



# BONNES NOUVELLES

Newsletter

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Number 57

## *Learning about DELANO history and genealogy* **DELANO KINDRED**

The DELANO KINDRED is a Society, incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes to perpetuate the memory and genealogy of the ancestors and descendants of Philippe de Lanoy, the progenitor of most DELANOs in the Americas, who arrived at Plymouth in 1621 on the FORTUNE.

### **From the Editor**

In this issue we include the story of James Haskell Delano and the Russian Princess, a review of three publications written by DELANO KINDRED members, and an update on several issues involving DNA. Looking forward to the 2008 Reunion in Portland Maine, we include an overview of some of the early DELANO settlers who came to the region that became the State of Maine. Also included is updated information about the Reunion on 20 and 21 June 2008. As usual, we include the results of the 2007 Annual Questionnaire. We hope to see many of you in Portland at the Reunion and we wish you a very pleasant summer.

### **DELANOs IN MAINE**

Many DELANOs settled in Maine, generally after the Revolutionary War. They were industrious individuals. Many were sea captains, sailors and fishermen while others were farmers, lumbermen and tradesmen. With the exception of descendants of Philippe de Lanoy's son John, some descendants of all his sons settled in the territory that became the State of Maine.

#### **Philip DELANO Jr. Branch**

In the GHAARD one finds that members of the Philippe de Lanoy's son, Philip Jr., settled there in the 1770s. Mariner Hopesill Delano (DFIP 201 & GHAAD p 109) sailed, with his family, his own ship from Kingston, MA to Woolwich, ME in 1775. His descendants populated the towns of Bath, Georgetown, New Castle and Damariscotta. Another member of the Philip Jr. Branch of the family, Alpheus Delano (DFIP 213 & GHAARD p 128) settled in Friendship, ME before 1771. Many of his descendants were near that town and inland, on the west side of Penobscot Bay, in Warren, Waldoboro and Appleton Ridge. (continued on page 4)

### **2008 REUNION AND ANNUAL MEETING PORTLAND MAINE**

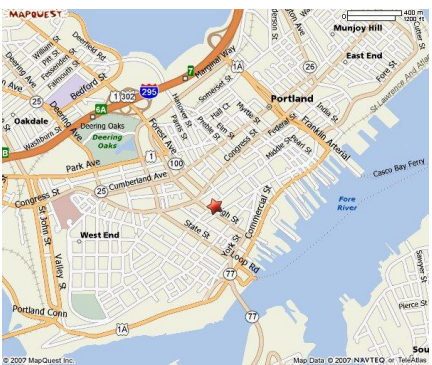
Our 2008 Annual Meeting and Reunion will be held in Portland, Maine, on Friday 20 June and Saturday 21 June 2008 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center By The Bay located near the harbor and the older historic port district (called "Old Port"); a district known for its [cobblestone](#) streets, [19th century](#) brick buildings and fishing piers. The district is filled with boutiques, restaurants and bars.

Originally called "Machigonne" by the Indians who first lived there, Portland was settled by the English in 1632 as fishing and trading settlement and renamed Casco. In 1658 its name was changed again, this time to "Falmouth." A monument at the end of Congress Street where it meets the Eastern Promenade is a tribute to the four historical names for Portland. Prior to the end of the Revolutionary War was destroyed and then rebuilt several times—in 1675 by the [Wampanoag](#) Indians during [King Philip's War](#) and then again several years later. In [1775](#), during the Revolutionary War it was destroyed by the British. (continued on page 4)

Following the war, Maine's population grew rapidly (then the northern district of Massachusetts) grew greatly due to Massachusetts rewarding its soldiers with gifts of Maine land. With this rapid growth a section of Falmouth called "The Neck" developed as a commercial port and a shipping center. In 1786, the citizens of Falmouth formed a separate town in Falmouth Neck and named it "Portland." Portland's economy was greatly stressed by the [Embargo Act of 1807](#) (prohibition of trade with the British) and the [War of 1812](#). In 1820 Maine became a state and Portland was selected as its capital. By this time both the Embargo Act and the war had ended and Portland's economy began to recover. In 1832 the capital was moved to [Augusta](#). Today, Portland is Maine's largest city and has been rated as one of the best cities in the United States for business, travel and the arts. The "Old Port" district has been refurbished while keeping its "old town" architectural look and boasts of many shops and eateries.



the Light, from 1796 to 1820, was Barzillai Delano (GHAARD p. 182) and the ninth keeper from 1854 to 1861, was James Delano (GHAARD p. 186), a grandson of Barzillai. Portland Head Light is mentioned in two *Bonnes Nouvelles* articles—one in NL3 28 (.Sep. 1998) and one in NL # 43 (June 2003).



#### Getting There:

**By car:** Portland is located on I-95 so one traveling either from the north or south can easily find their way to this city. **From the north** take I-95 to I-295 to Exit 7 (Franklin St.).

Stay on Franklin Street for five lights. Take a right onto Middle Street (which changes into Spring Street), travel about 1 mile and you will find the Holiday Inn by the Bay on the left. **From the south:** Take I-95 Exit 44 to I-195, to Exit 7 (Franklin Street) and follow the route above.

**By air:** Seven Airlines serve Portland. Non-stop service is available from Chicago, Detroit, Cincinnati and East coast, major airports from Washington D.C. to Boston. The Portland Jetport is located south of the city and is also

about 10 minutes Holiday Inn. Courtesy vans to the hotel are available.



**By Rail:** Portland has daily Amtrak Service from Boston's North Station with five trains called the *Downeaster*. The trip takes about 2 hours and 25 minutes and the Portland Amtrak station is about 10 minutes from the Holiday Inn. Courtesy vans to the hotel are available.

#### Reunion Advance Registration and Reservations:

To adequately plan and support the meals and other reunion events, we must have advance notice of those who plan to participate in each event. Registration and Reservations should be made by **12 June 2007**.

