



Phineas Wolcott Cook NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ORGANIZATION

MARCH, 2012,

Phineas Wolcott Cook Goshen Papers Introduced at 2011 Cook-A-Rama

Part I of a series documenting
The Goshen Papers
By Janet Porter

At the Cook-A-Rama on Sept. 30, 2011, Janet Porter discussed papers she had found in the Church History Archive concerning Phineas Wolcott Cook. The following is the first part of a series of stories which will run in future Cook Family Organization Newsletters detailing the information found in those papers.

Part 1

For the past few years I have done a thorough study of documents in the Church History Archive in an effort to find documents by or about Phineas Wolcott Cook. In 2010 I discovered a transcribed document about Goshen I was almost certain was his writing. Yet there was no author listed and no way to prove the author. The source listed for the document was Goshen Ward Minutes, but since that item was not listed in the Archive Catalogue I asked a librarian to help me find it. Neither of us could locate the source; it appeared not to be in the library.

The document was part of a BYU study of the town of Goshen, Utah, done in 1979 by a man named Alan Overstreet. In an effort to find the original source, I did a Google search for his name and



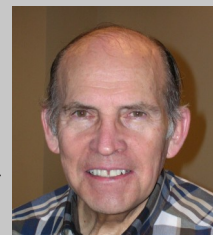
Janet Porter

found his address in Lehi. On August 23, 2010 I wrote a letter to him, asking the source and location of what I had read. He emailed me the paper he wrote, which listed the exact source in a footnote. With that paper in hand,

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are glad to send you the spring, semi-annual news letter. It is your main, continuing connection



with the Cook Family Organization. A significant amount of effort and time goes into preparing the newsletter for distribution. We encourage you to read the newsletter, and send us some feedback of subjects you would like to see inserted in future newsletters. We are pursuing the goal to have most newsletters sent by email. Please send us your email address, if you have not already sent it to us, to help us reduce the number of hard copies of the newsletter. The reduced paper cost will enable us to apply more of dues paid to genealogical research.

The increase in annual dues paid in 2011 is very helpful to expand the genealogical research projects that can be conducted and, hopefully, overcome some research roadblocks. We are interested to find family members interested in

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Origins of the name “Wolcott” Identified

For many years, we have wondered how Phineas Wolcott Cook came by his middle name. Recent research by several of his Descendants has uncovered family connections and historical details which may answer that question.

There are 3 connections the Cooks had with the Wolcott Family of Connecticut which may have been factors in the choice of Phineas' middle name. These include marriage, legal and military connections.

Family connections: Oliver Wolcott, of Litchfield, Connecticut, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a General in the Connecticut Militia and a governor of Connecticut. All of his children were born in the town of Litchfield, where Oliver died in 1797. Irene Churchill, the mother of Phineas, grew up in Litchfield during that same time. The ancestors of all these families had connections in Guilford as well as Litchfield. In addition, Oliver lived with his brother, Alexander Wolcott, in Goshen, Connecticut for a short time. Oliver and Alexander were also investors and land owners in Wyoming, Pennsylvania as were the Churchill and Porter ancestors of Phineas.

The Cooks would have known many of the Wolcott ancestors. One example is that one member of the Collins family married Oliver Wolcott and her cousin married Walter Cook, brother to Daniel Cook, Sr (the Great-Grandfather of Phineas.) Also, Phineas' Porter and Churchill ancestors had married into both the Collins and Wolcott families.

The Legal and Business Connections: The political and judicial careers of the Wolcotts were well known to the Cook family. Oliver Wolcott was the Sheriff of Litchfield and a probate judge. While living in Litchfield, Oliver was elected to the Continental Congress and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Near the end of his life he became Governor of Connecticut. His son Frederic Wolcott was also a Litchfield County Official. Interestingly both men adjudicated Cook, Churchill and Burgess family probate and land documents.

The Military Connections: Oliver Wolcott was a Colonel of the 17th Regiment of the Connecticut State Militia prior to the War for Independence. The regiment was comprised of men from Litchfield, Goshen, Torrington and Winchester. Because the colony of Connecticut required all able-bodied men to affiliate with the militia at the age of sixteen, this would have been the regiment of Daniel Cook, Jr. the grandfather

of Phineas Wolcott Cook. His brothers Philip and Amasa are actually found on the muster rolls. Jonathan Churchill and John Porter, maternal grandfathers of Phineas Wolcott Cook, are found in the militia records as soldiers in the battle of Long Island under the command of General Oliver Wolcott. Benjamin Porter, the great uncle of Phineas, is known to have enlisted in Goshen. Most of these enlistments took place at the home of Oliver Wolcott.

