



BONNES NOUVELLES

News Letter

July-August 2004

Number 46

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.

DELANO KINDRED

2004 REUNION and ANNUAL MEETING

WELCOME TO



MYSTIC SEAPORT

June 25 - June 27, 2004

CELEBRATING OUR MARITIME HERITAGE

Calamari, Barbara Jo Delano, Devin Delano, Catherine Delano-Calamari, Mary J. Delano, Floyd Sanford and Maria Dering, Gretchen Schumacher, Robert and Eleanor Webber, and Dick and Carol Wolf. Cousins Phyllis and Les Skinner came from Vermont. From New Hampshire came Cousin Earl Anderson and Cousins Joan and Lloyd Krumm. Massachusetts was represented by Cousins Ray and Annette

THE 2004 REUNION

CELEBRATING OUR MARITIME HERITAGE

We found the Mystic Seaport area located very close to the I-95 Interstate Highway exit #90 and well tailored to the needs of the visitor, with plenty of motels, eating establishments and several "tourist friendly" shopping centers. The Mystic Hilton was centrally located in this area near the Aquarium and also within a short walk to the Seaport.

About 75 DELANO descendants attended all or part of the Reunion. Cousins Carolyn Clarke, Heather and Ryan Sudbury came from Utah. Cousin Judith Kasten came from Nebraska. From Michigan came Cousins Herman and Charlene DeLano, and Cousins Cindy Prosser and Kori Burke. Cousins Muriel and Ren Cushing traveled from Florida. Traveling from South Carolina were Cousins John and Dori Dixon and Cousin William Elliott. Cousin Judith Oppasser came from Pennsylvania. Cousins George and Diana DeLano and Cousin Malcolm Northam traveled from Virginia. From Delaware came Cousins Carol, Elizabeth and James Elliott. Traveling from New Jersey were Cousins Miriam and Martin Bosak, Cousins Kathleen and Steven Lyons and Cousin Helen Rancan. From Maine were Cousins Carroll and Marion Schroeder.

The New York contingent was made up of Cousins Kate



Muriel Cushing greets a registering member

Delano, Gene Delano, Margaret Delano, Shirley and Peter Denison, Dorothea, Bob and Ann Harris, Beverly Panijan, Jean Smith, Charlotte and Edwin Springer, Marjorie and Ernie Towers, Chuck and Marie Walker, Edie and Bill Ward, and Susan Winkler. And from Connecticut came Cousins **Roberta and Francis Banks, Marilyn Smith Bomes, Renee Delano, Audrey Moran, Jean Paterwic, Ava Paterwic, Jayne Pantschenko** with baby **Emma and John Somers.** According to the roster and accounting for some late registrants there were five family groups representing the Philip Jr. Branch, 14 representing the Dr. Thomas Branch, two representing the John Branch, 20 representing the Lt. Jonathan Branch and three representing the Samuel Branch.

The registration desk was located outside the Maritime Room at the hotel. Members received their Welcome Envelopes, assembled by Cousins Muriel and Ren Cushing, containing the Reunion Program and information about the Seaport area. Registrants were also provided with their name tags with their DELANO KINDRED branch line of descent. In order to speed up the proceedings of the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday morning, a packet containing copies of the last year's meeting minutes and this year's committee reports were provided.

The Welcome Buffet on Friday evening was a fine affair. The delicious and ample buffet food was followed with a selection of delectable desserts. After a brief welcome by Cousin George DeLano, the new members present were recognized. This was followed by Cousins Carolyn Clarke and Heather Sudbury leading an entertaining "quiz" from DELANO topics on the members-only website or covered in recent newsletters. The evening ended with much visiting and friendly discussions about our heritage.

Saturday morning, members gathered in the hotel's West Ballroom for the 2004 Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting (discussed elsewhere) was held and was completed in record time. After a break for refreshment, members assembled in front of the hotel for the group picture. We were pleased that Cousin Devin Delano was able to attend and act as our photographer.



George & Devin DELANO discuss the Group Picture

aquariums one can find in many countries, but with one outstanding exception. The Mystic Aquarium has Robert Ballard's Institute for Exploration that has many displays including the Titanic exploration and deep sea archeological exploration about determining ancient sea routes of the Mediterranean and the discovery of one of the earliest ships known; found in the Black Sea.

