



Phineas Wolcott Cook NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ORGANIZATION

www.cookfamily.org

MARCH 2016

Bryson Cook recounts Experiences In Zimbabwe as Mission President

Bryson Cook returned from Zimbabwe in July, 2015 after having served 3 years as President of a Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The following is a condensation of his remarks given at the annual Cook-o-Rama in October, 2015.

We come from a heritage of wanting to know the truth. Phineas W. Cook saw an angel when he was very sick at age 17. The angel said, "would you serve the Lord if you knew the right way?" His sister Eliza had found the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and introduced him, and he embraced it. He knew instantly the Book of Mormon was true, but his mother was antagonistic. So he just hid it in a tree and read it when the plow horses were resting. There's a pattern here.

The Lord prophesied that truth and righteousness would sweep the earth to gather the righteous in the House of Israel. We found the elect souls, the seekers of truth in Zimbabwe. Sometimes I would go with the Elders. I went to one lesson in a tiny house. There were a mom and dad and two kids and two missionaries in there besides me. The missionaries sat on the floor. I rated a bucket to sit on. The boy was fourteen years old. One of the missionaries asked him what he thought. "I am like Joseph Smith. My family and I have been searching," he said. "I prayed I would know the truth, and He sent

you. You are an answer to our prayers." They were all baptized.

The concept of angels and miracles didn't faze the people of Zimbabwe. They were very spiritual. You could see their love of the Lord on their faces. When they prayed, their countenances changed. We felt right at home.

We could see as people learned the truth of the gospel there was a change in their faces and attitude.

Every missionary wrote to me every week. One wrote about an anti-Mormon man he met. He told the man, "In our religion we walk by faith. I cannot convert you, but I do invite you to pray." He said the man prayed, and immediately bore testimony of the gospel.

The man's sister saw the change in her brother, and asked, "What happened to my brother?"

The missionary said, "I'll promise you one thing. I'll tell you what happened to your brother, and it will happen to you." He gave her the lesson and a reading

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am grateful to be a member of the Cook Family.



Many of our ancestors have sacrificed so much so that you and I can enjoy the blessings of religious and economic freedom.

However, as marvelous as these spirits were with their determination, commitment and love of the Lord, many other valiant spirits have been and are being born into the world today through this family. Many in this family are powerful and valiant spirits.

All of you have been chosen before this world was to play an important role, to perform a work, to be special instruments in the hands of the Lord in bringing to pass His miracles as He lovingly guides His children back to His presence.

We should never think about or compare ourselves with others. The Lord has, and needs many tools to accomplish His work - all unique, all cherished and all needed. There

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Phineas in Goshen	2
Your Branch of the Family	2
Samuel Bryson Book	3
Bookstore Order Form	5

(Continued from page 1)

is a reason that each of us is here and there is a reason that we have all been born into this family. Each of our continual efforts, faith and strugglings are known of the Lord. He is there.

He knows us. He is mindful of us. We need to drink from the wells of spiritual truth every day so we can be guided to assist Him and find and help those within our spheres of influence and love who are in need of His guidance and His redeeming love.

Above my desk in my study, I have a painting of our ancestors as they struggled across the plains through many infirmities as they came out west.

The names: Martins Cove, Rocky Ridge and other sacred sights are well known to us and our ancestor's struggles and commitments not only made our lives possible, but it sanctified them and assured a place for them in the eternities. Above that painting of our ancestors I have a sign - the same one that is on the monument at Rock Creek Hollow, where 15 members of the Willie Handcart Company died in one night - 13 of which were put into a common grave. That sign says simply, "Remember." The "Remember" sign at Rock Creek Hollow, dedicated by our beloved friend and Prophet President Gordon B. Hinckley is designed as a reminder "to the people of the second rescue."

What happened in that sacred place is a foreshadowing or a type of the great journey of life and the rescue that each of us is involved in on a daily basis to bring God's children back to Him.

May we all seek to honor the sacrifice of our ancestors and our Lord by striving to be His instruments in rescuing His children who may not know how to find Him.

