



# BONNES NOUVELLES

News Letter

October 2000

Number 35

## 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.



2000 MILLENIUM REUNION GROUP PHOTO  
In front of the First Parish Church, Duxbury, Massachusetts

## THE 2000 REUNION

### CELEBRATING THE BEGINNING OF THE MAGNIFICENT MILLENIUM

The 2000 Reunion in Duxbury, MA brought together cousins from as far as Santiago Chile, California, New Mexico and Oklahoma to visit with many of us from the Midwest and the East Coast of the United States. It was a fine turnout at the Parish Hall of the First Parish Church to commemorate that first Reunion in 1990 that caused us to organize as the DELANO KINDRED.

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2001?**

**BEAT THE ANNUAL DUES INCREASE (SEE PAGE 3)**

**PAY YOUR 2001 DUES BEFORE 1 JANUARY 2001.**

**REUNION** Thanks to the efforts of Cousin Sara D. Kelly's husband, Tom, the flags of Canada, Chile and the United States graced the wall near the registration area of the Parish Hall. Cousins' **Andres Alcalde DELANO** and his wife **Betty** held the record for the cousins who traveled the farthest distance – all the way from Santiago, Chile. **Jorge Andres DELANO**, who currently makes his home in Farmington, CT, had just returned from Ecuador where he will reside next year. Cousins **Warren C. DELANO, Rene DELANO, Wendy Johnson,** and **Bill and Loretta Waite** all traveled from California. Cousin **Dave DeLanoy** came from New Mexico. Cousin **Carolyn Clarke** came from Utah. Cousins **Betty D. Ford, John D. Ford** and **Niki F. Hartline** all came from Oklahoma. Cousins **James B. and Gloria DELANO** traveled from Minnesota. From Florida came Cousins **Muriel and Ren Cushing** and Cousin **Charles Gidley**. Cousins **Herm, Charlene and Bridgette DELANO, Jeff DeLanoy,** and **Cynthia and Ron Prosser** represented Michigan. Cousin **Dorothy D. Ferguson** journeyed from Maryland. Virginia Cousins **George and Frances Brooke, Sara D. Kelly, Frank P. DELANO, Kitty DELANO, George and Diana DELANO, Danny DELANO, Sandra D. Hyde** and **Megan Ralph** traveled north to the Reunion. Cousins **John and Faith Marsland** traveled south from Maine. From New Hampshire came Cousins **Joan and Lloyd Krumm** and from Vermont came Cousin **Brookins DELANO**. Cousins **Elizabeth Chicares, Katherine W. DELANO, Ross Andres DELANO, Mary D. Wadsworth,** and **Edie and Bill Ward** all came from Connecticut. As one might expect the largest contingent of Cousins were from Massachusetts. They were Cousins **Joan Boldi, Bob and Nancy DELANO, Ray Jr. and Annette DELANO, Ray DELANO III, Jackie Bankowski, Tom and Kristen DELANO, Justine Fontaine, Jeanne Martinez, Donald Martinez, Dot and Bob Harris, Gus Lane, Roseann Pratt, Christine Tissot, Marjorie and Ernie Towers, Chuck and Marie Walker, Nancy and James Wilson,** and **Susan D. and Anton Winkler**. The "family branches" represented included descendants of **Dr. Thomas DELANO, John DELANO, Lt. Jonathan DELANO, Philip**

**DELANO Jr., and Samuel DELANO.** Also represented were descendants of **Abraham DELANOY** of the Holland House of de Lannoy who came to New Amsterdam from Harlem, Netherlands in the mid 1600s

As is our custom attendees were provided with a "Welcome Envelope," created by Cousin Ernie Towers, which included the Reunion Schedule of Events, a roster of attendees by their "family branch" and other useful information.

The "Welcome Buffet" on Friday evening was indeed delicious and the event allowed time for Cousins to meet and renew acquaintances. Many Cousins displayed exhibits of their high skill in various crafts. **Danny DELANO** and **John Marsland** displayed their woodcarvings and **Marjorie Towers** showed her low relief woodcarvings. **Ernie Towers** displayed his oil paintings and **Nancy Wilson** displayed examples of her technique in American Decorative painting. **Joan Boldi** showed some of her paintings and needlework. **Carolyn Clarke** had examples of her hand and machine knitting efforts. **Muriel Cushing** showed examples of her scrimshaw art and **Bob Harris** displayed examples of garden art. Cousin **Dot Harris** won the FORTUNE Cookie Contest and everyone had a chance to taste all the cookies that were entered in the contest. The winning recipe is enclosed as an insert in this newsletter.

