



Phineas Wolcott Cook NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ORGANIZATION

April, 2009

Family History and A Fireside Featured at Cook-O-Rama

By LaMar Day

Our third Annual Cook-O-Rama was held in Bountiful, Utah on October 2, 2008. It was an outstanding day of activities beginning at the Family History Library with Janet Porter. And ending with a fireside presented by LDS church film director Gary H. Cook

The Annual Meeting for the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization was held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. followed by visiting and a Soup and Salad Buffet an hour later. A special family meeting was held in the evening with Gary H. Cook speaking to us.

An unexpected issue with keys lead to a 20-minute delay in the 7 p.m. start of the fireside because we needed some equipment from the Ward Library but the locks had been re-keyed and no one had been notified. We were able to find a replacement and the program that followed was well worth the 20 minute delay.

The meeting began with the Poco Dolche trio singing "Draw Near Unto Me," which was extremely well done and invited the spirit for the rest of the meeting. Gary H. Cook, a former Vice President over Genealogy for the Family consented to be our speaker for the evening meeting. Gary has served

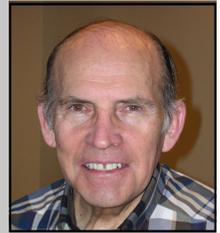
for many years as the Film Director for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He has a long list of credits and has written, directed and produced many of the church films. Most of us are familiar with "The Testaments" which was shown for several years in the Joseph Smith Building Theatre, and the next one on Joseph Smith that is still showing there.

The film "Emma Smith, My History" that has recently been showing in theatres was written and directed by Gary. He brought clips from this film on a laptop computer which he showed to us and discussed special experiences related to the filming and the actors. He also discussed some of the things involved in writing and developing a story plot about an individual or a family. These were excellent ideas to help us to prepare family histories. Gary has had some

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Cook-O-Rama was held on the Thursday before the October 2008 Semi-Annual General Conference. We had hoped to improve



attendance by sending out the fall newsletter in September and attendance was slightly larger than the previous year. We will send out the fall newsletter this year again in September and encourage as many as possible to attend. We know that many of you make the trip to SLC for the October General Conference, and we encourage you to include in your trip plans to attend the Cook-O-Rama. You may want to read the front page article in the newsletter about last year's Cook-O-Rama, including pictures taken at the event. Attendance will enable you to meet other members of the Family Organization, enjoy a light supper, and complete the evening with an outstanding speaker.

We have had problems with the Post office returning dues to some of you. The problem has been re-

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The Berkshire County, Mass. Cooks: Yankee Ingenuity

By Janet Porter

For the first one hundred years, land in Connecticut was free. All one had to do was apply to the town organizers for a piece of land for a farm and another plot in town for a house. To immigrants from England where property was held by only the gentry, it was freedom indeed. But the land giveaway ended about the time Joseph Cook of Wallingford decided to move to Litchfield County, Connecticut. For the first time in Connecticut history, shares of Goshen land were sold, and in 1737 Joseph Cook became one of the original settlers of Goshen in northwest Connecticut.

Joseph's younger children, ages 2-12 were with him in Goshen from the beginning. However, his older sons, including our ancestor Daniel Sr., either stayed in Wallingford for an additional few years, or returned to marry there. Daniel married a Wallingford girl at Cheshire (suburb town of Wallingford) 6 Feb. 1746 and his brother Walter married a Guilford girl 5 Nov. 1748. By the 1750's both were buying land in Goshen, and 4 of the 5 Cook brothers were neighbors to their father on Town Hill.

Most of the family stayed in Goshen. Joseph's great-grandson Phineas Cook finally went bankrupt and sold out on 2 October, 1836 almost exactly 100 years after Joseph originally bought the land. Much earlier two of Joseph's sons and a grandson moved north across the Massachusetts line into Berkshire County. But mostly the Cooks stayed in Goshen, Connecticut for well over 100 years.

Lambert, Joseph's youngest son, was the first to leave Goshen. In 1764 he sold all his land to his brothers and moved about thirty miles north to Richmond, in the heart of the Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts. It was beautiful country, rolling wooded hills and clear flowing streams. On 14 Dec. 1772 Walter sold to his brother Daniel the land his brother Lambert had sold him, and he followed Lambert to Richmond, Mass. Ten years later, Phillip, their nephew and son of Daniel Cook, also moved to Richmond.

Lambert, Walter's sons, and Phillip all served in the Revolutionary War from Berkshire County, following a pattern of patriotism wherever the Cooks were found. (Our ancestor Daniel and his brothers enlisted at Goshen.) They stayed at Richmond for many years, and then the lure of millions of acres opening up for sale in New York attracted their attention. In about 1786 Lambert moved to Stephentown, Albany, New York. Phillip sold out at Richmond in 1816 and went to Nassau, New York where he died in 1825.

