

# **WILLIAM COOK**

06 September 1780 – 04 November 1840

## **Son of Abial Cook and Susannah Cole Father of Henry Freeman Cook**

(Henry Freeman, **William**, Abial, Job, Thomas, John, John, Thomas, Thomas)

### **WILLIAM COOK'S BIRTH**

William Cook was born 06 September 1780 in Massachusetts. We do not know where William was born and have not known for sure who his parents were. Cook family history and traditions have only stated that he was born in Massachusetts. A letter written by Lysander Berry to Hannah Cook Dayton (date ?) suggests that maybe William was born in Connecticut. We also learned from the Lysander Berry letter that William had two brothers, Abiel and Job. This is confirmed by proxy Baptism records in Salt Lake City, dated 13 May 1874. On that date Henry F. Cook was baptized in proxy for William Cook, Abial Cook and Job Cook. Henry is listed as the son of William and the nephew of Abiel and Job.

### **WILLIAM COOK'S PARENTS**

Several researchers, including the LDS Church FamilySearch, have listed William Cook and Ann Morgan of Essex County, Massachusetts as William's parents. Recent research by Gordon Remington with Price and Associates of Salt Lake City, Utah have identified Abial Cook, son of Job and Ann Bennet Cook and Susannah Cole, daughter of William Cole and Elizabeth Luther as William's parents. Abial was born in Tiverton, Massachusetts in 1740. Susanna Cole was from Freetown, Bristol, Massachusetts. After Susannah's death which occurred after 1780 when William was born, Abiel married Anna Lee, probably the daughter of Josephus and Anna Tallman Lee. (See below the research report concluding that William Cook and Ann Morgan are not the parents of William Cook and that Abial and Susannah Cole are, and a personal letter from me, Ronald S. Cook, supporting the research findings regarding Abial and Susannah. )

### **WILLIAM AND LUCY CHAPMAN COOK**

William Cook married Lucy Chapman 19 December 1805 at the First Church of Pittsfield, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. William and Lucy's marriage is the first event in William's life that we have an official record of. The record can be reviewed in the records of the First Church of Pittsfield, Salt Lake Family History Library Microfilm # 0928674 page 203.

### **AMASSA AND ANN DARBY CHAPMAN**

Lucy Chapman's parents were Amassa Chapman and Ann Darby. They lived most of their married life in Hancock, Berkshire, Massachusetts. Lucy and all her brothers and sisters, including Amassa, Ann [Harris], Lois [Cook], Cynthia, Lyman, Hiram, Henry, and Isaac, were all born in Hancock. Lucy's father, Amassa, died 1 November 1822 in Hancock, Berkshire, Massachusetts. From the Egremont, Massachusetts Congregational Church record, page 148 we learn that "Mrs. Chapman (Anna Darby Chapman, widow of Amasa Chapman), aged 89 years, died May 29, 1852. (Larry Piatt, Cook Strobridge Rucker researcher's report, April 2009)

### **WILLIAM'S BROTHER ABIEL COOK**

William's brother Abiel married Lucy Chapman Cook's sister Lois. They lived most of their married life in Pinfield, Monroe County, New York. Pinfield is where their seven children (Emmeline

[Rundel], Hiram, Mary Ann [Willard], Eliza [Mcomber], Eunice [Crippen], Alfred B. and Alonzo) were born. Abiel died 9 September 1835 in Carlton, Orleans, New York. Lois died in October of 1836, a little over one year after Abiel.

As an interesting side note, Pinfield is where Amassa Cook, Henry Freeman Cook's oldest brother was found. Most family researchers had felt that Amassa Cook must have died young because he could not be found anywhere other William Cook family members were. When we found Abiel and his family in Pinfield we also found Amassa and his family with his wife Laura and his children Hezekiah, Emily, Jane, Charles Edward, Eliza, Esther, William and Florence Sebia..

### **WILLIAM'S BROTHER JOB COOK**

The Lysander Berry letter says that William's brother Job "went away on a ship and was never heard of again."

### **WILLIAM AND LUCY PURCHASE LAND IN HERKIMER, NEW YORK**

On 23 December 1806, just one year after they were married, William and Lucy bought 1 ½ acres of land in Warren, Herkimer, New York. Two months later on 18 February 1807 they bought 40 acres of land in Warren. I found the following in Herkimer County, New York land records in January of 1997:

23 December 1806 BOUGHT ONE ACRE AND A HALF (1 ½ ) OF LAND IN WARREN,  
HERKIMER, NEW YORK

"THIS INDENTURE made the twenty third day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six between Denison Tisdale of the Town of Warren, County of Herkimer and State of New York of the first part and William Cook of the Town County and State aforesaid of the second part witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of twenty Dollars lawful money of the State of New York to him in hand paid by the said party of the second part the receipt where of is hereby confirmed and acknowledge hath granted .... unto the said party of the second part and to his heirs and assigns forever all that certain piece or parcel of land laying situated and being in the Town of Warren, known and distinguished by being a part of lot number ninety in the second tract of Staley's patent said land is bounded as follows, beginning... to the place of beginning, containing one acre and a half of land..."

The document was signed the date "aforementioned" delivered the 25th day of December 1806 and recorded April 18th one thousand eight hundred and eight at two o'clock, PM. Herkimer County New York land records, Liber [Book] #3, page 354, Salt Lake Family History Library Film #842720

18 February 1807 BOUGHT FORTY (40) ACRES OF LAND IN WARREN,  
HERKIMER, NEW YORK

"THIS INDENTURE made the eighteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight-hundred and seven between Samuel Woodworth and Lovine, his wife and Alanson Woodworth and Betsy, his wife of the Town of Warren County of Herkimer and State of New York of the first part and William Cook of the Town and County and State aforesaid of the second part, witnesseth that the said parties of the first part for an in consideration of the sum of five hundred and twenty Dollars to us in hand paid by the said party of the second part...assigns forever all that certain piece or pareil of land laying and being in the town of Warren in the County of Herkimer and State of New York and is part of lot number ninety-six in

a patent granted to Rudolph Steiler? (Slater?)... beginning... to the place of beginning, containing forty acres of land..."

