Our Colonial Ancestors:

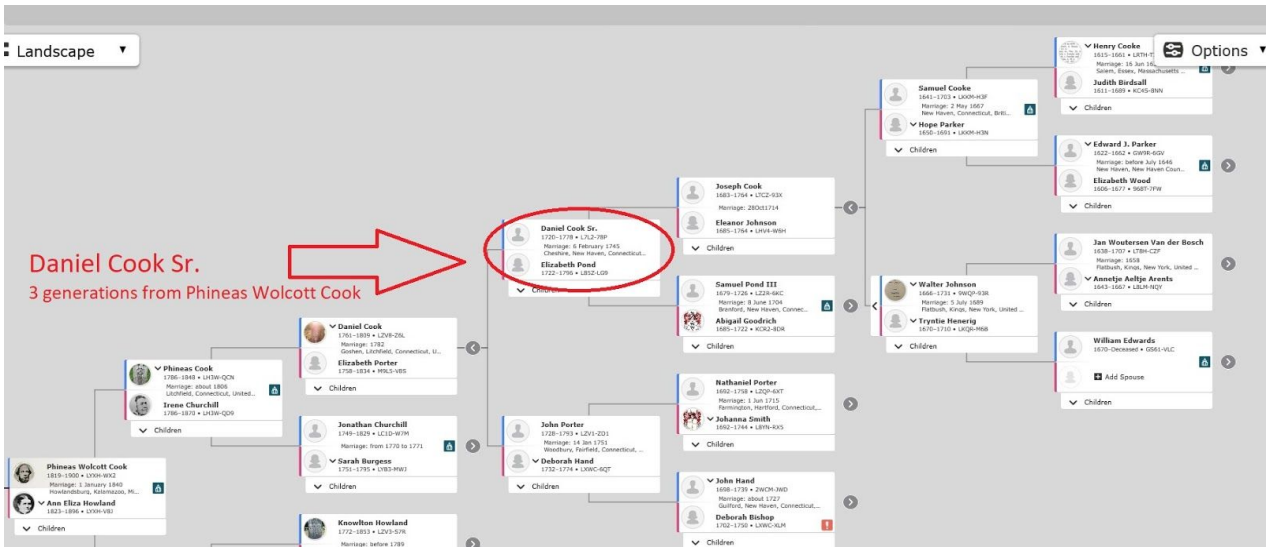
Daniel Cook Sr.

(1720-1778)

Elizabeth Pond Cook

(1722-1796)

3 Generations removed from Phineas Wolcott Cook





Daniel Cook Sr., son of Joseph and Eleanor Cook was born and raised in Wallingford, Connecticut. Daniel remained there when his father bought a farm in 1739 in Goshen, Connecticut. Staying in Wallingford, he married Elizabeth Pond, daughter of Samuel and Abigail Goodrich Pond, in 1746. After they had three children, they followed his parents to Goshen.

This Goshen town sign notes the dates local churches were founded in Goshen -- the Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, and Catholic churches. It ends with the note that "the most recent addition to Goshen is the Mormon church."



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In 1750 Daniel Cook Sr. and Elizabeth moved to Goshen, Connecticut and bought the farm of his father's neighbor on Town Hill Rd. In time, he built himself a fine home across the street from his father's home. Raising his 8 children there, he farmed and had a dairy herd. Selling cheese became part of their livelihood. Living on a hill with a creek provided him with water power and he was part-owner of a small sawmill which was passed down through generations of the family. A stand of maple trees at the edge of his pasture made their lives bounteous. In 1772 he purchased his father's home and farm.



From Daniel Cook Sr.'s estate papers we learn he was a militia captain. In New England, men ages 16 to 50 were required by law to affiliate with the local militia company. Every Connecticut town had such a trained band. By 1774, the Seventeenth Regiment included the men from Goshen and nearby Torrington, Connecticut and was commanded by Colonel Oliver Wolcott, signer of the Declaration of Independence. There is no record of Daniel serving in the French and Indian War but it is known that he contributed goods to the Revolutionary war effort and supported his sons who were soldiers. He was in ill health and died during the war in 1778. The family was clearly aligned with the principles of the American Revolution. Several of Daniel's brothers and all of his sons fought in the war. Both of his daughters married war veterans.

