

The Order of First Families of Connecticut 1633-1662

Founded 2004

Karen Avery Miller, Governor General 2010-2012

Newsletter, Vol.1, Issue 1, November 2010

2010 OFFCT Annual Meeting Roxbury, Connecticut – 16 October 2010



The Annual Meeting of The Order of First Families of Connecticut was held on Saturday, 16 October, 2010, in the historical Christ Church, Roxbury, CT. Governor General, Timothy Field Beard, called the meeting to order and led the members and guests in an opening hymn. OFFCT members in attendance were Timothy Field Beard, Karen Avery Miller, Alexander Bannerman, C. Owen Johnson, Gayle Mast Coan, Lynn Mast Long, D. Weston Darby, Sue Shreve, Nancy Webber Davis and Robert Hassard. Several spouses and guests were also welcomed. Genealogist General Alex Bannerman reported that the membership stood at 104 active members. At the time of his report, 13 applications and several supplements were still pending and have since been approved. The business meeting was brief and ended with the appointment of Karen Avery Miller as the 2010-2012 Governor General and the exchange of the Orders Governor General insignia.

Annual Weekend – Filled with New England Color and Charm



October 15th- 17th, in the Roxbury, CT area, the societies of the First Families of Connecticut, First Families of Massachusetts, Plymouth Hereditary Society, Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company and the First Families of Rhode Island Plantations met for a weekend of joint annual meetings and fellowship. It was a beautiful fall weekend in New England that brought us all together to honor the memory of our ancestors.

The weekend of events began on Friday evening with a Welcome Dinner held at the conference hotel in Southbury, CT. Saturday morning brought crisp fall weather as we all gathered at Christ Church on the Village Green in Roxbury. Tim Beard, a member of the church and choir, shared a brief history of the church as we viewed the beautiful stained glass windows and interior architecture. A group photograph (shown above) was taken of those in attendance for the weekend of events. Please note that one person is missing —the photographer! Paul Davis, husband of OFFCT Marshall General, Nancy Davis, was almost always the man behind the camera.

New England Weekend continued



Village Green, Roxbury, CT

On the village green, nearby the Church, the group joined with local residents to witness the rededication of the Col. Seth Warner Memorial Monument. Col. Warner was born in Roxbury. He moved to Vermont where he became famous during the Revolution as the commander of the Green Mountain Boys. Prior to his death, he returned to Roxbury and his remains are now interred in the village green. The ceremony was conducted by the Sons of the American Revolution, Gov. Oliver Wolcott, Sr., Branch #10. Tim Beard, Past Governor General of OFFCT, placed a Connecticut State Flag at the base of the monument.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Hopkins Inn & Winery in Washington, CT. The Inn dates back to 1847 and is situated in the Berkshire foothills with a sweeping view of Lake Waramaug. The charm of the old inn and the wonderful authentic Austrian cuisine was greatly enjoyed. After lunch, and a drive through the colorful fall foliage, a private guided tour was given at the Glebe House Museum adjacent to the Gertrude Jekyll Gardens in Woodbury, CT. The term "glebe" is used to describe a house or plot of land belonging to an English parish. In this case, the Glebe House Museum depicts the home and parish life of Rev. John Marshall, Anglican minister. Our fight for independence from England caused considerable problems for those of the Church of England faith. As they clung to their religious Anglican preferences, ministers like Marshall also had to struggle to prove themselves as patriots of the Colonies fight for freedom from England. A meeting held after the end of the war in the Glebe House is credited as the start of the Episcopal Church as we know it today in America. Forming to elect their own Bishop rather than have one appointed in England was a major change in church policy that still continues.



Throughout the day on Saturday, at various intervals and locations, the business meetings of each group in this New England alliance were conducted. Saturday evening everyone gathered again in Woodbury at the oldest, continuously operating Inn in Connecticut, the Curtis House, to bring to an end to wonderful and productive weekend. Congratulations go out to the newly appointed Governors General of each

society: Lynn Mast Long - Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company, Gayle Mast Coan - Plymouth Hereditary Society, Karen Avery Miller - Order First Families Connecticut and Nancy Webber Davis - Order First Families Massachusetts. [shown here in that order] Immediately prior to the start of this weekend of events, The Order of the First Families Vermont held their inaugural dinner in the dining room at Hildene, the historic home of Robert Todd Lincoln in Manchester, VT. Alex Bannerman was appointed the Governor General of that society.



As these pictures show — everyone had a great time!



Governor General's Message



Dear Members,

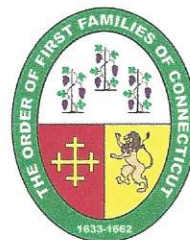
I am very honored to have been appointed as the presiding officer of this organization. I sincerely thank the Past Governor General, Timothy Field Beard, for this privilege and the trust he's placed in me with this appointment.

