



Francis Cooke Society

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Online Discussion Forum

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Francis_Cooke_Society



Facebook Group

Francis Cooke Society

Upcoming Events –

About Us

The Francis Cooke Society (FCS) was formed in 2003 to perpetuate the memory of Mayflower passenger Francis Cooke. In addition to honoring Francis Cooke's contributions to Plymouth Colony, we are a forum for members to exchange information and assist his descendants in acquiring acceptable proofs of eligibility for membership in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

We currently have more than 60 verified descendants, more pending and a number of yet unproven Mayflower lineages. With the 400th birthday of the Mayflower fast approaching, the interest in connecting to one or more passengers is growing at a fast rate. Now is the time for FCS to utilize our resources to assist them.

FCS members are needed to help grow our society. Opportunities include serving as an officer; publicity; planning events; recruiting new members; developing fundraisers, etc.

Taking into consideration the busy lives we lead – we hope you will offer your services and become a valuable asset of the Francis Cooke Society!

GENERAL SOCIETY OF
MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

PILGRIM FAMILY SOCIETIES

If you look at the General Society of Mayflower Descendants – you won't find the Francis Cooke Society listed among their recognized organizations. The simple reason for this is money.

In order that we become recognized, an annual donation of \$250 is required and unfortunately, we simply don't have it. Our application fee is minimal and we want to keep it that way in order to bolster our membership, but donations are vital if we plan to expand.

As a part of the Family Society Partnership, we will become a part of the GSMD public relations and marketing efforts; have a link to FCS on their website; we'll receive a GSMD endorsement symbol we can use on our website and promotional materials; acceptance of our DNA tested members into the official GSMD Mayflower Society FTDNA Project; plus much more. Additionally, \$100 of our annual donation goes to the GSMD Silver Books Project – an incredibly worthwhile project in its own right.

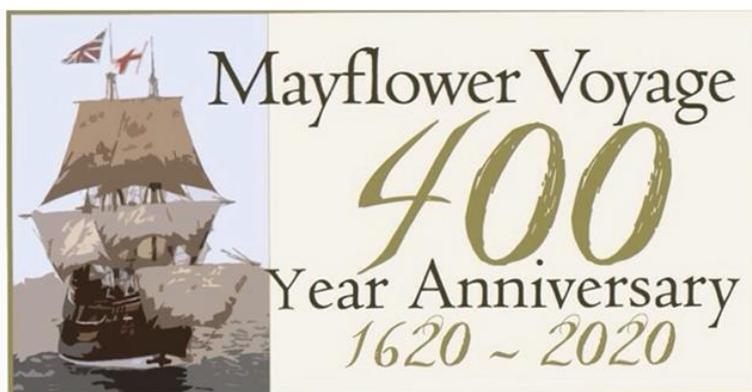
Every dollar is as important as the next. No amount is too small. If you're interested in donating to this cause – please contact Dianna Saario at Franciscooke559@att.net.

Leadership Opportunities for the Francis Cooke Society

It's time to get the ball rolling! But in order to do that, we need YOU! And what better time to become involved in our organization than with the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage just around the corner! The 2020 celebration is an awesome opportunity for us to garner new members and become a bona fide Pilgrim Family Society.

Please take a few moments to consider what part you could play in growing the FCS. Are you willing to serve in a leadership role? Do you have computer skills that could help with the website or making forms? Anyone out there that could help with setting up letters of incorporation? Knowledge of non-profit issues? Can you help write Bylaws? Do you like to plan events? Can you help with lineage research for prospective members? Would you like to see FCS recognized by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants? Do you want to be part of a great organization that honors your ancestor, Francis Cooke?

If you answered yes to any of these questions – please jot down in what way you are willing to participate and email them to Dianna Saario – Franciscooke559@att.net.



Just a few short years from now, 2020 will be upon us, marking the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the *Mayflower* and the founding of Plymouth Colony. This is an exciting opportunity for GSMD to commemorate our Pilgrim ancestors and to share their inspirational story with the world!

To organize commemoration events and initiatives, GSMD has created a planning committee at the national level. Many of our 53 member societies are preparing for the 2020 Commemoration as well. Here, you will find everything you need to know about our plans for 2020 and the plans of our Member Societies.

Key initiatives by GSMD in honor of 2020 will be a commemorative coin series and a U.S. Postal Service stamp set recognizing key historical elements surrounding the *Mayflower* voyage and the establishment of Plymouth colony. GSMD is also planning a memorial artwork piece to be installed in Plymouth in 2020. More information on this piece will be available at Congress 2017.

As we draw closer to 2020, there will be opportunities where we will need your support. Whether you are a member of GSMD or not, whether you are a Pilgrim descendant or not, we are asking for your help to make these projects a reality. As these projects develop and 2020 draws near, we'll be updating this page consistently and we recommend signing up for the GSMD e-mail newsletter to be the first to know!

George Garmany
Governor General
Chair, GSMD 2020 Committee

FRANCIS COOKE SOCIETY WEBSITE FEATURES -

The Francis Cooke Society for Genealogical Research website is accessible to anyone wishing to learn more about the Mayflower; the Pilgrims; or Francis Cooke in particular. It is full of invaluable information to help you prove your lineage. The website has links for FCS approved Mayflower lineages; those that are currently pending; and those who are yet unproven to help you in your quest to connect to Francis Cooke.