The document was signed by Samuel Woodworth and Lovina Woodworth, his wife, and Alanson Woodworth and Betsy Woodworth, and witnessed on the 18 day of February 1807, and recorded February 18th one thousand eight hundred and seven at five o'clock PM. (Herkimer County, New York, Land Records, Liber [Book] #2, pages 526 & 527, Salt Lake Family History Library Film #842720)

20 January 1810      FORTY ONE (41) ACRES OF LAND AND TWO ROADS IN  
WARREN, HERKIMER, NEW YORK SOLD

"THIS INDENTURE made the twentieth day of January in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and ten between William Cook and Lucy, his wife, of the town of Warren, County of Herkimer and State of New York of the first part, and Elisha Standish of the town of Half-Moon, Saratoga County, state aforesaid of the second part, Witnesseth, that said party of the first part, for and consideration of the some six hundred and twenty dollars money of account of the United States to them in hand paid at or before.... .... All that certain piece or parcel of land laying and being in the town of Warren, County of Herkimer, state of New York..... being a part of lot number ninety-six... beginning..... to the place of beginning containing forty one acres and two roads...."

The document was signed by both William Cook and Lucy Cook, his wife and witnessed the 23rd day of January, 1810, and was recorded February 26, 1811, at 12 O' Clock MD. (Herkimer County, New York, Land Records, Liber [Book] #5, pages 368 & 369, Salt Lake Family History Library Film #842722)

### **THE BIRTH OF WILLIAM AND LUCY'S CHILDREN**

William and Lucy's oldest son, Amassa, was born in Warren on 16 April 1807, which indicates that they must have been living in Warren at the time. The land in Warren was all sold on 20 January 1810. They must have moved to Homer, Cortland, New York, before the sale of their land because William and Lucy's second son, Edwin A. Cook, was born in Homer 10 February 1809. Henry and all of his other brothers and sisters were born in Homer: William, 25 January 1811; Henrietta, 31 March 1813; Anne E., 17 April 1818; Benjamin Franklin, 25 February 1821 and Harriett, 7 August 1824.

### **MOST OF THE COOK FAMILY MOVED TO MICHIGAN**

William, Lucy and their family lived in Homer, Cortland, New York until at least 1835. The 1835 New York state census lists a William Cook with the correct number of persons in his household, indicating that they were still living in Homer at the time of the census. The 1837 Michigan State Census of Kalamazoo County, Michigan lists a Cook, William, 60, living, probably in the home of his brother Abiel, with a male under 21 and females under 15, 21 and 50. Also living in the home was his son Henry, under 30, his nephew, Hiram (Abiel's son), under 30, and Abiel's son-in-law Edward Willan (Willard), under 30. Footnotes to that census also indicate that in 1838 William was on the "assessment roll" in Comstock, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

### **MICHIGAN STATE CENSUS OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY - 1837**

Michigan's first state census was taken in October and November of 1837. "By an act of the state legislature approved 27<sup>th</sup> March 1837 the township collectors were designated census enumerators. The act required that they should visit each house in their respective townships and make an enumeration of all the inhabitants, except Indians not taxed, residing therein, on the second Monday of October 1837, and the act further specified that the names of all males over 21 years of age should

be entered on the list.” (Salt Lake Family History Library, film # 925967)

**Michigan State Census for 1837**

HEAD OF FAMILY	Males to:										Females to:									
	5	10	15	21	30	45	50	60	75	80	5	10	15	21	30	45	50	60	75	80
Cook, Hiram							1													
Cook, William (76)				1				1					1	1			1			
William, Edwin (Edward Willard)						1														
Cook, Henry						1														
76	On Comstock assessment roll in 1838																			

**DAUGHTER, ANNE E. COOK, DIED**

William and Lucy's sixth child and second daughter, Anne E. Cook, died 7 January 1840 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She was 21 years, 8 months and 21 days old at her death.

**WILLIAM COOK DIED**

William Cook died in Kalamazoo, Michigan, 4 November 1840, eleven months after the death of Anne. He was 60 years, 1 month and 29 days old when he died. We have no official record of his death, only family records.

One of William's great-granddaughters reported that she learned that William was the first person buried in the Comstock, Kalamazoo, Michigan Cemetery. We have not been able to verify this report. In fact, we have not been able to find William's burial site.

**LUCY LIVED WITH HENRY FREEMAN AND HIS FAMILY AFTER WILLIAM DIED**

Lucy lived another 16 years, 11 months and 12 days after William died. She spent most of the rest of her life living with Henry Freeman and his family. She moved with them to Nauvoo, Illinois, in 1845/46. According to the 1850 Federal Census she was with Henry Freeman and his family in Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, Iowa in September of 1850. Lucy, traveled west with Henry Freeman, his wife and their children with the Warren Snow Company, arriving in Salt Lake City, Utah October 9, 1852. For awhile the family made their home in Big Cottonwood, in SE Salt Lake County. They moved to Cedar Fort, Utah, before May 25, 1854 Lucy died October 16, 1857 in Cedar Fort, Utah and was buried in the old Cedar Fort Cemetery.

