



# Phineas Wolcott Cook NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ORGANIZATION

NOVEMBER, 2005

## Phineas W. Cook Diary Donated To Church Library

At last, after many years of effort, **the Original Journal of Phineas Wolcott Cook** containing his life through March 20, 1857 has now been given to the LDS Church Historian for preservation.



Perhaps, this deserves a discussion as to the efforts to obtain this document and assure its preservation.

We have generally referred to this document as a diary. It is actually a history that Phineas wrote several years after he arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. Most of the entries give dates of the time and place of the events he is recording, but the language indicates that he is reflecting back on these occasions. He may also have tied these dates to notes, bills and other documentation that he had kept. After he brings his life up to date he then makes entries on days when he has something of importance to write in the Journal. The last entry was made March 20, 1857.

He kept the journal with him the rest of his life. After he died, July 24, 1900, his children built a large fire in the back yard and were throw-

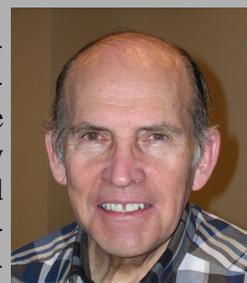
ing all of his records into the fire. His second son, Moses thumbed through this journal and said that he would like to keep it. He took good care of it and then passed it on to his daughter, Mona Elvira Cook Albright. Mona loved this record and would not part with it until she died in So. Ogden, Utah on October 15, 2004.

In the late 1960's Maude Cook Kilburn transcribed the journal for publication, with the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## President's Message

By Guy Cook



This newsletter was supposed to be mailed in May or June, and here it is almost November. I assume complete blame for the faux pas, and I apologize. As a result, there will be only one newsletter sent out in 2005. We will return to a twice a year newsletter in 2006.

We are still working to make the newsletter available on the Family web site. We will report more on that in the next newsletter and possibly on the Family website.

Remember, you can go to the Family web site and order any of the items on the order form in the newsletter.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Marva Greene's Miracle           | 3 |
| PW Cook Headstone                | 3 |
| PW Cook Granddaughter Dies       | 4 |
| Cook Family Organization Pioneer | 5 |
| Genealogist needed               | 7 |

# President's Message Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

We have a web site committee that has been working on a variety of applications and uses of the Family web site. We will keep you informed on the progress with details as they become available in future newsletters and on the web site.

Please go through your family records and other information about your family and you. We would like to receive histories, stories, anecdotes and information in your lives to insert in future newsletters and possibly post on the Family web site. We would also like to receive suggestions you may have to improve the newsletter and even the web site. Please let us know how you feel the Family organization may better serve you and let us know what is happening in your family lives.

Your annual dues and purchases of items on the order form enable your organization to continue to operate and try to improve the newsletter, web site and other facets of the organization to keep your interest. We encourage you to pay the \$20 annual dues regularly. Our annual dues are among the lowest for family organizations when compared with several other family organizations in Utah. We send out approximately 1,850 newsletters, usually semi-annually. We receive dues from fewer than 100 families.

We are requesting that more of you younger family members

become involved with P.W. Cook Family organization as officers, directors, committee members, specialists and participants in genealogical research projects. You will help perpetuate the organization, you will be energized to learn more about your ancestors and

you will receive a feeling of satisfaction from serving others.

We are entering holiday season. May this be a joyous time for you as we give thanks for our many blessings and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## PW Cook Journal Donated

*(Continued from page 1)*

same spelling and punctuation as found in the original document. A limited number of copies was printed and made available to family members. This same edition was the basis for the second edition compiled by Newell Cook McMillan and printed by the Family Organization in 1980 with several sections of interest added to cover the rest of his life. Copies of this paperback edition is still available (see the order sheet with this newsletter).

Although a photocopy of the original Journal was available, the location of the original was not known by the P.W. Cook Family Organization until about 1990. Newell McMillan visited with Mona Stanger and found out how she had obtained it. Newell McMillan and LaMar Day visited her in January 1991 and took pictures of the Journal to include in the P.W. Cook Video. Since that time, LaMar Day has made numerous visits to Mona's home, sometimes with his wife, Marlene, or a cousin, Roka Ray-

mond, or alone. These trips, including 4 trips in the year 2004, were to visit with Mona and Cyril and to also keep her aware of the Organization's concern that the Journal be placed in the LDS Historian's Department or some other archive in which it could be properly preserved. Mona was not ready to part with it as long as she lived. She had a lot of confidence in her step-son, Samuel Stanger, and had him prepare a document giving him the responsibility for arranging for the proper preservation of the journal after she died.

