



# BONNES NOUVELLES

News Letter      June 2002      Number 40

## 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.



## 2002 REUNION AND ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATING THE DELANO WHALING MASTERS

The Whites of Westport Regional Hospitality Center, located at the junction of I-195 and Route 24 just east of Fall River Massachusetts, will be the location of our 2002 Reunion and Annual Meeting. It starts Friday afternoon, 9 August, 2002 and lasts through Saturday evening 10 August 2002. About 50 years ago in Fall River, MA, the Lafrance family opened White's Family Restaurant in Westport. Since then the family has developed a range of hospitality and lodging facilities around the Westport & Fall River area. Because of the banquet facilities and its location across the street from the **Hampton Inn Westport-Fall River**, we have arranged for the use of the room facilities at the expanded restaurant, now known as **White's of Westport**.

**Getting There:** From Providence and the south: Take I-195 East. Take Exit 9, Sanford Road. Bear right and then take the first right. From Boston: Take U.S. 24 South from Boston to I-195 East. Then take Exit 9 as above. If you are coming from the north bypassing Boston on I-495, you will intersect with U.S. 24 South once you are south of Boston. Follow the directions

above. Should you be coming from Cape Cod or other eastern points, take I-195 West. Take Exit 10, Horseneck Beach/Westport, Route 88. Take the first exit – Route 6 West. Travel about ½ mile. We have inserted a map to aid in following the directions.

**Advance Reservations:** To adequately plan and support the meals, tours, and other reunion events, we must have advance notice of those who plan to participate in each event. Since all of these events are self-funded, it would help if you would send the necessary funds for all the events in which you plan to participate. If you find that you can not attend, please let us know by **15 July 2002** and we will refund your costs including the registration fees for those in your party.

**Accommodations:** We have blocked rooms at the **Hampton Inn Fall River-Westport** at a group room rate of \$109.00 per night that includes a light breakfast. A 9.7% tax must be added to this rate. To take advantage of the group rate [Ph. (508) 675-8500] you must make your room reservation by **26 July 2002**. In making your reservation, refer to the **DELANO KINDRED Group**. There are many other motels or Bed & Breakfast establishments in the area. Please see the accommodation details inserted in this newsletter.

**Registration:** Registration will be held in the lobby of the **Hampton Inn Fall River** on Friday afternoon. Registrants will be provided with a “Welcome Envelope” of Reunion information and Name Tags. Late registration will be held Saturday morning, prior to the Annual Meeting, at the White’s restaurant in the Colonial Room.

The Friday night **Welcome Buffet** will be held in the Colonial Room at White’s Restaurant offering an excellent opportunity for DELANO fellowship and pleasantries. Genealogical consultations will also be available. Buffet selections include: assorted relishes, salads, vegetables, several hot dishes, carved Virginia ham, assorted

pastries, and beverages. An open bar will also be available.

After the Annual Meeting and Group Photograph on Saturday morning, for your convenience, we have made arrangements for an optional **Deli Buffet Luncheon** served in the upper deck lounge before we depart for the tour. We believe this will be the most efficient way for everyone to be served and have some time to spare before departing on the tour.

**Tour:** TOUR OF THE NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM on **Saturday, 10 August**. The New Bedford Whaling Museum located in the center of the Whaling National Historic Park has the world’s largest and most outstanding collection related to the history of American whaling in the age of sail. Over 30 sailings from the ports of Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Marion, Nantucket, and New Bedford were under the command of **DELANO Whaling Masters**. Highlights include the 89-foot half-scale replica of the whaling bark *LAGODA*, a 66-foot rare, blue whale skeleton and new interactive exhibits about whales and life aboard a whaleship. Also on view: scrimshaw, whaling implements,



decorative art objects, paintings, photographs, and logbooks. The Seaman's Bethel, featured in the movie *Moby Dick* starring Gregory Peck as Capt. Ahab, is across the street.

