

Phineas Wolcott Cook

Family Organization

Newsletter

August, 2018

Family Celebration Set: August 2019 For 200th Birthday of P. W. Cook

To celebrate the bicentennial of Phineas Wolcott Cook's birth on Aug 28, 1819, the PWC Family organization is arranging a special family event on Saturday, August 24, 2019—one year from now.

This special celebration will be held from 10 am to 2 pm in Salt Lake City at the Bonneville Glen, 1500 Bonneview Dr. The celebration will include discussions, presentations and videos on the life of Phineas. Plans are being made to stream some sessions live.

As part of the preparation, plans are being made to create short video presentations of 16 locations which were significant in the life of Phineas.

Information on many of these locations have already been placed on the website (cookfamily.org) and plans are underway to include the remaining locations soon. Any

family members who might be able to participate in these locality narrations should contact Janet Porter at janetprtr@gmail.com.

Plans are also being

made to stream important segments of this event live over the internet. Following the event those resources will be made available at the Cook Family

Website:

www.cookfamily.org.

Look for more information and details as the time gets closer, but plan on attending in person or online.

Cook O Rama October 4

On Thursday, October 4, 2018, the annual Cook O Rama will feature Elder Rulon Stacey, Area Authority Seventy of the LDS Church, and healthcare executive.

At 7 pm, during the culminating fireside event, Elder Stacey will address family members. This fireside will be streamed live for those who wish to view it from home. A potluck dinner will be held prior to the fireside. The location for this event will be announced later.

Elder Stacey has been an administrator at hospitals in California, Illinois and Colorado,

eventually becoming a system administrator in both Colorado and Minnesota.

In 2011, Elder Stacey was elected by his peers to serve as the chairman of the Board of Governors of the American College of Healthcare executives. (ACHE) In addition to his service with the

ACHE, in 2017 Elder Stacey was selected as a lifetime member of the International Hospital Federation for his work with international hospitals. He has also served as the immediate past chair of the Board of Overseers of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality award.

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By Dan Ditto,
President, PW Cook
Family Organization

Dear Cook Family
Friends,

We have many exciting things happening in the Cook Family Organization.

First, mark August 24, 2019 on your calendar, which will be Phineas Cook's 200th birthday celebration! Reserve that day! It will be an experience NOT to be

missed. His life will be presented that day in an amazing and remarkable way through movies, videos, pictures and in his own words. That experience will offer to all of us a wealth of marvelous information about his remarkable life that we will be able to use in many ways for the benefit of our families. While we are still in our preparation phase, we may also have the opportunity to hear a message from a very special guest. Stay tuned! We know that most people cannot make it to the live event in Salt Lake City, but it will be broadcast over the internet. Then later, those

resources will be made available on the Cook Family Website.

Second, mark October 4, 2018 on your calendar, for the Cook O Rama where we will have the opportunity to hear from Elder Rulon Stacey, Cook Family Member and Area Seventy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has had many marvelous experiences and it will be a very enjoyable and inspiring evening.

Third, we are a member of the **LDS Ancestral Families Association** and meet regularly with other Family organizations, which have similar goals and challenges. There, we are trying to learn about the best and most effective practices from various family organizations. You can find the information on the LDSAFA at this website: <https://sites.google.com/view/ldsafa/home>. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow as a family organization and become more effective in accomplishing our mission as a family organization. Through that organization, we also have access to professional genealogical and research resources nationwide.

Fourth, Other Changes! There are many other changes that we are experiencing, including going to an elec-

tronic only newsletter. This will require more diligence for all of us in finding and updating family members' emails.

Fifth, HELP! We can always use your

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**Newsletters
Will Now Be
Digital Only**

In an effort to increase distribution and save on printing and postal costs, the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Newsletter will be published only digitally in the future.

"This is the final edition we will print and mail through the Postal Service, said organization president Dan Ditto. "All future newsletters will be digital only."

The newsletter will now be distributed to descendants as an email attachment and will also be available online at the Cook Family Website : www.cookfamily.org

This requires members to update their own email addresses or find a family member with internet access or email access to the newsletter.

Email address information can be sent to the PW Cook Family Organization Newsletter at Cookfamilynewsletter@gmail.com.

