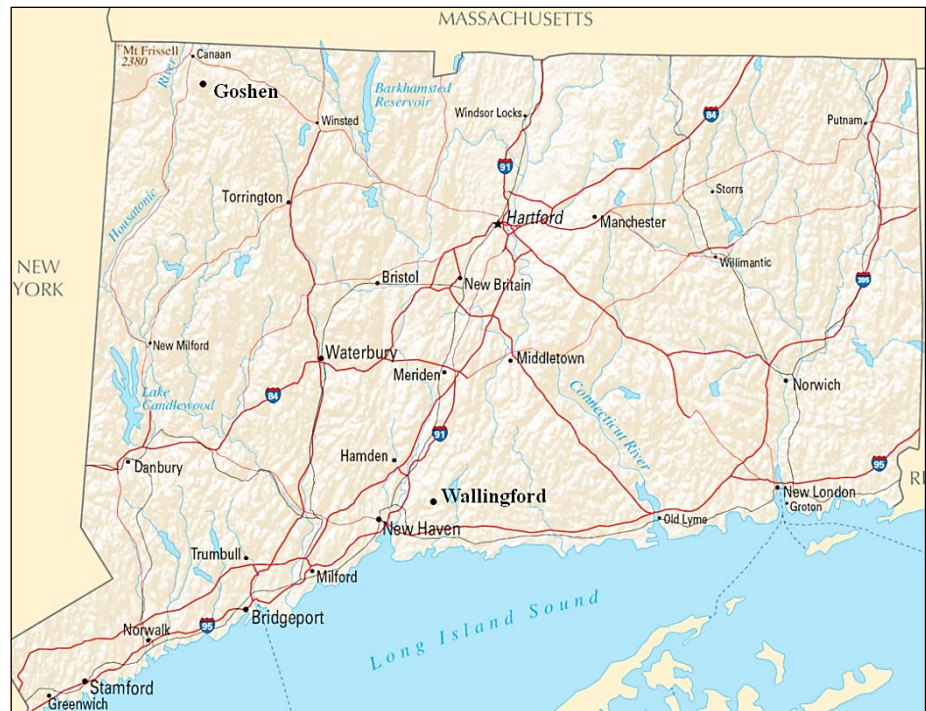


## 1737 – 1837 Goshen, Connecticut

Lying near the northwestern corner of Connecticut, originally this area was known as “The Western Lands.” It was decided that Hartford and Windsor would “hold the land thus granted for the Governor and Company until those times of danger and trouble should be passed, but not as their property.” By 1719 it was published that ownership belonged to the Connecticut Assembly and no surveyors or settlers would be allowed. In the past when the Assembly took over a piece of land it was assigned at no cost to a group of settlers who applied to the General Court for it.



**Joseph Cook left Wallingford, Connecticut (bottom center) and moved his family to Goshen (upper left) in 1737. The family stayed for over a century.**

By October, 1737 there were many who needed land, and an Act was passed ordering the sale and settlement “of all the Townships in the Western Lands.” It was published that land would be sold at the courthouse at New Haven on December 1. Six months later the Court confirmed that the “township sold at New Haven...is hereby named...Goshen.” The town was legally organized 28 September, 1838.<sup>1</sup>

