

Phineas Wolcott Cook Newsletter

Phineas W. Cook Family Organization March, 2017

We Hope and Pray Together For Divine Help In Finding Henry Cooke's Ancestry

After having spent many years and expending much effort trying to without success to locate the ancestry of our First American Ancestor Henry Cooke, the board of the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization feels it is time to ask for help from beyond the veil.

We would like to ask all family members to join in a family fast in March and April. We would do this on the day our ward's normal fast Sunday falls in either March or April. It will be a joining of faith and prayer to appeal to the Lord as a global family for help in assisting us in to find the birth location and ancestry of Phineas Wolcott Cook's 4th great grandfather, Henry Cooke.

Much progress has been made over the years in uncovering the family history of Phineas Wolcott Cook. It has taken time, and many of the stumbling blocks to our research have been overcome.

However we have never found exactly where our earliest Cook ancestor -Henry Cooke, actually came from before he appeared in Salem, Massachusetts in 1638 We have information about him after his arrival: his marriage, the birth of his children, many land transactions, but nothing leading us to the place of his birth or his parents. To this day, it remains a mystery, despite great effort to find this information.

A story in this newsletter on pages 4-5 outlines the efforts made by the Cook Family Organization to find Henry Cook's origin, but to no avail. It is a great genealogical dilemma in our Family.

Elder James E Faust in October 2003 and in the June, 2005 Ensign said: Because this is a very spiritual work, we can expect help from the other side of the veil. We feel a pull from our relatives who are waiting

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President's Message

Please Join Our Family In Fasting and Prayer

By Daniel Ditto, President

Cook Family genealogists have made many efforts and spent many hours searching for information about our English ancestor Henry Cooke. We have also hired professional genealogists to assist us in this endeavor. To date, we have not been able to locate reliable information on Henry Cooke. We believe that it is time to strengthen our efforts and our



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faith to try and locate Henry Cooke.

In October of 1974, President Spencer W. Kimball gave his seminal address about taking the gospel to the world. He declared: "The millions of people in the Philippines would receive the gospel in large numbers if it were properly presented to them. We have two missions and a stake there." He also declared: "I believe that the Lord is anxious to put into our hands inventions of which we laymen have hardly had a glimpse." Efforts and faith were expended, new technologies utilized and now in the Philippines there are 96 Stakes, 77 Districts, 21 Missions and 3 temples. We would like to suggest a similar pattern of effort, faith and the use of new technologies to find our family members.

First, we would like to ask for your faith in fasting and praying for assistance in locating Henry Cooke. We are calling upon all family members to please join with us in fasting and prayer in March and April as we seek for divine assistance from the Lord in helping us find information on Henry Cooke. We need to continue our family research on this line. We know that the Lord can open the way to help us find this information if it is His will.

Second, we have seen remarkable technological advances in the area of family history research. We are extending our use of available technology to try and find Henry Cooke. We have enlisted the help of family members to have their yDNA testing done (male Y-chromosome) to see if we can find more information on the birthplace and other information on Henry Cooke. See the article on page three about this exciting new technology. We have done the testing and are awaiting results. If any of you with the Cook surname have had your yDNA testing done, please let us know so we can include your information in the database if you are willing to do so.

Finally, we will continue in this great work. It is an eternal work. It is a work of love. It is a covenant obligation that we have taken upon ourselves to find our family members and bring them the blessings of the eternal sealing ordinances. Dear family, we look forward to seeing the Lord's miracles as we all work together through our faith, our prayers and our efforts to move this great eternal work forward in our family.

Join In The Family Fast To Help Look For Henry Cooke

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for us to find them so their temple ordinance work can be done. This is a Christlike service because we are doing something for them that they cannot do for themselves."

In February, at the Roots Tech Conference in Salt Lake City, Elder Russell M Ballard of the quorum of the 12, testified that the work of salvation for the dead was "operative on both sides of the veil."

He shared the story of his grandfather, Elder Melvin J Ballard, who at age 11 witnessed his own parents try to do everything they could to find information "concerning their kindred dead."

"They prayed that the Lord would open the way for them to get such information," Elder Ballard quotes from his grandfather's journal.