\* \* \* \* \*

**RESEARCH FINDINGS**

**WILLIAM COOK AND ANN MORGAN — ?**

Before we can identify Abial Cook, son of Job and Ann Bennet Cook and Susannah Cole, daughter of William Cole and Elizabeth Luther, as the parents of William Cook and Henry Freeman Cook's grandparents, we need to establish that William's parents and Henry Freeman's grandparents were not William Cook and Ann Morgan of Beverly, Essex County, Massachusetts.

For many years William Cook and Ann Morgan of Essex County, Massachusetts have been listed as the parents of Abial, Job and William Cook on the LDS Church website, FamilySearch, and on other websites and research reports. My uncle, Marion Sherman Cook (son of Barnes Alma and Alice Adeline Southam Cook), was the first to alert me to the fact that this "wrong."

When I became committed to family research and started spending time doing it I went to my Uncle Marion for help. I was greeted very coldly, so much so that I went to my father, Sheldon Barnes Cook, and told him. I wondered if I had at sometime offended my Uncle Marion or a member of his family, and if so, didn't know about it. My father assured me that I hadn't. He suggested that I should go to my Uncle Marion and tell him how I felt and to ask him to explain his feelings. I called Uncle Marion and set up a time when we could meet.

I went to Uncle Marion's home in Kaysville, Utah. When I told Uncle Marion about how I felt and asked him to explain, he sat quiet for some time. Then he told me that it wasn't me he was mad at. It was "the church." He explained that he felt that for many years he and many of his relatives had helped "the church" keep their genealogy program going and now the church had just gone away and left them. The church was changing everything to computers and "they" had put this information in their computer about William and Ann Morgan being the parents of William, Job and Abial Cook. It was wrong and he couldn't get it out. Uncle Marion explained that he didn't know how to use a computer, that "the church" was changing everything and he felt he couldn't continue to do something he had loved doing since he was a missionary in 1939/41. Not only that, "those individuals who know how to use the computer "at the library" won't change what is wrong."

Uncle Marion reviewed with me his research about William Cook and Ann Morgan. From the vital records of Beverly, Massachusetts he found that Ann Morgan was the 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of William Cook and they were married 25 July 1779. Their first child, William was born 21 May, 1780. He located a Hannah (Anna), born 21 October 1782 and Joseph, born 29 July 1784. There is no evidence of an Abial or Job as the Lysander Berry letter<sup>1</sup> indicated were William's brothers.

After my experience with Uncle Marion I spent time looking at William and Ann Morgan Cook and their family. First, I found that William and Ann's first son, William, was probably the 27 year old William who died in Virginia in November 1806 and was reported in Beverly, Massachusetts. I also verified through proxy baptism records in Salt Lake May 13, 1874 that William had two brothers named Job and Abial. I never found any reference in my research that William Cook and Ann Morgan had two sons named Job and Abial. From my own "rooky" research I felt that my Uncle Marion was right. The main source of my information came from the *Vital Records of Beverly Massachusetts* Vol 1, page 87, "Beverly Births, Vol 2, page 71, "Beverly Marriages" and Vol 2, page 407, "Beverly Deaths", Salt Lake Family History Library book number US/CAN 974.45 /B2 Vol 1 and 2.

The final "straw" to my conclusions came one day when I asked a member of our family who keep promoting William Cook and Ann Morgan as William, Job and Abial's parents on the LDS Church and other family History websites, where she got her information. Her response was something like, "I got it from my grandmother's records and her records are right." When I heard this I knew we had a problem.

I have a file that was passed on to me from Frances Hardy. It contains within it records of research efforts trying to find the parents of William, Abiel and Job Cook, going back to the early 1940s. This file is just one example of the efforts of the best family history research minds in our family for almost 70 years. There have been many who have almost given their lives for many years trying to find Henry Freeman Cook's grandfather Cook. Just the members of our family that I know who have sacrificed almost all of their free or fun time to this great project for years include Marion Sherman Cook, Frances Hardy, Margaret Jane Dayton Hughes, Fon Elvin Cook and Gertrude Jackson. I know there are many, many more. These individuals gave their time, their talents and their resources for over a half a century trying to find out who the parents of William, Abiel and Job Cook were.

---

<sup>1</sup>The complete note from the Llysander Berry letter to Hannah Dayton reads as follows: "Your Grandfather was William Cook, he had two brothers Job Cook and Byle Cook. William Cook, your grandfather and his brother Byle married two sisters, Lucy Chapman and Lois Chapman. William married Lucy. The other brother, Job went away on a ship and was never heard of again. These Cooks came from Connecticut...."

Along the way several different professional researcher were hired to help.

In 2006 Richard Cook suggested that the Henry Freeman Cook family make an effort to raise \$25,000.00 to once again hire a professional researcher to help find William Cook's parents and the grandparents of Henry Freeman Cook. Over the next 18 months \$21,467.80 was raised within the family and in early 2008 Price & Associates, a professional research firm in Salt Lake City was hired. They assigned Gordon L. Remington, who they called their best New England researcher, to the task. We asked Mr. Remington to find us the answer to two questions: First, "Is William Cook and Ann Morgan the parents of William, Job and Abiel Cook?" Second, "If William Cook and Ann Morgan are not the parents of William, Job and Abiel Cook, who are?." I (Ronald S. Cook) feel that the answers to both of these questions are contained in the following two reports.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **IS WILLIAM COOK AND ANN MORGAN THE PARENTS OF WILLIAM, JOB AND ABIEL COOK?**

### **RONALD S. COOK PROJECT SUMMARY [Cook2008Jan / 0807]**

#### **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....

- 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 were from Hancock, Massachusetts.

### **RONALD S. COOK RESEARCH REPORT [Cook2008Jan / 0807] 26 March 2008**

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 the 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(19)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 he administratrix. (Document 3) This notice suggests that the William Cook who died in 1806 was the William Cook “3<sup>rd</sup>” who married Lydia Tittle at Beverly on 18 October 1806. 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, 2<sup>nd</sup>; therefore, the William Cook 3<sup>rd</sup> who married Lydia Tittle and who died in 1806 is likely the son of William Cook 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.....