It is clear the families were interconnected and that Phineas and Irene (Churchill) Cook represented these associations in the middle name choice for their son Phineas Wolcott Cook.

There is one other Wolcott/Cook family connection that is little known but should be of interest to the descendants of Phineas Wolcott Cook. Our Grandfather was the proxy for Oliver Wolcott's vicarious bap-

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PWC Organization Starts Project To Record PWC Descendants

Most of us are four or five generations from Phineas Wolcott Cook. You know how you fit into the big



picture, but the family organization does not know. In fact, records have never been kept for the children, let alone the grand and great-grand children of Phineas and his wives. In the past we have made a descending pedigree booklet with names only. Now we wish to document those names so we know birth dates and places, death and marriage information. We want to know, as far as possible, how you know that information so it can be documented. And we want to have it down as many generations as you're willing to go.

Therefore we are embarking on a grand adventure to record and document all the ancestors from you back to Phineas. The only way we can do it is with your help and with the help of the Family Representatives. You know you've needed to do this for a long time. Now is the time.

Here's what you can do.

1. Collect all the information your family has to document your parents, grand parents and great-

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Phineas' Goshen Papers found

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I again went to the Church History Archive where the source was said to be located. The librarian did indeed find the title on his computer, but it was made very clear to me the Goshen Ward Minutes were restricted to the public and I would never be granted access.

I presented my case as best I could. The transcription I had found was not secret information. It described the settling of the town of Goshen, including letters to and from Brigham Young.

Although my ancestor's name was not written on the document, I was certain he had written it. How could that be restricted information? But the librarian was adamant. There would be no access to the document or the film. I was astounded. How could a man's journal-- which it obviously was--be withheld from his descendants?

Being a missionary at the Family History Library, I went back at different times and on different days, hoping to find a librarian who would take pity on me. It took five or six tries before I found a female librarian who listened with sympathy to my questions. Finally she allowed me to view the film series. I went through the first film and found nothing but minutes of Goshen church meetings in the 1920's and 1930's. The second film also had minutes of meetings from the Twentieth Century.

Then, sandwiched between sections of early Twentieth Century minutes, was a collection of documents labeled "Goshen Ward Minutes 1857-1859." The first pages were ward minutes. However, within twenty minutes I had found the journal--forty pages of handwritten papers written by Phineas Wolcott Cook documenting his discovery of and the settling of Goshen. Apparently the first page was missing because the journal began mid-sentence, but there was no question in my mind who had written it and that this was a family treasure. Continuing past the journal I discovered personal letters to Phineas and copies of other letters he had written, a habit he continued for many years. It was an important family discovery buried in a file restricted by the church.

Before leaving the library I filled out a request to view restricted material. Describing what I had found, I explained the importance of gaining access to these

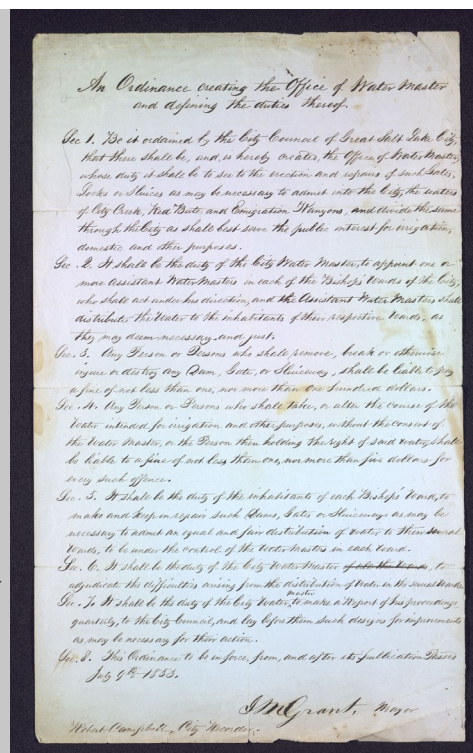
documents. The mature journals of Phineas had been destroyed by his descendants in a fire behind the house after he died. The only thing written by him during this period of his life was locked up in a file to which we had been denied access. Would they please reconsider?