Phineas In Goshen

Part 9 in a series

By Janet Porter

After overcoming almost insurmountable obstacles to securing their own land and building a city, the resolute settlers completed the fort at Goshen. In December, 1857, the men began bringing their families to the fort. They felt the need to organize and were hearing rumors that the Bishop of Cedar Fort eight miles to the north was planning to be their bishop.

These were independent men, fully capable of organizing themselves, which is what they did. They had discussed among themselves what they wanted and had decided Phineas, as their elected President, should also be head of the LDS Branch in Goshen. They voted, and it was unanimous. On Wednesday December 16 he approached Brother Reynolds to be his First Counselor and John Rouse to be the Second Counselor.

I then told him that all the brethren had said that I should be their president or bishop but I intended that they should put someone else in that place but if they should call on me for that office I would do the best I could and I should call on him for one of the council and I wanted him to round up his shoulders and bare (bear) it(.) He would do the best he could.(.)

On Thursday, December 24 he

called the brethren together. In his humble way he agreed, by their vote, to be the bishop.

*Tuesday (Thursday) 24th
Called a meeting by the request (request) of the people to choose their presiding of-*

(Continued on page 4)

Your Branch of the Family



Each of the children of Phineas Wolcott Cook has his or her own story. Countries and kingdoms, in-laws and outlaws, each story is unique. The Cook Family Organization can feature your work if you wish, including stories, books and DVD's. Sometimes a book is the best way to share knowledge of your family's history. The stipulation: you write it.

Janet Porter will communicate by e-mail or she can meet with you at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to give you guidelines and instructions if you wish. The hopeful outcome is that everyone in your branch of the family will know where to buy histories and books about their families.

(Continued on page 3)

Bryson Cook Tells of Zimbabwe

(Continued from page 1)

assignment to read the Book of Mormon. She did it in two or three days. After a week she had prayed, and the next time we saw her she said, "The Book of Mormon brings you closer to Jesus Christ."

Zimbabwe is the size of Montana with 14 million people. In three years we had 4,000 baptisms. We went from four to six stakes. The people are incredibly poor. If you put the great economists together and asked them to destroy an economy, they couldn't have done a better job. There is 95 per cent unemployment, but there is freedom of religion. In school they are required to read the Bible. The people are Christian. In the early days, church missionaries went to Africa, but they didn't come back. It was a one-way ticket because so many of them died of sickness.

How does Africa embrace the Book of Mormon? Do they qualify for the gathering? One of the tribes, the Lemba Tribe in Zimbabwe is just one example. PBS did a study on this tribe because they claim to have fled and to have gone south when Jerusalem was destroyed. They then went to Mozambique, Malawe and Zimbabwe.

This group claimed to have brought the Ark of the Covenant with them. The ark wasn't found, but they tested their DNA and it's clear they have Jewish DNA. Patriarchal blessings show Ephraim is the tribe most often represented there. The next is Manasseh, followed by Benjamin, Judah, Levi, and Issachar.

Experts say that some people with **Israelite origins came down from Egypt into Africa**. The parable of the Olive Tree states there

were choice branches taken to the nether parts of the vineyard.

These are people prepared for the gospel by family history and traditions.

The people in Zimbabwe are very poor. The whole country is a corn field. They eat corn and potato patties with tomatoes and beans they grow themselves. Food is much more expensive there because the economy is so bad. People have to plant every piece of land in food. However, the government mandated that bread would be only one dollar per loaf so at least they wouldn't starve.

Many people live together as families, but the couple isn't married. We can't baptize them until there is a civil marriage, but many have never been able to get the

money for a license. Even finding a marriage officer is difficult because they're not very well organized.

Yet the people in Zimbabwe are motivated to make marriages work, and their marriages are very strong. A family-oriented church attracts them.

The Zimbabweans have learned to find happiness. They have nothing, but are the most cheerful people on the planet. They have hardships, but the earth is rich and the weather beautiful.