The tour group will leave White's after lunch at 1:30 p.m. and proceed by car to the Museum; about a 15 mile distance. The two-hour movie and guided tour will cost \$5.00 per person based on a 50-member group. We plan to make car pool arrangements at registration time and will provide detailed maps on how to get there and where to park. Reservations must be made and paid for by **15 July 2002**.

**2002 Banquet Dinner, Saturday 10 August.** The dinner entrees include a choice

of Yankee Pot Roast of Beef or Broiled Native Scrod accompanied by broiled potatoes, vegetable, dinner rolls, desert and beverage. An open bar will be available. All costs include sales tax and gratuity.

**Banquet Speaker. Judy Lund**, a former curator of the Whaling Museum, will tell us about the DELANO Connection to the Whaling Industry. We think it will be a very pleasant and informative evening.

On Sunday afternoon we are making arrangements for those who wish to see historic sites in the Marion, Acushnet, and Fairhaven vicinity. Details will be available at the registration desk on Friday and Saturday.

#### **Tentative Schedule of Events at the 2002 DELANO KINDRED Reunion, White's Restaurant Westport**

##### **Friday, 9 August 2002**

4:00pm--6:00pm Registration in the Hampton Inn Fall River-Westport.  
6:00pm--10:00pm Welcome Buffet with no host bar, fellowship and pleasantries, as well as Genealogical Consultations.

##### **Saturday, 10 August 2002**

8:00am--9:00am Late Registration  
9:00am-11:00am 2001 Annual Meeting and Elections  
11:30am--12:00noon 2002 Reunion Group Photo  
11:30am--1:00pm Lunch--Deli Buffet Luncheon or Individual Option  
1:30pm Depart for the New Bedford Whaling Museum Tour  
6:00pm--10:00pm 2002 Reunion Banquet with Speaker

### **CORNELIUS DELANO GRAVE MARKER CEREMONY SCHEDULED**

Cornelius DELANO (GHAARD pg. 250) will be honored in a Revolutionary War Grave Marker dedication ceremony scheduled at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, 11 August 2002. The Duxbury Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will hold the dedication ceremony at Cornelius' grave in the Mayflower Cemetery, next to the First Parish Church in Duxbury, MA.

Cornelius, a great great grandson of Philippe de Lannoy, was born on 10 October 1742 in Duxbury and died there on 24 April 1801. He married Sarah Peterson in 1762 and they had nine children. During the Revolutionary War Cornelius served under

Colonel Warren and Colonel Wadsworth and rose to the rank of Sergeant. His DELANO line of descent is Cornelius<sup>5</sup>, Amariah<sup>4</sup>, Jonathan Sr.<sup>3</sup>, Dr. Thomas<sup>2</sup>, and Philippe<sup>1</sup>. He is also descended from Pilgrims John Alden, Edward Doty, Henry Sampson, Myles Standish and William Mullens.

Those interested in attending the ceremony may wish to contact Cousin **Verna L. Finwick** at (865) 429-8411 or Cousin **Christine Tissot** (508) 746-3705. We plan to have maps available for those interested who are attending 2002 Reunion.

## U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS AT BATTLESHIP COVE

The U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS, now a floating warship museum, is located in Battleship Cove in Fall River, MA very close to our 2002 Reunion site in Westport. Battleship Cove also hosts several other ships of WWII vintage including a submarine and a PT Boat.



The MASSACHUSETTS was launched in April of 1941. After she was commissioned in early 1942 she saw action off Casablanca during the allied invasion of North Africa later that year. In 1943 she was transferred to the Pacific Fleet where she participated in the many naval battles during the remainder of WWII. She was retired from active service and joined the Reserve Fleet in Norfolk, VA in 1946. The citizens of Massachusetts, with the help of school children, raised enough funds to bring the MASSACHUSETTS to Fall River where she is the centerpiece of that city's waterfront. The MASSACHUSETTS, a registered National Historic Landmark, is a worthwhile side trip during your stay in southern Massachusetts.

