

August 28, 1819 • July 24, 1900

Phineas Wolcott Cook FAMILY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

"The Lord has called me to save my father's house."

March 1992

300 Years Ago in Salem

Henry Cook, our earliest American ancestor may well have come to Salem, Massachusetts in 1638 seeking greater religious freedom. Whatever the motivation, he found himself in the midst of intense religious intolerance.

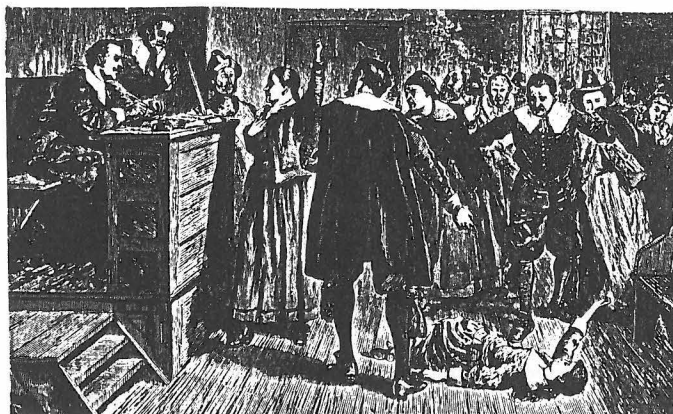
The decade of the 1630's in the Massachusetts Bay Colony was marked by severe conflict over religious freedom. Devout as the Puritans were, they likewise were narrow and bigoted with respect to other religious doctrines.



WHIPPING QUAKERS

One of the most forceful personalities among the Puritans was John Endicott, rash, bigoted, and brave. He purchased several miles of Mouse coast and settled Salem. He became one of the chief persecutors of the Quakers. Roger Williams was banished from the colony in 1636 for advocating religious freedom. Ann Hutchinson was banished for expressing her religious convictions. The subsequent slaughter of her entire family by the Indians was considered a judgment of God. Mary Dyer, a leading proponent of Quakerism was convicted by the Puritan court for daring to assert her right to worship as she pleased and was hung on June 1, 1660. Undoubtedly Henry and his family found themselves caught up in some of the turmoil. Such oppression may explain why our ancestor Samuel, Henry's second son, moved from Salem to Connecticut in 1663.

One of the darkest blot on early American history was the witchcraft killings in Salem which occurred 300 years ago in 1691-92. (This wasn't the first time such events had happened. Fifteen were executed in Hartford, Connecticut in 1662 on charges of witchcraft). In Salem, helpless widows, pregnant women, husbands, and even a 5 year old child were accused of being familiars of the devil. Over 200 people were charged in the mass hysteria that followed. Spectral evidence (dreams and visions) was the basis for most of the convictions. 19 of the victims were hung. One old man was crushed to death. Henry's oldest son, Issac found himself called to testify in behalf of his neighbor, Rebecca Nurse. And though more than fourteen neighbors testified of



her character and kindly nature, the elderly woman, exhausted and broken, was eventually hung on Gallows Hill in Salem.

We have no personal account of the hardships our early Cook ancestors experienced in relation to these events, we can only surmise that it must have been a dark and difficult time, but perhaps in some small way, the strength they gained through coping with such incidents became a legacy of strength for their descendants who were persecuted for their religious beliefs 200 years later.

Family Organization News

The annual meeting of the P.W. Cook Family Organization was held September 14, 1991. An election was held and new officers were appointed.

McKay Cook Phippen was elected President. Bryson C. Cook, Vice President over family units, Gary H Cook, Vice President over Genealogy, Paul F. Cook, Parliamentarian, Margaret Taylor, Secretary and Janet Porter Genealogy Chairman.

The efforts of outgoing officers are greatly appreciated. Special thanks is extended to LaMar Day for all his efforts during the past few years.

From the Presidency

We feel it a great privilege to serve as the new presidency of the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization -- an organization which has a long and productive history and yet has many important things to do.

We wish to thank all who have given support to the organization. Your membership contributions as well as your time in research and other efforts are all vital to our continued success.

As a new presidency our first goal will be to fill the board positions with effective representation for each of the four families. This will allow us to more effectively pursue our ongoing goals:

1. Genealogical Research: Upgrading the Ancestral File, extending the family pedigree, and providing temple ordinances for all our kindred dead.
2. Family History: Writing the history and life stories of our ancestors.
3. Descending Pedigree: Maintaining a current family list and recruiting membership in the family organization.
4. Communication: Publishing a semi-annual newsletter as well as lists of genealogical and family histories and other services provided by the organization.

By achieving these goals the organization will accomplish the mission of "Redeeming the Dead" and also help unify the family. A knowledge of where we come from, our heritage, will help family members better understand who they are and what their own lives can be as they draw upon the life experiences and strengths of their great ancestors.

We have much to learn and depend on your help and support in order to serve the organization effectively.