They're very religious, and give thanks for everything. Their gratitude is the foundation of their wanting to live good lives.

Zimbabwe means "The **great house of stone**." We're trying to teach the people that the Savior is the stone. If their house is to be strong, Jesus Christ will be the chief cornerstone.

Samuel Bryson Book

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Family members of all ages will benefit from this project.

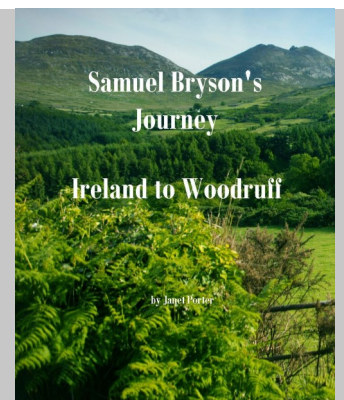
The important thing is to begin now. Collect information, recollections, pictures, written histories and memories. Write letters to relatives; conduct interviews of older members of the family who might have known their ancestors. Then begin writing. Children

love pictures, which often can be found online. If your history is to be sold as a non-profit item, online pictures do not have to be documented.

For more information, please e-mail Janet at janetprtr@gmail.com.

For a sample of one of these histories from a branch of the family, please see the electronic flip book named *Samuel Bryson's Journey: From Ireland to Woodruff*, at <http://www.cookfamily.org/books/SamuelBrysonsJourney/> This 6 x 9" book can also be purchased for \$15 from the Family Bookstore as a gift for adults or children.

Samuel Bryson is the father of two sisters who married Cook brothers. William, the 14th child of Phineas and Ann Eliza married Sarah Tryphena Bryson. Joseph Wolcott Cook, only child of Phineas and Catherine McCleve, married Elizabeth Snow Bryson.



Phineas As Bishop in Goshen

(Continued from page 2)

ficers(.) I arose and stated to the people the object of the meeting(.) I told them I had liberty

Copy of the letter sent by Presiding Bishop Edward Hunter to Phineas W. Cook confirming his choice as Bishop of the Goshen Branch, as elected by the people

from the President (Brigham Young) to call the people here and I have done the best I could and it would be agreeable to me if thay (they) would release me and make choise (choice) of some one els (else) as their Bishop and president but if thay (they) saw fit to put it upon me I did not expect to do any better then (than) I had previously done but it was my motto to do the best I can asking no odds of those who felt disposed to find any fault and if they did not like my mode of procuedure (procedure) now they ware (were) at liberty to choose, for it (if) they got me in by their own chois (choice) it would be a hard matter to get me out(.)

Two days after Christmas Phineas with his counselors divided the land surrounding Goshen into ten acre plots which would be the legal allotment for Goshen settlers. One month later, on January 23, the brethren drew lots to the land. By January 12, 1858, there were ten families and 25 brethren in Goshen. The brethren counseled among themselves and decided that since they were at the edge of three different counties, they would also organize themselves into their own county, which they decided by vote would be Egypt County.

On January 18 Phineas went to Salt Lake City to inform them of the decisions made by the brethren at Goshen. He arrived January 20 and informed Brigham Young there were 25 men now

at Goshen. However, the idea of forming a new county didn't go well with the Salt Lake brethren, and Goshen was eventually taken into Utah County. When he informed them he had been voted in as Bishop of the Goshen Ward the church authorities were somewhat surprised. Presiding Bishop Edward Hunter told Phineas he would inform the First Presidency of the decision of the Goshen brethren and write him later of their judgment. Shortly thereafter, Bishop Hunter sent a letter to Phineas confirming their decision and bringing their little branch under the arm of the church. The letter is a part of this Goshen file.

Br Cook, Sir

I presented your petition as presented (to) Pris (Pres) Young(.) He said I (am) Satisfied that the People choose (chose) their presiding Officers. Go a head (ahead) & operate through the lesser priesthood(.) Keep the Commandments & all will be right.

Yours Truly,(.)

