

BUTLER, AL

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PEOPLE

Cooper family plans June 25 reunion.....

Early settlers moved to Hinton before 1810

COOPER Family

Donated by
Rod Bush

Hinton, Alabama
1810-1988

By: Dorothy Cooper
[Part One of Two]

Hinton, Alabama, bounded on the west by Clarke County, Mississippi was named by William R. Hinton, (wife, Laura J. Hinton). To the west the boundries are the David Belcher place and Antioch Baptist Church. The Emma Boykin place and the Raymond Redden swamp on the south. Between the west and south is the M.M. (Minnie) Roberts' place. The north holds all of Carney Town. To the east is Scott Mountain, West Butler and Bergamot.

William R. Hinton, his wife, Laura J. Hinton; William Cooper and wife, Nancy Cooper; and Claiburn Griffin, and wife, Sarah H. Griffin; came to Hinton before 1810. The community school was named for Claiburn Griffin. Built entirely of logs, with a dirt floor and a stone fireplace, the school remained until the 1940's. A new school was built near the Henry and Molly Dearman property. My mother went to school at the Claiburn Griffin School.

The homesteads were called places. The Post Office served areas in Clarke County, MS and Hinton, AL. It was located in The Country Store, owned by W.P. Cooper

and remained until around 1920. There were approximately 20 families still getting their mail at that time.

Jimmy Wilson, Albert Blackwell, and W.P. Cooper owned grist mills. I personally took the grist mill rocks owned by W.P. Cooper and rolled them (with some help) to the right side of the road before you get to the old Cooper homestead, took a bucket and covered them with sand. Grass grew over them and to this day, I do not know if they have ever been found. They were just too heavy to move.

Hinton has three streams of water - Little Oaktuppa Creek on the west, and Big Oaktuppa Creek on the east. A stream of water called the Henry Dearman Branch runs from the pasture of Dr. A.J. Rease' to Big Oaktuppa. This stream of water holds beautiful childhood memories for me as it had a tiny species of gold fish that could be caught and placed in a fish bowl.

When William Cooper, Claiburn Griffin and William Rice Hinton first came to Hinton, it was not called Hinton, but was a part of the Mississippi Territory. William Hinton had several brothers, one called Crave Hinton who settled Hintonville, a place to the southwest of Waynesboro. In later years, the Mississippi Territory was divided into two states and Captain William Cooper helped to establish the boundry lines from the Chickashay River to the Tombigbee. He entered the war at the age of 14 and served 14 years.

In later years, William Cooper's wife, Nancy, and

some of his children by her developed a disease called Pica (an abnormal desire to eat chalk, or in their case, white rock) and it killed them. His oldest son, W. Harrison Cooper, became a Constable on November 13, 1818. W. Harrison joined the Civil War, was captured and imprisoned at Camp Douglas, Chicago, IL, and died there. He is buried at the Confederate Mound in Illinois.

William Cooper married again to Annie Margaret Boykin and had a son, Burrell Cooper. Burrell was in the Civil War, Company D, 40th Alabama Infantry. He is listed on the Muster Roll at Walters, AL, under Col. A.A. Coleman. He had a finger shot off in the war and in later years married Narcissus Flowers. He is buried at the Old Cooper Cemetery in Hinton.

William Cooper was a Justice of the Peace and performed the weddings of five of Annie Boykin's children by Burrell Boykin: Christopher Boykin to Narcipa Brock, 11-10-1842; Richard Boykin to Nancy Brock, 11-10-1842; Alex Boykin to Tabitha Brock, 10-25-1843; Francis Boykin to Elizabeth Hendley, 12-23-1843; and Burrell Boykin to Lucinda Brock, 10-7-1847.

William Rice Hinton was Captain of a boat that sailed between Liverpool, England and New Orleans, Louisiana. His brother had married a girl in England named Sara Johnson. At the wedding, he met her sister, Laura Johnson, and fell in love. He made one last trip to England and brought her to New Orleans where he

married her. His brother drowned in Lake Ponchatrain leaving behind his wife, Sara J. Hinton and one son, Stephen Hinton.

Claiburn Griffin later met Sara J. Hinton and married her. Claiburn died in 1843 leaving five children and one slave named Jack. He gave the slave to his son, Daniel. His older son, Archibald M. Griffin went to Itawamba, MS and became a planter. His other children were James Griffin, Susan S. Griffin and Sara F. Griffin.

In later years, William Rice Hinton and A. William Cooper moved on east from Hinton to Marengo County. A William Cooper was listed as a planter at Jefferson in 1860-61.

The land at Hinton which these first families settled on was Choctaw Indian Territory. The Indian Cemetery is still there. Fifty years ago, time and plowing had caused a lot of bones to work to the surface. My father took a box, picked up the bones and buried them in an abandoned old well, marked by a Crepe Myrtle bush.