#### Accommodations:

We have blocked 25 guestrooms for Friday night 20 June, and Saturday night 21 June, at a rate of \$149.00 plus 7% tax or about \$159.43 per night. Because of the increased demand we have increased the blocked guestrooms for early arrivals on Thursday 19 June at the same rate to ten. Eight of these the rooms have been taken. There will be an extra charge for additional adults in these rooms. Individual guestroom reservations must be made **prior to Monday 19 May, 2008** to secure these rates. We strongly suggest you call at your earliest convenience to assure obtaining a room at the blocked rate. Please call the Holiday Inn By the Bay at **(800) 345-5050 or (207) 775-2311**. All guests should identify themselves as members of the **DELANO KINDRED Reunion Group**. You will receive a confirmation number for your room reservation. Room reservations can be cancelled up to 6:00 PM on the date of arrival without penalty.

#### Reunion Registration:

Registration will be held near the Connecticut / Rhode Island Room from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Registrants will receive a "Welcome Envelope" containing Reunion information and nametags. Late registration will be held from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM Saturday in the Connecticut / Rhode Island Room prior to the Annual Meeting.



#### Events:

The Friday night **Welcome Light Buffet Dinner**, will be held in Connecticut / Rhode Island Room at 6:00 PM. The Buffet will be served at 7:00 PM with a cash bar available starting at 6:00 PM. It will be a night of

fellowship and pleasantries where one can meet and greet new members as well as visit with old acquaintances. Genealogical consultations will also be available. Other events may also be scheduled that evening. The buffet menu will include: Soup Du Jour, Assorted Sliced Deli Meats, Assorted Sliced Cheeses, Salads, Stir-Fry Maine Shrimp and Marinated London Broil, Assorted Vegetables, Breads and Rolls, Desert and Beverage.

On Saturday at 9:00 AM, the **2007 Annual Membership Meeting** will be held in the Connecticut / Rhode Island Room. We plan to have the minutes and the committee reports available in advance at registration to reduce the overall time of the Annual Meeting as we did last year. We plan to have the group photograph after this meeting.

#### Lunch and Tours:

**Lunch** will be at each individual's option to increase everyone's flexibility.

**Tours:** As noted on the Reunion Reservation form a choice of either a narrated trolley tour or a narrated boat tour will be available. The **trolley tour** of Portland, highlighting the significant sights of



the city, also travels to Portland Head Light. Arrangements will be made to stop by the Wadsworth-Longfellow House in time for those who wish to catch the last docent conducted tour of the afternoon. The **boat tour** of the Portland Harbor, will also pass by some of the islands and lighthouses in Casco Bay.



The **2007 Banquet Dinner, Saturday**, will be served at 7:00 PM in order to give those on tour time to freshen up after returning to their guestroom. A cash bar will again be available starting at 6:00 PM. The Banquet Dinner includes an entrée choice of Roast Prime Rib Au Jus with Baked Potato or Baked Crabmeat Stuffed Haddock with Tarragon Sauce and Roasted Parsley Potatoes, Mixed Baby Green Salad, Seasonal Vegetable, Rolls and Butter, Desert and Beverage.

We are very fortunate to have Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. as our **2008 Banquet Speaker**. He will tell us about Portland two centuries ago. He is a native of Portland and attended Colby College, and Boston University. At the age of thirteen, Shettleworth became interested in historic preservation through the destruction of Portland's Union Station in 1961. A year later he joined the Sills Committee which founded Greater Portland Landmarks in 1964. In 1971 he was appointed by Governor Curtis to serve on the first board of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, for which he became architectural historian

in 1973 and director in 1976. Shettleworth has lectured and written extensively on Maine history and architecture, his most recent publication being *Portland* in the Arcadia post card series. He currently serves as chair of the Capitol Planning Commission, the Blaine House Commission, and the State House and Capitol Park Commission. In March, 2004, Governor Baldacci appointed Mr. Shettleworth as State Historian.

Cousins **Margaret Delano** and **Jane Avery** are our on-the-scene Reunion contacts. They have been very helpful with the planning of this Reunion. Thanks Carolyn and Jane!

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS DELANO KINDRED REUNION HOLIDAY INN BY THE BAY 20 JUNE TO 22 JUNE 2008

### Friday, 20 June 2008

1:00—3:00 PM Board Meeting in the (Boardroom)  
4:00—6:00 PM Registration near Function room entrance  
6:00—11:00 PM Welcome Light Buffet and Program in the Connecticut/Rhode Island Room (Cash Bar Service starting at 6:00 PM)  
Buffet served at 7:00 P M

### Saturday, 21 June 2008

8:30—9:00 AM Late Registration - Vermont Room  
9:00--11:00 AM Annual Membership Meeting - Vermont Room  
11:00-11:15 AM Group Picture  
11:30 AM-12:45 PM Lunch (individual option)  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Choice of Tours (Boat trip or Trolley ride)  
4:00 PM -6:00 PM Return to Hotel - Free time.  
6:00 PM—11:00 PM Annual Banquet with Speaker. (Cash Bar Service - 6:00 PM). Dinner served at 7:00 PM in the Connecticut/Rhode Island Room

### Sunday, 22 June 2008

9:00—11:30 AM Board Meeting - Boardroom

## DELANOs IN MAINE

(continued from page 1)

### Dr. Thomas DELANO Branch

The branch of the DELANOs that can claim the most Maine settlers is the Dr. Thomas Delano Branch. His son Thomas Delano 2<sup>nd</sup> (DFIP 18 & GHAAHD p 181) died in Falmouth, ME, just north of Portland, around 1740. The descendants of Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup> populated Portland and Cape Elizabeth. One of his descendants, Barzillai Delano (DFIP 340 & GHAAHD pg 182), was an early Keeper of the Portland Head Light<sup>1</sup> located just to the north of Delano Park, ME.

