

# Francis Cooke Society Newsletter

November 2009

Vol. 7, 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 Cousins and Fellow Francis Cooke Society Members:**

Another fall season is here again. A time to celebrate the many Blessings God has given us. Traditional fall festivals were held at the end of the harvest season.

This custom was carried on by the Plimoth Plantation citizens in the fall of 1621 when Frances Cooke and his son John bowed their heads and gave Thanks to God for the fruits of Plymouth's first harvest.

We are honored to have several officers of the GSMD in our membership. Both Historian General Paul S. Bumpus- Maine and Hawaii and Captain General Kenneth R. Callison- Iowa are members of the Frances Cooke Society.

As we prepare to celebrate our American **Thanksgiving** , let us remember our Pilgrim ancestors who invited their Native American friends to celebrate with them.

Let us not forget those around us ; many in our communities are without, not only food & shelter, but family, friends and employment. Be creative in finding ways to help others this **Thanksgiving** and **Holiday Season**.

**Best wishes for a joyful Thanksgiving and 2009-2010 Holiday Season,**

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

### **Website Spotlight**

From: (Mr.) Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr., Co-Founder  
Pilgrim Henry Samson Kindred  
Past Governor, SMDPA

I want to share with you information about our booklet: ***Pilgrims: Then and Now***  
In 1990 the Pennsylvania Society sponsored its own publication about the Pilgrims and how their covenant concept "played a major role in the formation of the church to which they pledged mutual aid in the care of one another." Their similar pledge with the Native Americans promoted peace for fifty-five years. Thousands of copies have been distributed to Pennsylvania schools, scout groups, etc. as well as each new SMDPA member. This illustrated 34 page booklet (cover in color) was written by The Rev. Gary L. Marks, current senior pastor of the Church of the Pilgrimage (UCC) in Plymouth, MA. He is a recognized scholar of the Pilgrims' pastor John Robinson. His church and the First Parish Church in Plymouth alternate as host for the GSMD Triennial Congress opening sessions. Sales of the booklet are a major fund raiser for our educational programs. It could be for your State Society too! It sells for \$6 per copy, s&h included. Bundles of 20 copies are available for \$76, s&h included. Checks should be payable to SMDPA and orders sent to Alice E. Boucher; 837 Anthony Dr.; Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Best Wishes,  
Stacy  
(Mr.) Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr. Co-Founder  
Pilgrim Henry Samson Kindred  
Past Governor, SMDPA

PS With thanks to all already purchasing this booklet.

**Beverly Pierce Stroebel** submitted an article about her recently released Mayflower book,

### **"Full Sail ~ A 21st Century Spiritual Cruise On Board The Mayflower."**

Edward D. Sullivan invited passengers on board Full Sail this way: Using her genealogical calendar, Beverly Pierce Stroebel found proof to document the credibility and fulfillment of the Mayflower Compact goals to advance the Christian faith and glorify God from the seventeenth to the twenty first centuries. I found that joining ancestors on board the Mayflower, in a spiritual way, is rewarding and meaningful. Once again, steadfast and courageous 'pilgrims' have the opportunity to follow a scriptural course. The difference between our first Pilgrims and

now is that twenty-first-century passengers can bathe America and other nations in prayer and participate in activities to preserve, protect, and strengthen our liberties. As a concerned citizen, a father, a retired military man, a leader in the Mayflower descendant community, and a man of faith, I say that the need is great. Therefore, I invite all liberty lovers and spiritual and physical Mayflower descendants to join me on board the Mayflower in the twenty-first century. Working together to fill sails, we can continue to fulfill the Mayflower Compact goals. As you prepare to board Full Sail. Welcome aboard. My best wishes and prayers are with you.

—Edward Delano Sullivan, Mayflower Society Governor General 2005–2008

For more information: see the attached holiday letter from Ms. Stroebel with more about this book in our **Book Review** section below.

## **From The Trunk**

By Judd Taylor

This issue is mainly devoted to all things about our American **Thanksgiving** Holiday. This holiday started with the fall celebration Pilgrim Frances Cooke and his son John celebrated 388 years ago in what became Plymouth, MA.

They and 138 others (ninety of whom had table manners very different from their English Pilgrim hosts) did not intentionally plan for the first **Thanksgiving** held in New England to become America's national **Thanksgiving** Celebration. But it did!

Much can be learned from reading, *Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims First Year in America* by Glenn Alan Cheney; more on this book below.

There is another very interesting book just published by one of our newest members, Beverly Pierce Stroebel, entitled, *Full Sail-A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Spiritual Cruise on Board The Mayflower* I can not wait to read Beverly's book. More on this book below, also.

The settlement of New England began when the Mayflower landed in 1621 and when it left in the spring of 1621. Frances Cooke and his fellow Plimoth Plantation residents learned how to build and sustain a life for themselves. Their actions combined with the knowledge and survival skills learned from the Wampanoag Native Americans were the models used by other English immigrants that followed them to that region. A new society & culture developed in New England that was very different from the planters of the coastal Atlantic seaboard and the mainly Scots-Irish families that settled in the interior territory along the Appalachian mountain range.

