

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter

January 2006

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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.

President's Corner

Dear Members:

It was with great sadness I learned of member Donna Logan's passing earlier this month. Donna was our society's webmaster and we owe her a debt of gratitude as our website is vital to FCS. Please see a copy of Donna's obituary below. We send our condolences to her family.

Our society continues to grow, with new members coming on board each month. If you have any ideas for future growth or improvement, please contact me or another officer/chair. We are always looking for more help! Opportunities include: developing bylaws and a charter, writing articles for our newsletter and assisting with publicity.

A Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year to you all,

Scott McKay, scottsfamilytree@aol.com

Mrs. Donna Christine Younkin Logan, formerly of Frederick County, age 55, died Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006.

She is survived by her husband of 36 years, Lawrence L. Logan; two children, Jennifer J. Barrick and Joshua M. Logan and wife Melissa C.; father, Donald E. Younkin; three sisters, Marilyn A. Wojcik, Jean Younkin and Virginia L. Connolly; and her pride and joy granddaughter, Logan A. Barrick. She was preceded in death by her mother, Virginia S. Fair and half-brother, Carey Morgan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Capital Hospice, Halquist Memorial Inpatient Center, 4715 North 15th St., Arlington, Va. 22205. Private family service will be held.

New Starts in Genealogy for the New Year

By Donna Hadrian

The New Year is a great time to breathe some fresh air into your family history research. What better time of year to work on those brick walls that seem inevitable.

1. Re-acquaint or acquaint yourselves with web sites - join what you're interested in and can afford or get to your local library genealogy department or local FHC branch and log onto their computers.
2. Start or continue or upgrade your family genealogy records on your computer genealogy program.
3. Try finding the lost or review questionable finds -- sometimes a second look puts new or different meaning to previous items.
4. Write or re-write letters to relatives, friends, neighbors, and genealogy and history groups. Ask new questions, jog memories, or ask about photographs.
5. Explore genealogy and historical organizations in counties and cities of origin for town or county histories and family histories. Many of these have great books with pictures, family histories and resources. Seek records such as wills, land records, schools, churches, and cemeteries. So many of the old records are written in phrases with all kinds of details.
6. Vow to be more persistent and routine. Every contact has the potential for another clue and be sure to follow up.
7. Share with other searchers. It can open doors.

That's it for now - I hereby promise to take a deep breath and make a resolution to try my own advice and be miles ahead by 2007!

Website Spotlight

Submitted by Donna Hadrian, Richard Worthington and Christine Chirokas

--A recent Ancestry.com newsletter featured an article, "Brick Walls from A to Z." If you've hit an impassable point in your family history, take a look at this article to look for ideas on how to move past that point.

<http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=10852>

--LDS and Brigham Young University's Harold B. Lee Library are in the process of digitizing books, mostly family histories. As of last September, 5,000 books were available to view on the Internet and the plan is to add about 100 books a week. The books are fully searchable and available at BYU's website:

<http://www.lib.byu.edu/online.html>

A search for the surname Cooke turns up 12 books, including "A Genealogy of Families Bearing the Name of Cooke or Cook principally in Massachusetts and Connecticut, 1665-1882," by James Cook.

--The Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office (GLO) Records website is back after about six months off-line and allows access to millions of historic land title

records from the 30 Public Land States (those states not included in the original 13 Colonies) dating back to the 1780s. These fascinating and valuable records include homesteads, patents, military warrants, and railroad grants. To date more than 4.2 million records have been scanned and imaged since the project began in 1989.

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>

--An interesting article on the growth of heritage societies (particularly the Mayflower Society and Daughters of the American Revolution) ran in the Philadelphia Inquirer. It discusses how these societies have gone from mostly "blue blood" to now include "blue collar." See the article online at:

<http://www.philly.com/mld/philly/13431234.htm>

--Dale H. Cook's site The Old Colony Pages has a wonderful consolidated index of the "Mayflower Descendant." Dale started the index for his own research purposes and has generously put it online. In early volumes of MD, George Bowman wrote "Cooke Notes," and this index gives the volume and page number for each of those articles and others, so researchers will be able to reference the volumes easily in their own collection or at a library. Visit Dale's site at:

<http://members.cox.net/oldcolony/periodicals.shtml#md>

Washburn Ancestry

By Christine Chirokas

Many Francis Cooke descendants have found their way back to the Pilgrim through their Washburn ancestry. I descend from Seth Washburn whose 1792 marriage to Deborah Wright (as his third wife) joined two families rich in Mayflower ancestry.

Seth was born Plymouth 1738, son of John Washburn (John 3, Phillip 2, John 1) and Abigale Phillips. Deborah was born Plympton 1749 and was the daughter of Joseph Wright (Isaac 4, Adam 3, Hester 2 Cooke, Francis 1 Cooke) and Sarah Brewster.

Some of the resources I have found helpful in researching this Washburn/Cooke line include:

- The Mayflower Families books on Cooke, Soule, and Brewster.
- The Mayflower Descendant on CD by Search and Research Publishing, which has abstracts of wills, vital records and deeds, and some genealogy profiles.
- "The Great Migration Begins Immigrants to New England 1620-1633," by Robert Charles Robinson.
- "Plymouth Colony, Its History and People 1620-1691," by Eugene Stratton.
- Various published town vital records and histories.
- Plymouth Court Records 1686-1859, CD from NEHGR which has also compiled Plymouth Church Records on CD, both in conjunction with the Mayflower Society.
- Susan Roser's four mayflower books on CD from Family Tree Maker (Mayflower Births and Deaths Vol. I and II, Mayflower Increasings, Mayflower Marriages and Mayflower Deeds and Probates).

--Dale H. Cook's US GenWeb Plymouth County site has wonderful information, including an on-line edition of Nahum Mitchell's "History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater in Plymouth County, Massachusetts," which includes profiles on early Washburn men who settled there.

Any members who wish to exchange information about their Washburn Families, or any other lines in their Cooke ancestry, please do so on our e-mail list (Francis_Cooke_Society@yahoo.com). If you are not already a subscriber, please go to our website for instructions on how to subscribe. Rootsweb.com also has Washburn and Washburne email lists.

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.

The 6th and 7th generation project

One of the goals of FCS is to compile and publish the 6th and 7th generations of Francis Cooke descendants, continuing where the GSMD Silver Book left off. Dianna Saario is managing this project and has received 102 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.

Contact Information

Members of the 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. 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

Interim Membership Chair and head of the 6th and 7th Generations Project: Dianna Saario, dsaario@comcast.net

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