He married Azubah Pratt at Plymouth in 1791, and died at Plymouth 28 November 1834. Ephraim served in the Revolutionary War in 1780 and 1781, beginning when he was just 17 years old.

I have read Ephraim's pension papers which turned out to be much more interesting than I anticipated. In order to prove he served in the Revolutionary War to be eligible for a pension program passed by Congress in 1832, Ephraim swore in court concerning when he served, for how long, and whom he served under. He also attested to the fact that he was a witness to the execution of Major Andre, who was found guilty of conspiring with Benedict Arnold. The record says Ephraim "was at the foot of the gallows &...heard the last words of Major Andre."

Many members of this society have discovered information on their ancestors' service in the Revolution and have generously shared their stories for this newsletter. If you want to ask questions or exchange information with any of the above contributors, please send them a note via our FCS e-mail list.

Susan Johanson found that her husband's ancestor Levi Cooke served in the Revolutionary War. Levi (1757-1830) was a descendent of Francis Cooke (Nathaniel Cooke and Mary Sampson, Robert Cooke and Abigail Harlow, Francis Cooke and Elizabeth Latham, Francis Cooke and Hester Mahieu) and was of Kingston and Abington, Massachusetts. In checking on HeritageQuest online she found Levi listed among the war pensioners, receiving a pension from 1818 to 1830. In the pension claim, which Susan found to be very interesting reading, Levi's wife Sarah says that he was a private in the company commanded by Capt. Chamberlain for 10 months and 21 days. She also stated that he was in a company commanded by Lt. Shaw in Cambridge and served seven or eight months, and afterwards in the fall of the year 1779, he checked into Capt. Luke Bucknell's Company for the term of 40 days and served that time in Rhode Island. Also his wife said he served six months on Castle William in Boston Harbor in the year 1778, but his wife Sarah could not recall the officer under which he served.

Bess Antes has also found HeritageQuest helpful in finding the service records of her ancestor, Ephraim Washburn. Ephraim was born 1 January, 1760 in Bridgewater MA, son of Josiah Washburn and Huldah Leonard. He married (1) Feb 12 1785 Rebecca Dunham and (2) Jannet Allen Thompson. Ephraim died on April 17, 1836 in Bangor, Maine.

Ephraim Washburn's service records state that he served in three tours of duty from 1776 - 1779. The companies he served in were: Captain Mitchell/Colonel Casey, Captain Pierce/Colonel Dilas/General Ulard?, Captain Hollis/Colonel Robinson, Captain Packard/Colonel Carpenter, and finally Captain Sparrow/Colonel Taylor.

Lydia Toso's ancestor Elisha Bennet of Massachusetts served in the Revolutionary War, and his son, Elisha Bennet, Jr., served his country in the War of 1812. Both are direct descendants of Francis Cooke.

Larry Martin's grandmother Isabel Fallas Rutherford was an early member of the Mayflower Society and was inducted into the Michigan Chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) in 1954. Phineas Fairbanks and Silas Stone are listed as

her Revolutionaries. Larry descends from Francis and Hester Cooke through their son John.

Donna Potter's ancestor Daniel Sherman of South Kingstown, RI, served in the 4th company of militia from South Kingstown (1780-1781). He was the son of Daniel and Susannah (Earle) Sherman and was born in South Kingstown 27 Aug 1735 and died there in March of 1839. His wife was Rebecca Palmer and Francis Cooke was his 3rd great-grandfather.

Donna also descends from Benjamin Baker (1719-1778) who married Mary Sherman. Benjamin was the son of Benjamin and Mercy (Havens) Baker and died while on duty with the Continental Army. His wife Mary was a 3rd great-grandchild of Francis Cooke. Her grandparents, Lydia Wilcox and Thomas Sherman, were also the grandparents of Daniel Sherman above. Lydia was the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Cooke) Wilcox and that's where the Cooke connection lies.

