

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter

December 2009

Vol. 7, No. 4

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:

The Christmas season of 2009 reminds us that our Mayflower ancestors of 1620 were from Judo-Christian European cultures. They celebrated the birth & memory of Jesus each day in all their activities. As stated in the book *Thanksgiving*, they did not celebrate Christmas or Easter because those holidays were not mentioned in their Geneva Bible. The holidays were part of the rituals of the established churches they disagreed with.

We are in the process of making improvements to our Francis Cooke Mayflower Family Society organization and we want to have your input.

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 to our Yahoo Discussion Group. Information on this site is listed below.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful 2009-2010 Holiday Season,

Sincerely,

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

Website Spotlight

From Dianna please note the following E-mails she forwarded to me.

Good afternoon Dianna,

Myrt Savage has sent me Email copies of the ladies you contacted in regard to DNA. As chair of the Women of the Mayflower, co-chair with Myrt and a Francis Cooke descendant I

asked Myrt for your Email address. I hope this is all right with you.

We are interested in the Jane Cooke line for mtDNA testing. I have found only two good mtDNA lines and one is from an older application so doubt the lady is still living. We would need to see if there were any female descendants. The other is a man so the line will stop with him unless he has sisters.

I am wondering if any of your members have done mtDNA testing??

Relatively yours,
Muriel Curtis Cushing, FLA State Historian

Dianna has a volunteer to participate in the DNA testing mentioned below.

Another E-mail message From & To Dianna on DNA below:

Male Cooke descendent's! !! Do we have anyone who is interested in doing this?

Has anyone participated in another Cooke DNA project?

Dianna
Francis Cooke Society

E-Mail To Dianna:
Subject: Cooke DNA

Dear Ms. Saario,

We are trying to locate a male Cooke descendant from Frances Cooke who would be willing to share his DNA. The cost of the DNA test would be at our expense. My husband and I both belong to the Mayflower Society and are your cousins.

The results of this DNA test would prove if our Cook ancestors are related to Frances Cooke who came on the Mayflower ship in 1620. Both Cooke families lived in the same area and never intermarried. The genealogists say that they could find no written evidence that these two Cooke lineages were related.

The Y chromosome of a male is handed down from father to son, unchanged, from generation to generation. We obtained the DNA from Howard's (my husband) cousin, Delmar Cook who lives in Du fur, Oregon. Delmar's Y chromosome is the same as Howard's (Bill's) grandfather, Benjamin Cook's (b.1886-1936) Y chromosome. Delmar's DNA sample says that he belongs to Haploid J2 (M172). This would also be Benjamin Cook's Haplogroup.

Mark (our son) and Howard (Bill) are actively trying to find a male Cook who directly descends from Frances Cooke to obtain a sample of his DNA. Then we can compare the DNA Y chromosome sequence from Delmar against the DNA sequence of the direct male descendant of Frances Cooke. This would give us the information to know if Howard and Mark's Cook line comes from the same family as Frances Cooke of the Mayflower and if they/we originate from the same Cook family.

Thank you for your time and trouble. If we can find a DNA donor then we would be able to share our findings with others that might find it very interesting and answer some of the questions regarding the Cooke family of the Mayflower. Can you help us?

Bill (Howard) & Sandra Ihrig
The Dalles, OR

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.

Will someone write an article or contact me & I will try to put your knowledge into words that others, like myself, might find useful in understanding how DNA testing is used for tracing family genealogy. I have read several articles on this subject but I still have questions.

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 the future 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?

Please think about these questions over this 2009-2010 Holiday Season. Review the other Mayflower Family Societies and see how they operate and the ways they fund their organizations. We will discuss your suggestions in our Yahoo Discussion Group the first of 2010.

I will post a list of the other Mayflower Web Sites for your review on our Yahoo Discussion site. Not A Member Yet? Look below for instructions on how to join.

I want to thank Frank Horton, Governor of the North Carolina Society of Mayflower

Descendants, for posting Glenn Cheney's offer to donate money to FAC for each **Thanksgiving** , book purchased. Details on this offer are printed for your review 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 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 Heister (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 last 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?

Merry Christmas to you and your family,

Judd

Book Review

Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims' First Year in America

by Glenn Alan Cheney

ISBN:

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

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

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

Here is Glenn Cheney's offer to us.
Glenn Cheney's Letter

Thanks to the tireless vigilance of our friends at Google, I've been notified of the nice review of my book (*Thanksgiving*) that appeared in your Francis Cooke Society Newsletter. I thank you very much for the good review and the kind words.

