

# Francis Cooke Society Newsletter

July 2008

Vol. 6, No. 3

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 members:

I hope that all of our Iowa members made it through the horrible floods with minimal damage. I was born in Cedar Rapids, where the flooding was the worst.

The Cooke Society is some 300 strong. I hope everyone has a great summer and fall. If anybody has some good ideas for the Society please pass them on to me.

Sincerely,

Scott

J. Scott McKay

President

## Hello to all members of the Francis Cooke Society (FCS)

My name is Judd Taylor, and I have agreed to be the FCS Newsletter Editor and work with Chris Chirokas to continue the quarterly publication. Chris has agreed to act as Managing Newsletter Editor. I look forward to working with Chris and with all the talented people that founded, organized and have joined the Francis Cooke Society. Their efforts and your membership have kept this family society named in memory of Pilgrim Francis Cooke running smoothly since it was founded in 2003.

FCS can continue only if members like you stay active. I need to hear from you with articles and information you would like to see published in our newsletter. For this edition of our newsletter I think it is very appropriate to review the purpose and intent stated in the first FCS newsletter. Please review Christine's first edition Vol. 1, #1, April 2003. Also, review her April 2005 Vol. 3, No. 2 newsletter. (Note: All past issues of the newsletter are available at <http://www.FrancisCookeSociety.org> Compare the two. You can see much has been accomplished since that first edition, but there is more yet to be done.

We need to help each other by working together to keep alive the memory of our ancestor, Francis Cooke, and the other members of the Mayflower, their families that followed them and the generations of all of those brave souls that came to this great country, including ourselves. Many of you are descendants of several Mayflower families that joined together to settle Plymouth Colony. As descendants, we need to join together to insure the work they did to create this great country continues. An excellent way to remember Francis Cooke and all of those first families that settled the region that became New England is to stay active in the Francis Cooke Society. The Francis Cooke Society has been truly blessed to have Chris' timely and informative newsletters.

I hope each of you will join with me to express our appreciation for all of Chris' excellent newsletters and for agreeing to stay active to guide me. Please e-mail Chris to thank her for all the work she has done; you can reach her with your comments at: [chirokas@comcast.net](mailto:chirokas@comcast.net) .

In the fall look for news of one member's trip to England and Holland and other information of interest. Then later look for the news and articles of the Mayflower convention. If you have any contributions or suggestions for the quarterly newsletter, please send them to Judd. Our next issue will come out in October. Please remember content is limited to items connected with Francis Cooke, his descendants and the areas they lived in.

Thank you,  
Judson D. "Judd" Taylor E-mail: [tranfarms@aol.com](mailto:tranfarms@aol.com)

### **Update on Mary Cooke Tomson's Gravestone**

Member Tim Finton sent in this information:

I was just in Massachusetts over the Memorial Day weekend to watch NCAA lacrosse at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. Not far from our hotel in Raynham was the Nemasket Hill Cemetery in Middleboro, which has the graves of Lt. John Tomson and his wife, Mary Cooke Tomson, daughter of Francis Cooke.

I want to report that the gravestones (hers is a modern reproduction) are still in fine form and were already marked with a small American flag for Memorial Day, since there is a metal veteran's flag stakeholder at their graves. I was touched to see that Lt. Tomson is still honored as a veteran.

Thanks for the update, Tim!

### **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 6-10. More information on the Congress is available at: <http://www.mayflowercongress.com> .

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

## **Book Review**

By Chris Chirokas

I recently ordered "Early Descendants of Henry Cobb of Barnstable, Massachusetts," first in what will be the "Friends of the Pilgrims Series," by Susan E. Roser. Susan is someone many Mayflower descendants are familiar with, due to her reference books, such as "Mayflower Marriages," and her helpful contributions to Mayflower-related email lists. She is also the Historian of the GSMD's Canadian Society. The Cobb book covers the first four generations of Henry Cobb's ancestors, including some Francis Cooke descendants. Henry was born ca 1605-1610 and married first Patience Hurst and second Sarah Hinckley. Henry was the father of an astounding number of children--15! With Patience he fathered John, James, Mary, Hannah, Patience, Gershom, and Eleazer. He and Sarah had Mehitable (who died young), Samuel, Sarah, Jonathan, Sarah, Henry, Mehitable, and Experience. The book is very well researched and presented in a style similar to the Mayflower Society's "Silver" books, but also includes many epitaph transcriptions as well as gravestone photographs and transcriptions of wills. The book is a wonderful research tool for anyone with Cobb connections and something I looked forward to reading since I heard about the project, and I haven't been disappointed. Families to be eventually published in the series are: John Barnes, John Churchill, Daniel Cole, James Cole, John Doane, John Faunce, John Holmes, Samuel Ryder, and John Shaw.

## **Early New England Video Clip**

By Chris Chirokas

Dick Eastman's Daily Online Genealogy Newsletter is always of source of good information. Check out the video clip (about six minutes long), portraying life in New England in the 1620s. It was produced by Encyclopaedia Britannica Films for classroom use in 1940.

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2008/07/video-early-set.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2008/07/video-early-set.html)

Another useful website lists government genealogical resources available by state. It's great to see it all in one place!

[http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History\\_Family/State\\_Genealogy.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History_Family/State_Genealogy.shtml)

The Pilgrim Museum at Leiden has a new website:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~netlapm/Page01.htm>

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

## **New Members**

Welcome to our newest member Judson D. Taylor Jr. who is jumping right in by becoming the newsletter editor! Judd is from State Road, North Carolina and is a very interesting man with a

variety of interest. He descends from Jane 2 Cooke, who married Experience Mitchell, through their daughter Elizabeth who married John Washburn. Welcome to FCS, Judd, and thank you for taking on a new challenge! You will find many cousins and place to gather and share genealogical information.

### **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 is undergoing surgery this month, so please join us in wishing her a speedy recovery!

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! Thank you Val for being the Genealogist and for the outstanding job you have done to help the FCS and the members. Dianna Saario will be the new FCS Genealogist.

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, E-mail: [scottsfamilytree@aol.com](mailto:scottsfamilytree@aol.com)

Membership Chair and head of the 6th and 7th Generations Project: Dianna Saario, E-mail: [dsaario@comcast.net](mailto:dsaario@comcast.net)

Dianna Saario will also be the new Francis Cooke Society Genealogist

Newsletter Editor: Judd Taylor E-mail" [tranfarms@aol.com](mailto:tranfarms@aol.com)

Secretary: Valeria Reckert, E-mail: [LadyGenes@comcast.net](mailto:LadyGenes@comcast.net)

Cooke Historian: Richard Worthington -mail: [rlworthi@wisc.edu](mailto:rlworthi@wisc.edu)

Publicity Coordinator and Managing Newsletter Editor: Christine Chirokas, E-mail: [chirokas@comcast.net](mailto:chirokas@comcast.net)

Back issues of the FCS Newsletter are available for viewing at <http://www.franciscookesociety.org/>.