



# BONNES NOUVELLES

News Letter

September 1998

Number 28

## 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 LA NOYE, the progenitor of most DELANOs in the Americas, who arrived at Plymouth in 1621 on the FORTUNE.

### THE 1998 REUNION

The 1998 Reunion in Fairhaven was FABULOUS! All of our cousins who attended were indeed fortunate to see some amazingly beautiful buildings built for the city by Henry Huttleston Rogers. Nearby and within Fairhaven were many remarkable remains of the DELANO family. It was indeed a fabulous event.

The descendants who traveled the longest distance were **Warren DELANO** from Santa Monica, California, and **John E. Osborne** from Madera, California. Others who traveled from west of the Mississippi River included **Brian E. DELANO** from Reno, Nevada, **John L.** and **Katy DELANO** from Helena, Montana, (continued on page 2)

# WELCOME

To The

## Delano Kindred 1998 Reunion



Aug. 14, 15, 16, 1998  
Fairhaven, Mass

**The Program**

### DELANO LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS OF MAINE

DELANOs have been keepers of at least two lighthouses in the State of Maine. Before statehood in 1820, Maine was called the "Maine District" of Massachusetts. In 1677, the Colony of Massachusetts had purchased the large tract of land containing what is now Maine. The French and Indian Wars, which were fought off and on, in Maine and other parts of New England from 1689 to

1763, subsided significantly when a force under William Pepperell's leadership captured the French fort at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia in 1745. Then the migration northward from Massachusetts increased. (cont. on page 10)



## MEMORIAL COMMITTEE LOOKS AT SITES ON DUXBURY HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS

On Sunday afternoon 16 August following the 1998 Reunion the Memorial Committee, members of the DELANO KINDRED Board and other interested members met at the Duxbury High School grounds to try to determine feasible locations and stone arrangements for the memorial to Philippe De La Noye. After an earlier meeting with the Duxbury High School Principal, it was determined that the land in front of the high school on the right side of the building (right as you face the building) was available. From this caveat two distinct areas seemed to be suitable for a single large stone arranged with smaller, low-set stones in a circular pattern.

One of these areas is located between the street in front of the school and the arcing drive to the parking area near the school entrance. This area is adjacent to the sidewalk that passes in front of the school and is shaded by stately Chinese elm trees. The other area is located further to the right of the drive under a beautiful, low-lying copper beach tree and bounded by drive entrance and a sidewalk to the far right of the school property.

The committee had brought cardboard boxes with them to aid in visualizing possible arrangement of the stones on the two areas. It took quite a bit of time to arrange these boxes in the various arrangements and it proved to be tedious at times and required several periods of solitary concentration while photographs of the different arrangements were made at various angles. Some of these arrangements are shown on page 13.

After the arrangements and photographs, the committee went onward to a quarry site to look for possible candidates for the memorial stones. It was understood that none were found. There is still much work to be done on this project. The larger the size of the memorial stone the more difficult it will be to transport it and maneuver it into position. The exact positioning of the stone(s) on a particular site may also add to the difficulty of the task. These factors plus others may require the need of additional handling equipment that can increase the cost of the Memorial. Questions of the final stone arrangement, the wording of the inscription and its design are among the unanswered items that have yet to be resolved. An artistic rendering of the final arrangement of the memorial is needed to show the Duxbury School Board, the quarrymen, and the stonecutters. One fact is clear. More money will be needed for this memorial.

### 1998 REUNION . (continued. from page 1)

**Carolyn Clarke** from Salt Lake City, Utah, **M. Vance DELANO** from Frisco, Texas, **Margaret Glendinning** from San Marcos, Texas, **Kathleen** and **Charles Davis** from Oklahoma City, **Betty Ford** and **Niki Hartline** from Tulsa Oklahoma, and **Guila** and **J. Delbert Wells** from Jefferson City, Missouri. From

Illinois came **John DELANO Ford**, **J. Dennis** and **Robyn Wells**, from Florida, **Muriel** and **Ren Cushing** and **Charles Gidley**, from Tennessee, **Verna** and **Harvey Finwick**, and from Michigan, **Herman**, **Charlene** and **Bridgette DELANO**. From Virginia came **Catherine P. DELANO**, **Frank P. DELANO**, **Diana** and **George B. DELANO**, **Sara** and **Tom Kelly**, **Megan Ralph**, and **Ernest T.** and **Margaret DELANO**. **Ernest** who is 79 going on 80 years braved the challenges of I-95 by driving the round trip from the Virginia "Northern Neck" to Fairhaven and back. From Pennsylvania came **Bert** and **June DELANO**, from Maine came **Esther I. Holmes**, **Rachel Obrey**, **Craig** and **Holly Pirtle**, and **Charlotte A. Springer**, from Vermont came **Phyllis** and **Leslie Skinner**, from New Hampshire came **Joan** and **Lloyd Krumm**, and from Connecticut came **Fannie D. G. Brown**, **Audrey C. Moran**, **Jean C. Paterwic**, and **John H. Somers**. Massachusetts was represented by **Jeffrey Boldi**, **Bob** and **Nancy DELANO**, **Joel** and **Sheila DELANO**, **Ray** and **Annette DELANO**, **Tom** and **Kris DELANO**, **Shirley Denison**, **Dorothea**, **Ann**, and **Bob Harris**, **Ellen Moura** and **Nathalie Tallman**, **Ava** and **Lauren Paterwic**, **Barbara L. Richmond**, **Marjorie** and **Ernest Towers**, **Clarence** and **Marie Walker**, and **Susan** and **Anton Winkler**.

