

The history and  
Autobiography of the  
Life of Moses Cook

Chapter one my parents

Over one hundred years ago my Father Phineas Wolcot Cook came to Utah to gather with other pioneers and with advice of Brigham Young the church leader he entered into polygamy having three wives, first was Ann Eliza, second Amanda and third Catherine, also with the advice of Brigham Young Father located at Bear Lake in the north east corner of Utah, there he stakdd his claim (homestead) on the west shore of the lake where Swan Creek flows from a large spring high up on the hill side down into the lake, here he built several mills, a saw-mill, a grist mill and a carding machine, all opperated by Swan creek water power.

As soonas the mills were in opper-  
ation people came from all directions  
with logs to be made into lumber,  
grain to be ground into to flour and  
wool to be carded into batts for  
quilt making. A small percentage of ea-  
ch was given to him as payment of the  
milling.

One day a young man who had re-  
cently returned from a mission to  
Sweden called to get his grain gro-  
und and while this was being done  
he and Father sat down on some  
sacks of grain to talk over his  
experiences in the mission field,  
They talked about people who had  
been converted to the mormon re-  
ligion and some in who in other  
lands that would like to come to

Utah and the church. At that time Father had accumulated some wealth and made the remark, "If I was sure one out of three would be faithful to the church and would come to me I would gladly pay for three" The young man informed him that he had met and got acquainted with a very nice woman in Sweden who had been deserted some years before by her husband and left her with two small daughters, this widowed woman had joined the church and was very anxious to come to Utah and the church and he was sure she would come to him if a way was provided.

Father was interested and told the young man so, and with help from him in writing letters in the Swedish language the woman in Sweden was contacted who was very much interested to come to Utah and the man who so generously offered to pay her way.

So at length the money was sent to her to pay transportation for her and her two small daughters to come to Utah, the church and the man who in letters had proposed marriage to her.

When she received the money there was great rejoicing as she informed her friends that the Lord had provided a way for her to go to Utah and the church which she so much desired and to meet the rich man who had made it possible.

After making all arrangements and bidding all her friends including her aged Mother good bye she and her two daughters set sail for America.

On the way over there were many who tried to persuade her not to go to the man who had sent the money, but she told them all, "If he was good enough to send the money I will be good enough to go to him", so in due

time she arrived at Swan Creek and met the man who had sent her the money for her to come. With the help of interpreters they managed to understand each other and soon journeyed to Logan and the temple where they were married in the year of 1878.

When they returned to Swan Creek this woman was due for some great disappointments, she was shown a one room, dirt roof, log cabin that was to be her future home and the welcome she received from the other wives and their children was not very cordial, however she tried to make the best of it without complaining for the sake of her great faith in her religious belief and a year later her first son Carl was born September 25th, 1879 and the following year November 20 1880 her second son Moses (myself) was born so this Swedish woman became my own dear Mother. In July 1882 her third son, Kib was born and shortly after he came Father decided to divide all his property with his other families and take his young wife and family and live some other place, so he did just that and moved us to Logan where he built a shingles roof, frame house for us.

While we lived in Logan Father worked at his carpenter trade and did some farming on shares and I think it was about two years later that Mother gave birth to a pair of twins, Emer and Omer, however Omar did not live long after birth, in the mean time Mother's Mother had arrived from Sweden and stayed with us for a short time before she died and is buried in Logan cemetery and Omar is there beside her.

I don't remember much about my grand-Mother, however one day shortly after she was buried I saw an old lady coming down the path from the direction of the grave yard and I ran to the house and told them grandma was coming home again and my Mother has told me when I learned to talk I would talk to grandma in the Swedish language and turn around and talk to my Father in English.

Mother's next son was born in 1887 I think and they named him Parley Abraham, (Father was always great for Bible names) this made five boys in the family and with Mother's two daughters Hilma and Elvira it made nine of us altogether in the family.

After we had lived at Logan for a while the United States government officials were out after all Mormon polygamist and many were caught and placed in jail as law breakers and Father was one of these so each time we saw strangers approaching Father would go and hide until they left and many nights he would go to a neighbor's house to sleep and some times one of us boys would go and sleep with him to keep him company.