Only Walter stayed in Berkshire County. Or rather his family stayed. Walter died in 1780 and his wife Ruhama appeared as the head of family in the 1790 Richmond census.

Eight of their nine children lived and died in Berkshire County, although their son Walter Jr. died in Boston after he had been elected State Representative. Only their second daughter Lucy, who married Abijah Norton from Goshen, moved out of state to Gorham, Ontario New York.

The family home on State Road at Richmond became known as The Cook Farm. Eventually it was sold and in time was remodeled. Over a hundred years later in an article about "Yankee ingenuity" the author uses Walter Cook's home as an example of using whatever was at hand when the need arises. The owners discovered "a layer of corncobs between ceiling and floor, and... uncovered large sheets of birch bark carefully spread on the roof under the old shingles, evidently two early methods of insulation."

The oldest son in this family was Pitman Collins Cook who married a girl whose husband had abandoned her and the four children. A good man who cared for those children as his own, Pitman himself eventually abandoned the family ten years later when he joined the Shaker sect in about 1800.

The Shakers were following the remarkable revelations of Mother Ann, whom Pitman knew personally, which claimed God was willing to reveal to His children what they needed to know in a world floundering in Biblical interpretations. Mother Ann taught her followers marriage was not of God, and Pitman moved away from his family where he died with the Shakers at Hancock, Berkshire County in 1845. One is not surprised to find the Shakers eventually disappeared as the members died out.

The youngest of four sons was Isaac Cook. In 1796 he was made guardian of his brother John, who at age 29, was declared mentally incompetent by the court. Isaac and his family cared for John to the end of his life in 1831.

Here is a family of integrity, working hard, doing their best, following whatever light they can, and caring for each other to the very end. Typical for the Cooks, even in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.



PWC Website To Improve

The PWC family organization continues to work on the family website in an effort to make it more research friendly, informative and to help readers become better acquainted with the life and family history of Phineas Wolcott Cook. The website, www.Cookfamily.org, has been down since last summer in an effort to improve and update the information available online. When completed, the website should include the latest genealogical research, with regular updates of the most current information available on the ancestors of Phineas Wolcott Cook. Those who have current research information will be able to post it on the site so it will be available to all interested readers.

There are plans to include a current PAF file with Phineas' ancestors' information as well as an online version of his life history.

Other items will include contact information for organization leaders, notes from meetings held and online copies of the newsletter. In addition, books, publications and other items for purchase will be available online and it will be possible to pay dues to the Cook Family Organization online.

Finally, PWC descendants will be able to leave their own contact information on the website for the latest family information to be sent to them directly.

"We hope to have the website up and running by fall," said Dan Ditto, a PWC descendant and director of the website project. "It should really enhance our ability to communicate with other descendants of Phineas Wolcott Cook."

Updating The Descending Pedigree Chart

By LaMar Day

The P. W. Cook Descending Pedigree Chart (DPC) was updated through the year 2000 with approximately 15,000 descendants, including spouses. Updating this information was a huge undertaking. We would like to begin gathering that information now for another update to include information through Dec. 2010.

We are requesting that you send us information on all marriages and births for the years from 2001 to now, along with the name of the parents. It will be very helpful if you will include the DPC number from the address label on your newsletter (example below).. Please send the information to the address listed below. Also NOTE the DPC number (PWC16451) on the 2nd line.

The reason that this number is

LaMar A. Day
PWC16451
467 W 2400 S
Bountiful, UT 84010

important to us is that the number gives us information to tie all of the family members together in the correct order as explained below:

PWC = Phineas Wolcott Cook
1 = Ann Eliza Howland (1st Wife)
6 = Their 6th child, Phineas H. Cook
4 = Phineas H. Cook's 4th child, William Alonzo Cook
5 = Wm. A. Cook's 5th child,

Zora Pearl Cook (Day)

1 = Pearl C. Day's 1st child,

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Increased printing and mailing expenses have caused the Phineas Wolcott Cook Organization to evaluate the process of sending out our newsletters. We have decided to send most of our newsletters out electronically in order to cut costs. We are planning to make this transition this year and need YOUR HELP!

We need the following information from everyone:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

I want to receive my newsletter by:

E-Mail _____ Postal Mail _____

We are asking for all of the above information so we can still contact you if you move or change addresses and do not notify us of the new address. **Send this form to:**

LaMar Day
467 W 2400 S
Bountiful, UT 84010
E-Mail: lamarday@msn.com
Telephone: (801) 298-1654 If you don't receive an answer, leave a message.

