



# Phineas Wolcott Cook NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ORGANIZATION

March, 2011

## Rescue Ancestors, Said Elder Porter At Cook-O-Rama

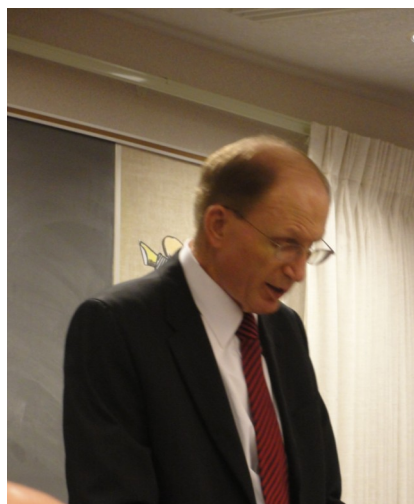
By Yvonne Peterson

Rescuing our ancestors requires faith and prayer, said Elder Bruce D. Porter of the First Quorum of the Seventy at the Annual Phineas Wolcott Cook "Cook-O-Rama" on October 2, 2010.

Elder Porter, the featured speaker at the fireside which ended the day's activities, spoke about a bond which spans generations and by which all generations may be saved. He quoted Malachi 4:6 and said the bond flows both ways. Sometimes we think of the link backwards but "a true genealogical bond is meant to flow both ways."

He explained that we owe a great debt to those who have gone before us and we can repay them through genealogy and keeping their faith alive. He said people in contemporary society are more worried about themselves than future generations, unlike our ancestors who did care for future generations.

He spoke of a poem written by a Canadian John McRay in honor of fallen WWI soldiers, "In Flanders Fields." In response, a woman in Canada, wrote "We shall keep the faith. We caught the torch you



threw." During that war, thousands of American soldiers died in France, many speaking the word "Mother" before they died. After the war, many mothers came and scattered flowers

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Guy Cook

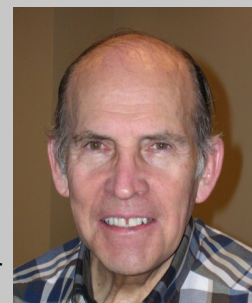
Dear Family Members:

Another six months have passed, and we are issuing the semiannual Phineas Wolcott Cook Newsletter.

We hope you will enjoy the contents of this newsletter. A fair number of officers, directors, and family representatives contribute articles for the newsletter, requiring time for researching information and preparing an interesting article.

The website is being improved and new information added. Officers, directors, and specialists had the opportunity to be lead through the various parts of the improved website as part of our February 2011 monthly conference call meeting. Lots of good things are being added, and family members will also have access to the new website.

If you have not sent it already, please send us your E-Mail address. Our target is to send 90% of the newsletters by E-Mail in the near



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# Elder Porter at Cook-O-Rama

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over the unmarked graves of their sons.

It is significant that we reverence those who sacrificed for us. He talked about the welding link between the fathers and the children. "The bounds of the mercy of our Father in Heaven is beyond our imagination." He said Jesus Christ was sent to bless all. We have a tendency to judge and think people get one chance, "but God doesn't work that way." As in school, when children do their best but make mistakes, the teacher shows the right way and then gives the student a new sheet of paper. Elder Porter likened this to the atonement. "Christ gives each of us a new sheet of paper every time we need one."

He also explained this doesn't stop with the end of our earth experience. After being crucified, Christ went to the righteous in the Spirit World and organized messengers to those who had never learned the truth or who had rejected it on earth.

Temples are a manifestation of the great Mercy of God. He quoted Elder Dennis Neuenschwander who said, "The Plan of Salvation and the atonement of Jesus Christ are the backbone of genealogical research." Elder Porter then said "There is no greater vision than God's plan to take away the sins of every person who ever lived on the earth." Still quoting Elder Neuenschwander, Elder Porter said, "Family History is the saving of our ancestors from spiritual obscurity."

He said those for whom we do temple work are real people. Fol-

lowing counsel from President Hinckley, when Elder Porter performed baptisms for the dead with his son, he slowed down and gave each name "the same dignity we give the living when they are baptized... These are real people and they deserve a dignified baptism."