## DOCUMENTS LISTED

Document	Library Call Number	Description Source
1	Family Search Menu, Family History Library	Ancestral File™, DOS Version, 4.19
2	974.45/B2 V2b	Topsfield Historical Society, <i>Vital Records of Beverly, Massachusetts, to the End of Year 1849</i> , (Topsfield, Massachusetts: Topsfield Historical Society, 1906-1907), 1:87; 2:71, 407
3	Genealogybank.com	Salem, Massachusetts, Gazette, 27 January 1807
4	861448	Essex County, Massachusetts Probate Records, 376:28
5	1902437	Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital records, 1772-1900, (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993), 1:84

(Included above is only the part of Gordon L. Remington’s March 26, 2008 report which concludes that William, Job and Abiel Cook are not the sons of William Cook and Ann Morgan of Beverly, Essex County, Massachusetts. Mr. Remington’s (Price & Associates) complete “Report and Recommendations” including a copy of the actual

documents referenced, is available to review at [ourcookfamily.org](http://ourcookfamily.org))

## **IF WILLIAM COOK AND ANN MORGAN ARE NOT THE PARENTS OF WILLIAM, JOB AND ABIEL COOK, WHO ARE?**

### **COOK FAMILY ORGANIZATION**

#### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

**[CookCook2008october/0807]**

6 November 2008

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Identify the parentage and ancestry of William Cook of Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

#### **RESULTS**

Research on the ancestry of William Cook (1780 - 1840) of Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, has come to the conclusion that he and his brothers Abiel and Job were probably the sons of Abiel Cook of Tiverton, Rhode island; Hancock Massachusetts, and Stephentown, New York. The case is circumstantial, but based on compelling evidence.

- Abiel Cook of Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York; Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts; and Tiverton, Newport County, Rhode Island, was married to Susanna Cole, daughter of William Cole and Elizabeth Luther.
- William Cole died at Hancock, Massachusetts in 1804. William Cook was married to Lucy Chapman at Hancock just a year later.
- William Cole was listed in Shaker death records, implying he was a Shaker, at least later in life.
- William Cole's daughter Sebia married Perez Wheaton, brother of the Shaker Noah Wheaton who mistreated Betty Cook, daughter of Abiel Cook, at Hancock in 1784/1785.
- The young man for whom Betty Cook had feelings deemed improper by the Shakers was the son of Noah Wheaton. While there was no real blood relationship between Elizabeth Cook and Noah Wheaton, his son might be considered a sort of cousin to her and thus her feelings towards him may have been construed as more improper.

The fact that Abiel Cook had a son named after himself (Abiel) and a son named after his father (Job) and that he had three daughters named after his wife Susannah, his mother (Ann) and mother-in-law (Elizabeth/Betty) makes it logical that he would also have a son named after his father-in-law - William Cole - and it is proposed that his is William Cook, born 6 September 1780.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- If anything remains to be done before accepting this connection, it is to try and identify Job Cook, the son of Abiel Cook who was supposed to have died at sea. There are, however, few resources to check in this regard.



- For the time being, Abiel Cook and Susanna Cole are being listed as the probable parents of William Cook, and their parents are also being listed to illustrate the naming pattern mentioned above. Once this connection has been accepted, both the Cook and the Cole lines can be traced back in existing genealogies. The Cook line behind Abiel Cook as presented in by Jane Fletcher Fiske's *Thomas Cooke of Rhode Island* should be considered reliable, leaving the ancestries of the wives in each generation to be traced.

**COOK FAMILY ORGANIZATION  
RESEARCH REPORT  
]Cook2008October/0807]  
6 November 2008**

Research on the ancestry of William Cook (1780 - 1840) of Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, has come to the conclusion that he and his brothers Abiel and Job were probably the sons of Abiel Cook of Tiverton, Rhode (Island); Hancock, Massachusetts, and Stephentown, New York. The case is circumstantial, but based on compelling evidence.

In the last research session, information was developed that Abiel Cook of Hancock, Massachusetts and Stephentown, New York was the same persona as Abiel Cook of Tiverton, Rhode Island, a Revolutionary War Soldier who died in Stephentown, New York in 1807 and whose widow Ann applied for pension based on his service. This Abiel Cook was written up in th genealogy *Thomas Cook of Rhode Island: A Genealogy of Thomas Cook alias Butcher of Netherbury, Dorsetshire, England, who came to Taunton, Massachusetts in 1637*, by Jane Fletcher Fiske. She gives his place of death as "probably" at Hoosick, New York in 1807.

According to Mrs. Fiske, the Abiel Cook married first, at Dartmouth, Massachusetts, to a Susannah Cole of Freetown, Bristol County, Massachusetts, on 2 August 1766. By her he had three daughters before 1773 when he was warned out of Warren, Bristol County, Rhode Island. One of the daughters was a Betty, who Mrs. Fiske assigned an approximate birth date of 1770.

This daughter Bitty corresponds in name and approximate age to the Betty Cook, daughter of Abiel Cook of Hancock, Massachusetts who was ill-treated by the Shaker Noah Wheaton in 1784. The fact that Abiel Cook lived at Hancock in the 1780 is significant because the ancestor William Cook was married at Hancock to Lucy Chapman in 1805.

