



Frances Cooke Society Newsletter
Spring 2011
Vol. 9 No. 1

About the Frances 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:

We hope you enjoy the Spring 2011 FCS Newsletter. We wish that you have a great summer with family and friends.

Please note we currently have 361 members. If you have any comments or suggestions please let us know.

Stay safe and enjoy your summer .

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

BOOK REVIEWS

Strangers and Pilgrims, Travelers and Sojourners - Leiden and the Foundation of Plymouth Plantation.

By Jeremy D. Bangs, Ph. D.

The following article was sent to me by Mr. Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr. for publication in this edition of the FCS Newsletter.

Where Pilgrim Scholarship Begins

By Mr. Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr.

(Reprinted from an Amazon.com article by Stacy Wood, Jr.)

Please note that if you purchase the book directly from GSMD at <http://www.themayflowersociety.com/book.htm>

The GSMD gets all the profit. I am reprinting parts of this excellent article below.

Who were the Pilgrims who came to New England on the 1620

voyage of the ship “Mayflower” ? Whether you think of them as a famous part of American’s colonial history or you approach them from your own family history, you will discover new and unexpected chapters in the story we all think is so familiar nothing more can be said.

This new book is a study of the process by which people from widely disparate backgrounds and many different places combined to form the unity that we know as Plymouth Colony.

I am a member of the North Carolina Mayflower Society Piedmont Colony. I recently suggested that our colony purchase a copy of Dr. Bangs new book and donate it to a library in our area. Ask your library, school or college to purchase and put a copy of this book in their collection of genealogy material.

The Mayflower Quarterly

Vol. 77 No. 1 March 2011

Page 5 - Attracting the Younger GSMD Potential Member

**Comments by Frances Ridway Roecker, Membership Chair
Priscilla G. Usher, Jennifer Rolfe, Committee members .
Timely ideas & suggestions that dove tail with my comments
on passing our family histories on to those who come after us.**

Page 30 - 33 The New William Brewster House

By Paula Peters and Richard Pickeing

An excellent article on the efforts of reproducing Plimont Plantations dwellings , outbuildings and fortifications in the Museum's English Village as they would have been fabricated in the 1620's time period.

The buildings are designed, reproduced with period tools & fabricated with building techniques used by the colonial Plimont Plantation construction crews.

The front and back covers of this MQ magazine has color photographs of the colonial artisans building the Brewster house.

A very informative article that I know you will enjoy reading.

**Page 86 - GSMD - Announces \$5,000 Scholarship.
Instructions are given on requirements and how to apply.**

**The Mayflower Quarterly Subscription Information is
As follows:**

**One year, \$15 for Non-members in the U.S.A. ; \$18 to countries
outside the U.S.A. Please send orders with a check payable
(U. S. Funds) to General Society of Mayflower Descendants ;
P. O. Box 3297 : Plymouth, MA 02361-3297**

FROM THE TRUNK

By Judd Taylor

As I have written several times, I like to encourage everyone to share their knowledge of their individual families with their own families.

I encourage everyone to pass on each family's stories & history to future generations by writing them in a family history book.

Many are members of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants because a direct blood line member of their family passed on information about their Mayflower ancestor to them. Without this knowledge that one or more of their ancestors was a passenger on the ship, Mayflower, they would not be a member of GSMD.

See comments on this subject in the Mayflower Quarterly mentioned above.

I love to repeat the story of my grandson remembering how he is the fifth generation to share the name "Judson". I have emphasized to each grand child little family stories and asked them to pass these on to the next generation after them.

My grand son will be seven this year & he remembers how I have asked him to pass on this "Judson" family name to his descendants when he grows up. He gave me a wonderful example that he remembered & understood my request to him. Last year, I gave him a kitten & several weeks after he received the pet, I called him to ask what he named it. His reply was, "Spiky Judson the 6th". I am extremely pleased he has the concept of my request to honor his name & to pass on to his descendants our family history. Now he is naming new goldfish with numerical designations of "Judson the 7th", etc. . Hey, he is only seven but he has the idea.