Returning from the tours we were treated to an excellent Banquet Dinner. Cousin Shirley Denison told us about the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. The center was established on family land and has year round programs for all ages and a Natural History Museum. Eight miles of trails ramble through woodlands, wetlands and meadows.

Our speaker, folksinger and sea chantey expert Don Seneti, arrived equipped with a banjo and a concertina. He discussed the different kinds of sea shanties and led us through several of these songs with Don's voice booming above all our voices. He is said to have one of the most powerful voices on the Eastern Seaboard. He is an award-winning illustrator of marine mammals and he briefly told us about his work with organizations dedicated to protecting whales. Everyone enjoyed the singing and his informative musical program. Don was the sea shanty consultant for 20th Century Fox's movies "Master and Commander" and "The Far side of the World."



Carolyn Clarke

Everyone broke for lunch and then, if they desired, proceeded on tours of the Seaport and Aquarium at their own pace. Mystic Seaport is well known as an authentic "living museum" of a seaport town in the days of sailing ships complete with a ship yard and several wharfs as well as stores and warehouses to support the town and its seagoing industry. It also has a planetarium, used to describe the problems of navigation by the position of the stars in the days before satellite navigation. The Aquarium was like many first class



Nature Center Children's Program

We wish to thank Cousin **John Somers** and others for organizing the Reunion, Cousins **Muriel and Ren Cushing** for creating the Reunion Program and Welcome Envelopes, Cousin **Devin Delano** for photographing the group, Cousins **Diana DeLano, Muriel Cushing** and **Cindy Prosser** and others for manning the registration table. We greatly appreciate the photos sent in by Cousins **Ren Cushing, Joan Krumm, Devin Delano** and **Diana DeLano**.

THE 2004 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Thirteenth Annual Membership meeting was called to order by President George B. DeLano at 9:00 a.m. in the Hilton Hotel, Mystic, Connecticut. It was determined there was a quorum of over 40 members in good standing. The minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting that had been previously distributed to members present were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's and Auditor's Report. Treasurer, Cynthia Prosser presented the FY 03-04 Treasurer's Report. Auditor George DeLano reported that because the Annual Meeting was early this year he only had time to complete a preliminary FY 03-04 Audit. He stated that audits are routinely done quarterly. He discussed the Society's Financial Condition based on the preliminary Consolidated Balance Sheet that had been provided to the members present. The completed final Audit Consolidated Balance Sheet will be available on the members-only website www.delanokindred.org.

Nominations and Elections. Vice President John Somers, acting for the Chair of the Nominating Committee, gave the Committee's report contained in the Nominee Information Sheet handout. Margaret L. Delano was elected Secretary for one year. Directors elected for two-year terms were: Carolyn E. Clarke, Muriel C. Cushing, Herman W. DeLano, Nancy B. Delano, Joan W. Krumm, and L. Reynolds LeVally. Devin L. Delano was also elected as a Director, as a write-in nominee to fill a vacancy created by the withdrawal of A. Brookins Delano due to health reasons. Linda K Grant was elected to the Nominating Committee for a three-year term.

Committee Report Highlights. Most of the Committee Reports were provided to the members when they registered. We plan to make these available on the members-only website. Committee Chairs summarized their report and responded to questions.

Contact Committee. Ernie Towers reported there have been 44 inquiries since January 1. His goal is to have a contact in each state in the U.S. In providing assistance to descendency queries the period after 1900 provides difficulty—that is after the



GHAARD information stops. Many of the people who send inquiries do not know their lineage back to 1900

Future Plans. In his report John Somers expressed the need for younger members.

Genealogy. Muriel Cushing reported that the first part the fifth and sixth generations of the updated genealogy (known as DIFP 5&6) is being published. She is currently working on part two. She said that Carolyn Clarke is working with her to place membership lines on the members-only website.

History. Joan Krumm reported with appreciation that *Yankee* magazine for finally included the announcement of our 2004 Reunion. (Editors Note: We include announcements of our Reunion in the NEHGS *Ancestor*, Everton's *Family History Magazine* and various local newspapers on occasion. We have repeatedly tried to have our announcement published in *Yankee*. Thanks to Cousin Joan's effort the announcement was published this year).

Membership & Membership Development. Carolyn Clarke reported there were 357 members and discussed initiatives to increase our membership using our websites. She said 182 renewals are due at the end of December. She mentioned the possibility of a DELANO KINDRED cookbook and cited the need of a high resolution logo.