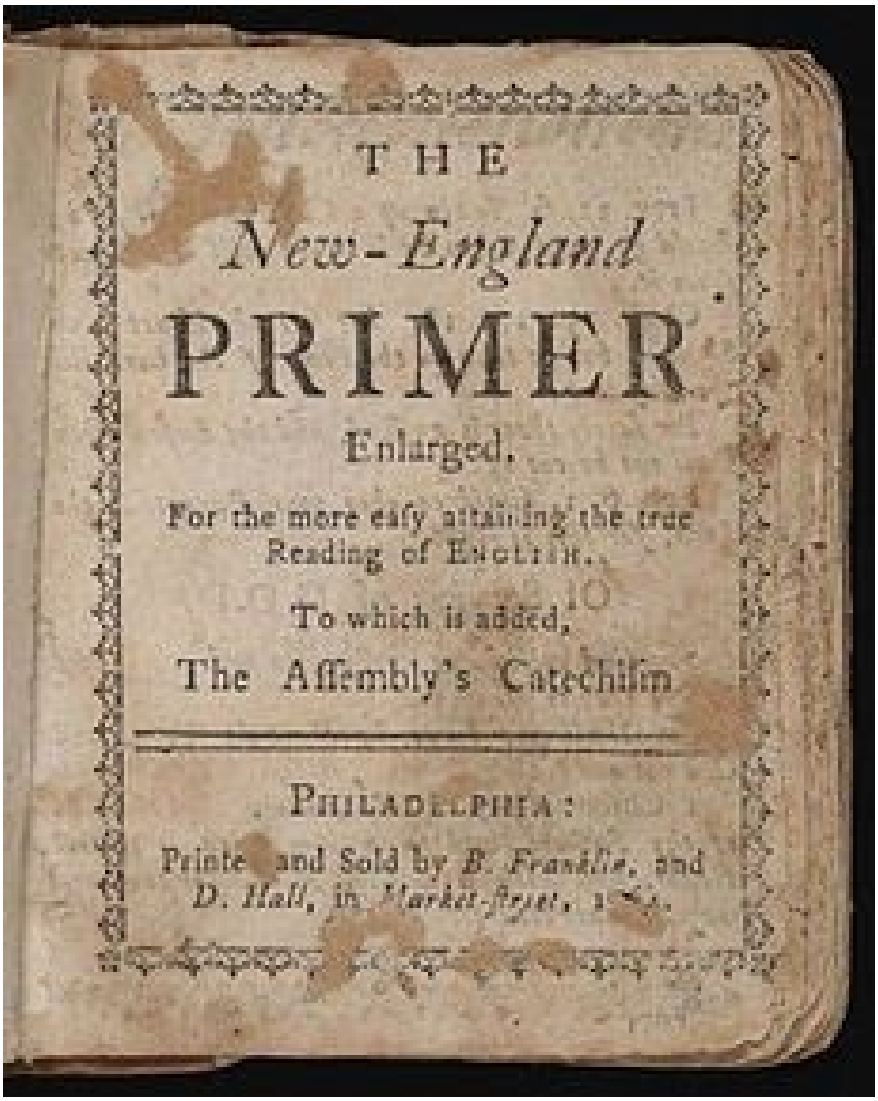
Goshen was the seat of considerable political fervor as the Revolutionary War broke out. In December of 1776 his son Amasa volunteered as a soldier in a company of Goshen citizens for the relief of the Continental Army. His son Daniel Jr. served for seven years, which eventually broke his health. Even his son Moses, who was 11 when the war started, became involved near the end of the war.



(Photo: Church of Christ Congregational in Goshen, est 1740, though this building dates later)

Daniel Sr. and Elizabeth Cook were leading citizens of Goshen, Connecticut in the mid-1700s. Their livelihood was farming and they not only provided for their family, but prospered. While early church records of Goshen are missing, we know in 1771 the old meeting-house was sold to 7 men, including Daniel Cook Sr. They were to rebuild the old structure into a Sabbath-day house to be located on the southeast part of the Green. (That building, however, was never built.)

In 1791, when the church was reorganized, his wife and daughter-in-law petitioned for membership in the First Congregational Church. Daniel and Elizabeth's children also married into other prominent families in Goshen.


THE
New-England
PRIMER
Enlarged.
For the more eaſy attaining the true Reading of Engliſh.
To which is added,
The Aſſembly's Catechiſm.
PHILADELPHIA:
Printed and Sold by B. Franklin, and D. Hall, in Market-ſtreet, [illegible].

