

GENEALOGICAL SERVICES
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RONALD S. COOK
PROJECT SUMMARY
[Cook2008Jan / 0807]
26 March 2008

OBJECTIVES

Identify the parentage and ancestry of William Cook

RESULTS

Research on William Cook, father of Henry Freeman Cook, has verified that he was not the son of William Cook and Ann Morgan of Beverly, Essex County, Massachusetts. More information has been developed on his brother Abiel Cook, and a tentative connection to the Shaker communities at Hancock, Massachusetts and New Lebanon, New York has been discovered.

- Verified that William Cook was not the son of William Cook and Ann Morgan of Beverly, Essex County, Massachusetts through probate records and vital records
- The marriage of William Cook and Lucy Chapman at Pittsfield, Massachusetts in 1805 says that they both from Hancock, Massachusetts
- Found Abiel Cook and wife Lois in Cortland County, New York deeds as residents of Homer in 1817. William Cook lived in Homer in 1817.
- Added information on Abiel Cook's family
- Found Amasa Chapman, possible father of Lucy and Lois Chapman, in the 1790 through 1820 censuses of Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts
- Noted that Hancock was a center of the Shaker Society beginning in the 1790s
- Found reference to an Abiel Cook in a history of the Shakers
- Found an Abiel Cook in the 1790 and 1800 censuses of Stephentown, New York, which borders Hancock on the west.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Further research should be focused on:

- Abiel Cook of Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York in records of that county
- The records of the Shakers
- The Chapman family
- Abiel and Job Cook, brothers of William Cook.

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RESEARCH REPORT
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Research on William Cook, father of Henry Freeman Cook, has verified that he was not the son of William Cook and Ann Morgan of Beverly, Essex County, Massachusetts. More information has been developed on his brother Abiel Cook, and a tentative connection to the Shaker communities at Hancock, Massachusetts and New Lebanon, New York has been discovered.

William Cook was supposed to have been born 6 September 1780 in Massachusetts or New York. He married Lucy Chapman on 29 December 1805 in Pittsfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. He died 4 November 1840 in Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

Some researchers had believed that he was the son of William Cook and Ann Morgan of Beverly, Essex County, Massachusetts, born there on 21 May 1780, and there are numerous submissions to the International Genealogical Index® and the LDS Ancestral File™ (Document 1) that accept this as fact.

Other researchers point out that the William Cook born on 21 May 1780 not only has a different birth date than the ancestor, but that he was probably the William Cook recorded in Beverly records as having died in Virginia in November 1806, age 27. (Document 2)

There is a notice in the Salem, Massachusetts *Gazette* of 27 January 1807 of the estate of William Cook of Beverly, posted by his widow Lydia, who was his administratrix. (Document 3) This notice suggests that the William Cook who died in 1806 was the William Cook "3rd" who married Lydia Tittle at Beverly on 18 October 1804. She remarried to Nathaniel Dutch at Beverly in March of 1808. (Document 2) The marriage record of William Cook to Mrs. Anna Morgan at Beverly in 1779 calls him

William Cook, 2nd; therefore, the William Cook 3rd who married Lydia Tittle and who died in 1806 is likely the son of William Cook 2nd and Anna Morgan.

The actual probate records of Captain William Cook of Beverly indicate that he was a mariner, which would explain his death in Virginia. (Document 4) Taken together with the fact William Cook married Lucy Chapman in Pittsfield, Massachusetts – on the other side of the state from Beverly, it seems certain that the William Cook born in Beverly in 1780 was *not* the father of Henry Freeman Cook.

The first documented mention of William Cook is his marriage to Lucy Chapman at Pittsfield, Massachusetts on 19 December 1805. (Document 5). The marriage record implies that they were *both* of Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Curiously, there was no “intention” of marriage recorded for them at either Pittsfield or Hancock, as would normally be the case in Massachusetts.

Deeds for Berkshire County, Massachusetts did not make any mention of William Cook in Hancock or in Pittsfield.

William Cook was supposed to have had two children born in Massachusetts in 1807 and 1809, and three children born in Homer, Cortland County, New York in 1811, 1813, and 1815. His last three children, born in 1818, 1821, and 1824, were supposed to have been born in Comstock, Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

William Cook was listed, however, in the 1820 census Homer, Cortland County, New York. (Document 6). His family configuration in this census fits what is known about him.

Deeds of Cortland County, New York made no mention of the ancestral William Cook, but there was a deed from an Abiel Cook of Homer made on 12 November 1817 selling land to a Benajah Stubbs. Signing the deed with Abiel Cook was his wife “Louis” – i.e. Lois. William Cook was supposed to have had a brother Byle or Abiel who married Lois Chapman, sister to his wife Lucy Chapman. This deed seems to verify that. (Document 7)

Previous research has disclosed that an Abiel Chapman of Orleans County, New York died in 1835 leaving land in Kalamazoo County, Michigan. The records of Kalamazoo County showed that his heirs in 1840 were:

Calvin Rundell
Hiram Cook
Edward Willard
Richard McOmber
Peter Crippen
Alonzo Cook
Alfred Cook

Probate records of Orleans County, New York indicated that Abiel Cook of Carlton died there in 1835. His son-in-law Calvin Rundell was appointed administrator of his estate on 19 October 1835. (Document 8) There should be a petition on file in the surrogate's Court of Orleans County that names his heirs-at-law, how they are related, and where they are living in 1835. This petition has to be ordered from Orleans County.