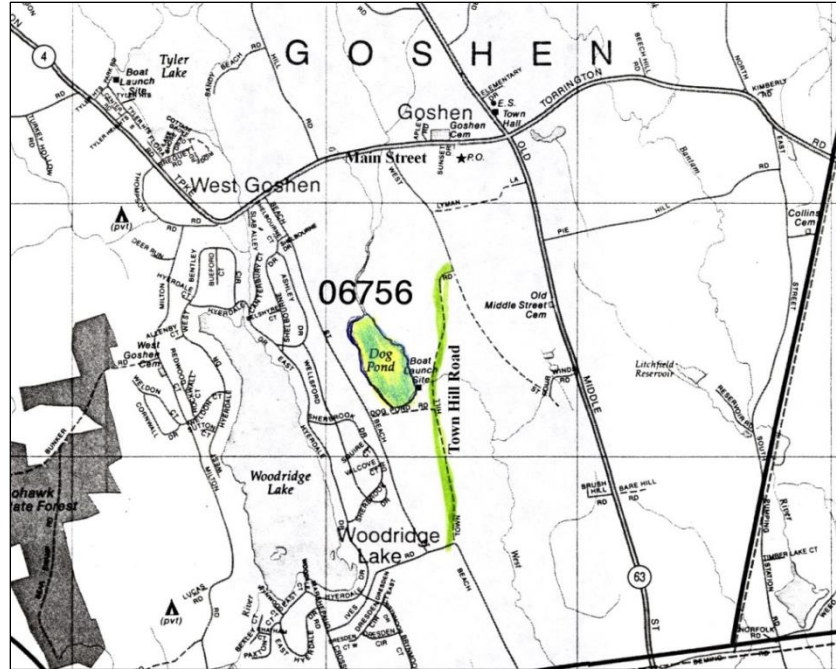
There was a flood of requests for land in this new area, so the Assembly divided the town site into 53 shares, three of which would be reserved for public purposes such as schools, and the other 50 sold at auction to the highest bidder. The shares were quickly taken. Within a few weeks, the buyers elected a committee to survey the land and plan highways. The town was divided into parcels and prospective settlers drew lots to determine their location. This process was repeated for the other towns in Litchfield County: Sharon, Canaan, Kent, Norfolk, Cornwall and Salisbury.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Connecticut Town Origins*, FHL book 974.6 E2s, p. 32.

<sup>2</sup> Bruce C. Daniels, *The Connecticut Town*, FHL book 974.6 H2d, p. 30.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation in America: Joseph Cook

Joseph Cook of Wallingford (near New Haven) purchased a share, and is listed as one of the first 50 proprietors of Goshen, drawing Lot #15. Joseph's name appears many times on land records as he purchased land and participated in proprietor's meetings between 1737 and 1750.<sup>3</sup> Joseph was the third generation of Cooks in America: the son of Samuel Cook of New Haven and the grandson of Henry Cooke of Salem, Massachusetts. He was born 25 Feb. 1683 at Wallingford, the fifth son of Samuel and Hope (Parker) Cook.



**Goshen, Connecticut: In 1737 Joseph Cook bought land on Town Hill Road. Later Phineas Wolcott Cook grew up in the south part of Goshen, about a mile closer to the villages of Milton and Cornwall.**

Joseph Cook and his wife Eleanor Johnson had eight children at Wallingford but were unable to provide an inheritance for all of them, an important ideal for early American landowners. As he searched for an opportunity, sales were advertised in nearby New Haven for the Western Lands in northeast Connecticut, and he purchased land at the top of Town Hill in Goshen. Eventually all his children followed their parents to Goshen.

“Joseph Cook’s deed from the government: The General Assembly at New Haven October 13, 1737 grants settlement of all the townships in the Western lands...the towns in said lands joining to Litchfield...sold to the highest bidder on the first day of December next at one o’clock in the afternoon, till the whole be sold.” For £130-0-0, (Joseph Cook of Wallingford, New Haven, Connecticut purchased “one right, part of allotment in the township aforesaid, the same being divided into 53 equal allotments,” dated February 3, 1737/1738.)<sup>4</sup>

"About 25 rods south of Gen. Moses Cook's present dwelling, on the east side of the road (on Town Hill) stood the house of Joseph Cook, from Wallingford, father of Daniel Cook, and grandfather of Moses Cook, Sr. Joseph Cook lived here until the time of his death Nov. 7, 1764."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Goshen, Connecticut General Grantee Index, Family History Library film 4416.

<sup>4</sup> Goshen, Connecticut Land Records, Volume 1, 1739-1744, p. 76, (Family History Library film 4417, item 1.

<sup>5</sup> *History of Litchfield CT*, J. H. Lewis & Co., (Berkshire Genealogist Indexing Committee, 1881) p. 327.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Generation in America: Daniel Cook

