Cook Family Newsletter ~ July 2025



Phineas Wolcott Cook
Family Organization

COOK O'RAMA
SUNDAY
AUG 17, 2025
5PM (MOUNTAIN TIME)

VIA OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

Gather to honor our ancestor Phineas Wolcott Cook!

Our family gathering this year will be **VIRTUAL**. Enjoy it from the comfort of your own home. Gather the family to enjoy family history together!

Find the link on our YouTube channel: http://youtube.com/@CookFamilyOrg

For more information contact us!
CookFamilyNewsletter@gmail.com

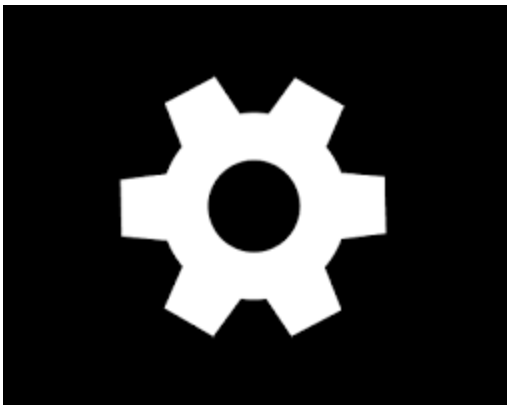
Invite your family to gather and learn about COOK FAMILY HISTORY!
~
Presentations include:

Bryson Cook
in Goshen, Connecticut
NEW INFORMATION
about the location, family, and military service of
Captain Daniel Cook Jr. in the Revolutionary war.

New Book:
The Journal of Ann Eliza Howland Cook
Hear from those who put this volume together and their experiences learning about Ann Eliza.

Service Project:
We will demonstrate a virtual service project that your family can take part in — all online!

Help add COOK names to the FamilySearch FamilyTree.



If you would prefer your newsletter to run vertically instead of horizontally, click on the upper right corner of your screen to see the "gear" settings icon and click on it and change the "layout." You can also click on the three dots "..." to print the newsletter.

President's Report, July 2025:

So many exciting things are going on in the Cook Family Organization!

*Our DNA project has yielded some fantastic new results – see our article about that!

*We published a volume of Ann Eliza's Journals from 1894-1896, the end of her life. This touching volume touches on the entire cast of Phineas' family members in a few short chapters.

*Research continues on our family members Henry Cooke who came to the Colonies from England, Daniel Cook Jr. who fought in the American Revolution, and his father Daniel Cook Sr.

*Our Cook family temple work has never been busier. We have opened a second Cook Family Group in FamilySearch since only 100 participants are allowed in each group. Join the group here to be able to take Cook family members to temple https://www.familysearch.org/groups/family?groupId=9MMQ-DBG&inviteId=MMM4-HL5[1]

Our next gathering will be VIRTUAL! Gather your family around you for an evening of Cook Family History on Sunday evening, Aug. 17 at 5pm (mountain time). See our YouTube channel for the link: YouTube Channel[2] We will hear from Bryson Cook who visited Goshen, Connecticut and has researched the exact locations our ancestors lived in there. He has new documentation

[1] https://www.familysearch.org/groups/family?groupId=9MMQ-DBG&inviteId=MMM4-HL5
[2] https://www.familysearch.org/groups/family?groupId=9MMQ-DBG&inviteId=MMM4-HL5

about Daniel Cook Jr.'s service in the Revolutionary War and his father Daniel Cook Sr.'s life as well.

Those who put together the Journal of Ann Eliza will talk to us about getting to know Ann Eliza who lived in Garden City, Utah at this time of her life.

And we will have a VIRTUAL service opportunity available to all to help add Cook names to the FamilySearch Family Tree. Get your laptops and smart phones ready for a tech-y way to engage family members of all ages in family history!

Don't forget: WE NEED YOU! We're looking for volunteers in these areas:

 Genealogist

 Family Tree Supervisor

 Research helpers

 Add Cook names to our temple Family Group

 Help plan future gatherings

 Attend book clubs via zoom

Please contact us if you're interested in helping out! Any little bit of time you can give is needed! Email us at cookfamilynewsletter@gmail.com[3]

Watch our Facebook and Instagram sites for notification! Find us @cookfamilyorg on both platforms. "Like" and "Follow" us to stay informed!

Marcia Marshall

PWC Board President

[3] https://cookfamilynewsletter@gmail.com

Meet Your Board Members



1 - Catharine Rasband has served as board Secretary for decades. She says, "I joined the organization in about 2000. I met Paul Porter (previously in charge of the finances in the organization) who was in my new ward. He and his wife, Dixie, came over for a visit and we got talking about family history. I mentioned that my 2nd great grandfather had founded Goshen, Utah. His response, 'Are you a Cook?' When Sharon Marcyes left on her mission, the organization needed a new secretary, and he asked me if I could do it.I have a wonderful husband, 8 children (all married) and 25 grandchildren. I love the water; quilting, reading, and being with my family. I teach Institute for the Pathways program of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints and am the Gospel Doctrine instructor in my ward.



