

PHINEAS WOLCOTT COOK

FAMILY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 1995

A MESSAGE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

Dear Family Members:

Since our last newsletter there have been a few changes in the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization. After three years of service as President, McKay Phippen's status was changed to that of President Emeritus. Bryson Caldwell Cook was elected President and Shirley Phippen was elected as a Vice-President. Gary Cook remains a Vice-President and Ruth Malmberg as Secretary. Janet Porter retains the position of Genealogist.

Mission Statement Phineas Wolcott Cook Family

PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF PHINEAS WOLCOTT COOK

Research His Ascending Pedigree

Research The Pedigree Of His Wives

Preserve The History Of His Descendants

Perform Temple Work For His Kindred

Facilitate Communication

On behalf of the family we would like to thank McKay for all he has done on behalf of the organization and for the family. Under his leadership the organization was revitalized and redefined. We appreciate all of his efforts. We also appreciate those who are continuing their services and welcome Shirley Sealy as an officer. The board has also changed and a list of Board Members names and addresses are included in this newsletter.

Since our November board meeting when the officers were changed the board has met twice. We have worked very hard to organ-

ize and to focus on our mission. Included in this newsletter is a copy of our family organization mission statement as adopted by the board. Everything that we do as a family organization will be oriented toward achieving the mission as stated. Please review and ponder what this statement says as we feel that's what we're all about as an organization.

We would also like to announce a new feature to the newsletter. Each month we will print a short life sketch of the ancestors of Phineas W. Cook. Regardless from which wife you descend we hope you'll enjoy these sketches as they will help all of the family appreciate our heritage and that of our common grandfather. We are starting with Henry Cook, our immigrant Cook, ancestor and will cover each of Phineas' grandfathers in descending order over the next six newsletters. Make sure your dues are current so you won't miss these articles. We'll also make available the entire documentation from which these life stories are abstracted for the more serious genealogists in the family or for those who would like to complete their own family history.

The board also voted to separate the Treasurer and Secretary functions. Our hope is to

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Would you like to serve as an
officer or a board member?

(cont. from page 1)

make the job of secretary less demanding, involve another family member and improve recording of those who are current with dues. The treasurer would take care of all the finances of the organization and complete the appropriate IRS filings. If any one knows of a family member with an accounting background please write to Bryson C. Cook with your nominations. We will then interview these candidates and try to recruit the best person for the family. If you know of anyone who can help in this regard please let us know.

The board is also focused on submitting biographies of each of Phineas' wives to be included in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers forthcoming publication entitled, "Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude." (see Page 3) One other project for 1995 is to begin work on the research tasks outlined in this newsletter by Janet Porter.

As you can see we have an ambitious agenda. We need your support and encouragement. We look forward to serving each of you and accomplishing the mission of the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization.

Sincerely,

PWCFO Presidency,

Bryson Cook
Shirley Sealy
Gary Cook

DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

“Pioneers Women of Faith
and Fortitude”

As the State of Utah plans to celebrate its 100th birthday of the statehood of Utah, the Daughters of Utah Pioneers are planning to prepare a unique volume containing pictures and biographical sketches of pioneer women who arrived in the Utah Territory between July 24, 1847 and May 10, 1869 when the railroad came to Utah. This volume will be entitled “Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude.”

The purpose of the project is to compile and publish a complete reference book on all Pioneer Women of the State of Deseret; married, unmarried, without children, or adult or child who died on the plains, actually enroute, in a company. (This only includes those coming into the valley, not those who were born here.)

In order to avoid duplications of submissions (each submission costs \$25.00) a representative of each of the four wives of P.W. Cook will coordinate the preparation and arrange for payment (donations) for these submissions.

Would You Like To Help With This Project?

These are the women identified and assignments made to date:

Ann Eliza Howland (1823-1896) and the two female children who died at Winter Quarters: Sharon Eastman Marcyes.

Harriet Betsy Cook Teeple (1844-1933): Enid W. Hatch.

Augusta Precinda Cook Messervy (1848-1876) (she had no posterity): Unassigned at present.