When researching for my GSMD application, I found many of my Washburn ancestors used the same name with no numerical designations ; try figuring out that Jonathan, Jr. is the son not the dad of Jonathan and not Jonathan Washburn, his cousin, that lived in a neighboring Plymouth County village. That was an experience I share with you from my genealogical research. Note to all : “Jr.” did not mean “Son Of ” in the 1600 era as did the original meaning of “Judson”, son of Jude in ancient Israel.

My Mayflower research began with an oral family story told to me by my Washburn, maternal Grand Mother.

My oldest son had given me an Ancestry.com Family Tree Maker as a Christmas gift. This software program was my organizational foundation. I want to share with you in future editions of how I used this software to find my Mayflower connections. I had a similar elated feeling like Ashley Judd on the TV program “ Who Do You Think You Are ? “ when I discovered I did have a Mayflower ancestor.

In this edition, I want to share information about our ancestor Francis Cooke. In future editions, I want to share knowledge about his 16th, 17th & 18th century era family history. I hope this information will be helpful and you will pass this knowledge on. Use it in your personal family stories and ask them to pass on to their future generations.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH **CONSIDERATIONS**

*** These nine genealogy libraries listed in this link can be**

helpful in your research.

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/9-libraries.htm>

*** Check your local or area Libraries. Also, see if they have exchange privileges with larger libraries, college & university libraries.**

This practice has proven beneficial for my research and saved me money in purchasing additional books.

*** Library of Congress - See your area library for instructions on how to make requests.**

*** State and Regional Mayflower Societies often have material you can use. Check them out and see where their material is stored.**

*** Your State Archives and State library. North Carolina has a complete set of Mayflower “Silver Books” plus other Mayflower related books.**

*** Google Books - Google has complete copies of many vital records and town histories. A lot of these can be downloaded to a CD or to your computer.**

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

*** Twelve volume set - “Records of the Colony of New Plymouth In New England” , edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtlff and David Pulsifer is available online at Google Books.**

*** See <http://plymouthcolony.net/resources/files/PCR.pdf> Dale Cook has created a consolidated index to most of the volumes mentioned above. Also, see his <http://plymouthcolony.net>**

*** Allen County Indiana Library**

<http://www.archive.org/index.php> also see an article about the project at

<http://www.journalgazett.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081226/LOCAL/812260323>

INFORMATION FOR USE IN PLANNING PERIOD GARDENS

My maternal Grand Mother and I love vegetable & flower gardens. I hope you enjoy reviewing these sites and find them useful .

* Old Salem www.oldsalem.org

* <http://www.nativetech.org/cornhusk/threesisters.html>

* <http://www.seedsavers.org/Home.asp> [Especially see the Mayflower Bean, but disregard the inaccurate historical information.]

* <http://www.nativeseeds.org/v2/default.php>

Membership Dues, Donations & Information :

We are asking you to make a donation of \$10 to FCS.
To help keep our web site up & running.

Please make out your check to Francis Cooke Society and mail to : Jeffrey Northrup

**122 Humphery Street
Lowell, MA 01850**

Our membership is only \$10 per year. Remember you do not have to prove lineage to Francis Cooke to belong to the Francis Cooke Society. We want everyone to know about our country's pre-colonial New England history & those men and women who made this country the great nation it is today. Join with us in perpetuating the memory of our ancestors. If you would like to make a donation to help keep our website going, Please do that , also.

Please make out your check to Francis Cooke Society and mail to:

**Jeffrey Northrup
122 Humphery Street
Lowell, MA 01850**

FCS Membership Information

If you are interested in joining the FCS or if you are a member who has not filled out the membership form (found on this web site), please contact Dianna Saario, franciscooke559@att.net All persons are eligible. Help with your line is available from Dianna for members only.

Fill out the form found on our web site and send it to Dianna. Please let Dianna know which generation needs research so she can focus her attention on that part of your lineage.

Please consider a donation and suggestions on how FCS can continue to offer genealogical research; we can no longer offer this service for free to all who ask. We need not only your donation & membership but your suggestions.