He talked about a man in South Africa he had met who worried he had never been a leader in the church, but who had decided to spend as much time doing family history as he would have spent had he been called to leadership positions. By the time he was 65 he worked full time in the temple and had found 20,000 people "waiting to thank him in the next life"

Elder Porter finished his talk by relating an experience he had heard from his two mission presidents who had served with each other as missionary companions in East Germany. One of the missionaries, Elder Kindt boarded a train to visit a branch as District president and could only get a first class ticket. There was one other passenger in his compartment, with whom he conversed during the trip. At the end, the other man gave him a card with the instructions, "If you ever need help, let me know." The card indicated this man was the head of the Secret Police.

Some time later, when harassment of the church increased, his companion, Elder Poecker was arrested and imprisoned. After finding he was being held in a basement room in town, the branch members organized themselves to whistle "Come Come ye Saints" outside the



Carol Jean Reitz Rueben Anderson Estelle Paul Porter

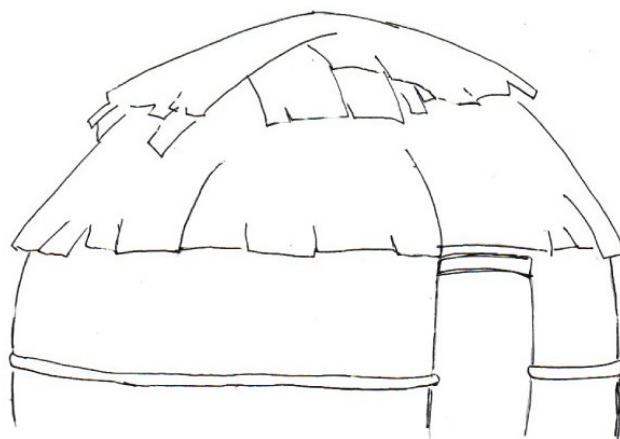
basement window to let him know they were thinking of him.

They soon realized the secret Police had scheduled Elder Poecker for deportation to Russia, "which meant he would probably never be seen again." It was then Elder Kindt remembered the business card and decided to go talk to the man at the address on the card. Arriving there, he realized how impossible the situation was, but prayed fervently. He then walked towards all the guards, waving the card and making his way to the office of the man. Reminding him of their train conversation, he was able to get his companion released on the condition they both leave East Germany immediately and never come back.

Likening Brother Kindt's rescue of his companion to our rescue of ancestors, Elder Porter said, "The rescue required prayer and faith, just as our rescue of ancestors requires prayer and faith. But we too go forth in the power of God as we help them partake in the work of salvation."

## HENRY COOKE AND SALEM *Henry Cooke Series*

Native Americans were on the American continent long before the Pilgrims came. From the Algonquian language came the word for "at or about the great hill," or Massachusetts. It came to mean the native families who lived a quiet life, hunting, fishing and growing crops in the hills and beside the rivers along the northeastern coastline. English settlers borrowed that word when they named Massachusetts Bay as they made their homes and towns. Most often the native Americans were helpful and friendly.



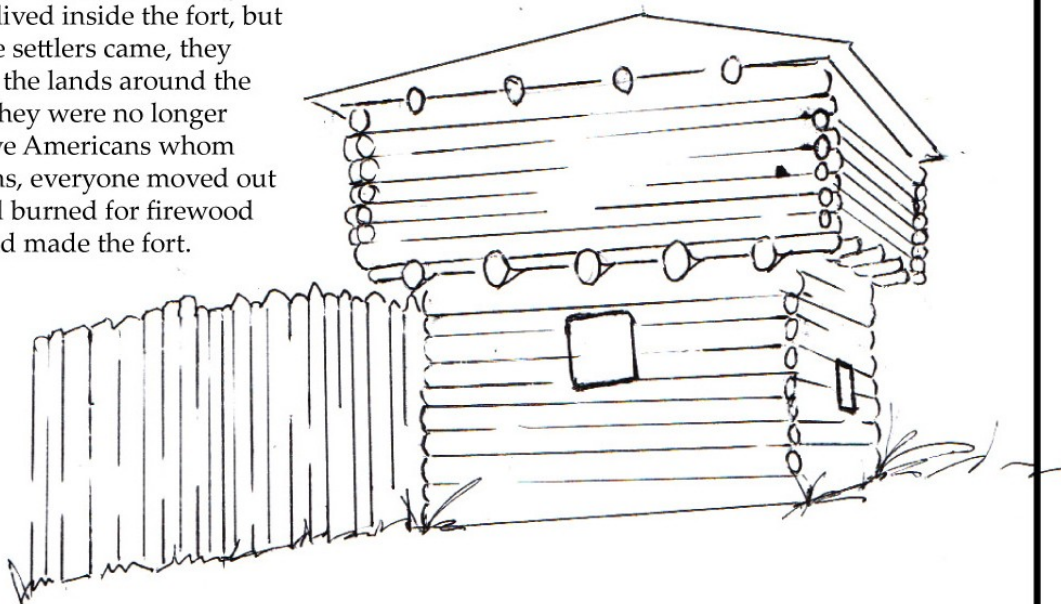
Plymouth Colony was established in 1620 and Boston soon afterward. In 1626 Pilgrim settlers moved fifteen miles north of Boston and made a colony they called Naumkeag.