Sincerely,

McKay C. Phippen, President
 Bryson C. Cook, V.P. Family Units
 Gary H Cook, V.P. Genealogy
 Margaret Taylor, Secretary

History Items

There are a number of items available from the organization which should be of interest to family members (NOTE the discount for quantity orders -- Prices include postage).

The Diary of Phineas Wolcott Cook

1 Copy	\$ 5.00
8 Copies	\$25.00
16 Copies	\$45.00

VHS Video on the Life of Phineas W Cook

1 Copy	\$12.50
6 Copies	\$55.00
12 Copies	\$100.00

We also have some of the 60 sheet Family Group Sheet sets available. Any of these items can be ordered from

LaMar Day
 467 West 2400 South
 Bountiful, UT 84010
 Phone 298-1654

Annual Dues:

Suggested dues needed to support the family Organization are \$10.00 per year.

The Family Needs Your Help

When Phineas Wolcott Cook received word to gather with the Saints he wrote in his journal, "I told mother the word that I had received but she did not like it much. I said that the Lord had called me to save my father's house and it was for her as much as any." [The Life and History of Phineas Wolcott Cook, p 34.] Later, on the plains, he received a Patriarchal blessing at the hand of John Smith, who declared, "God hath called thee to save thy father's house by doing a work for them -- that which they were ashamed to do for themselves. Thou shalt have the happiness of seeing them all if they do not commit the unpardonable sin... in the bonds of the New and Everlasting Covenant." [Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Newsletter, Vol 23, Dec 1985, p 1]

It was not a coincidence that both Phineas and the Patriarch of the church used the same phrase. The Lord must have inspired Phineas as to the call which He had in mind for him. Not only was his call as a "Savior on Mount Zion" reaffirmed but also the hope of a special promise was revealed -- that "all of his kindred would embrace the New and Everlasting Covenant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ." This is a tremendous blessing and promise. We who are of the same blood should be particularly encouraged and motivated because we also have the promise that as we do the genealogical research and temple work for our common ancestors, they will embrace it.

Over the years the work of our father, Phineas, has fallen upon us, his children. The family organization is mostly responsible for researching his ancestors, in early America and in England, the origin of not only the Cook family, but in most cases the collateral lines of the women who married into our family in America. The organization has been successful in doing this research for most of these lines with the exception of Elizabeth Porter. (See the following article). The organization has also documented the lives of Phineas' descendants, which in some cases extends to the 8th generation. We estimate there may be 6000 to 8000 living descendants. This represents a great pool of potential resources to continue the call to save our father's house.

We need your help in identifying and recruiting family members into the organization. We also need volunteers to serve as board members, genealogists, family history researchers, typists, computer programmers and operators. Finally we need each member to support the organization financially by paying dues (\$10 per year), in order to provide the financial resources necessary to do genealogical research. If you are able to support the organization in any of these ways please contact one of the following members of the presidency:

McKay C Phippen, President
 2201 Lincoln Lane
 Salt Lake City, UT 84124
 466-6241

Bryson Cook, Enrollment V.P.
 2567 Tamarisk
 Chandler, AZ 85224
 (602) 899 -7660

Gary H Cook, Genealogy V.P.
8159 So 535 East
Sandy, Utah 84070
561-7427

Margaret Taylor, Treasurer
1809 N. 2050 W
Provo, UT 84604
375-8560

IN SEARCH OF ELIZABETH PORTER COOK, Grandmother of Phineas Wolcott Cook

For a number of years there has been a concerted effort to determine the origins of Elizabeth Porter Cook. While a definitive link has not yet been established, all our research strongly suggests the following conclusions:

1. An Elizabeth Porter was born March 7, 1761 to Nehemiah Porter, a famous preacher and revolutionary war chaplin. She was born in Ashfield, Franklin, Mass.
2. Rev. Porter was the only chaplin in the Revolutionary War and was present in the same army with Capt. Daniel Cook from 17 Aug 1777 until the surrender of General Burgoyne in October 1777. Thus Daniel and Elizabeth Porter could have known each other and at the same age (between 16 and 19) were prime candidates for a love affair
3. An Elizabeth Porter was listed as a pauper in Cheshire, New Haven, Conn. in 1779. If this is our Elizabeth, she may have married Daniel by then and left home. Her marriage was not at home, and she was later disinherited by her father, so he may have disapproved of her alliance with a common soldier, Daniel Cook.
4. In 1780 Col. Phineas Porter of New Haven was asked to care for Elizabeth by the state. This indicates that she may have become the wife of Daniel as early as 1779. Since he was still in the army in 1779 and 1780, she would naturally be on her own.
 - a. Phineas Porter was first cousin to her father.
 - b. She named one of her sons Phineas
 - c. She returned to the same area after Daniel's death. Perhaps this was a hub of the Porter clan to which she went for refuge.
5. Her first son Amasa, was born in Goshen, April 26, 1782.
6. Her husband Daniel died August 14, 1809 in Goshen
7. In 1812 her home was foreclosed. The family went to the Cheshire area to live with relatives.
8. March 23, 1814, she was married at the age of 53 to the Reverend Benjamin Beach who as 76. They were married in Milton, Connecticut.
9. Beach died July 12, 1816 and was buried in the Hilton Burying Ground. His will listed Amasa Cook, 2nd, in the list of debts.
10. Joseph Peters of Warren, Litchfield, Conn. married Elizabeth Beach June 5, 1821. After marrying Elizabeth he sold his holdings in Warren, especially deeds of Dec 18, 1822, Jan 3, 1823, Sept 23, 1825.
 - a. The 1820 New York census shows Joseph Peters of Warren had six in his family.
 - b. The 1830 New York census (STU273 Bath) seems to indicate the family could have moved to Bath, Steuben, New York.
 - c. The same Peters family was still there in the 1840 census with one less old female, so this could indicate that Elizabeth died there, though no record has been found.
 - d. Bath is 3 miles northwest of Elmira, New York.

