



Phineas Wolcott Cook NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ORGANIZATION

FEBRUARY, 2008

Cook-A-Rama Confirms the Importance of the Cook Family Organization

On October 4, 2007 about 30 people gathered in Bountiful to enjoy more good food than we could eat, engage in some great fellowship with family members and participate in some scintillating discussion about the church's new online genealogy program.



After what was supposed to be a "light meal" we all retired to the Relief Society Room and listened to Brother Richard E. Turley discuss the Church's vision of the new genealogy program. Brother Turley is the managing director of the Family and Church History and has recently authored a book on the Mountain Meadows Massacre. It was truly a unique opportunity to have Brother Turley there as he is an extraordinarily busy person. He had been asked to discuss what role he saw family organizations playing and how they might be of assistance in the work of the Church.

Brother Turley began by sharing with us some of the concerns that he had been having about the Church's genealogy program. Even with the TIB, and a lot of effort, the Church continued to see a number of dupli-

cations on in temple work. As he discussed these concerns with President Gordon B. Hinckley, President Hinckley told him in clear terms that these current problems were unacceptable and we needed to find a better way to do it so duplications didn't occur. With the advice and involvement of some extremely bright computer minds, they conceived a system where the information could be placed in the system and it would ultimately be there just

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President's Message

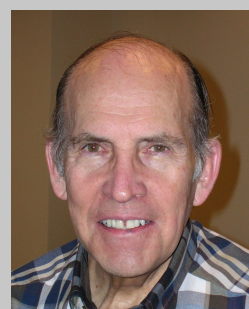
By Guy Cook

Dear family members:

In the past we have distributed the newsletter in May and November. The distribution months have been changed to February and the first part of September.

The reason for this is the annual Cook A Rama which occurs on Thursday before October semi-annual General Conference. This year the Cook-A-Rama will fall on October 2. In 2007 the May newsletter announced the annual Cook A Rama for the Thursday before the October 2007 semi-annual general conference. The atten-

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Quentin L. Cook

Called to Quorum of 12

Elder Quentin L. Cook a descendant of Phineas Wolcott Cook, was called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on 6 October 2007. At the time of his call he was a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy. He was called to that position in April 1998 having earlier served as a member of the Second Quorum of the Seventy.

Elder Cook served as President of the North America Northwest Area, and also presided over the Philippines/Micronesia Area and the Pacific Area of the Church. Most recently Elder Cook served as the Executive Director of the Missionary Department. .

At the time of his call to be a General Authority of the Church, Elder Cook was vice chairman of Sutter Health System. He was previously president and chief executive officer of California Healthcare System. Prior to that he was managing partner of Carr, McClellan, Ingersoll, Thompson and Horn, a San Francisco Bay Area law firm.

Elder Cook is a native of Logan, Utah. He received a bachelor's degree in political science from Utah State University and a juris doctorate degree from Stanford University. He has served the Church as a bishop, stake president and counselor, regional representative and



Area Authority.
He and his wife, Mary Gaddie Cook, have three children.

Brother Turley discusses Family History

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one time and the endless duplication and errors would ultimately be resolved. It works something like Google, in that the more frequently certain information is accessed, the more accurate is it believed to be. Family members will be able to access the information from all over the world – wherever the internet is found. In addition, family organizations will play a key role in the future in resolving differences about the information that resides on the church's genealogy system. There will be opportunities to discuss information submitted by different people, but the vision is that ultimately the family will collaborate and make its own decision about what the most accurate information is on a given ancestor.

As Brother Turley pointed out, the truly exciting thing is that this process will directly involve the family organizations in a very active way. Already several of our family members have been involved in the "beta" of this site and they are very excited about it.

Wow, can you imagine being able to do your genealogy from Italy, or South Africa, or the Philippines and participate in family discussions about our ancestors? The program is operational and is starting at different places in the world. Utah will probably be the last area to get access to the program because here there are so many related people and there will be numerous challenges in resolving those differences that will probably not be found in other places. They want to make sure that they have learned all that they can before the program undertakes those kind of challenges.

This new initiative is truly visionary and inspired. People that never had any idea they were related will have the opportunity to participate in a collaborative effort to research their ancestors in a very powerful way. If you weren't there (and MOST of you weren't) you really missed out. Mark your calendars for this coming October. The Cook-A-Rama has been a marvelous experience with Elder Cook (last year) and Brother Turley (this year). Believe me; you won't want to miss 2008!!

