LaMar Day, October 4, 2013

History of how the org got started. Went to talk to dean Cook in Centerville. He was Pres in 1975 when I got involved. Had some background. Much of what I start off, he told me. For many years, back in early 1900’s the PWC fam org strong, large. Did a lot of things. Reunions, many on the homestead at Bear Lake. A lot of them lasted 3 or 4 days. Org had been very strong, and then suddenly it just dissolved in about 1932. Picked up again in about 1968. Between 1932-1968 no organization. Wanted to know why? Started looking into the history and I’ve stumbled onto something. May have been caused by the following:

Four of Ann Eliza’s children died in 1933. Other deaths between 1931 and 1934. In 1931 Joseph Wolcott Cook, son of Cath & PW died in feb age 76. In 1936 David Savage Jr, grandson of Polly & PW died at age 48. Skip 1933. Kib Phineas son of Johanna & pwc died at 52 in 1934. Alphonzo died at 25 in 1933, killed in a car accident. In 1933 4 of pw’s children died: Henry Howland, 12th died in march age 74. Alonzo 5=10the child died in June at 78. Harriet Betsey Teeples 3rd child and William Cook both died 31 Oct. 1933. Harriet 89, William 71. Last 4 living children of Ann Eliza died the same year. Maybe that had something to do with stopping the organization. 36 years before it started up again.

Dean said that during 1968 he’s been thinking about starting up the org again, more concerned each time. Several of the children & g children getting concerned at the same time. During Jan 1969 Dean went to temple & went into Cel. Rm, meditating. Trying to get it started again. Noticed Bryson Cook come in. They talked & the conversation turned to reviving the orgn. After talking, they both parted thinking it was the right time to start again. 2 weeks later, Jan. 20, Dean received a letter from Owen Cook, who was pres. Of the church college of Hawaii. “Dear Br. Cook. Many descendants of PWC have been talking about a fam org to speed up gen. res & save duplica of effort.” Suggested Vera Hunsaker had spoken about a family org in SLC & what they had accomplished. Vera said one of the big reasons is to avoid duplication of work. 1/3 of sheets submitted are duplicates. Organized efforet makes Gen. research move faster. Mentioned in letter several fam mem doing research then in Utah & Idaho area.

The incentive he needed. In middle of Feb 1969 Dean picked up cousin Vera Hunsaker & sister of Owen & also pearl day in SLC. Went to Hyrum for Rex D. Cook home of Maude Cook Kilburn in Logan where they met with her dau Joan Kilburn Kane. A desc. From each of the 4 wives among the 6 individujals. There long enough to set up a basic org. with officers and committees and date to start formal org. In 1969 a copy of PWC history from birth to 1857 along with a letter announcing the est. of the PWC org was sent to all members for whom had addresses. Org. goals sent too. Fam Org with common purpose of creating identity, unity and friendship and identifying ancestors of PWC & wives. Owen pres & dean vP. In 1970 Warren Osmond Cook took over. Officially incorporated soon afterward. 1972 dean took over.

Many good leaders over the years. I’ve had tender feelings for the people who have worked for this org. Had tender feelings for the org & worked hard. Org has changed and we’ve piced up diff. areas of interest. Pres, VP of fam units, of genea, of tech. sec. treas, parliamentarian & director of Board of Directors. Directors from each branch of the fam. They’re the only ones with voting power. A geneal & asst. archivist, mail list manager, store manager, web site host & manager. Family reps. We don’t have these in all the families. When 2 directors can’t handle it, they ask others to help to be reps for that family. These reps do not have voting power. Only the directors for each of the 4 families. This maintains the deciwsion making power equal in all 4 families. 84% of the desc have assigned 2 reps for each of the children who had posterity. AE had 16 children, 7 had posterity. In 2002 the org completed the desc pedigree books. As of 2002 we had approx. 16000 desc, including direct desc & their spouses. That’s a lot to keep track of. A geometric extention, by 2013, approx. 20,0-00 desc. Not all living because it goes back to Phineas.

If you figure 50% are still living, that is still 10-12,000 living members of the family. We’re planning to update these books in the next year or so.

With this number of desc, we need to expand our work as a fam org to include everyone in that group. We sent out 963 postal letters last month and 6-700 e-mail address, but we’re only cathing about half of the family. Need to extend our reach. There are a few who don’t want to be involved, that’s OK. Most of them want to be involved at least partially. Many want to know about events. We do need financial participation. One of the items we’re looking at now is that we need to make the PWC connection back in England to Henry6 Cook. We need finances to accomplish that. We may have some young people who want to go on missions but don’t have finances. Surely with a large organization we could help fund those missions if we wanted to do. The things we could accomplish are endless.

The possibilities and the things we could do and accomplish are endless. If we do the Lortd’s work we receive the Lord’s blessings.