Descendants of Jonathan Delano, who was another son of Dr. Thomas (DFIP 20 & GHAAHD p 188), settled further inland. Zebedee Delano (DFIP 366 & GHAAHD p 188), a grandson of Jonathan Delano, settled in Winthrop, Livermore, Lewiston and Hallowell between the Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers. They were hardy souls. Jabez Delano, a son of Zebedee, was “a man of great endurance. When 72 walked 40 miles from Livermore to Augusta a distance of 40 miles in one day”.<sup>2</sup> Another descendant of Zebedee, Calvin Delano (GHAAHD p 194), invented and patented the “Independent tooth horse rake” and the “side-hill plow”.<sup>3</sup> Another of Zebedee’s many descendants was Edward Warren Delano (GHAAHD p 200) who designed the first highway cloverleaf entrance and exit<sup>4</sup>.

Many descendants of Jonathan Delano settled in the same general area and toward the northeast near Bangor. Some settled further to the north northeast in Aroostook River Valley near Presque Isle. Others settled in the Bath, Woolwich and Georgetown area. Another Jonathan Delano (a grandson of the previously mentioned Jonathan) was a Keeper of the Sequin Island Light<sup>5</sup> just to the south of Georgetown Island. Many of those who attended the 2001 Reunion in West Bath, ME took an afternoon boat tour around Sequin Island.

### Lt Jonathan DELANO Branch

Only a small number of descendants in the Lt Jonathan Branch settled in Maine. These were descendants of Lt Jonathan’s great<sup>3</sup> grandson Eliashib Delano (DFIP 612 & GHAAHD P 463). Eliashib moved to Hampden, ME sometime before his son Hatsuld Knowles Delano was born in 1794. While some of these descendants moved west to the plains states, Eliashib’s grandson, Hatcil Delano, as well as many of his descendants, settled along the Penobscot River in the towns of Verona, Bucksport, and Winterport as well as Bangor.

<sup>1</sup> *Bonnes Nouvelles* #28, September 1998, p 10

<sup>2</sup> GHAAHD p 192

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* p 191

<sup>4</sup> Newsletter # 20, September 1996, p 10

<sup>5</sup> *Bonnes Nouvelles* #28, *Ibid*

### Samuel DELANO Branch

Descendants of Samuel Delano’s great grandson Joseph Delano (DFIP 763 & GHAAHD p511) settled mainly on Vinalhaven Island located east southeast of Rockland, ME. Descendants continued to thrive on Vinalhaven through the 1890s. A few settled in Portland and on Long Island in Casco Bay.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

We are pleased to include some recent publications by DELANO KINDRED members. In this issue we include a variety of books—a genealogy of Captain Amasa Weber, a book of poems and a novel.

We expect to include a review of Cousin **George English’s** two part series entitled “Ancestry and History of Philip Delano, Born Philippe de Lannoy” in the next issue of the *Bonnes Nouvelles*. This two part series was published in the Summer and Winter 2007 issues of the *Mayflower Descendant*. As you may recall an article of the same title was published in the Belgian publication *Le Parchemin* in the spring of 2007.

## YANKEE CAPTAIN

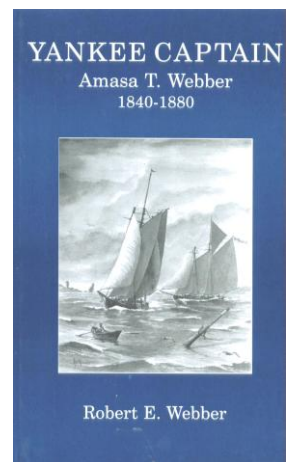
Amasa T. Webber

1840-1880

By Robert E. Webber

When one delves into family history one frequently comes upon missing details about a family ancestor that are either unsolved or require much research to find the missing information. This was the case of Cousin **Robert Webber’s** great-grandfather Amasa T. Webber. Robert Webber’s aunt, Grace Webber Proffitt, was the family historian. She had researched the family and had written brief accounts of her ancestors, one of which outlined the story of Amasa Webber. At the end of his life he was the captain of the three-masted, double deck, schooner the *Sadie F. Caller*. He had sailed this ship over the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. Amasa died aboard this ship in the western Pacific and was buried by his crew on Makira Island (formerly know as San Cristobal Island) in the Solomon Islands archipelago. The account provided by his aunt was Robert’s starting place.

Looking at the acknowledgements at the end of this book, one can see that during his research Robert came in contact with Webber and Tarbox relatives that he had never met or had not conversed with for some time. Information came from Australia, Great Britain and Holland as well as from U. S. maritime records. We note



that Cousin **Carroll Schroeder** assisted by providing background material. The book is chronologically organized into the early life of the Webber and Tarbox families and then by the significant maritime phases of Amasa Webber's life. These phases of his life are divided into subsequent chapters. The next chapter describes his life as a fisherman in the waters off Maine and as a captain of fishing boats sailing from Gloucester, Massachusetts. Then a chapter tells of his life as Captain of the large schooner *Sadie F. Caller* sailing out of Boston and other New England ports with various freight loads. The next extensive chapter documents his shipping business in the lucrative guano (fertilizer) trade. Subsequent chapters describe his voyages in the southern Pacific Coral Sea and the events of his final voyage.

Like Amasa Delano (1763-1823), Amasa Webber was a sea captain and sailed many of the same seas Delano had sailed some sixty years earlier. Both Amasas could claim similar DELANO lines of descent as Amasa Delano was Amasa Webber's second cousin twice removed. Webber's line to Philip Delano (Philippe de Lanoy) connects through two of Philippe's children—his son Dr. Thomas Delano, who married Rebecca Alden, and his daughter Hester, who married (1<sup>st</sup>) John Sampson and then (2<sup>nd</sup>) John Soule. These two lines of DELANO descent converge with the marriage of Hannah Delano (grand daughter of Dr. Thomas) to Ezekiel Soule (a grandson of Hester (Delano) and John Soule). The author provides the reader with a four generation fan chart to show the many ancestors of Amasa's Webber and Tarbox ancestors. The DELANO line runs through the Tarbox line and the Soule line. Patience Soule (DFIP 289v) married Jordan Tarbox. Patience and Jordan were Amasa's maternal grandparents.

Amasa T. Webber's parents were Jason and Lucy (Tarbox) Webber. The Webber and Tarbox families were early settlers in the territory that eventually became Maine. Amasa's great grandfather David Webber settled on Jeremysquam Island in the late 1760s. Jeremysquam Island later became known as Westport Island and is located between Bath and Boothbay, Maine. The island is bordered by the Sheepscot River to the east and the Back River to the west. The Webber home, where Amasa was born, was located close to what is now the Westport town center.