If someone has a good biographical sketch and picture, please contact LaMar Day.

Amanda Polly Savage (1836-1915): Susan Hales Johnson

Johanna Christine Poulson (1845-1929): Does not qualify because she came to the territory after 1869.

We are proud of our heritage from the great women in our ancestry and would like to honor them all as often as we find opportunity to do so.

PERMISSION TO DUPLICATE

The LDS Genealogical Society of Utah has requested, and we have granted permission to microfilm the following records:

The Diary of Phineas Wolcott Cook
Phineas Wolcott Cook Family
Organization Newsletter
Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Group
Records, 1499-1906
Temple Ordinance Records, 1851-1968

These are to be made available throughout the Family History Library system, and copies may be made upon request.

MISSING PERSON REPORT!

Where Did Elizabeth Porter Die?

When Daniel Cook died in 1809, his wife Elizabeth Porter Cook simply disappeared. She was no longer with the family because she was not there at the census in 1810. However, it seems likely that she lived nearby because in 1814 she married a man who lived only a few miles away, Benjamin Beach. And when he died in 1816, she lived locally for another five years before she married Joseph Peters from Kent, just a few miles west of Goshen. And since Joseph's wife had died just a few months before this second marriage, Elizabeth couldn't have lived far away.

(cont. on page 5)

Are your dues current?

JUST

DO

IT !!

HENRY COOKE

HENRY COOKE was probably born in England between 1605 and 1615. He died in Salem, Massachusetts, 25 December 1661. He married in Salem, June 1639, Judith Birdsall, who died in Salem, Massachusetts, 11 September 1689, apparently daughter of Henry Birdsall.

As to Henry's birth place little, if anything, is known. The first certain record of Henry Cooke is on 29 October 1638, "Henry Cooke desireth to be an inhabitant within this Town" he was admitted an inhabitant of Salem as "proprietor" and was awarded of six acres on December 26, 1638. In January he was granted five acres and in February he was granted an additional 25 acres at Jeffrey's Creek. The fact that he was in Salem and a proprietor makes him a Puritan and all of his progeny, who were the ancestors of Phineas Wolcott Cook, were Congregationalists. We can say that we are of Puritan stock.

*"On 30 Mar 1640,
Ordered that Henry
Cooke...shall keep
the swine of the
Town. And it is
agreed that they shall
have 6 shillings a
piece for the
keeping."*

While Henry Cooke was professionally known as a "butcher" he also was employed in other occupational pursuits. "On 30 March 1640, Ordered that Henry Cooke and Edward Ingram shall keep the swine of the Town. And it is agreed that they shall have 6 shillings a piece for the keeping."

From the legal record of Salem we learn of the activities Henry was engaged in. Henry was fined for abusing the watch, calling them "proud saucy boys, proud mallapert boys, and rascally and jackanapes boys." Captain William Hawthorne sued Henry Cooke for debt. He was the ancestor of Nathaniel Hawthorne. Henry Combes acknowledged judgment in favor of Henry Cooke, 27 June 1649, and in this same year, Henry Cooke was a witness against Mary Oliver, presented in Court for stealing goats. She, at the next court, accused him of taking a pickax from her and not returning it. He was unable to prove that he had returned it so he was ordered by the court to pay her four shillings for it. Henry Cooke and Henry Kenney were presented at Court for striking each other.

Henry was fined and Kenney admonished by the Court. Philip Cromwell sued Henry Cooke for defamation, for saying he was a base fellow. They must have come to blows about it for on 2 July 1652, Henry Cook sued Cromwell for battery. Henry Cooke sued Capt. Hawthorne and Mr. Henry Bartholomew, administrators of the estate of Richard Hollingworth for debt owed him. 28 November 1656, Henry Cooke of Salem and his son Isaac Cooke were presented at Court for beating and kicking "Sam Abourn and Moses Abourn sons of Sam Abourn, on the Lord's day" They were discharged however. The petition to the Court of Henry Cooke on behalf of his son Isaac was filed in June 1661. It recites, "That whereas the court had imposed a fine of ten pounds upon Isaac Cooke for hurt done by him, though accidentally, to Lieutenant Lothrop, which fine he was not able to satisfy, nor his friends for him, considering that he was more careful in the future." The Court remitted the fine.

