



Phineas Wolcott Cook NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ORGANIZATION

AUGUST 2011

Information Found On the PW Cook History

By Janet Porter

Cook Family Genealogist

A family mystery has been how few records there are in Salt Lake, Manti or Utah County about Phineas W. Cook. Even the record of his land purchases in Utah County and Swan Creek are missing. Where are those records?

One of the great secrets in Family History research is: Where are the old records about our ancestor? There is always the fear that someone in the family has pictures or documents not shared which will simply disappear upon the death of that individual. Are there lost records hidden in town or church archives about Phineas W. Cook? What if something important he wrote was buried in a file restricted to the public?

That is exactly what happened to his daily history of the settlement of Goshen, Utah. As the first bishop of Goshen, he kept minutes of meetings which were judged to be sensitive, and the minutes were removed from public access for 150 years. Unfortunately all his private papers and letters from the Goshen Period (1857-1861) were also placed with those minutes and the family has been denied access to the file. Not only were his private papers and letters from the Goshen period hidden from our

view, but his deed to land at Swan Creek, his personal letters from as late as 1889, and his personal journal of the settlement of Goshen were essentially lost to his descendants.

Sadly, many volumes of

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Cook-O-Rama Features Janet Porter, Cook Family Genealogist

The Annual Cook Family Organization's "Cook-O-Rama" will be held Friday, September 30 with activities during the day and a fireside at 7 p.m. The featured speaker this year will be Janet Porter, head of genealogy for the PW Cook Organization.

Sister Porter was born in Coalville, Utah while her father, William Stacey, served in World

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

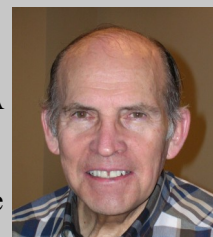
Dear Family
Members:

The annual COOK-O-RAMA will be held on Friday, September 30, 2011. We encourage you to plan to attend. You will meet other family members and renew friendships with others. There will be the annual meeting, a light buffet, and JANET PORTER, our Genealogist, will be the speaker for the evening. You will learn much about the history of genealogy effort, current genealogy research, and future efforts from Janet, an excellent genealogist.. See pages 1 and 4 for details.

We encourage you to attend the annual meeting, which starts with genealogy at the Family History Library at 8 a.m and concludes with a dinner and a 7 p.m. fireside on the same day. You will learn more about the operation of the Cook Family Organization.

The semi-annual newsletter is your main continuing connection with the Cook Family Organization. Much effort and time are required to prepare and send out the newsletter.

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President's What is Indexing? *Message* *Continued*

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We encourage you to read the newsletter, and give us some feedback that may be useful for preparation of future newsletters. Please send us your email address, if you have not sent it already. Our goal is to send most of the newsletters by email. This will save money that we can put to better use for genealogy research and other important matters.

There are always interesting and informative articles in the newsletter prepared by many contributors.

We have continuing need for family members to become involved with the Family Organization to serve in various capacities. Your time will be well spent. Please contact the President or a director for further information.

We have received annual dues contributions, \$20 annually, from approximately 30 member families. The only financial resources to continue operation are your annual dues and possible additional contribution. The money is put to very good use. We encourage you to send your annual dues. You will receive much information and satisfaction in return for your contributions.

Best regards,
Guy R. Cook, President

By Glen McMillan

With computers these days, one can search for ancestors online at home. This is a miracle. But how do these databases of genealogical information come to be? By data input by persons called indexers. This is what used to be called extraction work.

A person can sign up to be an indexer by going to the Family Search website and download a program that will allow them to download an image of a vital record such as a census record and then type in the name, age, gender, marriage status, country of origin for parents etc. Then this data is submitted to the server at the church genealogical headquarters and compared to the same record indexed by another person. If it agrees, the information is made available on the internet. If there are discrepancies, a third person called an arbitrator will decide which information is most correct.

You do not need to be a member of the LDS church to become an indexer. It is open to anyone over age 18. Each batch or type of record is different and challenging. I have done Spanish records and some German records. The big challenge is reading the handwriting. Some are just plain difficult to read and decipher, but there are always clues and with some analysis, the strange letters can be translated.

This is a very satisfying work and it is quite easy compared to doing research. Being part of a huge program that aims to digi-

tize all of the microfilmed records in the Little Cottonwood Vaults of the Church is really great. The more that participate, the better. I hope you will take time to sign up as an indexer and move this great work forward.

