



August 28, 1819 • July 24, 1900

# Phineas Wolcott Cook FAMILY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

December 1999

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A GIANT STEP &..With our ongoing desire to K.I.S.S. the work, we have decided to take a giant step forward for the Phineas W. Cook Family Organization(PWC). It's an old pioneer axiom that many hands make the work lighter.

As part of our quarterly meeting held in November, LaMar Day, Janet Porter, and I met with the President and the Professional Researcher of the Utah Genealogical Association (U.G.A.) The UGA is about to establish a new wing of its organization; one which focuses on the family organization. They want to use PWC as the model for this wonderful work. The PWC will provide a lecturer and printed materials for the conference.

The UGA has offered us the strength of their international mailing, their publication committee, their Internet Committee, and their many, many local chapters.

Our goal is to stimulate the many descendants of Father Phineas to action.

By joining forces with the UGA, we also become a participating force in the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), the top genealogical organization in the United States. The National Conference for the FGS is being held in Salt Lake City this year as part of the annual UGA organization, and once again we will be representing family organizations. The model, you could say, for organizations nationwide.

A special newsletter will be coming to you earlier in the next century. The focus of this communication will be this wonderful conference in the Fall of 2000. We want you all there, and active!

We are overhauling the PWCook website and have asked the author of the "Intel" website, to reconstruct "PWCookOrg.". Again, a special newsletter early in the new millennium will explain it period.

We will be meeting with the LDS Churches "Family search" organization in January to establish a secure site that allows the PWC organization to enter and store information that meets all of the accuracy measures that will guarantee proper information. This information

cannot be corrupted by errant entries from well-meaning individuals who are doing work, but not doing the necessary work to guarantee accuracy. As it is now, the work for family members is needlessly being done over because of inaccuracies in the Ancestral File. This duplication of effort is an unwise use of time, and would be so beneficial to the work if accurately focused.

**HELP!** We need the help of experienced professionals. Part of the move forward for PWC will require the help of legal counsel, insurance counsel, financial planning, and correct accounting. Please Volunteer.

Well, I guess it's time to sign off for now. There's so much happening that I could go on for pages, but the key is to organize your own family organization beginning with Phineas' four wives' descendants. We are a maternal family organization, and want you to further organize your own personal family that its work may march forth eternally. We have the potential of completing the work that our fathers and mothers initiated years ago. Let us go forward boldly and eternally to finish this great work.

Lovingly,

G.A. Cook,  
President  
gacook@favorites.com

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Ever look at your children and wonder where the Cooks got their tough and independent spirit? Here is a clue:

## COOKS ON THE MOVE

### Goshen, Connecticut

If anything broke the wealth of our branch of the Daniel Cooks in Goshen, it was the aftermath of the Revolutionary War. Joseph's son (our ancestor Daniel, born in Wallingford in 1720) was 20 years old when he came with his father to Goshen in 1740. When the Revolutionary War broke out 36 years later, all four of Daniel's sons who were of age joined the Revolution. The next in line of our ancestors, Daniel Jr., the youngest of the four, was not quite sixteen when he went off to fight. It's not likely he was home in 1778 when his father died at age 58 in Goshen.

When Daniel Jr., came home after the war, his health was broken, and he died at age 49, leaving his property which included large pieces of land around Dog Pond and at the top of Town Hill, his own new house and his grandfather's house across the road to his two sons, Amasa and Phineas. His brother Moses had inherited



Phineas was left with a legacy of debts

land as well, and immediately began through his business acumen, to loan money to his deceased brother's sons no doubt helping them through hard times, but eventually claiming the whole of the family plot to pay for those debts and the accumulated interest.

Phineas was the younger of those two sons, and was only 22 when his father died. By the next year, Phineas was supporting his own family of four and his wife's father, stepmother and their two children. Nine years after his father died, Phineas' brother Amasa was killed in an accident, leaving him with staggering debts which he felt obligated to pay. But after ten years, he realized he couldn't work himself out of debt, no matter how hard he tried.

In 1829 he sold all his land to his father-in-law, who on the same day deeded it back to Phineas and Irene to pay off some of the outstanding debts. Then he went to work, leased the land to his son Daniel who had recently been married with the understanding that the family would still live in the "new house," and hoped by managing thus he might be able to reduce the debts and pay it off a little faster.