I have been in the process of cleaning the Old Cooper Cemetery. The Boykins, Reddens, Coopers and Copelands cleaned it in 1953 and put a wire fence around it. This fence is rusty and falling down and needs to be replaced. Anyone interested



in this cemetery should call
459-3219.

[ED. NOTE: The William
Cooper, Burrell Cooper, Wil-
liam Preston Cooper and
Descendants will meet for a
family reunion this Saturday,
June 25th, at Clarko State
Park. All friends and relatives
are cordially invited to at-
tend].

COOPER

Cooper
Family

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

England — Maryland — Virginia — Kentucky — Tennessee — Kansas

BONNIE S. BALL — P.O. Box 332 — Haysi, Va. 24256

Data from letters of Joseph A. Cooper and W. R. Cooper)

George Cooper, an English sailor and son of a petty officer of the English navy, came to America in the latter part of the eighteenth century, having landed off the coast of Maryland. While the ship was lying at anchor waiting for a cargo, before returning to England, and the officers were asleep, George stole ashore.

Later his absence was discovered, and the ship's crew went ashore in search of the truant, who, to avoid discovery, concealed himself in the dense growth of bull rushes which grew along the shore, and successfully eluded his pursuers. He was said to have related the story of his escape, and stated that they came so near him that he could see their eyes. Eventually they gave up the search and returned to the ship.

There came over on the same ship with George Cooper an English girl in her teens, who had been kidnapped and held for her passage to America. In some manner the pair met on the ship, and spent their leisure time together, discussing what they were expecting to see in America, and what they had left behind. Whether the girl had anything to do with his decision to abandon the ship is a matter of conjecture, but the fact remains that soon thereafter they met again, and were married. They settled at Elliott's Mills, which is now Elliott City in the State of Maryland, where they lived until their death. The maiden name of the girl and the date of their marriage are unknown.

George Cooper was not an educated man, and could neither read nor write, but his wife had a limited education and could read. He became a shoemaker and basket weaver. They reared a family—just how many children is not known, there were three known sons and a daughter. The sons were: George, Henry, and John; and the daughter was Polly, who married and settled in the State of Maryland. Henry married and settled in Maryland, but his brother John lost contact with him early in the nineteenth century. George left home

when a young man and went south. Nothing further was heard from him. It was supposed that he joined the Army and was killed. Others believed he went to North Carolina.

John Cooper, the son of George, the sailor, was born at Elliot Mills, Maryland on October 7, 1780. In young manhood he went to Baltimore and engaged himself to a man by the name of Tivis for the purpose of learning the trade of cabinet-making, but he did not remain long with Tivis because Tivis was a drinking man. The cabinet shop where he worked was located just across the street from the public market in Baltimore where slaves were offered for sale. The cruelty of the traffic in human flesh and blood made such an impression on his mind that from that time forward John Cooper was an uncompromising enemy to slavery.

John Cooper was a soldier in the War of 1812; having joined Captain Lewis Hale's company of Virginia veterans, and served from September, 1812 to March, 1813. After the close of the War he returned to Maryland, but a short time later started south in search of his brother, George. He went through Virginia, and finally into Grayson County, where he gave up the search. He met and married Esther (Hester) Sage, a daughter of James Sage, a Revolutionary soldier.

Soon after their marriage they started out West, passing through Cumberland Gap. They remained for a few years at Cumberland Falls, on the Cumberland River, in Whitley County, Kentucky. It was here where Joseph A. Cooper, the eldest son of John and Esther, was born, on Nov. 25, 1823.

In a few years John Cooper, with his family, moved southward across the Cumberland Mountains into Tennessee, and located on a farm in Campbell County, five mile south of Jacksburg on Cove Creek, where he remained until he died on July 27, 1854. His wife, Esther, was born on October 26, 1793, Grayson County, Va., and died June 29, 1878.

John Cooper was of English descent,

more than six feet tall, with large feet, hands, and nose, with great energy and a strong will power. His wife, Esther Sage, was of English and Dutch (German) descent, short of stature, self-reliant, cool, calculating; and in religious matters she was a faithful and devout Methodist. They had eleven children. The oldest son, Joseph A. Cooper, possessed qualities of both his father and mother. His facial features were those of his father, while in stature he was like his mother.

CHILDREN OF JOHN COOPER AND ESTHER (SAGE) COOPER

1. Mahaley Cooper—b. June 11, 1822; d. Feb. 17, 1891.
2. Joseph A. Cooper—b. Nov. 25, 1823; d. May 20, 1910.
3. David Cooper—b. March 8, 1825; d. July 27, 1848.
4. Sylvester Cooper—b. June 28, 1826.
5. Malinda Cooper—b. August 14, 1827; d. May 31, 1911.
6. William P. Cooper—b. March 11, 1829; d. Aug. 15, 1903.
7. Fountain Cooper—b. Feb. 11, 1831; d. Sept. 22, 1904.
8. Thomas W. Cooper—b. June 4, 1832.
9. Lindsay Cooper—b. Nov. 1, 1833.
10. Matthew L. Cooper—b. Oct. 4, 1837; d. Nov. 1, 1908.
11. Patience Cooper—b. Oct. 4, 1837; supposed to have died in Ky.