Janet Porter, Cook-O-Rama Speaker

(Continued from page 1)

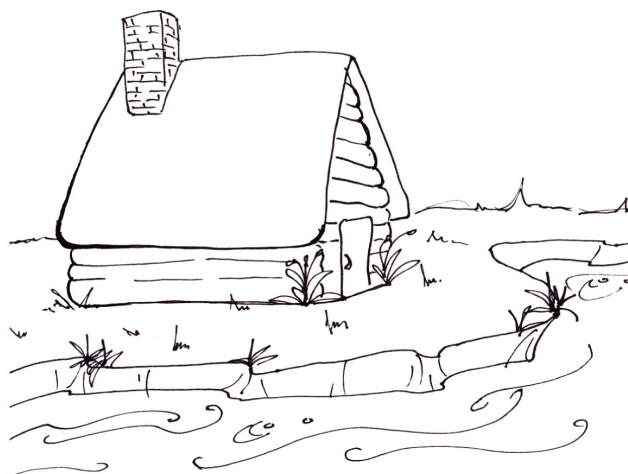
War II. She attended BYU and the University of Utah where she graduated in English in 1967. She is the mother of ten children, grandmother of 26 and great-grandmother of 2, all of whom have always been her Number One concern.

That's why, in 1987, with a current household of sixteen, when her Stake President promised blessings for her posterity if she would begin doing genealogy, she began for the first time to document her ancestors. In the ensuing years she grew to love them as much as her children. "Phineas W. Cook has been a great personal blessing to my family," she states. "The more we know about those who went before us, the more our lives will be blessed by them." That's why she continues to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to help the Cook Family understand and love their ancestors.

THE COOKE FAMILY IN SALEM *Henry Cooke Series*

When Henry Cooke came to Salem it was a quiet little village beside the sea. The houses were all made of logs and most had high pointed roofs which came almost to the ground. They resembled the thatched-roof houses in England, but had solid roofs to keep out the New England wind and snow.

Each house had a big fireplace with small ovens along the sides to cook their food. A tall chimney reached from the fireplace to the top of the pointed roof. There were only a few rooms in the house so the fireplace could keep everyone warm.



Henry and Judith had ten children from 1640 to 1658. Two little girls died when they were young, but the rest of them grew up, married in Salem, and lived there too. It was a quiet life. They grew their own grain and vegetables and kept pigs and chickens for their meat.

Often the children liked to go to the end of the long road by their house and watch tall ships with many sails come into Salem Harbor. Seeing the ships reminded them of places far across the sea. It reminded them that the ships came from a place called England where there were cousins and grandparents they had never seen.



Henry and Judith Cooke didn't talk much about the old country because they were happy to be in a place where they could go to church wherever they wanted and worship however they wanted. Some people in England had been angry when Pilgrims chose to go to a different church and think different thoughts from those of the Church of England. Sometimes the Pilgrims had been afraid to talk about what they believed. In the end they knew they would have to leave England and find a new place to live.

In America the Cookes weren't afraid to worship the way they believed was right. Each time they had a baby, they took the baby to be christened by the minister in the Salem Congregational Church. When the minister sprinkled water on the baby, he made sure someone wrote the name, the parents and the day the baby was christened. Almost four hundred years later those records tell us about the Cooke family in Salem.

Phineas' Documents Being Transcribed

(Continued from page 1)

Phineas's journal were destroyed after his death. The family is indeed fortunate to have access to the first volume. However, we are very interested in the other chapters of his life, and have been disappointed to have none of his later writings. Phineas had a powerful testimony of the truth of the restored Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When he realized much of that written testimony was being withheld from his descendants he may have been very disappointed. He had given so much for the cause of the restored gospel, and now we would never know his mature thoughts and testimony.

Phineas W. Cook was not one to stand around when something needed to be done. Never in his life did he fail to act when action was needed. He may have waited a long time before finding a way to let us know where his personal papers were. If that is true, in 2009 he found a way.

In the 1970's a BYU team wrote histories of the communities in Utah County, and the church granted access to some of the files normally denied the public. One team read the journal of Phineas in the Goshen file and transcribed a portion of it to provide documentation for the dates and events of the settlement of the valley west of West Mountain at Payson. That transcription was placed in the LDS Church Archive, but was assigned no author because it was a portion of an unsigned document. They had no idea who had written it, nor were they particularly interested in the author. However, we are all familiar with the writing of our ancestor because of his first journal; and when in 2009 I read the Goshen excerpts I was certain Phineas had written them.

