



The Order of First Families of Connecticut 1633-1662

Founded 2004

Karen Avery Miller, Governor General 2010-2012

Newsletter, Vol. 2, Issue 1, December 2011

2011 OFFCT Annual Meeting Bar Harbor, Maine 08 October 2011



The Annual Meeting of The Order of First Families of Connecticut was held on Saturday, 08 October, 2011, Bar Harbor, Maine. The meeting was held in the fellowship hall of the beautiful Episcopal stone church, the “Church of Our Father” in Hull’s Cove. Governor General, Karen Avery Miller, called the meeting to order. OFFCT members in attendance were Timothy Field Beard, Hank Howells, Karen Avery Miller, Alexander Bannerman, C. Owen Johnson, Gayle Mast Coan, Lynn Mast Long, H. Clay Miller and Gary Isbell. Welcomed guests were Don Coan and Mel Long. Genealogist General Jeannine Kallal could not attend but reported that our membership stood at 136 with 16 new members and 26 supplements verified between October 2010 and October 2011. Several important pieces of business were attended to, including an increase in the price of certificates, approved bylaw amendments, and new plans for instituting a charitable donation policy. Please see the articles in this newsletter for details on each. After the OFFCT meeting and that of the other societies with whom we meet jointly, a delicious lunch of salad, lobster rolls and dessert was served by church members.



Governor General's Message

Dear Members,

Serving as the Governor General of this Order is fun, challenging and such an honor. And the cherry on top is the opportunity to work with such a fine group of individuals that makes up the Executive Council, as well as you, the members! I can't believe that we are on the downhill slide of this wonderful two year ride.

We have 11 months remaining and my plan is to keep the momentum going. The goal for the first year of this term was relatively simple – increase the membership. WE did it! Thank you for proposing your friends and family. And a special thank you to the Genealogist General Jeannine Kallal for her expertise and handling the paperwork quickly.

In the last part of this term we hope to continue to grow while we make a special effort to improve on the way we do business within our society. Serious attention to every detail in this organization has already been instigated by your officers. I feel sure that 2012 will be a turning point and the proof of the pudding will come from your feedback. Please let us know what we can do to serve you better.

And it is exciting to share with you that we have begun a commitment to “give back” to the historical and genealogical community we are a part of as a non-profit organization. My request to establish annual donations was unanimously accepted at the October meeting. We have set up a donation program and our first checks have been written and sent. An article in this issue will more fully explain our new plans. WE hope you approve!

Thank you for the part you continue to play in this wonderful organization. It's YOUR society! Let us hear from you as to how we are doing and with any suggestions you have to make OFFCT even better.

Happy Holidays!

Karen Avery Miller
karen@averymiller.com



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

C. Owen Johnson and Alex Bannerman

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 — Governor General
karen@averymiller.com

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

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

CERTIFICATE FEE INCREASED

Use New Forms For Certificate And Insignia Orders

The fee for member and supplemental certificates was raised from \$15.00 to \$25.00 by an affirmative vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting. This new price became effective as of the 08 October meeting.

Due to health problems, the duties of the office of Marshall General have been assumed by Governor General, Karen Miller, for the remainder of the term. Please do not use any previous certificate OR insignia order forms. Use the new forms sent with this mailing.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws of the Order were amended at the 2011 Annual Meeting to encompass the following changes:

♦ **Article IV, Officers and Council, Section 2, Term of Office.** Delete the entire sentence *"Men and women shall serve in alternating two-year terms as Governor General."* This change now allows either gender to serve at any given term as Governor General, eliminating the requirement to switch genders each term.

♦ **Article IV, Officers and Council, Section 5 L, Succession.** Also remove the gender clause in this bylaw, i.e. *"... the rule of gender alternation does not apply."* This will now conform with the elimination of the requirement to switch genders each term.

♦ **Article V, Meetings, Section 2, Emergency Telephone Meetings.** In an effort to allow the Council to conduct business in a way that is constructive and efficient between face to face meetings, this entire outdated bylaw was struck and replaced by the following:

Article V, Section 2, Interim Business. *The Council shall conduct the business and oversee the interest of the Order between any face-to-face meeting of the Order according to how it sees fit with the exception of altering the Bylaws. Therefore, the Council shall be empowered to make such decisions by utilizing the means of having a discussion and/or taking a vote of its members electronically (i.e. via email or other internet-based mode of communication), by postal mail, by facsimile transmission and/or by telephone. The results of any such non face-to-face votes shall be recorded at the next face-to-face meeting of the Council, Annual Membership and/or Special meeting.*

OFFCT "GIVES BACK"

Donation Schedule Created for the Order

A unanamous vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting established a new plan for the making of charitable donations from the Order to other non-profit or groups of similar historical focus within the state of Connecticut. In the past a few donations have been made, but the need to give back more was recognized and a plan evolved that now includes two annual ongoing gifts.



