Joseph Wolcott Cook, Phineas’ Great Grandson, to speak October 5 at Cook O Rama

Speaking on October 5 at the annual Cook-O-Rama Fireside this year will be Joseph Wolcott Cook, a great grandson of Phineas Wolcott Cook. This fireside is held annually the Friday before October General conference for all descendants of Phineas Wolcott Cook.

Joseph Wolcott Cook is the son of Samuel Bryson Cook (Marilla Crowther), grandson of Joseph Wolcott Cook (Elizabeth Snow Bryson) and great grandson of Phineas Wolcott Cook and Catherine McCleve.

Joseph was born in Logan Utah but as a young child, moved with his family to Mink Creek Idaho (just south of Pocatello Idaho). His father was a Forest Ranger and often took Joseph with him into the mountains. Later they moved to Panguitch Utah which is the gateway to the National Parks and National Recreation areas of Southern Utah.

After Graduation from Panguitch High School in 1945, Joseph enlisted in the Army which later helped him with money to go to college. After his release from the Army in 1947, he was called on an LDS Church Mission to the “Old Spanish American Mission which, at that time, included California, Arizona, Colorado and parts of Nevada and Utah.

While on his mission, a young Sister Missionary by the name of Enid Caldwell caught his eye. After their release as full time missionaries and a short time at USU, they were married and moved to Provo. He obtained a BS degree from BYU. After graduation, they moved to Vernal, Utah, where he taught school for two years, then to Southern California where he finished his MS degree and they lived for the next 40 years.

During this time Joseph served in many callings including Bishop, on the High Council and as Stake President.

After retiring, Joseph and Enid have had some very special assignments together. They went on a 6 month Mission to the Dominican Republic and were then moved to Cochabomba (Bolivia) Mission for 3 years. They were home for about a year and were called on an 18 month mission to the Lima Peru Temple. While there, he was called to serve in the Temple Presidency which resulted in a 6 month extension of their mission.

They were home about a year and then they were called to serve (Continued on page 3)
Part II of Phineas’ Goshen Papers

This is the second in a series of stories on the Goshen papers found in the Church History Archive.

By Janet Porter

The Famine of 1856

Taking a closer look at the Goshen documents found in the Church History Archive, we learn a lot about Phineas himself. A little background will be necessary to understand what he was going through as he discovered and settled the area we now call Goshen. In 1856 there was a famine in Utah, the result of adverse weather, crickets and the influx of thousands of destitute settlers in the handcart companies. The result for everyone in Utah was a hungry year in which all had to share what they had. Phineas had been counseled not to take land because his talents were needed as a builder, but when food became scarce, those with land had to conserve what they had and others who owed Phineas money couldn’t pay. He and his family nearly starved to death. He reported in his journal in March, 1856: “I then determined to leave the city and go out into some of the settlements where I should be likely to get food for my family, and went about immediately making arrangements for that purpose.” (p. 96)

His friend Father Isaac Morley with an associate Benjamin F. Johnson invited Phineas to come to their new settlement five miles south of Payson which is now called Santaquin but which was then called Summit Creek. (Journal p. 95) Johnson promised Phineas a job at the mill, but didn’t seem to know how he would get land. It was a forty-mile journey, but Phineas decided it was the only way to keep his family from starving. At the time they were living near the Jordan River, as near as I can estimate somewhere near South Jordan. He walked to Summit Creek, discovered there was no land there for him, and then walked back five miles to Payson where the bishop offered him five acres of land as well as a job and food. After buying a house there, Phineas walked back to South Jordan to get his family.

Payson, Utah

With literally nothing to eat, the family of Phineas, his three wives and six children began the journey around the Point of the Mountain into Utah Valley. It was to prove almost more than they could do, and they had to rely on the generosity of people along the way even to survive. Arriving at Payson early in July, Phineas began working to buy food for his family. He contracted to build a store in Provo and found a job at Spanish Fork to build a house at the Indian Farm.

Meanwhile his wives were battling a house full of bugs. It became a very difficult situation, especially because the house was extremely small for so many people. At this time Catherine’s family was on their way to Utah, arriving on October 8 of that year. (Journal p. 108) Unfortunately, her father had died in an accident on the Bear River shortly before arriving, and the family came, as Phineas said, “perfectly destitute of clothing and provisions.” Although he claimed he couldn’t take care of Catherine’s family, they continued to spend a lot of time in his house. Catherine became difficult, making unreasonable demands, and exploding with jealousy when her sister asked to be sealed to Phineas. (Journal p. 108) With her family now living in Payson and Catherine having extreme emotional stress, it isn’t surprising she left him the next year.

By the end of November Phineas had earned enough money to provide through the winter for his family, and he felt he could go on a trip to Southern Utah he had planned earlier in the year. The previous February he heard that the federal government had granted $40,000 to the Territory to reim-

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More information on the Goshen Papers

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burse settlers who had lost property in the Indian uprising of 1853. Since Phineas’ brother-in-law Salmon Hall was a clerk to a congressman from Michigan at Washington D.C., he made out a claim for several people and submitted it by letter to Salmon. The claim was rejected because it had to be submitted on a certain form, but in the ensuing months Phineas had been so absorbed in his family’s troubles he couldn’t follow through. (Journal p. 92-93)

In September Phineas went to Salt Lake City (Journal p. 107) and arranged with Curtis E. Bolton, county clerk for the District Court, to have papers printed on which he could re-submit the claims for Indian depredations. (Journal p. 110) Leaving for the south the first of December with his wife Amanda and her father David Savage, he found many who wished to make claims for lost property, and many paid him two bushels of wheat for his trouble. Having obtained as many signatures and claims as he could, he returned with Amanda January 8, 1857. (Journal p. 113) After making several claims in Utah Valley, Phineas left for Salt Lake City January 15. He had more blanks printed, but admitted he used few of them as it would soon be too late to make the claims.