The Ancestry of Elizabeth Porter Cook Beach Peters

Part 1 of 3

The ancestry of Elizabeth Porter, grandmother of Phineas Wolcott Cook, is not found in primary genealogical records, resulting in an unsolved genealogical problem for over 200 years. However, from secondary genealogical records and circumstantial evidence her ancestry has recently been deduced.

No Record of Elizabeth Porter:

Phineas Cook, father of Phineas Wolcott Cook, was born 12 Nov. 1786 in Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut. Unfortunately, there is no vital record to prove it. In fact the only record in existence which proves he is the son of Daniel and Elizabeth Cook is found in land records. The same problem extends to his mother Elizabeth Porter. There are no vital records for her birth, marriage to Daniel Cook or her death. The reason for this lack of records is simple. Either the record was not made or, more likely after the Revolutionary War, if there was one it may have been lost or destroyed.

Existing Genealogies Searched:

There are several known Porter families who lived in the vicinity of Goshen, notably three family heads found in the record.

First is the John Porter¹ family of Hartford. This family has been well researched and is found primarily in the Harford area, with the exception of a family in Salisbury, Litchfield County and another in Stratford, Fairfield County where some of the original settlers of Woodbury originated.

The second Porter family is the Robert Porter¹ family of Harford and Farmington from whom we descend.

Thirdly, is the family Dr. Daniel Porter³ of Waterbury who is the grandson of Dr. Daniel Porter¹ of Farmington (1634-1690.)

These families are well documented. They are found in many published genealogies. A thorough search and review finds that Elizabeth is not included either because she isn't found in vital records or in the private family records from which these genealogies are comprised.

Known Elizabeth Porters Eliminated:

There are in these families and also in the record daughters named Elizabeth Porter. These have been carefully reviewed and fully vetted, and in all cases disproved to be Elizabeth Porter of Goshen who married Daniel Cook. In this vein PWC family researcher Melvin Cook postulated the Elizabeth Porter daughter of Nehemiah Porter of Ashfield, Massachusetts may have been ours. In fact his thesis was published in a prior newsletter. But a thorough review determined that she did die young as originally recorded; and that when Nehemiah remarried he named a second daughter Elizabeth Porter who would have been too young to be ours. Elizabeth Porter, daughter of Andrew Porter has been researched and it has been determined she would have also been born too late to be our Elizabeth. The daughter of Benjamin Porter of Hartford and a known descendant of John Porter was also reviewed and verified that she is not ours. Every Elizabeth Porter in the IGI has been thoroughly checked and eliminated.

Porter Families with Close Proximities and of Interest Eliminated:

An in-depth review of the Thomas

Porter family of Cornwall was done because of its proximity to Goshen. It was determined that all of his children are known and he had no daughter named Elizabeth. Also, in terms of pure logistics he moved from the area prior to the age when Elizabeth married. Another family of interest was the Ashbel Porter family in nearby Harwinton. Once again, his family was well known and no Elizabeth was found or would fit into the family group. Because Lieutenant Elijah Porter of Farmington had a son, Seth who is known to have lived in Goshen as found in the Federal Census for 1790 and 1800, a very careful analysis of his family was conducted and once again no Elizabeth.

The 1790 Census:

A review of the 1790 census was done. Each Porter head of household living in Litchfield County Connecticut was identified, researched and eliminated except for one. Benjamin Porter of Goshen was the first clue and break in this problem. His paternal ancestry couldn't be determined and that coincidence was intriguing.

We want to talk to you!
Send your email address
to us at
ypeterson@mstarmetro.net
or
www.cookfamily.org

LaMar Day Works on Pictures

By LaMar Day

Over the last 38 years that the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family has been organized, there has been some confusion over the identification of some of the family pictures. For example, I was told at the last quarterly meeting that the pictures in the Daughters Of Utah Pioneers museum are not correct. I was told that the pictures of Amanda Polly Savage and Johanna Christina Poulson were reversed. Thinking that we could easily correct that, I went to the museum to verify what I had been told. When I looked at the pictures, I found that there was a different error than I had been told. There are two pictures of Johanna C. Poulson and none of Amanda P. Savage. The younger picture of Johanna, which is verified as being Johanna has Amanda's name strip under it. The picture with Amanda's name strip under it is a middle age picture of Johanna, which some do not recognize as being her.

I sent these pictures with the above comments to a few family members to help identify them. Following are the results.



This is a picture of the center person in the photo above and right.

We think the others are Mary Rosalia Cook, daughter of Amanda, Hyrum David McCann, Mary's husband, and the child is their baby.