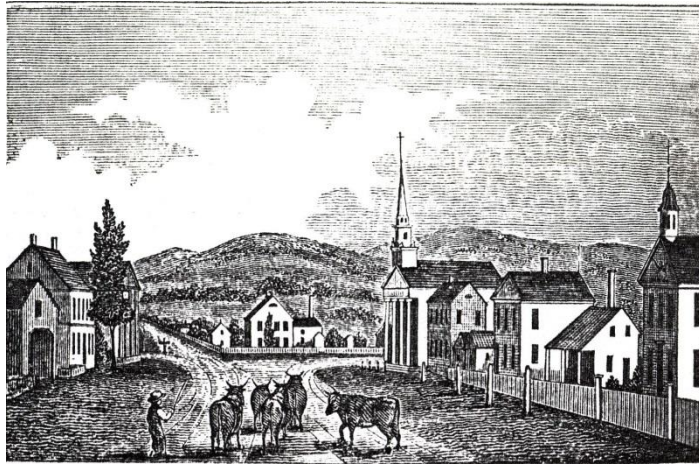
Joseph Cook and his family for five generations are named in *The History of the Town of Goshen*.<sup>6</sup> His son Daniel was born at Wallingford August 19, 1720 and married Elizabeth Pond there before moving to Goshen in 1750. He bought land near his father on Town Hill,<sup>7</sup> just south of a lovely little lake known from earliest times as Dog Pond.<sup>8</sup> Daniel acquired considerable land from 1750 when he first came to Goshen until 1778 when he died.



Sandy Beach Road in Goshen (Courtesy realtor.com)

Daniel and Elizabeth had eight children, two born in Wallingford and six in Goshen. Of the eight, five stayed in Goshen and died there. Phillip moved to Nassau, New York; Lois and her husband Joel Gaylord went to Hudson, Ohio; Lydia and her husband Moses Bartholomew both died in Vershire, Vermont. He did not serve in the fighting during the Revolutionary War; however, Daniel Cook Sr. is noted for “physical service,” which is donation of food or other goods, etc.)<sup>9</sup>

His death was not recorded in Goshen, probably because it was during the general upheaval of the Revolutionary War. We know he had died by 1778 because his will was proved January 7, 1778.<sup>10</sup> Goshen records state:



View south on the main Goshen street. (Ct. Historical Collections)

"There are various persons who might have been buried in the East Street Burying Ground, but for whom there is no clear record of burial. Of these may be mentioned Joseph Cook who died 7 Nov. 1764, Daniel Cook who died in 1777 or 1778..."<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Rev. A. G. Hibbard, *The History of the Town of Goshen*, Hartford, 1897, FHL 974.61/G1 H2h, p. 448-452.

<sup>7</sup> Goshen Connecticut, Warranty Deed dated June 4, 1750, Goshen Land Records 1749-1779, Vol 3, p. 61 (Family History Library film 4418.)

<sup>8</sup> *The History of Litchfield County, Connecticut*, by J.W. Lewis and Co., 1881

<sup>9</sup> "Register of Soldiers and Patriots in Litchfield County," p. 36, by Mary Floyd Talmadge, D.A.R. Daniel Sr. is noted "Daniel Cook, PS, son of Joseph b 8-19-1720 d Goshen 4-14-1778."

<sup>10</sup> Probate Records for Goshen, Ct. #1599, Probate Packets, 1787-1880, Family History Library film 1015130, are an inventory of his possessions totaling 179.12.10. His land totaled 1,868.0.0.

<sup>11</sup> "Glimpses of Goshen: Inscriptions in the East Street Burying Gound, Goshen, CT," copied by Mabel Ingalls, (Family History Library book 974.61/G1 K2h, p. 37.)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Generation in America: Daniel Cook Jr.

Daniel Cook Jr. is noted on land records as the son of Daniel Sr. Born 18 August 1761 in Goshen, he was the third son and sixth child of Daniel and Elizabeth (Pond) Cook. We know from land records that he inherited the house and property of his father, which property was in the hands of his mother until her death in 1796.



**The old Cook house inherited by Grandfather Daniel Cook Jr. passed to his son Amasa.**

“part of home lot lately owned by my honored father Daniel Cook, late of said Goshen, deceased, and lies at the north part of said home lot and bounds east and north on highways, south and west on land of the said Moses...described in the division of my said fathers estate but then the improvement of said land my honored mother Elizabeth holds as her right of dower during her natural life and at her decease said land reverts to me.”<sup>12</sup>

PWC Journal: “Grandfathers name was Daniel Cook and grandmothers name was Elizabeth Porter(.) him I never saw but I just remember of seeing grandmother(.) it was when I was very small.