2 - Marcia Marshall has been serving as board president for 2 years. She lives in Troy, Michigan where she is a professional ASL interpreter and has taught early-morning seminary in her ward for 12 years. She also works as a researcher for the Wilford Woodruff Papers project. She has 8 children who also get roped into Cook Family projects! Her main goals in the organization are to disseminate all the research and work that has been, and continues to be done, on the Cook family in easy and fun ways,

arranging publication of books and papers that have been written by board members, creating videos about Cook ancestors, and helping Becca and Alison create children's books to get our youngest descendants interested in the Cook family.



3 - Glen McMillan serves as the Cook Family Org. Treasurer and is also in charge of our book sales. He keeps our books — both financial and literal books! — in tip top shape! Glen lives in Layton, Utah and has 5 children and 25 grandchildren. He has been involved with the Cook board since 1985.



4 - Becca Groberg lives in Centerville, Utah and serves as our Publication Chair. She is the granddaughter of Grant Gill and Phyllis Cook Smith and daughter of Geoff and Peggy Smith. Through them she gained a wonderful family tree full of amazing people and stories. She was lucky enough to study Family History and Genealogy at BYU and work for FamilySearch. She said, "Learning about the past has been such and rich way to find joy in the present and prepare for the future. I am excited about passing these stories on to my 4 kids so they know the shoulders of whom they stand."

During her time with the Cook Family Organization, Becca has contributed to the publishing projects. She is particularly interested in developing children's books that preserve and share family stories, and has produced Homestead Heroes: Battling the Bear, with more titles in progress. She also helped with the publication of Ann Eliza Howland Cook's Journal. "That was especially touching as it was a privilege to read her words and help share her voice with others."



5 - Wendy Whiting Bentley serves as the Organization's Temple Word co-chair. She was born in Minneapolis and has also lived in Uruguay, Argentina, Mexico and is now in Salt Lake City. She is a great-granddaughter of Phineas through his 4th wife, Johanna. She graduated from BYU and is the mother of 8 children. She served missions for 11 years with her husband in South American. She loves family history work and she and family Genealogist Janet Porter used to meet weekly at the Family History Library in Salt Lake to do Cook research. She is interested in doing research on the original Cook who came to American — Henry Cook — and his wife Judith Birdsall's life trying to continue their lines back into England. She also works with Brent Hale on getting Cook family names into the temple group for family members to take to the temple. She would love some help with this fun work! **Message us if you'd like to help with name preparation.** *She and Brent have a huge Cook list to work on!*

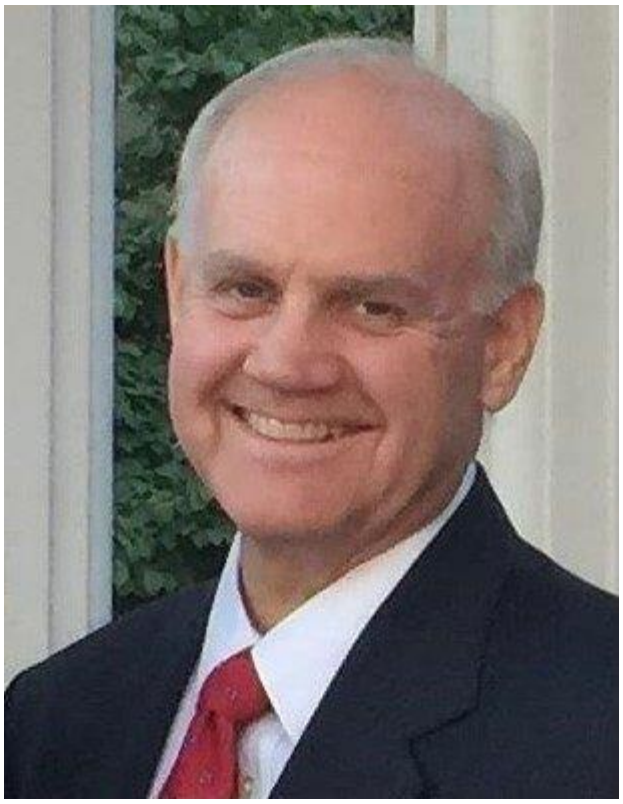


6 - Janet Porter is currently the Cook Family Genealogist. She says, "I grew up in Woodruff, Utah and Salt Lake City, always with an interest in ancestors, but little opportunity. After college, marriage and ten children, family relocations to New York, Colorado, and Louisiana, we moved back to New York where we lived just a few miles across the Hudson River from Goshen, Connecticut. Unfortunately, I didn't know anything about Phineas W. Cook, so I missed the significance of his place of birth. We later moved to Utah, but having five teenagers crowded out any hope of family history.