Memorial Committee. Chuck Walker discussed the work of the six members of the Committee, described the historical marker, and the legend to go on it and answered questions.

Internet & Website. Carolyn Clarke gave the report for webmaster Ren LeVally who could not attend the meeting. She gave an overview of the many improvements on our "open" website www.delanoye.org and our "members-only" website www.delanokindred.org. She mentioned the "worm" that attacked and destroyed the websites and Ren's skilled and time-consuming work to restore them into working condition.

Year's Summary of Progress. George Delano noted the work done in over a dozen Board Meetings

accomplished “face to face” or by email. He also mentioned discussions with other organizations including the FDR Library, various Huguenot Societies and the efforts by our Secretary to correct the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Annual Report database that was in error. He mentioned the slow progress in applying for recognition of Tax Exempt Status to the IRS and the new online newsletter capability at www.delanokindred.org. He summarized the fine work made by various members of the Board and Committees.

FY 04-05 Operating Budget. The members had received a copy of next Fiscal Year’s Operating Budget. Herman DeLano was available to answer questions. The members present approved this budget outlined below.

PROPOSED FY 2004-05 OPERATING BUDGET

Operating Income

(360 Members @ \$13.00 / Member)-----\$4680.00

Operating Expenditures

Annual & Board Meetings-----\$ 228.00

Admin. Office & Membership----1346.00

Genealogy-----30.00

Newsletter-----2672.00

Less: Total Estimated

Expenditures-----\$ 4276.00

-----\$4276.00

Funds Available For Unbudgeted Items

Approved by the Board-----\$ 404.00

2005 Annual Meeting Location. Based upon the results of several Annual Questionnaires, the 2005 Annual Meeting and Reunion will be held in Salt Lake City. The tentative date now under consideration is 16-18 June 2005. The venue is tentative and some of the facilities of the historic Fort Douglas will be used. More information will forthcoming later.

Converting our Genealogical Files to the FTM Format

Another project in the Genealogical Program is the conversion of all our genealogical lines of descent into one standard format. The format chosen is the Family Tree Maker (FTM) format developed by the Broderbund Company. Cousin **Muriel Cushing** will be grateful to anyone who is able to send her their genealogy in the FTM format or in the Personal Ancestry File (PAF) format to her via email (gedcom). The PAF format is very similar to the FTM format.

HURRICANE CHARLEY HITS FLORIDA

As we go to press we saw the destruction wreaked by Hurricane Charley. As you know by this time, Charley, a category four hurricane, passed over Punta Gorda, Florida with winds of 145 miles an hour and moved north northeast through Orlando and then off shore near Daytona Beach with decreased winds of 90 miles an hour.

Many of you know **Cousins Muriel and Ren Cushing** live in Punta Gorda, ground zero for this hurricane. We just had a short phone call from Ren via his cell phone. He and Muriel are safe and compared to other homes in the area, their damage although significant, was not extremely serious. He said every home in Punta Gorda received some damage. Since their home was newly built and constructed to withstand strong hurricanes they elected to stay in their house. The winds were so strong that they had to hold their front door shut to keep it from blowing open. Unfortunately, a roof tile blew thorough the front door window giving Muriel some cuts from flying glass and Ren a bump on the head. The door blew open, but they were fortunate the damage was not worse. The trees blew down in their yard in two directions—trees falling in one direction before the eye passed over and the rest falling in the other direction when the eye had passed.

We plotted the path of Charley and its swath 25 miles on either side of the track and found none of our members were within that area. However, **Cousins Frances Mitchell and Sheryl Spain** in Sarasota were about 35 miles away as it passed with nearly its top winds. It passed about 30 miles east of **Cousins Barbara Porter** in Satsuma and **Arthur Larsson** in Green Cove Springs, both on the eastern side of the state. By then the winds had decreased somewhat.

We hope our Florida members and those along the coast of the Carolinas did not sustain damage as Charley moved back on shore near Myrtle Beach.

One-Time Processing Fee For New Members

At their 27 June Board Meeting your Board, after some discussion, decided to institute a one-time processing fee for those new members joining the DELANO KINDRED. Starting 1 January 2005, a processing fee of \$10.00 will be added to all new memberships. This does not affect current members of the DELANO KINDRED. Your board believes this one-time charge is necessary to cover the various administration costs associated with processing new memberships. More details will be provided in our fall newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome our new members who have joined our Family Society since March 2004.