In the beginning it wasn't a town. The first settlers came to where the Naumkeag River emptied into the sea. They chose to build their houses on a narrow curve of land surrounded by water in the Massachusetts Bay. They liked that spot because they knew a great shipping industry would grow up along the harbor. Although it was very rocky, the land was fertile for crops and raising animals. A few years later they renamed the town Salem.

As they realized how many English settlers were coming into their land, some of the Native Americans became alarmed to see their favorite fishing spots or their favorite rivers become crowded with new settlers. The most alarming thing was the diseases the new settlers brought for which the native people had no resistance. Many of the Native Americans died.



When the early English settlers came to Salem they were afraid of the natives, so they built a fort right where they wanted to make their town. For the first few years the settlers lived inside the fort, but as more and more settlers came, they began to move to the lands around the fort. Then when they were no longer afraid of the native Americans whom they called Indians, everyone moved out to their farms and burned for firewood the logs which had made the fort.



The old site of the fort is where Henry Cooke built his house. By the time Henry built his log house in the town of Salem, the church had already been built on the back half of the old site of the log fort. The road he lived on became the main road through Salem. Now it is a busy street, known as Washington Street, in the middle of the city. A Masonic Temple is on the exact spot where Henry and Judith Cooke lived.

# Grandfather Jonathan Churchill, Lived in Litchfield Connecticut

*By Bryson C. Cook and Janet S. Porter*

Recently we reviewed the family of Jonathan Churchill, the grandfather of Phineas Wolcott Cook. From his journal we learn that Phineas became intimately acquainted with his grandfather when Jonathan moved his family into the Cook home. In fact from the journal of Phineas we glean quite a few genealogical and family history insights into the life of Jonathan Churchill and learn what type of man he was.

Jonathan was first and foremost a Litchfield County man. The son of Jonathan and Lydia (Smith) Churchill he was born 25 November 1749 in what is now the town of Bethlehem, a parish in Woodbury, Connecticut. His parents, both descendants of early and prominent Puritan families, were in Bethlehem by 1748. It was in Bethlehem Jonathan enlisted in the militia at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. He was a part of the Connecticut militia sent to defend New York and was known to have fought in the Battle of Long Island. At the time he had just recently married Sarah Burgess a Woodbury resident and neighbor. After the war Jonathan and Sarah settled in the town of Morris, described by Phineas in his journal as Litchfield South Farms, west of Bantam Lake near the farms of Sarah's brothers. By then her parents had moved to Washington in Litchfield County. It is from Washington land records and her mother's will that we find genealogical proof they were married. From her mother's estate papers we find a complete listing of the Churchill children when they received their mother's legacy after Sarah Churchill died 6 October 1795.

Within a few years Jonathan remarried Comfort Woodcock. As the result of recent research we learn that she was born 26 September 1766 in Swanzy, Cheshire, New Hampshire the daughter of Jonathan and Abigail (Hill) Woodcock. Her parents were originally from Attleboro, Bristol, Massachusetts and were early settlers of Swanzy. After the war Jonathan Woodcock relocated to Litchfield with his son Samuel and daughter Comfort. Her marriage to Jonathan Churchill is found in Litchfield vital records but no date was given. We know they were married by 1797 and the couple raised Jonathan's second family on his Litchfield farm.

By then Jonathan's older children were beginning to marry and move away. From Phineas's journal we learn that his uncles Josiah and Leman had moved to New York. We know they subsequently removed to Franklin Township in Susquehanna County Pennsylvania. Their death records have recently been added to the family ancestral file and they are known to have lived and died in Susquehanna County. While both brothers died prior to the organization of the L.D.S. church, Leman's brother-in-law Freeborn DeMill married Ann Knight the daughter of Joseph Knight and settled in Utah with the pioneers.