From these legal records we learn that Henry had sufficient education to write his name although he sometimes signed by mark. He was evidently a very careful frugal man. Unless he brought more of an estate with him than was customary among the early emigrants, for his inventory amounted to £ 255. It's interesting to note that the inventory of Judith Birdsall Cooke's estate records that she was the owner of a silk hood. No woman was allowed to own a silk hood unless her husband was worth £ 200. Having possessed one she would be considered to be a well-to-do woman. The law prohibited a woman from wearing one unless proof of wealth was proficient. This law was still in force in 1676.

The inventory of Henry Cooke is an interesting one. He owned considerable land, much of which he had purchased. The amount of furniture is small but at this time when the settlers made rude tables and three-legged stools, not all the articles appeared in an inventory. He owned a rapier, a sword and bandoleers, which had had possibly brought from

(Cont. on Page 9)

THE MYSTERY

(cont. from page 3)

Elizabeth and Joseph lived on the property he had bought and on which he and his wife Dorothy had raised their seven children in Kent, later called Warren, Connecticut, a village five miles west of Goshen. In 1800, Joseph's oldest son, Joseph Peters, Jr., married and began looking for his own land. But like many of the sons of Connecticut landowners, he couldn't find any for himself and began to investigate new land on the Western Frontier. No doubt he heard many stories of the new rich land being sold in various places out on that vast western horizon, but what finally made up his mind were the amazing stories he had heard from Revolutionary War soldiers who had been in Saratoga and Ticonderoga and had seen the wilderness of western New York.

In 1788 a large tract of land owned by Massachusetts was purchased for one million dollars by two men who had seen western New York during their tour of duty in the Revolutionary War. A few brave settlers had lived there during the war and after, but since it was land still owned and occupied by the five Indian nations, few dared brave the danger and isolation. In fact, during and after the war, the Genesee Country, as it came to be called, was so dangerous that when apprentices were bound or slaves sold in the states, it was written into the contract that they should not be taken into the Genesee Country. However, the fame of this rich area spread, and within a few years the Seneca Nation of the Iroquois had signed a treaty, promising to withdraw to certain reserved lands, turning it over for settlement.

Several towns were begun and plots sold, but in 1797 the land was sold again to the Holland Company in New York for land development. Immediately the Holland Company began to survey and build roads along the old Indian trail from Albany to Buffalo which became Route 20, still used today. Another of the trails which was widened and is still used is through Batavia (county seat of Genesee County) northward and is now Route 5. In the beginning these were "corduroy

nothing more than logs laid down side by side in the mud to provide footing for horses and men, and travelers claimed that "the jolting of the wheels from one (log) to another is perfectly horrible." Just clearing the dense forest for a road was another formidable project.

In spite of the difficulties, settlers came. By 1812, there were 25,000 west of the Genesee River, mainly along the Buffalo Road, or Route 20. This is where Joseph Peters, Jr. came with his wife and child in 1805, traveling with a group of friends from Warren, CT. who bought land together and stayed together for the rest of their lives. They are even buried together in the same cemetery. Listed among the original settlers of Darien, Genesee County, New York, he bought and settled on his own farm along the Buffalo Road, which he cleared from the trees, miles away from the nearest neighbors. A few years later his sister and her husband came 20 miles east along the Buffalo Road in East Bloomfield, Ontario County where they built an inn which stands today on the present Main Street.

Eventually, enough of the family had emigrated to New York, that Joseph and Elizabeth wanted to be with them. So in 1825, they sold all their land and braved the corduroy road as far as East Bloomfield where they lived with his daughter and her family for a year before buying land and settling the 20 miles west in Darien, Genesee, near his son Joseph. It was there that they were in the 1830 census, and there that Joseph applied for a Revolutionary War pension in 1832. Their names both appeared on land sales in 1833, and in December of 1833 Elizabeth was said to have been in the office for the sale of a piece of land. However, when Joseph died thirteen

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The amazing thing is that when Joseph was buried...he was squeezed into the...space between two friends...leaving no room for Elizabeth....

