

AGM Highlights

March, 2024

By Diane Sterne

This month I am adding some additional information beyond the Progress Report. Our AGM was so interesting with all the items Tony Cook brought, I just had to prepare some highlights from that. I hope you don't mind.

Tony Cook is the Great-Grandson of Foxcrowle Percival Cook. FP's memorabilia has been carefully cared for by family members and passed down through the generations. We are fortunate to have Tony as a GCPS member and he very generously offered to bring some of his family's most prized possessions to the AGM.

First off were F.P. Cook's gold scales:



Tony told us that in a newspaper article from years ago, FP's son, Ed Cook stated that he believed 10,000 ounces of gold had been weighed on these scales. The scales are complete with balancing weights, a couple of vials for gold and some handwritten pages listing the price of gold at the time. There were a couple of weights that looked quite unusual. At first we believed they were coins. Tony looked at them more carefully when he got back home and said they are actually called "scruples" which are apothecary weights. You can see them in these photos:



They are very old!! Here are some photos of the papers listing the prices of gold:



Wouldn't it be great to buy gold at \$17.50 per ounce? Those were the days.

Not to be outdone with the scales, Tony presented us with his Great-Great Grandfather's desk. This folding desk originally belonged to FP's Father. It must have been greatly valued by Foxcrowle since it managed to survive the 1907 fire at Granite Creek. Imagine the journeys this desk has travelled. Over the ocean from England to Canada, and horseback or wagon to Granite Creek. This desk was mentioned

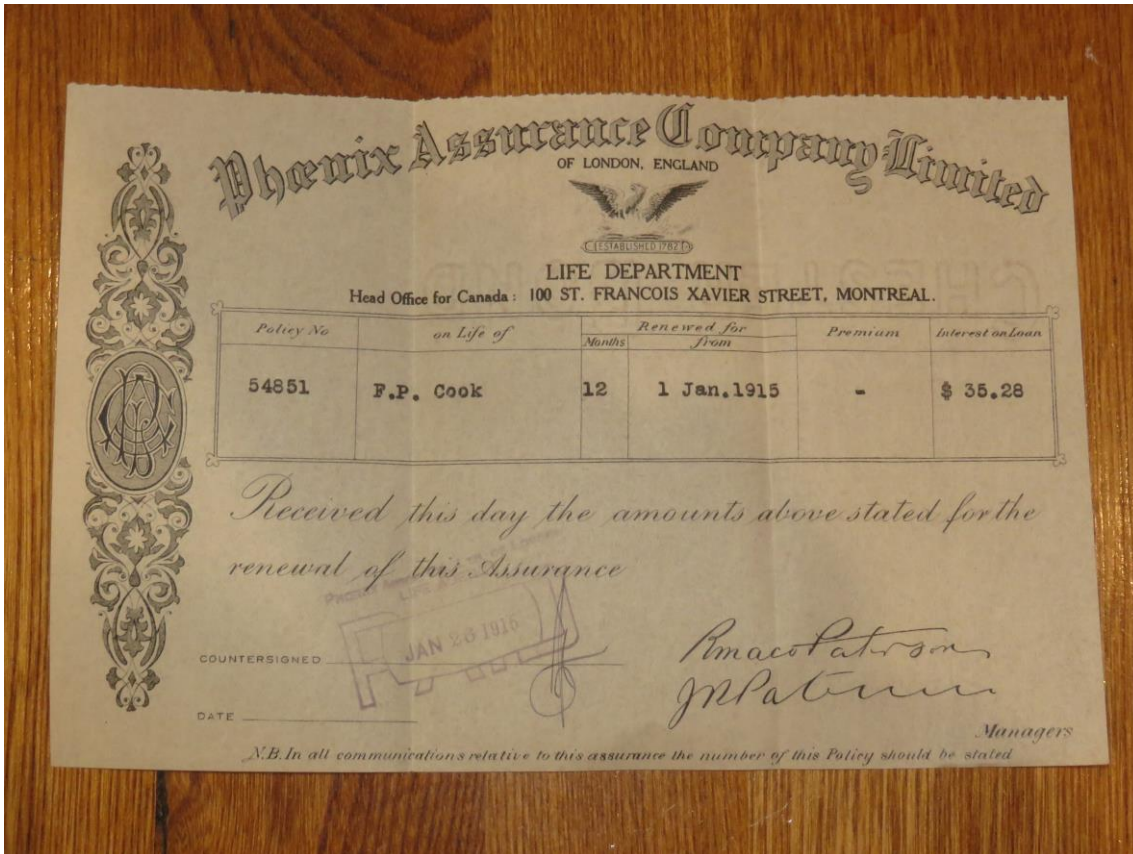
in FP's will. He left it to his son, Ed Cook who, in turn passed it to Barrie and now Tony. Barrie Cook used to refer to the desk FP's "laptop". Its condition is amazing.



And it wasn't empty! The desk was full of more treasures:



There was an ink well, fountain pen, letters, newspaper articles, a book of family birth dates, election list from 1917, a life insurance policy payment for FP from 1915, photos, cards, etc., etc. It was overwhelming how much the desk contained! Here are some of them:



Life Insurance Policy receipt above, FP's parents below.





Unusual card of woman with hair, and Easter card. No names were on either card.



Two dollar money order with the Granite Creek Post Office stamp on it from February, 1912.

Tony took us on quite a journey into the past and we are so grateful to him. Foxcrowle Percival Cook was a very important and influential man in Granite Creek, Coalmont and Princeton. It is incredible that this memorabilia from his life still exists. You can't help but notice that the items are all post the 1907 fire. All except for the desk! Thank you again, Tony. That was an AGM that we won't forget!!