*“He was about 16 years old when he enlisted in the army(.) he served his country faithfully for 7 years or to the end of the war... Grandfather died when he was 49 years old(.) it is little that I know of him and that little I heard father tell(.) he served all through the revolutionary war with England which broke his constitution and his health was always poor(.)”*

Revolutionary War rosters were not well kept at the beginning of the war, and when they were compiled by the town of Goshen, Daniel had been dead for thirty years, so he was forgotten. However, he was mentioned in the pension record of other soldiers,<sup>13</sup> and local people knew at the time of his death he had served his



**Goshen Rural Street (Courtesy Google)**

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<sup>12</sup> Goshen Land Records 7: 243 (Family History Library film 4420.) Deed dated: October 2, 1780.

<sup>13</sup> Ebenezer Miller Revolutionary War Pension Record W1306, p. 53; and Alexander Griswold, who was born in Goshen, CT. (Revolutionary War Pension Record R4342, page 3).

country. In 1809 when he died he was recognized as a Revolutionary War soldier and is listed in the "Register of Soldiers and Patriots in Litchfield."<sup>14</sup> His name appears "Capt. Daniel Cook" on his headstone.

Probably in about 1780 before the end of the war, Daniel married Elizabeth Porter, a Goshen girl born in the nearby town of Bethlehem. By 1786 they had three children, all of whom are enumerated on the 1790 Census.<sup>15</sup>

PWC Journal: "*After (the war) (Grandfather Daniel Cook) went to work and bought new land among which was the place of my birth for one English shilling pr acre which arose in value and he sold enough to maintain him with his family and a handsome property bsides(.) whare he was buried I don't know that I ever knew but it seems to me that it was in East Goshen.*"

Daniel purchased additional land besides what he had inherited from his father on Town Hill. It was in the southwest part of Goshen, near the town line of Cornwall. On that land was a sawmill, with figured in the childhood memories of Phineas Wolcott Cook when he helped his father.<sup>16</sup> By the time Daniel died at age 49 in 1809, he had accumulated considerable land, totaling 186 acres. His inventory showed he was worth \$5,551.24, a considerable sum at that time.<sup>17</sup>



**Mill Street in Goshen, (Courtesy realtor.com)**

Daniel's wife Elizabeth remarried in 1814, and when that husband Benjamin Beach died in 1816, married again in 1821. She and her third husband Joseph Peters moved to Darien, Genesee, New York in about 1826, following his oldest son Joseph Jr. who had moved there in 1809.<sup>18</sup> Joseph died there 27 January 1835. There is no record of Elizabeth's death or burial, but his probate indicated she had died previously.<sup>19</sup> The writings of Phineas Wolcott Cook record the death about 1834.

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<sup>14</sup> Joyce Mackenzie Cropsey, "Register of Soldiers and Patriots in Litchfield," Mary Floyd Talmadge Chapter, Hartford, p. 36. Identified as "Daniel Cook, b 8-14-1760 d 8-14-1809 #35." (Family History Library book 974.61 V22c).

<sup>15</sup> 1 male over the age of 16; 2 boys under 16, and two females. (Heads of Families, First Census, 1790, Connecticut. Government Printing Office, WA, 1908, Family History Library book 974.6/X2b/1790.)

<sup>16</sup> Goshen Land Records, Volume 7, 1783-1788, FHL film 4420, Item 1, pp. 13, 14, 38, 212, 213, 259, 262.

<sup>17</sup> Probate Records for Goshen, #1601. Inventory added up to \$790.14. His land totaled 186 acres, 33 rods of land with buildings which was worth a total of \$5,551.24. The date was 1809. (Litchfield County Connecticut Probate Packets, Family History Library film 1,022,333)

<sup>18</sup> F.W. Beers, *Gazette and Biographical Record of Genesee Co., N.Y.*, p. 408.

<sup>19</sup> Probate packet for Joseph Peters, filed in the Genesee County Court House, Batavia, New York.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Generation in America, Phineas Cook

Phineas Cook had an older sister Eliza, who apparently died young, and an older brother Amasa, both of whom were born during the Revolutionary War. He was born 12 November 1786 after the war was over. Inheriting half his father's estate, he went into business with his brother.

Amasa took the old place and mansion house on Town Hill and Phineas inherited the land near Cornwall in Southwest Goshen. Phineas Wolcott recorded he was born there in the new house near Cornwall, putting them quite far from the church and school. Phineas' father Daniel had even signed a petition to build a church closer to that side of town.