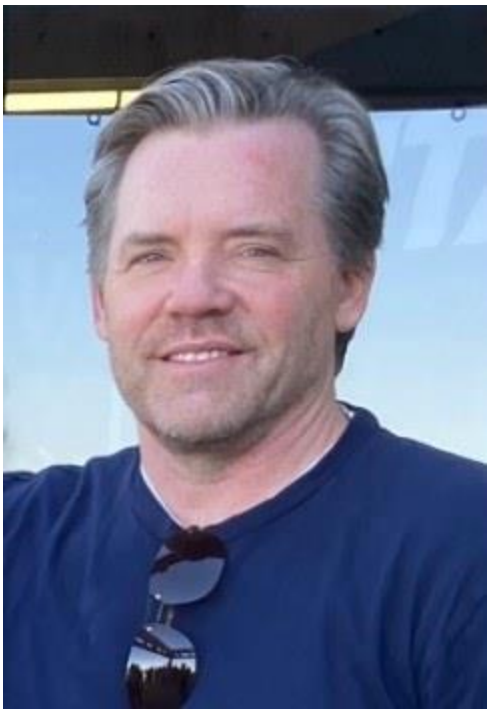
"When my last child started Kindergarten in 1989, I received a phone call from my brother in Cleveland. 'They're looking for a genealogist in the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization,' he said. 'If I give you a computer, do you think you could volunteer?' So, I did. Little by little I learned the difference between primary source records and something someone claimed was true. Documenting our ancestors with original sources became my passion.

For most of the 36 years since 1989, Bryson Cook and I have collaborated, documenting much of the family and publishing several articles in genealogy publications to share our discoveries. Many problems have been solved and families correctly united, including the correct family of Daniel Cook Jr.'s wife Elizabeth Porter and her family, Daniel Sr.'s wife Elizabeth Pond and her family and the correct marriage and children of Samuel Cook of Salem, Mass. and New Haven, Conn. Our original ancestor Henry Cooke has been and will continue to be under intense investigation. Building on work previously done by family genealogists, we have had access to original records and have clarified old misconceptions. The recent publication of Legacy of Faith was the outcome of decades of research and discovery.

We've watched as family history has embraced technology, bringing old techniques into a whole new world of data. If there's anything we've learned, it's that the hand of God is in the effort to document family history. Our job was just to do the footwork so He could guide us to the right outcome. Anything we accomplished with our years of hard work was, in the end, a gift from Him."



7 - Daniel Ditto, who formerly served as our Cook Family board president, is our Sub-Committee Chair. He currently lives in Centerville, UT, but has also lived in Laie, Hawaii, Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada, and Helena, Montana. He and his wife have 7 children, 15 grandchildren who amaze them constantly! He is now retired after practicing law for almost 40 years in Utah, Nevada, and Hawaii. He had a very diverse practice, including representing and working for the LDS Church on numerous matters, and working for Intermountain Healthcare in litigation, real estate, environmental law, medical malpractice defense, and health law and regulation. He has loved family history and genealogy and temple work for as long as he can remember. He initially became involved with the Cook Family Org board about 2004 to help improve processes and efficiency using technology. Later, he was asked to be the vice president for family units and was then asked to serve as President. He has been involved continuously since then and has loved working on many great projects with our cousins of the Cook Family. "I love the work, and I love our family!"



8 - Stephen Bentley is from Rigby, Idaho and is the father of six (3 boys, 3 girls), 3 of whom are married. He also has 3 grandchildren. He is a project manager with a mechanical engineering degree. He enjoys hunting, gardening, and taking care of a dog, three cows, and a flock of chickens. He enjoys genealogy and his mom (Wendy Bentley) introduced him to the Cook organization. He would really like the organization to get the younger generation interested in their ancestors.



9 - Brent is the fourth and last child of Charles B. and LaThel G. Hale. He was born at Afton, Wyoming. He grew up on the family farm at Fairview, Wyoming.

As a child, he admired his busy mother's family history work which she worked on whenever she could.

His childhood included helping with the dairy farm and caring for the chickens and the family garden. At school he really liked science, math, and his French classes.

After high school graduation, he copied his parents' genealogical records to continue the research. After his sophomore year he got a summer internship at Salt Lake City and lived within walking distance of the LDS Family History library. He went to the library almost every night all summer to get copies of research done by other family members. He first met LaMar Day then and worked with him on several updates of the family descending pedigree charts and books.