The problem in identifying William Cook (and his brothers Abiel and Job) as a son of Abiel Cook of Hancock is that Abiel Cook of Hancock was living in Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York in 1790 and did not have enough sons under the age of 16 to accommodate William. Indeed, he had only one son under 16 when he should have had two. Abiel Cook had married for a second time in 1785 to an Anna Lee at Hoosick now Stephentown, Rensselaer (then Albany) County, New York and had two sons by 1790:

- Philemon, born 1786
- Joseph, born 1789

It is known that Philemon Cook lived to adulthood, for he gave an affidavit in his mother's Revolutionary War Pension application<sup>2</sup>. (Document 1) He was likely the son under 16 living with Abiel Cook in 1790. It was thought that William, Abiel, and Job Cook, being sons of Abiel Cook's

---

<sup>2</sup> Curiously, Philemon Cook said that his father Abiel Cook died at Williamstown, Massachusetts in 1807 - thus creating further confusion with the other Abiel Cook married to Margaret Krieger who was living there in 1801 when they deeded land together. Williamstown is just over the border from Stephentown.

first marriage, may have been living with maternal relatives in 1790. Joseph Cook, born 1789, could have died by 1790 - except that he seems to have been accounted for in the 1800 census as one of the two sons age 10 to 16 enumerated with Abiel Cook in Stephentown. (Document 22, Report of 26 March 2008) Pre 1850 censuses list only the name of the head of the household by name and its constituent member by age and gender categories so there is some flexibility in accounting for who should and should not have been enumerated in a given census year. Children could be living with relatives and by 1800, William Cook was old enough to be living elsewhere and working.

The 1782 Census of Tiverton, Rhode Island, however, showed an Abiel Cook with the enough males in the right age categories (three under 15) to include William and his brothers Job and Abiel. (Document 11, Report of 8 September 2008)

Further research, however, demonstrated that this Abiel Cook was a different individual than the Revolutionary War Pensioner. The 1790 Census of Tiverton showed the following family (Document 2):

Locality	1790 Tiverton, Newport County, Rhode Island
Page	361
Head of Family	Abiel Cook
Free White Males 19 and Over	1
Free White Males Under 16	4
Free White Females	2
All Other Free Persons	3
Slaves	0

Locality	1790 Tiverton, Newport County, Rhode Island
----------	---

Page	Head of Family	Free White Males 16 and Over	Free White Males Under 16	Free White Females	All Other Free Persons	Slaves
361	Abiel Cook	1	4	2	3	

At first glance, this census would seem to support the idea that Abiel Cook of Tiverton did have enough sons in 1790 to accommodate two of his sons by a first wife and two by his second wife - except that Abiel Cook the Revolutionary War Pensioner was already in New York by 1785 and in Hancock, Massachusetts by 1784.

Published Newport, Rhode Island Court files disclosed that in November of 1783, Gideon Almy and John Almy of Tiverton sued Abiel or Abial Cook fo Tiverton for possession of a schooner. (Document 3) Reference back to Jane Fiske's genealogy *Thomas Cook of Rhode Island* showed that there was indeed another Abiel Cook of Tiverton. (Document 4)

This Abiel (or Abial) Cook was born about 1719 at Tiverton and died there in 1808. This man had a somewhat unsavory reputation, a long standing feud with the Almy family, and is more likely to be the Abiel Cook involved in the 1783 lawsuit with that family.

Fiske's book also indicates that it was this Abiel or Abial Cook who was listed as 50 to 60 years old in Tiverton in the Rhode Island military census of 1777. The whereabouts of the younger Abiel Cook in 1777 are not known, but Fiske's book indicates that he was moving around in the 1770s. It is known that he was a resident of Tiverton during his military service from November 1775

to February 1779, but it is not known when he moved to New York.

He married Susana Cole of Freetown at Dartmouth in 1766 and was warned out of Warren, Rhode Island in 1773. (See Document 8, Report of 8 September 2008). Susanna Cole was the daughter of William Cole and Elizabeth Luther of Swansea, Bristol County, Massachusetts, born 28 January 1742. William Cole and (Elizabeth) Luther were married 12 November 1741 at Swansea, had three children born there, then one child at Freetown, then three children at Warren, Bristol County, Rhode Island. (Document 5).

William and (Elizabeth Luther) Cole's entry in the LDS Ancestral File indicates that he was born 4 October 1719 in Swansea and died 17 October 1804 at "Shaker Village," Berkshire County, Massachusetts. (Document 6) "Shaker Village" is Hancock. It would seem, then Abiel Cook's move to Hancock may have been prompted by his father-in-law's move there - vice versa. Further Shaker connections are revealed in the fact that William Cole's daughter Sebia Cole married Perez Wheaton, son of Samuel Wheaton and Prudence Salisbury. (Document 8) Perez Wheaton was born 13 July 1750 at Swansea. The name Wheaton is significant. It was Noah Wheaton of the Shakers who subjected Betty Cook to "punishment" in 1784. Perez Wheaton had an older brother Noah Wheaton, born 21 February 1744, at Swansea. (Document 9)

Is Noah Wheaton, born 1744, the same person as Noah Wheaton, the Shaker? Noah Wheaton the Shaker, at that time living in New Lebanon, Columbia County, New York (another Shaker community) gave testimony in 1808 concerning the miraculous cure of a dislocated ankle in 1780. At the time he gave this testimony, he was 64 years old - putting his date of birth at about 1744 - corresponding to the birth of Noah Wheaton, son of Samuel Wheaton and Prudence Salisbury. He also stated that this miracle occurred shortly after he converted to Shakerism, which helps to determine when the Coles and Wheatons moved from Rhode Island to Hancock. This information comes from a book called *Shakerism Unmasked or the History of the Shakers*. (Document 10)

The same book offered a new angle on the incident between Noah Wheaton and Betty Cook:

- "Noah Wheaton, a man of eminence in the Society, whipped a girl, by the name of Elizabeth Cook, in a very inhuman manner."
- "'A. Cook,' the girl's father on hearing of this conduct, demanded satisfaction of Wheaton, by a process of law."
- "It appears, from facts that N. Wheaton was an Elder or superior of a family [in the Shaker sense of the word]<sup>3</sup> of persons a greater part of whom were his own family, and that this young woman [Elizabeth Cook] who was eighteen years of age, was under his clerical authority. He had a son to whom this young woman became partial, and in this, she observed every principle of chastity."