Thank you for your interest in the Francis Cooke Society.

<http://www.franciscookesociety.org>

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. 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 has managed this very tedious project for several years. 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 its members. If you have any questions about this project and you would like to contribute, please contact by email or snail mail - Diana Saario

franciscooke596@yahoo.com

**Dianna Saario
Francis Cooke Society
Membership Chairwomen & Genealogist
Francis Cooke 6th & 7th Generations Project Compiler
1449 East Vassar Drive
Visalia, CA 93292**

FRANCIS COOKE of the MAYFLOWER

Listed below is a summary of the marriage record of Francis Cooke & Hester Mahieu plus additional information about Pilgrim Francis Cooke.

The marriage record states that Francis was a Woolcomber and that his bride was from England.

Francois Coek, Woolcomber, single man accompanied by Phillppe de Veau and Raphael Roelandt, his acquaintances, was married to Hester le Mahieu, single woman of Canterbury of England, in Leiden, South Holland beginning 09 May 1602. Hester le Mahieu was accompanied by Jenne le Mahieu, her mother, Jenne le Mahieu, her sister.

J. C. Overvaar
The Archivist of Leiden

From Plimont Plantation records, we learn that Francis Cooke & Hester Mahieu marriage date was July 20, 1603 or shortly thereafter in Leiden, South Holland.

Francis Cooke and his family lived for a short time in Norwich, Norfolk England between 1606 and 1608, but the purpose of their stay is unknown. Hester Cooke identified herself as being from Canterbury in her betrothal registration. Did they know each other in England prior to their marriage in Leiden, Holland?

Francis Cooke was living in Leiden by April

1603, when he worked there as a woolcomber. His wife's family were Walloons, originally from the town of Lille in Flanders, coming to Leiden from London in 1590. Hester joined the Walloon church just before her betrothal, but there is no record of Francis joining. He did appear in the records as witness to a baptism and a betrothal. Three of their children are listed in the church records between 1607-1611, but none thereafter and they may have joined the English Separatist church at that time.

Francis Cooke and his son John came to New England aboard the *Mayflower*. Hester, Jane, Jacob and Hester joined them in the summer of 1623, coming over on the *Anne*. Francis was in the 1633 list of Plymouth freemen and served on various committees and juries over the years. Although he owned land on the North River and Namasket, he remained in Plymouth.

Additional Information on Francis Cooke & Hester Mahieu can be found in the following :

Robert C. Anderson. *The Great Migration Begins*. Boston: New

England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995.

Robert C. Anderson. *The Pilgrim Migration*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2004.

Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Vol. 12: Francis Cooke. Ralph V. Wood, Jr.

Camden: Picton Press, 1996.

Eugene A. Stratton. *Plymouth Colony: Its History and*

People,

1620-1691. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1986.

The majority of the above information on Francis Cooke was obtained from Plimont Plantation www.plimoth.org . web site.

Please review their new web site; loaded with additional information about our pilgrim ancestors.

If at all possible, plan a visit this summer to Plimont Plantation; you will be glad you did.

**“ You can’t change history but it can change you! “ -
Plimont Plantation**

In our Summer 2011 edition, I want to write about the following:

- * Francis & Hester (Mahieu) Cooke were in the textile industry in England and Holland.
- * What is a woolcomber?
- * Both of their parents are believed to be Walloon refugees who were persecuted for their protestant beliefs in their native country.
- * Both the Cooke & the Mahieu families were in the textile industry.
- * Uncle Francis & Aunt Hester raised Philippe DeLanoy (Philip Delano) in Plymouth Colony.
- * The Vrouwekerk (Our Lady’ s Church) which was the

Walloon Church of Leiden, the Netherlands. In this church Francis & Hester were married. Children Jane, Jacob & daughter Hester were baptized as well as nephew Philip Delano.

* How the people of Leiden & the Vrouwekerk sheltered our Pilgrim & Huguenot ancestors.

* Other material as it becomes available.

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

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Newsletter Editor Judd Taylor, TranFarms@aol.com

Cooke Historian, Vacant

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