As some of you may know, I extended an offer to the GSMD in which I agreed that for every book ordered by a GSMD member, I would donate \$3 to their State Society or Colony. I'd like to do the same for members of the Francis Cooke Society. I'm sure there's a lot of overlap between the two memberships, but still, maybe some people would prefer the donation to go to the FCS.

An explanatory letter and coupon is attached. If you can forward the attachment to your members, maybe the FCS can make a little extra money, and your members will have an easy way to buy a nice, Made-in-America Christmas present for their family members (with a nice, little Christmas present going to the FCS).

FCS doesn't need to do anything besides forward the attachment to your members. I'll keep track of the coupons when they come in and will send you a check in early January.

That said, I hope you and all of Francis Cooke's descendants have a Christmas of thanks-giving.

Glenn Alan Cheney

Dear Francis Cooke Society Members:

Here comes Christmas! Its an important day for those of us who hold in the highest esteem those few, brave

people who planted the seeds of America in the cold and stony soil of Plymouth. The values that they brought to

Plymouth are the very same values that inspired a revolution just a day's walk away some 150 years later.

Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims' First Year in America isn't a book about a holiday. November isn't the only time

people should read it. It covers just about every known detail about that crucial year in American history between

the landing of the Mayflower and the famous harvest feast of the following fall. But this book is ***not*** a about historical events, super-heroes, or cartoon characters. It's about ***people***.

You can read excerpts from the book and reviews at NLLibrarium.com.

This Christmas, I'd like to get more copies of my book into the hands of Americans. They need to know what

happened at Plymouth and why we pause for thanks every November.

If you haven't read ***Thanksgiving***, you should. If you've already read it, then you might want to think about giving

it as a Christmas gift for someone else who should read it.

This year, until December 31, I'd like to extend a special offer to the Francis Cooke Society. If you order the

book with the coupon that appears below, I'll send the Francis Cooke Society \$3 for each book your order. Shipping

is free, each book is signed by the author, and the prices aren't bad at all. If you'd like something special

written above the signature. ("For Ruth with thanks on Christmas"), just write it on the back of the coupon.

I'll send the book as soon as your order arrives, but still, that doesn't give us much time. If you'd like to receive

the book by Christmas, please order it now.

With that, I wish you and your family a Christmas as full of thanks as Thanksgiving.

Glenn Alan Cheney

= Special **Francis Cooke Society** Order / Rebate Form

Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims' First Year in America

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Orders with this coupon can be paid only by check.

Please make check payable to “**New London Librarium.**”
For each book ordered with this coupon by December 31,
2009, New London Librarium will send \$3 to the **Francis
Cooke Society.**

Your phone or email:

Edition Price Quantity Total

Hardcover \$ 21.95

Paperback \$ 15.95

Audio Book \$19.95

Connecticut residents add 6% sales tax

Total

Send coupon and check to:

New London Librarium

Box 284

Hanover, CT 06350

Free Shipping!

P.O. Box 284

Hanover, CT 06350

(860) 822-1270

glenncheney@comcast.net

cheneybooks.com

NLLibrarium.com

Another Great Book- *Full Sail*

Beverly Strobel's *Full Sail* is another great book we mentioned earlier. Please keep her book in mind for purchase any time of the year. <http://www.mayflowerfullsaillogbook.com/FullSail/Welcome.html>

Due to time constraints on getting this edited and published. We will save other comments until 2010.

Research Methods & Procedures For Mayflower Application

Dianna Saario has asked Jeff Northrup (FCS member) if he would compile a list of FAQ's and their answers that have been posted on our Yahoo Discussion Group Web Site. Jeff' is currently working on this project; this very helpful & useful information will be posted for your review the first of 2010.

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

New Members

We currently have 281 members. If you are very new to our group , please send me your name & home town so I can list your name in our next 2010 Newsletter. 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.

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.

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.

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 (there is currently no fee charged) 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. 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 free membership and genealogical research to all who ask. We need not only your donation 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.

As mentioned above no fee is charged for membership ; nor is proof of lineage to Francis Cooke required to belong to the Society. If you would like to make a donation to help keep our website going, please mail all donations to:

Scott McKay
1298 SW 15th Street
Boca Raton, FL 33486

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

Newsletter Editor Judd Taylor, TranFarms@aol.com

Cooke Historian, Vacant

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