Saturday morning after Late Registration the 2000 Annual Membership Meeting was held. At the end of the meeting, our enthusiastic guide **Frank Lord** gave the members an introduction to the afternoon Duxbury Tour. He gave a few brief examples of how the DELANOs were interwoven into the early history of Duxbury. Following this introduction, members assembled at the front Parish Hall steps for the Annual Reunion Photograph—shown elsewhere in this newsletter.

The afternoon bus tour not only took us by some of the early DELANO homes; our guide **Frank Lord** showed us the site of the **Samuel DELANO** shipyard. **Frank** had compiled a very informative Tour Brochure entitled Roundabout Duxbury, which included an early map of Duxbury, the locations of many DELANO homes, early photographs of Duxbury, and chronology of highlights of the DELANO family involvement in Duxbury's history from

1627 to 1892. We found that the DELANOs were involved with the construction of the Miles Standish Monument, for example. It is intended to reproduce this informative brochure in the future for those desiring copies.

That evening at the Millenium Banquet an outstanding meal was prepared by gourmet chef Dave Wells and served by the First Parish Church Ladies Alliance. We were pleased to have Katherine Pillsbury, the Duxbury Historian, as well as our Tour Guide Frank Lord join us. You will recall that Katherine had recently completed a trip to Santiago, Chile where she was able to meet Cousin **Juan Pablo DELANO Tellechea**.

Our speaker for the evening was Cousin **Jorge Andres DELANO** who told us the story of Captain Paul DELANO Tripp who sailed to Chile and founded the DELANO family in Chile. Cousin Jorge gave us insight into the politics between the U.S. and Spain at the time of the Wars for Independence in South America as it affected building Chilean ships-of-war in New York City. He also told us of the many problems Captain Paul faced, as high-ranking Chilean Naval Officer, in dealing with the lack of resources in the various military operations against the Spanish in the seas off Chile and along the coast of Peru. In solving these problems Capt. Paul DELANO showed himself to be a man of honor who reflected well on the DELANO name. Among his maritime accomplishments is the building of Chile's first lighthouse at Punta Angeles near Valparaiso in 1837. A newer lighthouse remains on this sight today and was the site of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 1987.

Cousin Jorge has just published an 83-page hard cover book with many photographs and other illustrations about the life of Capt. Paul DELANO. He has graciously consented to allow the DELANO KINDRED to sell these books, the proceeds of which will go to the Memorial Fund. We thank Cousin Jorge for his great generosity and for the extremely interesting presentation at the Banquet. Those of us who heard him have a much greater appreciation for the early foundation of the family in Chile. Thank you Cousin Jorge for making the Banquet a most memorable evening!!

## DUES TO INCREASE

At its 11 August 2000 Meeting the Board approved an increase in the Annual Membership Dues from \$10.00 per year to \$15.00 per year commencing 1 January 2001. As you recall the Board had held off increasing Annual Dues at its previous meetings in 1999. Dues paid for two year, three year, or Family Memberships will also be raised, but will still offer savings over one year memberships. The Board found this increase necessary due to the continued rise in operating costs and the projected increases in future costs. Every effort is being made to keep the costs of the Society's operations at a minimum.

In this issue we have inserted ~~two~~ 2001 Membership Forms—one for use before 31 December 2000 and one to be used after 31 December 2000. For detailed information on these increases please compare the 2001 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION on the back of these forms.

Please note you may use the "before 31 December 2000 Membership Form" and pay dues through 2003 at the existing dues rates. On 1 January 2001 this form becomes void and the "after 31 December 2000 Membership Form" is valid.

## The DELANO Traditional THANKSGIVING TOAST

Many of us will recall the "traditional" reason that Philippe de Lannoy came to New England on the FORTUNE was that he had fallen in love with Priscilla Mullens who had left on the MAYFLOWER (*Bonnes Nouvelles* # 31 pg. 11). As Cousin **Jon DELANO** stated in a 21 November 1996 article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, "Philippe had fallen in love with Priscilla Mullens. But sadly, despite his best French charm, Philippe was spurned by Priscilla for another, the much-maligned "Speak for Yourself" John Alden."

As Cousin Jon put it, "No matter, on this Thanksgiving as in the past, we DELANOs shall give thanks to the elusive Priscilla Mullens for luring our ancestor to the New World."

So when we DELANOs sit down to our Thanksgiving Dinner a Toast of Thanks to the elusive Priscilla Mullens is in order.