After two months I called the Archive to see if

they had lost my letter because I hadn't heard a word from them. They claimed it takes a long time to consider such a request. I waited six months for a reply. Finally on February 13, 2011 an Archive specialist informed me I would be allowed access to the documents if I would promise not to make public any sensitive information I found. Not only was I granted access, but I was given the original documents from which to make a transcription. After several weeks, as the full extent of the task before me became known, Catherine Rasband came to help. With both of us working one day every week, we finished the end of August, after which I requested images of the 57 pages which were personal documents belonging to Phineas.

Their approval meant the family organization would have to pay \$300 for scanned images. Gratefully I accepted on the spot, knowing there would be generous membership funds to cover the cost. The re-

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Buried in the file was this certificate signed by Jedediah M. Grant naming Phineas Wolcott Cook the first Water Master of Salt Lake City in 1853.

Message From Guy Cook, President

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genealogy who would be willing to participate in genealogical research projects.

Efforts continue to improve and expand the website, and further related projects are being developed. We encourage you to learn how to tap into the website for further enlightenment.

Retirements, illness, and deaths have resulted in the need for family members to replace persons who have served in capacities of directors of the Howland, McCleave, and Poulson families. We need family members to serve as family representatives in six of the seven Ann Eliza Howland child sub organizations. Please contact Guy Cook, LaMar Day, or Janet Porter, Genealogist, if you would be interested in serving in any of the three areas of need for replacements.

It is seven months until the next COOK-O-RAMA the first week of October 2012. We encourage to plan to attend the event and mark your calendars accordingly. You will be rewarded by attending to learn more about the operation of the Cook Family Organization, greet members you may have not seen for some time and to become acquainted with other family members. The event is held in Bountiful, and full details will be included in the next newsletter to be distributed the first of September 2012.

Best regards,
Guy R. Cook, President

What do they do with my dues?

Money is tight. None of us can afford to donate to every cause. Why should I pay dues to the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization?

In August of this year Janet Porter and Catharine Rasband completed a seven-month transcription project at the L.D.S. Archive which is now called the Church History Library. Documents the family has never seen, written by Phineas himself, were made available for a short time. Because they are in a secure file with other sensitive documents, no one in the family had ever been allowed to see them, nor ever will again.

After the transcription was completed we requested permission to have the documents scanned so we could have permanent access to his Goshen journal and letters. The Church History Library was willing to do it, but the cost was over \$300. Knowing the funds were there because generous family members had paid their dues, we were able to secure those images. They are now available at the Cook Family Store on a disk with the complete transcription. Also included is the talk given at the Cook-O-Rama with the history of Phineas Wolcott Cook and his family from 1855-1860. It's a little piece of history miraculously preserved for us.

Thank you, generous family members, for bringing to us the Goshen journal of our ancestor Phineas Wolcott Cook.

If you wish to contribute the Book Store Order Form at the end of this letter provides ways to easily pay dues and make other research contributions. Dues and contributions are deductible as a charitable donation when paying income taxes."

PWC Descendant Project Started

(Continued from page 2)

grandparents all the way to Phineas. You probably have this information already. Or maybe Aunt Edna has it, but you should have a copy too in case Aunt Edna's records are blown away in a tornado.

- a. Document births, deaths, marriages, missions, even jobs and awards if you wish
 - b. Write or collect histories or autobiographies
 - c. Document whole families, parents and children with as much information as possible. Some of this may be on new.Familysearch.org, but it's probably wrong. That's one of the reasons we're interested in getting things right.
 - d. Find, label & copy pictures,
2. Send copies of everything to your Family Representative or

directly to Janet Porter. (430 South 450 East, Orem, UT 84097) It will then be added to the family genealogy program and carefully saved in her file. You can see this file at the Cook-a-Rama every year. Pictures will be saved in an acid-free book. If you send your information, your family will be in the file. Otherwise we won't know who you are.

3. Better yet, save everything to your computer, including pictures and histories, and e-mail it to Janet. (janetprtr@gmail.com, 801-226-8094) The genealogy and documentation can be recorded in your P.A.F. or other genealogy program and sent as a gedcom to Janet.