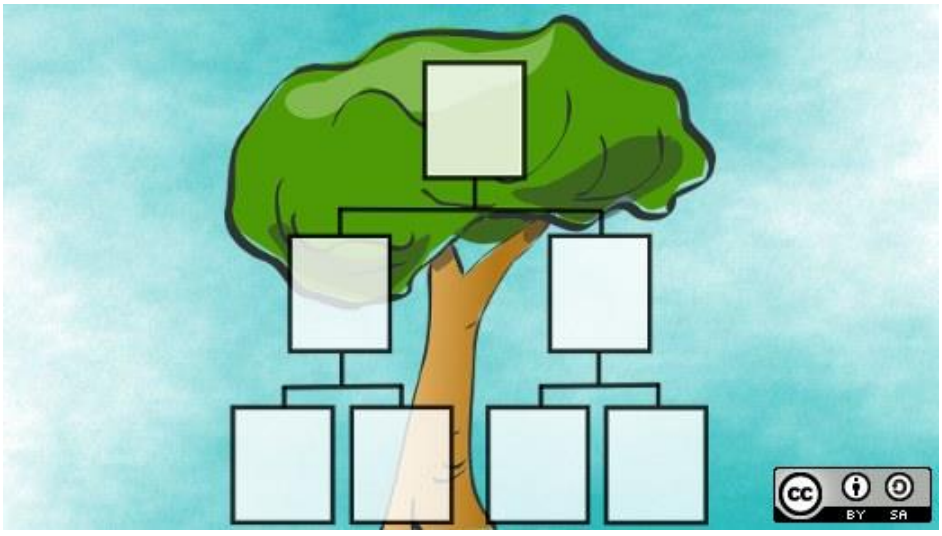
After completing his freshman year at the University of Wyoming, he served a mission for the LDS church Italy from 1971 to 1973.

In 1975 he married Ruth Kelso. They have five children and 27 grandchildren.

His post mission church service includes serving as a scoutmaster in Utah and Texas, as a counselor in two bishoprics and as bishop of the Sapulpa Oklahoma Ward and of the Dallas YSA 1st Ward. Currently, he serves as a high counselor assigned to the stake temple and family history work and serves in the Dallas Temple as an assistant recorder.

Brent studied petroleum engineering at the University of Wyoming and received both a bachelor's and a master's degree. He worked for Northwest Pipeline at Salt Lake City after graduating from college in 1976. In 1995 he was transferred to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he retired in 2007 after which he moved to Dallas, Texas. There he consulted with Bill Cobb & Associates and is now an associate with Russell K Hall and Associates.

Cook Family Organization Work Progress



TEMPLE WORK PROGRESS

The pace of temple work for the Cook Family is accelerating relative to the last two years. We appreciate all who have performed temple ordinances for our Cook relatives. We encourage you to continue this work as you are able to do so.

Helping with the temple work is our number one priority. We could also use some additional help with the research at this time. If you are interested in doing research for

our Cook ancestors, we can provide a list of research leads of ancestors currently on the FamilySearch file which have incomplete temple ordinances and can help with training as needed.

Some of the Cook family records are well researched and only need a final check before reserving the names for temple ordinances. Other names have no documented research and are incomplete. They require more work but normally result in records complete enough to reasonably be submitted for temple work.

If you are able to help, let us know by emailing Brent Hale at brentwhale@gmail.com[4]. If not already a member of one of our two Cook FamilySearch groups, please request to join using the link below. This will allow you to access names in the group for temple ordinances and will allow you to contribute names to the group to share with others. Family Search Group[5]

Cook Family Books[6]

Find these books about Cook Family Members on Amazon.com in hard/softcover or kindle versions:

Henry Cooke, Proprietor of Salem: https://www.amazon.com/Henry-Cooke-Proprietor-Bryson-Cook/dp/B0BVD2SF7Z/ref=sr_1_1

Phineas Wolcott Cook: A Legacy of Faith: https://www.amazon.com/Phineas-Wolcott-Cook-Legacy-Faith/dp/B09YT2HFYX/ref=pd_bxgy_thbs_d_sccl_1/145-6090062-0450019

"My Only Desire is To Do Right": Phineas Wolcott Cook and the Founding of Goshen, Utah: https://www.amazon.com/My-Only-Desire-Do-Right/dp/B0D4M9SSQ1/ref=sr_1_1

Homestead Heroes: Battling the Bear (children's book): https://www.amazon.com/Homestead-Heroes-Battling-Phineas-Adventure/dp/B0D9QMD3TB/ref=sr_1_1

The Journal of Ann Eliza Howland Cook, 1894-1896: https://www.amazon.com/Journal-Ann-Eliza-1894-1896/dp/B0DQ14R26Z/ref=sr_1_1

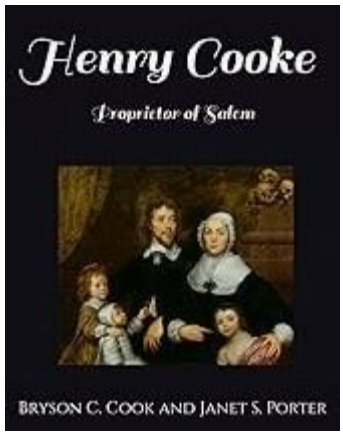
NEW Captain Daniel Cook, Jr: Connecticut Minuteman, Militiaman and Militia: https://www.amazon.com/Captain-Daniel-Cook-Jr-Connecticut/dp/B0FJFV2ZF1/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0