October Cook-O-Rama Successful

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very sacred experiences while producing many of the church films. He told us of one experience related to the filming of Joseph Smith's First Vision in the Sacred Grove. This is the one that is often



shown where the sun's bright rays come down through the trees. The film crew had allowed two weeks to do the filming and it rained almost the entire time. They had used every technique they could think of to get the special effects that they wanted and had finally decided they would just have to accept what they had been able to do, although it was not all they had wanted. They had packed all of their equipment to leave, then the rain stopped, the sun came out and the appearance of the grove was beyond anything that could be developed artificially. It was as though the Lord was taking over to give them the effect that He wanted. They quickly unloaded the equipment needed and within two hours they had completed the filming and loaded up their equipment again. I now look at that film with a new reverence for those particular scenes.

The evening concluded with the trio beautifully



singing "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" as a closing number. As we left, we wished the whole P. W. Cook



Family could have been present to enjoy this special evening. Our special thanks to these special people who blessed our lives this evening.

You won't want to miss the next Cook-O-Rama scheduled for October 1, 2009. Mark your calendar now. We'll plan to see you there.

President's Message Continued

(Continued from page 1)
solved. We encourage more of you to pay annual dues. The \$20 annual amount is equal to a husband and wife eating in a restaurant one time. And the donation is tax deductible. We will try to return many times that amount of satisfaction with the Organization.

We hold conference call meetings at 8:00 AM the first Saturday of each month for officers, directors, specialists and Howland Family representatives. If you would

like to be involved in the meetings, please contact Daniel Ditto (801-295-3000) or LaMar Day (801-298-1654)

We appreciate the help of the Website Committee. They plan on getting the website up and running soon.

We need more representatives for the Howland line. Participation in these needs can be helpful to the Organization and satisfying by helping to further the progress of the Cook Family Organization.

We appreciate receiving letters and telephone calls from you, and we encourage more of you to contact us with questions, suggestions, and other matters.

This is your organization. We can be successful in perpetuating the Cook Family Organization only with the help and support of you family members. The more who participate, the more the Organization can be successful.

Guy Cook, President

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, Ut 84040
glenandjanine1@comcast.net
 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 _____
- 6. ___ Cook Family Archive on CD \$10.00 _____

Other Items:

- 7. P. W. Cook Diary ___ copies @ ___ = _____
 Single copies - \$7.00 each, 2-6 copies - \$6.00 each
 7-12 copies - \$5.00 each
- 8. ___ Video (42 minutes) on the Life of P. W. Cook \$15.00 _____
- 9. 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 _____
- 10. ___ 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

- 11. **Organizational Dues (Suggested Donation - \$20.00**
per family – Tax Deductible) _____
- 12. 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 _____
 - ___ Record Verification Committee _____
 - ___ Typing Histories – Word Processing _____
 - ___ Newsletter/Mailing Committee _____
 - ___ Finance Manager _____
 - ___ Research Committee _____
 - ___ Family Web-Master for Web-Site _____
 - ___ Illustrator _____
 - ___ Distribution Committee _____
 - ___ Secretary/Treasurer – **urgently needed**

Name _____ Telephone # _____
 E-mail address: _____

Illustrator Needed for Book About Early Henry Cooke

Henry doesn't want us to forget him. He wishes we would pray for him so we could find his parents and his birthplace. Therefore, we are soon beginning a series of illustrated stories about the life of Henry Cooke, which may later be assembled into a small book. We have a writer, but we need an illustrator. If you like to draw and would consider becoming involved in this project, please call or e-mail Janet Porter at email: janetsp@hotmail.com or call 801-226-8094.

Help give Henry Cooke a face.

By Janet Porter

Remember Henry Cooke?
 He's the one who left everything behind and came to America in 1637, so you and I could have a good life. So we could have freedom of Religion. So we could become what we dream about.
 It's easy to forget Henry because to us he doesn't even have a face. We don't know where he was born. Or when he was born. Or who his parents were. He has no gravestone. The only things we have from Henry Cooke are some very interesting and perhaps entertaining records in Salem, Mass. and us: his descendants.

Elder Cook Mentions PWC In Address

Elder Quentin L. Cook, descendant of Phineas Wolcott Cook and a member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, referred to the conversion experience of Phineas in his April 4, 2009 General Conference Address. He used his ancestor Phineas as an example of a person who had "difficulty reconciling the correct doctrine that we have a loving Father in Heaven and the incorrect doctrine that most of mankind would be doomed to hell."
 Elder Cook quoted from the P. W Cook diary, "sometimes they found fault with me because I wanted a more liberal salvation for the family of man. I could not believe the Lord had made a part to be saved and a great part to be damned to all eternity." (page 20)

Phineas Wolcott Cook

Family Organization Newsletter
PO Box 1522
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April, 2009

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