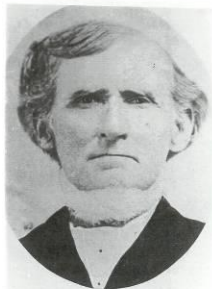


**LIFE SKETCH OF HENRY FREEMAN COOK**  
**By Gertrude Cook Jackson (Great Grand-Daughter), Written (? Date)**



HENRY FREEMAN COOK  
rn Jan. 12, 1815. Came to Utah October

Henry Freeman Cook was born 12 January 1815 at Homer, Courtland County, New York. He was the fifth child and fourth son of William Cook, born 6 September 1780, at \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (county), Massachusetts, and Lucy Chapman Cook. Lucy was born 5 May 1787 at Hancock, Berkshire, Massachusetts.

Henry's father and mother must have lived in Massachusetts until after the birth of their first two children. The census records list them as being born in Massachusetts. His mother was the daughter of Amasa Chapman and Ann Darby Chapman. No trace of his father's parents has been found to date. Great grandfather had temple work done for two uncles, Abiel and Job Cook, which is the only clue we have to the number in his grandfather's family. Eight children were born to his parents.

We know very little about his childhood, but family history tells that the Cooks were farmers and stock raisers. He, no doubt, helped on his father's farm. Sometime between 1835 and 1838 the Cook family along with Henry, his new bride, and other families of the area left New York State and went to Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Henry's uncle, Abiel Cook, was already a resident of Michigan, and had no doubt convinced the other families that they could better their lot by moving there. Abiel Cook died in Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1836.



Henry married Sophronia Strobridge (born 14 March 1813 at Solon, Cortland County, New York) on the 9th of April 1837 in New York State. Sophronia was the daughter of George Augustus (Born 3 September 1785 at Clairmont, \_\_\_\_\_(county), New Hampshire) and Abigail Lull Strobridge.

They must have left soon after their marriage for Michigan. Their first child, John, was born in Comstock, Kalamazoo, Michigan on 22 May 1838. They had to work very hard in this new location to make their home. The history books of Michigan say that the mosquitoes and other insects were terrible and the soil seemed to be rampant with infectious diseases. Henry's father, William Cook, died there on 4 November

1840. On a visit to Comstock a few years ago, another of Henry's Great granddaughters found that William Cook was the first person buried in the Comstock Cemetery.

Three more children were born to them in Comstock: James on 14 January 1840, Hannah on 22 January 1842, and Mary Jane on 2 January 1844. The missionaries no doubt found them and taught them the gospel during this period, as the baptismal records show that Sophronia was baptized in March 1843 and Henry on 15 May 1843.

Sometime after the birth of their fourth child, Mary Jane, in January 1844, they moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. Their fifth child, Charles, was born there on 21 February 1846. They suffered the same persecutions as the other Saints. They had to leave this beautiful city almost before they were settled. Along with others of the Saints they went to Council Bluffs, Iowa for a while. Their sixth child, William (born 19 October 1847), and their seventh, George (born 20 March 1850), made their appearance here.

Shortly after the birth of George they moved to St. Louis, Missouri where they prepared to make the trip to Salt Lake city, Utah. They traveled with the Warren Snow Company, arriving in Utah in October, 1852. For a year or two they made their home in Big Cottonwood, Salt Lake County. Their eighth child, Harriet Ann, was born there 20 May 1853. Their last two children, twin girls, Janett and Marett, were born in Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah on 17 March 1856. Just when they made the move to Cedar Valley we have no record. Their little Harriet died young and was buried in one of the first graves in the old cemetery.

Henry's mother, Lucy Chapman Cook, came with them to Utah, and made her home with them until her death 16 October 1857. She had left her home and her other children to come to the West with her son for

the Gospel's sake. Her patriarchal Blessing states that she was the daughter of Amasa and Ann Darby Chapman.