Deeds of Kalamazoo County, Michigan show that on 26 May 1845, Calvin Rundell and Emeline, his wife, of Penfield, New York quitclaimed land in Comstock, Kalamazoo County, Michigan to Richard McOmber of the town of Gaines, Orleans, County, New York. (Document 9) On 29 November 1845, Richard McOmber and Eliza, his wife, of the town of Gaines, Orleans County, New York sold this land to George Sipes. (Document 9)

Information provided by the client states that Abiel Cook had daughters Emeline and Eliza. The 1850 census of Penfield, Monroe County, New York shows Calvin Rundell with wife Emeline, age 38. (Document 10). The 1850 census of Gaines, Orleans County, New York, Richard McOmber's wife Eliza is age 32. (Document 11) This corresponds to the date of birth of Elisa Cook, daughter of Abiel Cook in Penfield, Monroe County, New York on 22 June 1818 as provided in client information.

The 1855 State Census of Carlton, Orleans County, New York, shows Eliza McOmber as age 38 (so born about 1817) and born in Monroe County, New York. (Document 12)

Published guardianship records for Orleans County, New York show that Calvin Rundell was appointed guardian of Eunice Cook, minor child of Abiel Cook, on 22 November 1835. (Document 13) This means that she was under 14 years of age – i.e. born later than 1820 to 1821. Her date of birth in the client information is given as 1819 – but if she had a guardian appointed rather than choose one herself, then she should have been under 14 years old.

On 22 November 1835, John Stevens was appointed guardian of Alfred B. and Alonzo Cook, "infant" children of Abiel Cook. (Document 13)

Lois, the wife of Abiel Cook, was supposed to have been Lois Chapman, sister of Lucy Chapman, the wife of William Cook. They are both listed as daughters of Amasa Chapman in the International Genealogical Index® (Document 14) but these entries are "patron submitted," so their validity is unknown.

There is an Amasa Chapman listed in Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts in the 1790, 1800, 1810, and 1820 Federal Censuses. (Documents 15-18) In that whole time, there is only one Cook listed in Hancock. In 1790, a Reynolds Cook was listed in Hancock, but he headed a household without any males under the age of 16. (Document 15)

The family tradition that William Cook had a brother Byle or Abiel Cook who was married to his wife's sister is born out by the fact that Abiel and Lois Cook lived in Homer, Cortland County, New York at the same time as William; that LDS proxy baptisms were performed by descendants of William Cook for Abiel Cook and his wife Lois in the 1800s; and that Abiel Cook also had an interest in land in Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Learning more about the Chapmans may lead to more information on William and Abiel Cook. Research should also be conducted on Job Cook, whom family records also listed as a brother.

It should also be kept in mind that Hancock, Massachusetts was one of the centers of Shakerism in the northeast United States. A scholarly work on the "Gift of Tongues" which includes information on Shakers, the gift of tongues, and ritual dancing mentions an Abiel Cook whose daughters Hannah and Elizabeth were mistreated by an Elder Whittaker of the Shakers. (Document 19) No date was given for these events, but the reference came from Thomas Brown's *Account of the People Called Shakers* which was published at Troy, New York in 1812. (Document 20) The Shaker Communities at New Lebanon, New York and Hancock, Massachusetts were not far from Troy, and there is reason to think that Brown was writing of events that occurred in or near Hancock. There was an Abiel Cook listed in the 1790 census of Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York. (Document 21) He had only one son under the age of 16. Stephentown and New Lebanon, New York border Hancock, Massachusetts on the east.

In the 1800 Census this Abiel Cook was still in Stephentown, where he was listed as over 45 years old and had three sons, one age 10 to 16, and one under 10. (Document 22)

The fact that there was an Abiel Cook, evidently a Shaker at one time, living near Hancock in 1790 and 1800 and who had sons who could have been William, Abiel, and Job Cook, is certainly worthy of further research. This Abiel Cook should be traced further in the records of Rensselaer County.

In addition, the records of the Shakers should be investigated. Even though the Shakers were celibate it was often the case that whole families would join, but later leave the religious society. Shakers also represented an unconventional religious trend – and there were former Shakers who later became Latter-day Saints. Joseph Remington, the father of Jerome Napoleon Remington, pioneer patriarch of the Utah Remingtons, was raised among the Shakers as his parents became members after he was born. Joseph Remington and his wife Sarah joined the LDS Church in 1838. Joseph Remington died at Council Bluffs, Iowa and his wife, Sarah Remington, died at Winter Quarters in 1848.

Fortunately, the records of the Shaker Community at Hancock and New Lebanon are on microfilm at the Family History Library. Because the Shakers were celibate, there will be no birth, baptism, or marriage records, but there will be membership records which can be checked for the name Cook. These records are not indexed.

Therefore, further research should be focused on Abiel Cook of Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York in record of that county; the records of the Shakers; and on Abiel and Job Cook, brothers of William Cook.

It has been a pleasure researching and documenting your family history. We look forward to continuing, according to your directions

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