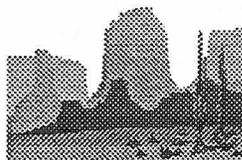
However, he still couldn't do it. In 1836 they sold the family home of their father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather. Phineas sold everything to Moses, who no doubt considered the land his already, and Moses eagerly put together an estate which must have been impressive even by our standards.

### Connecticut to Michigan

At the age of 50 Phineas Cook and his son-in-law Salmon Hall left for the new territory of Michigan, newly opened for settlement. Apparently, as is hinted in Phineas Wolcott's journal, there was little money left after the neighbors had finished making claims on the few thousand dollars he had netted from the sale of everything he owned, and possibly to rescue what little he could from the false claims being made, he must have given some of it to Salmon because it was Salmon who purchased the property in Michigan, and Phineas who took over the property and paid taxes on it.

The next year, in 1837, Michigan was made a state. Young Phineas Wolcott and his older brother Daniel's family made the trip to Michigan to find their father alone and sick with ague (probably Malaria) in a cabin he had built the year before on land in Richland, Kalamazoo, Michigan. And the next year, 1838, Phineas' wife Irene, their two daughters and their son Darius made the trip to join Phineas and Phineas Wolcott. Daniel and Salmon had already staked a claim in a neighboring county. Phineas lived in Michigan until his death at age 62, during the month of May while his son Phineas Wolcott was on his way to Utah from Winter Quarters, Nebraska.

Phineas Wolcott Cook married Ann Eliza Howland at Richland in 1840 at the age of 20, then five years later had joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The summer of 1846, as the Saints were crossing Iowa from Nauvoo, Phineas Wolcott and Ann Eliza and their two children, Charlotte and Harriet, set out to be with the church. Along the way they discovered that the Saints were no longer in Nauvoo, and continued across the Mississippi River and southwest to Winter Quarters just about the time Brigham Young and the Saints arrived there.



Phineas Wolcott was once again on the move.

Joining the Saints at the age of 25, Phineas spent two very difficult years in Winter Quarters. In April, 1848, they joined Brigham Young's second crossing to the Valley. Ann Eliza saw her parents as they moved to California, but Phineas Wolcott never again saw any of his family except his sister Eliza who was a member of the church and eventually moved to Utah.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

If you have interesting stories, please submit them for publication.

## RECORD KEEPER CORNER

*We all have the infamous photo shoe-box  
What to do about it?*

*Read on:*

"Deterioration and photographs is fluorescent lighting, chemicals, dust, and corrosive Preservation the documents and these damaging involves deterioration from present in the photographic paper as a result of the manufacturing process.



I'd like to eat  
your pictures

of paper documents caused by sunlight, fire, heat, moisture, insects, substances. involves protecting photographs from conditions. It also minimizing the chemicals document or

"This is particularly true of the acid used in manufacturing paper. Storing a document or photograph between folds of regular paper or in a regular paper box increases the deterioration; hence the use of acid-free paper in archival storage materials."

"In addition to acid-free paper, permanent paper with calcium carbonate may also be used for record preservation.

"...Avoid the use of plastic acetate. (Acetate can be identified by its gaseous odor.) Safe plastics for storage and display are polyethylene, polypropylene, and Mylar D. (Look for the words 'acid free' or 'archival safe' on the box.)

"This and more information can be found in the following:

Genealogy Fundamentals  
by Laureen R. Jaussi  
Jaussi Publications  
284 East 400 South  
Orem, Utah 84058

### UPDATING THE ANCESTRAL FILE (AF)

I spent all day (13 August 1999) talking to William Cook from Mesa, WA and Dale Cook from Idaho Falls, ID discussing the problems with the ACF. These two brothers along with their wives, have filled missions at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. William has taken the time to understand the AF and to learn how to make corrections to this file, while Dale is more familiar with research. Their discussion has given me a different perspective on what needs to be done. I would like to summarize what they have taught me:

1. Nearly everyone who has searched the AF recognizes that there is a lot of "garbage" on it (garbage by computer user definition = any information that is not correct). The AF contains a lot of obvious errors.