Elizabeth Cook eventually went to Noah Wheaton and confessed her feelings towards his son, which were sinful in the eyes of the Shakers. This was the cause of her being ill treated by Wheaton.

There are some more implications to the story. Noah Wheaton was the brother-in-law of Elizabeth Cook's aunt Sebia Cole. While there was no real blood relationship between Elizabeth Cook and Noah Wheaton, his son might be considered a sort of cousin to her and thus her feelings towards him may have been construed as more improper.

There are also some chronological implications to the story. Elizabeth Cook's age at the time of the ill treatment is given 18 years, and since the event took place in 1784 or 1785, this puts her date of birth at about 1766 to 1767. She would thus have been the eldest daughter of Abiel Cook. Her date

---

<sup>3</sup>Explanation and emphasis added by Gordon L. Remington.

of birth has been adjusted on the Abiel Cook family group record.

Noah Wheaton was a Shaker, and his father-in-law William Cole was supposed to have died at Hancock Shaker village in 1804. Shaker records show the death of William Cole, age 85, on 17 October 1804. This implies that William Cole was indeed a Shaker, at least at one time. (Document 11)

William Cole is found in the 1790 census of Hancock, Massachusetts as follows: (Document 12):

Locality		1790 Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts				
Page	Head of Family	Free White Males 16 and over	Free White Males under 16	Free White Females	All Other Free Persons	Slaves
	Nathan Cole	3	2	6		
	William Cole	1	1	1		
	Betty Cole	1		2		

William Cole was not found on the 1800 Census of Hancock. If he was living with the Shakers in 1800, he may not have been listed as head of his own household. The male under 16 could have been one of his Cook grandsons - even William Cook, born 1780.

There is no probate record for William Cole in Berkshire County, nor are there any deeds. Again, if he was living among the Shakers, he may have not owned property.

How this all impacts the identification of William Cook (1780 - 1840) of Hancock, Massachusetts as the son of Abiel Cook of Hancock, Massachusetts and Stephentown, New York is based on residence and naming patterns.

The fact that William Cook was "of Hancock" when he married Lucy Chapman on 17 December 1805 has been noted as significant in that Abiel Cook was resident in Hancock in 1784/1785 when he took Noah Wheaton to court for the ill-treatment of his daughter Betty. Abiel Cook moved on to Stephentown, New York by 1790 and died there in 1807, so his connection to Hancock at the time William Cook married in 1805 was over twenty years old. It is true, however, that Hancock borders on Stephentown, so he was not that far away.

The fact that William Cole, Abiel Cook's father-in-law and who would be William Cook's maternal grandfather, died in Hancock in 1804 - a year before William Cook married Lucy Chapman there - narrows the chronological gap between Abiel Cook's association with Hancock and William Cook's marriage.

The names of William Cook's proposed grandparents are also a factor. Abiel Cook of Tiverton and Hancock was the son of Job Cook and Ann Bennett. Susana Cole, Abiel Cook's wife, was the daughter of William Cole and Elizabeth Luther.

It is known that Abiel Cook had daughters Ann and Betty (also called Elizabeth) who bore the names of their grandmothers. He also had a daughter Susanna, probably named after his wife Susanna Cole. The LDS descendants of William Cook performed Temple work for two of William Cook's brothers - Job Cook and Abiel (Byle) Cook. Job Cook has not been documented. He supposedly went to sea and was never heard from again. It is fortunate family remembered him and did Temple Work for him, as his first name is significant in the theory being proposed.

William Cook's other brother Abiel Cook has been traced and two censuses are key in determining his age.

In 1820, as Abiel Cook, he was enumerated in Penfield, Monroe County, New York as age 26 to 45. This age puts his date of birth at 1774 to 1784. (Document 13)

In 1830, as Abial Cook, he was enumerated in Penfield, Monroe County, New York as age 50 to 60. This age puts his date of birth at 1769 to 1780. (Document 14) Combining the two census ages put his date of birth at 1774 to 1880. He has been listed on the family records as born “about 1775. It is clear that he was born after the 1773 warning out of Abiel Cook from Warren, but before 1780.

Job Cook’s date of birth remains approximate, but since he was a son of Abiel Cook’s first marriage, he had to have been born before 1785. For the time being and until his date of birth can be documented, he has been assigned a date of birth of about 1777 and placed between Abiel Cook and William Cook

The fact that Abiel Cook had a son named after himself (Abiel) and a son named after his father (Job) and that he had three daughters named after his wife Susannah, his mother (Ann) and mother-in-law (Elizabeth/Betty) makes it logical that he would also have a son named after his father-in-law - William Cole - and it is proposed that this is William Cook, born 6 September 1780.

Based on naming and residence patterns, the circumstantial evidence supports the identification of William Cook (1780 - 1840) of Hancock, Massachusetts as the son of Abiel Cook of Hancock, Massachusetts and Stephentown, New York. The only “negative” factors in this identification are that Abiel Cook’s 1790 and 1800 censuses don’t include all the sons he should have had living with him, but since he was on his second marriage, the sons from his first marriage could have been living with relatives of his first wife. It is known that his father-in-law William Cole lived in Hancock and there may have been others relatives whom he could have been living. It is also possible that the sons from the first marriage lived among the Shakers at the time of the two censuses.