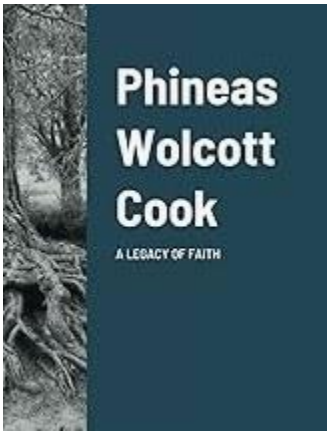
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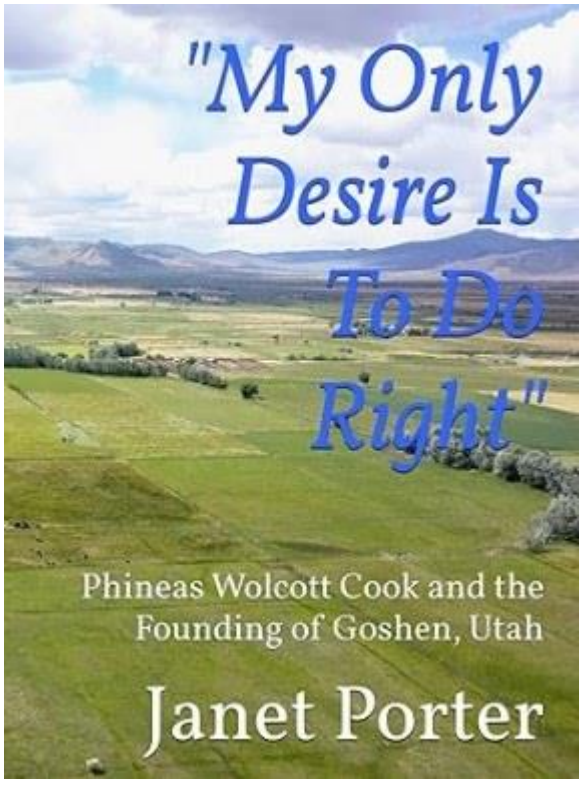
[4] mailto:brentwhale@gmail.com

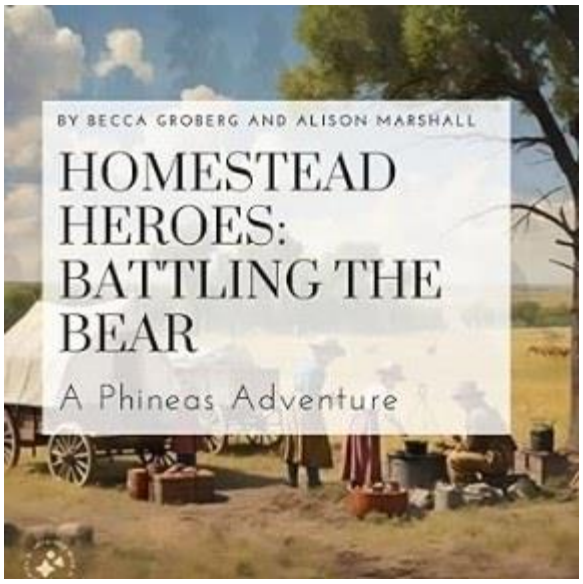
[5] https://www.familysearch.org/groups/family?groupId=9MMQ-DBG&inviteId=MMMH-T14

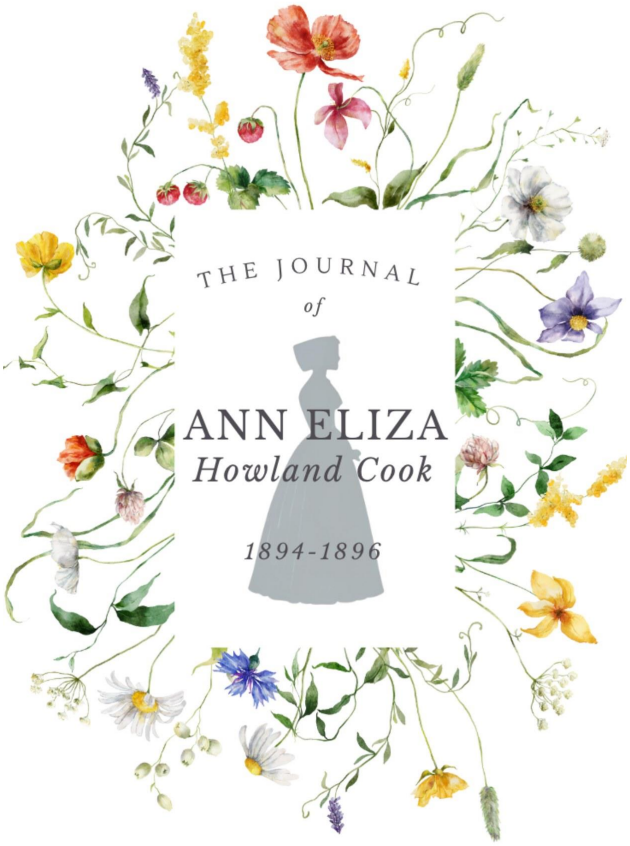
[6] https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DW4JGBR8/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2N8EEMM9F8ZVO&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.bMiSDq8GWgbXRonRxFicJyNVpbvWRNiOEtO6HvMImudxH6bWcFBXI7DLMpAPXMgUvBAzX7KfVGYLd_qepVHvrg.UMUhefiJlghUdPWqC6x8LDqcw7qT7mV3B9naGiysadM&dib_tag=se&keywords=phineas+wolcott+cook&qid=1738803701&sprefix=phineas+wolcott+cook%2Caps%2C216&sr=8-1