Family Heritage Is Important

As Part of the Cook o Rama in September, 2017, Dan Ditto talked about the value of making family heritage important

Dan took his family throughout Montana, to see where his pioneer ancestors lived and to hear their stories from his mother. They visited several small towns from his family's history and where many distant relatives still reside. He visited his grandfather's homestead next to a Reservation. Native Americans would often show up and they would feed them.

Dan's grandmother had married LaVarr McCann, a Cook Family descendant who came from the Bear Lake area, but was widowed after their 5 children were born. She had no means of support, but was allowed to become a teacher in a small 1-room school house while she took correspondence courses and went to summer school.

"It was fascinating how they made a living out there on the remote prairie," he said.

During the trip he took pictures, found family history books and recorded stories from elderly family members. All of this gave his children a greater appreciation for their family heritage.

2017 Cook O Rama Speaker Talked of Religion in Russia

Finding religion, or even religious material in Post Soviet Russia was difficult, but Olya McCallson's father Igor, touched by something he heard on the radio one day, began to search for God. His journey led him and his family into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

At the Cook O Rama held last September 31, Olya McCallson, talked about her family's journey to find religion in Russia. Olya is married to Kaleb McCallson, a descendant of Phineas Wolcott Cook.

Olya began by explaining experiences her family had following the collapse of the Soviet Union. After hearing about God on the radio for the first time, Olya's father began searching for a bible, but he could only find only a small children's bible.

The family began regularly reading these scriptures. They also started going to various churches and asking questions. They even began instituting the sacrament, according to the



Kaleb McCallson, a descendant of PW Cook and his bride, Olya at the LDS temple in Helsinki, Finland

best knowledge they had.

After visiting a priest who could not answer his questions about God or the family, Olya's father prayed that Heavenly Father would send someone who could explain what he was missing. It was a continual search.

In addition to investigating other churches, her father would talk to his family and to his wife's family, but they were not interested. One day, when Olya's grandfather was gravely sick in the hospital, in a coma, unable to move and very near death, he suddenly sat up in bed and said, "Tell Igor that he was right." Shortly thereafter

he died.

When Igor returned home from work that day, Olya's mother told him the news about her father's death. Igor then told the family that the same afternoon, he had decided to walk home a different way and met two missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The missionaries invited the family to church and that was the answer they were looking for. They joined the LDS church, eventually were sealed in the temple and it has been a blessing in their lives ever since.

President's Message continued

(Continued from page 2)

help. Please volunteer. We don't need massive amounts of your time, but, as an organization, there are many things to do to educate, communicate with family members, manage the organization's knowledge base, internet utilization, website, Facebook site and other resources. If you have a feel for your family or extended family or any interest in helping, please contact me. I can be reached at: dlditto@msn.com.

We would also love to have more family members pay **\$15 a year in dues** to help keep us solvent! This is equal to about 2 trips to McDonalds, but you will be helping to preserve and promote a remarkable family legacy! You can do that through **PayPal or Venmo**.

We are honored to serve you, such a marvelous group of PW Cook descendants. You are making a remarkable difference in this world we live in.

Cookfamily.org

Gets a new look

The Cook Family Website has a new look!
In an effort to update

the site, two Cook Family Members have collaborated to improve the appearance and functionality of the Cook Family Website.

The Graphics design has been coordinated by Jessica George, a descendant of PW Cook living in Solon, Ohio. The technical aspects of the site have been designed by Brad Porter of Lehi, Utah and son of Cook Family Genealogist Janet Porter.

The improved site should be more user-friendly, with increased graphics links and navigation tools.

Family members will have access to photos, diaries, histories and current family history information.

In addition, some fun extras have been added to the sites with skits, games and other interesting information now included in the site.

Find it at **cookfamily.org**.

*Save the dates:
Two Events:*

Oct 4, 2018
Cook-O-Rama
and
August 24, 2019

Phineas' 200th
Birthday
Celebration

The next Cook O Rama will be Oct 4, 2018, With Elder Rulon Stacey

And

A family celebration honoring 200 years since the birth of our common ancestor, Phineas Wolcott Cook. He was born on August 28, 1819, but our celebration will be held on Saturday in Salt Lake City, Utah on August 24, 2019. Details will be published later.

A Call for Volunteers To Help Make Videos For the 2019 Celebration



Some very significant events happened in each place the Cooks lived. At the 200th birthday celebration, next year we hope to have a presentation for each of those places, from Goshen, Conn to Afton, Wyoming.