McCleve Family!
Call or write Don Cook
for Temple Ready
names. We need help!

(cont. from page 5)

months later in January of 1835 his probate claimed that he left no widow; and since Phineas Wolcott Cook wrote in his journal that he thought his grandmother died in 1834, it seems the likely period for which to search her death.

The amazing thing is that when Joseph was buried in the North Darien Baptist Cemetery, he was squeezed into the narrow space between two friends from Warren, Connecticut, leaving no room for Elizabeth, and not buried next to Elizabeth who likely died that year before he did. Local records are missing any mention of Elizabeth, and she is not buried in Darien as far as the human eye can detect. (And this human eye tried very hard.) Finding her death date or burial spot would help us find her birth date and place, but she appears not to have been buried in Genesee or Ontario Counties. So we still don't know who she was or where she came from.

Who can solve this mystery? It's worthy of Agatha Christy, but we'll have to find the answer before we tell her about it. Anyone with any information about this missing person, please notify the proper family authorities.

PHINEAS WOLCOTT COOK FAMILY ORGANIZATION GENEALOGY

END-LINE RESEARCH PROJECTS

HELP!! The following ancestors have been abandoned because the research will lead to another country. You could help:

1. Take on a research project of your own, wherever you are.
2. Send some money so we can hire someone else to do it.

These lost ancestors could be found and brought into the family circle.

1. Eleanor Johnson, wife of Joseph Cook (PW's great grandfather.)

A. Probably born 1693. One source lists her parents as Walter or Wouter Jansen (Johnson) and Tryntie Henerig. In this source his parents are Jan Wouters Van Der Bosch and Arentje Cuents Arents, so it is likely the research will take us to the Netherlands.

That is what you'll have to find out by reading old history books and genealogies.

- B. Her birthplace is listed as Flatbush, Long Island, New York.

At that time people married in the wife's home town but lived in the husband's. Since Joseph was from Wallingford, they lived there and their children were born in Wallingford, but they may have been married

C. In 1743 Joseph and Eleanor moved to Goshen, Litchfield, CT where they later died.

2. Thomas Dunk and Elizabeth or Mary Price who is listed as the daughter of Walter and Elizabeth Price.

A. Thomas was born about 1613 in England. He was married in Saybrook Middlesex, CT, and died there 5 Jun. 1674.

B. Elizabeth (or Mary) was born about 1617 in England and died in Saybrook.

C. The Dunk's are Irene Churchill's maternal grandmother's family. (Irene Churchill is Phineas Wolcott's mother.)

D. They likely immigrated to America before 1648 because his son Thomas was born in Saybrook in 1648.

3. John Burgess was born about 1693 in Branford, New Haven, CT, and died there, though the Ancestral File gives his death date incorrectly as 1709. We know it is wrong because his son James was born 9 Feb. 1716.

A. He married Sarah Dunk 28 Nov. 1709 in Branford. She is daughter of Thomas Dunk and Anna Ray of Saybrook, CT.

B. The Burgess's were Irene Churchill's maternal grandfather's family. Irene Churchill was Phineas Wolcott Cook's mother.

4. Roger Tyler was born about 1621 and came to Branford, New Haven, CT, at least by 1645 when his first child was born there.

A. He married Ann_____.

B. Died 27 Jan 1673 in Branford

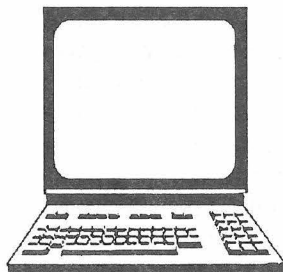
C. They had 5 children known to have been born in Branford.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

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D. They are Irene Churchill's 4th maternal great grandparents.

