

## Chapter 4

# The Cook/Koch Brothers

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Jan 8, 2015

### Introduction

Edward and Margaretha Koch raised a family of two daughters and four sons. The two daughters married affluent businessmen, raised large families, were prominent in their communities, and had descendents who shared family history information with the writer. The sons were not nearly as well known, did not raise large families, and no living descendants have been located. Thus the information on the Cook brothers is sparse. This chapter covers all four sons: Edward, Edmund, Ferdinand, and Alexander.

About 1853, the four sons traveled with their mother and two sisters from St. Louis, Missouri to San Francisco via the Isthmus of Panama, as described in the Chapter 2-3 on their parents, Edward and Margaretha Koch.

The sons changed the spelling of their name from Koch to Cook when they left home.

### Related chapters at this site

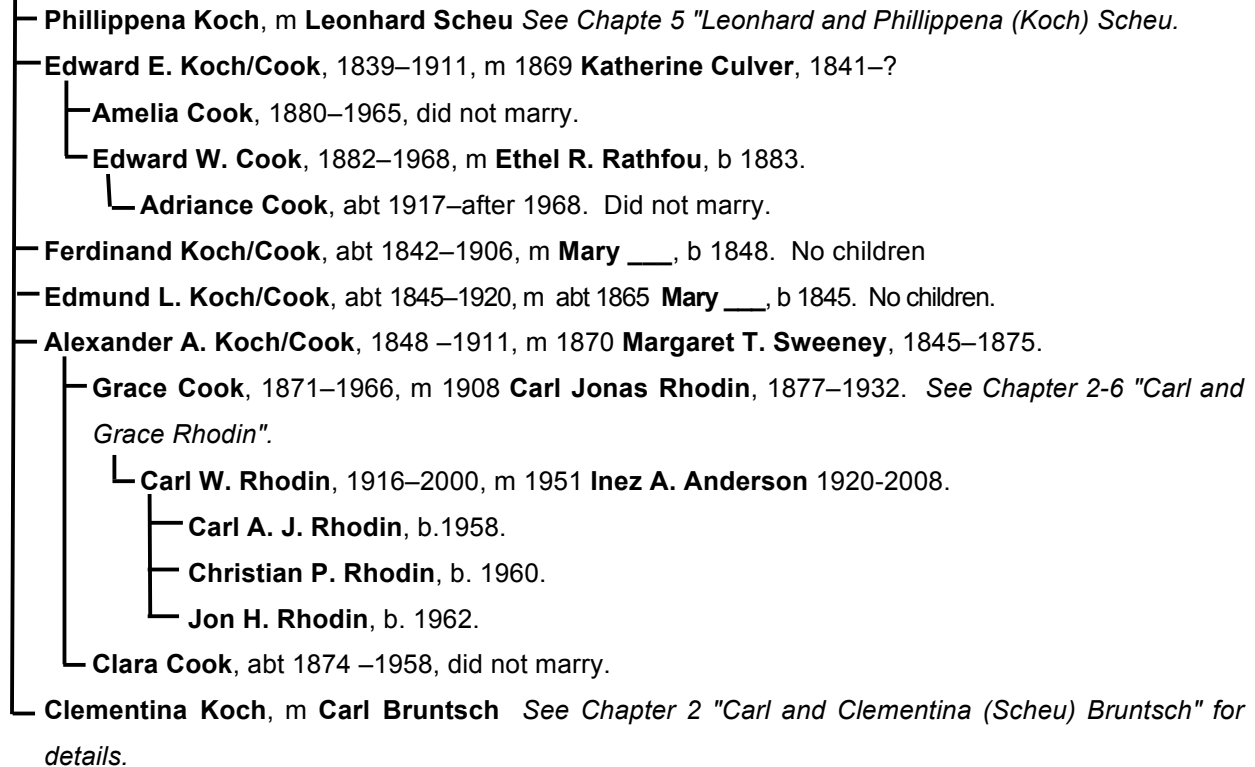
- 1 Edward and Margaretha (Jung) Koch
2. Carl and Clementina Koch Bruntsch
3. Carl and Grace (Cook) Rhodin
4. The Koch Brothers
5. Leonhard and Phillippena (Koch) Scheu
6. Children of Leonhard and Phillippena (Koch) Scheu

*Contact the writer if more information needed*

## Overview

The following chart shows the family of Edward and Margaretha (Jung) Koch.  
—The abbreviation ‘abt’ (about) applies only to the first date following it.

**Edward and Margaretha (Jung) Koch** See Chapter 1 “Edward and Margaretha Koch”.



### 1. Edward E. Cook

Edward was born in Mobile, Alabama, in March 1839 (the exact year is uncertain). He learned the trade of coppersmith in San Francisco, but later became a plumber. He retired at the remarkably early age of 45. We do not know where the assets came from that permitted him to do this.

Edward married **Katherine A. Culver** of San Francisco on April 6, 1869. Katherine was born Oct 24, 1841 in Poughkeepsie, NY, the daughter of Amanda Culver.

Edward moved from San Francisco across the Bay to Berkeley sometime between 1900 and 1910, quite possibly after the great 1906 fire and earthquake in San Francisco.