On January 13, 2005, Samuel Stanger brought the Journal and met with Dan Ditto and LaMar Day of the Family Organization and Richard Turley, Director of the LDS Historian's Department to give Mr. Turley the Journal for inclusion in the LDS Historian's Archives. Mr. Turley has agreed to provide the Family Organization with a digital copy of the handwritten Journal, which the Organization plans to make available to family members.

# Marva Greene's Miracle

For years Marva Fluckiger Greene wanted to do genealogy. But, like the rest of us, there were several things stopping her. For one thing, she had more than a dozen children. No more need be said about that. For another thing, she didn't live in Utah. Anyone who knows anything about genealogy knows if you don't live in Utah it takes more time and effort. Finally, she faced a daunting task with research on the Johanna Christina Poulson family. (Phineas' fourth wife.) For over 100 years no one seemed able to crack the case.

But Marva was determined. She would do Johanna's genealogy if it was the last thing she did. Determination plays a big part in the Lord's work. She and her husband were called on a mission to Scandinavia. They learned enough of the language to understand the written records, and they put together twelve generations.

## Cook Organization Needs A Secretary

Man or woman, young or old, we need you.

Time requirements – four three-hour quarterly meetings with very nice people engaged in a good cause. Additional time, between quarterly meetings, to review your notes and type them for presentation at the next meeting. Please contact any of the officers, directors or Howland line family representatives.

Those who understand genealogy are impressed by the research. The documentation is outstanding. The work is beautiful. It will soon be on

the family website. If you would like your own personal copy, please watch the website store, and you can purchase your own P.A.F. file on CD.

## PW Cook Headstone In Good Repair in Afton, Wy



By Guy Cook

Last August my wife and I drove to Jackson Hole, Wyoming for a few days' vacation.

We stopped in Afton, Wy at PW. Cook's burial site to locate his headstone and determine its physical condition. It was knocked over and damaged a number of years ago.

The photograph, taken up close, shows that the headstone was repaired and set upright since it was damaged.

# Phineas W. Cook Granddaughter Dies

Mona Stanger, one of the last three surviving grandchildren of Phineas Wolcott Cook died in Ogden Utah in October of 2004.

Mona was born September 6, 1909 to Moses Cook and Wilhelmina Lindberg in Afton, Wyoming. Mona was a stubborn child and learned early that she could get her way most of the time if she would hold her breath until she would pass out. When she was a young child, she and her brother, Alfonzo (1 ½ years older) moved with their parents to Kemmerer, Wyoming where both of the children were educated and graduated from high school.

Moses Cook built a pavilion used for dancing and roller skating. By spending much of their spare time on roller skates, both children become very proficient at roller skating. When dances were held, they were usually the first couple out on the dance floor.

After graduation from High School in 1928, Mona got a job as a telephone operator. In 1920 a young man by the name of Frederick William Albright from New York, came to Kemmerer to teach dancing. Bill, as he was called, worked out a deal with Moses that he would give tap dance lessons to his children in exchange for a room at the pavilion in which he could teach dancing. Alfonzo soon lost interest in the dance lessons, but Mona continued. Her interest soon turned to more than the dance lessons. When Bill could not get as many dance pupils in Kemmerer as he needed, he decided to go to Montpelier, Idaho. A few days later, Mona arranged for a ride to Montpelier and she and Bill went to Soda Springs and were married on December 19, 1930.

During the next few years the dance instruction business did not do very well even though they would travel to most of the cities in southern Wyoming. Mona's only sibling, Alfonzo, was killed in a car accident on December 15, 1933 in Denver, Colorado. It was a heavy blow to the whole family. After eight years of marriage, Mona became pregnant and when the baby was due and labor had started, the doctor concluded that she could not have it naturally and would

have to go to a hospital Salt Lake City for a C-section. Quickly they gathered up lots of hot water bottles, bricks and quilts and put her in the back of their car. Bill drove with Mona's mother in the front seat. The doctor and his nurse followed in the doctor's car. Shortly the doctor stopped them and told Bill he could



not drive fast enough so the doctor drove Bill's car and Bill drove the doctor's car. After a wild ride, they arrived in Salt Lake City late in the evening and a baby girl (Noma) was delivered by C-Section the next morning.