Fairhaven was indeed fortunate to have a benevolent citizen, millionaire Henry Huttleston Rogers, whose largess is responsible for the construction of four magnificent buildings in the town. One of these buildings is the beautiful Fairhaven Town Hall. Registration and the 1998 Annual Meeting were held in the Hall's polished oak trimmed auditorium. Registrants received their nametags and a very complete welcome packet developed by Ernie Towers containing the schedule of events, dinner menus, maps of Fairhaven, the tour program, and selected genealogical and historic information. Several genealogical exhibits, one showing examples of how to correctly document your ancestors, one displaying the complex relationships of the DELANO's who settled in Rochester, MA and nearby towns, and one of Warren Delano's daughters, were on view.

It was on the stage of this auditorium that Rogers' friend Mark Twain gave the keynote address during the building's dedication in 1894. In later years when the auditorium was used for a "summer stock" theater well known actors such as Henry Fonda trod the boards.

Friday evening the Welcome "Light" Buffet was held at the Seaport Inn located on the shores of New Bedford Harbor. While we were getting acquainted with our new found cousins and greeting those we had met before at various reunions, Frank Delano, Warren DeLano, Megan Ralph and Bridgette DeLano were selected to judge the Fortune Cookie Contest entries. After munching on the delicious samples the judges finally decided that Muriel Cushing's entry which had little papers containing genealogical facts about



DELANOs (similar to Chinese fortune cookies) won the contest. We have included her recipe for these cookies in this issue. The dinner may have been light, but there was certainly plenty for all. There was ample time for everyone to continue their conversations with their newfound cousins after the meal.

Late Registration was held at the Town Hall before the Annual Meeting (see accompanying article). In the afternoon two large busses appeared at the Seaport Inn for the genealogical and historic tour. We were very fortunate to have Mr. Chris Richard of the Fairhaven Office of Tourism as our guide. He was quick to share his wealth of historical information about Fairhaven and of some of the DELANOs who lived there in days gone by. Because we were a fairly large party, we split up into two groups at the town center. One group visited the Capt. Warren Delano II House (home of FDR's grandfather) while the other visited the magnificent Millicent Library.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Temple, the current owners of the Warren Delano House, were very kind to open their house to our members. Although they were away, they had arranged for docents to be on hand to guide us through the various rooms, which were decorated in 1800's décor and furnished with antiques of that period. It was indeed like stepping back to the times of Captain Warren Delano. We learned that Mrs. Temple was in charge of the White House floral arrangements during the Reagan and Bush Administrations.

The magnificent Millicent Library was built by Henry Huttleston Rogers for the Town of Fairhaven in memory of his daughter Millicent who passed away while in her teens. There is a beautiful stain glass window near the entrance with the likeness of his daughter in it. After dedicating the Town Hall, Mark Twain strode across the street to this Library. He was quite impressed with it and wrote out his dedication address, which is on display. Among the many artifacts and memorabilia is an exquisite marble statue given to the library by Laura Astor Delano, the wife of Franklin Hughes Delano - FDR's great uncle and namesake.

We had planned to stop and see the Captain Jabez Delano Jr. House, owned and restored by Mr. Rodney Hilton Brown. Unfortunately Mr. Brown's father was ill and was recuperating at the house so it could not be seen. Mr. Brown is an experienced restorer of historical homes. Among his accomplishments is the restoration of the Aaron Burr home in New York City. Mr. Brown's architectural research discovered that there are at least two other homes designed in the same manner - a cottage in the English or Rural Gothic Style. The famed architect Andrew Jackson Downing designed these homes. The Jabez Delano House is the only one built with stone.

The tour wended past the Captain Jabez Delano Jr. home to the famed Riverside Cemetery of Fairhaven. The rural style arboretum-type cemetery was started in 1850 on land donated by Warren Delano II. We walked through this beautiful park-like, property to the "simple and elegant" Delano Tomb

area where many of the Warren Delano family are buried. Allied families such as the Hitch and Houghteling families are buried nearby. The first burial in the cemetery was of a young woman, Mary E. Delano... "called suddenly in her maiden beauty," who was buried on 6 August 1850. Another magnificent tomb is that of Henry Huttleston Rogers, Fairhaven's foremost benefactor. It is a mausoleum patterned after the Temple of Minerva in Athens.

Boarding our busses again we drove to the Acushnet Cemetery some three miles distant to view the grave of Lt. Jonathan Delano as well as his son Jabez Delano and Jabez's wife Mary. Although Lt. Jonathan's grave is one of the oldest in this cemetery,

*Here lieth ye body of Lieut. Jonathan Delano died Dece ye  
28 1720*

*In ye 73 year of his age",*

Mary Delano predeceased Jonathan by about four years. It was thrilling to see the grave of a child of Philippe and Hester De La Noye!

Our final destination was the John Cooke (d. 1695) memorial. The streets to the Memorial were narrow and the corners sharp, but the skill of our bus drivers were more than equal to the task. The memorial was an imposing rock with an aged bronze plate with the following inscription:

*"Sacred to the Memory of JOHN COOKE who was buried here in 1695.*

- *The last surviving male pilgrim of those who came over on the MAYFLOWER.*
- *The first white settler of this town and the pioneer in its religious, moral and business life.*
- *A man of character and integrity and the trusted agent for this part of the Commonwealth of the Old Colonial Civil Government of Plymouth."*