## DELANOs IN THE NEWS SPECIAL FEATURE

### Cousin Reggie DeLano Featured in the Fredericksburg *FREE* *LANCE-STAR*

Just before leaving for the Maine 2001 Reunion Cousins **Frank Delano and George DeLano** received an email message from reporter Cathy Dyson of the Fredericksburg, Virginia *Free Lance-Star* asking questions about the DELANO KINDRED. Cathy said she was writing a story about Cousin **Reggie DeLano** of Fredericksburg. Cathy graciously emailed a copy of the completed story to us and we are happy to include it in this issue.

Cathy's story about Reggie was in the 9 August 2001 issue. She said "I'm so glad I met Reggie. He is the nicest guy, and has helped me out on several other stories I've worked on."

### Humble man's family tree has aristocratic branches

By Cathy Dyson

THE FREE LANCE-STAR

No one could blame Reggie DeLano if he ever got a little snooty about his family tree. It's filled with famous names. His father and Ulysses S. Grant were third cousins, and another distant relative of theirs also became the nation's commander in chief. That was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. They all descended from the same Dutchman, who landed at Plymouth Rock a year after the first Pilgrims.

But DeLano's not the type to get uppity about where he comes from-or down in the mouth, either, from what he's been through in life. He's more like Popeye. "I yam what I yam, and that's all I yam," he says, in the cartoon-character's voice.

DeLano is proud of his family ties to the White House-he's also related to the Bushes and, possibly, Herbert Hoover, through another relative. He's always been interested in who came before him, and thousands of those names are listed in a hardcover book he carries around. "No, I'm not in here," he says, patting the big blue book of genealogy. "This was done in 1899, and I'm not quite that old. I'm just 80."

DeLano has been through a lot in those years; he almost died several times from problems with his heart, appendix and thyroid.



He should have been declared disabled in his 30s, when he was hurt on the job and ruptured several disks in his spine. But DeLano never stopped smiling through accidents, episodes and 10 surgeries. Instead of boasting about his background, he became the kind of man who never met a stranger and always had a story to tell.

His blue eyes still twinkle, and his belly jiggles when he laughs.

“The word ‘jolly’ does come to mind,” said his granddaughter, Jenny Owens of Spotsylvania County. “He’s happy all the time, he really is.”

#### **Family means everything**

Reggie DeLano could sit around and talk for hours-and does several days a week at the Captain D’s Restaurant in Fredericksburg. He arrives a little after 11 a.m., gets a booth with a few buddies, and leaves three hours later.

He talks about growing up in Louisa County, where his father ran a gristmill and ground corn for farmers. That’s where he learned about weights and measures, and DeLano doesn’t mention a person without saying how much he weighs. The little boy he met while stationed in the Philippines during World War II “couldn’t have been more than 15 and weighed 70 pounds.” His grandson-“the big one I told you about”-is 6 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 328 pounds. DeLano even blabs his wife’s weight, but we wouldn’t dare tell that.

He recalls the years he spent at the old FMC plant in Spotsylvania County, where he worked as an engineer, planner and estimator. He remembers loading cellophane rolls and fixing spinning machines. “You don’t know what I’m talking about,” he tells a younger audience, “but I dream about it.”

And he talks about his home, off Deacon Road in Stafford County, where he’s lived with his family since 1959. He remembers when Dr. Lloyd Moss made house calls, wearing an overcoat over his pajamas, and he still knows most of the area’s old-timers.

“If he doesn’t know someone, he asks around until he finds out who they are,” said his wife, Bernice. Smiles come to her face as easily as to his. At 78, she still works full time at J.C.Penney because she enjoys being busy.

The couple beams with pride at the mention of grandchildren. They have four-three boys and one girl-and have had front-row seats for each one’s graduation from Chancellor High School.