5. Anna Ray is Irene Churchill's maternal great-grandmother.



A. Parents are James Ray, Sr. born about 1650 and Elizabeth, who lived in Haddam, Middlesex, CT.

B. Born about 1682, lived in Saybrook, New Haven, CT.

C. The family lived a long time in Haddam: her father died 1 Mar. 1730 in Haddam.

6. Josiah Churchill is Irene's 3rd great grandfather. He came to America before 24 Mar 1639 when his first child Mary was born in Wethersfield, Hartford, CT.

A. Born about 1614, probably in England and all children born in Wethersfield.

B. Married 1 Jan 1686-7 Elizabeth D. Foote from Shalford, Essex, England. She died 8 Sept. 1700.

C. She was the daughter of Nathaniel Foote and Elizabeth Deming.

7. Jonathan Churchill's grandfather is Ebenezer Smith who was born 2 Sept. 1702 in Farmington, CT.

A. Father: Jonathan Smith, born 20 Jan 1647, Middletown, CT.

B. He married Mary Whittlesey 2 Jul. 1724. She was born 1 Oct. 1703 in Wethersfield, CT and died 19 Jan 1783 in West Hartford.

C. Their first son Ebenezer was born 1 Jul. 1725 in Farmington.

D. Second child Lydia was born 7 Jul. 1728 in Wethersfield.

E. Ebenezer died 12 Feb. 1763.

8. Mary Pratt is Irene Churchill's great-great grandmother.

A. She was born 24 May 1677 in Saybrook, CT.

B. Her parents were John Pratt and Mary Andrews who were married 10 Aug. 1676 in Saybrook CT.

C. She married Eliphalet Whittlesey 1 Dec. 1702.

D. She died after 1714 in Newington, CT, but her children were born in Wethersfield so they must have lived there for a time.

9. William Dudley is Irene Churchill's great-great grandfather on her father's side.

A. He was born in Richard, Surry, England, and came to America before 1639 when his first son William was born in Guilford, New Haven, CT.

B. Married Jane Luteman also of England.

C. He died 24 Aug. 1684 in Orkey Surry England; his wife having died ten years earlier in Guilford, CT.

D. His children all born in Guilford and died in Saybrook, Guilford, and Stoningham, CT.

Allied Research in the U.S.:

1. Phineas Wolcott Cook had brothers and sisters for whom genealogy and temple work have never been done. They were born in Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut, and appear on the family group sheet of Phineas Cook, born 1786 in Goshen and his wife Irene Churchill. If you don't have access to the Ancestral File Program or don't have this family group sheet, I'll send it to you if you are interested.

In order to do this research, you would have to go into land, pension, newspaper, census, and other records from Goshen and Litchfield County Connecticut to trace where these family members raised their families.

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We do know that his sister Eliza married and later divorced Salmon Hall, moved to Michigan and finally to Utah, so we think her descendants will be in the church, though we haven't traced it.

Another sister, Mary Ann, married Philip Leonard in Kalamazoo County, Michigan about 1841.

Darius Burgess married in Litchfield County, but became the editor of the Niles Republican, a newspaper in Niles, Berrien County, Michigan.

This is not actual ancestral research; rather, finding distant relatives for whom we might do temple work, which hasn't been identified by the church as a major thrust of genealogical work. However, we think finding links to distant cousins in other parts of the country may also provide links to the ancestors we can't find. In the process, we could also do temple work for them, which I believe would be Phineas Wolcott's desire.

I know that if you select one of these projects, you will find a way to accomplish the work. It will be as rewarding as it is difficult, and I have no doubt you will find a way to accomplish it through letter writing and borrowing materials from Salt Lake. Very often local librarians in the little historical libraries of a locality are very helpful if we address a request for a specific person or time period which they can search in just a few minutes.

Until now, genealogy research has been a nightmare, with little or no help on how to go about it or even how to begin and to keep records of what we have found. However, recently, a book has been written which, although very long, addresses almost every problem you might encounter in genealogical research. It helps you get organized, set up the correct filing system, understand local and other records, find addresses for historical societies, etc. And it even gives examples of the type of letters you should write, how to hire a professional researcher and when to include money with a request. Jumping into research is one way to begin, but if you feel uncomfortable doing that, you might consider finding a copy of this book.

