



# Phineas Wolcott Cook NEWSLETTER

FAMILY ORGANIZATION

September, 2008

## Gary H. Cook, Church Film Producer To Speak at Annual Cook-O-Rama

### Annual meeting included In activities of the day

We are very excited for the upcoming Cook-O-Rama on October 2, 2008. There are a number of exciting family events planned. See the attached article on locations and times and please RSVP if you can!

Family Meeting – Gary H. Cook – Film Producer. This year we are privileged to have Gary H. Cook, who has produced a number of very significant films, including “The Testaments”, “The Joseph Smith Story” and “Emma.” He has had some very special and sacred experiences in developing these important productions..For those of you who have never come, please take the opportunity. We have had tremendous experiences in the past when speakers have included Elder Quentin Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Richard Turley, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Historian and Director of Church History.

Annual Cook Family Meeting. Also this year, in conjunction with the Cook-O-Rama we are going to have the Cook Family ANNUAL MEETING where a number of important items for the Cook Family

Organization will be discussed. We have not had the annual Cook Family Meeting as part of the Cook-O-Rama previously, so we hope this change will make it possible for more family members to learn about and participate in the organization. Plan to be there!

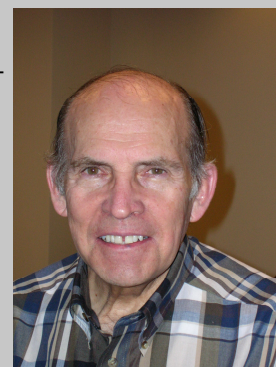
Hands On Cook Family History. Again this year, we will have the opportunity of sitting down with Janet Porter in the LDS Church Family History Library and discussing Cook Family History! Janet is a treasure trove of information about the Cook Family, so if you have any questions or family research issues, there is no one better to ask than Janet. If you don’t have any questions, please plan to be there anyway and Janet can tell you how you can help move our family genealogy work forward!

Food! OK, so we’re not ex-

*(Continued on page 2)*

### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear P.W. Family Organization Members:



This newsletter is being sent about one month before the Cook-O-Rama on Thursday, October 2,

2008, to help you remember to attend the event. You will meet family members you have not seen for sometime and may have never met; there will be good, light food; and it will conclude with an interesting and informative speaker. There is a separate, detailed article elsewhere in the newsletter with the location of the event. We encourage you to mark October 2<sup>nd</sup> on your calendar as a “must attend” event. We hope to see you there.

We encourage you to access the Organization website to provide your email address. We would like to send the twice-a-year newsletter by email to as many of

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## President's Message

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you as possible. This will help reduce the cost of sending hard copy newsletters to everybody who now receives the newsletter. We will continue to send hard copies to those of you who request them.

Our very good secretary, Sharon Marcyes, left in July for a two-year mission with her husband. We wish them a joyful and rewarding time the next two years. We have need for a new secretary. The responsibilities of secretary are to notify officers, directors, and family representatives, by email, of monthly telephone call-in conference call meetings; record minutes of those meetings; send completed minutes report to the officers, directors, and family representatives; and send other email messages, as requested. It is not a heavy time-consuming position, but it is a very important position for the ongoing success of the Organization. You can contact one of the officers, directors, or family representatives, or post your interest on the website.

We encourage more of you to send your annual dues and purchase publications from the online bookstore. Unfortunately, family organizations can't run without funds. Since it is our mission to continue the operation of the Organization, provide the newsletter, provide occasional activities and, most important, continue genealogy research and projects, your dues and publications purchases are appreciated, and we encourage more of you to help us financially.

Best regards,  
Guy R. Cook, President

# PWC Newsletter Format To Adopt New Technology

By Dan Ditto

The Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization (PWC) has been aware for some time of the need to cut the costs on our newsletters. Many years more money has been spent to produce and send out the newsletter than on Genealogical Research. It now costs approximately 75 cents to print and mail each one. We hope in the next few years we can make changes which will cut these costs substantially by sending the bulk of the newsletters by electronic mail. However, PWC will not go entirely to electronic mail because there are many who prefer the paper copy of the newsletter. The Organization will always provide the hard copy to those who request them.

Some of the *advantages* of electronic newsletter are as follows:

- Once an edition has been prepared, it can be printed and sent by postal mail, which is expensive, or it can be sent out by email and also placed on the family web site at no additional cost.
- It will substantially cut down the man hours and expense of postal mailings. Thousands of emails can be sent in a few minutes.
- There are greatly reduced postage or printing costs to the organization.
- The mailings are handled in a way to protect the email address from the public.
- You can keep a copy of the newsletter and it will save you filing space.
- The pictures in the electronic newsletter are in *color*.
- If you desire a hard copy with

colored pictures, you can print one.