When World War II broke out, Bill got a job with the Government in Laramie, Wyoming and after two transfers and going to Philco Radio School back east, he ended up at Hill Air Force Base so they moved to Ogden, Utah. Mona also worked at the base for some time and both were trying to teach dancing at their dance studio. Finally Mona, who was an excellent dance instructor, quit the base and did most of the instructing at the dance studio. They taught dancing together for 50 years.

Bill and Mona built and paid for their house in Ogden. A couple of years later Mona persuaded her parents to come to Ogden and build a home next door to her where they lived the remainder of their lives. Moses actually built their home and built many improvements on Mona's home also.

Frederick William Albright died January 5, 1982 in Ogden, Utah. Mona then married Cyril B. Stanger on September 22, 1984, in Ogden, Utah. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Ogden LDS Temple. Together they served a mission to the Dallas (TX) Temple. They enjoyed dancing and dabbling in real estate. They spent

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Vera Maude Hunsaker is A Cook Family Organization Pioneer

Vera Maude Cook Hunsaker was born May 8, 1908 to Alonzo Laker Cook and Alice Maud Osmond Vera's grandfather, Alonzo Howland Cook was the 10<sup>th</sup> child of Phineas W. Cook and Ann Eliza Howland. Alonzo and his twin sister Ann Eliza Cook were born in the Lion House in Salt Lake City. Phineas was asked by Brigham Young to build the Lion House and had moved his family into the second floor of the building while he did the finish work. While there, Ann Eliza gave birth to twins. Vera was raised on a farm, in Bothwell, Utah, the oldest of ten children, the youngest of which was born just two months before her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. She had to help with the duties around the house and also help in the fields during harvest time. Life was not easy as finances were very tight and the children had to provide the farm labor. In order to go to college it was necessary to work their way through.

However, education was strongly encouraged and they were pushed to excel in education, culture and the arts, with a strong religious emphasis. It was hard to distinguish between temporal training and religious training in the home because the principles taught were the same.

Vera married Raymond D. Hunsaker on October 23, 1929 in the Logan Temple. They lived first in Honeyville, and later in Garland, Utah. They had four sons and a daughter. Life was not easy. Early in their marriage Ray was injured in a terrible accident and the support of the family became mostly her responsibility.

She worked at the sugar factory and gave piano lessons. She usually had about 35 students per week, and at one point she reached a high of 40 students.. She was greatly skilled with the piano, having studied with Gladys Gladstone, the premier piano teacher in Utah at the time. Her love of music was unexcelled and she passed it on to her children.

She always retained the desire to learn and continued her college studies. She graduated from Utah State University in 1959 at age 51 with

her Son DeLon, both of them with honors.

In 1963 Ray and Vera moved to North Salt Lake to be near family and the genealogical library.



She was a woman of faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and it sustained her through many trials and hardships.

The first meeting to organize the P. W. Cook Family Organization was held in Logan, Utah in 1969. The following were present: Bryson Cook, Sr., Rex Cook, Dean Cook, Vera Hunsaker, Pearl Day, Maude C. Kilburn and her daughter Joan. Although not at this meeting, Owen Cook, living in Hawaii, was also involved. Vera Hunsaker and Pearl Day had been doing a lot of family research. At that time they were verifying the extensive research that had been performed by Vera's grandfather, Alonzo Howland Cook. Vera along with her daughter and son-in-law, Connie & Lynn Birkinshaw, who owned a printing business, were responsible for the 10 beautiful newsletters that were printed from 1969 through about 1976. It took a lot of work to get the organization established and moving, all of which Vera was involved with.

In 1974 she was called on a mission by President Spencer W. Kimball. This mission was "not to be more than three years and to be served in the Family History Department of the Church. Seventeen years later she was released from this mission. This woman of FAITH had a most remarkable miracle take place during that mission. Midway through her 17 years of service, she went to her supervisor, Brother Evans, and told him she would have to be released because she was losing her eye-sight. She was taken within the hour to a General Authority and given a blessing. Her eye-sight was immediately restored and she served the