Amasa Webber started his maritime career as a fisherman. His mother's Tarbox relatives were in the local fishing business and owned several fishing vessels. It was under the tutelage of these "cousins" that Amasa became a very proficient fisherman and eventually rose to become a skipper of a fishing vessel.<sup>6</sup> As noted in Goode's, boys

<sup>6</sup> The author makes extensive use of Goode's *The Fisheries and Fishing Industries of the United States*, Procter's *The Fisherman's Memorial and Record Book*, and Procter's *The Fisherman's Own Book*. Excerpts from these are liberally used through out the Chapter on Fishing and give the reader a better sense of arduous tasks and

started learning the fishing trade as early as ten years of age. Fishermen from Maine were highly prized for their fishing and ship handling ability. A major turning point in Amasa's life was when he took a large catch of fish to Gloucester, MA and became associated with the Parkhurst family. David Parkhurst, a prominent businessman, owned a fishing wharf and had interests in many fishing boats and fish packing. He also had a daughter, Sarah, who eventually became Amasa's bride. Details of this chapter give the reader a sense of the fishing trade mid-1800 and the harrowing experiences of the fishermen at sea in the days of wooden ships and iron men.

After 15 years in the fishing industry, Amasa Webber wanted to be involved in foreign trade. He moved his family to Salem, Massachusetts. With the help of many of the men who invested in his fishing efforts, work started on the construction of a new large schooner the *Sadie F. Caller*. Amasa was the master of this new vessel, in which 28 investors had shares. Amasa's sailing to foreign ports hauling various types of freight went on for about three years. Finishing a trip to London, the next voyage took his ship around the Horn of Africa and across the eastern Indian Ocean. There he became involved in the lucrative guano trade.

Due to the great need for fertilizer, the demand for guano (bird droppings) was a significant source of trade in Europe and the Americas. This led various countries to pass laws empowering those who mined these droppings off of various small atolls, rocks and shoals to be able to claim them for the country under which the ship was flagged or licensed. You can imagine the conflicting claims and international controversy that resulted from this situation. The United States Congress leaped into the guano fray by issuing the Guano Act of 1856. Amasa Webber sailed into these seas of controversy and formed the Melbourne Guano Company with other investors. Over the next several years during his guano mining business, he ran into conflicting claims which erupted into legal disputes with other guano companies and, in some cases, territorial differences between the Dutch and British government over which country owned a particular guano encrusted set of rocks. Over the years in the guano business Amasa's health deteriorated and he was forced ashore in Australia to recuperate.

It was during this time he decided to leave the guano business and to concentrate on harvesting the Trepang (beche-de-mere-also known as sea cucumber), which, as a soup ingredient, was in great demand in Indonesia and China. There was also a great demand for pearl shell, used for buttons and jewelry, in many countries. A Russian scientist and explorer, Nikolai Mikloucho-Maclay, accompanied Webber on most of these voyages and it is

dangers that accompany the fishermen off New England, Nova Scotia and the Grand Banks. References are noted as Goode's or Procter as appropriate.

through Maclay's journals that the happenings on these voyages to these islands that skirt the Coral Sea are known.

It is about Webber's final voyage that little is known as well as the exact circumstances concerning his death. Much of what is learned is in a letter from Webber's cabin boy written to his wife Sarah Webber after the bedraggled *Sadie F. Caller* limped into San Francisco. Webber had apparently died aboard ship and was buried by his crew on Makira Island (then known as San Cristobal Island) in the Solomons.

The book is replete with old photographs, drawings, maps and diagrams which greatly aid in understanding the details of fishing and the location of various places in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and Coral Sea. Besides the extensive use of Goode and Procter for the details of the fishing business a large number of official letters and government dispatches are included to identify the details and the intricacies of the controversies involved in the guano trade. The reader will not only better understand the life of Captain Amasa T. Webber, but will also gain insight into commercial fishing in those days as well as the aspects surrounding the Guano Trade of the latter part of the 1800's.

Cousin Robert Webber has been a member of the DELANO KINDRED since 2003. He and his wife Eleanor frequently attend our Reunions. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and Master's Degrees in Science and in Public Administration and is licensed a professional engineer in the State of New York. He has served in the U.S. Navy in WWII and in the Army in the Korean War. He has been a U. S. Coast Guard licensed captain and fished out of various fishing ports for 25 years. He retired as a Chief Deputy Commissioner in the Suffolk County Department of Public Works.

We congratulate Cousin Robert on completing his first book.

## THE COMING AGE AND OTHER POEMS

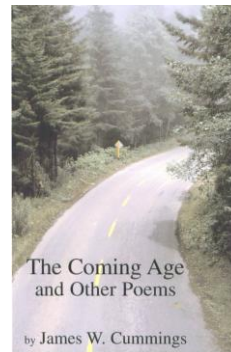
By James W. Cummings

It is not often that we have the pleasure to review a book of poems. Cousin **James W. Cummings** has compiled a book of his poems which cover many themes. We first knew about his gift of poetry when he wrote a poem about Philip Delano which appeared in our Newsletter Number 8 of September 1993. In late 2007 Cousin James has published a book of his more recent poems. The first poem "The Candle Revisited" one might describe as an introductory poem about his gift of poetry. Following this poem is the title poem "The Coming Age" that describes his view of what the future holds for us. Later there one finds another poem on a similar, theme, "The Coming Dawn" about how we must meet the challenges of the future. The third poem is "Relative Hunting" about the surprises in researching your ancestors.

The themes of his poems cover a wide range. Because James lives in Dixmont, Maine, it is not surprising that there are many about life in Maine—some

about its history, its industry and its towns. A variety of other themes include the sad history and heartbreak of war, a series about car racing, holidays, the social conditions common today, a series about a young cowboy and a country singer, an ode to Princess Diana, a commentary on the disaster of September 11, 2001 and many more.