2. How does it get there? This may best be answered by the familiar computer users statement "garbage in - garbage out" . I feel certain that these errors are not put there intentionally, but like any computer data base, the AF accepts what is put into it.

- Every time a person submits information to the AF, there is potential for setting up a new person in the file (either a new person submitted for the first time, or for additional submittals for the same person). For example:
  - If the information provided is "first time information" a new person should be established.
  - When the new submittal is for a person who is already on the AF, if the submittal has a typo, a different spelling, a different city, a new or different date, a city or name not previously listed, or even a comma out of place, a new entry will be added to the AF as though it were a 1<sup>st</sup> time submittal. Example: Assuming that the following birth place entries were made on separate submittals for the same person: St. Joseph Parish, Wallingford, Herfordshire, England; Wallingford, England; England; ,,England; ,England; etc. Each of these will create a separate entry for this person on the AF.
  - You may have 5, 10, 20, or 50 new entries and they could all be for the same person, but each one with only a slight change.
  - On several occasions, William has merged 7 or more spouses, all of which are the same person. This is necessary to remove the incorrect information.
  - Nearly every person who does research or just gathers information from other family members **feels the need to SUBMIT** "their own information" to the AF which will often times end up creating additional entries for the same person.

These are serious problems. In these situations, the **bad word** is **SUBMIT**. What we should be thinking is to **only SUBMIT** when there is no information in the AF. Otherwise, we would be thinking about **how to CORRECT the FILE**.

- These records and files can be corrected and cleaned up, but most people don't know how to do this.
- It is important that it be done right or we can mess up the AF further.
- Because the AF is only updated by the Family History Dept. about every year and a half, many submissions could be sent in attempting to correct the AF.

#### Solution & Request:

- As an ancestral family organization, we are planning to have several family members trained to correct the AF.
- When you send your changes and corrections to the family organization, we will take the responsibility to verify the information, compare it with other submissions and corrections and have trained individuals make these corrections and submit them, in your name, to the AF. We will not be submitting duplicate submissions or corrections. This is the only way we know that the AF can be cleaned up and kept clean.

3. Another **SERIOUS** problem exists, when information is passed through the "Temple Ready File", if any of the information is different, even a comma out of place, it may get through as a new person and be cleared for submission to the Temple resulting in duplication of ordinance work. Example:

- William told me of following through on a submission of over 300 names to the Temple Ready File. Of the 300 names, 135 were cleared for temple ordinance work. He took the 135 and checked them through the IGI and TIB files and every one of these 135 "cleared" names had already had the work done, and many of them more than once.
- Requirement: Before submitting records through the "Temple Ready" file, a person **must first check** the TEMPLE ORDINANCE INDEXES to see if the work has been done. It is necessary to look at this information closely to see if it is the same person, with only slight differences in the information that **does not affect the identity of the person.**
- We can spend our time more effectively doing work for those who have not had the work done for them than to continue to duplicate work already done. Once an ancestor is identified and the ordinance work is done, they can be released from "spirit prison." Doing the ordinance additional times for the same person does not provide any greater opportunity for their release, and greatly adds to our confusion..

4. In the past, we have made many requests for family members to make their submissions through the Family Organization in order to prevent duplication and also to help others know what has been done and allow all to use their time more effectively. We have had very little response from family members to this request. Now with computers, we can expand the garbage on the AF much, much faster. It must appear to the world that we don't know what we are doing. Again we request, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE make your submissions through the family organization so that we may be of greater service to the family in cleaning the Ancestral File, and that our record may be acceptable to the Lord.

#### **Status of DPC Update**

The Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization prepared a Descending Pedigree Chart (DPC) in 1969. At that time it included approx. 3,500 descendants of Phineas and his four wives. We estimate that there are over 9,000 members now.

We are now trying to update this information and make it available to the family members. It will take the help of all family members in order to accomplish this big task. Annalee Kennedy has volunteered to prepare the new dpc charts. We appreciate her willingness to help.

We must give credit to some branches of the family that have done a great job. The Savage family had completed their information about ten years ago. Brent Hales is now updating their information. Dale Cook, William Cook and Doris Vandenakker have completed the Phineas H. Cook line through June 1999. The rest of us have a lot of work to do.