- You can easily forward a copy to a friend or newly found family member.
- You can place pictures or articles from the newsletter into your family history.
- PWC can send you important bulletins, if needed, at no additional cost.

Please send your email address

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## Cook-O-Rama October 2

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actually planning on a feast, but we want to make sure that you don't starve either, so a meal is also planned and everyone has enjoyed eating and visiting in the past, so please join us.

The Cook-O-Rama is the Cook Family annual event. It has been a very enjoyable event every year that it has been held. We have had very prominent speakers and wonderful discussions as those who have attended can attest. However, we have not had as much participation as we would like. Many of you live in the area and we hope you will come and enjoy the fellowship and family renewal that comes from spending some time with your family. Bring your children and expose them to your family members and family heritage. I promise you it won't be boring and you won't regret it!

# Elizabeth Porter Cook Research

*This is the second in a three-part series. (The entire story is available on the website at the address: [www.cookfamily.org](http://www.cookfamily.org).*

By Bryson Cook and Janet Porter

## **The 1790 Census:**

A review of the 1790 census was done. Each Porter head of household living in Litchfield County Connecticut was identified, researched and eliminated except for one. Benjamin Porter of Goshen was the first clue and break in this problem. His paternal ancestry couldn't be determined and that coincidence was intriguing.

In fact after careful research it has been learned that there was no known Porter family listed as original proprietors of Goshen. A census of Goshen in 1774 enumerates the population at 1,111 people. A small pox petition in 1776 contains the name of almost every adult male resident of Goshen and the name Porter is not found. In fact, other than the appearance of Nathaniel son of Nathan Porter in 1775, neither of which ever appeared in Goshen records again, Benjamin Porter is the first known Porter found in the record when in 1778 he enlisted from Goshen in the Revolutionary War.

## **The Circumstantial Case:**

In addition to the Porter name Benjamin and Elizabeth were about the same age. This evidence is the foundation for making the case they are siblings. Additionally, other Porter names make their way into the record about this time. They are John, Jr., Robert and Nathaniel. Upon a review of land records it was learned that John, Jr. and Robert are connected to Benjamin Porter in land records. One

record and deed of Nathan Hand to Robert Porter introduces the Hand name into the mix. John, Jr. and Robert share the Porter name and are all the right age to be siblings. So now we have four Porters showing up in the Goshen record about the same time and about the right age. Two of them, Benjamin and Elizabeth, within a short time marry into long-time Goshen families, the Hows and Cooks respectively. Additionally it has been discovered that the Cooks, Hows and Porters all lived within a half mile of one another. In fact Benjamin lived next door to Moses Cook's father-in-law and brother-in-law. The Hows lived next to Amasa Cook. They worshiped in the same Church and did business with the same neighbors. It is clear in a town of 1,450 by 1782, they knew one another.

## **The ancestry of Benjamin Porter the brother of Elizabeth:**

We discover from Goshen Land Records and Revolutionary War Pension Records that Benjamin Porter and John Porter, Jr. were brothers. Further, we learn that John Porter, Jr. was of Bethlehem and born four years prior to Benjamin. With that information John Porter, Sr. of Bethlehem was discovered and with that this most interesting revelation: while married to Deborah Hand there was no record of any children! For the first time in our research efforts we find a group of connected children with out parents and a married couple without children. Subsequent to these discoveries it was learned that other Porter family researchers had come to the same conclusions at

about the same time and had published their work.

## **Naming Patterns, Further Compelling Circumstantial Evidence:**

Now that we understand the connection to John Porter, Sr. of Bethlehem, his relationship as the son of Nathaniel Porter and his descent from Robert as well as his marriage into the Hand family, we also have the key to Elizabeth. A review of the naming patterns of this family results as follows:

Robert Porter<sup>1</sup> named two of his children Benjamin and Elizabeth.

Thomas Porter<sup>2</sup> named two of his children Benjamin and Elizabeth.

Nathaniel Porter<sup>3</sup> clearly named his children for his wife's family: John for John Woodruff his first father-in-law, Ruth for his first wife, Abigail for his mother, Sarah for his wife's sister, Nathaniel his own name sake, Esther for his wife's sister, John for his first son who died young and his new father-in-law, Thomas for his father

John Porter<sup>4</sup>, the presumed father of Elizabeth Porter may have named his children: John his name sake, Elizabeth for his wife's sister, Benjamin for his wife's grandfather, Robert for his Uncle Robert Porter who had two sons with the same name who died young.