Edward died at about age 72, on March 5, 1911, at his home at 2649 College Ave. in Berkeley, California. He was survived by his wife and children. His widow went on an extensive world tour in 1925. She died at an unknown date and place.

Edward and Katherine had two children:

**Amelia C. Cook** was born in July 1880, and died at age 84, on May 14, 1965, in Alameda, California. It does not appear that she married.

**b. Edward W. Cook** was born in November 1882 and died at the age of 85 on August 25, 1968. He married Ethel R. Rathfou prior to 1916. Ethel was born about 1883 in California, the daughter of Josephine Rathfou, who emigrated from Canada in 1856 and was naturalized in 1889. Edward was employed as a clerk in a sporting goods store at the time of the 1910 census, while he was still living with his parents. He carried on the family tradition of early retirement, for by the time of the 1920 census, when Edward was 37, he had already retired! It appears that he had ample funds, for the 1930 census shows that he owned a home worth \$15,500 in Piedmont, a community in the Hills above Oakland, and his neighbors were doctors and businessmen.

Edward and Ethel had one child:

**Adriance Cook** was born about 1917. She was living and single when her father died in 1968.

## **2. Ferdinand Cook**

Ferdinand was born February 1842 in Pennsylvania (the exact year is uncertain). He married Mary (maiden name unknown) about 1870. She was born in Ireland, September 1848, came to the U.S. about 1861, and was naturalized in 1861. They did not have children. Ferdinand was a carriage blacksmith. He lived in San Francisco, last residing at 1810<sup>1/2</sup> Post St. He died at about age 63 on November 9, 1906, in San Francisco. He was the first of the Cook brothers to die.

## **3. Edmund L. Koch/Cook**

Edmund was born about 1845 in Pennsylvania. He married Mary (maiden name unknown) about 1865. She was an Irish immigrant, born January 1845. It appears that they did not have any children. Edmund's occupation was given as "liquor, saloon" in 1880, but after that time his occupation is not clear. Edmund died at age 73, on July 17, 1920, in San Francisco, California. His wife had already passed away. He was the last of the Cook brothers to die, but was survived by his older sister Phillippena.

## **4. Alexander A. Koch/Cook**

Alexander was born February 1848 in Pennsylvania. In 1870, Alexander married Margaret T. Sweeney, one of the daughters of Edward Sweeney of San Francisco. Grace was their first child, born June 2 or 3, 1871. Their second

child, Clara, was born May 29, 1874. Unfortunately, Margaret died October 9, 1875, when Grace was 4 years old, and Clara was about 2. Alex was unable to care for the children. Grace was sent to live with her Uncle Ferdinand and his wife Mary and later to her Aunt Clementina Bruntsch, while Clara was sent to live with her mother's sister Mary (Sweeney) Hayes and her family. Both families lived in the San Francisco Bay area.

Grace Cook was raised in luxury and lived a very colorful life as a socialite and actress, which is told in detail in Chapter 3 "Carl and Grace (Cook) Rhodin." This chapter also includes what is known about her sister Clara, who lived a life totally opposite to that of Grace.

Alex was originally a carriage painter. In later years he lived in Fremont, Santa Clara County, California. Fremont is near the southeast end of San Francisco Bay. Alex died on December 21, 1911 in the County Hospital in San Jose, California. No one came forward to claim the remains. He was buried by the county.

## **Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to the following persons for providing copies of documents from libraries that I was unable to visit personally: Margaret Posehn at the California State Library, and Nancy Waterhouse at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Dona Bretherick of Berkeley, CA, provided her recollections of Clara Cook, a frequent guest at Christmastime.

## Sources

Symbols refer to items in the bibliography

### Edward E. Cook

**Census:** With parent(s): 1850, 1860 (Ce1 & 2). As head: 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 (Ce3, 4, 5 & 6).

**Birth:** Feb 1841 per 1900 census, but the year disagrees with age 11 in 1850 census so that it is more likely that he was born in 1839.

**Occupations:** Coppersmith in 1860 and 1870 census. Plumber in 1880 census, 1884 city directory (Dir1) and obituary (N2). Retired in 1885 and 1890 directories (Dir1), 1900 & 1910 census. Obituary says "retired for 35 years", but this is an error—it was about 25 years.

**Marriage:** Marriage notice, *San Francisco Call* N1. Wife appears in census through 1930. Wife's world travel from her passport application D6.

**Children:** Obituary N2, 1900 and 1910 census.

**Death:** Obituary N2, CA Death Index D1.

**Edward W. Cook:** Appears in census with his family in 1920 and 1930 (Ce7 & 8). Birth date from CA Death Index. Death date from obituary N3 and CA Death Index D3. Occupation from 1910, 1920 and 1930 census. Wife and daughter from 1920, 1930 census, and Edward's obituary. Variants for name of daughter are Amerlia, Amelia, and Aleilia .

### Ferdinand Cook

**Census:** With mother: 1850, 1860 (Ce1, 2). With wife Maryann: 1870, 1880, 1900 (Ce15, 16, 17).

**Birth:** Death certificate (D6) gives birth year as 1847, but it is more likely that he was born about 1845, based on age 5 in 1850 census, age 14 in 1860 census.