Charles Walter's ancestor, Jonathan Hammond, a direct descendant of Francis Cooke (Jonathan Hammond, Seth Hammond, Mary Hathaway, Sarah Cooke, John Cooke, Francis Cooke) was a Revolutionary soldier in the Albany County Militia under Col. John McCrea. (Source: New York in the Revolution, p. 112).

Paul Bumpus is in the early stages of researching his ancestors' involvement in the war (his work at the Mayflower Library keeps him pretty busy!). Adam⁵ Wright (1724-1776) (Ind. #713 in Cooke MF Vol. 12, p.482) was the son of John⁴ Wright (Adam_, Hester_ Cooke, Francis_) and evidently died at Plympton from wounds received in the War (George Soule MFIP). Paul has been told Adam is listed in a book "Known War Dead" that is available at NEHGS in Boston. Paul also believes his ancestor Ebenezer⁶ Cushman (Elkanah⁵, Josiah⁴, Martha_ Cooke, Jacob_, Francis_) may have been a Revolutionary War soldier but needs to do further research.

Linda Antram Smith has done a meticulous job of researching her ancestors who served in the Revolutionary War and her source notations may help others with Pennsylvania roots. Her 4th great grandfather Stephen Cook, 3rd great-grandson of Francis Cooke, is one of her Supplementals for DAR. Anna Cook's brothers served in the War of 1812; Anna was the daughter of Stephen and Sarah (McFarland) Cook.

Pvt. Stephen Cook served in the Revolutionary War and numerous descendants have joined the DAR and SAR on his service. It is found in PA Archives, Series 6, Vol. 2, pp. 7, 8, 11. Also in Series 5, Vol 4, p. 395, Washington Co, 1st Battalion, Lt. Col. Henry Enoch; Muster Roll of Capt. John Miller's Co., 5th Class, Private Stephen Cook. 1782. His brothers Abel and Noah also listed with this unit.

Sources: PA State Archives Rev. War Mil. Abstract Card File.

[Http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp](http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp). Items #46 and #47.

Pennsylvania Archives, 6th Series, Vol. #II, Muster Rolls Relating to the Associators and militia of the Counties of Washington, Westmoreland and York edited by Thomas Lynch Montgomery under the Direction of the Hon. Robert McAfee, Secretary of the Commonwealth. Printed by Harrisburg Publishing Company, State Printer, Harrisburg, PA, 1906. R929.3748 c.1,v.11

Gibbs, Marjorie Cook. A Cook Genealogy. The Family of Jacob Cook (1725-1808). Fifth Generation Descendant of Mayflower Passenger Francis Cooke. By Marjorie Cook Gibbs, Union Springs, New York. 1996.

Ancestors and Descendants of Samuel Cook of Allen County, Ohio 1620-1957. (The Wilford P. Cook Line to 1979). Plymouth Rock to Morris County, New Jersey; Washington County, Pennsylvania; and Knox, Richland, Morrow and Allen Counties in Ohio. Found Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah. January 2004. US/CAN 929.273 C77e. Also microfilmed Sept 8, 1988. Item #14. Film #1421954.p.37.

With his brother Noah, Stephen enlisted in the PA Rangers in Capt. Eleazer William's Co 1782 for service on the frontier. He was born in Morris Co, NJ. Married Sarah McFarland in 1775 and died in Martinsburg, OH. DAR #101720; 43887; 83972; 115320; 100965. Source: Hoskins, Barbara. Compiler. Men From Morris County New Jersey Who Served in the American Revolution, published by the Friends of the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township, Morristown, New Jersey. 1979. Found Manatee County Public Library, Bradenton, FL p.46.

Anna Cook, their daughter, married William Patterson who served in the War of 1812 with the Ten Mile Rangers. Also with William Patterson were the brothers of Anna Cook: Jacob, Daniel, William and Stephen Cooke.