Grandfather Ballard recounted that while his father, then a bishop, was signing recommends for members to attend the dedication of the nearly completed Logan Temple,

"two elderly men walked down the streets and placed a newspaper with his two sisters, instructing them to take it immediately to their father."

The newspaper had been printed 3 days earlier in England. Grandfather Ballard wrote that his father was "astonished, for by no earthly means could it have reached us."

The newspaper contained nearly a page of names and dates with corresponding vital information taken from a cemetery in which the Ballard ancestors had been buried.

Modern-day Elder Ballard recounted this story and commented that, "it is true those on the other side of the veil are very much interested in what we are doing and can do as we carry on this glorious and wonderful work."

Please join our fast in March or April as together we seek Divine help

DNA Might Help the Organization To Search For Henry Cooke

Can DNA Research find Henry Cooke?

Relatively recently, people have been finding family connections through DNA testing. We hear the stories about finding unknown birth families for adoptive children. And well known are incidents in which near ancestors were connected.



A Cook family member had a DNA test last year which connected him to Nathaniel Porter of Woodbury, Connecticut. You may remember Phineas W. Cook's grandmother Elizabeth Porter was a missing person in our genealogy until a research project ten years ago connected her to her grandfather, Nathaniel Porter of Woodbury. DNA proved our research was correct.

But what about distant ancestors, say Henry Cooke of Salem, 12 or 13 generations back? Would it be possible to find him by DNA research?

First, let's talk about DNA research. There are three tests offered by commercial companies which can trace someone's ancestors, explained on the website https://www.familytreedna.com.

1. mtDNA: Your direct maternal lineage is the line that follows your mother's maternal ancestry. This line consists entirely of women, although both men and women have their mother's mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). This means that fathers do not pass on their mtDNA to their children.

Your mtDNA can trace your mother, her mother, her mother's mother, and so forth and offers a clear path from you to a known or likely direct maternal ancestor. This is most helpful when the maiden name of an ancestor is unknown.

2. Autosomal, also known as Family Finder has been around for about 5 years. This test is designed to find relatives on any of your ancestral lines within the last five generations. Because autosomal DNA is a mixture of your mother's and father's DNA, it is unique to each person. Both men and women can complete this test. It compares DNA to reference populations around the world that have been tested through scientific research; this method can discover ethnic roots.

3. Y-DNA follows the direct paternal line. A male's Y-chromosome (Y-DNA) can trace his father, his father's father, and so forth. It offers a clear path from him to a known, or likely, direct paternal ancestor. Paternal line DNA testing uses STR markers, which change, or mutate, slowly from one generation to the next. Those mutations give us distinctive result sets, forming a signature for a paternal lineage. A set of results is compared to those of other men in the database. When two results compare, it means they are most likely from the same ancestor.

Because we are trying to identify Henry Cooke, we will begin the search on the Y-DNA. These DNA tests can identify ancestors many hundreds, even thousands of years ago. The information comes from data compiled by scientists who study the history of populations across geography and time using Y-DNA.

They use both the frequencies of each branch in modern populations and samples from ancient burial sites.

If someone in the database has a matching signature, we can compare and identify family history. If there is not a current match, the results will be kept in a database until a match is found. Eventually there will be a clue.

Have you had your yDNA test done? Would you be willing to share your results with us? Contact Janet Porter janetprtr@gmail.com

For this reason, we have asked a few direct-line descendants with the Cook surname to participate in Y-DNA testing within the Cook Family Organization, testing on 37 markers. Funds will be made available through the family organization.

The company with which we will be working is Family Tree DNA (https://www.familytreedna.com). We'll keep the family up to date with whatever results we find.

Please stay tuned!

Henry Cooke's Heritage Is A Mystery

You probably know a child who became lost. Thankfully you found him, but imagine even the authorities have searched and failed. Yet, you are determined. You search every pond, every house, every tree in the neighborhood. Nothing. You create a wider circle, searching and asking questions. You meet people who have a theory, but when you check out their ideas, none of them are right. Ohers give up, but you never will.

So you begin searching for evidence—anything to find a trail, what he did, where he went. You read newspapers and reports, but you find after long searching that everything you read was nothing more than someone's guess.