Interesting isn't it?

*For footnote and documentation information, contact Janet Porter at [janetsp@hotmail.com](mailto:janetsp@hotmail.com)*

# Approved Family P.A.F. File is Re-issued

*By Janet Porter*

For two generations the P.W.C. Family Organization has had a file of 65 Family Group Sheets, our Cook line of direct ancestors. The church policy of doing research on only the direct line dictated strict compliance, and we knew almost nothing about the children and grandchildren of those ancestors. Now, however, the church has allowed research and temple work on a broader scale. The New Family Search Program encourages a broader participation. It is time to re-issue the Cook Family File.

Many have worked on projects to include more descendants of our direct ancestors. Those willing to take projects have found a wealth of information which has allowed us to add many more documented names to the Cook family file. Our file has expanded from 65 family group sheets to over 1,065 sheets. But the real benefit to the family are the extensive notes. Historical information and in-depth documentation are in the new file, not possible in the old one. The family group sheets have many pages of documentation and interesting information on the life, the family, the places they lived and the occupation of all individuals. These people become real people. In the case of those whose identity has not been documented or needs more research it is recorded clearly in the notes.

In addition to the Cook research, work has been done on the four wives and their ancestors. Many wish to have that information, but often don't know whom to contact.

That's a good reason to rework and re-issue the Cook file as well as those of the four wives. Beginning in September, we will offer at the same price as before, a CD with the current documented files of Phineas Wolcott Cook, his descendants and his ancestors, and the ancestors of all four wives.

With prices rising everywhere, a bargain is hard to come by. But this is an unbeatable bargain.

Why are we doing it? Because now you will have at your fingertips everything we know about these families. Perhaps someday you'll be in the right place at the right time and will find information on one of those lines. Perhaps one Sunday afternoon you'll get an urge and search online for one of the end-line names and surprise us with new information. Maybe someday you'll be somewhere and want to know if the gravestones you're seeing belong to the family.

Who knows, maybe the new family genealogist will be-----everyone!



*Gravestone of Joseph Peters in Darien, Genesee, N.Y. The Elizabeth next to him is not our Elizabeth Porter Cook who was his wife. Where is she?*

## Dues Are Important For PWC Family

*By Paul Porter*

First - THANKS to those who contribute dues for maintaining the Cook Family Organization.

Dues are used almost entirely for printing/ mailing of the newsletter plus research regarding Phineas and his family line. Dues are not used for research regarding the wives' families.

The newsletter is sent to about 1500 families. Dues are received from a very minor part of families who receive the letter.

Suggested dues are \$20.00 annually. Checks can be mailed to the "ORDER FORM" address showing on the last page of this letter or Pay-Pal can be used as an easy method of payment. See [WWW.CookFamily.org](http://WWW.CookFamily.org) for Pay-Pal instructions.

With Pay-Pal you don't have to wonder, "have I

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# New Family Search Program Makes Changes

By Don Cook

The Church has developed a new temple and family history system called New Family Search. This will allow members to more easily prepare and submit names for temple ordinances using the internet at home, at a nearby family history center, or anywhere the internet is available for personal use. The new Family Search is being made available to members in phases, by temple district. The districts in Utah will be the last to be phased in. Many of the other districts have been or are now in the process so you may have access to it now.

The new system replaces the current process of submitting names to the temple through TempleReady. After registering on the internet at [new.familysearch.org](http://new.familysearch.org), members can view their pedigree information and see which ancestors' names appear in the new FamilySearch. They can also see what temple work has been performed for each ancestor. Related family members can also view any new information as it is entered into the new FamilySearch. Those individuals who enter information into the new FamilySearch may add or make changes as they deem necessary.

All steps needed to prepare and submit names for temple ordinances can be done at home, at a family history center, or anywhere the Internet is available for personal use with the new FamilySearch. TempleReady will be removed from family history center computers after the new system is in place.

- Computer disks will no longer be required. All information needed to prepare temple name cards will be printed from the new FamilySearch for use by the temple. This printed form is called a Family Ordinance Request and contains a bar code and the list of ancestor

names with the temple ordinances to be performed for each. The bar code is scanned at the temple to print the temple name cards.

- The International Genealogical Index (IGI), Ancestral File, and Pedigree Resource File have been combined with selected Church membership information to create a single, lineage-linked database that can be viewed in a common pedigree tree in the new FamilySearch. Using this pedigree tree view, members will know at a glance if their ancestors need temple ordinances.