James' poems are not long; probably no longer than 30 lines. The strength of his poems is not in their length, but in what they say and what they cause the reader to think about. Not all his poems are of a serious note. One finds several poems in which there is a sparkle of humor, such as the "The Two Fishermen," and some that are whimsical like "The Wizard's Pupil". In many of Cummings' poems the reader will find additional meaning to his words upon a second or third reading.



Cousin James has been a member of the DELANO KINDRED since 1992 and has attended several of our Reunions. His two DELANO lines of descent flow through Philippe's son Dr. Thomas Delano and through his daughter Hester Delano. We send our congratulations to Cousin James on the publishing of his book of poems. Those who wish a copy of this book of poems may send a request letter to James W. Cummings, 56 Masonic Road, Dixmont, ME 04932-2543, with a check for \$13.00.

### DEPARTED COUSINS

#### Renée G. Delano

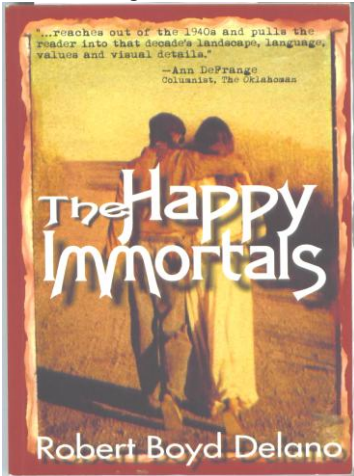
We were saddened to recently learn that Cousin **Renée G. Delano** of Putnam, Connecticut passed away on 31 December 2007. Cousin Renée was born in Holland, The Netherlands, on 3 February 1919. She became a citizen of the United States and married her husband Bradway F. Delano. He had two lines of descent to Philip Delano, through different ancestors in the Lt Jonathan Delano branch of the family. Bradway predeceased Cousin Renée in 1969.

Renée, a hardy and independent person, lived alone near Putnam with her cats after her husband passed away. She had been a loyal and steadfast member of the DELANO KINDRED since 1993 and was very interested in her husband's Delano line of descent. She contributed a copy of the GHAAHD and one of the DFIP books to the Genealogical Section of the Norwich, CT Public Library. She also contributed an article about Samuel Huntington, President of the First Continental Congress to the *Bonnes Nouvelles*. Interested in local history she attended meetings of the Norwich Historical Society until her later years when she had trouble driving at night. She attended the first part of the 2004 Reunion at Mystic, CT, but had to leave early to return home to Putnam before it got dark. She said at her age (then 85 years old) her night vision was not what it used to be. We will greatly miss Cousin René and offer our sincere condolences to her family and relatives.

## THE HAPPY IMMORTALS

By Robert Boyd Delano

It is not often that we read a novel written by a DELANO. **Robert Boyd Delano**, a member of the DELANO KINDRED from 1998 through 2001, is a descendant of Philip Delano (Philippe de Lanoy) through his son Lt Jonathan Delano. His ancestors trekked west to New York in the late 1700's and, after the War of 1812, move through Ohio to south-central Kansas near the city of



Hutcheson where his grandfather settled. His father married and established himself in the panhandle of Oklahoma around the time of statehood. "The Happy Immortals" was printed in mid 2007 and we are happy to finally include it in our review of publications written by members (in this case a former member) in this issue of the *Bonnes Nouvelles*.

Robert, now retired from business and in his eighties, was a paratrooper with the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division that saw action in the South Pacific, including the Philippines and Okinawa, during WWII. He was graduated from Oklahoma University with a degree in Journalism.

Although the story is fictional, its local and geographical locales are actual places where his parents lived and he grew to manhood — near Guymon in the panhandle of Oklahoma. While growing up there, Robert experienced the awesome and gritty experience of the dust bowl days of the plains. Another locale is the island of Okinawa. Robert's WWII service in the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division provided familiarity with that island and its peoples.

The story starts in 1949 and is about young Tom Bristow, a young man who served in WWII and now, a final-year medical student, suddenly decides to leave medical school and search for meaning in his life. Tom's abrupt decision alienates his father who had his heart set on Tom finishing medical school—a goal that his father had to forego. The story tells of his life on his father's farm near the town on Guymon and the young women in his life. Through it all Tom's search finally takes him away from Oklahoma back to Okinawa where he was stationed during the war. We learn that Okinawa was known by the ancient Chinese as the land of The Happy Immortals due to the fabled long lives of its peoples—hence the source of the book's title.

The book is well-written and will be of special interest to the reader who lived in Oklahoma and other plains states in the nineteen fifties. All readers who lived back in those days will recall many of the events in their

lives which are brought to mind by images of the "50's" created by the author. We understand that this book is a work that has taken several decades to complete and we congratulate Robert on finally publishing it. One may obtain a copy of "The Happy Immortals" by contacting the Prairie Hill Press, P. O. Box 270398, Flower Mound, TX 75027.

### James Haskell Delano Revisited

In the March-April 2007 issue of the *Bonnes Nouvelles* NL #54) there was an article entitled "Can You Identify Our Mystery DELANO??" Included in the article was a photograph of a young Russian girl. We indicated we would print an article about her in the next *Bonnes Nouvelles*. Unfortunately space limitations precluded us from printing the story in that issue. We are able to include the article by Cousin **Muriel Cushing** in this issue.

Some of you may recall the article entitled "A Russian Connection" "back in NL #7, June 1993. Well Cousin Muriel has provided us with an updated and more detailed version about Capt. James Haskell Delano and his Russian Princess (GHAHD p 436) below. It should be understood that both photographs below are different pictures are of Alexandrina Petrovna Kuzmishchova. The first before she was married to James Haskell Delano and the second (the lower one) as Aline Delano (Mrs. James Haskell Delano).

### JAMES HASKELL DELANO AND THE RUSSIAN PRINCESS

by Muriel Curtis Cushing

From the very beginning of Sippican, later called Rochester and now Marion Massachusetts, there was no shortage of sea captains or men who followed the sea. Like many of the coastal New England towns most of the young men went to sea on whale ships, coastal schooners or Liverpool packets. The masters of the coastal schooners were jokingly referred to as "teakettle captains" by the men who braved the dangerous seas and sailed around the world either whaling or trading with foreign ports.