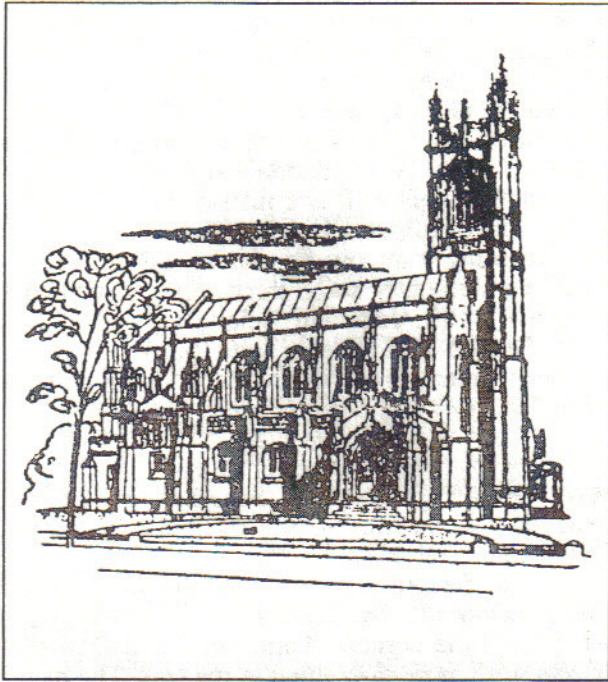
Many members were interested in it, because of its similarity to a possible memorial to Philippe De La Noye. As you know Philippe De La Noye knew John Cooke in Leiden. When Philippe arrived on the FORTUNE in 1621 he helped his Uncle Francis Cooke and his cousin John Cooke build the Cooke cottage on the "Plymoth Plantation" You can see a replica of it there at the Plymouth Plantation today complete with actors portraying Francis and Hester Cooke.

Saturday night was the Annual DELANO KINDRED Banquet. Muriel Cushing contributed "FORTUNE" bookmarks for each place setting as a remembrance of the occasion. After an excellent meal cousin John Somers spoke about how we got across the ocean in the first place. He pointed out that the vagaries of the art of navigation as well as the weather's affect on seamanship in mainly uncharted waters presented challenges equal to our present day travels in space.

On Sunday many of our cousins visited the Unitarian Memorial Church, another magnificent edifice built by Henry Huttleston Rogers. This splendid building is a tribute to his mother Mary Eldredge Huttleston. The architecture is fifteenth century English Gothic and is built of native stone.



The granite of the exterior walls was taken from Mr. Rogers' estate in south Fairhaven and much of the



interior decorative stone is Indiana blue and buff limestone. Italian artisans did the interior and exterior stone carvings and wood carvers from Bavaria did the interior woodwork. There are many beautiful stain glass windows, several of which are designed to catch the morning and evening light. On the sides of the nave are more modest windows given by some of the leading families in Fairhaven at the time. One bears the name of DELANO. Our cousins were treated to a tour of the church following the service. It was a most pleasant way to end a wonderful weekend.

#### 1998 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1998 President George DeLano the called Annual Meeting of the DELANO KINDRED to order on Saturday, 15 August 1998 at 10:00 a. m. in the Town Hall Auditorium in Fairhaven, MA. A quorum of 46 members was present.

**Secretary's Report.** The minutes of the last Annual Meeting held at Stratford Hall, VA were read by Verna L. Finwick and were approved.

**Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer's Report as of 31 July 1998 was read. The opening balance on 1 June 1997 was \$6546.06. Total receipts, including \$4759.50 for the 1997 and 1998 Reunions, were \$7994.00. Expenditures, including \$2533.38 1997 Reunion costs and deposits for the 1998 Reunion were \$4654.47. This leaves an unadjusted gross surplus of \$3339. 53. The closing balance on 31 July 1998 was \$9885.59.

The Memorial Fund grew to \$2215.00. Pre-paid dues for calendar years 1999 through 2004 were \$1314.50. Subtracting these funds from the closing balance leaves \$6356.09 available for the operating budget and the reunion. \$2148.00 of this amount is registration deposits for the 1998 Reunion. Subtracting these funds leaves \$4208.09 to pay outstanding bills in the Operating Budget and to fund the

"Operations" of the Society for this Fiscal Year. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

**Bylaw Changes.** Article V, Section 1. Paragraphs b. and c. were changed to increase the number of directors from five to seven. Accordingly the number of Board Members to constitute a quorum at Board Meetings was increased to six in Article IV, Section 7. Paragraph b. A new Section 3 was approved stating that elected or appointed officers shall be descendant members in "good standing".

**Elections.** The report of the Nominating Committee submitted the following nominees. Officers: President, George B. DeLano, Vice President, Frank P. Delano II, Secretary, Dorothea A. Harris, and Treasurer, Robert C. DeLano. Seven Directors: C. Edwin Delano, Verna L. Finwick, Ernest J. Towers, Herman W. DeLano, Nancy B. Delano, Muriel C. Cushing, and Carolyn E. Clarke. Nominating Committee: John H. Somers was nominated for a three-year term and Sanford R. Delano for a two-year term to replace Frank P. Delano who was already nominated to another elected office. There were no nominees from the floor and the majority present elected all nominees.

#### Committee Chair Reports.

**Genealogy:** Genealogist Muriel Cushing discussed the status of updated genealogy of the first four generations of Philippe De La Noye descendants. This will follow the Mayflower Families In Progress (MFIP) format. Identified and thanked the many genealogists in the Society who are helping with this endeavor. She also discussed the poster that shows the required certified information needed to document genealogical descent.

**Regional Contact.** Chair Ed Delano could not attend due to his wife's surgery. The president gave an overview of the study Ed is doing to determine patterns in the Society's membership changes. He noted that had all the 1997 members renewed for 1998, the total membership would be over 450. Some ideas emerging as he continues with the study include designating a member volunteer to contact newly joined members in order to answer any questions they may have and so forth. He believes that the personal contact with the new members will be beneficial in creating closer knit family organization.