## VROUWEKERK NEWS

We were pleased to hear from **Dr. Jeremy D. Bangs** news that could be described as "guardedly optimistic" regarding the saving of the Vrouwekerk ruins. All though clearly it is not "a sure thing," it is understood that attempts are being made behind the scenes to discover a way to reverse Leiden's decision to bulldoze the Vrouwekerk ruins. This apparently requires the city to find a new decision without "loss of face."

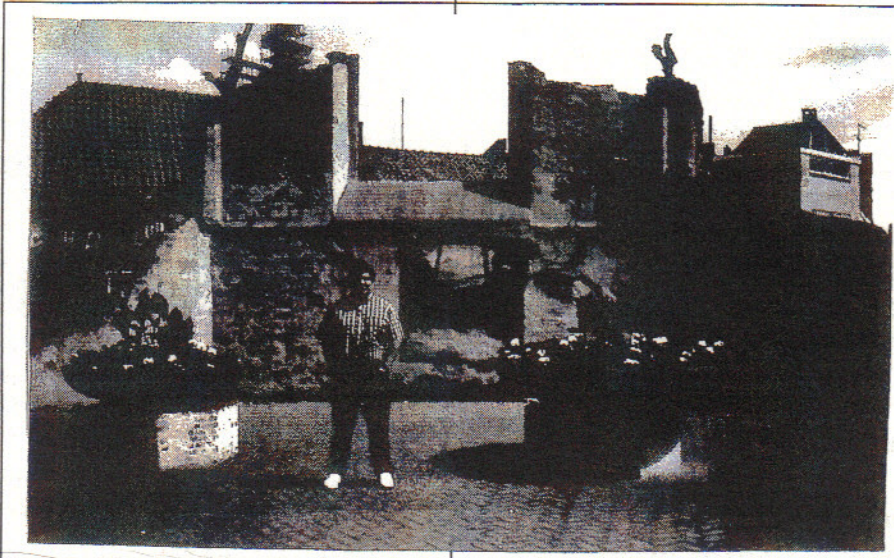
Dutch governing bodies have become aware that it is against a treaty of the European Union to demolish any registered national monument. The Vrouwekerk is a

registered Dutch monument and The Netherlands is a signer of the treaty of the European Union. Therefore the Dutch law that allows the mayor and alderman to demolish the Vrouwekerk does not conform to this international treaty. Accordingly, something must be done to bring Dutch law into conformity with this international treaty.

While this is going into the stew and stirred to become a palatable dish, we hear that discussions have been taking place between very high level diplomatic officials and those of the City of Leiden. It seems it will take some time for the city to build a "broad consensus" for changing its position. While public opinion seems to be favoring the church's preservation, later news suggests that its position will not change due to a small clique of town officials who are ignoring the public interest. It is understood that anger is growing that these bureaucrats are ignoring the popular will in

order to give advantage to limited businesses and investors.

The large Dutch Holding Company AHOLD that operates the Stop & Shop food store chain in the U. S. Northeast as well as BeLo Supermarkets, is the company that will construct a market and mall complex on the Vrouwekerk site if it is demolished. We hope by combining resources with other organizations to send petitions of protest to the large Dutch holding company, AHOLD and the U.S.



investing company, FORTIS, that is helping AHOLD finance the development project.

It is understood that the Council of State will start appeal deliberations on 7 Nov..

Meanwhile, **you** have the opportunity to "send" AHOLD a Thanksgiving and a Christmas present by **not** buying your holiday turkeys from the Stop and Shop or the BeLo markets. Please take this opportunity to "wish" them an **unhappy** Thanksgiving and **unmerry** Christmas.

On another note, we have also heard that Cousin **Juan Pablo Delano Tellechea** visited the Vrouwekerk in late spring. He found it reasonably well kept with some flowers planted in large pots in the choir of the ruins.

### 2000 ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

In this issue of the *Bonnes Nouvelles* we included the Annual Questionnaire in order to hear from you, the members of our Society. Our Board will try to act on your suggestions whenever feasible. This year the questionnaire seeks your desires about locations for the next two Reunions after Maine in 2001, as well as your feelings concerning accommodations and Reunion activities. There is also space to include any other comments you might have.

Please take time to complete and mail your copy to reach us by January 2001. This is your Society and we would like to hear your thoughts and ideas.

## 150-YEAR-OLD SONGBOOK

Contributed by **Robert F. Huber**

While vacationing in Virginia in June, **Joy Yurcina** of Kingman, AZ, who was selected for the second year in a row as a member of the all Arizona Chorus, was given a 150-year-old songbook used by **Judith DELANO** (GHAARD pg. 287), her great-great-great-great grandmother.