Alabama

Rose Marie Courington of Irondale

Alaska

Cynthia A. Cocker of Fairbanks

Arizona

Robert F. Osborne of Peoria

California

Carolyn M. Marcinkowski of Cloverdale

Kimberly A. Gray Morelli of Oakland

Connecticut

Roberta Lynn M. Banks of Manchester

Georgia

Marianne E. Bennett of Duluth

John E. Paca of Duluth

Miles B. Paca of Duluth

Indiana

Dawn M. Cerasale of Indianapolis

Mary E. Woolgar of Indianapolis

Maine

Malcomb E. DELANO of Oxford

Massachusetts

Mary J. DELANO of West Barnstable

Michigan

Gerrie Nyland of Moran

New Hampshire

Franklin R. DELANO of Londonderry

Susan E. DELANO of Londonderry

New Jersey

Stephen D. Lyons of Bloomingdale

New York

Catherine DELANO-Calamari of White Plains

Marion Cook of Webster

Floyd S. Sanford of New York City

Pennsylvania

Stacy B. C. Wood Jr. of Philadelphia

Virginia

Alice Porter of Middleburg

Washington

Bonnie J. Mac Donald of Shoreline

WELCOME ABOARD COUSINS!!

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR FY 04-05

After a difficult start at the beginning of the last fiscal year that ran from 1 June 2003 and ended 31 May 2004, the financial condition of the DELANO KINDRED looks much better as we start into the next Fiscal Year ending on 31 May 2005. The key factors in this improved condition are the increase in membership and surplus left in the Operating Account.

Thanks to the efforts of Cousins **Carolyn Clarke** and **Ren LeVally**, we have made it attractive for visitors to our open Website www.delanoye.org to join our Society via email. The contact efforts of Cousin **Ernie Towers** and the Contact Committee in answering over 66 inquiries, resulted in 15 new members while completing or confirming 34 DELANO Line of Descents. As a result we had 357 active members as of 31 May, which is well ahead of the average for that time of year. We have seven members joining or renewing since then.

The result of the better than average membership count creates a Calendar Year (CY) 2004 Dues Balance of \$4786.00 that is used for Operating Income for this coming Fiscal Year. As of 1 June this balance is 102% of the forecast income for FY 04-05 Operating Budget, and while it is recognized that an increase in membership does cause some increase in Operating Expenses, the CY 2004 Dues Balance brought forward this coming Fiscal Year is \$605.55 more than the CY 2003 Dues Balance brought forward at the beginning of the last Fiscal Year on 1 June 2003.

Last Fiscal Year our Operating Income was \$4504.55 and our Operating Expenditures were \$4010.71. We had a surplus of \$493.84 in our Operating Account on 31 May that was added to our Reserve Account increasing it to \$1761.81.

The Memorial Fund Account was \$1971.80 plus the Memorial CD account of \$5294.72 for a total of \$7266.52. The past and present Reunion Fund total was \$2784.79. The Balance in the Publication Sales Account was \$2030.09 after the transfer of \$400.00 for DIFP Sales to the Reserve Balance and the transfer of \$300.00 of GHAHD Sales to the Memorial Fund. The balances in the Decal Sales Fund and the Charity Fund were \$42.55 and \$93.02 respectively.

We will place a copy of the Final FY 03-04 Consolidated Balance Sheet on the members-only website www.delanokindred.org.

**Philip Delano of the “FORTUNE”
and His Descendants in the Fifth and Sixth
Generations – Part I
(DIFP 5/6-1)**

We are very please to announce that the General Society of Mayflower Descendants has recently published part one of **Cousin Muriel Cushing’s** compilation of the fifth and sixth generations of Philip Delano’s descendants. We have given this publication the acronym of DIFP 5/6-1, which stands for **DELANOs In First Place, the 5th and 6th Generations, Part I**. This book continues the lines from the first four generations compiled in the original DIFP.

The large number of descendants in these generations made it necessary to divide the compilation into three parts. Part one starts with the fifth generation in the Philip Delano Jr. Branch with Lydia Delano (Family Number 198). Lydia is the first child of Joshua Delano (Family Number 47). Joshua Delano is found in the original DIFP on page 43. The last fifth generation descendant in Part I is John Delano (Family Number 376) in the Dr. Thomas Branch and is the son of John Delano (Family Number 87) found on page 75 of the original DIFP.