Unfortunately, I am not a BYU team, and was denied access to the file. Time and again I returned to the archive to provide a new incentive for them to allow me just to view it. My great-great-grandfather's personal journal was in there. Could they just allow me to look at it while a member of their staff was with me? Over and over I was turned away. But we already know Phineas W. Cook was not one to stand around when something needed to be done, and he was not to be denied. One day in the Spring of 2010, after many weeks of trying, I happened to go to the archive when a female staff member was at the desk, and she granted me access to the documents. It didn't take very long to find the journal in Phineas's own handwriting, his personal letters, and a treasure trove of history--all

locked in a file with a few sensitive documents. That very day I filled out an application for access to the file, indicating the importance of the personal papers to a family which had already been denied his journals.

It was almost a year before I received a reply. On February 16, 2011, I was allowed to begin the transcription of about 200 papers, almost all of which were written by Phineas W. Cook. In the ensuing weeks, Catherine Rasband came to help, and the difficult deciphering of documents written a century and a half ago was under way. In August the transcription should be complete.

Our understanding of our ancestor has been greatly enlarged. We have a new comprehension of the poverty of the family at this period in his life. His journal is written between the lines and on the back of papers sewn together with a string binding which were originally given him by the Territory of Utah. The forms were used for the collection of information from Manti to St. George about Indian depredations of 1855-1856, and were apparently left unused. It was the only paper he had because even minutes of church meetings were written on the loose forms someone else might have thrown away. There were times he had a single sheet of paper for minutes of meetings, and he had to write in such small handwriting it required a magnifying glass to decipher it. When the meeting went on and on, he simply turned the paper sideways and wrote on it in the other direction over the first writing. Some of those papers seemed impossible to transcribe, but if we returned to them they became clear to us.

There is no doubt in our minds Phineas W. Cook wanted the family to have access to these documents written so long ago. Time and time again he recorded his strong testimony on those pages. Nowhere in any of his writing do we have such a powerful witness to the truth of the gospel, the power of the priesthood, the surety of God's protection for His obedient Saints.

The transcription of these documents will be shared at the coming Cook-O-Rama, including the sometimes traumatic story of the settlement of Goshen, his singular manner of speech, and his testimony of the truth of the work in which he was engaged. Hopefully the Family History Library will give us permission to copy images of those interesting papers by then. It will be a wonderful window into the testimony of a faithful Mormon pioneer whose life in the past has been difficult to document.

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 _____
 _____ Book I (Illustrated Stories of PWC to Marriage)
 _____ Book II (Illustrated Stories: LDS Conversion)
 _____ Book III (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 are current or accompany this order

Less (_____)

Total Bookstore Purchases

11. Donations for Family Research (Tax Deductible)

- _____ Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Line
- _____ Ann Eliza Howland Family Line
- _____ Amanda Polly Savage Family Line
- _____ Catherine McCleave 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 _____ Research Committee
- _____ Record Verification Committee _____ Family Web-Master for Web-Site
- _____ Typing Histories - Word Processing _____ Illustrator
- _____ Newsletter/Mailing Committee _____ Finance Committee

Name _____ Telephone # _____

E-mail address: _____

2011 COOK-O-RAMA RSVP

Friday, September 30, 2011

Please look at the form below and return this RSVP. All afternoon events will be held at the Bountiful East 28th Ward building. Please let us know which events you will be attending. Directions to the building are included.

Time	Event
8:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Family History Research With Janet Porter at the Family History Library
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting
5:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Socializing & Table Set Up
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Soup & Salad Buffet
7:00 p.m.	Family Meeting with Janet Porter

PLEASE RSVP

Please RSVP by September 26, 2011

NOTE: You are still welcome to attend the events even if you do not RSVP.

By Phone:

LaMar Day at 801-298-1654

Dan Ditto at 801-295-3000

Or by Email:

Lamar Day:

lamaraday@msn.com

Daniel Ditto: Daniel.Ditto@imail.org

Directions

DIRECTIONS to the Bountiful East 28th Ward Building: Take I-15 to the Bountiful /Woods Cross Exit (Exit 315). Go straight east for about four blocks. You will pass a large Stake Center at 2600 South and 500 West. Continue on east to the next light (2600 S 200 W). Turn left for a distance of 3 blocks and the church is on the right . (2285 S 200 W across from the cemetery). SEE YOU THERE.

Phineas Wolcott Cook

Family Organization Newsletter
PO Box 1558
Layton, Utah 84041

August 2011
Return Service Requested

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