Judith was only 22 years old when she sang at the dedication of the Bunker Hill Monument at Charleston, MA, in 1825. Daniel Webster, the number one orator in the United States, was there to give the principal address. The Marquis de Lafayette, who had been a 20-year-old major general who fought beside General Washington in the Revolution, was an honored guest of the nation and waved to the cheering multitudes.

Judith sang as a member of the Handel and Haydn Society and also presented "a splendid flag" to that organization.

Presenting the songbook to Joy, a member of the Pilgrim John Howland Society, was her grandfather, Cousin **Robert F. Huber**, who is editor of the *Howland Quarterly*, past governor of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the District of Columbia, and a member of the DELANO KINDRED (see the accompanying photo). The tattered songbook has been passed down from generation to generation and now goes to the high school freshman who also is a talented pianist. She wants to be a music teacher.

Judith DELANO's daughter, Helen Frances Everett, tells more about the family's musical background in a short family history:

"Both father and mother were greatly interested in music and took an active part in all things musical. Mother had a rich voice and was a member of the choir for 10 years. They both belonged to the glee club and sang nothing but old English glees.

In 1845 father helped to organize the Dover, NH, Mozart Choral Society and was the president for a numbers of years. My sister Elizabeth played the piano in the orchestra and when I was only 12 and she was 18, the society gave me one of their 'chamber concerts.' It was the highlight of my career, because I played a duet with my sister called 'O Dolce Concerto.'"

Musical talent must run in the DELANO-

Everett family. Isaac DELANO III (also on pg. 287), Judith's brother also was a musician and introduced the French trombone to this country and for many years was conductor of an orchestra.

After her brief time in the musical spotlight, Judith must have turned her talents to the nursery: she married Lucius Everett and they had seven children.

Her claim to fame, however, was at the dedication of the Bunker Hill Monument. The cornerstone was laid on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle fought on June 17 1775. Actually, the monument is on Breed's Hill where the raw colonial soldiers repulsed the British Regulars until they ran out of ammunition. The battle demonstrated that the colonial volunteers could stand toe to toe with trained English troops.

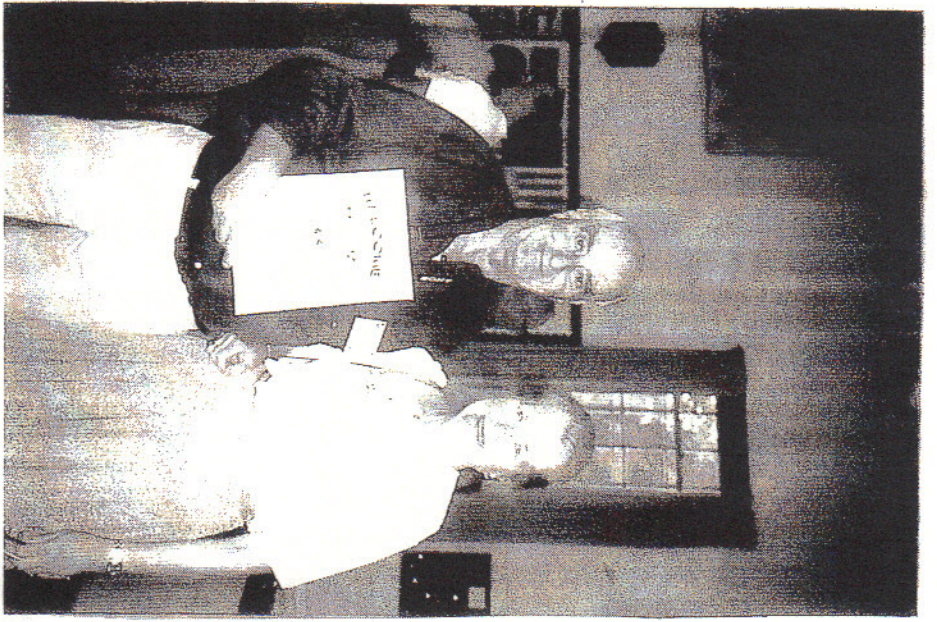
No one remembers now what Daniel Webster said at the dedication 175 years ago, but his lengthy speech was printed in a little book that includes a short biography of the statesman. After discussing the battle and its meaning and inspiration, Webster concluded:

"Let the sacred obligations which have devolved on this generation sink into our hearts. Those who establish our liberty and our government are daily dropping from among us. The great trust now descends to new hands ... Our proper business is improvement. Let our age be the age of improvement. In a day of peace, let us advance the arts of peace and the works of peace. Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered. Let us cultivate a true spirit of union and harmony..."



