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Organizational Bulletin # 1

833 Great Plain Ave.,
Needham, Mass. 02192

Dear cousin,

As perhaps you may not know, the rather uncommon name of Frary that we bear (or bore) is traceable in New England back to John Frary, who came to the Boston area from England in 1636 or thereabouts. His son Sampson built a home in Old Deerfield, Mass., in 1689, part of which is still standing and is apparently now the oldest house in Franklin County.

The few Frarys of our branch, proud of the old history of the name and of the existence of the old Frary House, never-the-less have done little so far to preserve our history or the property in Old Deerfield, although others (Miss Alice Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Henry N. Flynt) have invested considerable funds and much research and love in restoring the building to its present condition.

The three signers of this letter felt that there must exist throughout the lines of Frary descendents some sense of unity and pride in their family history, and we decided to find as many Frarys as we could (using telephone books, primarily), tell them about the Frary House, and ask for their reactions to the formation of a Frary Family Association, to be centered around Deerfield and the old house.

As we envision the purposes of such an Association, they could be: the promotion of the knowledge and history of the descendents of the Frary Family in America, and elsewhere; the furtherance of research on, and the recording of, the present and past members of the Frary branches since colonial times; and assistance in the protection and preservation of the Frary House by its actual owners, The Heritage Foundation of Old Deerfield, as well as fostering the development of Family fellowship and awareness through publications and meetings.

Does such an organization interest you? So many families in the central and western areas of the USA have roots in New England that we felt even persons now far removed from Deerfield would harbour kindred feelings for the Old House and would look forward to learning of its history and perhaps someday actually visiting and being identified with it.

By way of further information, you might refer to the National Geographic Magazine for June, 1969, in which the Old Frary House is mentioned with a picture, and also to Samuel Chamberlain and Henry N. Flynt's photographic essay of over 150 pages titled "Fronter of Freedom – The Portrait of an Extraordinary Village – Old Deerfield, Mass.", published by Hastings House, N.Y., and probably available at your public library. A 1965 reprint titled "Historic Deerfield" is available at Hall Tavern Bookstore, Old Deerfield, Mass. 01342.

The latter titles provide numerous interior views and an interesting history of Frary House, as well as showing the other old houses of the town that make Old Deerfield the "Williamsburg of the North", thanks largely to the Heritage Foundation and Mr. and Mrs. Henry N. Flynt.

We are enthusiastic about the potentialities of a Frary Family Association, particularly as encouragement to the Frary House owners, who have never had any indication of Frary Family interest or appreciation before, and we hope that a good number of the Frary men we have discovered (200) in the last few months (and their sisters, if they will contact them for us) will reply to this request for information and return the enclosed answer form. (70 have already – 4/1/70).

With this information we can determine the advisability of planning a newsletter and scheduling a meeting in June for organizing purposes. (Now set for June 27). Please send us names and addresses of married or bachelor Frary girls, and check any available telephone books outside your immediate area for Frarys not knowingly related to you. We appreciate your help and hope you will write about yourself.

Louise C. Thresher, East Longmeadow, Mass.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Frary, Jr., Needham, Mass.
Thomas C. Frary, Marblehead, Mass