Source: Simpson, Joseph Herman. The Genealogy of Francis Cooke and Other Families; Together With a List of the Mayflower Passengers and What Became of Them and Other Valuable Information. A Descendant of the Ninth Generation From Francis Cooke and Stephen Hopkins of the Mayflower, and John Lindley of Guilford, Conn., 1650, and Eighth Generation from Alexander Simpson from England. J.H. Simpson was a Cook descendant who compiled a Cook genealogy between 1899 and 1911 by corresponding with Cook descendants. His hand-written manuscript, bound in leather, was found nearly 100 years later and 100 copies were published. Forward: Manatee, Florida 1899. Edited 1988 by Frances B. Beverstock. Book made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Society of Mayflower Descendants. Found FHL, 35 North West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT. US/CAN 929.273 C7745i. Also microfilmed June 18, 2001, Item #2. p. 130-31.

Judy Chace Needham has obtained information on her ancestor Benjamin Martin. His descent from Francis Cooke: Mary Reed and John Martin, John Reed and Mary Wheeler, William Reed and Hester/Esther Tomson, John Tomson and Mary Cooke, Francis Cooke and Hester Mahieu. Benjamin married his first cousin Sarah Reed, daughter of Joseph Reed, son of the above John Reed and Mary Wheeler.

The above, naming Mary Reed as wife to John Martin is a correction from the Cooke Silver Book and the family on which Judy joined the GSMD. The Mary Reed who married John Dyer as stated in that book, was the widow Mary Wheeler Reed - mother to Judy's Mary Reed Martin.

From "Notices Genealogical and Historical of the Martin Family of New England" by Henry J. Martin, Boston, Lee & Shepard Publishers, 1880: Benjamin Martin was born in that part of Warren, now Barrington, RI, 23 March, 1755 to John and Mary Martin. Captain Benjamin Martin died 26 November 1836. In December, 1776, he was a member of Captain Vial Allen's company of Barrington (RI) militia, which at that date was ordered into the general service of the Government, and they were stationed at Nyatt and Rumstick Points, on the shores of Narragansett Bay, the British at this time being in possession of Newport, and the island of Rhode Island, their patrols extending within a few miles of the Points, where the Barrington militia were quartered. They remained stationed here until the enemy withdrew from Newport.

This company detailed under the command of Lieutenant Kinnicut, to act with General Sullivan's expedition, and they joined the same two days before the battle of August 29, 1778. They were in pursuit of the British, who burned Bristol and the boats at Keckamint, driving them back to their shipping, at Bristol ferry. (Above from the Pension Office, Washington, D.C., file #17,565).

Richard Worthington's ancestor Andrew Ford 5th, a Francis Cooke descendant, responded to the alarm of 19 April 1775 (Lexington and Concord) and served 8 months. He witnessed the Battle of Bunker Hill from his post on Dorchester Heights. He also served at Bennington and Saratoga in 1777.

Revolutionary War Research Sources

By Chris Chirokas

--HeritageQuest online has a Revolutionary War database that includes a large number of pension applications. Aside from offering interesting reading and often including an ancestor's signature, the applications can be a treasure trove of genealogical information. They can include a variety of nuggets including birth dates, name of wife and date of marriage, death date and location. HeritageQuest is a subscription service, but check with your local library to see if they subscribe.

--Daughters of the American Revolution volunteers will look in their files to see if they have a record of your Patriot ancestor's service (free of charge). Visit the DAR website at <http://www.dar.org/default.cfm> and click on DAR Patriot Look-Up.

--Massachusetts Revolutionary War Soldiers and Sailors, available in many libraries in book form, on www.ancestry.com (subscription website), and also available on CD through Family Tree Maker.

--If you are a member of NEHGS, it has a vast number of books about the history of the Revolutionary War as well as books publishing pension applications for specific states and towns. An article, "An Introduction to Revolutionary War Resources in New England," is also available to members on NEHGS' website (www.newenglandancestors.org). The NEHGS website also has several databases relating to Revolutionary War soldiers.

--State libraries and historical societies are another resource for Revolutionary War research.

--The National Archives and Record Administration is the largest repository for service records, pension records and federal bounty-land warrants. For specific information, go to your local NARA facility or visit <http://www.archives.gov>.

--If you have a local LDS Family History Library, microfilms of service and pension records can be ordered there.

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