One has to remember that when the Mayflower pulled up anchor and sailed back to England, not one Englishman elected to return to their old homeland.

When the Mayflower sailed back to England, our Forefathers became English American immigrants allied with their Native American Wampanoag neighbors.

Today, we remember them as Pilgrims.

## Book Review

### *Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims' First Year in America*

by Glenn Alan Cheney

I recently purchased this book at the 2009 SMDNC annual meeting hosted this year by the Charlotte Colony in Charlotte, NC.

I highly recommend this book for information and for reading enjoyment. Mr. Cheney has produced an excellently written book that is also highly entertaining to read.

It is so much more than the title suggests; the book explains how and why our ancestors came together to sail on the Mayflower to the land that became America. Once I began reading, I could not stop until I had finished.

Mr. Cheney states he had to walk a fine line between factual truth and implied truth. He choose to stick with the facts and left imagination to the reader.

*“This book is dedicated to every immigrant who has come to America and to every American who has welcomed them with grace and assistance.” \**

### *\*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](http://www.NLLibrarium.com)

This book should be required reading for every American.

## New *Mayflower* book

Francis Cooke descendant and Frances Cooke Society member Beverly Pierce Stroebel has authored a new *Mayflower* book titled *Full Sail ~ A 21st Century Spiritual Cruise On Board The Mayflower* . Filled with well-researched facts, each cruise day (13 chapters and generations) in the non-partisan and non-denominational logbook reviews and advances the Christian and civil Mayflower Compact goals signed by her ancestors Francis Cooke and James Chilton. Please navigate through [www.mayflowerfullsaillogbook.com](http://www.mayflowerfullsaillogbook.com) for more information about Beverly and *Full Sail*. For acquiring the book, including signed copies, visit the “Store” page. For scheduling Bev to speak about the book (for now, just at west coast events and locations) and for acquiring a free holiday season letter listing gifts from America’s Pilgrims, visit the “Contact” page to reach her via e-mail.

For Mayflower Cooke cousins reading our family FCS newsletter, Bev says, “I learned in the year 2000 that I am a Francis-Jane Cooke descendant in the 13th generation from Francis. After nine years of research and writing, now I can invite Cooke cousins aboard my *Mayflower* book which was released on Sept. 1, 2009. To introduce *Full Sail* at Mayflower Society and Colony meetings, especially at

November Compact Day observances, you can say that the book is based on the Christian and civil Mayflower Compact, reviews American and Judeo-Christian history from the 17th to the 21st century, and contains a Thanksgiving feast of material for use around Thanksgiving tables. Please feel free to share this book introduction with your connections. I am thankful for my *Mayflower* family! God bless your holiday season.”

## **USA Weekend- Excellent Article**

by Cokie Roberts and Steven V. Roberts This informative article appeared in the November 24, 2002 issue of *USA Weekend*. Find a copy on line or in your library. You will be glad you did. The article details how diverse the descendants of the Mayflower have become.

I mentioned this article in 2008 & I again recommend it this November 2009. It is a must read for me. I believe you will agree.

## **Research Methods & Procedures For Mayflower Application**

The last issue of this Newsletter (July 2009) listed some suggestions from Sara V. Moser about a book that is accepted by the GSMD for those with ancestors from Rhode Island that immigrated to Nova Scotia & New Brunswick.

Here are links to some on line records mentioned by Sara V. Moser in that issue (read the back issue for a complete summary):

### **Nova Scotia Genealogy**

<https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com/>

### **Nova Scotia Archives & Records Management**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/databases/>

### **Provincial Archives of New Brunswick**

<http://archives.gnb.ca/Archives/Default.aspx?culture=en-CA>

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.

If you would like to share your experiences and would agree to have them posted for others to consider in their genealogical Mayflower Research, please submit them to Jeff.

Jeffrey Northrup' <[northrup@comcast.net](mailto:northrup@comcast.net)>

## **New Members**

Scott informs us that we now have 282 members.

Welcome to our newest members:

Beverly Stroebel Oct. 20 2009

Ron Kimber September 19, 2009

Jack Northrup     September 14, 2009

G. Lutman-Griffin     September 14, 2009

We are most excited that you have joined our FCS. If there is anything that we can do to assist you, please let us know. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 I can focus my attention on that part of you lineage.

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/](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](http://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](http://www.themayflowersociety.org)

**The FCS Website** <http://www.FrancisCookeSociety.org>

**President J. Scott McKay,** [scottsfamilytree@aol.com](mailto:scottsfamilytree@aol.com)

**Genealogist, Dianna Saario,** [dsaario@comcast.net](mailto:dsaario@comcast.net)

**Newsletter Editor Judd Taylor,** [TranFarms@aol.com](mailto:TranFarms@aol.com)

**Cooke Historian, Vacant**

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