However you choose, please do it. Don't let your family history die with you. Share it with the family organization so it can be shared with your cousins. Maybe even with your sister in Peoria.

RELIGION IN THE NEW WORLD *Henry Cooke Series*



The town of Salem was established in 1626 by a group of settlers who moved a few miles south from Cape Ann. Two years later more colonists came from the Massachusetts Bay Colony about fifteen miles north and west. When the Massachusetts Bay people came in 1628 a fort had been built at Salem about a mile from the coast and all the families lived inside the fort.

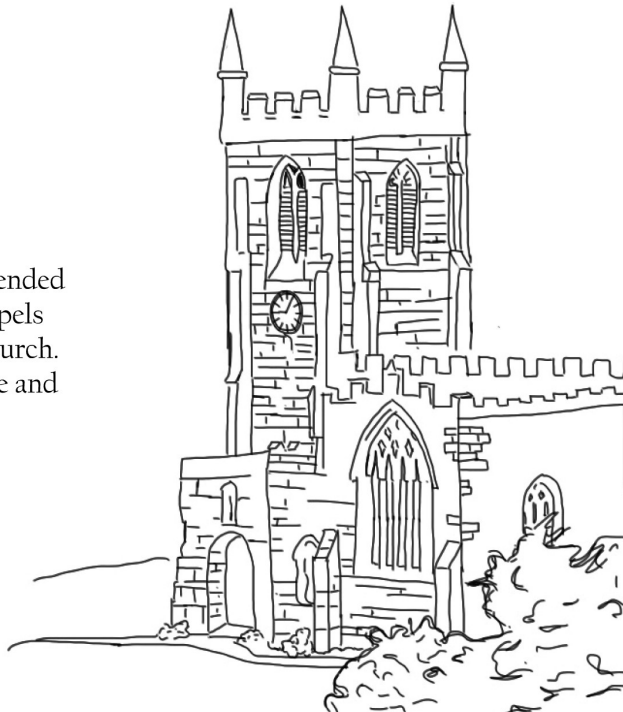
Henry Cooke came to Salem ten years later in 1638 when the colonists had learned not to be afraid of the Indians. Since they no longer needed the fort, Henry was eventually granted part of that property for his own house.

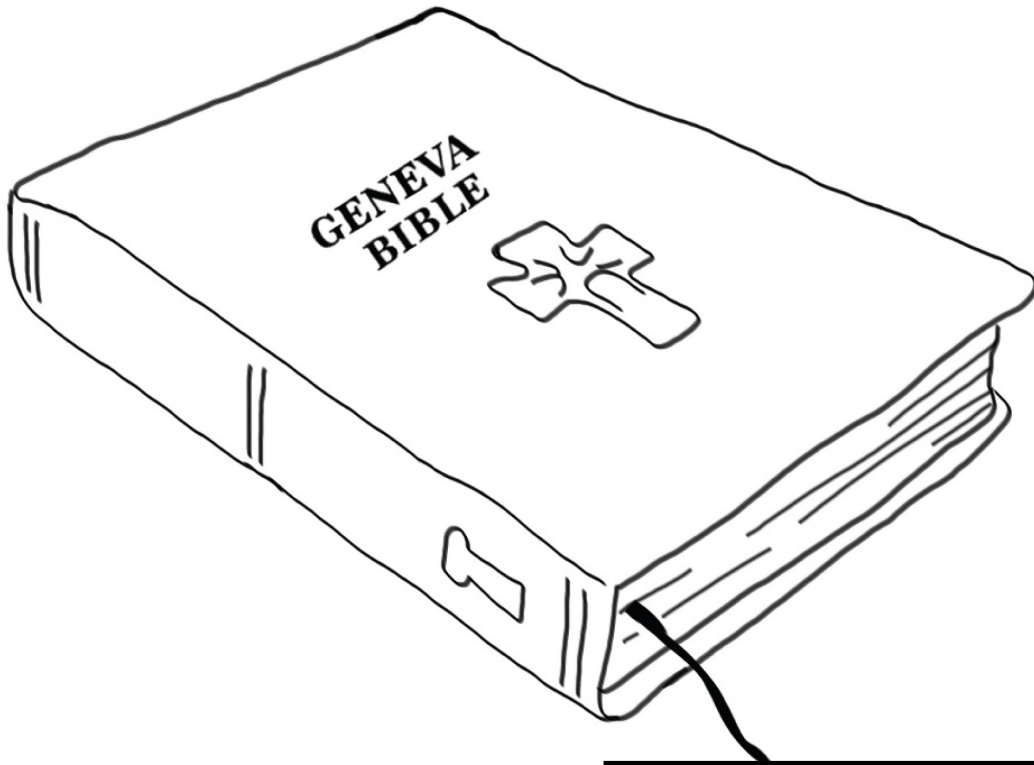
By then there was a town government at Salem with a mayor and a judge. All the people in Salem came from England where there were

laws to rule the towns. The people in Salem wanted the same laws for themselves so they would feel safe.