DELANO KINDRED member Robert F. Huber presents a 150-year-old choral songbook to his grand daughter Joy Yurcina

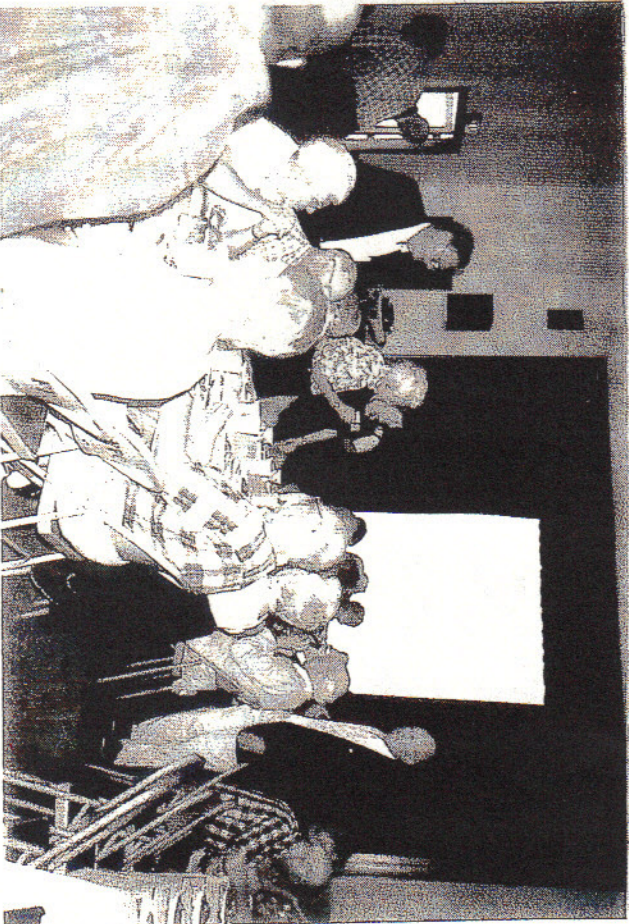
(photo by Roberta Yurcina.)



Andres Alcalde DELANO & Betty Furber de Alcalde  
Of Santiago, Chile



Frank DELANO, Tom DELANO, Diana DELANO, Sara Kelly,  
And Betty Alcalde discuss the tour before boarding the  
Millennium Coach



Visiting during the Reunion Banquet

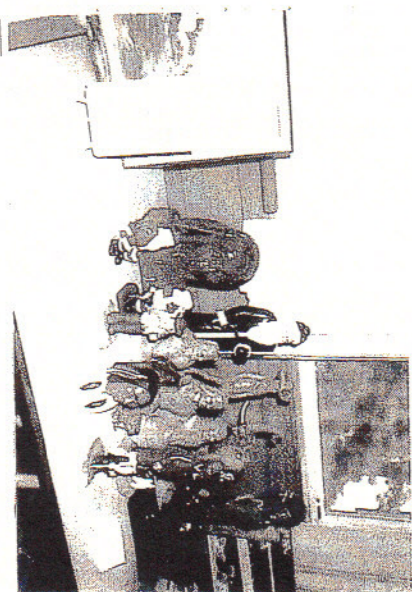
**SOME OF THE EXHIBITS AT THE 2000 REUNION CRAFT SHOW**



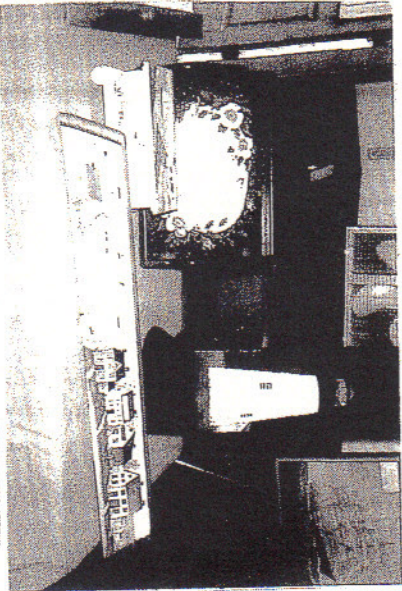
Scrimsaw by Muriel Cushing (left)  
Ernie Towers' paintings (center)  
Danny DELANO's wood carvings (right)



