

## **Francis Cooke Society Newsletter**

**April 2006**

**Vol. 4, No. 2**

### **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:

The Francis Cooke Society is now three years old! If you have any ideas for the growth or improvement of FCS or want to get more involved, please contact me or other appropriate person.

We were greatly saddened by the untimely death of our Webmaster Donna Logan, but we are very fortunate to have found Joe Wood to take over that position. Welcome aboard, Joe!

I hope everyone had a joyous Easter,  
Scott McKay, [scottsfamilytree@aol.com](mailto:scottsfamilytree@aol.com)

### **Going Beyond Names, Dates and Places**

By Donna Hadrian

As I've made my journey through this history of my family a great many secondary questions come to mind. Besides the very important names and dates and various lines of ancestors, there begins to emerge the very important culture that belongs to the names and dates. Major happenings abound -- the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, a family member who helped dump tea in the bay or burn a ship, etc.

But what of the small or even larger cultural identities? One "cousin" wrote and asked if someone I was listing was related and "how did they decide to go to Kansas from Massachusetts anyway?" Decidedly the answer could add something to the personalities of the ancestors as well as to the broader understanding of the times and events. In my hoard of early 1900 post cards (the kind one made of a personal picture) relatives write constantly of ball games -- apparently a regular entertainment and one that took much of the family's time. The "why Kansas" has some possibilities -- land, a family spirit of adventure and exploration, money from a recent land sale, and some agencies in Massachusetts and the Fed government that promoted settling land in the West.

This is my encouragement for you this time. Add the "frosting" to your research and make the ancestors real people, with interests, sins and virtues, church membership, dress, foods, the latest invention, costs of everything, pictures of homes to quilts, those ancestors that did get photographed or had portraits painted. My goal is to help those who may someday read of these ancestors to more fully understand their true lives, and to appreciate where we have come from and how we need to appreciate the founding of this country with sometimes very bare equipment. Where does all this information go? Possibly on index cards initially as books are read or other files addressed, then finally into the permanent archives of Family Tree Maker or other family history program. And finally share the historical data or a resource with all of us as we collectively look for all of those Cooke ancestors.

Editors Note: If you have a brief story of one of the ancestors in your Cooke line that goes beyond dates and places and want it included in a future newsletter, please contact me at [chirokas@comcast.net](mailto:chirokas@comcast.net).

### **The Excommunication of John 2 Cooke, Son of Francis**

By Christine Chirokas

The first time I read about my ancestor John Cooke's excommunication from the Plymouth church I thought, "What on earth did his father think about that?" John was an upstanding member of the established church for quite some time, even serving as Deacon from a relatively young age. His circa 1657 excommunication was the result of his "causing dissension" within the church because of his Anabaptist leanings. In 1670 Dartmouth had only 7 freemen and some are thought to have settled there for religious reasons. It seems likely this was the case with John.

Nathaniel Morton wrote that not long after the 1649 election of Thomas Cushman as Ruling Elder of the Plymouth Church, "troubles Came on apace Not to mension againe the troubles which were occationed by some of the Church at Barnstable which was blowne up by John Cooke and others."

In 1684 John and his associates formed a Baptist Church in Dartmouth with Cooke as its preacher, a position he kept until his death 11 years later. He seemed to avoid the persecution that often came with differing religious views as he continued to serve public offices. I think his status as a first-comer would have something to do with that.

I'm sure we have members who can offer a more scholarly view of John Cooke's religious affiliation and I'd be happy to publish your thoughts in a future newsletter.

Sources: "Plymouth Colony, It's History and People," by Eugene Stratton; Plymouth Church Records 1:1:91-92.

### **Website Spotlight**

Submitted by Donna Hadrian and Christine Chirokas

The Colonial Gazette on Mayflowerfamilies.com has news summaries on interesting events from the early days of New England, ranging from the Salem Witch Trials to Mayflower family scandals:

<http://www.mayflowerfamilies.com/enquirer/>

It's too late for April Fools, but if you need a chuckle or two Genealogy magazine has an informative article on the origin of some of the funnier surnames, "Weasel, Devil and Drunkard: Surnames Originating as Insults:"

<http://www.genealogymagazine.com/suorasin.html>

### **Book Spotlight**

Many of us are familiar with Robert Charles Anderson's "Great Migration" volumes. Anderson has written "The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony, 1620-1633," which is similar in style to his "Great Migration" work but focuses entirely on Plymouth Colony settlers and includes over 200 sketches. It is a one-volume book and is available through NEHGS for \$49.95.