Reggie DeLano says his wife is the reason he’s been so good-natured all these years. Ruptured disks, a racing heart and a diseased thyroid couldn’t keep him down, not when he had a loving and understanding woman at home. “There’s a picture of my bride,” he said, pointing to an old black-and-white photo taken before their wedding 60 years ago. It’s creased from being in his wallet so many years. Bernice DeLano stayed home to raise their two children, then went to work in 1971. Now, he stays home-except for his regular visits to Captain D’s-and does all the cooking. He washes his clothes, too, but not his wife’s because “you can’t satisfy a woman with the laundry.”

DeLano’s nephew, Danny, isn’t surprised that Reggie DeLano can whip up a mean pecan pie. “Darned if he doesn’t know something about everything,” said Danny DeLano of Fredericksburg, who’s watched his uncle wire a house and overhaul a car engine. “He can do anything.”

#### **Can you spell that?**

Reggie DeLano can even change the spelling of his name, as he was inclined to do some years ago. A girl at school teased him, and he stuck his foot out and tripped her. When the principal came calling for Reginald “Dell-a-know,” young Reggie didn’t answer. Finally, the boy announced that he couldn’t be the person the principal was looking for, because he pronounced his last name as “Dee-lane-o,” not “Dell-a-know.” It’s not spelled that way, the principal said. “Well, I’ll correct that right now,” Reggie said. He’s spelled it with a big “L” ever since. Others in his family spell it lowercase, including Danny. “I just spell mine straight, right on through.”

There are thousands of Delano descendants in America and almost as many spellings and pronunciations, said Frank Delano of Warsaw. He’s vice president of Delano Kindred, a society organized in 1990 to honor the memory of their ancestry.

“Some even say ‘De-lon-o,’ which I think is really poor taste,” said Frank Delano, who is a reporter for The Free Lance-Star. The man who started it all had a more radical spelling. He was Philippe de Lannoy, who fled Europe in 1621 to escape religious persecution.

An item in the Delano Kindred newsletter said the 19-year-old also came to the new country for romantic reasons. He apparently was

in love with Priscilla Mullens, but “everybody must have been in love with her,” Frank Delano said. “She must have been cute or something.”

#### **Even proud of a Yankee**

Reggie DeLano believes FDR was the “greatest president this country ever had.” He was the first president DeLano voted for. But DeLano never tried to contact his famous relative. He did donate to his memorial in Washington, though. As for his connection to Grant—he’s proud of it, even though his distant cousin was a Yankee. But, then, so was his father, Milo, who came from Michigan. His mother, Alice, was a Virginian. DeLano didn’t know he and Grant shared bloodlines until his mother died in 1971. As his siblings went through her estate, he asked why a portrait of Grant hung in their home. One of them answered: “That’s Pop’s cousin.”

DeLano recently got a letter saying the presidential Bushes were also members of his family.

The United Church of Christ, which traces its history to congregations founded by the Pilgrims, says the Bushes are descendants of Philippe de Lannoy, along with Grant and FDR. The latest news of family ties won’t change anything for Reggie DeLano. He probably won’t be knocking on the door of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. anytime soon. He’d rather trade stories with his buddies at Captain D’s.

We thank Cathy for sharing her story with us.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

We are happy to welcome our new members who have joined our Family Society since March 2002.

##### Florida

**Mary Ellen Momburg** of Pensacola  
New York

**Devin Delano** of New York City

**Robert Webber** of Brookhaven

##### Oregon

**E. Marie Gerttula** of Seaside

**WELCOME ABOARD COUSINS!!**

## **GENEALOGY NEWS**

### **PLANS FOR THE CHILEAN DELANO GENEALOGY CONTINUE**

Cousin **Marcella Sepulveda Moreno** reports that the forward to the Chilean Delano Genealogy will be written by Hermogenes Perez de Arce Ibieta, a well-known lawyer, journalist, economist, writer and politician in Chile. He is a descendant of Paul Hinckley Delano on both his father's and mother's side. A meeting of the co-authors (Cousins **Marcella, Jorge Andres Delano** and Adm. **Daniel Arellano Walbaum**) is planned in Washington D.C. during August. Admiral Walbaum is currently the Chilean Naval Attaché assigned to the Chilean Embassy in Washington.