Comments:

Nola Dunford provided the picture and thought that it might possibly be Amanda Polly Savage. But not sure.

Dean Cook had never seen the picture before and wasn't sure if it is or not.

Sherill Funk said "No, it is not Amanda, Amanda was thinner. I have not seen that picture before."

Brent Hale has not seen this picture before.

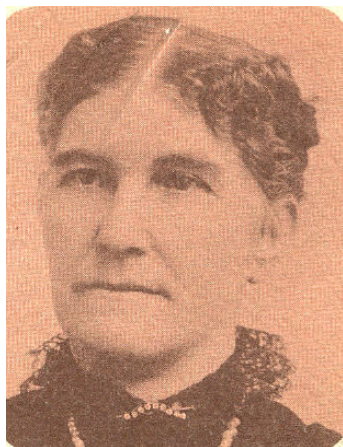


The next picture is of younger Amanda Polly Savage holding the baby that she delivered in the Salt Lake Temple a short time before the picture was taken. A lady went into labor and there was not time to take her out of the temple, So Amanda delivered the baby boy. The story is on the PWC Video.

The image here is not very clear because it was reproduced from a photocopy. The location of the original is not known to us on the PWC committee. If any of you know the whereabouts of the original, please let us know.

Picture Identification Continues

This is a middle aged picture of Johanna that was used on the 1969 Descending Pedigree Chart. Sherill Funk thinks this is Johanna. All others stated they did not know.



The pictures in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum has Johanna's name label on it and the picture is in the position of the 2nd wife.

This is an older picture of Johanna that has historically been used in the PWC Diary and Melvin Cook's Diary.

Sherill Funk stated that it is a picture of Johanna Christina Poulson. Others were not familiar with it.



This is a 4 generation picture of Amanda P. Savage, Mary Rosalia Cook McCann, Shelia McCann

Spencer, and her daughter Melba Spencer. Identified as per above by Brent Hale and Dean Cook.



This is the picture of Amanda Polly Savage as used in the PWC Diary, Melvin Cook History and the 1969 and 2002 Descending Pedigree Books. It was identified as Amanda Polly Savage by Dean S. Cook, Brent Hale and Sherill Funk.



This picture of Johanna Christine Poulson has been used in the 2002 Descending Pedigree Book, and is widely accepted by the Poulson family as that of Johanna. The DUP Museum has this picture in the position of the 4th wife and has it labeled as Amanda Polly Savage. A correction is needed.



This is a picture provided by Brent Hale of Amanda Polly Savage seated on a chair. It is the only younger picture that most have seen of her. It is used in the Savage Family Descending Pedigree Book, and the PWC Descending Pedigree Book. Also identified by Sherill Funk. Dean Cook said he had not seen it before but stated that he thinks it could be as he studied the features.



Cook Family Organization Report

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dance at the 2007 Cook A Rama declined to about 60% of the attendance in 2006.

We concluded that the long time between sending the May 2007 newsletter and the 2007 Cook A Rama, approximately, three and one-half months, contributed to the decline because many of you forgot about it. This year we will distribute the second 2007 newsletter early in September so that the Cook A Rama date will be only a few weeks later. We hope this will encourage more of you to attend in September. Please circle the date on your calendar and plan to attend. There is the opportunity to make new acquaintances and renew others. There will be good, light food, and there will be a very good and informative speaker.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER 2008 AT THE ANNUAL COOK A RAMA!!

Daniel Ditto has written an article about the 2007 Cook A Rama. Please refer to it elsewhere in this newsletter.

There is also on page 2 in the newsletter an article on about the new apostle, Quentin L. Cook, a member of our Organization

We are continuously interested in adding family members as directors, family representatives for the Howland family line, computer and website specialists, involvement with the online store, genealogists and records research assistants. We need to bring into activity with the Organization younger persons who can eventually succeed the older persons. Please contact us to arrange for a meeting to discuss becoming involved with the Organization in some capacity. You will find the time spent being involved will be satisfying to you, and it will help to perpetuate the Organization.

We appreciate the receipt of your annual dues and purchase of items from the online bookstore. It requires money to operate non-profit organiza-

tions like ours, and we rely solely on annual dues, sales from the online bookstore and occasional contributions for genealogical research. We encourage more of you family member to pay your dues to enable us to expand our activities, genealogy work and genealogy research. We also encourage contributions for research so that we can pursue our lines further back in time.

We believe it is very important to keep the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization alive and well and expanding activities.