Daniel Cook, "petition with others living on a tract of land within limits of Litchfield, Goshen, Warren and Cornwall, with record of meeting in 3d society in Litchfield, April 22, 1796 and tax-lists of said society, called Blue Swamp, and lists of Goshen, Warren and Cornwall, showing inconvenience of attending public worship and praying to be made into a distinct society. Resolve incorporating ecclesiastical society of Milton, April-May, 1795."<sup>20</sup>

PWC Journal: *"We lived one mile from the district school house and I had but little chance to obtain an education(.) as soon as I was old enough to labor my father needed me to help him. When I was 10 years old I did half a mans work in spring and summer and fall and winters went to school except when it was too cold and snowy which was vary common in that country(.)*

*"the ice on the ponds would freeze from 2 to 3 feet thick. I often went with father to fish through the ice on pleasant days(.) the ice was so thick it caused a great deal of labor to cut holes but when it was done we generly got our pay for our trouble in fish(.) the ponds or still waters was the places we used to visit but in summer we had good luck generly in both still and running water(.) the stream east was good for trout, eels and bullheads in the night with what we called bobs(.)*

*"On this stream stood the old sawmill which father owned until his mother died(.) it being a part of her 3rd of Grandfathers property which she held for her support until she died (1834)... this mill father used to tend in spring himself(,) their being no other time in the year when there was water enough to saw(.)"*

### The Cook Family Debt

When Phineas W. was a boy, his family began to suffer the consequence of debt. His father had taken on the debts of his brother when Amasa was suddenly killed:

PWC Journal: *"Grandfather (Daniel Cook Jr.) left a handsom property for each of his sons Amasa and Phineas, Amasa had the old mansion and Phineas-or father had the new place each valued at about \$3, 000(.) they went into business together(.) Amasa was not possesst of the best of economy(.) he got into debt and of coars father was holden with him."*

*"... Amasa was suddenly killed and it swallowed up nearly both of their farms to pay cost, and debts(.) father had writs of attachment before (Amasa) was buried."*

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<sup>20</sup> Connecticut Archives, Ecclesiastical Affairs, 2nd Series, III:43, Family History Library book 974.6 K23. Also found in Leonard Woods, *The public records of the State of Connecticut*, p. 282 cited in Google at <http://books.google.com/books?id=ndkP5fQbTIEC&vid=0iLVfnW36Xsmx8VJCAvKBM->

Jonathan Churchill's two daughters Irene and Polly married these Cook brothers Phineas and Amasa, so he had a great desire to help their families. Perhaps to pay off Amasa's debts and save the Cook farm, Grandfather Jonathan Churchill mortgaged his farm in May of 1824 to James Birge, one of the creditors on Amasa's estate. The deed shows by that time Jonathan and his wife were living with the Cook family.<sup>21</sup>

PWC Journal: *"Just about this time mothers father came and wanted to live with father through his old age and gave in his property which amounted to about 1700 dollars which saved fathers farm with the exception of one debt of 900 dollars for which it was mortgaged(,) which debt was not paid until the year 1836 when they sold out and father emigrated to Michigan."*

Five years after selling his own farm, in a series of deeds on 13 January 1829, Jonathan Churchill signed several land transactions to help his son-in-law Phineas Cook get out of debt; finally deeding it back to his daughter Irene Cook.<sup>22</sup> The family then concentrated on helping their father. The oldest son Daniel took over the farmwork. Phineas W. at the age of nine years began working with his father at the sawmill.

PWC Journal: *"father went to building and getting out timber and I was with him the most of the time to help him saw which I could do vary well(.) for 2 or 3 years things went on in this way till Daniel took another farm and then the most of the farming was trusted to me(.) I was then about 12 years old(.)"*

Daniel had begun managing the farm at age 21.<sup>23</sup> He was married September 2, 1830 and continued working the farm for his father, but after two more years he left and leased another farm. Phineas Sr. was working a second job to earn money to pay off the debt, and the second brother Darius had gone to the town of Litchfield to learn his printer's trade. That left Phineas W. at age 12 to take over the family farm while his father worked at the building trade.

PWC Journal: *"We had a yoke of stags (young horses)(.) I used to plow from 30 to 50 acres in spring and put it into corn and oats and buck wheat and potatoes with the help of a hired man(.) in hoeing time and harvest father was through at the mill and would take charge and help us out(.) in fall our crops was to gather our cider to make to the amount of 30 or 40 barrels and wood to get for winter which was no small matter(.) in this way things went on for 3 years."*

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<sup>21</sup> Litchfield Land Records, 32:430. Deed dated 8 May 1824 (Family History Library film 4756, item 1.)