### **MAGAZINE ARTICLE BEING WRITTEN**

Cousin **Frank Delano** reports he is writing an article about the **DELANOs of Virginia’s Northern Neck** for the Virginia Northern Neck Historical Society magazine. We hope to have more information about this work after its publication.

### **USEFUL CAPE COD GRAVESTONE WEBSITE FOUND**

Cousin **Muriel C. Cushing**, reports that a useful website for those cousins who have allied family ties to Cape Cod (the Cobb, Dyer, Sears, Hatch families and others) may wish to visit this website. She found some old gravestones of allied families of our DELANO ancestors. She reminds us that many of our allied DELANO families in **Maine** and **Connecticut** stem from Cape Cod. The BARNSTABLE COUNTY MARSTONS MILLS GRAVESTONES is [www.capecodgravestones.com](http://www.capecodgravestones.com).

### **DEPARTED COUSINS**

Cousin **Mario Sepúlveda Morales**, born in Chile in 1929, died Sunday, the 16 March 2002 in the city of Temuco, Southern Chile. He was a great grandson of Paul Hinckley Delano (GHAHD pg. 473) who established the DELANO Family in Chile. He was married to Rosa Durán, who survives him and by two sons, Cristian Alejandro and Julio. Cousin Mario was a retired Professor.

## LEE DELANO REVISITED

In the March 2002 *Bonnes Nouvelles* in the DELANOs IN THE NEWS section we noted that seen in the "Credit Lines" at the end of a recent TV rerun of a "ROCKFORD FILES" episode *Captain Balduci.....LEE DELANO.*" We discovered that back in December 1999, Cousin **Ren LeVally** had forwarded information on the actor Lee DELANO. We thank Cousin Ren for his research and include what he found here. Cousin Ren asks, "Do you suppose that he's one of 'ours'?"

----

"Born and raised in New York, Lee graduated from the famed Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater in New York, where he pursued a course of intensive study with some of the most renowned teachers in the business including Sandy Meisner for acting and Martha Graham for dance. Fellow classmates included Joanne Woodward, Steve McQueen and Susan Oliver.

It was in 1968 that a meeting with Sid Caesar was to add the dimension of comedy to Delano's career. Caesar, looking for a successor to his longtime co-star Carl Reiner, began improvising with Delano using different foreign accents. Delano played along, managing to keep up with Caesar's manic style, and was hired on the spot.

Since that fateful day, Delano has co-starred with Caesar on stage and television around the world, including appearances at the Hollywood Palace, Kraft Music Hall from London, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and theaters and concert halls all over the United States. And in New York On and Off Broadway, as well as a four month stint with Sid and Imogene at Michael's Pub Cabaret in New York. One highlight of the act is one of Caesar's best known and well liked sketches, The Professor, which features Sid and Lee in a show-stopping comedic tour de force."

--

## BERTRAND DELANOE MAYOR OF PARIS

We were unaware of **Bertrand Delanoe** until we saw him on the CNN European broadcast on the eve of the French elections on 3 May 2002. We found that Bertrand is the current mayor of Paris, France. While his name is very close to ours we are not sure of a "family connection."

It turns out that Bertrand Delanoe gained an historic victory on 18 March 2002 when he won the Paris elections. Early results released by the City Hall showed, Bertrand, a virtual unknown Socialist a year ago, had taken Paris, a traditional bastion of the right and President Jacques Chirac's power base for nearly a quarter-of-a-century.

It is the first time the capital will have had a left Mayor since the Paris Commune of 1871.



Delanoe was again in the international news on 3 May 2002 when he reluctantly supported the "right-of-center" Jacques Chirac for President of France against the ultra, far-right candidate Jean-Marie-Le Pen. Bertrand said on the CNN News, "I am obliged to put my vote in the box for (Chirac), even if I do it without any joy."

