

Henry Freeman Cook Family Reunion
Cedar Fort, Utah
July 15, 2006

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additional notes

My mother is Marla Madge Cook. She married my father in 1940. She is the youngest of six children. I have one brother so at this time there are three left in my birth family. As I listened to the talks and noticed those closest to the front of the chapel, I glanced toward the back of the chapel and then realized that there are so many people here that they are lining the back wall of the cultural hall, all descendants of Henry Freeman Cook, Sophronia Strobridge and Julia Ann Rocker. It means a lot to me to see so many here; some of you have come great distances to be at this reunion. This exceeds anything we could have hoped for when we began planning for this reunion a year and a half ago. I am so happy to see all of you and know that you are my family.

I have been asked to speak on **William Cook**, born in 1780, and beyond. For the last three years, I have been way out there "and beyond!"

On the ancestral file previously talked about, there is a William Cook, residence, town of Beverly/also given Marblehead. A close look reveals for this William an impressive revolutionary war record---he was part of the Continental Army---he served under eight captains, four colonels and one lieutenant. This William arrived in Bennington, Vermont (16 miles north of Pittsfield, MA where William & Lucy were married in 1805) February 12, 1777. He fought in the famous battle against the British; this is the battle where we hear so much about the "Green Mountain Boys." This William was in Bennington for 41 days. Before the war, on March 4, 1763, he married Hannah Foster, at Beverly, MA. Hannah gave birth to a son (William) born 20 September, 1769---eleven years before (1780) William was born. Second wife, Anna Morgan, also gave birth to a son (William) born at Beverly, 21 May, 1780--three months prior to the birth of the William Cook in our ancestral line, who married Lucy Chapman.

On the 13 of May, 1874, Henry Freeman Cook, Sophronia Strobridge Cook and Julia Ann Rocker Laughlin Cook were in the endowment house in Salt Lake City. September 6, 1780, is the birth date Henry Freeman Cook recorded for his father William, on church records that day in May. Neither Hannah Foster nor Anna Morgan gave birth to sons on that day in 1780; as already stated, this William and Hannah and also Anna are not (1780) William Cook's father and mother.

I would like to talk about another William Cook who also served in the military during the revolution. He marched from Pittsfield (once again, the town where William married Lucy) to Skenesborough in 1777. The campaign lasted 21 days. British ships, in a lake just south of Skenesborough, were separated from several small American vessels by a heavy iron chain. British sea captain Burgoyne fired cannonballs to break the chain in order to advance militarily on the small number of American troops there. The American ships were abandoned and the soldiers retreated to Fort Ami. This was the skirmish that this William Cook was involved in---he was part of the Northern Army with Colonel John Brown's Berkshire regiment. Could it be that this William Cook, marching from Pittsfield to Skenesborough in 1777, is (1780) William Cook's father?

Sources: Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution 945-946

There are several others I would like to mention:

Isaac Cook, born in Wallingford, CT, in 1750---married Sarah Tuttle (born 16 January 1750) in west Wallingford (Cheshire). George Strobridge, Sophronia's grandfather, married a Tuttle, Julia Tuttle. Samuel Tuttle, whose wife is Abigail Cook (who I believe is one of our Cook ancestors) went west from Hartland, Windsor, Vermont at about the same time that William and Lucy left Cortland, New York and he ended up in Kalamazoo County, the same county where William and Lucy moved to in 1837.

Abiel Cook on the 1800 and 1810 federal census in Stephentown, Rensselaer, NY, is another possibility. We know that William had a brother named Abiel and Stephentown is just across the state line directly west of Hancock MA---the place where Lucy Chapman spent the young years of her life. There is a congregational church in Stephentown once called Berlin Church or St. Petersburg Church.

William A Cook (on an 1844 Pittsfield Jubilee registry) the name of Mrs. William A. Cook was entered as living in Pittsfield until 1795 and then moving to Syracuse, New York. She left with a young son---William would have been 15 in 1795---was this him and did he return to Pittsfield a few years later?