When bickering between the towns of Mattapoisett and Rochester became intolerable for the residents, the townspeople of Rochester decided to petition the state of Massachusetts for independence, and on 14 May 1852 Marion became a separate town. The first problem to settle was what to name the town. Many thought to keep the old Indian name of *Sippican* but it was finally decided, because of the vast trading between Rochester and the southern towns along the Eastern coast, that the town would be named Marion in honor of the "Swamp Fox" General Francis Marion, the Revolutionary War hero from South Carolina.

These seafarers from Marion, whether they traded with foreign ports or traded with the southern states, were patriotic and loyal and participated in many of the maritime conflicts during the American Revolution, the

War of 1812 and the Civil War. Life at sea was very dangerous and there are many “lost at sea” notations in the Rochester/Marion vital records but it was considered a fact of life and taken in stride. So, when the Civil War broke out James Delano was one of the first of Marion’s young men to enlist in the Navy.

In chapter eight of her book “Old Landing Days” Olive Sanford (Hiller) Somers, writes about her granduncle James Delano and names the chapter “A Civil War Romance.” Much of the following story is from her publication with some additional facts and genealogical dates added.

James Haskell Delano was born in Rochester on 21 Feb. 1844 and died in Norfolk Virginia on 28 April 1900, the eldest son of Capt. Obed and Verona Williams (Hedley) Delano; a descendant of Pilgrims Stephen Hopkins, Richard Warren and probably Edward Doty. As an Ensign, he was in action at Mobile with David Glasgow Farragut [Damn the torpedoes, Full speed ahead!] on the *U.S.S. Galena*. He served in the North Atlantic Squadron, and was also at the Second Battle of Fort Fisher.

Letters to and from home were treasures and some letters remain with family members. “The Delano family were overjoyed to receive ‘Jim’s’ letters and ‘Grandpa’ would not allow a letter to be opened until it reached home so that ‘Grandma’ could read it out loud to the family.”

While he was serving in the Navy, Jim’s courtship of Philura Hathaway, a Marion girl, continued to flourish. Letters and gifts were exchanged; including a small Bible which Olive Somers writes is “now in my possession.” Philura Hathaway was born in Rochester on 18 May 1843, a daughter of John K. Hathaway and Mary C. Hammatt and a descendant of Pilgrim William Brewster.

In 1866 shortly after the end of the Civil War the *U.S.S. Augusta*, under the command of Capt. Murray, was sent on a special mission to Russia. The *Augusta* was to accompany Assistant Secretary of the Navy Gustavus Vasa Fox aboard the *Miantonomoh* which was the first vessel of



this class to cross the Atlantic. The mission was two fold: first, to convey the congratulations of the President of the United States to the Tzar Alexander II upon his escape from assassination, and second, to demonstrate the seagoing abilities of low-freeboard armored turret ships and to collect information on foreign naval technological advances. After making diplomatic calls and visiting the principal ports of Sweden, Denmark, Spain, France and Italy where the officers were hospitably

received and royally entertained, the two ships arrived at their destination – Russia. In St. Petersburg a ball was given on board a warship in honor of the American visitors, and it was here that Ensign James Delano met Princess Alexandrina Petrovna Kuzmishchova

This young Russian girl was the daughter of Admiral Kuzmishchova, at one time governor-general of Archangelsk. “She was closely connected by birth and education with the oldest aristocracy of Russia and received her girlhood training in the famous institute for young ladies of the nobility. She spoke English, French and Italian fluently and was familiar with the German language. Anton Rubenstein, who was her piano teacher, praised her highly for her unusual originality and remarkable talent for music. She attended private concerts given in the salon of her ‘Uncle’ Prince Odoyevsky who had his own orchestra and was a composer in ‘Old Petersburg’ as well as a poet.”

Young Ensign Delano and this talented young girl of royal birth fell madly in love with each other. The courtship was swift and they became engaged before he returned to the United States to finish his mission that was authorized by his government.

In a diary found after his death “Jim” writes of his days at sea and of his impatience to see his “darling Allie” again. His style of writing is described as very flowery and sentimental when he described his love and adoration. Because of her nobility and belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church there were five requirements needed before their marriage could take place. “Jim” would need a certificate from the consul confirming him as a bachelor, the written consent of his parents, published bans in the Protestant Church, then in Aline’s church, and a paper from the clergymen to show there was no opposition, a promise to raise the children in the Russian religion and last the permission from the Emperor – for her to marry a stranger.



Arriving back in Marion, with his only thoughts of his beloved “Aline”, Jim’s old schoolmate Philura found him changed and distracted. Discovering the picture of a strange girl in the back of Jim’s watch confirmed Philura’s suspicions that another girl had won his affections. Distraught, angry and heartbroken Philura packed all of Jim’s gifts that he had given her in a wheelbarrow. It is not known if Philura herself unceremoniously deposited the gifts, but the wheelbarrow was pushed over the railroad tracks, down the hill to the Delano house and left on the front lawn. Philura never married and remained a dignified maiden lady to the end of her days.



In 1867 James Delano started on his return trip to "Russia-land." He was accompanied as far as the Marion depot by his two sisters Bethiah and Mamie where "Jim" took the train to Fall River to travel on the old Fall River boat to New York.

On 8 October 1867 James Delano and Aline were married in the Greek Orthodox Church in St. Petersburg, Russia. The young couple returned to the little New England village of Marion and for a few years lived in the Delano home in the section known as Old Landing. Two downstairs rooms were given to Aline for her own apartment which became more like home when her personal things arrived from Russia. Aline's piano, together with huge boxes and heavy trunks filled with linen, dishes, heavy massive silver, a Samovar, precious gold coffee spoons, books, music, several icons, pictures, an elaborate trousseau of muslin, silk and wool were packed in foreign looking trunks and fine linen pillow cases embroidered with the family crest covered red satin pillows.