Jonathan's daughters Polly and Irene are known to have married Cook brothers Amasa and Phineas. The youngest daughter Phoebe married Daniel Taylor and moved to Michigan. Her family information was also recently discovered and has been added to the Family File. Sally and Lucy were known to have never married. In researching the marriages of Jonathan's daughters we've determined that Polly never married a Taylor as reported in the book, *The Churchill Family in America*. The author may have confused her with her half sister by Comfort, Mary Emily (sometimes called Patti) Churchill, who married David Tousey Taylor. We have also determined that she was not the mother of Amasa Phillip Cook as reported by Phineas in his journal. From probate records we learned that he was born after Polly died and is most likely the son of Sally Rowe, Amasa Cook's second wife. The double marriage of Jonathan's daughters to the Cook brothers was instrumental in the ultimate alignment with the Cook family and his eventual relocation to Goshen where he died.

The children of Jonathan's second marriage, Daniel, Abigail and Mary Emily (sometimes called Patti and called Emily in the journal of Phineas) lived somewhat tragic lives. Phineas reports Daniel had less industrious tendencies. While he was the father of a large family, several of his children died before the age of majority and he presumably lost two sons in the Civil War. Phineas describes the tragedy that befell Abigail. She became emotionally unstable as the result of a sexual assault and died in a mental health institution in Litchfield. Her vital records have also been recently updated as the result of our research. Interest-

# Phineas' Grandfather, A Caring Family Man

*(Continued from page 5)*

ingly Mary Emily married David Towsey Taylor, probably a relative of her half-sister Phoebe's husband Daniel Taylor, and moved to Michigan. The two families lived in close proximity. The rigors of pioneering Michigan took their toll and she died at age 48. She predeceased her two sons and like her brother lost both of them in the Civil War.

Our recent research has helped us to gain a better understanding of Jonathan's role as a father and patriarch to the children who remained in Litchfield. He and his second wife Comfort were the primary care givers for three unwed daughters who remained in Litchfield County. His oldest daughter Sally predeceased him by four years. Interestingly both of his sons by his first wife Sarah also predeceased him. Lucy for whom Phineas had a lot respect, lived a self-reliant and industrious life as a single woman following her father's death.

A review of her estate papers show she left a modest estate to her care giver. Her death record was also recently updated in the Family File. After Jonathan's death his son-in-law Phineas Cook tried to care for Abigail but when the family moved to Michigan he appealed to the town for guardianship.

Jonathan was very aware of his son-in-law Amasa Cook's financial problems. Some of his more troublesome creditors were the result of Amasa's land dealings very close to Jonathan's farm. He was aware that Phineas was trying honorably to manage because of the debts

debts? Amasa incurred. While the brothers' land holding were greater than Jonathan's they were encumbered by debt. Watching Phineas and Irene struggle and perhaps in appreciation for the care they gave him and his family he was extremely generous with them in the disposition of his estate. Shortly before Jonathan died he sold his farm and used the proceeds to satisfy all of Phineas's non family creditors. This beneficial act made it possible for the family to sell the Goshen farm, repay Moses Cook all they owed and move to Michigan to start over. All of these life variables

were a part in the family relocation and the subsequent introduction of the gospel to the family in Michigan. From this recent examination of the record we can conclude Jonathan Churchill was a loyal son, war hero, farmer, loving and caring father and family man and a substantial Cook family benefactor.

*NOTE: This article is a condensed abstraction from the article, JONATHAN CHURCHILL OF WOODBURY, LITCHFIELD AND GOSHEN, CONNECTICUT written by Bryson C. Cook and Janet S. Porter. The entire article with supporting references will be posted to the Cook Family website shortly.*

## Plans Have Begun for Celebrating Phineas' 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2019

The board of directors of the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization approved organizing a family reunion to coincide with 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of our grandfather Phineas Wolcott Cook. The concept would be for descendants to organize family reunions to commemorate his birthday, life and contributions as a father, family man, pioneer and faithful example of gospel living.

To support each family's reunion plans the Family Organization will be organizing and sponsoring events that would include an expanded family meeting, lectures and workshops to facilitate the exchange and archiving of genealogical and family history records, tours and activities and

culminating in a family fireside.