Over 170 pages of genealogical data make this publication of particularly attractive to those researching lines in the 1740’s to 1830’s. As we know, the Delano Family married into many families (Allied Families), consequently, the index of over 55 pages contains over 700 names of families other than Delano. The index includes Mayflower Descendant families such as Alden, Bradford, Brewster, Brown, Carver, Clark, Cooke, Doten/Doty, Eaton, Fuller, Howland, Martin, Rogers, Soule, Standish, Turner, Warren, White, Williams and Winslow which makes it of interest to the Mayflower Society.

As usual, Muriel has made every effort to provide accurate documentation in her work. It has been edited and reviewed by the Mayflower publishing staff before it was printed. It is printed in the format used in the *Mayflower Families in Progress* series. It has the genealogical standing of a reliable “secondary

source” and is therefore an excellent reference for documenting your line of descent.

We thank Cousin Muriel for her steadfast effort in updating the genealogy of our family and we thank all those who provided her with information that was useful in her compilation of this major effort in our Genealogical Program. Muriel is now working on the compilation of Parts Two and Three. If you would like copies we have inserted an order form in this newsletter for your convenience.

GHAHD Index

As you may know, one of the large efforts being undertaken is the complete digitization of the GHAHD in order to place it on the members-only website. As we announced in the March 2004 *Bonnes Nouvelles*, after months of hard work, **Cousin Ren LeVally**, our talented webmaster, succeeded in placing the entire GHAHD on this website. His work has made the GHAHD available to any member who has a computer and access to the internet.

What is now needed is the listing of the index in a format that will be acceptable to a numerical program that will allow you to “click” on a name and page number and immediately have that page displayed on your computer screen. This involves typing each name and page number that appears on the 17 pages of fine print in the GHAHD index in a particular format. To do this Cousins **Muriel and Ren Cushing** have been working this tedious effort. They were very pleased that **Cousin Gretchen Schumacher** has volunteered to help in this project. We thank Cousin Gretchen for her great help. Because of her help the index will be completed much faster. Thank you Gretchen for your contribution to this effort!

**Documentation Certificates
Awarded Since 2000**

Cousin Muriel recently sent us a listing of those members who have been awarded Certificates for satisfactorily documenting their line for descent and contributing to the DELANO KINDRED Genealogy Program. We have listed those awarded certificates since 2000.

2000

January: **Steven Joseph Delano, Bryan Nichols Delano, and Megan Kelly Delano**

April: **C. Edwin Delano**

November: **Arden V. Clarke, Elizabeth S. Clarke, and Heather V. Sudbury**

2002

April: **John Walton Dixon**

June: **Jane C. Davis and Doniece N. Wiggins**

2003

September: **Ann Chisholm Maggio and Amy Stevens**

2004

March: **Graceanne Barbour, Geneva Crain Delano, Allen Duvall, Kathleen Lyons Egan, and Sharon Keigley**

April: **Kathryn Barnes Fenton**

Congratulations to all of you for your genealogical work and your contribution to the Society's Genealogical Program!

DEPARTED COUSINS**Inez Davis Delano**

We sadly report the death of **Inez Davis Delano** of Heathsville, Virginia. She passed away on 5 April 2004 after living 100 years. Inez was predeceased by her husband Philip Andrew Delano and a grandson Philip Edward Delano. Her husband, Philip, was the son of George Taylor Delano and the grandson of Joseph Patterson Delano. Joseph was a son of Capt. George Delano who settled in the Northern Neck of Virginia in 1820 and a grandson of the Revolutionary War soldier Cornelius Delano; all of the Dr. Thomas Delano branch. Inez is survived by a son, Glanville M. Delano of Richmond, and a daughter, Charlotte D. Hundley of Heathsville, a former member of our Society; six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. We send our belated condolences to Cousins Glanville and Charlotte and the many other descendants.

Captain Theodore Delano Manning

Captain Theodore Delano Manning, master mariner and veteran, passed away at the age of 94 on 5 June 2004 at the Maine Veterans' Home in Augusta, Maine. Born 24 December 1909 on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, he was the son

of the Reverend Frederic Wilbur Manning and Mary Sayer Delano Manning and the grandson of Herman Harlow Delano. He was a descendant of Philip Delano through his son Samuel.

Theodore began his career at the age of 14 aboard the three-masted sailing ship C. A. Thayer, which sailed out of Boston. Later in the twenties and thirties he served on Dollar Line and American President Line vessels, including around the world service aboard the President Johnson.