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Vera Maude Hunsaker

*(Continued from page 5)*

balance of her mission. Within a few months of concluding her mission, the sight in her eye then left her. Her faith and the power of the Lord allowed her to finish that mission. During the first six years of this mission she learned to read Welsh, which is no small task in itself. She supervised the groups of volunteers working on the Welsh-will project and inspired them with her enthusiasm and knowledge of the work. During this time these groups completed forty volumes of Welsh-will abstracts together with a five-way index for each volume. In 1976 the Priesthood Genealogy Division requested that the collection be included in a presentation to the Genealogy Department. The Genealogy Department then included it in another presentation given to the General Authorities. This demonstration, showing what church service volunteers can accomplish, was of such dimension that in the following year a special new Unit was organized in the Genealogical Department consisting of Volunteers, with one full-time employee. This unit was named "The Indexing Unit" later known as "Special Projects Unit." The work of this "All-Volunteer Unit" eventually evolved into what is now the use of Service Missionaries in the Salt Lake Family History Library and in Branch Libraries

around the world.

Vera was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She was a wonderful mother, a talented musician and piano teacher, and an expert genealogist. She was a very gracious person to all whom she met. She was meticulous in her dress and personal care.

Vera was the mother of five children, four sons and a daughter, 19 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. Vera is survived by two brothers, Owen and Vernon Cook, and two sisters, Lois C. Canning and Maurine C. Winterton.

Submitted by LaMar Day,  
Assisted by Stephen Hunsaker

## Please Send Us Your E-mail Addresses

Family members are encouraged to send theirs and their family members' e-mail addresses to Cookfamily.org. The money we receive could be used much more wisely if our correspondence were electronic instead of snail mail.

Paper is so heavy. Please help us lighten up. Send us your e-mail address. And help us keep it updated.

Snail mail

Dreadfully slow

Paper trail

Efficient? No!

e-mail

The way to go

Alas, we fail

Unless you show.

# Mona Stanger Obituary

*(Continued from page 4)*

many years traveling around the area to many dances.

Mona spent the last six months of her life in a care center. Her husband, Cyril died on October 12, 2004 after visiting her in the care center. She died three days later, on October 15, 2004 just a few minutes after the conclusion of his viewing. She was 95 years old and died of causes incident to age.

Mona is survived by one daughter, Noma Goss, Albu-

querque, NM, nine step-children, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a posterity from the 2 families of over 140.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husbands (William and Cyril), one brother, Alfonzo Cook, and a grandson, Kim Stanger.

Some additional information about Mona's life can be found in reading her father's history, available on the Organization Website at WWW.CookFamily.Org.

Submitted by LaMar Day,  
assisted by Samuel Stanger

## Money is Available for Genealogical Research

There is money for genealogical research on the wives' lines, and there has been little use of the money.

The money available by family line, as of September 30, 2005, is as follows:

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Howland line | \$1,713 |
| Savage line  | 134     |
| McCleve line | 704     |
| Poulson line | 79      |

We encourage you to come forth and help do more genealogical research for which the funds are available. You can also make donations dedicated to genealogical research for your family line.

The general check account balance was \$1,932. This includes money available for genealogical research on the P.W. Cook line. Your research efforts could open up lines where there have impediments to going back further in time and resolve questions that exist back many generations.

Henry Cooke, our Pilgrim ancestor, immigrated to the new world, settled near Boston, and became one of the original settlers of Salem, Massachusetts. That fact, and his marriage to Judith Birdsall in 1638 are the first known references to him.

The problem is, we have no definitive record either of his voyage or of his origins in England. Much research has been done, but we have managed to turn up more clues than answers. The answer may be to hire a professional researcher, but that costs money.

You may help by sending in your Henry Cooke donation *with your annual dues*. An additional donation of \$10 or \$25 or more could go a long way to help identify our ancestors in England.

Please add a note with your

## Help Us Find Out More on Henry Cooke

check that you want to find Henry Cooke. Your money will go into the Henry Cooke account.

It's that simple.

## Genealogist Needed

Our faithful and great genealogist, Janet Porter, will be leaving on a mission with her recently retired husband by early 2006.

Her assistant is willing to continue doing genealogical research; however, Janet feels a strong need for a qualified genealogist or genealogist to work with her

This can be a great opportunity for someone to expand his/her knowledge of genealogy and help open more generations of the four wives' lines of P.W. Cook's line.

### 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  
467 West 2400 South, Bountiful, Utah 84010  
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                    | ___ <b>Secretary/Treasurer – urgently needed</b> |

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

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

**Phineas Wolcott Cook**

Family Organization Newsletter  
467 West 2400 South  
Bountiful, UT 84010  
November, 2005

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