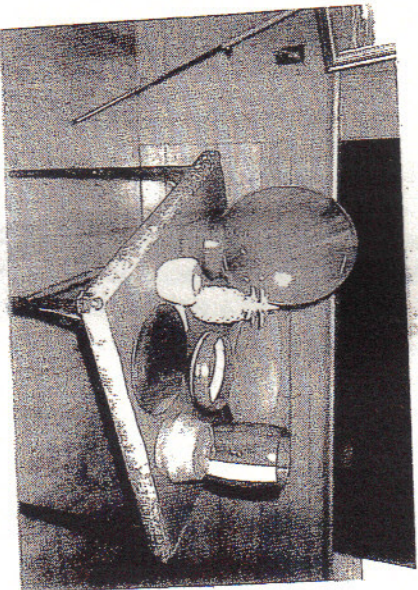
Oil paintings by Ernie Towers (left)  
Paintings by Joan Boldi (right)



Wood Carvings by Danny DELANO



American Decorative Painting by Nancy T. Wilson



Wood Turnings by John Marstand



Garden Art by Bob Harris (left)  
Needlework by Joan Boldi (right)

## 2000 ANNUAL MEETING

President George B. DeLano called the Annual Membership Meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday 12 August 2000. A quorum of over 35 members was present. The **Secretary's Minutes** of the last Annual Meeting held in Grand Rapids, MI were read and approved.

The **Audit Committee** reported that the Treasurer's books for FY 99-00 had been audited and were found to be in a very satisfactory condition. The total Net Income was \$9372.08. Net Expenditures were \$7423.00. The Net Balance Carried Forward to FY 00-01 was \$10,498.37. Most of this Balance was made up of Advance Dues (\$4526.00) and the Memorial Fund (\$3430.80). The Memorial Fund increased \$627.80. In reviewing the **Operating Account** the Audit Committee noted that there was a surplus of \$105.29 which increased the reserve for outstanding bills. It was noted that the Net Income from sale of the DIFP and GHAHD publications was \$745.12.

**Elections.** The members present reelected George B. DeLano as President, Frank P. Delano II as Vice President, Dorothea A. Harris as Secretary, and Linda-rae D. Grant as Treasurer. Reelected Directors were Carolyn E. Clarke, Muriel C. Cushing, Herman W. DeLano, Nancy B. Delano, and Ernest J. Towers. New Directors elected were Thomas F. Delano of Duxbury, MA and L. Reynolds LeVally of Bedford, TX. Joan W. Krumm of Grantham, NH was elected to the Nominating Committee.

### I. Committee Report Highlights

**Genealogy:** Genealogist Muriel C. Cushing reported that the loose-leaf edition of the Lt. Jonathan DELANO Branch genealogy through six generations, containing over 500 pages, is expected to be ready for publication this year. The six-generation genealogy of the Dr. Thomas DELANO Branch, now being compiled, will next be published and is expected to contain about the same number of pages.

**DELANO KINDRED History Project:** The Board is reviewing the outline of the plan of approach developed by the committee headed by John H. Somers.

**Membership:** Nancy B. Delano reported that there were about 350 who were members "in good standing" so far this calendar year. The

brochure developed by Ernest J. Towers, which is also displayed on the Internet, has helped in attracting new members.

**Philippe De La Noye Memorial:** Because of the higher than expected costs for the initial concept of the memorial, the Board is reviewing options and establishing a working group of Duxbury members to develop a plan taking into account these higher costs in erecting the memorial.

**2000 Annual Report:** The President thanked Ed Delano for his great effort and personal contact of new members and prospective members. He praised Ed's efforts to establish a "member contact network" and his firm belief that we are, after all, a **Family Society**. He also thanked Verna L. Finwick for her creative work as a Director and noted that she will still continue as our Membership Database Manager. He thanked her and her husband, Harvey, for their long hours of work in reestablishing and updating the database. He welcomed Thomas F. Delano and L. Reynolds LeVally to the Board as Directors.

He noted the outstanding DELANO KINDRED Webpage that has been developed by Ren LeVally. He pointed out that the webpage played a very important role in bringing to the attention of many organizations the plight of the Vrouwekerk and referred the members to the Parish Hall exhibit of that webpage.

Referring to the studies of Ed Delano concerning the lack of increase in our membership, the President pointed out that each DELANO KINDRED member is a "front-line" membership recruiter. He asked each member to think of their relatives who are not members and to encourage them to join our Society. If each member recruited another member we could double our membership.

He stated the Board was actively pursuing a plan to gain recognition of exemption from taxes by the IRS as a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) organization.

He also stated the Board's concern about the depth of our leadership. We are not getting any younger and we will need "new leadership blood" to continue to make the DELANO KINDRED stay viable and grow.

