



Phineas Wolcott Cook Newsletter

Phineas W. Cook Family Organization

March, 2014

October Cook-O-Rama Reviewed Organization History and Current Work

Family members gathered on October 4, 2013 to celebrate our Cook family. Posters showed the Phineas Cook family, including a timeline for the family and information about Phineas Wolcott and all his siblings. Recent findings for that family provided numerous temple cards for family members to take.

The featured speaker was LaMar Day, long-time board member, and former President of the Phineas W. Cook Family Organization. He detailed a very interesting history of the organization from its earliest beginnings in the early 1900s to its reorganization in 1969 when six descendants met under the leadership of Owen Cook as president and Dean Cook as the new organization's first vice president. Amazingly, there was at least one descendant from each wife in that original 1969 group.

In 1970, under new president

Osmond Cook, the organization was officially incorporated and in 1972, Dean Cook became president. LaMar expressed tender feelings for the organization and for those who have worked hard to keep it going.

LaMar talked about how the organization had grown and developed. He mentioned that in 2002, there were approximately 16,000 descendants. He finished by explaining the need for more participation by family members.

Janet and Grant Porter, currently serving missions at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, showed the

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President's Message

From New Cook Family
Organization President,
Daniel Ditto

Dear Cook Family Members, I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve in this family organization. Because of the dedicated service of those that have gone before, I believe that the Cook Family Organization has grown significantly in goodness and strength over the years.

I especially want to pay tribute to Guy Cook and Lamar Day. Guy has been the president of the Cook Family Organization for eleven years. He has reorganized and revitalized the organization through his leadership and hard work. LaMar Day has been a mainstay of the Cook Family Organization for many years. He and his entire family have spent innumerable

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Goshen Papers: Land of Goshen: Trial and Disappointment

In his dedicatory prayer, printed in the previous newsletter, Phineas referred to the new town site as "the land of Goshen." From the very beginning it apparently was called Goshen. We can only assume he named it both for his birthplace of Goshen, Connecticut and for the land of plenty granted to the Children of Israel as they escaped the famine in their homeland. The small group of settlers stayed at the site four days. Phineas went to Nephi to see if there were other families in need of a farm and returned to find his group somewhat discouraged at the task ahead of them. However, they gained faith from each other and on Saturday night returned to their homes, intending to tell others about the venture and increase the number of settlers.

Upon telling Bishop Hancock of the beautiful location they had found, Phineas was dismayed when his bishop informed him he had changed his mind.

I asked the Bishop if he felt to encourage the Brethren that kneeded (needed) land to go with me. He replied that he had concluded that he needed all hands here till after harvest to build up

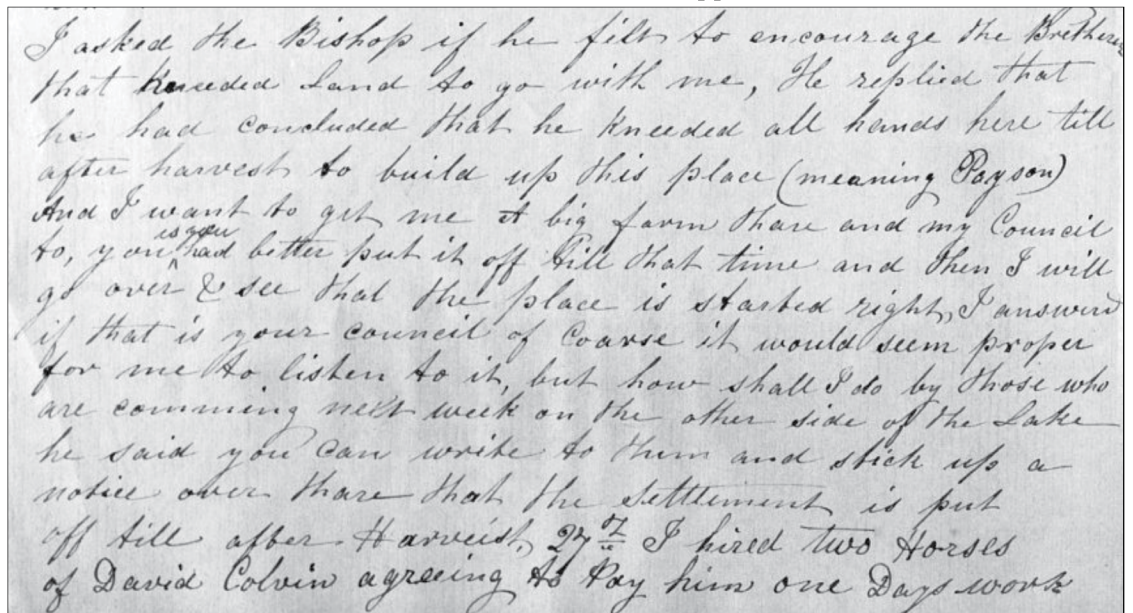
this place (meaning Payson) and I want to get me a big farm there and my council (counsel) to you is you