What excitement for the little town's people!! Just think of the talk in the two small villages of Marion.



"Soon after this fascinating stranger came to the Old Landing, she had her 'appearing out Sunday' when she and Jim dressed up in all their finery and showed themselves to this quiet little town. A native son was really married to a Russian lady who belonged to one of the oldest and proudest noble families in Russia and she was now Aline Delano and lived in Marion!"

It is a wonder how Aline coped with being so far from her luxurious life in Russia where she had always been waited on by servants. Housework was hard for her especially the cooking and family lore notes "for a while she could not button her own boots." "Aline loved Jim's parents as they were always kind to her and helped her adjust to American life."

Aline wrote the following paragraph:

"I go to my native land every two or three years. I mingle there with titled persons. I move in the aristocratic circles, but I have failed as yet to find them more refined or more noble in the true sense of the word than my American Friends. I found in America all that nobility

implies, loftiness of purpose, honesty of beliefs, generosity; many noble hearts and noble souls. Europe excels only in empty titles and a title never elevated anybody."

On 11 August 1868 Alexander Delano was born to Jim and Aline in the old Delano house. His grandparents and his Aunt Bethiah Delano cared for him when his mother returned to Russia every other summer. In 1886 Alexander Delano married in Marion Helen McKinnon who was born in Canada on 1 January 1870 and died in Los Angeles, California on 13 February 1951 at the age of 80. There were no children.

When Jim retired from the Navy he moved to Boston with his family where he went into business. After a while Aline's money had to be used to meet expenses that accumulated when Jim failed in business. "She became the secretary of Joseph Willard who was registrar of deeds in Boston. She also translated books from Russian and French and often gave lectures on literary and political subjects connected with Russia."

"When Jim died, Aline had his body brought home to Marion. On a cold day in February he was laid to rest in the Delano lot in the Old Landing Cemetery. Aline followed a Russian custom by walking behind the hearse all by herself, a lonely little old woman."

Their romance was like a story, but Aline forfeited her comfortable life to come to a strange land and could not live in the luxury she was accustomed to. She never complained. This was the life she had chosen; her pride, loyalty and love would not allow her to show any regrets.

Author's Note: Olive Sanford (Hiller) Somers, author of *Old Landing Days*, is the mother of DELANO KINDRED member Cousin **John "Jack" Somers**, present DELANO KINDRED Director, past DELANO KINDRED vice-president and past state historian of the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants. Quoted paragraphs are from *Old Landing Days*.

## DNA HAPPENINGS

### The Philippe Delano (de Lanoy) Y-DNA Signature

By Muriel Cushing

One of our main goals in establishing a good "signature" of our ancestor Philippe Delano has now been completed. It took a while but we were finally able to find a documented descendant of Philippe's third son John Delano who married Mary Weston. All five sons have now been proven by the 37 marker results of DNA testing and these results have given us a good base of Philippe's DNA. We have had several other members join the project in the past year and all have been helpful in establishing and determining some of the Delano lines of descent. We appreciate everyone's participation in the DNA project and look forward to the additional knowledge of our Delano family through DNA testing.

## MAYFLOWER SOCIETY DNA SEMINAR IN SEPTEMBER

**Cousin Muriel Cushing** reports that the Mayflower Society, DNA Committee will present a DNA Seminar on Saturday, September 6, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth Massachusetts starting at 1:30 pm. This seminar is free and open to the public. If you live in that area of Massachusetts or plan to be in the Plymouth area at that time and want to know more about DNA supporting genealogical research, here is your chance to find out.

The guest speaker will be Roberta Estes who has been a professional scientist and business owner in the information technology arena for 25+ years, as well as an obsessed genealogist since 1978. In 2005, reflecting her interest and expertise in genomics, genetics for genealogy, she formed DNAeXplain, a company providing individual analysis of DNA results and genealogical assistance. Please visit the website at <http://www.dnaexplain.com>. Roberta speaks publicly on the topic of DNA and genealogy, and has been interviewed by the *New York Times* for multiple publications, has appeared on *Voice of America* and in other publications. Roberta manages 14 surname projects including the large regional Cumberland Gap Yline and mtdna projects with several hundred participants and serves in an advisory capacity to other projects.

Pre-registration is necessary, so if you wish to attend this seminar please contact Cousin Muriel Cushing at: 605 Via Tunis Drive Punta Gorda Isles, FL 33950-6620, phone: (941) 505-8408, or e-mail: [flash1620@comcast.net](mailto:flash1620@comcast.net).

### 2007 Annual Questionnaire Results

We wish to thank all of our members who took the time to send in their 2007 Annual Questionnaires. As you know, we include the Annual Questionnaire in the fall issue of the *Bonnes Nouvelles*. In 2007 the questions concentrated on the location where you would like the 2009 Reunion to be held and locations favored for future Reunions. Another question was whether to change the Reunion Scheme to include the Midwest and Mountain States. Here are the results of your responses.

#### 2000 Reunion Locations (away from New England):

Williamsburg, VA: 90%; Mohonk Mountain House near New Paltz, NY: 53 % (many responses chose it as a "2<sup>nd</sup> choice" after Williamsburg). In the Midwest: Kansas City 27% with Austin or San Antonio, Texas, favored by 20% (not all responders indicated a favored Midwest location). Mountain States: 33% favored Salt Lake City, however it was pointed out that the downtown part of Salt Lake City is now, and will be for about four years, under disrepair due to construction. 25 % of the responses favored Denver and one responder suggested Montana.

#### West Coast sites:

While not all responders indicated their choice of a West Coast venue, in general, the Central area of California (San

Francisco, Sacramento or California Gold Country) was favored by 33 % while San Diego and Walnut Creek were also suggested as venues. The Washington State area around Seattle was favored by 20% of the responders and the area near Portland Oregon received same percentage of favorable votes.

#### Changing the Reunion Rotation Scheme to include the Midwest and Mountain States:

Seventy three percent of the responders indicated their preference on this question. 63% of those answering this question were in favor of changing the current scheme of alternating between the New England states (ME, NH, VT CT, RI and MA) with locations outside New England to rotate the reunions between the East Coast, the Midwest and Mountain States and the West Coast. 18% of the responders were not in favor and 18% were undecided with some stating it depended on the location and situation.