Such is the story of our ancestor, Henry Cooke. But instead of being a child, he was our ancestor, Pilgrim immigrant to Salem, Massachusetts. After marrying in 1639 he became the



father of ten children there. On Christmas Day, 1661, he was buried, but a gravestone no longer exists. That's it. That's all of his history. For some reason Henry told no one of his origins. There have been many guesses, but none of them can be proved.

In 1880 Phineas Wolcott Cook did temple work for his ancestors. He wrote what he had heard about his 4th great-grandfather in the record, Logan Temple Endowments for the Dead. He was confused too. His family had talked about their ancestor Henry Cooke and had read an early published history. In that history it said Henry Cooke of Salem must have been from Plymouth, the son of Francis Cooke of Mayflower fame. Who doesn't want to believe we descend from a Mayflower Pilgrim? And if it's in print, it must be right.



But it wasn't right; it was a guess. Mayflower Pilgrims have been extensively researched since then. Francis did not have a son named Henry, and there was no place to fit Henry in his family anyway. So where did Henry come from? Those who believe in linking families together in eternity are very interested.

Family researchers seek to find out. The first roadblock is the fact that in the time period in which Henry would have been born in England, there were 89 other Henry Cooks born! British history books named some of them as a possible ancestor of Henry Cooke of Salem, but those leads always came to dead ends.

Wendy Bentley and Janet Porter spent over a year checking out one of those leads, but found that the man involved did not leave England.
Finally an expert in Latin and handwriting was consulted, and it was determined the name, written in old English handwriting, was not Henry, but Hughe. If you saw old English, you'd understand why neither we nor the writer of the book could tell the difference. It was the last major lead. All others had been checked out.
Henry Cooke was officially lost.

So let's look at the facts. It has been proven that most of the early Pilgrims came from three southeastern counties in England: Norfolk, Essex and Kent. Persecution led many who originated in Scrooby in south-central Yorkshire to go to Holland in the early part of the century, and after a time they returned to England. But they didn't return home. Many of them stayed in the three southeastern counties until it was decided they would leave from the southern port of Southampton on the Mayflower to come to America.

After they landed, the Mayflower returned. Many more people seeking religious freedom sailed on her return

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Much Research Done, But Answers Remain Elusive

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voyage. Then many other ships left for America. For the next ten years thousands of people left England to come to America. Many of those people were from the same three counties in southeastern England.

But there's one more thing we know about Henry Cooke, and that's the fact that he married a girl from Norwich, Norfolk, in southeastern England. Could it be that Henry also came from the Norwich area, and married Judith whom he already knew? The possibility had to be checked out. There were several Cooke families in Norfolk County, but the early records were not complete enough to make a judgment.

Determined family members do



not give up, right? In 2005 the family organization paid for Janet Porter to go to Norfolk and see about the possibility of finding records not yet published. She found there were records not yet on film, but all vital records were indexed. Local records showed the intense conflict in that area between the established Church of England and the new "separatists," or Pilgrims. Eventually war broke out, especially devastating in Norfolk. But discovering the family from which our Henry Cooke came proved to be impossible.

Ten years later a local researcher from Norfolk was hired, but he wasn't successful either.

Maybe we should give up the search. We've searched all the ponds and houses and trees, and have searched them again. And we have found nothing. Perhaps we should just admit, along with the authorities, that the search is hopeless, and give up on our ancestor Henry Cooke.

But wait.

Maybe this really isn't a problem for experts. Maybe everyone in the neighborhood needs to get involved in finding our lost loved one.

Elder Richard G. Scott said: "What about you? Have you prayed about you own ancestors' work? Set aside those things that don't really matter in your life. Decide to do something that will have eternal consequences…. This is a spiritual work, a monumental effort of cooperation on both sides of the veil where help is given in both directions. It begins with love. Anywhere you are in the world, with prayer, faith, determination, diligence, and some sacrifice, you can make a powerful contribution. Begin now. I promise you that the lord will help you find a way. And it will make you feel wonderful." ("Redemption: The Harvest of Love," Richard G. Scott, October, 1990 General Conference)



So it comes down to each one of us. Each of us is assigned to find Henry Cooke, who is lost. Experts have looked and failed, but we are determined. We have searched every pond, every house, every tree in the neighborhood. Nothing. But we won't give up.