had better put it off till that time and then I will go over and see that the place is started right(.) I answered if that is your counsel of course it would seem proper for me to listen to it but how shall I do by those who are comming (coming) next week on the other side of the lake(?) He said you can write to them and stick up a notice over thare (there) that the settlement is put off till after harvest.¹

True to his obedient nature, Phineas abided by the counsel of his bishop. Bishops had considerable power in those early years of settlement, and were in charge of granting land to people in their wards. Somehow the Bishop found another farm and assigned the land to Phineas which he immediately

for the second time. In spite of Phineas's plea to his bishop that he had already learned he couldn't make a living on public works because he was never paid in full, the bishop insisted he work for the city and promised he would pay a fair salary. A few in town questioned whether it was right to turn away the other families who also needed land at Salt Creek, but Phineas was determined to do as counseled.

Some said that the Bishop had nothing to do with it but as for myself I did not wish to judge him but I thought the coarse (course) I had preveiously (previously) taking (taken) might be considered as running before I was sent, for I had invited the brethren just as it had hapned (happened) without the counsel or



I asked the Bishop if he felt to encourage the Brethren that kneeded Land to go with me, He replied that he had concluded that he kneeded all hands here till after harvest to build up this place (meaning Payson) And I want to get me a big farm there and my Council to, you had better put it off till that time and then I will go over & see that the place is started right, I answered if that is your council of Coarse it would seem proper for me to listen to it, but how shall I do by those who are comming next week on the other side of the Lake he said you can write to them and stick up a notice over thare that the settlement is put off till after Harvest. By the way I hired two Horses of David Colvin agreeing to pay him one Days work

began to plow and plant. Unfortunately within a few days the land he was promised was taken away

consent of the Bishop supposing

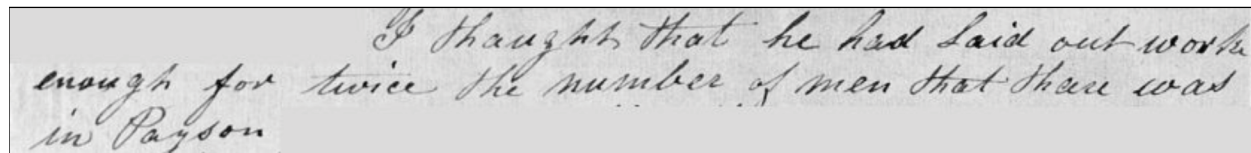
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Phineas called it “The Land of Goshen”

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that it was my duty(.)

Just at this time the Bishop came in(.) I asked him



weather (whether) he considered himself responsible for the settlement at Goshen or weather (whether) I was(.) He said, “Wy (why) I am or at any rate I know what is wanting thare (there) as well as here(.) It is for all hands to take hold of the public works here till fall. We want to build the Council House and finish

the wall around it and build a thrashing machine and go gather in our corn and potatoes and thrash our grain and been (bin) it up in the Council House sellar (cellar)

and get every-thing safe here and then I will take a Company and go over and

take out the warter (water) and fence the land and then I will roal (roll) in the wheat.

I thought that he had laid out work enough for twice the number of men that thare (there) was in Payson..(.)²
1 Goshen Journal Sheet 3, side 2

President’s Message From Dan Ditto, continued

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hours working and supporting the Cook Family Organization in a host of ways.

I am very grateful for the invaluable contributions of these two good men and many others who have made great contributions to the success of the Cook Family Organization.