**Membership.** Nancy Delano said that we currently have 334 members in "good standing." She re-emphasized the need to print clearly and completely on the membership form. She also reminded everyone that membership forms could be used for changes of addresses and telephone numbers – especially changes in zip codes and telephone area codes.

**Philippe De La Noye Memorial.** Frank Delano gave an overview of a possible arrangement of stones for the Memorial to Philippe De La Noye. He said the Memorial Committee would visit the Duxbury High School site to determine which locations on the site would be feasible for the Memorial. He showed an example of a stone-carved lettering used in the memorial to FDR in Washington D.C. He stated that some funds would probably be needed to obtain an artistic rendering of the final design of the Memorial in order to present to the Duxbury School Board, and other organizations associated with the development of the Memorial. A motion was approved to allow up to \$500.00 of Memorial funds to be used for this purpose.







JONATHAN DELAND		DAVID DELAND	JONATHAN DELAND	THOMAS DELAND	PHILIPPE DE LANNVOY	JAN DE LANNVOY			
		JONATHAN DELAND	HANNAH DOTEN	REBECCA ALDEN	HESTER DEWSBURY	MARIE MAHIEU			
		ABIGAIL CHANDLER	SAMUEL CHANDLER	ELIZABETH BUCK					
RUTH DELAND		AMAZIAH DELAND	JONATHAN DELAND	THOMAS DELAND	PHILIPPE DE LANNVOY	JAN DE LANNVOY			
		ABRAHAM SAMSON	HANNAH DOTEN	REBECCA ALDEN	HESTER DEWSBURY	MARIE MAHIEU			
		PENELOPE SAMSON	JAMES SAMSON	ANN PLUMMER					
		RUTH SAMSON	ABRAHAM SAMSON	THOMAS DOTEN	EDWARD DOTY				
			ABRAHAM SAMSON	MARY CHURCHILL	FAITH CLARKE	THURSTON CLARKE			
			ABRAHAM SAMSON	MARY CHURCHILL	FAITH CLARKE	THURSTON CLARKE			
			ABRAHAM SAMSON	BENJAMIN CHANDLER	JOHN BUCK				
			ABRAHAM SAMSON	ELIZABETH BUCK	ELIZABETH HOLBROOK	WILLIAM HOLBROOK			
			ABRAHAM SAMSON	ELIZABETH BUCK	ELIZABETH HOLBROOK	ELIZABETH			
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			ABRAHAM SAMSON	ELIZABETH BUCK	ELIZABETH HOLBROOK	ELIZABETH			





Upper left: Attending the Annual Meeting in the Town Hall

Upper right: Frank Delano studies one of the exhibits

Lower left: The magnificent Millicent Library







Top: Friday night Welcome Buffet

Center left: This is a "Light" Buffet ??

Lower left: The Fortune Cookie judges at work

Lower right: Ren Cushing discussing navigation with speaker John Somers





## THE 1998 FORTUNE COOKIE RECIPE

Cousin **Muriel Cushing's** winning Fortune Cookie Recipe is for a cookie called Overnight Kisses. She has given us the recipe to share. It makes about five dozen cookies.

### OVERNIGHT KISSES

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Beat 2 egg whites until stiff.

Add a pinch of salt while beating

Add 2/3 cup of sugar, a tablespoon at a time,  
beating well after each addition.

Fold in 1 package (6 oz.) of chocolate bits – mint  
flavored if possible (mini chips).

Drop by teaspoonful on an ungreased cookie sheet.

Put in oven and TURN OFF HEAT.

Leave in the oven overnight.

May make more with 3 egg whites and 1 cup of sugar.

Keeps well in an airtight container.

To make them "Fortune" Cookies, Muriel inserted little paper "genealogical fortunes" in the cookies such as:

PHILIPPE DE LA NOYE WAS BORN IN 1602.

PHILIPPE'S PARENTS WERE JAN AND MARIE

PHILIPPE WAS BAPT. IN THE LEIDEN WALOON CHURCH

PHILIPPE'S UNCLE WAS FRANCIS COOKE

etc.

Thanks for sharing the recipe with us Muriel!





Top: Friday night Welcome Buffet



Center left: This is a "Light " Buffet ??

Lower left: The Fortune Cookie judges at work

Lower right: Ren Cushing discussing navigation with speaker John Somers





(Continued from page 4) It was suggested that books about DELANOs be given to the High School Library once the Memorial is completed. It was also suggested that the Memorial Committee investigate bringing a stone from the ruins of the church in Leiden in which Philippe was baptized in 1601.

Database Management. Verna Finwick gave an overview of the progress of development of the new membership database. The database will include a means to show family relationships between members, the capability to include 9-digit zip codes and ancestor branches.

1998 Annual Report. President George DeLano thanked Robert Barnes Delano for his service as a founder and as Vice President, Philip R. Delano for his service as a founder and as Secretary, Jean L. Delano and Ramsay Anderson for their service as Directors of the Society. He said he was encouraged that our membership rate was ahead of where it was last year at this time. He said that he hoped that more photographs could be included in the *Bonnes Nouvelles* now that the printer had upgraded his copying machinery to make the inclusion of photos less expensive. He stated that we desperately needed someone to relieve Robert C. DeLano as Treasurer, because the press of his business was making it extremely difficult for him to devote time to this office. He stated that we have not been able to make any progress towards the goal of tax - exempt status this year. He thanked those who had sent in information or articles for inclusion in the *Bonnes Nouvelles* and stated that every effort will be made to include them as space permits. He thanked Ernest Towers and the 1998 Reunion Site Committee and the Christopher Richard, Fairhaven's Director of Tourism for making the Reunion a success.