Now we must find another way. Each of us will help. We'll look for new things. We'll fast and pray. We'll gather our families and join in family prayer. Each member of the family will help solve the Henry Cooke Mystery.

Annual Cook O Rama in 2016 Themed: Making Family History A Priority

At the Annual Cook-O-Rama last fall on September 29, several Cook family members presented different ideas on how families can make Family History a Priority.

Wendy Bentley, long time family history enthusiast, talked about presenting skits at family gatherings and brought some of her grandchildren to help present one about Johanna Pahlson. These skits can be found on the Cookfamily.org website.

One skit was of 10-year old Phineas quitting school to take responsibility for the family farm when his father needed to take another job to support the family. Other events in Phineas' life are also portrayed in these skits.

A panel of family members also presented other ideas for help in making Family History a Priority.

Catharine Rasband, Cook Family Organization Secretary, talked about the value of regular family letters.
She said while on vacation with several siblings, she noticed a brother writing a letter to his family, which he explained he did every week. He started when his daughter was on a mission in Romania and included his entire family. When he stopped after her return, the family members expressed a desire for the letters to continue.

Her brother expressed the power of this letter to keep family members close, including those who might be temporarily feeling distant from the family. He described not knowing if one son was even reading it at all, only to find that son not only read it, but shared it every week with his roommates."

Catharine said she felt inspired by her brother's example and currently writes to all her children every week, keeping them current on family events. She writes it as blog and includes many pictures. It has also turned into one way of keeping the family history.

Marjorie Ditto, mother of Organization president Dan Ditto, talked about the value of Temple work. She said she tries to get her descendants more enthusiastic about both Temple work and family history . She does this by asking endowed descendants (children, grandchildren, great grandchildren) to do the temple work and explains who the people are, how they are related and a little about their lives She said another thing she does is try to talk about ancestors as real people by telling their stories in FHE, family reunions and other occasions and by sharing pictures.

"Whenever you can, make them come alive for the next generation." she said.

She also gives gifts of ancestors' stories and pictures. Another idea was to take her descendants, especially children, to see the gravestones or headstones if possible. She also tries to help her descendants understand why they live where they do, by explaining where the ancestors came from and what brought them eventually to the place where the children now live.

Finally, she related some Family history stories in which she was twice able to find a set of twins whose births and deaths had not been formally recorded. By finding them in family records, she was able to connect these children to their families.

Yvonne Peterson, Newsletter Editor, cautioned about trying to do everything. She said she does what she can using her own particular talents with her current family in the form of regular Skypes with family members living in distant states. In addition, she helps with several immediate family and distant family newsletters, all of which help keep the family connected both to their ancestors and to each other in the here and now.

Dave McMillan spoke about discovering an ancestor whose first name was Clarissa. He had never met anybody with that name but loved it. He learned that Clarissa and her husband, James, were pioneers who crossed the plains with four children ages four and under. Several years later, Dave and his wife had the opportunity to adopt a baby girl and felt like this little girl should be named Clarissa. "I am grateful for ancestors who were noble and true and gave great examples to follow," he said.



Grandmother Clarissa



Granddaughter Clarissa

The PW Cook Family Organization Is Working to Communicate With You

Through Monthly Email Vignettes

In an effort to make family history more accessible and relevant, we have started sending out "vignettes," or short stories, about our Cook Ancestors.

Written by Family genealogist Janet Porter, these short stories will come to your email inbox each month and will provide a brief look at some of our ancestors. This year, the vignettes will focus each month on one of Phineas Wolcott Cook's ancestors, including generations of grandmothers and grandfathers up to Henry Cooke, who first came to America in 1638. The January vignette featured Henry Cooke. February's story dealt with Henry's son Samuel, who was 6 generations ahead of Phineas. Future stories will feature the other 5 generations of grandparents