### **Genealogy Query**

Jonathan WASHBURN, son of Ebenezer WASHBURN and Patience MILES, was b. Feb. 20 1733 in New Milford, Litchfield, CT, a descendant of both Francis COOKE and Mary CHILTON. Jonathan has been very difficult to trace. He was on the list of soldiers in the French and Indian Wars, enlisting in Albany NY in 1755. On Feb 4, 1762, he m. Hannah DRAKE in Rumbout, Dutchess Co, NY in the Presbyterian church there. Jonathan signed a bond for the estate of his father on the 5th day of March 1762 in the town of Middletown, Monmouth Co., N.J. (Book H., p. 77, "Wills, etc." Documents 2865-2870, Monmouth Co.) when his mother Patience declined to administer. In 1766 he appeared on the Kent, Litchfield, CT tax lists. His whereabouts after this are in question.

There is a Jonathan WASHBURN on the roll of Captain James Parr's First Pennsylvania company who enlisted July 28, 1776. There is a Jonathan WASHBURN whose name appears on the roll of Captain John Franklin's Independent Company of Militia, organized at Wyoming [valley] for the CT settlers there for service in the Revolution, and accredited as part of the CT state Militia, organized in April and May 1780. By 1790 he was [at least I think it was the same Jonathan] in Middletown, Ulster Co, NY and in 1800 he was in the same place but the name of the county had been changed to Delaware. In the same place in 1800 were David, Ebenezer, Ebenezer B, Thomas, and William. I believe that Ebenezer B, William and Thomas were sons of Jonathan. David was son of Ebenezer. Ebenezer, of course, was Jonathan's brother. He was a Loyalist and this is well-documented with Canadian records.

Complicating things is the fact that there were at least two and probably three Jonathan WASHBURNS around the same time, and one in particular in Dutchess Co. has been perennially confused with this Jonathan. In fact, he was 20 years younger and was son of Silas and married a Mary MERRITT. This Jonathan, son of Silas, was a Loyalist, as was his brother Isaac. The *History of Delaware Co* by Munsell states that “our” Jonathan was “a soldier of the Revolution”, but does not state which side he was on! If anyone out there knows anything about this Jonathan or can suggest where we might look for more records, please help! Contact: Linda Smith [smit8698@bellsouth.net](mailto:smit8698@bellsouth.net)

### **New Webmaster**

We are very pleased to announce we have a new Webmaster, Joe Wood, who has graciously offered to keep our website up-to-date.

Joseph Howland Wood (Joe) is a professional Webmaster who resides in New York City. He created the present Pennsylvania Mayflower Society website with its own domain, [www.SAIL1620.org](http://www.SAIL1620.org), and launched it in January 2000. In its first year it was featured in the *New York Times* under the heading “Pilgrims Have Landed On World Wide Web.” It has been on the *New York Times* Website “Student Navigator” list as one of only two sites covering Pilgrim history in the 19 link American History section. The other site is that of the Plimoth Plantation. He has won other awards for the site, including "Best Overall Website" from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in 2005. Joe strives to make the site SMDPA's “window to the world,” serving up a wide range of Pilgrim/Mayflower information through articles, many of which are by SMDPA members, and over 100 links to other Pilgrim/Mayflower oriented websites.

Joe is also Webmaster of two other Pilgrim/Mayflower sites: our own first official Pilgrim John Howland Society website, [www.PilgrimJohnHowlandSociety.org](http://www.PilgrimJohnHowlandSociety.org), that he designed and launched at our 2004 annual meeting, and the new Pilgrim Henry Samson Kindred website, [www.PilgrimHenrySamsonKindred.org](http://www.PilgrimHenrySamsonKindred.org). Although Joe is not descended from the Cooke family, he is more than happy to lend a hand to his fellow Pilgrim neighbors.

### **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](mailto:dsaario@comcast.net).

### **The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> generation project**

One of the goals of FCS is to compile and publish the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> generations of Francis Cooke descendants, continuing where the GSMD Silver Book left off. Dianna Saario is managing this project and has received 98 submissions from members who are kind enough to share their research with us.

If you want your ancestors to be included, please contact Dianna at [dsaario@comcast.net](mailto:dsaario@comcast.net).

**Contact Information**

Members of the FCS are in communication through an e-mail group at [Francis\\_Cooke\\_Society@yahoo.com](mailto:Francis_Cooke_Society@yahoo.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](mailto:scottsfamilytree@aol.com)

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*Back issues of the FCS Newsletter are available for viewing at [www.franciscookesociety.org](http://www.franciscookesociety.org).*