Over the next few years in anticipation of the reunion the Family Organization will be recruiting reunion volunteers to staff committees and provide leadership. We will be looking for input and ideas that would appeal to the expanded family. Also, we'll be expanding our email data base, updating the website and employing new technologies and communication tools to get the word out and support your efforts to make the weekend of August 29-31, 2019 a time for family reflection, fun, genealogy, family history, togetherness and reunion! Happy Birthday 200<sup>th</sup> Phineas .

## *FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR P.W. COOK ORGANIZATION*

In 2010, only 37 descendants contributed to annual dues for the PW Cook Family Organization. Twelve sent contributions for Family Research. Those few dues and research payers combined with the reimbursements from the Cook Family Store provides the support for this Organization to exist financially.

Thanks to the internet, rather than printing, the costs for the Semi Annual News Letter are significantly reduced. Maybe this bit of news and/or the church's encouragement to do family research, sometimes causes us to feel a little guilty.

To remove feelings of guilt, perhaps a contribution of any size for family research may be of value, not only to you but to your ancestors. This semi-annual News Letter provides information as to how to make contributions. If you would like to contribute toward dues but feel the \$20.00 annual suggestion is too high, please be aware that any amount would be appreciated.

Thanks once more to those who have contributed in the past and to those who will contribute during the current year. The Organization feels your contribution is needed and is greatly appreciated."

Again, please feel free to make any suggestions regarding the above.

Sincerely,

Paul Porter

## Cook Organization Embraces Technology

Embracing technology, the Cook Family Organization is using the internet to communicate with and inform descendants of Phineas Wolcott Cook.

The official family website, [www.cookfamily.org](http://www.cookfamily.org), contains photos, histories, stories, gedcom files and other genealogical resources for the descendants of Phineas.

In addition, in the future a new online tool will be made available to members of the Cook Family. An organizational and communications program written by a member of the organization is currently being evaluated.

This program, [cookfamilyteam.bluestep.net](http://cookfamilyteam.bluestep.net), is an invitation only program in which members can communicate with each

other. Features of the program include the ability to share documents, target messages and set up meetings. The Cook Family Website committee has already begun using this program to meet and work on improving the use of technology to keep the organization functioning.

Two members of the Cook Family Organization, Dan Ditto and Roy Rasband have been instrumental in coordinating this new program, which Roy has written.

In the future, you may receive an invitation to join the Bluestep website. It will require creating a logon name and password, but will make it possible to regularly receive information and be a bigger part of the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization.



Louise, Julia, Emily, Helen and Byron Day performing at the fireside of the Cook-O-Rama in Bountiful, Utah, October, 2010

# Goshen, Utah, settled by Phineas Now Site for LDS Church Films

In an ambitious motion picture project, the LDS Church is re-creating biblical settings for a new series on the New Testament in the tiny Utah town of Goshen, which was founded by Phineas Wolcott Cook.

According to a story from the LDS Church News of Jan 8, 2011, "This is being done to create a scriptural video library for the Church," said Elder Lynn G. Robbins of the First Quorum of Seventy and executive director of the Audiovisual Department.

The article further explained the project will produce 30 vignettes to be used in films for the Church Educational System, seminaries and institutes, for use by missionaries and in visitors centers and many other uses.

The Goshen site was chosen because it could double as plains or rolling hills, sand dunes and a stream. "With some work will resemble the River Jordan," said the Church News article quoting from project executive director John Uibel.

The set itself will feature a constructed, walled set which will not be a replica of Jerusalem but "instead be a puzzle-like collection of parts and pieces of buildings, courts, streets, alleys and the like."

Phineas Wolcott Cook founded Goshen in 1857. According to Janet Porter, Cook family genealogist, he applied to Brigham Young for permission to build a settlement west of Payson. After receiving permission from President Young, he talked to all the Bishops in Utah

Valley, from Lehi on the North to Payson and Spanish Fork on the South, offering land to any who were interested in moving there. He then proceeded to build a dam and get a surveyor and was able to establish the little town.

Phineas then served as Bishop of the Ward for 3 years.

According to a local newspaper, the Daily Herald, on its "Goshen, Utah News" page, "Goshen is a small farming town in southern Utah County. It was named after the town's first LDS

Bishop, Phineas W. Cook's birthplace of Goshen, Connecticut."