He married Josephine Cann of Manchester Massachusetts and together they had three children. After a brief period of farming, he was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company at the Quincy Massachusetts Shipyard, where he worked as head rigger during the construction of the battleship U.S.S. Massachusetts. He went to sea again in 1942 serving as a first officer on convoy ships crossing the North Atlantic during WW II. He was First Mate on the S.S. George Hawley at the time of her sinking in 1945.

Following this war he was engaged in commercial fishing before returning to the maritime service with the Sprague Steamship Company. During the last decade he was Master of the S.S. Palmetto State of the States Marine Lines. He proudly served in the Merchant Marine over a period of three Wars.

He retired in 1968 and he and Josephine moved Damariscotta, Maine. There with his family he built a wooden schooner and, after Josephine's death in 1977, he sailed it alone to the Caribbean.

Captain Manning was a Mason for more than 50 years and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was predeceased by a brother Fred, two sisters Miriam and Eunice, his first wife Josephine and his second wife Justine Delano. He is survived by two sisters, Charlotte Abercrombie of Florida, Mary Danielson of Nantucket, children Joanne Manning Schueth of Ottisfield, Maine, Theodore D. Manning jr. of Damariscotta, Robert Manning of Walpole, Maine and three grandsons and a granddaughter.

We extend our condolences to all his family and relatives.

Mervin Augustus Delano Sr.

We also sadly report the passing of **Mervin Augustus Delano Sr.** of Warsaw, Virginia, who died at the age of 84 on 3 July 2004. Mervin, was a grandson of Birdie Augustine Delano and a grandson of George Taylor Delano. His line then follows the same descent back to Dr. Thomas Delano, the fourth child of Philip and Hester Dewsbury Delano. Mervin was a retired waterman, making his living on the Rappahannock River and the Chesapeake Bay. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Allene Davis Delano, a son, Mervin A. Delano Jr., three stepchildren, seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and a number of nieces and nephews. A member of the Cobham Park Baptist Church, he was buried in the church's cemetery on 6 July. We send our condolences to his wife Allene, his son Mervin and all his descendants.

2005 ANNUAL MEETING & REUNION IN SALT LAKE CITY

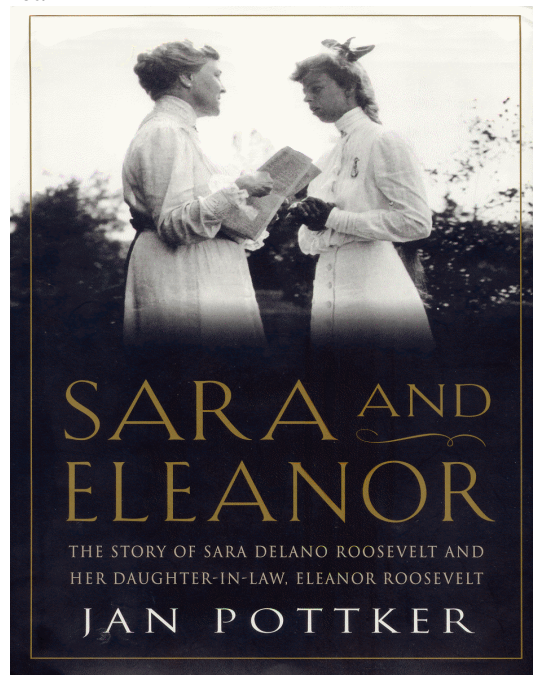
As was announced at the 2004 Annual Meeting the tentative venue for the 2005 Annual Meeting and Reunion at a location to be determined. Efforts are being made to reserve portions of the University Guest House and Conference Rooms. The University campus has excellent public transportation connections, via a light rail system, with convenient stops near the LDS Library downtown. It has an excellent major airport served by major airlines and convenient ground transportation. This venue is the farthest west of any site in the history of the Society. Salt Lake City received the most favorable responses for a site in many past annual questionnaires. This venue is centrally located for all of our members who live in the mid and southwest, mountain states, and the Pacific Coast. More details will be forthcoming in later newsletters.