If you have additional information or interest in helping on this research problem please contact:

Janet Porter
Genealogy Chairman
430 S 450 E
Orem, UT 84058
(801) 226-8094

FAST DAY SCHEDULED

Family History work is accomplished through the guidance of the Spirit. As we try to determine the possible family connections for Elizabeth Porter, we request your faith and prayers. The scheduled April Fast Sunday has been set aside as a day for members of the family to unite their faith in petitioning the guidance we need in making the proper decisions and finding needed clues and information about Elizabeth Porter and her ancestors. Please join with us in this effort.

BRINGING THE FAMILY TREE INTO THE 90'S

The advent of computers in the field of family history research has brought significant changes. Many members of the family may now have access to the Personal Ancestral File Program or other similar computer programs. A simple rule applies to the use of such systems, however -- "garbage in, garbage out." The computer allows us to manipulate data faster, but if the original data is inaccurate, we end up merely spreading wrong information faster. In examining the Ancestral File information on the Church computer system, we find that a number of errors have crept into the records of our Cook ancestors.

In order to correct this problem and provide family members with the most accurate information possible, we have made arrangements to review and verify the information contained in the Ancestral File and to update it as a family organization. Once that task has been accomplished, any member of the family can have immediate access to Cook family history information with the assurance that it is as accurate as possible.

We have contacted the Family History Department and have permission to do this update as soon as we have completed all the verification necessary. By Fall 1992, this task should be completed. At that point, family members will be able to obtain copies of the research either on diskette or in print. If you have an interest in assisting in the verification process, or if you wish to obtain copies of the completed sheets or a diskette, please contact Gary Cook, 8159 South 535 East, Sandy, UT 84070. Phone (801) 561-7427.

Phineas Wolcott Cook

Family Organization
Box 266
North Salt Lake, Utah 84054

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Double Cousins

Descendents of William Cook, son of Phineas and Ann Eliza Howland, and Joseph Wolcott Cook, son of Phineas and Catherine McCleve, have something extra in common. These two cook sons, half brothers, married sisters, making their descendents double cousins.

Sarah Tryphena Bryson and Eliza Snow Bryson lived in Woodruff, Utah where their father, Samuel Bryson Jr. had homesteaded. Both married into the Cook family. Their mother was Polly Tryphena Fairchild, daughter of John Fairchild and Tryphena Pomeroy. We estimate that one tenth of Phineas W. Cook's living descendants share this common ancestry.

Much research and family history concerning the Brysons, Fairchilds, and Pomeroy's is available--much of it recently having been discovered. In particular,

we have made arrangements with a Pomeroy Family representative to have copies made of the Pomeroy Family History. This is a 400 page book giving the family history from William the Conqueror to Charles Pomeroy, father of Tryphena Pomeroy. Included is information concerning the family's intermarriages with the family of King Henry I and other royal families; the history of Pomeroy Knights, the Castle Berry, the family's disenfranchisement by Henry VIII, their eventual emmigration to America, the history of the early Pomeroy Pilgrims, and their Revolutionary War service records.

If you would be interested in purchasing a copy of this book or have an interest in Bryson, Fairchild, or Pomeroy genealogy please write or call Bryson Cook at 2567 N. Tamerisk, Chandler Arizona 85224, Phone (602) 899-7660.

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

No. Salt Lake, Utah 84054
Permit No. 203

Howland Family Information

We are concerned that the Howland Family is not receiving enough representation in the Family Organization. Of Phineas's 8000 descendents, approximately 6000 are descendants of Ann Eliza Howland, Phineas' first wife. In order to best represent these descendents we would like to have 2 family representatives for each of Ann Eliza's children.

A meeting will be held at LaMar Day's home on Saturday, April 11, 1992. Please contact LaMar if you can attend. Phone (801) 298-1654. (NOTE: Representatives of the Howland family may also be contacting some of you to invite you to attend). LaMar's address is 467 West 2400 South, Bountiful, Utah.