**Occupation:** From census.

**Marriage:** Wife Mary A. in census 1880 and 1900.

**Children:** No evidence of children.

**Death:** Death certificate, San Francisco City & County, D5. Obituary of Ferdinand Cook, N6.

### Alexander A. Cook

**Census:** With parents(s): 1850, 1860 (Ce1, 2). Living with Edward Sweeney family 1870. Ce11), widowed 1880, 1900, 1910 census (Ce 12, 13, 14).

**Birth:** Age at death (D5) gives 1853, which agrees with age 6 in the 1850 census, if the census date preceded his birthday.

**Occupation:** From census.

**Children:** See the Chapter 3, Carl and Grace (Cook) Rhodin for documentation.

**Marriage:** Marriage notice: Alexander Cook to Margaret T. Sweeney (N4).

**Death of wife:** Obituary of Margaret Cook (N5).

**Death of Alexander:** Death certificate D4.

### Edmund L. Cook

**Census:** With parent(s): 1850, 1860 (Ce1, 2), with wife: 1880, 1910 (Ce9, 10). Not found in 1870 and 1900.

**Birth:** Born about 1845 from age in 1850 census.

**Occupation:** From 1880 census. Not found in 1870 or 1900. Retired in 1910 census.

**Marriage:** Wife Mary A. (census 1880, 1910).

**Children:** No evidence of children.

**Death:** Death certificate, San Francisco City & County (D3). No obituary found.

**Death of wife:** Present in 1910 census, but deceased per spouses' death certificate.

## Bibliography

### Census

**Ce1** 1850 census, 5th Ward, St. Louis city, MO, p 216, enumerated Aug 6, 1850, family of Edward Koch.

**Ce2** 1860 census, 7th District, San Francisco, CA, enumerated Aug 6, 1850, family of Margaret Cook.

**Ce3** 1870 census, San Francisco, 2nd Precinct, 12th ward, p 872, family of Edward E. Cook:  
Edward E. Cook, 29, b AL, coppersmith, wife Catherine Cook, 27, b NY,

**Ce4** 1880 census, San Francisco, p 455B.

**Ce5** 1900 census: San Francisco, CA, ED180, p 307A, Family of Edward E. Cook.

**Ce6** 1910 census, Berkeley, Alameda Co, CA, ED56, p 224, enumerated Apr 21, 264 family of Edward E. Cook.

**Ce7** 1920 census: CA, Alameda Co, Berkeley, family of Edward W. Cook.

**Ce8** 1930 Census, Alameda Co., Piedmont, ED 1-334, family of Edward W. Cook.

**Ce9** 1880 Census, San Francisco, p 215C, Family of Edmond Cook.

**Ce10** 1910 Census, San Francisco, ED170, p 189, family of Edmund S. Cook.

**Ce11** 1870 census: San Francisco, 2nd precinct, 7th ward, p. 242, Alexander Cook living in the family of Edward Sweeney.

**Ce12** 1880 census: Fremont, Santa Clara Co, CA, p 272A, A. A. Cook.

**Ce13** 1900 census: Fremont, Santa Clara Co, CA, Alexander Cook.

**Ce14** 1910 Census, Fremont, Santa Clara Co, CA, A. A. Cook.

**Ce15** 1870 census: San Francisco, CA, Ferdinand and wife living in residence of James Donovan.

**Ce16** 1880 census: San Francisco, p 123D, family of Ferdinand Koch.

**Ce17** 1900 census, San Francisco City and Co, family of Ferdinand Cook.

### Documents

**D1** CA death index, Edward E. Cook.

**D2** CA death index, Edward W. Cook, SSN 565-64-1691.

**D3** Death certificate of Edmund L. Koch (Cook), City and County of San Francisco, CA.

**D4** Death certificate of Alex A. Cook, Santa Clara Co, CA.

**D5** Death certificate of Ferdinand Cook, San Francisco City and County.

**D6** Passport application of Catherine Cook, Apr 14, 1925, online at ancestry.com.

### Directories

**Dir1** Langley's San Francisco Directory, 1862, 1884, 1885, 1890.

**Dir2** Langley's San Francisco Directory 1862, 1869, 1890, 1892.

**Dir3** Langley's San Francisco directory, 1863.

### Newspaper articles

**N1** Marriage notice Edward E. Koch to Catherine A. Culver, *San Francisco Call*, Jan 29, 1890, p 3.

**N2** Obituary of E. E. Cook, *Oakland Tribune*, March 6, 1911, p 10.

**N3** Obituary of Edward W. Cook, *San Jose Mercury*, Aug 26, 1968, p 16.

**N4** Marriage notice: Alexander Cook to Margaret Sweeney, *San Francisco Morning Call*, Aug 19, 1870, p 3.

**N5** Obituary of Margaret T. Cook, *San Francisco Morning Call*, Oct 11, 1875. p 4.

**N6** Obituary of Ferdinand F. Cook, *San Francisco Examiner*, Nov 10, 1906, p 6, and *San Francisco Call*, Nov 11, 1906. p 58.