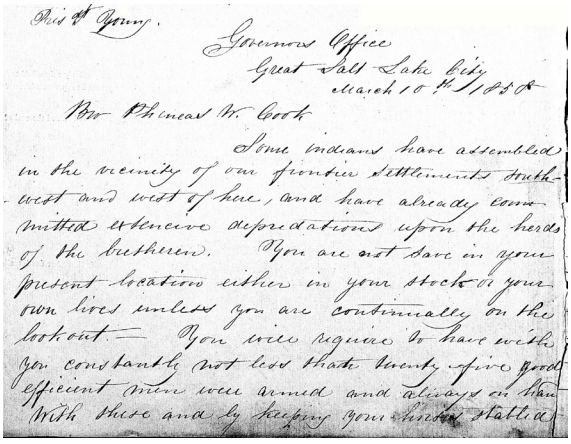
Next year, in 2018, the stories will deal with the life of Phineas Wolcott Cook including stories of his childhood and adolescence. Many of these stories will include excerpts from the journal written by Phineas, and additional genealogical information about his life.

These will be identified in the email subject line, and a new Organization email address so you will immediately recognize them in your inbox. The address: PWCookfamily@cookfamily.org

These vignettes may help you come to know your ancestors in a simple, easily understood way. This may help you gain a greater appreciation for those upon whose lives and decisions our current lives are built.

Through this And Upcoming Newsletters

Indian Uprising



Pres't Young.

Governors Office
Great Salt Lake City
March 10th 1858

Bro Phineas W. Cook

Some Indians have assembled in the vicinity of our frontier settlements south-west and west of here, and have already committed extensive depredations upon the herds of the brethren. You are not safe in your present location either in your stock or your own lives unless you are continually on the lookout — You will require to have with you constantly not less than twenty-five good efficient men well armed and always on hand. With these and by keeping your Indian Hatchet

One hundred fifty-nine years ago on March 18, Brigham Young wrote a letter to Phineas Wolcott Cook. In that letter he warned Phineas about Indian troubles in Utah County. Phineas and the brethren at Goshen were quick to respond.

Read about it in the next issue of the newsletter, in September, 2017.

Through the Cook Family Website

The family organization is making some online changes to the current website: cookfamily.org. This website will be getting a makover in the next few months in an effort to update its appearance and make it as useful as possible to all the descendants of Phineas Wolcott Cook.

The website currently is a repository of information about the life of Phineas Wolcott Cook, his descendants and his progenitors. It also contains Phineas' journal, information on his wives and a collection of histories written about his ancestors and wives.

There are additional resources from the Phineas Wolcott Cook family Organization: newsletters, recorded Cook O Rama events, a family tree, skits and a reader's theater and links to the a bookstore which includes journal, histories and pedigree information.

We hope you will investigate the website and introduce it to your family and make the website a family tradition.

In addition, we are constantly looking for new and updated family email addresses so we can make Organization information available to everyone who is descended from Phineas Wolcott Cook. If you have a family member: sibling, child, aunt, uncle, cousin or grandparent who does not receive the newsletter, please send the address to PWCookfamily@cookfamily.org and we will see to it that they receive a newsletter and an invitation to view the website.

P.W. Cook Family Organization

Order Form

Organizational Dues				Date
Suggested Annual Donation - $20 per family - Tax Deductible				
Please select one:	My dues are current ◯	Pay dues now ◯	Do not pay dues ◯	

Item (20% discount on all items if dues are current or accompany this order)	Price	Discount Price	Quantity	Total
NEW! Samuel Bryson's Journey book	$15.00	$12.00		
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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State of Utah (1-3 Copies)	$6.00	$4.80		
State of Utah (4+ Copies)	$5.00	$4.00		
Family Fireside Stories				
Book I (Illustrated Stories of PWC to Marriage)	$9.00	$7.20		
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		
		Total Purchases:		

Donations for Family Research (Tax Deductable)	Amount
Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Line	
Ann Eliza Howland Family Line	
Amanda Polly Savage Family Line	
Catherine McCleve Family Line	
Johanna Christine Poulson Family Line	
Other: Web Site, equipment, etc.	
Total Donations:	

Totals	
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Donations	
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PWC
130 Twin Peaks Drive
Layton, Utah 84040

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 or glenandjanine@gmail.com. You can also visit cookfamily.org/store/

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

Phineas Wolcott Cook
Family Organization Newsletter
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