Operating Budget. The President gave an overview of the FY 1999 Proposed Operating Budget and pointed out that the income and expenditures were based on a membership of 360 members in "good standing." As usual an effective income rate of \$9.00 per member was used to account for the lower advance dues rate and the family membership rate. He indicated the proposed budget was similar to the FY 1998 budget except that more funds were placed in administration to allow for start up costs associated with the new membership database system. The membership approved the proposed operating budget as shown below.

APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

INCOME (Based on a membership of 360 members).....	\$3240.00
EXPENDITURES	
Administration.....	\$450.00
Annual Meetings and Board Meetings .....	\$350.00
Genealogy Program.....	\$400.00
<i>BonnesNouvelles</i> .....	\$2000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....</b>	<b>\$3200.00</b>
<b>FUNDS REMAINING.....</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>

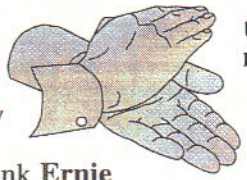
1999 Annual Meeting. It was announced that a 1999 Reunion Site Committee had been formed. The committee is investigating the following sites. Mt

Vernon, Ohio (or possibly a town nearby), Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Portland Maine. The DELANO historical significance of these sites are: Mt Vernon, Ohio, home and resting place of Columbus Delano, Secretary of the Interior in the Grant Administration--Delano California and Delano Peak in Utah are named after him; Grand Rapids, Michigan, burial site of Major Joel A. Delano, compiler of the GHAARD--published in 1899 and Portland, Maine, near Portland Head Light--one of the lighthouses kept by a DELANO (see the accompanying article about DELANO Maine Lighthouse Keepers). A possible scenario for the next three years would be as follows: 1999 Mt Vernon, Ohio or Grand Rapids, Michigan; 2000 Duxbury, Massachusetts; 2001 Portland, Maine. Further research by the Site Committee is ongoing. A site for the 1999 Reunion will be announced in the December *Bonnes Nouvelles*.

Adjournment. The 1998 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

**KUDOS**

We would like to thank those who helped 1998 Reunion a success. We have received many accolades about it.



thank all make the success.

Above all we would like to thank **Ernie Towers** and his Site Committee of **Bob and Nancy Delano** and **Dorothea and Bob Harris**. We would also like to thank **Jeff Boldi** for his help with the "Welcome" envelope material. We also would like to thank the Fairhaven Director of Tourism, **Chris Richards**, for making arrangements for the venue of the Annual Meeting in the Town Hall and for being a superb tour guide.

We have sent a letter of thanks to the **Fairhaven Board of Selectmen** for the use of the Town Hall and also a letter of thanks to the owners of the Captain Warren Delano House, **Mr. and Mrs. Philip Temple**, for kindly allowing us to see their lovely home.

We thank Verna Finwick for organizing the first DELANO KINDRED Fortune Cookie Contest. To Muriel Cushing, Carolyn Clarke, Ernie Towers, Ellen Moura, and others, all of whom made the interesting and educational genealogical exhibits displayed at the various Reunion functions, we give our thanks and a hearty "well done."

**1998 NEW MEMBERS**

We are delighted to announce the names of our new members who have joined since the printing of the June *Bonnes Nouvelles*.

- California - Melvin R. King
- Connecticut - Jorge A. Delano (Jorge is a graduate student from Venezuela)
- Audrey Irene C. Moran
- Jean Francena C. Paterwic
- Florida - Paula J. Posas
- Massachusetts - Shirley T. Denison
- Ann M. Harris
- Ava Paterwic



Lauren F. Paterwic  
 Susan D. Winkler  
 Nebraska - John H. Floyd MD  
 New Jersey - Kathleen E. Lyons  
 New York - Mary R. Vary  
 Thomas F. Vary  
 Oklahoma - Kathleen M. Davis  
 Virginia - John L. Chase  
 Grayson O. Delano

## DELANO LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS OF MAINE

(continued from pg. 1)

### The Portland Head Light

One of the first DELANO families to "head north" was the Thomas (3rd.) and Sarah DELANO (GHAARD p. 182), with their first son Thankful and their daughters Sarah (2nd.), Hannah and Mary. They left Provincetown, MA after 1735 and were settled in Falmouth, ME (just north of Portland) by 1740. Thomas and Sarah's second son, Barzillai, was born there in 1745. He was destined to become a keeper of the Portland Head Lighthouse; the first one to be built in Maine.

Muriel Cushing has provided a fan chart of Brazillai's line of descent known at the present time. This is shown on page 5. If you have more information to add to this fan chart please contact Muriel. She would be very happy to have the additional information.

One of the first public projects to be carried out by the United States was the construction of a series of lighthouses along the Atlantic Coast. Although quite a few had been built, not a single lighthouse existed along the entire coast of the District of Maine. Yet Maine vessels, not engaged in the coasting trade or fishing were required to pay "light money"--a fee for lighthouse construction and maintenance. This aggravation, along with high taxation, poor roads, the long distance to the capital city of Boston were reasons why the movement for separation from Massachusetts and admission to the Union as a State began in 1785.

By this time Barzillai DELANO (GHAARD p. 182) was married and had established a home for his family at Cape Elizabeth, ME, just south of Portland (see map). In 1787 construction of a lighthouse at Portland Head had begun, but it had proceeded very slowly due to lack of funds. On 16 November 1789 at a Cape Elizabeth town meeting, Barzillai DELANO, Capt. Matthew Simonton, and Lt. John Armstrong were appointed a committee to join with their neighboring towns in drafting a petition to the General Court seeking an appropriation to "finish the Light House on Portland Head." Although Commonwealth of Massachusetts failed to provide the necessary funds, the United States Congress, in 1790, appropriated \$1500.00 to complete the construction.