Please help us make these videos. Some of them might be picture histories if no one is able to visit a certain locality in person. Information has been gathered and pictures included for each place, including Phineas' journal entry, historical information and quotes, pictures and maps. These files will help you find the right place and have the correct information to take your own pictures and narrate the video in your own words. Eventually they will be posted on the website.

Here's how to find them: **cookfamily.org – Histories and Journals – Additional Histories – Phineas Wolcott Cook family – Chronology: Where they were and what they did.** There will be a total of 16 files, including maps and travel information for the trek in 1846 to Winter Quarters and in 1848 to Salt Lake City.

Please contact Janet Porter to volunteer for one of the localities or for more information.
(janetprtr@gmail.com)

A Synopsis of Research Done on the Johanna Christina Poulson Line

Thanks to Marva Green for helping us gain a better overview of the research history on this line.

Marva's grandmother referred to Johanna Christina Poulson as "my Swedish Grandmother." Johanna was Phineas' fourth wife and was living with him when he died.

Years ago Marva says she was blessed to be given many, perhaps all, of the genealogical records compiled by her Grandfather, Carl Cook. She said she believed that as the eldest son, he may have done much of the work and collected what others had done.

Marva was then able to organize the records from her Grandfather's work and enter them into the PAF records. "Of course, during the early days of research, people did not write down where the information came from. They felt it was sufficient to write down what they learned," she said. Many of the records include sources such as "from the records of Carl Cook," or "from research done by Ella Heckscher in Sweden"

She sent all this accumulated research to the Pedigree Resource file where it was added to Family Search and became the source of what Marva thinks is most of the original information on the Johanna Christina line there.

Later, Marva said she once read a story in the Cook Family Newsletter crediting her with the wonderful genealogy work "when all I did was record 100 years of the work my relatives had done."

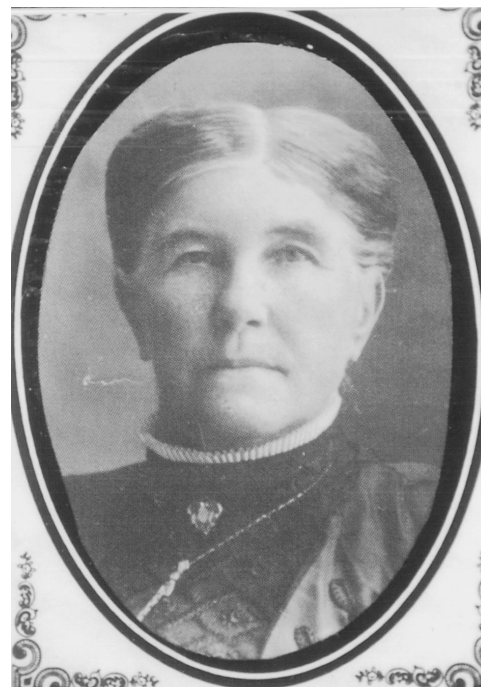
More recently, Marva has received records from her sister and her cousin. Her sister served a

mission in Sweden and returned with many direct line records and her cousin gave her relatively recent research information gathered by family members in the last 20-30 years generally on the Lundgren line.

Because of these new sources of information, Marva has begun to verify older family research. While the newer information has generally confirmed the names already known to the family, some of the traditional family information has been found to be incorrect.

Marva's future goals include making sure her personal records are complete and then to comparing them and documenting the records on Family Tree.

Other goals include more Danish research on the Line of Christina's father, Pål Jönsson and on the Lundgren line. Marva says that while some of Pål Jönsson's



Johanna, about age 60

information is known from the older family research notes, it needs to be verified for accuracy.



Phineas and Johanna's family, about 1896

Save 2 Dates
October 4, 2018
Cook O Rama
And
August 24, 2019
Birthday Celebration
For Phineas Wolcott Cook

Links to Cook Website Pages

Cook Family Website Links

Cook Family Website at <http://www.cookfamily.org>

Bookstore: <http://www.cookfamily.org/store/index.html>

Histories and Journals: <http://www.cookfamily.org/historiesandjournals.html>

Family pedigree chart: http://www.cookfamily.org/tree/pedigree.php?rootid=I1&show_full=1&PEDIGREE_GENERATIONS=4&talloffset=1&ged=Cook

Interactive Family Tree : <http://www.cookfamily.org/webtrees.html>

Family History Vignettes: Short biographical information: <http://www.cookfamily.org/vignettes/index.html>