Sara And Eleanor

The Story of Sara Delano Roosevelt And Her Daughter-in-Law, Eleanor Roosevelt

by Jan Pottker

September 21, 2004 is the 150th anniversary of Sara Delano Roosevelt's birth. This occasion adds to our pleasure in reading and reviewing author Jan Pottker's book *Sara and Eleanor*, in which she exposes the myth that Sara was an overbearing dowager, meddling in FDR's and Eleanor's family affairs. In this story, a biography of these two women, the author documents the many instances of Sara's financial support of the family that enabled FDR to pursue his political ambitions and Sara's efforts not to interfere with Eleanor's attempts to rear



their children. She also tells the sad story of Eleanor's childhood, being raised in her early years with no mother, but by an alcoholic father who died when she was 10. Later raised by a dour grandmother and sent, at an early age, to an avant-garde school in Europe that encouraged free-thinking and careers for women, she was little prepared for raising a family.

As the story progresses we see the contrast between a very accomplished Sara, a skilled hostess, fluent in two languages, who managed the Hyde Park estate very effectively after her husband James Roosevelt's death, and whose beauty and warm disposition contrasted with the introverted, untrained, and plain looking

Eleanor. It was Sara's money, her share of Captain Warren Delano II fortune accumulated over the years he was with the Russell Company dealing in the opium trade in China, that allowed FDR and Eleanor to live well with the necessary servants one of their "class" should have in the early 1900's. In fact Sara never stopped supporting FDR and Eleanor. Her largess enabled FDR to pursue his political career through his years as Governor of New York. Even when FDR was President she provided an equivalent to over a million dollars a year to keep the family going in the White House during FDR's first two terms. Her support was not just financial. She gave her love and moral support to both Eleanor and Franklin.

Many instances are cited where FDR and Eleanor leave the children at Hyde Park with Sara. So it is only natural that Sara turns out to be the revered grandmother and provides the stability and warmth for her grandchildren. Over the years, we see Eleanor gradually becoming more of an accomplished hostess, once thrown into the milieu of Washington Society when FDR becomes Asst. Secretary of the Navy. Both she and Sara are active in civil rights and public health issues. Although not particularly interested in FDR's political aspirations, after his crippling bout with polio, she travels around the country on his behalf during his political campaigns. When the children are away at school and FDR becomes President, Eleanor is free to pursue her own interests in social causes, civil rights and world peace. Sara, already known nationally and internationally, occasionally fills the void of "first lady" left by Eleanor. During this time Sara was probably the most revered grandmother in the United States and was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine at the time of FDR's first inauguration.

Then why is it that the reputation of these two women changed? Jan Pottker believes the reason is Dore Schary's popular play *Sunrise at Campobello* that portrays Sara as the overbearing grand dame who was condescending to Eleanor and her grandchildren and did more to discourage, than help, her son in taking up a career in politics. It was later made into a movie, which greatly aided this misperception. Schary had read the script to Eleanor and four of the children before the play's opening. When he finished Eleanor said

nothing, but the grandchildren protested the treatment of Sara. Franklin Jr. spoke up saying, "That's awfully rough on Granny. That's not an accurate picture." Schary laughed and said "Well, Franklin, every play has to have a heavy." Two years later Eleanor finally said, "An excellent play...but I have no feeling of reality about it. It had no more to do with me than the man in the moon."

The book is not without errors. Chapter I overlays the documented ancestry of Sara Delano with the traditional, but erroneous lore of the first book of the GHAAHD, spiced-up by Daniel Webster Delano's story *Franklin Roosevelt and the Delano Influence*. These erroneous "traditions" include first, that Maria de Lannoy Peysn was Philippe de Lannoy's mother and second, that her effort of building the alms house was for the Pilgrims in Leiden. The "tradition" created in Jane G. Austin's *Standish on Standish*, that suggests that Philippe came to New Plymouth because of a love interest in Priscilla Mullins is also included; probably because it was cited by Daniel Webster Delano in his story. Although incorrect, one can say that this was a common belief during days Sara was growing up in the Delano family while in China and later at Algonac on the Hudson River just above Newberg, New York.

We are grateful for the mention of thanks to Cousin Muriel C. Cushing in the acknowledgements and the mention of the Delano Kindred. Unfortunately, it suggests that our Society maintains the Riverside Cemetery in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. While we have made a small donation to the Cemetery on the occasion of our 1998 Reunion in Fairhaven, we are not financially robust to maintain even a small portion of that large cemetery. We also noticed several errors in the spelling of names, which should have been caught by an editor.