The Goshen Journal
It is on these forms he wrote his Goshen journal. As one looks at them, it is obvious he wrote between all the lines, filling up all the spaces, and then writing very compactly on the back side. Apparently he had no other paper. When we look at his previous journal we see he used the exact same format: in most cases a new paragraph for a new date, generally written 29th, 31st, or 1st. In that same way he began his Goshen journal two weeks after finishing his first journal, but this time using the blanks he hadn’t filled in for Indian claims.

In future installments we will explore this family through the Goshen Journal of Phineas Wolcott Cook, a record of his experiences in Utah Valley and an expression of his mature testimony.

Cook-O-Rama Research Team

As part of the Cook-a-Rama there will be an online research project, some of which could be done at home at your convenience. Two projects will be available:
1. The Henry Cook Project: Exploring wills in Norwich County, England
2. The P.W.C. Descendants Project: The Cook Family is trying to document all the children of Phineas Wolcott Cook. A short history of each of those children will appear in coming issues of the Cook Family Newsletter, and you could be a part of the research team. You will be given instructions about how this is to be done and which websites to use.

Please contact Janet Porter if you wish to do research at home, at your local library, or on the day of the Cook-A-Rama at the Family History Library some time between 8am-2pm: at janetprtr@gmail.com, or by phone, 801-226-8094.

Please find our PWC display on one of the tables at the top of the stairs to the Second Floor so you'll know how to find us.

Cook O Rama Speaker Will Be Joseph W Cook

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as the President and “Mission Mother” of the Lima Peru Missionary Training Center.

It is very unusual, but interesting that Joseph and Enid served all of their mission time as companions except for the first one where they met each other.

For the last ten years Joseph has served as a sealer in the Bountiful Utah Temple.
HENRY’S WORK IN SALEM  Henry Cooke Series

In the very beginning Henry Cook did not live in town. He must have been a man of some substance because he was known as a “pro- prietor,” a free man from the very beginning. To be a proprietor he almost certainly belonged to the church because most of the people in Salem were Puritans. Henry’s father-in-law Henry Birdsal was recorded in church records; how- ever, it was never recorded in Salem that Henry and Judith attended or were a part of church affairs.

On December 26, 1638, two months after he had been accepted into Salem, Henry was given six acres to plant. Two months later he received five more acres and the following February he was given 25 acres at Jeffrey’s Creek. No doubt he lived there until he was able to purchase his house in town. Eventually he also had 40 acres “beyond the river.”

After securing 36 acres of land, in June of 1639 Henry married Judith the daughter of Henry Birdsal, also of Salem. As a family man he did his best to earn enough money to raise a family. Everyone in this new land had to work hard.
President’s Message Continued

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There are always interesting and informative articles in the newsletter related to genealogy as prepared by our genealogist, Janet Porter. We may have genealogical information that can be helpful as you write or update your family history. You can send your inquiries to Janet at janetprtr@gmail.com or lamarday@msn.com.

The passage of time requires periodic changes in positions filled by various members due to illness, advanced age, moving, or death. We have need to replace directors, family organization specialists, and sub organization representatives. Serving in one of these capacities can be helpful to us and fulfilling to those who choose to participate.

Our receipt of annual dues ($20 per family) has declined, compared to the same time period of two previous years. We understand finances may be strained this year. We understand finances may be strained this year. We encourage you to contribute to the dues. You will be more than repaid as we continue to keep this great organization going.

There is money available to do more genealogical research for each family line. We understand finances may be strained this year. We encourage you to contribute to the dues. You will be more than repaid as we continue to keep this great organization going.

Best regards
Guy R. Cook, President
2012 COOK-O-RAMA RSVP
Friday, October 5, 2012

Please look at the information below send us an RSVP by phone or email.

All afternoon events will be held at the Bountiful East 28th Ward building. Please let us know which events you will be attending by September 28, 2012. You are still welcome to attend the events even if you do not RSVP.

Call LaMar Day at 801-298-1654 or Email Dan Ditto at dan.ditto@ihc.com

8:00 – 2:00 p.m. Family History Research
With Janet Porter at the Family History Library

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Annual Meeting at Bountiful East 28th Ward

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Socializing & Table Set Up

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Soup & Salad Buffet at Bountiful East 28th Ward

7:00 p.m. Family Meeting with Joseph Wolcott Cook

Directions to the Cook-O-Rama

Bountiful East 28th Ward

DIRECTIONS to the Bountiful East 28th Ward Building.

Take I-15 to the Bountiful/Woods Cross Exit (Exit 315). Go straight east for about four blocks. You will pass a large Stake Center at 2600 South and 500 West. Continue east to the next light (2600 S 200 W). Turn left for a distance 2+ blocks and the church is on the right side, across from the cemetery. (2285 S 200 W)