On the backside of the Old Fort property the Salem settlers built a simple box-shaped wood church. The pews were nothing more than flat wooden benches without backs. The building looked much like a house with an upstairs gallery inside. People could sit on the main floor or climb the stairs at the back of the room and sit on the benches there. Churches were not heated at that time, but when the Salem Church was enlarged in 1638 there was a big fireplace at one end.

In England many of them had attended the Church of England in old chapels built long ago by the Catholic Church. Those chapels were made of stone and were very beautiful.





They took their law from the English translation of the Bible which they had brought with them. Their Bible was the Geneva Bible, first translated into English at Geneva, Switzerland when reformers were persecuted in England. When Queen Mary died in England, the reformers returned and the Geneva Bible was published in England in 1560. It was inexpensive, intended for common people with readable Roman letters, the first Bible with numbered verses. It was also the first Bible to use italics for words the translators added because of English usage but which were not in the original.

In time their church came to be known as the Congregational Church because male members of the congregation elected the pastor, teachers, elders and deacons. From reading the Bible they decided their church leaders should be ordained, so the voting members laid their hands on the heads of the men they had chosen and ordained them. The ideals of the church inspired people in America to become committed to democracy and constitutional free government.

Slowly Henry and Judith Cooke and their children began to value their freedom from a state church and from oppression they had felt in England. The family began to emerge as Americans. Even the family name changed to Cook without the "e." They began to feel a part of a new life in a new world.



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

Available items::

-

Discount: 20% discount on all items above if dues are current or accompany this order

Less (_____)

Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Line
Ann Eliza Howland Family Line
Amanda Polly Savage Family Line
Catherine McCleve Family Line
Johanna Christine Poulsen 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-Sites
Typing Histories – Word Processing	Illustrator
Newsletter/Mailing Committee	Finance Committee

Name _____ Telephone # _____

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sult is a previously unknown collection of the writings of Phineas Wolcott Cook from 1857 through 1860, even a few pages into 1861. It documents a time in his history and in Utah history which is very interesting. Indeed his views on Johnston's Army, Indian troubles, church government, priesthood power and many other subjects bring us close to his heart and to the heart of the people of Utah as their federal government threatened to annihilate them.

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power and many other subjects bring us close to his heart and to the heart of the people of Utah as their federal government threatened to annihilate them.

He expressed views on Zion, the future of the church, the necessity for obedience in every situation. He voiced the importance of listening to the spirit, of making peace with one's neighbors, of enduring opposition and criticism with faith, and of keeping one's word. He never doubted the word of God or the counsel of the Brethren; only doubted his ability to build his own strength in the face of trial and opposition. He maintained a standard of honesty and honor no matter what was going on around him. We felt as if a window to his soul had been opened. That window will be revealed in future issues of this newsletter.

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tism performed in the Endowment House in 1872.

Latter-day Saints are familiar with Wilford Woodruff's account of his vision when the founding fathers appeared to him to request their temple work be performed. That work was done in August of 1877, except for the baptism of Oliver Wolcott. Phineas Wolcott Cook had been baptized for Oliver in the Endowment House in September, 1872.

Phineas Wolcott Cook felt a close association with Oliver Wolcott and in spite of his poverty and

circumstances related to pioneering, he felt moved to do his temple work. We can only try to piece the connections through the lens of hindsight but Phineas Wolcott Cook was moved by connections and friendship to perform temple work for Oliver Wolcott, signer of the American Declaration of Independence.

(Condensed from an article written by Bryson Cook. If you would like a copy of the original article, complete with footnotes and documentation, send your request to bccook@aol.com.)

Phineas Wolcott Cook

Family Organization Newsletter
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March, 2012

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