Following is a list of the persons responsible for this update. They will be contacting you. I think they would be happy if any of the family members would contact them and offer to help.

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### **WILLIAM and DALE COOK: This Family Volunteers!**

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William and Dale Cook and their wives, Betty and Vesta, would be home puttering in the garden and enjoying their well-deserved retirement if they had time. But there aren't two busier men in the world. They have given their lives to family history and to missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

At an age when most men relegate computers and keyboards to the younger generation, William and Dale chose to dive headlong into the business of learning the new and difficult. For vacations, they go to family history sites and provide us with pictures and documentation for ancestral family houses. For recreation Dale researches and writes histories of his ancestors which he has submitted to the Family Organization; and William has made a disk to aid us in making the proven family group sheets coordinate with Ancestral File.

What has made these brothers whose lives began on a farm in Rigby Idaho, the sons of John William and Helena Ritchie Cook, devote themselves to the Lord's work and to their ancestors? William, a resident of Mesa, Washington, said it best:

"My families had done so much work. I had all the sheets they had done and felt pretty good about it. We had turned in our four generation sheets all three times. I was over Genealogy in the ward while in the bishopric. I dutifully taught the research classes while I was the High Priest Group Leader. I had received the newsletters and information from the Cook Organization in Salt Lake and admired them for their work. In 1992 Betty was working in the ward genealogy library. The ward leader asked me to take the classes...Much to my shame I said, 'Mine is done by people much more capable than I.'

"I learned a bit about the PAF program, and that it was done on a computer...That people my age are intimidated by computers is an understatement for me. You could add FRUSTRATING, AGGRAVATING, DISGUSTING, EVERY THING BUT COOPERATIVE. I had no desire for one. But some one said that Our Heavenly Father had provided them that his great work could be accomplished. Who was I to dispute that."

It hasn't been easy. When he became discouraged because he felt there were so many people who knew so much more, William prayed and studied harder. "I'll whip this thing if it's the last thing I do," he said. And he did. William and Betty later served a family search mission in Salt Lake City and have spent much time since then cleaning up the multiple Ancestral File submissions for the Cook Family. Dale continues to spend his time researching and writing histories which he has submitted to the family organization. (Dale and Vesta also served a mission to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.)



ROOTS OF THE P.W. COOK FAMILY ORGANIZATION

I recently received a letter from Dean S. Cook, expressing some thoughts about the Family Organization. I would like to share a few paragraphs with you.

"I've thought about the early days of the current organization. Bryson Cook, Sr. and myself met in the Logan Temple and discussed organizing (the family). Shortly after (within a week) a letter from Owen Cook was received by many of us expressing the same desire - He was in Hawaii. Several of us, in Utah, met in Logan and organized.

"Bryson Cook, Rex Cook, Dean Cook, Vera Hunsaker, Pearl Day, Maude C. Kilburn and her daughter Joan - there may have been others at that first meeting. Maude Cook Kilburn was the driving force in arranging and publishing The Life and History of Phineas Wolcott Cook (first edition) - Joan helped immeasurably. Later, many others rallied and continue to rally around the family circle."

I appreciate this information from Dean. There are many others such as Alton D. Cook, Newell Cook McMillan, and lets not forget their spouses. I had intended to list many more names here to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for their tireless work in the family organization, but I know that I would forget someone and that would be unforgivable. Of particular note are those who have spent so much time in genealogical research.

To all who have helped us so much, we extend our heartfelt thanks. This is truly a work of love.

LaMar Day, V.P. Family Units.

Delay In Delivering PAF Disk

We apologize for the delay in delivering the PAF disk that several have ordered. We have found that there was more information on the disk than the 65 sheets that we had offered to the members. This additional information is not on Phineas' direct line and the information has not been verified by the family organization. As soon as it is removed and the information on the disk is thoroughly checked, it will be shipped. Thanks for your patience.



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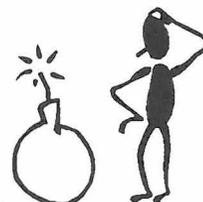
WATCH FOR HISTORY OF IRWIN CALDER COOK IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Is Family History Dangerous?