For more information on the LDS Motion Picture Studio Project, see the following link: <http://www.ldschurchnews.com/articles/60343/Biblical-scenes-emerging-in-Utahs-own-land-of-Goshen.html>.

For a story in the Deseret News, see <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700096820/LDS-Church-builds-movie-set-for-ambitious-film-project.html>

## Your Email Addresses Can Help

The P. W. Cook Family Organization is spending a large amount of money on printed newsletters. We would prefer to spend more of this money on genealogical research.

Our Goal. Is to send newsletter to all of P. W. Cook's living descendants.

We can accomplish this with your help by doing the following:

1. All family members now receiving the newsletter could go through their address books and send us the addresses (both postal and e-mail) for each adult Cook family descendant including single adults and newly married couples.
2. A representative of each family could give us the name and phone number of the person in their branch of the family who keeps a good file of these addresses.

Desired Result:

Sending more newsletters to family members should generate more income from dues and less expense by sending more of the newsletters by e-mail, resulting in more money to use for genealogical research.

Please send the information to:

LaMar Day  
467 W. 2400 S  
Bountiful, UT 84010  
[lamarday@msn.com](mailto:lamarday@msn.com)

OR Yvonne Peterson  
463 E Normandy Dr.  
Provo, UT 84604  
[ypeterson@broadweave.net](mailto:ypeterson@broadweave.net)



## 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*

*130 N Twin Peaks Dr., Layton, Utah 84040*

*Or contact Glen McMillan at 801-544-5615, email: glenandjanine1@comcast.net*

### Organizational Dues (Suggested annual donation - \$20.00 per family – Tax Deductible)

Available items::

1. The Posterity of Phineas Wolcott Cook CD @ \$10.00

2. Amanda P. Savage Descending Pedigree Book \$10.00

3. Amanda P. Savage Descending Pedigree CD \$5.00

4. Triumph of Testimony, 462 page documented history of PWC to Utah @ 37.50

5. P. W. Cook Diary \_\_\_\_\_ copies @ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

6. DVD (42 minutes) on the Life of P. W. Cook \$12.00

7. 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

8. Family Fireside Stories -\$9.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Book I (Illustrated Stories of PWC to Marriage)

\_\_\_\_\_ BookII (Illustrated Stories:LDS Conversion)

\_\_\_\_\_ BookIII (Illustrated Stories: Winter Quarters)

9. PAF CD with complete Cook and Porter genealogy and documentation \$6.00

Discount: 20% discount on all items above if dues Less ( )

are current or accompany this order

Total Bookstore Purchases \_\_\_\_\_

10. 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-Purchases and dues

ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

I would be willing to work on the following committees:

\_\_\_\_\_ Family History Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Record Verification Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Typing Histories – Word Processing

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter/Mailing Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Research Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Web-Master for Web-Site

\_\_\_\_\_ Illustrator

\_\_\_\_\_ Finance Committee

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

# PWC Pres Gives Update

(Continued from page 1)

future. Hard copies will still be sent to those without E-Mail or who request a hard copy. The potential for significant savings in printing and mailing costs will enable us to do more research related to family members who have gone before us. Their stories are very interesting and uplifting, and we desire to find more of them to share with you.

2019 will be Phineas's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. The officers, directors, and specialists have discussed the preparing for one grand reunion or a number of regional reunions. One page on the new website shows a timeline from now until 2019, and it describes planning and

activities almost every year until 2019. Information will be distributed to you as various plans and activities directed towards 2019 are put into action. Mark your long-term planning documents with this in mind.

There was an increase in the numbers of you who paid dues and/or purchased items from the bookstore in 2010. Thank you. We encourage many more of you to pay your annual dues, small in comparison to most family organizations, and you will help perpetuate the P.W. Cook Family Organization so your children and grandchildren can enjoy the benefits this organization provides in remembering Phineas W. Cook and others

who have gone before us.

Mark your calendars around the end of September and beginning of October 2011 for the next COOK-O-RAMA. Each of them held in previous years has brought the opportunity to meet new members, renew acquaintances, enjoy good, light food, and attend a special presentation by a family member general authority, or specialist. We have also had presentations related to the L.D.S. Church and how family organizations can contribute much to the vitality of the Church.

Best regards,  
Guy R. Cook, President

**Phineas Wolcott Cook**

Family Organization Newsletter

PO Box 1558

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