

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter
January 2008
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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 fellow Cooke members: I welcome you to a new and prosperous New Year. Please consider getting involved with our society! You can donate as much or as little time as your schedule allows. One area we need help with is working to help the Francis Cooke Charter to come in to fruition. If you would be interested in acting as a secretary for the group, gathering feedback received and updating the proposed bylaws/charter, please let us know. Also, we always want to hear of any new ideas for the Francis Cooke Society.

When I go out in the public, I usually talk about genealogy and mention Francis Cooke. I'm proud that the Society has helped members with joining the Mayflower Society through their Francis Cooke lines.

Sincerely,
J. Scott McKay, President

Loss of a Cousin

Robert Luce, one of the early members of the Francis Cooke Society, passed away at home on December 23, 2007, from complications following a liver transplant rejection. Mr. Luce was Governor of the Chilton's Children Family Association.

New Year's Resolutions

By Chris Chirokas

One of my frequent (and unfulfilled!) New Year's Resolutions is to do a better job at citing my references in my genealogy research. One website could make that easier for me this year, Easybib.com. This free website allows the user to enter the information from the source and it is automatically put into the appropriate format.

Follow this link for one genealogist's resolutions, published in the Rootsweb and Ancestry newsletters: <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/CyndisList/1998-12/0915151877>

And here's another list of Resolutions that is sure to get a chuckle from any family historian: <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/WIGRANT/2006-01/1136758319>

Mayflower General Congress

This year the 38th annual General Congress of the General Society of Mayflower descendants will take place in Plymouth, MA, on September 7-9. Sunday brings opening ceremonies featuring the Pilgrim Progress from the Mayflower House to Coles Hill to the Old Courthouse Square and the Church of the Pilgrimage. Meetings and seminars may be scheduled for Friday and Saturday, but this is subject to change. The business meeting will take place on Monday, September 8th. Additional information about the Congress will be published in future issues of "Mayflower Quarterly" and online at www.mayflowercongress.com.

If any members of the Francis Cooke Society plan on attending, maybe we can organize a meeting or at least a social gathering. Please email Chris at Chirokas@comcast.net if you are attending and we will keep a list going for communication.

Website Spotlight

In the first person, by Alexander Street Press:

<http://www.inthefirstperson.com/firp/index.shtml>

Includes an index to a collection of diaries, letters, oral histories, and personal narratives. Links to repositories of colleges and universities, museums and historical societies, such as the Nantucket Historical Association and New York University.

A selection of Bible records are available at Tracy St. Claire's website, <http://www.biblerecords.com/>. Bible Records Online is a site dedicated to transcribing and digitizing the contents of family records that were written inside family Bibles and in other important documents from as early as the 1500s through today.

Susan Roser, author and Historian for the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants, has begun listing corrections to the Mayflower Families books (aka Silver or Pink books), including some for Francis Cooke on her website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~canms/corrections.html>

The Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania has posted the 1623 poem on New England penned by William Morrell's:

http://www.sail1620.org/discover_feature_morrells_poem_on_new_england.shtml

To read about the 10 biggest genealogy news makers for 2007, check out Family Tree Magazine's site:

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/insider/10+Biggest+Genealogy+News+Stories+In+2007.aspx>

Caleb Johnson's website is always a wonderful place to visit. Scott McKay found his description and time-line of the Pilgrims' exploration of Cape Cod before moving onto Plymouth to be interesting: <http://www.mayflowerhistory.com/History/explore1.php>

Dianna Saario recommends this website, The Anglo-American Legal Tradition Project website, that presents, free of charge, digital images of historical documents from the U.K. National Archives from 1218 to 1650. Visit: <http://aalt.law.uh.edu/>

Membership Information

If you are interested in joining the Society (there is currently no fee charged) or you 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 our current projects is publishing a book with the 6th and 7th generations of Francis Cooke descendants, continuing where the GSMD Silver Book left 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 Saario is managing this project and has put an amazing amount of time into this effort. She works on verifying each line submitted, which sometimes entails quite a bit of work. Dianna and Valeria Reckert also help many Cooke descendants with their research. Thanks Dianna and Val for all the time you give to the Society and its members!

Contact Information

Members of the FCS are in communication through an e-mail group at [**Francis Cooke Society@yahoogroups.com**](mailto:FrancisCookeSociety@yahoogroups.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

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