- Members may easily coordinate family history efforts with other family members and preserve family information in a single, secure place.

Where stakes or wards do not have adequate internet access, members will be able to submit names on paper for processing into the new FamilySearch through a family history consultant or a nearby family history center.

There are many aids available in the system to help us with the program. Contact your Ward Family History Consultant and or Priesthood Leader if you need help.

At present the system is being opened only to church members. Eventually it will be opened to the world.

## Cook-O-Rama Speaker Is Descendant of PWC

Gary H. Cook, a Gr. Gr. Grandson of Phineas W. and Amanda P. Savage Cook has graciously accepted an invitation to speak to the family at the 7:00 p.m. Cook-O-Rama meeting. Gary works for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as a Producer, Director and Writer of Church Films and has produced numerous outstanding films for the Church. Some of the most noted ones that we would be familiar with are "THE TESTAMENTS of One Fold and One Shepherd" and "JOSEPH SMITH STORY" both of which have been shown for several years in the Legacy Theater in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. These are films that were reviewed by Pres. Hinckley and passed his extremely high standards before release. Gary also wrote and produced the recent film that has been shown in movie houses, EMMA SMITH, My History. He has that special talent of making his films speak to the heart.

We look forward to this evening together. Please come and join us. Bring your children who are old enough to enjoy this event and plan to see the films again on DVD, at the Legacy Theater, or at a movie theater.

## Tech Improvements Planned

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to Yvonne Peterson at [ypeterson@broadweave.net](mailto:ypeterson@broadweave.net). You will then receive email letters in addition to the hard copy by postal mail. When you are comfortable with receiving your copy of the newsletter by email then you may inform us to drop the mailing of the hard copy to you.

PWC will shortly have all of the previous family newsletter dating back to 1970 posted on the family website. You may want to look at the ones for the last few years that have colored pictures included. If you have any historic information about the P. W. Cook family that could be included in the newsletter or on the website ([www.cookfamily.org](http://www.cookfamily.org)), please contact us or send it to the address shown on the newsletter.

# Cook Ancestors and Dentistry

By Glen McMillan

As a dentist, I wonder occasionally how dentistry was done back when and how much people must have suffered with often little care available. So I did a search on LDS.org for dentist records. It seems that there were a lot of records of dentists in Georgia but none for the areas that the Cooks inhabited. What I would like to know is who of our Cook ancestors was a dentist and did he keep a diary or journal? Then I did a search among the histories found in the cookfamily.org website and the only one that mentions "dentist" is Anne Eliza Howland Cook's diary. Now this was an interesting find. From her small entries I learned the following:

***She wore at least one denture.***

"My Upper Teeth are broken or rather cracked and talking of going to Montpelier with Broth Vaterlaus he is going to sell fruit and Garden stuff." P. 62

"Brother Vaterlaus called last night and told me the Dentist could not mend my Teeth but I would have to go and have an Impression taken and have an impression taken and have them reset." P.63.

***There was a dentist in Montpelier and another in Paris. The one in Paris extended her credit and she paid him in kind.***

"[August]Thurs 29 I went the Dentists 8 O'Clock where the Mail started out and made arrangements with the Dentist to pay him a Heifer worth \$10 to reset an upper set of Teeth for me so he commenced to fix them thinking he could get them done in time for me to start back with the Mail at tomorrow Morning at 8 with the mail." Page 64.

"Sent the Heifer by the Church Cattle drive which settles \$10 for my teeth to Paris Dentist" Page 82.[January 17<sup>th</sup>]

So getting paid back then was perhaps as difficult as it is today. Note it took her 6 months.

***She had to stay overnight in Paris and pick up her teeth the next morning. The dentist gave her a ride to an acquaintance.***

"The Dentist Mr Davis engaged the bus driver to take me where I wanted to go so he took me to Sister Adelia Youngs, an old acquaintance of Forty five years ago we had a visit of two hours, and the Bus came and took me to the Dentists again, he then took me back to Marvin Allreds again to stay over night." Page 64.

***The fee for a filling was \$1.***

"She [Annie] had two Teeth Filled which was two Dollars, she owes the dentist 40c" page 56.

***Some fillings could correct toothaches.***

"Annie and her Father and Mother came towards night. They got quite wet in the rain, but did not get cold her teeth do no ache now." Page 56.

From these few minor entries, I learned a great deal about the practice of dentistry in the Cache Valley in the mid 1890's. This was interesting research for me. Perhaps my continued research efforts will find a Dr. Cook, D.D.S.