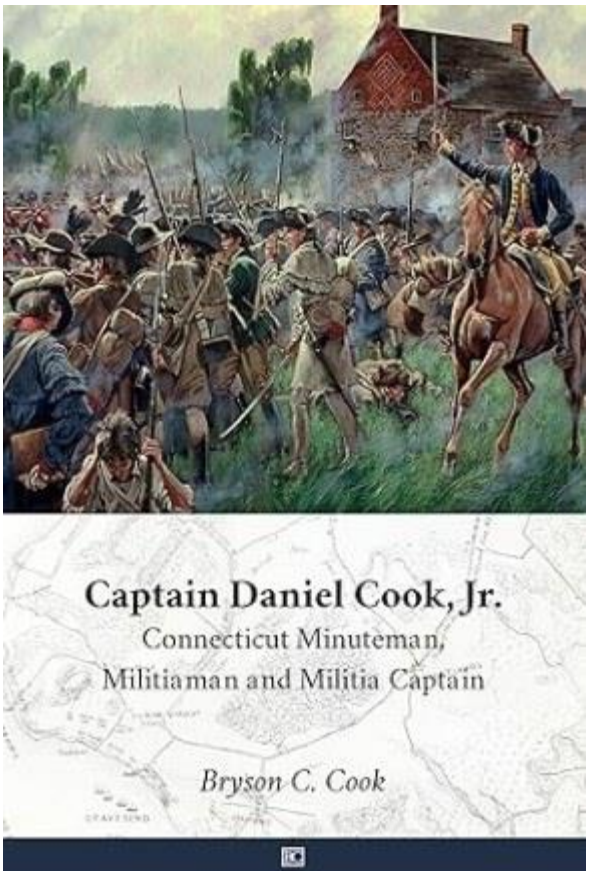

Henry Cooke
Proprietor of Salem
BRYSON C. COOK AND JANET S. PORTER


Phineas Wolcott Cook
A LEGACY OF FAITH


"My Only Desire Is To Do Right"
Phineas Wolcott Cook and the Founding of Goshen, Utah
Janet Porter


BY BECCA GROBERG AND ALISON MARSHALL
HOMESTEAD HEROES: BATTLING THE BEAR
A Phineas Adventure


THE JOURNAL
of
ANN ELIZA
Howland Cook
1894-1896



10 - Daniel Cook Jr[7]

Cook Y-DNA Research Project – Major Update

One of the primary objectives of the ***Henry Cook (d. 1661) Y-DNA Research Project*** has been to uncover credible evidence of his parentage. He is our Cook(e) ancestor who came to the Colonies from England, but we don't know where he came from or who his parents were. Dave Cook has headed up the coordination of this project. We are excited to share a recent breakthrough that brings us significantly closer to our goal.

A few weeks ago, Sherri Stolfi (administrator of Adam Cook's DNA profile) and Dave received groundbreaking data regarding the migration path of our Cook lineage. This information was provided by **Geoff Grant**, a prominent researcher in the **R-U106 Haplogroup Project** at FamilyTreeDNA. This group is dedicated to refining the broad European haplogroup **R-M269** using the advanced **Big Y-700** test, which enables the identification of highly specific subclades.

[7] https://www.amazon.com/Captain-Daniel-Cook-Jr-Connecticut-ebook/dp/B0FHFG5NJT/ref=sr_1_1

Dave Cook has headed up the coordination of this project.

Through this analysis, our (Dave and Adam's) haplogroup has been identified as **R-FTA79899**—a key development in tracing our deeper European ancestry with greater precision.