Henry and Sophronia Cook seemed to have had a little more property than most of the families coming west. They had horses and cattle which were brought with them across the Plains. They may have also had sheep as there were sheep in the valley in the early days. Their daughter Hannah used to tell of a light gray or white team she remembered well.

Sometime after their arrival in the valley a group of immigrants came through on their way to California. They had a mare with them, heavy with foal, which had given out, which they traded to the Cooks for a fresh horse. This mare was of fine blood and her colt proved to be a great horse. He was named Jeff and was sought out by the settlers for miles around to improve their stock.

A sporting man from the East saw the quality in this strain and paid a big price for one of Jeff's colts which he took back East. He found him being used to run a threshing machine. The Cook brand was and still is JH-C with the J and H combined. This animal was branded with the Cook brand, which was mistaken for JIC, which was the name given to him by his new owner.

He was a tough-mouthed animal who required a special bit to hold him under control. A bit was designed and called the JIC bit, which is still on the market. JIC was trained for cart racing, and was near the top in his racing record, being next to Maud S at one time. She held the world's record in cart racing.

Jane Hacking Fisher was the midwife who took care of Sophronia when the twins, Janett and Marett, were born. Sometimes she would take her small son, Moroni, with her when she went to care for Mother and babies. Moroni told Alice Cook that he remembered those visits with a warm feeling as he always got a big slice of bread and butter, which he didn't very often get at home.

On 11 June 1876 Henry Freeman Cook was ordained Bishop of the Cedar Fort Ward, where he served until his death, 14 April 1882. He was a kind, generous, quiet, industrious man, not given much to frivolity. A story is told of him by Annie Glines Hacking in her biographical sketch in which she tells of attending a dance in Cedar Fort. The band began playing a waltz, which the Bishop, along with other Church authorities, frowned upon. Youth-like, the young ladies of the Ward decided the Bishop and his counselors were going to dance, and so they converged on Bishop Cook and his counselors and pulled them out on the floor. Other young ladies kept them dancing for a considerable length of time. One of his sons, George (Dod for short) came into the dance hall and saw his father waltzing. He exclaimed loudly, "Father, you are actually waltzing, I don't believe my eyes!" The Bishop was quite embarrassed, but we wonder if he didn't enjoy it a little.

Henry took part in all community projects—he owned shares in the co-op owned by the people of the valley. His son, John, helped to manage the store.



He married in polygamy, a young widow, Julia Ann Rocker Laughlin, with five small children. She was the widow of David Saunders Laughlin. They were the parents of four children, which made fourteen children of his own children and five step-children, which made nineteen to raise and educate.

He passed away on 14 April 1882, and is buried in Cedar Fort. A pioneer of merit.

Sources: Received from Darwin Isaac Cook, Tucson, Arizona on 29 November, 1999 by Alonzo Dean Cook  
Another copy received from Kris Robertson (from her Mother's files), October 2005  
Photographs added by Alonzo Cook, October 2009

	Born	Died
Henry Freeman Cook	12 January 1815	14 April 1882
Sophronia Strobridge (1st Wife)	14 March 1813	24 July 1909
Children:		
John Cook	22 May 1938	17 February 1904
James Cook	14 January 1840	1903
Hannah Cook	22 January 1842	16 April 1926
Mary Jane Cook	2 January 1844	21 May 1895
Charles Cook	21 February 1846	10 September 1871
William Cook	19 October 1847	28 November 1934
George Cook	20 March 1850	26 November 1916
Harriet Ann Cook	20 May 1853	Young
Janett Cook (Twin)	17 March 1856	23 October 1947
Marett Cook (Twin)	17 March 1856	10 May 1931
Julia Ann Rocker (2nd Wife)	19 May 1829	22 January 1891
Children:		
David Franklin Cook	9 January 1859	7 June or January 1887
George Henry Cook	12 February 1860	
Florence Malinda Cook	11 September 1862	29 January 1899
Ada Cook	9 December 1863	8 November 1941