By 9 October 1790, the last stone for the 72 foot tower and the lighthouse keeper's house were in place. The lantern and lens assembly was finally perfected and installed, adding about fifteen feet to the height of the structure. On 10 January 1791 sixteen whale oil

lamps were lighted for the first time at dusk. The first keeper was Capt. Joseph Greenleaf. He received his commission from President Washington, dated 7 January 1791. Although Barzillai DELANO had been considered for the post, it was granted to Greenleaf largely because of his extensive service in the Continental Army. Greenleaf suffered a fatal stroke in 1795 and the second keeper, Dave Duncan, served until 1796. He was succeeded by Barzillai who became the third keeper of the Portland Head Light.

Early in Barzillai's term, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, the Massachusetts Lighthouse Superintendent, investigated the dampness within the tower and recommended that the exterior be sheathed with planks overlaid with shingles. Apparently, little consideration was given to his suggestions for no such alterations were made. The dampness persisted, however, and by 1810 many of the timbers inside the tower were badly rotted. When Gen. Henry Dearborn inspected the tower that same year and reported this condition, the repairs were soon accomplished. DELANO's tenancy lasted until his death in 1820.

Prior to becoming the Portland Head Lighthouse Keeper, Barzillai DELANO, like his father Thomas DELANO, operated a smithy next to his home at what is now the first entrance to DELANO Park in Cape Elizabeth, ME. His house survived until March, 1878, when it was torn down.

### Sequin Island Light

Sequin Island is about two miles south of Georgetown, ME, situated at the mouth of the Kennebec River, about 12 miles south of Bath, ME. The light tower is only 35 feet high, yet the light is 180 feet above mean sea level. It is one of the highest lights along the rocky Maine coast, thanks to the island's 145 foot elevation. Sequin Island is the second foggiest point on the state's coast and holds the Maine record for the most fog in any one year - 31 percent of the year. In the early days, the fog signal was a bell, which was very heavy and was tolled by hand. This meant that in that record year the bell was tolled over 113 days.

In 1779 the Commissioner of the Revenue wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury that the island had the advantages "of plenty of fuel, the opportunity to fish for his family use, a boat will be furnished for fishing and for passing to the main, there is a little land for tillage and grazing and for a plentiful garden." In 1797 the island was wooded, but today there are mostly low scrub bushes, many rocks and not much land suitable for the plentiful garden the Commissioner wrote about. It is probable that the lighthouse keeper's need of fuel virtually eliminated trees on the island. The island's rocky terrain and exposure to the wind reduced the chances for the wooded areas to regenerate faster than they were cut down.

The first keeper of the Sequin Island light, from 1796 to 1801 was John Ladislaus Polereczky, a Major in the French Light Cavalry. He was of Slovak extraction, and had aided the Continental Army in the Revolution. Polereczky may have served with Jonathan



DELANO of Duxbury (GHAHHD p.268), whom he apparently held in high esteem. The Major was also a friend and comrade-in-arms of both Generals Dearborn and Lincoln, who were involved with the inspection, operation and maintenance of the lighthouses on the Atlantic Coast. Consequently, upon his retirement, Polereczky recommended Jonathan for the position. Thus Jonathan DELANO became the second keeper to the Sequin Island Light in 1801.

Jonathan DELANO had married Ruth DELANO, daughter of Amaziah and Ruth (Sampson) DELANO (GHAHHD p. 230), in Duxbury on 14 Sept. 1774. Jonathan and Ruth took their family of three sons and three daughters and moved north to Woolwich, Me, just across the Kennebec River from Bath. See John and Ruth DELANO's descendency fan charts on page\_. They arrived there before 4 July 1789, the birth date their fourth son Spencer DELANO. Jonathan served as light keeper through the War of 1812. John Paterson of Thorold, Ontario, in researching his connection through Charles Delano, a grandson of Jonathan, cites the Georgetown, ME records which state that Jonathan "...from that island saw smoke and heard cannon in the famous battle between the BOXER and the ENTERPRISE."--see p. 5 of December 1993 Newsletter #9.

According to page 272 of the GHAHHD, not only did Jonathan DELANO hold the post of light keeper, but his son Spencer DELANO and his grandson George Melvin DELANO also served stints as keepers of the Sequin Island Light. Rebecca Ann

McCobb DELANO, George Melvin's older sister, recalls that she was born on Sequin Island while her father, a Ship's Carpenter at the time, was on a voyage. In her late years, Rebecca told of her grandfather (Jonathan DELANO) rowing her to the mainland to school--probably to Georgetown.

When the seas were rough she would be frightened, but she said her grandfather Jonathan would laugh at her. Genealogical data from various sources suggest that there were four DELANO keepers of the Sequin Island Light. Bearing in mind that Spencer DELANO was away at sea as a Ship's Carpenter, and after looking at the birth places of Jonathan's grandchildren, it appears that Spencer's older brother Thomas (GHAHHD p. 268) may also have tended the light, perhaps helping his father Jonathan. This would suggest the following:

#### DELANO KEEPERS OF SEQUIN ISLAND LIGHT

- Jonathan Delano 1801 to about 1825 (GHAHHD p. 268)
- Thomas Delano about 1818 to about 1823 (GHAHHD p. 268)
- Spencer Delano about 1823 to about 1826 (GHAHHD p. 272)
- Charles M. Delano about 1844 to about 1850 (GHAHHD p. 272)

We wish to thank the research efforts of cousins **John Paterson, Ernest Towers**, and the members of **The Friends of Sequin Island** for their kind help in providing information on this subject.