As it turned out Chirac won the national election handily. We wonder if we will hear more of Bertrand and also if he is somehow related to the de Lannoy/Delanoy family and us.

We thank Cragg Hines of the *Houston Chronicle*, and the news organizations of the Associated Press, Reuters and CNN for the above information about Bertrand Delanoe.

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS DELANO, TENNESSEE

Our late Cousin **Dr. Phyllis J. DeLano** sent us an article from the *Travel Magazine* series on scenic drives “The Prettiest Drive in Our State”, written by Marvin Newman, of Cleveland, TN. Marvin writes, “I grew up in Polk, County, Tennessee, and I’ve always felt it’s one of the most *beautiful* in the country. See for yourself by taking a leisurely drive through the Cherokee national Forest and along the Hiwassee River.”

“No matter what the season, there’s always something to see as you drive along the lovely stream.”

“I recommend beginning near the town of Delano on State Route 30. The Hiwassee can be reached by two major roads—Highway 411, which runs north and south, or Highway 64, which provides an east/west route.”

Marvin’s article provides descriptions of the travel along the curving road and the gorgeous mountain scenery and several pictures

In the April 1993 Newsletter #6 we featured Delano, Tennessee in our series “The Towns of Delano in North America Then and Now.” We had received a letter from Mrs. Helen C. Tullock of Delano. We learned that Delano, TN 37325, population 500, was about 20 miles NE of Cleveland, TN. Mrs. Tullock wrote that according to local tradition Franklin D. Roosevelt, traveling in his private railroad car, was parked on a rail siding in a small town in Tennessee. FDR asked the name of the place where he was parked and was told it was Pendergast, TN. It seems that Pendergast may have been a political enemy or at least a man for whom he had little respect. He said, “Oh no, we’ll have to change that name.” When he returned to Washington he requested a name change for Pendergast and the new name was Delano.



### MEMBERS WORK AT THE 2002 OLYMPIC GAMES

Cousin **Carolyn E. Clarke** writes: “We are all delighted that the 2002 SLC Olympic Winter Games were considered to be a success. As many of you know, my daughter Arden & I both worked in Information Services at the Salt Lake Organizing Committee. Arden had worked there for over 4 years. She had the great responsibility of planning & overseeing the distribution of all printed result reports at all venues. I spent 15 months as a contractor for Schlumberger-Sema, the new software development partner (IBM had done previous Olympics).

I worked several of last winter’s “Test Events” which were actual World Class competitions in Skating, Skiing & Curling. Subsequently, I was on the team which tested the Commentator Information System (CIS), an application, which provides real time results information to the Broadcasters. We repeatedly ran computer simulations of all the sports, and created “worst case scenarios” to stress the software. We worked long hours, including many weekends. It apparently paid off, because (somewhat to our surprise) the application worked well.

During the Olympics I was assigned to operate and monitor the CIS system at the Salt Lake Ice Center, venue for Figure Skating and Short Track Speed Skating. (This was a high visibility venue, and with all the protests and accusations of judging improprieties, Security was almost oppressive.)

I did not actually get to see the competitions, but watched on closed circuit TV so I could confirm that the broadcasters were getting timely and accurate results. Everything worked so well that I had very little to do. Coming after the stress we had been under from October to January the actual Games were somewhat of an anti-climax for me. This was definitely an *Experience*, but I am glad it is over.”

We thank Cousin Carolyn for giving us a “behind-the-scenes” view of the information systems employed at the Olympics.