There are a number of notable men and women who descend from Francis Cooke. Check out “Famous Descendants of Mayflower passenger Francis Cooke” to see some of our famous cousins!

You will find a link to the previous newsletters. These newsletters, from April 2003 – Spring 2012, will provide you with information on FCS, interesting stories about the Pilgrims, book reviews, genealogy tips, Mayflower Society information, and more.

One great feature is the Research Library which you will find by clicking the “Books, CD’s & Online Databases” tab. The main goal of the Research Library is to assist descendants of Francis Cooke in acquiring acceptable proofs of eligibility for membership in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. But we will also assist people in help of their genealogical pursuits of Early New England. Here you will find a list of FCS members (and their personal repositories). These members are willing to give of their time for look ups. If you request a look-up, please “cc” Dianna Saario at Franciscooke559@gmail.com so we can keep track of the requests.

We are pleased to be able to share a number of other websites for your use. Among them are:

Caleb Johnson’s Mayflower History <http://mayflowerhistory.com/>

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania <https://www.sail1620.org/>

New England Historic Genealogical Society <https://www.americanancestors.org/index.aspx>

The Old Colony Pages <http://www.plymouthcolony.net/>

Gravestones Date 1683-1860 in Barnstable County, MA <http://www.capecodgravestones.com/>

First Ships Discussion List <http://www.feliixplace.com/genealogylists/firstships.html>

The writable application should be available shortly, but in the interim, please print the application and simply write over any “click here to enter text”. Your application can then be scanned and emailed, or mailed.

We hope you take advantage of this great tool – let us know of things you’d like to see added!

Genealogy Sources:

Some good sources for research on Francis Cooke and his descendants are:

Wood, Ralph V., *Francis Cooke Family, Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Volume 12*, Published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, MA, 1996.

Anderson, Robert Charles, *The Great Migration Begins, Immigrants to New England 1620-1633*, published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, MA, 1995.

Stratton, Eugene A., *Plymouth Colony It’s History & People 1620-1691*, Ancestry Publishing, Salt Lake City, UT, 1986.

Susan Roser’s books: *Mayflower Births and Deaths, Vol I and II; Mayflower Increasing; Mayflower Marriages; and Mayflower Deeds and Probates*. Various issues of the Mayflower Descendant and The New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

Francis Cooke Sixth and Seventh Generation Project

Registrar, head of the 6th and 7th Generations Project, and Genealogy Coordinator:

Dianna Saario – franciscooke559@att.net

Researching the sixth and seventh generations of Francis Cooke (looking at 8th generation children). All approved Mayflower members who are descended from Cooke are encouraged to send all pages of their approved membership application (with notations), or to send their information including sources on these two generations and 8th generation notes.

We are including these generations with the 8th generation child and their spouse. We will not include any living persons for publication. Please send a copy of your information to Dianna Saario, Francis Cooke Society, 40708 Balch Park Rd. #A, Springville, CA 93265-9749 or: franciscooke559@att.net

General Society of Mayflower Descendants

If you are interested in Mayflower Society membership, please check with the Mayflower Society at the following website www.themayflowersociety.org

GSMD and FamilyTree DNA

Pioneering company in the field of Genetic Genealogy, Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), is partnering with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) to identify the DNA profile of the Mayflower Pilgrims. “At Family Tree DNA we can provide DNA proof of lineage,” said owner Bennett Greenspan. “Partnering with GSMD with its comprehensive lineage review process allows us to do the research needed to identify accurately the *Mayflower* Pilgrims all the way back to 1620.”

Work is being done to identify the genetic profile of each *Mayflower* Pilgrim. So far, all but three direct male lines have been identified. FTDNA will provide test takers who meet this profile with a Mayflower descendent icon explaining that there is a strong possibility of a *Mayflower* Pilgrim connection. The icon will take them to information from GSMD on how to do proof documentation to confirm direct lineage. “Those who receive the icon on their results will know there is a possible connection,” said Lea Sinclair Filson, Governor General of GSMD. “Our documented lineage research will tell them if they are related directly to the *Mayflower* Pilgrim or just a close relative.”

Pairing DNA evidence with accurate lineage documentation allows the field of genealogy to advance. Those who are experiencing brick walls where no documentation exists will have another tool to prove the connection through a DNA test.

Through help with credible genealogy review, organizations like GSMD can assist in unraveling the mysteries that arise from DNA testing for people who show proof of being related with no prior knowledge of the relationship.

FTDNA conducts the most sophisticated testing in the market. GSMD is the ‘gold standard’ in genealogy documentation research and has approved lineage documentation to the *Mayflower* Pilgrims from over 100,000 people since 1897.

Genealogy is the second most popular hobby in the United States after gardening. It is expected that soon DNA tests will be required by most genealogy organizations along with documented proof of lineage.

Questions on how to get involved? Email our Mayflower Project DNA Administrator Mike Terry at mterry3158@sbcglobal.net.

<https://www.themayflowersociety.org/members-only/partnerships/gsm-d-and-ftdna>