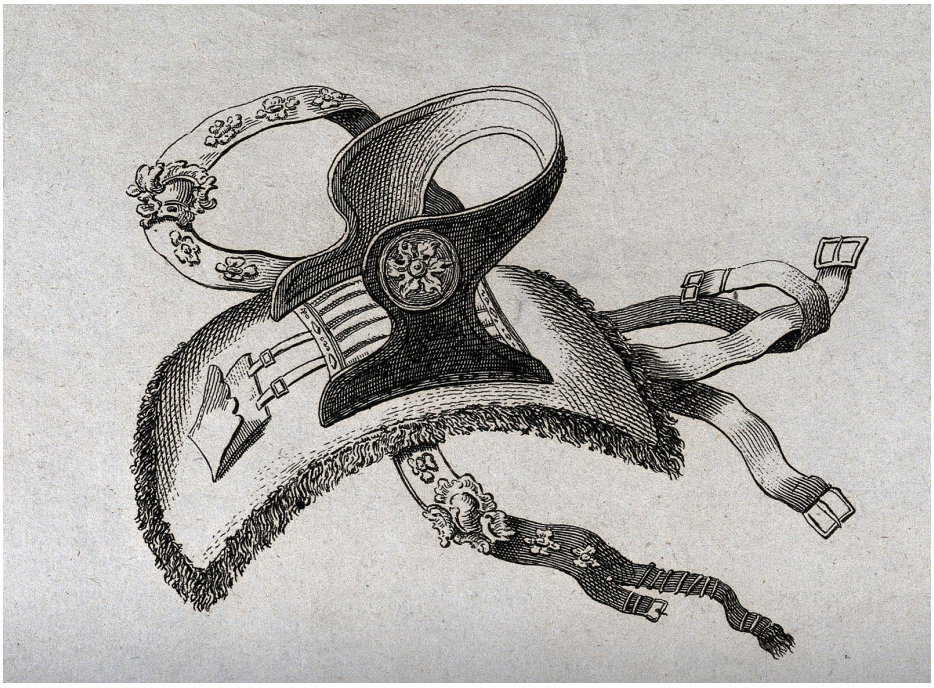
Daniel stands out in the posterity of the immigrant Henry Cooke as one of the most economically successful descendants in terms of his own literacy and that of his children. While Henry and his descendants were literate, the list of books and pamphlets found in Daniel's estate papers was most extensive. Included in the list were two Bibles, several New Testaments, a primer and a speller. He also was an investor in the Goshen Library and held a financial interest in the Library at his death. His support of literacy as a legacy is demonstrated by the achievements of his posterity:For example, his son Philip's son Samuel graduated Yale class of 1795. Daniel Jr.'s grandson, Darius Burgess Cook became the Editor of the Niles Republican in Niles, Berrien County, Michigan.



Daniel's death couldn't have come at a more difficult time for his family. Three sons were serving in the Revolutionary War. Amasa enlisted again and again in Litchfield County and once in Berkshire County, Massachusetts while he was at Richmond with his Uncle Walter's family. Philip enlisted in Massachusetts and in Albany County, New York, and Daniel Jr. served continuously from 1776 to 1783. When their father died in 1778, the war was at its most critical stage. Men were furnishing their own arms; there wasn't enough food, clothing or bedding; and Daniel Jr. actually mutinied twice to return home for a back load of pork to feed his comrades. Their mother Elizabeth had little help at home to run the farm. She had only 3 children left at home: Lois, Moses who was not yet fourteen and John who was even younger.



Less than a year after Daniel's death, the winter of 1779 began in Goshen with a succession of storms and violent wind which covered fences and buried orchards almost to the top twig with hard, crusted snow. Citizens of Goshen could barely get from house to barn, and many found tunneling through the snow easier than shoveling through drifts which buried many of the homes completely and kept them buried for at least two months. Livestock were lost that winter, either buried in the fields or unable to get to their barns. Farmers found it impossible to water their animals, and finally shoveled snow into the barns for them to eat. The wind and cold made large piles of firewood a necessity, but Daniel was gone and Elizabeth's sons were away from home fighting in a desperate war. One can only imagine the uncertainty she felt.



Daniel's wife, Elizabeth (Pond) Cook survived him by twenty-two years. She remained active and was involved in family and business affairs until her death. Once a widow, she continued to live in Goshen until her death September 7, 1791, leaving the farm and house to her sons and her gold beads, silk cloak and side saddle to her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Cook, wife of Daniel Jr. (who we are also descended from). Incidentally, Elizabeth was the only daughter-in-law bequeathed any of her mother-in-law's effects.

Five of Daniel and Elizabeth's 8 children stayed in Goshen to raise their families. Three moved away to New York, Ohio and Vermont.

While both Daniel and Elizabeth wrote wills, only Elizabeth's is found in the record. The inventory of Daniel's estate is included along with the transcription of her will. A look at the inventory gives us a good indication of his life in Colonial America.





Woolen and linen were their mainstay, and woolen yarn for two blankets shows they produced some of their own goods.

Feather beds, bedding and numerous items of furniture indicate a high standard of living.

Their dishes were standard for the times, among which were seven pewter plates (alloy of tin and brass or lead), eight earthen bowls, wooden bottles, dishes, five wooden trenchers (carving boards or serving plates), and iron pots and kettles.





The tools of their vocation of cattle and milk production included churn, milk pans, flesh hooks, pails, wooden cans, butter tubs, cheese press, hoops and followers and even a dung fork.

Their tools for farming and production were traditional: cart, sythe, plow and irons, corn baskets, barrels, hay knife, cider cask.

Their animals indicated a definite leaning toward hard work: 2 horses, 9 cows and heifers, 1 bull, 4 yearlings, 1 yoke oxen, 5 swine, 24 sheep. The sheep produced another industry, also found in the inventory: sheep ears, shwool cards, woolen yarn.



The fact that Daniel owned a grind stone and saw mill crank indicated he was more independent than most. His probate totaled an impressive 179 English pounds in equipment and goods.

The End