Best regards,

Guy R. Cook, President

We Need Your Email Address

The Cook Family Organization is trying to reach you and your family members in the most efficient way possible — and that is through the internet with email and web editions of the newsletter. In order to do this, we need the current email addresses of the descendants of Phineas Wolcott Cook.

There are two ways to get your email address on the Cook Family Mailing List: The first is to log on to www.Cookfamily.org and sign up. The second is to send an email to the cook Family Newsletter editor. The editor is Yvonne Peterson and her email is ypeterson@mstarmetro.net.

Submitting your email address will make it possible to receive up-to-the minute family history news and information. You will find out the latest in genealogy finds and you will be able to let others know of information you might have.

What the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization Means to Me

By Sharon E. Marceys

In 1975 and my husband and I were in Graduate School at Indiana University. On Fridays at noon we would break away and attend an LDS Institute Religion class at the Institute Building. This particular Friday Dave had arrived before me and had been browsing in the Institute Library. After class he showed me a book he had found on family history which he said was one of the best he had seen as far as layout and design – The Autobiography of Melvin A. Cook, published by Melvin A. Cook Foundation, October, 1973. I thumbed through it and thought some of the names sounded familiar but I wasn't

sure - Phineas Wolcott Cook, Ann Eliza Howland Cook, etc. I decided to check the book out and check out those names. Could they be related to me? I knew my Grandma Eastman's maiden name was Cook but that's all I could remember.

Imagine my surprise when I dug out Family Group Sheets that somehow had been given to me through the years and found many of those same names that were in the book. The Spirit of Elijah burned into my heart at that very moment. I read the book which included most of Phineas' journal and also Ann Eliza's history – my own personal family relatives' history –

was there!

Just being aware and wanting to know and do more soon led me to the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization. Once the Lord knows you are serious, He places the footsteps in front of you. I began receiving the newsletters and devoured every word. We moved several times but I kept those newsletters and began to feel like I was a real Cook. When we finally settled in Bountiful, UT, I contacted LaMar Day and volunteered to help. It satisfies my soul to be of service in this organization. Many times I think I do not have enough time but when I make the effort and go – it's like Church – I am edified.

P.W. COOK FAMILY ORDER FORM

All prices include postage

The following items are available for your use and enjoyment from the

Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization

PO Box 1522, Provo, Utah 84603-1522

Web Page: WWW.CookFamily.org

New items::

1. ___ Three Family Descending Pedigree Book @ \$45.00 _____
2. ___ Three Family Descending Pedigree CD @ \$10.00 _____
3. ___ Amanda P. Savage Descending Pedigree Book \$10.00 _____
4. ___ Amanda P. Savage Descending Pedigree CD \$5.00 _____
5. ___ Triumph of Testimony @ \$37.50 _____

Other Items:

6. P. W. Cook Diary ___ copies @ ___ = _____
Single copies - \$7.00 each, 2-6 copies - \$6.00 each
7-12 copies - \$5.00 each
7. ___ Video (42 minutes) on the Life of P. W. Cook \$15.00 _____
8. Cook Ancestral Tour Guides \$6.00 each (4 or more \$5.00 each) _____
___ Goshen & Litchfield Co., Connecticut _____
___ Wallingford, Connecticut _____ Salem, Massachusetts _____
___ State of New York _____ State of Utah _____
___ Family Fireside Stories – Book I \$9.00 _____
___ Family Fireside Stories – Book II \$9.00 _____
9. ___ PAF 3.0 Diskette of 65 verified Ancestor _____
Families 3 1/2" diskette \$6.00 _____

Discount: 20% discount on all item above if 2003 Dues

have been paid or accompany this order Less (_____)

ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

10. Organizational Dues (Suggested Donation - \$20.00 per family – Tax Deductible)

11. Donations for Family Research (Tax Deductible) _____
Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Line _____
Ann Eliza Howland Family Line _____
Amanda Polly Savage Family Line _____
Catherine McCleve Family Line _____
Johanna Christine Poulson Family Line _____
Other: Web Site, equipment, etc. _____

Total Paid

I would be willing to work on the following committees:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ___ Family History Committee | ___ Research Committee |
| ___ Record Verification Committee | ___ Family Web-Master for Web-Site |
| ___ Typing Histories – Word Processing | ___ Illustrator |
| ___ Newsletter/Mailing Committee | ___ Distribution Committee |
| ___ Finance Manager | ___ Secretary/Treasurer – urgently needed |

Name _____ Telephone # _____

E-mail address: _____

Phineas Wolcott Cook

Family Organization Newsletter

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Provo, Utah 84603-1522

February, 2008

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