All the sons except Fountain, served as soldiers in the United States Army; Joseph and David in the War with Mexico. David died at Memphis, Tennessee on his return from Mexico. Joseph, Sylvester, William, Thomas, Lindsay and Matthew served in the Civil War of 1861-65. Malinda's husband, William Madden, and Patience's husband, Stephen Cross, each were soldiers in the United States Army, in the same company with Joseph.

(Esther Sage Cooper was a sister of Catty Sage, who was abducted by a horse thief in 1792, and was eventually found in 1843, living with the Wyandote Indians near Kansas City.)

JOSEPH A. COOPER

Joseph A. Cooper, (1823-1910), was born near Cumberland Falls, Ky. He was a deacon in the Baptist Church,

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

COOPER FAMILY

Cooper Park in Spencer, Owen County, Indiana, is named after Isaiah Cooper. Isaiah was a descendant of the Cooper family that immigrated to America on the *Hopewell*, sailing from London in April of 1635 and arriving in Boston in June. The immigrant, John Cooper (I) married Sarah Mew. Their son, Thomas Cooper, born in 1656, married Joanna Sayre. They moved to Frederick County, Virginia, where Thomas Cooper died on November 22, 1691.

Thomas and Joanna's son, John Cooper (II), was born in 1685 on Long Island, New York. He married Hannah Sayre. The homestead of John Cooper is on the north side of Hill Street (or Country Road) in Southampton and opposite the road to First Neck. The four acres at Coopers Neck are probably on the south side of Cooper's Neck Lane and next east of the land of James T. Kilbreth.

John Cooper's will:

In the name of God, Amen, December 10, 1715. I, John Cooper, of Southampton, in the County of Suffolk, yeoman, being very sick I leave to my honored mother Joanah Pierson, all that was formerly given to her by an agreement between Lieutenant Joseph Pierson, her deceased husband, and herself and me. I leave to my wife Hannah Cooper, the east room of my now dwelling house, with the bedroom and lean-to, and the east half of my barn and a privilege in the cellar, and the use of 1/3 of all lands and Commonages during her life. I leave to my son, Thomas Cooper, all my buildings after the decease of my wife and mother, with thee home lot, it being 30 acres. Also my Halsey's neck Close, containing 20 acres. And my right in Quogue neck, and a £50 Commonage after the death of my wife. Also 4 acres in Cooper's neck. Also my silver-hilted sword and belt. But if he die without issue, then the lands are to go to my son, John. I leave to my son, John Cooper, 40 acres of land in the late 30 Acre Division, near James White's house. Also a lot of upland and meadow in Assops neck, in Lot No. 6, and all the rest of my Commonage. I leave all the rest of my movable estate to my children, Hannah, Thomas, Mehitabel, and John, and to an expected child. I make my wife Hannah, and my brother, Abraham Cooper, executors. I desire my brother-in-law John Howell, and my neighbor, John Reeves, may be overseers.

*Witnesses, Daniel Sayre, Thomas Sayre, Jr., Henry Halsey, Thomas Reed.
Proved before Court of Common Pleas, March 29, 1716.*

Thomas was born circa 1705, son of John Cooper and Hannah Sayre of Southampton, long Island, New York. Thomas was residing in Norfolk County, Virginia, in 1743 when his son, Joel, was born.

Thomas Cooper moved to the south branch of the Potomac River in 1753. George Washington, working as a surveyor, recorded that he came upon the Cooper home just after an attack by the Indians. Thomas's eleven year old son had been captured. He was never found. Thomas resided in Frederick County, Virginia, where he died in 1785. His son, Joel Cooper, was the executor of his will.

The Cooper family retreated from the frontier and settled on the east bank of the Shenandoah River where it was probably safer due to the Indian wars. Another son was Job (I) Cooper, born in 1731. Apparently he was "on the move" based on the following that was written by Donald N. Panther-Yates.