<sup>22</sup> Goshen Land Records, Vols 7 to 16, Family History Library films 4422 and 4423. (Vol. 10: 183, 191, 195;) (Vol. 11: 495;) (Vol. 12: 18, 19, 21, 22, 34-36) (Phineas sold 80 acres "he inherited from his father) on Jan. 13, 1829. This is the same day as the mortgage of the same property and then deeded back to Irene; 157, 173; (Vol. 13: 26, 500;) (Vol. 14: 2, 6, 26, 27, 226, 326.) Phineas had considerable property "west of Goshen along the road toward Cornwall," evidently mortgaging themselves heavily to keep it. (Vol. 15: 285.)

<sup>23</sup> Phineas and Irene leased 7 pieces of land to Daniel, their son, for 5 years, including the home farm of 80 acres with buildings, the Bunnel lot of 31 acres; the Wright lot of 22 acres with house and barn, the Baldwin lot and lot east of saw mill "together with the use of the sawmill standing near by the same." Daniel also agreed to pay the bills and pay off the debt and furnish room for his father's family in the house. (Goshen Deeds, Family History Library film 4424, p. 497.) (Also a lease agreement between Phineas and Irene Cook, Grantors and Daniel Cook, Grantee, dated 27 Sept, 1830.

Whatever the financial consequences to himself, Phineas Sr. considered first the needs of his children. In spite of the family troubles, his sons were given the opportunity to learn a trade. In 1834 Phineas Jr. was sent to learn the carpenter's trade.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Generation in America, Phineas Wolcott Cook**

Born August 28, 1819, Phineas W. grew up in an environment of hard work and early responsibility. Third son in a family with four daughters and three sons, he inherited both the will to work and the mind of a mechanic and builder. His father, overwhelmed with more debt than he could manage, must have been working all the time, and Phineas W. benefitted greatly from a close relationship with his Grandfather Jonathan Churchill.

His childhood memories were related to work: making sugar, fishing, farming, working the sawmill and helping his father with building, all of which he experienced at a very young age. Nevertheless, even though the consequences would be felt, Phineas Cook gave his son Phineas Jr. the education he needed to give him a profession.

PWC Journal: (1834-1835) *"At the age of 15 years I went to learn the carpenters trade with a man by the name of Augustus Mory (Murray). I went to him for trial 2 or 3 weeks and he promised to tell me what he could give me for my labor(.) accordingly at the end of the time I asked him what he could give me(.) he told me he was not prepared to tell me at presant but I had better stay 5 or 6 months and then he could judge better. I then went home and asked father what I should do(.) he said I had better stay for he thought Mory would do what was right, so accordingly I took his council and went back...After I had stayed the 5 or 6 months at the trade I again asked him what he could pay me(.) he said he would give me 15 dollars for the first year and 20 for the 2nd and 30 for the 3<sup>rd</sup>."*

(1836) *"(At the age of 17) I left him (Murray) and went to Norfolk to work for a man by the name of Birdseye Norton(.) I stayed with him 3 months(.) he promised me 15 pr month(;) he paid me 10 dollars(.) after I had worked about one month, when my time was out I asked for my pay(.) he said he had no mony but told me if I would come to Plymouth in 6 weeks he would pay me so with that promise I went home."*

Phineas Jr. didn't work for him long. Birdseye Norton was the son of a successful businessman, and apparently had learned a few tricks of the trade. His father owned a store in Goshen and managed a large mercantile business which came to be known Birdsey Norton and Company,<sup>24</sup> so he no doubt could have paid his apprentice.

PWC Journal: *"(1837) I spent the summer labering for William Tuttle(.)"*

Phineas Sr. had already began to realize he could not save the farm, and began looking for a new opportunity to own land somewhere else. All the efforts of the family the past eighteen years since his brother Amasa died had not brought in enough money to pay the debt. Besides that, the whole country at that time was beginning to feel the pinch of a major recession. Some time in about 1836 Phineas Cook was finished.

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<sup>24</sup> Rev. A. G. Hibbard, *The History of the Town of Goshen*, Hartford, 1897, FHL 974.61/G1 H2h, p. 360-361.