**Finance Committee:** Chair Ernest J. Towers presented the report of the Finance Committee



which recommended an increase in membership dues to \$15.00 and noted that the Board approved the increase commencing 1 January 2001 (please see the article concerning the **Annual Dues increase**). He also presented the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2000 –2001, which was approved by the membership. It should be noted that the effect of the dues increase would take place in the next Fiscal Year (2001- 2002).

**Statements from the Members: Cousin Sara Kelly** pointed out that if members renewed their membership in advance of 1 January 2001 they could avoid the dues increase at least in the near term.

#### 2001 ANNUAL MEETING AND REUNION.

The 2001 Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, 4 August 2001. As usual it will be part of the 2001 Reunion held at the New Meadows Inn near Bath, ME on Friday and Saturday, 3 and 4 August. The New Meadows Inn is located between Brunswick and Bath. The theme will be our Maine DELANO, lighthouse and maritime heritage. The Board of Directors wishes to thank Cousins **Charlotte Springer** and **Carolyn E. Clark** for their efforts in planning this event. Please make note of it on your calendars. More information will be available in the March 2001 *Bonnes Nouvelles*.

#### APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b> (Based on a membership of 366 members @ \$9.00 each) ..... | \$3294.00       |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>  |                 |
| Administration (Secretary, Treasurer, Membership).....                   | \$534.00        |
| Annual & Board Meetings.....   | \$225.00        |
| Genealogy Program .....  | \$175.00        |
| <i>Bonnes Nouvelles</i> Publishing.....                                  | \$2330.00       |
| Other unbudgeted items approved by the Board .....                       | \$25.00         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b> .....  | \$3289.00 ..... |
| <b>BALANCE REMAINING</b> .....   | \$ 5.00         |

The membership then heard from tour guide Frank Lord and then adjourned at 11: 15 a.m.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We are please to welcome 18 DELANO descendants into our Society. Our new cousins joined us during the period from 31 May 2000 through 28 August 2000.

##### California

**Sylvia A. Nissim** of San Francisco

##### Chile

**Andres Alcalde DELANO** of Santiago

##### Delaware

**Elizabeth DELANO** of Delmar

##### Illinois

**Phyllis R. Andrew** of St. Charles

##### Massachusetts

**G. Dorothea Ellis** of West Dennis

**Miriam W. Ellis** of West Dennis

**Prescott G. Grey** of Salisbury

**Georgette Evans Grey** of Salisbury

##### Michigan

**Jeffrey L. DELANOY** of Wixom

**Sharon Molesworth** of Lapeer

##### Missouri

**Sarah B. DELANO Berkley** of Clarkson Valley

##### New Hampshire

**Bertina Fortin** of Berlin

**Jean Shields** of Milan

##### Oregon

**Barbara Jean Bradford Robinson** of Portland

##### Pennsylvania

**John M. Hunt** of Wayne

##### Texas

**Elaine Seidel Hinds** of San Antonio

##### Vermont

**Barbara DELANO Janes** of Williston

**Ethel B. Lockerby** of Saxtons River

**WELCOME ABOARD COUSINS!**

## COUSIN JORGE DELANO VISITS THE NORTHERN NECK

When Cousin **Frank DELANO** learned that Cousin **Jorge Andres DELANO** was planning to ride the Chilean sailing ship **ESMERALDA** on the Norfolk to Baltimore leg of the Tall Ships celebration, he immediately invited Jorge to visit the Northern Neck on his way to Norfolk. Frank also put out an invitation to all on the DELIST. Cousins **George DELANO** and **Tom Kelly** drove in from southern and northern Virginia for the occasion.

They met at Frank's home in Warsaw and then drove out to home of the late Benjamin Augustus DELANO (GHAAHD pg. 254), which is situated as to afford a fine view of the farmlands around the eastern part of Oldhams, VA. The "Rock," memorializing Captain George DELANO, who founded the Northern Neck DELANO line, is located in the back yard of Benjamin's home. After watching a thunderstorm scudding across the land they posed for pictures by the "Rock." Frank then took the group to the Ebenezer United Methodist Church where many DELANOs and Allied Families are buried.

Later Frank treated the group to a cruise along the branches of Yocomico Creek to Kinsale on his boat "Chickadee." This was followed by a delicious meal of Crab Cakes and Chardonnay at a café. The next day George escorted Jorge

to Norfolk to find the **ESMERALDA**. Jorge, who is a "plank owner" by virtue of having been part of the ship's complement as a midshipman on its maiden voyage, was given the red-carpet treatment and a private stateroom. It turns out that all the "plank owners" names have been carved into the fantail of the ship.