Sequin Island Light





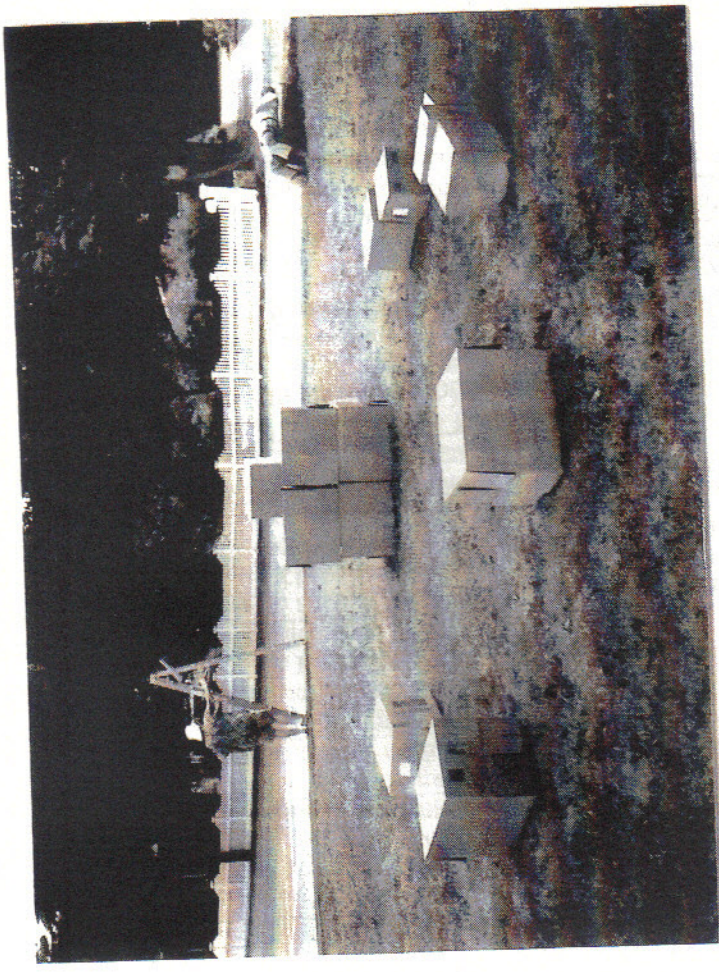
Upper left: Approaching the Warren Delano Family tomb

Upper right: Captain Warren Delano's House

Lower left: The John Cooke Memorial

Lower right: Lt. Jonathan Delano's Tombstone





The Memorial Committee Looks at Possible Memorial Stone Arrangements

Upper left: An arrangement facing Duxbury High School

Upper right: An arrangement facing St. George Street in front of the High School. Cousin Frank P. Delano (left) adjusts the ladder for a "high altitude" photo while cousin Warren C. DeLano (right) performs a "reclinability-hardness test" on a nearby stone.

Lower left: An arrangement under the copper beach tree.



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**APPOINTED/VOLUNTARY POSITIONS**

<u>Genealogist</u> Muriel C. Cushing (address above)	<u>Membership Chair</u> Nancy B. Delano (address above)	<u>Membership Data Base</u> <u>Manager</u> Verna L. Finwick (address above)	<u>Newsletter Editor</u> George B. DeLano (address above)
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**1999 ANNUAL MEETING AND REUNION**

As noted elsewhere, it was announced at the 1998 Annual Meeting that a 1999 Reunion Site Committee has been formed to investigate the following sites for the 1999 Reunion: Mt. Vernon, Ohio (or a city nearby), Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Portland Maine.

Mt. Vernon, Ohio was the home of the Honorable Columbus Delano who was the Secretary of the Interior in the Grant Administration (GHAHD pp. 311-323). We know that Delano, California and Delano Peak in Utah were named after him.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, is the final resting place of Major Joel A. Delano, who completed his compilation of the GHAHD in 1898 and was published in 1899 (GHAHD pp. 96-98 & 357-359). See *Bonnes Nouvelles* Dec.'96 pg. 6 & Dec. '97 pg. 7.

Portland, Maine, near Portland Head Light -- see the feature article in this issue concerning the DELANO Lighthouse Keepers in Maine.

Another possibility for a future Reunion is Cincinnati, Ohio, which is near President Ulysses S. Grant's boyhood home, Pt. Pleasant, Ohio.

The Site Committee is considering these locations as possible venues for the 1999 and 2001 Reunions. The 2000 Reunion will be held in the area in or near Duxbury, MA, in accordance with our established policy. Factors the Site Committee will consider include the availability of adequate meeting and banquet facilities, the adequacy of transportation facilities, the availability of DELANO historical sites, and the availability of on-site support.

The venue and date for the 1999 Reunion and the tentative venue for the 2001 Reunion will be announced in the December '98 *Bonnes Nouvelles*.

**1998 ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

If you attended the 1998 Annual Meeting you were provided a copy of the 1998 Annual Questionnaire. As in past years, we have included a copy of the questionnaire in the fall issue of the *Bonnes Nouvelles*. This year's questionnaire seeks the thoughts and suggestions of our members about help with reunions, DELANO KINDRED services, finances, and the emphasis of the society. Also we ask for comments or thoughts you would like to share with us about the DELANO KINDRED. If you have not already sent in a copy of this questionnaire, please complete and mail it to reach us by December 1998. We would like to hear about your thoughts and ideas.



## DELIST CHANGES

The DeList is the E-mail mailing list for the DELANO KINDRED. It was designed by Cousin **Frank Delano** several years ago for e-mail communication between cousins. Over several years the list has grown and has proved to be a rapid way to communicate through out the world with our cousins who have computers and e-mail service.