### MORE ABOUT AMASA DELANO IN THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS SOME DIFFERING VIEWS

Some time ago, Cousin **Bette Jeanne Helwig** sent in an interesting selection from a book about the Galapagos Islands that was forwarded to us by Cousin **Nancy B. Delano**. The source of the selection was from the *Revelations Workshop* article entitled “God & Science and the Galapagos Islands—The Natural Theology of Hell” by Edward J. Larson pp. 45-48. We compared it to Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves’ edited volume of *Delano’s Voyages of Commerce and Discovery* reviewed in *Bonnes Nouvelles* March – April 1997 #22. Larson’s article points out that the common route for whalers rounding Cape Horn into the Pacific Ocean was to follow the Humboldt Current northward along the coasts of Chile, Peru and Ecuador to the equator, then turn due west and head for the Galapagos.

Captain Colnett, a British sea captain, had surveyed the islands around 1792. Lured by his descriptions and promises of whales, seals and tortoises, ships from many nations sailed to these islands. Larson’s article indicates these islands were frequently visited by British and U.S. sailors and that “during those years of heightened nationalism between the American Revolution and the War of 1812” rivalries sometimes developed. Many sea captains complained about errors in the charts that Colnett produced “Although both sides relied on Colnett’s report and chart, the Americans criticized them the most—perhaps to diminish any claim to the place that Colnett’s expedition might give the British.”

Larson’s article quotes Amasa Delano commenting on Colnett’s nautical description of the anchorage at Stephen’s Bay on Chatham Island (now called San Cristobal at the right of center on the nautical chart above). “I presume when Captain Colnett recommended it for vessels to two hundred tons, he had not sounded round its mouth, or within the cove; if he had, he would have found that there were

many places which have not more than six feet water, and a very rocky bottom.” Larson uses Amasa’s comments as a “jab” at Colnett’s report as an example to other sea captains’ complaints.

Amasa Delano made three voyages. In the last two voyages he stopped at the Galapagos Islands—in 1801 and again in two ships in 1806 (Amasa in the *PERSERVERANCE* and his brothers Samuel and William in the *PILGRIM*). Interestingly, in Seagraves’ edition, the chapter on the Galapagos starts with this statement of Amasa. “The best general account of the Galapagos Islands that I have seen is that of Captain Colnett, which is tolerably correct information, though we found some things different from his statement.” Seagraves did not include the “jab” about Stephen’s Bay.

Larson states that “Delano, when a boy, had volunteered to fight the British in the American Revolution and never stopped sniping at them thereafter, filled his journals with sneers and slights against Colnett and all things British.”

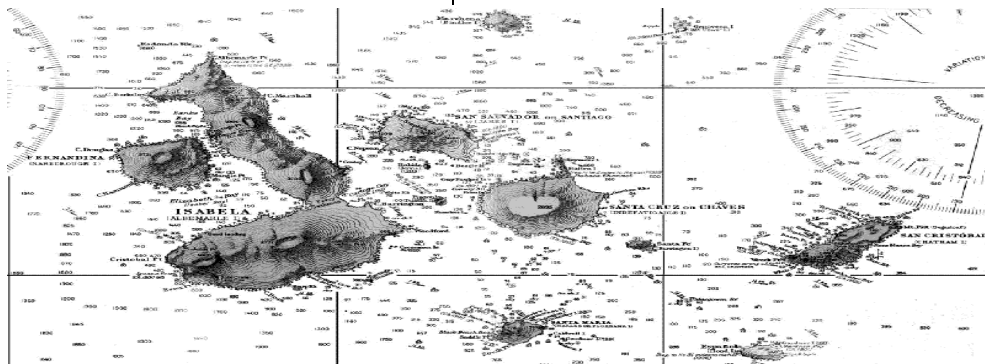
In Seagraves’ edition Amasa’s journals do not appear to be “filled with sneers and slights...against all things British.” Although in 1777 he, when he was 14 years old, marched to Boston under the command of Capt. Wadsworth, he was mortified when his father, a returned captive in the war, insisted that he return home to Duxbury. Next year, after he turned 15, he served in the militia under General Heath for several months. During his first voyage from 1790 to 1794 and after his ship, the *MASSACHUSETTS*, was sold, he joined the expedition under the British Commodore McClure. He and the Commodore became friends during this time and Amasa held the Commodore in high esteem.