It is my privilege, per the bylaws, to announce in this publication my appointments of the Officers and support staff for the 2010-2012 administration.

We will strive to promote the Society and adhere to the mission of the Order. As you will read in this issue, reaching out to you the member and obtaining new members are our first objectives.

Sincerely,

Karen Avery Miller



2010 - 2012 OFFCT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Governor General..... Karen Avery Miller
Deputy Gov. General Alexander N. Bannerman
Recording Secretary General Gayle Mast Coan
Corr. Sec. General Christopher Mark Nichols
Treasurer General Henry "Hank" C. Howells, IV
Genealogist General. Jeannine Sheldon Kallal
Chancellor General J. Michael Phelps, Esq.
Chaplain General James Reid Hancock
Historian General Heather Welty Speas
Marshall General. Nancy Webber Davis
Councillors-at-Large Timothy Field Beard
Marilynn Mast Long

FOUNDERS

Charles Owen Johnson and James Kevin Raywalt

MEMBER SUPPORT INFORMATION

please contact the following for help with these specific items

Annual dues — Treasurer General
hank.howells@gidi.it

Applications/Supplements — Registrar General
jsk1296@aol.com

Necrology — Chaplain General
hanser5@aol.com

Insignia or Certificate orders — Marshall General
p2ndavis@aol.com

Publications/Address Change — Governor General
karen@averymiller.com

Webmaster — Charles G. Banks, III
www.firstfamiliesct.com

We're Always Interested In New Members

The Order of the First Families of Connecticut always welcomes new members. Currently our membership stands at 117. Below are the eligibility requirements per the bylaws. Perhaps you have friends or family who qualify for membership.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. Eligibility.

Eligible for membership in the Order are men and women over the age of 18 years who are lineal descendants of men or women who, between the years 1633 and 1662, resided anywhere within the bounds of the present-day state of Connecticut. Following is a chronological list of settlements that ultimately comprised the Colony of Connecticut, all of which were founded by 1662 when the Royal Charter was granted:

Wethersfield, 1634	Greenwich, 1640
Hartford, 1635	Farmington, 1640
Windsor, 1635	Stamford, 1641
Saybrook, 1635	New London, 1646
New Haven 1638	Norwalk, 1649
Milford, 1639	Stonington, 1649
Guilford, 1639	Middletown, 1651
Stratford, 1639	Derby, 1651
Fairfield, 1639	Norwich, 1659
Branford, 1639	

Did you have ancestors in more than one of the early CT settlements listed above? Have you honored them with supplements in OFFCT? Supplements are only \$30 each and the form is available on our website (same form as the computerized application) or from the Genealogist General. www.firstfamiliesct.com

New England Alliance - A Planning Committee



OFFCT is just one First Family group that holds its annual meeting in the fall of the year in New England. For several years we have held our annual business meeting in Connecticut which was followed the same weekend by the annual meetings of the First Families of Massachusetts and other early NE based societies.

It is not surprising that many members of one New England hereditary society are also members of others. These back to back meetings allowed members to make one trip back to New England to attend more than one event over the course of a long weekend. While this worked, it was not completely without a few kinks – one of which was finding yourself in a rental car traveling across state lines from meeting to meeting. Originally, per

the bylaws of most of these groups, they were each confined to meet in their individual state or a very specific area within that state that related to their mission. Over the course of a several years, amendments were passed in some of these groups to allow more freedom in regards to their annual meeting locations.

In an effort to further improve on the joint meeting concept, the Governors General of OFFCT, OFFMA, PHS, A&H, and now the newly formed OFFVT, have formed a



committee to establish a procedure in which the First Fam/Early MA groups would meet jointly every year, the same weekend in October, in one agreed upon location, rather than spreading the meetings across several states during the same weekend. The weekend for these meetings will always be the second weekend in October. The societies will rotate in the position of "host state" and the location of the meetings will rotate throughout the New England states. This year the joint meetings were held in Connecticut, next year we will all meet jointly in Maine.

Each group stands alone as a hereditary society! Each has its own Executive Board, eligibility requirements, fees and bylaws. They will not lose their individuality but by joining together to hold their annual meetings in one location, the same weekend each year, all groups will benefit.

ROXBURY, CONNECTICUT

Notable Residents -- Then & Now

Ethan Allen - member Green Mountain Boys, Rev War
Seth Warner - member Green Mountain Boys, Rev War
Arthur Miller - American playwright
Marilyn Monroe - Actress
Alexander Calder - American sculptor and artist
Fran McCourt - Author, *Angela's Ashes*
Stephen Sondheim - Broadway playwright
Dustin Hoffman - Actor
Denis Leary - Actor
Mercer Mayer - Children's book Author, *Little Critter*
Richard Widmark - Actor
William Styron - Author, *Sophie's Choice*
Graydon Carter - Editor, *Vanity Fair*
Timothy Field Beard - Past Gov General OFFCT