Or you can write to the author for a copy.
The name and address follows:

Laureen Jaussi
284 East 400 South
Orem, Utah, 84058
801-225-7384
Cost \$39.99 plus \$2.50 tax

I hope I can be of help in this research. I'm sure you'll find, as I have, that although difficult and time consuming, the work gives you a knowledge of that branch of ancestors which will acquaint you with them as no one else can be acquainted with them. Those for whom I have done research will not have to introduce themselves on the other side of the veil because I already know them so well. If there is anything I can search for you or send you, I'll be happy to do it. The church publishes a research guide for each state, giving helpful ideas of where to look for information. Please keep in contact.

FOCUS:

1. Find enough about these people to submit articles for the family newsletter or at least enough information that someone else could write an article so others can learn about this family.

2. Using histories, genealogies, probate records in the U.S. and England, town records, etc. try to find where in England or Europe these people came from.

3. If you wish to continue, you may trace this family into England or Europe to discover their ancestors so they can be added to our family group sheets. The family organization can be a resource to help you learn how to do this research.

4. Submit the research to the family Genealogy Committee so we can verify and add it to our family disk. We'll then return it to you so you can submit it to the temple of your choice if you wish.

Please respond to:
Janet Porter
PWCFO Genealogist
430 S. 450 E.
Orem, Utah 84058

"I know that if you select one of these projects, you will find a way to accomplish the work."

(cont. from page 4)

England, but of which the latter may have been the sword listed in the inventory of Henry Birdsall. His deeds and those of his widow Judith show that he was a butcher by trade. He is never in any record called "Mr." Henry Cooke, his age is given in no record found.

Henry Cooke, who was the first of our line to come to America, was a Christian of the Puritan faith. He is known to have arrived at Salem, Massachusetts before 1638. The Mayflower arrived in the New World in 1620. Henry could certainly be considered one who was conscientious in his religious beliefs as he was desirous to worship God and came to the New World so he could do so according to the dictates of his own conscience.

NOTE

A complete, annotated, version of the life and history of Henry Cooke is available by request. Please use the attached order form. The research cost for the complete version was \$165.00. By ordering a copy you can help defray those costs as well as enjoy the more detailed account of his life. The cost for the complete version is \$2.00.



Below is an updated list of Family Representatives for each branch of the Howland Family. Please contact them for information/input about family matters, give them information for the newsletter, changes of address information for the descending Pedigree Chart and keep them informed about family history research being done.

Child #3: Harriet Betsy COOK Teeples

Lois WALKER Price
2552 East 2500 North
Layton, Utah 84041
801-546-0134

Child #6: Phineas H. COOK

Dale Richard COOK
3883 East 97 North
Idaho Falls, ID. 83401

LaMar DAY
467 West 2400 South
Bountiful, UT 84010
801-298-1654

Child #7: Phoebe Irene COOK Allred

Larry Cook ALLRED
447 No. 200 East
Farmington, UT. 84025
801-451-2742

Child #10: Alonzo Howland COOK

Mondel C. WEBER
2602 Springhaven Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84109
801-277-6977

Mark R. Wallentine
262 North 400 East
Brigham City, UT 84302

Child # 12: Henry Holland COOK

Iava C. Macmillan
6366 Westridge Street
Murray, UT 84107
801-266-2906

Roka Jean TINGY Raymond
819 Healy Street
Ogden, UT 84403
801-393-4806

Child #14: William COOK

Sharon EASTMAN Marcyes
1379 Seville
Bountiful, UT 84010
801-295-1383

Max Cook DICKSON
9921 Sego Lily Drive
Sandy, UT 84070
801-572-2090

Child #16: Hyrum Howland COOK

Ron & Marianne STAMM
1383 David
Syracuse, UT 84075
801-773-1856



AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE

On August 16 1994, Paul and I drove to the Payson cemetery to see if we could find our paternal great grandmother, Catherine McCleve (Cook) Russell's grave. According to her son's (Grandfather Cook) biography she died in December 1869 after traveling in a wagon from Echo to Spanish Fork. She married Great Grandfather Cook as his third wife when she was seventeen on the same day as the second wife who was also seventeen. She was called the third wife because the other girl was a month older. She had a difficult time with this relationship and left her husband and obtained a divorce when her son (Grandfather Cook) was about two years old. She later married David Russell and lived in the Payson area.