We found the Jan Pottker's *Sara and Eleanor...* to be a well documented and an interesting book. It fits nicely as a "follow-on" book to *Before the Trumpet...*, Geoffrey Ward's book about young FDR. These two books provide good background for reading *The Conquerors* by Michael Beschloss; the story of Roosevelt and Truman during WW II. We believe *Sara and Eleanor...* is well worth reading. It does much to correct 50 years of misperception.

2004 REUNION GROUP PHOTOGRAPH



In front: seated Jean Paterwic, standing next to her is Ryan Sudbury

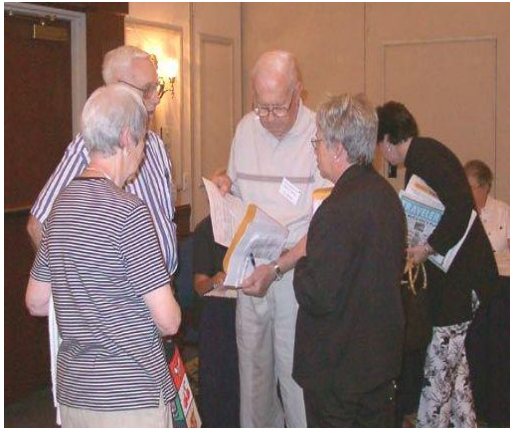
1st row (l. to r.): Devin Delano, Roberts Banks, Ann Harris, Judi Oppasser (in back, but between), Ava Paterwic, Jean Smith, Mary Delano, Margaret Delano, Susan Winkler (slightly in front), Kate Calamari, Jane Pantschenko holding Emma, Diana DeLano (between), Carolyn Clarke, Miriam Bosak (between), Maria Dering, Kathleen Lyons (in back of Maria), John Somers (in back of Kathleen & between), Judith Kasten.

2nd row (l. to r.): Francis Banks (in back of Roberta Banks), Charlene DeLano, Audrey Moran (forward between Ann Harris & Judie Oppasser), Joan Krumm (in back of Judie O.), Dorothea Harris (between and forward of) Lloyd Krumm, Bob Harris, Shirley Dennison (in back of Mary Delano), Dori Dixon (between), Catherine Delano-Calamari, Barbara Jo Delano (back & between), Annette Delano, Marilyn Smith Bomes (back & between), Marie Walker, Heather Sudbury (forward & between), Carol Wolf, Ray Delano (forward & between), Malcolm Northam, Marion Schroeder (back & between), George DeLano (forward of), Ren Cushing, Muriel Cushing, Ernie Towers.

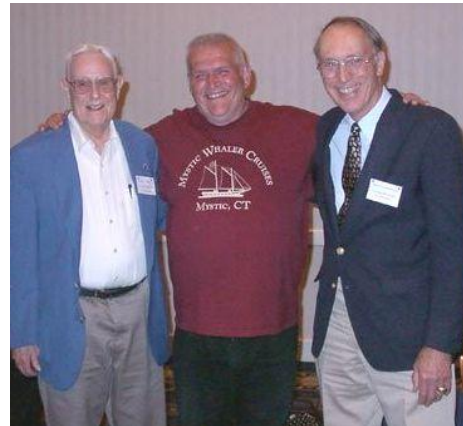
3rd row (l. to r.): James Elliott (back & between Charlene DeLano & Joan Krumm in 2nd row), Helen Rankin, Robert Webber, Peter Dennison (forward & between), Eleanor Webber, John Dixon (back & between), Bill Ward, Edie Ward (forward & between), Chuck Walker, Gretchen Schumacher (forward & between), Herman DeLano, Cindy Prosser (forward & between), Kori Burke, Dick Wolf (forward & between), Floyd Sanford, Carroll Schroeder (in back of Marion Schroeder in 2nd row). Martin Bosak (between Ren & Muriel Cushing in 2nd row).

Editor's note: We thank Cousin **Devin Delano** for taking the photograph and Cousins **Muriel & Ren Cushing** as well as **Dian DeLano** for placing names of the members in the photograph. They tried their best to match the name on the lists provided with the images of our members. There may be errors.

2004 REUNION



Marge Towers, John Somers, Ernie Towers & Carolyn Clarke review Their Meeting Reports



John Somers, Don Seneti & George DeLano at the banquet



2004 Annual Meeting



Mystic Seaport scene



Les & Phyllis Skinner, Susan Winkler, and Annette & Ray Delano enjoying the Friday buffet.