While it seems like many family organizations have been slowly phasing out, I believe that vibrant family organizations will continually play a more critical role to stabilize and strengthen our families, our communities and our nation. There is no organization that is more fundamental to the success of our society than is the family. Almost all people have a hunger to understand where and who they came from. We learn more about ourselves by understanding our families.

We are reminded of the tremendous blessings we enjoy as we consider the challenges and sacrifices of those that have gone before. We enjoy the daily breath of freedom and prosperity in large part due to our forbearer’s struggles. We are not only obligated to learn of their brave and selfless service to us, but to share the stories of their lives to our children and grandchildren to help them find joy and peace in knowing who they are and

what they represent. This great Cook Family Organization supports all of those endeavors and more. I am humbled every time I think about the tremendous sacrifices that were made by Phineas Cook and my direct ancestors since him. We can build on these invaluable contributions. I believe we can use existing and developing technology and your organizational strength to be a blessing to the extended Cook Family – now exceeding 15,000 ancestors of Phineas W. Cook.

There are many more things we can do to take advantage of technology, to touch, to teach, and to involve more people in the great work of tying our family together. We are implementing some leadership and organizational changes that will help us better utilize both family strength and technological tools. We also believe this will help draw in the next generation of leaders who will help us to take the Cook Family Organization to the next level. We will discuss these more in the coming months. If you would like to be involved or share any ideas or thoughts with me about the organization, I would invite you to send me an email at: dlditto@msn.com. I look forward to your thoughts, input, advice, and participation and I look forward to serving with you.

Phineas' Brother Daniel Cook Researched

Daniel Cook, brother to Phineas W. Cook, has become a real person to us because of a small research assignment made in October 2012 at the research portion of the Cook-o-Rama. Not much was known about Phineas Wolcott Cook's brother Daniel. We knew that he had married in Connecticut and ended up in Michigan. It was in an attempt to find more information about him, that we came to know not only more about his first family, but that he had a second family.

Daniel was born on 20 November, 1808 in Goshen, Litchfield Connecticut, the second child and oldest son of Phineas and Irene Churchill Cook. Our ancestor, Phineas Wolcott, was much younger, the 6th child in the family. We don't know much about his older brother Daniel's early life, but we do know he was married in 1830 in Litchfield Connecticut to Helen M King by a reverent P.L. Hichok.

For 7 years they continued to live in Goshen, and eventually had 2 daughters, Mary and Maria.

When Daniel and Helen were first married, they leased land from Daniel's father, Phineas, in 1830. In the summer of 1837, they left for Michigan and by 1841 were in Barry County.

Because the nationwide financial depression in 1836-1837 led to the loss of the family land in Goshen, the Cook family went to Michigan to claim new prairie land. Michigan then became

a permanent home to them. Land records of purchases and sale of parcels of land appear 1841 until 1877, shortly before the death of Daniel. In addition, Daniel is frequently listed as a justice of the peace throughout a 20 year history from 1847 to 1867.

Daniel, his wife, and their two daughters appear in the 1850 census in Barry County Michigan, but by 1860, although he and his wife, both 50 years old were listed, neither daughter was in the record. Unfortunately, within 2 years of the 1850 Census, both daughters had died. The youngest Maria E, listed in the 1850 census as 16 years old, died that summer. She is buried in the local Riverside cemetery, having died in July of that year, "Miriah E, d July 26 1850, age 16 years."

Daniel's oldest daughter, Mary, was born in 1832 and at age 20, in October, 1852, she married Thomas Clark of Benton. Daniel was one of the witnesses. Unfortunately two years later in October 1854, Mary died and was buried in same Cemetery as her sister Maria.

Daniel and Helen continued to live in Hastings for another 17 years after the deaths of both of their daughters. Helen Cook died November 12, 1867 and was buried in the same cemetery where her two daughters were resting.

After her death, Daniel continued serving as a Justice of the Peace. In the spring of 1868, he became a groom himself, marrying 18-year-old Lovica J Booram.

Lovica had been born in Hastings in 1850 and had been living there. She was named in Daniel's

will, originally written just the day after his birthday in 1867 and shortly after the death of his wife Helen, as his "adopted daughter."

Interestingly, she was also listed as his daughter by the census taker in the 1870 census. After their marriage in April, 1868, they stayed in Hastings, Michigan and eventually Daniel, age 66, and his new wife, age 22, were blessed with a daughter, Harriet, born in 1872. She was only 5 years old when her father Daniel died in 1877.