At the entrance to the Payson cemetery is a small building that serves as an equipment maintenance shop and an office area for the cemetery. We asked if there were records that identified who was buried where. One attendant answered that records for those who died before about 1890 were burned in a fire. A second attendant went to a card file in the office and found a card for "Russell Catharin born 9/17 —1826, died 12/19 —1869" and buried in Block 20 lot 6. He went to a map of the cemetery to find where that lot was located. The map had the name "Holden" written on the lot. He later explained each lot holds ten graves.

The attendant that found the card led us to the lot where we found only three grave markers all belonging to a Bingham family. The markers were approximately in the center of the lot. One marker was for a baby that lived about a year and died in 1889. The other two were the baby's father and mother. A monument for the Bingham family is located at the center of the lot. There was no way of knowing if our great grandmother was there or where precisely she may be in the lot.

When we returned to the office there were five or six people talking to the man who appeared to be the Supervisor of the Cemetery. We waited for them to clear the area so we could copy the information from the card. They soon left leaving a small box (about 1/2 cubic foot). The supervisor asked us if we were LDS. We answered that we were. He asked if we remember in the Pearl of Great Price where Joseph Smith said that all people had an aura about them.

I answered that I didn't remember reading that in the Pearl of Great Price. He immediately picked up two wire rods that were about two feet long. Each rod was bent 90 degrees at one end to form a handle. They appeared to be made from 12 gauge copper wiring with the insulation removed. He held one rod in each hand by the handle with the long portion pointing straight forward. He walked over to the box which he had placed on the sidewalk and held the rods over the box. He explained that it contained the ashes from a cremation that the people had just left for burial in the cemetery. The rods immediately turned toward each other and appeared to dip as they crossed. He told us they were divining rods and that they detected the aura of people when they were dead even if the remains were cremated. I looked at him closely to see if he was "pulling-our-leg," but he seemed to be sincere. We asked if he could detect how many graves were in the lot.

We all went back to the lot. He paced back and forth over the lot the rods moving as he went. He concluded two rows of graves were in the lot. The East row contained six graves and the West row had five, one was a child. The latter observation was not too bad considering that the one marker was for a child. He commented that in the old days they were buried in wood boxes which would allow them to be placed closer together. He of course couldn't tell which one was our relative but from the auras he could detect eleven people buried in the lot. He told us the Payson cemetery was the second oldest in the state. Salt lake was the oldest. We thanked him and left.

I have read many articles about diviners and how they can find underground water in pools and pipes, buried treasure, etc. This is the first time I have heard of any one that claimed to be able to detect graves by an aura that accompanies the remains.

When we arrived at Paul's place, we looked on his copy of the genealogy sheets for Great Grandmother Catherine McCleve (Cook) Russell. She was born 17 Sep 1836 and died 19 Dec. 1869. The dates are the same as on the cemetery card except for the year of birth. I think it is a copy error (a 2 instead of a 3). The spelling of her first name on the card Catherin. Russell may not have known any better or it was orally given to the recorder who wrote it as such. I feel it is the record of her burial and she is buried in the Payson cemetery. I can only assume the location is correct. I wonder where the information was obtained to put on the card as the card was not in existence in 1869. We asked the caretakers this. They said the information was probably taken from the headstones. Since there is no stone for Catherine there must have been some other earlier written record they are not aware of, or a stone at one time existed, or the marker is in some other part of the cemetery. Whatever the case, it was an interesting experience.

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Family Representative
McCleve Family

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