In Seagraves’ edition while at the Galapagos, Amasa looks forward to meeting the British captain of the ship *HENRY*. He was disappointed because, “The captain, in my opinion, was the greatest drunkard, and the most low and mean spirited man that was ever put in charge of property.” Amasa goes on to cite an instance of this captain’s villainous abuse of power and attempt at robbery. However, nowhere in this edition is there anything to suggest that Amasa’s journals are filled with sneers and slights against all things British.

Both Larson and Seagraves note Amasa’s documentation of the abundance and variety of strange tortoises, birds, seals, and lizards on these islands. According to both authors he noted the difficulty in getting water for the ships and the volcano eruption on Isabella Island on 21 August 1800. Larson notes that Amasa recorded “gloomy reports of the land tempered with glowing accounts of the animals, leaving a hellish overall image. He notes Amasa’s descriptions that were not included in Seagraves’ edition. Amasa descriptions: Chatham Island (San Cristobal)—“mountains of rocks burnt to a cinder,” Hood Island—the surface is burnt stones and sand, with some small shrubby wood growing on it,” Abermarle Island (Isabella) “appearance is like most of the other large islands, a great part of it appearing to have been torn to pieces by volcanos.”

Larson suggests, “Melville carried Delano’s grim depiction of the Galapagos landscape into his sketches of the Enchanted Isles—another name for the Galapagos.”

We thank Cousin Bette for sharing this article with us.



## FRANCES MITCHELL SUN FISH SAILOR

When cousin **Frances Mitchell** moved from Cohoes, NY to Sarasota FL years ago not only did she have to “size down” her furniture and other belongings to a smaller house, but she had to part with her sailboat which she kept on Lake George in northern NY. She loves sailing and would not give that up, but she did “down size” from a boat near the size of the boat in the background of the picture below to a small Sun Fish the single-crewed sailing boats in the foreground of the picture.

She joined a Sun Fish boat club called the “Luffing Lassies” one of the nine sailing organizations in the Florida Women’s Sailing Association on Florida’s West Coast. The Lassies are a wide assortment of 49 women ranging in age from their mid-twenties to 75 years plus, both active professionals and retirees, who share a love of sailing. The Lassies are part of the Sarasota Sailing Squadron, the center of most of the local sailing activity, which has



a clubhouse, storage and launching facilities at the east end of City Island near the south end of Sarasota Bay.

Most of the women, like cousin Frannie, sail the 14 foot Sun Fishes, although there are a few sailors of the slower 8 foot prams in the Sarasota sailing club. Every Thursday morning during sailing season, which runs from September through May, the Lassies gather at the boat shed where row upon row of small boats are stacked in storage shelves. After rigging

their boats and checking secure lines they meet for a “Skipper’s Meeting” for a report on sailing conditions and the race plan of the day.

Racing is the main reason they meet each week. They compete, improve their sailing skills and have a good time doing it. Although an experienced sailor, Frannie had to get used to handling a significantly smaller boat capable of sailing in much shallower water. Even with a much shallower draft than her former boat in New York, she found that there were many challenges in sailing near the shallow coral and sand bars in Sarasota Bay. Some of the women qualified for the Sun Fish World Competition held in Sarasota in November 2000. Other Lassies were busy helping run this international competition.

Not all the Lassies activities are



involved with racing. They have social sailing excursions to the far parts of the bay. On these outings they either pack a lunch or stop at a restaurant wharf on the way. Frequently, while on these excursions, they will be joined by dolphins or an occasional manatee. Several years ago two Lassies saved three manatees that were heading into the path of a line of powerboats. Maneuvering their Sun Fishes, they herded the manatees away from the boats and back to the quieter area of their normal feeding grounds.

Cousin Frannie likes the challenges and camaraderie of racing and the feeling of freedom one gets while sailing. Her Sun Fish may be a smaller than her boat she owned in New York, but she can sail all year in Florida.