Daniel was buried in the same Riverside cemetery as his first wife Helen and their two daughters Mary and Maria.

Daniel's death left his very young wife Lovica widowed with a 5-year-old daughter. She remained widowed for 3 years until 1880 when she married Benona A Cotant, himself a widower. She eventually died in 1930, still living in Hastings, Barry Michigan.

Ten years after her mother's marriage, in 1890, Harriet married Elmer Cotant, Benona's son from his first marriage. To this union came three sons, only two of whom lived past infancy, as their first son, born in October of 1892, died in infancy. Eventually, two other sons, Dwight and Burdette were born to Elmer and Harriet.

Phineas Wolcott and Daniel likely never saw each other again after Phineas left Michigan to go west with the saints. What a blessing it is that contemporary research techniques and tools have permitted us to find more information on this lost brother.

Cook O Rama Speakers Talk of Past, Future

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Phineas Cook family in the new LDS Church website Family Tree, and explained recent updates to the family. Also discussed were methods of correcting and documenting information on the Tree.

The final speaker was the new president of the organization, Daniel Ditto. He talked about his personal love for Family history in general and the Cook Family History in particular beginning with a college genealogy class. He said "the stories are an awesome heritage of sacrifice and service and family."

He talked of the leadership role in the Phineas W. Cook Family Organization and announced the new post

of vice president of Technology and Communication. "We need to go forward and take advantage of what's out there already," he said and added that we need to take advantage of technology to touch, to teach and to involve more people.

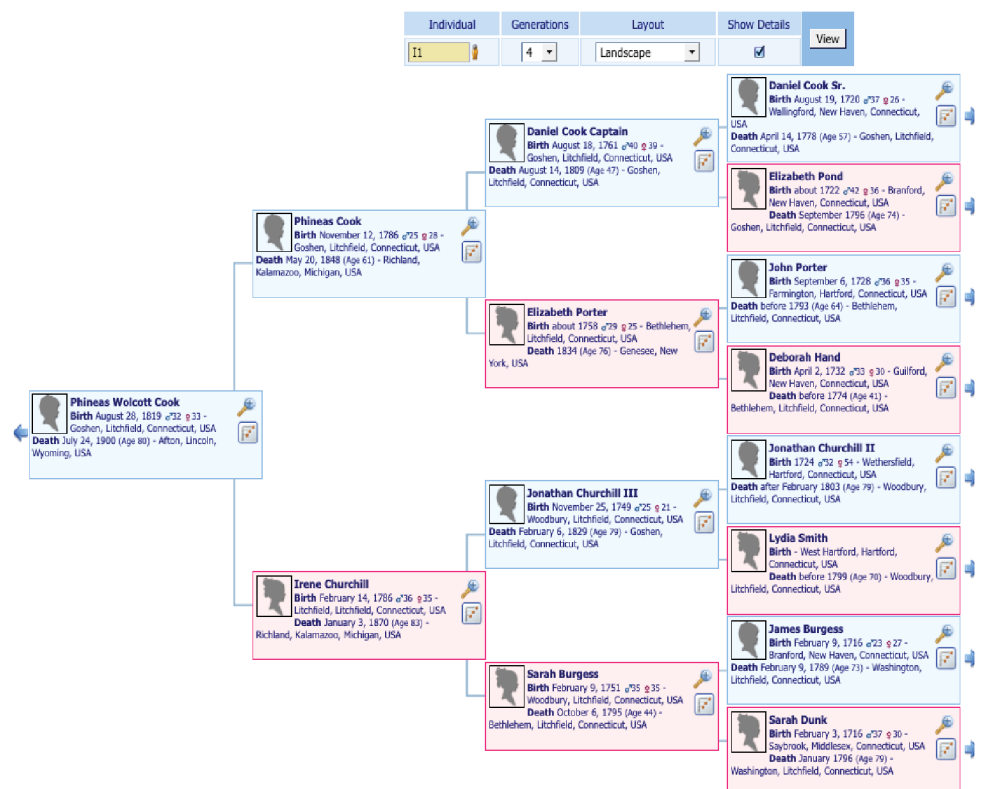
He encouraged everyone to be more involved and to get the next generation involved. He then reminded us of the reunion in 2019 which Bryson Cook will be managing.