Glen McMillan DDS  
glenmcmillan@cookfamily.org

## Dues Are Important

(Continued from page 4)

contributed yet this year", as transfer of funds from your bank or credit card account are made automatically.

- Contributions are tax deductible as the Cook Organization has been approved by the IRS as a charitable organization.
- Those who pay dues will receive a 20% discount when purchasing anything from the Cook Family store. (See last page of this News Letter).
- Unlike most charities, no dues money is used for administration of the organization.
- Funds, upon approval, can be used by anyone for research.
- Thanks to the availability of funds, Janet Porter and Bryson Cook, through much hard work,

have recently found and clarified additional information from New England records, as reported in prior newsletters, with more in the future. Church historical records will be updated.

- In addition to \$20.00 dues, some family members contribute to Savings Accounts that are maintained for research regarding each of Phineas' wives families. These funds, upon approval, can be used by anyone for research.

If contributing, please specify which wife's research should receive the funds. Approval for use of these funds will come from those assigned as current leaders of each family.

For questions about dues, contact Guy Cook, Ph 801-281-8925 or Paul Porter, Ph 801-296-0855.

**P.W. COOK FAMILY ORDER FORM**

All prices include postage

The following items are available for your use and enjoyment from the  
 Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization  
PO Box 1522, Provo, Utah 84603-1522  
Web Page: WWW.CookFamily.org

**New items::**

1. \_\_\_ Three Family Descending Pedigree Book @ \$45.00 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_ Three Family Descending Pedigree CD @ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_ Amanda P. Savage Descending Pedigree Book \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_ Amanda P. Savage Descending Pedigree CD \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_ Triumph of Testimony @ \$37.50 \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Items:**

6. P. W. Cook Diary \_\_\_\_\_ copies @ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single copies - \$7.00 each, 2-6 copies - \$6.00 each  
 7-12 copies - \$5.00 each
7. \_\_\_ Video (42 minutes) on the Life of P. W. Cook \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Cook Ancestral Tour Guides \$6.00 each (4 or more \$5.00 each)  
 \_\_\_ Goshen & Litchfield Co., Connecticut \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Wallingford, Connecticut \_\_\_ Salem, Massachusetts \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ State of New York \_\_\_ State of Utah \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Family Fireside Stories – Book I \$9.00 \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_ Family Fireside Stories – Book II \$9.00 \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_ PAF 3.0 Diskette of 65 verified Ancestor Families 3 1/2" diskette \$6.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Discount: 20% discount on all item above if 2003 Dues have been paid or accompany this order Less (\_\_\_\_\_)**

**ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY**

**10. Organizational Dues (Suggested Donation - \$20.00 per family – Tax Deductible)** \_\_\_\_\_

11. Donations for Family Research (Tax Deductible) \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 Paid**

I would be willing to work on the following committees:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ___ Family History Committee           | ___ Research Committee                           |
| ___ Record Verification Committee      | ___ Family Web-Master for Web-Site               |
| ___ Typing Histories – Word Processing | ___ Illustrator                                  |
| ___ Newsletter/Mailing Committee       | ___ Distribution Committee                       |
| ___ Finance Manager                    | ___ <b>Secretary/Treasurer – urgently needed</b> |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2008 COOK-O-RAMA RSVP

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Please check the form below and return this RSVP

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
8:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Family History Library Research With Janet Porter		
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Cook Family Annual Meeting at Bountiful East 28 <sup>th</sup> Ward		
5:30 – 6:15 p.m.	Soup & Salad Buffet at Bountiful East 28 <sup>th</sup> Ward (free for dues current members, a \$3 donation requested from all others)		
6:15 - 7:00 p.m.	Visiting at Bountiful East 28 <sup>th</sup> Ward		
7:00 p.m.	Family Meeting with Gary H. Cook Bountiful East 28 <sup>th</sup> Ward		

## PLEASE RSPV

**Please RSVP by September 25, 2008**

NOTE: You are still welcome to attend these events even if you do not RSVP. Please call: Janet Porter at 801-226-8094 or LaMar Day at 801-298-1654 or Dan Ditto at 801-554-4847 or email: [dan.ditto@imail.org](mailto:dan.ditto@imail.org)

**DIRECTIONS** to the Bountiful East 28<sup>th</sup> 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 on east to the next light (2600 S 200 W). Turn left for a distance of 4 blocks and the church is on the right side (2285 S 200 W). SEE YOU THERE.

**Phineas Wolcott Cook**

Family Organization Newsletter  
PO Box 1522  
Provo, Utah 84603-1522  
February, 2008

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Return Address Requested

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