If you're thinking of finding lost ancestors, the most fearsome thing you'll have to worry about will be fractious computers and maybe a flat tire on the way to the library. However, the unexpected does happen.....

Family member Janet Porter was sent by the Cook Family Organization to the Utah Genealogical Conference in Salt Lake City April 15-17, 1999. It seemed a simple enough assignment, but it could have cost her life.

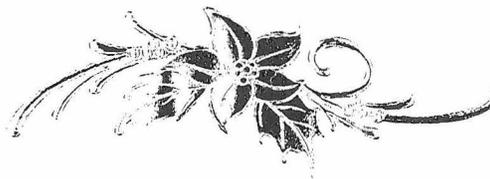


On Thursday, April 15, between classes, she rushed from the Salt Palace to the Family History Library to find lost connections in the Ann Eliza Howland family. She hung up her coat and sat down at the table opposite the front door to read. Little did she know, at that very moment a gunman was on his way to the library to come through those very doors.

She then went to the phone which is also next to the door to call LaMar Day for information. After about 15 minutes at the phone, she picked up her books and went upstairs. Within a few seconds the gunman entered those front doors and shot several people. It would be the next day before she could retrieve her coat and books.

However, for her family the ordeal was not over. Waiting to find change for the phone, she was locked, with all the others attending the conference, in a room of the Salt Palace while it was ascertained whether or not there was also a bomb threat. Her beleaguered family didn't find out of her safety until 5 p.m. when she was released.

But don't plan on having such dramatic days in family history. Generally the most startling event will be the phone. Family History is known not for taking life and energy, but for giving one new life.



# Got A Minute?

Little Jobs You Could Do For the Family  
Even if you live in Peoria

- Do a limited internet search for an assigned name
- Begin a Cook Family Picture Resource File
- Begin a Cook Family Ancestor Journal File
- Write a history
  - Your immediate Cook ancestors
  - Henry Cook of Salem, Mass.
  - Samuel Cook of Wallingford, Ct.
  - Joseph Cook of Goshen, Ct.
  - Daniel Cook of Goshen, Ct.
- Help with mailings
- Illustrate stories and articles for newsletters and other publications
- Volunteer for a committee
  - Genealogy research
  - Type family group sheets on P.A.F.
  - Descending pedigree research (your family only)
  - Telephone
- Become Secretary for the Family Organization
- Become Treasurer for the Family Organization

For information on these and others, contact:

Janet Porter  
430 S. 450 E.  
Orem, UT 84097  
Tel: 226-8094

E.Mail -janetsp@juno.Com  
LaMar Day

E.Mail -lday99@Deseretonline.Com

## 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  
City, State Zip 84010

Gentlemen, I am enclosing money for the following:

1. P. W. Cook Diary \_\_\_\_\_ copies @ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single copies - \$6.00 each  
 2-6 copies - \$4.50 each  
 7-12 copies - \$4.00 each
2. Video (42 minutes) on the Life of P. W. Cook  
 \_\_\_\_\_ videos @ 12.00 each (Postage incl.) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cook Ancestral Tour Guides \$5.00 each (4 or more \$4.00 each)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Goshen & Litchfield Co., Connecticut \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Wallingford, Connecticut \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Salem, Massachusetts \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ State of New York \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ State of Utah \_\_\_\_\_
4. Other Items  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family Fireside Stories – Book I @ \$5.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ PAF Diskette of 65 verified Ancestor  
 Families @ \$5.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 1/2 or \_\_\_\_\_ 5 1/4 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Organizational Dues (Suggested "Tax Exempt")  
 Donation - \$10.00 per family) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Donations for Family Research  
 Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Line \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ann Eliza Howland Family Line \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amanda Polly Savage Family Line \_\_\_\_\_  
 Catherine McCleve Family Line \_\_\_\_\_  
 Johanna Christine Poulson Family Line \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to work on the following committees:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Family History Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Research Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Record Verification Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Computer Preparation of PAF Descending Pedigree Charts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter/Mailing Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Distribution Committee

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

**Phineas Wolcott Cook**  
Family Organization  
467 West 2400 South  
Bountiful, Utah 84010

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