The organization will post these talks on the website cookfamily.org. In the future, proceedings of the annual Cook-a-Rama can be found on the website for those unable to attend.

Cook Family Tree Now Available on Website

The Cook Family Organization has for some time desired to post the Cook family genealogy online in a secure environment where we can maintain corrections and additions in an orderly manner. It will be the springboard for posting information into Family Search and a trusted location that Family Search can refer to. We are happy to report that this website is up and running and can be found at <http://www.cookfamily.org/tree>.

While this is a read only tree, the family organization is evaluating solutions for the near future that will be interactive - allowing each family member to create a login, make changes, and add comments - with the intent of fostering collaboration.



Henry Cooke and the Salem Court *Henry Cooke Series*

Freedom was as important to the Pilgrims as their religion. Many of them had been persecuted in England, and had to move their families to Holland so they could have the freedom to practice their religion. They returned to England only to arrange for the ships which would take them to the new land of America.



When they arrived, they were careful not to allow anyone to take away their freedom. Many seeking freedom had died because the English government believed freedom would challenge their authority, and the new settlers wanted to preserve their wonderful gift of freedom in this land. Nevertheless, they didn't want to be cheated or tricked.

Henry Cooke was no different. In 1647 he took John Alderman to court when he thought he was being unfairly treated. The same year when he tried to buy corn meal from a man named Peter, Henry was told there was none. However, he watched, and when someone else came in, Peter heaped two dishes full for him. Henry Cook took Peter to court. The court record still exists¹ :



"Cook deposed to Peter's unseemly words: 'Mr. Corwin...Hath beene very square, but Peter hath been very pettish and peevish as I ever saw...one (time) I came for some meale and Pasea, bringing some in said 'Peter ther is but 3 pks.' (Later someone came for meal and) "Peter said, 'wel well,' & Standing by he tooke up a toule dish as full as could be heaped and another not altogether so full.'"

People haven't changed much since then, nor have the courts. When people are willing to make sacrifices for the right to speak out against someone else, it means freedom is more important than getting rich or being powerful. As long as everyone is willing to make that sacrifice, freedom will be alive and well in America.

¹The Essex Antiquarian, Vol. 4, p. 61 (FHL 974.45 B2a)

Phineas Wolcott Cook

Family Organization Newsletter
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Layton, Utah 84041

March, 2014
Return Service Requested

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P.W. Cook Family Organization
Order Form

Organizational Dues			Date
Suggested Annual Donation - \$20 per family - Tax Deductable			
Please select one:		My dues are current	Do not pay dues
Item	20% discount on all items if dues are current or accompany this order	Price	Discount Price
The Posterity of Phineas Wolcott Cook Book		\$45.00	\$36.00
The Posterity of Phineas Wolcott Cook CD		\$10.00	\$8.00
Amanda P. Savage Descending Pedigree Book		\$10.00	\$8.00
Amanda P. Savage Descending Pedigree CD		\$5.00	\$4.00
Triumph of Testimony, 462 page history of PWC to Utah		\$37.50	\$30.00
P.W. Cook Diary			
1 Copy		\$7.00	\$5.60
2-6 Copies		\$6.00	\$4.80
7+ Copies		\$5.00	\$4.00
DVD (42 minutes) on the Life of P.W. Cook		\$12.00	\$9.60
Cook Ancestral Tour Guides			
Goshen & Litchfield Co., Connecticut (1-3 Copies)		\$6.00	\$4.80
Goshen & Litchfield Co., Connecticut (4+ Copies)		\$5.00	\$4.00
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Book II (Illustrated Stories: LDS Conversion)		\$9.00	\$7.20
Book III (Illustrated Stories: Winter Quarters)		\$9.00	\$7.20
PAF CD with complete Cook and Porter genealogy and documentation		\$6.00	\$4.80
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Please note: All prices include postage. Make checks payable to "Cook Family Organization" and allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. For questions, contact Glen McMillan at 801-529-3772, glenandianline@gmail.com, 130 Twin Peaks Drive, Layton, Utah 84040			
Committees			
I would be willing to work on one of the following committees:			
Family History Committee		Research Committee	
Record Verification Committee		Family Web-Master for website	
Typing Histories - Word Processing		Illustrator	
Newsletter/Mailing Committee		Finance Committee	