

BY BECCA GROBERG AND ALISON MARSHALL

HOMESTEAD HEROES: BATTLING THE BEAR

A Phineas Adventure

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written and illustrated with assistance from AI



Some people are born for adventure. Phineas W. Cook was one of those people. With the West calling his name, 17-year-old Phineas helped pack up his family’s home in Connecticut and headed to Michigan's unsettled and wild territory. Little did he know, this new land held a promise of a new beginning and danger.



As Phineas's family arrived in Michigan, they wasted no time in setting to work. They transformed the rugged wilderness into a thriving homestead, cultivating the land and turning their humble abode into a place of warmth and comfort.



One day in this wild frontier a call went out — “There is a bear among the pigs!”



Without hesitation, the townspeople, including Phineas, grabbed whatever makeshift weapons they could find—his father took a long carving knife, and his mother took the broom. Others brought mallets and even cornstalks. Despite their sad weapons, these brave settlers came running anyway.



Spooked by all the commotion, the bear took off and was on the run! He climbed over the fence and ran into the woods with men and dogs in pursuit!



As the bear ran farther, more men came to do what they could to help out. Two guns in the town were found. One didn’t shoot straight so they hoped the other would be enough to take down the bear.



The bear had climbed up a tree but was still a threat. The men gathered around the tree and made a plan. Everyone circled the tree, ready to keep the bear from making an escape. One brave man stepped forward with his shotgun and took aim.



The shotgun fired!

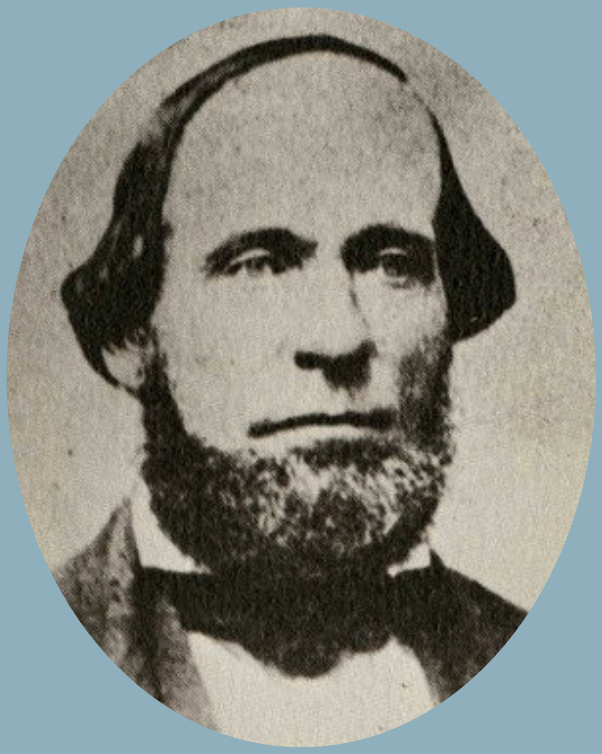
BANG!!

The bear fell from the tree, defeated.



With the threat neutralized, the settlers wasted no time in making use of the bear's hide, while its meat became a feast for their grateful pigs.

Thanks to Phineas and the other brave settlers who came together, peace returned to the town. With renewed determination, they continued their efforts to tame the wild land.



Have you ever felt that you were destined for a life of great adventure? Well, maybe you are related to Phineas. Find out by searching FamilySearch.org.

Family adventures continue with stories of Phineas's grandfather, Daniel Cook Jr.


This story was taken
from the memoirs of
Phineas Wolcott Cook
who lived 1819-1900.
See more at
CookFamily.org.
IMAGINED WITH AI

Timeline of Phineas's Life

1819	Phineas W. Cook born 28 August 1819 at Goshen, Litchfield County, Connecticut.
1837 Age 18	Moved to Kalamazoo County, Michigan, summer.
1839 Age 20	**Bear in the pig pen!**
1840 Age 20	Married Ann Eliza Howland 1 Jan. 1840, Gull Prairie, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
1845 Age 26	Baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day in Sep. 1845.
1846 Age 26	Ann Eliza and Phineas began the journey to Winter Quarters in May 1846.
1848 Age 29	Pioneer to Utah in Brigham Young's 2nd company, arrived Sep. 1848.
1850 Age 31	Sent by Brigham Young to Manti, Aug. 1850.
1853 Age 33	Returned to Salt Lake City, May 1853 to work on Public Works, Beehive House, Lion House, Tithing House. He was appointed the first Salt Lake City Water Master.

1853
Age 34
Married Amanda Savage and Catherine McCleve, 18 Dec. 1853.

1856
Age 36
Moved his family to Payson 23 Jun. 1856.

1857
Age 38
His wife Catherine McCleve divorced Phineas and later married David D. Russell.

1857
Age 38
Discovered and gained permission to settle Goshen and became bishop of Goshen ward.

1860
Age 41
Released as Bishop and moved west of Utah Lake to Lone Tree Ranch.

1862
Age 43
Called by Brigham Young to move to Camp Floyd.

1863
Age 44
Called by the Church to move his family to Bear Lake, arriving at Paris, Idaho in Dec. 1863.

1878
Age 59
Married Johanna Christina Paulson 13 Sep. 1878.

1900
Age 80
Died 24 Jul. 1900 in Afton, Wyoming.



Phineas Wolcott Cook

Family Organization

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