

Francis Cooke Society Newsletter

FALL 2011

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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 Cousins and Fellow Francis Cooke Society Members:

I hope you have had a great summer with your family and friends. Our American Fourth of July event and the upcoming Thanksgiving celebration brings back memories of our Plymouth Colony ancestors' efforts that led to establishing the United States of America.

Please remember this Thanksgiving the men and women who currently serve in the various American military and special services. They, and those who came before them, cannot be thanked or remembered enough.

Please join with me to say a prayer for our current military men & women for their safety and well being.

We thank all of our ancestors but especially Francis Cooke & his wife Hester Mahieu whose memory we strive to keep alive with the Francis Cooke Society.

I hope you are enjoying this time with family & friends.

Stay safe, vigilant and remember to pass on our history to those who follow us.

Sincerely,

J. Scott McKay, President

1298 SW 15th Street

Boca Raton, Florida 33486

From The Trunk

By Judd Taylor

While writing this edition of our e-newsletter, I revisited the The Leiden American Pilgrim Museum web site. While there, I found this information. I think you will enjoy reading all the information found on their web pages. We thank Dr. Bangs for allowing us to quote from the web site. Of particular interest to me is this statement about our Pilgrim ancestors: "During their Leiden exile, contact with Dutch Mennonites and with other groups of refugees, particularly the French-speaking Calvinists called Walloons or Huguenots, expanded the Pilgrims' horizons and led to the development of a uniquely cosmopolitan, relatively tolerant view of the world. Having spent a dozen formative years in The Netherlands, the Pilgrims became the source through which several innovations derived from Dutch legal and social precedent entered New England colonial culture, including civil marriage registration and the celebration of special days of Thanksgiving. The Leiden American Pilgrim Museum presents the reality behind the Pilgrim myth. " See <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~netlapm/Page11.htm> and Please review Dr. Bangs entire web site which can be found at - www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~netlapm

As we wrote in our last issue, Dr. Bangs' new book "*Strangers and Pilgrims, Travelers and Sojourners*" was highly recommended to our society by Mr. Stacy Woods of the Pennsylvanian Mayflower Society. www.sail1620.org. The *Mayflower Quarterly*, also, recommends this new book.

Book Review

See the above web site for:

[Book Extract: *Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners*](#)

Very interesting material you will enjoy reading on this web page:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~netlapm/Page32X.htm>

Another great book I have recommended before:

Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims' First Year in America

By [Glenn Alan Cheney](#)

Mr. Cheney wrote the following:

Dear Descendants of the Mayflower:

I thought you might like to know about a book I wrote, *Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims' First Year in America*. It covers just about every detail we know about what happened in that crucial year in American history between the landing of the Mayflower and the famous feast of the following fall — what each passenger did, who lived, who died, how (they) made peace with the local people. It puts you in their cold, wet boots as they tromp

around Cape Cod looking for a place to live as winter sets in. It puts you on that cold, dark gun deck where the dying lie among the dead.

The book also goes into the religious background of the Separatists and the reasons they left Europe to settle on a distant continent.

I set up a special website where Descendants can get the book at half of the price at amazon.com. Please note that this is only for Descendants (and people working on their genealogies) and only until November 24. [By "Descendant" I mean anybody who claims to be. They don't need to be in GSMD. I'm not checking genes or anything.]

The site is NLLibrarium.com/descendants/pilgrims You can read a long excerpt there, too.

I hope you get to read this book before you bow for grace over your Thanksgiving meal. As a Descendant, you need to know — and feel — every detail of what your ancestors went through.

Glenn Alan Cheney

Hanover, Conn

[Editor's Note: I purchased this book and gave it as a gift to each of my three sons for Christmas 2010. I highly recommend this book. JDT]

Research Methods & Procedures For Mayflower Applications

Cousins: Here are a few notes & sites you may want to review.

http://genealogy.about.com/cs/free_genealogy/a/free_sites.htm

Middleboro Public Library is home to the Sylvia Trust Genealogy and Cranberry Collections

<http://www.midlib.org/>

Google books has complete copies of many vital records and New England & other town history information.

<http://books.google.com/>

A lot of this Google books information can be downloaded to a CD or a computer.

Check out these web sites for your genealogical research:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/cook/default.aspx?section=news>

http://genealogy.about.com/od/dna_genetics/gr/roots.htm

New Members

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 Yahoo Discussion group for FCS shows we now have 341 members.

Welcome Aboard all of our new Cousins.

The Sixth and Seventh Generation Project

Dianna Saario has completed the sixth and seventh generations of Francis Cooke descendants. The publication of the book will continue where the current GSMD Silver Book leaves off.

Thank you Dianna for completing this project. Additional information will be available on this project in the near future.