If anything remains to be done before accepting this connection, it is to try and identify Job Cook, the son of Abiel Cook who was supposed to have died at sea. There are, however, few resources to check in this regard.

For the time being, Abiel Cook and Susanna Cole are being listed as the probable parents of William Cook, and their parents are also being listed to illustrate the naming pattern mentioned above. Once this connection has been accepted, both the Cook and the Cole lines can be traced back in existing genealogies. The Cook line behind Abiel Cook as presented in by Jane Fletcher Fiske’s *Thomas Cooke of Rhode Island* should be considered reliable, leaving the ancestries of the wives in each generation to be traced.

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

Gordon L. Remington, FUGA, FASG  
Professional Genealogist

GLE/nwm

© 2008 Price and Associates, Incorporated

Attached Document No.	Library Call Number	Description Source
1	Footnote.com	Revolutionary War Pension Application, W6740, Anna, widow of Abial Cook.
2	Ancestry.com	1790 US Census, Tiverton, Bristol County, Rhode Island, p. 361.

3	974.56 P2f	Jane Fletcher Fiske, <i>Gleaning from Newport Court Files</i> , 1659-1783, (Boxford, Massachusetts: J.F. Fiske, 1998), #1178.
4	929.273 C776F	Jane Fletcher Fiske, <i>Thomas Cooke of Rhode Island: A Genealogy of Thomas Cooke Alias Butcher of Netherbury, Dorsetshire, England</i> , who came to Taunton, Massachusetts in 1637 and settled in Portsmouth, Rhode Island in 1643, 2 vol., (Boxford, Massachusetts: J.F. Fiske, c1987), pp. 158-161.
5	FamilySearch (DOS Version)	International Genealogical Index®
6	FamilySearch ((Dos Version)	LDS Ancestral File™
7	familytreemaker.genealogy.com/user/c/1/James-Michael-Cole/PDFGENE9.pdf-Similar pages	James Michael Cole, <i>Descendants of James Cole</i> , apparently based on <i>The Descendants of James Cole of Plymouth, 1633</i> .
8	929229	Ernest Byron Cole. <i>The Descendants of James Cole of Plymouth, 1633: Also a Record of the Families of Lieutenant Thomas Burnham of Ipswich, 1635; Lieutenant Edward Winship of Cambridge, 1635; With a Complete Record of the Cole, Coole, Cowle Families in America in the Revolution</i> , (New York: Grafton Press, c1908), pp. 62 96.
9	FamilySearch (DOS Version)	International Genealogical Index®
10	<a href="http://booksgoogle.com/books?id=UbESJzwY-7Uc&amp;printsec=frontcover&amp;dq=shakers+m+unmasked#PPR1,M1">http://booksgoogle.com/books?id=UbESJzwY-7Uc&amp;printsec=frontcover&amp;dq=shakers+m+unmasked#PPR1,M1</a>	William J. Haskett, <i>Shakerism Unmasked, Or, The History of the Shakers</i> , (Pittsfield, Mass.: the author, 1828), ;; 56-61
11	1550386	Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, The Shaker collection of the Western Reserve Historical Society, 1723-1952, (Glen Rock, New Jersey: Microfilming corporation of American, c1976-1977), Series III Membership, birth, death, and statistical records A6 Hancock, Mass. 1784-1840.
12	Ancestry.com	1790 US Census, Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, p. 283

Nil for William Cole	Ancestry.com	1800 US Census, Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts
Nil for William Cole of Hancock	1749904	Berkshire County, Massachusetts, Probate Court, Probate Records, 1761-1917. (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971, 1991). Index to Probate Records v. 1-3 1761-1930.
Nil for William Cole of Hancock	1675883	Berkshire County, Massachusetts, Register of Deeds, Land Records - Northern District, 1761- 1925; Index to Land Records, 1761-1985, (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971, 1990-1991), Land records Index - Grantor Caswell, A. - Cotlin, H. 1761-1985.
Nil for William Cole of Hancock	1683100	Berkshire County, Massachusetts, Register of Deeds, Land Records l- Northern District, 1761-1925; Index to Land Records, 1761-1985. (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971, 1990-1991). Land records Index - Grantee Chaty, B. - Cullen. J. 1761-1985.
13	Ancestry.com	1820 US Census, Penfield, Monroe County, New York, p. 150.
14	Ancestry.com	1830 US Census, Penfield, Monroe County, New York, p. 344.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Following is a copy of a letter I [Ronald S. Cook] wrote January 1, 2009, supporting Gordon Remington's (Price and Associates) research conclusions on the "Cook Line." I have made some additions and several corrections to the letter for this writing - August 20, 2009)

January 1, 2009

Dear Henry Freeman, Sophronia Strobridge and Julia Rocker Cook Family:

I pray that all had a very Merry Christmas and that the New Year will be a good one for each individual member of the family and for our family collectively.

I feel that our research efforts have been very successful. I hope that every one who contributed to those efforts in any way feels the gratitude of our whole family for your help. Lord bless you. We could not have achieved the success we have without your help.

I hope that everyone has taken the time to review the research reports we have sent to you. They can be reviewed in their entirety including copies of all documents referenced at ourcookfamily.org. If you have not reviewed these research reports , make a commitment to do so soon. I especially, at this time, hope you will take the time to review the reports and findings of

Gordon Remington on the Cook family. If you have questions we would like to know what they are so we can try and answer them. Also, your comments and feelings are important. Take the time to share them with us.