Recently, Frank's niece **Emily Kelly**, has volunteered to relieve him as the "List Master." Emily's offer was greatly appreciated by Frank, who's computer has been in a downward spiral and causing him much grief. Emily's takeover has been smooth and the DeList server system seems to be working very well. There have been e-mail address changes so Emily has e-mailed the following information, which tells you how to subscribe and how to submit items to the DeList.

"Welcome to DeList, the mailing list for the DELANO KINDRED. You may want to save this message, since it contains most of the information you'll need to know about DeList.

If you're here, you probably know that the DELANO KINDRED is a society composed of Philippe De La Noye's descendants, their family and friends. DeList is a convenient forum for us to explore our DELANO heritage and share stories, jokes and family news with cousins. DeList's founder and Official Mixer of the Sacred FDR Martini is Frank Pelham Delano II [bigtree@3n.com](mailto:bigtree@3n.com).

Here's how DeList works;

-To post a message, simply e-mail it to [delist@world.std.com](mailto:delist@world.std.com).

-To subscribe, send a message to [delist-request@world.std.com](mailto:delist-request@world.std.com) with the word "subscribe" in the body (not the subject line) of the message.

-To unsubscribe, send a message to [delist-request@world.std.com](mailto:delist-request@world.std.com) with the word "unsubscribe" in the body (not the subject line) of the message.

-For a list of everyone currently subscribed to DeList, send a message to [delist-request@world.std.com](mailto:delist-request@world.std.com) with the word "who" in the body (not the subject line) of the message.

-For a list of these and other possible commands, send a message to [delist-request@world .std.com](mailto:delist-request@world.std.com) with the word "help" in the body (not the subject line) of the message.

Any questions, problems, or comments about the mailing list should go to [owner-delist@world.std.com](mailto:owner-delist@world.std.com)."

Thanks Emily for taking on this task and providing the information about DeList.

## DEPARTED COUSIN

We sadly report the passing of our cousin, Ralph D. Packett, of Islington Farm, Warsaw, VA passed away on 5 May 1998. He was the husband of Cousin Gay Hall Packett. He was born on 15 April 1918 and was 80 years old at the time of his death. Cousin Ralph was descended from Philippe De La Noye through the Dr. Thomas Delano Branch and through Captain George Delano who settled in the Northern Neck of Virginia in the early 1800's. He has been a member of the DELANO KINDRED since 1997.

His other survivors include a daughter, Patricia Packett Pugh, a son-in-law, Allen T. Pugh; a son, Ralph Wayne Packett; a daughter-in-law, Terry S. Packett; a sister, Esther P. Elliott; and seven grandchildren. Most of the pallbearers and honorary pallbearers at his funeral were Delano descendants. We send our belated condolences to his wife Gay and the rest of his family.

Cousin Ralph was a veteran of World War II and served in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Army, 101<sup>st</sup> Infantry, where he participated in four major battles in the European Theater, including the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. We include some excerpts from his memoirs of his days in the service.

"I was drafted February 11, 1942 and was sent to Camp Lee, Virginia, then on to Camp Wheeler, Georgia, for Basic training. I was moved again by night to A. P. Hill, Virginia, but didn't know where I was until bumped into Fuller Packett at the country store at Port Royal, Virginia. I asked him what he was doing here, and he said, 'Boy, you don't know where you are, do you?' (I was only 25 miles from home.)

It was in Boston, Massachusetts, where I joined the Yankee Division. Can you imagine a guy from Wellford's Wharf, Virginia landing in Boston? They couldn't understand me and I couldn't understand them. After some time we began speaking the same language. I was nicknamed 'Lum'.

In a march from A. P. Hill to Ft. Meade, Maryland my feet blistered so badly I was assigned to drive light equipment and later became a jeep driver overseas. I had to carry messages from the Command Post to the front lines and usually had an officer with me. Some of them evidently were afraid of my driving, because they wouldn't ride with me but once.

One of my closest calls was when I accidentally drove a half-mile into German lines. The officer with me and I had to set up a bazooka at the first junction. After loading the ammunition and equipment into the jeep, we took off about dusk. After reaching the second junction I stopped and asked the officer if we had gone too far. Suddenly a shot rang out and the officer asked if I was hit. I felt the impact, but didn't see any blood. Advancing were five Germans asking us to surrender. The officer took one ditch and I took the other. We both took turns running and shooting. I found out I could run almost as fast as I could drive. When we got back to our lines, I was so scared I couldn't speak a word. The officer captured two Germans on his way back, but I never saw him again. I was awarded the Bronze Star and was sent to Paris for three days of R. & R. I was glad my speech came back before I got to Paris.

During my 14 months overseas, I saw four battles, which included the Battle of the Bulge. I lost four jeeps. Two were blown up, one was captured and one was stolen and wrecked.

Remember the impact I felt when I drove a half-mile into German lines? I always carried a New Testament bible which had a steel plate on it in my shirt pocket, sent to me by Cobham Park Church in Warsaw. This may have saved my life, because the shot went through every page and out of the metal plate. I will always treasure the Testament sent by my church..





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### THE DELANO KINDRED *BONNES NOUVELLES*

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It is planned to publish the next *Bonnes Nouvelles* #29 (Dec. 1998); and the following four *Bonnes Nouvelles* as follows: #30 (Mar. 1999); #31 (June 1999); #32 (Sept. 1999) and #33 (Dec. 1999).

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 be sent to an address. If you desire another member in your household to receive a copy, please send the name and membership number of the member to which the additional issue is to be sent to George B. DeLano, Editor, 521 Buffer Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462.