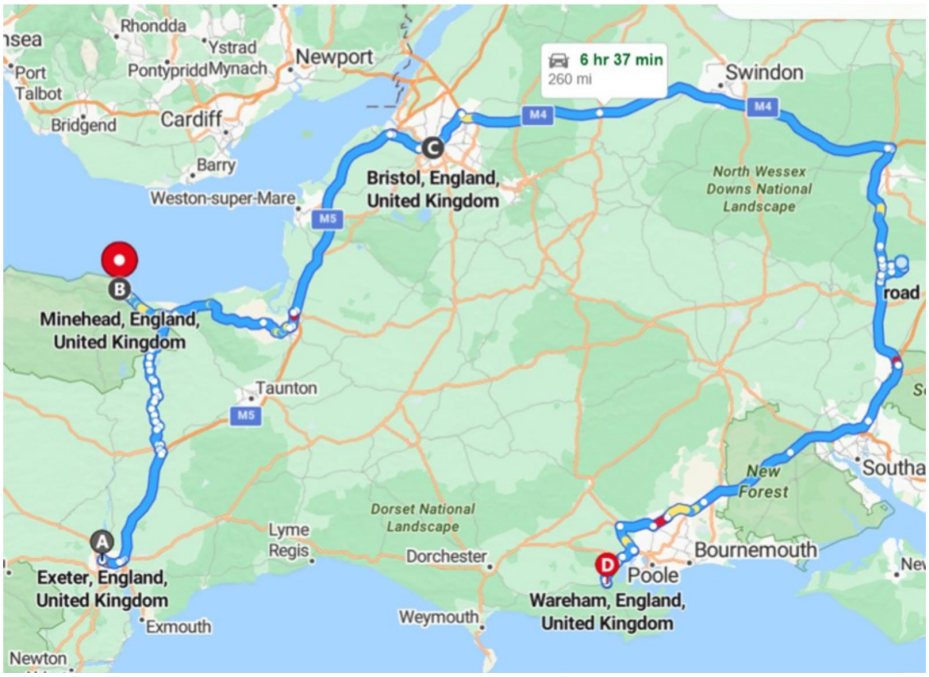
Bryson Cook, a family genealogist and former board member of the *Phineas Walcott Cook Family Organization* is also a genetic match within our project and has researched and published about Henry Cook(e[8]). He responded to this recent news with great enthusiasm. He believes Geoff's findings could reduce the pool of potential candidates for Henry Cook's parentage from over 100 down to as few as **three to five possibilities**. Geoff Grant recommends looking exclusively in an area of a square with the 4 points being Minehead, Somerset; Exeter, Devonshire; Wareham, Dorsetshire; and Bristol. (Note the maps below)

The summary points of Bryson's research point to the following Henry Cook(e) possibilities. The highlighted ones are in the location that this **new discovery** highlights:

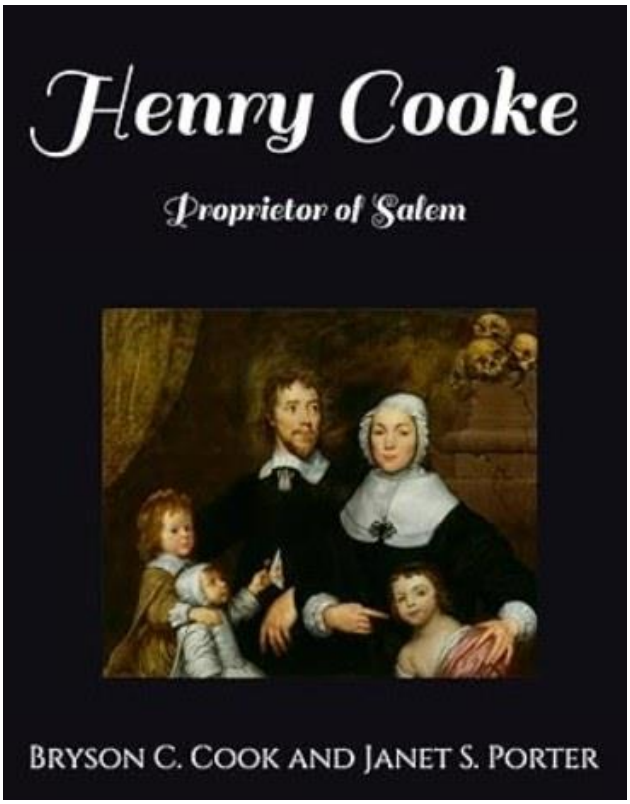
	Birth Date	City	County	Country	Father	Spouse
Henric Cooke	17 Jun 1608	Otterton	Devon	England	Henric Cooke	
Henry Cooke	7 Oct 1610	Cadbury	Devon	England	Henry Cooke	
Henry Cooke	5 Feb 1608	Horsley	Gloucestershire	England	John Cooke	
Henry Cooke	4 Mar 1609	West Farleigh	Kent	England	Henry Cooke	
Henry Cooke	18 Jun 1609	Winwick	Lancashire	England	Henry Cooke	
Henry Cooke	21 Mar 1611	Melton Mowbray	Leicestershire	England		Katherine
Henry Cook	23 Nov 1607	Norwich	Norfolk	England	John Cook	
Henry Cooke	9 Aug 1607	Pilton	Somerset	England	Richard Cooke	
Henry Cooke	24 Apr 1608	Worth	Sussex	England	John Cooke	Alice
Henry Cooke	29 Aug 1608	Salisbury	Wiltshire	England	John Cooke	
Henry Cooke	5 Nov 1606	Holt	Worcestershire	England	Jho Cooke	

[8] https://www.amazon.com/Henry-Cooke-Proprietor-Bryson-Cook/dp/B0BVD2SF7Z/ref=sr_1_1