Edward Hunter(.) Presiding Bishop(.)^[1]

¹Goshen Journal, Sheet 11, side 2

²Goshen Journal, Sheet 11, side 2.

³Goshen Journal, Sheet 12, side 1. On December 27, 1857 the land was divided by the bishopric. Sheet 13, side They drew lots on January 23.

⁴Goshen Journal Sheet 12, Side 1 Phineas reported ten families on January 10. Goshen Journal Sheet 13, side 1, he reported to Brigham Young on January 20 there were 25 men at Goshen as the Prophet had requested.

⁵Probably December 1857 or January, 1858, Document folder Item 71 Page 1.

P.W. Cook Family Organization Order Form

Organizational Dues			Date	
Suggested Annual Donation - \$20 per family - Tax Deductible				
Please select one:				
<input type="radio"/> My dues are current	<input type="radio"/> Pay dues now	<input type="radio"/> Do not pay dues		
Item (20% discount on all items if dues are current or accompany this order)	Price	Discount Price	Quantity	Total
NEW! Samuel Bryson's Journey book	\$15.00	\$12.00		
The Posterity of Phineas Wolcott Cook CD	\$10.00	\$8.00		
Amanda P. Savage Descending Pedigree Book	\$10.00	\$8.00		
Amanda P. Savage Descending Pedigree CD	\$5.00	\$4.00		
Triumph of Testimony, 462 page history of PWC to Utah	\$37.50	\$30.00		
P.W. Cook Diary				
1 Copy	\$7.00	\$5.60		
2-6 Copies	\$6.00	\$4.80		
7+ Copies	\$5.00	\$4.00		
DVD (42 minutes) on the Life of P.W. Cook	\$12.00	\$9.60		
Cook Ancestral Tour Guides				
Goshen & Litchfield Co., Connecticut (1-3 Copies)	\$6.00	\$4.80		
Goshen & Litchfield Co., Connecticut (4+ Copies)	\$5.00	\$4.00		
Wallingford, Connecticut (1-3 Copies)	\$6.00	\$4.80		
Wallingford, Connecticut (4+ Copies)	\$5.00	\$4.00		
Salem, Massachusetts (1-3 Copies)	\$6.00	\$4.80		
Salem, Massachusetts (4+ Copies)	\$5.00	\$4.00		
State of New York (1-3 Copies)	\$6.00	\$4.80		
State of New York (4+ Copies)	\$5.00	\$4.00		
State of Utah (1-3 Copies)	\$6.00	\$4.80		
State of Utah (4+ Copies)	\$5.00	\$4.00		
Family Fireside Stories				
Book I (Illustrated Stories of PWC to Marriage)	\$9.00	\$7.20		
Book II (Illustrated Stories: LDS Conversion)	\$9.00	\$7.20		
Book III (Illustrated Stories: Winter Quarters)	\$9.00	\$7.20		
PAF CD with complete Cook and Porter genealogy and documentation	\$6.00	\$4.80		
Total Purchases:				
Donations for Family Research (Tax Deductible)		Amount	Personal Information	
Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Line			Name	
Ann Eliza Howland Family Line			Street Address	
Amanda Polly Savage Family Line				
Catherine McCleve Family Line			City	State Zip
Johanna Christine Poulson Family Line				
Other: Web Site, equipment, etc.			Phone	Email
Total Donations:				
Totals			Mailing Information:	
Organizational Dues			Mail this form with check to:	
Purchases			PWC	
Donations			130 Twin Peaks Drive	
GRAND TOTAL:			Layton, Utah 84040	
Please note: All prices include postage. Make checks payable to "Cook Family Organization" and allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. For questions, contact Glen McMillan at (801) 529-3772 or glenandjanine@gmail.com . You can also visit cookfamily.org/store/				
Committees				
I would be willing to work on one of the following committees:				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family History Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Committee	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Record Verification Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Web-Master for website	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Typing Histories - Word Processing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Illustrator	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter/Mailing Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance Committee	

Phineas Wolcott Cook

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Return Address Requested