The word wanderlust must have been coined to describe Job Cooper, the father of Nathan Cooper. Trying to track down Job brings to mind an old family expression "Slipperier than an eel." He was born in 1731 or 1732; we don't know where as yet, but probably in Pennsylvania. We do know that he was the son of Thomas Cooper, who died in Frederick County, Virginia in 1785, and his wife, Mary. (Will Book 5 Page 90) Thomas recognized the tendency of his fifty-three year old son to wander by hemming him in with his will:

I will and bequeath to my beloved son Job Cooper during his natural life the upper of my land where he now lives on, beginning at a large Poplar and running thence across to Shenandoah River within view of the Spring near the point of the Island and also I give and Bequeath my said Son one Heifer and three pounds due me from Negroe Toney and ten bushels of wheat my said son Job shall not sell or Rent the land above Willed to him that in case he leaves the said Land to give it up to his mother of brother George Cooper. 30 April 1785



Our first evidence of the Cooper family having been in what was then a much larger Virginia (West Virginia broke off during the Civil War), was in Hampshire County. The record is from a young man of Job's own age. George Washington himself. Then a twenty-one year old surveyor, he was passing through, en route to where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet to form the Ohio River at the site of present-day Pittsburgh. Washington noted in his diary of October, 1753.... a party of seven French Indians.... on October 26 attacked the home of Thomas Cooper on the South Branch of the Potomac River and carried off his eleven year old son.... (Forts on the Pennsylvania Frontier 1753-1758, by William A. Hunter, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, 1960, p.86. A footnote gives credit to journal of George Washington, 9.18. For reports of the Indian attack, see Pennsylvania Gazette, December 27, 1753; February 26, 1754).

An answer to a letter Washington had sent out about the capture of the Cooper boy can be found in The Diaries of George Washington, Vol. I, 1748-65, edited by Donald Jackson, University of Virginia Press, p.139. The Indians enquir'd very particularly about their brothers in Carolina Gaol. They also asked what sort of a boy it was that was taken from the South Branch; for they had, by some Indians, heard that a Party of French Indians had carried a White Boy by the Cuscusa Town toward the [Great] Lakes. (Cuscusa was a reference to Kuskuskies, a Delaware village in the vicinity of present-day New Castle, PA).

Hostilities with the French and their Indian allies over the Ohio River Valley erupted into the French and Indian War, and life on the frontier was no longer safe. During this war the frontier settlers sought safer havens, and this pushed the frontier eastward to the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was to the west slope of the Blue Ridge that Thomas retreated with his family, settling on land that stretched from the Shenandoah River, in present-day Clark County (then Frederick County), over the top of the mountain into present-day Loudoun County. It is unknown if Thomas Cooper moved his family eastward at this time or later, when the war broke out in earnest.

Job had enlisted in Capt. John Ashby's Second Company of Rangers on September 2, 1755, at the age of twenty-three. The Rangers were formed to defend Hampshire/Frederick County, Virginia. He helped to build Fort Ashby. Job served as a private on the Virginia Line in George Washington's Army. He enlisted on June 11, 1777. He served in the company of Capt. William Vause, the 12th Regiment commanded by Col. James Wood. Job deserted two months later. Capt. Vause offered a reward for the capture of deserters. Job again enlisted in 1780 from Chester County, Pennsylvania. He is listed on the Enumeration Hampshire County, Virginia (West Virginia) census and on the 1787 tax list for Loudoun County, Virginia.

Job (I) Cooper was married twice. His first wife's name is not known. She died about 1752. Job had six children by his first wife. His second wife was Rebecca "Becky" Youse, born on September 8, 1746 in Berks County, Pennsylvania. They were married on May 10, 1763 in Philadelphia. They were the parents of Job (II) Cooper.

Job (I) and his Rebecca left Philadelphia and went to Frederick County, Virginia. They moved westward into Kentucky where they both died in Hardin County. Job died in 1804 and Rebecca died in 1820.

Nathan Cooper, son of Job (I) and his first wife, was born about 1755, probably in Frederick County, Virginia, in the section that is now Clark County. In 1790 Nathan was residing in Washington County, Pennsylvania. He is listed there in the first U.S. census. In 1793 Nathan was in Col. Landon Carter's Regiment, Capt. Nathaniel Taylor's Company of Infantry, Washington County Militia of the Southwest Territory (Tennessee). This is where his father had been living on and off since as early as 1787. In Nathan's militia company were Joel Cooper, Abraham Cooper, James Cooper, and Edward Cooper.

Nathan farmed his father's land during his absence from Washington (Carter) County, Tennessee, in the 1790s. Both Nathan and Job were on the tax lists in Washington County together in 1796 and 1798. In 1800 Nathan is on the tax list in that county but Job is on the tax list of Hardin County, Kentucky.

Nathan married Elizabeth Oldman. They were the parents of Isaiah Cooper who was born in 1778. Isaiah Cooper eloped to where his grandfather, Job (I) Cooper, lived in 1799, Hardin County, Kentucky, where he married an Indian girl, Elizabeth Montier.

Editor's note:

This very well-researched genealogy sets the stage for the story of Isaiah that you read in the Spring issue of this magazine. I regret that I did not note the name of the person who submitted this very informative article. I would appreciate knowing to whom we are indebted.