Jorge sailed in style to Baltimore amongst the other tall ships where his wife Kathy and son Ross were there to greet him. The "Rock"



George

Frank

Jorge

## OWNER OF STOWAWAY RAINCOAT FOUND

For a year now the raincoat that stowed away in Cousin **Brookins DELANO's** suitcase at the end of the 1999 Reunion in Grand Rapids has found its owner! It hitched a ride to the 2000 Reunion in hopes of finding its owner—if not, then hopefully being auctioned off to a new owner. Well, as luck would have it the raincoat was reunited with its owner, Cousin **Warren C. DELANO**. We understand that the raincoat and its owner have happily returned to Santa Monica from Duxbury.

## MEMORIES OF BIRD ISLAND

by John H. Somers

The March edition of our *Bonnes Nouvelles* had a splendid item on this island at The Town of Marion's outer harbor.

I grew up with many fond memories of BIRD ISLAND, which is a real beckoning beacon to you men. The island is approximately 4 miles from the village and a mile from the end of Kittansett point in east Marion. It is a wonderful fishing area for bluefish and scup.

To go back now--many, many years....

My hunting companion of many years, Stan Palmer, and I shot regularly from behind the large boulders that litter the shoreline of the area. I still have a framed photograph of my Labrador retriever--Tally--looking out to sea amongst the decoys in our outboard boat.

It was fine waterfowling there. A jumble of huge boulders and slabs of concrete are a menacing tangle around the base of the tower--this was all that remained of the keeper's house and out buildings. The island has absolutely no standing trees or shrubs. Only some weeds and beach grass. The tower that once held the frenzel light was dominant and we climbed the stone steps to the walkway around the upper tower many times. The high water mark of the 1938 disastrous hurricane was painted around the tower in a wide strip about twenty feet up the outer wall.

I believe that someone was lost there during the terrible storm. I was about 13 years of age and was swimming about the inner harbor, and in one case retrieving a skiff with a shell fisherman in it who was "in acute distress."

One Thanksgiving Day, Stan and we went out from the point in our boat to Bird Island to shoot and did rather well. Some of our birds were floating away from our many decoys to be lost. It was too far for tally. Stan took the boat and retrieved the shot ducks (blacks). He retrieved to the small beach near our position.

About an hour or so had passed when we saw an unoccupied boat drifting by us. It was our boat! The anchor had been left in the boat when beached. The tides are high in Buzzards Bay. Of course--it was our boat!

We were marooned! It was Thanksgiving!

Families were expecting us! What to do?

Stan was wearing a dress white shirt under his hunting coat. Why he was wearing it hunting has never been revealed. His shirt was tied to a long piece of driftwood and waved vigorously from the tower. The traditional three shots in a row were fired periodically. A Smokey fire was built.

Tally thought all of that was great fun and ran around barking unrestrained.

We saw a vehicle at the end of Kittansett point. A police car--we found out later.

Within three hours, we saw a boat coming out of the inner Sippican harbor. It was coming for us! It was the harbormaster Bill Coulson (Sr.)!

As he came to the beach he told me, "If I knew it was you, I would have left you here."

"Bill, would you pick up our decoys?" I asked.

"Get into the boat," he said smiling. Tally beat us both and promptly licked Bill's face.

We got to our homes way after the holiday dinner. Our explanations did not seem to impress many. But, The New Bedford *Standard Times* had a news item a few days later about the duck hunters who were rescued from Bird Island.

Our boat was swept all the way across Buzzards Bay to Falmouth and destroyed itself on the rocky coast. We did recover the outboard motor from the U.S. Coast Guard. It never ran well again, however.

The island is home to thousands of terns and gulls as the *Bonne Nouvelles*' article nicely tells us about. During breeding season, stay away. But even during summer visits when sailing to Bird Island for a wonderful swim off of the sand bar that reaches towards Kittansett Point, the birds will dive bomb you mercilessly as you trudge through the weeds to the higher ground to the stark, white tower. I do not know if one may visit there now that the protective, private association owns the island. This one-acre of rugged natural attraction has a panoramic view of the whole of Buzzards Bay. One may view the busy marine traffic to and from the Cape Cod Canal.

Thanks Cousin John for sharing your Bird Island memories with us!



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It is planned to publish the next *Bonnes Nouvelles* #36 (Mar. 2001), and the following three *Bonnes Nouvelles* as follows: #37 (June 2001), #38 (Oct. 2001) and #39 (Mar. 2002).

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.

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 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 23462-4505.