## The Territory of Michigan

Meanwhile in Michigan, Territorial Governor Lewis Cass began a campaign to advertise the rich prairie and wooded land of Michigan. Land offices had been open for several years, but he knew there was great possibility in the territory, and was determined to attract enough settlers to become a state. In 1825 the Erie Canal had opened, making travel much easier and cheaper. The terminus at Buffalo, New York was waiting with a Lake Erie steamboat to take travelers across the lake to Toledo, now in Ohio, but at that time the easternmost edge of Michigan. The western frontier was waiting for a migration which was set to begin.

About the time Phineas left for Richland, Michigan, on October 2, 1836 his land "which had been bought by Daniel Cook, Sr., and passed to his son Daniel, and his grandson Phineas," was sold to his Uncle Moses. It included 74 acres and 142 rods with a mill and water rights and a second piece of 42 acres with the house.<sup>25</sup>

PWC Journal: "*Many unjust claims were brought against him and he put 800 dollars into the hands of Salmon(.) the rest he left with mother and went with Salmon to the west(.)*"

As so often happened when someone sold out, false creditors plagued Phineas until he made sure his son-in-law Salmon had the money for their Michigan land. Phineas Cook came to Michigan with his daughter Eliza and her husband Solomon C. Hall and their two children. "Salmon C. Hall," acting for Phineas, filed for one of the original land entries in Kalamazoo Section 2 in February, 1837. Phineas thereafter appeared as the taxpayer in 1839.<sup>26</sup>

In 1837 Solomon C. Hall and Phineas Cook appeared in the 1837 list of residents of Richland and enumerated in the Ross Twp. tax payers list of 1839.<sup>27</sup> In the 1838 Richland tax list Phineas Cook and Salmon C. Hall appear. Phineas Cook is listed with 65 acres (value \$270) real estate in section 2; Salmon with none.<sup>28</sup>

"The Michigan Pioneer Reports state that, 'The records of the public land sales at the office in Kalamazoo for the year 1836 show that there were nearly two millions of money received at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. For one single day there was received eighty-seven thousand dollars in exchange for the fertile land of Michigan.'"<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Goshen Town Clerk, Land records, 1739-1958; general index 16:198-199, October 2, 1836, Family History Library film 4425: "Phineas Cook, Irene (Rene) Cook, Salmon C. Hall for the consideration of \$2,209.00 paid by Moses Cook, sold 2 pieces of land in southwest Goshen containing 74 acres and 142 rods. This is the same land on which Phineas Cook now lives, and was distributed to him from the estate of his honored father Daniel Cook, deceased..."

<sup>26</sup> Samuel W. Durant, *History of Kalamazoo County, Michigan : with illustrations and biographical sketches of its prominent men and pioneers*, pp. 462-463, 466. (Philadelphia: Everts and Abbott, 1880, Family History Library book 977.417 H2d.)

<sup>27</sup> Ruth Robbins Monteith, comp., *Michigan State Census of Kalamazoo County, 1837, Richland Township, heads of families*, Vol. III, No. 3, p. 146, Family History Library book 977.417 X2p 1837.

<sup>28</sup> 1838 Richland tax list (Family History Library film 932,044, item 2.)

<sup>29</sup> *Kalamazoo County, MI, Genealogy and Local History, County History*, p. 3, "Land Sales in Kalamazoo, Michigan,"

<http://www.migenweb.org/kalamazoo/history/history3.htm#HARDSHIPS%20OF%20EARLY%20SETTLERS>



Phineas Cook, like thousands of other Americans, had turned to the west, leaving everything behind. In 1837 his sons Phineas W. and Daniel followed him to Richland, and in 1838 his wife and daughters came with Darius. Ahead of them lay a new life in the malarial wilderness of Michigan, newest state in the Union.

**The Goshen Congregational Church**



**Bartholomew Road at Goshen (Courtesy elevation.maplogs.com)**



**Goshen hillside (courtesy hameyre.com)**



**Goshen at Milton Road (Courtesy Coldwell Bankers)**



**Goshen from the hill (aroundguides.com)**



**Torrington Road in Goshen (Courtesy Coldwell Bankers)**



**Native woods at Goshen (Courtesy [www.zillo.com](http://www.zillo.com))**



**Goshen Center Cemetery (Courtesy [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com))**