Connecticut Historical Society

The Order has selected the Connecticut Historical Society as an annual recipient. Located at One Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT, this not-for-profit museum, library, research and educational center was established in 1825. It houses an extensive collection of Connecticut related manuscripts, artifacts, visual arts and printed material relating to the states cultural and family history. The ability to research one's early Connecticut ancestors is just one of the many benefits this historical society provides for our members, future members and the public alike. For 2011, OFFCT donated \$250 to the Connecticut Historical Society, earmarked for use related to early settlement history.

Secondly, OFFCT has established a project to donate \$250 annually to a historical and/or genealogical organization or library within each of the towns that comprise the early settlements as outlined in our Bylaws (Article III. Membership. Section 1). The intent is to rotate this annual gift among the nineteen (19) towns:

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



Wethersfield
Historical Society

The first recipient of this new annual donation, 2011, was the Wethersfield Historical Society, Wethersfield, CT.

A non-profit society devoted to the preservation of the history of one of the earliest Connecticut settlements, this organization was chartered in 1932. The organization owns two historic properties, the Hurlburt-Dunham house and the Captain James Francis

House. It also manages four town owned properties: the Wethersfield Museum & Visitor Center, Cove Warehouse, the Old Academy and the Deming-Standish House. The Academy houses the genealogical library. The Historical Society is focused on extensive educational programming, bringing early Connecticut history to children at school and at various historical sites within this beautiful, old town. They also sponsor several interesting local tours: a walking tour of Old Wethersfield or the early Burying Ground, a Step-On Bus tour focusing on the local area, a tour devoted to area Architecture, one about the Revolutionary War and a tour of the Keeney Center Museum. A variety of events are held annually such as the Pyquag Fair: 17th Century Market (hands-on experience about daily life and trade in the 17th century), Witchcraft in Wethersfield (revisiting the 1648-1670 happening) and Wampum & Wigwams: American Indians (reflection of life among the early Wampanoag Indians, the true original Wethersfield settlers).

Next year OFFCT will gift a different organization within the next town on the list. Hopefully we may be able to increase the monetary value of our gifts over time.

"Giving Back" is the intent!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OCT 2010 - NOV 2011

William Fitts; Jerlin Lieurance; Tiffany Medina; Randall Lewis; Janet Downing; Brian Owens; Douglass Mabey; Heather Speas; David Stringfellow; Dorothy Peterson; Judy Schramayr; Ward White; Theresa Boock; Kim Nagy; David Grinnell; Imogene Coats; Patricia Grogg; Pat Hugar; Carole Belcher; Laurel Conner; Kent Worley; Linda Mizell; MarJo Dill; Clay Miller; Matthew Bowdish; Helen Herridge; Kenneth Beckwith; Gary Isbell; Roger Kranich; William Andrews.

CONGRATULATIONS ALL!



BAR HARBOR MAINE *another beautiful spot in NEW ENGLAND*

Annually OFFCT comes together with OFFMA, PHS, OA&HAC and OFFVT for a joint weekend of annual meetings, somewhere in New England. In 2011, the Order of First Families of Massachusetts was the host society and Governor General, Nancy Davis, selected Bar Harbor Maine as our destination. Unfortunately, due to health issues, Nancy, and husband Paul, were unable to attend at the last minute. Thank you Nancy for all your hard work --- you missed a beautiful area and a fun time!

Those shown below enjoyed nightly lobster dinners and cocktails, views from the top of Cadillac Mountain where the sun first rises on the United State, popovers at Jordan's Pond, shopping and more shopping and a beautiful drive through the New England fall foliage.



Left to right: Karen Miller, Clay Miller, Tim Beard, Gary Isbell. Second row: Hank Howells, Gayle Coan, Don Coan. Third row: Neil Duncan, Owen Johnson, Mel Long, Lynn Long.

2012 ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

2012 Annual Joint Meeting will be hosted by the OFFMA, Alex Bannerman, Governor General. ***Save the the second weekend in October.*** Full details will be announced at a later date.