The officials finally caught up with him and he was sentenced to thirty days in jail. The night he returned home I remember very well for it was in the winter time and when he entered the house his beard was all covered with frost so thick we could hardly see his face.

He told us though that they had been very good to him at the jail for he was not deprived of his beard and was not required to wear prison garb as some other were requested to do.

Hilma and Elvira attended school and soon become accustomed with the english language, their school house was up on the temple bench and when I was six I went to school too but my school was much farther away for I must go up the dugway and over the temple bench and a couple of blocks west down the other side and some times I got pretty cold and did some crying when I got to the school house but my teacher was very nice and rubbed my hands, she was so nice.

As I passed up and down the dugway I remember seeing scores of sparrows flyin all around for they had their nests in small holes high up in the bank of the hill side, I think they are still there, not the same ones perhaps.

In the fall of 1888 I was babtised in a large cannal after my eighth birthday, the water was very cold.

As soon as Hilma and Elvira were old enough to do anything they hired out to work for others and as they entered their teens they went to Pocatello to work for a man by the name of Newberry as waitresses in his resturent.

While there Hilma became acquainted with Harry Kinport a rail road employe and she fell in love with him, he made her all kinds of promises of marriage and consequently she became pregnant then he left her and she had no one to turn to except her Mother so she came home and in July 1889 she gave birth to a son Adelbert Leroy and the night he was born Carl and I were sent to fetch the midwife from her home up on the temple bench and as it was in the night time we were some

what afraid especially when we had to pass the rock factory where we had been told there were ghosts that haunted the place, some one had started to build a large factory with large stones but had never finished it for it had no roof but was large and had several gables, in the day time we very often went there to play, well, we found the midwife and explained our errand and went back home as fast as we could go and I remember hearing Hilma cry out with pain when we went back to bed, but we did not understand why then.

That summer Father decided to try to get some land some place so he wrote a letter to his son Hyrum (his youngest son with his first wife Eliza) and asked him to come to Logan with team and wagon to help move us to Ham's Fork in Uinta County, Wypming where there was open land and a place where he thought he could raise his boys and learn them how to work. In going there I remember we passed through Cokeville and on east over the Dempsy trail where we must climb two very large hills and all our horses were needed in order to haul one wagon at a time up these steep places while we all must get out of the wagon and walk up to the top, As we were going down the other side Father's wagon become stuck in a mud hole where a small stream of water crossed our path but with all of us pushing we finally extricated it and were on our way again and soon reached the place we were going to where we put up the large tent we were to live in by a very cool spring of cold water.

All the country at that time was wild and open, no fences except occasionally a large pole, round corral where the cowboys separated and branded cattle, there was also many dead carcasses laying around that were dried up and nothing much left but the hide, us children used to get long sticks and move these hides a little and many mice would come running out from under the hides and we would kill them with our sticks, there were hundreds of cattle all around us and among them were many large bulls which caused us some concern for our safety.

Neighbors were few and far between infact miles apart so we had few visitors and those that did visit us were mostly indians, the squaws would come and peek into our tent and say, "Bisseket" meaning they wanted bread or biscuits.

When Father sold his part of the property at Swan Creek it went to his son Alonzo and in making the final payment he had given his Father about thirty head of range cattle valued by him at thirtythree dollars a head and Father thought he could cut and cure some of the tall medow grass that was very plentiful and feed them and his other stock through the winter but the few neighbors that we talked to told him it would be impossible to remain there through the very hard winters in our present circumstances so after a few days we decided to return to our home in Logan. Before we left though one day a team of horses and a light buggy came up to our tent and in it were two people, Mother's daughter Elvira and her boy friend George Shurtleff who

had come by train to old Ham's Fork station and hired a team from a man at the livery stable so they could come and ask permission to get married for Elvira was only fifteen years old at the time she married.

Hilma had remained in Logan with her friend Josephine Peterson because her baby was so young to go on such a long trip. Well, we all went back to Logan again where soon after our arrival there Mother gave birth to our one and only full sister Idalia.