Glasgow
UNITED KINGDOM
ISLE OF MAN (U.K.)
Leeds
Manchester
Sheffield
Dublin
IRELAND
Birmingham
Bristol, England, United Kingdom
London
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Minehead, England, United Kingdom
Wareham, England, United Kingdom


Rhondda
Ystrad
Pontypridd
Mynach
Newport
Port Talbot
Bridgend
Cardiff
Barry
Weston-super-Mare
6 hr 37 min
260 mi
Swindon
M4
M5
C
Bristol, England, United Kingdom
North Wessex Downs National Landscape
B
Minehead, England, United Kingdom
Taunton
A
Exeter, England, United Kingdom
Exmouth
Lyme Regis
Dorset National Landscape
Dorchester
Weymouth
New Forest
Bournemouth
Poole
D
Wareham, England, United Kingdom

Click here to find Bryson Cook's book about our Henry Cooke on Amazon: (paperback $6.32, Kindle $1.99):[9]



11 - https://www.amazon.com/Henry-Cooke-Proprietor-Bryson-Cook/dp/B0BVD2SF7Z/ref=sr_1_1

Book Club Meeting

From Anne Starita:

Are you interested in history, adventure, and discovering the stories of our pioneer ancestors? We're excited to invite you to our Phineas Wolcott Cook Book Club!

In this book club, we'll be reading and discussing the journal of a pioneer ancestor, exploring their journey and the challenges they faced. Whether you're a history enthusiast or just looking for a fun, thoughtful way to connect, this club is for YOU!

You don't need to have read previous chapters to join – each meeting is a fresh start, and all are welcome! It's the perfect opportunity to meet new people, share insights, and enjoy a lively discussion, all from the comfort of your home via Zoom. The book is also available digitally for free on our website.

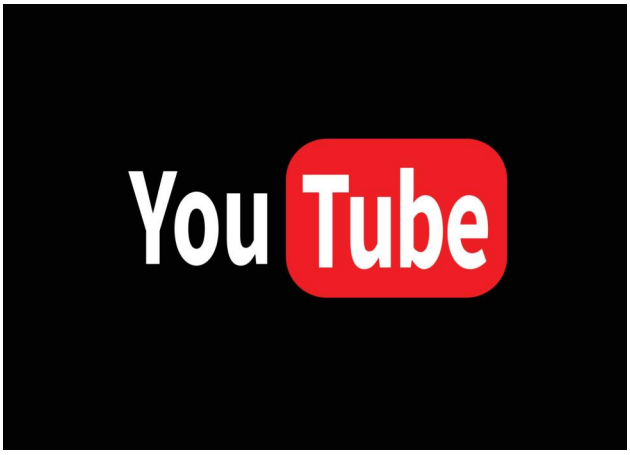
[9] https://www.amazon.com/Henry-Cooke-Proprietor-Bryson-Cook/dp/B0BVD2SF7Z/ref=sr_1_1

Feel free to invite your friends, family, or anyone who loves a good story! The more, the merrier.

We can't wait to have you join us for our next session. Let's connect, learn, and journey together!

Our next meeting will be Aug. 2, **10 am Mountain Standard Time.** We'll be talking about pp. 211-238 of the Legacy of Faith book. The zoom address is always the same and if you need the link, email us: cookfamilynewsletter@gmail.com[10]

Also, here is the link to read the book for free from our website: Phineas Wolcott Cook 1819-1900[11]



*12 - **We Have a YouTube Channel!***

We have our past reunion talks, book club recordings, and videos about Phineas on our YouTube channel! https://www.youtube.com/@Cookfamilyorg

[10] mailto:cookfamilynewsletter@gmail.com
[11] http://www.cookfamily.org/histories/documents/PhineasWolcottCook_1819-1900/

Phineas Wolcott Cook
Family Organization

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Find the link on our YouTube channel:
http://youtube.com/@CookFamilyOrg

For more information contact us!
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Service Project:

We will demonstrate a virtual service project that your family can take part in — all online!

Help add COOK names to the FamilySearch FamilyTree.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our next Cook Family Gathering will be **VIRTUAL**! Plan on joining us via zoom on ***Sunday, August 17 at 5:00 p.m.***. We will have guest speaker Bryson Cook talk to us about our Revolutionary War ancestor, Captain Daniel Cook and his home in Goshen, Connecticut.

We will also hear from the three ladies who recently published Ann Eliza Howland Cook's diary — Marcia Marshall, our PWC board president, Becca Groberg, our PWC Publications Chair, and Alison Marshall. They will share their experiences working on Ann Eliza's diary.

YouTube Channel[12]

We'll plan another IN PERSON gathering for **summer 2026**! Stay tuned for the exciting details. If you would like to help us plan future gatherings, contact us! (cookfamilynewsletter@gmail.com[13])

[12] https://www.familysearch.org/groups/family?groupId=9MMQ-DBG&inviteId=MMM4-HL5
[13] mailto:cookfamilynewsletter@gmail.com