I have reviewed Mr. Remington's report several times. I feel he has found William, Abiel and Job's parents for us. I feel this way for the following reasons:

1. I had a good feeling come over me when we received Mr. Remington's 3<sup>rd</sup> report suggesting that Abiel and Susannah Cole Cook were William, Abiel and Jobs parents. His tying Abiel and Susannah to Hancock and the Shakers and living at Hancock in the 1780s, and his finding that Susannah's father died in Hancock just one year before William and Lucy Chapman were married, strengthened my feelings. I could see how, with Abiel, Susannah and their family having limited means and moving around a lot, the births of William Abiel and Job may not have been recorded either in the communities where they were born or by extended family who may not have know about their births. I can also understand with Susannah's death and Abiel marrying a much younger wife, that the children of Abiel's first wife could be placed with family members and lost to the record keepers (Census recorders) of that day when only the head of the family was named in census reports.

Several times over the past many years, I had researched the Tiverton, Rhode Island area trying to find a connection with the Cook family there. I kept being drawn back to the Tiverton area because it was the only area I researched in all of New England that had the names of William, Abiel and Job all together as common Cook family names. Because of the family naming pattern I felt somehow we had to be related. However, I could never make the connection. Abiel and Susannah both coming from this general areal seemed right to me.

2. My "good feelings" returned to me when we received Mr. Remington's 4<sup>th</sup> report with his conclusions that Abiel and Susannah Cole Cook were the parents of William, Abiel and Job. His conclusions based upon "residence" as explained above (#1) and the fact that "Abiel Cook had a son named after himself (Abiel) and a son named after his father (Job) and that he had three daughters named after his wife, Susannah, his mother (Ann) and mother-in-law (Elizabeth/Betty) makes it logical that he would also have a son named after his father-in-law, William Cole." This made perfect sense to me. Everything "fit" together.

3. After we received our 4<sup>th</sup> report from Mr. Remington, I took all of the reports to a lady in our stake, April Cox, who I have known for many years and who I have great confidence in. She is a professional researcher who works at BYU and who herself has lately done work for Price and Associates. Over the past fifteen years she has tried to help me several times in my efforts to find the parents of William, Abiel and Job. She has helped me enough that she is very familiar with our family's research efforts for over sixty years and our findings. I left Mr. Remington's reports with her and asked her to review them and tell me how she felt. Her statements after reviewing the records were: "I know Mr. Remington. He is the best. He is a very thorough and conservative researcher. He doesn't make conclusions unless he is very sure. I support his conclusions. I am confident he has found your grandparents."

When we decided to hire professional research help I wondered if I would know what they found to be true. I prayed that we would not be wasting precious and sacred family money and that we would not be led astray. The 4<sup>th</sup> research report and my first visit to the Salt Lake Family History Library after receiving that report were answers to my prayers. Point # 4 on the 4th research report states, "William Cole's daughter Sebia..." When I read that I knew Sebia.

The first two families I found after starting family research were Abiel and Lois Cook's, William's brother and Amassa C. and Laura Cook's, William's oldest son and Henry Freeman Cook's oldest brother's. I found them in Pinfield and Brighton, Monroe County, New York. As I followed Amassa's family in state and federal census records I noted that one of his last girls would be listed on one census as Florence and on another as Sabra(sp?) or something like that. The writing was so bad I couldn't for sure make it out. I finally listed her in the family as Florence Sabra. When I saw "William Cole's daughter Sebia" on Mr. Harrington's report I knew immediately that Amassa's



daughter's name was Florence Sebia Cook. It was as clear as clear could be to me. It was the first thought I had when I saw the name Sebia. It wasn't until I went to the Salt Lake Family History Library and saw her name again in Ernest Byron Cole's book *The Descendants of James Cole of Plymouth, 1633*, that it really "hit" me that Sebia Cole was Susannah Coles' sister and Amassa Cook's Aunt. When that "sank in" I knew that Mr. Remington had found our grandparents. My feelings were further confirmed when, on that same visit, I learned that Hezekiah was a Cole family name. Amassa's oldest son was named Hezekiah.

I have since had an opportunity to personally visit with Mr. Remington. He reviewed with me his research efforts and feelings. I was convinced again, both by what he said and how I felt, that he had found our grandparents. I personally thanked him from our whole family for his efforts.

I believe it took someone like Mr Reminton to identify Job and Susannah as the parents of William, Abiel and Job. His training and experience gave him the courage necessary to put this family together based on "residence" and "naming patterns." I don't think that any of "us" would have done this. I think we would have required William, Abiel and Job's names to be listed with Abiel, Susannah and their family in old family records, church or community records, court documents or in some other way.

I have very strong feelings that we have found our grandparents, William, Abiel and Job's parents. I have committed myself to further researching the ancestors of William, Abiel and Job through Abiel and Susannah Cole Cook, descendants of Thomas Cooke alias Butcher and his wife Mary, who came to America in 1637, and James and Mary Tibbes Cole who came to America in 1632. A lot of research is yet to be done as is a lot of temple work. I do not feel we need professional researchers to do this work for us. We can do it for ourselves. However, to be most successful we need to coordinate our efforts.

Completing the temple work for those who need it is exciting yet very discouraging for family researchers. Time demands to do temple work can literally stop research work. A coordinated family effort to complete temple work can enhance, strengthen and motivate research efforts. I pray that as a family we will work together and coordinate our efforts in completing the temple work we now have to do.

2009 is going to be a great year for the Henry Freeman Cook, Sophronia Strobridge and Julia Ann Rocker family. We are going to do things together that will bless our ancestors, fortify our family collectively and individually, and excite and strengthen many who are the descendants of the friends and neighbors of our ancestors.

May the Lord continue to bless this great family. And may each of us be committed to do all we can this year to be the answer to our ancestor's prayers.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my feelings and to be of service to you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ronald S. Cook

Ronald S. Cook

520 East 630 North

American Fork, Utah 84003

Phone: Home 1-801-756-2885

Work 1-801-357-7373

E-mail [ronaldscook@hotmail.com](mailto:ronaldscook@hotmail.com)