I met someone in front of the Henry Freeman Cook home this morning who said that in their family there was a history of Henry's ancestors crossing from Europe to America. Please see me after this meeting, or even better, come up here and give this talk.

One more, and then I would like to talk about the church where William and Lucy were married. Asahel Cook or Asael/Asa who also fought in the war of the revolution with Captain Lemuel Pomeroy's company of minute-men---he enlisted in April 1775.

Asahel Cook was born in 1732 in Norwich, New London, Connecticut. The place, Norwich, is interesting because Norwich is the town where some records state that Amasseh Chapman (Lucy's grandfather) was born in 1734. Joseph Chapman, a brother to Amasseh, also was born in Norwich in 1729. Joseph married a Hannah Freeman, 16 May, 1751 in Brooklyn, Windham, CT. Brooklyn is very significant because Ann Darby (Lucy's mother) and all of her brothers and sisters were born in Brooklyn and the family belonged to the Brooklyn Trinitarian Church.

Traditionally, Baptists and Congregationalists were non-conformists. This means that they did not go along with the Church of England, the Anglican Church. William and Lucy were Congregationalists. They were married in the Pittsfield Congregational First Church of Christ on December 19, 1805.

This church was organized almost as early as the town in 1750-1752. In 1764, an Isaac Freeman wanted to rename the church "Union Parish." The members voted in favor of the new name.

These people were a "covenant" people. They were very devoted to Jesus Christ. In order to know what their beliefs were, we can read their covenant written on the Sabbath, 23 February, 1764 (FHL 234,571 pp 27-28) records of Union Parish Pittsfield.

"As we consider ourselves to be under great and indispensable obligations to confess Jesus Christ before me, and to unite with his visible church on earth, we do now enter into covenant" . .
."Solemnly devote ourselves to the Lord our God, taking his word to be our only rule of faith" . . .
"receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our teacher and Saviour relying for sanctification upon the influences of the Holy Spirit" . . ."promise diligently to promote. . . the religion of Christ our Lord. .
.to recommend it to others by presenting in our own lives an example of justice, temperance, beneficence and Godliness."
"Relying on the aids of the Divine Spirit and do now make these solemn engagements in the presence of God, of Angels and of this congregation. . . praying God, that both you and we, may be at last presented faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" . . .

I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to research my Cook ancestors. The Pittsfield church records have been helpful. There, I found Lucy Chapman's brother, Isaac. His death is recorded on church records in 1832. Ann Darby Chapman is mentioned, Amasa is not mentioned. Isaac, at age 33, leaves a wife, Tryphia Root Chapman and a young son, Henry Augustus Chapman, born 27 September, 1826. Lucy's brother, Hiram, living at Hancock at the time, was appointed guardian for six year old Henry. (FHL 928,674 P 73) Also, Rufus Darby, Lucy's oldest uncle in the Darby family, married to Sophia Wadhams, had a son, John Franklin Darby, born in Pittsfield in 1805, the same year Lucy was married.

Through town records and tax records, I found that Amasa Chapman was Hancock's town treasurer in 1792. In 1798 he owned four tracts of land in Hancock. Land deeds show that he sold land in Hancock to his son, Isaac, in 1824 and Isaac, in turn, sold land to his brother Hiram. Amasa was one of the "selectmen". This usually meant that those who were select could choose the person that they wanted to build the church. Nine days before William and Lucy were married in Pittsfield; Amasa Chapman was setting land boundaries between Hancock and Lanesborough. There is so much more we need to know about these people. With the hope of finding our ancestors, and especially at this time, our Cook ancestors, I will say that in some measure, I have come to know them and I am thankful for records that are now available to us. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

A talk delivered at the Henry Freeman Cook Family Reunion, Cedar Fort, Utah, July 15, 2006, used by permission
- (received by Alonzo Dean Cook in November, 2006).