#### On the Scene Coordinator

Still only one member indicated a willingness to assist with a Reunion near his residence.

*Your Board will carefully consider the answers and suggestions provided by this questionnaire*

## KUDOS THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

We wish to thank all those members who thoughtfully and generously contributed to the Memorial Fund, the Designated Charitable Funds or the Designated Educational Funds. At the end of the FY 07-08 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (February 29) funds totaling \$1,190.00 had been donated to these various funds by just 30 members of the Society. Many members used the opportunity of contributing when they renewed their membership—using the space on the membership form while others used the contribution form inserted in their newsletter or in their copy of the Membership Directory. While some of the contributions were quite substantial, our goal is membership participation and not a particular amount of funds per member. So far this Fiscal Year we are very close to the same number of contributors as we were last year at this time. If you would like to make a contribution to one of the various funds, we have included a contribution form as an insert in this newsletter.

## Muriel Cushing Appointed Assistant Director of The Mayflower Society Five Generation Project

Cousin **Muriel Cushing** has been appointed as Assistant Director of the Mayflower Society's Five Generation Project—known for short as the 5 G's. The 5 G's is the Mayflower Society's ongoing program to

identify the first five generations of Pilgrim descendants. This Project involves the meticulous investigation of primary records that substantiate the identity of often obscure individuals and families. The time period these books cover is usually from about the time of the Mayflower landing, in 1620, through the era of the American Revolution.

As Cousin **Ed Sullivan** (The current Mayflower Society Governor General) told us at the 2006 Vermont Reunion, part of the rationale for this project is that members of several organizations, including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution have lines of descent meticulously documented back to that era. Therefore it is relatively easy to determine a documented relationship to an ancestor who was aboard the Mayflower when it arrived off New Plymouth in 1620.

We extend our congratulations to Cousin Muriel on this appointment.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome our new members who have joined our Family Society since November 2007.

### California

**Elizabeth M. DELANO** from Madera

**Mark A. DELANO** from Madera

### Massachusetts

**William E. Taylor** from Boston

**Jolinda Taylor** from Boston

### Ohio

**Troy Delano** from Dayton

### Texas

**Jack S. Taylor** from Humble

**WELCOME ABOARD COUSINS!!** We look forward to many years of fellowship with each of you and we hope that membership in the DELANO KINDRED will be a source of pride and pleasure for you.

**CORRECTION:** In our last issue we transposed the first and the middle name of Mark C. Partis of Pocono Lake, Pennsylvania. We are very sorry we made that error, Mark.

## DELANOs IN THE NEWS

### JON DELANO

Just prior to going to press we happened to be watching the Jim Lehrer News Hour on PBS. In one segment the broadcast was covering the Pittsburgh, PA news media. In the section that discussed news commentators, who did we see, but Cousin **Jon Delano**. Cousin Jon is the Money & Politics Editor for KDKA-TV (CBS) in Pittsburgh,

columnist for the Pittsburgh Business Times and Political Contributor to WQED-TV's "On Q Magazine." Jon Delano is a familiar face on Pittsburgh's KDKA-TV, having been the station's



political analyst since 1994 and is recognized for his ability to analyze complex issues and make them understandable to any audience. He is the region's only political analyst who covers national and local issues that affect Pittsburgh area residents. He also hosts the KDKA Sunday Business Page, a weekly public affairs program, and writes Money Minutes, financial tips that air nightly.

Cousin Jon (Jonathan W.) Delano has been a member of the DELANO KINDRED since 1992 and is a former Director, serving in that capacity from 1992 through 1994. His line of descent flows through William Smith DeLano, of Cooper, MI and Corporal Jonathan Delano of New York to Lt Jonathan Delano.

## DELANO KINDRED MENTIONED IN MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY

On page 43 of the March 2008 Mayflower Quarterly is a one page article about the DELANO KINDRED complete with our logo at the top of the page. The article tells about the formation of our Society and our charitable contributions supporting the Catherine Robbins Delano portrait restoration and our support to the Plimoth Plantation. It also notes our answering genealogical queries sent through our Guestbook on our open "American House of Delano" website. It tells of our various educational programs including the DNA Project, the European Research Project, our four websites and our tri-annual newsletter. It states we meet annually in various parts of the United States and ends by inviting all DELANO descendants to attend our 2008 Reunion in Portland, ME.

Cousin **Muriel Delano** drafted this article and we thank her for having it included in the Quarterly. In the very short time since this issue has been published, your Contact Committee has received several queries from Mayflower Society members who have question about their DELANO descendants.



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### **THE DELANO KINDRED *BONNES NOUVELLES***

The DELANO KINDRED *BONNES NOUVELLES* is the official, educational newsletter of the DELANO KINDRED, Inc., Boxborough, MA. It is published three times a year and is mailed from Virginia Beach, VA, U.S.A. The *BONNES NOUVELLES* staff includes George DeLano (editor), Carolyn Clarke (address labels), and Diana DeLano (distribution).

It is planned to publish the next *BONNES NOUVELLES* #58 at the end of August 2008, and the following three *Bonnes Nouvelles* as indicated: #59 (Oct.-Nov. 2008), # 60 (Mar.–Apr. 2009) and #61 (Oct-Nov. 2009). The 2008 Annual Membership Directory will be mailed in January 2009.

Articles and information about descendants of the DELANO family are always welcome and greatly appreciated by your editor. Every effort will be made to include them as soon as space permits. Comments and requests for back copies may be requested by writing to George B. DeLano, Editor, 521 Buffer Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4505. The cost is currently \$3.50 per copy.

It has been our practice to mail one *BONNES NOUVELLES* to each member-household address. We would be happy to mail one copy of each issue of the *BONNES NOUVELLES* to each member at a household address if desired. It may be desirable, especially in the case of Family Memberships that more than one copy is sent to an address. If you wish an additional copy for another member in your household, please send the name and membership number of that member to the editor..